
Figure 7.1.1. Organizations: language use

Index to languages used by international organizations: 2005

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.

Since the 40th 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 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 (e.g. Inupiak may have been detected and Inupiaq not) and sometimes to the use of a non-specific term (e.g. '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 other spellings refer to that one. For example, 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 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. (Therefore, in this 41st edition 'European' includes Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Slovakian, Slovenian, Spanish, and Swedish; in the 40th edition 'European' included 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 Afrikaans <i>included with</i> West Germanic Afro-Asiatic <i>includes</i> Chadic, Semitic Akan <i>includes</i> Twi / <i>included with</i> Kwa Albanian <i>included with</i> Indo-European Altaic <i>includes</i> Korean, Japanese, Mongolian, Turkic / <i>included with</i> Ural-Altaic Amharic <i>included with</i> Semitic Arabic <i>included with</i> Semitic Armenian <i>included with</i> Indo-European Austroasiatic <i>includes</i> Mon-Khmer, Hmong-Hmoob Austronesian <i>includes</i> Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Malaysia, Polynesian, Tagalog, Tetun Aymara <i>included with</i> Uto-Aztec Bahasa Indonesia <i>includes</i> Indonesian / <i>included with</i> Austronesian Bahasa Malaysia <i>includes</i> Malay / <i>included with</i> Austronesian Baltic <i>includes</i> Latvian, Lithuanian / <i>included with</i> Indo-European Bangla <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan Bantu <i>includes</i> Kikongo, Kiswahili, Nyanja, Sesotho, Swahili, Tsonga, Tswana, Xhosa, Zulu / <i>included with</i> Niger-Congo Basque <i>included with</i> Isolate Belarus see Belorussian Belarusian see Belorussian Belorussian see Belorussian Belorussian <i>included with</i> East Slavic Bemba <i>included with</i> Pidgin-Swahili based Bengali <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan Bohemian <i>included with</i> West Slavic Bosnia <i>included with</i> Serbo-Croatian Bosnian see Bosnia Brazilian <i>included with</i> Portuguese Breton <i>included with</i> Celtic Bulgarian <i>included with</i> South Slavic Burmese <i>included with</i> Myanmar Byelorussian see Belorussian Cambodian <i>included with</i> Khmer Cantonese <i>included with</i> Chinese Catalan <i>included with</i> Romance Cebuano <i>included with</i> Visayan Celtic <i>includes</i> Breton, Cornish, Gaelic, Irish, Manx, Welsh / <i>included with</i> Indo-European Chadic <i>includes</i> Hausa / <i>included with</i> Afro-Asiatic Chinese <i>includes</i> Cantonese, Mandarin Chinese, Min / <i>included with</i> Sino-Tibetan Common Turkic <i>includes</i> Southern Turkic, Uzbek / <i>included with</i> Turkic Constructed languages <i>includes</i> Esperanto, Interlingua, Interlingue Cornish <i>included with</i> Celtic Creole <i>includes</i> Creole-English based, Creole-Iberian based Creole-English based <i>includes</i> Tok Pisin / <i>included with</i> Creole Creole-Iberian based <i>includes</i> Papiamentu / <i>included with</i> Creole Croatian <i>included with</i> Serbo-Croatian Czech <i>included with</i> West Slavic and with European Dani <i>included with</i> Trans-New Guinea Danish <i>included with</i> North Germanic and with European Dravidian <i>includes</i> Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu	Dutch <i>includes</i> Flemish / <i>included with</i> West Germanic and with European East Slavic <i>includes</i> Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian / <i>included with</i> Slavic English <i>included with</i> West Germanic and with European Eskimo-Aleut <i>includes</i> Inuktitut, Inupiaq, Yup'ik / <i>included with</i> Native American Esperanto <i>includes</i> Internacia Lingvo / <i>included with</i> Constructed languages Estonian <i>included with</i> Uralic and with European European <i>includes</i> Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Slovakian, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish Faeroese <i>included with</i> North Germanic Faroese see Faeroese Farsi <i>included with</i> Persian Fijian <i>included with</i> Polynesian Filipino <i>included with</i> Tagalog Finnish <i>included with</i> Uralic and with European Finno-Ugric <i>includes</i> Saami / <i>included with</i> Uralic Flemish <i>included with</i> Dutch French <i>included with</i> Romance and with European Gaelic <i>included with</i> Celtic German <i>included with</i> West Germanic and with European Germanic <i>includes</i> North Germanic, West Germanic / <i>included with</i> Indo-European Greek <i>included with</i> Indo-European and with European Greenlandic <i>included with</i> Inuktitut Guarani <i>included with</i> Tupi-Guarani Gujarati <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan Hausa <i>included with</i> Chadic Hebrew <i>included with</i> Semitic Hindi <i>includes</i> Urdu, Western Hindi / <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan Hindustani <i>included with</i> Western Hindi Hmong-Hmoob <i>included with</i> Austroasiatic Hungarian <i>included with</i> Uralic and with European Icelandic <i>included with</i> North Germanic Indo-Aryan <i>includes</i> Bangla, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Nepalese, Romany, Sanskrit / <i>included with</i> Indo-Iranian Indo-European <i>includes</i> Albanian, Armenian, Baltic, Celtic, Germanic, Greek, Indo-Iranian, Romance, Slavic Indo-Iranian <i>includes</i> Indo-Aryan, Iranian / <i>included with</i> Indo-European Indonesian <i>included with</i> Bahasa Indonesia Interlingua <i>included with</i> Constructed languages Interlingue <i>included with</i> Constructed languages Internacia Lingvo <i>included with</i> Esperanto Inuktitut <i>includes</i> Kalaallisut / <i>included with</i> Eskimo-Aleut Inupiak see Inupiaq Inupiaq <i>included with</i> Eskimo-Aleut Iranian <i>includes</i> Persian / <i>included with</i> Indo-Iranian Irish <i>included with</i> Celtic and with European Irish Gaelic see Irish Isolate <i>includes</i> Basque	Italian <i>included with</i> Romance and with European Japanese <i>included with</i> Altaic Kadai <i>includes</i> Tai / <i>included with</i> Sino-Tibetan Kalaallisut <i>included with</i> Inuktitut Kannada <i>included with</i> Dravidian Khmer <i>includes</i> Cambodian / <i>included with</i> Mon-Khmer Kikongo <i>includes</i> Lingala / <i>included with</i> Bantu Kiswahili <i>included with</i> Bantu Korean <i>included with</i> Altaic Kwa <i>includes</i> Akan / <i>included with</i> Niger-Congo Laotian <i>included with</i> Tai Latin <i>included with</i> Romance Latvian <i>included with</i> Baltic and with European Lekhitic <i>includes</i> Polish / <i>included with</i> West Slavic Lingala <i>included with</i> Kikongo Lithuanian <i>included with</i> Baltic and with European Luxemburgisch <i>included with</i> West Germanic Macedonian <i>included with</i> South Slavic Malay <i>included with</i> Bahasa Malaysia Malayalam <i>included with</i> Dravidian Maltese <i>included with</i> Semitic and with European Mandarin Chinese <i>included with</i> Chinese Manx <i>included with</i> Celtic Marathi <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan Melanesian Pidgin <i>included with</i> Pidgin-Motu based Min <i>includes</i> Min-Nan / <i>included with</i> Chinese Min-Nan <i>includes</i> Minnan / <i>included with</i> Min Minnan <i>includes</i> Taiwanese / <i>included with</i> Min-Nan Mon-Khmer <i>includes</i> Khmer, Vietnamese / <i>included with</i> Austroasiatic Mongolian <i>included with</i> Altaic Myanmar <i>includes</i> Burmese / <i>included with</i> Sino-Tibetan Nahuatl <i>included with</i> Uto-Aztec Native American <i>includes</i> Eskimo-Aleut, Uto-Aztec Nepalese <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan Nepali see Nepalese Niger-Congo <i>includes</i> Bantu, Kwa, Yoruba / <i>included with</i> African Nordic <i>included with</i> Scandinavian/Nordic North Germanic <i>includes</i> Danish, Faeroese, Icelandic, Norwegian, Scandinavian/Nordic, Swedish / <i>included with</i> Germanic Norwegian <i>included with</i> North Germanic Nyanja <i>included with</i> Bantu Occitan <i>included with</i> Romance Papiamentu <i>included with</i> Creole-Iberian based Persian <i>includes</i> Farsi / <i>included with</i> Iranian Pidgin <i>includes</i> Pidgin-Motu based, Pidgin-Swahili based Pidgin-Motu based <i>includes</i> Melanesian Pidgin / <i>included with</i> Pidgin Pidgin-Swahili based <i>includes</i> Bemba / <i>included with</i> Pidgin Pilipino <i>included with</i> Tagalog Polish <i>included with</i> Lekhitic and with European Polynesian <i>includes</i> Fijian, Samoan / <i>included with</i> Austronesian
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Portuguese <i>includes</i> Brazilian / <i>included with</i> Romance and with European	Slovakian <i>includes</i> Slovak / <i>included with</i> West Slavic and with European	Tsonga <i>included with</i> Bantu
Quechua	Slovene <i>see</i> Slovenian	Tswana <i>includes</i> Setswana / <i>included with</i> Bantu
Romance <i>includes</i> Catalan, French, Italian, Latin, Occitan, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish / <i>included with</i> Indo-European	Slovenian <i>included with</i> South Slavic and with European	Tupi <i>includes</i> Tupi-Guarani
Romanian <i>included with</i> Romance	Sotho <i>included with</i> Sesotho	Tupi-Guarani <i>includes</i> Guarani / <i>included with</i> Tupi
Romany <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan	South Slavic <i>includes</i> Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian, Macedonian / <i>included with</i> Slavic	Turkic <i>includes</i> Common Turkic / <i>included with</i> Altaic
Russian <i>included with</i> East Slavic	Southern Sotho <i>included with</i> Sesotho	Turkish <i>included with</i> Southern Turkic
Saami <i>included with</i> Finno-Ugric	Southern Turkic <i>includes</i> Turkish / <i>included with</i> Common Turkic	Twí <i>included with</i> Akan
Sami <i>see</i> Saami	Spanish <i>included with</i> Romance and with European	Ukrainian <i>included with</i> East Slavic
Samoan <i>included with</i> Polynesian	Swahili <i>included with</i> Bantu	Ural-Altaic <i>includes</i> Altaic, Uralic
Sanskrit <i>included with</i> Indo-Aryan	Swedish <i>included with</i> North Germanic and with European	Uralic <i>includes</i> Finnish, Hungarian, Estonian, Finno-Ugric / <i>included with</i> Ural-Altaic
Scandinavian <i>included with</i> Scandinavian/Nordic	Tagalog <i>includes</i> Filipino, Pilipino, Visayan / <i>included with</i> Austronesian	Urdu <i>included with</i> Hindi
Scandinavian/Nordic <i>includes</i> Nordic, Scandinavian / <i>included with</i> North Germanic	Tai <i>includes</i> Thai, Laotian / <i>included with</i> Kadai	Uto-Aztec <i>includes</i> Aymara, Nahuatl / <i>included with</i> Native American
Semitic <i>includes</i> Amharic, Arabic, Hebrew, Maltese, Tigrigna / <i>included with</i> Afro-Asiatic	Taiwanese <i>included with</i> Minnan	Uzbek <i>included with</i> Common Turkic
Serbian <i>included with</i> Serbo-Croatian	Tamil <i>included with</i> Dravidian	Vietnamese <i>included with</i> Mon-Khmer
Serbo-Croatian <i>includes</i> Bosnia, Croatian, Serbian / <i>included with</i> South Slavic	Telugu <i>includes</i> Telungu / <i>included with</i> Dravidian	Visayan <i>includes</i> Cebuano / <i>included with</i> Tagalog
Sesotho <i>includes</i> Southern Sotho / <i>included with</i> Bantu	Telungu <i>included with</i> Telugu	Welsh <i>included with</i> Celtic
Setswana <i>included with</i> Tswana	Tetun <i>included with</i> Austronesian	West Germanic <i>includes</i> Afrikaans, Dutch, English, German, Luxemburgisch, Yiddish / <i>included with</i> Germanic
Sino-Tibetan <i>includes</i> Chinese, Kadai, Myanmar, Tibetan	Thai <i>included with</i> Tai	West Slavic <i>includes</i> Bohemian, Czech, Slovakian, Lekhitic / <i>included with</i> Slavic
Slavic <i>includes</i> Slavonic, South Slavic, West Slavic, East Slavic / <i>included with</i> Indo-European	Tibetan <i>included with</i> Sino-Tibetan	Western Hindi <i>includes</i> Hindustani / <i>included with</i> Hindi
Slavonic <i>included with</i> Slavic	Tigrigna <i>includes</i> Tigrinya, Tigrino / <i>included with</i> Semitic	Xhosa <i>included with</i> Bantu
Slovak <i>included with</i> Slovakian	Tigrino <i>included with</i> Tigrigna	Yiddish <i>included with</i> West Germanic
	Tigrinya <i>included with</i> Tigrigna	Yoruba <i>included with</i> Niger-Congo
	Tok Pisin <i>included with</i> Creole-English based	Yup'ik <i>included with</i> Eskimo-Aleut
	Trans-New Guinea <i>includes</i> Dani	Zulu <i>included with</i> Bantu
