



54ème colloque
ASRDLF

5-7 juillet 2017, Athènes, Grèce



15th conference
ERSA-GR



Les défis de développement pour les villes et les régions dans une Europe en mutation

Investigating the impact of economic crisis on the socio-economic conditions of immigrants in Athens

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Référence à la session / reference to the session

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Résumé / Summary

Abstract: This paper attempts to shed light on the evolution of the socio-economic conditions of immigrants in the city of Athens, during a period which is characterized by a severe economic crisis (2004-2012). Two general categories of immigrants are examined in the analysis, based on the EU-SILC classification: a) immigrants coming from other EU countries, and b) immigrants coming from other areas. The analysis is conducted at a municipal level using micro-data coming from the EU-SILC database for the period 2004-2012, which have been reweighted in order to get small-area re-synthesized populations at a municipal level. First, the distribution of immigrant populations is explored within the metropolitan area of Athens, trying to reveal existing spatial patterns of these two groups of immigrants. Furthermore, a comparative analysis between immigrants and local populations, regarding the labour market structure and the socio-economic conditions, is also performed, aiming to reveal any existing gaps that arise between them. The evolution of these two structural aspects throughout the period under investigation is also another essential part of this study. The results indicate that within Athens there is a discrete spatial segregation, largely diversified

between EU and other immigrants, which slightly changes in 2012. In terms of labour market structure, there seems to be a strong differentiation between local and immigrant populations, especially in the case of lower and higher social status groups of activities. The vast majority of immigrants are being occupied to lower social status activities, fact which does not seem to be affected by the economic crisis. When looking at the socio-economic conditions, significant lower level of education and income seem to characterize immigrant populations, when compared to local. Finally, poverty shares illustrate an increasing trend after 2008, fact which is probably affected by the economic crisis.

Keywords: migration, economic crisis, socio-economic conditions, poverty, Athens

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