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International Migration and Its Impact on Economic Development in Kosovo

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Abstract

It is a phenomenon present since the beginning of 1990. Although, emigration has been stable over the past two decades, the general trend tends to increase over time. Kosovo has had a massive migration phenomenon from the beginning of the 90s. This important aspect of the democratic regime was virtually unknown before 90s from Serbian regime, when Kosovo society was a closed society. After years '99 the main component that defines the democratic regime was Kosovo society under the administration of UNMIK till 2008, where it was proclaimed Independence of Kosovo. Emigration term used to describe the process of movement of persons removed from our lands in the European territories like Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy and many other countries. Also we had migration within Kosovo from torture of the Serbian regime, which influences the structure of the distribution of population within the country. Emigration remains a complex occurrence, which has affected Kosovo for many decades. Many studies have been undertaken to explore the distribution of Albania's international migration and emigration after the fall of the Serbian regime from the 90s till '99 s years. It is known that people migrate, when their country lacks the resources and opportunities to fulfill their needs and aspirations. This is the state of Kosovo emigrants, who left their country for a better life for themselves and their families after a long period of occupation and transition, which resulted in poverty and a high level of unemployement. The term "a better life" includes a broad range of factors that make people from Kosovo to flee, and is reflected in the lack uniformitybetween immigrants from Kosovo.

Key words

Kosovo, emigration, migration, democracy, poverty.

1. Introduction

Kosovo has one of the largest flows of international migration in the world. Most of the immigration has been for economic reasons, and to escape the armed conflict in the late thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine, conflict resolution isn't seem to have been enough incentive for migrants to return. Although, migration has slowed down by the global economic crisis, a reported 3.5 percent of the working population aged 15 and older have expressed interest in emigrating to the next 12 months.

Migration and remittances from abroad have been a safety valve for many people from Kosovo, to insure their livelihood in a country, that has unemployement and poverty rates the highest in Europe. Remittances from abroad are the largest source of external financing for Kosovo. Although, between two thousand four and two thousand ten, their share inside BPV fell from 17.5 percent to 13 percent below, it is still high by regional and global standards.

Despite the importance of migration for the economic and social landscape of Kosovo, little, or no public policies were designed to maximize its contribution to economic development. In the year of 2009, Government of Kosovo has adopted a Na-

tional Strategy, and Action Plan on Migration for period two thousand nine - two thousand and twelve, but it deals mainly with irregular migration, and the management of legal migration. No government document of any kind does not contain politics related to economic aspects of migration.

The objective of this paper is to illustrate the importance of migration, and remittances from the diaspora in Kosovo, and its economic development based on the data. While, the second is to identify the politics implemented in other countries, that Kosovo authorities might find useful forme chanism of benefits from its large migrant population. This study does not specify politics, that authorities have to approve, but sets out the politics and instruments, that authorities may consider, if they wish to bind more tightly migration with development.

2. On Terms of Population Movement/Migration

First, confirm that you have the correct template for your paper size. This template has been tailored for output on the custom paper size (21 cm * 28.5 cm). In world literature, as well as to local terms of population movements are taken as universal terms, which today are used in almost all aspects of communication, media and literature as terms acceptable to us, too. Therefore, in the following text will be used terms like below:

• Population movement in space, change of residence–Migration

• Removal of the population of the settlement–Emigration

• The arrival of people from one another residence–Immigration

Migration is the term used to describe the movement of people in space, but in the broadest sense includes the movement of other populations. With the data of population migration trends usually shown waves or the movement of people between countries in both directions: emigration (departure) immigration (arrivals).

Data users sometimes fail to distinguish these terms appropriately, because two terms: Emigration and immigration means the movement of population, and in terms of writing and spelling they are only slightly.

Although, the term emigration tends to be more usable, because it is a term used in the media and political terms.

Migration means change of habitual residence with another residence (municipality, region, state), or moving from one place to another place as:municipality, region or other country.

Administrative-territorial aspect of migration is divided into:

Emigration-national/international and

Immigration-national/ international

Emigration is the act to move from a township in another residence (in the country or outside that country) in order to stay for a longer period than 12 months. Emigration shows simply the removal of a person to another country for the purposes of housing, employment, education, or other issues. Persons, who return temporarily to special needs, certain activities, visits, etc. for a short time, but they will come back to live in the place, where they had migrated, so they remain emigrant.

International emigration (external), this term refers to persons who emigrate (leave) outside the national state.

National emigration (internal), is the movement (removal) from one residence to another residence (municipality, region), but within the national borders.

Immigration is the opposite of Emigration. Act, when an individual comes from another place or another state to live in a residence in Kosovo. Immigration is the action of the movement of people, who take place in a country, but who were not locals of that country. In practical terms, Immigration means people who plan to stay/come to a place where you are.

International emigration (external), this term means persons, who immigrate (arrivals) outside the border of the national state.

The national migration (internal), is the movement of population (coming-setting) from another township, municipality, or another region within the state border, that are located in the residence, municipality, or a new region.

While decomposition of these factors and reasons for migration is: Providing a better economic future: In economic terms it means, that people emigrate for greater economic benefits. If a site offers better financial conditions for the future (higher wages and better way of life) some people think to immigrate to that country. Also, a job with long-term security, and better conditions is impellent factor for emigration.

Higher standard of living: Many people give priority and importance, that He / She to emigrate or to send their children abroad to achieve a better lifestyle or higher standard of living. This emigration means, that such people think to ensure a better perspective of career, and better way of life for their children, which conditions cannot offer their countries. Also, better health services, and social services are additional factors, which have an impact on emigration.

Education: In countries, that claimed to emigrate have a supply / large range of educational opportunities. This means, that the level of education is the highest level such are: high schools, colleges, vocational institutes, universities, or other training courses. This despite the fact, that the countries where they live don't offer the choice of different profiles. This emigration is a pulse expressed especially among the younger generation, and with possibility of emigration.

Political reasons: Political emigration includes persons (their families), that in their places are persecuted, because of their political convictions, they have limited freedom of expression in their country, and in general are against the system of the present state in the country. A part of thememigrate in order to not risk their life, if they stay in their place. Emigration to another place of these people in many cases give them more space to develop political activities, personal security, lobbying for their country etc. Some of them, also change their nationality to gain a new identity, and to have more freedom in their activities.

Family reunion: Members of the immediate family, or wider family aim to join in the new country of emigration to other members by enabling them to emigrate/go to that country through various forms such as: family reunion (with parent, with children, or other members of the extended family) marriage with the person, who found the target country for migration, or coexistence.

The needs of different personalities: Each person has properties/specific features, and some of them intends that with emigration to another country will allow him/her to develop a better professional career, or would feel more comfortable, if he will immigrate to another country. Also, a part of them migrates aiming, that their professional skills in certain areas (artists, athletes, technicians in various fields, innovators etc.) will express better in another country.

Other: certain groups of people, who migrate have also other factors propellant, that push them to emigrate such are: intend to join part of the extended family (when their relatives emigrated, for reasons of religion, mother tongue, because of conflicts, wars, greater security and long-term in social, and political aspects.

3. Emigration from Kosovo Municipalities

The largest number of emigrants was from municipalities of Prishtina, Gjakova, Mitrovica, and Suhareka. While, the lowest number of emigration had small municipalities like Ranilluga, Partes and Mamushë

The number of immigrants in relation to the number of resident population in Kosovo is very different in different parts of the country. In municipalities with a small resident population, emigration was lower such as:Strpce,Gracanica, Ranillug, and Mamush below 10%. While it grows to about 30-47% in other municipalities of the country, such as: Suhareka, Mitrovica, Klina, and Gjakova.

In relation to the resident population, the largest number of immigrant population had Suhareka, about 47% of the population is living abroad. In Pristina, the reported rate of migration abroad is about 15% of the resident population, about 30 thousand people.

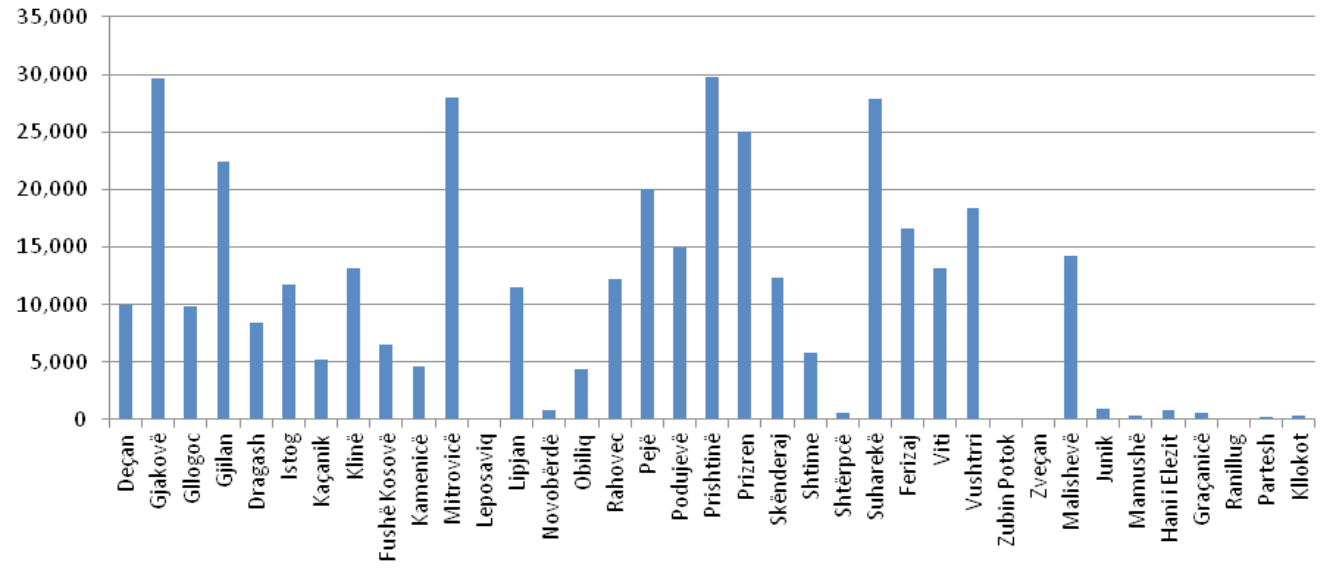


Figure 1. Number of population migration by municipalities in Kosovo.
Source: www.ask.

4. Emigration by state attitude

Based on data from the population census 2011, over 35% of all Kosovo citizens had immigrated to Germany, and then to Switzerland with around 23%, and in Italy over 7%. While, in other countries such as: Canada, Australia, and other countries constituted over 10% of the immigrant population in Kosovo.

Table 1. Emigration according to states (10 main destination countries) expressed in percentage.

Ten (10) key states	%
Germany	35.25
Switzeland	22.94
Italy	7.26
Austria	5.61
Sweden	5.14
SHBA	3.53
France	3.25
England	2.79
Belgium	2.07
Slovenia	1.78
Other	10.38

Source: www.ask

Then it seems that emigration in certain countries was related to the first immigrants, which were placed from that municipality or region. Thus, while Suhareka was dominant in Italy and Slovenia there were concentrated also the immigrants from that region such are: Prizren and Malisheva. People from Gjakova most of them have chosen Switzerland and Belgium, until people of Mitrovica have choosen Germany and Sweden. Pristina seem to favor English speaking countries: USA and England, untilFerizaj and Gjilan were more concentrated in Switzerland and France. In the following table is provided the largest number of immigrant population (from three municipalities of Kosovo) in the respective countries.

Table 2. The majority of migration by municipalities in 10 main destination countries.

Three municipalities with the largest number of emigrants and state of residence				
Gjermani	Switzeland	Italy	Austria	Sweden
1.Mitrovica	1.Gjakova	1.Suhareka	1.Dragashi	1.Mitrovica
2.Pristina	2.Gjilani	2.Malisheva	2.Gjakova	2.Vushtria
3.Vushtria	3.Suhareka	3.Prizreni	3.Peja	3.Prishtina

In 2011 the gender ratio of the population of Kosovo that emigrated was: 56.67% males and 43.33% females. Earlier migration characterized by male domination, because in the past emigration was directed more to the workforce.

In recent years were women, who dominated emigration. Thus, the gender ratio of migration approximated during 2000-2004, while in recent years is the female gender, which dominates the migration: 52.94% females and 47.06% males (impact in this had marriages).

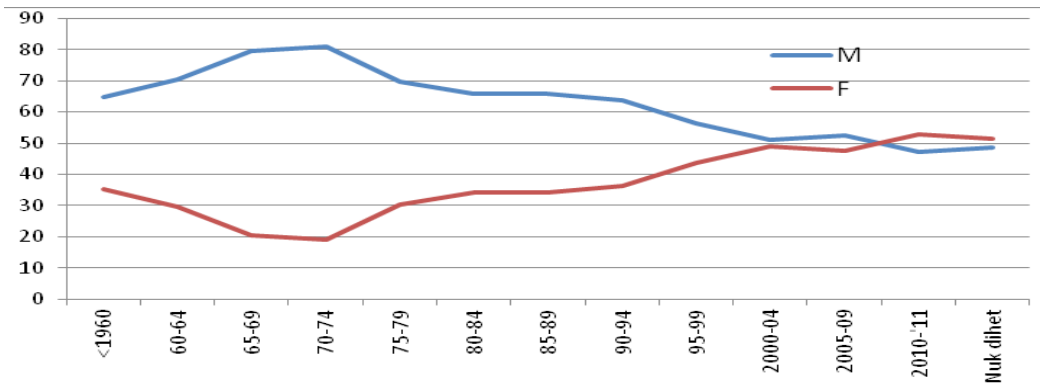


Figure 3. Performance of migration by gender and years expressed in percentage.

The figure shows migration by gender in 10 major immigration countries, where men dominated in Slovenia, and female were in closest number with men in Sweden. This due to the fact, that Slovenia is seen as a place not far from Kosovo to get other family members, as well as the cost of profit seems to be less than in other countries.

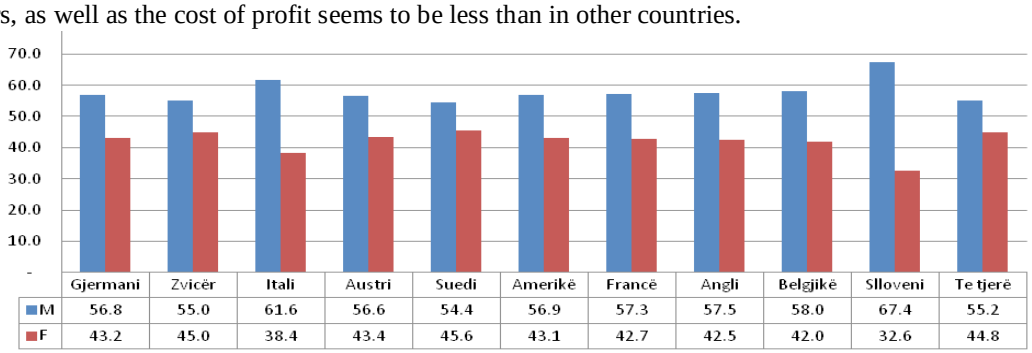


Figure 4. Emigration by gender in 10 major immigrant countries.

Source: www.ask

Significant number of the population aged 0-14 years shows, that they left lastyears (that continues to be significant family migration) accounted 16.9% of the immigrant population. 25-44 age group accounted 47.2% of the immigrant population

(main reproductive age in terms of fertility, and the workforce) untilit dominated the 30-34 years age group with 12.7%.Persons after working age (retirement) constituted a small numberabout 1.30% of Kosovo migration. This small number of Kosovo emigrants shows, that the immigrant population after that age come back to live in Kosovo after retirement.

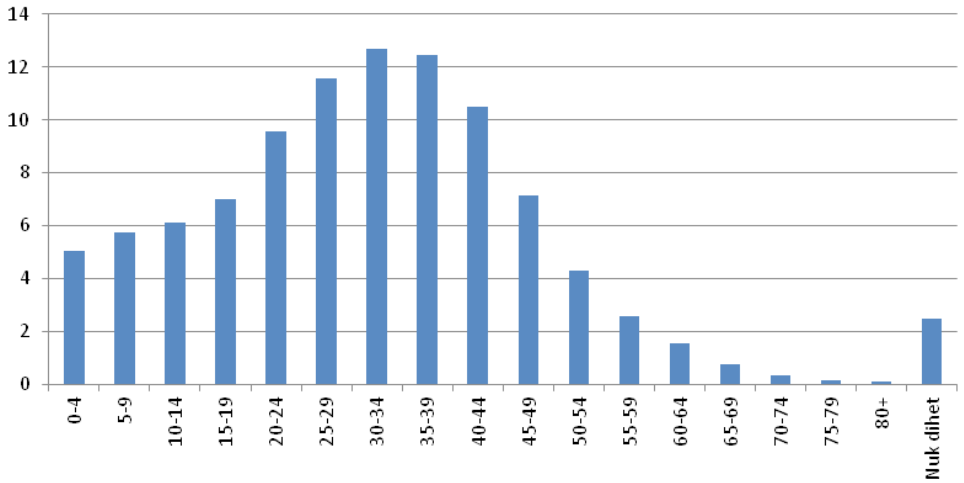


Figure 5. Emigration by age group expressed in percentage.

Source: www.ask
Population abroad Kosovo,and resident by age group

5. Migration and Money Sent from Diaspora in Kosovo

Kosovo has one of the highest rates of emigration in Eastern Europe.According to the survey migration by two thousand and nine (World Bank two thousand and ten) one of four families has at least one member living abroad.

Emigration rates for Kosovo doesn't showneto immigration, because immigrants are not deducted, however, netoemigration is not much different from that bruto, because most immigrants in Kosovo are temporary residents, who return to their country, when their assignments end.

Moreover, interest in migrating is high. About 2.1 percent of respondents said, that they are likely to migrate within the next five years (although the data self-reported intention to migrate often overestimate future flows, and often have very small correlation between goal for migration and currentmigration).

In the year two thousand and eight about 0.6 percent of the working population was immigrants. Also, in the year two thousand and seven, when emigration arrived maximum, only about eleven thousand people of Kosovo left (about 1 percent of the working population). Rural areas, where 63 percent of the population lives, they contribute with 73 percent of migrants. Regional differences are not very large, the largest number of migrants have origin from rural areas of Pristina and Prizren .

About 25 percent of current migrants have origin from Pristina. People in the region, which includes the capital, Pristina, may include some, who have moved from other parts of Kosovo in Pristina before migrating abroad. This temporary step of internal migration has been noticed in other countries.

The monthly amount of remittances from abroad for the family is close to the average monthly gross wage in Kosovo, which is estimated to be € 340 in 2009, and the netis lower than the average of remittances from abroad for the family. According to the UN Development Programme (UNDP, 2010) remittances from the diaspora contribute with about 40 percent of the total monthly income of households that receive them.

Most of the remittances were used for immediate consumption. Asked to name the three main uses of remittances, over 90

percent of households mention food and clothing, 18 percent invest some of the money in the business, and 25 percent use a part to repair or build houses.

Emigrants and diaspora can contribute to economic development in many other ways than by sending remittances, they can contribute by creating enterprises themselves, or helping family members, or their relatives. 25% of all businesses in Kosovo are set up with funds generated by employees from abroad (or by its own work). Switzerland and Germany are the main countries where people from Kosovo worked, and won the most money to start their own business in Kosovo, the average time worked abroad was 7.5 years.

5. Politics to Increase the Impact of Migration on Development

Politics, that help citizens prepare for migration focus on facilitating the process of migration, and building skills of potential migrants. Some migrant-sending countries establish programs in cooperation with the main destination countries in order to ensure, that migrants have proper legal status. At the same time, sending countries prepare their citizens for easier access to the labor market abroad by providing technical skills training, and advice for example on labor rights, financial management, and health insurance. While negotiating migration agreements to work with partner countries can bring valuable benefits to immigrants, such as regulated stay abroad, protection or rights, andbetter social security, international experience has shown, that most sending countries focus on unilateral politics to prepare better their citizens before they migrate.

Education: Education is one of the main instruments used for the implementation of migration politics, particularly from countries, that specialize in the export of semi-skilled labor. Education, training mainly for technical skill is used to increase the potential group of migrant workers, and to increase their value.

Funding: Sometimes migration politics require financial incentives to achieve their goal, in such cases, governments usually become partner with donors. Financing options can be, for example, are loans, grants, or investment schemes to involve the diaspora in private development projects. While, such programs are rare, because the funding needs are enormous, the World Bank, African Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, French Development Agency, among others, they have set up funding to focus on diaspora, and in some cases, governments have financed such facilities themselves.An example is the program of Albania (www.braingain.gov.al), which is partly funded by the UNDP. His goal is to develop incentives, and policy mechanisms to promote the commitment of the Albanian diaspora in the scientific, administrative, and economic development of country. The program, established in 2008 with a budget of 1 million €, offers financial support for returnees eligible to work in Albania. He has created a database of students, and academics abroad, and has attracted over 150 people to return, 82 of them academics. It also plans to establish academic networks with those abroad .

Partnerships in migration for work: Agreements on labor migration between sending and receiving countries are common, although, in a few cases these agreements cover all aspects of the process of migration. They usually deal with arrangements for the sending of workers, providing education and training, and the protection of labor rights of immigrants. Although, these evens usually can not be copied for other places, they exhibit common patterns that can provide lessons for countries like Kosovo. These agreements were negotiated with or without intermediaries. Some governments that negotiate "export" of labor manage the entire process directly with the host country. Others use private or international agencies to assist in the drafting, and negotiation of a migration agreement of workforce. An example of mediation negotiations is the 2003 agreement between Canada and Guatemala, which was negotiated with technical support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) office in Guatemala. It was an arrangement for people from Guatemala to work temporarily in Canada in agricultural activities, where Canada was experiencing a labor shortage.

Regulations: Legislative acts directly or indirectly affect most types of migration policies, but the direct impact is particularly important, when it comes to competition in money transfers, exporting labor, and social protection of migrants.

Competition in money transfer services, which is a major determinant of the cost of the payment of remittances from Diaspora, largely depends on how the financial sector was regulated. Realizing that regulation, or the lack of it in terms of transparency and good politics, can inhibit competition, many governments have removed such barriers. For example, to prevent unfair competition from the big OTP, the government has banned the exclusive agreements between OTP and remittance payers , and this have done Uganda, Rwanda and other African countries. Development Bank has provided technical assistance to countries to assess their capacity to prevent exclusive deals.

Finally, social protection laws can provide migrants social security, and personal protection against situations, which may violate their rights. For example, as part of its program to manage migration, the government requires for migrants to have insurance to cover them in case of disability, or death during their work abroad. Insurance payments were not insignificant source of revenue to the state budget, but the proceeds are reinvested in migration policies.

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