Investigating forms of ethnic entrepreneurship in Athens, Greece

Dr. George Mavrommatis
Fyllio Avramidi

Lisbon, 5th October 2006

11th International Metropolis Conference:
“Paths & Crossroads: Moving People, Changing Places”.
Lisbon 2 – 5 October 2006
The Literature on Ethnic Entrepreneurship
Typology of Ethnic Entrepreneurship

- Ethnic Economies
- Migrant Economies
- Middleman Minorities
- Ethnic Enclaves
- Mixed Economies
- Ethnic Economies & Trans-nationalism
Explaining Ethnic Entrepreneurship

⇒ Blocked Social Mobility
⇒ Culture
⇒ Ethnic & Class Resources
⇒ Mixed Embeddedness
Some Consequences

- Promotion of socio-economic integration
- Creation of extra employment – increase of GDP
- Provides training
- Creation of a ‘parallel’ labor markets
- Rejuvenation of declining urban neighborhoods
- Creation of a cosmopolitan flair
- Creation of international trade
Statistical Evidence
Table 1: Type of Employment for different population groups, 2nd quarter 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Groups</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Selfemployed</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Family Aides</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greek nationals</td>
<td>342.664</td>
<td>947.718</td>
<td>249.2301</td>
<td>271.735</td>
<td>4,054.418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(8.5%)</td>
<td>(23.4%)</td>
<td>(61.5%)</td>
<td>(6.7%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU nationals (15)</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>6.436</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>7,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(7.1%)</td>
<td>(7.3%)</td>
<td>(81.0%)</td>
<td>(4.6%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU nationals of the new accession</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>1.148</td>
<td>10.205</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>11.720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>countries (10)</td>
<td>(1.6%)</td>
<td>(9.8%)</td>
<td>(87.1%)</td>
<td>(1.5%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Country nationals</td>
<td>3,383</td>
<td>13,054</td>
<td>237.258</td>
<td>2,620</td>
<td>256,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1.3%)</td>
<td>(5.1%)</td>
<td>(9.6%)</td>
<td>(1.0%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>346.800</td>
<td>962.500</td>
<td>274.6201</td>
<td>274.901</td>
<td>4,330.403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(8.0%)</td>
<td>(22.2%)</td>
<td>(63.4%)</td>
<td>(6.3%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Main nationalities of business owners registered with the ACCI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a/n</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Number/Nationality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,073</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pie Chart 1: Basic categories of economic activity (classified according to STACOD 2003)

Pie Chart 2: Albanian Entrepreneurs

- Wholesale trade (51) 19.8%
- Retail trade (52) 7.8%
- Construction (45) 1.6%
- Sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (50) 39.3%
- Other 31.4%

Source: Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Unpublished data provided by the Information Systems Department (2006)
Pie Chart 3: Chinese Entrepreneurs

Source: Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Unpublished data provided by the Information Systems Department (2006)
Forms of Ethnic Entrepreneurship in Athens

A cartographic attempt to map the different forms of ethnic entrepreneurship

Two separate types that have a different effect to the native economy and urban morphology of the city

a. Ethnic businesses that promote ethnic distinctiveness and do not assimilate into the mainstream economy

b. Ethnic business structures that melt into the native economy and assimilate into the urban landscape of Athens
⇒ Street Sellers

⇒ Chinese as ‘middleman minorities

⇒ The polytechnic enclave at the heart of the city

⇒ The businesses of assimilating differences
Closing Remarks

Different ethnic groups in Athens appear to device various strategies in order to pursue their entrepreneurial ambitions:

They can either melt into the urban economy and morphology of the city (assimilation) or alternatively they can stand out by emphasizing their ethnic distinctiveness (pluralism).
Contact Info

Hellenic Migration Policy Institute (IMEPO)
46 Haritos Str. – Athens
10676 – Greece
Tel:+30 210 72 55 385 – 8
Fax:+30 210 72 55 389
e-mail: research@imepo.gr
www.imepo.gr