



# Welcoming and Integrating Immigrants: The Portuguese Experience

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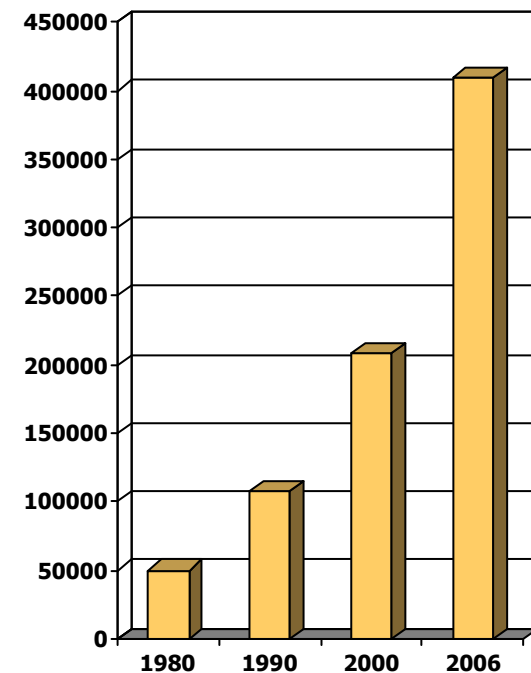
# Portugal as origin country

✓ 1/3 of the population scattered all over

Continents	P. Emigrants (thousands)
Europe	1 337
Africa	540
North America	1 015
South America	1 618
Central America	7
Asia	29
Oceania	55



# Portugal as a destination country

- Relatively recent immigration country
- Foreign population has more than doubled since early 1990s
- Nowadays:
  - 5% of the population
  - 10% of the labour market



- Number of immigrants

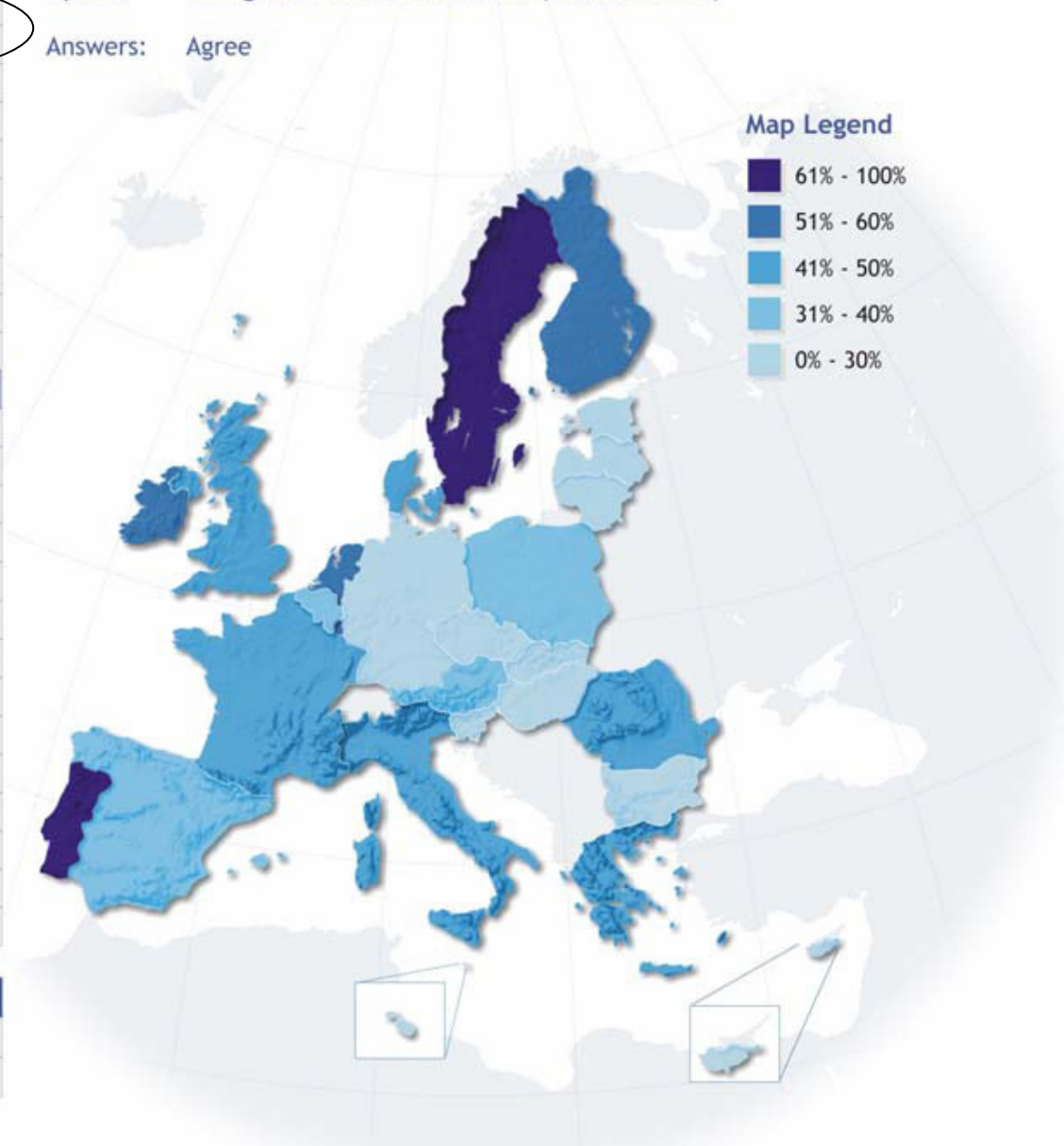
Country Results		
	Sweden	79%
	Portugal	66%
	Ireland	56%
	Luxembourg	56%
	Finland	54%
	The Netherlands	53%
	United Kingdom	47%
	Denmark	45%
	France	44%
	Greece	43%
	Italy	41%
	European Union (25)	40%
	Belgium	40%
	Spain	40%
	Austria	37%
	Poland	33%
	Germany	30%
	Cyprus	30%
	Slovenia	28%
	Malta	21%
	Lithuania	20%
	Hungary	19%
	Czech Republic	17%
	Estonia	16%
	Latvia	16%
	Slovakia	12%

Other Countries		
	Romania	43%
	Bulgaria	23%

Question: QA47\_5. For each of the following propositions, tell me if you...?

Option: Immigrants contribute a lot to (OUR COUNTRY)

Answers: Agree





# Seven Key Principles

Equality

Hospitality

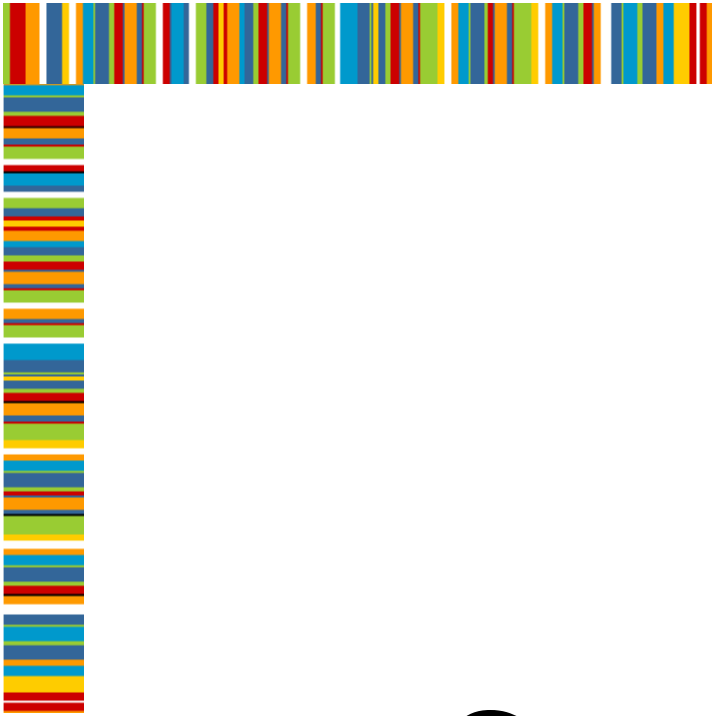
Citizenship

Co-Responsibility

Participation

Interculturality

Consensus



# Creating solutions



# Legislation changes

- New Citizenship Law (2006)
  - Approved by parliament with great consensus
  - Under the competence of the Ministry of Justice
  - Enlarging the right to acquire Portuguese Citizenship
- New Immigration Law (2007)
  - Approved after large public consultation
  - Simplifying procedures and norms
  - Favouring legal migration and combating illegal migration
  - Favouring family reunion

# Plan for the Integration of Immigrants



- Holistic / Global approach
- 122 measures
- 13 Ministries
- 2007/2009
- State / Civil society





## Creation of 2 National Immigrants Support Centres (CNAI)

- The integration and **cooperation of different public services** (services from 6 different ministries)
- **new services** that intend to answer to concrete immigrants needs and were not, until then, offered to immigrants
- participation of **Socio-cultural mediators** (cultural and linguistic proximity)

# Network of Decentralised Centres



- 69 Local Information Centres to Immigrants
  - 23 Units for Insertion into Professional Life
- » in partnership with Immigrant Associations, NGO's and Municipalities



## Programa Escolhas

- This mainstream programme aims to support the **social inclusion of children and youngsters** from the most socio-economically disadvantaged contexts, mainly descendents of immigrants and ethnic minorities
- It is a **bottom-up approach** that funds, supports and evaluates 121 local projects (40.000 participants)
- 4 areas of activities:
  - Educational inclusion and non-formal education
  - **Professional training and employability**
  - Civic and community participation
  - Digital inclusion



## Training sessions

- Short **training activities** in any part of the country
- Disposable to **any institution** (private or public) for free
- Covering **several thematic areas**, such as:
  - Services for welcoming and integrating Immigrants;
  - Myths and Facts on Immigration;
  - Nationality
  - Immigration Law
  - Intercultural Education



## Immigration Observatory

- **“Knowing more as to act better”**
- In cooperation with Research Centres
- Financing studies and publications
- [www.oi.acidi.gov.pt](http://www.oi.acidi.gov.pt)

## Raising Public Awareness

- **Sensitising Campaigns**
- Tv and radio Programs
- Journalism Award



## Long way to go...

- **Learn with** other experiences
- **Consolidate** integration policies
- **OECD Report** on Labour Market Integration of Immigrants in Portugal (Nov 2007)
  - **Positive overview** on what has been done
  - Some **recommendations**:
    - Better use of immigrant skills
    - Better monitor and combat different forms of discrimination (ie. wages)
    - Reinforce labour inspectorate



# Thank you for listening

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