## COMPASS PROJECT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CIRCULAR LABOR MIGRATION

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria October 30 – 31, 2025







## COMPASS PROJECT

Bringing Borders Closer, Connecting People

### I. PURPOSE OF THE CONGRESS

COMPASS is a project under the INTERREG MAC 2021–2027 program, with the ultimate goal of establishing an Observatory on Human Mobility between the Canary Islands and Africa. To achieve this, we address the migration phenomenon comprehensively, proposing solutions that promote circular migration as a method to tackle challenges arising at various stages—from the origin and transit of migrants to their integration into new societies. The project focuses on the cooperation area encompassing the Canary Islands, Gambia, Mauritania, and Senegal—territories that serve as points of origin, transit, and destination for migratory flows (46,843 people arrived by sea in 2024, according to Spain's Ministry of the Interior).

Understanding and comprehensively addressing the challenges related to migration in the region—by identifying key stakeholders, detecting best practices, observing gaps, and proposing innovative solutions—will allow us to activate various mechanisms for the successful short- and long-term management of regular migration within the COMPASS cooperation area. This will foster international collaboration and enhance the well-being of both migrant populations and host communities. The project website can be consulted HERE.

To achieve this goal, the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and the COMPASS Project partners are organizing an international academic and institutional meeting open to the participation of all experts and stakeholders involved. We invite all actors engaged in the migration phenomenon from both shores and the rest of the European Union to contribute their knowledge and reflections. The event is structured as a comprehensive academic approach addressing the complexity of migration during transit and destination phases. It includes a scientific meeting to share knowledge, joint working sessions, networking among public entities, and the subsequent publication of the congress proceedings, which will serve as the initial analytical document for the project's development. Thematic discussions will explore crucial aspects such as state organization of migratory movements, training processes for migrants, assessment of skills and labor demand in host societies, accurate information on safe migration processes, and communication and awareness on both shores.









09:00 - 09:30

Each session will include: three keynote speakers (20 minutes each) and three short communications (5 minutes each)

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025**

Auditorium, Humanities Campus, ULPGC

07.00	resoption, registration, and distribution of materials
09:30 - 10:00	Opening Ceremon
10:00 - 11:00	Inaugural Lecture
11:00 - 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 - 13:30	SESSION 1

Reception, registration, and distribution of materials

Legal and Social Framework of Labor Migration in Europe and Africa

This session will address migratory flows and labor and circular migration regulations within the EU and neighboring countries, with a special focus on Spain and the COMPASS cooperation area. It will also explore the political, social, and institutional contexts of labor migration between Europe and African countries.

- Moderator: To be confirmed.
- 3 Presentations.
  - Fabricio Marongui. Professor of Private International Law, University of Macerata
    - "The European Legislative Framework for Regular Labour Migration with North Africa: Progress, Challenges, and Prospects"
  - Speaker is waiting to confirm. Spanish public institution. "The Evolution of Spain's Legislative Framework for Regular Labour Migration from Africa"
  - Nestor Nongo. Labour Counsellor, Spanish Embassy in Senegal (TBC). "Legal and Social Framework of Regular Labour Migration from Senegal." Mauritania, and Gambia to Spain"







Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

## **PROGRAM**

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- 3 Communications.
  - Vladimir Eneraldo Núñez Herrera. Assistant Professor, University of La
    - "Spanish Regulation of Circular Migration: Legal Analysis and Practical Management Tool"
  - Waldimeiry Correa da Silva. Professor, University of Seville. "An Intersectional and Interdisciplinary View on Circular Labour Migration: The Spanish Case"
  - o Antonio Quirós Fons, Professor. European University of Valencia. "The New EU Blue Card in the International Context: An Opportunity to Attract Global Talent"
- Discussion.

### 14:00 - 16:00 LUNCH

### 16:00 - 18:00 **SESSION 2**

Current Context of Migratory and Labor Routes between Mauritania, Gambia, Senegal, and the Canary Islands

This session will examine migratory routes and flows from Gambia. Mauritania. and Senegal to the Canary Islands, focusing on their current characteristics and emphasizing historical and socioeconomic aspects. It will also analyze institutional, political, social, and civil society contexts, as well as past experiences—highlighting successes and failures—and explore key elements for future management of circular labor migration.

- Moderator: To be confirmed.
- 3 Presentations.
  - Ana María López Sala. CSIC Researcher. "Evolution and Future Prospects of North African Migration to Europe"
  - Josefina Domínguez Mújica. Professor ULPGC. "Demographic Profiles and Hidden Realities of Migration between the Canary Islands and West Africa"



















Each session will include: three keynote speakers (20 minutes each) and three short communications (5 minutes each)

- Speaker is waiting to confirm. Mauritanian public institution.
  "Training Needs of the Mauritanian Population in the Context of Labour Migration Routes"
- 3 Communications:
  - Abdoulaye Ngom. Sociologist, Assane Seck University (Senegal).
    "A Case Study of Circular Migration Policy between Senegal and Spain"
  - Isidro Miguel Martín Pérez. PhD Candidate, University of La Laguna.
    "Sociodemographic Profile of Unaccompanied Migrant Minors with Indeterminate Age in the Canary Islands"
  - Mercedes Ángeles Rodríguez Rodríguez. Professor, ULPGC.
    "Migration of West African University Students for Professional Specialization"
- Discussion.









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Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

October 30 - 31, 2025

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025

Auditorium, Humanities Campus, ULPGC

### 09:00 - 11:00 SESSION 3

Labor Opportunities and Needs for Circular Migration

This session aims to provide an overview of the labor market in the cooperation area, with a focus on shared needs, especially regarding training. It will explore labor opportunities and needs in both public and private sectors, bilateral circular migration opportunities, the legal context of training, and best practices for successful circular migration, considering the socio-educational and legal frameworks

- \*Moderator: To be confirmed.
- 3 Presentations:
  - Luis Padilla Macabeo. Director General for Relations with Africa, Government of the Canary Islands.
    - "Training Experiences on Both Shores for Fair and Sustainable Labour Migration"
  - Mouhamadou Lamine Bara Lo, Director General, Senegal's National Office for Vocational Training (ONFP).
    - "Training Needs of the Senegalese Population in the Context of Labour Migration Routes"
  - Abdel Fettah. Director General, Mauritania's National Employment Agency (TECHGHIL).
    - "Training and Labour Migration: Current and Future Needs of Mauritanian and Gambian Professionals"
- 3 Communications:
  - Djibril Mbaye, Professor. Cheikh Anta Diop University.
    "Rethinking Circular Migration between Senegal and Spain"
  - Luis Miguel Ramírez Ramos. Professor, ULPGC.
    "Training Needs for Circular Migration"









Each session will include: three keynote speakers (20 minutes each) and three short communications (5 minutes each)

- María Carmen Parra Rodríguez. Professor, Abat Oliba CEU University.
  "Circular Migration as a Strategy for Women's Empowerment and Tourism Development in Gambia"
- Discussion.

### 11:00 - 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

### 11:30 - 13:30 SESSION 4

Migration Narratives on Regular Circular Migration on Both Shores

This session will explore various narratives surrounding labor and non-labor migration from both sending and receiving territories, particularly from the Canary and European perspectives. It will also address narratives around the construction of training pathways useful on both shores and those linked to meaningful migrant skill-building. Topics will include the intersection of need, opportunity, and expectations in circular migration, alternative narrative models, positive storytelling, best practices, and the role of data, realities, misinformation, and manipulation in migration narratives.

- \*Moderator: To be confirmed.
- 3 Presentations:
  - Daniel Buraschi. Professor at the Faculty of Education of the ULL.
    "The Overlooked Potential of African Migration to Europe"
  - Odome Angone. Researcher, Cheikh Anta Diop University.
    "Building Rights-Respecting Narratives from Both Shores: Reality and Myth in Migration"
  - Speaker is waiting to confirm. Gambian public institution.
    "Training Needs of the Gambian Population and Circular Migration Narratives"
- 3 Communications:
  - Marina Díaz Peralta & Gracia Piñero Piñero. Professors, ULPGC.
    "Circular Migration in Canary Islands Media: A Narrative of Solidarity or Xenophobia?"



















Each session will include: three keynote speakers (20 minutes each) and three short communications (5 minutes each)

- Alessandro Indacaletio, Postdoctoral Researcher, ULPGC. "Polarized Narratives on Migration: An African Perspective on the Canary Islands"
- o Carmelo Faleh Pérez, Professor, ULPGC. "The New EU Blue Card in the International Context: An Opportunity to Attract Global Talent"
- Discussion.









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