

# Immigrant entrepreneurship in European Union: a comparative empirical approach

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*Migrations are strongly linked with labor market dynamics. Entrepreneurship and self-employment are particular features with which analyzing immigrant labor conditions and integration. The “mixed-embeddedness theory”, which interprets the phenomenon as a relation between individual resources and the opportunity structure, is nowadays more relevant than the previous idea of the “disadvantage theory”, for which immigrants tend to become self-employed to overcome the disadvantage in the regular labor market. From this framework, we develop a taxonomy taking into account individual characteristics and local labor market conditions. Then, exploiting the EU Labor Force Survey dataset, we elaborate an empirical binomial model to evaluate immigrant propensity towards self-employment in regional labor market structures for four EU countries (Italy, France, Belgium, and UK pre-Brexit). Our preliminary results validate the hypothesis of higher propensity towards self-employment for skilled immigrants in well-functioning local labor markets, while finding differences across countries, which means that further research will have to develop the model and keep into account also institutional factors*