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## The Causes and Consequences of Albanian Emigration during Transition: Evidence from Micro Data

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**THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF ALBANIAN EMIGRATION  
DURING TRANSITION: EVIDENCE FROM MICRO DATA**

Dhori Kule\*, Ahmet Mançellari\*, Harry Papapanagos†#, Stefan Qirici\*, and Peter Sanfey†‡

April 2000

**Abstract**

This note reports the results of field surveys of individuals and firms in Albania, carried out during 1998. The surveys were designed to analyse the extent of emigration from Albania during the 1990s and its causes and consequences. Our results show that emigrants are motivated mainly by the ease of access to neighbouring countries and by the prospect of high financial returns. Although most emigrants worked illegally and had part-time, low-skilled jobs, the majority found the overall experience positive, and the skills and earnings they acquired abroad have contributed to establishing businesses upon their return. These results have important policy implications for both EU countries and other transition countries in the region.

**JEL Classification:** F22, O52, P2

**Keywords:** Emigration; Albania

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# THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF ALBANIAN EMIGRATION DURING TRANSITION: EVIDENCE FROM MICRO DATA

## 1. Introduction

One of the most important features of the transition process during the 1990s in central and eastern Europe is the opening up of borders, and the possibility for citizens of former communist countries to travel to the west to live and work. The issue is very important for policy-makers throughout the region in the context of ongoing debates about an expanded European Union and closer regional integration. However, a major problem facing researchers and policy-makers up to now has been the lack of detailed information about migration in general and short-term, illegal migration in particular. In transition economies especially, such information is very difficult to obtain, and official sources of data are often inadequate.

This paper uses a new and unique data set to analyse the causes and consequences of emigration from the European country that has had one of the largest outflows of people (relative to size of population) during the 1990s – Albania.<sup>1</sup> The size of these flows is difficult to determine exactly, but according to estimates provided by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Albanian emigration has increased steadily since 1991 to the point where nearly 700,000 Albanians were estimated to be living abroad (not only in Greece) in 1998, representing about 20% of the population.<sup>2</sup>

The data analysed in this paper are from two field surveys, one of individuals and the other of firms, carried out in Albania during 1998. These surveys allow us to provide answers to three broad issues. First, we examine why people choose to emigrate, or not to emigrate,

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<sup>1</sup> Previous papers on Albanian emigration include Mançellari *et al.* (1996), Meksi (1996), Çuka *et al.* (1999), Papapanagos and Sanfey (1998), and Mançellari *et al.* (1999).

<sup>2</sup> Estimates of the number of Albanian emigrants in 1998 provided by the Albanian Ministry of Labour are slightly lower, but still in excess of half a million.

whether they intend to emigrate in the future, and what determines their choice of destination. Second, we assess the overall experience of emigrants abroad - what types of jobs they had, whether they worked legally or illegally, whether they were treated in a friendly or unfriendly way, and whether they acquired useful skills and experience. Third, we analyse the extent to which remittances from emigrants are channelled into investment rather than consumption, and whether a spell of emigration is perceived by firms as an advantage on return to the domestic job market.

Our main findings are as follows: emigration pressures are likely to remain very strong in Albania for the foreseeable future, driven mostly by economic forces. In general, emigrants have had to work illegally and accept low-pay, low-skill jobs abroad. However, most were treated relatively neutrally or better abroad, and feel they benefited from the experience. Perhaps most significantly, our surveys (both individual- and firm-level) provide evidence that emigration abroad is an advantage for finding a job or establishing a business back home, explaining the continuing desire of Albanians to emigrate abroad temporarily, even though domestic wages and job opportunities have increased at home.

## **2. The Data**

The data in this paper are based on two questionnaires (see Annex 2): the first was distributed throughout Albania to 1500 individuals, and the second to 200 Albanian firms. Both surveys were carried out during 1998, mostly in the second half of the year. The questionnaires were designed by the authors in consultation with other partners in a research project funded by the European Commission.

The individual survey was carried out in the whole country, and the number of people interviewed in each region corresponded approximately to the population distribution, based

on the latest census figures. The authors were helped by a number of students from the University of Tirana, and by faculty members and students of regional universities and local officials. Interviewers were given written instructions about how to choose people for questioning, and how to conduct the interview. All surveys were carried out face-to-face. Given the difficulties of carrying out surveys in Albania, it was not possible to select people with full randomness, based for example on electoral registers, as such information is either unavailable or unreliable. However, interviewers were asked to select people as randomly as possible, balancing rural and urban areas for example, and to avoid obvious biases, for example by choosing only those who had emigrated. Only one person was interviewed for each household and in some cases where a member of the household was living abroad, the respondent was allowed to answer questions on behalf of the emigrant. Some questionnaires produced implausible or unusable responses, in which case the interview was carried out again, where possible.

In the case of the firm questionnaire, the coverage was less comprehensive than for individuals, with over half of the interviews taking place in the capital, Tirana. Nevertheless, 23 regions (out of 36) were covered to some extent. Many firms were initially reluctant to answer, but this problem was usually overcome by assurances of confidentiality. All of these points should be borne in mind in assessing the extent to which our surveys are representative of the population of individuals and firms as a whole.

The sample of individuals was biased towards males, reflecting in part the fact that representatives of households sometimes responded on behalf of an emigrant abroad, most of whom are males. The majority of respondents were married, and about 90% are either Moslem or Orthodox. Most people in our sample had at least completed secondary education, and nearly half had some experience of either higher education or vocational training.

Interviewees covered a wide variety of occupations and the majority come from the centre of the country, including Tirana.

### **3. Reasons for Emigration and Future Intentions**

The first issue we address is the reasons for emigration or non-emigration. We asked people whether they intended to emigrate some time in the future to live and work. Table A1 indicates a very strong desire in the sample to leave, with around three-quarters saying that they would either “definitely” or “probably” emigrate.<sup>3</sup> This strength of this desire may be surprising given that the sample was carried out at a time when Albania was making a good recovery from the traumatic events of 1997. It suggests that short-term economic growth does little to reduce the desire to leave, and that the pressure of emigration from Albania is unlikely to abate in the near future, if these results are representative of the population as a whole.<sup>4</sup>

We then asked people whether they had emigrated at any time since 1990. Nearly half said that they had done so (or a family member was currently abroad) at least once (see Table A2). For those who said they had never emigrated, we enquired about the main reason for not doing so, and then finished the interview. Table A2 shows that the most important factors behind the decision to stay in Albania were either family reasons, lack of visa, or age. For those who had emigrated, the majority had left more than once, indicating the temporary nature of much of the Albanian emigration, and for most, economic reasons were cited as

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<sup>3</sup> A cross-country survey in 1992 by Eurobarometer that included the same question showed a similar pattern for Albania, far in excess of almost all other countries (see Papapanagos and Sanfey, 1998).

<sup>4</sup> This conclusion needs to be qualified on two grounds. First, it is possible that willingness to respond to a questionnaire of this type is correlated with intention to emigrate, so that the results overestimate the desire to leave among the population as a whole. Second, stated intentions are only imperfectly correlated at best with subsequent behaviour (for a discussion of this issue, see Manski, 1990).

being the driving force. The choice of country was largely determined by easy access and the prospect of high financial returns relative to Albania, where income per capita is less than US\$1,000 per year. We asked where people went each year, and summing these up across the 1990s indicates the popularity of Greece and Italy as destinations, with about 85% choosing one of the two.

#### **4. Experience Abroad**

We turn now to the experience of emigrants abroad first-time, summarised in Table A3. The majority of emigrants who went abroad were illegal in the destination country, and slightly more than half had part-time, rather than full-time jobs.<sup>5</sup> About two-thirds of these were in unskilled jobs, and emigrants worked in a variety of sectors, with some concentration in services, construction and agriculture.<sup>6</sup> With regard to the way emigrants perceived they were treated, very few reported unfriendly treatment from the host population, although about one-in-four claimed that their treatment at the hands of authorities was unfriendly. The latter may reflect in part the illegal status of many emigrants.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The numbers reporting that their status abroad was legal appear high relative to other sources. For example, Droukas (1998) notes that very few Albanians had stay and work permits in Greece between 1991 and the first half of 1997. However, in the first half of 1998, undocumented immigrants in Greece were allowed to apply for regularisation and it is estimated that more than two-thirds of illegal Albanians did so. Also, the proportion of legal Albanians in other countries is probably much higher – the Albanian Ministry of Labour estimated that 62% of Albanians in Italy were legal at the start of 1997. It is also likely that some of those answering on behalf of relatives may have reported their status as legal for fear of discovery and retribution (despite guarantees of confidentiality).

<sup>6</sup> The estimate of people in “skilled” jobs may be overstated and should be treated with caution. Fakiolas (1999, p.219) reports that in Greece, “almost all undocumented immigrants ... are employed in unskilled jobs.”

<sup>7</sup> For an interesting discussion of an autobiographical account of an Albanian migrant, see King *et al.* (1998).

The picture that emerges from the survey, of Albanians having to take low-skill, low-paid jobs and worrying about being deported, may not appear very appealing. Nevertheless, when interviewees were asked whether their overall experience of emigration was positive, negative, or neutral, a majority declared that it has been positive, with less than 10% reporting an overall negative experience. A majority also claimed to have obtained useful professional experience, contradicting the impression that all jobs for Albanian emigrants were dead-end ones, with no professional value.

We saw earlier that the principal motivation behind emigration from Albania was economic; job opportunities during the transition in Albania have been very scarce (see Mançellari *et al.*, 1999), and wages available in adjacent countries such as Greece and Italy far exceed those in Albania. Remittance flows during the period are conservatively estimated at 15-20% of GDP (see IMF, 1997) and constitute a major source of foreign revenue for the country. To date however, there is little or no information about the extent to which these remittances are used for investment rather than consumption purposes, or more generally, whether a period of emigration is beneficial for job-hunting or business establishment at home. These are the issues to which we now turn.

## **5. Use of Income Earned Abroad**

Interviewees were asked how they allocated the income they earned abroad among consumption, investment, remittances, and other destinations. Table A4 shows that nearly half of all income earned from those who went abroad for the first time was sent back to Albania as cash remittances, while about 37% was consumed abroad. Most of the rest was either sent back in-kind or saved abroad. Of the money sent back about half was used for consumption



goods, while the rest was either saved or invested in a variety of sources, including property and financial institutions.

Another interesting finding from the fieldwork is that emigrants overwhelmingly used unofficial and informal markets rather than the official banking sector to send their remittances. Of those who emigrated for the first time, more than 96% of remittances were sent by the former method. Taken together, these results point to an important role for the Albanian government, first in directing remittances towards the productive sector, rather than financing the consumption of imports, and second, in pushing ahead with urgent reforms in the mainly state-owned banking sector. These issues are discussed further below.

Although the proportion of remittances invested in productive activities appears to be modest, the results from the firm survey provide a better understanding of the importance of remittances for job creation, and more generally of the value of emigration for Albania. Some information on the regional breakdown of the interviewed firms, and the type of ownership, is given in Table A5. In about two-thirds of cases, we interviewed the owner of the firm, and in the remainder, a manager answered the questions. The majority of the firms were small (less than 30 employees). Table A6 demonstrates that among all firms (including those where the owner had never emigrated) remittances contribute about 17% to the establishment of businesses. Coincidentally, this result is consistent with a previous survey of small businesses in Albania in 1995 (see Albanian Centre for Economic Research, 1995), and testifies to the important role of this source of finance for job creation in Albania.

## **6. Emigration and Job Creation: Further Evidence**

The previous section has provided ample evidence of the importance of emigration flows in Albania. Given the temporary nature of Albanian emigration, in this section we investigate the

extent to which experience abroad assists an emigrant in finding a job or setting up a business when he or she returns to Albania.

This question is explored in Papapanagos and Sanfey (1999) in a theoretical model of temporary emigration. The model uses a dynamic framework to analyse the search choice facing an unemployed worker, namely whether to remain at home and search for a job, or to go abroad for a period, and then return to look for a job. Clearly, the costs of emigration will be one of the key variables affecting this decision, along with other conventional determinants of migration flows such as relative wages and unemployment rates at home and abroad (see, for example, Harris and Todaro, 1970).

In traditional models of migration, the pressure to migrate is intensified by declining wages or job opportunities at home relative to those available elsewhere. However, Papapanagos and Sanfey (1999) show that this result may not necessarily hold in a model of temporary migration, if a period abroad *enhances* the chances of finding a job on return. The intuition is as follows. If it is the case that experience abroad increases the probability of employment at home, then an increase in job opportunities or wages at home increases the long-term value of a period of emigration, and hence may increase the proportion of unemployed who will choose to emigrate.

Does a short period of emigration abroad enhance the job prospects of Albanians on return, either because of new skills and experience or through savings that can be used to generate small businesses? To address this question, we first asked firm owners (or managers) whether they perceive a previous period of emigration of a job candidate as an advantage when they are choosing whom to hire. Table A7 shows that the results split almost equally between those answering yes and those who said no. However, when we asked who would have a better chance to find a job in Albania (other things being equal) – someone who has experience of living abroad or someone who has not, far more chose the former over the latter

(although 55% said they would have an equal chance). Most significantly, the responses to the question, “who has a better chance to establish a firm at home?” show that a clear majority believe that an emigrant has a better chance to establish a business than a non-emigrant does.

## **7. Policy Implications**

The results of this paper have shed light on a number of features of Albanian emigration during the 1990s. Emigration has been an important factor in Albania’s transition to a market economy, and our results suggest that the desire to emigrate is likely to remain significant among large parts of the population for the foreseeable future. Our surveys indicate that even though emigrants are usually forced to accept low-paid, low-skill jobs abroad, the income and experience gained abroad are of great value if and when the emigrant returns home. Emigrants themselves tend to take a positive view of their experience abroad, and the chances of establishing a business or finding a job are enhanced by a spell of work in another country.

These results have implications for policy-makers not only in Albania, but also in other transition economies, most of which desire closer integration with the west. The paper has highlighted the potentially positive role of short-term emigration. Skills and contacts acquired abroad are useful on return, and remittances are a key determinant of business establishment and expansion. Therefore, governments in transition countries may wish to lobby their western counterparts for an easing of visa restrictions. Such a policy could carry considerable benefits for the EU also, for example, by filling labour shortages in certain seasonal sectors where even unskilled labour is sometimes difficult to find, while at the same time easing unemployment pressures in the source country.

While short-term emigration brings clear benefits, long-term emigration can be very costly for a country. The fieldwork shows that emigration in Albania is concentrated among

younger, often highly educated people; i.e. those that countries can least afford to lose. Over the medium term therefore, as prospects for the Albanian economy improve, the Government may wish to explore ways to encourage emigrants to return. One way would be to intensify efforts in the destination countries to contact emigrants and keep them informed of opportunities and developments at home. More generally, governments should aim constantly to improve the business climate by simplifying the tax system, reforming the banking sector, reducing bureaucracy, and eliminating waste and corruption in the public sector. The return of emigrants and the redirection of remittances to productive activities can be greatly facilitated by investment incentives provided through the tax and banking system.

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## ANNEX 1: SUMMARY TABLES

TABLE A1: Intention of Albanians to Emigrate Abroad in 1992 and 1998

Emigration Intention in 1992			Emigration Intention in 1998		
	Frequency	%		Frequency	%
Definitely Not	249	28.6	Definitely Not	249	16.6
Probably Not	72	8.3	Probably Not	122	8.1
Probably Yes	218	25.1	Probably Yes	692	46.1
Definitely Yes	331	38.0	Definitely Yes	432	28.8

**Note:** “don’t know” and “no answer” are excluded.

**Source:** Central and Eastern Eurobarometer No.3 (1992) and Albanian Individual Database (1998).

**TABLE A2: Characteristics of Albanian Emigrants**

	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>			<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Emigration</b>				<b>Reason Not to Emigrate Abroad</b>		
Yes	703	47.0		Health Reason	29	3.9
No	792	53.0		Old/Young Age	122	16.3
				Family Reasons	187	24.9
<b>Reason to Emigrate Abroad</b>				Love Home/Country	110	14.7
Economic	613	86.6		Financial Cost	67	8.9
Political	25	3.5		No Visa	141	18.8
Social	20	2.8		Lose Job	93	12.4
Religion	6	0.8		Lose Social Assist.	1	0.1
Other	44	6.2				
<b>No. of Times of Emigration</b>				<b>Reason Chose Emig. Country</b>		
1	329	46.5		Easy Access	175	24.8
2	214	30.2		Relative/Friends	174	24.6
3	94	13.3		Easier to Find Job	110	15.6
4	31	4.4		High Financial Return	203	28.7
5	18	2.5		High Career Return	19	2.7
6	12	1.7		Other	26	3.7
> 6	10	1.4				
<b>Emigrants' Destination (90-98)</b>						
France	30	1.2				
Germany	118	4.6				
Greece	1449	56.0				
Italy	774	29.9				
FYROM	34	1.3				
Switzerland	68	1.6				
U.K.	20	0.8				
U.S.A.	49	1.9				
Other	47	1.8				

**Note:** “don’t know” and “no answer” are excluded.

**Source:** Albanian Individual Database.

**TABLE A3: Emigrants' Experience from Emigration Abroad - First-Time**

	Freq	%		Freq	%
<b>Emigrant's Status</b>			<b>Emigrant Treated by People</b>		
Legal	272	40.1	Friendly	400	57.2
Illegal	407	59.9	Indifferently	232	33.2
			Unfriendly	67	9.6
<b>Type of Emigrant's Occupation</b>					
Part-Time	370	58.4	<b>Emigrant treated by Authority</b>		
Full-Time	264	41.6	Friendly	209	30.2
			Indifferently	316	45.7
<b>Skill in Emigrant's Occupation</b>			Unfriendly	166	24.0
Skilled	159	25.2			
Unskilled	473	74.8	<b>Overall Experience Abroad</b>		
			Positive	381	54.7
<b>Occupation of Emigrant</b>			Neutral	255	36.6
Agricultural	142	20.3	Negative	61	8.8
Industrial	69	9.9			
Handicraft	42	6.0	<b>Useful Prof. Experience Abroad</b>		
Construction	183	26.2	Yes	371	53.5
Trade	17	2.4	No	323	46.5
Tourism	25	3.6			
Services	221	31.6			

**Note:** “don't know” and “no answer” are excluded.

**Source:** Albanian Individual Database.

**TABLE A4: Use of Income Earned from Emigration - First-Time**

Use of Income Abroad			Use of Income Sent Home in Cash		
(N=700)	%		(N=694)	%	
	Mean	SD		Mean	SD
Consumed Abroad	37.32	21.61	Consumed by You/Family	52.67	33.99
Sent Back in Cash	47.02	25.45	Saved in Bank	15.98	26.51
Sent Back in Kind	7.51	11.49	Invested in Financial-Inst.	7.05	18.60
Saved Abroad	3.87	11.46	Invested in Com. Business	5.18	17.94
Invested in Business Abroad	0.15	2.02	Invested in Prod. Business	1.28	9.37
Invested in Fin-Inst. Abroad	0.01	0.38	Invested in Agr. Business	0.96	6.34
Invested in Property Abroad	0.10	1.36	Invested in Property	7.00	19.69
Other Activity Home/Abr'd	4.00	11.02	Used in Other Activity	9.89	17.69

**Note:** “don't know” and “no answer” are excluded.

**Source:** Albanian Individual Database.



**TABLE A5: Albanian Sample of Firms**

	<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>			<b>Freq</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Regional Breakdown of Firms</b>				<b>No of Employees</b>		
Tirana	110	55.0		less than 5	72	36.0
North	14	7.0		6 – 10	42	21.0
Center	50	25.0		11 – 30	60	30.0
South	26	13.0		more than 30	26	13.0
<b>Ownership Type of the Firm</b>						
Pure Albanian	161	80.9				
Foreign	12	6.0				
Joint Venture	26	13.1				

**Note:** “don’t know” and “no answer” are excluded.

**Source:** Albanian Firm Database.

**TABLE A6: Contribution of Capital Sources for the Establishment of Firms in Albania**

(N=190)	% Mean      SD	
	Mean	SD
Remittances	17.20	33.59
Loan from Albanian Banks	4.73	15.71
Loan from International Banks	1.16	8.13
Loan from Financial Institutions in Albania	0.22	1.70
Loan from Family/Relatives	7.52	18.50
Loan from Friends	8.75	20.31
Own Capital	55.58	40.52
Other Sources	4.83	17.16

**Note:** “don’t know” and “no answer” are excluded.

**Source:** Albanian Firm Database.

**TABLE A7: Employers' Perceptions about Emigration**

	Freq	%		Freq	%
<b>Emigration is Advantage to Employ at Home</b>			<b>Better Chance to Establish Firm at Home</b>		
Yes	101	51.0	Emigrant	130	65.7
No	97	49.0	Non Emigrant	6	3.0
			Equal Chance	62	31.3
<b>Better Chance to Find Job at Home</b>					
Emigrant	75	37.7			
Non Emigrant	13	6.5			
Equal Chance	111	55.8			

**Note:** “don’t know” and “no answer” are excluded.

**Source:** Albanian Firm Database.

## ANNEX 2: ALBANIAN INDIVIDUAL AND FIRM QUESTIONNAIRE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION PHARE ACE PROJECT P96-6208-R

JOB CREATION, EMIGRATION AND THE SPEED OF ADJUSTMENT IN ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

### INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ALBANIA

**Serial number of questionnaire:**

**Code number of questionnaire:** (to be completed later):

**Name of interviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of interview:** Date/Month/Year \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

<b>Gender:</b>	<b>Family status:</b>	<b>Date of birth:</b> Date/Month/Year ____/____/____
Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Never Married <input type="checkbox"/>	
Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Married <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Divorced and not married <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Widow(er) <input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Number of children:</b>	<b>Number of dependents (apart from children):</b>
Living with interviewee: ____	Living with interviewee: ____
Not living with interviewee: ____	Not living with interviewee: ____

**Religion:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total number of years in education (all types):** \_\_\_\_

**Which is your main present occupation (tick one):**

Senior management <input type="checkbox"/>	Farmer <input type="checkbox"/>
Middle/Lower management <input type="checkbox"/>	Other paid work <input type="checkbox"/>
Secret/Clerical <input type="checkbox"/>	Pensioner <input type="checkbox"/>
Skilled worker <input type="checkbox"/>	Housewife <input type="checkbox"/>
Unskilled worker <input type="checkbox"/>	Student <input type="checkbox"/>
Self-employed work <input type="checkbox"/>	Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/>

**Usual net average total income (monthly):** \_\_\_\_\_

Usual net average earned income-Wage (monthly): \_\_\_\_\_

Usual net average unearned income (monthly): \_\_\_\_\_

Usual net average social assistance (monthly): \_\_\_\_\_

Usual net average unemployment benefit (monthly): \_\_\_\_\_

Usual net average remittances/other transfers (monthly): \_\_\_\_\_

**Usual average number of paid hours that you work (weekly):** \_\_\_\_

**Location of main residence: Name of town/village:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Region</b>	<b>Size of town/village</b>	<b>Settlement</b>
Tirana <input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller than village <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban <input type="checkbox"/>
North <input type="checkbox"/>	Village <input type="checkbox"/>	Rural <input type="checkbox"/>
Center <input type="checkbox"/>	Less than 20000 <input type="checkbox"/>	
South <input type="checkbox"/>	Between 20-50000 <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Between 50-100000 <input type="checkbox"/>	
	More than 100000 <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Do you intend to emigrate abroad in the future to leave and work?**Definitely No ☐ Probably No ☐ Probably Yes ☐ Definitely Yes ☐**Have you emigrated abroad since 1990:** No ☐ Yes ☐**If the answer is “No” answer the following question and finish interview.****If the answer is “Yes” skip the following question and answer the rest of the questions.****Which is the main reason for you not to emigrate abroad (tick one):**

- Health reasons ☐
- Old/Young age ☐
- Family reasons ☐
- I love home/country ☐
- I could not afford the financial cost ☐
- I could not get a visa ☐
- Lose job/business ☐
- Lose social assistance/benefits ☐

**How many times have you emigrated since 1990?** \_\_\_\_**In which country and for how long have you emigrated each time?**

Country	_____	From (month/year)	____/____	To (month/year)	____/____	Town(s)	_____
Country	_____	From (month/year)	____/____	To (month/year)	____/____	Town(s)	_____
Country	_____	From (month/year)	____/____	To (month/year)	____/____	Town(s)	_____
Country	_____	From (month/year)	____/____	To (month/year)	____/____	Town(s)	_____
Country	_____	From (month/year)	____/____	To (month/year)	____/____	Town(s)	_____
Country	_____	From (month/year)	____/____	To (month/year)	____/____	Town(s)	_____
Country	_____	From (month/year)	____/____	To (month/year)	____/____	Town(s)	_____
Country	_____	From (month/year)	____/____	To (month/year)	____/____	Town(s)	_____
Country	_____	From (month/year)	____/____	To (month/year)	____/____	Town(s)	_____
Country	_____	From (month/year)	____/____	To (month/year)	____/____	Town(s)	_____
Country	_____	From (month/year)	____/____	To (month/year)	____/____	Town(s)	_____

**Which was the main reason for you to emigrate abroad (tick one):****First-time**

- Economic ☐
- Political ☐
- Social ☐
- Religion related ☐
- Other ☐

**Last-time**

- Economic ☐
- Political ☐
- Social ☐
- Religion related ☐
- Other ☐

**Which was the main reason for you to go to the country mentioned above (tick one):****First-time:**

- Easy access to the country/low cost ☐
- Relatives/friends ☐
- Easier to find job ☐
- Expectations for higher financial returns ☐
- Expectations for higher career returns ☐
- Other ☐

**Last-time:**

- Easy access to the country/low cost ☐
- Relatives/friends ☐
- Easier to find job ☐
- Expectations for higher financial returns ☐
- Expectations for higher career returns ☐
- Other ☐

**Status, type and skill of main occupation abroad:**

**First-time:** Legal ☐ Illegal ☐ Part-time ☐ Full-time ☐ Skilled ☐ Unskilled ☐

**Last-time:** Legal ☐ Illegal ☐ Part-time ☐ Full-time ☐ Skilled ☐ Unskilled ☐

**Description of your main occupation abroad** (no more than five words):

**First time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In which sector your main occupation was abroad** (tick one):

<b>First time</b>		<b>Last-time</b>	
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Handicraft	<input type="checkbox"/>	Handicraft	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Services	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Usual Income earned abroad (monthly)**

**First-time**

**Last-time**

Usual net average total income (monthly): \_\_\_\_\_

Usual net average earned income - wage (monthly): \_\_\_\_\_

Usual net average unearned income (monthly): \_\_\_\_\_

Usual net average social benefits (monthly): \_\_\_\_\_

**Average number of hours that you worked abroad (weekly):** First-time \_\_\_\_ Last-time \_\_\_\_

**Total net income earned abroad from emigrating:** First-time \_\_\_\_\_ Last-time \_\_\_\_\_

**What percentage of your total income earned abroad has been** (approximate amount):

	<b>First-time</b>	<b>Last-time</b>
Consumed abroad	_____ %	_____ %
Send back in Albania in cash	_____ %	_____ %
Send back in Albania in Kind (goods, machinery etc.)	_____ %	_____ %
Saved in a bank abroad	_____ %	_____ %
Invested in businesses abroad	_____ %	_____ %
Invested in financial institutions abroad	_____ %	_____ %
Invested in properties abroad	_____ %	_____ %
Other	_____ %	_____ %
<b>The sum should be equal to</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**Which way did you use mainly to send income earned abroad in Albania**

**First-time**

**Last-time**

Official/banking system ☐ Official/banking system ☐

Unofficial/informal market ☐ Unofficial/informal market ☐

**What percentage of the income that you send back in Albania in cash has been** (approximate amount):

	<b>First-time</b>	<b>Last-time</b>
Consumed by you/family in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Saved in a bank in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Invested in financial institutions in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Invested in commercial businesses in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Invested in production businesses in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Invested in agricultural businesses in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Invested in properties in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Other	_____ %	_____ %
<b>The sum should be equal to</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**What percentage of the income that you send back in Albania in kind has been used for (approximate amount):**

	<b>First-time</b>	<b>Last-time</b>
Consumption by you/family in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Trade in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Investment in commercial businesses in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Investment in production businesses in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Investment in agricultural businesses in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Other	_____ %	_____ %
<b>The sum should be equal to</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**How people in general treated you when you were abroad?**

**First-time:** Friendly ☐ Indifferently ☐ Unfriendly ☐  
**Last-time:** Friendly ☐ Indifferently ☐ Unfriendly ☐

**How the authorities in general treated you when you was abroad?**

**First-time:** Friendly ☐ Indifferently ☐ Unfriendly ☐  
**Last-time:** Friendly ☐ Indifferently ☐ Unfriendly ☐

**Is the overall experience that you had abroad:**

**First-time:** Positive ☐ Neutral ☐ Negative ☐  
**Last-time:** Positive ☐ Neutral ☐ Negative ☐

**Is the professional experience that you had abroad useful for your future plans?**

**First-time:** No ☐ Yes ☐  
**Last-time:** No ☐ Yes ☐

**Did you established any business relationships abroad:**

**First-time:** No ☐ Yes ☐  
**Last-time:** No ☐ Yes ☐

**Did you establish any social relationships abroad:**

**First-time:** No ☐ Yes ☐  
**Last-time:** No ☐ Yes ☐

**Have your expectations from emigrating abroad been materialized?**

**First-time:** No ☐ Yes ☐  
**Last-time:** No ☐ Yes ☐

**Has the recent devaluation of the Greek Drachma affected your preferences to emigrate to Greece relative to other countries:** No ☐ Yes ☐

# QUESTIONNAIRE FOR OWNERS OF FIRMS/BUSINESSES IN ALBANIA

**Serial number of questionnaire:**

**Code number of questionnaire** (to be completed later):

**Name of interviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of interview:** Date/Month/Year \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Gender:**

Male ☐

Female ☐

**Family status:**

Never Married ☐

Married ☐

Divorced and not married ☐

Widow(er) ☐

**Date of birth:** Date/Month/Year \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Number of children:**

Living with interviewee: \_\_\_\_

Not living with interviewee: \_\_\_\_

**Number of dependents (apart from children):**

Living with interviewee: \_\_\_\_

Not living with interviewee: \_\_\_\_

**Religion:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total number of years in education (all types):** \_\_\_\_

**Position in the firm/business:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name of the firm/business:** \_\_\_\_\_

**When the firm/business was established:** Date/Month/Year \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Location of the firm/business (main site): Name of Town/Village:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Region** **Size of town/village** **Settlement**

Tirana ☐ Smaller than village ☐ Urban ☐

North ☐ Village ☐ Rural ☐

Center ☐ Less than 20000 ☐

South ☐ Between 20-50000 ☐

Between 50-100000 ☐

More than 100000 ☐

**Description of the main activity of the firm** (no more than 5 words): \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of ownership of the firm:**

Pure Albanian ☐

Foreign ☐

Joint venture ☐

**Type of the main activity of the firm:**

Production ☐

Commercial ☐

Financial ☐

**Number of people employed in the firm/business when it was established:** \_\_\_\_

**Number of people currently employed in the firm/business:** \_\_\_\_

**Number of males/females currently employed in the firm/business:** Males \_\_\_\_ Females \_\_\_\_

**Number of family members/relatives currently employed in the firm/business:** \_\_\_\_

**Have you emigrated abroad since 1990:** No ☐ Yes ☐

**Do you intend to emigrate abroad in the future to leave and work?**

Definitely No ☐    Probably No ☐    Probably Yes ☐    Definitely Yes ☐

**What is the percentage contribution of each of the following capital sources for the establishment and for the expansion of the firm/business (approximate amount):**

	Establishment	Expansion
Remittances from abroad	_____ %	_____ %
Loan from bank(s) in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Loan from International bank/institution	_____ %	_____ %
Loan from private financial institution in Albania	_____ %	_____ %
Loan from family/relative	_____ %	_____ %
Loan from friend	_____ %	_____ %
Own capital	_____ %	_____ %
Other	_____ %	_____ %
<b>The sum should be equal to</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**Number of people currently employed in the firm/business that have emigrated abroad since 1990:**

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**Number of males/females currently employed in the firm/business that have emigrated abroad since 1990: Males \_\_\_\_\_ Females \_\_\_\_\_**

**When you are considering to employ someone in your firm/business do you perceive as advantage if he/she has emigrated abroad in the past?    No ☐        Yes ☐**

**Other things being equal who has a better chance to find a job in Albania:**

Someone who has emigrated abroad □

Someone who has not emigrated abroad ☐

Both have more or less equal chance ☐

**Other things being equal who has a better chance to establish a new firm/business in Albania:**

Someone who has emigrated abroad □

Someone who has not emigrated abroad ☐

Both have more or less equal chance □

**If your answer to the question “Have you emigrated abroad since 1990 was “No” finish interview here. If your answer was “Yes” answer the following questions.**

**How many times have you emigrated since 1990?** \_\_\_\_\_

**In which country and for who long have you emigrated each time?**

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ From (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ To (month/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Town(s) \_\_\_\_\_



**Which is the main reason for you to emigrate abroad:****First-time**

Economic ☐  
 Political ☐  
 Social ☐  
 Religion related ☐  
 Other ☐

**Last-time**

Economic ☐  
 Political ☐  
 Social ☐  
 Religion related ☐  
 Other ☐

**Status, type and skill of main occupation abroad:**

**First-time:** Legal ☐ Illegal ☐ Part-time ☐ Full-time ☐ Skilled ☐ Unskilled ☐

**Last-time:** Legal ☐ Illegal ☐ Part-time ☐ Full-time ☐ Skilled ☐ Unskilled ☐

**Description of your main occupation abroad (no more than five words):**

**First time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In which sector your main occupation was abroad (tick one):****First time**

Agricultural ☐  
 Industrial ☐  
 Handicraft ☐  
 Construction ☐  
 Trade ☐  
 Tourism ☐  
 Services ☐

**Last-time**

Agricultural ☐  
 Industrial ☐  
 Handicraft ☐  
 Construction ☐  
 Trade ☐  
 Tourism ☐  
 Services ☐

**To what extent your occupation, professional and/or business activity abroad helped in the establishment and for the expansion of the firm/business:**

**Establishment** \_\_\_\_\_ % **Expansion** \_\_\_\_\_ %

**What is the percentage contribution of each of the following factors that you experienced while you were working abroad for the establishment and for the expansion of the firm/business:**

	<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Expansion</b>
Know how	_____ %	_____ %
Remittances	_____ %	_____ %
Acquaintances	_____ %	_____ %
<b>The sum should be equal to</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**Type of Firm:**

Privatized ☐  
 New ☐