RETURN MIGRATION IN ALBANIA

INSTAT
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Emigration

- One of the main factors of population decrease during the inter-censual period
- Indirect estimation – 481,000 Albanian emigrants 2001-2011
- Main destinations countries:
  - Italy
  - Greece
Return migration

- 139,000 or 4.9% of Albanian population ever residing abroad returned after 2001
- Twice as many men coming back than there were women
- Relatively young - Age distribution for both sexes is similar
- Reasons: work and family reasons
Return migration

- The number of Albanians returning has increased sharply after 2008
- Returns mainly from Greece, followed by Italy
Return migration and re-integration survey

Main objectives:

- To profile return migration to Albania, push and pull factors, and characteristics of returning migrants;

- To collect information on migrants’ experiences and perceptions of reintegration in Albania;

- To formulate recommendations for Albanian authorities on how to best tailor reintegration services to returning migrants in Albania according to their needs as to guarantee a sustainable return.
Definitions

- **Returnee**: Any person returning to his/her country of origin, after having been an international migrant (for a minimum of one year) in another country. Return may be permanent or temporary. It may be independently decided by the migrant or forced by unexpected circumstances.

- **Country of destination**: refers to the last country of immigration where the respondent lived at least 12 months before returning home.
Methodology

- **Data collection**
  Field work took place during 16 September to 14 October 2013 using a nationally representative sample of almost 2000 individuals. The survey was based on the face to face method of interviewing and was conducted through CAPI technology (computer assisted personal interviewing).

- **Object of the survey:**
  - Albanian citizen, who had migrated abroad and returned to Albania either voluntary or involuntary after 2009;
  - 18 years old and above
3 stage questionnaire

- The questionnaire extensively applied the Cassarino’s model
  - Situation before leaving the country of origin
  - Experience of migration lived in the last country of emigration
  - Return to the country of origin – Post-return conditions
Questionnaire

- Socio-economic conditions and socio-demographic characteristics of returnees prior to departure from Albania, during migration and upon return;
- Reasons for leaving the country and for returning to Albania;
- Experiences of integration in the last country of emigration and their influence on the decision to return to Albania;
- Process of return to Albania and prospect of stay; Links with the last country of emigration;
- Reintegration support and returnee’s reintegration experiences in Albania
Main findings

- A total of 133,544 Albanian migrants have returned to Albania in the period 2009-2013, of whom 74% males

- The average age at the time of emigration was 30.7 years old and 38.3 years old at the time of survey. They lived abroad for an average period of 6 years

- The majority of returns took place from Greece, 70.8% followed by returns from Italy 23.7%

- Regarding the migrant’s mobility, the survey revealed that 64% of the total respondents left Albania only once
Main findings

- The three main push factors for emigration were: Lack of employment followed by better job opportunities and better income prospects.

- The main reasons for return is the lost of the job in the country of emigration.

- The most relevant difficulties returnees faced upon return were insufficient incomes, lack of adequate services and an inadequate health system.
Main findings

- The majority of migrants were unemployed before undertaking the migration project

- Concerning the unemployed returnees, they were more likely to search for a job abroad than in origin country
Main findings

- The vast majority of Albanian migrants before emigrating (72%) declared that their financial situation was either not good or very bad.

- The financial situation of the returnees at the time of the survey compared with abroad for the majority of the returnees remained unchanged (41.3 %). For 38,8 % has worsened, while only for 20% it has improved.
Main findings

- 32.6% of returnees intend to re-emigrate;

- Majority of the returnees want to re-emigrate in the emigration country they know better and they want to re-emigrate for better job opportunities.
Thank you!