



Erasmus+



HISTORY OF MIGRATION IN PORTUGAL



*É Montefiore à Paris, avec toute la maison sur le dos !... - 1965
Milly, em Paris, com o caso de costas! ... 1965*

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A poem by Manuel Alegre "Portugal in Paris"

1. Introduction – A brief Summary

Portugal has long been a nation of emigration. The first emigration flow goes back to the fifteenth and sixteenth century during the great explorations. Although the Portuguese established trading posts at many places in Africa and Asia, Brazil was the main colony of settlement. Later, numbers of Portuguese settled in the African colonies of Angola and Mozambique.

Emigration on a massive scale began in the second half of the nineteenth century and continued into the 1980s. Between 1886 and 1966, Portugal lost an estimated 2.6 million people to emigration, more than any West European country, except Ireland.

The 1959-80 period saw a significant emigration to Europe (France and Germany). Most Portuguese left the country illegally (“imigração a salto”) due to the oppression and poverty experienced during Salazar Regime.

Since 1980 Portugal has been a country of mixed immigration and emigration.

Immigrants outnumbered emigrants for the first time in its history. Upon its entry to the Economic European Community, Portugal embarked on a period of economic growth that attracted many immigrants from western Europe and former colonies.

Between 2008 and 2014, not only the traditional low-skilled workers seeking for better jobs opportunities and living conditions, but also high-skilled emigration left the country. Partly due to the financial crisis and austerity measures, and also a trend and result of the process of globalization and greater European Integration.

More recently we have had two main reasons that attract immigrants to Portugal:

- . Seasonal workers and asylum seekers
- . Investment immigrants looking for a safe and quiet place to live and invest their money.

2. Portuguese Emigration Flow in the 19th century

At the end of the 19th century and during the third quarter of the 20th century, economic reasons, among others of social, religious and political nature, are the main cause for the large Portuguese diaspora in the five continents.

During the latter half of the nineteenth century and during much of the twentieth century, the greatest number of emigrants went to the Western Hemisphere. The Americas were seen as a New World offering hope, jobs, land, and a chance to start fresh. Between 1864 and 1974, the Americas received approximately 50 percent of all Portuguese emigration.

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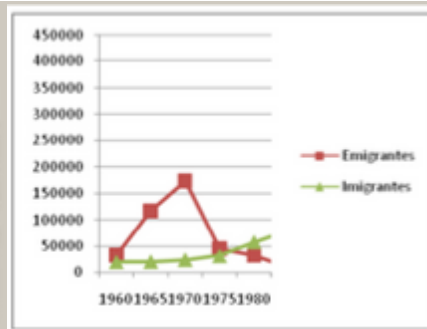
Brazil was the destination of choice. In addition to the climate, ties of history, culture, and language

Among the other Latin American countries, Venezuela has ranked second to Brazil in terms of Portuguese emigration, and Argentina third. Among the other Latin American countries, Venezuela has ranked second to Brazil in terms of Portuguese emigration, and Argentina third. Emigration to North America was also intense (USA and Canada).



Portuguese Emigrants on the Deck of a Ship, circa 1864

3. Portuguese emigration in the 60' and 70'



There are many different reasons why people choose to emigrate. Some people want a new job with a fresh start; others want a safer and a better place to live and so on. However, in 1960, the Portuguese population was worried about having better life conditions due to the lack of jobs in the country mainly in the inland areas of Portugal and the dictatorial regime. Main causes were : low wages committed and the crisis in the agricultural sector; Political repression, the dictatorial regime that for 48 years; the colonial war, which led to many young people seeking to flee military service; Portugal's insufficient resources and the low standard of living of the population; the success reports of many emigrants, who served as an attraction to family and friends;

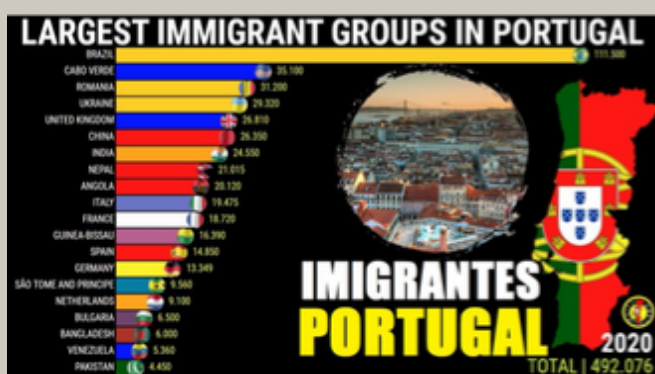
- The total inability of other economic sectors to absorb the rural population leaving the camps; To conclude, it is important to know beforehand all the pros and cons when it comes to emigration. Besides, all we want is a comfortable way of living and enjoying our life. In the host countries, migrants had a higher standard of living, although emigration, especially clandestine, was carried out in extremely difficult conditions.

4. Immigration to Portugal in the late 90`s

During the 1980s, the rate of emigration slowed as the economy began to grow. Greater governmental efficiency and membership in the EEC attracted much foreign investment and created jobs. Portuguese no longer had to go abroad to find economic opportunity.

Portugal, long a country of emigration, has now become a meeting country of net immigration, and not just from the last Portuguese overseas territories in India (until 1961), Africa (until 1975), and Far East Asia (until 1999). Since the 1990s, along with a boom in construction, several new waves of Ukrainian, Brazilian, people from the former Portuguese colonies in Africa and other Africans have settled in the country. Those communities currently make up the largest groups of immigrants in Portugal.

Romanians, Moldovans and Chinese also have chosen Portugal as a destination. A number of EU citizens have also chosen Portugal as a destination, with a major part of the British, French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, German, Swedish communities, among others, being mostly composed of persons looking for quality of life, including an increasing number of pensioners.



5. A new chapter of emigration - a lost generation of highly -skilled workers “Brain drain”

First, we must stand out that nowadays Portugal is the country of the European Union, that has more immigrants around the world. Around two million Portuguese citizens have left their home country, and this is equivalent to 20% of the Portuguese population.

- In 2014, the estimated population with a Portuguese emigration background living in European countries was about 1.7 million people.
- Those with a history of Portuguese emigration resided in fifteen countries. The top five are France (62.6%), Switzerland (14.1%), Spain (9.3%), United Kingdom (7.6%) and Luxembourg (3.2%).

We must alert to a problem which is rising at an alarming rate, which is the fact that more and more people who complete their studies are leaving Portugal because the country simply doesn't have the necessary conditions to keep those recently graduated people in here because salaries are too low and costs are too high and if we want to change this any time soon we suggest we fight for it and try to stop as much immigration as we possibly can, trying to give Portuguese citizens the recognition and conditions they deserve.



- Since the middle of the last decade, and especially after the financial crisis of 2008, and its effects(Troika austerity measures, budget cuts, low salaries, lack of opportunities for recent graduates), Portugal saw a change in the number and profile of emigrants. A younger generation of highly- skilled professionals, the best ever trained and skilled generation of scientists, engineers and healthcare providers had to leave the

country, looking for better working conditions, better- paid jobs and more chances to develop and pursue their career paths. A trend that has grown partly on account of the new era of globalization and greater European integration.

6.1. A more recent immigration : Immigrants from developing countries, Asia and Africa

When it comes to immigration, Portugal tends to be an attractive country to around 30000 people a year who come here to establish and create a new life and to around 40000 temporary visas which are issued every year.

As a whole, people who choose Portugal, are from developing countries mostly located in Asia and Africa, these citizens use Portugal as a means to an ends, because of its location and reputation of being one of the safest countries in the EU, Portugal is generally used by a lot of immigrants as a way to achieve a nationality and free circulation around the Schengen space. As soon as they get that, most of them leave for the same countries that Portuguese citizens emigrated to. Of course, it's not all of them but a significant amount.

Very few people from the EU, certainly a lot less than people from developing countries, tend to choose Portugal to establish a new life, not because it is a country with the possibility to provide the best conditions and location, but it's one that tends to welcome everyone with open arms and tries very hard to make those citizens feel at home and integrated into society at any cost.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uA3g6-G4Eos>

6.2. A more recent immigration: Fast-track Visa- The golden visa that has attracted 10.000 investors and individuals since 2012

The Portugal Golden Visa program, also known as the residence permit for investment activity (ARI), is a residency by investment scheme designed for non- EU citizens. Portugal launched the program in October 2012. The main objective was to attract international capital into the country, as it was much in need after the 2008 economic crisis. The program proved to be a great success, raising €5,5 billion in a little over eight years.

Portugal offers a dreamy landscape, a wide coastline, a climate full of sunshine, hospitable people, and delicious cuisine. Better yet, it provides this high quality of life at a very affordable cost of living. These features make Portugal a very attractive destination for international investors to invest in and obtain the right to live, work, and study in the country. Furthermore, the Portugal Golden Visa program provides the opportunity to become a permanent resident or a citizen in Portugal in only five years. The work permit allows you to work anywhere, as well as start and run your own business in Portugal



Let us end our work with an Inspiring Moment of poetry about the Portuguese emigration to France in the 60's and 70's

Portugal em Paris, A poem by Manuel Alegre, 1967

Solitário

Solitário

por entre a gente eu vi o meu país.

Era um perfil

de sal

e abril.

Era um puro país azul e proletário.

Anónimo passava. E era Portugal

que passava por entre a gente e solitário nas ruas de Paris.

Vi minha pátria derramada

na Gare de Austerlitz.

Eram cestos

e cestos pelo chão. Pedacos

do meu país.

Restos.

Braços.

Minha pátria sem nada

sem nada

despejada nas ruas de Paris.

E o trigo?

E o mar?

Foi a terra que não te quis

ou alguém que roubou as flores de abril? Solitário por entre a gente

caminhei contigo os olhos longe como o trigo e o mar.

Éramos cem duzentos mil?

E caminhávamos. Braços e mãos para alugar meu Portugal nas ruas de Paris.

Portugal in Paris, by Manuel Alegre, 1967

Lonely
among the people I saw my country.
It was a shape made
of salt
and April.
It was a pure blue and proletarian country.

Anonymous was passing by.

And it was Portugal passing through the people and lonely
In the streets of Paris.

I saw my homeland spilled (spread out)
At the Gare de Austerlitz.

There were baskets and baskets all over the floor.

Pieces of my country.

Leftovers.

Arms.

My homeland with nothing
with nothing
dumped (poured)in the streets of Paris.

And the wheat?

And the sea?

Was it the land that didn't want you
or someone who stole the flowers of April?

Lonely among the people I walked with you

My eyes as far away as the wheat and the sea.

Were we a hundred, two hundred thousand?

And we walked.

Arms and hands to rent

My Portugal in the streets of Paris.

Assignment done by the
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