

THE CONTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANT BUSINESSMEN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PIRAEUS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract

Purpose of the present paper is to investigate the contribution of immigrant businessmen in the sustainable development of the environment on the Municipality of Piraeus.

The objective is primary to investigate if the immigrant businessmen are informed and sensitized in the subjects of the environmental protection and secondly whether in their everyday routine they implement practices environmentally friendly and on what that it depends on

From the essay's data we resulted to the fact that the Municipality of Piraeus appears to be sensitized in the subjects concerning the environment. It has advanced in actions and developmental projects that will highlight and improve the environmental and living condition of the immigrant citizens of Piraeus. Research on the spot showed that the immigrant businessmen in the region of Piraeus do stimulate the local economy, increasing the consuming demand and creating new jobs. To some extent they are presented environmentally sensitized and are positively contributing in the sustainable environmental development of the Municipality of Piraeus.

This essay leads to proposals regarding the efforts that should be imposed by the Municipality Piraeus for further briefing and sensitization of the immigrants who live, reside and operate in the region, over the actions that are taken for the area's sustainability and the protection of the environment. Moreover, the survey showed that most of the immigrant businessmen are placing a permanent establishment in the area, since most of them are family men and have children.

Key words : *business immigrants, sustainable development, Piraeus*

Introduction

The immigration constitutes one from the older and more important social phenomena that almost the all countries have faced, either as countries of dispatch or as host countries of immigrants. Diachronically, immigration is absolutely linked with the need for survival and also with the development of human societies. As a term, it is reported in the permanent or temporary change of the place of installation of an individual, a group or a society.

By whether migration takes place in the geographical boundaries of the national territory, is divided into international and internal migration. International migration is the movement from one state to another, while internal migration is movement within the borders of the same state.

The decision of an individual to migrate, is connected primarily with economic factors. (Emke-Pouloulou, 2007) It is related absolutely:

- with the possibility of employment of an individual in his country,
- the probabilities of finding a job in the new country in which he directs,
- The wage differences between country of dispatch and host country.
- The danger of deportation (particularly in the case where he enters illegally in the country of reception),
- The economic and psychological cost of his transportation in the country of reception.

Immigration is distinguished in legal and outlaw. Legal immigrants are considered those who have entered and remain legally in the country, whose presence have been recorded by the responsible public authorities and are provided with the required authorisation of residency and work. For Greece, immigrants of foreigner nationality are distinguished among those who emanate from states - members of European Union (EU), who have the right of free installation and third-country nationals who's entering and staying in the country requires prior authorization procedure. According to research by the Migration Policy Institute (IMEPO), the number of foreigners residing illegally in Greece in 2008 ranged between 172,250 and 209,402 people. (Lianos et al., 2008).

In the past few years the phenomenon of immigration is one of the biggest challenges that the current societies have to face. This happens because "while migration offers great opportunities for various states for utilization, however, often becomes a source of serious problems" (Cavounidis al., 2003, page 12). In short, immigration has implications for countries sending migrants to other countries, because they export this way workforce. It also has consequences for all the host countries of migrants, namely those countries that accept the equivalent workforce, which is looking for work. The most significant are related with changes in the social fabric and the institutions of the host country, since a type of demographic renewal is happening. The immigrants, therefore, apart from an economic activity, they also develop social, cultural, environmental activity. They are absorbed and they absorb and they influence the everyday routine and the way of life in the local society in which they are installed. They contribute, to the extend it corresponds to them, in the development and the quality of life of the current generations, and also the future generations environmentally, economically, socially, culturally. That is to say, the immigrants influence the sustainable development of the place in which they are installed, provided that the mentioned before four factors constitute the four basic pylons of sustainable development. (Economou, Mitoula, 2013)

Sustainable development is another form of economic development that takes into account the adequacy of natural resources. (Report Brundtland, 1987) It takes into consideration the need for sustainability in time, the main constituents of natural elements and their immediate and long-term needs of a place. (Mitoula, 2006) The environmental problem that is prevalent in the recent years, sustainable development took on the character of overall solutions to global and local level, such as:

- Promotion of the renewable sources of energy,
- Low energy consumption,
- recycling of not renewable materials
- Attendance of citizens in the process of decision-making
- Promotion of consuming products
- Configuration of culture based on the relation of the person with the nature and the cultural tradition etc. (European Committee, 1998)

Object of present work is the investigation of the contribution of immigrant businessmen in the sustainable development on the environment of the Municipality of Piraeus.

An objective is to investigate whether the immigrant businessmen are informed and sensitised in the subjects of protection of the environment and if in their everyday routine they apply environmentally friendly practices.

1. The immigration policy of the EU.

The EU is encountering the phenomenon of migration, taking into account both economic and social aspects of this complex phenomenon. Initially, the Treaty of Amsterdam (1997) gave authorities to the EU in the fields of asylum and immigration. Eleven years later it was adopted by the European Pact 'on Immigration and Asylum "by the European Council on 15 and 16 October 2008. By adopting the above arrangements five commitments were implemented, as:

- a) The organisation of legal immigration, taking into consideration the priorities, the needs and the possibilities of reception of each member state, and their incorporation,
- b) To combat illegal immigration by ensuring that illegal immigrants return to their countries of origin or to the transit country,
- c) To enhance the effectiveness of border controls,
- d) The creation of a Europe of asylum and
- e) Establishing a comprehensive partnership with the countries of origin and transit, favouring co-operation between migration and development (<http://www.ypes.gr>, last visit 22.05.2012).

Generally, the European Union pays great importance to the issues of immigration. The European Commission believes that maintaining high levels of employment in the EU is impossible without immigration and that if economic migrants have the necessary qualifications, then they can positively contribute to the effort to address the imbalances of labour.

2. The immigration policy of GREECE

From the decade of '80 Greece began to become a country of origin for immigrants mainly from Asiatic and African countries. Later, afterwards the collapse of “Eastern Block” in the beginning of the '90's, big surge of immigrants from countries of Eastern Europe and particularly from neighbouring as Albania, Bulgaria and Romania was observed. Thus, the majority of immigrants in Greece came from Balkan countries mainly from Albania. The reasons of this supremacy of Albanian citizenship are interpreted so much by the adjacency with Greece, and also by the terrible economic situation of the country in question in the past few years. (www.statistics.gr, data 2011)

According to the elements that are resulted from the census of the population that have been made in Greece from 1951 up to 2001, we can easily realise that the number of foreigner nationals in the country has increased. The bigger, however, increase is shown the decade that intervened from the census of 1991 up to that of 2001, where the number of foreigner nationals in Greece reached 797.093, from 167.276 that was in 1991 (see Table 1). According to the last census of the year 2011, the Greek nationals in Greece are 10.815.197. However official elements for the foreigner citizens have not been published yet.

Table 1: Population of Greece, at citizenship, in the years of censuses:

Year	Greek citizens		Foreigner citizens in Greece	Real population
	in Greece	in the abroad		
1951	7,602,230	37,413	30,571	7,632,801
1961	8,333,817	71,925	54,736	8,388,553
1971	8,767,073	218,908	92,568	8,859,641

1981	9,568,993	98,343	171,424	9,740,417
1991	10,092,624	41,910	167,276	10,259,900
2001	10,166,987	39,608	797,093	10,964,080

Source: E.S.Y.E., Results of Inventories

According to the elements of the U.N, Greece in 2015 will approximately have 14,5 million residents, of which the 3,5 million will be foreigners not emanating from the current composition of states members of EU (Liargkovas, 2007).

According to the data of Workforce’s research (EU. D.) of E.S.Y.E for 2007 (B’ of quarter), more than half of immigrants that reside in our country have Albanian citizenship. Second major category of migrants are those originating from Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Georgia, Russia and Ukraine who at the categories of the workforce represent 25% of the immigrants, despite the fact that they constitute 20% of their population. Finally, immigrants from Pakistan and Cyprus are approaching 3% of the total number of immigrants.

From the table below it can be concluded that in 12 of the 20 nationalities, the population above 15 years of age accounts for a large part of the total population. Equally important is the labour force participation of the population over 15 years old.

Table 2: The main nationalities of migrants in each category 2007

Citizenship	Population	Population of 15 years and beyond	Workforce	Occupied	Unemployed	Not Active	% participation workforce/population of 15 years and beyond	% Unemployment
ALBANIA	352,780	262,408	186,76	172,597	14,159	75,652	71.2%	7.6%
BULGARIA	26,593	24,995	20,72	19,002	1,722	4,271	82.9%	8.3%
ROMANIA	22,982	20,354	15,930	14,844	1,086	4,424	78.3%	6.8%
POLAND	19,181	14,809	11,152	10,449	703	3,657	75.3%	6.3%
GEORGIA	18,728	16,337	12,645	10,665	1,970	3,702	77.3%	15.6%
RUSSIA	17,239	15,210	10,471	9,410	1,061	4,739	68.8%	10.1%
UKRAINE	15,142	13,521	10,461	9,613	848	3,060	77.4%	8.1%
PAKISTAN	9,154	9,051	8,910	8,585	325	141	98.4%	3.6%
CYPRUS	9,137	9,137	1,819	1,046	763	7,328	19.8%	42.2%
ARMENIA	6,669	5,162	3,901	3,901	-	1,261	75.6%	-
GREAT BRITAIN	6,513	6,073	2,884	2,884	-	3,189	47.5%	-
GERMANY	5,491	5,386	2,765	2,280	475	2,631	51.2%	17.2%
IRAK	4,921	4,410	3,459	2,566	883	961	78.2%	25.6%
SYRIA	4,512	4,512	4,326	4,326	-	186	100%	-
INDIA	3,011	2,270	1,749	1,528	221	521	77.0%	12.6%
U.S.A.	2,612	2,326	1,171	1,171	-	1,155	50.3%	-
EGYPT	2,538	2,537	2,011	2,011	-	526	79.3%	-
PHILIPPINES	2,488	2,488	2,412	2,412	-	76	96.9%	-
TURKEY	1,978	1,753	1,298	786	512	455	74.0%	39.4%
AUSTRALIA	815	815	671	671	-	144	82.3%	-

OTHER COUNTRIES	48,226	40,084	25,179	23,420	1,759	14,905	62.4%	7.0%
TOTAL	580,709	463,638	330,654	304,169	26,485	132,984	71.3%	8.0%
ATTENDANCE (%)	5.40	5.04	6.72	6.73	6.65	3.10	-	-

Source: SG E.S.Y.E, EU. D. 2007 (B' of quarter), Treatment: IN.E. /National Workers' Union of Greece. - A.D.E.D.Y. (G. Kritikidis)

In the Table 3 below the immigrant employment by sector of economic activity is recorded. It is noted that out of the 304,169 employed immigrants, 165,753 are active in the Attica region, meaning 54.5% of the total.

Table 3: The employment of immigrants at branch of economic activity, 2007

Branch of Economic Activity	Occupied	Attendance in the employment of country (%)	Percentage distribution of employment (%)
A. Georgia, livestock-farming, thira and forestry	14,848	2.9	4.9
B. Fishery	578	3.8	0.2
C. Mines and quarries	256	1.4	0.1
D. Manufacturing industries	44,867	8.0	14.8
E. Benefit of electric current etc	627	1.6	0.2
F. Manufactures	107,904	27.4	35.5
G. Wholesale and retail trade	26,127	3.3	8.6
H. Hotels and restaurants	32,197	10.1	10.6
I. Transports storage and communications	5,603	2.1	1.8
J. Intermediary financier organisms	482	0.4	0.2
K. Management of motionless fortune etc	10,144	3.4	3.3
L. Public administration and defence etc	1,669	0.4	0.5
M. Education	2,140	0.7	0.7
N. Health and social concern	3,481	1.4	1.1
O. Other activities	5,162	3.2	1.7
P. Private households	48,084	70.1	15.8
Foreign Citizenship	304,169	6.7	100

Source: SG E.S.Y.E., EU. D. 2007 (B' of quarter), Treatment: IN.E. /G.S.E. E-a.d.e.d.y. (G. Kritikidis)

Based on the above facts, it can be argued that the impact of immigration on the rate of economic growth of the host country, meaning in the case of Greece, tends to be positive. Studies have shown that the positive effect on GDP can be attributed to the increase in the workforce, in the improved performance in certain industries, and thus improve profitability, productivity and competitive position, but also exports, and even the creation of investment opportunities in the host country, which requires an increase in the employment of local workers. (Liargovas, 2007) (Sarris and Zografakis 1999) (Kontis, Zografakis, Mitrakos 2006)

Migrants usually are employed in jobs that do not compete with the Greeks; therefore, they do not occupy jobs which are claimed by Greeks. The bulk of these works lies in agriculture in some specialties of the construction sector. Usually, immigrants are used as low-skilled labour force, hence accept lower wages.

3. Immigrants businessmen in Greece

As stated above, immigrants came to Greece seeking for better economic conditions than in their countries and worked primarily and originally as labourers. Several of them, soon opened businesses. The conditions were not always easy, and problems faced by the state funding, language barriers, lack of sufficient knowledge on business management and promotions, limited to specific trading resulted to their variation from those everyday purchases. (www.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu). Most immigrants created their business mainly by their savings and they were activated trade in food trade, in the clothing and often with products from their home country. Others were active as peddlers.

In an event of the Technical Chamber of Greece, and after a research conducted and presented in Thessaloniki shortly before the beginning of the financial crisis it is shown that most entries in the Chamber, were made by immigrants who founded their business for financial reasons, with the exception of the Chinese coming in Greece with pre-planned business plans (business immigrants). At that time 615 registered businesses of Albanian immigrants were recorded, 598 entries of Chinese immigrants and 347 of Cypriot immigrants. From the enterprises accounted, 42.65% are active in retail trade, 40.7% in wholesale trade, 5.5% in construction and about 2% in sectors related to trade, maintenance and repair of cars and machines. (Commerce and Industry Chamber of Thessaloniki, 2007).

4. The case of the Municipality of Piraeus

The municipality is located in Piraeus, Attica. Based on the 2011 census, it has a permanent population of 163,688 inhabitants which makes it the fifth largest municipality in Greece and the second largest urban group of Athens. Its extent is 10,865 square kilometres and the density of the permanent population is 15,062.62 inhabitants per km². The Municipality of Piraeus was founded in 1835 and was one of the municipalities in which initially Attica was divided. (See map 1)

In our days, it is constituted by the regions Saint Sofia (Maniatika), Saint Vassilios, Saint Nile, Boyrla, Bryoni, Goyba of Baboyla, Municipal market, Eyaggelistria, Zea (Pasalimani), Electric (district) or Lemonadika, Firing kilns, Kallipoli, Karboyniarika, Cutting, Kastella, Mikrolimano, New Faliron, Xaberi, Paliatzidika, Papastratos, Peiraiki, Pigada, Prophet Ilias, Retsina, Terpsithea, Troumpa, Ydraiika, Freattyda, Chatzikyriakeio and Psyttaleia. (www.peiraiasnet.gr)

The centre of the city of Piraeus is approximately 12 km from the city center of Athens and is connected to it by many means of transport such as bus, trolley, subway, tram, suburban rail and the future Metro lines. In parallel, the port of Piraeus, which is divided in passenger, commercial and repair is one of the largest in Europe in terms of passenger's movement.

Map 1. The Municipality of Piraeus



Regarding to the demographic evolution of Piraeus, an increase of the municipal population since 1836 is observed, the year of the first census of the municipality up to today.

Table 4: Municipal population of Piraeus

Year	1836	1920	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Population	1011	133482	186088	183957	187458	196389	182671	175697	163688

Source: Historical File of Municipality Piraeus (1836-1896), Inventories E.S.Y.E. (1920-2011)

The Municipality of Piraeus deals with many of the environmental problems faced by urban dense areas of the region of Attica. Some are the expansion of construction on natural areas of the municipality, with the result that few are open areas and limited space in the squares. Also, since Piraeus is the largest port in Greece, is entrance and exit of the country. This means constant and heavy car traffic congestion.

- The Municipality of Piraeus, having perceived the environmental problems and targeting the viability of the city, has designed projects to improve the environment and quality of life of citizens which has integrated to the Business Development Programme 2012-14:
- Completed system of management of litter and energy exploitation
- Completed system of environmental management
- Complete exploitation of coasts
- Aesthetic Interventions and functional reformation
- Creation of model environmental park
- Removal of abandoned vehicles
- Cleaning and exploitation of overdraft plots and abandoned buildings
- Completed system of recycling
- Exploitation of Renewable Sources of Energy
- Care of unprotected animals
- Actualisation urban and land-planning planning
- Creation of institution of street sweeper of neighbourhood
- Growth of green
- Control of quality of environment
- Improvement of fire safety

- Confrontation of pollution by the animals

Regarding the immigrants, the Municipality of Piraeus having realized their high rate, has developed actions for their protection and their integration in the municipality. Within this framework Open School for Immigrant Piraeus was created (A.S.M.P.). In parallel, the Public Benefit Municipal Enterprise for Social Integration and Welfare of Aliens Piraeus was created (KO.D.E.K.E.P.A.P) by the decision of the Municipal Council of the municipality (F.E.K.1784/tV / 27.08.2009). These were made under a new immigration policy "aiming at a society of security, peace and humanity" (<http://www.pireasnet.gr>, last visit 6/7/2011).

Table 5 shows both the economically active and the inactive population of Piraeus foreigners, by citizenship, for the year 2001. It should be emphasized that the Municipality of Piraeus, according to the last census, residents of 115 foreign countries are residing, the following table lists the nationalities with the largest foreign population participating in the municipality.

Table 5: Economically active and inactive population of foreigners Municipality of Piraeus, by citizenship

Citizenship	Finances active			Economically active	not	TOTAL
	Total	Occupied	Unemployed			
Egypt	422	401	21	81		503
Albania	4,959	4,560	399	3,233		8,192
Armenia	133	119	14	97		230
Bulgaria	200	186	14	72		272
Georgia	81	75	6	43		124
Yugoslavia	60	48	12	42		102
U.S.A.	82	71	11	126		208
United Kingdom	87	84	3	81		168
India	102	92	10	5		107
Irak	86	75	11	88		174
Cyprus	132	122	10	240		372
Moldavia	54	48	6	36		90
Bangladesh	184	155	29	13		197
Ukraine	181	164	17	93		274
Pakistan	593	547	46	29		622
Poland	108	99	9	73		181
Romania	195	178	17	108		303
Russia	160	148	12	118		278
Syria	87	81	6	25		112
Philippines	89	87	2	25		114

REM. COUNTRIES	620	556	64	506	1,126
TOTAL	8,615	7,896	719	5,162	13,777

Source: E.S.Y.E., Inventory 2001

It is observed that on the total 13,777 foreign nationals 8,615 are economically active, meaning 62.5%. Of these, 7,896 are employed, which implies an unemployment rate for foreigners residing in Piraeus, of 8.34%. Also, one can easily observe the particularly high participation of Albanians in the number of foreigner workers (4560), where they constitute 57.7% of them

Table 6 presents the employed foreigners of Piraeus, by citizenship groups and sectors of economic activity, relative to Table 5.

Table 6: Employed Foreigners in the Municipality of Piraeus, by citizenship groups and sectors of economic activity

Citizenship	Teams of branch of economic activity										Total
	Agriculture, fishery livestock-farming, forestry	Mines, quarries	Manufacturing industries	Supplies of water, il. current, natural gas	Manufactures	Trade, repairs, restaurants, hotels	Transports, storage, communication	Financier organisms	Remaining services	Vague or not statement	
Egypt	5	0	65	1	161	112	26	2	9	20	401
Albania	18	1	709	5	1,433	908	186	8	1,085	207	4,560
Armenia	0	0	36	0	14	31	2	1	28	7	119
Bulgaria	0	0	19	0	13	30	7	0	111	6	186
Georgia	0	0	12	0	4	19	4	2	31	3	75
Yugoslavia	0	0	1	0	10	5	8	0	18	6	48
U.S.A.	0	0	6	0	2	17	9	1	30	6	71
Un. Kingdom	0	0	4	0	3	11	22	5	32	7	84
India	2	0	37	1	10	19	11	0	6	6	92
Irak	1	0	18	0	8	26	11	0	5	6	75
Cyprus	0	0	11	1	8	26	22	3	45	6	122
Moldavia	0	0	1	0	5	13	1	0	25	3	48
Bangladesh	1	0	81	0	16	37	3	0	5	12	155
Ukraine	0	0	10	0	13	28	6	0	95	12	164
Pakistan	3	3	272	0	72	99	51	0	22	25	547
Poland	0	2	12	0	38	13	5	0	26	3	99

Romania	0	0	32	0	27	55	20	1	37	6	178
Russia	1	0	32	0	11	25	19	0	53	7	148
Syria	2	1	16	0	17	20	10	1	5	9	81
Philippines	1	0	1	0	1	16	17	0	48	3	87
REM.COUNT R.	1	0	69	1	38	163	86	10	169	19	556
TOTAL	35	7	1,444	9	1,904	1,673	526	34	1,878	386	7,896

Source: E.S.Y.E., Inventory 2001

Table 6 shows that foreign employees of Piraeus are operating mainly in four groups of economic activity sectors (manufacturing, construction, trade - repairs - restaurants - hotels, and other services). More specifically, in manufacturing, 18% of foreigner’s employees of the municipality are operating, in the construction area 24.1%, in the group of "trade, repairs, restaurants, hotels" 21.1% and "other services" 23.7 %.

The latest 2011 census has not yet publish details so as to compare the changes that have been made in the recent years. But according to data from the municipality of Piraeus, today the economically active migrants are 6,723. (See board 7)

Table 7. Current active economic immigrants of municipality of Piraeus.

Citizenship	Number of person	Citizenship	Number of person	Citizenship	Number of person
ST.MAURICIO'S	1	AZERBAIJAN	1	EGYPT	704
ETHIOPIA	5	IVORY COAST	1	ALBANIA	3,467
ALGERIA	3	ARGENTINA	4	ARMENIA	136
AUSTRALIA	7	AFGHANISTAN	3	VENEZUELA	1
VIETNAM	2	BOZNIA-HERZEGOVINA	1	BRAZIL	25
GEORGIA	119	SERBIA	17	GHANA	37
GUINEA	1	DEMOCRAT OF CONGO	1	DOMINICA	3
DOMINIC. DEMOCRAT	23	EL SALVADOR	1	USA	21
JAPAN	6	INDIA	158	INDONESIA	4
JORDAN	6	IRAQ	10	IRAN	11
ECUADOR	4	ISRAEL	4	Kazakhstan	15
CAMEROON	1	CANADA	1	KENYA	2
CHINA	40	COLOMBIA	2	KYRGYZSTAN	15
CONGO	1	KOREA (SOUTH)	11	CUBA	24
CROATIA	3	BELARUS	24	LEBANON	24
LIBYA	9	MALAYSIA	1	MOROCCO	9
MAURITANIA	3	MEXICO	1	MONTENEGRO	7
MOLDOVA	109	BANGLADESH	138	MYANMAR	1
CABO VERDE	2	NEPAL	4	NIGERIA	3
SOUTH AFRICA	5	HONDURAS	1	UZBEKISTAN	19
UKRAINE	289	PAKISTAN	602	PALESTINE	1
PANAMA	1	PARAGUAY	3	PERU	5
F.Y.R.O.M.	10	RUSSIA	169	RWANDA	3

SENEGAL	1	SERBIA	19	SERBIA	1
SIERRA LEONE	1	SINGAPORE	1	SUDAN	2
SRI LANKA	30	SYRIA	13	THAILAND	13
TANZANIA	12	TURKEY	15	TURKMENISTAN	1
TUNISIA	6	PHILIPPINES	153	CHILE	8
TOTAL 6,723					

Source: Municipality of Piraeus

5. Research on the spot

For the needs of this study research on the spot was carried out with questionnaires in the Municipality of Piraeus. The aim was to investigate whether immigrant entrepreneurs in the region are sensitized on the issues of sustainable development and environmental protection. The survey was addressed to immigrant entrepreneurs in the municipality. Researchers have developed research based on data provided by the Department of Immigration of Piraeus (November 2011). In these company address, phone, etc were mentioned. According to the data, 64 are immigrants who have been granted permission to create their own business Specifically in Piraeus operates eleven clothing stores and footwear are operating, eleven pavilions, eight rotisseries, seven bars, six cafes, mixed four grocery stores, three convenience stores, three restaurants, two grocery stores, two taverns, two pizzerias, two wine taverns, a gas station convenience meals, a butcher and a grocery in which the owners are foreigners.

Of the owners of these 64 stores, sixteen are Albanian, twelve are Chinese, eight are Egyptians, six are Romanians, six are Armenians, five are Russians, five are Pakistanis, three are Indians, one comes from Vietnam, one from Brazil and one from Chile. Regarding the gender of the owners of these shops, women own approximately 12.5% of those, as they are just eight.

The nature of the investigation was such that it allowed the collection of primary data from the majority of these stores. 26 of the foreign shopkeepers responded to the questionnaires, meaning 40.62%. Specifically, the foreign owners of four pavilions responded, four clothing and footwear stores, three rotisseries, three bars, three restaurants, three cafes, two grocery stores, two convenience stores, a tavern and a tavern.

Of these numbers, an proportional representation of each category in all establishments is appeared which, combined with the nature of the questions in the questionnaire, allows useful conclusions about the contribution of these shops to the viable environmental development of Piraeus.

Open and closed questions were created -divided into three parts. The first was concerning respondents' personal information such as ethnicity, gender, age, time of residence in Greece, etc. The second part had questions related to environmental protection and sustainable development. Namely if they know the Renewable Energy Sources (RES), if they use green light bulbs, recycling, etc.

The third part refers to company data, years of operation, whether they employ workers and how many, whether the financial crisis has created problems.

The questions were answered personally by each owner. Although the questionnaire was easy to be understood, in the conduct of the research difficulties arose because most immigrants knew little Greek. Also, while there was an update they hesitated to answer questions because of distrust. Of the 64 questionnaires 26 were answered.

The completion of the questionnaires took place in November December 2011, meaning during the period when the Greek economy was already facing serious problems..

6. Results

The investigation revealed that the majority of immigrants come from Albania and promptly following those from China (see figure 1). The majority are male (see figure 2), aged 40-50 years (see figure 3). Regarding education, the majority of them are graduates of primary and secondary education (see figure 4).

The 77% are married (see figure 5) and 77% have children (see figure 6).

88% of the sample resides in the Municipality of Piraeus (see figure 7). For the majority the main residing reasons in Piraeus were economic (see figure 8). Namely there are householders, who settled in the township with the prospect of permanence.

The major energy used for heating is oil (see figure 9), meaning using the central heating of buildings.

For the licensing of their business they did not encounter particular bureaucracy problems (see figure 10)

The majority of individual businesses operate 1-4 years (see figure 11). 77% of them say that the economic crisis affects the operation of their businesses (see figure 12)

When asked if other people are employed in their business, the majority replied positively. The responses indicate that these companies employ a total of 71 people. The majority of these are Albanians, followed by Chinese and then Egyptians (see figure 13)

When asked if they are aware of K.O.D.E.K.E.P.A. positively responded 69% of the sample (see figure 14)

Environment is one factor that seems to worry them, as percentages (69%) recycle (see figure 15). Certainly, the majority of them recycle plastic, and then glass, paper and finally aluminium. (See figure 16).

When asked on water consumption, a very small percentage of respondents indicated that the reason for non overconsumption was environmental (see figure 17). Also, a very small percentage of them deals with the environmental actions of the municipality (19% of sample) (see figure 18)

When asked about the light bulbs they use a percentage of around 58% said that they use green bulbs (see figure 19) In the next question for this reason that they do not use green bulbs they answered for economic reasons, since eco bulbs are more expensive than conventional. (see figure 20)

When asked about what kind of energy renewable they answered solar at 100% of the sample gas, 77% oil 7.7%. The replies indicate that a percentage of the sample is not well informed over the issues of renewable energy. (see figure 21)

Finally, 46% of those own a car (see figure 22), meaning about half of them are exclusively serviced by public transport for their transportations.

Figure 1. Nationality

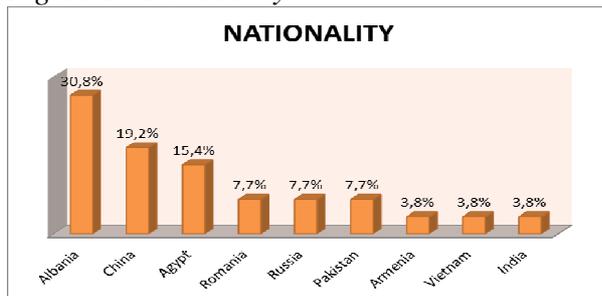


Figure 2. Sex

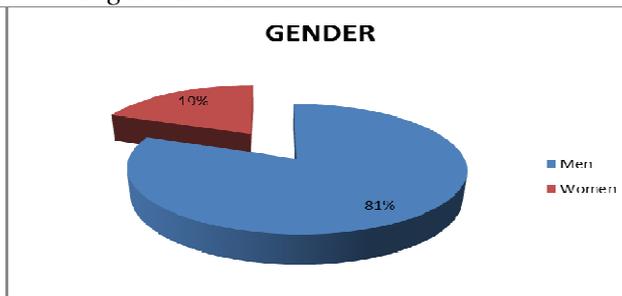


Figure 3. Age

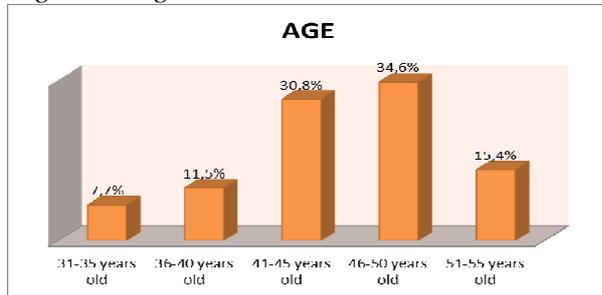


Figure 4. Education

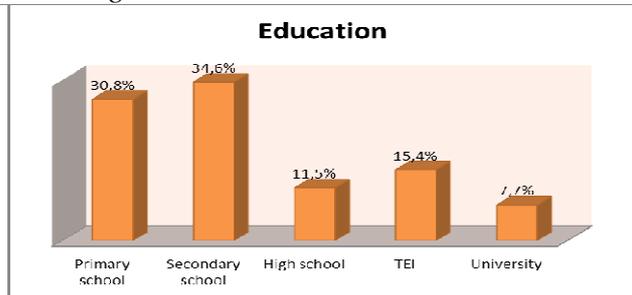


Figure 5. Status

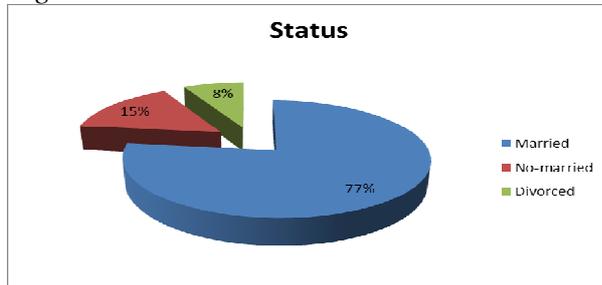


Figure 6. If they have children

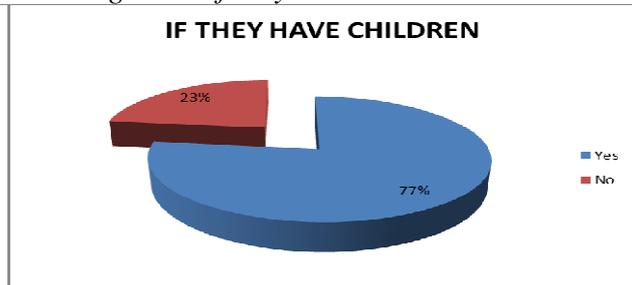


Figure 7. Residence in the Municipality Piraeus

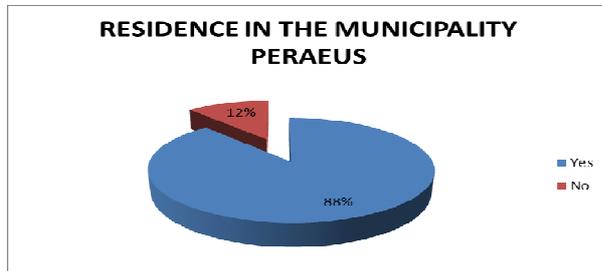


Figure 8. Reason of stay in the municipality

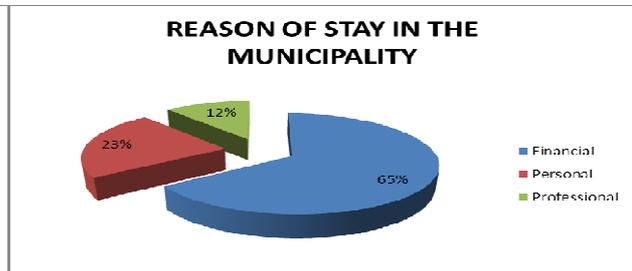


Figure 9. Type of heating fuel vacations

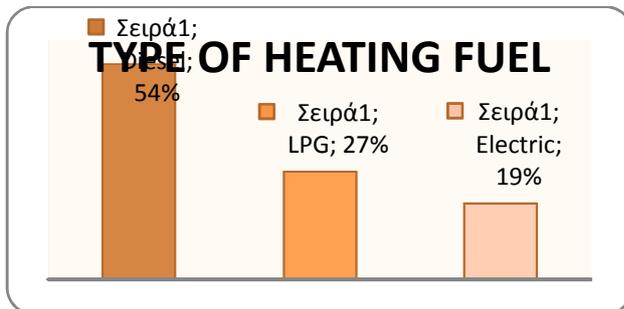


Figure 10. Facility in the awarding of the enterprise

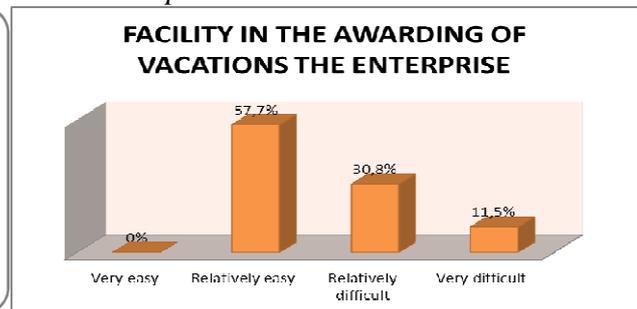


Figure 11.. Years of operation

Figure 12. Problems of economic crisis

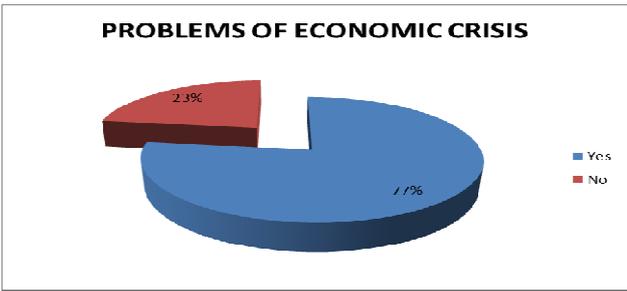
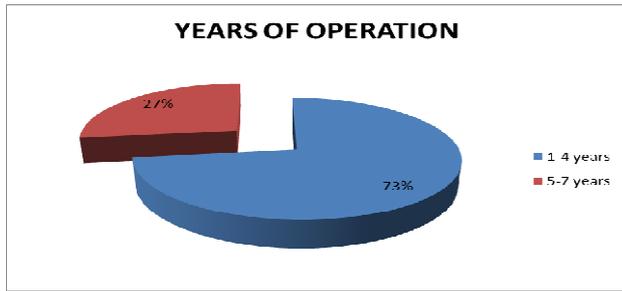


Figure 13. Nationality of workers in Enterprise

Figure 14. If they know KO.D.EK.E.P.A.P.

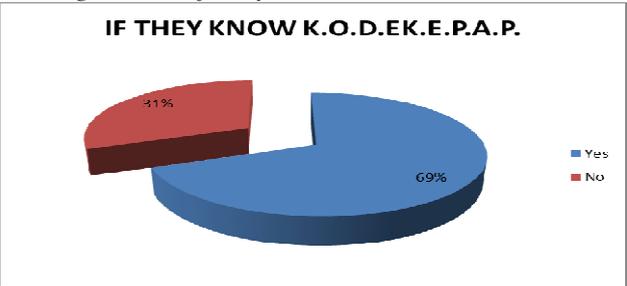
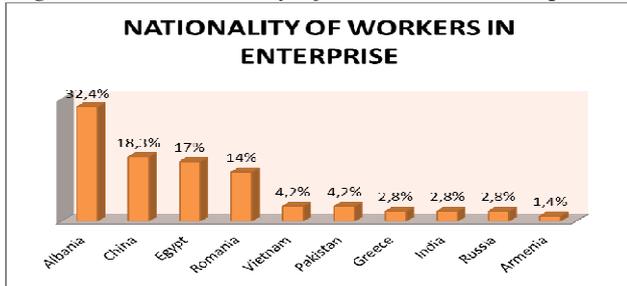


Figure 15. If they recycle

Figure 16. Materially that they recycle

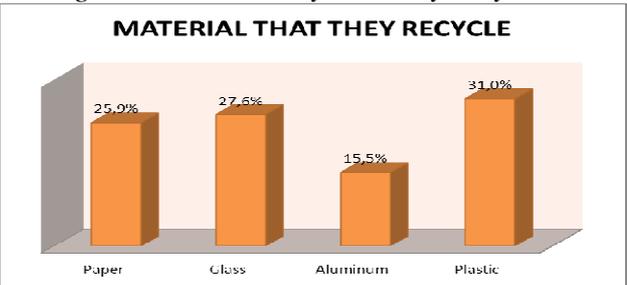
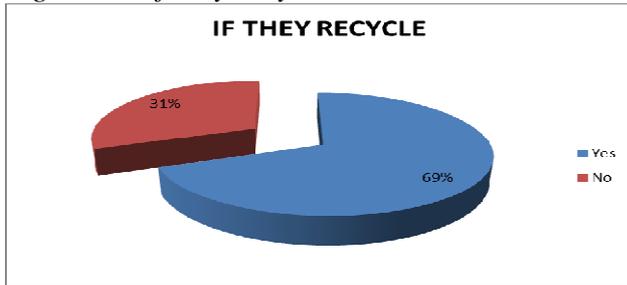


Figure 17. Reason of not consumption of water actions

Figure 18. Participation in environmental of the City

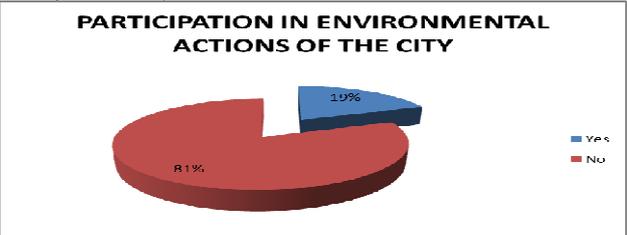
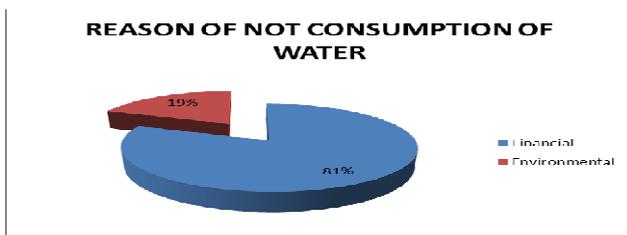


Figure 19. Use ecological lighting lamps for lighting

Figure 20. The reason that uses ecological lighting lamps for lighting

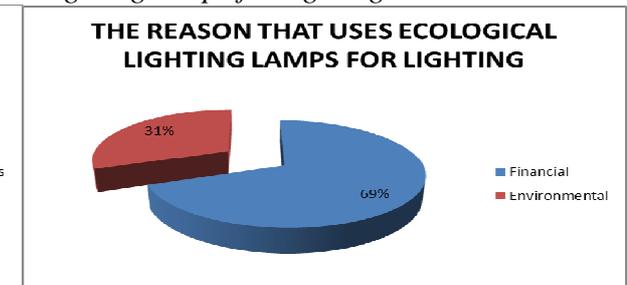
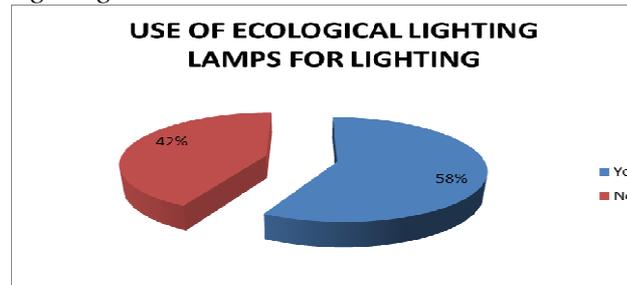
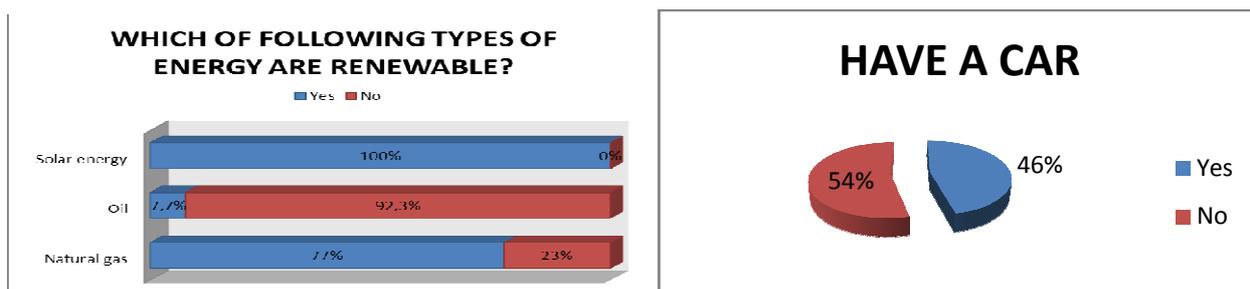


Figure 21. Who from following type of energy is renewable?

Figure 22. Have a car



Conclusions

From the juxtaposition of the above to the following conclusions were revealed.

The European Union welcomes the issue of immigrants and considers whether economic migrants have the necessary qualifications, then their contribution can be positive in the country where they are installed.

Greece has been made in the recent years a pole of attraction for immigrants who were seeking work and better living conditions. Economic migrants today constitute a significant part of the population living in the country and support the Greek economy. Several of them have evolved and created their own businesses. This was demonstrated by the present investigation, noticing that there are 64 traders operating in the municipality of Piraeus.

From the survey data it is showed that the Municipality of Piraeus seems sensitized over issues concerning the environment. It has progressed into actions and development projects that will highlight and enhance the environment and the living standards of its citizens. Simultaneously it incorporates immigrants in the local community since the Open School and the K.O.D.E.K.E.P.A.P are created. Also, it has progressed to releasing several licenses for Businesses in the municipality.

Similar research conducted on immigrant entrepreneurs of Zografou showed that they do not incorporate enough in the local community and they consider the Greeks as racists. Also, they are not quite sensitized over the issues of environmental protection. (Economou, Mitoula, 2013) In the municipality of Piraeus, the results differ. This is probably due to the fact that it is a great port, as Piraeus is the harbour entrance and exit of Greece. Therefore, movement and resettlement of foreigners in the municipality is a common practice for many years. Foreigners are used to living and working in this place together with the Greeks, and in many cases have been adjusted to the Greek reality. The spot investigation showed that in general immigrant entrepreneurs in Piraeus are incorporated into the local society.

Taking into consideration all the above, one can support that foreign shop owners in Piraeus, are stimulating the local economy, increase consumer demand and generate new jobs. Of course, these are mainly covered by their compatriots, but sometimes also by Greeks, as in the case of Greek workers mentioned above

Finally, a percentage of them are presented environmentally sensitive and can be supported that they positively contribute to the sustainable development of Piraeus. The Municipality may further accentuate the effort for awareness of immigrants who live, reside and operate in the region, on the actions taken on the viability of the area and the protection of the environment. Besides, many of immigrant entrepreneurs are willing to reside permanently in the area, since most of them are family men and have children.

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