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MIGRATION & SECURITY CHALLENGES IN SPAIN

ACT Stronger Project, Nicosia (Cyprus)
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Migration has been a major topic of concern for Spain, given its proximity to North Africa and its historical ties with Latin America. The country has experienced significant waves of immigration over the years, with the most recent being the influx of refugees and migrants from Africa and the Middle East.





According to data from the Spanish Statistical Office, the number of foreign residents in Spain has been steadily increasing over the past five years. Here are some key figures:

In 2021, there were approximately 6.7 million foreign residents in Spain, which represents around 14% of the total population.

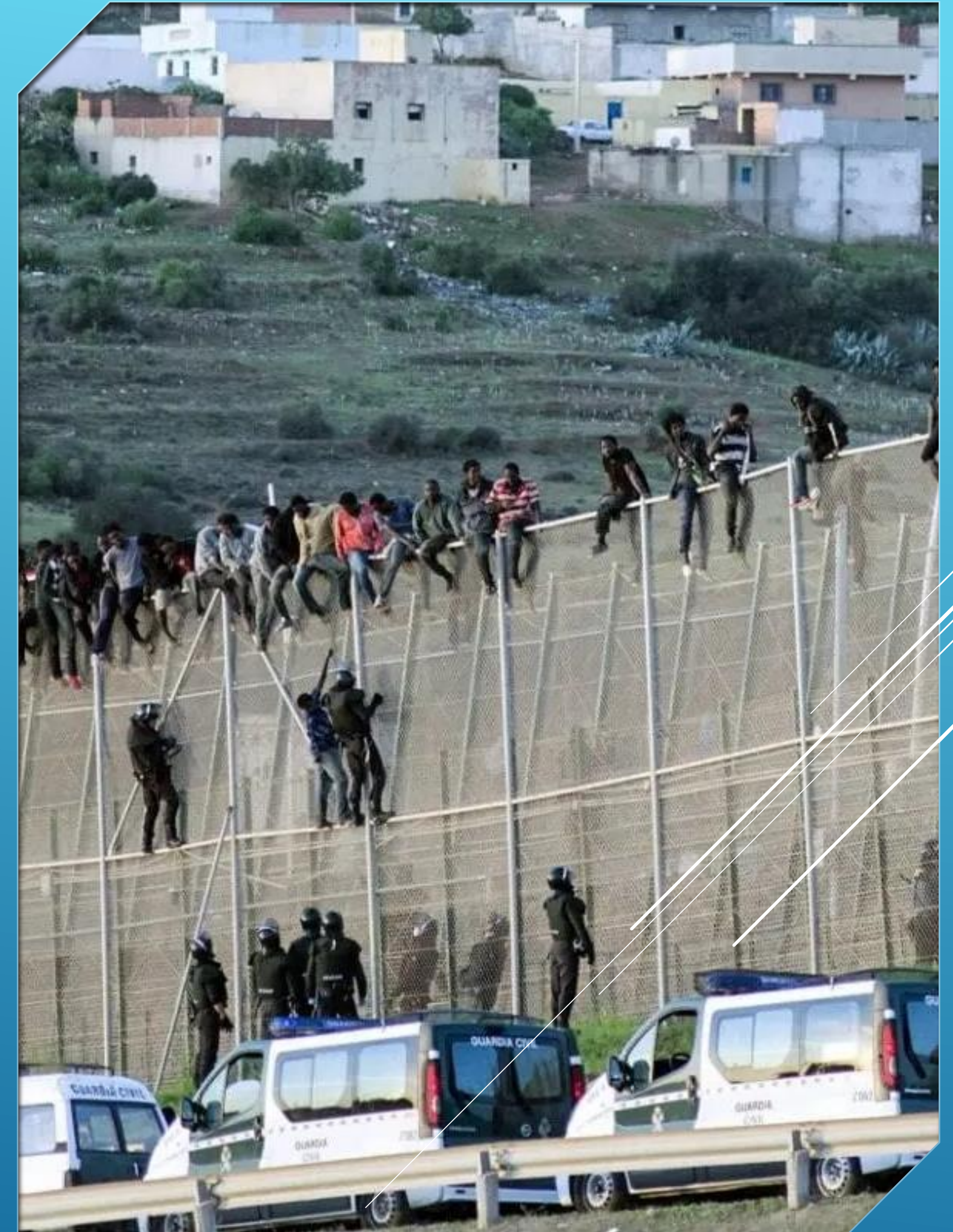
The largest group of foreign residents are from Romania, followed by Morocco, Colombia, Italy, and Venezuela.

In terms of migration flows, the largest number of arrivals in Spain in 2021 were from Colombia, followed by Venezuela, Morocco, and Brazil.

The number of asylum seekers in Spain has also been increasing in recent years. In 2020, the country received over 89,000 asylum applications, which was the highest number in the European Union.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on migration to Spain in 2020, with the number of arrivals decreasing by 49% compared to the previous year.

It's important to note that these figures are constantly changing and can vary depending on various factors, such as political and economic conditions in source countries, changes in migration policies, and global events.





In terms of security, Spain has implemented various measures to manage migration flows and ensure the safety of its citizens. The country has a comprehensive legal framework in place, which regulates immigration and asylum, and provides protection for migrants and refugees. Spain has also deployed security forces to its borders and coastal areas to prevent illegal immigration and human trafficking.

Spain has faced various security challenges over the past five years, including terrorism, organized crime, cyber threats, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some key figures:

In terms of terrorism, Spain has experienced several attacks in recent years. In August 2017, a terrorist attack in Barcelona killed 16 people and injured more than 130. Since then, there have been several other arrests and foiled plots related to terrorism in the country.

Organized crime is also a significant challenge in Spain, particularly in relation to drug trafficking and money laundering. In 2020, Spanish law enforcement agencies seized a record amount of cocaine (57 metric tons) and arrested over 1,000 people in connection with drug trafficking.





Cyber threats have also increased in Spain in recent years. In 2020, there was a 75% increase in cyberattacks on Spanish companies and institutions compared to the previous year, according to the Spanish National Cybersecurity Institute.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a significant security challenge for Spain, both in terms of public health and the economy. The country has experienced high numbers of infections and deaths and has implemented strict measures to control the spread of the virus, including lockdowns and travel restrictions.

It's worth noting that these figures are constantly evolving, and the security challenges faced by Spain are complex and multifaceted, requiring a comprehensive and coordinated response from government agencies, law enforcement, and other stakeholders.



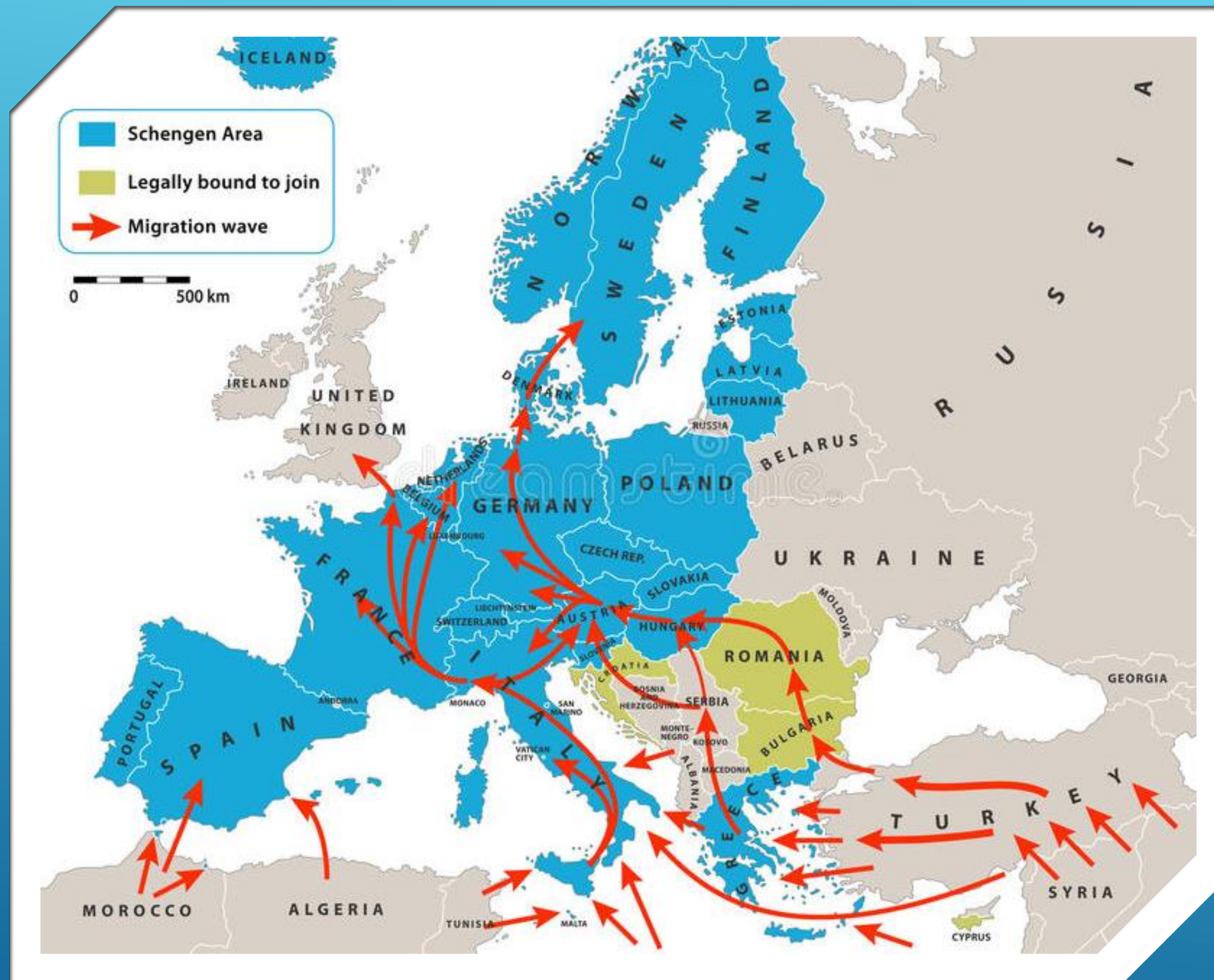
However, despite these measures, Spain still faces challenges related to migration and security.

The country's borders are porous, making it difficult to monitor and control the movement of people and goods.

In addition, the growing threat of terrorism and organized crime has raised concerns about the security implications of large-scale migration.



To address these challenges, Spain has been working closely with other European Union member states to strengthen border security and improve cooperation on migration issues. The country has also taken steps to address the root causes of migration by investing in development programs in countries of origin, and by promoting dialogue and cooperation with African and Middle Eastern nations.



Overall, migration and security are complex issues that require a comprehensive and coordinated response from governments, international organizations, and civil society.

While Spain has made progress in managing migration and ensuring the safety of its citizens, more work needs to be done to address the root causes of migration and to ensure that the country's borders are secure.

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