MIGRANT AND NON-MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: INDIVIDUAL, LOCAL AND REGIONAL EFFECTS ON QUANTITY AND QUALITY (SUMMARY)

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SUMMARY

MIGRANT AND NON-MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: INDIVIDUAL, LOCAL AND REGIONAL EFFECTS ON QUANTITY AND QUALITY

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Principal Topic

The costs and benefits of immigration is a hot political topic in Europe and in the US. Migrants, including immigrants and regional in-migrants, are known to make a disproportionate quantitative contribution to new business activity in the UK (Levie, 2007). However, much remains to be discovered about the relative quality of businesses started by immigrants, and this has contributed to a proliferation of theories to explain differences in entrepreneurship by ethnic minority and immigrant status. The study draws on established theories of immigrant and ethnic minority entrepreneurship to develop hypotheses on the propensity of migrants and non-migrants to create high-expectation versus low expectation businesses, innovative versus less innovative businesses, international-focused versus domestic market businesses, and transforming, business services or consumer-oriented businesses for each migrant status.

Method

This study uses logistic regression on a combined 2005 and 2006 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor database containing over 62,000 UK adult respondents selected randomly within each of 12 regions to test hypotheses of difference in ambition, innovativeness, sector preference and export propensity of migrant and non-migrant nascent and new entrepreneurs, controlling for age, gender, ethnicity, educational qualifications and attitudes and regional effects.

Results and Implications

The results suggest that regional migrant entrepreneurs (both in-migrants and immigrants) are significantly better educated than regional life long resident entrepreneurs, and that once education, age and ethnicity are controlled, there are no significant differences between migrant and life long resident entrepreneurs in terms of entrepreneurial ambition, innovativeness or internationalisation using the measures in the study, either for nascent or for new entrepreneurs. However, ethnicity and migrant status do combine to form patterns of difference in high expectation entrepreneurship prevalence, and there are also regional and sectoral effects.

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