

DISCOTHEQUE MONITORING AT GEMA

Distribution categories DK and DK VR

GEMA licenses mechanical music reproduction in halls with regular dancing according to the tariff M-CD II 2 as well as the reproduction of musical works of GEMA repertoire for the intended use of public replay according to the tariff VR-Ö.

<https://www.gema.de/discotheken>

Most of Germany's around 5.000 recorded dance floors are discotheques, though there are other dance operations with varying musical offerings.

From this heterogeneous collection, a stratified random sampling is created by statistically surveyed through one-hour program monitoring per week and per dance floor (on randomly selected days and hours), which provides a representative cross-section of the entire spectrum of music titles played during a year. The dance floors are not weighted by surface or licensing amount. Survey and accounting period is the 2017 calendar year.

The total amount surveyed (the statistical "universe") is the annual sum of all music played in domestic discotheques and discotheque-like operations. A statistical sample is used to calculate a specific musical work's percentage of the total playing time of all music played. By using advanced procedures of mathematical statistic this calculation is quite accurate.

For GEMA's disco monitoring, the statistical selection of dance floors for the financial year 2017 is based on four geographical layers by region:

- Hamburg, Bremen, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein
- Bavaria, Baden-Wuerttemberg
- Hesse, Saarland, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia
- Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Brandenburg, Berlin, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia

Additionally occurs a further distinction within those regions between rural (less than 500.000 inhabitants), urban (from 500.000 to 1.000.000 inhabitants) and metropolitan areas (more than 1.000.000 inhabitants). Therefore the sample results in twelve layers. A sample is drawn from each of these layers.

For each of the dance floors selected according to statistical criteria, one hour of music per week is recorded, i.e. maximum 52 hours per year. Once the total playing time of a title per dance floor has been ascertained, the figure for the randomly sampled dance floor of a certain layer then has to be extrapolated for all the dance floors of this layer. The result of the sum across all layers represents a reliable, i.e. an undistorted projection of the annual total playing time of a specific title at all dance floors.

Special recording devices that can be plugged directly into the mixers were developed for this type of disco monitoring. It is impossible to tell whether and when recordings are being made. However, any failures or attempts at manipulation are identified and documented. To improve statistical representativeness, a part of the recording devices is replaced every year in all of the layers.

The recordings were evaluated by a company engaged by GEMA (Yacast, Paris). The statistical sample concept relies on the representation of the sampled population; any complaints relating to date or time are therefore excluded.