The objective of this paper is to provide a better understanding of the mechanisms that affect the return migration of North African citizens. A better comprehension of the motivations of return implies a better targeting of immigration policies of receiving and sending countries.

With this aim, we analyze information from the MIREM (return migration to the Maghreb) survey. This survey was addressed to immigrants from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia returning to their origin country.

Different statistical and econometric techniques are used in order to identify the main determinants of their decision to return. The obtained results show the need to consider the heterogeneity of the different groups, but also the need to improve statistical knowledge on the phenomena and to carry out external evaluations of policies recently adopted in these countries.