

Moroccan Migration to Spain

(Destination Countries)

- **Beginning and evolution of the Moroccan migration to Spain**

Since the end of the Second World War and all through the decolonization process, the Moroccan emigration had as main destinies: France, Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. Subsequently, at the end of the Franco dictatorship in 1975 the number of Moroccans in Spain started to increase. Spain, like other countries in southern Europe, after being a country of emigrants became a destination country for migrants when other countries started to close their frontiers and to make difficult the processes for family reunification. It is believed that Moroccans went from 1,000 in 1968 to 9,000 in 1975, and 26,000 in 1982. The largest quantitative jump started during the decade of the 1990s, rising from 59,000 Moroccans residing in Spain in 1990 to 200,000 in 1998 and 397,000 in 2005. The Moroccan population multiplied by 3.4 times between 1990 and 1998 and almost twice between 1998 and 2005.

- **Number of Moroccans residing in Spain**

At the end of March 2007, the Ministry for Immigration and Emigration had on record 575.460 Moroccans holding valid cards or authorizations for residence. The authors of the Hassan II Foundation Report (2003)¹ pointed out that between 1980 and 2000, almost 25,533 Moroccans obtained the Spanish nationality. The exact quantification of the migrant population is complex, considering that the descendants of nationalized Moroccans, just as the children of women married to a naturalized Spaniard or Moroccan, do not appear in the official Spanish statistics as belonging to a foreign population.

- **Feminization of the Moroccan migration to Spain**

At the end of March 2007, the Ministry for Immigration and Emigration pointed out that 36,05% of the Moroccan population in Spain was composed by women.

According to the Hassan II Foundation Report “Pour les Marocains résidant à l’Etranger (2005)”², contrary to other foreign communities in Spain originating from Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America, the rate of women in Spain is low, reaching 35.27% in 2004. Senegal and Pakistan have even lower rates, 19.55% and 13.52%, respectively. However, given the size of the Moroccan community, Moroccan women compose the largest group of migrants among foreign women. According to the same report, the data of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of 14/04/2004 shows that Moroccans compose the largest community of workers belonging to the labour market, but the proportion for women is one of the lowest, reaching a 16%. Moroccan women represent 35.4% of the economically-active population, a rate much lower than that of other foreign communities. Consequently, it can be deduced that most of the Moroccan women who live in Spain arrived through family regroupment and that they have not incorporated into the remunerated labour market.

Similarly, Ángeles Ramírez (3) highlights the immigration of first generation of Moroccan

women alone as a new and exclusive Spanish phenomenon. She infers that according to the data from the Permanent Observatory for Migration (Observatorio Permanente de la Inmigración) as of 31 December 1997, that women represented 16.8% of Moroccan workers in Spain. This means that the marital status is a fundamental factor in terms of their insertion into the labour market in Spain. To this effect, according to Hein de Hass (2005) 4, there is a growing number of women working independently who work as domestic workers, baby sitters, in cleaning, in agriculture or in small enterprises. This same report corroborates in the sense that there has been a recent and progressive feminization of migration together with the Moroccan migration. The proportion of women in the Moroccan migration flow has increased while in other communities the tendency is to fewer migrants. Despite the aforementioned, Moroccan women fall under the lower proportion.

- **Distribution by age**

At the end of March 2007, the Immigration and Emigration Ministry pointed out that 23% of the population went from 0 to 15 years old, 76% between 16 and 64 years old and 1% was more than 64 years. The Moroccans residing overseas reproduce, in general terms, the pyramid of age of the national Moroccan population, mainly a young population where three fourths of them are of working age.

- **Level of education**

According to information compiled in the Atlas of Moroccan migration in Spain, the characteristics of education in Morocco has great divergente in terms of access, quality and content. During the decades of 1950's and 1960's education was an exclusive right mostly of male in the higher class. Modern reforms implemented since then encompass four great areas: unification of the educational system, generalization of teaching of school age children, massive incorporation of professors of Moroccan origin and the "Arabization" of the curriculum 5. This background shows the variability in the educational level of the Moroccan migrant population. This is how many migrants have progressed in higher education, while others have only a few years of basic education. However, there is a high tendency in school unattendance by women and a high rate of illiteracy.

- **Labour insertion**

According to data from the Labour and Social Affaire Ministry of 2005, 30% of the Moroccan population in Spain Works in the agricultural sector, 8% in industry, 27% in construction and 36% in services.

- **Income**

According to Hein de Haas (2007) 6, surveys from countries of origin and destiny show that Moroccans remit almost one fourth of their annual income, which could vary between 1,000 Euros and 3,000 Euros per person each year.

- **Sending of remittances and their utilization**

In accordance with the World Bank Report, it is estimated that in 2006 Morocco received close to 691.848.000 Dollars in remittances from Spain. The analysis of this tendency during recent years shows a sustained tendency to rise as migratory flows increase towards that European country. In 2005 the value of remittances in Morocco was calculated at 398 Million Dollars mobilized through formal channels. This amount would represent 9.2% of the total of remittances, placing Spain as the third country of origin of remittances after France and Italy.

Already since 2002 remittances were the third source of foreign currency for the country in gross terms, after exports and international banking credit. All along this period, the PIB of Morocco multiplied more than three times, but remittances have multiplied by seven. That is to say the greater the economy of Morocco, greater is its dependence on remittances.

1. « Marocains de l'Extérieur », Juillet 2003, Fondation Hassan II de Marocains résidant à l'étranger, et Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations, 391p.
2. « Marocains de l'extérieur et Développement », Janvier 2005, Fondation Hassan II de Marocains résidant à l'étranger, Rabat-Maroc, 180p
3. Angeles Ramírez, 1999, « La valeur du travail. L'insertion dans le marché du travail des immigrées marocaines en Espagne », Revue Européenne des Migrations Internationales, Volume 15, Numéro 2, p.9-36.
4. Hein de Haas, Morocco : From Emigration Country to Africa's Migration Passage to Europe, in Migration Information Source, Migration Policy Institute, October 2005, <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=339>
5. Mijares y López (2004) "Educación y Sociedad en Marruecos" en Atlas de la migración marroquí en España en http://www.uam.es/otroscentros/TEIM/Observainmigra/Atlas%202004/02%20marruecos%20en%20los%2090/LMijares_BLG_Educacion%20y%20sociedad.pdf
6. Ibidem