

**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.

PROGRAM

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

09:00 – 09:30 Reception, registration, and distribution of materials

09:30 Opening

10:00 – 11:00 Opening Panel

- Moderator : Lucas A. Pérez Martín, Professor of Private International Law at ULPGC
 - Hans Van Loon, Honorary Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Edinburgh; Secretary General of the Hague Conference from 1996 to 2013
- **“Presentation: International cooperation to regulate (circular) migration: Can private international law serve as a source of inspiration?”**
- Sara Bortoletti, Policy Officer at the European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, Legal Pathways and Integration Unit.
- **“Work of the European Commission on regular labour migration”**

11:00 – 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 13:30 SESSION 1
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: Carmen Grau Pineda, Professor of Labour Law at ULPGC
- Presentations.
 - Fabrizio Marongui. Professor of Private International Law at the University of Macerata
 - **“The European legislative framework for regular labour migration with North Africa: progress, challenges, and prospects”**

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and three short communications (5 minutes each)

- Aurelia Álvarez Rodríguez, Professor of Private International Law at the University of León.
"Spanish legislative framework for regular labour migration from Africa"
- Djibril Mbaye, Professor at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar.
"Rethinking the legal and social framework of circular migration between Senegal and Spain"
- Communications.
 - Vladimir Enderaldo Núñez Herrera, Assistant Professor of Private International Law at the University of La Laguna
"Spanish regulation of circular migration: normative analysis and its use as a practical tool for managing labour flows"
 - Waldimeiry Correa da Silva, Full Professor of Public International Law at the University of Seville
"An intersectional and interdisciplinary perspective on Circular Labour Migration: Analysis of the Spanish case"
 - Antonio Quirós Fons, Full Professor of Public International Law at the European University of Valencia, Honorary Consul of Croatia for the Valencian Community and the Region of Murcia
"The new EU Blue Card in the current 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 address the migratory routes and flows to the Canary Islands originating from Gambia, Mauritania, and Senegal, examining their current characteristics with emphasis on historical and socio-economic aspects. It will also analyse the institutional, political, and social contexts, as well as institutional cooperation and civil society involvement in labour migration between these territories. The session will reflect on past experiences, identifying successes and shortcomings, and explore key elements for the potential future management of circular labour migration.

PROGRAM

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and three short communications (5 minutes each)

- Moderator: Almudena Naranjo Hernández, Government of the Canary Islands
- Presentations.
 - Josefina Domínguez Mújica, Professor of Human Geography at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
“Demographic profiles and hidden realities of migration between the Canary Islands, Senegal, Mauritania, and Gambia”
 - Ana María López Sala, Researcher at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
“Evolution and future prospects of North African migration to Europe: Analysis of an underutilised potential”
 - Daniel Buraschi, Professor at the Faculty of Education, University of La Laguna
African migrants in the Canary Islands and labour discrimination: the experience of “differential inclusion”
- Communications:
 - Abdoulaye Ngom, Lecturer and Researcher, Sociologist, Assane Seck University of Ziguinchor (Senegal)
“A typical example of a policy to prevent irregular migration: circular migration between Senegal and Spain”
 - Sebastián Eustaquio Martín Pérez, PhD candidate in Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of La Laguna
Isidro Miguel Martín Pérez, PhD candidate in Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of La Laguna
“Sociodemographic profile of unaccompanied migrant adolescents with indeterminate age in the Canary Islands: empirical analysis and challenges for institutional protection”
 - Mercedes Ángeles Rodríguez Rodríguez, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Josefina Domínguez Mújica, Professor of Human Geography, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
“Migration of university students from West Africa for professional specialisation purposes”
- Discussion.



18:00 – 18:30

Moderator: Nasara Cabrera Abu, Professor of Sociology at ULPGC
**INTERREG MAC 21–27, COMPASS–SEIMLAB, Cross-cutting Experiences:
African countries receiving migration, the case of Cape Verde**

- **Angela Lisboa Ramos Valentim**, Coordinator of the Department of Studies, Projects, Cooperation and International Relations at the High Authority for Immigration of Cape Verde
- **Clementina Furtado**, PhD in Political and Social Sciences, Assistant Professor in the GOT FCT programme at the University of Cape Verde
- Discussion.

18:30

End of the day

PROGRAM

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025

Auditorium, Humanities Campus, ULPGC

09:00 – 11:00

SESSION 3

Employment Opportunities and Needs for Circular Migration

The third session aims to provide an overview of the labour market in the territories within the cooperation area, with emphasis on shared needs, particularly regarding training. It also seeks to explore employment opportunities and requirements in both the public and private sectors; environments conducive to bilateral circular migration; the legal context surrounding vocational training; and to identify best practices in training for successful circular migration, considering both the socio-educational and legal frameworks of training opportunities.

- Moderator: Carmen González Hernández, COMPASS Coordinator, Chamber of Commerce of Gran Canaria
- Presentations:
 - Luis Padilla Macabeo, Director General for Relations with Africa, Government of the Canary Islands.
“Training experiences on both shores: Educational initiatives for fair and sustainable labour migration”
 - Mouhamadou Lamine Bara Lo, Director General of the National Office for Vocational Training of Senegal (ONFP)
“Training needs of the Senegalese population in the context of labour migration routes between Mauritania and the Canary Islands”
 - Abdel Fettah, Director General of the National Employment Agency of Mauritania (TECHGHIL)
“Training and labour migration: Current and future training needs of Mauritanian and Gambian professionals”

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- Communications:
- Luis Miguel Ramírez Ramos, Professor at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
“Training needs for circular migration”
- María Carmen Parra Rodríguez, Full Professor of Private International Law at Abat Oliba CEU University
“Circular migration as a strategy for women’s empowerment and tourism development in Gambia”
- David Melián Castellano, PhD candidate in Legal and Social Sciences at ULPGC
“Unaccompanied children and adolescents on the Canary migration route: Training challenges for employment opportunities in regular, orderly, and safe migration”
- Discussion.

11:00 – 11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 13:30

SESSION 4

Migration Narratives on Regular Circular Migration on Both Shores

This fourth session addresses the various existing narratives surrounding labour and non-labour migration, both from sending and receiving territories, with a particular focus on the Canary Islands and European perspectives. It also aims to explore narratives related to the construction of training pathways that are useful on both shores, as well as those linked to meaningful skills development for migrants. The session seeks to examine themes that combine the need, opportunity, and expectations of circular migration, as well as alternative models for narrative construction, positive narratives, good practices, and the role of data, realities, misinformation, and manipulation in migration discourse.

- Moderator: Ángeles Jurado, Head of Culture and Education at Casa África
- Presentations:
- Aminetou Bilal. Head of Missions at the Cabinet of the Minister of Vocational Training, Handicrafts and Trades, Government of Mauritania.
“Vocational training in Mauritania: opportunities, gaps, and prospects.”



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- Odome Angone, Researcher and lecturer at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, specialist in Hispanic studies
“Building rights-respecting narratives from both shores: Reality and myth in migration”
- Lang Sangyang, Gambian lecturer
“Training needs of the Gambian population and circular migration narratives”
- Communications:
- Marina Díaz Peralta & Gracia Piñero Piñero, Spanish language lecturers at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
“Circular migration in the media of the Canary Islands: A narrative of solidarity or xenophobia?”
- Alessandro Indelicato, Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
“Polarised narratives on migration: A perspective from Africa towards the Canary Islands”
- Carmelo Faleh Pérez, Professor of Public International Law at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
“The international obligation to combat disinformation that incites hatred against migrants and disrupts social peace in host countries”
- Discussion.

13:30 – 14:00 Closing Session of the Congress.

14:30 – 17:00 Closing Lunch of the Congress at the Santa Catalina Hotel.

COMPASS PROJECT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CIRCULAR LABOR MIGRATION



TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
Viajes El Corte Inglés, S.a.
Plaza Dr. Rafael O`Shanahan,4
35004 – Las Palmas De Gran Canaria
928-29 13 53
Eventos_lpa@Viajeseci.es

VIAJES *El Corte Inglés*

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