

Call for Papers

Between Recruitment, Integration and Return – Labour Migrants in the Federal Republic of Germany since the late 1950s

Symposium on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the recruitment agreements
with Spain and Greece

29/30 March 2010 in Nuremberg

Deadline for proposals: 15 November 2009

I. Background

The German-Spanish and the German-Greek recruitment agreements were signed fifty years ago on 29/30 March 2010. They came after the first such agreement between the Federal Republic and Italy in 1955 and led to the conclusion of a series of other such labour recruitment agreements, particularly with countries around the Mediterranean (Turkey 1961, Morocco 1963, Portugal 1964, Tunisia 1965, Yugoslavia 1968). Between 1961 and 1973, the year in which official recruitment efforts were stopped, roughly 14 million migrants from the “recruitment” countries came to the Federal Republic of Germany; 11 million left it again to return to their home countries. After the Federal Republic had stopped looking for labour migrants, the German Democratic Republic started to recruit so-called “contract workers”, albeit at a much smaller scale. Since the beginning of the 1970s the GDR turned largely to European COMECON member states as well as to Algeria, Cuba, Mozambique, Vietnam, Mongolia, Angola and China.

In the 1970s and 1980s foreign workers’ recruitment and arrival in the Federal Republic was the subject of “foreigners studies” (“Ausländerforschung”) which had mostly a sociological or educational studies focus. Since the 1990s historians have increasingly become interested in the subject. By now, numerous results are available for a broad range of topics – starting from the reasons for migration, going on to political discussions on different types of recruitment and local or regional consequences of migration and ending with the life-changing experiences of migrants during the arrival and integration process.

The anniversary of the 1960 recruitment agreements is a good occasion to bundle the results of the existing studies on labour migration to the Federal Republic of Germany and to formulate new questions. At the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the German-Italian recruitment agreement an impressive range of conclusions was presented via a number of exhibitions, conferences and book publications. However, historical research has grown strongly again in the last few years. That is why the research department of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in Nuremberg, the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) at the University of Osnabrück and the Departamento de Historia Contemporánea of the Universidad

Complutense in Madrid will provide a new, international forum for discussions on 29/30 March 2010 in Nuremberg.

II. Topics

The aim of the symposium is to bundle the results of research on different aspects of labour migration to the Federal Republic of Germany. This includes topics such as

- the political negotiations between the Federal Republic and the different recruitment countries,
- the administrative implementation of the agreements,
- the effects of the recruitment on the labour markets in both Germany and the recruitment countries,
- the establishment and the effects of migration networks,
- aspects of social and workplace integration,
- return and its economic, social, political and cultural effects in the countries of origin and for the migration networks.

Studies on the different countries of origin and comparative research are very welcome, as are papers which analyse the historical events with a view to current developments. Contributions which deal with contract workers in the GDR are highly appreciated as well.

The symposium will be held in German and English. A conference volume with key contributions shall be published.

III. Deadline and contact data

All interested participants are asked to present by **15 November 2009** a proposal in German or English (max. 3,000 characters excl. spaces), which gives a short overview of the topic, the reasoning and the results. You will receive a reply by **30 November 2009**.

Please e-mail your proposals to the organisers of the symposium.

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