# 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

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(all prominent and active members of the Interslavic community).

Associated Change request number : 2012-146 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : isv (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:
Interslavic

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Medžuslovjanski, Меджусловјански

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Slavic, Pan-Slavic, Neoslavonic;
Slovianski, Novosloviensky, Vseslovjanski, Občeslovjanski, Slovanština, etc.
Several informal abbreviations are or have been in use (MS, IS, NS, NMS, SVI, UPS, etc.), but none of them really established.

d) Reason for preferred name:
The name "Interslavic" has been agreed upon as an umbrella name for the close cooperation between the various collaborative projects for a Pan-Slavic language, most active of which are currently the Slovianski project and the Novosloviensky project (both share a common dictionary, for example). The name was first proposed in 1907 by Ignac Hošek.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
Interslavic exists on two levels:
- as an improvised means of communication between Slavs of various nationalities; in this sense it has been a naturally existing phenomenon for centuries, although it is hard to say if there are any native speakers

- as the scientific extrapolation of the language somewhere at the centre of the Slavic languages, intended to serve as an umbrella language for all Slavic speakers.

Thus, Interslavic incorporates elements of both a macrolanguage, a pidgin language and a constructed language. From the point of view of those who consider it a macrolanguage, all Slavic languages are essentially dialects of one single Slavic language, and therefore all 300 million Slavs are its speakers. Especially during the 19th century, many authors claimed to be native speakers of this language. Indeed, even though the language they described in their books and articles can - in present-day terms - be qualified as a constructed language, they definitely did not consider it one themselves.

Following modern definitions, Interslavic would best be qualified as a constructed language.The number of users/speakers now and in the past is hard to establish - a recurring problem in the case of constructed languages (due not only to a lack of demographic information, but also to the fact that it is hard to establish one's level of proficiency). In any case, efforts at a common Slavic language have been made since the 16th century onwards, and through the centuries many books and articles have been written in and about it. Presently there are at least some 200-300 active users, probably more, as well as a large group of interested bystanders. It should be noted that the existence of a community of Interslavic speakers is rather a side-effect, and has never been a purpose in itself.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: ISV, SLO

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

- ☐ 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:
Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Macedonia, Bulgaria. Active users are also living in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Japan.

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
n/a

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
n/a

## 3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is: ☐ Signed ☒ Spoken ☐ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
Constructed languages > International Auxiliary Languages > Zonal languages
Based on the entire Slavic language family, both the living languages and Proto-Slavic / Old Church Slavonic.

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:
Proto-Slavic, Old Church Slavonic

## 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
Numerous books (both fiction and non-fiction) have been published in Interslavic from the 16th century onwards, including several works by Juraj Križanić (17th century) and Matija Majar-Ziljski (19th century). The latter also published a magazine in Interslavic, Slavjan. Nowadays, in the digital age, there is a news portal, http://www.izviestija.info/ and there are various places with all kinds of writings in Interslavic, including longer literary fragments and translations. Worth mentioning is also Vojtěch Merunka's book "Novoslovienskij jazyk" (Prague, 2010). I am not aware of any radio or television broadcasts in Interslavic, although our various projects have received extensive media attention over the years.

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?:
No formal status, but in previous centuries, various blends of Interslavic and some particular language have been promoted by official organs (Slavoserbian, Jazyčije). There will be a summer course at Prague University this year.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Traditionally, Interslavic or Panslavic language projects have been the domain of Pan-Slavists, who considered the creation of a universal Slavic language an essential step towards the unification of all Slavs. Also, the Slavic world has always been an ethnic mishmash, and especially in multi-Slavic environments it happened often that people

communicated in some kind of instant, improvised Slavic. Over the centuries, many scholars and others have tried to provide this language with a scientific base, resulting in over 60 projects (see http://steen.free.fr/interslavic/constructed_slavic_languages.html). Although these projects carry different names and there are differences between them, these differences are so small that it is reasonable to say that all of them are attempts at the very same language.
Currently, Interslavic is mostly used on several Slavic internet fora and Facebook groups, as well as in private chat sessions, but I also know about an international law company that uses it for contracts and internal communication, hotels that offer information in Interslavic, companies that use it on their website, etc. It has been used by tourists visiting Slavic countries as well, but I have no idea on what scale.

## 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:
(see the Change Request Form)

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
(see the Change Request Form)

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

### 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