Migration flows into Greece over the last decade: intensity and basic characteristics of illegal entrants and asylum seekers, Demographic News, 26, 2016

Greece after the end of the 80s turns from emigration in immigration country, as the data from the last four population censuses confirm. Foreign residents in the 1981 census are 180 thousands of which 63% origin of the most developed countries. Ten years later (2001) their number over-quadrupled being 762 thousands, i.e. 7% of the total population, while in 2011 they exceed to 912 thousands (plus 150 thousands compared to 2001). At the same time, the last four years, 2012-2015, despite the depth of the economic crisis migration flows are not intercepted. The origin countries of the illegal entrants and their profile changes as the vast majority of them come from areas where raging conflicts and their goal is no longer to stay in Greece but through it to settle in another EU country. The latter is reflected in the very small number of those who have submitted an asylum application during this period. The volume of immigration flows is limited and "manageable" until 2014, while in 2015 the entries compared with the previous year are multiplied by 12 (77,0 thousands in 2014, 912 in 2015) creating wealth reactions inside and outside the country.

The paper analyzed data from both national (Greek Statistical Authority, Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction) and international sources (UNHCR, EU, Frontex) presenting a complete picture of the illegal migration flows into Greece over the last decade, with particular emphasis on the characteristics of these new incoming populations.