



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Faculty of Social and
Behavioural Sciences



Jan Rath

Promoting Migrant Entrepreneurship

www.janrath.com



www.internationalmetropolis2019.ca

International Metropolis Conference

 JUNE 24 TO 28, 2019

THE PROMISE OF MIGRATION

REGISTER

Inclusion, Economic Growth and Global Cooperation



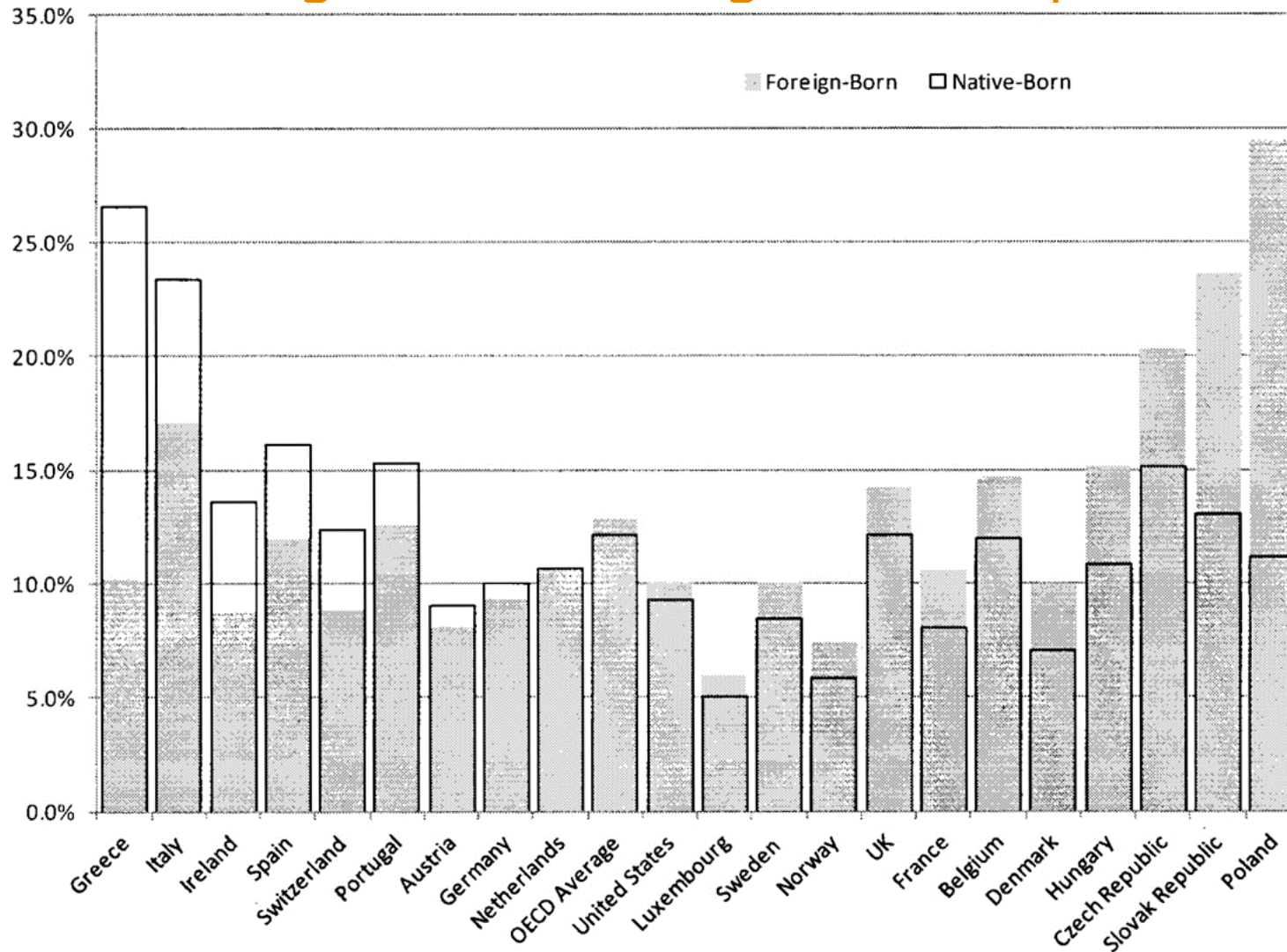
Contents

- Migrant entrepreneurship
- Social, cultural, political and economic matters
- Promoting entrepreneurship
- How and why?
- Take-home lessons
- Disclaimer: empirical basis is EU/EEA





Foreign-born (=first-generation) migrant entrepreneurs (OECD)



Source: *Open for Business: Migrant Entrepreneurship in OECD Countries*.
Paris: OECD, 2011



Migrant enterprises



Heterogenic category...

- Different individuals
 - different characteristics
 - different sets of resources
 - different entrepreneurial trajectories
- Operating in different markets
- Operating in different institutional environments



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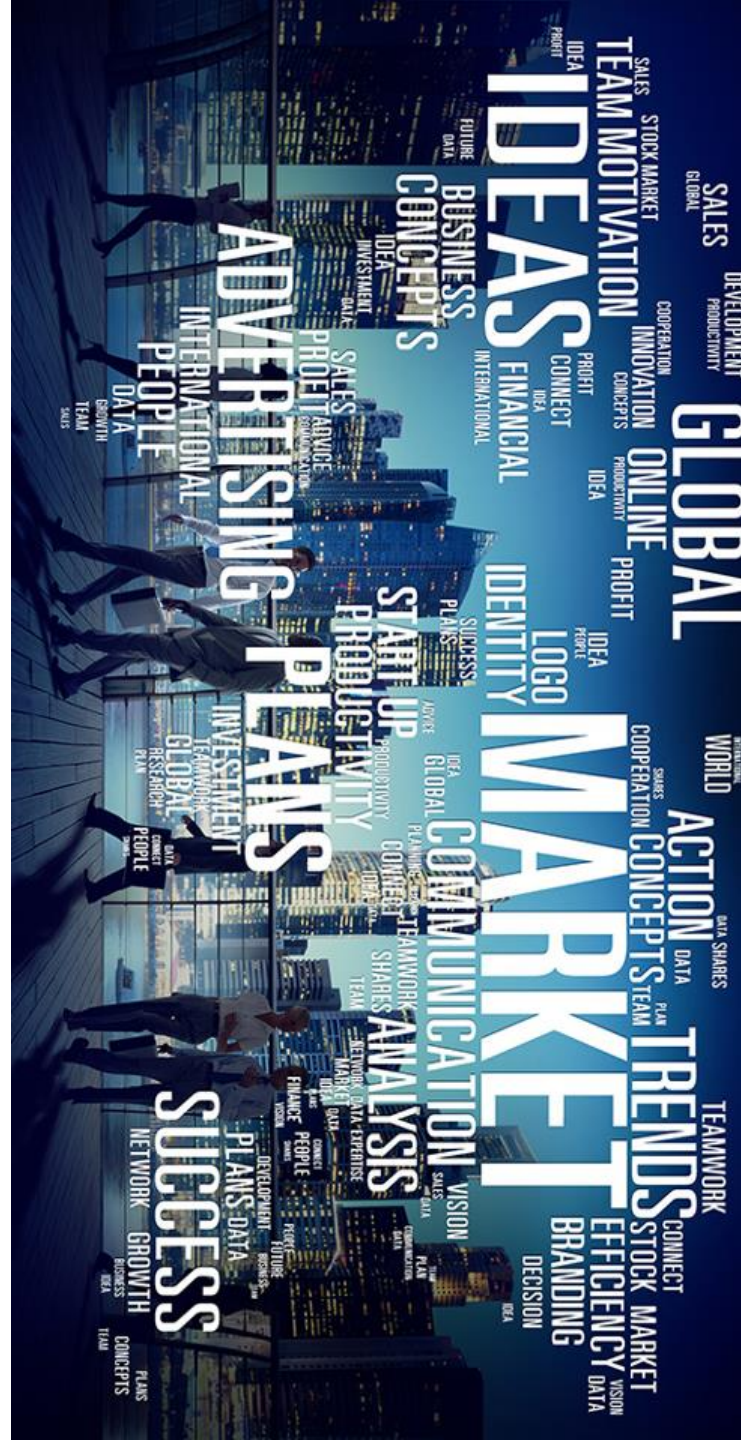
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But in academic and policy readings...

- heterogeneity often understated
- ethnic and cultural characteristics overstated
- market dynamics left out of the picture
- regulatory matters also ignored (with exception of few group-specific matters)



Promoting migrant entrepreneurship

- Does occur... here and there, now and then
 - translation of information
 - advice
 - training and coaching
 - soft loans
 - business incubators
- Far from self-evident



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Contextual factors

- Migration history
- Size of immigrant population
- Integration ideas and practices
- Make-up of welfare state / economic citizenship



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Why reluctance to target migrant entrepreneurs?

- Actual involvement of migrants in SME sector
- Assumptions about immigrants' economic disadvantage
- Resistance to governmental interference (neo-liberal attitude)
- Resistance to group-specific measures
- Absence of economic dimension in integration policy
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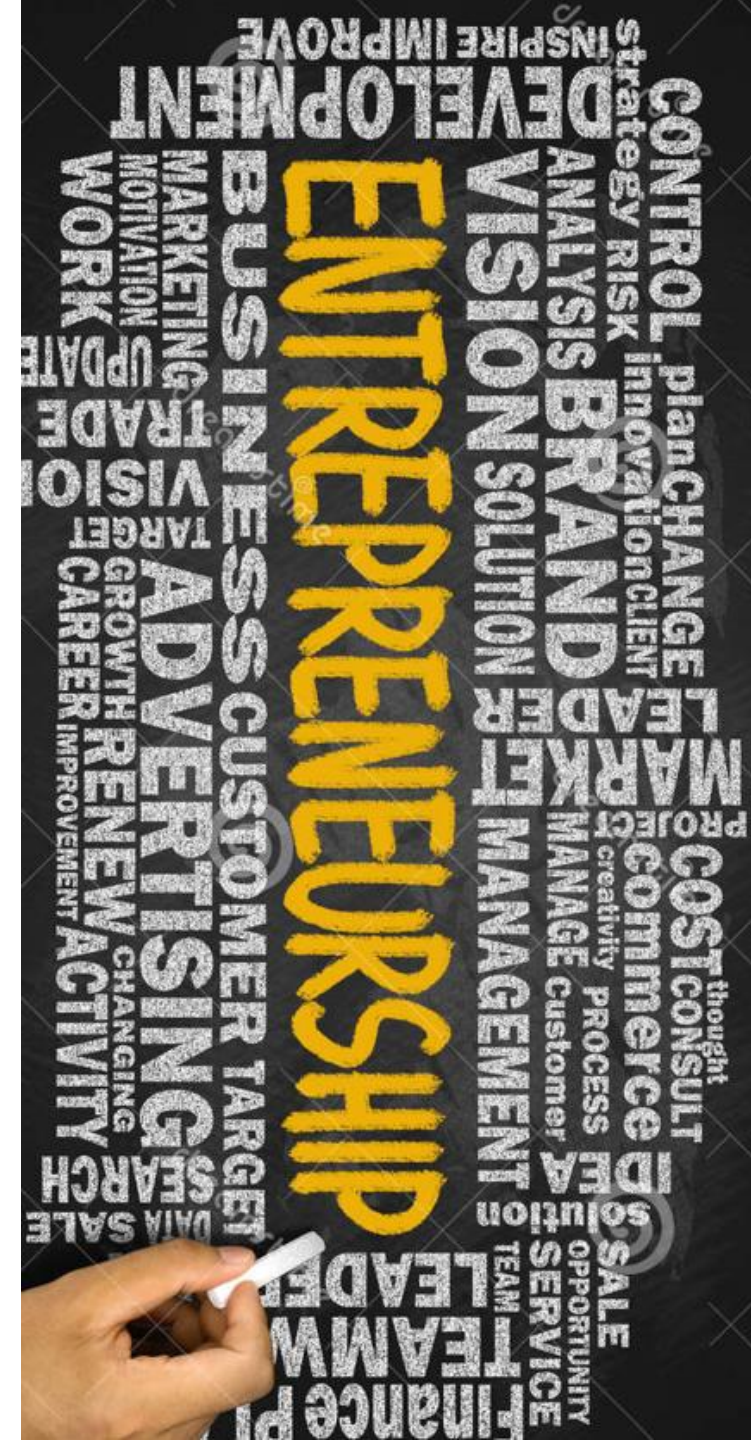
Take-home lessons

- Entrepreneurial success is product of critical interaction of resources AND markets and regulation
- Group-specific measures—if any—are thin on the ground, and target agency-related factors only
- Bureaucratic mismatch
- Combination of economic development policies and integration policies is key



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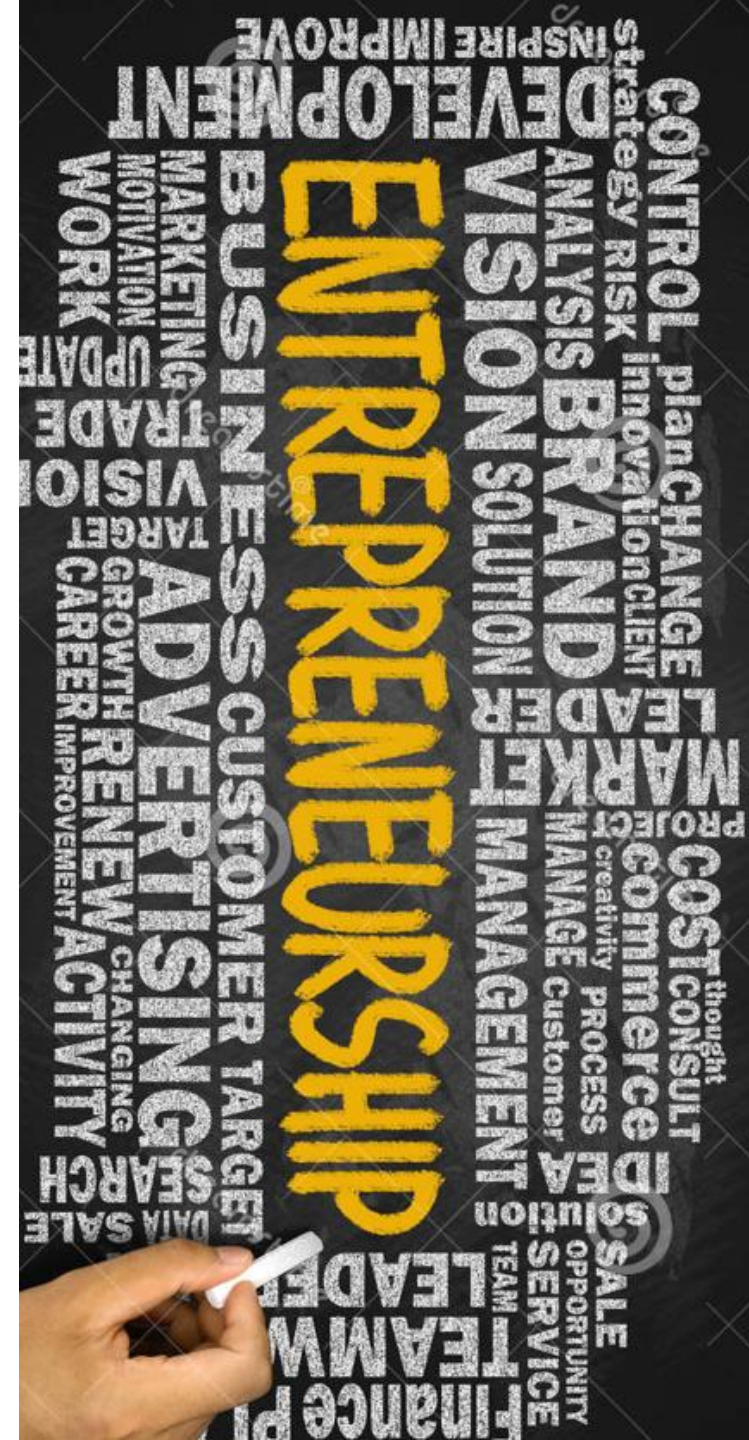
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Further reading

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