



## Speakers and Numbers

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Realistic estimations report that the number of *Romani* speakers in Europe is approx. 4.6 million. The table shown summarises these realistic estimations according to Bakker et al. (2000). Percentage (%) shows the approximate percentage of the *Romani* speaking Roma population in each country.

country	speakers	%
Albania	90.000	95%
Austria	20.000	80%
Belarus	27.000	95%
Belgium	10.000	80%
Bosnia-Herzegowina	40.000	90%
Bulgaria	600.000	80%
Croatia	28.000	80%
Czech Republic	140.000	50%
Denmark	1.500	90%
Estonia	1.100	90%
Finland	3.000	90%
France	215.000	70%
Germany	85.000	70%
Greece	160.000	90%
Hungary	260.000	50%
Italy	42.000	90%
Latvia	18.500	90%
Lithuania	4.000	90%
Macedonia	215.000	90%
Moldova	56.000	90%
Netherlands	7.000	90%
Poland	4.000	90%
Romania	1.030.000	80%
Russia	405.000	80%
Serbia and Montenegro	380.000	90%
Slovakia	300.000	60%
Slovenia	8.000	90%
Spain	1.000	1%
Sweden	9.500	90%
Turkey	280.000	70%
Ukraine	113.000	90%
United Kingdom	1.000	0,5%



Based on these approximate percentages of the *Romani* speaking Roma population in table 1, the total number of Roma in Europe amounts to 6.6 million people. More generous estimations refer to the total number of European Roma to be about 12 million. As the Roma have always been, and still are, a group which demographically can only be identified with difficulty, all numbers are assumptions and more or less realistic estimations. What is even more problematic is the different basis for these estimations which becomes apparent if we compare the basis for the numbers given for Austria and Spain. The number 25.000 given for the Austrian Roma includes the autochthonous Roma population and migrants who came as so-called guest workers from the middle of the 1960's onwards. Disregarded are the recent migrations from the Balkans and Eastern Europe which were caused by the various conflicts and the consequential bad economic situation. The number given for Spain only includes the autochthonous Roma population, the *Calé*. The same is valid for the number given for the UK: only the autochthonous *Romanichal* are included, working migrants of the last decades and recent migrants are not considered. Furthermore Portugal is missing in table 1 which – like most Western European countries – has a Roma population consisting of an autochthonous group which immigrated centuries ago, the *Calé*, members of *Vlach* groups who came from the late 19th century on and recent migrants from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. [ Classification]

Despite all problems with numbers, it is a fact, however, that there are some million Roma and some million Romani speakers in Europe.



## References

Bakker, Peter (2001) *Romani in Europe*. in: *The Other Languages of Europe*. Clevedon, pp. 293–313.