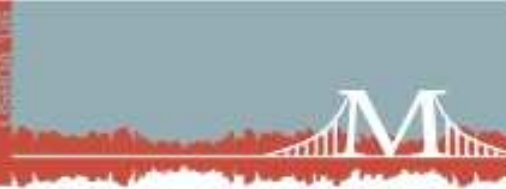


11<sup>th</sup>

International Metropolis Conference



**Workshop: WOMEN AND MIGRATION**

**Women migrants in Portugal: migratory trajectories and socioeconomic profiles**

**Lisbon, October 2**

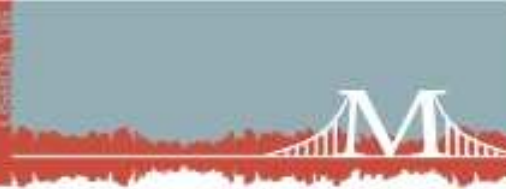
**MARIA LUCINDA FONSECA**

CENTRO DE ESTUDOS GEOGRÁFICOS,  
UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA, PORTUGAL

lucinda.fonseca@fl.ul.pt



Paths & Crossroads:  
Moving People, Changing Places



# STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Introduction

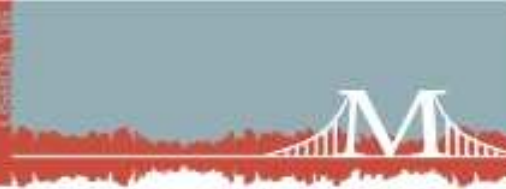
2. Portugal in the new migration context of Southern Europe

3. Women migrants in Portugal: migratory trajectories and socioeconomic profiles

4. Conclusions

11<sup>th</sup>

International Metropolis Conference



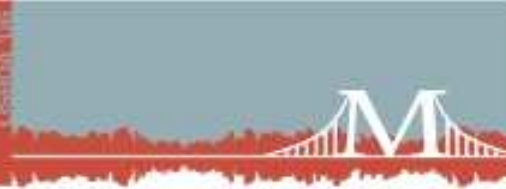
## **2. Portugal in the new migration context of Southern Europe**

Paths & Crossroads:  
Moving People, Changing Places



## THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHIC & ECONOMIC SITUATION & IMMIGRATION IN SOUTHERN EUROPE

- Rapid decline in fertility
- Changes in family structures & gender roles
- Post-Fordism / informal economies
- Little state intervention
- Informal “welfare society” rather than a realistic & responsive welfare state
- Rapid growth of immigration
- High rates of “undocumented” or clandestine immigrants



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMMIGRANT WOMEN: FEMINISATION OF MIGRATION

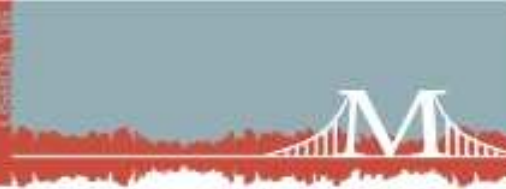
- Development of the service economy: growing demand for female labour
- Increase in the female activity rates
- Demand for immigrant women in the reproductive sector (e.g., domestic service, industrial cleaning, health care, aged care, tourism & leisure activities)
- Southern European countries are hosting a growing number of female migrants



## Comparison of participation & unemployment rates of nationals & immigrants in the EU-15, by sex (2002)

	Participation Rate				Unemployment Rate			
	Female		Male		Female		Male	
	Nationals	Immig.	Nationals	Immig.	Nationals	Immig.	Nationals	Immig.
Austria	62.4	63.3	78.9	85.1	3.9	8.6	3.9	8.4
Belgium	57	41	73.3	72.4	7	16.5	4.6	14.2
Denmark	76.2	53	84	71.2	4.9	7.2	3.6	12.2
Finland	74.6	60.2	79.4	83.1	11.2	29.9	10	24.2
France	63.3	48.6	75.1	76.6	10.7	23.9	7.1	17.1
Germany	64.7	50.7	78.9	77.6	7.8	11.7	7.2	13.4
<b>Greece</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>89.2</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Ireland	55.9	56.2	79.2	77	3.8	6.2	4.1	5.1
<b>Italy</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Luxembourg	47.7	57.7	74	79.7	1.7	3.8	1.2	2.5
Netherlands	67.2	49	84.9	69.5	2.9	7	1.9	4.7
<b>Portugal</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>8.4</b>
<b>Spain</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>85.4</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>12.9</b>
Sweden	74.2	60.3	78	63.1	4.6	13	5.5	16.1
UK	68.4	55.8	83.1	75.6	4.4	7.9	5.5	9.8

Source: SOPEMI (2002), pp. 61.



## SPECIFICITIES OF THE PORTUGUESE CASE

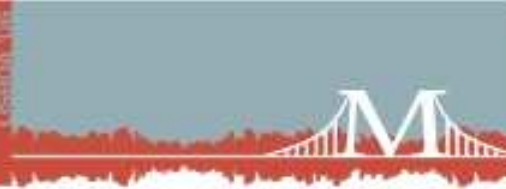
- **Gender roles** – the female labour force is as high as in France, Germany, the Netherlands or the UK
- **Migration history** – Portugal shares important traits with other post-colonial societies in Europe – e.g., the UK, France and the Netherlands
- The particular migration history of Portugal has also influenced the ways in which **migration controls** have been instituted, and the **politics of migration**



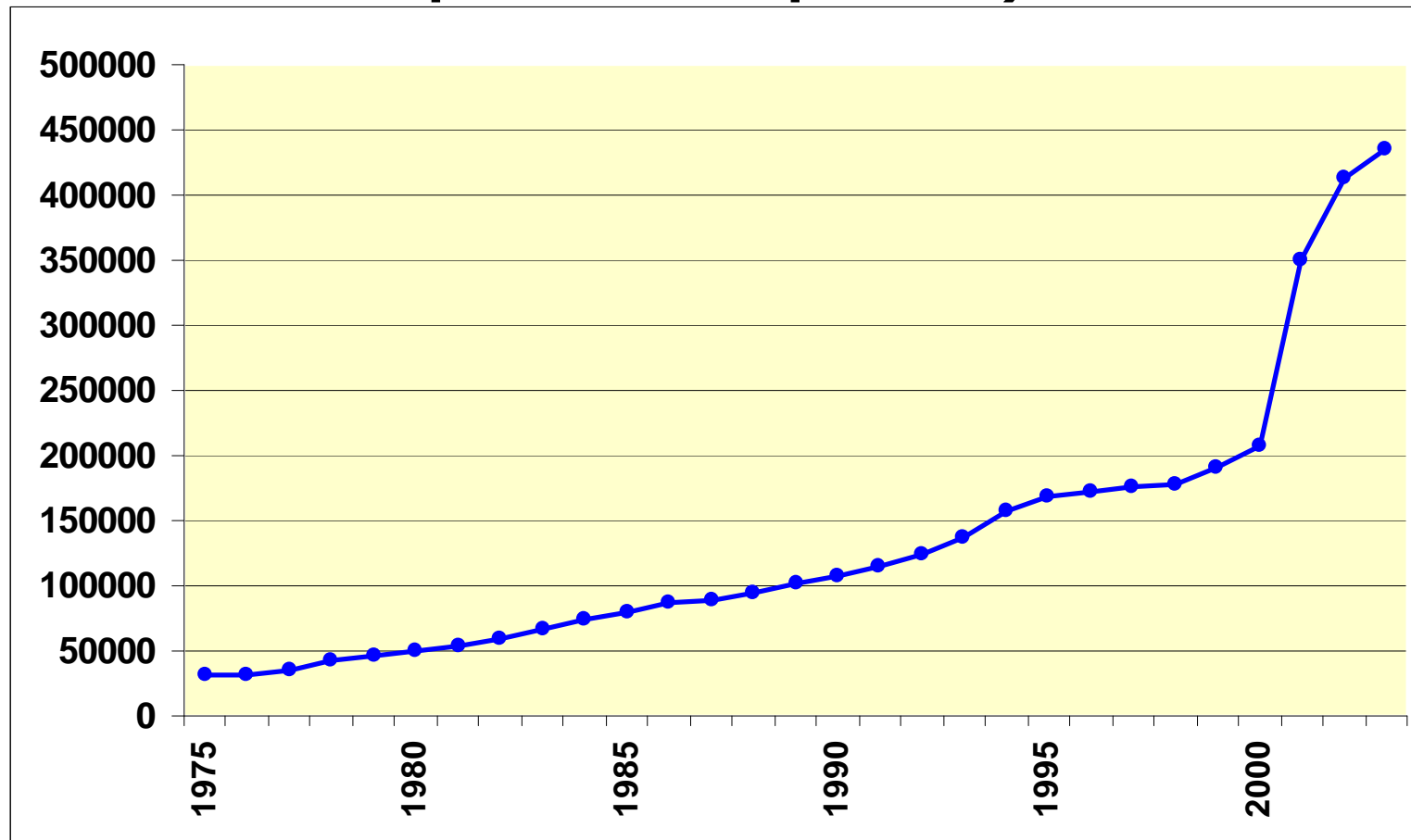
## Sectorial structure of the active population in Portugal, 1991 & 2001

		Total	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary		
					Total	Social services	Business services
1991	Lisbon Metro Area	100	1,84	28,35	<b>69,81</b>	23,47	46,34
	Portugal	100	10,79	37,87	<b>51,34</b>	17,44	33,90
2001	Lisbon Metro Area	100	1,19	24,13	<b>74,69</b>	30,4	44,29
	Portugal	100	4,98	35,1	<b>59,92</b>	25,54	34,38

Source: Fonseca *et al.* (2002), pp. 27



## Evolution of the population of legal foreign residents in Portugal, as of 31/12/03 (residence permits & permanence permits)



Source: SEF – Foreigners & Borders Service

11<sup>th</sup>

International Metropolis Conference



## Stock of foreign population holding a residence permit, by sex (2005)

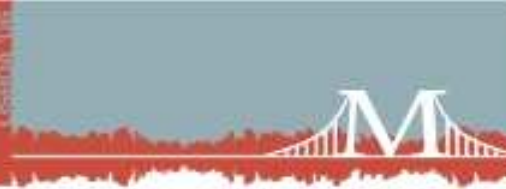
	Total	Male	Female	Sex ratio
<b>Total</b>	<b>276460</b>	<b>149203</b>	<b>127257</b>	<b>117,2</b>
<b>Europe</b>	88217	46141	42076	109,7
<b>EU</b>	<b>77504</b>	<b>40762</b>	<b>36742</b>	<b>110,9</b>
<b>Other Europe</b>	10713	5379	5334	100,8
<b>Africa</b>	127001	72027	54974	131,0
<b>Angola</b>	27800	15040	12760	117,9
<b>C. Verde</b>	57041	31773	25268	125,7
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	<b>21475</b>	<b>14134</b>	<b>7341</b>	<b>192,5</b>
<b>Mozambique</b>	5105	2709	2396	113,1
<b>S.Tome &amp; Príncipe</b>	8340	4001	4339	92,2
<b>Other Africa</b>	7240	4370	2870	152,3
<b>North America</b>	10138	5754	4384	131,3
<b>Central &amp; South America</b>	37420	17610	19810	88,9
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>31353</b>	<b>14622</b>	<b>16731</b>	<b>87,4</b>
<b>Asia</b>	12841	7213	5628	128,2
<b>China</b>	5517	3105	2412	128,7
<b>India</b>	1775	929	846	109,8
<b>Pakistan</b>	1385	936	449	208,5

Source: SEF – Foreigners & Borders Service

Paths & Crossroads:  
Moving People, Changing Places

11<sup>th</sup>

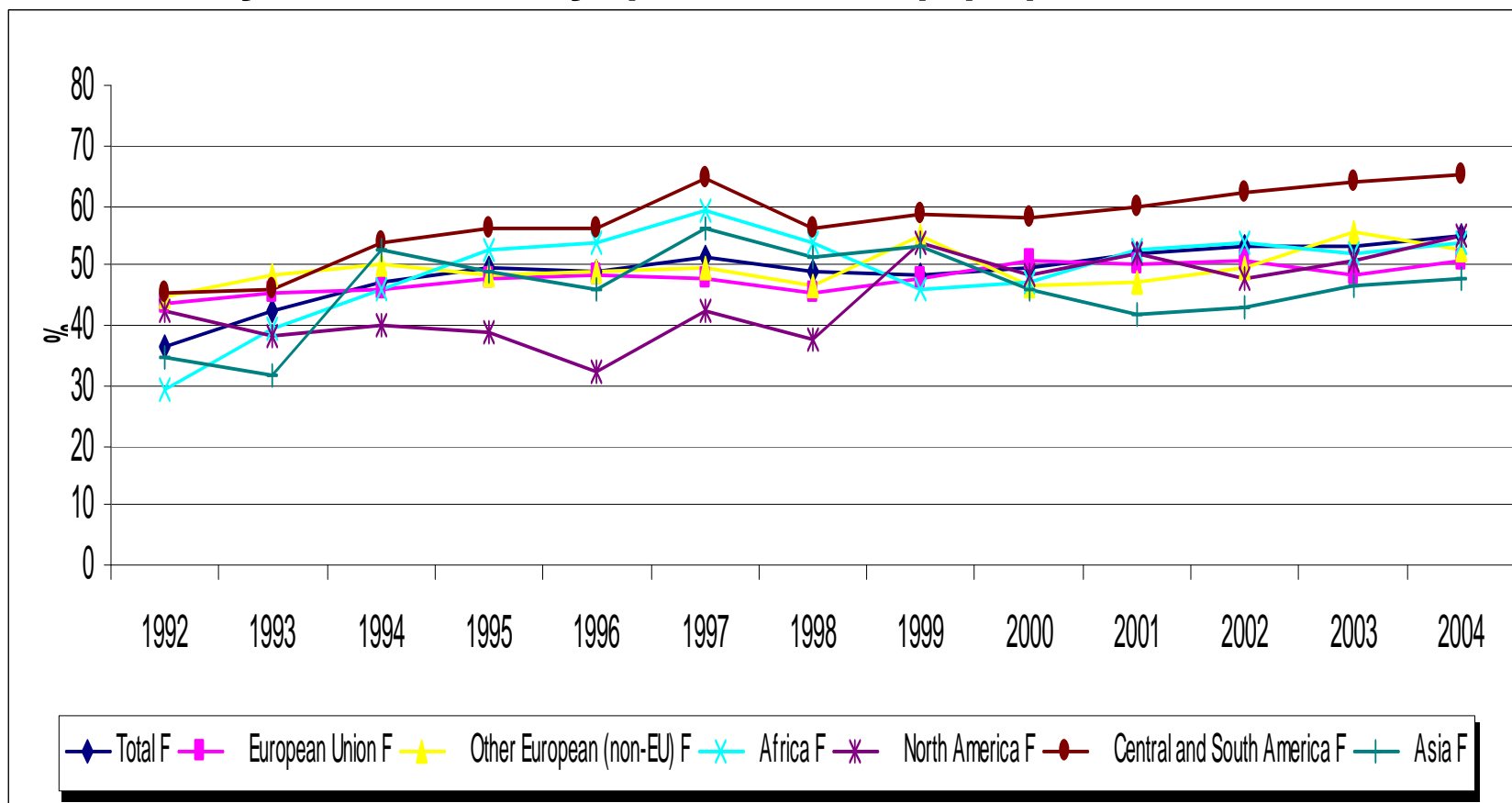
International Metropolis Conference



### 3. Women migrants in Portugal: migratory trajectories and socioeconomic profiles



## Inflow of immigrant women into Portugal, by community (1992-2004) (%)



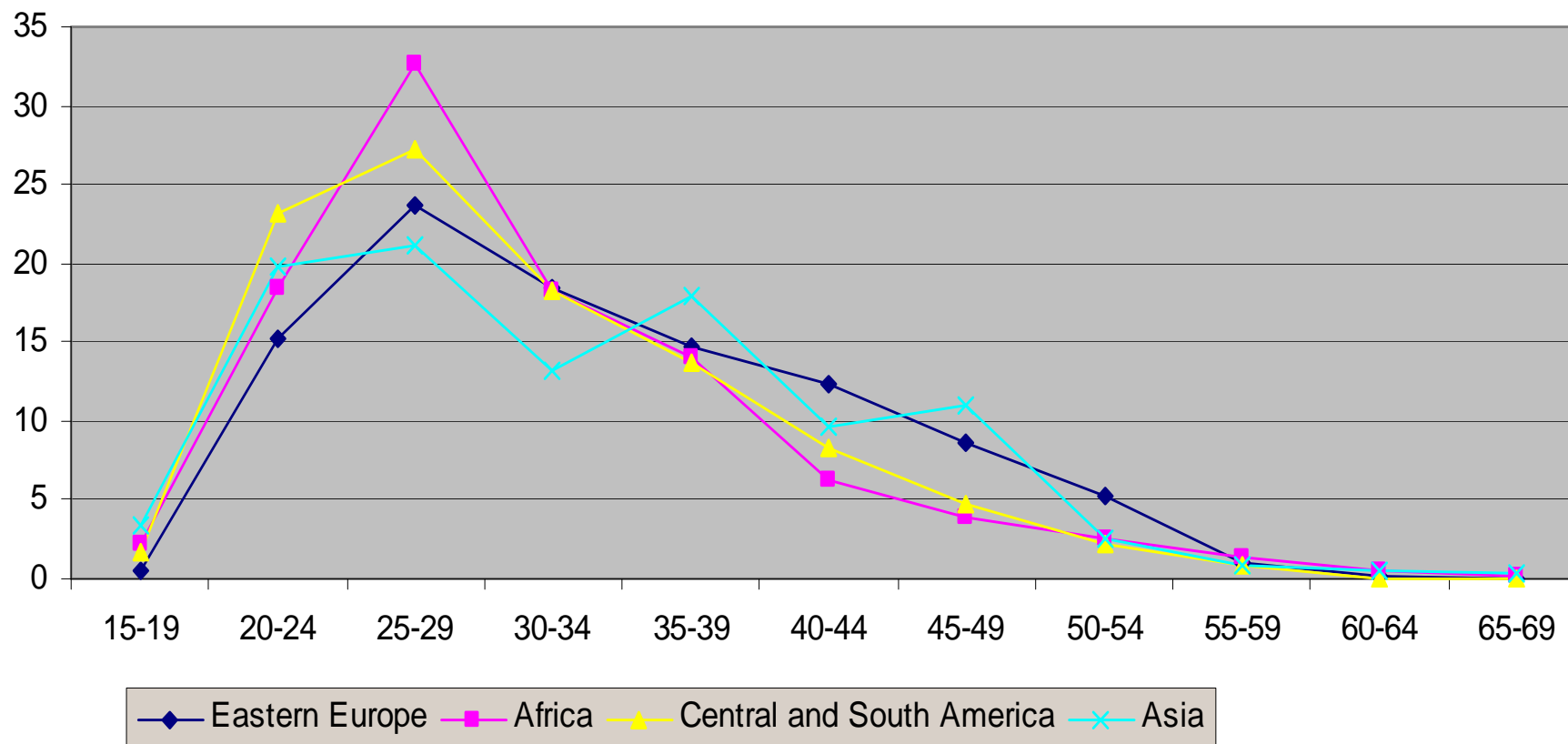


## Absolute change in female immigrant stock in Portugal, by community (1995-2004)





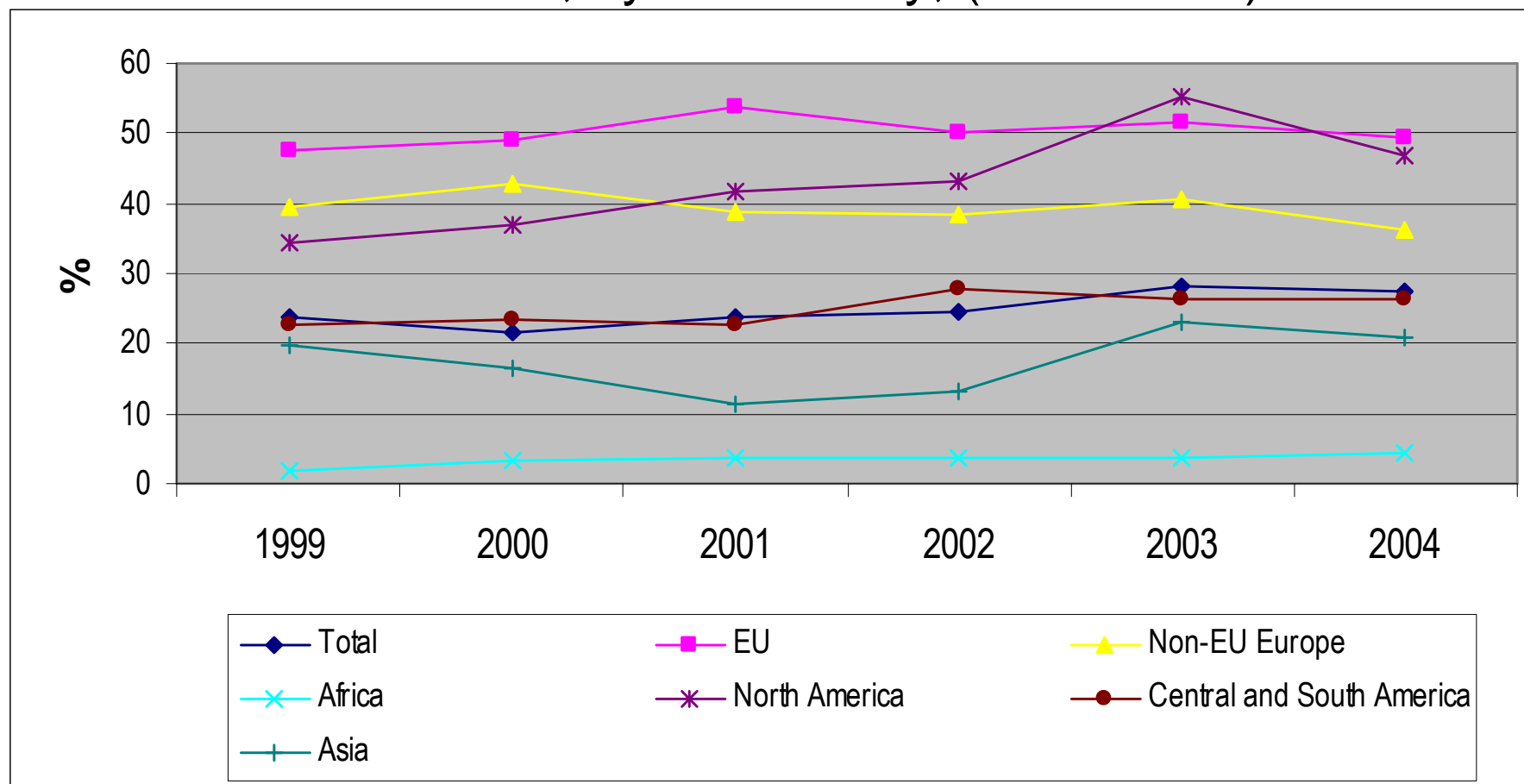
## Age structure of women immigrants issued Portuguese permanence permits in 2002, by community (%)

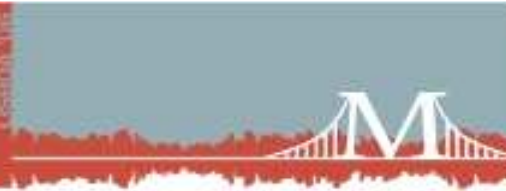


Source: INE, 2004



## Immigrant women in Portugal with university level educations, by community, (1999-2004)





## SOME WOMEN'S THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATING

- **ON PREPARING FOR PORTUGAL:** "My friends loaned me money to pay for my trip to Portugal but I had to sell my television, computer, VCR and refrigerator in order to have some extra money... Before I arrived, I was warned to not look too *made up* —to wear loose, casual clothing— because the police could stop me if I looked too much like a prostitute! That's disgraceful!" - *Brazilian, 35, receptionist, single with a Portuguese boyfriend, established in Portugal since 2002.*
- **ON LEAVING FAMILY BEHIND:** "My mother takes care of my son in Brazil. I send about 100 euros per month home to take care of him. I want to bring him to Portugal this September so he can start school at the beginning of the year. My ex-husband in Brazil is blackmailing me into helping him immigrate as well. That's the only way I can bring my son to Portugal. He says he'll help take care of my son but he's only doing it to make it easier for him to immigrate or he wouldn't." - *Brazilian, 27, massage therapist, single with a 9-year old son in Brazil, established in Portugal since 2002.*



## Foreign population with contracts registered in order to receive a permanence permit (**newly-arrived immigrants**), by sex (2001)

	Total	Sex				Male/Female Ratio
		Male	%	Female	%	
<b>Total</b>	141636	108513	76,61	33123	23,39	<b>3,28</b>
<b>Eastern Europe</b>						
Moldova	9607	8337	86,78	1270	13,22	<b>6,56</b>
Romania	8432	6953	82,46	1479	17,54	<b>4,7</b>
Russia	5473	4105	75,00	1368	25,00	<b>3</b>
Ukraine	50898	42545	83,59	8353	16,41	<b>5,09</b>
<b>PALOP</b>						
Angola	6454	3645	56,48	2809	43,52	<b>1,3</b>
Cape Verde	6635	3237	48,79	3398	51,21	<b>0,95</b>
Guiné-Bissau	4125	3281	79,54	844	20,46	<b>3,89</b>
<b>Central &amp; South America</b>						
Brazil	25940	16610	64,03	9330	35,97	<b>1,78</b>
<b>Asia</b>						
China	3315	2204	66,49	1111	33,51	<b>1,98</b>
India	3096	3034	98,00	62	2,00	<b>48,94</b>
Pakistan	2862	2833	98,99	29	1,01	<b>97,69</b>

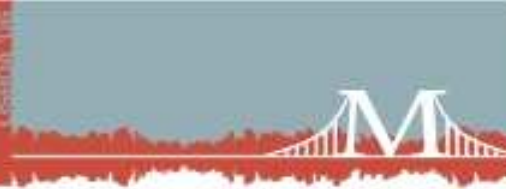
Source: Pires (2003), pp. 180



## Work contracts for immigrant women in Portugal with a permanence permit, by professional sector and country of origin, 2001 (%)

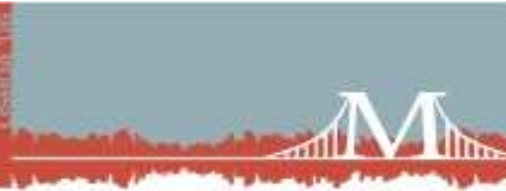
	Cleaning & domestic services	Restaurant services	Manufacturing	Total % of women in these fields
Angola	46,6	11,9	8,1	66,6
Cape Verde	71,8	8,9	2,6	83,3
Guinea-Bissau	55,3	6,5	4,1	65,9
S. Tomé & Príncipe	64,2	1,7	3,4	69,3
Moldova	34,7	9,2	7,9	51,8
Romania	36,1	13,1	8,1	57,3
Russia	26,7	14,3	13,8	54,8
Ukraine	26,3	14,3	14,7	55,3
China	14,5	49,3	3,7	67,5
Brazil	22,7	24,8	9,8	57,3

Source: IGT, 2001 (Treatment of data by the author)



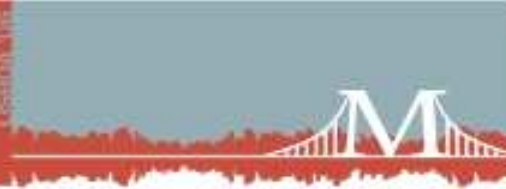
## MIGRANT WOMEN'S THOUGHTS ON WORKING

- **ON EXPLOITATION:** "The woman I worked for was kind to me because she gave me a job contract. But she hid all of my documents from me in order to keep me working for her." – *Ukrainian, 31, domestic servant, married with husband in Portugal, established in Portugal since 2001.*
- **ON REMUNERATION:** "I work without a contract, without anything, the pay is nothing, nothing, nothing... Employment here is incredible—getting it depends on education, on age, many factors." – *Brazilian, 42, seamstress, single, goes back & forth between Brazil & Portugal.*
- **ON PARADOXES:** "Portugal is a strange country. An immigrant can work without documents and is persecuted for it, but to legalise your situation you have to contribute to Social Security! ... In one place they say one thing and in another they say something else— you never know what is necessary." – *Ukrainian, 31, domestic servant, married with husband in Portugal, established in Portugal since 2001.*



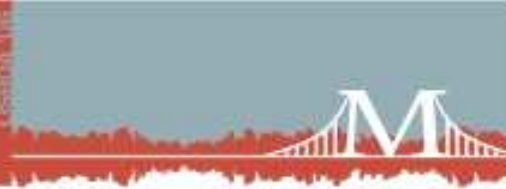
## WOMEN'S THOUGHTS ON INTEGRATION

- **ON DEPENDENCY:** "My boyfriend was Portuguese but was very introverted, without social connections outside of his family. I was thirsty for social exchange... I felt like a fish out of water. I couldn't stand being dependent on him– our values and ideas were very different." - *Brazilian, 35, receptionist, single with a Portuguese boyfriend, established in Portugal since 2002.*
- **ON ADAPTATION:** "I came with my mother to Portugal– she was very unhappy in the Ukraine. But she's had a difficult time adapting in Portugal: she only leaves the house when she's forced to– alone, she feels like she can't." – *Ukrainian, 22, server at a café/day nurse for an elderly woman, living with her parents in Portugal since 2001.*
- **ON MULTIPLE ROLE PLAYING:** "Cape Verdian women's role in the family changes dramatically when we come to Portugal. In Cape Verde, we were mothers and took care of the household. In Portugal, we must work outside to help the family. Sometimes we must work several jobs, irregular shifts, and we come home exhausted. We have little time to raise our children." – *Cape Verdian, 35, leader of immigrant association, living in Portugal since a very young age.*



## CONCLUSIONS

- Increasing female migration flows to Portugal (and Southern Europe) stem from changes in gender roles in the host societies and failure of their welfare regimes
- Employment opportunities in domestic and care work
- Relations between women migrants and their (female) employers
- Role of the families in the migration decision process.
- Impact of increased female immigration on gender roles in sending countries: new economic autonomy & changing cultural/religious values?



## References

Fonseca, M.L.; Malheiros, J.; Esteves, A.; Caldeira, M.J. (2002)- *Immigrants in Lisbon: routes of integration*, Lisboa, Centro de Estudos Geográficos (E.P.R.U. n.º 56).

Fonseca, M.L.; Ormond, M. (2004) - “A gendered approach to immigration in Southern Europe: The Portuguese Case”, Paper presented at the *International Conference – Migration and Cultural Diversity*, Fes, Morocco, July 1-3.

Pires, R. P. (2003) - *Migrações e Integração*. Celta, Oeiras.

OCDE. (2003) *Trends in International Migration, Continuous Reporting System on Immigration, Annual Report: SOPEMI 2002 Edition*, Paris.