
Figure 7.1. Index to languages used by international organizations Edition 54, 2017/2018

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:

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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
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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* Fante, Twi / *included with* Kwa
 Albanian *included with* Indo-European
 Alsatian *included with* German
 Altaic *includes* Korean, Japanese, Mongolian, Turkic / *included with* Ural-Altaic
 Amharic *included with* Semitic
 Arabic *includes* Levantine Arabic, Maghrebi-Arabic / *included with* Semitic
 Aramaic *included with* Semitic
 Armenian *included with* Indo-European
 Assamese *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Austroasiatic *includes* Mon-Khmer
 Austronesian *includes* Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Malaysia, Polynesian, Tagalog, Tetun
 Aymara *included with* Uto-Aztec
 Azeri *included with* Southern Turkic
 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, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Kiswahili, Ndebele, Shona, Swahili, Tshiluba, Tsonga, Tswana, Xhosa, Zulu / *included with* Niger-Congo
 Basque *included with* Isolate
 Belorussian *included with* East Slavic
 Bemba *included with* Pidgin-Swahili based
 Bengali *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Bohemian *included with* West Slavic
 Bosnian *included with* Serbo-Croatian
 Brazilian *included with* Portuguese
 Breton *included with* Celtic
 Bulgarian *included with* South Slavic
 Burmese *included with* Myanmar
 Cantonese *included with* Chinese
 Castilian *included with* Spanish
 Catalan *included with* Romance
 Caucasian *includes* South Caucasian
 Cebuano *included with* Visayan
 Celtic *includes* Breton, Cornish, Gaelic, Irish, Manx, Scottish Gaelic, 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* Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Southern Turkic, Uyghur, Uzbek / *included with* Turkic
 Constructed languages *includes* Esperanto, Ido
 Cornish *included with* Celtic
 Creole *includes* Creole-English based, Creole-French based, Creole-Iberian based
 Creole-English based *includes* Tok Pisin / *included with* Creole
 Creole-French based *includes* Haitian Creole / *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
 Dari *included with* Iranian
 Dhivehi *included with* Indo-Aryan
 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
 Ellice *includes* Tokelauan / *included with* Polynesian
 English *included with* West Germanic and with European
 Eskimo-Aleut *includes* Inuktitut, Inupiaq, Yup'ik / *included with* Native American
 Esperanto *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, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish
 Ewe *included with* Niger-Congo
 Faeroese *included with* North Germanic
 Fante *included with* Akan
 Fijian *included with* Polynesian
 Filipino *included with* Tagalog
 Finnish *included with* Uralic and with European
 Finno-Ugric *includes* S mi / *included with* Uralic
 Flemish *included with* Dutch
 French *included with* Romance and with European
 Frisian *included with* West Germanic
 Gaelic *included with* Celtic
 Galician *included with* Portuguese
 Georgian *included with* South Caucasian
 German *includes* Alsatian / *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
 Haitian Creole *included with* Creole-French based
 Hausa *included with* Chadic
 Hebrew *included with* Semitic
 Hindi *includes* Urdu, Western Hindi / *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Hindustani *included with* Western Hindi
 Hungarian *included with* Uralic and with European
 Icelandic *included with* North Germanic
 Ido *included with* Constructed languages
 Igbo *included with* Niger-Congo
 Indo-Aryan *includes* Assamese, Bangla, Bengali, Dhivehi, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Meithei, Nepalese, Oriya, Punjabi, Romany, Sanskrit, Sinhala / *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
 Inuktitut *includes* Kalaallisut / *included with* Eskimo-Aleut
 Inupiaq *included with* Eskimo-Aleut
 Iranian *includes* Dari, Persian, Kurdish, Pashto, Tajik / *included with* Indo-Iranian
 Irish *included with* Celtic and with European
 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
 Kaqchikel *included with* Maya
 Kazakh *included with* Common Turkic
 Khmer *included with* Mon-Khmer
 Kikongo *includes* Lingala / *included with* Bantu
 Kinyarwanda *included with* Bantu
 Kirundi *included with* Bantu
 Kiswahili *included with* Bantu
 Korean *included with* Altaic
 Kurdish *included with* Iranian
 Kwa *includes* Akan / *included with* Niger-Congo
 Kyrgyz *included with* Common Turkic
 Laotian *included with* Tai
 Latin *included with* Romance
 Latvian *included with* Baltic and with European
 Lebanese *included with* Levantine Arabic
 Lekhitic *includes* Polish / *included with* West Slavic
 Levantine Arabic *includes* Shami-Arabic, Lebanese / *included with* Arabic
 Lingala *included with* Kikongo
 Lithuanian *included with* Baltic and with European
 Macedonian *included with* South Slavic
 Maghrebi-Arabic *included with* Arabic

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
 Maori *included with* Polynesian
 Marathi *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Maya *includes* Kaqchikel / *included with* Native American
 Meithei *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
 Moldavian *included with* Romanian
 Mon-Khmer *includes* Khmer, Vietnamese / *included with* Austroasiatic
 Mongolian *included with* Altaic
 Montenegrin *included with* Serbo-Croatian
 Myanmar *includes* Burmese / *included with* Sino-Tibetan
 Nahuatl *included with* Uto-Aztec
 Native American *includes* Eskimo-Aleut, Uto-Aztec, Maya
 Ndebele *included with* Bantu
 Nepalese *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Niger-Congo *includes* Bantu, Ewe, Igbo, Kwa, Wolof, Yoruba / *included with* African
 North Germanic *includes* Danish, Faeroese, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish / *included with* Germanic
 North S mi *included with* S mi
 Norwegian *included with* North Germanic
 Occitan *included with* Romance
 Oriya *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Papiamentu *included with* Creole-Iberian based
 Pashto *included with* Iranian
 Persian *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* Ellice, Fijian, Maori, Samoan, Tongan / *included with* Austronesian
 Portuguese *includes* Brazilian, Galician / *included with* Romance and with European
 Punjabi *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Quechua
 Romance *includes* Catalan, French, Italian, Latin, Occitan, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish / *included with* Indo-European
 Romani *included with* Romany
 Romanian *includes* Moldavian / *included with* Romance
 Romany *includes* Romani / *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Russian *included with* East Slavic
 Samoan *included with* Polynesian
 Sanskrit *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Scottish Gaelic *included with* Celtic
 Semitic *includes* Amharic, Arabic, Aramaic, Hebrew, Maltese, Tigrigna / *included with* Afro-Asiatic
 Serbian *included with* Serbo-Croatian
 Serbo-Croatian *includes* Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, Serbian / *included with* South Slavic
 Setswana *included with* Tswana
 Shami-Arabic *included with* Levantine Arabic
 Sheng *included with* Swahili
 Shona *included with* Bantu
 Sinhala *includes* Sinhalese / *included with* Indo-Aryan
 Sinhalese *included with* Sinhala
 Sino-Tibetan *includes* Chinese, Kadai, Myanmar, Tibetan
 Slavic *includes* South Slavic, West Slavic, East Slavic / *included with* Indo-European
 Slovakian *included with* West Slavic and with European
 Slovene *included with* South Slavic and with European
 Sotho *included with* Sesotho
 South Caucasian *includes* Georgian / *included with* Caucasian
 South Slavic *includes* Slovene, Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian, Macedonian / *included with* Slavic
 Southern Turkic *includes* Azeri, Turkish / *included with* Common Turkic
 Spanish *includes* Castilian / *included with* Romance and with European
 Swahili *includes* Sheng / *included with* Bantu
 Swedish *included with* North Germanic and with European
 S mi *includes* North S mi / *included with* Finno-Ugric
 Tagalog *includes* Filipino, Pilipino, Visayan / *included with* Austronesian
 Tai *includes* Thai, Laotian / *included with* Kadai
 Taiwanese *included with* Minnan
 Tajik *included with* Iranian
 Tamil *included with* Dravidian
 Telegu *included with* Telugu
 Telugu *includes* Telungu, Telegu / *included with* Dravidian
 Telungu *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
 Tokelauan *included with* Ellice
 Tongan *included with* Polynesian
 Trans-New Guinea *includes* Dani
 Tshiluba *included with* Bantu
 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
 Uyghur *included with* Common Turkic
 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, Frisian, German, Yiddish / *included with* Germanic
 West Slavic *includes* Bohemian, Czech, Slovakian, Lekhitic / *included with* Slavic
 Western Hindi *includes* Hindustani / *included with* Hindi
 Wolof *included with* Niger-Congo
 Xhosa *included with* Bantu
 Yiddish *included with* West Germanic
 Yoruba *included with* Niger-Congo
 Yup'ik *included with* Eskimo-Aleut
 Zulu *included with* Bantu

