

## LOS OBSERVATORIOS DE ACCEM EN LA PROVINCIA DE GUADALAJARA

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Los observatorios que ACCEM ha desarrollado en Castilla La Mancha pretenden por un lado, ser una herramienta de observación que facilite, tanto en el medio urbano como rural, el análisis de la situación de la población extranjera, y por otro la promoción del partenariado entre las entidades.

Summary: The Observatories that ACCEM has developed in Castilla la Mancha try to be, in one hand, an observation tool than enables, both in an urban and a rural environment, the analysis of the situation of foreign population, and in the other hand, to promote the partnership between organizations.

Keywords: immigration, participation, partnership, development, organizations.

Palabras clave: inmigración, participación, partenariado, desarrollo, entidades.

### 1. Geopolitical context on Province of Guadalajara, the arrival of foreign population

Province of Guadalajara is located on the centre of the Iberian Peninsula, at the Southwest of the Iberian System and the Northeast of the Southern Subsystem, taking up the Tajo's basin and forming the Northeast angle of the Autonomous Region of Castilla la Mancha. The capital city of the Province is Guadalajara and is located on the southwest of the territory, at 55 kilometres of Madrid, towards the northeast.



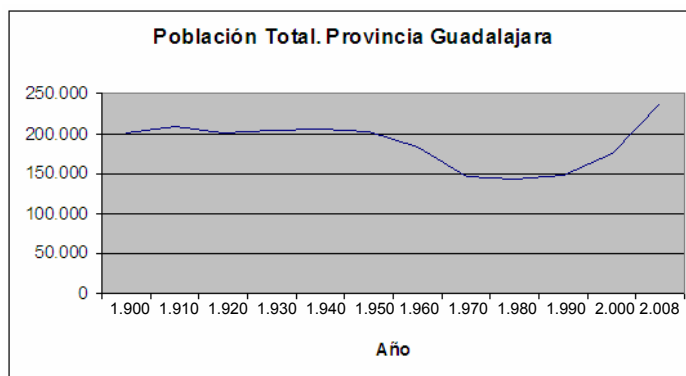
The Province of Guadalajara is divided on three regions known as Campiña, Alcarria and Sierra, even the borders are blurred in some points, they have geological and orographical characters that allow differentiating them.

The Province of Guadalajara has 336 municipalities, on an extension of 12.414 square kilometres, with a population density of 19 habitants per square kilometre.

The Province of Guadalajara, throughout the XX Century and during the present XXI, has had different periods on its demography. The two most emphasized are on the last decade of the XX Century and the beginning of the XXI Century when the population decreased more than 50.000 inhabitants in 5 decades and during the last 90s nowadays it has grown to go beyond the historical amount in more than 30.000 habitants.

YEAR	TOTAL POPULATION	YEAR	TOTAL POPULATION
1.900	200.186	1.960	183.545
1.910	209.352	1.970	147.732
1.920	201.444	1.981	143.246
1.930	203.998	1.991	149.067
1.940	205.726	2.001	174.999
1.950	203.278	2.008	237.849

Fuente: INE. 2008.

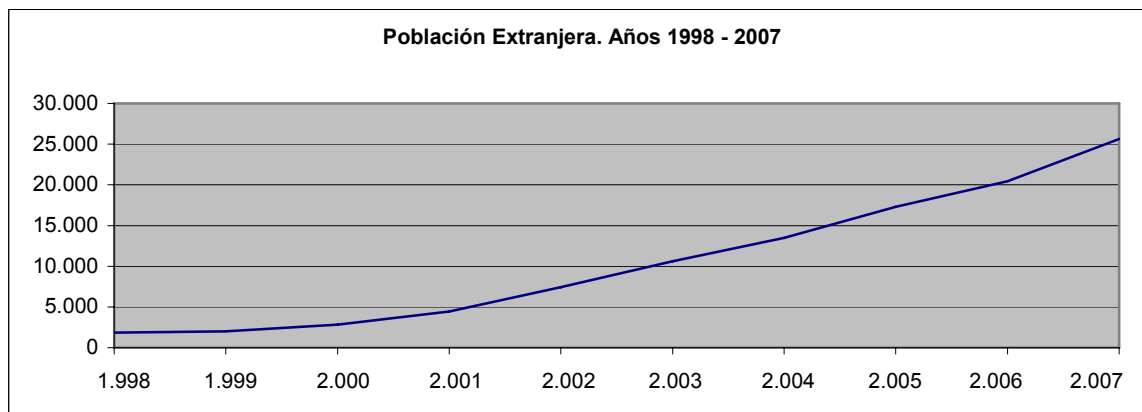


Fuente: INE. 2008.

The foreign population starts to be relevant on the Province of Guadalajara between the years 2000 and 2001, when the growth of the foreign population was a 36% respect the previous period.

Año	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Extranjeros	1.839	2.002	2.825	4.452	7.445	10.627	13.504	17.316	20.459	25.647

Fuente: INE. 2008.



Fuente: INE. 2008.

Año	Total Población	Españoles	Porcentaje respecto a total	Extranjeros	Porcentaje respecto a total
2000	165.347	162.522	98 %	2.825	2 %
2008	232.728	198.429	85,2 %	34.299	14,7 %

Fuente: INE. 2008.

From the year 2000 until the year 2008, the Province has grown on 67.381 inhabitants, 31.477 of them are foreigners; that supposes a 46% of the total population growth.

It is necessary to emphasize that there is an irregularity on the concentration of the foreigner population in some territories of the Province: Sierra Norte, Henares Corridor and Lower Alcarria.

## 2. Current socio-economic context of the Province of Guadalajara

The Province of Guadalajara is in the the Autonomous Region of Castilla la Mancha, a region which is considered an objective 1 European region, and is therefore entitled to receive Structural Funds from the European Union.

Thanks to European initiatives such as Horizon, Integra, Proder, Leader, Leader Plus, Equal and others, today we can say that the Community of Castilla la Mancha and therefore the Province of Guadalajara is in the process to achieve the level of other Spanish and European regions historically more developed.

The economic change that this transformation is making possible is framed in two different socio-economical processes that had change the economy, the society and the environment of the province in a short period of time.

The first of these processes refers to the creation - and in some cases the expansion - of important industrial estates, that allowed the settlement of foreign and national investors. These industrial estates are located in the area know as "Henares Corridor", an industrial area near Madrid that is today one of the major industrial areas in Spain.

These companies had arrive to the region searching strategic points for their investments , such as the proximity to Madrid, the crossroads of commercial routes, cheap industrial soil and also the significant development of communication infrastructures, promoted by the regional, national an European public administrations.

A significant number of these companies are logistic companies, an activity that has become one of the most important in investment and in creation of employment during the last years.

These industrial corridors have brought good prospects of improvement; the creation of a significant number of new jobs both high and low qualified, population growth in cities and municipalities close to the corridors, development of other economic sectors: The public service sector and the construction sector have grown above the national average in towns and cities close to the industrial corridors during the last decade.

But this also has created some imbalances due to the lack of forecast in the need of infrastructures and public services; because the economic, and therefore population, growth of the region has been the most dramatic in the last decades. Some examples of this are the price of housing, both to buy or to rent, or the problems of overcrowding in some public services

The second process is the social and economic transformation of the rural world. If we had described how the industrial areas, the cities and municipalities, had developed, we also have to mention the great change that had happened in the smaller municipalities and towns situated far away from this urban development.

The rural world is living a process of recovery of its influence in the society of Castilla la Mancha. Although it is true that within the region some rural areas had a significant influence in the economy of the region - as for example the wine-making areas - some other regions lost that influence because of the depopulation that occurred during the 60's, 70' and 80's. This last one is the case of the rural areas of Guadalajara, where an important number of people who lived in those municipalities and villages emigrated to the cities looking for a job, attracted by a new way of life based on the important industrial development that took place in different areas of Spain.

After more than two decades of deep depopulation, and since five years ago, the effort of the inhabitants, together with the beginning of rural development plans by the public administrations and the private investments, made the rural municipalities and villages have prospects of improvement.

Therefore we can say that in these moments the rural world is living a process of empowerment that supposes a mayor role generating new employment and, as a consequence of it, a considerable increase in the population.

This economic development is based on the increase of rural and environmental tourism, on the different activities of community services, third age residences, home

assistance, day care centres, childhood care centres, on the development of renewable energies linked to the natural resources, and also on the transformation in management of agriculture and farming like ecological agriculture or D.O. quality product classification.

But this economic development and therefore population increase in the rural world, can bring, as it happened in the urban case, imbalances which can provoke social conflicts. A good integration of the new inhabitants can help solving these imbalances.

The foreign population has not been foreign to this process; in fact it has played the main figure in this population growth, being in some rural areas more than the 30% of the population growth, and therefore of the working population.

### **3. Accem observation mechanisms in the province of Guadalajara.**

The observatories that Accem dynamizes are located in the province of Guadalajara and they give a response to two different realities related to the two different development processes described above:

OPASI has its sphere of activity in the rural world, including 138 municipalities and a total of 27.000 people, with a foreign population rate close to the 15% in the whole area subject of the study.

OPEGU has its sphere of activity in one of the more dynamic economical corridors of Spain, The Henares corridor. This corridor consists in the capital town of the province, Guadalajara, and the municipalities close to the Autonomous Region of Madrid: in this case the foreign population rate is about 12%.

The development of these two observatories is linked to the growth of Accem organization in the province of Guadalajara.

Accem organization started to work with foreign population in the province of Guadalajara in 1992, in the village of Sigüenza, with the beginning of the Refugee Reception Centre of Sigüenza. Since the first moment the goal of this centre was to meet the needs of the foreign people who arrived to live in the area and to collaborate in the socio-economical development of the territory.

To achieve this goal, Accem started to work coordinating and invigorating other organizations in the area. This task was materialized in 1999 with the creation of the Permanent Observatory for Immigration of Sigüenza, named in the beginning SAVIA Project. The foundation of this observatory was made by the agreement between the Council of Sigüenza, the Ministry of Education and Science and ACCEM, with the goal of managing a plan for social and educational intervention with young people of Sigüenza.

ACCCEM started to manage this Project with the development of the Catalyse Methodology. At the same time it created the first partnership groups where more than 15 organizations were represented between unions associations, public institutions, trade unions and NGO's of the municipality of Sigüenza.

In the year 2000, the project ends, and the observatory took a new turn, leaving behind the name SAVIA, and beginning to call itself OPASI. ACCEM starts to dynamize this observatory with the aim of extending it to all the rural municipalities of the area.

From the year 2000 to the year 2007 OPASI has made several reports of the situation of the foreign population in the area, witnessing and participating in the constant arrival of foreign people to the villages in the area.

ACCCEM and the different partners that have actively participated in the analysis of the reality of foreign population have arrived to a series of conclusions during these years; here are the most important:

*“We find ourselves in a changing situation; the depopulation of the territories has slow down; there is a slow but constant development that is offering new possibilities to live and to work in the rural areas, and the arrival of foreign population has played a main role in the change of the situation; now our goal is to participate in the integration process of the new inhabitants”.*

*“The integration process of the foreign population goes through the participation of these people on equal rights and duties, to achieve so, the public administrations must provide the resources needed to mitigate the impact that supposes the arrival of a high number of people in a short period of time”*

*“We must be aware that the situations of the foreign people are not all the same and that they are different depending on their ability to integrate, that is why we must pay a special attention to those groups in risk of exclusion, such as women and young people living in this municipalities”*

*“We must carry on working together to achieve an optimization of resources that enables a better attention to people”*

At the present moment OPASI is working at a very efficient level, OPASI is a powerful observation tool that not only analyses change but participates on it, playing an important role in the socio-economical development of the rural society of the province of Guadalajara.

OPEGU was born because of ACCEM commitment to operate in the industrial and urban area of the Henares Corridor. In the year 2003, ACCEM opened its first office for public attention in Guadalajara Capital town, being aware of the experience the organization had in the development of OPASI, so the people in charge of ACCEM policies determined the goal of creating a new observatory to dynamize and analyse the foreign population in the area of the Henares Corridor.

Therefore OPEGU is born from ACCEM experience activating and developing an observatory in the rural world, to become an Observatory for immigration in an industrialized and urban environment.

This contrast of experiences is seen as an opportunity in the process of construction and consolidation of both observatories.

OPEGU started working on 2003 with eleven partners, among them public administrations, trade unions, associations of contractors, companies foundations, NGO's and professional training centres.

One of its first achievements was to see how organizations that never before had worked together, joined to analyse needs and to suggest solutions.

From that moment on OPEGU has a place that no one had taken before, being a tool for coordinating and cooperating with different organizations that work with foreign population in the area.

The most important conclusions ACCEM and its partners had found in the work frame of OPEGU are:

*“The arrival of high and low qualification workers is needed for the economical development of the area”*

*“The demand of workers has caused the arrival of foreign population in difficult situations, without papers, homeless, waiting for an opportunity that may not arrive. Therefore there are different and complex situations that need to be analyzed one at a time in order to give an adequate response”*

*“The arrival of new inhabitants to cities and towns has caused and increase in the prices of the housing market, and this rise in rentals had brought new ways of living such as re-rental, shared rental, crowded houses...”*

The developed diagnosis are mainly made using the computing tools “Pragma” and “Nuage” that allow elaborating quantitative and qualitative analysis of the population subject of the studies.

The two observatories were born with the vocation of serving as analysis tools for the society, and also being a dynamizing element and a meeting point for organizations to distribute the information they generate.

#### **4. ACCEM Observatories, a prospect for future**

At the present moment, the foreign population that has arrived and it's arriving to the municipalities means a prospect for the future that has to be understood like a complex and changing phenomenon. All the society must do an effort for building a cohabitation setting that allows the socio-economic development of the territories.

Both Observatories, OPASI and OPEGU, actively participate on the building of this cohabitation setting, but ACCEM, and also the partners, are conscious of the importance that has, at present time, the integration as citizens of the foreign population to achieve this goal.

The reality nowadays, that appears with the worldwide scale crisis, with an excluding European Immigration Policy, with the appearance of new forms of marginality and exploitation, made both OPASI and OPEGU, to adopt more specific analyses positions.

All these more specific analyses are designed for groups on special risk of exclusion, because faced with the actual situation, it is necessary to deal with them with special dedication. These collectives are unemployed foreigners, women with family responsibilities, young foreigners and undocumented alien.

Two examples of these analyses are: the one made by OPEGU about the attention provided by the social organizations that work with immigrants in the Henares Corridor. According to this analysis, the group of attention has changed. Currently, people who was working is now unemployed and therefore they are the main users of the training and labour integration services. The content of the analysis has been communicated to the competent authorities.

The other example is the analysis of the young foreigner population on the rural area that OPASI has done this year with young people on school age studying on the educational institutions. These analyses have been presented to the educational and social authorities of the province.

The experience and the vision that both OPASI from the rural world, and OPEGU from the urban area, have of the situation of the immigrant population in the Province of Guadalajara has been recognized by the provincial, regional and national authorities, providing both observatories with economical resources so that they can keep on being a social transformation element looking for the socio-economical development of the territories.