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The causes and consequences of Albanian emigration during transition: evidence from micro-data

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Abstract

This paper reports the results of a field survey of individuals and firms in Albania, carried out during 1998. The surveys were designed to analyse the size, causes and consequences of emigration from Albania during the 1990s. Our results show that emigrants are motivated mainly by the ease of access of 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 abroad have contributed to setting-up businesses on return. These results have important policy implications for both EU countries and other transition countries in the region.

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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 of profound importance 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 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.¹ 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 (see Table 1) to the point where nearly 700,000 Albanians are estimated to be living abroad (not only in Greece) in 1998, representing about 20 per cent of the population.²

Table 1: Albanian emigration ('000s): 1991-98

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Greece	121	218	241	208	263	312	379	470
Italy	78	88	90	95	98	110	136	162
Other	44	45	48	50	52	53	55	58
Total	243	351	381	353	413	476	571	690

Source: Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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 sets of questions. First, we examine why people choose to emigrate, or not to emigrate, 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 how much of the money earned abroad is repatriated to Albania, the extent to which these remittances 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 most important 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

¹ Previous papers on Albanian emigration include Mançellari et al. (1996), Meksi (1996), Çuka et al. (1996), Papapanagos and Sanfey (1998), and Mançellari et al. (1999). Konica (1999) is also based on original field work in Albania.

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

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.

The paper is structured as follows. Section 2 describes in some detail the survey design and data collection. Section 3 presents the main results from the survey. In Section 4 we attempt to justify, using evidence from the surveys and previous theoretical work, the steadily increased Albanian emigration flows and the continuing desire of Albanians to emigrate abroad. Section 5 concludes with a discussion of some of the policy implications.

2. THE DATA

The data in this paper are based on two questionnaires (see Annex): the first was distributed throughout Albania to 1,500 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.³ The same surveys were also carried out in Bulgaria, and the main results from these are discussed in Papapanagos et al. (1999).

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 a few 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.

Table 2 presents some background information about the sample of individuals. The sample was biased towards males, reflecting in part the fact that representatives of households often responded on behalf of an emigrant abroad, the vast majority of whom are males. The majority of respondents were married, and about 90 per cent 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 "Job Creation, Emigration, and the Speed of Adjustment in Transition Economies." Phare-ACE research project 96-6208-R.

Table 2: General characteristics of the Albanian sample of individuals

	Freq	%		Freq	%
Gender			Main occupation		
Male	968	65.1	Senior management	93	6.2
Female	518	34.9	Middle/lower management	84	5.6
			Secretarial/clerical	27	1.8
Age			Skilled worker	235	15.7
<= 20	125	8.6	Unskilled worker	79	5.3
21 – 30	582	39.9	Self-employed work	214	14.3
31 – 40	296	20.3	Farmer	37	2.5
41 – 50	303	20.8	Other paid work	240	16.0
51 – 60	122	8.4	Pensioner	71	4.7
61+	32	2.2	Housewife	35	2.3
			Student	183	12.2
Family status			Unemployed	198	13.2
Never married	580	39.0			
Married	853	57.4	Education		
Divorced & not married	28	1.9	Up to elementary	82	5.8
Widow(er)	25	1.7	Some secondary	76	5.3
			Secondary-complete	563	39.6
Income			Higher-vocational	701	49.3
<= 5,800	342	22.9			
5,801 – 10,000	240	16.1	Size of town		
10,001 – 20,000	416	27.9	Rural and small villages	130	8.7
20,001 – 30,000	177	11.9	<= 20,000	235	15.7
> 30,000	317	21.2	20,001 – 50,000	360	24.0
			50,001 – 100,000	194	12.9
Religion			> 100,000	581	38.7
Orthodox	468	31.9			
Catholic	98	6.7	Region		
Anglican	1	0.1	Tirana	237	15.8
Moslem	878	59.8	North	217	14.5
Jehovah's Witness	3	0.2	Centre	679	45.3
Atheist	12	0.8	South	367	24.5
Baptist	8	0.5			
Evangelist	1	0.1			

Note : "don't know" and "no answer" are excluded.

Source: Albanian Individual Database

3. MAIN RESULTS

REASONS FOR EMIGRATION AND FUTURE INTENTIONS

The first issue we address is the reasons for emigration or non-emigration. We first asked people whether they intended to emigrate some time in the future to live and work. Table 3 indicates a very strong desire in the sample to leave, with around three-quarters saying that they would either “definitely” or “probably” emigrate.⁴ The pressure of emigration from Albania seems unlikely to abate in the near future, if these results are representative of the population as a whole.⁵

Table 3: 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).

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 4). For those who said they had never emigrated, we enquired about the main reason for not doing so, and then finished the interview. Table 4 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 was the driving force. The choice of country was largely determined by easy access and the prospect of high financial returns. 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 per cent choosing one of the two.

⁴ 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).

⁵ 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).

Table 4: Characteristics of Albanian emigrants

	Freq	%		Freq	%
Emigration			Reason not to emigrate		
Yes	703	47.0	Health reason	29	3.9
No	792	53.0	Old/Young age	122	16.3
Reason to emigrate			Family reasons	187	24.9
Economic	613	86.6	Love home/country	110	14.7
Political	25	3.5	Financial cost	67	8.9
Social	20	2.8	No visa	141	18.8
Religion	6	0.8	Lose job	93	12.4
Other	44	6.2	Lose social assistance	1	0.1
No. of times of emigration			Reason to choose emigration country		
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			
Emigrants' destination (90-98)					
France	30	1.2			
Germany	118	4.6			
Greece	1,449	56.0			
Italy	774	29.9			
FYR Macedonia	34	1.3			
Switzerland	68	1.6			
UK	20	0.8			
USA	49	1.9			
Other	47	1.8			

Note : "don't know" and "no answer" are excluded.

Source: Albanian Individual Database.

EXPERIENCE ABROAD

We turn now to the experience of emigrants abroad first-time, summarised in Table 5. 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. 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. 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.

Table 5: Emigrants' experience from emigration abroad first-time

	Freq	%		Freq	%
Emigrant's status			Emigrant treated by people		
Legal	272	40.1	Friendly	400	57.2
Illegal	407	59.9	Indifferently	232	33.2
			Unfriendly	67	9.6
Type of emigrant's occupation			Emigrant treated by authority		
Part-time	370	58.4	Friendly	209	30.2
Full-time	264	41.6	Indifferently	316	45.7
			Unfriendly	166	24.0
Skill in emigrant's occupation			Overall experience abroad		
Skilled	159	25.2	Positive	381	54.7
Unskilled	473	74.8	Neutral	255	36.6
			Negative	61	8.8
Occupation of emigrant			Useful professional experience abroad		
Agricultural	142	20.3	Yes	371	53.5
Industrial	69	9.9	No	323	46.5
Handicraft	42	6.0			
Construction	183	26.2			
Trade	17	2.4			
Tourism	25	3.6			
Services	221	31.6			

Note : "don't know" and "no answer" are excluded.

Source: Albanian Individual Database.

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 per cent 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 per cent of GDP (see IMF, 1997) and constitute a major source of foreign revenue for the country.⁶ 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.

⁶ Konica's (1999) estimate of remittances in 1996, based on field research in Albania, is approximately twice the IMF estimate for that year.

USE OF INCOME EARNED ABROAD

Interviewees were asked how they allocated the income they earned abroad among consumption, investment, remittances and other destinations. Table 6 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 per cent 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.

Table 6: Use of income earned from emigration first-time

	Use of income abroad		Use of income sent home in cash		
	Mean %	Std. Dev.	Mean %	Std. Dev.	
(N=700)			(N=694)		
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 fin.-institution	7.05	18.60
Saved abroad	3.87	11.46	Invested in com. business	5.18	17.94
Invested in business abr.	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/abroad	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.

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 per cent were sent by the former method. Taken together, these results point to an important role for the 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 7. 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 8 demonstrates that among all firms (including those where the owner had never emigrated) remittances contribute about 17 per cent 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.

Table 7: Albanian sample of firms

	Freq	%		Freq	%
Regional breakdown of firms			No. of employees		
Tirana	110	55.0	< 5	72	36.0
North	14	7.0	6 – 10	42	21.0
Centre	50	25.0	11 – 30	60	30.0
South	26	13.0	> 30	26	13.0
Ownership type of the firm					
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 8: Contribution of capital sources for the establishment of firms in Albania

(N=190)	Mean %	Std.Dev.
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.

4. 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 increases the proportion of unemployed who will choose to emigrate.

Does a short period of emigration abroad enhance the job prospects of Albanians when they return home, 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 9 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 per cent 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.

Table 9: Employers’ perceptions about emigration

	Freq	%		Freq	%
Emigration is advantage to employ at home			Better chance to establish firm at home		
Yes	101	51.0	Emigrant	130	65.7
No	97	49.0	Non-emigrant	6	3.0
			Equal chance	62	31.3
Better chance to find job at home					
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.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The results of this paper have shed light on a number of features of Albanian emigration during the 1990s. Emigration has been a hugely 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 greatly enhanced by a spell of work in another country.

These results have profound 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 extremely 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 sectors, 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. Governments in transition countries should therefore 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: 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 ___/___/___

Gender:		Family status:		Date of birth: Date/Month/Year ___/___/___
Male	•	Never Married	•	
Female	•	Married	•	
		Divorced and not married	•	
		Widow(er)	•	

Number of children:		Number of dependents (apart from children):	
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	•	Farmer	•
Middle/Lower management	•	Other paid work	•
Secret/Clerical	•	Pensioner	•
Skilled worker	•	Housewife	•
Unskilled worker	•	Student	•
Self-employed work	•	Unemployed	•

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: _____

Region	Size of town/village	Settlement
Tirana	• Smaller than village	• Urban •
North	• Village	• Rural •
Centre	• Less than 20000	•
South	• Between 20-50000	•
	• Between 50-100000	•
	• More than 100000	•

Do you intend to emigrate abroad in the future to live 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):

First time

- Agricultural •
- Industrial •
- Handicraft •
- Construction •
- Trade •
- Tourism •
- Services •

Last-time

- Agricultural •
- Industrial •
- Handicraft •
- Construction •
- Trade •
- Tourism •
- Services •

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):

	First-time	Last-time
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	_____ %	_____ %
The sum should be equal to	100 %	100 %

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 sent back in Albania in cash has been (approximate amount):

	First-time	Last-time
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	_____ %	_____ %
The sum should be equal to	100 %	100 %

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

	First-time	Last-time
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	_____ %	_____ %
The sum should be equal to	100 %	100 %

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 were 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:	Family status:	Date of birth: Date/Month/Year ___/___/___
Male •	Never Married •	
Female •	Married •	
	Divorced and not married •	
	Widow(er) •	

Number of children:	Number of dependents (apart from children):
Living with interviewee: ___	Living with interviewee: ___
Not 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 •
Centre •	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:	Type of the main activity of the firm:
Pure Albanian •	Production •
Foreign •	Commercial •
Joint venture •	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 live 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	____ %	____ %
The sum should be equal to	100 %	100 %

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

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 an 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) _____

Which is the main reason for you to emigrate abroad:

First-time		Last-time	
Economic	•	Economic	•
Political	•	Political	•
Social	•	Social	•
Religion related	•	Religion related	•
Other	•	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		Last-time	
Agricultural	•	Agricultural	•
Industrial	•	Industrial	•
Handicraft	•	Handicraft	•
Construction	•	Construction	•
Trade	•	Trade	•
Tourism	•	Tourism	•
Services	•	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:

	Establishment	Expansion
Know how	_____ %	_____ %
Remittances	_____ %	_____ %
Acquaintances	_____ %	_____ %
The sum should be equal to	100 %	100 %

Type of Firm:

- Privatised •
- New •