

## **The new “El Dorado”: brazilian migration in the Iberian Peninsula. The profile of the brazilian immigrant in Madrid**

“We just have here work and money, no time for living. Living is in Brazil.” (from a brazilian immigrant in Madrid.)

### **Abstract**

Following the opposite way of Portuguese and Spanish immigrants, thousands of brazilian people have chosen Portugal and Spain like a country for destine, for trying a new life. This work, a survey with more de 400 interviews, aims to show the profile of these immigrants, in Madrid. They are more educated people than the brazilian average. They leave behind stable jobs and in Madrid have no regular jobs with salaries that variety from 1.000 to 800 euros a month. In this aspect, the majority of men works in civil construction, while women are daily maids The migration projects are, in a first moment, short-lasting, not much than two years, and the main goal is to build the own house. The constant worries are about sending money, received from jobs, for being saved in Brazil. Saving money will help them to build their houses. There are no formal supporting organizations to brazilian that live in Madrid, but the space is occupied by Protestant temples with brazilian priests. Despite the small representation of these immigrants in the total foreign population in Spain, the role of brazilian people in this country, because of their profile, is the beginning of a migratory flow in a considerable importance.

### **Introduction**

The increasing economic inequalities in the world have contributed in a preponderant way for the widespread of international migration. According to the UN Population Division, the number of international immigrants is 190 million of people, 63% of them are living in developed countries. 25 million of immigrants are from American continent and 18 million are living in U.S.A., 4 million are not living in the region and the rest are in Latin America Countries and Caribbean islands. Women are the majority.

According to CELADE ( Pizarro-2005) the immigrant represent 4% of the total population in the region, but with diverse impacts on the population of the countries presented in that region. In Latin America, for example, the migrants from El Salvador represent 14,5% of the population of the country while for Brazil they represent 0,4% of population.

Despite the historical experience of Brazil in international migration which indicates a receptive country for immigrants , the beginning of out-migration process will be in 1980s and in a very short period of time the number of people living the country will exceed the arrival of foreigners and immigrants. In 2000, according to Baeninger and Fusco (2005), the Demographic Census registered 683.830 foreigners who lived in Brazil, in their majority (213.203) born in Portugal. Spanish people were 43.804. This way, who were born in Iberian Peninsula represented 37,6% of foreign who lived in Brazil.

The definition of the number of Brazilian living abroad is not a very easy task. This quantitative definition is extremely difficult, once there are not available data about both the departure from Brazil and the arriving of Brazilians in their places of destiny.

Based on Demographic census of 1980 and 1991, Carvalho (1996) estimated, using indirect demographic techniques, the international migratory balance in 1980s, for the population older than 10 years. The result indicated a negative balance next to 1.800.000 people. Considering the second half of decade, this negative flow, for the people older than 5 years, was estimated in 972.740 (Carvalho et al, 2001). In terms of geographical distribution, more than half of migrants has its origin in southern states and represented 508.507 people.

Other information sources may also contribute to estimates about the number of Brazilian people living abroad. Data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the Brazilian consulates, indicate that, in 1997, 1,5 million of Brazilian people lived out of the country and that, in 2002, this number has risen to 2,0 million of people. (Amaral – 2005). According to these registers, most important community of Brazilian living abroad is in U.S.A.(799.203), followed by Paraguay(442.104); Japan (224.970) and Europe (174.994). Except in Japan, where there is a similarity between the numbers of Brazilian registered in consulates and the data by local official organisms, in other countries the official data do not reveal a real extension of Brazilian immigration, once this emigration seems to be constituted of not documented people.

In Europe and more specifically in Iberian Peninsula, the not-official data tell us that in Portugal live about 100.000 Brazilian (Peixoto-2005). In Spain, data from “*Padron Municipal*” in 2007 indicate that the number of Brazilian living in the country would be about 90.000. This number represents an increase of 25% in number of “*empadronados*” in 2006. Considering the countries of South America, this rate was just smaller than the one observed to Bolivian national people (42,2%) and Paraguay (60,4%), so, the numbers, despite imprecise, would put the Iberian Peninsula as the main destiny of Brazilian people in Europe.

This new “El Dorado” identified by Brazilian immigrant, grows in importance because of the widespread movement of restrictive attitudes which try to limit the arriving of Brazilian in other countries, that in the past were favorite destinations. The “close” of frontiers in Mexico, obliging people from Brazil to have a visa for entering in the country, put more difficulties for the possibilities of immigrating to the United States through south frontier in this country. At the same time, there is the lack of knowledge from the part of Brazilian authorities in this new migratory flow and its capacity in attending, through consulate services and other government instances, the demands of the immigrants.

This way, it is clear the necessity of knowing the profile of this new immigrant. What is their motivation for emigrating and what they are looking for in the new “home land”.

## **2) The research**

.Aiming to study the Brazilian immigrant profile in Spain, we carry out, with Brazilian residents in the city of Madrid, a survey using a questionnaire, constituted by 70 questions divided in 9 parts, and structured interviews

Despite the biggest number of Brazilian people who live in Spain, live in Cataluña (22,4%), the choice of Madrid, where live 19,4% of these immigrants, attended a factors as the facility of logistic support for the field work and for being the region where both male and female contingent were represented in similar proportions.

The field work was, from March to July in 2007, and a total of 404 Brazilian immigrants living in Madrid, were interviewed, 217 women and 187 men, what represented, about, 2,5% of these immigrants.

### **3) Results**

Techio (2000), said that the education level of Brazilian foreigner living in Madrid is higher than the level found in other research in Portugal. In our survey, 64,7% of interviewed people attended high school and more than 10% are graduated in university. About the participation in the work market in Brazil, 75% of interviewed people were working in a formal sector. However, in Spain, more than 65% of interviewed people did not have work permission. The salary was about a thousand of euros for men and 800 euros for women. 80% of interviewed send money to Brazil and the average value of these remittances was 300 euros.

Among the reasons for the migration are the search for a better standard of living associated with the idea of earning and saving money for the construction of a house in Brazil..

The projects of migration, are predicted in a short period of time, about two years and the return will be for the same city, in Brazil, where the immigrant was living before migration. When they return, they will carry in their luggage the dream of opening their own business with the saving money and, also, the possibility of starting a new life. They will live behind a hard life experience where there is no place for leisure activities, where the fear of being caught by police limits their movements for the city.

### **4) final conclusions**

Even with the increasing repression of Spanish migration authorities and Portuguese ones, the arriving of Brazilian in countries of Iberian Peninsula. keeps growing. In Spain, despite Brazilian being the minority, they do not represent more than 2% of immigrants in country, this contingent tends to grow.

The creation of services for helping Brazilian who search for jobs is still informal and is done by religious groups, most of them evangelic ones, that can gathering together more than 500 Brazilian people in one single day in their churches. For Brazilian authorities, these immigrants just appear when they search the consulate services for solving any bureaucratic problem, and there is not any worry about to create links with the community or even know its profile.

## **VI) Bibliography**

AMARAL, Rubem G. Perfil da comunidade brasileira no exterior. Brasília. 2005. mimeo.

- BAENINGER, ROSANA e FUSCO, Wilson – Informações sobre migrações internacionais. In International Migration – Fact Sheet-Brazil-CNPD – Trabalho apresentado na Regional Hearing for Américas- Global Commission on International Migration-GCIM – México City. 16 a 17 de maio de 2005.
- CARVALHO, José Alberto M O saldo dos fluxos migratórios internacionais do Brasil na década de 80 – uma tentativa de estimação. Revista Brasileira de Estudos de População, Campinas. ABEP. Vol. 13 nº. 1 pp. 3-14, jan./jun.1996
- CARVALHO, José Alberto M. MAGALHÃES, Marisa, V, GARCIA, Ricardo A . .estimativa dos saldos migratórios internacionais e do número de emigrantes internacionais das grandes regiões do Brasil: 1986/1991 e 1991/1996. In Migrações Internacionais: contribuições para políticas Pp. 243-252. Brasília, CNPD – 2001
- PIZARRO, Jorge Matinéz – La migración internacional em América Latina y el Caribe Atas de La Reunión de Expertos Migración Internacional y Desarrollo em América Latina y el Caribe. Ciudad de México – CEPAL - noviembre de 2005
- TÉCHIO, Kachia – Imigrantes brasileiros não documentados: uma análise comparativa entre Lisboa e Madri. Socius Working Papers n 1 Universidade Técnica de Lisboa – Lisboa –2006.