
Figure 7.1.1. Organizations: language use

Index to languages used by international organizations: 2002

The tables on language use by international organizations have always been, and are now, based on the descriptions in Volume 1 of this Yearbook series including the paragraph 'Languages', specifying the use, whether officially or informally, of a given language or languages.

For this edition an effort has been made to identify individual languages more clearly and to group them in families in order to present a more comprehensive picture of the language use by international organizations.

In the past some organizations were excluded from the tables on language use because the sequence of computer programmes used to produce these tables was not able to detect specific languages in their descriptions. This was due sometimes to alternate spellings or mis-spellings in the various descriptions (eg Inupiak may have been detected and Inupiaq not) and sometimes to the use of a non-specific term (eg 'several African languages'). Also in the past no link was made between languages. If one organization specified the use of Croatian and another the use of 'Serbo-Croatian', each was counted separately and no reference was given from one to the other.

The editors have attempted to remedy these omissions firstly by improving the detection of potential mis-spellings, and secondly by building a hierarchical structure of languages which includes alternate spellings. The results so far can be seen in the index on the next pages. Note that, although over 1000 languages have been included in the hierarchical structure, only those languages mentioned in the description of at least one organization are included here, along with the language families to which they belong, in order to avoid an unnecessary degree of complexity.

If the spelling of a language has common variants, then generally one variant is chosen as the standard for the purposes of these tables and all others are referred to that one. For example, as of this edition, the tables list only 'Bosnia', but 'Bosnian' is also recognized and counted and then included with 'Bosnia' (see below "Bosnian see Bosnia").

If the reference to a language in an organization's description is non-specific, the term used can now in every case nonetheless be found in the tables. For example, if the organization's description says 'several African languages', it is counted with the language family 'African', along with an organization specifying, for example, 'Yorubu' (Yorubu → Bantu → Niger-Congo → African). The main difference is that the latter organization is also counted under 'Yorubu', 'Bantu', 'Niger-Congo' and 'African' while the former is counted only under 'African'.

A special case is the language group 'European' which is included not because it is considered a language family as such, but because some organizations say only that they use 'European languages' without specifying which languages they consider 'European'. So as not to be obliged to exclude these organizations from these tables, and for the purposes of these tables only, the editors have decided that 'European' means the official languages of the European Union (that is, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish). 'European' is not itself included with the language family 'Indo-European' but every language that is included with 'European' is also included, in its own right, with 'Indo-European'.

If a language is related to another language, if it is a member of a language family, then the link is made and the language family is also included in these tables. For example, 'Croatian' points to 'Serbo-Croatian' (see below "Croatian *included with* Serbo-Croatian"), which points to the language family 'South Slavic', which points in turn to the language family 'Slavic' and then to the language family 'Indo-European'. The family tree (of this relationship only) can be drawn thus:

Indo-European

- ⇒ Albanian
- ⇒ Armenian
- ⇒ Baltic
- ⇒ Celtic
- ⇒ Germanic
- ⇒ Greek
- ⇒ Indo-Iranian
- ⇒ Romance
- ⇒ Slavic
 - ⇒ Slavonic
 - ⇒ South Slavic
 - ⇒ Bulgarian
 - ⇒ Macedonian
 - ⇒ Serbo-Croatian
 - ⇒ Bosnia (or Bosnian)
 - ⇒ Croatian
 - ⇒ Serbian
 - ⇒ Slovenian
 - ⇒ West Slavic
 - ⇒ East Slavic

It should be noted that in these tables the figures for any given language or language family are cumulative only to a certain extent. For example, the figures for 'Croatian' include only organizations which list 'Croatian' specifically, but the figures for 'Serbo-Croatian' include organizations listing 'Croatian', 'Bosnia' and 'Bosnian', 'Serbian' and also 'Serbo-Croatian' as such. The figures for 'Serbo-Croatian' are therefore not merely the total of the figures for 'Croatian', 'Bosnia' and 'Bosnian' and 'Serbian'.

African <i>includes</i> Niger-Congo	East Slavic <i>includes</i> Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian / <i>included with</i> Slavic	Khmer <i>includes</i> Cambodian / <i>included with</i> Mon-Khmer
Afrikaans <i>included with</i> West Germanic	English <i>included with</i> West Germanic and with European	Kikongo <i>includes</i> Lingala / <i>included with</i> Bantu
Afro-Asiatic <i>includes</i> Chadic, Semitic	Eskimo-Aleut <i>includes</i> Inuktitut, Inupiaq, Yup'ik / <i>included with</i> Native American	Kiswahili <i>included with</i> Bantu
Akan <i>includes</i> Twi / <i>included with</i> Kwa	Esperanto <i>includes</i> Internacia Lingvo / <i>included with</i> Constructed languages	Korean <i>included with</i> Altaic
Albanian <i>included with</i> Indo-European	Estonian <i>included with</i> Uralic	Kwa <i>includes</i> Akan / <i>included with</i> Niger-Congo
Altaic <i>includes</i> Korean, Japanese, Mongolian, Turkic / <i>included with</i> Ural-Altaic	European <i>includes</i> Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish	Laotian <i>included with</i> Tai
Amharic <i>included with</i> Semitic	Faeroese <i>included with</i> North Germanic	Latin <i>included with</i> Romance
Arabic <i>included with</i> Semitic	Faroese see Faeroese	Latvian <i>included with</i> Baltic
Armenian <i>included with</i> Indo-European	Farsi <i>included with</i> Persian	Lekhitic <i>includes</i> Polish / <i>included with</i> West Slavic
Austroasiatic <i>includes</i> Mon-Khmer, Hmong-Hmoob	Fijian <i>included with</i> Polynesian	Lingala <i>included with</i> Kikongo
Austronesian <i>includes</i> Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Malaysia, Polynesian, Tagalog, Tetun	Filipino <i>included with</i> Tagalog	Lithuanian <i>included with</i> Baltic
Aymara <i>included with</i> Uto-Aztec	Finnish <i>included with</i> Uralic and with European	Luxemburgisch <i>included with</i> West Germanic
Bahasa Indonesia <i>includes</i> Indonesian / <i>included with</i> Austronesian	Finno-Ugric <i>includes</i> Saami / <i>included with</i> Uralic	Macedonian <i>included with</i> South Slavic
Bahasa Malaysia <i>includes</i> Malay / <i>included with</i> Austronesian	Flemish <i>included with</i> Dutch	Malay <i>included with</i> Bahasa Malaysia
Baltic <i>includes</i> Latvian, Lithuanian / <i>included with</i> Indo-European	French <i>included with</i> Romance and with European	Malayalam <i>included with</i> Dravidian
Bangla <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan	Gaelic <i>included with</i> Celtic	Maltese <i>included with</i> Semitic
Bantu <i>includes</i> Kikongo, Kiswahili, Nyanja, Sesotho, Swahili, Tsonga, Tswana, Xhosa, Zulu / <i>included with</i> Niger-Congo	German <i>included with</i> West Germanic and with European	Mandarin Chinese <i>included with</i> Chinese
Basque <i>included with</i> Isolate	Germanic <i>includes</i> North Germanic, West Germanic / <i>included with</i> Indo-European	Manx <i>included with</i> Celtic
Belarus see Belorussian	Greek <i>included with</i> Indo-European and with European	Marathi <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan
Belarusian see Belorussian	Greenlandic <i>included with</i> Inuktitut	Melanesian Pidgin <i>included with</i> Pidgin-Motu based
Belorussian see Belorussian	Guarani <i>included with</i> Tupi-Guarani	Min <i>includes</i> Min-Nan / <i>included with</i> Chinese
Belorussian <i>included with</i> East Slavic	Gujarati <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan	Min-Nan <i>includes</i> Minnan / <i>included with</i> Min
Bemba <i>included with</i> Pidgin-Swahili based	Hausa <i>included with</i> Chadic	Minnan <i>includes</i> Taiwanese / <i>included with</i> Min-Nan
Bengali <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan	Hebrew <i>included with</i> Semitic	Mon-Khmer <i>includes</i> Khmer, Vietnamese / <i>included with</i> Austroasiatic
Bohemian <i>included with</i> West Slavic	Hindi <i>includes</i> Urdu, Western Hindi / <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan	Mongolian <i>included with</i> Altaic
Bosnia <i>included with</i> Serbo-Croatian	Hindustani <i>included with</i> Western Hindi	Myanmar <i>includes</i> Burmese / <i>included with</i> Sino-Tibetan
Bosnian see Bosnia	Hmong-Hmoob <i>included with</i> Austroasiatic	Native American <i>includes</i> Eskimo-Aleut, Uto-Aztec
Brazilian <i>included with</i> Portuguese	Hungarian <i>included with</i> Uralic	Nepalese <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan
Breton <i>included with</i> Celtic	Icelandic <i>included with</i> North Germanic	Nepali see Nepalese
Bulgarian <i>included with</i> South Slavic	Indo-Aryan <i>includes</i> Bangla, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Nepalese, Romany, Sanskrit / <i>included with</i> Indo-Iranian	Niger-Congo <i>includes</i> Bantu, Kwa, Yoruba / <i>included with</i> African
Burmese <i>included with</i> Myanmar	Indo-European <i>includes</i> Albanian, Armenian, Baltic, Celtic, Germanic, Greek, Indo-Iranian, Romance, Slavic	Nordic <i>included with</i> Scandinavian/Nordic
Byelorussian see Belorussian	Indo-Iranian <i>includes</i> Indo-Aryan, Iranian / <i>included with</i> Indo-European	North Germanic <i>includes</i> Danish, Faeroese, Icelandic, Norwegian, Scandinavian/Nordic, Swedish / <i>included with</i> Germanic
Cambodian <i>included with</i> Khmer	Indonesian <i>included with</i> Bahasa Indonesia	Norwegian <i>included with</i> North Germanic
Catalan <i>included with</i> Romance	Interlingua <i>included with</i> Constructed languages	Nyanja <i>included with</i> Bantu
Cebuano <i>included with</i> Visayan	Interlingue <i>included with</i> Constructed languages	Occitan <i>included with</i> Romance
Celtic <i>includes</i> Breton, Cornish, Gaelic, Irish, Manx, Welsh / <i>included with</i> Indo-European	Internacia Lingvo <i>included with</i> Esperanto	Papiamento <i>included with</i> Creole-Iberian based
Chadic <i>includes</i> Hausa / <i>included with</i> Afro-Asiatic	Inuktitut <i>includes</i> Kalaallisut / <i>included with</i> Eskimo-Aleut	Persian <i>includes</i> Farsi / <i>included with</i> Iranian
Chinese <i>includes</i> Mandarin Chinese, Min / <i>included with</i> Sino-Tibetan	Inupiak see Inupiaq	Pidgin <i>includes</i> Pidgin-Motu based, Pidgin-Swahili based
Common Turkic <i>includes</i> Southern Turkic, Uzbek / <i>included with</i> Turkic	Inupiaq <i>included with</i> Eskimo-Aleut	Pidgin-Motu based <i>includes</i> Melanesian
Constructed languages <i>includes</i> Esperanto, Interlingua, Interlingue	Iranian <i>includes</i> Persian / <i>included with</i> Indo-Iranian	Pidgin / <i>included with</i> Pidgin
Cornish <i>included with</i> Celtic	Irish <i>included with</i> Celtic	Pidgin-Swahili based <i>includes</i> Bemba / <i>included with</i> Pidgin
Creole <i>includes</i> Creole-English based, Creole-Iberian based	Irish Gaelic see Irish	Pilipino <i>included with</i> Tagalog
Creole-English based <i>includes</i> Tok Pisin / <i>included with</i> Creole	Isolate <i>includes</i> Basque	Polish <i>included with</i> Lekhitic
Creole-Iberian based <i>includes</i> Papiamento / <i>included with</i> Creole	Italian <i>included with</i> Romance and with European	Polynesian <i>includes</i> Fijian, Samoan / <i>included with</i> Austronesian
Croatian <i>included with</i> Serbo-Croatian	Japanese <i>included with</i> Altaic	Portuguese <i>includes</i> Brazilian / <i>included with</i> Romance and with European
Czech <i>included with</i> West Slavic	Kadai <i>includes</i> Tai / <i>included with</i> Sino-Tibetan	Quechua
Dani <i>included with</i> Trans-New Guinea	Kalaallisut <i>included with</i> Inuktitut	Romance <i>includes</i> Catalan, French, Italian, Latin, Occitan, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish / <i>included with</i> Indo-European
Danish <i>included with</i> North Germanic and with European	Kannada <i>included with</i> Dravidian	Romanian <i>included with</i> Romance
Dravidian <i>includes</i> Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu		Romany <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan
Dutch <i>includes</i> Flemish / <i>included with</i> West Germanic and with European		Russian <i>included with</i> East Slavic

Samoan *included with* Polynesian
 Sanskrit *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Scandinavian *included with*
 Scandinavian/Nordic
 Scandinavian/Nordic *includes* Nordic,
 Scandinavian / *included with* North
 Germanic
 Semitic *includes* Amharic, Arabic, Hebrew,
 Maltese, Tigrigna / *included with* Afro-
 Asiatic
 Serbian *included with* Serbo-Croatian
 Serbo-Croatian *includes* Bosnia, Croatian,
 Serbian / *included with* South Slavic
 Sesotho *includes* Southern Sotho / *included*
 with Bantu
 Setswana *included with* Tswana
 Sino-Tibetan *includes* Chinese, Kadai,
 Myanmar, Tibetan
 Slavic *includes* Slavonic, South Slavic, West
 Slavic, East Slavic / *included with* Indo-
 European
 Slavonic *included with* Slavic
 Slovakian *included with* West Slavic
 Slovene *see* Slovenian
 Slovenian *included with* South Slavic
 Sotho *included with* Sesotho
 South Slavic *includes* Slovenian, Serbo-
 Croatian, Bulgarian, Macedonian /
 included with Slavic
 Southern Sotho *included with* Sesotho

Southern Turkic *includes* Turkish / *included*
 with Common Turkic
 Spanish *included with* Romance and *with*
 European
 Swahili *included with* Bantu
 Swedish *included with* North Germanic and
 with European
 Tagalog *includes* Filipino, Pilipino, Visayan /
 included with Austronesian
 Tai *includes* Thai, Laotian / *included with*
 Kadai
 Taiwanese *included with* Minnan
 Tamil *included with* Dravidian
 Telugu *includes* Telugu / *included with*
 Dravidian
 Telugu *included with* Telugu
 Tetun *included with* Austronesian
 Thai *included with* Tai
 Tibetan *included with* Sino-Tibetan
 Tigrigna *includes* Tigrinya, Tigrino / *included*
 with Semitic
 Tigrino *included with* Tigrigna
 Tigrinya *included with* Tigrigna
 Tok Pisin *included with* Creole-English based
 Trans-New Guinea *includes* Dani
 Tsonga *included with* Bantu
 Tswana *includes* Setswana / *included with*
 Bantu
 Tupi *includes* Tupi-Guarani

Tupi-Guarani *includes* Guarani / *included with*
 Tupi
 Turkic *includes* Common Turkic / *included with*
 Altaic
 Turkish *included with* Southern Turkic
 Twi *included with* Akan
 Ukrainian *included with* East Slavic
 Ural-Altaic *includes* Altaic, Uralic
 Uralic *includes* Finnish, Hungarian, Estonian,
 Finno-Ugric / *included with* Ural-Altaic
 Urdu *included with* Hindi
 Uto-Aztec *includes* Aymara / *included with*
 Native American
 Uzbek *included with* Common Turkic
 Vietnamese *included with* Mon-Khmer
 Visayan *includes* Cebuano / *included with*
 Tagalog
 Welsh *included with* Celtic
 West Germanic *includes* Afrikaans, Dutch,
 English, German, Luxemburgisch, Yiddish
 / *included with* Germanic
 West Slavic *includes* Bohemian, Czech,
 Slovakian, Lekhitic / *included with* Slavic
 Western Hindi *includes* Hindustani / *included*
 with Hindi
 Xhosa *included with* Bantu
 Yiddish *included with* West Germanic
 Yoruba *included with* Niger-Congo
 Yup'ik *included with* Eskimo-Aleut
 Zulu *included with* Bantu