

Investigating forms of ethnic entrepreneurship in Athens, Greece

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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

| Population Groups | Employers | Selfemployed | Employees | Family Aides | Total |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Greek nationals | 342.664 (8.5%) | 947.718 (23.4%) | 249.2301 (61.5%) | 271.735 (6.7%) | 4.054.418 (100%) |
| EU nationals (15) | 567 (7.1%) | 580 (7.3%) | 6.436 (81.0%) | 365 (4.6%) | 7.948 (100%) |
| EU nationals of the new accession countries (10) | 186 (1.6%) | 1.148 (9.8%) | 10.205 (87.1%) | 181 (1.5%) | 11.720 (100%) |
| Third Country nationals | 3.383 (1.3%) | 13.054 (5.1%) | 237.258 (9.6%) | 2.620 (1.0%) | 256.315 (100%) |
| Total | 346.800 (8.0%) | 962.500 (22.2%) | 274.6201 (63.4%) | 274.901 (6.3%) | 4.330.403 (100%) |

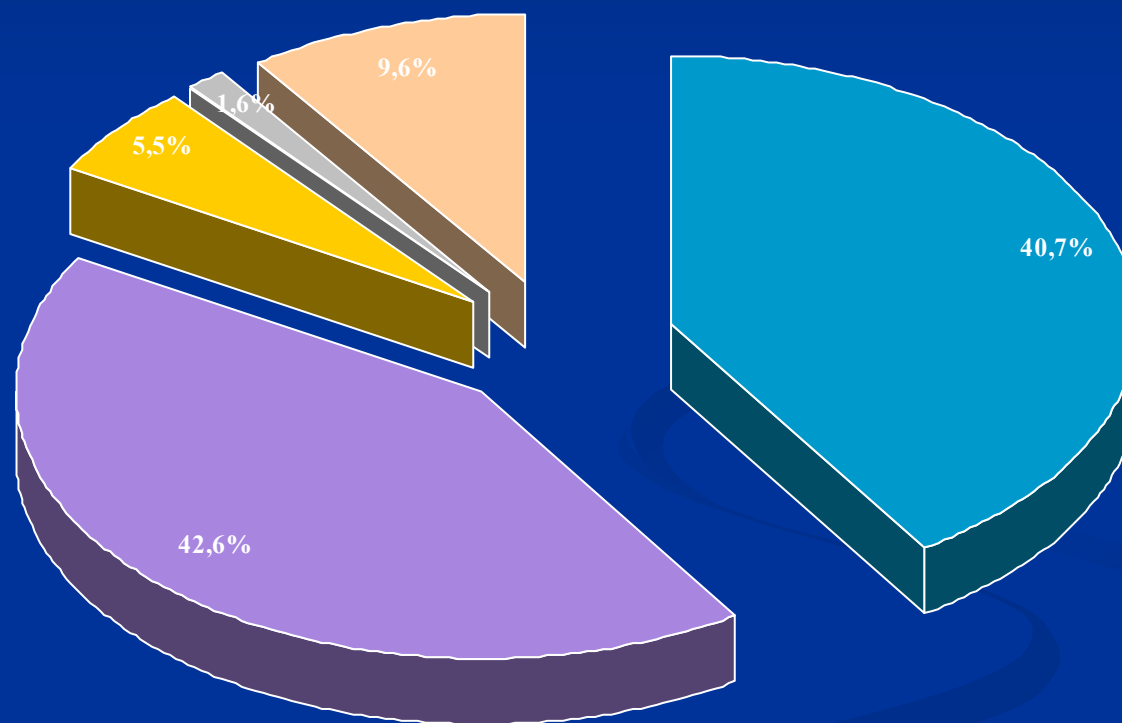
Source: National Statistical Service of Greece: Labor Force Survey, 2nd quarter 2004

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

| a/n | Nationality | Number/Nationality |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Albania | 615 |
| 2 | China | 598 |
| 3 | Cyprus | 347 |
| 4 | Turkey | 294 |
| 5 | Italy | 244 |
| 6 | Syria | 211 |
| 7 | Egypt | 177 |
| 8 | United Kingdom | 145 |
| 9 | Pakistan | 143 |
| 10 | Bangladesh | 98 |
| 11 | Other | 1201 |
| Total | | 4.073 |

Source: Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Unpublished data provided by the Information Systems Department (2006)

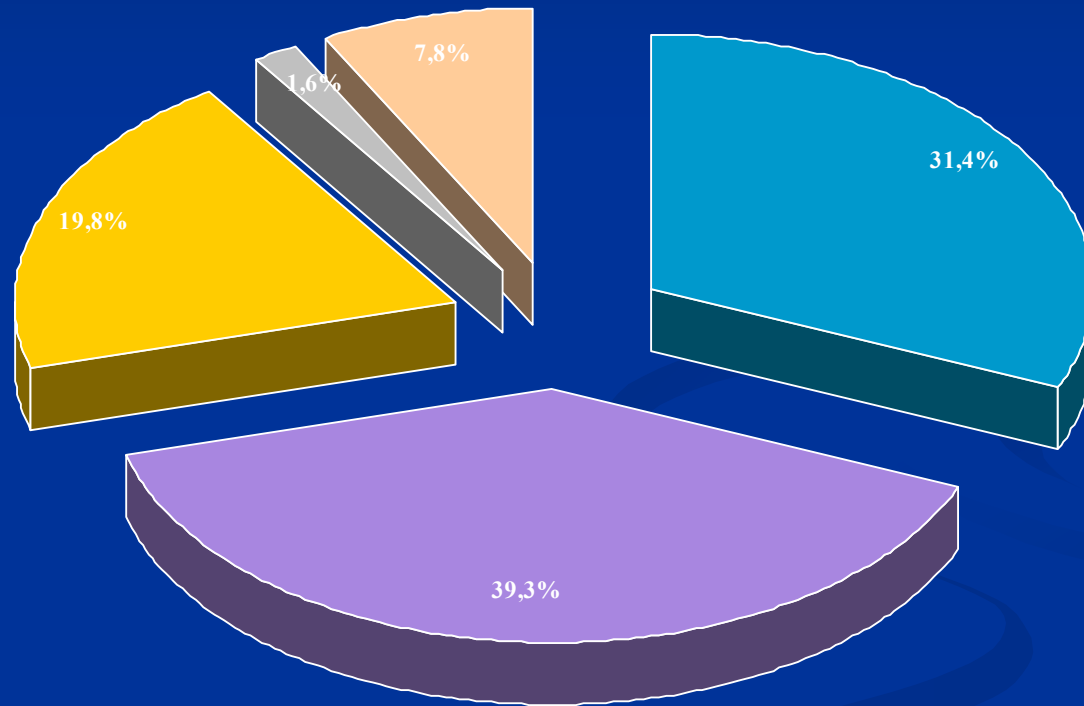
Pie Chart 1: Basic categories of economic activity (classified according to STACOD 2003)



■ Wholesale trade (51) ■ Retail trade (52) ■ Construction (45) ■ Sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (50) ■ Other

Source: Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Unpublished data provided by the Information Systems Department (2006)

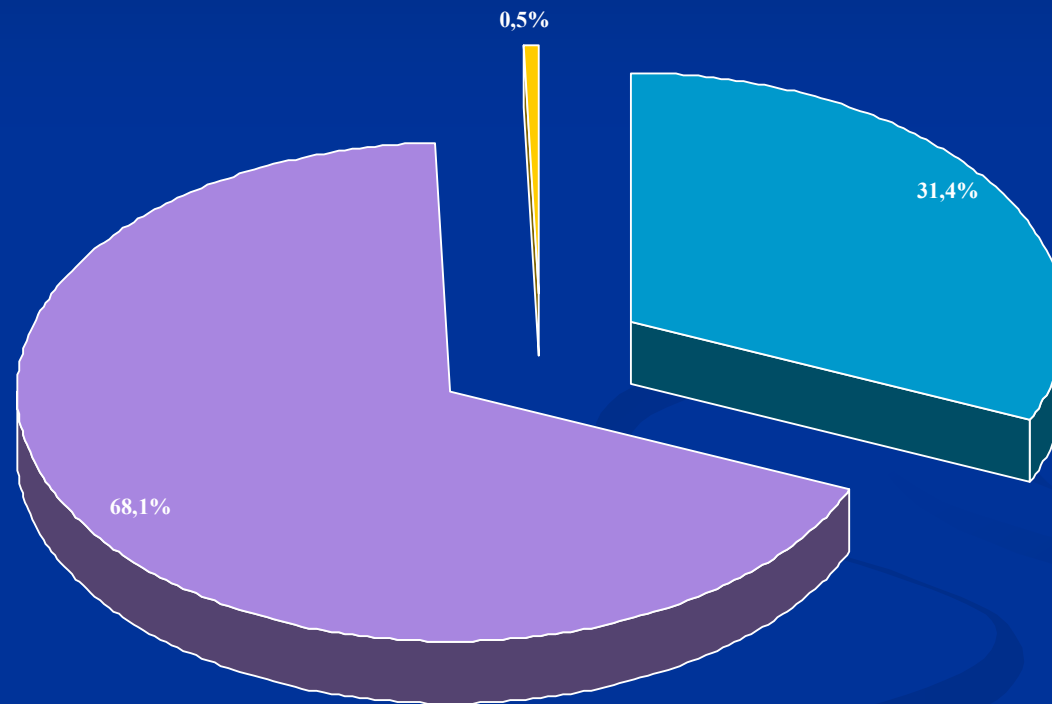
Pie Chart 2: Albanian Entrepreneurs



Wholesale trade (51) Retail trade (52) Construction (45) Sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (50) Other

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

Pie Chart 3: Chinese Entrepreneurs



Wholesale trade (51)

Retail trade (52)

Other

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**)

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