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## ABSTRACT

This contribution presents some moments of the history of everyday written Italian from the 15th to the 19th century in the communities which nowadays form the Canton of Ticino and Italian Grisons. The focus is on the change in identity issues concerning the relationship between Italy and Switzerland and their linguistic consequences; the role of the Churches in the cultivation and teaching of literacy and Italianization; the dynamics between dialects and Italian in a reality characterized by diglossia; the role of private and public schooling in the process of standardization in the long term.