

Reconstructing the Diaspora and the Nation

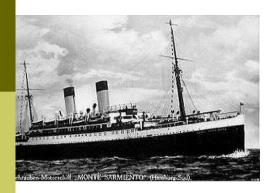
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Context of the research

- A brief of Uruguay as migration country
- A recent flow of migrants
- Uruguayans migrants in Spain
- Associative movement of Uruguayans in Spain
- Uruguayan State and the Diaspora

Context





2. EMIGRANTES. - Muelle de La Coruña. Edificio de "La Terraza", 1906.

Uruguay received larger amounts of immigrants during the XIX century and the first half of XX century, mainly coming from Southern Europe

Percentage of foreign of the all population

Total Uruguay

1860	33.5%
1908	17.4%

Source: Camou 1997, Bureau of Census

Montevideo

1860	47.7%
1884	44.4%
1908	30.4%
1930	22.63%

Source: Camou 1997, Bureau of Census

Percentage of each nationality in the total of foreign

	1860	1908
Spanish	23,8	30,3
Italians	13,0	34,3
Frenchs	11,7	4,6
Others	51,5	30,7

Source: Camou 1997, Bureau of Census

	Context
0	Throughout the last three decades, Uruguay has became one of the Latin American countries with a larger proportion of its population living abroad (15% percent)
0	 There are two important flows: In 60's and 70's: Economic and political crisis In 90's, but was more relevant since economic crisis of 2002
	International migration in intercensus period

Period	Total	Man	Women
1963-1975	185.710	50,1%	49,9%
1975-1985	122.804	-	-
1985-1996	68.170	55%	45%
1996-2004	122.000	57%	43%

Source: Institute of Statistics of Uruguay, 2005.

Context

In the seventies, the main destiny was Latin American countries.

- The host countries of recent migrations are United States of America and Spain.
 - Uruguayan migration to Spain have increased in the last four years.

2001	20.407
2002	27.161
2003	40.524
2004	55.307
2005	70.310

Population born in Uruguay (register in town council)

Soruce: Institute of Statistics of Spain, 2005

At the same time, the number of associative Uruguayan organizations and other organizations in Uruguay such associations of migrant families or Non Governmental Organizations, increased.



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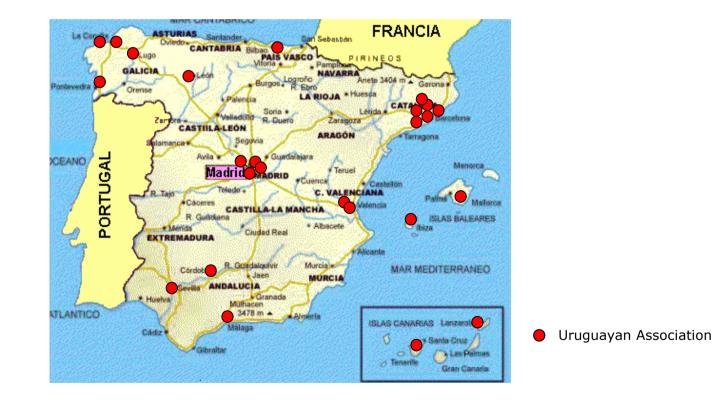
Cordoba .

Huelva

Cadiz

ATLANTICO

There are more than 20 Uruguayan migrants associations in Spain



The principal aims of the majority of the associations are:

Connect the Uruguayan migrants to each other



Keep the Uruguayan identity alive





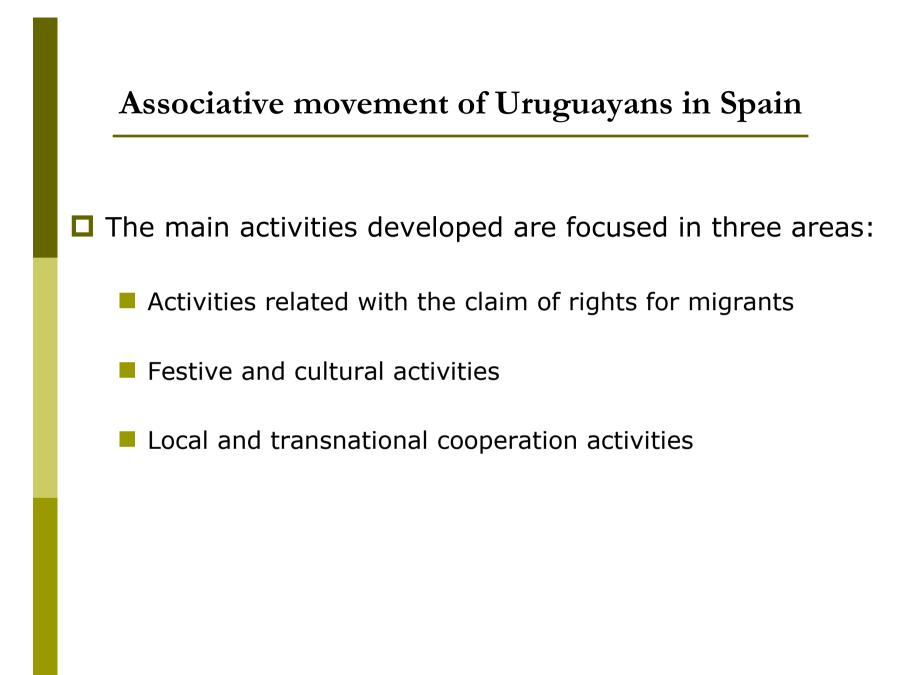
The principal aims of the majority of the associations are:

- Provide legal advice and information about residence and employment
- Promote cooperation programs between Uruguayan migrants in Spain and their country
- Participate in different cultural activities in the local community

The principal aims of the majority of the associations are:

Let the local community know about Uruguayan culture and contribute to the Uruguayan migrant integration into Spanish society





□ Characteristics of associative movement

- Emerged form the initiative of individuals
- The leaders have background in political and trade-union participation issues
- The majority of most of the active members and leaders posses Spanish nationality
- Some associations develop activities in which can participate nearly 500 people, others cannot assemble more than 25

□ Characteristics of associative movement

"La Casa de Uruguay en....": Having a place of meeting makes the difference in the way that members feel the association and activities have developed



 Transnational rights demanded by Uruguayans in Spain
 In the last four years there have been two important actions and mobilizations:

Actions has been related with and agreement signed in 1870

("favorite nation")



- □ Transnational rights demanded by Uruguayans in Spain
 - In the last four years there have been two important actions and mobilizations:
 - Another mobilization has been the claim for the right to vote from abroad





- At the beginning of the democratic period on which several measures were adopted in order to facilitate the return of those exiled.
- Then, a period of forgetfulness in which non measures were adopted.
- In 2001 politicians began to adopt the first initiatives to link the State with migrants.
- After the elections of 2004, the new government declares that the links between Uruguay and its Diaspora must become an important part of State politics.

1985-1988: National Commission for Repatriation

- The aim of this commission was to provide assistance to the politically exiled that returned to Uruguay
- □ 1988-2001: "indifference" to emigrants

2000: in his investiture discourse, president Batlle said:

- "El Estado será, junto a la sociedad civil, un gran factor de unión y de reencuentro reincorporando así, en un mundo en el que las fronteras físicas tienden a desaparecer, a multitud de uruguayos que hoy residen fuera del país, para que compartan la gran causa del despegue de la sociedad".
- 2001: First initiative "Programa de vinculación con los uruguayos residentes en el exterior"

- 2005 : In his investiture discourse Tabaré Vázquez suggested his own idea of a country:
 - "...porque los países son no su superficie, no su bandera, no su escudo, todo ello pero mucho más: son su gente"

New actions:

- A new General Director to link with Uruguayans living abroad (special agency at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- A new project: Departamento 20: la patria peregrina (The 20th Department: the wandering native country)

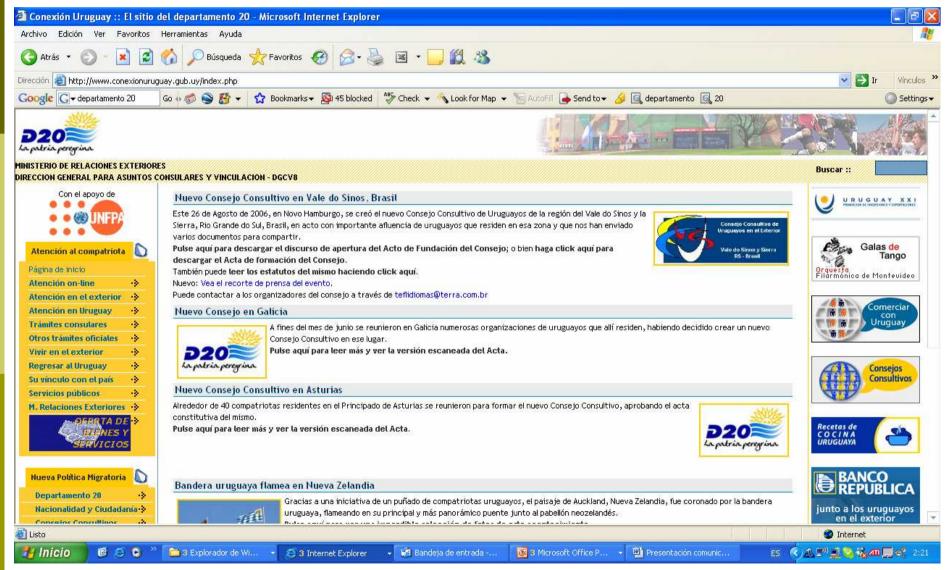
Departamento 20: la patria peregrina

The main point of this project are:

□ The creation of a Nationality and Citizenship Registration Office

The creation of Consultative Councils in different regions and countries

The creation of an internet webpage



Uruguayan associations in Spain and the Consultative Councils

- "...la concreción debe tener en cuenta nuestra propia idiosincrasia". "Los consejos consultivos como instancia global deben asumir la heterogeneidad que se expresa en cada lugar, sin pretender proyectarse como SINTESIS ASOCIATIVA, ya que los campos de acción son diferentes".
- Reconocer el papel de las Asociaciones no sólo implica decirlo, se debe instrumentar y reconocer su existencia y trascendencia ... no es posible eludir el reconocimiento institucional de las mismas y trasladarlo a una estructura que funcionará en el marco institucional, ya que serían abalados o no por la Cancillería según parámetros que aún no están claros"

Conclusion

The creation of this transnational community is dynamic and there are many actors in the play. The media is playing an important role and other organizations such as migrant's family associations are becoming strong links between Uruguay and its Diaspora