

“The Contribution of Immigrants in Economic Levels and their Social Implications. The Case of Immigrants from FYROM”.

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INTRODUCTION

Immigration is a fairly complex and social phenomenon that has occurred for many years around the world. The reasons why people migrate are social, economic, religious, political and environmental. Today the issue of immigration has become acute because of the significant changes occurring due to the geo-political and social consequences. In Greece, the phenomenon of immigration is dominant. This has had some consequences. Some of these are: economic activity is increasing, the creation of jobs, while the population is relatively young who are not burdening the health system and pensions.

The article is divided into subsections. The first chapter refers to the social phenomenon of immigration. This phenomenon is defined and its characteristics are presented. The second chapter is a reference to the concept of immigration. In the third part I refer to the region of Florina. The fact that Florina is a multicultural composition of the region is the main reason that has led to immigration and its impact on the economy in the region of Florina. The fourth and last part is a brief reference to the social implications of this phenomenon in the region.

The reason I chose this region (FYROM) and also its immigrants, are firstly that it is close to the borders of where I come from, West Macedonia. In particular, I am from the region of Florina. Secondly that localization does not only link the area of labor but also links the bond of cognation and friendship as well. This work will be based on a fieldwork which will be conducted in Florina and the immigrants coming from FYROM and will consist of: 1) the theoretical reports on socio-economic impact of immigrants in the labor market and 2) a short fieldwork where I came in contact with citizens of FYROM and with the border police, who gave me the arrival and departure statistics of border citizens.

Before I even started the topic I was informed about the problems that I would have to face with my research. Firstly, I come from refugee family, where the relations between the refugees and the Slavomacedonians are not well. This leads to established stereotypes and prejudices on both sides. On the other hand, I had to deal with my own family who objected to my involvement in this research. While I progressed this study, several more problems came to surface, such as that of the language. This problem was partly overcome with the help of translators. Conclusively this is the fascination of anthropology. It is her ability to enter in areas where a person never thought he or she would enter and to “post-study” perceptions of years.

At this stage, I would like to thank Mr. Avdikos - professor at the University of Thessaly, who was the person who urged me to deal with this subject and guided me during my research.

HISTORICAL REPORTS ON IMMIGRATION

Migration is not just a contemporary phenomenon on the contrary, it is as old as the human society. Found in all historical periods since the antiquity, it is each time determined by different factors. Geographical population movements were an integral part of the evolution of the human history ¹. It is directly related to the concepts of space and time, since these interact between them.

History is full of examples of groups of people or individuals who change their residence for their own reasons. Migration can be performed either within the same state - there lack of the concept of existing borders – we refer to this case with the term of internal migration, or outside the context of their own country and refer to it as international migration. According to White (2000) the dimension of space and time is a key ingredient in the shaping of the national identity and consciousness.

Regarding migration routes, it is observed that during the first decades of migration (prior 1970), they were deeply affected by two factors: history and geography. The so called "old immigration" in Europe accepts immigrants from certain countries that had a link between them ². The country that greeted them was aware of their arrival, and the recruitment of immigrants was through state mechanisms.

Today we talk about a new migration called transit - transmigration (Nitsiakos 2010). People migrate to a country without knowing the exact destination or the time they will remain in there. Moreover, in many cases there aren't any relations connecting the two countries in the past. Today host countries are much more many than there used to be. So, countries that used to send immigrants, they become receiving countries. This occurs to countries with developed or developing economy, such as Greece. In this way and for this reason, people from neighbouring countries

¹ As an example of voluntary migration, in 950 BC people lived in the Long house, created to serve as a home for a large extended family. This shows that Longhouses rely heavily on family relationships. Therefore, under the same roof, lived a number of families linked by family ties. As stated by Kalligas "... the house consisted of a 'patriarchal' family or genus, which was under the power of a leader. The leader of the tribe of these houses is considered to be the owner of the house. The other members of the house were 'hosted' by the owner. So when the leader of the house died, they would leave the house because they did not consider it as their own. Several ethnographic examples where this happens are noticed. For example, people from North American Indians tribes fled the house in which they lived after the death of their leader because they believed that the house did not belong to them and had therefore no right to continue living in it. So, they took the body of the deceased, placed it inside the building and then burnt both house and body. [Alexandra Coucouzeli, *From tribe to State in the Greek early Iron Age: The archaeological evidence from Lefkandi and Zagora*, in Stampolidis N. - Giannikouri A. (ed.)]. In addition, tribes also migrated from one place to another in order to survive in different weather conditions. The same is true today but has a different form as people change their living place, in search of better living conditions, work, politics and more.

² According to Saskia Sassen (2001, *No Control?: Sovereignty, Immigration and Citizenship in a Globalizing World*, Borderline publ., Athens), 60% of the UK foreign residents come from Asian or African countries that had either been under British sovereignty or were British colonies. Similar geographical links, also apply to other countries with colonial past.

do not need to migrate away, but rather close and therefore retain more frequent contact with the country of origin. In many cases, they work in Greece and return home - in their country in the evening.

According to Benos (2004), the key feature of the immigration phenomenon in the country is divided into three development periods:

1) before 1970. During this period, Greece is the mostly an emigration country. Since the early 1970's, an admission of economic migrants and illegal immigrants from Asia and Africa was observed. The latter began to address the needs for employment in industries and occupations (L. Mousourou, 2006).

2) 1974 to 1990. A gradual decline in immigrants is observed, while the return of Greek immigrants is noticed. Quite impressive is the fact that in the new immigration waves of the 1980's-1990's the percentage of women who migrate on their own - ie outside the framework of family reunification was increased (Petriniotis, 1993:62).

3) 1990 until today.

It was reported earlier that Greece has changed from a sending country to host country of immigrants. Of course this did not happen from one moment to another, but in parallel to the outflow of the Greeks towards European countries. In 1972 (especially in Western Germany), 15,000-20,000 foreigners were working in Greece, following the request of the Greek industry to fill in vacancies created by the movement of people (Nikolinakos 1973:169). As early as the 1970's, several immigrants came from Africa and Asia, while during the next decade, immigrants from the central and eastern Europe (Poland, Bulgaria and Romania) followed (Lafazani : 703).

However, since the early 1980's, the migration scenery has begun to change. What changes is the 'direction' of migration routes (Labrianidis and Lyberaki, 2001:72). Southeastern countries entering the European Union, enhance their economic status, cease to feed workforce countries of the Central and Northern Europe, while at the same time they receive the migration from Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa (Castles and Miller, 1998:483).

Meanwhile, the political unrest and the subsequent collapse of the Eastern bloc, the economic reforms that followed, the free movement of people from these

countries after 1990³ in conjunction with national and religious conflicts, political instability, unemployment, poverty, demographic explosion of third world countries, form the scenery in the wider area, creating conditions for migration (Labrianidis and Lyberaki, 2001:74, Mousourou, 1991:47). Their goal was to achieve a better survival and quality of life. Greece was one of the principal beneficiaries of the influx of immigrants these countries.

Additionally, one of the main reasons that Greece was an attractive destination for immigrants is from one point its geopolitical position. The fact that it lies on the southeastern edge of the continent, being a land border from the north and its proximity to the Balkans and on the other hand its economic advancement and the rising of the living standards, make Greece a place easily accessible to immigrants.

From the 90's until today, the third immigration evolution period in Greece, it is observed that most people are smuggled from Eastern Europe (Russia, Ukraine and Poland) from the Balkans (Albania, Romania, Bulgaria and former Yugoslavia) as well as from Asia (Kurdistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Palestine) (L. Mousourou, 2006). This stream is mainly associated with political changes in Eastern Europe, while there are large immigrant minorities deriving from Africa and Asia.

The fact that an increasing number of migrants left the country in order to meet both their own needs as well as the needs the ever-growing industry, led to the reduction of the population in the border areas - such as in Florina - and the rural sector to receive a blow. Of course this attack came from the establishment of factories that gave financial security to people and better living standards in the area.

TERMINOLOGY

The term migration is very complex, any may quite hardly be defined. At times, several different conceptual definitions have been given⁴ - interpreting the

³ The Hodja regime in Albania falls in the early 1990's, leading Greece to accept a large influx of immigrants from Albania. In addition, Greece accepts immigrants in the form of Greek citizens' repatriation, mostly from the former Soviet Union (Bagkavos & Moysidis, 2004, p. 135).

⁴ According to Papadakis and Chiba (2004:288), the phenomenon of migration can be defined as the movement of people aiming to change their residence for a specified period of longer than a year, while this inter-regional movement occurs by the creation of migratory flows reflecting a total number of population movements from a place of origin (departure) to a destination (arrival), that comprises the new location. Tsaousis (1998) on the other hand defines migration as a temporary or permanent change of the location of a person or a social group, and separates it into international and internal migration, if we state the country as a geographic area of observation and study of migratory movements.

term depending on the objective angle of the which the term is attempted to be interpreted. Among most nations, a lack of agreement on the definition of the immigrant and migration kinds is observed. Although there have been serious and significant efforts - through international agreements ⁵ - on the harmonization of the definition, the expected results have not been achieved. Migration, therefore, as a concept is not easy to define as it is affected by many ideological, political, economic and social factors, as well as by theoretical conditions laid down by the governments of the individual countries.

It is generally accepted that the term migration stands for a form of movement of a portion of people – either as groups or as individuals – leaving their country, city or village, to settle in another one, for their own reasons – which may be environmental, economic, political, educational, psychological, social, cultural or religious.

As mentioned above, each country has its own definition for the concept of the immigrant. However, there are two different definitions for the description of the phenomenon, which largely characterize each immigration policy. In the first case, an immigrant is considered to be a person born abroad (foreign born) and now resides and operates in the host country, while in the second case, an immigrant is a person born in the host country, but has not taken the citizenship (Grieco, 2002). So a confusion is observed, since the term often is confused with other definitions such as that of refugees, returnees and the term for foreigners as not all immigrants are foreigners.

AREA AND PEOPLE

SOCIAL AREA

By means of land-planning, the geophysical area of western Macedonia is a pretty extensive plateau measuring 250 km in length, about 100 km in width, with an altitude ranging between 400 and 700m. Natural boundaries of the region are the well known Vermion mountains on the east, Pindos on the west, Kaimaktsalan on the

⁵ As recommended by the 1998 UN statistics on international migration, an international migrant is defined as any person who changed country with regard to their habitual residence Lemaitre, 2005. page 2

north, and Hashish and Kamvounion on the south. But the area among these mountains is also hilly and covered in woodland. Overall, the forested areas of western Macedonia amount to 1,264,500 acres, of a total of 6,145,100 acres of the whole of Macedonia. These areas cover 13.5% of the total surface area (18% of the prefecture of Florina and 9% of Kozani), with an average correlation of 4.5 acres per person (5.6 for the Prefecture of Florina and 3.6 for the Prefecture of Kozani). Additionally, the prefecture of Florina includes 6 lakes: the Small and Large Prespa in the area of Florina, and Cheimaditida, Vegoritida, Zazari and Petron in Amyndeo, which covers nearly 65% of the surface water resources of the country.

Florina prefecture is located in the northwestern part of Western Macedonia and is one of the four prefectures that make up the region of western Macedonia. It includes 3 districts: Florina district with its headquarters in Florina, Amyndeo district with Amyntaio as capital city and Prespa district. Florina prefecture is characterized as a border area and is bordered by Albania to the west and to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) to the north. It is also adjacent to the regions of central Macedonia in east, Thessaly on the south and Epirus on the west.

NATION-CULTURAL COMPOSITION

Florina prefecture has through the course of history, received major blows regarding the homogeneity of its population and space.

At administrative level it has passed through several stages:

- up to 1912 it was dominated by the Ottoman Empire
- Balkan wars
- 1923: exchange of populations
- 1940: Second World War

- Civil War

However, in 1922, with the upcoming exchange of populations after the Asia Minor disaster, the lives of people will rapidly change with diverse effects on both the real and the symbolic level.

In this prefecture, the residents that have installed and coexist can according to linguistic criteria be separated into: Turkish-speaking, Slav-speaking, Vlach-speaking and Greek-speaking. Based on their origin, the group members identify and classify themselves in their official plea in 4 main categories, apart from any internal variations among each group. Their identification is based upon the following conditions:

Native: this category includes the Slav-speaking who identify themselves as indigenous. Refugees include Pontian, Thracian and Asia Minor people. Vlachs who speak the Vlach language and reside in the same settlements as the refugees. Arvanians living mainly in the area of Lechovo.

However since the refugees have settled in the area - after 1923 – they face heavy fighting in a social, cultural, political and economic level. Locals have until recently claimed, and negotiated their difference in relation to the refugee, borrowing facts for the consolidation of the "indignity" ⁶. Rivalries and conflicts are observed also through the assays of people living together. They are charged by the memories of the past. This indicates the following extra-determination:

- the native call the refugees "tourkosporo", "invaders", while
- the refugee and Vlachs calls the local "Slavophone" and "Gallo".

Basically it can be seen that there are conflicts among the locals and other nationalities of the country.

⁶ Yiannisoroulou M., (1998). Η ανθρωπολογία προσέγγιση. Αλμωπία: παρελθόν, παρόν και μέλλον, In "Μακεδονία και Βαλκάνια. Ξενοφοβία και Ανάπτυξη", (in greek) Alexandria publ. , Athens, p. 359

CAUSES OF MIGRATION

The Balkan countries after the Cold War period, that are now asked to face the consequences of the events on one hand, and the other globalization and the new information era on the other hand. These countries are economically impoverished and new alliances forged between the more developed countries create larger faults in their interior ⁷. The countries and groups are invited to create the appropriate structures, institutions and attitudes that will enable them to participate in the physical benefits of the globalised progress and development. This is necessary in order to cover this disparity that exists among other - most developed countries. In parallel to this difference in the existing development and poverty, a “sense of inferiority of the local socio - cultural grid” ⁸ is created. All these feelings are being attempted to be overthrown by the existing governments, in order to mislead the people off the essential survival problem, strengthening the national consciousness, with references to the common ancestral land and culture "imagined community." ⁹

Many people are therefore beginning to migrate in the last two decades, from the region of FYROM to Greece and particularly to the Florina area. Florina is easily accessible to the FYROM citizens as the first city of the neighboring country is just 15 kilometers from the Nike customs office.

The main factors that forced the migration is the globalization of markets, the non-declining route of transport and communications, the differences among the economically developed and non-developed countries in the international division of labour, demography, and political and environmental upheavals in various parts of the world (Maroukis, 2010:93).

The immigrants come to Greece from FYROM for work, shopping, weddings and kinship ties. All this mobility and reconnection of neighboring locations across the national border lead to the gradual normalization of relations and the lost

⁷ Kafetzis P. (1998). Μια θεωρητική προσέγγιση της ξενοφοβίας, In «Μακεδονία και Βαλκάνια. Ξενοφοβία και ανάπτυξη», (in Greek) Alexandria pub. , Athens, p. 22.

⁸ As in p. 22

⁹ Anderson M. (1983) Imaginative Communities

historical unity of the area ¹⁰. The borders define the geographical size of the political authority of the states. New methods of financial transactions occur, old social relations and family ties return. People and goods pass from one side of the border to another, creating an inter-national space that has formerly been nothing but a by-locality (Nitsiakos 2010). A social field crossing the national boundary and largely contributes to the restoration of the historic unity of the region is formed. This field activates communication routes and economic, social and cultural relations that used to be present among families, communities and ethnic groups in the past.

Florina has to deal with two parameters. On one hand its very border nature, as this is formed by the border demarcation after the Balkan wars. But the fact that Florina during the last century constituted a prime emigration city to America, Canada, Australia and Germany, but is now a city of immigrants from Albania, Russia, FYROM and others.

According to figures supplied by the Florina prefecture residence permits immigration department, the area residents are:

Number of foreigners residing in Florina prefecture

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	NUMBER
ARMENIA	10
FYROM	59
RUSSIA	15
ALBANIA	2634
UKRAINE	17
GEORGIA	10
BELARUS	2
CHINE	19
MOLDAVIA	4
PHILIPPINES	1
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1

¹⁰ I refer to the concept of Macedonia and the claiming of land and name. Florina region has previously spatially contained Bitola, which was the administrative centre.

CROATIA	11
TUNISIA	2
UZMEKISTAN	3
SERBIA-MONTENEGRO	1
TOTAL	2789

FIGURES PROVIDED BY THE FLORINA PREFECTURE RESIDENCE PERMITS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

As it can be seen from the above table, the largest number of foreigners residing in the county derives from Albania, while only 57 people come from FYROM. Apart from the permanent number of immigrants living in the region of Florina, there is a quite large number of people who periodically pass the border to come to Greece.

This means that they only come for work and return back to their country as soon as they finish work. According to the number provided by the police station of Nike on February 14th 2011, on the arrivals and departures of FYROM citizens in 2009 and 2010, it can be seen that their number for the year 2010 has notably increased.

YEAR 2009

ARRIVAL	102.804
DEPARTURE	79.574

YEAR 2010

ARRIVAL	166.382
DEPARTURE	140.675

FIGURES PROVIDED BY THE FLORINA PREFECTURE RESIDENCE PERMITS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

According to the above table, it can be observed that in 2010 there was an increase of arrivals in the country by 61.84%, compared to 60% compared in 2009. In

parallel to the rate of exit of the citizens of FYROM from Greece in 2010, it is about 77%, significantly increased since 2009.

This is logical, since strong political and diplomatic conflicts regarding the name of the region existed, a fact that does not allow FYROM to join the European Union up to the present, some restrictions and strict controls over the border had been set. In addition, a Visa was required for them to enter Greek territory ¹¹.

The country of FYROM is facing acute economic problems. It is considered to be one of the poorest countries in Europe, with 30% of its population living below the poverty line ¹² and the informal economy representing 40% of the GDP and increasing inequality ¹³. The economic situation has created high unemployment, structural problems and bureaucratic rigidity. Unemployment in 2009 reached 32.1% according to estimates of international organizations, striking especially young adults aged 20-34 years and of primary education graduates.

Speaking with agents of the public order at Nike as to whether they are aware of people coming from FYROM to work in the Florina region, they vigorously reacted negatively, answering that: "this is not allowed and if something falls under their perception they will turn them back. Here they pass the border only for holidays and shopping." However, this did not appear to be the case, since after staying in the

¹¹ Schengen Treaty: The Schengen Agreement, signed on June 14, 1985 among Germany, Belgium, France, Luxembourg and other countries that followed later, aimed at the gradual abolition of checks at their common borders and establishes freedom of movement for all nationals of countries which are signatories of the other Member States or third countries. The Schengen Treaty complements the agreement and establishes the conditions and guarantees for the implementation of this freedom. Although it was signed on June 19, 1990, it came into force in 1995. For a candidate country to join the European Union, it must in advance have fully accepted the Schengen acquis upon accession.

Among the main measures, it is worth mentioning:

1. the abolition of checks at common borders and the transfer of such controls at external borders.
2. A common definition of terms of crossing the external borders, as well as and uniform rules and procedures for checks on persons at these borders.
3. separation at airports and ports among travelers who move within the Schengen area and those coming from outside the area.
4. the introduction or establishment of coordination between administrations for the control of borders (Association officials, harmonization of instructions and training provided to staff).
5. to determine the role of carriers in the fight against illegal immigration.
6. the obligation to complete a declaration for every citizen of a third country who moves from one country to another
7. the establishment of the right of monitoring and cross-border enforcement for the police force belonging to the Schengen area
8. the establishment of a Schengen Information System for data exchange.

All these measures and decisions and declarations established by the executive committee formed by the 1990 convention, the acts voted for the running of this treaty by the organs to which the execution committee provided decision authorities, the agreement signed on 19th June 1990 as well as the protocols and entrance agreements that followed, comprise the "Schengen acquisition".

Regarding the countries that became European Union members after 1st May 2004, they are totally connected to the Schengen acquisition, but certain provisions will apply only regarding the abolition of border controls. Today, these countries implement all the provisions of the Schengen acquisition on police and judicial cooperation that are not intrinsically related to the lifting of internal border controls. (<http://www.panagiotopoulos-agents.gr/main/gr/extras/schengen.pdf>)

¹² The basic salary is 270 euros which are not enough to cover basic needs.

¹³ www.foreignpress-gr.com/2009_01_18_archive.html

borders for several hours and interviewing some of “them”, it was observed that they were going to work after entering Greece, and most of the people providing the information were male. Apparently unwilling to increase the number of foreign workers living in the region, maintaining a standard form of "security" under national or ethnic homogeneity for the majority of the region workforce, albeit informally is not the case, at least in relation to the primary sector. It is therefore observed that migration in this case is of male sex. The men in order to ensure higher wages and greater financial comfort for the families crossed the borders - symbolic and real.

Of course, according to the following table and the data presented, it may be noted that during the summer months - June, July and August, season for the start of crop cultivation in the area, the influx of immigrants is more increased in comparison to other months. However, it may be noted that in September there is an increased entry of immigrants, as this is the season for the apples harvesting. The fact that people come from FYROM for farming activities in the area, relieves the local farmers, since the labor force is limited. Today a large percentage of FYROM immigrants engage in agriculture in Greece. This occurs because most young people leave the city to study, while many of them work in PPC factories, leading to the sidelining of agriculture, while older people lack the ability to continue working on the fields and they finally abandon agriculture. This probably happens because immigrants are cheaper working hands. The locals prefer FYROM natives because the same geographical region and culture is probably closest to them than foreign workers from the East or Africa. The language is not an issue, if they can communicate in Slavmacedonian.

A difference in the inflow between the years 2009 and 2010 is observed. The percentage of citizens of FYROM who entered Greece in 2010 is almost double than that in 2009.

The areas that tend to employ a workforce of immigrants from FYROM are characterized by great flexibility and seasonality in production. They are labor-intensive sectors with low levels of technological innovation and low productivity. The majority of FYROM migrants are mainly employed - formally or informally, in the rural economy, and secondly in the construction sector, construction sites, small-scale industries and domestic services.

In general, the work is manual, low paid, and characterized by low social status and high degree of exploitation - since in most cases insurance is not provided for. Basically immigrants undertake jobs that Greeks do not wish to do.

YEAR 2009

MONTH	ARRIVALS	DEPARTURES
JANUARY	6.063	4.214
FEBRUARY	6.145	4.999
MARCH	5.813	4.257
APRIL	5.745	4.773
MAY	6.033	4.994
JUNE	9.360	7.010
JULY	14.814	10.502
AUGUST	17.629	12.178
SEPTEMBER	10.789	8.495
OCTOBER	7.757	6.747
NOVEMBER	5.447	4.280
DECEMBER	7.209	7.125

YEAR 2010

MONTH	ARRIVALS	DEPARTURES
JANUARY	10.579	7.846
FEBRUARY	7.533	6.399
MARCH	9.777	8.629
APRIL	9.779	8.698
MAY	10.077	8.654
JUNE	14.074	11.350
JULY	20.127	16.892
AUGUST	27.403	22.360
SEPTEMBER	20.374	16.320
OCTOBER	14.725	13.226
NOVEMBER	11.686	9.668

(STATISTICS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL FLORINA)

The impact of immigration is also important for the host country of the immigrants as immigration significantly alters the demographic structure and appearance of demography of the host country, as its population increases dramatically and frequently changes its structure quite impressively. Economically speaking, the host country greatly benefits from immigrants. Using unskilled workers is low cost and benefit as well as increase their production industries. The use of non specialized workers is of low cost, and industries are accordingly profited as they increase their production. Of course this has a negative impact for the state because of the non-payment of VAT for uninsured or "black" labor that exploits workers and refuses their right to medical and pension insurance. In addition, employers do not pay wages equivalent to the performance of their work and thus decreasing wages, creating a "negative" or difficult climate for prospective Greek workers, who probably would not choose to do the same work because of the low wages and eventual degrading importance of the specific tasks.

However the effects in the host country and immigrants are not only beneficial. The entrance of large numbers of immigrants into a country in a short period of time creates an imbalance of offer and demand of work and keeps the wages of both migrants in foreign countries as well as the wages of the local residents low. The latter cannot earn high salaries, at least in the beginning of their working career.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An important part regarding immigration policy that of the integration, meaning to which extent immigrants coming to the host country can live together harmoniously in the local society without being differentiated by being given a negative state by the rest of the residents. In the wider Florina region there are many immigrants from areas such as Albania, FYROM, Russia, Bulgaria, while refugees also coexist with them. During the first decades of the immigration boom from Albania, there had been a social integration effort, under the condition of becoming Greek, turning into Christian Orthodox and adopting Greek names. But unlike other

immigrant groups, people from FYROM are not considered by the residents to be foreigners, "others." They are fully integrated into society. But if Florina people are asked what kind of immigrants live in their area will report all nationalities but FYROM.

As mentioned above a major social issue as well as a human right is the right to work and insurance. Some of these issues were mentioned on the text on black labor. In addition, an important arising question is the investment the money earned in Greece. This money may be earned by working in Greece but immigrants make investments such as buying of houses or farmland or they give it to their family for the everyday home needs - in their own country. This has led to the economical growth of their own countries of origin and improvement of the living standards there. The same applies to Greek industries installed in FYROM, which help the national economy by the creation of factories there which use local working population. In addition, we daily movements of Greek workers forth and back is also observed. Additionally, as a second major minority group in Florina, people from FYROM, consist vital factors of the rural areas since they are mostly engaged in agricultural activities.

Three facts contribute towards that. First, the fact that immigrants who come from the region of former Yugoslavia, speak the same language as the locals (in the villages that they are installed such as Meliti, the local people still speak Macedonianslav), so there is no language barrier. In addition, these people have relatives there or are considered to be relatives, since apart from the common language they share other common things such as such as music, folk dances, customs and traditions. Therefore the locals consider them to be some of their own¹⁴. Finally, another more element that makes it easy for immigrants to integrate is the historic part and the whole issue regarding to the name of Macedonia. They consider these the lands to be of their own and do not feel foreigners because they consider it part of their ancestors land.

¹⁴ The issue of acceptance by the locals is not only true in the case of Florina region. Last summer, when the author went to Turkey and especially when she went down to Smyrna, the Turks behaved in a different when they learned that her some of her ancestors came from the Pontus region, and called her one of their own. They thought that the author could understand their thinking and mentality and share some common features. They also considered it to be logical that she could understand their language because her grandmother was speaking and she originated from these places.

Perhaps for this reason the police reacts the way they do. But at the same time the very name of the border is symbolic -Nike means Victory in Greek. Barth (1969) argues that what distinguishes one group from another is mostly the border and not the cultural material. That is, the formation of ethnic identities is associated with the awareness and understanding of the difference within the context of otherness. Cohen (1985) speaks of the importance of the concept of the border for people, given the fact that the border is their need for extra-determination by putting drawing a line to distinguish this heterogeneity. And this is where the distinction between a border and barrier comes to place. The border is a dividing line, a rough feature of the "stuff" of our world. It is necessary as the difference so that each "thing" to have their own names, logic and ontological identity (Fuga 2003). On the other hand, the word barrier means an impassable boundary, a wall that separates human beings who do not communicate anymore but become enemies, fight and hate each other (Fuga 2003).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it seems that the boundaries define the geographical extent of the political power of states, by making territoriality as one of the basic conditions of their existence. According to Biggs (1999) the most striking representation of this function of borders is modern political maps on which each state is assigned a particular color, while a thin black line defines the intersection and separation of the bordering states. But what is missing from the above view is the notion of historicity of any specific border. Historicity on which the processes of the creation of national states as separate and single units characterized by cultural homogeneity, since the delineation of the States is all about the bipolarity of "us and the others".

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