Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2011-176

Outcome: Rejected
Effective date: February 3, 2012
Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2011-176: to promote the code element [hye] to macrolanguage “Armenian” and to create new code elements [hyr] “Eastern Armenian” and [hyt] “Western Armenian”

The request to promote the code element [hye] to macrolanguage “Armenian” and to create new code elements [hyr] “Eastern Armenian” and [hyt] “Western Armenian” is rejected for insufficient evidence. The change request states “Eastern Armenian” is distinct from “Western Armenian” because the Eastern variety underwent a major reform in the 1920s which was not followed by the Western speakers. The major references for this language note the differences between the two varieties but clearly state that they are still mutually intelligible. The major difference between the two is a difference in the script used to write them. There is no clear linguistic evidence to separate the two. For this reason the request to create two languages “Eastern Armenian” and “Western Armenian” is rejected.