

Eurovision 2023: Numerical Ragnarök

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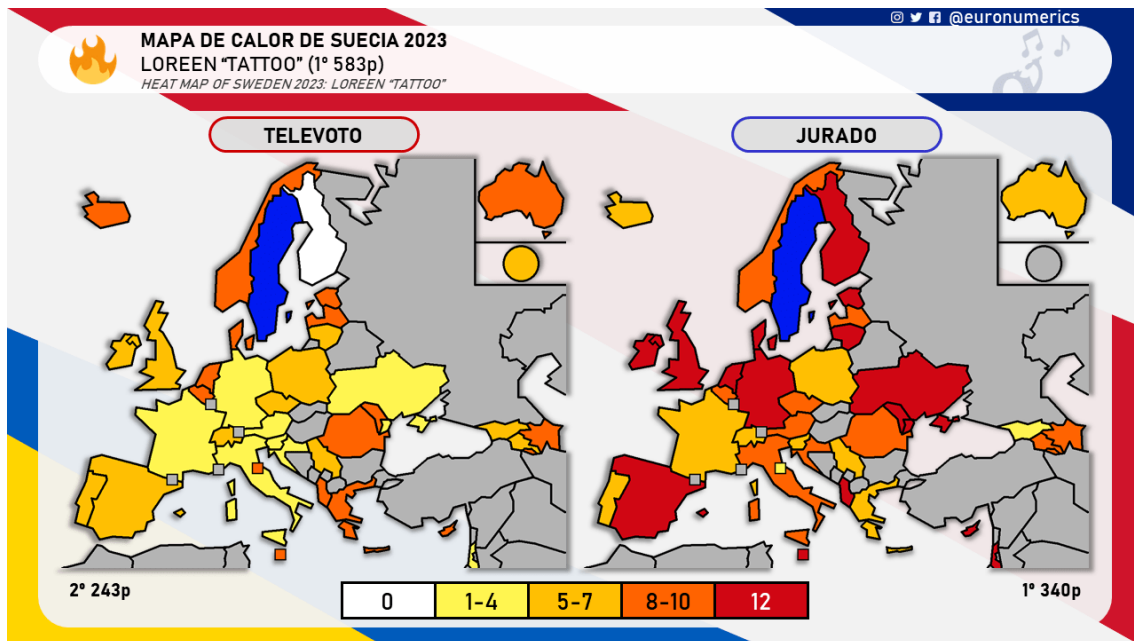
The Olympus of the Nordic gods descended on Liverpool to give us an epic fight worthy of Ragnarök. In this blog we analyze the results and their numbers with our particular point of view. What were the keys to the Sweden-Finland duel? To what extent were there differences between the televoting and the jury? How significant is Blanca Paloma's 17th place? Numbers worthy of a tattoo.

SWEDEN AND FINLAND, A DUEL LIKE WE NEVER HAD

Ragnarök is, in Norse mythology, the battle of the end of the world or destiny of the gods. We have had something like this this year, with three Nordic countries sweeping the scores and a final duel between Sweden and Finland that has exalted both. Let's follow the events of this competition.

We start with the jury vote. When we analyzed the possible effect of eliminating the judges in the semifinals, we concluded that, paradoxically, they could give them more weight in the final. It seems that this has not been fully fulfilled: Loreen had the vote so concentrated that the possible qualification of the Netherlands, Latvia or Georgia in the final would not have deducted many points. In any case, what we have seen is, apart from Sweden, a very divided jury. The second best scorer, Israel, would have been 6th in the televoting.

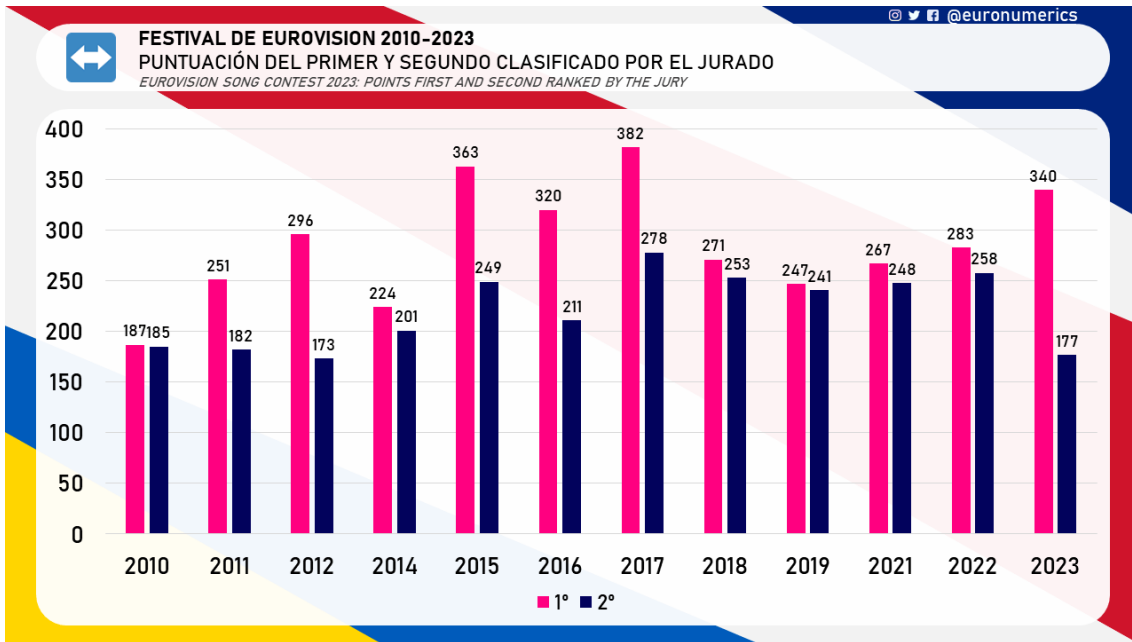
In the following heat map you can see how Tattoo made the juries red hot throughout Europe, with special mention to the countries around it. Despite its second place in the televoting, it did not get any 12, something that the other countries in the top 11 did reach. It is a clear example of the extent to which countries have areas of influence. If from two countries with the same zone of influence one surpasses the other, it can subtract enough points and place an insurmountable ceiling.



The effect in the Big5 has not been much noticed either, but it is true that both Italy and Spain have obtained better performance in the jury, one by positions and the other both by positions and by points.

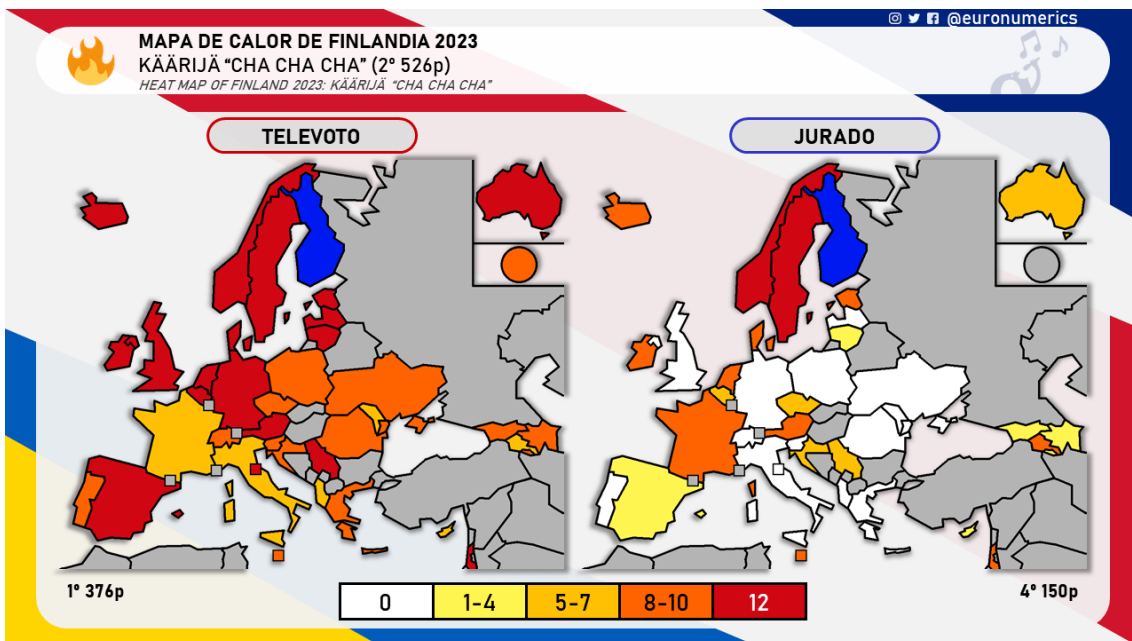
Looking at the history, it is true that in recent years the jury has spoiled us. We had four years of exciting voting by the experts that left very little margin between the winner and the second classified. Everything was very open, just about 17 points on average between one and the other.

However, the jury has already shown in past years that it is capable of concentrating its points on one song. It already happened to Loreen, when in 2012 she took 123 points from the second classified of the jury, Serbia. And in this 2023, with only 37 countries voting, she opened a gap of 163 points with the second ranked of the jury, almost double the points. It is the third best score for a jury winner and the second worst score for a runner-up. The following graph reflects this data: for each edition the fuchsia bars indicate the number of points for the winner of the jury and the blue ones the points for the second classified.



Regarding the televoting, I was very surprised by the number of points obtained by countries that traditionally harvest very little, such as Switzerland, the Czech Republic or even Belgium. In part it could be due to the fact that the televoting was once again a drag for the Big5, with three of its members in the last positions. It surely would not have been the case if the jury had been able to classify any song and Serbia and Estonia had been eliminated.

Finland swept the televoting as reflected in its heat map. He totally conquered the Germanic countries and their Baltic neighbors. In the televote it was another song and he could not break the pallets.



In summary, we see a polarization of the jury and televoting as strong as opposed. And it is that in general the result of the edition was like that. In the following image we have represented the crossed classifications of televoting and jury, as if we were playing little boats, using their

positions in each criteria as coordinates. The closer to the purple line (which represents the same position in televoting and jury) the greater the consensus.

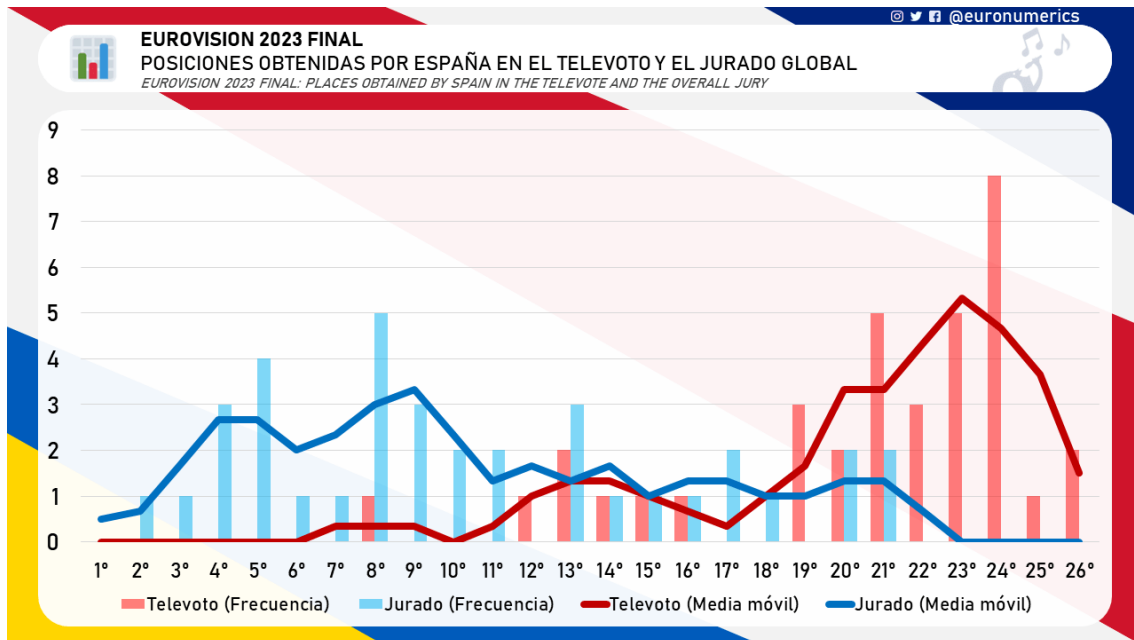


What we appreciate is that, rather than following the purple line, the countries are arranged in the opposite direction, from bottom left to top right. The polarities go from those that the experts liked much more (Spain, Estonia, Australia and Austria) and those that the audience liked much more (Croatia, Poland or Norway).

In the high zone, the consensus was only in four countries (Sweden, Finland, Israel and Italy). There was also some harmony with the worst ranked. In general, we have attended an edition with very different opinions between the televoting and the jury, although the jumps in scores have not been so high because the points are concentrated in the 4 countries where there was a consensus of positions.

AN ARROW-SHOT NOT SO BAD

Oh our White Dove, how well she did! In the following image we have represented the positions that Spain obtained from the different countries, both in the televoting and in the jury. With the bars we see the frequency of each position, while with the line we see the trend, the moving average (the average of the close values).

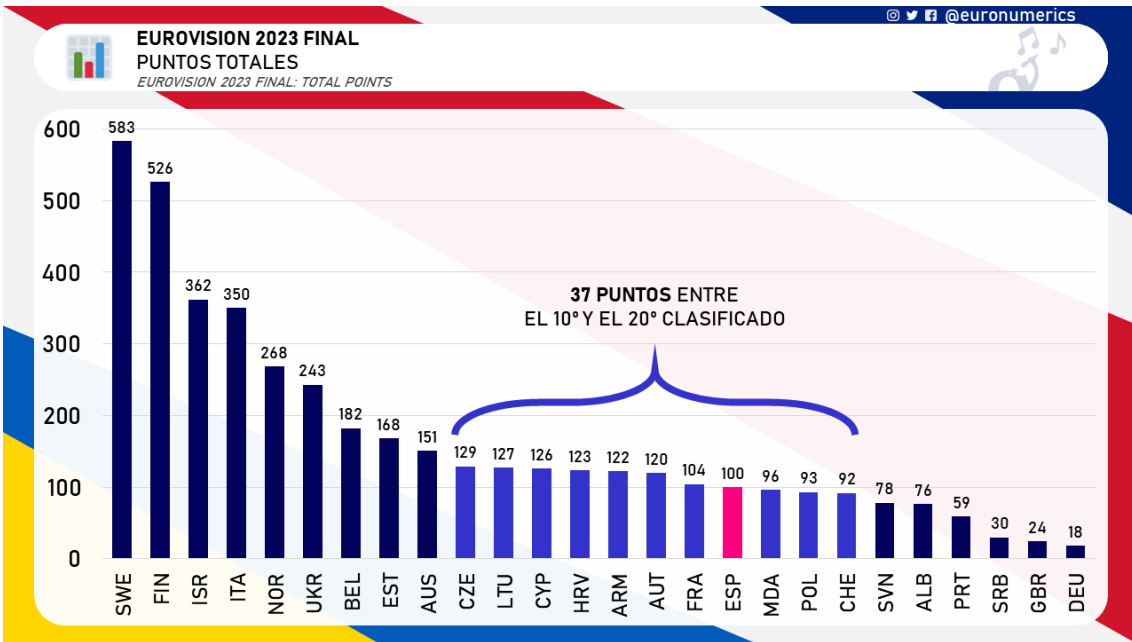


The trend seems smoother, flatter, in the jury, although there is a slope in the medium-high area. The jurors liked it, not excessively but they liked it. Much more marked is the trend of televoting. 3 little mountains can be seen, but the most notable is the one that is furthest to the right and that comes to tell us that Eaea did not convince the audience. It does not reach that extreme case in which we see an exponential trend: we do not like, but they did not place us in the last position of all.

In summary: the jury liked us more than the televote, but the effect on the televote was stronger.

Today it is possible that someone is still impacted by the 5 points of the televote. It is not for less, but in this case the order of the factors should not alter the product. In general, we have a Spain that was top 10 in the jury and that was not liked in the televote. As we will see later, the last place in the televote is very relative, we should only be left with the fact that it did not convince, neither with the points nor with the position.

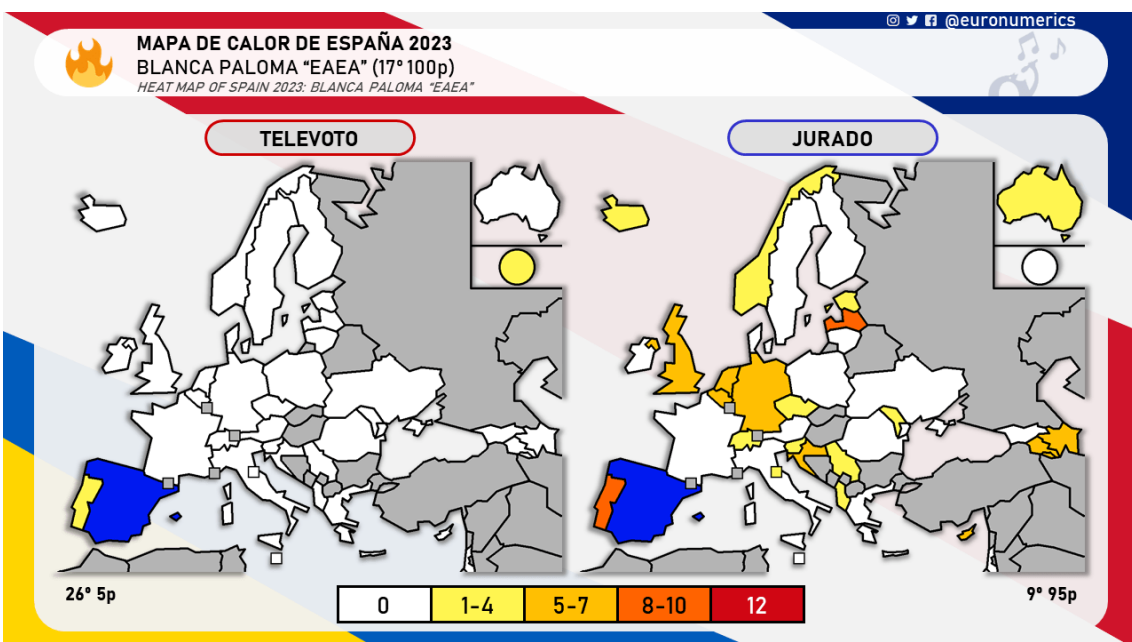
That being said, we have to take a good look at the end result. Around Spain's 100 points and its 17th place is the Czech Republic tenth with 129 points and Switzerland twentieth with 92 points. In other words, in just 37 points we have 11 countries, as highlighted in the graph below. We did not find anything similar by far, nor keeping the proportion of voters, in recent years.



To relativize the points, I always like to add and subtract 12 points to a country's score to see how many positions it would move. In the final result, double, 24. In our case, Spain would move in the jury between 8th and 10th place, in the televoting between 21st and 26th and in the total classification between 13th and 22nd place.

The points were quite tight in the lower-middle zone of the table and more than one position, 17th, we must stay with a rank, the lower-middle zone of the table. And rather the middle zone due to the effect of the neighborhood vote that we will see later and whose statement always comes out negative. Televoting is not all of us.

Our heat map looked like this. It is particularly striking that we are quite liked by the juries from the Benelux area, Germany and the United Kingdom, as well as the Yugoslavs who, except for this year, have always been very prone to bringing ethnic themes.

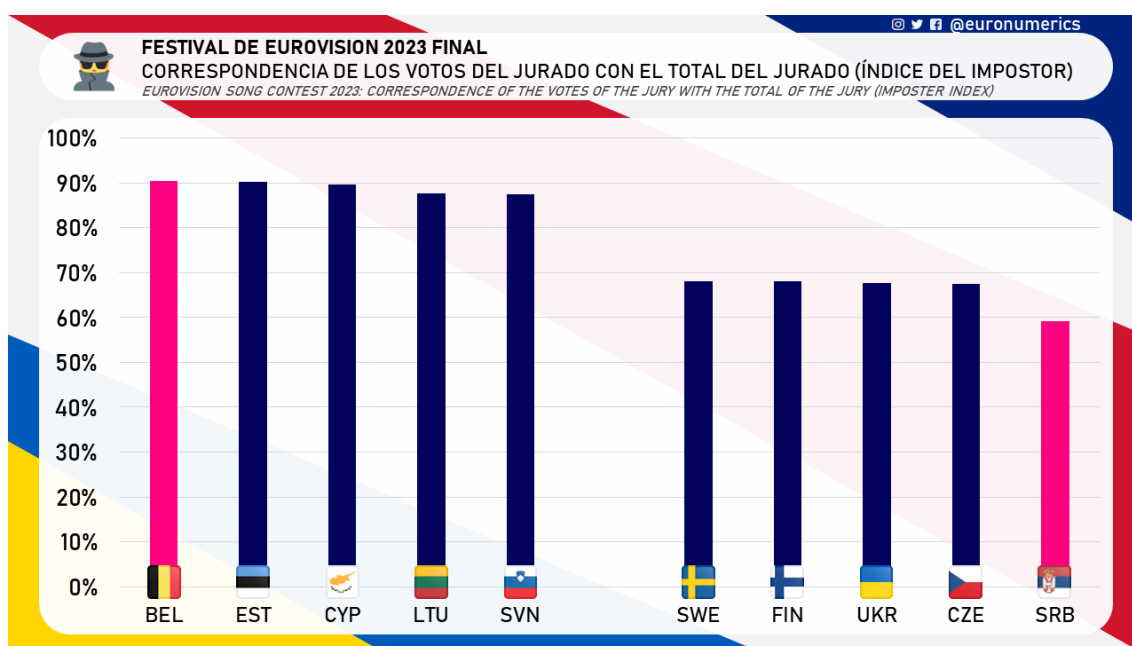


CHA-CHA-CHA-IMPOSTER INDEX

This year, since we do not have data from the jury in the semifinals, we can only analyze the impostor index in the final. We remember that this index tries to measure the correspondence between the votes of the jury and the total of the other juries (that is, without including their own). Thus we discover who have followed the norm and which have deviated along the way.

The average of the edition follows the trend of the last ones, although very little variation is observed between them: neither very high nor very low values. This is partly because many countries hit the top spot giving their 12 to Loreen. However, only two countries, Spain and Croatia, hit the top 3 but in a different order.

At the country level, we represent the most extreme correspondences in the following graph: the closer to 100%, the greater the similarity and the closer to 0%, the greater the disparity (inverse voting). There is almost a triple tie for the lead, led by Belgium and followed by Estonia and Cyprus. The Belgians in particular voted for the entire top10 except for two countries, which they gave 2 and 1.



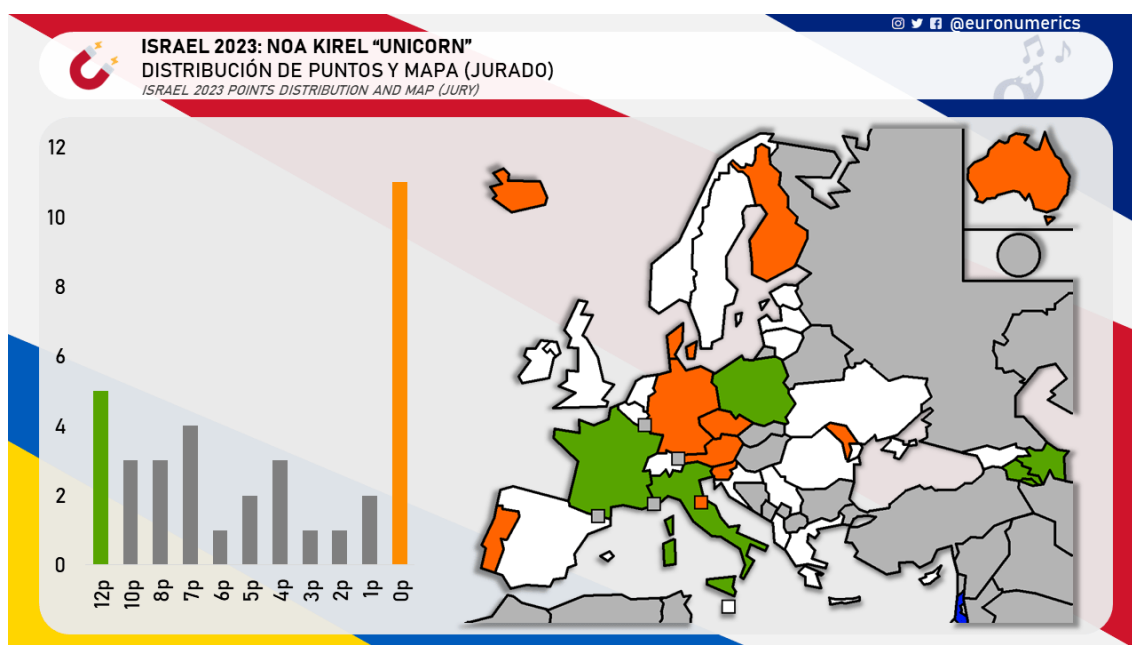
On the other side of the coin, Serbia was the country that voted the most differently. And it is not due to anything other than the 12 and 8 points that he delivered to his neighbors Slovenia and Croatia. The Czech Republic is a country that traditionally has a high rate but this time it faltered with its 12 against Ukraine, the only one Tvorchi received. Ukraine itself, for its part, voted for two countries that finished in the bottom 5.

It is more interesting to find us here with Finland and Sweden, the great rivals of the edition, in the last 5 places. Both voted for only 5 of the top 10 countries. In addition, the two voted highly for France and Switzerland, and gave their 4 to the United Kingdom. You can tell they both knew what was at stake.

YOU WANNA SEE ME POLARIZE? YOU WANNA SEE ME POLARIZE?

In the last blog Frío, frío... the most polarized Eurovision votes, we investigated which songs have separated the audience and the televote the most. To do this, we look at the number of twelves and zeros that each song has received and multiply it.

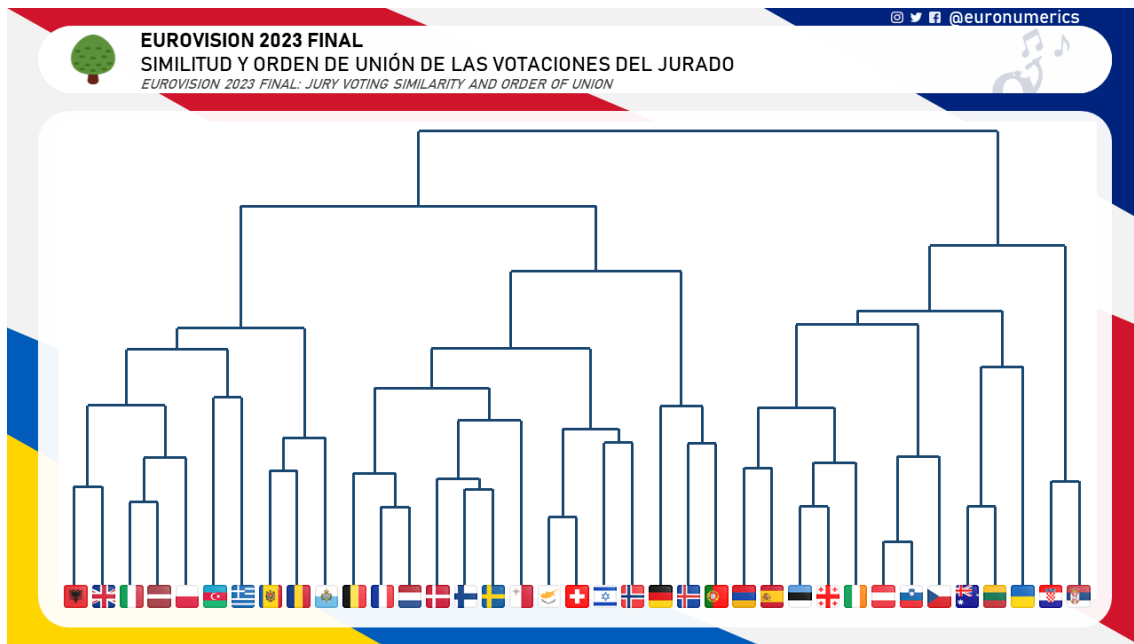
With this methodology there are no songs that have stood out for having a high polarity because Finland and Sweden have concentrated the majority of the twelve with full voting. For example, the most polar in 2021 and 2022 were Serbia and Greece with values of 130 and 78, respectively. This year the best result was obtained by Israel with the votes of the jury in the final, but only 55 (5 twelves x 11 zeroes). In the following image we represent the points he received, highlighting the twelves and zeros. There each one sees a pattern.



Not far behind was Armenia, but this time in the televote. Brunette got 2 twelves and 27 zeroes, which makes 54. As for the semifinals, here Greece appears again, taking Cyprus's 12 points and 17 zeroes, basically all but one.

THERE IS A HEART IN THE JURY AND IN THE REST OF THE WORLD

To check if any jury or jurors have fooled us this year, we are going to resort to conglomerate techniques and their dendrograms (so don't say later that we don't learn nice words). With this technique we can see how the votes of the juries are grouped based on how similar they are. They all join together until they are all united, forming a graph that resembles the roots of a tree.

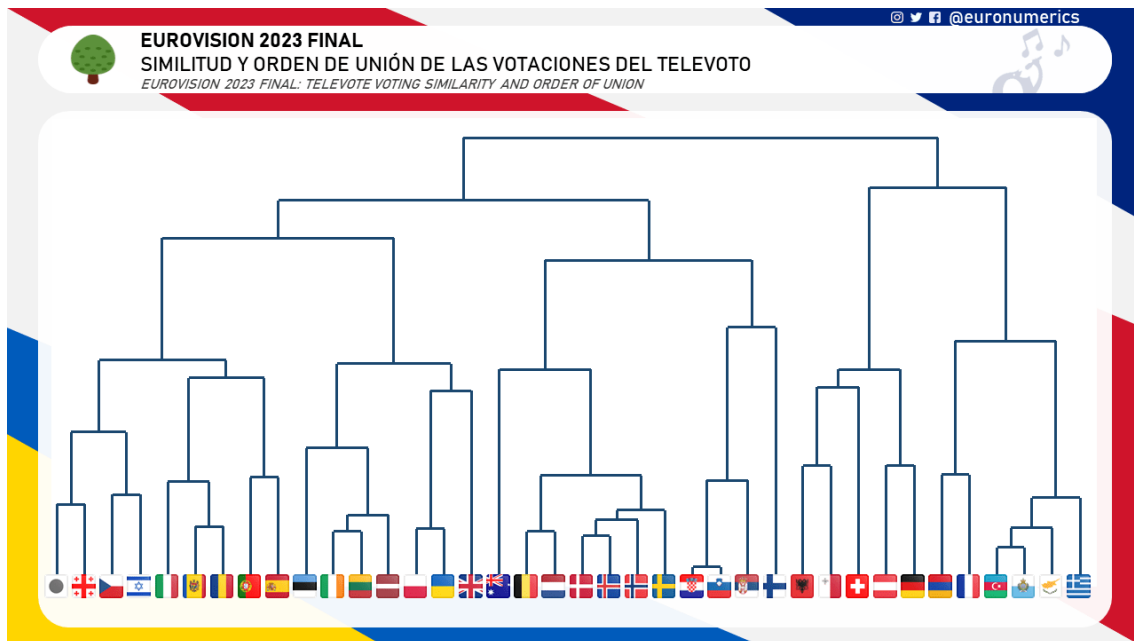


What we see in the upper graph is that the juries come together quite irregularly but without excessive jumps. Nor do you see a group of countries join very quickly and then join late. In this case, the most similar votes were those of Austria and Slovenia, while the last country to join others was Ukraine.

Also, although we see some geographic unions, such as the Nordic Denmark-Finland-Sweden or Serbia-Croatia, in general there is quite a bit of dispersion and randomness.

On the contrary, we see it in the following graph with the televoting, where all the countries unite based on their affinities. In this example, Slovenia and Croatia are the first countries to join, very quickly.

The prize for the most random country goes to Finland, the last country to join others. It's funny, because it has gone so far into its ball that it joins the Yugoslav group of countries sooner than its own Nordic neighbors. This fits in with what we saw earlier about imposter voting.



The first flag symbolizes the rest of the world, which we see uniting first with Georgia and then with the Czech-Israel pairing. A group quite far from the classic groups, so it seems that the Rest of the world has its own and different behavior. We will go deeper into this when we look at the Eurovision patterns again. As for the votes of the Rest of the World, they did not have any influence on the qualifiers and in the final they only served for Armenia to overcome Austria.

To all this, it seems that San Marino issued a valid televote, since it is not equal to the vote of its juries nor does it seem to have been calculated approximately as last year.

WHO THE HELL IS TELEVOTE? OUT FRIEND-VOTINGS

The televoting points are full of deviations. Portugal votes for Spain, Ireland for Poland, Romania for Moldova and many more. In 2019 we wondered what a televote without a neighborhood vote would be like. To do this, we propose that the countries that each country would only be voted for by a few that were historically the most neutral.

We have proposed the same for this year: for each country we have selected those that vote more neutrally so that each country is voted for by another 10 and each country votes only for another 7. That is, Spain would be voted for by 10 countries and Spain would vote for 7 countries.

Once these neutral countries have been selected, we have filtered the points that these countries delivered. For example, Portugal was far from among the countries selected to vote for Spain, due to its great affinity for us. As we do not receive more points than those of Portugal (we do without the rest of the world), what corresponds to Spain is a zero like a house.

The following table shows the points obtained by each country and the variation of positions with respect to the final result of the televoting.

EUROVISION 2023 FINAL
PUNTOS SOLO CON LOS 10 PAÍSES MÁS NEUTRALES (TELEVOTO)
EUROVISION 2023 FINAL: POINTS COUNTING ONLY THE 10 MOST NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

@euronumerics

TELEVOTO SIN VECINOS
(solo puntos de los 10 países más neutrales para cada uno)

1º		Finlandia	=	108	14º		Alemania	+10	5
2º		Israel	+3	64	15º		Chipre	-4	4
3º		Suecia	-1	62	15º		Moldavia	-6	4
4º		Noruega	-1	58	15º		Suiza	+3	4
5º		Italia	+1	54	18º		Eslovenia	-2	3
6º		Ucrania	-2	34	19º		Serbia	+2	2
7º		Croacia	=	16	20º		Lituania	-5	1
8º		Bélgica	+4	15	21º		Albania	-11	0
8º		Francia	+6	15	21º		Austria	+1	0
10º		Armenia	+3	12	21º		España	+5	0
11º		Polonia	-3	11	21º		Estonia	-2	0
12º		Australia	+8	7	21º		Portugal	+2	0
13º		Chequia	+4	6	21º		Reino Unido	+4	0

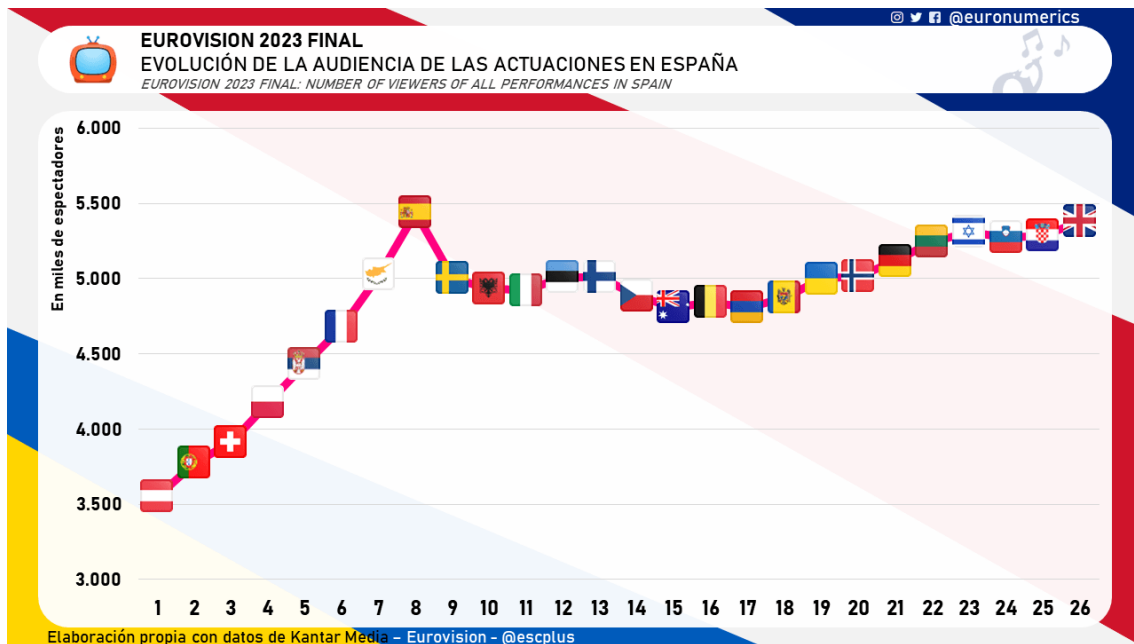
Evil of many, consolation of fools. With this system, Spain and 5 other countries would have received zero points: Albania, Austria, Estonia, Portugal and the United Kingdom. The most singular case is that of Albania, which would lose its more than 50 points when the system detects that they are not neutral.

Of 120 possible points, Finland would get 108, well away from the others. Israel would practically tie with Sweden, well loaded with the Germanic neighborhood vote like Norway. In general, we see that by eliminating neighborhoods, the countries traditionally mistreated by televoting rise positions: France, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Australia and Germany, the latter having the highest rise, 10 positions. Those that drop the most are Eastern countries such as Ukraine, Poland or Lithuania.

We must take the result of the televote on tiptoe. It really only seems like the top 6 countries, up to Ukraine, were the ones that really stood out. The more we move away from the head, we find crumb-points and affinity points that distort the result more and more. Eaea fell into the group of those who did not convince the televote, but she is not as alone as we were led to believe on May 13.

5.5 MILLION PICHONS

Thanks to the ESCplus compis we have been able to graph the spectator data in Spain for each of the performances. The following image shows it in thousands of viewers. Be careful because the graphic is resized to better show the variations. What then do they say?



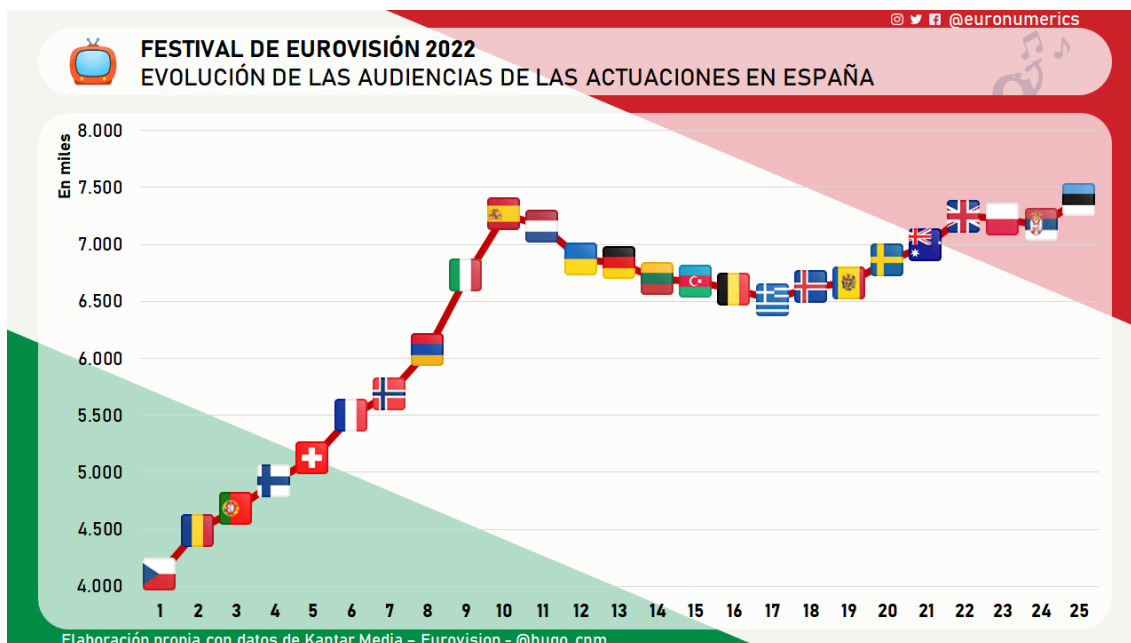
What we see is an exponential trend at the beginning that culminates with the performance of Blanca Paloma and reaching the peak of 5,440,000 viewers. From there there is a downturn that resists a bit with the arrival of Finland and that culminates until performance number 17. From there it begins an ascent until the end with a slight peak in Israel.

If we look at the chart we did in 2022, we'll see a lot of similarities.

The trend is the same: exponential rise to Spain, drop to song number 17 and rise to the end. In addition, it is also noted that where the favorites were, there are also increases such as Finland and Israel in 2023 or the United Kingdom in 2022.

The figures, yes, are not the same. The most viewed of 2023 stays at the height of France in 2022.

It will be very interesting that we can have this data when Spain acts from the last and be able to analyze the pull that it has in the number of spectators. The organization knows this, and the further back the countries sing, the more it can make its audiences profitable.



Up to here the cold analysis of the results and the 2023 edition. I leave topics unmentioned, but you know that in this blog we are open to all your requests. We have been lucky enough to enjoy an edition where the songs have shone and both experts and the audience have given us a duel that has not been decided with prefabricated votes. If you liked this blog, and there are already 75, do not forget to leave your comment, your doubts or improvements. Thank you for having come this far and relativize: *It's crazy, it's party.*