

 **DORIANA MATRAKU****Positive and negative impact of migration in Albania. How the returnees are re-integrated in the country?****ABSTRACT**

Albania has a high number of emigrants every year, especially in Germany, US, Italy, Greece, but also UK, France, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland ect. The country is facing a new wave of migrants nowadays.

As the number of emigrants has grown up every year, also the number of returnees is not low. The international migration of Albanians, especially starting from the late 1990s, goes hand-in-hand with their return. Survey data show that 17.5%, aged 18 years and older, have migrated for at least one year, mainly to Greece (63.3%), Italy (20.6%), Germany (6%), and to a much lesser extent to the US, Austria, France, Sweden, Turkey, the UK, etc.

The return of Albanian migrants in 2009–2013 is related to the global economic crisis and the resultant high unemployment levels in Greece and Italy. At the end of 2013, according to Eurostat data[1], the unemployment rate was 27.8% in Greece and 12.6% in Italy, but this rate was even higher among the migrants. According to a joint study by INSTAT and IOM, during this period, around 134,000 migrants returned to Albania[2]. In the meantime, the return bulge during 2016–2018 is related mainly to the return of asylum seekers in Germany and some other EU countries.

The return of migrants is a potentially very important process for the economic and social development of Albania. Returnees bring financial capital (savings), human capital (skills and know-how, new mentality and ideas, work habits, etc.) and social capital. However, this depends, on the one hand, on the duration of stay in the host country and the reasons for returning. Potential benefits for the home country are maximized when the returnees have stayed long enough in the destination country to achieve their objectives with regard to saving, education or professional qualifications, or when they are still relatively young and wish to invest human and financial capital in their home country. On the other hand, it depends on the creation of premises in the home country to effectively utilize the human, financial and social capital of returnees.

Returnees need: health support, support to find a job, housing support, educational support, vocational training support

What are Albanian local and central government doing to re-integrate all these people? There are many institutions in central and local level involved in the reintegration process deal with the implementation of policies for reintegration of returnees.

The paper will be focused: firstly, in the data about the migration and also returnees in Albania, secondly, in the policies and strategy for the integration of the returnees.

[1] EUROSTAT (2015) Euro area unemployment rate at 11.4%, December 2014. 20/2015-30 January 2015. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/6581668/3-30012015-AP-EN.pdf/9d4fbadd-d7ae-48f8-b071-672f3c4767dd>

[2] INSTAT, IOM(2014)Return Migration and Reintegration in Albania. Tirana: Institute of Statistics/International Organization for Migration.