

Spanish *urbanizaciones*: residential tourism places

Raquel Huete

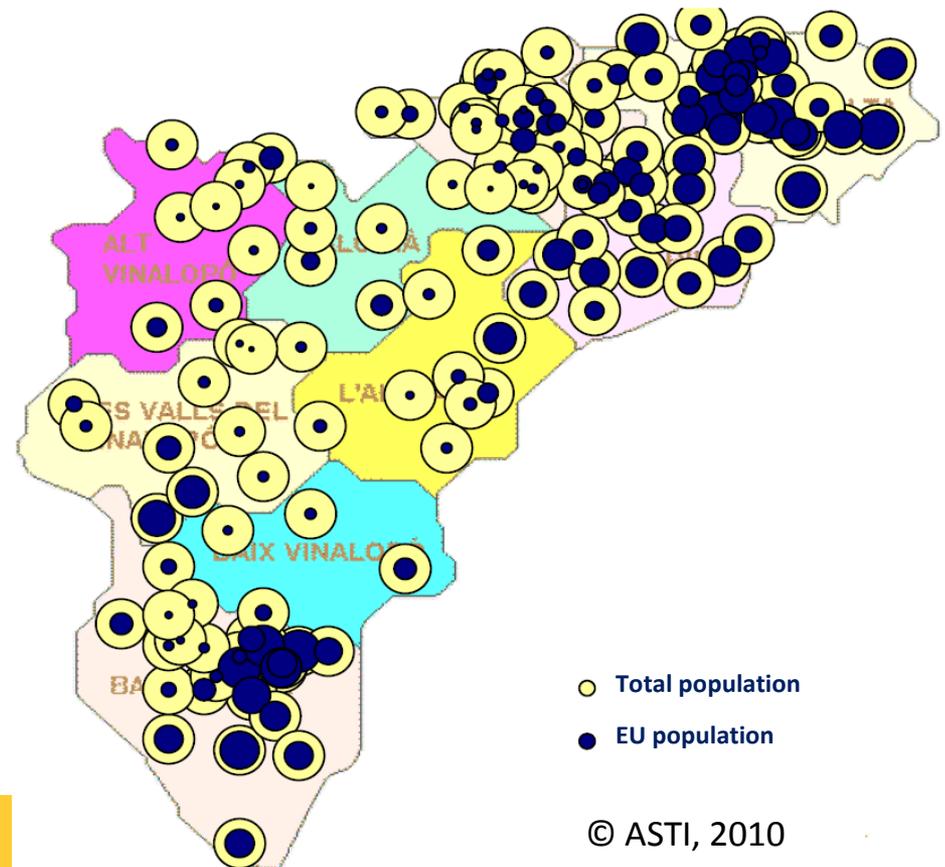
Alejandro Mantecón

Departamento de Sociología I &
Instituto Universitario de Investigaciones Turísticas

In Alicante 15% of the registered population comes from within the EU

In 19 municipalities, foreigners from EU outnumber Spanish people.

In 3 towns, foreigners account for nearly 80% of the population.



○ Total population
● EU population

© ASTI, 2010

EU registered citizens living in Alicante



70% actual population is registered according to different surveys.

Main countries

UK	130,286
Germany	36,531
Rumania	32,683
Netherlands	16,499
Bulgaria	12,687
France	11,258
Belgium	10,655
Italy	10,687
Sweden	6,200
Ireland	4,469

Source: INE 2010

- **10 municipalities doubled their population between 2001-2009**
- **40 towns with 50% growth**
- **25% people over 65 years old are foreigners**
 - **13% British [44,692 British over 65 yrs.]**
 - **5% German [17,587]**

Source: INE, 2010

The **geographical manifestation** of these dynamics has produced new urban enclaves detached from the traditional urban centres.

We call them ***urbanizaciones***

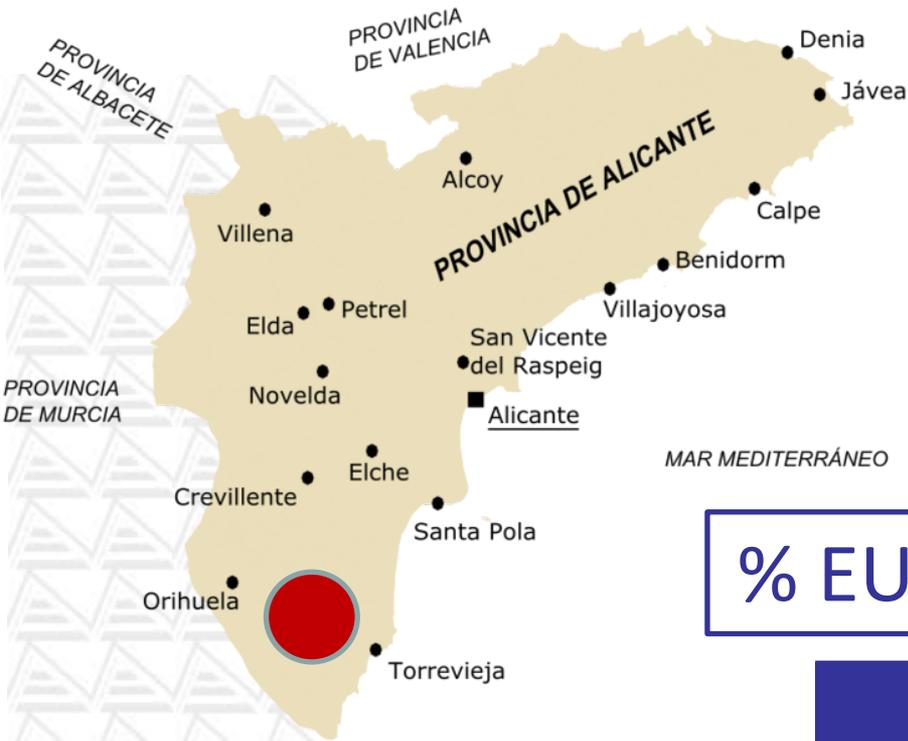
- The distance between such settings alludes to:
- the irregular distribution of social groups on the territory
 - the lack of relationship between these groups.

% EU25 citizens / total population



	2000	2009
Dénia	11%	16%
Torrevieja	25%	29%
Teulada	46%	53%
Jávea	36%	40%

Source: INE, Padrón, 2009



% EU25 citizens / total population

	2000	2009
Rojales	34%	63%
San Fulgencio	36%	70%

Source: INE, Padrón, 2009

% EU25 citizens / total population

	2008	2009
Algorfa	2%	67%
Daya Vieja	6%	67%

Source: INE, Padrón, 2009



	total population	EU25 citizens
Hondón de los Frailes	1,214	622
Hondón de las Nieves	2,862	1,227

Source: INE, Padrón, 2009

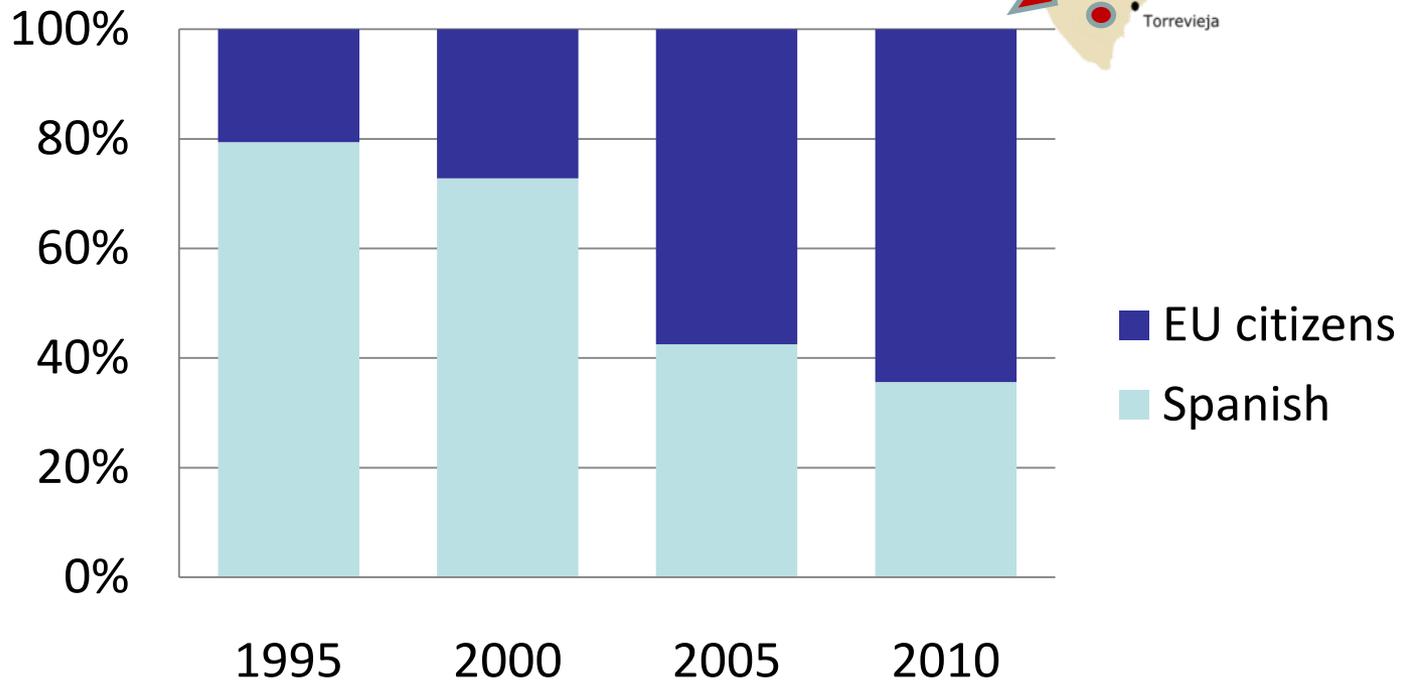
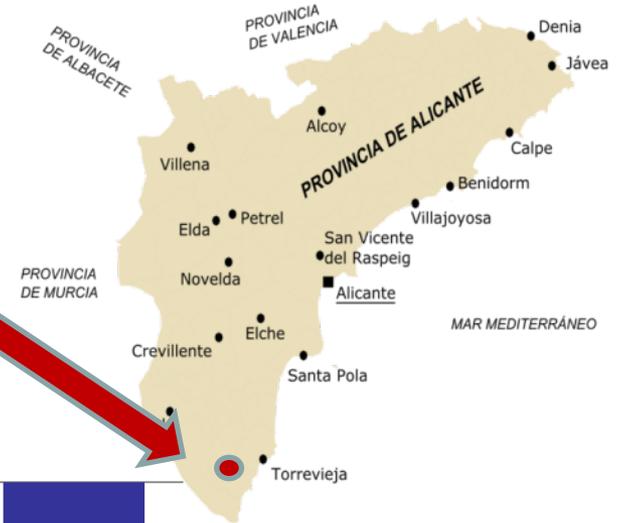


Some explanations

European lifestyle migrants tend to live in housing estates where most of the residents come from the same country so their language and national identity are maintained.

***Urbanizaciones* have been developed where promoters had advantages.**

Research in progress:
San Miguel de Salinas
where European foreign
residents represent 65%
of the population (8,057
inhabitants).



**The Municipality of
San Miguel de Salinas**
Area 54,90 km²



A survey to 266 Europeans was conducted in 2010.

The profile of a typical European resident is between 55 and 75 years, predominantly British closely followed by Germans.

The majority moved to San Miguel during the past decade and now resides there permanently, with 41% giving the better climate as their reason for moving.



The findings revealed that a lack of understanding of the language and culture, combined with isolation in *urbanizaciones* has largely prevented their ability to mix.

A common culture and a similar socio-demographic profile facilitate the development of a framework of shared expectations about the relationships in the neighbourhood. The fact that the housing estate is geographically 'isolated' reinforces the tendency towards homogeneity.

But, the more integrated a European citizen feels, more satisfied is with the services and with the Spanish lifestyle.

We are now completing the qualitative research

The discontent with the problems of the urbanizations may lead to conflicts of interests because the residents demand services that often differ from those demanded by the residents of the traditional urban centre.

Thus, a national minority whose common denominator is a shared cultural tradition establishes ties that become increasingly stronger.

Then they realise that they share the same economic and political interests.

Issues and challenges

- Services
- Political representation and participation rights
 - 22/05/2011 Local elections
 - ELECTORAL OFFICIAL CENSUS DATA (01.02.2011)
 - EU voters: 1,152
 - Other countries: 16
 - Spanish voters abroad: 24
 - Spanish voters: 2.307
- Integration

Conclusion

The language barrier is just the tip of the iceberg.

Spatial, economic and political processes are shaping a social system that not only hinders the bonding between the Spaniards and the groups of northern European residents, but also prompts social fragmentation.

Tomás Mazón
Raquel Huete
Alejandro Mantecón (eds.)

Construir una nueva vida

Los espacios del turismo
y la migración residencial



References

Report on San Miguel de Salinas case:
<<http://rua.ua.es/dspace/handle/10045/14679>>

Mantecón, A; R. Huete & T. Mazón (2009)
"Las urbanizaciones 'europeas'. Una investigación
sobre las nuevas sociedades duales en el
Mediterráneo". *Scripta Nova. Revista Electrónica
de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales*. [online].
<<http://www.ub.es/geocrit/sn/sn-301.htm>>.

Thank you!

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all the research participants for their cooperation and particularly to the San Miguel Arcángel Neighbourhood Association Committee.

The research reported here was funded by a University of Alicante research grant: “La segregación socio-espacial de turistas y residentes europeos en el Mediterráneo y las Islas Canarias. GRE09-19”