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Theme 6. International migration

Effects of migration on population ageing (the case of the Valencian Community)

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Introduction

Understanding is deepening that a society in which most individuals can expect to lead a long and healthy life is a great achievement. However the need to develop sound medical and social services for the elderly is recognized. At the same time in low fertility countries migration becomes an important factor of population reproduction. Moreover, demographic processes have a great inertia, and among them migration is recognized to be the most suitable for regulation. For Spain as a whole and the Valencian Community (VC) in particular both ageing and migration have numerous important effects on their demographic development. Thus in this century Spain has the greatest net migration and almost greatest annual net migration rate in Europe, and 90% of the country's population growth is due to immigration.

Migration is not only the main component of population growth but also the phenomenon that transforms the most the demographic dynamic, structure and behaviour. According to the local census in January 1, 2008, the population of foreign citizenship (PFC) accounts for 11.3% of the total population.

The same is true for the VC, moreover the proportion of the population of foreign citizenship in the VC is higher than in Spain as a whole (it was equal to 16.7% of the total population in January 1, 2008). Besides, for the VC the balance of internal migration has been positive and rather big as compared to other Spanish areas: 15362 persons in 2005, 13392 people in 2006 and 14523 in 2007. These figures show that the VC was the first recipient region of Spaniards in 2005 and 2007. However internal migration accounts for 11.5% of total net migration in the VC while the immigration of foreign population in the same period represents 88.5% of it. As to the ageing process, the VC is a region where the phenomenon of "retirement migration" is clearly manifested.

The paper aims at studying the interplay between ageing and international migration in the Valencian Community since the beginning of the 1990s.

To characterize the situation with ageing in the VC several ageing characteristics of different types (proportions, age-related indicators) are supposed to be considered including proportions of the elderly (e.g. 60+, 65+, 85+) in the total population, ageing index (the number of population aged 65+ per 100 children), dependency ratios (e.g. the number of population aged 65+ per 100 people aged 15 - 64), parent support ratio (the number of population 85+ per 100 people aged 50 - 64), life expectancies at older ages. Ageing characteristics will be computed for the VC and its parts (Castellon, Alicante, Valencia) for Spanish citizens and the population of foreign citizenship. Ageing indicators for the VC will be compared with those for Spain as a whole. Age structure of migration flows will be examined.

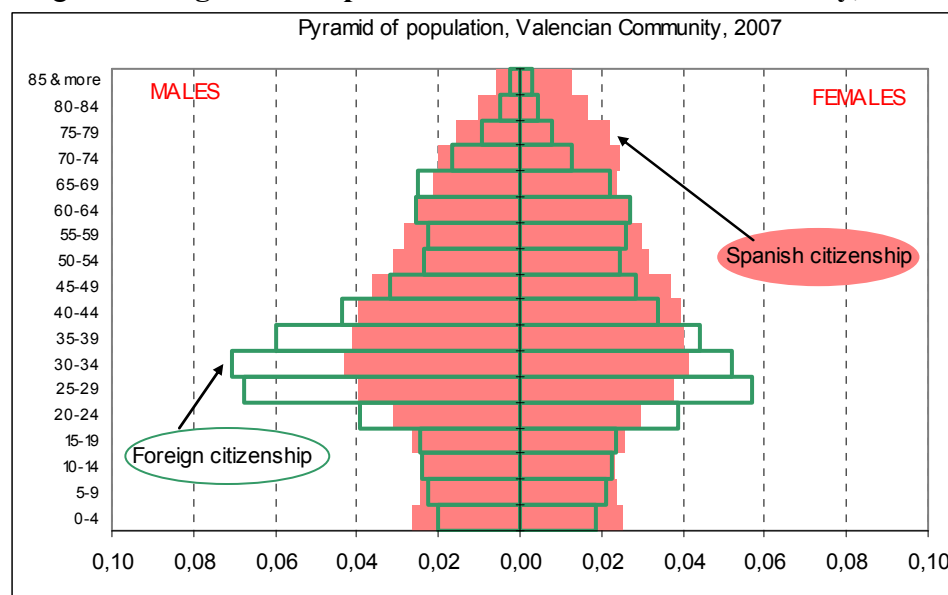
The paper is based on data from censuses (national and local) and micro-data on vital events of the Spanish Statistics Institute.

Migration and migrants in the Valencian Community (a structural aspect)

Analysis of international migration size and proportions of the elderly (65+) in migration flows in the VC shows that while net migration in the VC has increased over considered period, the number of the elderly in net migration in the year 2007 is by 11% lower than that

in the year 2002. The proportion of the population 65+ in net migration is not high (e.g. 6.3% in 2002 and 4.3% in 2005) nevertheless international migration has far-reaching effects on the region's age structure.

Figure 1.a **Age-sex composition of the Valencian Community, 2007**



Source: Own elaboration using data from Local census (padrón municipal de habitantes). Spanish Statistics Institute.

Fig. 1a and 1b represent the age-sex composition (with the total Spanish population as well as PFC reduced to 1) of the VC and the regions of Castellon, Alicante and Valencia respectively in the year 2007, here Spanish and PFC are shown. In the VC as a whole, proportions of children and the elderly for Spanish citizens are higher than those for PFC, and for working age population, the inverse inequality takes place. But significant regional differences are observed. Thus, in Alicante the proportion of children is higher and the proportion of the elderly is lower in Spanish population as compared to PFC. In Castellon the situation is opposite: the proportion of children is lower and that of the elderly is higher in Spanish population as compared with PFC.

Fig. 2 shows correlations of Spanish citizens and PFC in different age groups in the VC and its regions. It can be seen that for population aged 55 and over the number of PFC per 100 Spanish citizens in Alicante is more than ten times higher than in Castellon and Valencia (e.g. for the age group 65-69 this ratio is equal to 17.6).

Fig. 1, 2 demonstrate clearly the importance of migration for age structure formation in the VC.

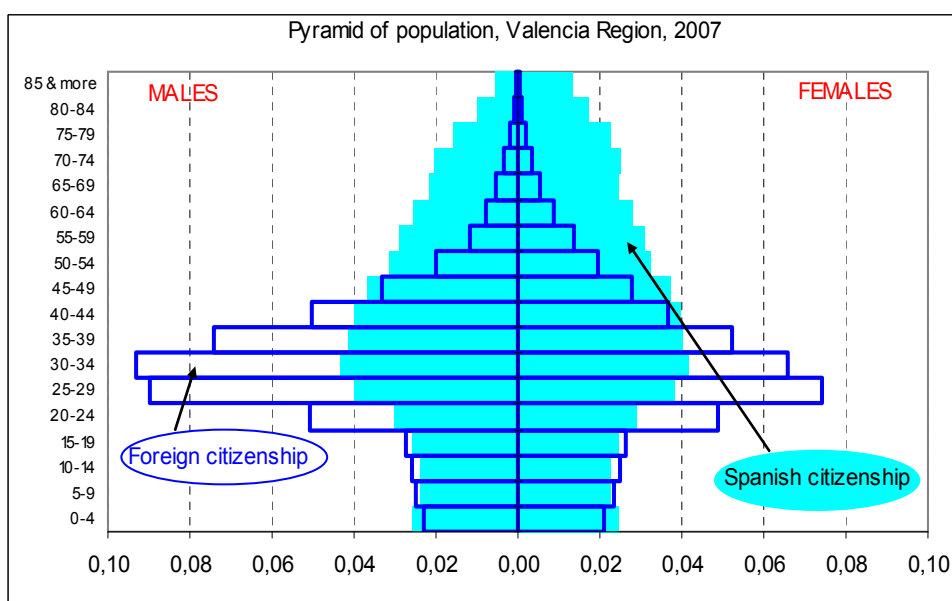
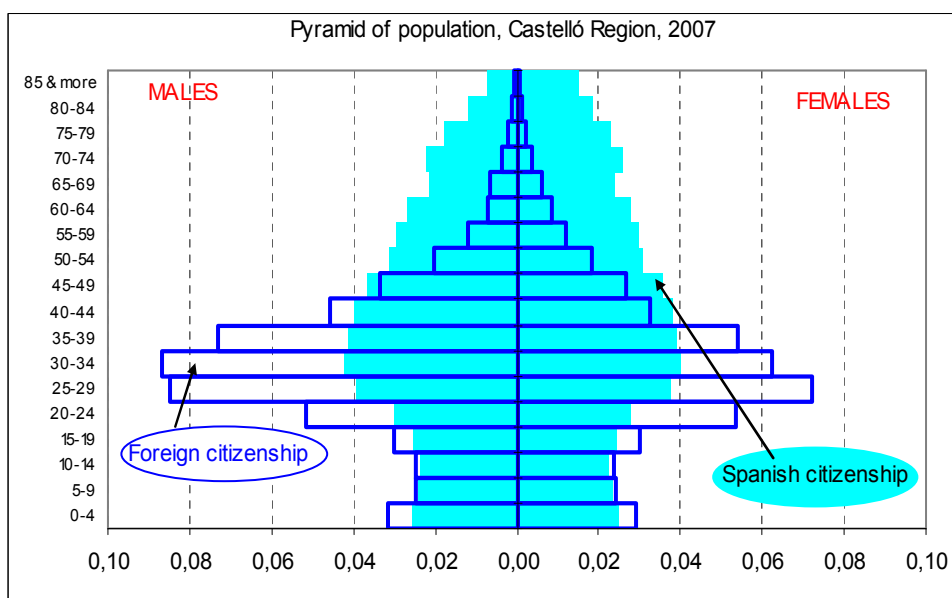
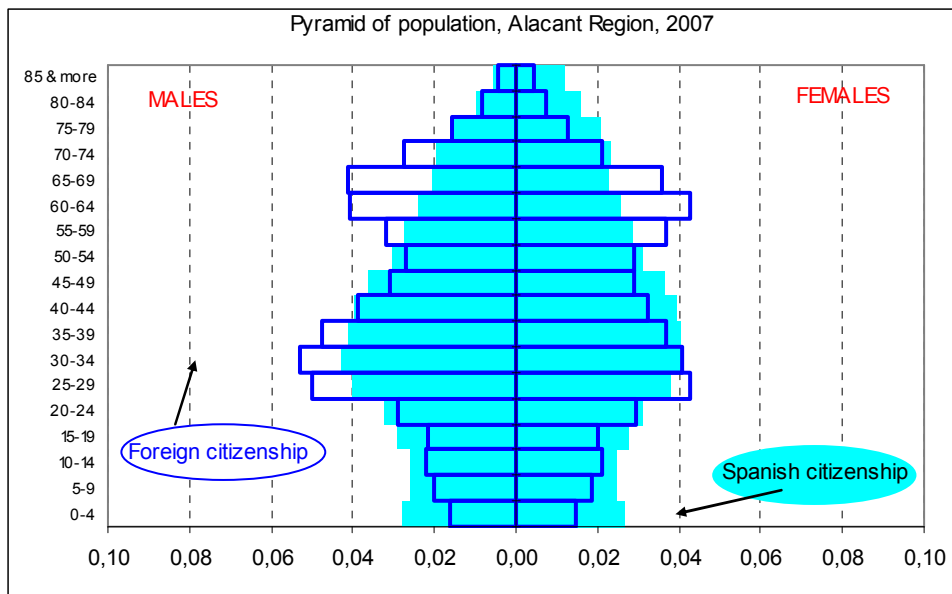
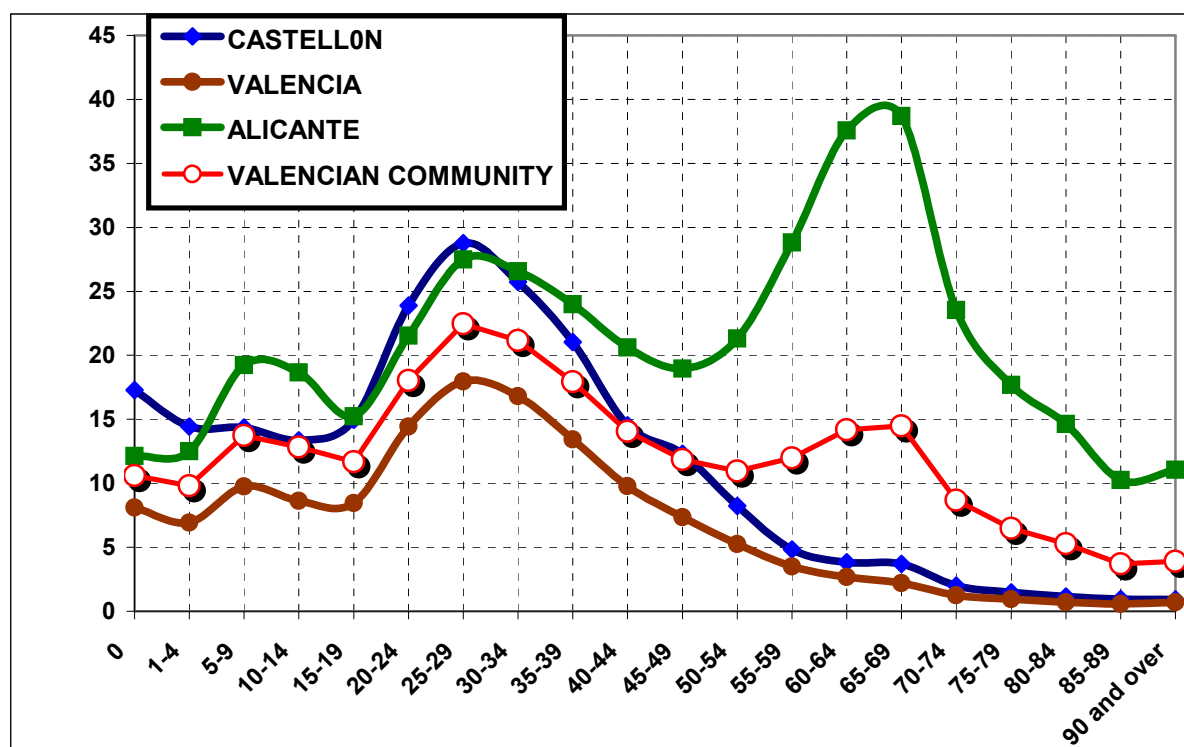


Fig. 2. Population of foreign citizenship per 100 Spanish citizens, Valencian Community and its parts, 2005



Ageing characteristics of the Valencian population

Consider now dynamics of ageing characteristics for the VC and its parts. A number of traditional ageing indicators, i.e. the proportion of population aged 65+, ageing index, old-age dependency ratio, parent support ratio, are given in Tab. 2.

Results of computations show that over the considered period all considered ageing characteristics increased for the VC and all its parts but this increase was not monotonous. Thus, between years 2002 and 2005 a small decrease in ageing indicators took place. It should be mentioned that ageing index and parent support ratio increased more rapidly than the proportion of population 65+. Values of almost all considered indicators for Spanish citizens had their maximal values in Castellon, and for PFC in Alicante.

Table 2. Ageing indicators for the Valencian Community and its parts (total population, Spanish citizens, population of foreign citizenship), 1991 – 2005

Year	Valencian Community			Castelló			València			Alacant		
	Total pop.	Spanish citizens	Pop. of foreign citizenship	Total pop.	Spanish citizens	Pop. of foreign citizenship	Total pop.	Spanish citizens	Pop. of foreign citizenship	Total pop.	Spanish citizens	Pop. of foreign citizenship
1991*	13.6	13.3	26.9	15.8	15.8	14.1	13.3	13.3	10.1	13.1	12.3	30.6
1996	15.3	15.0	26.2	17.2	17.3	10.9	15.0	15.1	8.7	15.0	14.2	30.9
2000	16.6	16.3	24.5	18.0	18.2	8.7	16.3	16.4	7.2	16.5	15.4	30.6
2001*	16.4	16.6	12.7	17.7	18.4	3.6	16.3	16.7	3.2	16.1	15.8	19.5
2002	16.6	16.7	15.4	17.6	18.5	4.0	16.4	16.9	3.3	16.7	15.8	22.7
2005	16.0	16.8	10.3	16.4	18.3	2.7	15.8	17.0	2.5	16.1	16.0	16.6

65+, %

other indicators will be given in the final version of the paper

Source: Own elaboration using data from local and general censuses. Spanish Statistics Institute.

* General census

Consider now the proportion of the elderly (65+) in more detail. In all parts of the VC for PFC this indicator has decreased and for Spanish citizens has increased, thus these trends took place in the whole VC. At present in the VC proportion of the elderly in the Spanish population is higher than in PFC, nevertheless old people of foreign citizenship constitute an important part of the population of the Valencian Community.

In the year 2007 the ageing situation in the VC as a whole was the following: values of all considered ageing characteristics for Spanish citizens were higher than for the total population, and for PFC, to the contrary, lower; the percentage of the elderly (65+) was equal to 16.2% (being for Spanish citizens 17.2% and 10.7% for PFC), ageing index – 112.2 (116.6 for Spanish citizens and 83.4 for PFC), parent support ratio – 9.8 (10.8 for Spanish citizens and 3.6 for PFC). In Alicante values of all considered characteristics for PFC were higher than corresponding values for the whole VC, and in Castellon the same is true for Spanish citizens. Thus, for Alicante the proportion of the elderly in 2007 was equal to 16.7% (being for Spanish citizens 16.4% and 17.8% for PFC), ageing index – 114.4 (105.7 for Spanish citizens and 158.0 for PFC), parent support ratio – 8.8 (10.3 for Spanish citizens and 4.3 for PFC). In Castellon the situation is different: ; the percentage of the elderly was equal to 16.1 (being for Spanish citizens 18.6% and 2.7% for PFC), ageing index – 110.3 (128.8 for Spanish citizens and 17.4 for PFC), parent support ratio – 11.8 (12.6 for Spanish citizens and 1.6 for PFC).

Conclusions

Results of the study show great importance of international migration for age structure formation in the VC.

Old people of foreign citizenship constitute an important part of the elderly in the Valencian Community.

Important regional differences in ageing indicators related to citizenship have been revealed.

Results of the study revealing interrelations between migration and age structure may contribute to the management, administration and planning of social and health services.