

*L'italiano in Svizzera: una panoramica fra dati statistici e varietà sociolinguistiche*

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Abstract

This contribution presents an overview of the varieties of Italian in Switzerland, a minority national language. The outline comprises the language's demographic distribution based on the data of national censuses as well as its main sociolinguistic characteristics. Apart from the salient features of Italian in Switzerland, such as the territorial dimension (the Italian language within its traditional territory – Italian Switzerland – and outside its territory) and immigration from Italy, some other forms of the presence of the language are highlighted: in the federal institutions or as a language acquired by some of the speakers of other languages in Switzerland.