

The Immigrant Entrepreneurial Activity in Apulia

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Introduction

In the major phenomenon of the immigrant presence in Italy and of its consequent sedentariness, an aspect of particular interest is represented by the immigrants entrepreneurial activity. The intensity and quickness of its growth all trough our country with differences in each region it's certainly one of the most characterizing aspect of this issue. Starting from the nineties of this century the entrepreneurial activity of extra European individuals in Apulia has known a remarkable development. This issue deals with a way of fitting in the society not marginal at all considering that the insertion in the coming under job world presents a lot of difficult aspects to overcome, either concerning with the continuity of the job relationship neither recognizing the titles acquired and obtaining the consequent employee reward. These could be some of the reasons why lots of immigrants prefer the "independent way" to work becoming entrepreneurs.

The transition of the immigrants in the rows of the independent work probably represents the most interesting evolution of the relationship between foreign workers and receiving economies. The phenomenon is certainly complex catching up with different aspects, depending on several causes, intersecting with the dynamics of the Italian economic structure and system. The independent activity of the immigrants is often defined as "ethnic entrepreneurial activity" even if the factories are sometimes mixed up and they do not precisely offer services to their belonging ethnical group but they refer to the whole economic market, that besides is predictable in the integration process². This is why the incipit of an entrepreneurial activity could represent a process of settlement and integration in the receiving society born from a preceding experience in the country of their origin or from a choice grown inside the Italian context. In our national context even Apulia begins to change itself from a transitory region (the one of the passage toward the middle and northern regions, or toward other nation outside the boundaries), to a place with a double leading role: entrance door for immigrants who come from the near Balkans and countries of the middle east; final site of settlement specially for particular population such as maghrebians (Moroccans, Tunisian) mauritians, Eritrean. They, arrived in Apulia, try to definitively settle themselves with

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their family nucleus because of the thought they have found for their families global satisfying life conditions either from the economic point of view neither from the social settlement one. This is the reason why the increasing family reuniting, the arrival and establishment of women and children in our region the, increasing enforcement of compulsory schooling rate and the beginning of an independent activity are some of the signs of the progressive insertion and sedentariness of the foreign presence in our region.

Data and methodology

In this context we insert the analysis of the extra European entrepreneurial activity in Apulia which in 2005 has seen an 8,2% growth passing from 8364 to 9053 enrolments in the Chamber of Commerce. In this work we will try first to quantitatively analyse the principal demographics components (origin, sex, age) and then analyse the jurisdictional nature of the entrepreneurial activities, considering the principal sections of the market each category of activity belongs to. Besides we will, anytime it is possible, make a comparative work on enrolments of individuals born in extra European countries and strictly extra Europeans avoiding individuals of the Italian historical emigration. The Bari and Lecce provinces represents the two core attractive point of the region for the extra Europeans assembling almost 74,0% of the total amount for both the considered years (with a majority of presence in the Lecce province either in 2004 neither in 2005). Indeed the Bari province presents a variation of 10,9%(higher of 3 points per cent than the regional average). The Lecce province in opposite presents an increasing of 6,3%(2 points per cent less than the regional average). On the contrary the strictly extra European enrolments in Chamber of Commerce have had a higher per cent variation as regards the community considered before (10,8%) and in a particular way in the Bari province (14,9%) where, besides, they represent the 37,6% of the total regional amount.