



Entrepreneurship of third country nationals in the EU – ambiguities, challenges and opportunities for development

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Photos of a multicultural market in Warsaw (author's own photos)

Diversity of self-employment types (immigrant entrepreneurs in Poland)

- Self-employment as strategy of obtaining residency rights
- Forced (involuntary) self-employment
- Self-employment as empowerment
- Self-employment of freelancers
- Self-employment as diversification of business opportunities

(K. Andrejuk, „Przedsiębiorcy ukraińscy w Polsce. Struktura i sprawstwo w procesie osiedlenia”, IFiS PAN, Warsaw 2017.)

Immigrant firms – ambiguities of their economic development

- Vast academic literature on migrant entrepreneurship (i.a.: Waldinger et al. 1990; Kloosterman, van der Leun, Rath 1998; Clark, Drinkwater 2000; Bonacich 1973; Apitzsch, Kontos 2008; Drori, Honig, Wright 2009)
- migrant entrepreneurship – reflection of individual agency; enables professional advancement in the host country; important for job creation & economic development; facilitated by innovative approach to cultural & social (ethnic) capital of migrant entrepreneurs
- Self-employment as forced by structural determinants; many immigrant businesses operate without much profit

Immigrant firms and economic development

- Self-employment patterns are dynamic: forced self-employment may transform into a successful business, migrants whose stay becomes more permanent develop strategies of leaving the grey zone, develop activities in a more formal and legal way
- Role of host state policies (& EU level) in guaranteeing stable residency status and easy access to labour market, including entrepreneurship
- Legal hardships of employing foreigners (in immigrant firms and elsewhere) – opportunity for native workers OR limiting the development of immigrant business?