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Career paths of the Latin immigrants in Spain: growth and crisis (1996-2011)*



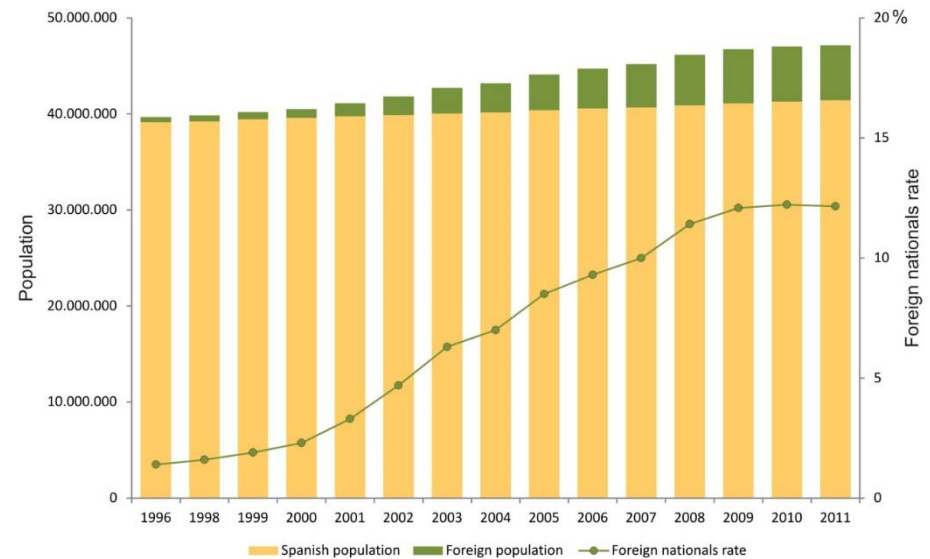
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The importance of the immigration in Spain

- Since the 1990s, Spain developed a great attraction for the working immigration as a consequence of the integration of the country in the European Union in 1986 and the subsequent expansion of this alliance; an intense economic growth; the employment demand in the secondary market; the immigration policies and the circumstances of the countries of origin. So, the population grew at an unprecedented rate and there were important demographic, productive and social changes
- The unemployment caused by the economic crisis has had a strong impact in the immigration. Given the decrease of arrivals, the return home effect and the grant of Spanish nationality, the growth rate of the foreign population has dropped and new strategies have emerged in order to face the recession: i.e. grouping of immigrants in a single housing; return of one of the family members for an assessment of the labor market in homeland, temporary return, etc

Evolution of the Spanish and foreign population and foreign nationals rate

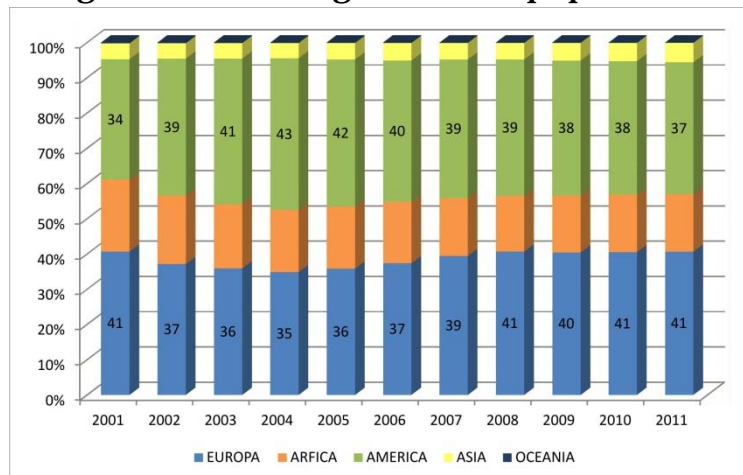


Source: Continuous Census. INE

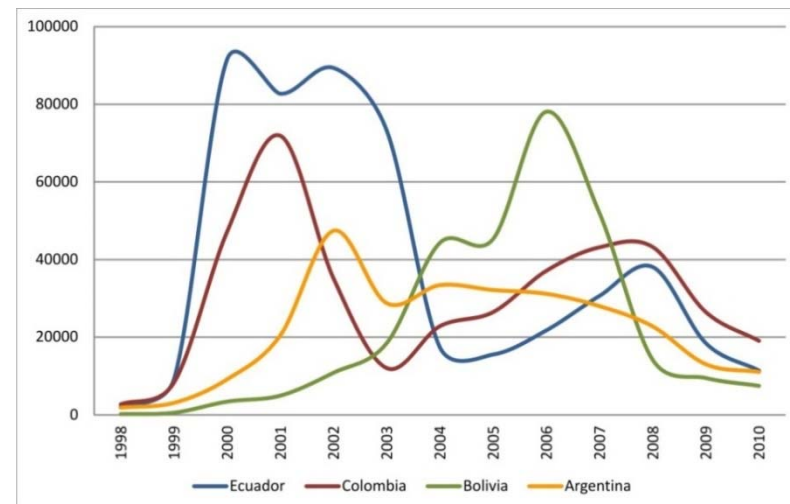
Latin Americans in Spain - Figures

- In cumulative basis, Latin American immigration stands today for a third of the total. It reached its peak in 2004, and decreased later, in favor of arrivals from other Europeans. There is 1.587,156 Latin American residing in Spain in 2012 (out of 5.711.040 foreigners) and the inflows represented a 27% in 2011
- The most important inflows came from Ecuador, Colombia, Argentina and Bolivia. Also significant has been the number of arrivals from Peru, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Cuba and Paraguay

Origins of the foreign resident population



Latin American inflows



Source: Continuous Census and Residential Variations Statistics. National Statistics Institute

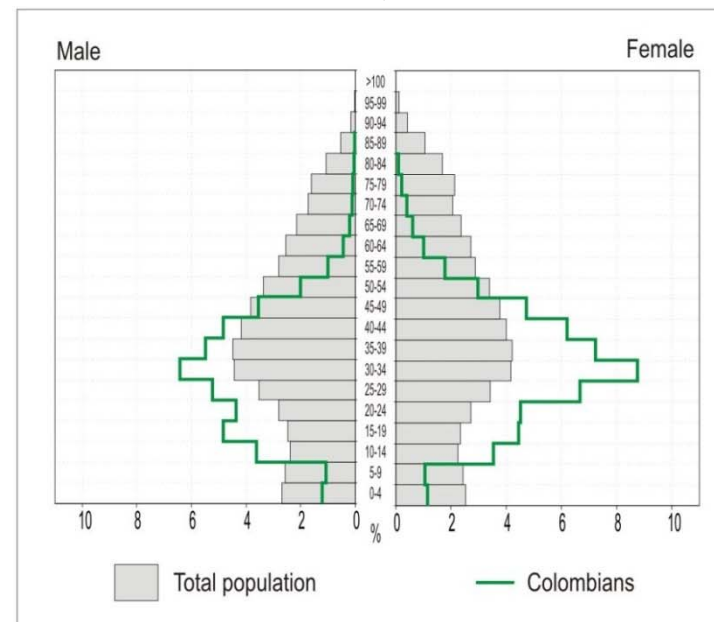
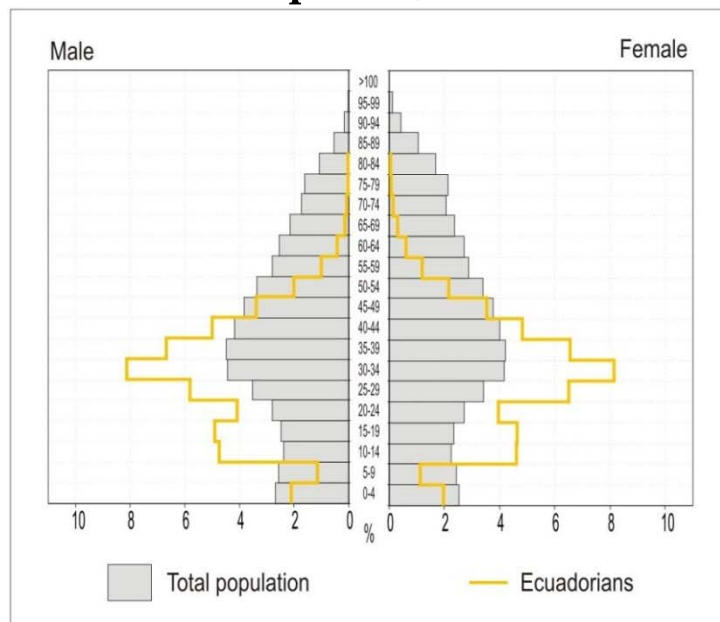
Latin Americans in Spain - Figures

- The arrival of immigrants followed this sequence: first it was the Ecuadorians (1999 to 2002), Colombians (2001) and Argentineans (2002), and a bit later Bolivians (2006)
- This was caused by the situation back home (crisis of Colombia in 1998-1999, Ecuador in 1999-2000 and Argentina in 2001-2002); by the placement of visa restrictions (Colombians Jan-02, Ecuadorians Jan-03, Bolivia Apr-07); and by regularization trends of illegal immigrants in Spain (2000, 2001 and 2005)
- The secondary wave of arrivals between 2006 and 2008 was mainly due to a familiar reunification process



Latin Americans in Spain - Profile

- In the biodemographic characteristics of these migrants we can recognize the weight of people in working age and of the Colombian female population
- The widening of certain ranges of young age shows family grouping processes and births in Spain (evident in the case of Ecuadorians)



Source: Continuous Census. National Statistics Institute (2011)



Latin Americans in Spain - Profile

- Latin Americans have shaped the Spanish labor market and its transformations during the last decade. They have greatly contributed to the increase of population of working age with their high activity rates
- According to the EPA (Active Population Survey), the number of Latin American active immigrants reached its peak in 2009 at circa 1.7 million (1,695,200) people. The last estimations in 2011 talk about 1.5 million (1,493,600).
- According to the Social Security, Spain had 744,432 registered American immigrants working at the end of 2007 and only 571,325 in 2011
- This data gives an idea of the importance of this flow in the economic expansion of the country, and of the effect that the recession had during the last few years

Latin Americans in Spain - Profile



- Latin Americans have mostly focused on employments related to services (76.5%), followed by building (12.5%), industrial (7%) and agricultural (4%) jobs
- Their participation in administration, hotel business, trade, and domestic tasks and home care services (in the case of women) is very high
- They are generally employed by a third party and there is a reduced number of entrepreneurs or freelancers among them



Latin Americans in Spain - Profile

- Ecuadorians and Bolivians are mostly employed in agriculture and building sector. And, in the case of women, in domestic services
- Argentines tend to focus more on hotel trade and commerce
- Colombians are more present in hotel trade and domestic services and less so in agriculture
- Peruvians have normally jobs related to administrative activities
- Lastly, the number of Cubans working on art and entertainment is very significant. They also develop an important role in sanitary and social services



Latin Americans in Spain during the expansion period

- According to a survey carried out in 2007, most Latin Americans arrived to Spain without previous work experiences in another country before (88%), and 87% of them could transfer thanks to their contacts in Spain. Probably due to this fact, more than half of them (53%) could find a job in less than two weeks and 80% in less than three months
- Only 56% of these Latin Americans were working in homeland and, normally, in different activities than those they carried out in Spain

Employments at origin	
Commerce	21.8%
Industrial Markets	14.3%
Transportation	8.6%
Real Estate	8.1%
Hospitality	7.9%

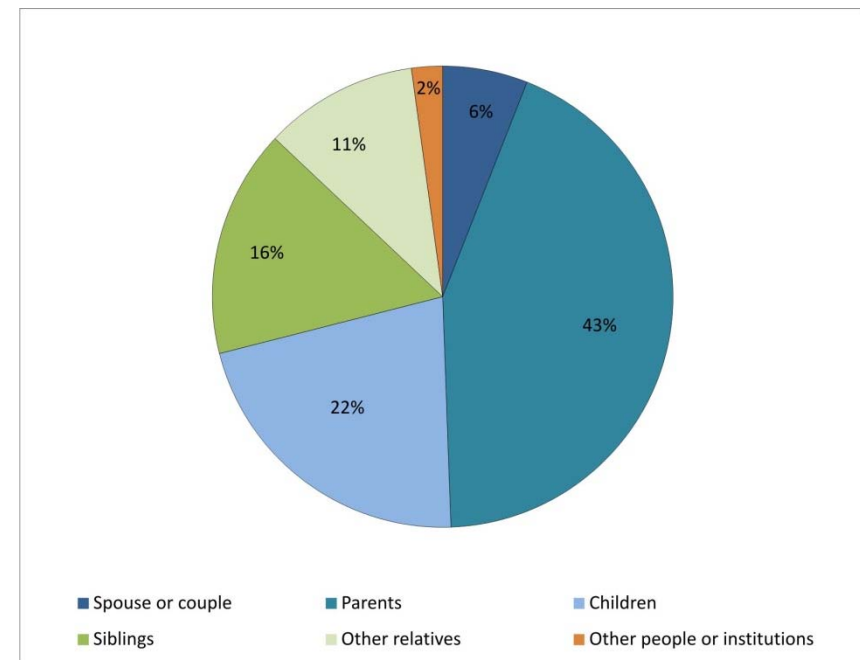
Employments in Spain	
Administrative Services	26.4%
Hospitality	14.8%
Building sector	14.5%
Agriculture	9.2%
Commerce	7.0%

Source: Immigrants National Survey (ENI). National Statistics Institute

Latin Americans in Spain during the expansion period

- According to the survey, most Latin Americans would like to stay in the long run in Spain (77%), and only 10% would want to return
- On the other hand, the connections with family and friends back home were very strong, as shown by the large number of migrants sending money, at least, once per month (61%). The main benefactors of these were their parents

Benefactors of remittances

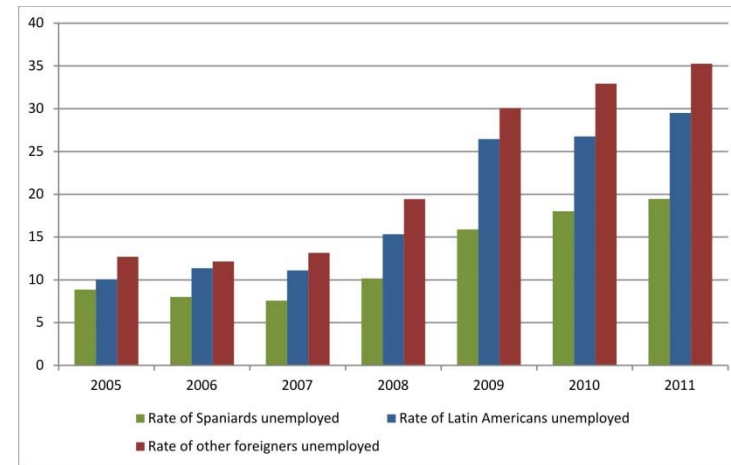


Source: Immigrants National Survey (ENI). National Statistics Institute

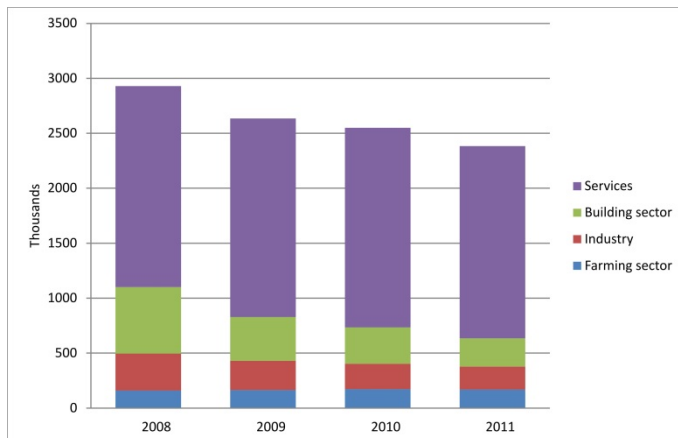
Latin Americans in Spain during the crisis period

- In Spain, during the crisis, the immigrants' unemployment rate has been 13% higher than native Spaniards' but Latin American migrants have suffered less than other immigrants the unemployment

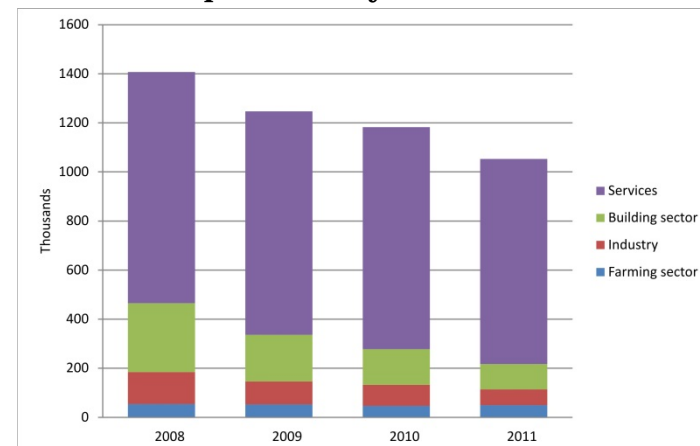
Rate of unemployed population



Evolution of foreigners employed per activity sector



Evolution of Latin Americans employed per activity sector



Source: Active Population Survey (EPA). National Statistics Institute

Latin Americans in Spain during the crisis period

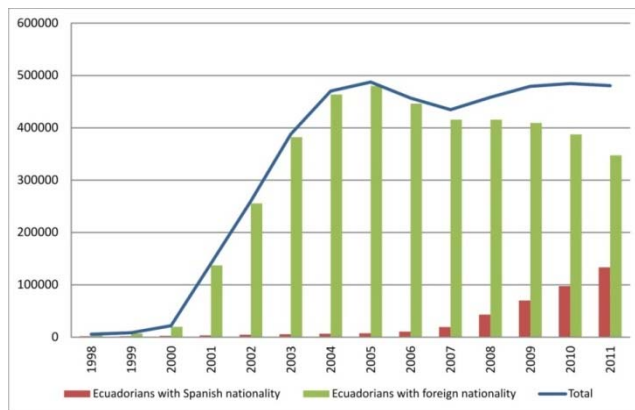


- The Spanish government has addressed the unemployment of immigrants by adopting measures related to the labour market (reducing the permits quota), to the Foreign Residents Law (limiting the family reunifications) and encouraging voluntary returns (paying some unemployed citizens their benefit in a lump sum)
- Despite the Spanish efforts, the return of migrants is not taking place on a massive scale, as immigrants understand that the long term opportunities of staying overseas outnumber the short term benefits of returning back home
- At the same time, the transnational practices of these migrants between the countries of origin, Spain and other countries in the Schengen area have been strengthened

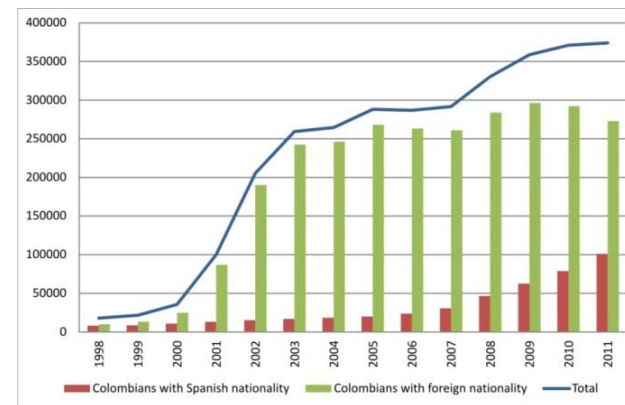
Latin Americans in Spain during the crisis period

- Some migrants who have received the incentives of a return ticket have travelled to Spain before the mandatory three years established by the Government to stay at homeland and the number of Latin Americans applying for Spanish nationality has increased in the last years

Ecuadorians with Spanish and foreign nationality



Colombians with Spanish and foreign nationality



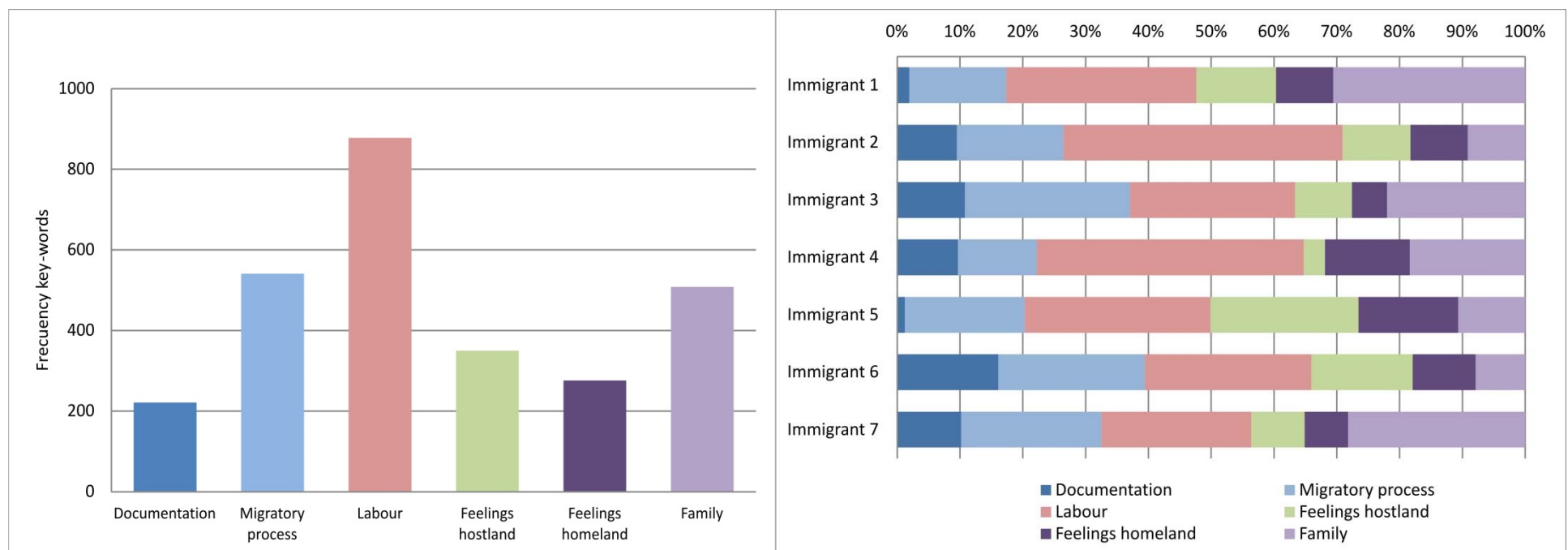
- There has also been a realignment of extended family networks. Some immigrants have returned to the country of origin temporarily, without renouncing to a potential return to Spain, given their recently acquired Spanish and therefore European nationality

Life stories of the Latin Americans in Spain

- Apart from quantitative research, we have used a qualitative investigative methodology, the BNIM (Biographic Narrative Interpretative Method)
- In 2011 we interviewed seven Latin American immigrants through this SQUIN (Single Question for Inducing Narrative): “I am studying the experiences of different people who arrived to Spain for work and how they sorted out their labour and personal life. So, could you please tell me your story from the moment you started to consider leaving your country? Please include all the events and experiences that had importance to you and take all the time you need. I will listen to you without interruptions and take some notes because I could have any question”
- The average length of the narratives was 1 hour and 33 minutes. The shortest one took 33 minutes and the longest one, 2 hours and 30 minutes

Life stories of the Latin Americans in Spain

- In all of the narrations we find words referent to the next issues: documentation; migratory process; labour; feelings and states of mind regarding hostland and homeland; and family.
- The number of times in the use of key-words related with these issues have been counted and depicted in these graphics. For us, “the word is the mirror of the soul and the use of a term shows that something is moving around this word”.



Life stories of the Latin Americans in Spain

Opinions regarding the economic crisis

“One is here a little short of money because of the crisis, but I have a quiet life and do not keep my eyes on insecurity, mugging or other bad things as I used to do back home” (Colombian man)

“I visited Argentina and when I returned to Spain many people were missing in the building where I had rented an apartment. All of them, my neighbours, my friends, had emigrated to Boston, to Switzerland... other returned to Colombia, to Ecuador. Many people returned because the Government gave them money” (Argentine man)

“Now, with the crisis, the problems... you don't know if you will be hired again” (Cuban man)

“Despite the crisis, I always try to turn the situation around. Given the problem, I try to find a solution, I think that is the immigrants gymnastics, a constant steeple chase. Because of this, we have a greater ability to adapt. We have already lived the crisis that you are now living” (Argentine woman)

Life stories of the Latin Americans in Spain

Feelings of belonging and adaptability

“I adapted amazingly, I am delighted with the people, they are much alike Latin Americans” (Uruguayan woman)

“The life of an emigrant is difficult everywhere, even if you feel well or you are well received. One misses badly” (Cuban man)

“When one stays far away of his country, really yearns for it, do you know what I mean?” (Colombian man)

“To me, this is Manhattan... it has everything, its free time... Luckily I discovered this and I could get rid of the immigrant label” (Argentine woman)

“You have no other land apart from the land where you were born” (Cuban woman)

“I am very happy to stay here because I know that I can earn one hundred euros and if I send it to my daughters this means two thousand and half there. Had I stayed there, the this would have been very little and the money would have been insufficient” (Colombian woman)

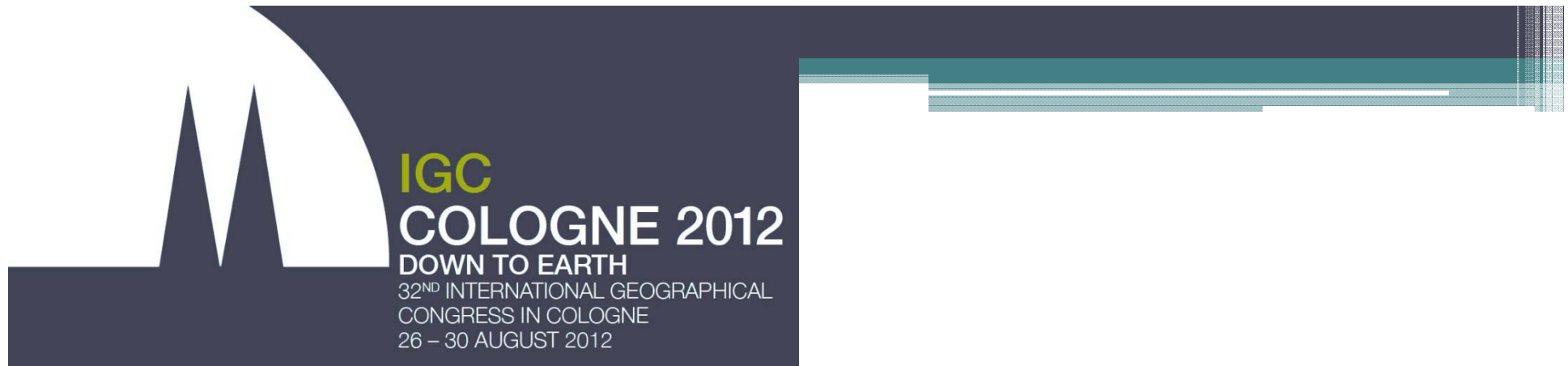
“All that I have tried I have got away with it relatively well. My plan is to stay in Spain. I have job offers and I can choose” (Argentine man)

Conclusions

- Between 1996 and 2007, Spain became a great attraction for the working immigration, but the unemployment caused by the economic crisis in Spain has had a strong impact in the immigration trends: the volume of the flows has decreased, the arrival of certain nationalities has dropped due to the “return home effect” and new strategies have emerged in order to face the recession
- Latin American immigration stands today for a third of the total immigration and the most common countries of origin have been Ecuador, Colombia, Argentina and Bolivia
- The arrival of immigrants followed a chronological order according to their origin: first it was Ecuadorians (1999 to 2002), Colombians (2001) and Argentineans (2002), and a bit later Bolivians (2006)
- The integration level of the Latin population can be seen from the high number of immigrants that are granted Spanish nationality and from their responses in the surveys and narrations

Conclusions

- **Latin Americans greatly contributed to the increase of population on working age during the expansive economic cycle but, during the crisis, they have been more vulnerable to unemployment and to job insecurity than nationals**
- **Latin Americans have mostly focused on employments related to services (76.5%). They have a high participation in administration, hotel trade, commerce, and domestic tasks and home care services in the case of women**
- **Most Latin Americans wish to stay in the long run in Spain, but their connections with family and friends back home are very strong**
- **The harshness of the crisis has brought about the development of new strategies that have increased the transnational linkages**
- **According to this, their connections between hostland and homeland have become more flexible in times of crisis**



Thank you very much for your
attention



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