

# *The Impact of Immigration on the Spatial Structure of the Population in Greece*

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## *Extended Abstract*

Immigration in Greece is an ongoing procedure with several implications in the demographic, economic, political and social profile of the country. The massive demographic profile as well as, their disproportional spatial placement, has obviously influenced both the size and the sex and age specific distribution of the population of Greek municipalities in different degrees.

In this work we tried to investigate the impact of immigration on the population changes and structures of Greek municipalities. Immigrants in nowadays Greece, form a substantial part of the population with specific characteristics that strongly differentiate them from the native population. The results of our analysis indicated that immigrants had a positive impact on the age-specific population structure of the Greek municipalities, in almost half of them (43%), significantly decreasing the mean age of the population. They also significantly increased the male proportion in a large part of them (30%), while 242 municipalities (24,3% of them), experienced statistically significant changes in both the population characteristics. Almost the half of municipalities, (48,5% of them), experienced statistically significant changes in at least one of the two demographic characteristics considered. In Map 1, the municipalities colored red are those which experienced statistically significant decrease in mean age, the ones colored dark blue are those which experienced significant increase in their male proportions, while the dark purple ones are those which experienced statistically significant changes in both the characteristics examined. These municipalities are placed in the most economically developed part of the country, i.e. in the metropolitan areas of the Greater Athens and Thessalonica

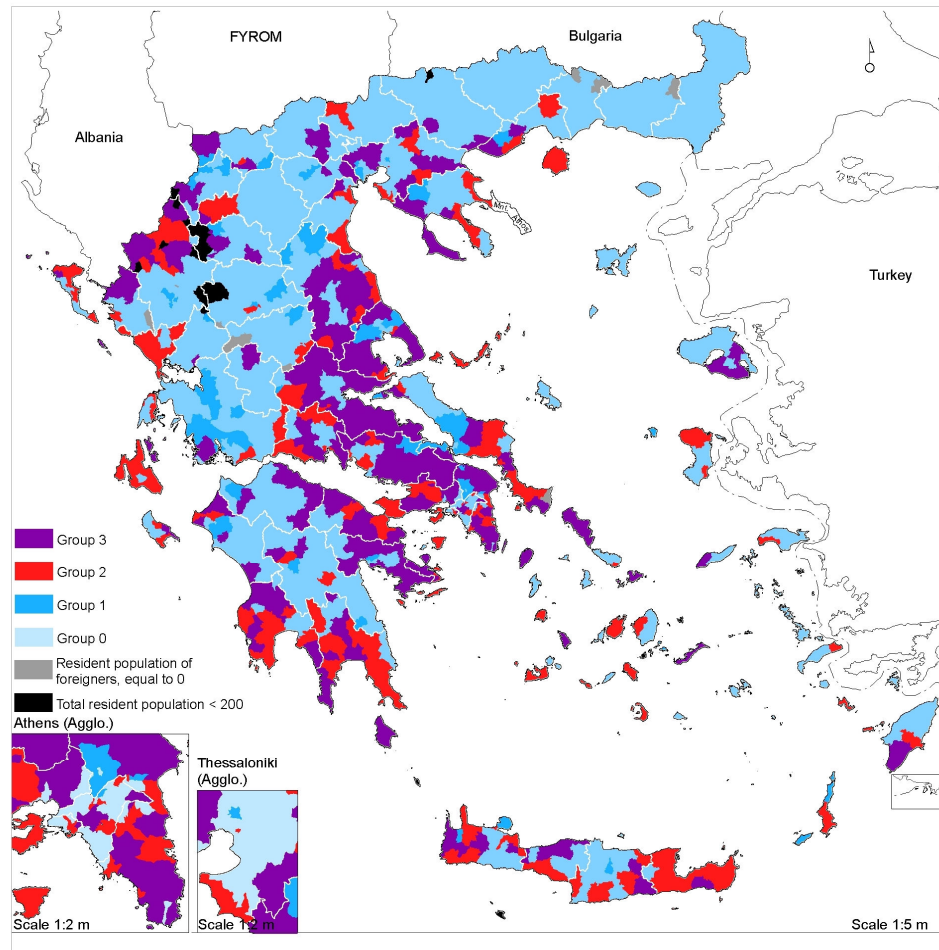
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and the surrounding areas, in the southern part of Peloponnesus, in Crete, in the islands, and as expected in areas near the Albanian borders.

**Map 1: Clustering of municipalities according to the simultaneous impact of immigrants in the percentages of males and the mean age.**



These demographic effects have short and long term implications on several demographic, social and economic aspects, the age and sex composition of the immigrants significantly increasing the active part of the population and their significantly higher fertility performance having a statistically significant positive contribution to almost all municipalities.