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: 2011-8-18

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2011-180  (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : aeg  (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. Use Shift-Enter to insert a new line in a form field (where allowed).

1. NAMES and IDENTIFICATION
   a) Preferred name of language for code element denotation:
      Alemannic
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Alemannisch
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      called "Schwyzerdütsch" in Switzerland, "Elsässisch" in France, "Schwäbisch" in the Swabian dialect area of Germany, and "Alemannisch" elsewhere; alem.
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      most commonly used English term
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      no strong common ethnic identity because of long-standing political fragmentation; speaker population: 7-10 million
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: aeh

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifiers is 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
      [x] Living language
      [ ] Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
      [ ] Recently extinct language
      [ ] Historical language
      [ ] Ancient language
      [ ] Artificially constructed language
Macrolanguage

(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639-2D3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Switzerland, Germany, France, Austria, Liechtenstein, Italy, Venezuela

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Switzerland: entire germanophone part; Germany: most of Baden-Württemberg and the district of Swabia in Bavaria; France: Alsace; Austria: Vorarlberg; Liechtenstein: entire country; Italy: several villages in the Piemont region; Venezuela: Colonia Tovar

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:
   Indo-European, Germanic, West Germanic, High German, Upper German

c) Closest language linguistically. For a Macrolanguage, list the individual languages (adopted and/or proposed) to be included in its group. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
   German, Swiss (gsw), Swabian (swg), Walser (wae), German, Colonia Tovar (gct), Alsatian.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   extensive literature, mainly poetry and short stories, also used in radio and television broadcasts in Switzerland, movies, commercials, and personal communication (letters, text messages etc), newspapers and journals sometimes include short texts. Not much used in the media outside of Switzerland. Numerous dictionaries and grammar descriptions for various dialects.

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?:
   de facto oral official use in Switzerland, some use in bilingual classes in Alsace.
c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Linguistic identity correlates with the political borders between Germany, Switzerland,
France, within Germany between the former states of Baden and Württemberg, and
between Cantons of Switzerland; Swiss speakers call their language "Schwyzerdütsch"
(Swiss German), speakers in Alsace "Elsässisch" (Alsatian) etc. Actual dialect isoglosses
established by dialectologists rarely follow the present political borders however, and some
speakers identify as speakers of Alemannic as a whole. Used in all formal and informal
spoken contexts in Switzerland, and in informal contexts only elsewhere; used alongside
French in Alsace, and alongside Standard German elsewhere. Virtually all speakers also
speak Standard German, or French in Alsace.
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:

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

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

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: