



# SPAIN

## How does multicultural diversity benefit Spain?

For much of the 20th century, Spain was a country of emigration, with millions of its nationals moving to countries in the Americas and in North and Western Europe. In the 1980s, immigration to Spain began to pick up.

### THE REASONS?

A high demand for low-skilled foreign work due to the unwillingness of the native population to work in jobs with low pay and poor working conditions. This led to significant job creation in a number of low- and middle-skilled sectors, such as construction, agricultural production, hospitality and domestic services

### THE CHARACTERISTICS

- ✓ Migration from Latin-American countries: about 80% of immigrants get the nationality by the residency procedure (they can apply for citizenship after two years of continuous legal residence in Spain)
- ✓ Migration not from Latin American countries must prove ten years of continuous legal residence in Spain. The term is reduced to five for refugees and one after marrying a Spanish person.





## From crisis to opportunity

- ✓ **Between 1998 and 2008:** the foreign-born population increased by almost six times due to the demand-driven migration policy in the country.
- ✓ **2008:** The economic downturn meant a severe job destruction for the whole country but even more for the migrant population
- ✓ **2017:** Spain registered a positive migratory balance of a 24% increase in migrants entering the country that counterbalanced the negative fertility rate, preventing a net decline of the population.
- ✓ **2018:** jobs in the service sector outpaced those available in 2008. Demand for foreign workers in parts of the informal economy (such as construction, care services and hospitality) started to grow again.

## The way ahead

- **Create policy priorities** to guarantee migrants are protected and their social and labour integration succeed, maximising the contribution to society.
- **Promotion of cultural activities** to provide an open environment for meeting others and discuss cultural difference and conflict
- **Promotion of cultural heritage** to reinforce community cohesion and cross-community conflict resolution

**#KeyMessage: Value migrant skills, work and other contributions to society**

To learn more about Spain and the integration of newcomers, as well as these initiatives, be sure to look at the [research reports of the MAX project!](#)

If you would like to do your bit in supporting a welcoming multicultural society, follow like/share/contact [Diputacion Provincial de Teruel](#) and the [MAX project!](#)