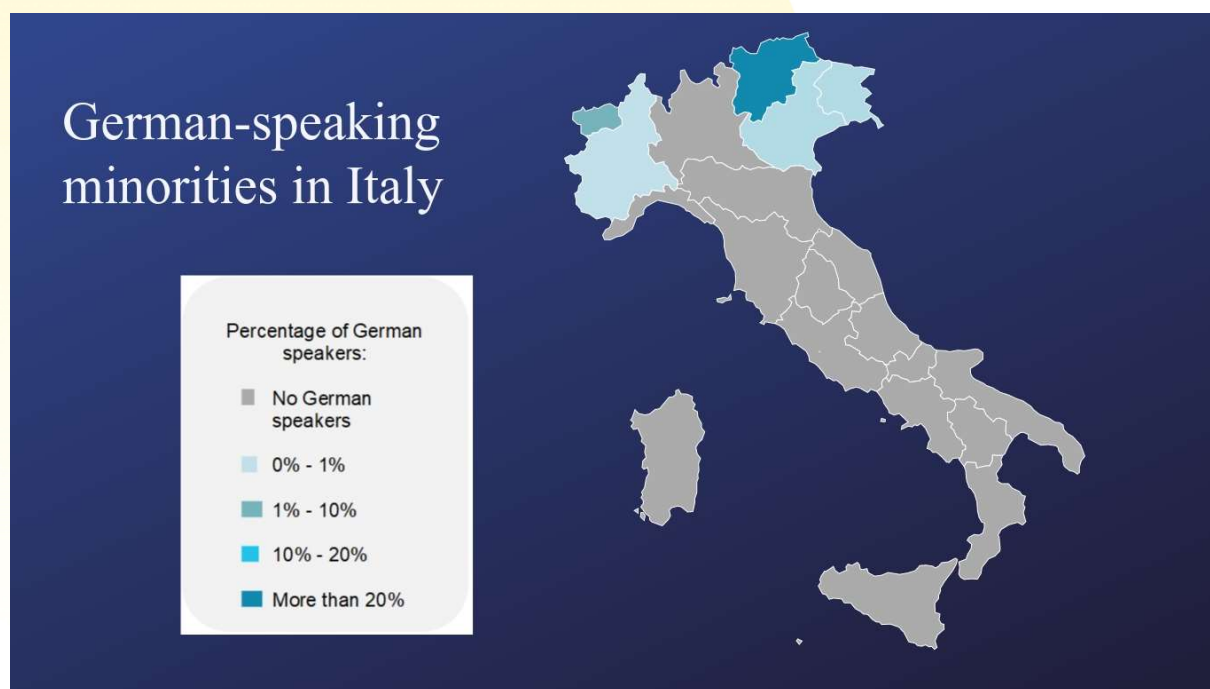


GERMAN MINORITIES IN ITALY

A project carried out by the students of FOS "Marie Curie" of Merano,
under the supervision of Viktoria Vent.

We, students from the FOS Marie Curie Merano, had the opportunity to attend some lectures of Prof. Woelk and have done some further research regarding German minorities in Northern Italy. In the following pages, on the basis of a digital map, we will give you an overview of the different German-speaking enclaves found in the region and provide more detailed information about each one of them.



For further information regarding the German-speaking minorities in Italy please follow the link:

<https://my.visme.co/view/n03qwop7-untitled-project>



GERMAN MINORITIES IN ITALY

Gressoney/Greschoney (Valle d'Aosta)

The two municipalities of Gressoney-Saint-Jean and Gressoney-La-Trinité are situated near Monte Rosa in Valle d'Aosta. Alemannic settlers from the Upper Valais in Switzerland reached Gressoney around 1100 A.D. Today, only a few people speak the local German dialect but there are some institutions, for example the Walser cultural centre, which are tasked with protecting and promoting the language and culture of the locals.

Issime/Éischeme (Valle d'Aosta)

Issime is situated in the Lys Valley on Monte Rosa at 953 metres above sea level and has about 400 inhabitants. Between the 12th and 13th centuries, Walsers settled in the area and brought the 'Töitschu' dialect into the valley. Today, only a few children speak Walser German, as Italian and French are the languages of instruction at school. A typical architectural element, which also reflects the local culture and tradition, is the so-called 'Stoadal', a barn for cereals or hay.

Alagna Valsesia/Im Land (Piemonte)

Alagna Valsesia is an Italian municipality with 732 inhabitants. It is located at 1191 metres above sea level in the upper Valsesia Valley and is the access point to the south face of Monte Rosa. Its foundation dates back to the 14th century. The community was settled by Walsers from the Swiss canton of Valais. Its inhabitants speak an Alemannic dialect.

Carcoforo/Kirchhof (Piemonte)

Carcoforo is situated in the valley of the Egua, a tributary of the river Sesia. In the 15th century settlers came to this area directly from Riva and Alagna. Characteristic of the town are its wooden houses, a testimony of the Walser origins of the village. The cultural association 'Gruppo Walser' promotes the traditional culture and organises an annual meeting of the Walser communities.

Rimella/Remmalju (Piemonte)

Rimella/Remmalju is a small village located at 1176 metres above sea level to the south of Monte Rosa. It was founded in the year 1255 AD, when on 27 August, 12 families from the Visp valley were granted alpine pasture rights and got the permission to build a mill by the church of San Giulio sul Lago D'Orta. They were a group of shepherds from the canton of Valais in Switzerland. Their language is the orally transmitted 'tittschu rimellese', which in 1970 still was the language of almost the entire population. Due to the long-lasting isolation and socio-cultural independence of this community,

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the Alemannic language was preserved, despite massive interference from Italian, particularly in terms of syntax.

Campello Monti/Kampel (Piemonte)

Campello Monti is a small Walser village located at 1305 metres above sea level to the south of Monte Rosa. The village has a close connection to the Walser Community of Rimella in Valsesia. The permanent presence of the German-speaking minority of Rimella Walsers dates back to the 15th century. Originally, the area was settled by shepherds.

Formazza/Pumât (Piemonte)

Formazza is situated in the north of Piedmont. The first settlers came in the 12th and 13th century. Many families still speak the old 'Titsch' language and bear Walser surnames.

Valle dei Mòcheni or Valle del Fersina/Bersntol (Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol)

The Bersntol/Valle del Fersina is located 20 km from Trento on the river Fersina. The valley is known because of the German language variety which is still used by a large part of the population. The German-speaking people came between 1200 and 1300 AD from Tyrol. From the 18th century onwards, the area was included in a lively seasonal trade which extended to the whole of Austria-Hungary.

The Bersntol community is protected by the Special statute of the Autonomous Region of Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol and a cultural institute has been established to promote its culture.

Luserna/Lusérn (Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol)

The municipality of Luserna is located in the Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol region. An ancient German language called Cimbrian is spoken in Luserna, which is the only language island where Cimbrian is still widely spoken in Northern Italy. The first settlement in Luserna can be traced back to the migration of people from Bavaria in the 11th century. Luserna is surrounded by forests and alpine pastures which attract countless tourists.

Alto Adige/Südtirol (Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol)

South Tyrol (Alto Adige/Südtirol) is an autonomous province in Northern Italy. Until 1918 it was part of the Austro-Hungarian (Princely) County of Tyrol, but this almost completely German-speaking territory was occupied by Italy at the end of WWI in November 1918 and was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy in 1919. 69.4% of the population speaks German as their first language (Standard German in the written form and an Austro-Bavarian dialect in the spoken form), 26% of the population

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speaks Italian, mainly in and around the two largest cities (Bolzano and Merano), while about 4.5% speaks Ladin, a Rhaeto-Romance language.

Sette Comuni/Siben Komoine (Veneto)

The Sette Comuni (Seven Communities) include Asiago, Enego, Foza, Gallio, Lusiana, Roana and Rotzo, each of which has used the Cimbrian language since the 14th century. Collectively, they have 21,247 inhabitants. Their origins can be traced back to the migration of Germanic (Bavarian) groups in mediaeval times. The language has been protected by the local Cultural institute for 50 years. In the period 1310-1807 the Seven Communities formed a largely independent German-speaking Republic.

Tredici Comuni/XIII Komaunj (Veneto)

The Tredici Comuni (Thirteen Communities) include Erbezzo, Bosco Chiesanuova, Valdiporto, Azzarino, Camposilvano, Cerro, San Mauro di Saline, Tavernole, Badia Calavena, Selva di Progno and San Bartolomeo delle Montagne. Giazza is a fraction of the municipality of Selva in Progno. It lies at the foot of the Carega Group in the Lessinia Nature Park and is populated by little more than 100 people. This is the last of the ancient Thirteen Communities where the Cimbrian language is still spoken today. The first people settled there towards the end of the 13th century. The cultural association 'Curatorium Cimbricum Veronese' has existed since 1974 and is committed to the protection, preservation and promotion of the Cimbrian language and culture.

Sappada/Plodn (Friuli-Venezia Giulia)

Sappada is located in a German-speaking island close to the border with Austria, in the province of Udine. As of February 28, 2021, this language island had 1313 inhabitants. The everyday language spoken in the village dates back to the settlement by groups coming from Tyrol and Carinthia. The local cuisine is very noteworthy and is based on local produce.

Sauris/Zahre (Friuli-Venezia Giulia)

The municipality of Sauris is located in the uppermost valley of Lumiei, in the province of Udine, in the northernmost part of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region. The municipality has 421 inhabitants. The first settlers moved here in the middle of the 13th century from East Tyrol and Carinthia. The local language is Saurano, a South Bavarian language with great similarities to the one spoken in Carinthia and in the Puster Valley. Also the urban and rural landscapes are characterized by East Tyrolean elements. A chorus named 'Coro Zahre' was created to preserve the old musical heritage of the area, characterized by devotional and secular dialect songs.

Timau/Tischlbong (Friuli-Venezia Giulia)

Timau is situated at 830 meters above sea level, in the valley of the river Bût in Carnia (Friuli-Venezia Giulia). It has 346 inhabitants. Settlers came from the Gailtal valley and

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the Weissensee plateau in two phases: the first around 1000 AD and the second towards the end of the 13th century. This explains the close relationship of the language variety spoken in this area with the southern Bavarian and Carinthian dialects.

Val Canale/Kanaltal (Friuli-Venezia Giulia)

The Val Canale is situated in the Friuli Venezia-Giulia region. Before the First World War it was part of Austria-Hungary, but it was annexed to Italy after the peace Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye was signed in 1919. Still today, the locals speak three languages: Italian, a German dialect and a Slavic dialect.

Main source: <https://www.isolelinguistiche.it/it/>

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