

1. LINKS TO STATISTICS AND EMBASSIES

French census report (2006):

http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau.asp?reg_id=10&ref_id=POPOP022

Portuguese embassy in France:

<http://www.embaixada-portugal-fr.org/>

2. NOTE ON STATISTICS

In 2006, the census report stated that 490,644 Portuguese were living in France. There were 555,383 in 1999 and 645,578 in 1990. But the data from the French census does not indicate French citizens who also have Portuguese nationality (dual-nationals). This is the case of naturalized Portuguese and of most of the children of Portuguese migrants who became automatically French citizens in the age of eighteen, because they were born in France; except in the period between 1993 and 1998, when they had to apply for the French nationality. In 1999, 236,005 Portuguese citizens also held French nationality.

Portuguese statistics are not very helpful. Actually, an important lack of data on emigration led the Portuguese government to create an “Observatório da emigração” in 2008. For example, in the 624 pages of the 2007’s Statistical Yearbook of Portugal the word “Emigration” never appears.

3. MIGRATION HISTORY

The main flux of Portuguese emigration to France began at the end of the 1950’s. Between 1957 and 1974, 900,000 Portuguese came to France. The peak came over the years 1969-1971 when almost 350,000 Portuguese emigrated to France.

The first significant arrivals of Portuguese in France happened during the First World War. As part of a treaty signed by France and Portugal in 1916, 13,800 Portuguese workers came to France in this period, lasting until May 1918. Some of these workers and some Portuguese soldiers who had fought in France remained in the country at the close of the War. Many relatives emigrated afterwards to join them. In 1931, when the effect of the Great Depression

hit France, 49,000 Portuguese were living in France. With the economic crises, and rising unemployment rate (which led French authorities to deport Portuguese workers) by 1946, the number of Portuguese in France had decreased 22,000.

In the 1950's the Portuguese government refused to sign an emigration treaty with the French authorities, causing Portuguese migrants to enter the country clandestinely and without official French documents after 1957.

The 1957-1974 emigration wave can be explained by both push and pull factors. The French economic growth needed unskilled workers. The French authorities increased Portuguese emigration accepting that Portuguese workers came without any paper. In France, Portuguese workers could find work more easily and the wages were higher than in Portugal. Portuguese workers were compelled to leave Portugal as a result of the poor wages they earned; the collapse of the agricultural economy was also a contributing factor. Portuguese migration to France was a rural exodus, even as many Portuguese also emigrated to avoid the military service during the period of the colonial wars (1961-1974) in Africa.

The year 1974 is important in the history of Portuguese migration to France. In 1974, the carnation revolution led to the end of the dictatorship and the colonial wars. This coincided in France with the government's suspension of migrant workers as a result of the oil crisis and increasing unemployment. From 1975 until 1982, the Portuguese population in France stabilized around 759,000 to 765,000. Currently, France remains one of the main destinations of Portuguese migrants and the migration chains is still active. For example, some workers who came in the 1960's or 1970's have been replaced by their Portuguese relatives.

Currently, the migrants of the great wave of the 1960s and 1970s are retiring. Some of them split their lives between Portugal and France, where their children often live. The return is sometimes a topic of conflict in these families.

4. SOCIOGRAPHY

Parts of the migrants who came during the 1960's until 1970's are now more than 50 years old.

Coming from the Portuguese rural areas, they had poor educational levels. In France, their main professional activities were in the construction or in the domestic sector. Portuguese (and particularly women) have a high level of employment.

Portuguese citizens are the immigrants who applied less for the French nationality. This fact can be explained by the integration of Portugal in the European Union. As Portuguese in France are nowadays European citizens, they do not need a “cartes de séjour” anymore in order to stay and work in France.

5. SETTLEMENT & INTEGRATION

The main geographical concentrations of Portuguese in France are Paris and its suburbs. They are also many Portuguese in the Center (Clermont-Ferrand, Orléans) and in the Southwest.

Since the mid-1960s, Portuguese created a lot of association and organizations where they could practice football, “ranchos”, organize parties or play cards.

Since 1972, the Portuguese government created “Portuguese schools” for the children of emigrants. In these schools, children learn the basic knowledge on the Portuguese language.

Since the mid-1960s, several newspapers are aimed to the Portuguese emigrants, e.g.:

Encontro : www.vidalusa.com/encontro

Lusopress news

Correio Português

Portugal Sempre

LusoJornal : www.lusojornal.com

Vida Lusa: www.vidalusa.com

Several websites exist:

CAPMAG: www.capmagellan.org

Coordination des Collectivités Portugaises en France : www.ccpf.info

Portugal Vivo: www.portugalvivo.com

Luso.fr: www.luso.fr

The participation of Portuguese emigrants in elections is low, both in European and in Portuguese legislative elections or in local elections in France.

There are not many Portuguese or Portuguese-descendants in high ranking professional positions. One of them is Armando Lopes, a successful entrepreneur. He is the president of the “Créteil-Lusitanos” team and owns “Radio-Alfa”, the main Portuguese radio in France.

Only a few of the Portuguese descendent achieved an important political career. No Portuguese descendent became Minister or Secretary of State. In 1997, the first luso-descendent was elected at the National assembly. This deputy, Patrice Carvalho, of the third generation, is also mayor of a little town until today. When he entered the assembly, he belonged to the communist Party, was trade unionist and worked in a factory.

In the French public sphere, Portuguese are not a public problem. The media is focused on African immigration. The public discourse repeats that the Portuguese are well-integrated, that they make any trouble. Sociologists wrote that Portuguese were “invisible”.

6. FOOTBALL & POPULAR CULTURE

Among the main leisure of the Portuguese emigrants in France, we find football and ranchos.

In French towns with Portuguese concentrations, there is often a Portuguese association. These associations are a meeting point for many Portuguese. There are also Portuguese bars, some for the first generation, and others for the second or third generation. In Villeneuve-Saint-George and in Paris, there are two discos for luso-descendants.

Several Portuguese football teams were founded in France. In 1990, one Portuguese associative leader wrote that 1000 Portuguese team existed in France. The most known of all was the “Lusitanos-Saint-Maur”, created in 1966, who reached the 3rd league. Currently, the former president of “Lusitanos-Saint-Maur”, Armando Lopes, is the president of the “Créteil-Lusitanos” that played in the second league.

Most of the Portuguese support one Portuguese team, mostly Benfica. When a Portuguese team plays in France, there is often more Portuguese supporters than French ones. French teams also try to get the support of the Portuguese in France, buying Portuguese players. It is the case of Paris Saint-Germain : João Alves in 1979, Hugo Leal in 2001, Pedro Miguel Pauleta

in 2003.

Language revision by Miguel Moniz