

Brazilians in Portugal

Voice-over 1:

Foreigners are welcome in Vila de Rei, but the municipality would like them to put down roots and save a community where thirty five percent of the population is over sixty-five, and there are only seventeen people per square kilometre.

Voice-over 1:

Adelia has decided to stay. She arrived with four other families from her home of Maringa, Brazil, last May. It's the first stage in a programme between the two municipalities to repopulate Vila de Rei. She now works in the town's only hotel. When she cuts through the final red tape, she'll realise her dream: opening a hairdressing salon.

Voice-over 2:

The vision we have of Portugal before coming is that we'll have all sorts of problems, and racial prejudice, but it's the exact opposite. We're welcomed with open arms. In next to no time I've set up with my family; we have a house, and we're very happy.

Voice-over 1:

In all, fourteen Brazilians arrived in May. Nearly all of them work for this man, who owns two hotels and three restaurants locally. The manpower's very welcome, as the local youth doesn't like working weekends, when his family business makes seventy percent of its money. The rural exodus is acting as a brake on a sector of the economy that could reinvigorate the whole region, says Carlos Marçal.

Voice-over 3:

In the tourism sector, we could employ many more people than we do now. There are plenty of opportunities to develop, so the authorities and government have to work to promote tourism in the interior as well as on the coast.

Voice-over 1:

Vila de Rei's mayor's the person who had the bright idea to repopulate by bringing over Brazilians. She says integration is easier when you speak the language, and in terms of national immigration policy, she has an even more daring vision.

Voice-over 4:

It's a shame so many immigrants already here are still illegal. Most employers are scared to give them work, and we need their labour. We need them here, inland, throughout Portugal, because if you add up all the illegals, there are still not enough to make up the labour shortfall. We should legalise those who are already here.

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