

Irregular Migration,
Informal Labour and Community:
A Challenge for Europe

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494 pages / 36,00 €

ISBN 978-90-423-0317-1



Edited by
Erik Berggren, Branka Likić-Brborić,
Gülay Toksöz and Nicos Trimikliniotis

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Migration is today emerging as an increasingly central issue in politics and social science. We live now in what has aptly been called 'the age of migration.' One aspect of the compound of issues hiding behind the word 'migration' is *irregular migration*, also known as 'undocumented' or 'illegal' migration. Irregular migration is one of the most critical questions related to migration and the development of European labour markets. The irregular migrant is at the centre of one of the great paradoxes of European politics today: the openly declared need for more labour and the toughening migration policies that limits the possibilities to enter regularly into the Union. This is also linked to a growing concern about *informalisation* of the labour market and to populist anti-immigrant mobilisation. Hence, the discussion on irregularity is connected to the wider debates on globalisation, out-sourcing, welfare change, a gendered and ethnified labour market, citizen rights vs migrant rights, as well as the general debates on multiculturalism, racism and anti-immigrant populism in Europe.

This book addresses and analyses irregular migration from these perspectives by bringing together contributions from leading researchers across the EU, the new member states, selected candidate countries and from some of the neighbouring countries in Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and the Southern Mediterranean.

The volume is the upshot of the IMILCO conference "Irregular Migration, Informal Labour and Community in Europe" held in Istanbul in December 2005. IMILCO—*International Migration, Informal Labour and Community in Europe*—is a Swedish-Turkish initiative focused on research and policy issues on migration and labour in Europe developed by the *Swedish National Institute for Working Life* (NIWL) and the *Marmara University Research Centre for International Relations* (MURCIR), supported by the *Swedish Consulate General in Istanbul*.

The essays in the book are written by 30 leading European researchers of migration, integration, welfare- and labour market changes. For example: Aleksandra Ålund, Ursula Apitzsch, Maria Baganha, Giovanna Campani, Franck Düvell, Thomas Faist, Bill Jordan, Helma Lutz, Carl-Ulrik Schierup, Gülay Toksöz, Anastasia Tsoukala, Ellie Vasta, Ubaldo Martinez Veiga.

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