

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: 2008-5-9

Name of Primary Requester: Sulev Iva, PhD, researcher of Võro Institute, lecturer of University of Tartu

E-mail address: sulev.iva@ut.ee

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

Karl Pajusalu, PhD, Tartu University, professor of Estonian Dialectology and History of the Estonian Language, karl.pajusalu@ut.ee

Paul Hagu, PhD, head of Tartu University Center for South Estonian Language and Cultural Studies, paul.hagu@ut.ee

Helena Sulkala, PhD, University of Oulu, professor of Finnish language, helena.sulkala@oulu.fi

Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, PhD, University of Roskilde, SkutnabbKangas@gmail.com

Marju Kõivupuu, PhD, University of Tallinn, Estonian Institute of Humanities, senior researcher, kpuu@tlu.ee

Mari Mets, MA, Tartu University Center for South Estonian Language and Cultural Studies, curator, mari.mets@ut.ee

Triin Iva, MA, Tartu University Center for South Estonian Language and Cultural Studies, curator, triin.iva@ut.ee

Timur Seifullen, Estonian Buro of Lesser Used Languages, chairman, ervl@estblul.ee

Küllli Eichenbaum, director of Võro Institute, kylli@wi.werro.ee

Kadri Koreinik, MA, researcher of Võro Institute, kadri@wi.werro.ee

Evar Saar, MA, researcher of Võro Institute, evsar@wi.werro.ee

Mariko Faster, MA, researcher of Võro Institute, mariko.faster@gmail.com

(See also attached recommendations from 2005))

Associated Change request number : 2008-043

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : vro

(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:
Võro
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Võro kiil
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Võru - used in Estonian and in western part of Võro language area. Voru, Voru - õ is replaced with o - used sometimes in English and in other foreign languages. Võro-Seto - Seto is name of another South Estonian language (about 5000 speakers), some linguists use the two names together or consider Seto as a dialect of Võro because they are linguistically very close. However, Võros and Setos consider themselves of different identities.
- d) Reason for preferred name:
Võro is original name of the language used in central and eastern parts of Võro language area, in neighbouring Seto area and in Võro literary language; mostly used also in English and other foreign languages.
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
Võros. About 70.000 - almost all Võro speaking population are Estonians with Võro linguistic identity. Võro speakers are linguistic minority or subethnos of Estonia.
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: VRO

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifier 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
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Living language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Recently extinct language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Historical language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ancient language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Artificially constructed language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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:
Almost all Võro-speaking population lives in Estonia. Abroad there can be found only some hundreds of Võro speakers, mostly in Russia (some Võro villages Siberia) and some elderly people in Sweden, USA, Canada.

- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
 South-East Estonia - Võru and Põlva counties, parts of Valga and Tartu counties (about 10% of Estonia's territory). GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the Võro language area: 57°52' N 26°60' E.
- 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:
 Võro belongs to the Baltic-Finnic branch of the Finno-Ugric language family.
- 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:
 The closest language is Estonian. Some linguists consider Võro as a dialect of Estonian, some use name South Estonian language or Võro-Seto language because South Estonian languages Võro and Seto are linguistically very close (Seto is mostly considered as a (sub)dialect of Võro). However, identities of Võros and Setos are different. South Estonian can be used as an umbrella notion for Võro and Seto languages and nearly extinct varieties Mulgi and Tartu. Also Ethnologue's current entry for Estonia states that North and South Estonian may be separate languages.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
 The New Testament (Wastne Testament) in South Estonian literary language, predecessor of Võro, was published in 1686, the last edition in 1905. Supposedly the oldest ABC book in Võro "Wastne võro keeli ABD raamat" is from 1885, the newest from 1998. Every year about five books (also school materials and academic publications) are published in Võro (see <http://www.wi.ee> - publications). The only Võro language newspaper, Uma Leht, comes out twice a month (online: <http://www.umaleht.ee>). Võro-Estonian Dictionary (with short grammar) was published in 2002, online: <http://www.folklore.ee/Synaraamat/>; English-Võro dictionary of computer terms: <http://math.ut.ee/~vlaan/ivps/ivps.html>; Homepage of computer programs in Võro: <http://math.ut.ee/~vlaan/vtk/vtk.html>; Free online encyclopedia Wikipedia in Võro: <http://fiu-vro.wikipedia.org>; Radio broadcasts in Võro twice a month in the Estonian National Radio (Vikerraadio): <http://www.vikerraadio.ee/kuularhiiv?saade=66&kid=191>; Estonia's contribution to the Eurovision Song Contest in 2004, the song "Tii" performed by Neioköšõ, was in Võro.

- 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?:
 Võro is a regional language of Estonia. It is not officially recognised yet. However, the Võro Institute (founded by the Estonian government in 1995) is an Estonian state research and development institution dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Võro language and culture. Võro is taught as an optional subject mostly at primary level in local schools (26 schools). Moreover it is also taught in University of Tartu. In schools, Võro is used also as a language of instruction in lessons of local history and cultural tradition, literature. In University of Tartu Võro is used as a language of instruction in most lectures of the Tartu University Center for South Estonian Language and Cultural Studies (including South Estonian cultural history, South Estonian literature, folklore, history of the South Estonian literary language etc.).
- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
 Almost all Võro speaking population (Võros) are Estonians. Võros are Estonians with Võro linguistic identity, they are linguistic minority or subethnos of Estonia. South Estonian languages Võro and Seto are linguistically very close (Seto is mostly considered as a (sub)dialect of Võro). However, identities of Võros and Setos are different. South Estonian can be used as an umbrella notion for Võro and Seto languages and nearly extinct varieties Mulgi and Tartu. Today the number of children whose first language is Võro is rather small. However, most of them are able to understand and to speak some Võro as a second language. Probably some of them will use it in everyday communication as they grow up. The percentage of the ethnic community who use the language is near 90% but rapid language shift to Estonian only takes place, especially among younger generation. Võro is spoken very often at work place. One can hear informal Võro in local municipalities and in other offices. At home the most communication in Võro is between adult members, less often between a parent and children. Võro is a language of literature, theatre, pop and folk music. There are local paper, radio and TV programs in Võro.

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:
 I'm a native speaker, teacher (Tartu University) and researcher (Võro Institute) of Võro language.
- b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
 Võro is language of my everyday communication (home, work, community etc.) and also my research subject.
- c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
 — Iva, Sulev (2007): Võru kirjakeele sõnamuutmissüsteem. (Inflectional Morphology in the Võro Literary Language, PhD dissertation, University of Tartu) Tartu: Tartu Ülikooli Kirjastus (online: http://dspace.utlib.ee/dspace/bitstream/10062/4860/1/iva_sulev.pdf, English summary pp 144-146). — Eller, Kalle (1999): Võro-Seto language. Võro Instituut'.

Võro. — Jüvä, Sullõv (2002): Võro-eesti synaraamat (Võro-Estonian dictionary). Publications of Võro Institute 12. Tartu-Võro (online: <http://www.folklore.ee/Synaraamat/>).

— Keem, Hella (1997): Võru keel (Võro language (grammar)). Võro Instituut ja Eesti teaduste akadeemia Emakeele selts. Tallinn. — Valk, Aune (2000): Võrokeste identiteedist (Identity of Võros). Kadri Koreinik, Jan Rahman (toim.) A kiilt rahvas kynõlõs.. Võrokeste keelest, kommetest, identiteedist (pp. 39-56). Võro Instituut'. Võro. — Iva, Sulev; Pajusalu, Karl (2004): The Võro Language: Historical Development and Present Situation. – Valodas politika un sociolingvistiskie jautājumi I. Language Policy and Sociolinguistics I. Regional Languages in the New Europe. Ilga Šuplinska (ed). Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference 20–23 May 2004. Rēzekne, 58–63.

— Koreinik, Kadri; Pajusalu, Karl (2007): Language naming practices and linguistic identity in South-Eastern Estonia. – Language and Identity in the Finno-Ugric World. Proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium at the University of Groningen, May 17–19, 2006. R. Blokland and C. Hasselblatt (eds). (Studia Fenno-Ugrica Groningana 4). Maastricht: Shaker. — Pajusalu, Karl (2003): Estonian Dialects. – Estonian Language (Mati Ereht ed.), Linguistica Uralica, Supplementary Series / Volume 1, Tallinn. — Salminen, Tapani (2003): Uralic Languages: <http://www.helsinki.fi/~tasalmin/fu.html>. — Sutrop, Urmas (2000): "The Estonian Language": http://www.estonica.org/eng/lugu.html?menyy_id=61&kateg=38&alam=44&leht=3. — Ehala, M. (2007). Sustainability of double ethnic identity in majority-minority settings: The case of Estonian and Võro. In R. Blokland & C. Hasselblatt (eds.), Language and Identity in the Finno-Ugric World. Proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium at the University of Groningen, May 17-19, 2006. Maastricht: Shaker 2007. (Studia Fenno-Ugrica Groningana 4). — Ehala, M. & Niglas, K. (2007). Empirical evaluation of a mathematical model of ethnolinguistic vitality: the case of Võro". Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development. — Koreinik, K. (2007). The Võro language in education in Estonia. Regional dossiers series. Mercator. European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning. Online: http://www1.fa.know.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/PDFs/vo%CC%83ro_in_estonia.pdf

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
ISO 639-3/RA web site: <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/default.asp>
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:

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/> .

LinguistList. Ancient and Extinct Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>