

From Morocco to China, how the Spanish provinces would vote

Written by Jesús Manuel Rodrigo Céspedes (@Euronumerics) 30/09/2026

We are kicking off a new season by discussing our provinces and their demographic makeup. We are focusing on the foreign-born population to understand why Spain votes (or used to vote) the way it does—and how it might vote in other scenarios, such as a hypothetical "Eurovision Asia." A word of warning: if you are anti-immigration, this blog post might give you hives.

HOW PROVINCES WOULD VOTE BASED ON IMMIGRATION

Taking the current global and Spanish context into account, I wanted to create this post about immigration and Spain's provinces. In a previous article, "Comunidades Autónomas Song Contest," we explored how Spain's autonomous communities would vote based on their populations, reflecting migration flows between regions and uncovering some fascinating patterns.

This time, we are shifting our perspective: instead of autonomous communities, we are analyzing by province; and rather than looking at the native Spanish population, we are focusing on the immigrant population—that is, those born outside Spain.

If every province were to vote Eurovision-style based on the composition of its foreign-born population (using data from the INE's 2025 census), the results would look like this. The table shows the points each country would receive if provinces voted according to their demographic makeup (with the largest immigrant group in each province getting 12 points, the next largest getting 10, and so on). A comparison with 2022 census data is also provided.



The big winner in this provincial vote would be Morocco. It would secure the top score in 24 provinces—nearly half of the total. Colombia would take second place, overtaking Romania. In total, 38 countries would receive at least one point.

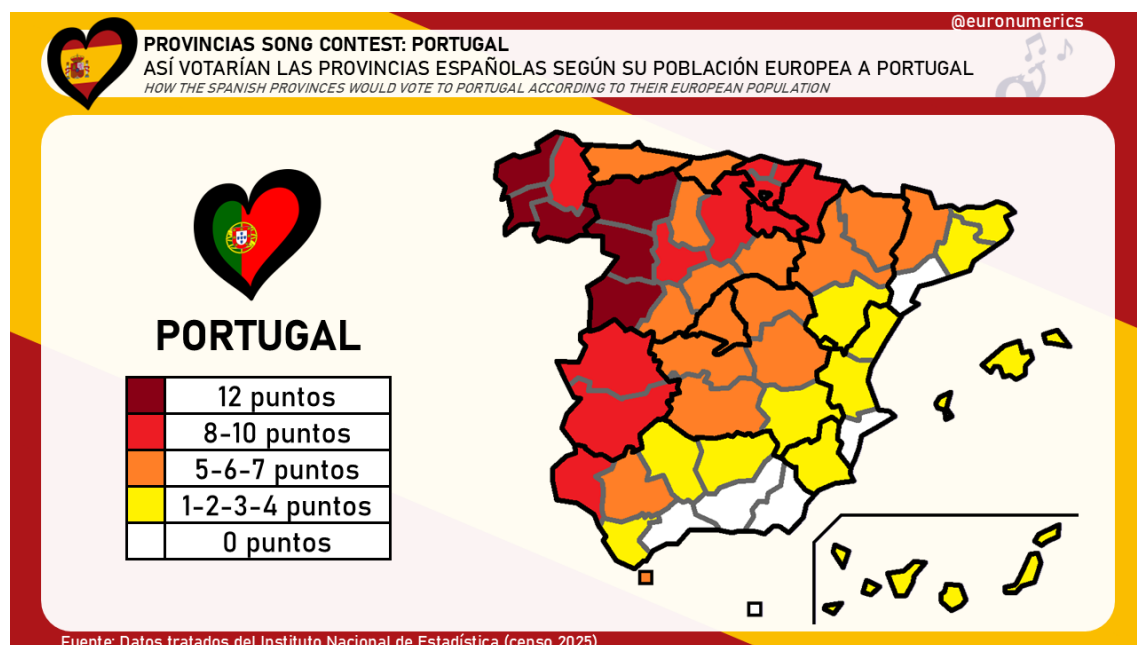
Regarding changes since 2022, the Ukrainian population group has seen the largest increase, driven by the Russian invasion. Latin American countries such as Argentina, Peru, and Paraguay are also moving up in the rankings. The sharpest declines are seen among nationals of China, Ecuador, and Pakistan.

Within Europe, the largest migration flows come from Romania, Italy, and Portugal—a trend reflected in our historical Eurovision voting patterns. Did you expect these results, or is there a country missing?

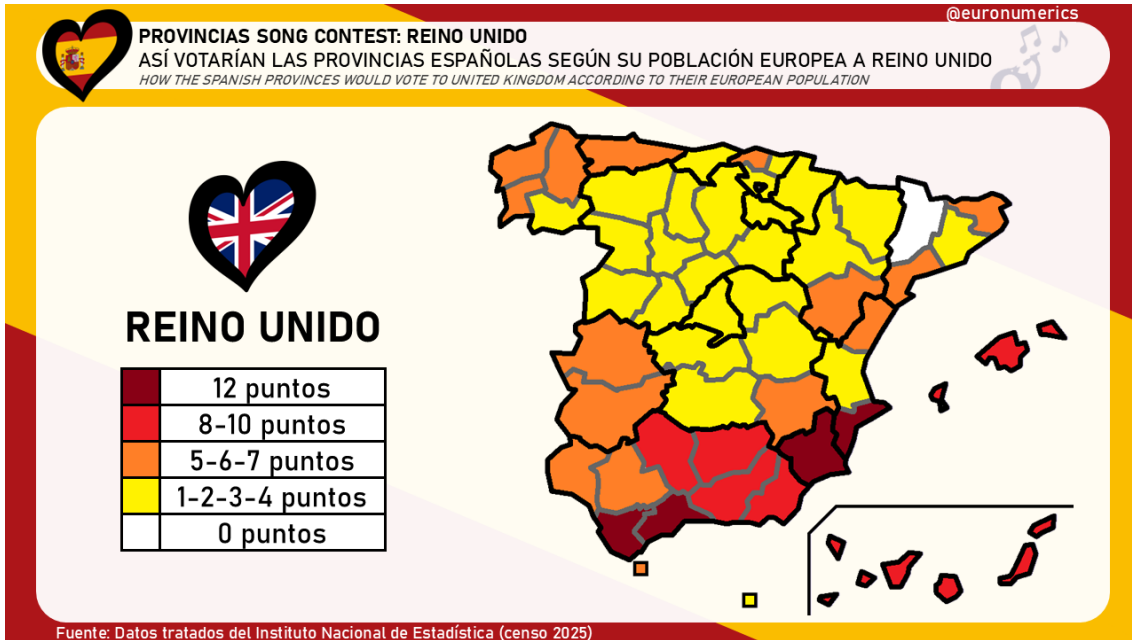
EUROVISION AND THE PROVINCES: REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

Given the results, one might ask: is the immigrant population distributed evenly across the territory, or are there differences between provinces?

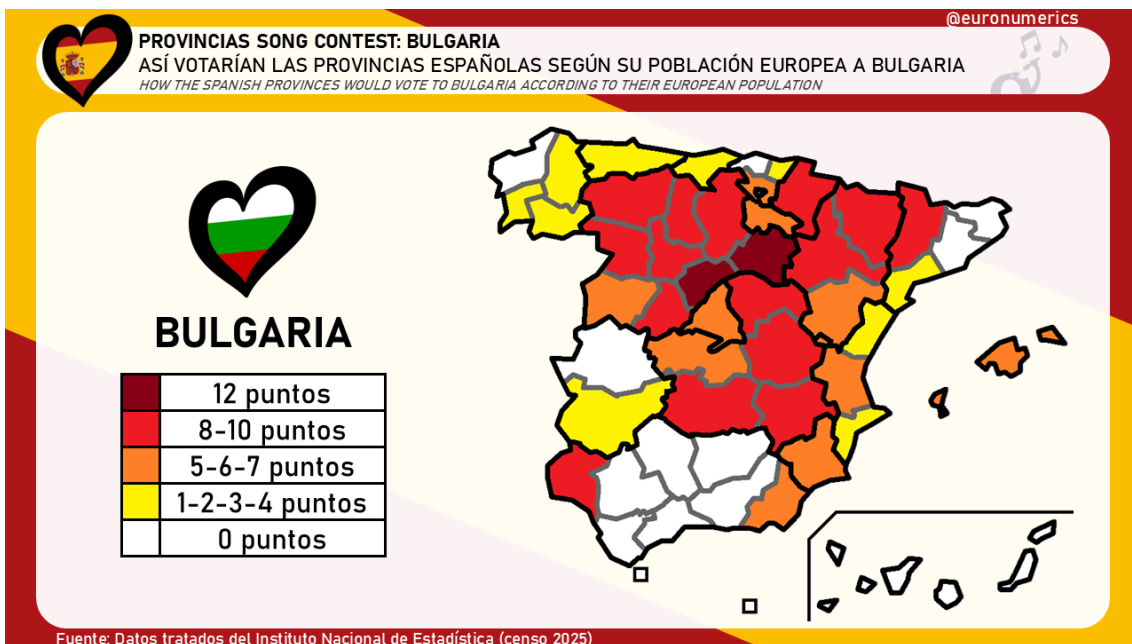
The best way to visualize this is through maps. Let's look at this through the lens of Eurovision, considering only countries that have recently participated in the contest. The following maps illustrate these distributions using color coding: the deeper the red, the higher the score that country would receive from a given province.



The image above shows how the provinces would vote for Portugal. Most of the provinces that would award high scores (due to the size of the Portuguese immigrant community) are those bordering the country itself. This effect diminishes as the distance from Portugal increases, becoming negligible along the Mediterranean coast.



The United Kingdom presents practically the opposite scenario. The British would garner many points in the provinces along the Mediterranean coast and in both archipelagos, while their presence is less significant in the central part of the peninsula. The patterns for Germans and French nationals are similar to this one.

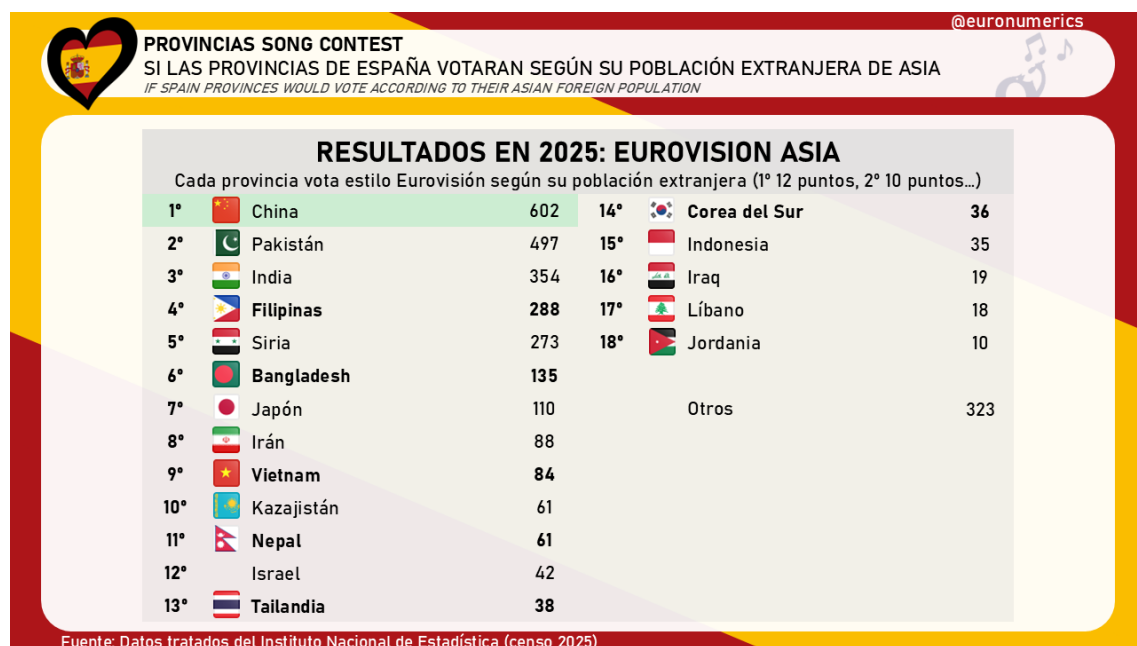


If we focus on the recent Eurovision winner, Bulgaria, we see a concentration in the central plateaus or inland regions, with very little presence in coastal areas. This pattern mirrors the distribution of nationals from other Eastern European countries, such as Romania, Moldova, and Georgia.

In short, we can conclude that the foreign demographic composition varies by province. While neighboring provinces often show similar patterns, the diversity of Spain is also reflected in the immigrant populations it receives.

WHAT IF SPAIN VOTED IN EUROVISION ASIA?

With the premiere of Eurovision Asia approaching, we wondered how Spain would vote in the contest if it were able to participate and if voting were based solely on immigrant demographics. To find out, we used data from the 2025 Spanish census and summarized the votes by province in this scoreboard:



China would sweep up the vast majority of the "12-point" votes; the few it didn't receive would go to Pakistan (from Catalonia and the Basque Country) or India. The most unusual 12-point vote would be the one Lugo awarded to Indonesia (a country that only garners 35 points in total). However, it appears none of these countries will be competing in the 2026 edition.

The nations currently registered to compete are marked in bold on the scoreboard. In this scenario, the Philippines would receive the most votes (10 points from Málaga and Madrid), followed by Bangladesh and Vietnam. Next in line would be Nepal, Thailand, and South Korea. A total of 323 points would go to "other Asian countries" not listed on this scoreboard, meaning there could be a "hidden" country that might sneak into the rankings.

A CLOSER LOOK: CEUTA AND MELILLA

Across all the scenarios we've examined, the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla stand out for voting very differently from the rest of the country. I invite anyone interested to delve deeper

into this topic. Census data suggests that both cities would cast a significant number of votes for European countries. Is this due to diplomatic personnel? A reflection of their isolated location? Europeans who couldn't find space on the Costa del Sol? For instance, on a national level, they would be the only ones voting for Norway or Belgium.

Conversely, on a European scale, they would be the least likely to vote for Romania, Ukraine, or Bulgaria. On the other hand, the Netherlands would gain a total of 20 points (12 and 8 points), Italy 17, and—as a point of interest—Norway 6 and Denmark 2.

We haven't gone into great detail, but we hope you found these highlights interesting and useful. We receive people from many diverse parts of the globe, and they are distributed across the country in a wide variety of ways. This is yet another reflection of Spain's social and cultural richness—a richness to which the people who come to our country also contribute.