
Section 7: What languages do international organizations use?

Where no year is indicated in the title, the current edition applies.

Titles written in roman type refer to statistical tables.

Titles written in italic type refer to visualizations (charts, graphs).

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Figure 7.1. Index to languages used by international organizations *Edition 49, 2012/2013*

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, 'Yoruba' (Yoruba → Bantu → Niger-Congo → African). The main difference is that the latter organization is also counted under 'Yoruba', '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 edition 'European' includes Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Slovakian, Slovenian, 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 *includes* Niger-Congo
 Afrikaans *included with* West Germanic
 Afro-Asiatic *includes* Chadic, Semitic
 Akan *includes* Twi / *included with* Kwa
 Albanian *included with* Indo-European
 Altaic *includes* Korean, Japanese, Mongolian, Turkic / *included with* Ural-Altaic
 Amharic *included with* Semitic
 Arabic *included with* Semitic
 Armenian *included with* Indo-European
 Austroasiatic *includes* Mon-Khmer, Hmong-Hmoob
 Austronesian *includes* Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Malaysia, Polynesian, Tagalog, Tetun
 Aymara *included with* Uto-Aztec
 Bahasa Indonesia *includes* Indonesian / *included with* Austronesian
 Bahasa Malaysia *includes* Malay / *included with* Austronesian
 Baltic *includes* Latvian, Lithuanian / *included with* Indo-European
 Bangla *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Bantu *includes* Kikongo, Kiswahili, Nyanja, Sesotho, Swahili, Tsonga, Tswana, Xhosa, Zulu / *included with* Niger-Congo
 Basque *included with* Isolate
 Belarus *see* Belorussian
 Belarusian *see* Belorussian
 Belorussian *see* Belorussian
 Belorussian *included with* East Slavic
 Bemba *included with* Pidgin-Swahili based
 Bengali *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Bohemian *included with* West Slavic
 Bosnia *included with* Serbo-Croatian
 Bosnian *see* Bosnia
 Brazilian *included with* Portuguese
 Breton *included with* Celtic
 Bulgarian *included with* South Slavic
 Burmese *included with* Myanmar
 Byelorussian *see* Belorussian
 Cambodian *included with* Khmer
 Cantonese *included with* Chinese
 Catalan *included with* Romance
 Cebuano *included with* Visayan
 Celtic *includes* Breton, Cornish, Gaelic, Irish, Manx, Welsh / *included with* Indo-European
 Chadic *includes* Hausa / *included with* Afro-Asiatic
 Chinese *includes* Cantonese, Mandarin Chinese, Min / *included with* Sino-Tibetan
 Common Turkic *includes* Southern Turkic, Uzbek / *included with* Turkic
 Constructed languages *includes* Esperanto, Interlingua, Interlingue
 Cornish *included with* Celtic
 Creole *includes* Creole-English based, Creole-Iberian based
 Creole-English based *includes* Tok Pisin / *included with* Creole
 Creole-Iberian based *includes* Papiamentu / *included with* Creole
 Croatian *included with* Serbo-Croatian
 Czech *included with* West Slavic and with European
 Dani *included with* Trans-New Guinea
 Danish *included with* North Germanic and with European
 Dravidian *includes* Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu
 Dutch *includes* Flemish / *included with* West Germanic and with European
 East Slavic *includes* Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian / *included with* Slavic
 English *included with* West Germanic and with European
 Eskimo-Aleut *includes* Inuktitut, Inupiaq, Yup'ik / *included with* Native American
 Esperanto *includes* Internacia Lingvo / *included with* Constructed languages
 Estonian *included with* Uralic and with European

European *includes* Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Slovakian, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish
 Faeroese *included with* North Germanic
 Faroese *see* Faeroese
 Farsi *included with* Persian
 Fijian *included with* Polynesian
 Filipino *included with* Tagalog
 Finnish *included with* Uralic and with European
 Finno-Ugric *includes* Saami / *included with* Uralic
 Flemish *included with* Dutch
 French *included with* Romance and with European
 Gaelic *included with* Celtic
 German *included with* West Germanic and with European
 Germanic *includes* North Germanic, West Germanic / *included with* Indo-European
 Greek *included with* Indo-European and with European
 Greenlandic *included with* Inuktitut
 Guarani *included with* Tupi-Guarani
 Gujarati *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Hausa *included with* Chadic
 Hebrew *included with* Semitic
 Hindi *includes* Urdu, Western Hindi / *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Hindustani *included with* Western Hindi
 Hmong-Hmoob *included with* Austroasiatic
 Hungarian *included with* Uralic and with European
 Icelandic *included with* North Germanic
 Indo-Aryan *includes* Bangla, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Nepalese, Romany, Sanskrit / *included with* Indo-Iranian
 Indo-European *includes* Albanian, Armenian, Baltic, Celtic, Germanic, Greek, Indo-Iranian, Romance, Slavic
 Indo-Iranian *includes* Indo-Aryan, Iranian / *included with* Indo-European
 Indonesian *included with* Bahasa Indonesia
 Interlingua *included with* Constructed languages
 Interlingue *included with* Constructed languages
 Internacia Lingvo *included with* Esperanto
 Inuktitut *includes* Kalaallisut / *included with* Eskimo-Aleut
 Inupiaq *see* Inupiaq
 Inupiaq *included with* Eskimo-Aleut
 Iranian *includes* Persian / *included with* Indo-Iranian
 Irish *included with* Celtic and with European
 Irish Gaelic *see* Irish
 Isolate *includes* Basque
 Italian *included with* Romance and with European
 Japanese *included with* Altaic
 Kadai *includes* Tai / *included with* Sino-Tibetan
 Kalaallisut *included with* Inuktitut
 Kannada *included with* Dravidian
 Khmer *includes* Cambodian / *included with* Mon-Khmer
 Kikongo *includes* Lingala / *included with* Bantu
 Kiswahili *included with* Bantu
 Korean *included with* Altaic
 Kwa *includes* Akan / *included with* Niger-Congo
 Laotian *included with* Tai
 Latin *included with* Romance
 Latvian *included with* Baltic and with European
 Lekhitic *includes* Polish / *included with* West Slavic
 Lingala *included with* Kikongo
 Lithuanian *included with* Baltic and with European
 Luxemburgisch *included with* West Germanic
 Macedonian *included with* South Slavic
 Malay *included with* Bahasa Malaysia
 Malayalam *included with* Dravidian
 Maltese *included with* Semitic and with European
 Mandarin Chinese *included with* Chinese
 Manx *included with* Celtic
 Marathi *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Melanesian Pidgin *included with* Pidgin-Motu based
 Min *includes* Min-Nan / *included with* Chinese
 Min-Nan *includes* Minnan / *included with* Min

Minnan *includes* Taiwanese / *included with* Min-Nan
 Mon-Khmer *includes* Khmer, Vietnamese / *included with* Austroasiatic
 Mongolian *included with* Altaic
 Myanmar *includes* Burmese / *included with* Sino-Tibetan
 Nahuatl *included with* Uto-Aztec
 Native American *includes* Eskimo-Aleut, Uto-Aztec
 Nepalese *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Nepali *see* Nepalese
 Niger-Congo *includes* Bantu, Kwa, Yoruba / *included with* African
 Nordic *included with* Scandinavian/Nordic
 North Germanic *includes* Danish, Faeroese, Icelandic, Norwegian, Scandinavian/Nordic, Swedish / *included with* Germanic
 Norwegian *included with* North Germanic
 Nyanja *included with* Bantu
 Occitan *included with* Romance
 Papiamentu *included with* Creole-Iberian based
 Persian *includes* Farsi / *included with* Iranian
 Pidgin *includes* Pidgin-Motu based, Pidgin-Swahili based
 Pidgin-Motu based *includes* Melanesian Pidgin / *included with* Pidgin
 Pidgin-Swahili based *includes* Bemba / *included with* Pidgin
 Pilipino *included with* Tagalog
 Polish *included with* Lekhitic and with European
 Polynesian *includes* Fijian, Samoan / *included with* Austronesian
 Portuguese *includes* Brazilian / *included with* Romance and with European
 Quechua
 Romance *includes* Catalan, French, Italian, Latin, Occitan, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish / *included with* Indo-European
 Romanian *included with* Romance
 Romany *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Russian *included with* East Slavic
 Saami *included with* Finno-Ugric
 Sami *see* Saami
 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
 Slovak *included with* Slovakian

Slovakian *includes* Slovak / *included with* West Slavic and with European
 Slovene *see* Slovenian
 Slovenian *included with* South Slavic and with European
 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, Nahuatl / *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