

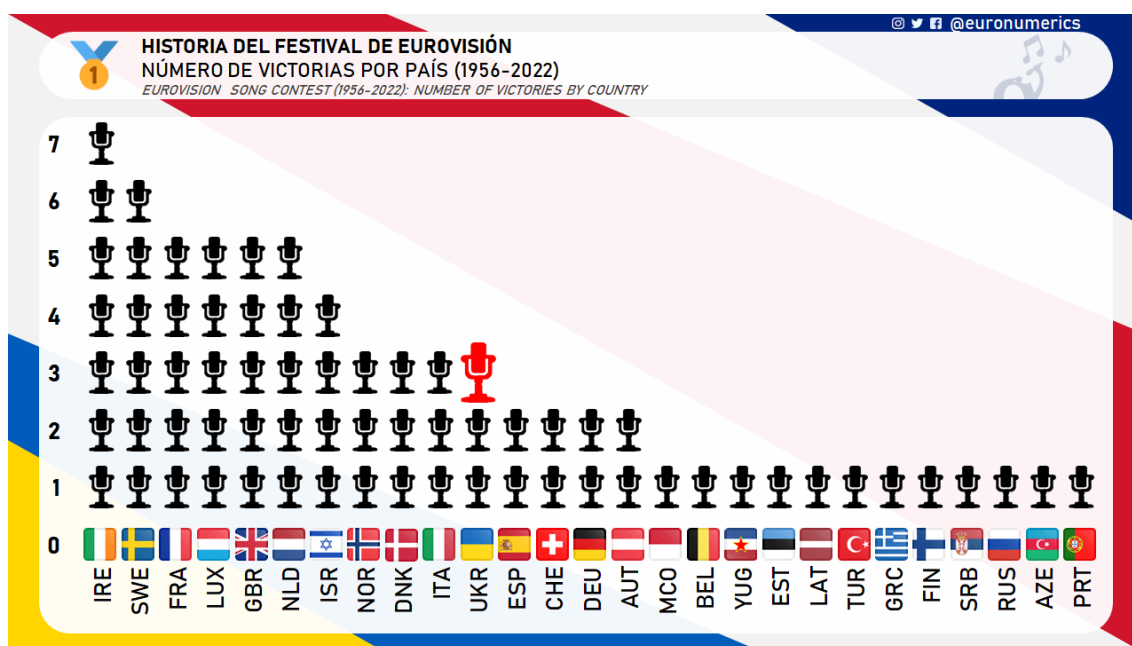
Liverpool 2023: United by numbers

Written by Jesús Manuel Rodrigo Céspedes (@Euronumerics) 25/04/2023

Eurovision 2023 is going to be a reality in a few days. While everything is filled with forecasts and surveys, we focus on data and numbers to unravel the keys to a festival about which nothing has yet been written. Can Blanca Paloma achieve the glory? How is her competition distributed? What effects will televoting and the new voting system have?

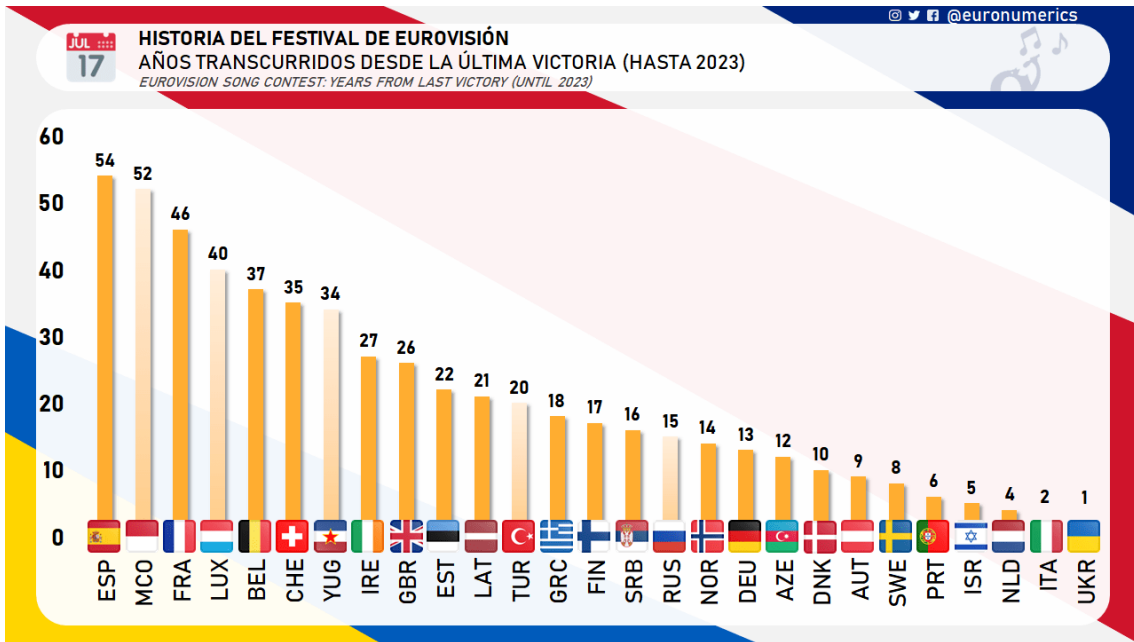
A TRIUMPH TO DUST THE SHOWCASE

First let's take a look at the overall stats by country and wins. Ireland remains in the lead with their 7 wins, although this year Sweden is once again on the prowl to equal this record. As for the rest of the favourites, Norway could join Israel with 4 victories and Spain would go up to 3. Indeed, in the last two years countries that had two victories in their record have won. In the event that Finland wins, it would be the first time since 2014 that a country repeats its victory, after Austria.



At first glance, it seems unlikely that a country will open its victory box, something that has not happened since Eurovision 2017 with Portugal.

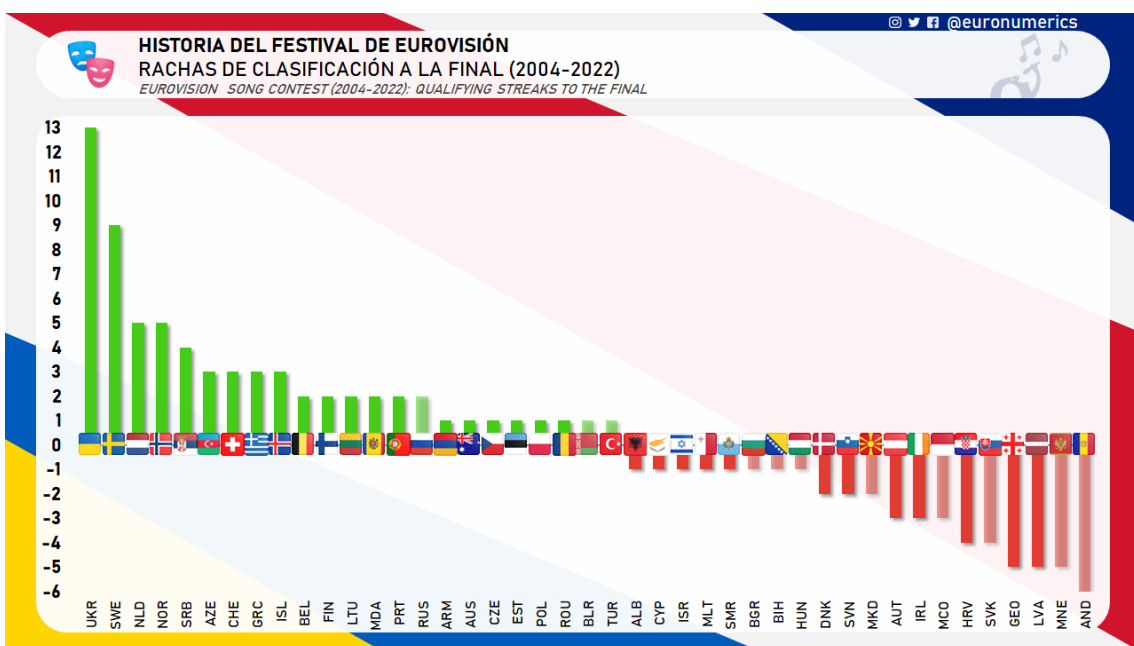
However, the victories of these countries do not date from the same dates. In the following graph we can see the number of years that have elapsed since the last victory.



This classification is led by Spain, which has not won for 54 years. Among the countries that still participate and persist, the western ones France (46), Belgium (37) and Switzerland (35) should also be highlighted. Not far from Spain is Malta which, although it has never won, 52 years have passed since its first participation and its score is still zero.

Looking at the semifinals, being automatically qualified for the final, Ukraine will maintain their streak of 13 passes to the final: they have never failed. Predictably, Sweden will add one more pass to their streak, reaching a dozen consecutive successes after the setback in 2010.

On the other side of the table, Georgia and Latvia have now gone 5 consecutive attempts without reaching the final on Saturday. If they did not do it in Liverpool either, they would equal the mark left by Andorra before leaving the contest back in 2009.



Which countries will break their streaks in Liverpool? As there are only 31 semifinalists, only 11 will be left out of the final and 20 will access it.

THE POWER OF TELEVOTE: THE SEMIFINALS

Remember that this year the rules of the Festival have changed. In the semifinals, only the public will vote, discarding the jury on Tuesday and Thursday; and at all events, there will be a Rest of the World vote. In the blog Hello 2023, goodbye juries in the semifinals, we have already analyzed the consequences of this decision and revealed that, although the jury will not influence the semifinals, this may give it more weight in the final.

Therefore, we are going to see the impact of televoting in the semifinals. Whether due to demographic or cultural reasons, the different countries have voting deviations that unbalance the balance between them. We have called this the power of televoting. To do this, based on the historical scores of the televote, we have determined how the votes of each country would be if this were the only criterion. The following tables show the total results of each semifinal, including the votes of the direct qualifiers and without taking into account the votes of the Rest of the world.



In the first semi-final, the televoting power of countries such as Sweden, Norway and Serbia contrasts with that of others such as Ireland, Croatia and Latvia. Finland will probably sweep this first round, but they don't have it as easy for it as their other Nordic neighbors.

The following table reflects the results in the second semifinal. Greece are not among the favorites to qualify, but televoting favors could cause them to upset and easily make it to Saturday. On the contrary, Slovenia, very little favored by the public vote, will have to convince the rest of the countries a lot. Bad stop in the draw, none of his neighbors accompanies him in the semifinal.

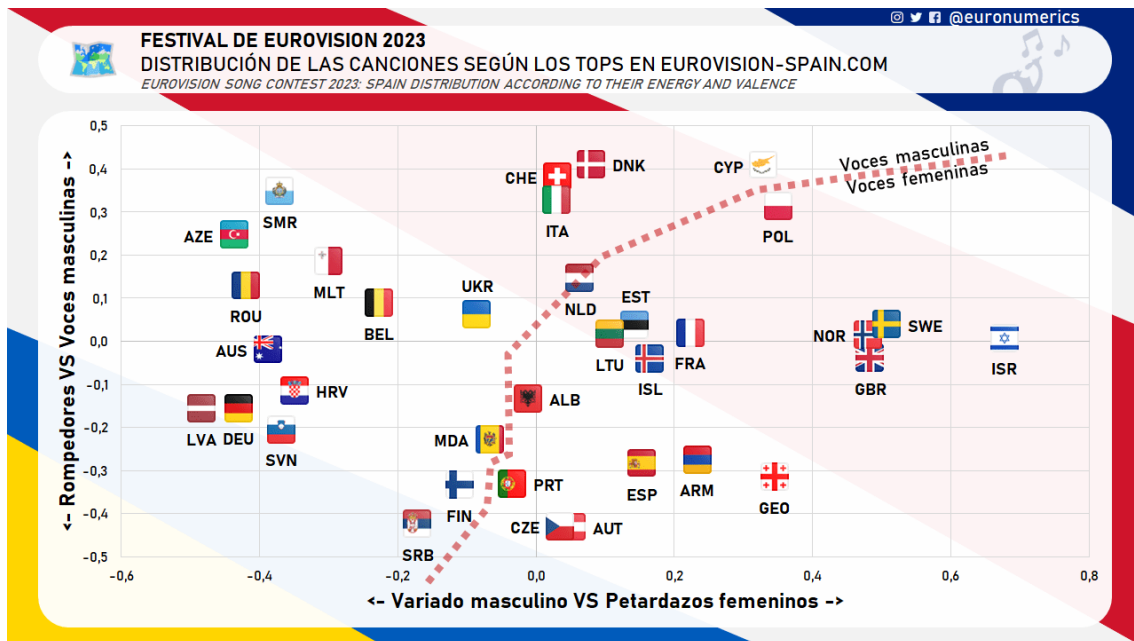
We should not understand these data as something that prevents a country from reaching a specific number of points or position. It is a way of seeing that not everyone starts from the same point and of assessing the merit or demerit of their results. Let's hope that the televoting can be as impartial as possible.



GENRES AND VOICES AT EUROVISION 2023: A FIERCE COMPETITIVENESS

Thanks to your tops made on the web, we were able to carry out the 2023 Eurosound. However, in this blog we are going to delve into them to discover patterns that help us decipher the keys of this year.

In order to visualize how the followers of the web position each song, we are going to represent them with the two axes that help us the most to separate them. Using statistical techniques, the distribution of the countries is as follows in the graph, distributed on two axes, one horizontal and the other vertical. The closer one country to another means that we position them the same, we see them as similar.

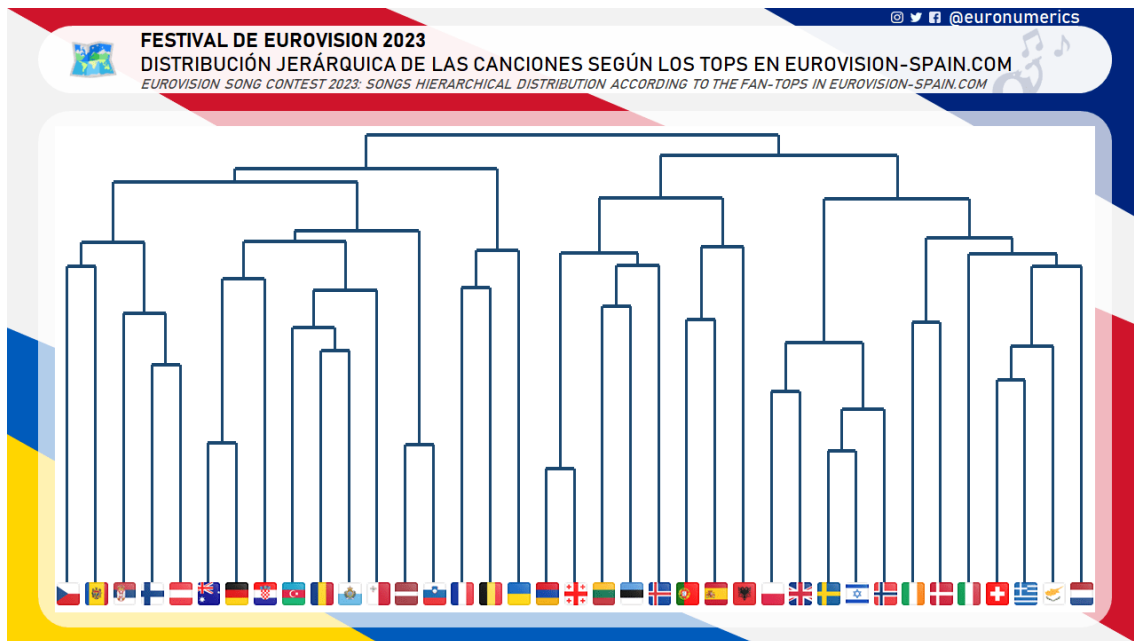


The first axis, the horizontal one, distinguishes on its right end several of the female firecrackers of the edition (Israel, Sweden, Norway...), something that we already saw in previous editions. This year, quite concentrated. At the other end, the left, we see more vintage, rock and somewhat eccentric songs; but that they have in common to be masculine voices. That is to say, we distinguish a lot the songs moved with feminine voices of those masculine ones that are not typical.

On the vertical axis, we again see male voices at the top, generally slower songs with particular voices (Italy, Switzerland, Cyprus...). Below, on the opposite side, we have more groundbreaking or alternative songs, such as Serbia, Austria and the Czech Republic.

In fact, our tops nail the female-male voice separation, marked with the red dotted line. The upper left zone are male voices and the lower right, female. Even on the very border of both areas is the Netherlands, the only mixed duet in the edition; and Albania, which mixes different voices.

We have seen how we differentiate the songs by criteria, let's see how we assimilate them, the way in which we would unite them in an orderly manner according to their similarities. To do this, we use a dendrogram that shows us the order in which the songs are joined according to how similar we see them.



For example, according to the graph, Armenia and Georgia are the ones that we find most similar to each other because they are the first to join (who knows if influenced by how long it took them to leave). Others that we find very similar are Australia and Germany, both rockers; and Slovenia and Latvia, more vintage.

Of the entire graph, the branch made up of Poland, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Israel and Norway is very striking. These songs are seen as very similar to each other, all 5 of them stack up very quickly. Something very striking like when we saw the cheating juries in Turin with this graphic. In 2021 we already saw that none of the numerous female firecrackers came to the fore. Will they remove the points between them again this year?

Finland and Austria join each other first, revealing that they are also going to compete for that more macarilla, light-hearted Eurofan. Our Spain takes longer to unite than its other competitors and could be an added value, especially in the face of televoting. On twitter we ask about the songs most similar to Spain. Several commented that Albania, which is very consistent with the graph. Other than Georgia, which also joins Spain after other links. The other nana, Latvia, is further away.

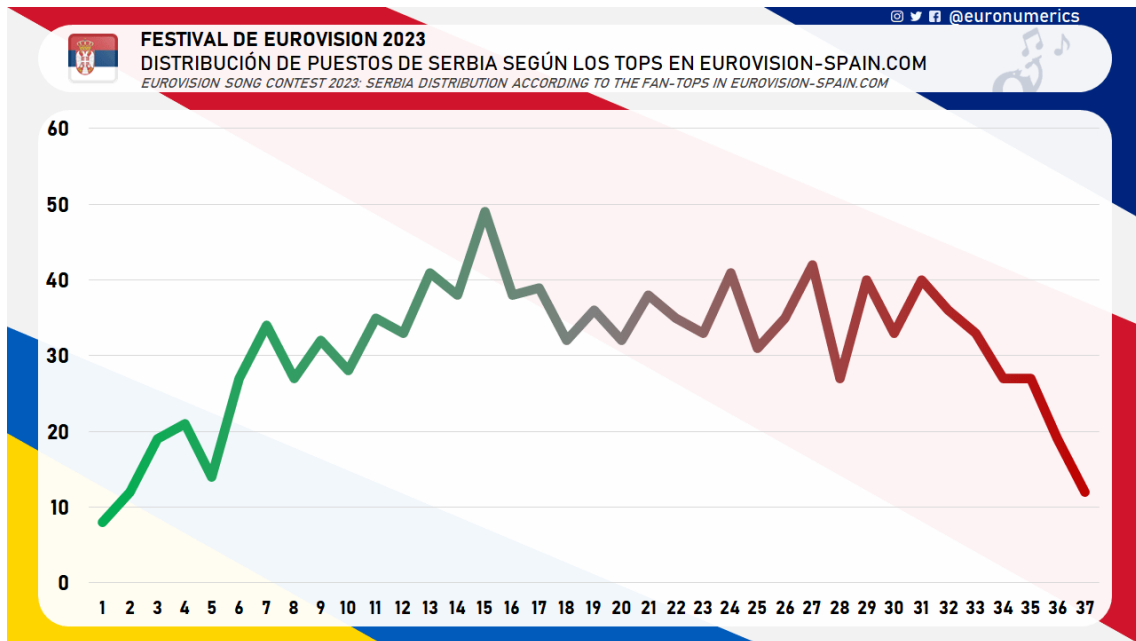
Globally, in terms of the most different songs, we highlight Albania and Italy, which take the longest to join other groups. What other bands catch your eye?

On a more descriptive level, Spain, Sweden and Finland are the ones that sweep the tops, several steps above Austria. Of the tops analysed, none of San Marino or Albania occupy the first position. On the opposite side, only one country does not occupy the last position in any case: Slovenia.

It is very difficult to predict who could be the dark horse or black horse of the edition, that unexpected song that rang the bell in Liverpool. In the blog Frío, frío... The most polarized Eurovision votes, we have already studied that the standard deviation is an indicator of possible surprises. The standard deviation measures the spread of the data: the smaller, the closer the

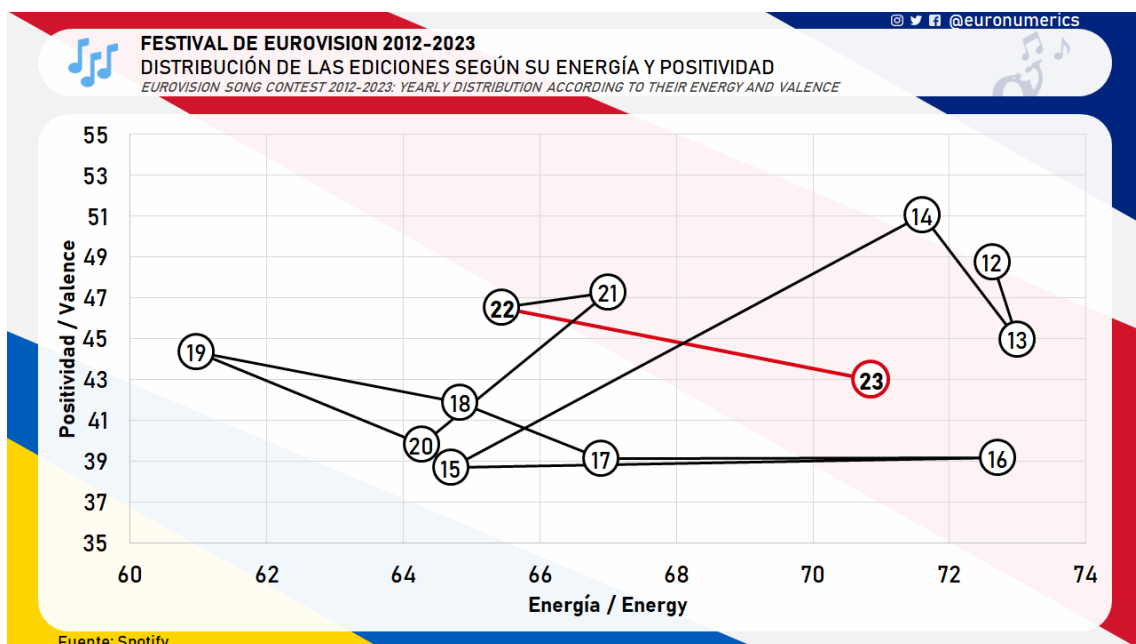
data is to a value; the larger, the further from the mean. According to this indicator, we should keep an eye on Serbia, Latvia and Germany, which are the ones with the greatest dispersion.

In the following graph we represent how the positions of Serbia are distributed according to your tops. A rather flattened and raised distribution, it is more than 10 times in almost all positions. Last year we already predicted that In corpore sano was a candidate to be the dark horse, will Serbia be again in 2023?



A MORE ENERGIUOUS... AND DARKER 2023

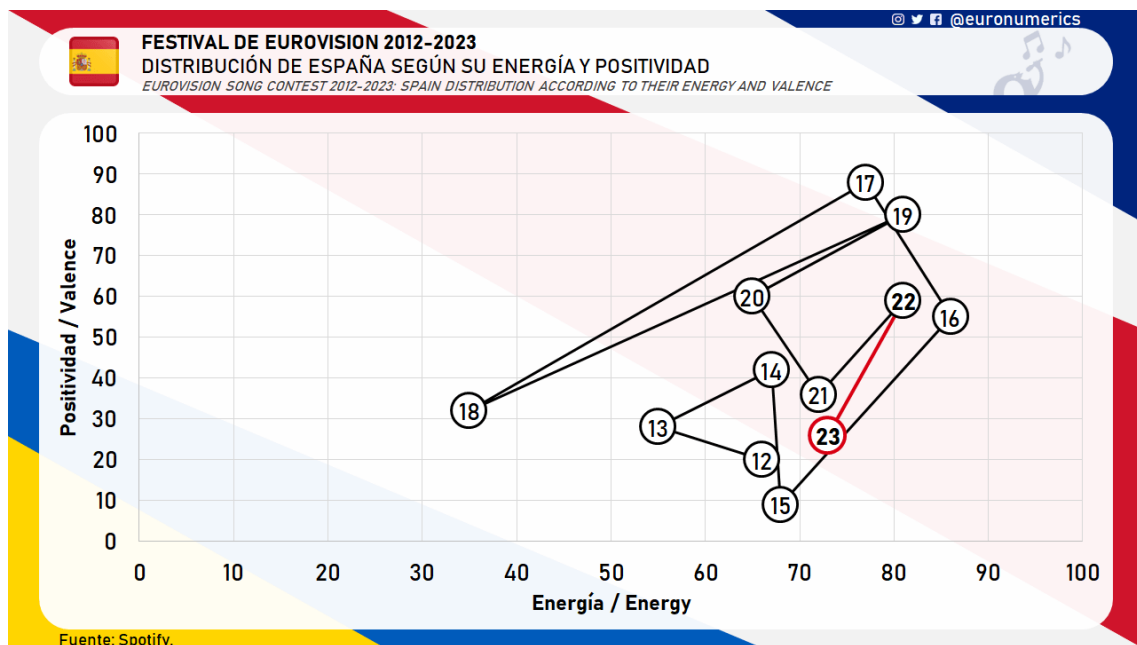
Spotify confirms that this year we are facing a more energetic edition compared to 2022. The following graph represents the average energy (horizontal axis) and positivity (vertical axis) for each year since 2012, that is, the average values of the songs of those editions.



Energy goes from 65.45 to 70.35, one of the biggest jumps in recent years and is close to the levels of a decade ago. As for positivity, it continues the downward trend of the last year after the post-pandemic high: it goes from 46.53 to 43.05. In summary, we are facing a more hectic edition, but with less good vibes than in Turin.

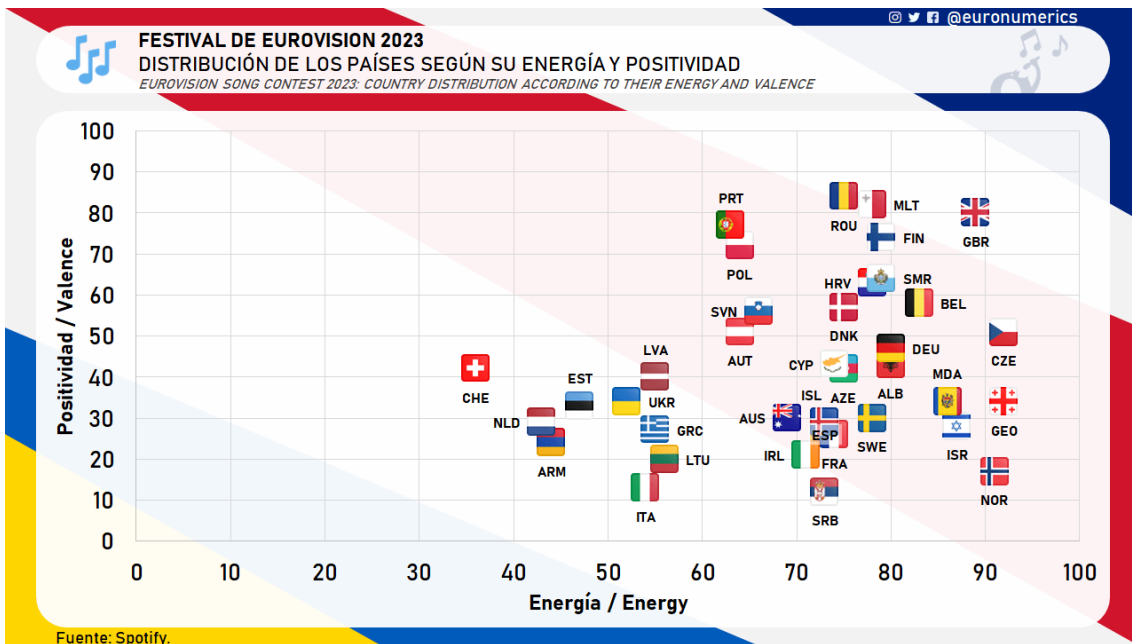
This analysis is important because it marks the trend of the edition and allows us to see which countries follow the same trend and which diverge, being able to stand out from the rest. We already saw it last year with Chanel: 2022 dropped in energy and positivity, and yet Spain brought a more explosive and positive proposal.

The following image represents the Spanish case. According to Spotify, Blanca Paloma brings us a proposal close to those of I'm going to stay, Dawn or Stay with me. It represents a drop in both energy and positivity from Slomo. Therefore, we follow the line of less positivity of the edition, but it is a differentiated value in terms of energy.



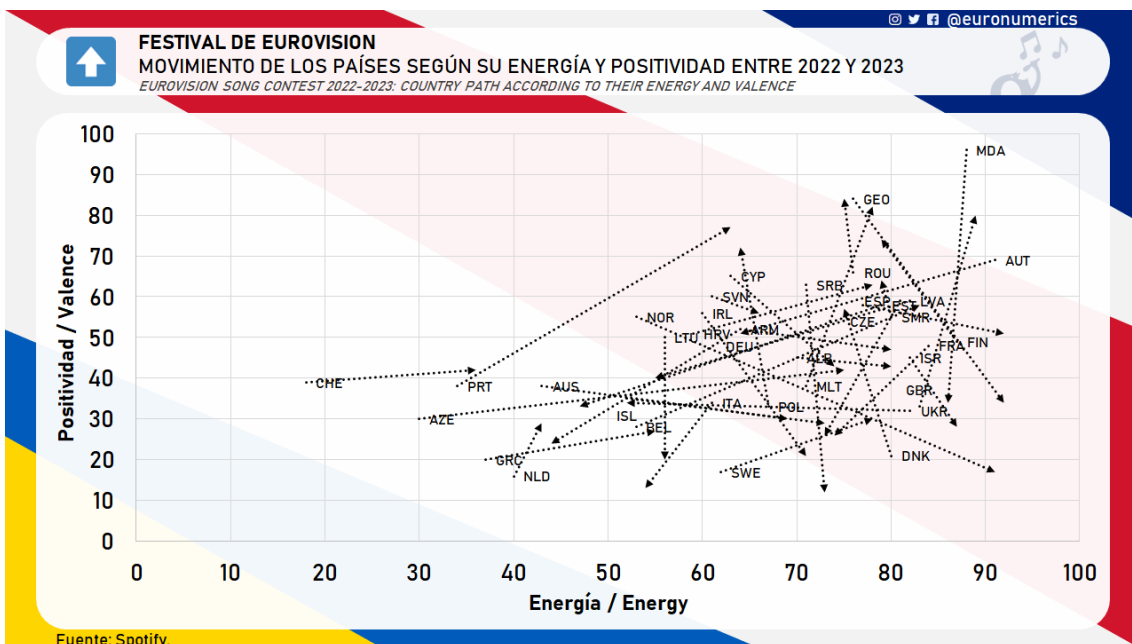
How are the other 36 countries divided up this year? The following graph shows the distribution of this year that is visibly shifted to the right, that is, higher energy. Although it is not well appreciated, Spain is camouflaged behind Iceland and France, which a priori with these values Spotify understands to be the most similar to Eaea.

The application detects that Romania is the hottest song, while Serbia would be the least. In terms of energy, Czechia and Georgia dominate, while Switzerland is the most intimate song. Two countries stand out, the United Kingdom, which is the one that most combines both variables, and Norway, with very high energy and low positivity, something very rare. It makes us think that the Valence attribute that we translate here as "Positivity" also distinguishes darker or more rebellious songs such as Norwegian or Serbian songs.



For this year we wanted to study the evolution of the countries. In the following image we have tried to represent with arrows where each country was in 2022 and where they are in 2023, only those that have repeated (the origin of the arrow is 2022 and the tip is 2023). The result is a beautiful tangle of arrows that looked much better in our head, but that serves as a tribute to our archer.

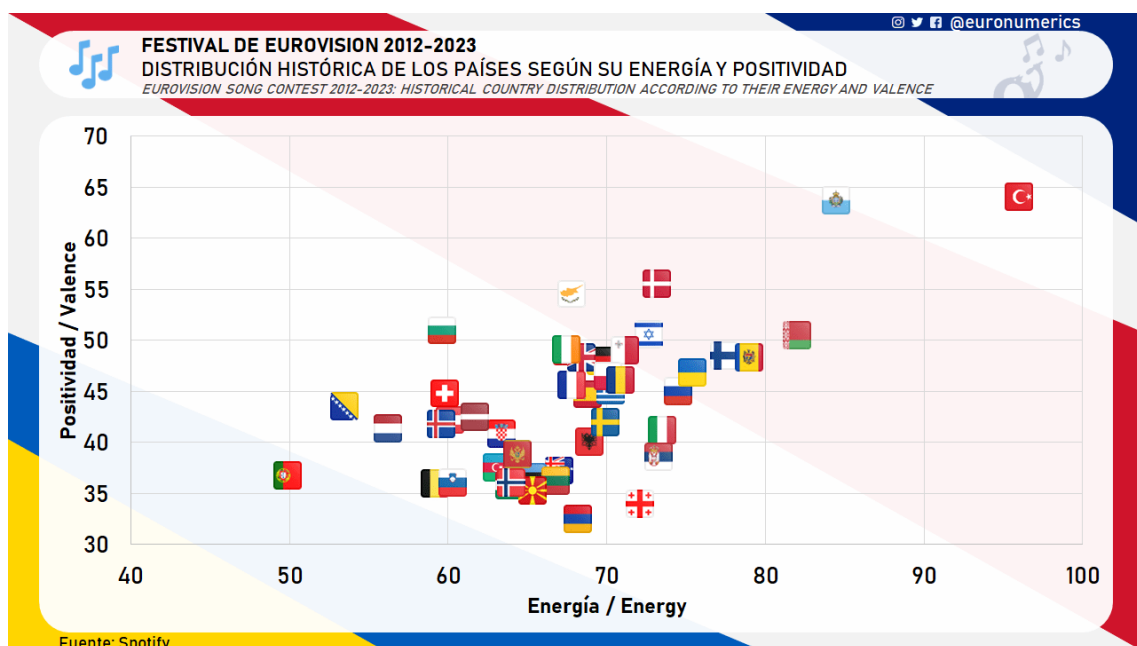
The important thing, as always, is to stay with the general impressions. If you look at it, you can see that a lot of countries have moved to the outside of the chart, especially down and to the right, the trend this year. We see how Norway today occupies a space that was uninhabited last year. It is also appreciated how the countries that brought ballads in 2022 (lower left zone) have fled towards the center, such as Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Portugal or Greece.



In terms of distances, Moldova is the one that has moved the most (basically a drop in the color of the song), followed by Norway and Georgia. On the contrary, Slovenia is the country that moves the least compared to 2022, ahead of San Marino and Albania.

To conclude this section, we have represented the average position of the countries in the period from 2012 to 2023, with the available data. The result is a distribution that seems to evoke a flower with four petals. The countries overlap quite a bit, so let's stick with the most striking impressions again.

The left petals contain countries that traditionally send ballads or intimate songs such as Portugal or Bosnia-Herzegovina. There is a third, more focused petal, which includes four of the five members of the Big 5. Finally, the fourth petal is the one that is furthest to the right and contains several Eastern countries as well as Italy. The petal of success?

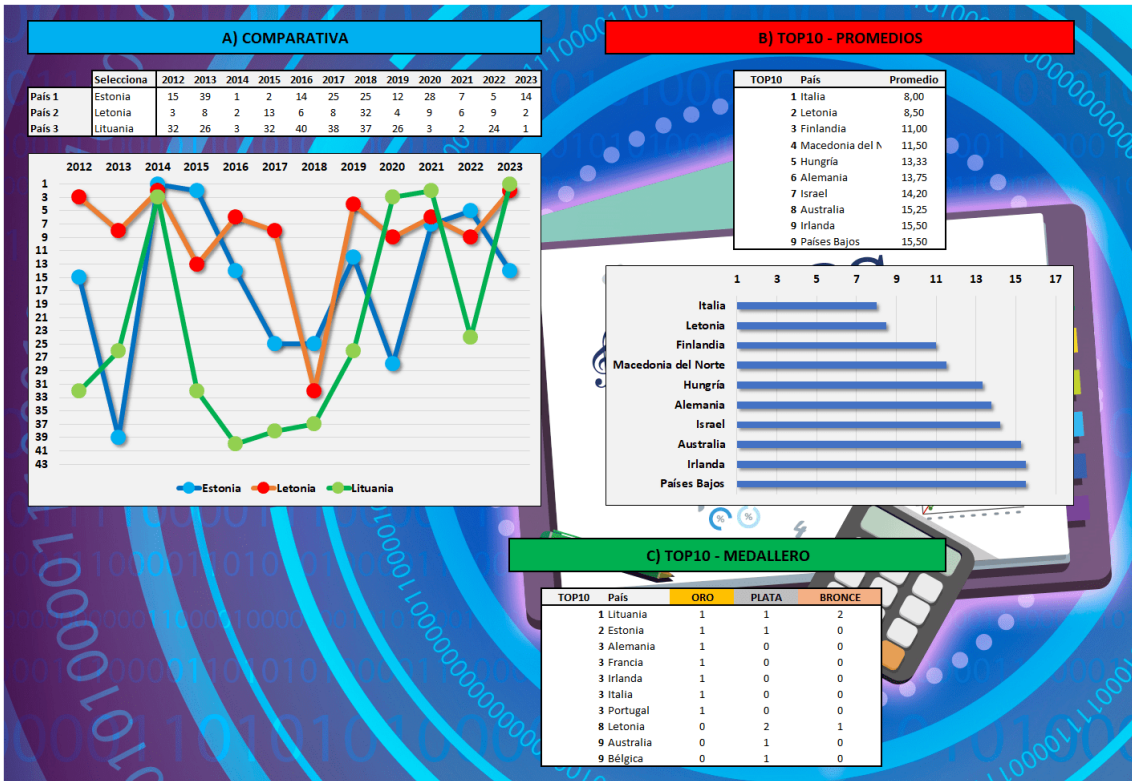


In summary, Spotify confirms that we are facing a more hectic festival, in which slow songs have decreased. Will Spain manage to stand out from the rest?

EUROLABTOP: CALCULATOR OF YOUR EUROVISIVE TOPS

We remind you that EuroLabTop is back in version 1.2! Thanks to this Excel you will be able to register your tops since 2012 in the START tab and analyze your rankings in the RESULTS tab:

In zone A you can analyze the evolution of up to 3 countries in your top and compare them with each other. In zone B, an average is made for each country in your rankings and the top 10 are collected in a table and a graph. Finally, in the lower zone C is your medal table, giving gold to your top1, silver to your top2 and bronze to the top3.



Here concludes our analysis prior to Eurovision 2023. From different perspectives we have analyzed the festival as a whole, noting that Eaea has the wind in its favor to stand out not only in the jury but also in a televote that seems very distributed. Regardless of everything, let's enjoy the festival and vibrate with it.