In the last few years a growing attention on the preservation of languages has developed, in particular through initiatives of language planning, whose precondition is the recognition of a variety as a language at the political level. This view follows the dichotomy between recognized languages and non-recognized languages, such as dialects. But the difference between languages and dialects is socio-linguistic, not linguistic tout court: as a consequence, the efforts for preserving languages should not take as a reference point the official status; in addition, since it is very unlikely to give the same status to a high number of languages, a different solution should be envisaged for non-official languages. Thus, they could be preserved through dialect planning. Unlike language planning, the main purpose of dialect planning is not the spreading of a language in all the domains (which can possibly take place), but the preservation of the language. It consists of four steps: 1. corpus planning which entails first of all the language documentation and fixing a shared orthography, but also the development of local studies, since the preservation of the historical and cultural background is important (being a fundamental part of the extra-linguistic level of a variety); 2. status planning that implies some protections without entailing the recognition of the status of an official language; 3. prestige planning which counterbalances the ‘weaker’ status of dialects with respect to languages, and instils in speakers the awareness that every variety belongs to the Intangible Cultural Heritage, even when it does not have the status of a language; 4. acquisition planning, implying not only the study of dialects at school but also the publication of educational materials for any learner.