

How many people in the world speak a European language?

Europe has more than 50 total languages that include over 100 regional dialects most of which typically fall under some branch of the following: Romance, Germanic, or Slavic. Listed below are the most common languages spoken. If you don't see a language on the following list, it's probably because the number of total speakers almost exactly matches the country's population.

Incidentally, the last one on the list is a bit of a wildcard. It is totally synthetic universal language called Esperanto. It was designed to be a simple, easy to learn language (10 times faster than other languages) that incorporated basic Latin principles with English and German without irregularities and conjugations. Its appeal was that it did not impose a cultural bias (it was neutral) and it was international. In fact, it nearly caught on for larger applications like the United Nations. Being very popular until World War I, it soon fell under severe scrutiny by the Fascists, Stalinists, and Nazis (i.e. Hitler banished it from being spoken). Despite the continuing efforts of its many followers, English by far seems to have supplanted their mission as the new universal language. For more info, see www.esperanto.net (an excellent web ring) or if in Vienna, stop by and visit the Esperanto museum expressly dedicated to promoting their cause at:

Esperanto Museum- Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria .Website:
www.onb.ac.at/ev/collections/esperanto/index.htm



Language	Est. Native Speakers	Est. Total Speakers
English	427 million	800 million
Spanish	266 million	400 million
Portuguese	165 million	275 million
Russian	150 million	280 million
German	100 million	121 million
French	90 million	116 million
Italian	60 million	65 million

