

Advanced country selector for forms.

# Country Selector Plugin - Reference Documentation

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# 1 Introduction

This plugin provides advanced country selector for Grails. It is suitable for all forms where the user needs an address form. Contrary to traditional html select with a huge list of countries, it serves a user normal input type his country. When he starts typing it suggests him possible countries he could fill in.

It uses JavaScript autocomplete to give the user right help. The autocomplete takes into account country different relevance for different countries (see [Countries i18n](#) chapter). Moreover, it allows i18n localization alternatives and also relevancy.

The plugin is based on JavaScript implementation of country selector of [Baymard Institute](#), see project on !

Example of rendered country selector:

Country

State

Zip Code

Phone

Gre

United Kingdom

Greece

Grenada

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Greenland

## 1.1 Change Log

Date	Version	Notes
2013-11-13	1.0	Release of 1.0. TagLib for display of country name based on its code. Locale attribute
2013-07-03	0.2.6	Improved dependencies. Resource plugin is not required by default.
2013-07-02	0.2	Bug fixes. German translation.
2013-07-01	0.1	Smart country selector - <code>&lt;cs:countrySelector /&gt;</code> tag. jQuery autocomplete in Bootstrap autocomplete implementation. Country setup in i18n.

## 1.2 Roadmap

- Caching of parsed i18n country codes
- Translations to CZ

## 1.3 Known Issues

## 2 Configuration

There are few configuration options for the plugin:

Name	Default	Description
grails.plugin.countrySelector.messageSource.useOnlyCustom	false	True if only custom i18n countries are used. See more in <a href="#">Countries Customization</a>

### 2.1 Countries i18n

The plugin is dependent on i18n Grails plugin and allows to set all language/location properties needed. Therefore, simply changing the user locale can change the country selector behavior.

It allows to set-up following properties for each country:

1. **Country Code** - Plugin uses [ISO 3166-1 alpha-3](#) codes for countries but you can set your own. Countries returned when the user submit the country selector. They could be easily mapped to domain class project *DEU* , etc.
2. **Country Name** - It is the actual country name the user sees in autocomplete. Examples: *United Kingdom*
3. **Country Alternatives** - Alternative strings which should be used for autocomplete. When the user selects an alternative he should receive a proper country name. Examples: *GB Great Britain England UK Wales Ireland* for United Kingdom, *DE Bundesrepublik Deutschland* for Germany.
4. **Relevancy** - The relevancy specifies the order of results in autocomplete. Country selector sorts by relevancy first (higher relevancy ~ higher position in autocomplete) and then alphabetically. Example: *Switzerland* relevancy 3.5 , *United Kingdom* relevancy 2.5

Having these properties in i18n allows to set different values for different locale. It allows for example to set *Switzerland* as more relevant than *Switzerland* for different locale, i.e. *Sweden* would have higher relevancy than *Switzerland* in *Sweden* locale but this is not the case in *Switzerland* locale.

#### 2.1.1 Countries Customization in i18n

The structure of i18n country properties is following:

```
org.grails.plugin.countrySelector.CZE=Czech Republic
org.grails.plugin.countrySelector.CZE.alternatives=CZ eská Ceska
org.grails.plugin.countrySelector.CZE.relevancy=1.5

org.grails.plugin.countrySelector.DNK=Denmark
org.grails.plugin.countrySelector.DNK.alternatives=DK Danmark
org.grails.plugin.countrySelector.DNK.relevancy=1.5
```

The country code is the last part of the first property key, the value specifies the country name. Alternative names. Similarly, relevancy is used for country position in the country selector.

By default custom property files are merged with the plugin specified. You can set all country specifications (alternatives, relevancy) or just few of them. The custom specification has higher priority during merging. New country specifications are required.

You can also decide to use your custom i18n settings by default (for example, this can be used when you have custom country codes, or just reduce the number of possible countries). Set following in Config.groovy

```
grails.plugin.countrySelector.messageSource.useOnlyCustom = true
```

## 2.1.2 Supported Languages

English and Germany are the only one supported languages right now. The whole setup of country relevancy is in *il8n/messages.properties* file of the plugin core.

## 3 Utility Classes

### 3.1 CountrySelectorService

**allowedCountryCodes()** This method allows to get all allowed country codes. The general usage is for do

Example domain class Address.groovy

```
class Address {
    def countrySelectorService

    String country

    static constraints = {
        country(nullable: false, blank: false, validator: {val, obj ->
            def allowedCountryCodes = obj.countrySelectorService.allowedCountryCodes()
            if(!allowedCountryCodes.contains(val))
                return "org.grails.plugins.countrySelector.country.notAllowed"
        })
    }
}
```



The Address class is usually an embedded class placed in groovy/src for a certain domain class. If you use the countrySelectorService, you need to inject the service differently:

```
import grails.util.Holders

class Address {
    String country

    static constraints = {
        country(nullable: false, blank: false, validator: {val, obj ->
            def allowedCountryCodes =
            obj.countrySelectorService.allowedCountryCodes()
            if(!allowedCountryCodes.contains(val))
                return
            "org.grails.plugins.countrySelector.country.notAllowed"
        })
    }

    private static getCountrySelectorService() {
        def grailsApplication = Holders.getGrailsApplication()
        grailsApplication.mainContext.countrySelectorService
    }
}
```

## 4 Autocomplete

JavaScript autocomplete engine is an important part of this plugin. It allows the user to see the recommended typing. By default, the [jQuery autocomplete](#) is used by the plugin.

### 4.1 jQuery Autocomplete

[jQuery autocomplete](#) is the default autocomplete. Therefore, this plugin depends on [jquery-ui](#) plugin.

If you don't want to use this autocomplete and jquery-ui dependency than simply exclude it from BuildCor

```
compile ':country-selector:0.1' {  
    exclude 'jquery-ui'  
}
```

### 4.2 Twitter Bootstrap Autocomplete

The [Twitter Bootstrap Autocomplete](#) is an alternative implemented within the plugin.

You can set this implementation using the resources ([Resource Plugin](#)) in ApplicationResources.groovy:

```
overrides {  
    'country-selector-plugin-js' {  
        dependsOn 'country-selector-plugin-bootstrap-js'  
    }  
}
```

The Twitter Bootstrap country selector is dependent on *bootstrap-typeahead* therefore Twitter Bootstrap G

```
plugins {  
    ...  
    runtime ':twitter-bootstrap:2.3.2'  
    ...  
}
```

### 4.3 Custom Autocomplete

Similarly to Twitter Bootstrap Autocomplete you can set your custom autocomplete JavaScript ApplicationResources.groovy:

```
'country-selector-plugin-custom-js' {  
    dependsOn 'jquery'  
    resource url: 'js/application/customCountrySelectorAutocomplete.js', disposition:  
}  
overrides {  
    'country-selector-plugin-js' {  
        dependsOn 'country-selector-plugin-custom-js'  
    }  
}
```

The custom JavaScript autocomplete should follow the implementation of Baymard Institute JavaScript ([Github](#) for more details).

