
Figure 7.1.1. Organizations: language use

Index to languages used by international organizations: 2008

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

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
