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The social representation of immigrants that still prevails in the majority of European countries is associated with salaried work of low added value through occupation in jobs that do not attract the active native population.

Although this image corresponds to the reality of the majority of immigrant workers, the truth is that the stereotype has suffered a rapid transformation. On the one hand, flows of highly qualified immigration have acquired increased importance while, on the other, phenomena of immigrant entrepreneurship have been identified, which create wealth, add value and provide employment in the context of the receiving economies.

Furthermore, it should not be assumed that these entrepreneurial initiatives are confined to restricted markets for 'ethnic' goods or services. Without questioning the relevance of Chinese restaurants or yoga schools, the analysis of the economic reality in our societies has highlighted the emergence of new – and powerful – entrepreneurial phenomena in the most diverse sectors of activity, which directly or indirectly involve a strong presence of immigrants.

The more open economies are and the more societies promote equality of opportunities, the higher the probability is that the playing field will be even for all of those who wish to take the risk of initiating or diversifying a business.

In other words, for immigrant entrepreneurs the World is Flat or, at least, it is inclined to present itself to be less uneven than in the recent past. Furthermore, innovation economies and industries of creativity increasingly require the intersection of cultures and the encounter with diversities to sustain them.

Issue No. 3 of the Migrações Journal dedicates to the theme the attention it deserves, and it deserves to be read, and considered, by all those who are interested in the issue of population movements.

Primarily, because the editing of the issue was undertaken by two researchers of the theme and consummate specialists in the study of the economy of immigration: Catarina Reis Oliveira and Jan Rath.

Also, however, for the simple reason that a brilliant group of researchers accepted the invitation to contribute to the publication of this issue from the most varied angles of approach but united by their rigour and the quality of their analysis.

The Migrações Journal fulfils therefore, the principal purpose for which it was created: to provide a forum for the publication of original research on seminal issues, stimulating the academic community to open up new frontiers of analysis and systematic research.