

REVISITED

singing europe

2024

37 MILLION CHORAL SINGERS IN EUROPE



EUROPEAN
CHORAL
ASSOCIATION



Co-funded by the
European Union

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CREDITS

This report was edited by the **European Choral Association**

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in the frame of the project

IGNITE - *IGNiting an Inclusive and sustainable future for collective singing*

Throughout Europe supported by the EU Creative Europe programme

europeanchoralassociation.org/ignite/

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HELP US IMPROVE THE DATA

Singing Europe is a pilot study aiming to compile data on collective singing across Europe. We or our local partners might have missed sources or made errors. If you spot a mistake, can provide updates or help us fill in gaps in the data, please contact us at info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org.

INDEX

Introduction | p. 4

Research Method | p. 6

Albania | p. 8

Armenia | p. 10

Bulgaria | p. 13

Croatia | p. 14

Cyprus | p. 16

CzechRepublic | p. 18

Georgia | p. 20

Greece | p. 21

Luxembourg | p. 23

Kosovo | p. 25

Republic of North Macedonia | p. 27

Malta | p. 28

Moldova | p. 29

Montenegro | p. 30

Serbia | p. 31

Slovakia | p. 32

Conclusion | p. 34

Introduction

The Singing Europe report on collective singing was published in 2015 as part of the VOICE project (Vision on Innovation for Choral Music in Europe), co-funded by the EU Culture Programme. This report, based on a survey and extensive international research marked the European Choral Association's first major effort to collect both statistical and qualitative data on collective singing across Europe.

Nine years after the original Singing Europe report the European Choral Association has now published "Singing Europe Revisited", an addendum to the original report. During the IGNITE project co-funded by the EU Creative Europe programme (December 2021 to November 2024), the European Choral Association designed a regional development strategy with the aim of strengthening contacts with the collective singing sector especially in Central-Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The first step was to set up a list of target countries, mostly countries in which the European Choral Association had no member organisation, or one that was not very active. Most of these countries were also "white spots" on the map of the Singing Europe report published in 2015, since it was not possible without local support to gather data from these countries – there was a need for people speaking the language. One important aspect of the regional development work was thus also to try to "fill the gaps" and gather data from the countries which were absent or underrepresented in the original report, or for which there was insufficient data.

It is important to note that the European Choral Association does not currently have sufficient resources to update data for all countries in Europe. We have therefore decided to focus on those countries where data was unavailable or insufficient in the 2015 survey, and where it was possible to find a reliable organisation or person willing to collect data and outline for us the current choral landscape in their country.

Over the past three years, within the framework of the IGNITE project, we have made significant progress. We have successfully established cooperation with several previously under-represented countries. By the end of the third year, we had welcomed several new member organisations in different target countries. We managed to gather new data on choral life in many countries in this region, contributing to a more complete and up-to-date picture of collective singing across Europe.

In the different countries we worked with different types of partners. For one country we used a polling company for an online survey, a similar method we already had tested in two countries for the original Singing Europe data collection. In some countries we were able to reach people on government level or in national institutions supported by the government. Sometimes we had to rely on small private associations or even individual people collecting data as best as they could. The data may therefore not always be as numerical as we had initially hoped and there are often approximate estimates. However, the established collaborations promise to lead to further developments in this area of research within the sector, and the mere fact that we asked our partners for data triggered choral organisations in some countries to start a more thorough data-collection process in the near future. We therefore look forward to more detailed surveys with more precise statistics and data on certain countries to be added in the coming years.

Research Method

A list of countries for which it was not possible to obtain relevant statistical data, and which remained white spots on the map of Singing Europe in 2015, were identified as potential focus areas for our research from 2021 to 2024: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Russia*, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine*.

** Note: Russia, Belarus and Ukraine were not actively included in the survey due to the ongoing war and related circumstances.*

Altogether, we reviewed 19 countries (without Russia, Belarus and Ukraine). Through implementation of the European Choral Association's regional development strategy, we established contacts with organisations and individuals who help shape the choral / collective singing landscape in these regions and invited them to participate in gathering data. We suggested to them to explore three potential alternative approaches:

- Sharing existing data already held by their organisations or by the government in their respective country
- Collecting new data if no relevant data was currently available
- Exploring the option of a professional opinion polling company for data collection

We were interested in the following data:

1. Total number of choirs / vocal groups in the country

- All professional choirs where singers are paid and can live from singing
- Amateur choirs of adults over 18 (including church choirs, etc.)
- Amateur children's and youth choirs under 18 (including school choirs, etc.)

2. Estimated total number of singers
3. Which choir organisations exist at regional and national level in the country

Additionally, since we had used Eurobarometer statistics on singing as a point of reference for the original Singing Europe report, we investigated the possibility of using any updated data they might provide. However, Eurobarometer has not explored this field in recent years.

Furthermore, the original question used by Eurobarometer was “Have you sung in the last 12 months?”. This was understood very differently in different countries, so that sometimes more people answered this question with “yes” than the assumed total number of people practicing collective singing (because there are people who sing privately but do not join a choir or ensemble), and astonishingly enough in some countries fewer people answers the Eurobarometer question with “yes”, which could be connected to a different interpretation of the question.

We recommended at the time that Eurobarometer consider including a question on collective singing activities in future surveys and hope that such a question could then be asked in a more precise way, for instance in the form: “do you regularly sing together with others?” or “have you regularly sung together with others?” or even “have you regularly sung together with others in a choir or ensemble?”.

ALBANIA



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 9251 km²

Demography

- Population: 863,457 inhabitants
- Median Age: 35.7 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

No data collected

Number of ensembles*

- 8 Adult choirs
- 55 Iso-Polyphony vocal groups
- 16 Children choirs (6 in Tirana)
- 8 Youth Choirs (4 in Tirana)

**Special thanks to Besim Petrela from Syri Blu Association and to the conductor Bujar Alliu. Register of choirs available on www.voicesofisopolyphony.com*

List of choirs

- Choir of University Of Arts, Tirana
- Choir Preng Jakova, Shkoder
- Choir of Catholic Cathedrale of Shen Shtjefni, Shkoder
- Choir LIRA (traditional), Korca
- Joy of Singing (visually impaired and blind people), Tirana
- Children Choir of Servete Maci - Elementary Music School, Tirana
- Children Choir of "Jon Kukuzeli" - Elementary Music School, Durrës
- Children Choir of "Jakov Xoxa" - Artistic High School , Fier
- National Center of Children "Besnik Aliaj"- Children Choir, Shkoder

- Children choir "Dëshmoret e Lirisë", Tirana
 - Choir of Music school Jordan Misja - white voices- elementary school, Tirana
 - Center "Me Art" - children choir, Tirana
 - Children Choir "Mrekullia", Tirana
 - Center "TEN"- Children Choir, Tirana
 - Center "Musical Journey"- Children Choir, Tirana
 - Children Choir "Naim Frasheri", Vlore
-
- Choir of Music- High School Jordan Misja, Tirana
 - Choir of Music High School Onufri, Elbasan
 - Choir of Music High School "Tefta Tashko Koço", Korce
 - Choir of High School "Faik Konica", Tirana
 - Choir of High School "Jon Kukuzeli", Durrës
 - Yuth Choir "Naim Frasheri", Vlore
 - Choir of Don Bosco High School – Professional, Tirana
 - Choir of High School Faik Konica, Tirana

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS / ECA MEMBERS

Syri Blu Association

www.syriblu.com

Syri Blu Association plays a key role in preserving and promoting Albania's rich musical heritage, uniting Albanian choral music groups, supporting choirs in various events and fostering cultural ties with European countries. The association organises activities in choral and jazz music, focusing on:

- Promoting Albanian Iso-Polyphony, a UNESCO-protected tradition
- Advancing inclusive choral music through "Joy of Singing," a choir for blind and partially sighted singers founded in 2017
- Engaging in EU programmes to enhance collaboration
- Promoting Albanian choral singing both locally and internationally

ARMENIA



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 29,743 km²

Demography

- Population: Approximately 2,781,458 inhabitants
- Median Age: 36.9 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

No data collected

Number of ensembles

There is currently no official data available on the choral sector in Armenia. The Armenian Choral Organisation has expressed its willingness to collect precise data in the future, though this will require significant time and effort. In the meantime, the data presented here is based on insights provided by conductor Marine Alavedyan, offering an approximate snapshot of the sector at this moment.

Church Choirs

- Estimated Number: Approximately 20 church choirs.
- Compensation: Singers and conductors receive a minimum salary from the church.

State Choirs

- Estimated Number: 6–7 professional state choirs.
- Compensation: Singers and conductors earn a living wage.

Cultural Houses Founded by Churches

- Estimated Number: Around 15 Cultural Houses founded by Churches operate children's choirs.
- Compensation: Only conductors are paid; participation is free for singers.

Non-Professional Choirs

- Estimated Number: About 15 amateur choirs operating independently, without payment for conductors.

Music Schools & Colleges

- Estimated Number of Participants: 2500–3000 children involved in choral singing.
- Participation Requirement: Participation is mandatory for students in these institutions.

General Education School Choirs

- Estimated Number of Participants: Approximately 600–800 students participate in school choirs, although these are not widespread.

Total Estimated Number of Choir Singers

- Approximately 4,500 singers actively participate in choirs across Armenia.

**Special thanks to Marine Alavedyan from "DIVISI" Cultural NGO for preparing this data.*

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS / ECA MEMBERS

Armenian Choral Conductor's Association

www.conductors.am

The Association aims to preserve Armenia's rich choral heritage by educating younger generations, fostering a deep appreciation for Armenian spiritual and ancient choral music and inspiring them to carry this tradition forward.

The Armenian Little Singers (ALS) International Association

www.als.am/en

The ALS International Association was founded in Yerevan, Armenia in 1992 under the auspices of the World's Little Singers Association. Tigran Hekekyan, who is the chief founder and current president of the Association, established an organisation that would cultivate and inspire young Armenian singers and encourage the development of choral art in Armenia. Over the last twenty years, the ALS International Association has worked tirelessly in the musical world toward the goal of fostering and refining choral skills, sharing the talents of Armenia's choirs with the world and contributing to the participation of Armenian choirs in international festivals and worldwide events.

OTHER CHORAL ORGANISATIONS

Armenian Choral Union

The Armenian Choral Union is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting and preserving Armenian choral music.

International Association of the Armenian Culture

www.iaoac.org

The Association was established on 13 January 2021 to implement various cultural and educational programmes related to Armenian national culture in the Republic of Armenia and abroad.

"Divisi" Cultural NGO

www.divisi.org

"Divisi" Arts Synthesis Cultural NGO (or short "Divisi" Cultural NGO) is dedicated to the promotion and development of choral music in Armenia. The organisation focuses on supporting singers, choirs, and conductors by organising numerous choral concerts and festivals in collaboration with esteemed institutions such as the Armenian State Philharmonic and the Armenian National Opera and others. The organisation works closely with the Ministry of Culture on key initiatives, including the Competition-Festival and the Creative Academy, which aim to nurture young composers and support the creation of new choral works.

BULGARIA



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 110,993 km²

Demography

- Population: Approximately 6,447,000 inhabitants
- Median Age: 45.1 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

No data collected

Number of ensembles

Bulgarian Choral Union has 50 member choirs, categorised as follows:

- 8 Women's Choirs
- 4 Men's Choirs
- 22 Mixed Choirs
- 16 Children's Choirs
- 12 Individual Members

In recent years, they have noticed an increase in the number of members from smaller vocal groups. In Bulgaria there is:

- More than 20 active vocal groups
- Approx. 40 folk ensembles related to singing

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS /ECA MEMBERS

Bulgarian Choir Union

www.choirunion-bg.com

The Bulgarian Choir Union is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting and preserving choral music in Bulgaria. It organises concerts, competitions, and educational activities, and collaborates with national and international organisations to foster the growth of choral art. The Bulgarian Choral Union is committed to building a comprehensive database of all vocal groups and ensembles in Bulgaria in future.

CROATIA



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 56,594 km²

Demography

- Population: Approximately 3,820,000 inhabitants
- Median Age: 44.3 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

- 3.4% (17 people) reported that they have sung in a choir or vocal group more than once a month in the past 12 months, indicating regular participation.
- 10.8% (54 people) sang less than once a month, reflecting occasional involvement.
- On the other hand, a large majority, 85.7% (429 people), stated that they never participated in such activities during the past year.

Number of ensembles

No data collected

Demographics of choral singers

Gender:

Women are slightly more involved in choral singing than men:

- 12.3% of women sing in a choir less than once a month, compared to 9.2% of men.
- 4.5% of women participate more than once a month, while only 2.3% of men do so.
- A higher percentage of men (88.5%) reported never participating, compared to 83.2% of women.

Age:

Young adults (16-24 years) are the most involved in choral singing:

- 9.4% sing less than once a month, and 2.2% more than once a month, while 78.4% never participated.

Adults aged 45-54 years also show notable participation:

- 1.2% of this group sing more than once a month, the highest of any age group.

The 55+ group has the highest proportion of individuals who never participate (90.2%), indicating a drop in choral involvement with age.

In summary, women and younger people are more engaged in choral activities, while men and older adults participate less.

This data is based on a public opinion poll conducted by Henda d.o.o., involving a relevant sample group of 500 people.

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS / ECA MEMBERS

Croatian Cultural Association - Hrvatski sabor kulture-glazba HRSK

www.hrsk.hr

Croatian Choral Directors Association

www.choralcroatia.com

CYPRUS



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 9251 km²

Demography

- Population: Approximately 1.2 million inhabitants
- Median Age: 38 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

No data collected

Number of ensembles

In Cyprus, choral singing is primarily supported by local municipalities and NGOs. Many municipalities fund children's and adult choirs, some are also part of NGOs that can apply for financial support from the Ministry of Culture. Additionally, church choirs and children's choirs affiliated with private conservatories contribute to the choral scene. Most singers are amateurs, led by professional conductors.

Some statistics on choirs that practice regularly:

- 18 adult choirs
- 5 youth choirs as part of public music schools
- 6 children's choirs in Limassol

Also big public elementary schools have children's choirs but there is no data.

Adult choirs

1. Choir Aris Limesol - Limassol
2. Choir Ariones - Limassol
3. Choir Modern Times - Limassol
4. Church choir Romanos o Melodos - Limassol
5. Choir of Cultural Movement Epilogi - Limassol
6. Choir Cantus Novus - Limassol
7. Choir of Morphoy Cultural Group - Limassol

8. Choir of Municipality of Famagusta
9. Choir "Music Paths"- Limassol
10. Women's choir Amalgamation
11. Choir of Municipality of Derinea
12. Choir of Larnaca Progressive Movement Choirs - Larnaca
13. Choir of Pafos Music Group - Paphos
14. "Bicommunal Choir for Peace-Lena Melanidou" - Nicosia
15. Larnaca Municipality Vocal Ensemble
16. Spyros Kapsaskis Choir
17. Community Choir Pera Chorio Nisou
18. "Kalesma" Vocal Ensemble

Youth choirs as part of public schools:

1. Nicosia Music School Pangyprio High School and Acropolis
2. High School Limassol Music School Laniteo Lyceum and Gymnasium
3. Larnaca Music School Ag. Georgiou and Drosia High School
4. Music School of Famagusta High School and High School of Kokkinohoria
5. Music School of Paphos High School Ethnarch Makarios and Nikolaideo High School

Children's Choirs in Limassol:

1. Children's Choir of Dreams
2. Children's Choir Melodies and Colors
3. Children's Choir of the Papadakeio Municipal Conservatory of Limassol
4. Children's Choir of Epilogi
5. Armonia Choir
6. Choir of the Conservatory of Music Horizons of Agia Fyla

The information was provided by the Tatiana Tsietti from Cultural Movement Epilogi on a voluntary basis. More precise statistical data on the number of choirs, singers, and funding sources could be collected in the future, if the support of the Ministry of Culture or other institutions is secured.

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS

Cultural Movement of Limassol EPILOGI

www.epilogi.info/about_us

The "Epilogi" Limassol Cultural Movement is a non-profit organisation, founded in November 1992 on the initiative of a number of people in culture who shared the vision of contributing towards a society based on noble values and thus towards a better world. "Epilogi" was founded after mature thinking, to fulfil the need for a vibrant cultural life in the town of Limassol. Since 2007, the "Epilogi" Cultural Movement invested significant resources in new facilities, positioned in Gladstonos Str. in the heart of Limassol. The space combines over 140sqm of offices and multi-purpose areas with modern equipment.

CZECH REPUBLIC



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 78,866 km²

Demography

- Population: 10,761,147 inhabitants
- Median Age: 43 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

It can be estimated that approximately 1.9% of the population of the Czech Republic sings in a choir.

The calculation was based on the National Information and Consulting Centre for Culture (NIPOS) questionnaire survey with a sample of 105 choirs of all ages and the below rough estimate of the number of choirs.

Number of ensembles

Total estimated number of amateur choirs: 6841

- 3010 Amateur adult choirs 18+ (including church choirs etc...)
- 3831 Amateur children and youth choirs under 18 (including school choirs,...)
- 12 Professional choirs (includes 10 opera choirs and 2 philharmonic choirs)

Demographics of choral singers:

- Average age overall: 29 years
- Average age in children and youth choirs: 12 years
- Average age in adult choirs: 47 years

Additional information on the data provided by NIPOS

The exact number of choirs in the Czech Republic is currently not available. Since 2021, the National Information and Consulting Centre for Culture (NIPOS) has started to systematically map the choirs in the Czech Republic, but this activity is not yet complete.

*The National Choir Database published at www.nsdb.cz documents 1262 active choirs in the Czech Republic as of 1 May 2024, but they assume that the actual number will be at least twice as many. Therefore, with the help of statisticians, they have made a rough estimate based on the data in the publication *Singing Europe, 2015*. For this estimate, a reference group of three Central and Eastern European countries with similar socio-economic backgrounds was created: Poland, Romania and Hungary. The estimate does not take into account qualitative factors such as a country's background for choral singing or choral singing traditions. The definition of the term "choir" may also be problematic, as it may be understood in different cultural contexts in different ways (in some countries it may include, for example, folk singing groups as well). It can therefore be assumed that this estimate may be an overestimate in the context of Czech choral singing.*

Until now, a conservative estimate by NIPOS has been approximately 3000-4000 active choral ensembles. However, detailed empirical evidence is not available at this time.

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS

NIPOS – Národní informační a poradenské středisko pro kulturu (National Information and Consulting Centre for Culture)

www.nipos.cz

www.facebook.com/niposprokulturu

Unie českých pěveckých sborů (The Czech Choirs Association)

www.ceskesbory.cz

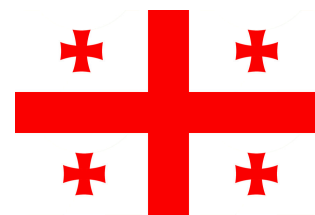
www.facebook.com/CeskeSbory

Asociace sbormistrů (Association of Choirmasters)

www.nsdb.cz

www.facebook.com/asociacesbormistru

GEORGIA



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 69,700 km²

Demography

- Population: 3,688,647 inhabitants
- Median Age: 38.3 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

No data collected

Number of ensembles: 377

Classic academic choirs

- 7 Mixed national professional choirs
- 5 Women's national professional choirs
- 4 Men's national professional choirs
- 4 Junior boys' academic choirs
- 164 Children's academic choirs from arts and music schools
- 6 Junior amateur mixed classical musical choirs
- 6 University choirs
- 2 Amateur mixed choirs

*Folklore and church choirs**

- 64 Men's folklore choirs
- 12 Women's folklore choirs
- 103 Children and adolescent folklore choirs

Data was collected after the Study tour to Georgia. Special thanks to the conductor Tamar Buadze from the Tutarchela Youth Choir.

**In Georgia most folklore choirs are considered as church choirs*

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS

Georgian Choral Society

www.geochoralsociety.org

GREECE



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 131,960 km²

Demography

- Population: 10,413,982 inhabitants
- Median Age: 46.3 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

- **15,787 singers**

Data was gathered by referring to the list of 744 choirs reported by the National Statistical Institution in 2012. From this list, the focus was placed on the 536 active choirs in 2024, which currently have a total of 15,787 singers.

Number of ensembles

Total 536 active choirs

- 321 Mixed Choirs (Including 5 Professional Choirs) / 10,005 singers
- 52 Women's Choirs / 1,182 singers
- 11 Men's Choirs / 316 singers
- 42 Byzantine Choirs / 1,289 singers
- 110 Children's Choirs / 2,995 singers

Children's choirs are affiliated with various institutions, distributed as follows:

- Public and Private Schools: 26
- Conservatories: 24
- Municipal Authorities: 16
- Churches: 12
- Cultural Institutions: 32

Notes on the data

The data presented above reflect an important part of the choral activity in Greece. The statistical data has been compiled from active choirs across the country by the Hellenic Choir Association. It is important to note that many additional choirs exist within schools, churches and small cultural centres. However, due to their non-participation in cultural events and public performances, relevant data from these groups could not be collected. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the choral landscape, resulting in the creation of new choirs and the dissolution of others. The Hellenic Association of Choirs will continue to carry out research and to collect and update data.

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS/ ECA MEMBERS**Hellenic Choirs Association**

www.stegi-chorus.gr

LUXEMBOURG



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 2586 km²

Demography

- Population: Approximately 672,050 inhabitants
- Median Age: 39.2 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

No data collected

Number of ensembles

No data collected

Luxembourg, despite its small size, presents challenges in gathering comprehensive choral data. The Ministry of Culture doesn't maintain a central record of active choirs. Choral federations rely on self-reported data from their member choirs, which is often incomplete. Additionally, numerous choirs operate independently, outside of any federations.

INECC recently launched a survey of the choral sector in Luxembourg, with the support of the Ministry of Culture. The goal of the survey is to identify as many choirs as possible and collect accurate data. The initial results of this survey are expected to be available in January 2025.

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS / ECA MEMBERS

INECC Luxembourg

<http://www.inecc.lu>

INECC is an institution for the development of the musical and choral life in Luxembourg, working in close partnership with the Ministry of Culture and the City of Luxembourg as well as with the choral associations, schools and music institutions in the country.

OTHER CHORAL ORGANISATIONS

Union Grand Duc Adolphe

www.ugda.lu

Union St Pie X (Federation of church choirs)

KOSOVO



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 10,887 km²

Demography

- Population: 1,806,279 inhabitants
- Median Age: 30.5 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

- 1073 active singers

Number of ensembles

There is currently no centralised choral organisation in Kosovo that collects and maintains data on choirs. However, thanks to the efforts of conductor Memli Kelmendi, we are able to share a comprehensive list of active choirs in Kosovo. This list has been gathered specifically for the purpose of this publication, providing valuable insight into the choral landscape of the country.

7 Professional Choirs & Vocal Ensembles:

- Kosovo Philharmonic Choir: 50 singers
 - Siparantum Choir: 47 singers
 - Kosovo Opera Choir: 60 singers
 - ReMusica Vocal Ensemble: 16 singers
 - Zanat Ensemble: 5 singers
 - Attaca Vocal Ensemble: 16 singers
 - Okteti Plus Vocal Ensemble: 9 singers
- Total: 203 singers

12 Amateur Adult Choirs

- "Canta Peja", Women's Choir: 25 singers
 - Okarina Women's Choir: 20 singers
 - Lira, Women's Choir: 30 singers
 - Nexhmije Pagarusha, Women's Choir: 25 singers
 - Ferizaj, Women's Choir: 15 singers
 - Besa, Women's Choir: 20 singers
 - The Choir of the Catholic Church in Pristina: 20 singers
 - The Choir of the Catholic Church in Peja: 20 singers
 - The Choir of the City of Gjilan: 25 singers
 - The Choir of the City of Ferizaj: 25 singers
 - The Men's Choir of Gjakova: 14 singers
 - Ladies Voice, Gjilan: 15 singers
- Total: 254 singers

6 Amateur Youth Choirs (Under 18)

- Okarina Children's Choir: 50 singers
 - Siparantum Kids, Children's Choir: 40 singers
 - Gjilani, Children's Choir: 40 singers
 - Amadeus Children's Choir: 40 singers
 - Vita Children's Choir: 16 singers
 - Lyra Children's Choir: 20 singers
- Total: 206 singers

4 University Choirs

- University of Prishtina: 60 singers
 - University AAB - Faculty of Musicology: 50 singers
 - University Haxhi Zeka: 50 singers
 - UBT College: 30 singers
- Total: 190 singers

6 Music School Choirs

- Choir of Halit Kasapolli Music School, Pejë: 40 singers
 - Choir of Prenk Jakova Music School, Prishtinë: 50 singers
 - Choir of Prenk Jakova Music School, Gjakovë: 40 singers
 - Choir of Tefta Tashko Music School, Mitrovica: 30 singers
 - Choir of "Çesk Zadeja" Music School, Ferizaj: 30 singers
 - Choir of "Lorenc Antoni", Music School, Prizren: 30 singers
- Total: 220 singers

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS

No choral organisations

REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 25,713 km²

Demography

- Population: 1,829,000 inhabitants
- Median Age: 40.6 years old (2023 estimate)

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

Based on the provided data, the estimated total number of singers across all listed choirs in Macedonia ranges from approx. 4000 - 7000 singers. This number represents about 0.38% of the total population.

Number of ensembles

- 100 primary school choirs (20–30 members each)
- 25 secondary school choirs (20–30 members each)
- 4 music academy choirs (50 members each)
- 3 professional choirs in Skopje (15–30 members each)
- 30 city choirs (15–30 members each)
- 20 church choirs (10–20 members each)
- 30–40 independent choral societies (20–50 members each)

There is no official national register of choirs. The following estimates, provided by Aleksandar Dimovski, conductor and president of the Association of Music Pedagogues of Macedonia and the Ohrid Choir Festival Association, offer an overview of Macedonia's choral scene.

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS

Ohrid Festival

www.ohridchoirfestival.com

Association of Music Pedagogues of Macedonia

MALTA



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 316 km²

Demography

- Population: 464,186 inhabitants
- Median Age: 42.6 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

No data collected

Number of ensembles

No data collected

Current situation

There are no detailed data on amateur choirs in Malta. There are a number of project and church choirs in the choral field, and singers are often paid to participate in religious festivals, especially in the summer. There is one state-funded choir, but even this is project-based and does not offer full-time employment. Many choirs share a limited pool of singers, so there is overlap in the membership of different groups.

Our research has contributed to an initiative to carry out a study on amateur choirs in Malta, which is expected to produce results in late 2025 or early 2026.

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS

Arts Council Malta

<https://artscouncilmalta.gov.mt/>

Malta Tourism Authority

<http://www.mta.com.mt/events>

MOLDOVA



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 33,846 km²

Demography

- Population: 2,603,813 inhabitants
- Median Age: 38.1 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

No data collected

Number of ensembles *

Total of choirs 175

- 50 children's choirs
- 15 mixed choirs
- 10 vocal ensembles
- 100 church choirs

Approx. 40 singers participate in each choir = total of 7000 singers

**Special thanks to Elena Marian, Musical-Choral Association of Moldova for providing this data.*

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS

Musical-Choral Association from Moldova

MONTENEGRO



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 13,812 km²

Demography

- Population: 620,739 inhabitants
- Median Age: 39.3 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

No data collected

Number of ensembles

The research on the choral scene in Montenegro was conducted as part of the project "Affirmation of Cultural Expressions in Montenegro," initiated by the Ministry of Culture in 2019. The study, titled "Analysis of the State, Needs, and Conditions for the Development of Amateur Cultural and Artistic Creativity," was coordinated by NGO Vox mirus, which was a partner in this project, with the participation of key collaborators for the field of vocal music: Andrijana Vučetić Obadović, M.Sc., Milena Vrzić, M.Sc. and Mirjana Živković.

The project began in December 2019 and was completed by the end of 2020. A total of 70 responses were collected. These responses included:

- 25 Vocal Ensembles/Claps/Singing Groups/Vocal Groups
- 27 Choir Ensembles (secular and religious)
- 13 Fiddle Societies
- 5 Orchestras

The majority of respondents were amateur choirs, both secular and religious, reflecting a strong tradition of community-based singing in Montenegro. The research confirmed the absence of a professional choral ensemble in Montenegro, which limits professional development opportunities in the field.

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS / ECA MEMBERS

Montenegrin Choral Association
choirfestivalhn.com

SERBIA



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 88,499 km²

Demography

- Population: 6,618,000 inhabitants
- Median Age: 43.8 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

156,000 singers estimate

2.36% of choral singers

Number of ensembles *

3450 ensembles / 3300 school choirs, both primary and middle school

- In the Republic of Serbia there are 3 professional choirs (The Radio Television of Serbia Choir, the Opera Choir of the Serbian National Theatre in Novi Sad and the Opera Choir of the Serbian National Theatre in Belgrade).
- Amateur adult choirs 18+ (including church choirs etc...) - 240 choirs
- Amateur children and youth choirs under 18 (including school choirs) - 3260 choirs

**These numbers are estimates made by the Serbian Choral Association. While there are school choirs in nearly every primary and secondary school, they are not officially counted, nor is there any national or Ministry of Education registry for them. These choirs primarily serve school-related needs, such as annual events, holidays, and celebrations. This assessment leans slightly on the optimistic side.*

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS / ECA MEMBERS

Serbian Choral Association

www.cxa.rs

SLOVAKIA



ABOUT THE COUNTRY

Geography

- Area: 48,845 km²

Demography

- Population: 5,422,366 inhabitants
- Median Age: 39.2 years old

CHORAL LIFE

Number and percentage of choral singers

No data collected

Number of ensembles *

In the absence of a central register of choirs in Slovakia, the SATB.sk portal initiated its own data collection by designing and launching an online questionnaire.

A total of 179 choirs participated in the census, answering approximately 29 questions about various aspects of their activities. While this number does not represent the total number of choirs in Slovakia (and we are aware that more choirs exist), the results offer an approximate overview of the current state of choral life in the country.

Total: 179 choirs that participated in research

Age Range of Choirs

- Adults (30–60 years): 101 choirs (majority)
- Children (under 12 years): 26 choirs
- Seniors (60 years and over): 22 choirs
- Youth (12–18 years): 15 choirs
- Young Adults (18–30 years): 15 choirs

Types of Choirs

- Adult Mixed Choirs: 99 choirs (most prevalent)
- Children's Choirs: 32 choirs
- Women's Choirs: 14 choirs
- Youth Choirs: 12 choirs

- Vocal Ensembles (duo, trio, quartet, etc.): 8 groups
- Senior Choirs: 6 choirs
- Men's Choirs: 4 choirs
- Girls' Choirs: 3 choirs
- Boys' Choirs: 1 choir

Number of Choir Members

- Up to 10 members: 21 choirs
- 11–25 members: 98 choirs (largest group)
- 25–40 members: 50 choirs
- 41–50 members: 7 choirs

Larger choirs:

- 1 choir with 60 members
- 1 choir with 70 members
- 1 choir with 100 members

Average choir size: 23.26 singers per choir

**Special thanks to Dominika Semaňáková and the SATB.sk portal for their efforts in conducting the survey.*

CHORAL ORGANISATIONS

Bratislava Music Agency

<http://choral-music.sk/en>

Web portal for choirs

SATB.sk

Conclusion

Through the survey, we aimed to reach out to organisations and individuals in all 19 countries through the implementation of the European Choral Association's regional development strategy. We succeeded in most countries. This does not mean that we were able to collect relevant data from every one of these countries, but it was certainly an incentive for all involved to do so in the future. Two countries, Luxembourg and Malta, are in the middle of national surveys and will be able to provide data in 2025. Unfortunately, despite initial interest shown by our contacts in these countries, we have not been able to obtain data for Bosnia and Herzegovina, nor have we received responses from Azerbaijan and Portugal.

However, we successfully collected data of differing quality from 14 countries in total.

- For some countries, like Albania, Armenia, Montenegro, Georgia, Kosovo, and Moldova, data were collected and shared for the first time. This put these countries on the European choral map and gave a big boost to their national collective singing communities and the wider European choral family.
- A key strength for us is that the data were collected with the help of local conductors, choir managers, and organisations directly in the field. This added valuable insights into choral / collective singing activities across Europe.
- We also conducted a professional public opinion survey with a polling company in Croatia, a country for which we had not received any data for the 2015 Singing Europe report and where it was clear that our member organisations would not be able to provide sufficient data.

- Some countries, like Slovakia and the Czech Republic, were inspired by the Singing Europe study to do their own detailed research. In the Czech Republic, NIPOS used the Singing Europe project as a model to collect more specific data about choirs. In Slovakia, for the first time, data about the singing community were gathered using a national online survey.
- In Malta and Bulgaria, our research sparked interest in carrying out their own studies on choral life in the country. Malta is already in the implementation phase, while Bulgaria has put this in the medium-term plan. This shows a growing understanding of the importance of collecting good data about collective singing, though these efforts are still in the planning stage. Luxembourg is already working on its study and plans to share results with the European Choral Association in 2025.

We are deeply grateful to all the individuals who counted the choirs, contacted colleagues, wrote questionnaires and carried out surveys of various kinds, so that they could provide us with data and thus contribute a piece to the mosaic of the European collective singing landscape. Many of them did this as volunteer work and with a lot of dedication, for which we have enormous appreciation.



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