

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **International Workshop**

## **Matching Context and Capacity: The Economic Integration of Immigrants**

**European University Institute, Florence, June 11-12<sup>th</sup> 2009**

### **Introduction**

One of the main questions in the debate on the integration of immigrants is that of the 'ability to pay': to what extent are immigrants able to make a living? What are the factors that contribute to a better economic position of immigrants? In answering this question, the link between the individual and its environment is of key importance. This workshop aims to explore the link between the opportunities and constraints of the context and of migrants themselves, in order to integrate economically. This link can be made at several levels of analysis.

On a micro-level, the question is how immigrants make use of, or are hindered by the local context for economic integration? For example, what is the role of (local) ethnic social networks and ethnic social capital in immigrant economic integration? How do migrant entrepreneurs use their local environment to gain a sustainable livelihood?

On a meso level, to what extent does the local context serve as an opportunity or constraint for integration? For example, migrants in receiving countries tend to be unequally distributed, with a great share residing in immigrant neighbourhoods of the big cities. This concentration has triggered public and political debate, as it is feared that concentration may hinder socio-cultural and economic integration, and possibly lead to the creation of "ghetto"-like circumstances where socio-economic problems are mounting. Despite this discourse, little research evidence actually documents potentially negative implications of ethnic concentration on immigrant economic outcomes.

On a macro or international level, the link between origin and destination country is at the core. For example, to what extent is there selectivity in migration: how well do migrants do, compared to people in the country of origin? Where do which migrants do best, or worst? How does return migration affect one's economic position, compared to those that did not return, and compared to those that did not migrate? To what extent is return migration a push or a pull factor?

## Possible Workshop Topics

We invite paper proposals on the following workshop topics:

- The role of (local) social networks and ethnic social capital in immigrant economic integration.
- Social networks and ethnic business practises: The rise of ethnic economies, ethnic capital, employment, and business performance.
- *Local dynamics*. Implications of residential ethnic concentration and diversity on immigrant economic outcomes.
- *Selectivity in migration*. Comparing the economic success for those who migrated with those who didn't.
- *Origin versus destination*: where do which migrants do well and why?
- *Return migration*: the economic implications of return migration.

## Lectures

During the workshop, several presentations will be given:

- 'The ability to pay', by Prof. Michael Bommers, University of Osnabrück;
- 'Ethnic concentration as a pre-condition for entrepreneurial success: the rise of ethnically thematized shopping areas', by Prof. Jan Rath, University of Amsterdam;
- 'Sounding out the opportunity structure: migrants and cultural industries', by Prof. Robert Kloosterman, University of Amsterdam;
- Negative selectivity of Europe's guest worker' programs? The educational achievement of Turkish immigrant pupils compared with the educational achievement of Turks at home', by Prof. Jaap Dronkers, European University Institute.

## Workshop Format

Each presentation is followed by a discussion of the paper by a discussant. There will be about 20 minutes available for the presentation, 5 minutes for the discussant, and 15 minutes for plenary discussion. Participants to the workshop are expected to present a paper, and be willing to discuss a paper of one of the participants. All accepted papers are made available to the participants and discussants two weeks prior to the workshop. The working language of the workshop will be English.

## Dates and Deadlines

- The workshop will take place at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, on **June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2009**.
- There is some funding available to reimburse travel expenses and accommodation costs.
- Please submit paper abstracts (max. 350 words) by **March 15<sup>th</sup> 2009** to Bram Lancee ([bram.lancee@eui.eu](mailto:bram.lancee@eui.eu)) and Maren Wilmes ([mawilmes@uos.de](mailto:mawilmes@uos.de)).
- The deadline for submission of the full paper is **May 25<sup>th</sup> 2009**.
- The workshop is organised by the European University Institute and the B4 cluster of the EU Network of Excellence IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion).