

# **Irregular migration and migration policies in Spain**

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# **A high proportion of migrants in irregular condition**

- **A chronic, structural feature**
- **Despite frequent opportunities for regularization**
- **Extraordinary regularizations in 1986, 1991, 1996, 2000-2001 and 2005**
- **Plus mechanisms for legalization on individual bases**

# The 'irregularity equation'

- **A vigorous demand for foreign labor, mostly unskilled or semi-skilled**
- **A narrow 'front door'**
- **A large underground economy**
- **Acute difficulties for controlling flows**

# Inability to control entries

- **Location and physical characteristics**
- **High rates of circulation (a strong tourist industry)**
- **Visa exemptions and easy access to tourist visas**
- **Loopholes in 'Schengenland'**

# The inability to control stays

- **A large informal sector**
- **The weakness of labour inspection**
- **A lax, permissive legal and civic culture**
- **Difficulties to expel**

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