

**“Italian Languages and Dialects,”  
or better “Regional Italian and the Languages of Italy”**

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- Establishing precise boundaries is very difficult in linguistics, and this operation at the limit can be accomplished for individual phenomena (such as the realization of a sound), but not for all of them: it is necessary to proceed in part by abstractions. In general, an isogloss is an imaginary line that marks the boundary of a linguistic phenomenon. The line traditionally referred to as [La Spezia-Rimini](#) is an important isogloss for Southern Europe, which delimits a continuum of languages and dialects characterized by similar phenomena that differ from others for these same phenomena.
- This imaginary line is used here to define not only a boundary between dialect groups, but also between Northern regional Italian on the one hand and Central and Southern regional Italian on the other. Other well-defined areas are the Tuscan, the extreme Southern Italian (comprising the peninsular part of [Calabria](#), [Salento](#) and [Sicily](#)), and finally the Sardinian ones.
- Based on borders like La Spezia-Rimini, here are the most well-identified groups of regional Italian: Northern Italy, Tuscany, Central and Southern Italy, Sardinia



# Legal status

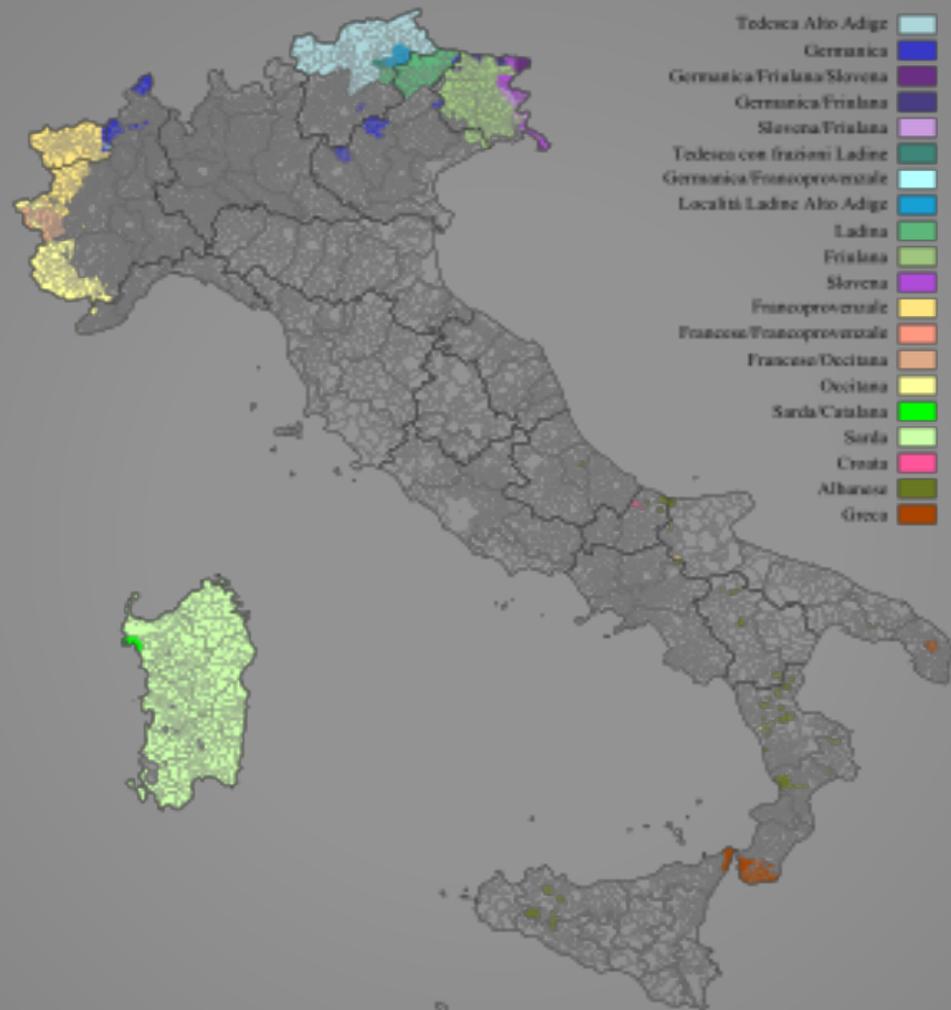
## Recognition at the European level

Italy is a signatory of the [European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages](#), but has not ratified the treaty, and therefore its provisions protecting [regional languages](#) do not apply in the country. The Charter does not, however, establish at what point differences in expression result in a separate language, deeming it an "often controversial issue", and citing the necessity to take into account, other than purely linguistic criteria, also "psychological, sociological and political considerations."

## Recognition by the Italian state

The original Italian Constitution does not explicitly express that Italian is the official national language. The following [minority languages](#) are officially recognized as "historical language minorities" by the Law no.

482/1999: [Albanian](#), [Catalan](#), [German](#), [Greek](#), [Slovene](#), [Croatian](#), [French](#), [Franco-Provençal](#), [Friulian](#), [Ladin](#), [Occitan](#) and [Sardinian](#) (Legge 15 Dicembre 1999, n. 482, Art. 2, comma 1).<sup>[16]</sup> The selection of those languages to the exclusion of numerous others is a matter of some controversy



## Comunità di minoranza

L. 482/99 e S.A. Prov. BZ/Sudtirolo



# “O mia bela Madunina” canzone popolare milanese

A diesen la canzon la nass a Napuli  
e francament g'han minga tutti i tort

Surriento, Margellina tucc'i popoli  
i avran cantà on milion de volt  
mi speri che se offendera nissun  
se parlom un cicin anca de num

O mia bela Madunina che te brillet de lontan  
tuta d'ora e piscinina, ti te dominet Milan  
sota a ti se viv la vita, se sta mai coi man in  
man  
canten tucc "lontan de Napoli se moeur"  
ma po' i vegnen chi a Milan

Ades ghè la canzon de Roma magica  
de Nina er Cupolone e Rugantin  
se sbaten in del tever, roba tragica  
esageren, me par on cicinin  
Sperem che vegna minga la mania  
de metes a cantà "Milano mia"

O mia bela Madunina che te brillet de lontan  
tuta d'ora e piscinina, ti te dominet Milan  
sota a ti se viv la vita, se sta mai coi man in  
man  
canten tucc "lontan de Napoli se moeur"  
ma po' i vegnen chi a Milan

Si vegni senza paura, num ve songaremm la  
man  
tucc el mond a l'è paes e semm d'accord  
ma Milan, l'è on gran Milan



N'TO' & Lucariello - Nuje Vulimme 'na Speranza - (Gomorra La Serie / Gomorrah TV series soundtrack)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17MBllYf6OY>

*Gomorrah* is a 2008 Neapolitan-language Italian film directed by Matteo Garrone, based on the book by Roberto Saviano, who also collaborated in the screenplay. It deals with the Casalesi clan, a crime syndicate within the Camorra — a traditional criminal organization based in Naples and Caserta, in the southern Italian region of Campania.

*Gomorrah* is an Italian crime drama television series created and produced by Roberto Saviano, based on Saviano's book of the same name. It originally aired on the Sky Italian network on 6 May 2014, and has run for three seasons.

PIOTTA feat. Il Muro del Canto - 7 vizi Capitale (SUBURRA Theme song / Sigla)

*Suburra* is a 2015 Italian neo-noir mafia crime film directed by Stefano Sollima, based on the 2013 novel of the same name by Carlo Bonini and Giancarlo De Cataldo. The movie was financed by Netflix and RAI.

In 2017, Netflix released a prequel to the film in the form of a television series, *Suburra: Blood on Rome*, set in 2008 and leading up to the events of the film.

*Suburra* was the name of a suburb of Ancient Rome.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKHYYXng1KqA>

## 99 Posse, “Curre Curre Guagliò (1993)

**99 Posse** is an Italian hip hop/reggae group from Naples. It raps both in Italian and in the local Naples dialect. Most of 99 Posse's songs deal with political or social issues,<sup>[1]</sup> and the group members are considered left-wing hardliners. As a showing of their activism, all of the group's albums have been released with a *prezzo politico* ("political price"): each CD displays a sticker saying "Don't pay more than...".

Its first album, *Curre Curre Guagliò* (1993), was mainly influenced by reggae and world music. *Curre Curre Guaglio* was self-produced, but rose from its underground status to become an iconic album and cultural manifesto that eventually inspired the film *Sud* by Oscar-winning director Gabriele Salvatores.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVNgLcJ0PiY>

# Davide Van de Sfroos, “New Orleans” (2008)

A certain revival of the use of Lombard has been observed in the last decade, when the use of Lombard has become a way to express one's local identity and to distance oneself from Roman-oriented mainstream Italian culture. The popularity of modern artists singing their lyrics in some Lombard dialect (in Italian "*rock dialettale*", the most well-known of such artists being [Davide Van de Sfroos](#)) is also a relatively new but growing phenomenon involving both the Swiss and Italian areas.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNJECSUwo>