QUESTIONS FOR THE INTERVIEWS WITH MIGRANT PEOPLE FROM THE PAST

**Interview with Ana Isabel, Spanish emigrant to Germany in the 1970s for economic reasons**

**What is your name?**

I am Ana Isabel.

**Where were you born?**

I was born in Galicia, a region from Spain, but I lived 15 years in Germany when I was a teenager.

**When did you leave?**

My father went the first time to Germany by the end of december of 1969.

He got there by train, it was a very long journey.

He got a job in a factory thanks to my mother's cousin that had already lived there.

Later my mother got there in September by plane

It was the first time she took a plane, she was very scared because she was alone and it was a very big airport

We followed her in October of 1971.

**Why did your family leave Spain?**

There weren't enough jobs and people didn't earn a lot. Germany offered usa better quality of life where you could do things that here were unthinkable like dressing warm clothes or having central heating at home.

**Were there more people in your same situation?**

Some relatives of us had emigrated to France and Germany years before for the same reason as me.

Some neighbors of us moved to Mexico or Venezuela.

**Did you ever come back to Spain?**

At the beginning, we couldn't afford to come back because we didn't have enough money.

After some years me and my family used to come back to Spain every summer to visit our relatives for a month.

**What did you like about Germany?**

Everything was better in Germany, there you had the possibility to do everything you wanted, you could dress nice clothes, go out and spend time with friends or family; Our lifestyle in Germany was completely different from the Spanish one, it was a big change for us.

At first it was really hard, but then we got used to being there and we really loved it.

**What was the most difficult thing of living in Germany?**

The most difficult thing was the language . At first we couldn´t speak German at all and it was hard to integrate, but slowly we learnt because we had to communicate every day, like when I had to go shopping and I didn´t know too much German but the people in the shop tried to help me and understand me so I could get what I wanted.

But at the same time it wasn't so difficult thanks to the Spanish society, where there were a lot of families in the same situation, so we helped each other on whatever we could.

Gently we were learning new things that we shared with the others.

**Did you receive any help?**

There was a spanishcenter (ALE) where my father got our first flat rent.

My dad´s colleagues at work advised us on where to go shopping, the best school for children, the activities we could do…

They also told us about doctors or dentists, things of the daily life that we didn´t know.

**How were you treated at first?**

We were really welcomed, people there were used to receiving new immigrants.

The first friendships were with neighbors, classmates, peers at work…

Everybody helped us in everything they could, but the most difficult thing was learning the language.

We found it easier thanks to the Spanish centers were all the Spanish people got together.

**What are these Spanish centers?**

They were big places where the Spaniards joined together. They gave informative talks, and answered all the questions of the new Spanish immigrants in Germany.

We also celebrated parties and typical Galician or Spanish celebrations to remember our traditions.

**Was it easy to find somewhere to stay?**

At the beginning it wasn't easy, some people there didn't want to rent their flats to immigrants so looking for a house was really hard, and the people that rented their flats, asked so really high pricesthat we couldn't afford it.

Later it was easier thanks to the Spanish center, where other people with more experience could advise and inform you about the houses that were on sale or on rent.

My father met there a Spaniard that was going to leave the country so we got his house.

**Did you want to come back to Spain?**

My parents´plans were coming back after retiring so they came back in 1996.

However my sister and I really missed Spain and we came back after 15 years there.

**Thank you very much for your story.**

**Interview with Andrés Lores Escudero, Spanish emigrant to Argentina in the 1960s for economic reasons**

**What is your name?**

I am Andrés Lores Escudero

**Where are you from?**

I’m from Spain

**When did you leave Spain?**

I went to Argentina when I was 18 years old, on 14th February 1963.I didn’t want to leave but there were very few opportunities to work in Spain and I liked adventure; besides, my dad and my grand-uncle and grand-aunt were already in Buenos Aires and they were the ones who encouraged me to go.

**Were there more people in the same situation?**

A lot of people left, especially men and boys from all over Galicia. From my family, the only ones who remained here were my mother and two brothers; my cousins, my grandparents, my friends...almost everyone was abroad because we were very poor and we lived in a very little house in Campañó, a village in Pontevedra

**Did you ever return to Spain ?**

I had been living in Buenos Aires for five years when I thought seriously about returning but, as I was married, I started to put off the idea. Then, my children grew up, I had commitments...that kind of things.

Actually, I thought about it seriously when I found myself in economic trouble. I contacted my family and I came back in February 2002. My wife, one of my sons and my daughter in law came in May because there was a huge crisis in Argentina and the government established “el corralito” so I had no money and no job.

I had always had in my head the dream of coming back, but not in these circumstances of need. In 2009, already with my pension guaranteed, I went back to Buenos Aires, where I live now, because I still have a son and grandchildren there.

**Do you have any memories from Galicia before going to Argentina?**

I remember my one-floor house that had a small estate and an orchard, which was also small. We had two cows, a pig, some sheep...I went to Escuela de las Mambainas, which had three classrooms, two male teachers and a female teacher. I remember the wonderful green of Galicia, its mountains, its coastline...

**What did you like about Argentina?**

I was very surprised because I used to live in a small village and I found myself in a big port, in a big city. I was surprised by all the big buildings, so many people...

**How were you treated at first?**

My dad, my uncle and aunt and a niece in law, who is my wife today although I didn’t know here then, came to pick me up at the port of Buenos Aires. They had been living there all their lives and they treated me very well, of course. It was easy for me but I arrived exhausted after a 17-day voyage on a ship called “Alberto Valero” whose crew were all Galician.

Argentina is a country that received me well. I am Galician, I am Spanish, that’s how I feel, but Argentina is my second country. I don’t care where I will be buried when I die: here or there.

**Was it easy to find somewhere to stay?**

I started there with the help of my dad, so I didn’t feel bad. He and my grandparents had been living there all their lives and it was easy for me to fit in because I had all their support. I found a job immediately and I started to get paid working in hospitality where I earned about two or three thousand pesos.

**Did you receive any help?**

I received all my family’s support, who were already in Buenos Aires. I took a suitcase with me with very few things, with the indispensable for one person: underwear, a shirt and a pair of shoes, and the hope that, some day, I would be able to have more things.

**Was it difficult to integrate in Argentina?**

At first, it was. Although in Argentina the language is practically the same, some expressions and words are very different. The meals are also different, and the customs and people are different, too. At first, it was hard for me to adapt, but...after some years, I got used to it.

**Would you ever consider returning to Spain to live there?**

You always keep hoping to return, of course. Maybe not at the time I did, but I always had the idea of going back to Galicia in my mind. I always had the dream of going back far earlier than the time I actually came back. You always keep that hope, and the bad economic circumstances in Buenos Aires forced me to go back and after many years in Galicia, I returned to Argentina where I live now. Mine is a “return-tkicket” way.

**Interview with Ofelia Campos Martínez, Spanish emigrant to Cuba in the 1900s for economic reasons**

**What is your name?**

My name is Ofelia Campos Martínez**.**

**Where are you from?**

I´m 93 years old and I was born in Cuba but all my family is Spanish.

**Why did your family leave Spain?**

My dad was born in Folgosa, Ribadeo1886.He was the son of a single mother and he lived with his mother in a little house with a dirty floor and they didn´t have almost anything to eat, so at the age of 25 he went to Cuba due to the misery that there was in Galicia in those times.

**Were there more people in the same situation?**

There were thousands of peoplemore! Almost e eryone left to Cuba or to Argentina. There were boats full of men from Vigo, Coruña, Ferrol ... In Galicia there was such misery. Some neighbours from Galicia who where in Cuba paid the boat´s ticket from A Coruña for my dad and for others of our zone, but a lot of people wanted to leave Spain and some of them had to wait for a year until they could get a one-way ticket.

**Did your dad ever visit Spain ?**

My dad worked in Havana and he returned to Ribadeo twice in seven years because his mother, my grandmother was in Spain. In one of these travels he fell in love with my mum and in 1919 he went to Folgosa to marry her but he went back immediately to Havana with his wife.

I and my siblings were born there but later dad got sick. The doctors advised us to leave the island , so we returned to Folgosa.

I never went back to Cuba…I´m 93 years old now ,I got married in Spain, but my daughters went there, that is so beautiful.

**What did you like about Cuba?**

In Havana there was running water in the houses, and curtains and bathrooms and in the city there were sidewalks, public light, buildings, parks, cars, coffee shops, stores…And that weather! Hot and sunny! Imagine the change for us when we first got to Galicia. It was always raining in Galicia and we loved the Cuban weather!

**How was your dad received in Cuba?**

When dad arrived, Spanish people gave him a little bedroom with a bed, like in a hostel. He started working as buttons in one of the banks and in the afternoon and at night he worked in the port because many boats arrived with people and goods. It was 1911 and Cubans received everybody with happiness because they needed workers. However, when a Spanish boat arrived, people had to be on quarantine in Triscornia, in case we were ill.

**8- Did your dad recive any help?**

As I said before, a group of neighbours had paid my dad´s ticket , but he didn´t received any another help. All he got was thanks to his work. He never asked for anything to anyone and he sent money back to Galicia, moreover when he returned to Spain, he created a library in the local school where he was the manager.

**9- Was it difficult for him to integrate in Cuba ?**

Integrating in Cuba was hard because he had his mother in Galicia and he was homesick. But later he got used to his new country and I think that my dad would have never returned to Galicia if he hadn´t got sick. He spent his free time in the Galician Center; they were respected by the Cubans because they had spent many years there.

**10- Would your dad ever consider returning to Cuba ?**

My dad couldn’t return because he was sick; so after he died we made our life here. No, we never considered that possibility. Also, my mum got very ill during all the 23 hours of travel so she never wanted to return to Cuba.