

### **Measuring the flows of travellers in transit: pilot study carried out by Spain**

During the summer season in Spain thousands of people of North African (Maghrebi) origin resident in Western European countries (first or second generation) traverse Spain en route to their countries of primary origin and again to return to their countries of residence .

Between the months of June and September 2004 more than 2.5 million people in 600,000 vehicles crossed the Straits of Gibraltar between Spain and Africa from the ports of Algeciras, Alicante, Almería and Málaga.

In 1997 Spain's Instituto de Estudios Turísticos (IET) (Tourism Research Institute), in cooperation with WTO, applied the existing procedure for estimating tourist flows to Spain, i.e. the statistics of FRONTUR (tourist movements at borders), to determine the characteristics of the enormous numbers of transit travellers crossing Spain by road at the same season every year.

The study served to distinguish these travellers from those usually classified as tourists and same-day visitors and to establish a specific methodology for measuring these flows using an existing statistical source.

The findings of this study were presented by IET at the Seminar on Border Statistics in European countries held by WTO in March 1998 in association with France, Portugal, Italy and the United Kingdom.

*More information available in the "Report on the pilot study of transnational transit-traveller flows conducted under the auspices of the World Tourism Organization (WTO)", March 1998.*