

Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2013-018

Outcome: Rejected

Effective date: 2014-02-03



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Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2013-018: to create the code element [hkj] Kaikavian.

The request to create the code [hkj] Kaikavian is rejected. The Registration Authority notes that the request has merit, that there seem to be parts of the Kaikavian language continuum that are not intelligible with the Shtokavian variety which is the basis for Croatian. But there is no way to recognize this language within the current constraints of the standard. Part 2 of the standard has chosen to recognize the languages of Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian, based on national boundaries rather than linguistic factors. Taken together, these form the macrolanguage Serbo-Croatian [hbs]. There is no way to recognize [hkj] Kaikavian as a new code within the current macrolanguage system since it would involve splitting what is currently represented by [hrv] Croatian and this would in turn invalidate the use of that code to-date in library catalogs. Recognizing the language as being outside the Serbo-Croatian macrolanguage does not solve the problem since the current use of [hrv] is still invalidated. So the request as currently presented is rejected.

The Registration Authority notes that the above decision puts the precedent of established usage in ISO 639-2 above the linguistic factors of intelligibility which usually inform the decision of the ISO 639-3 RA. Within the overall framework of the ISO 639 family of standards, this issue must first be resolved in Part 2 before it can be taken up in Part 3.