

# Research Institute for European and American Studies

(RIEAS)

## Newsletter on Immigration to Greece

March 2009

Editor: [Ioannis Kolovos](#)

### **15 Municipalities in Attica are under investigation for issuing residence permits to illegal immigrants**

According to an article which appeared in *Ta Nea* (26/2/2009), Ministry of Interior officials have admitted that they are investigating 15 Municipalities in Attica due to extensive corruption cases of employees who provided fraudulent residence permits to illegal immigrants for a price of 2,500-3,000 euros a piece. In the Municipality of Metamorfoosi a single employee is suspected to have issued more than 2,000 fraudulent residence permits.

The full article can be read here (in Greek only):

<http://www.tanea.gr/default.asp?pid=2&ct=1&artid=4504265>

### **Immigrant population increases not only through influx but also through high birth rate – Greek population shrinks**

According to a study of population data by ex-Minister and Athens University of Economics and Business Professor Manolis Drettakis, in the period from 2005 to 2007, the Greek population decreased by 41,600 people as deaths were more than births. At the same time the foreign population in the country increased by 52,651 people. Births by foreign mothers constitute 17.4% of all births while deaths of foreigners constitute only 1.6% of all deaths. Two-thirds of the foreigners' natural increase is due to Albanians.

An article outlining the study (*Eleftherotypia* 26/2/2009) can be read here (in Greek only):

[http://www.enet.gr/online/online\\_fpage\\_text/dt=26.02.2009,id=52867188](http://www.enet.gr/online/online_fpage_text/dt=26.02.2009,id=52867188)

Similar findings were presented in a congress organized by the Academy of Athens and the Hellenic Society of Demographic Studies. A brief report of the congress' announcements (*Avgi* 12/3/2009) can be found here (in Greek only):

<http://www.avgi.gr/NavigateActiongo.action?articleID=441584>

### **Hundreds of Afghan illegal immigrants clash with the police in Patras - again**

Another serious incident of rioting of Afghan immigrants took place in Patras. Two civilians and two policemen were injured during the clashes while several vehicles were damaged. This was

the latest in a string of riots and anti-social behavior by elements among the several thousands Afghan illegal immigrants who have reached Patras in an effort to illegally board ships to Italy.

A report of the clashes (*Eleftheros Typos*, 4/3/2009) can be read here (in Greek only):  
<http://www.e-tipos.com/newsitem?id=78614>

### **Government to spend four million euros in 2009 in an effort to promote immigrant integration**

It should be noted that a significant part of this amount (864,000 euros) is to be spent to “inform” Greek public opinion on immigration and combat “racism” and “xenophobia”.

The relevant report (*Kathimerini*, 4/3/2009) can be read here (in Greek only):  
[http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/\\_w\\_articles\\_ell\\_1\\_04/03/2009\\_305553](http://news.kathimerini.gr/4dcgi/_w_articles_ell_1_04/03/2009_305553)

It should also be noted that, during the presentation of the program, the Minister of Interior Mr Prokopis Pavlopoulos pointed out that it consists of six operational sub-programs which, among others, aim to render Greek public opinion sensitive to racism and xenophobia and “to bring into notice the multicultural character of Greek society”

Parts of Mr Pavlopoulos’ speech can be found here (in Greek only):  
[http://www.ypes.gr/ypes\\_po/detail.asp?docid=2004](http://www.ypes.gr/ypes_po/detail.asp?docid=2004)

### **New EU directive tightens penalties for those who hire illegal immigrants**

A new EU directive, which will become effective in two years’ time, provides for much heavier fines for those who employ illegal immigrants. The question, as far as Greece is concerned, is who will enforce the new directive, as the Labor Inspectorate is seriously understaffed and, thus, can hardly perform the checks required in order to ensure the employers’ compliance.

A wholesome report (*Kyriakatiki Eleftherotypia* 15/3/2009) can be read here (in Greek only):  
[http://www.enet.gr/online/online\\_text/c=112,dt=15.03.2009,id=31999796](http://www.enet.gr/online/online_text/c=112,dt=15.03.2009,id=31999796)

### **Immigrants: a public health issue and a burden on public hospitals?**

According to data based on hospital research, 18.6% of patients with hepatitis were immigrants from Albania. When it comes to minors the percentage reaches 56.6%! Immigrants were also 11.9% of the HIV cases.

A relevant article (*Eleftherotypia* 18/3/2009) can be read here (in Greek only):  
[http://www.enet.gr/online/online\\_text/c=112,dt=18.03.2009,id=88948500](http://www.enet.gr/online/online_text/c=112,dt=18.03.2009,id=88948500)

### **Police to hire immigrants?**

According to a front-page article (*Eleftheros Typos* 27/3/2009), Deputy Minister of Interior Markogiannakis’ associates are seriously considering to propose the hiring of immigrants by the Police in order to gain access to immigrant communities’ intelligence and to be able to better access “no-go areas” in Athens city center. The article claims that such a decision will be based on the relevant “success” stories in the UK and the US. It fails to mention that positive discrimination (affirmative action) efforts in several UK police forces resulted in a backlash from white candidates. Another obstacle to the project is that, in order to be hired by the police, immigrants should have Greek citizenship

The aforementioned article can be read here (in Greek only):  
<http://www.e-tipos.com/newsitem?id=82484>

**Immigrants clash violently in Athens city center – again**

Serious clashes between groups of Afghans and Pakistanis took place in the “historical center” of Athens. The groups clashed violently – again – and the police made five arrests. The incident gained minimal print-media coverage.

A small report of it can be found at the end of the article below (in Greek only):

<http://www.in.gr/news/article.asp?IngEntityID=999341&IngDtrlID=244>