ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

This form is to be used in conjunction with a “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code” form
Date: 2007-2-27
Name of Primary Requester: Montxo Vicente i Sempere
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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2006-087 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : vsv (completed by Registration Authority)

PLEASE NOTE: This completed form will become part of the public record of this change request and the history of the ISO 639-3 code set.

1. NAMES and IDENTIFICATION
   a) Preferred name of language for code element denotation:
      Valencian Sign Language
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Llengua de signes valenciana
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Llengua de signes de la Comunitat Valenciana, LSCV, LSPV
   d) Reason for preferred name:
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
      Deaf persons from the Autonomous Community of Valencia (Spain). Around 20.000 speakers, mainly Deaf persons.
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: vsv

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. Language identifiers are not intended to be an abbreviation for a name of the language, but to serve as a device to identify a given language uniquely. With thousands of languages, many sets of which have similar names, it is not possible to provide identifiers that resemble a language name in every case.

2. TEMPORAL DESCRIPTION and LOCATION
   a) Is this a ☒ Living language
      □ Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
      □ Recently extinct language
      □ Historical language
      □ Ancient language
      □ Artificially constructed language

(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/types.asp)
b) Countries where used:
   Spain (Europe)

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used:
   Valencian Country

d) For an ancient or historical language, give approximate time frame; for a recently extinct language, give the approximate date of the last known user’s death

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION
a) This language is: ☒ Signed    ☐ Spoken    ☐ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   Unknown.

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
   Closest to Catalan Sign Language and Spanish Sign Language.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   No historical literature recorded because no writing system. It's being used nowadays from Valencian public broadcasting in some programs. It's also used to translate interventions from Valencian parliament.

b) Is this language officially recognized by any level of government? Is it used in any levels of formal education as a language of instruction (for other subjects)? Is it taught in schools?:
   Linguistical right granted by Valencian government (Generalitat) through the Statute of Autonomy:
   Article 13,4: "La Generalitat garantirà l’ús de la llengua de signes pròpia de les persones sordes, que haurà de ser objecte d’ensenyament, protecció i respecte" (Translation from Catalan: The Generalitat shall grant the use of the own sign language of deaf persons, which shall have to be purposed in education, protection and respect).

   It's also used to cover basic needings and public assistance to Deaf persons, such hospital, Administration, etc.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   The vocabulary of LSCV is only 72% similar to that of LSE, so some linguists maintain that the former is unique enough to have its own grammar, as is the case with Catalan Sign Language (LSC). Organisations like FESORD, which work with the hearing-impaired in
Valencia have not yet expressed their views on this matter but they do refer to LSCV as Llengua de Signes en la Comunitat Valenciana (Sign Language of the Land of Valencia), and rules as the local linguistic authority "de facto" through the "Centro de Referencia de la Lengua de Signos de la Comunidad Valenciana" (CR-LSCV). Valencia is the first Spanish autonomous community to support the use of sign-language in the Statute of Autonomy in 2006 (Catalonia was the second, and Andalusia was the third). The use of LSCV in Valencia has, however, diminished and is restricted to administrative communications and occasional usage in the media.

5. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

You do not need to repeat sources previously identified in the form, “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code”

a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:
   The requester is a Deaf person since 4 years old, and uses a Sign Language to communicate. The requester also has born in Alicante, Valencia, Spain.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
   It's hard to me to understand formal Spanish Sign Language promoted by CNSE (Spanish National Confederation of Deaf Persons). It's more hardest for me with Deaf signers from Madrid, Galicia, and Basque Country, but it's less hardest with Deaf signers from Andalusia.

   In the other hand, although there are important lexical differences with the Catalan Sign Language, it's more easy to understand iconically with Catalonian Deaf signers than with "Castilian" Deaf signers (central-interior area of Spain surrounding widely the city of Madrid) in SSL.

   Oldest Valencian persons doesn't understand interprets in Spanish Sign Language when it's shown in Spanish Public TV, but they understand perfectly interprets working in Valencia when it's shown in Valencian Public TV.

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):


   The first learning material for listening persons about Valencian Sign Language was "Curso de lenguaje mímico valenciano", by Valencian Deaf persons José Antonio Gómez Senent Andreu and Miguel Ángel Domingo, published in 1982 by the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (ISBN 978-84-300-6252-2). This book includes a brief dictionary of Valencian Sign Language.
Dictionary of Spanish Sign Language made by Felix J. Pinedo Peydró (Madrid 2000, CNSE 978-84-95502-04-9) is discouraged from FESORD to interprets working in Valencian Country. Instead of it, FESORD recommends Sign Language Interprets to visit often Deaf associations of Valencian towns and cities. This Dictionary of SSL only collects lexicography from Madrid and surrounding area, and doesn't collect sign-words used by Valencian Deaf persons.

Other sources regarding to Valencian Sign Language:


Please return this form to:

ISO 639-3 Registrar
SIL International, Office of Language Information Systems
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, Texas 75236 USA
Email: iso639-3@sil.org
An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

Further information:

If your request for a new language code element is supported by the Registration Authority as a formal proposal, you may be contacted separately by researchers working with the Ethnologue or with LinguistList asking you to provide additional information.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:
