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A dictionary of the Portuguese language defines an entrepreneur as “someone who ventures; enterprising; active”. According to this semantic definition, all immigrants without exception are entrepreneurs.

To dare to set off for a foreign country in search of work and better living conditions is a sign of enterprise, evidence of a refusal by human beings to resign themselves to adverse circumstances in their society of birth.

This gesture of setting off – so intrinsically human – represents courage.

It is true that we are accustomed to seeing migrants as salaried workers, working in the toughest jobs which, most of the time, the workers of the receiving society refuse.

Nevertheless, the labour integration of migrants is much richer and more complex than the situation of salaried workers, as there are immigrants whose vision creates employment and wealth for the receiving society.

Despite the fact that every professional situation has its function and social utility, I would say that we tend to value the salaried worker more, undermining the visibility of the immigrant entrepreneur who creates employment and generates wealth in our country.

In truth, we have known for a long time that the bravery of immigrants is not limited to this reductive vision of the migratory phenomenon restricted to people who work for others.

For a long time in contemporary societies, patent signs of the capacity for entrepreneurial initiative of many of our immigrants have been observed, though they have not always been duly valued nor publicly recognised.

Here in Portugal, the new immigration law – Law no. 23/2007 of 4 July 2007 – recognises for the first time a distinct access regime for entrepreneurs and independent workers as opposed to salaried workers. The Plan for Immigrant Integration – RCM no. 63A/2007 of 3 May – also foresees a measure (13) for incentivising immigrant entrepreneurship. In the field, the National Immigrant Support Centre

in Lisbon already has a Support Service for Entrepreneurship that provides relevant information on setting up businesses and applying for micro-credit, seeking to be an incentive for the creation of self-employment with a view to immigrants' professional realisation.

This was the theme chosen for our *Migrações* Journal, with the title of Immigrant Entrepreneurship, already in its third issue. In this Special Issue there is a comparative analysis of different international policies with implications for immigrant entrepreneurship and of the important role of civil society organisations in promoting this reality.

It remains for me to conclude with a word of appreciation for the two editors – and, I should say, entrepreneurs in the social sciences – Catarina Reis Oliveira and Jan Rath, whom I thank for the excellent work undertaken.