

## DIASPORA AS A DRIVING FORCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN KOSOVO

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KOSOVO

### ABSTRACT

Kosovo has many natural resources, but in Europe known as the biggest exporter of human resources in the countries of western Europe . Given the proportion of the population of the country of origin, Kosovo is considered a country with a very large diaspora. Emigration abroad has been through various stages. Origin diaspora migration is believed to be that of the first half of the last century, when hundreds of thousands of families were subjected to a vicious campaign of deportation and persecution by the Serbian government. Many of them are located in the EU and the United States of America as friendly countries. Nowadays, community Kosovo Albanians believed to be very large (not yet accurate statistics). Diaspora members, in general, is distributed worldwide, but, nevertheless, always has been and remains the best relationship more meaningful Kosovo with countries across life. In addition to distributing mainly in western countries, Kosovo diaspora characterizes its integration in countries where living and working, and younger generations who were born and raised away from their home, Diaspora in defining elements that express its potential, the which has had and has special weight to the economic development of Kosovo. Today we see the diaspora as a great strength to move forward in EU countries. Many of the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo have invested in various Western countries, and have created a large capital. We find diaspora in the future as an mayor investor. This investment from abroad will also affect investors invitation to non-Kosovar come to our country and to make investments, opening of new jobs, etc.

**Keywords:** Diaspora, Economy, Investors, Management, Financial, Kosovo.

### INTRODUCTION

Although migration is undoubtedly a structural feature of the Kosovo Albanian society for decades, few studies have been conducted with the ambition to understand the issue of migration and development of Kosovo. There is little empirical knowledge to show the effects of migration on poverty, on income and other factors. One study focused on micro-local level, which analyzes the impact of migration on social and economic modernization in Kosovo families (ESI 2006). The main results of this study however, the purpose of the study remains local. Finally another study explored the links between poverty reduction and migration policies in Kosovo (Vath & Black 2007). This study presents a path in that direction, however, it focuses mainly on the historical aspects of migration in Kosovo. This study is mainly based on secondary sources. In conclusion, the link between development and migration in Kosovo has so far been only superficially analyzed.<sup>1</sup>

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In December 2007, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Pristina commissioned for Democratic Initiatives (FDI) to implement the project "Assessing the Impact of Migration on Kosovo", with the overall goal "to initiate a political debate decision-makers, social partners, the media, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and the general public in Kosovo on the impact of migration on development of Kosovo by providing accurate and reliable information based on multidimensional research." Well ambition of this report was to fill a knowledge gap that exists regarding the impact of the Diaspora in the development of Kosovo by providing an accurate and scientific phenomenon. The purpose of the research, rigorous methodological criteria established to conduct this study and the fulfillment of a broad field of research in Kosovo and Switzerland will provide important data and information for decision-makers in Kosovo to define and implement public using effective migration and its subsequent development as a strategy.

The key to this research (study) aimed to answer was: "What is the impact of the Diaspora in the development of Kosovo?" The main objectives of the study were:

- To document the contribution and impact of migrants, their families and the Diaspora in the development of Kosovo.
- To identify the political, economic and legal migrants, Diaspora and their families face in host and origin and recommend changes to improve development.
- To promote the potential of Diaspora Diaspora and their families in contributing to (and sustainable),<sup>2</sup>

Our analysis is based on the migrants themselves (their human capital) and their families, social conditions in recipient countries (case study in Switzerland) and their social integration there. It also assesses the level and types of investment from expatriates and social forms of organization of migrants in the receiving country (case study in Switzerland) including their impact on political life in the host and origin.

## SIZE OF THE DIASPORA

There is still no reliable census data on migration in Kosovo, therefore it remains extremely difficult to obtain accurate information regarding Kosovo Diaspora. Its size is unknown. An overall assessment is still disputed 800,000 people. Germany with approximately 270,000 and host the largest observed. The figure for Switzerland includes naturalized members of the Kosovo Diaspora. Other communities are themelaur largest in the United States of America, Scandinavia, the UK, France, Belgium and Austria, while smaller communities are found to Australia and New Zeland .. Assuming that the estimated size of the diaspora is correct and that the assessment of the Statistical Office of Kosovo that live in Kosovo today 2.1 million is also correct, it can be concluded that almost every third Kosovar now lives abroad.

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## Research

It should establish a center of research and documentation to address all issues dealing with Kosovo Diaspora. In order for the government to prepare a suitable development strategy, it must have sufficient information on the migration phenomenon (departures, arrivals, separated because of work, gender, age, region, etc..) And impacts migration has on the broader social development (formal and informal) economy, employment, social stability, health, education, poverty, etc. - as well as data on. This center can utilize newly opened embassies to map out the Diaspora. With adequate information and analysis, and the corresponding capacity to use information, the government will be better equipped to plan appropriate strategies.

- It is important to improve data on remittances to understand the factors that cause them, and to inform policy development which aims to maximize its impact on development.
- Movement of Kosovo Diaspora experts (eg researchers, professors, students) should be encouraged to create more academic debate on the issue and possibly promote more research in this field among local institutions.

## Sending Money

2880 LSMS household survey 30% of households receive remittances of money from out of money or goods in rural areas largest number of migrants from rural areas to the larger size of the average family in rural Switzerland Germany annual total amount 275millionë nëmalla EUR 40 million funds sent from abroad made up 17% of GDP since 2000 examined in Kosovo. According to the survey, less than in Kosovo - in shape. There are more beneficiaries of <sup>3</sup>remittances than in urban areas (33% in comparison 26%). This is explained primarily by, but also (8.9 persons per household in krahasimë 5.5 persons). Amount received may vary from less than 500 Euro (20%) to more than 5,000 euros (15%) and most international transfers come from (49%) and (23%) and other European countries (20%). estimated that the funds sent from abroad in 2000 was approximately 550 million German marks, which represented at the time of the survey . Adding this amount approximately € 40millionë (or), and considering Kosovo GDP of 3 billion € (without funds sent from abroad), it follows that in 2000.

## Direct investments

Less than expected with no signs of improvement. Migrants and diaspora can contribute to economic development in countries of origin in many ways other than just sending money. They could contribute to economic development by establishing enterprise itself or helping families and friends to do so through the transfer of know-how and competencies - the so-called "brain gain." Another factor that seems to have influenced attitude toward money sent from abroad opportunities related to the trip and improved communication. This has become more conscious members of the Diaspora and in many cases they are used for luxury goods and leisure which they vetëmadje not kanë.Përfundimisht, having their best drejtimitë in the

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host society, they spend more money to support their integration efforts, such as the education of their children and investments in a home in Switzerland, and can not afford to remit money as they dërguarmë parë.të that they send in Kosovo should not be used as integration priorities changed focus group discussions in Kosovo 500 business owners in seven regions of Kosovo were interviewed to understand the true levels of cash and in-kind investments of Diaspora in establishing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in funds Kosovo.more partial or complete (or personal work of business owners, work their family members or both).

### **Research for special emphasis diaspora in Switzerland**

In December 2007, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Pristina<sup>4</sup> commissioned for Democratic Initiatives (FDI) to implement the project "Assessing the impact of migration on development of Kosovo", with the overall goal "to initiate a political debate decision-makers, social partners, the media, non-governmental organizations, academia and the general public in Kosovo on the impact of migration on development of Kosovo by providing accurate and reliable information based on multidimensional research. " Well ambition of this report was to fill a knowledge gap that exists regarding the impact of the Kosovo diaspora in development by providing an accurate and scientific phenomenon. The purpose of the research, rigorous methodological criteria established to conduct this study and the fulfillment of a broad field of research in Kosovo and Switzerland will provide important data and information for decision-makers in Kosovo to define and implement public using effective migration and its subsequent development as a strategy. The key to this research (study) aimed to answer was: "What is the impact of the Kosovo diaspora in development?" The main objectives of the study were: To document the contribution and impact of migrants, diaspora and their families in developing Kosovo, to identify the political, economic and legal migrants, diaspora and their families face in host and origin and recommend changes to improve the development impact and to promote the potential of migrants, diaspora and their families in contributing to (and sustainable). Our analysis is based on the migrants themselves (their human capital) and their families, social conditions in recipient countries (case study in Switzerland) and their social integration there. Analysis also evaluates the level and types of investment from expatriates and social forms of organization of migrants in the receiving country (case study in Switzerland) including their impact on the political life of the host and origin. This research was presented at the international conference which was mbahjt in Pristina, last month, organized by the FID, the Office of the diaspora at the Office of the Prime Minister, the Business Promotion Agency of Kosovo in Pristina SDC support .

### **Diaspora Organization**

Governmental authorities in Kosovo should engage Diaspora communities as partners for development.

- The dialogue between the Government and communities should be institutionalized and lead to concrete cooperation, based on the true potential of the Diaspora.
- Host countries should support the new Diaspora networks and to fund capacity building of Diaspora organizations in addition to creating lasting relationships with stakeholders<sup>5</sup>

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test development. Rebirth of Kosovo Diaspora associations but with an entirely different mission altogether should also be one of the priorities of the Embassy of Kosovo. There is a great need for the Diaspora to become more vocal about their rights and obligations. However, initiatives from the dealership should balance between strengthening and support of Diaspora organizations.

- To Swiss government, this is a critical moment to provide the support that can enable the integration of the Kosovo Albanian community into Swiss society. Will the Kosovo Albanian side seems to be in peak and should be used.
- Special attention should be given to second-generation immigrants. They seem to have a strong interest in being involved in the development of Kosovo. Kosovo and Switzerland should work together to facilitate 'brain circulation (intelligence).'<sup>6</sup>
- Given the limited knowledge of their rights among members of the Diaspora, Embassies and should develop outreach materials that explain the rights of migrants and the Diaspora.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Economic Aspects*

- Establish one-stop shops (practical counseling) where potential migrant investors can learn all the legal and financial aspects of doing business in Kosovo. Despite the unpromising messages from members of the Diaspora, they should still be encouraged to invest because they are the first potential "alien" in Kosovo, who can send signals to other foreign investors that Kosovo is a safe place.
- Government can do more to support Diaspora investment to improve the overall investment climate, facilitating access to credit, maintaining favorable fiscal policies and promoting Kosovo as a safe place for investment.
- However, the Government could facilitate the process of coordination among businesses operating in the same sector in Switzerland. The establishment of "joint investment fund" was among the priorities requested by members of the Diaspora.
- Putting a strong emphasis on traditional food export Kosovo ("food nostalgia Diaspora") should be a priority for the government sector in Kosovo food processing. Of course, these products should maintain quality and have high production standard consumers may be found beyond the Kosovo Diaspora.

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