



NATURAL ORIGINS



NATURAL ORIGINS

Promoting Entrepreneurship among Young People with Migrant Background, focusing on the Trade of Natural Products

Policy Brief Recommendations: Enhancing Educational Pathways for Migrant Entrepreneurs (Policy Brief 7)

Project Number: 2022-2-CY02-KA220-YOU-000100524



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

"Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them."



NATURAL ORIGINS



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. You are free to share and adapt the material as long as you provide proper attribution, do not use the material for commercial purposes, and distribute your contributions under the same license.

**IDENTITY**

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Work Package: | 5 |
| Authors: | MD BRAINNOVATION |
| Grant Agreement No.: | 2022-2-CY02-KA220-YOU-000100524 |
| Acronym: | NaturalOrigins |
| Title: | Promoting Entrepreneurship among Young People with Migrant Background, focusing on the Trade of Natural Products |
| URL: | www.naturalorigins.eu |
| Start Date: | 01/05/2023 |
| Duration: | 18 months |

PARTNERS

| | |
|--|---------|
| DOUMAG LTD | Cyprus |
| EUROPEAN GRANTS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY SRL | Italy |
| BOTANIC Yourope Team | Spain |
| Kapadokya Egitim ve Arastirma Dernegi | Turkey |
| MD BRAINNOVATION CONSULTING SINGLE MEMBER COMPANY | Greece |
| KONNEKTABLE TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED | Ireland |



Executive Summary

Migrant entrepreneurship plays a crucial role in driving economic growth and fostering social integration across Europe. Migrant entrepreneurs bring diverse skills, innovative ideas, and cultural perspectives that enrich their host countries. However, their potential is often hampered by significant barriers, including language difficulties, limited access to tailored educational and training programs, restricted financial resources, and inadequate mentorship opportunities. Addressing these challenges is essential to unlocking the full potential of migrant entrepreneurs, who have the capacity to drive innovation, create jobs, and build more inclusive societies.



This policy brief examines the specific challenges faced by migrant entrepreneurs in Greece, Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Ireland, highlighting the unique barriers that hinder their ability to succeed. Despite their entrepreneurial spirit, migrants in these countries often find themselves at a disadvantage due to systemic gaps in education, training, and support.

In Greece, migrant entrepreneurs contribute significantly to sectors such as retail, hospitality, and natural products, yet they face critical barriers, including limited proficiency in the Greek language and restricted access to financial resources. Educational programs often fail to address their specific needs, leaving many migrants without the skills or networks necessary for business success. Targeted support, including bilingual resources and culturally sensitive mentorship programs, is needed to bridge these gaps.

Spain faces a similar challenge, with highly skilled migrants frequently underemployed due to insufficient recognition of their qualifications and language barriers. Current training programs are not specifically designed for migrants, who often struggle with the complex processes required to set up and sustain a business. By developing more accessible and tailored training opportunities, Spain can better support its migrant entrepreneurs and fully leverage their skills.

In Italy, while migrant-led businesses make up a significant portion of the national economy, many young migrants face educational barriers, high dropout rates, and a lack of culturally appropriate training. Entrepreneurship education is rarely integrated into school curricula, and existing programs do not adequately address the needs of migrants. More inclusive educational pathways, combined with vocational training and mentorship programs, can help Italian migrant entrepreneurs overcome these challenges.



Turkey's diverse and dynamic migrant population brings significant entrepreneurial potential, yet systemic barriers such as inadequate education, language difficulties, and limited access to resources often impede their success. Migrant entrepreneurs in Turkey struggle to find relevant training and mentorship, and they frequently face exclusion from financial support systems. Enhancing educational pathways, leveraging digital platforms, and simplifying access to resources are critical steps toward empowering migrant entrepreneurs in Turkey.



In Ireland, the pathways to entrepreneurship for migrants remain underdeveloped. Migrant youth, in particular, face significant barriers in acquiring the skills and support needed to establish successful businesses. Language and cultural differences, limited access to targeted vocational training, and insufficient mentorship opportunities are key challenges. By creating inclusive educational programs and fostering robust mentorship networks, Ireland can build a more supportive environment that empowers migrant entrepreneurs.

This policy brief emphasizes the need for tailored, culturally sensitive, and accessible educational pathways for migrant entrepreneurs across Europe. By addressing the specific barriers faced in each country, policymakers, educational institutions, and community organizations can create an environment that fosters economic inclusion and leverages the entrepreneurial potential of migrants. Implementing these strategies will not only empower migrant entrepreneurs but also contribute to broader economic growth, social cohesion, and cultural diversity, benefiting all members of society.



Table of Contents

Executive Summary..... 4

Table of Contents..... 6

Introduction..... 7

Background..... 9

Analysis of the Issue..... 13

Policy Recommendations..... 16

Conclusion..... 19

Annex I: References..... 20





Introduction

Migrant entrepreneurship is increasingly recognized as a key driver of economic growth, social cohesion, and cultural diversity in Europe. As migration flows into Europe continue to grow, so does the importance of integrating migrants into the economic fabric of their host countries. Migrant entrepreneurs bring a wealth of skills, diverse perspectives, and innovative ideas that can stimulate economic dynamism, create jobs, and contribute to the resilience of local economies. However, despite their potential, migrant entrepreneurs often encounter significant barriers that impede their success.

The entrepreneurial journey for migrants is frequently marked by systemic challenges, including language and cultural barriers, limited access to tailored education and training programs, and inadequate support networks. These issues are compounded by financial exclusion, complex regulatory environments, and a lack of recognition of prior qualifications and skills. As a result, many migrants struggle to transition their business ideas into viable enterprises, missing out on opportunities to contribute fully to their new communities.

Educational pathways are crucial for equipping migrant entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge they need to navigate the complexities of starting and running a business in a foreign environment. However, the current educational systems in many European countries often fail to meet the specific needs of migrants. Entrepreneurship education is rarely integrated into mainstream curricula, and when it is available, it is seldom designed with the unique challenges of migrants in mind. This gap leaves many aspiring migrant entrepreneurs without the necessary tools to succeed, ultimately stifling their potential.

Vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities are similarly critical for helping migrants develop the practical skills needed in the local market. Yet, access to these programs is often restricted by language barriers, high costs, and a lack of information. For many migrants, the path to entrepreneurship is further complicated by the need to validate their foreign qualifications, which can be a lengthy and bureaucratic process. The absence of culturally sensitive and accessible training programs means that migrants are often excluded from the very opportunities that could help them integrate economically and socially.

Mentorship and support networks play an essential role in the success of any entrepreneur, providing guidance, insights, and connections that can make a difference in navigating the business landscape. For migrant entrepreneurs, mentorship is particularly important as it helps them understand local business practices, regulatory



requirements, and cultural nuances. However, existing mentorship programs are often not designed to cater to the specific needs of migrants, leaving them isolated and disconnected from valuable networks.

The financial landscape also poses significant challenges for migrant entrepreneurs. Traditional financial institutions frequently view migrant entrepreneurs as high-risk clients, making it difficult for them to access the loans and investment needed to start or scale their businesses. This financial exclusion is a critical barrier that prevents many promising migrant entrepreneurs from pursuing their business ambitions, further entrenching economic inequality.

The need for targeted policy interventions is urgent. By addressing these barriers through tailored educational pathways, improved access to financial resources, and robust support networks, host countries can empower migrant entrepreneurs to thrive. This policy brief explores the specific challenges faced by migrant entrepreneurs in Greece, Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Ireland. It highlights the systemic gaps in education, training, and support that hinder their success and provides evidence-based recommendations for creating more inclusive and supportive entrepreneurial ecosystems.

The integration of migrant entrepreneurs into the economic mainstream is not just a matter of policy but a broader societal imperative. As Europe continues to grapple with demographic shifts, economic uncertainties, and social challenges, empowering migrant entrepreneurs offers a pathway to a more inclusive and prosperous future. By investing in the education and support of migrant entrepreneurs, host countries can build dynamic and resilient economies that benefit all citizens, creating opportunities for economic mobility, cultural exchange, and social harmony.





Background

Migrant entrepreneurship is a critical driver of economic growth, innovation, and social cohesion across Europe. Migrants bring diverse skills, cultural insights, and entrepreneurial spirit, making significant contributions to their host countries' economies. However, despite their potential, migrant entrepreneurs face numerous barriers that can prevent them from fully realizing their capabilities. These challenges include language and cultural barriers, limited access to tailored educational pathways, financial exclusion, and insufficient support networks such as mentorship programs. As a result, many migrant entrepreneurs struggle to integrate economically, limiting their ability to contribute meaningfully to the economic landscape of their host countries.



This section provides a detailed overview of the current state of migrant entrepreneurship in five key countries—Greece, Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Ireland—highlighting the specific challenges and opportunities that exist in each context. Understanding these unique dynamics is crucial for developing targeted interventions that can support migrant entrepreneurs and unlock their full potential.

Greece

Greece's strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa has made it a natural hub for migration, resulting in a diverse population with significant entrepreneurial potential. Migrant entrepreneurs in Greece often engage in sectors such as retail, hospitality, agriculture, and the trade of natural products, leveraging traditional skills and cultural knowledge that align well with these industries. Despite their contributions, migrant entrepreneurs face considerable obstacles that hinder their success.

One of the primary challenges in Greece is language proficiency. Only 35% of migrants have a functional level of Greek, significantly limiting their ability to access educational resources, understand business regulations, and navigate bureaucratic processes effectively. This language barrier not only restricts migrants from acquiring essential business skills but also isolates them from the broader business community, making it difficult to integrate and thrive.

Financial barriers further compound the challenges faced by migrant entrepreneurs in Greece. Only 20% of migrant entrepreneurs receive adequate financial support, highlighting the systemic exclusion they face from traditional banking and financial institutions. This lack of financial access stifles their ability to invest in their businesses, expand operations, and sustain growth. Moreover, existing educational programs and business support services often fail to cater to the specific needs of migrants, leaving a



substantial skills gap. This disconnect underscores the need for tailored educational pathways and targeted support systems that address the unique challenges faced by migrant entrepreneurs in Greece.

By addressing these barriers through targeted interventions—such as providing bilingual educational resources, offering mentorship programs, and enhancing access to financial support—Greece can better harness the entrepreneurial potential of its migrant population. Such efforts would not only drive economic growth but also foster greater social integration and cohesion.

Spain

In Spain, highly qualified migrants are frequently underemployed, often working in roles that do not match their skills or qualifications. This underutilization of talent represents a significant loss of economic potential and contributes to broader issues of unemployment and reduced productivity. Although Spain offers general entrepreneurship training, these programs are usually not designed specifically for migrants, who often lack knowledge of local business processes, regulatory requirements, and support networks.

Language barriers are a significant challenge for migrants in Spain, complicating their ability to navigate the business environment and fully engage with available training opportunities. Additionally, validating foreign qualifications and previously acquired skills can be a lengthy and complex process, further hindering migrants' ability to access suitable employment or start their own businesses.

While Spain has launched various initiatives aimed at supporting migrant entrepreneurs, such as offering language courses and business training, these efforts are often insufficiently publicized or inadequately tailored to the needs of migrants. Many migrants remain unaware of the resources available to them or face difficulties accessing them due to a lack of targeted outreach and support services.

Addressing these challenges through more inclusive and accessible training programs, streamlined validation processes for qualifications, and better promotion of existing resources could significantly enhance the entrepreneurial outcomes for migrants in Spain. By bridging these gaps, Spain can more effectively leverage the skills and talents of its migrant population, contributing to a more dynamic and productive economy.

Italy

Italy is home to a vibrant community of migrant entrepreneurs, with over 600,000 migrant-led businesses representing about 10% of the total enterprises in the country.



These businesses contribute significantly to economic diversity and job creation, particularly in sectors like agriculture, retail, and services. However, young migrant entrepreneurs in Italy face substantial barriers that limit their ability to succeed, including high dropout rates from educational pathways, language challenges, and insufficient access to culturally sensitive training programs.

Entrepreneurship education in Italy is not sufficiently integrated into school and university curricula, and existing programs rarely address the unique needs of migrants. Many young migrants struggle to navigate the educational system, which often does not recognize their previous skills or educational achievements. Language barriers exacerbate these difficulties, as over 60% of first-generation migrant students in Italy have trouble understanding and using Italian effectively. This limits their participation in educational programs and their ability to gain essential business skills.

Vocational training opportunities in Italy are often inaccessible due to high costs, lack of information, and cultural mismatches. Programs frequently do not account for the specific backgrounds and experiences of migrants, resulting in a disconnect between the skills provided and the needs of migrant entrepreneurs. Establishing tailored educational pathways, vocational training programs that recognize prior learning, and mentorship initiatives that connect migrants with experienced local business leaders can help bridge these gaps. Such measures would foster a more inclusive business environment, enabling migrant entrepreneurs to contribute fully to Italy's economy.

Turkey

Turkey's migrant population brings a rich tapestry of cultural diversity and entrepreneurial potential, but systemic barriers often impede their business success. Migrant entrepreneurs in Turkey face substantial challenges, including inadequate access to tailored educational programs, financial resources, and supportive business networks. Language barriers are a significant hurdle, complicating migrants' ability to engage with available educational opportunities and integrate into the local business environment.

The educational system in Turkey often lacks programs that are specifically designed to meet the needs of migrant entrepreneurs. Many migrants come with diverse educational backgrounds that do not align with the Turkish business context, leaving them unprepared for the regulatory and market challenges they face. Financial exclusion is another critical issue; traditional banks are often reluctant to lend to migrant entrepreneurs due to perceived risks, and navigating alternative financing options can be daunting without proper guidance.



Social integration challenges further isolate migrant entrepreneurs from valuable business networks and mentorship opportunities. These networks are crucial for accessing market insights, gaining mentorship, and building collaborative relationships that support business growth. In Turkey, existing mentorship programs and business incubators rarely cater to the specific needs of migrants, leaving them without the support needed to overcome these hurdles.

To address these issues, Turkey must develop comprehensive strategies that enhance educational pathways, provide digital learning platforms, and create inclusive policies that support migrant entrepreneurs. Simplifying regulatory processes, establishing targeted financial support mechanisms, and fostering community engagement can significantly improve the business environment for migrant entrepreneurs, allowing them to thrive and contribute to Turkey's economy.

Ireland

Ireland has become a diverse and dynamic society with a growing migrant population that significantly contributes to its social and economic landscape. However, the pathways to entrepreneurship for migrants in Ireland remain underdeveloped, particularly for young migrants who face significant barriers in acquiring the skills, knowledge, and support necessary to establish successful businesses.

The Irish educational system does not fully address the unique needs of migrants, with entrepreneurship education and vocational training opportunities often lacking the flexibility and cultural sensitivity needed to be effective. Language and cultural barriers further hinder migrant entrepreneurs' ability to engage fully with these resources, limiting their understanding of business practices, regulatory requirements, and local market conditions.

Mentorship opportunities in Ireland are also insufficient, with existing networks typically geared towards the general population and not adequately tailored to address the unique challenges faced by migrants. This lack of targeted support prevents many migrant entrepreneurs from accessing the guidance and connections that are crucial for business success.

To fully realize the potential of migrant entrepreneurs, Ireland needs to integrate entrepreneurship education into the national curriculum, expand access to lifelong learning opportunities, and establish mentorship networks that connect migrant entrepreneurs with seasoned business leaders. By building a more inclusive and supportive environment, Ireland can empower migrant entrepreneurs to contribute more effectively to the economy and foster a more cohesive society.



Analysis of the Issue

Migrant entrepreneurship plays a vital role in fostering economic participation, job creation, and social integration across Europe. However, migrant entrepreneurs face a range of complex challenges that often prevent them from realizing their full potential. These challenges span educational barriers, cultural and language difficulties, limited access to business networks, and insufficient policy support. Understanding these barriers is crucial for designing targeted interventions that can effectively support migrant entrepreneurs.

1. Educational Barriers

Education and training are essential for equipping migrant entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge required to navigate the business landscape in their host countries. However, systemic gaps in the current educational frameworks often hinder migrants from accessing the necessary education and training.

Lack of Tailored Educational Programs: Many entrepreneurship education programs are not specifically designed for migrants and often fail to address their unique challenges, such as language barriers, cultural differences, and unfamiliarity with local business practices. This lack of tailored support leaves many migrant entrepreneurs without the skills needed to succeed.

Limited Integration of Entrepreneurship Education: In many countries, entrepreneurship education is not adequately integrated into school and university curricula. This gap means that migrants miss valuable opportunities to develop business skills during their formative educational years, putting them at a disadvantage when entering the business world.

Vocational Training Gaps: Vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities are crucial for migrants to acquire or update skills relevant to the local market. However, access to these programs is often restricted due to high costs, language challenges, and limited information, making it difficult for migrants to improve their skills and adapt to the local business environment.

Validation of Prior Learning and Skills: Migrants frequently possess valuable skills and qualifications from their home countries, but the process of validating these credentials can be cumbersome, costly, and time-consuming. This challenge often leads to underemployment, as skilled migrants are unable to find work that reflects their qualifications, reducing their motivation to pursue entrepreneurial ventures.



2. Cultural and Language Barriers

Cultural and language barriers are significant obstacles that hinder migrant entrepreneurs from fully integrating into the business environment of their host countries. These challenges affect their ability to access education, understand local business practices, and effectively engage with customers, suppliers, and other stakeholders.

Language Proficiency Challenges: Many migrants struggle with language proficiency, which limits their access to educational resources, business networks, and support services. Language barriers also complicate their understanding of business regulations, restrict their ability to connect with customers, and inhibit their participation in training programs.

Cultural Adaptation Difficulties: Migrant entrepreneurs often face difficulties in adapting to the cultural norms and business practices of their host countries. These cultural differences can impact how they interact with customers, negotiate with suppliers, and present their businesses in the market, leading to misunderstandings and potential business setbacks.

Lack of Culturally Sensitive Training: Most existing training programs are designed for the local population and do not consider the specific cultural contexts of migrants. This lack of culturally sensitive training can further isolate migrants and reduce the effectiveness of educational initiatives. Developing training that respects and integrates migrants' cultural backgrounds can enhance the accessibility and relevance of education.

3. Inadequate Mentorship and Business Networks

Mentorship and access to robust business networks are critical for entrepreneurial success. These resources provide essential guidance, support, and connections that help entrepreneurs navigate the complexities of starting and growing a business. However, migrant entrepreneurs often lack access to these vital resources.

Scarcity of Tailored Mentorship Programs: Many existing mentorship programs are not tailored to meet the specific needs of migrant entrepreneurs. This gap leaves many migrants without the guidance necessary to understand local market dynamics, navigate regulatory environments, and make informed business decisions, limiting their chances of success.

Isolation from Local Business Networks: Migrant entrepreneurs frequently find themselves isolated from local business communities, which are crucial for gaining



market insights, building partnerships, and accessing support networks. This isolation restricts their ability to establish the connections needed to sustain and grow their businesses.

Limited Peer Learning Opportunities: Peer learning networks, where entrepreneurs can share experiences, advice, and solutions, are often underdeveloped for migrant communities. Establishing these networks would create a supportive environment for migrant entrepreneurs, helping them overcome common challenges and learn from each other's experiences.

4. Policy Gaps and Regulatory Barriers

Government policies and regulatory frameworks play a significant role in shaping the business environment for migrant entrepreneurs. However, existing policies often fail to address the unique challenges faced by migrants, creating additional obstacles that discourage entrepreneurship.

Complex Regulatory Environments: Navigating the regulatory landscape is often particularly challenging for migrants, who may struggle with language barriers, unfamiliar legal requirements, and complex bureaucratic procedures. These hurdles can lead to delays, compliance issues, and increased costs, complicating the process of starting and managing a business.

Lack of Inclusive Policies: Many host countries lack targeted policies specifically designed to support migrant entrepreneurs. Current regulations often do not consider the distinct needs of migrants, such as access to simplified business registration processes, legal assistance, and culturally sensitive advisory services.

Need for Streamlined Support Services: One-stop-shop services that provide comprehensive support, including legal, financial, and educational guidance tailored to migrant entrepreneurs, are largely missing in many countries. Implementing such services could simplify the entrepreneurial journey for migrants, offering clear pathways through the complex landscape of business setup and operations.



Policy Recommendations

To address the barriers faced by migrant entrepreneurs and unlock their full potential, a multifaceted approach is required. The following policy recommendations are designed to address the key challenges identified in the analysis: educational barriers, cultural and language difficulties, inadequate access to mentorship and business networks, and policy gaps. Implementing these strategies will foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for migrant entrepreneurship, driving economic growth and social integration.

1. Enhance Educational Pathways

Integrate Tailored Entrepreneurship Education:

Governments and educational institutions should collaborate to integrate entrepreneurship education into school and university curricula, with a focus on addressing the unique needs of migrant students. Programs should include practical business skills, financial literacy, and cultural adaptation components that cater specifically to migrants.

Expand Access to Vocational Training and Lifelong Learning:

Vocational training and continuous learning opportunities should be made more accessible to migrant entrepreneurs by offering programs in multiple languages and adapting them to the specific needs of migrants. Subsidies, scholarships, and outreach programs can help reduce financial barriers and encourage participation.

Simplify the Validation of Prior Learning and Skills:

Create streamlined processes for recognizing and validating the skills and qualifications that migrants bring from their home countries. Simplified validation procedures, along with clear guidance and support services, will help skilled migrants enter appropriate employment or start businesses that align with their expertise.

Develop Culturally Sensitive Educational Content:

Educational programs should be designed with cultural contexts in mind, ensuring that training materials are relevant and respectful of migrants' backgrounds. This approach can enhance engagement and improve learning outcomes by making education more relatable and accessible.

2. Address Cultural and Language Barriers

Provide Language Support and Training:

Establish language training programs specifically designed for entrepreneurs, focusing on business terminology and communication skills. Language courses should be offered



NATURAL ORIGINS

at various levels and incorporate practical elements such as business simulations, which can help migrants gain confidence in real-world scenarios.

Foster Cultural Adaptation Programs:

Develop cultural adaptation courses that help migrant entrepreneurs understand local business customs, market expectations, and consumer behavior. These programs can include mentorship from local business leaders who provide insights into navigating cultural differences in the business environment.

Create Culturally Inclusive Support Services:

Ensure that support services, including advisory and coaching programs, are culturally inclusive and staffed by individuals trained to work with diverse populations. This approach will make it easier for migrants to access the resources they need without facing cultural biases or misunderstandings.

3. Strengthen Mentorship and Business Networks

Establish Tailored Mentorship Programs:

Develop mentorship programs specifically designed for migrant entrepreneurs, connecting them with experienced business leaders who can provide guidance on local market dynamics, regulations, and strategic decision-making. These programs should include peer learning components that allow migrants to share experiences and support one another.

Promote Peer Learning Networks:

Create platforms for migrant entrepreneurs to connect, share knowledge, and collaborate on common challenges. Online forums, local meetups, and co-working spaces can facilitate networking and provide a sense of community among migrant entrepreneurs, helping them build valuable connections.

Facilitate Access to Local Business Networks:

Encourage partnerships between local business associations and migrant entrepreneurs to foster networking opportunities. Initiatives such as business mixers, industry-specific events, and joint ventures can help integrate migrants into the broader business community, providing them with access to market insights and potential collaborations.

4. Implement Inclusive Policy and Regulatory Reforms

Simplify Business Registration and Compliance Procedures:



Governments should streamline business registration processes to make it easier for migrant entrepreneurs to start and operate businesses. Simplified, multilingual guidance on regulatory requirements, tax compliance, and business licensing can help reduce bureaucratic obstacles.

Develop Targeted Support Services:

Establish one-stop-shop services that offer comprehensive support for migrant entrepreneurs, including legal advice, business planning assistance, and financial guidance. These services should be tailored to address the unique challenges faced by migrants, providing a single access point for the resources they need.

Promote Inclusive Policies and Legal Assistance Programs:

Introduce policies that specifically support migrant entrepreneurship, such as tax incentives, grants, or subsidies for businesses owned by migrants. Legal assistance programs should be developed to help migrants navigate regulatory requirements, intellectual property laws, and other legal matters relevant to their businesses.

Encourage Public Awareness Campaigns and Community Engagement:

Launch public awareness campaigns to highlight the positive contributions of migrant entrepreneurs, fostering a more inclusive perception within the local community. Engaging local stakeholders, including businesses and community leaders, can build support for migrant entrepreneurship and create a more welcoming environment.





Conclusion

Empowering migrant entrepreneurs in Spain, Doumag (Cyprus), Italy, Turkey, and Greece is essential for fostering economic growth, innovation, and social integration across these countries. Migrants bring unique skills, perspectives, and entrepreneurial drive, but they face significant challenges in accessing education, financial resources, and support networks. Addressing these barriers through targeted policy interventions is crucial for unlocking the full potential of migrant entrepreneurship.

The recommendations provided—developing tailored educational programs, improving access to financial resources, promoting mentorship and networking opportunities, simplifying regulatory processes, leveraging technology, and fostering inclusive community-based initiatives—represent a comprehensive strategy for overcoming the obstacles faced by migrant entrepreneurs.

By enhancing access to multilingual and culturally relevant entrepreneurship education, countries can equip migrants with the skills they need to navigate their new business environments. Ensuring that financial resources such as microloans and grants are available, and providing financial literacy training, will enable migrants to overcome financial exclusion. Mentorship programs and networking opportunities are critical for providing the guidance and local business connections necessary for success.

Simplifying administrative and regulatory processes will reduce the bureaucratic burden on migrant entrepreneurs, making it easier for them to establish and grow businesses. Meanwhile, technological tools such as digital platforms, e-learning modules, and mobile applications can extend the reach of educational and business resources, allowing migrants to access vital support remotely.

Inclusive community-based initiatives are also key to fostering social integration and providing practical, hands-on opportunities for migrant entrepreneurs to connect with local markets and business ecosystems. These initiatives, coupled with coordinated public-private efforts, will create a supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem where migrant entrepreneurs can thrive.

By implementing these recommendations, policymakers and stakeholders can help migrant entrepreneurs overcome systemic barriers, contributing not only to their individual success but also to broader economic growth and social cohesion. Empowering migrant entrepreneurs will not only strengthen local economies but also promote cultural diversity and social inclusion, benefiting both migrants and their host communities. The collaborative efforts of governments, educational institutions, financial organizations, and community stakeholders are critical to ensuring that migrant entrepreneurs have the tools and resources they need to succeed.



Annex I: References

1. · Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (ISTAT). (2023). Statistiche sulle imprese di titolari stranieri.
2. · Fondazione ISMU. (2022). Rapporto annuale sulle migrazioni 2022.
3. · Ministero dell'Istruzione dell'Università e della Ricerca (MIUR). (2023). Report sulla dispersione scolastica.
4. · Centro Studi e Ricerche Idos. (2022). Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2022.
5. · OECD. (2022). Education at a Glance 2022: OECD Indicators.
6. · Junior Achievement Italia. (2023). Entrepreneurship Programs for High School Students. Retrieved from: <https://www.jaitalia.org>
7. · "Impresa in Azione" - Junior Achievement Italia. (2023). Retrieved from: <https://www.impresainazione.it>
8. · Hellenic Statistical Authority. (2023). Migration Statistics in Greece.
9. · Bank of Greece. (2023). Economic Bulletin on Migrant Entrepreneurs.
10. · Eurostat. (2023). Entrepreneurship Education and Migrant Integration.
11. · European Commission. (2023). Vocational Training Programs for Migrants in Europe.
12. · International Organization for Migration (IOM). (2023). Mentorship Programs and Migrant Business Success.
13. · International Labour Organization (ILO). (2023). Continuous Education Programs for Migrants.
14. · European Innovation Scoreboard. (2023). Enhanced Digital Infrastructure and Educational Outcomes.
15. · International Telecommunication Union (ITU). (2023). Digital Access and Literacy Report.
16. · OECD. (2023). The Impact of Multilingual Education on Migrant Learning Outcomes.
17. · European Commission. (2023). Green Entrepreneurship and Sustainability in the Natural Products Market.
18. · Pressacademia. (2022). Immigrant Entrepreneurship in Turkey: History, Development, and Current Market.
19. · Wahlbeck Ö. (2018). The Transferability and Mobilisability of Transnational Resources: The Case of Turkish Entrepreneurs in Finland. *Nordic Journal of Migration Research*, 8(4), 237.
20. · Vershinina N., & Rodgers P. (2019). Symbolic Capital within the Lived Experiences of Eastern European Migrants: A Gendered Perspective. *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, 32(7-8), 590-605.
21. · Yetim N. (2008). Social Capital in Female Entrepreneurship. *International Sociology*, 23(6), 864-885.



22. · Kacar S. O., & Essers C. (2019). The Interplay Between Identity Construction and Opportunity Structures: Narratives of Turkish Migrant Women Entrepreneurs in the Netherlands. *International Small Business Journal: Researching Entrepreneurship*, 37(7), 713-731.
23. · Heilbrunn S., & Iannone R. L. (2020). From Center to Periphery and Back Again: A Systematic Literature Review of Refugee Entrepreneurship. *Sustainability*, 12(18), 7658.
24. · Mohammad Zen Nasrudin, Fajri Rofiqo A., Rizqon A. L., & R. H. (2023). The Impact of MSMEs Financing in Islamic Bank on Unemployment in Indonesia. *Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah Teori Dan Terapan*, 10(5), 443-454.

