

Irregular Migration from Angola to the Netherlands



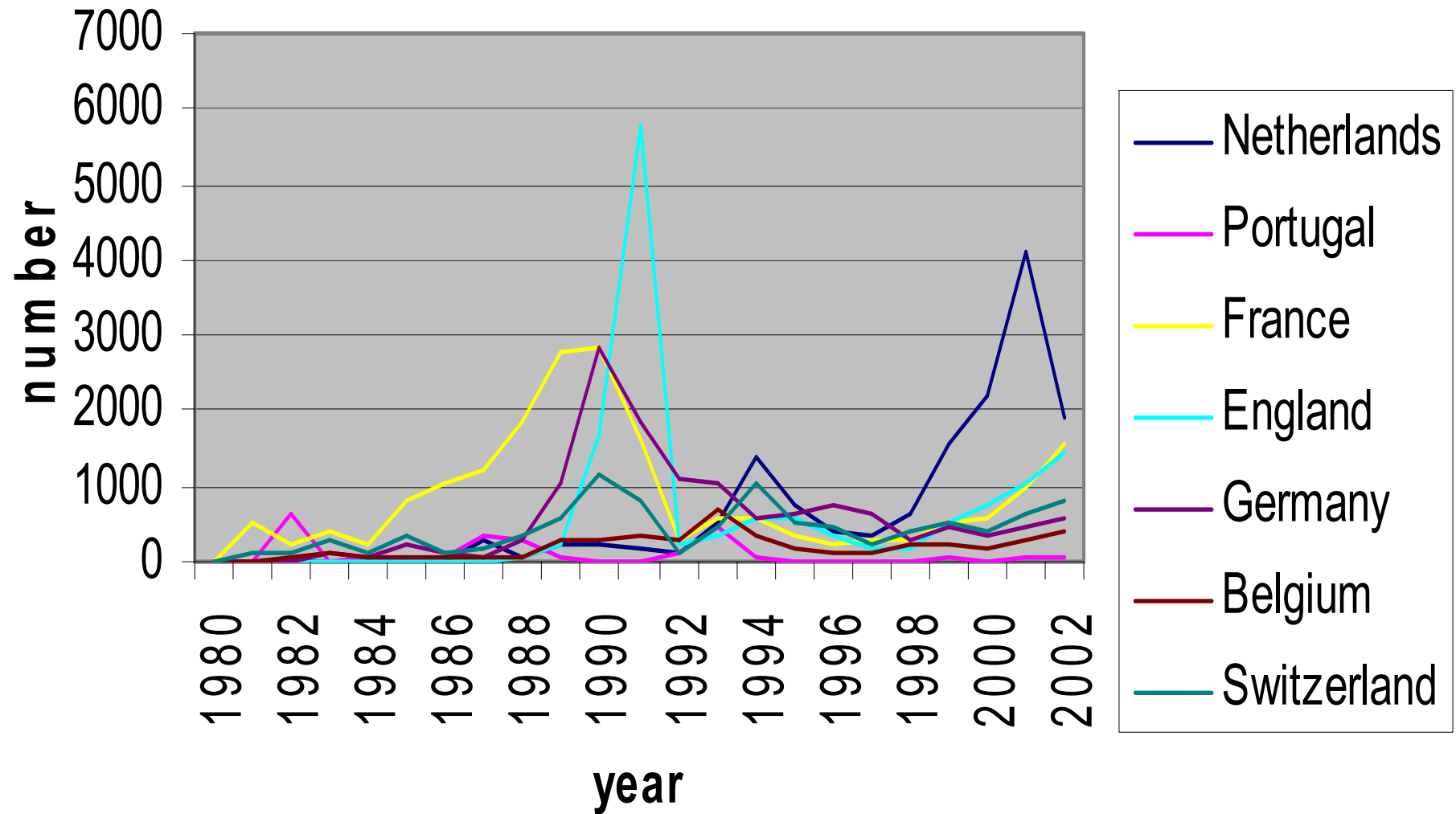
Metropolis 2006, Lisbon

Joris van Wijk

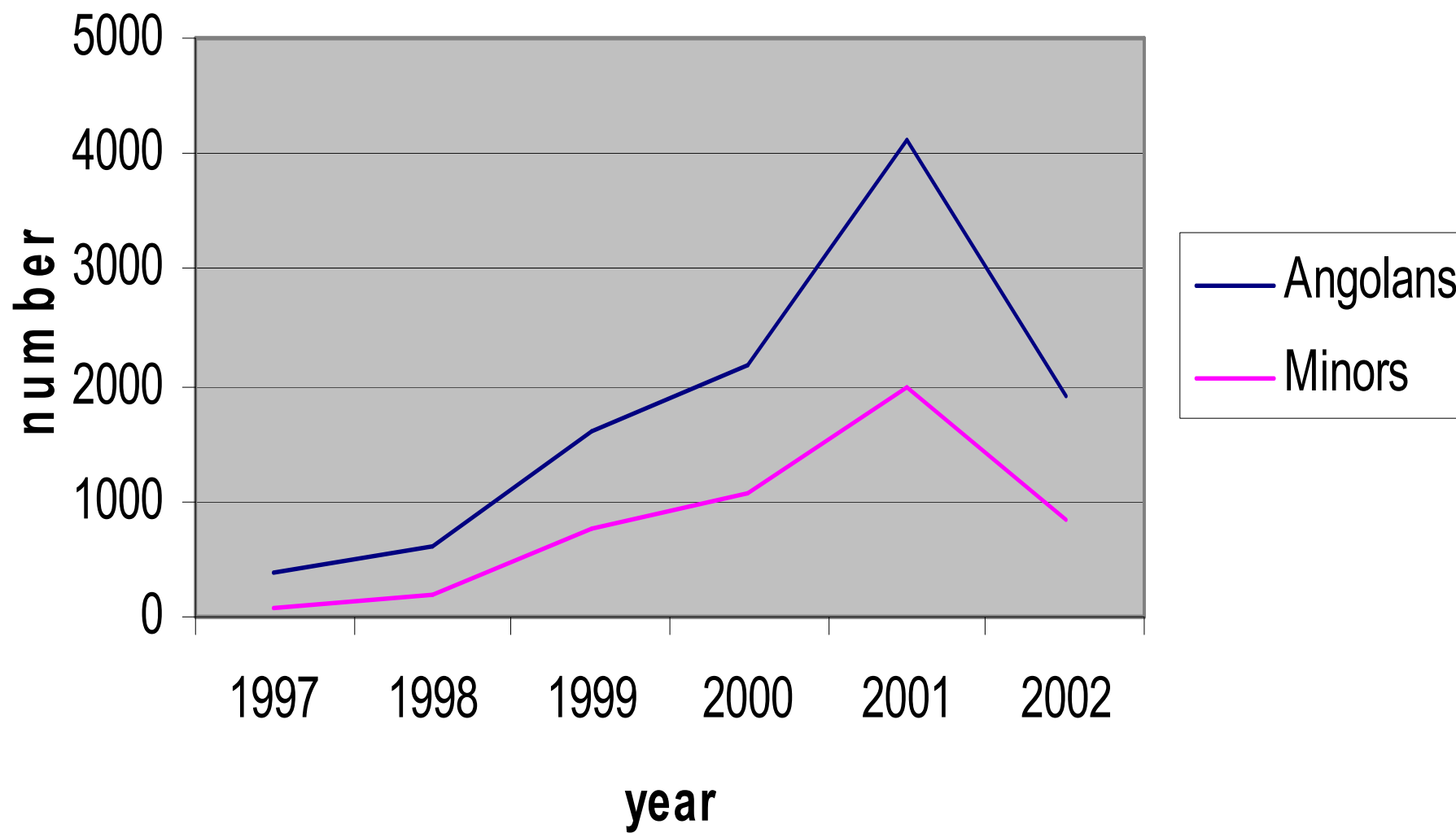
PHD-researcher Free University Amsterdam

Email: j.vanwijk@rechten.vu.nl

Angolan asylumseekers in Europe



Angolan asylumseekers in the Netherlands



Why the Netherlands?

- Far
- No Historical ties
- No Linguistic ties
- Hardly economical ties (second hand cars, milk)
- Small Angolan community (2.600 in 1998)
- Portugal, Brazil, S.A. seem more logical

How to travel?

Boat?

Land?

Air?

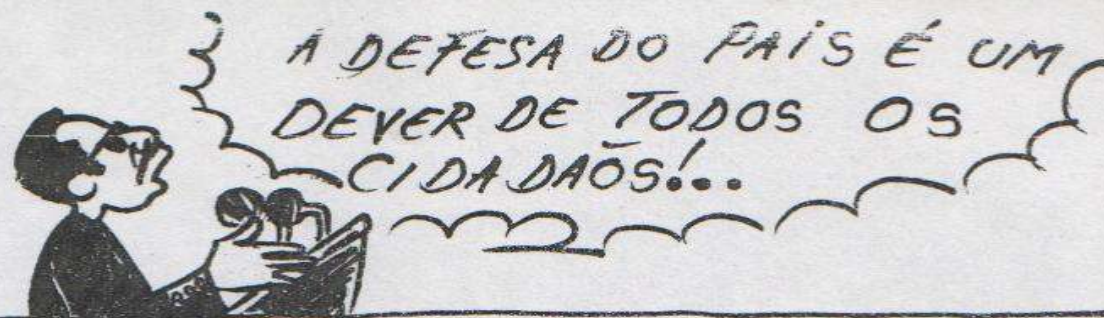


Research Methods

- Literature
- Files Dutch Migration Services (N=150)
- Interviews with “experts” (N=100)
- Interviews with Angolans (N=150)

Push factors Angola

- Civil war 1961-2002
- Conscription Military Service
- Corruption and nepotism
 - Difficulties with entering higher education
 - Difficulties with finding work



... OS FILHOS "DELES"



Pull factor Dutch asylum policy

Very attractive asylum system:

- “Golden rule of no return”
 - < 18 yrs. old
 - unaccompanied
 - no family-members in Angola
- Long procedures
- Good Conditions
 - Free schooling
 - Free medical care
 - pocket money

Angola - Europe

Ask your family in Portugal to invite you.

- “My aunt lived in Portugal, she sent me a letter of invitation and I just took the plane....”

● Ask someone important to help you.

- “My uncle works at the department of foreign affairs. I gave him my passport and he returned it a few days later with a visa....”

● Buy a visa.

- “Everyone knows someone who knows someone who can deliver a visa. I paid 500 USD....”

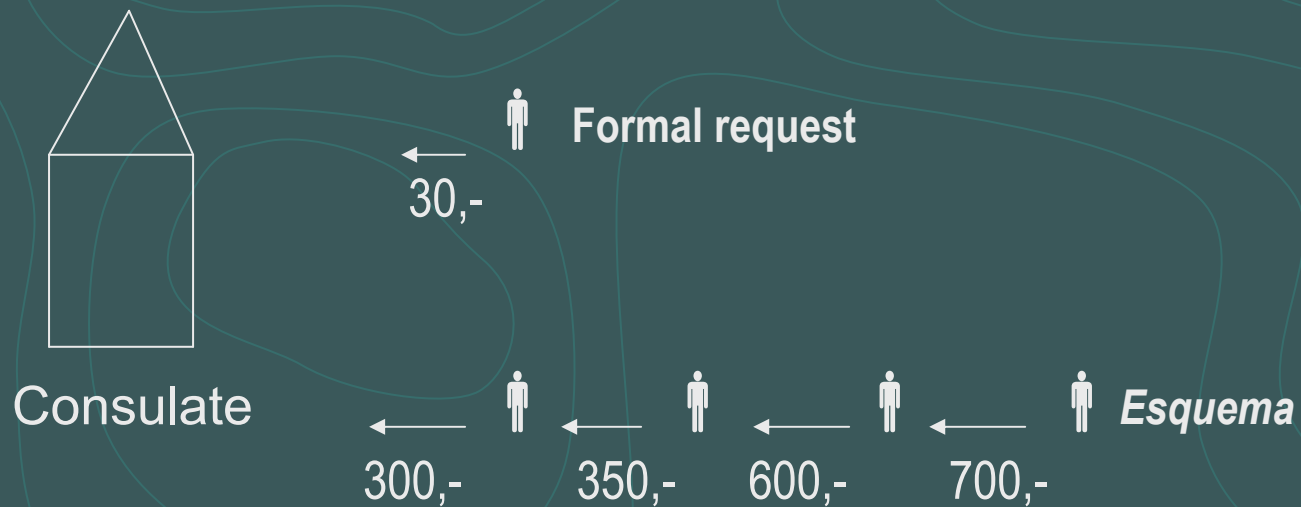
● Buy a complete trip.

- “My parents paid 4.500 dollar for an all-in arrangement. Flight + visa + travel inside Europe.”

In summary:



“Anyone who knows a middleman starts his own business”



Portugal – The Netherlands



- Take a bus or train to the Netherlands
 - “I went by bus to Amsterdam. When I arrived a friend of my father waited at the station.”
- Find someone to drive you....before he finds you
 - “In Portugal everyone was talking about *Holanda*. Someone said he could drive me there for about 300 euro's.”

How to apply for asylum?

● Listen to the “experts”

- “After our arrival we stayed for two days in an asylum-centre with old friends from Angola who had already asked asylum. They told us what to tell during our interviews.”

● Don't reveal your background and how you traveled.

- “He said: just tell your parents are dead and that you lived on the street.”
- “They told me not to mention Portugal.”

● Check the internet

- “Everyone was looking at newspapers and the FLEC-site to learn more about Cabinda.”

Pt **REPÚBLICA DE CABINDA**
Serviço de Registos Centrais

Certidão de nascimento
 N° _____
 Conforme consta no livro de registos de nascimentos
 do ano _____
 folha _____
 declara-se o nascimento _____
 de _____
 sexo _____
 nascido aos _____
 em _____
 filho(a) de _____
 natural de _____
 de nacionalidade _____
 profissão _____
 e de _____
 natural de _____
 de nacionalidade _____
 profissão _____

Feito, em _____
 Aos _____

Assinatura
 do Responsável
Nome e Função

Imprensa de Bilhete



NACIONALIDADE CABINDESA

Nome : _____
 Sexo : _____ Data Nasc. : _____
 Em : _____
 Endereço : _____

Feito em : _____
 Validade : _____

Assinatura da autoridade _____ Assinatura do titular _____

Bilhete Nacional de Identidade N° _____

Indirect impact of the asylum-policy

- “I just wanted to go to Portugal and there I heard the Netherlands where good. I had never heard of asylum....”
- “I had brought my diplomas to the Netherlands. I thought I could study....”
- “If I had known in advance I had to lie, I would have never gone....”
- “Up to this day my father doesn’t know I asked for asylum. It would be a shame to the family!”

Conclusions

- Hardly any knowlegde about asylum-policies
- Hardly any large scale human smuggling organisations
- Two way effect of the informal society on migration
 - Important push factor
 - Important facilitator of irregular migration



Discussion

Large scale human smuggling organisations could not evolve *because* of the informal society.

Other countries?



Muito obrigado.....

J.vanwijk@rechten.vu.nl