

# Migration, remittances and inter-generational relationships: a case study from Albania

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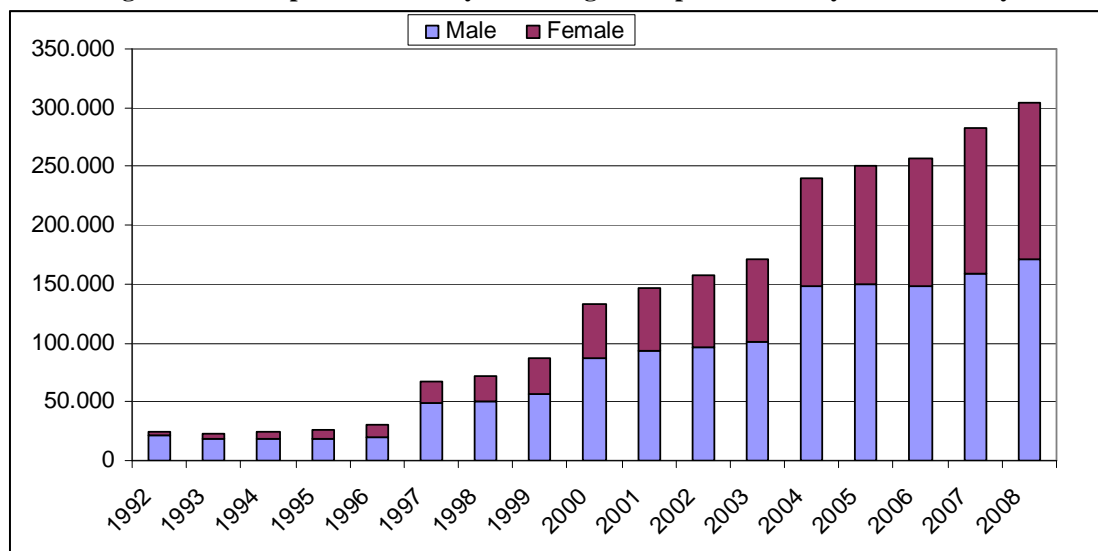
## Extended Abstract

During the migration process, the relationship between generations can vary considerably. In some cases they remain unchanged, in others they may change radically. The contact of the younger generations of migrants with more egalitarian society, may in fact disrupt the equilibrium of patriarchal societies. The same is true also about gender relations, that may undergo significant changes. The goal of our study is to analyse how the relations between generations are changing as a result of migration. In particular we will focus on the support between generations and the methods/tools used to implement it, developed by the Albanian emigrants.

The history of Albanian emigration presents unique issues different from those of other national groups. Its high concentration in a short period of time makes it an attractive emigration unique case. Because of the rigid impediments to mobility, both domestic and international posts by the Communist regime, only since the beginning of the nineties the Albanian population was involved in a very intense process of territorial mobility. It was a mass exodus, which represented the relief valve in front of the shock caused by the changes of the Albanian society and the collapse of the regime.

At present Albania is one of the countries with the highest migratory rate in the world. In fact, about 25% of the Albanian population is presently living abroad. The most important destinations are Greece and Italy, which host together 95% of the total migrants, due to geographical, cultural, and linguistic proximity.

**Fig. 1: Albanian presence in Italy according to the permits of stay at 1st January.**



Source: Istat 2009: [www.demoistat.it](http://www.demoistat.it)

Tab.1. Albanian migrants stock in Greece in 1991, 2001 and 2008

Country of origin	1991		2001		2008	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Albania	20.556	12,4	438.036	57,49	459.390	68,47%

Source: for 1991 National Statistic Service of Greece

For 2001 and 2008 Anna Triandafyllidou in [http://www.eliamep.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/idea\\_wp4\\_greece8.pdf](http://www.eliamep.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/idea_wp4_greece8.pdf)

Nowadays Albania remains a poor country by Western European standards. According to Eurostat, Albania's GDP per capita stood at 25 percent of the EU average in 2008. Albania continues to have the per capita income lower of Europe, with 2,800 euro (\$6.000) for the 2008

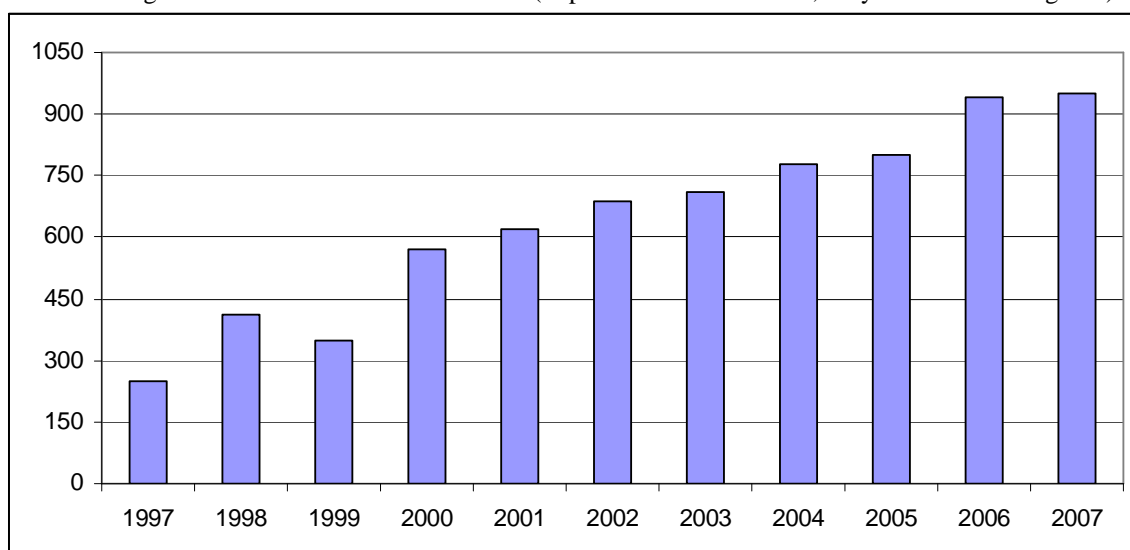
Unemployment: 12.5% official rate, but may exceed 30% due to preponderance of near-subsistence farming. Albania is currently undergoing an intensive macroeconomic restructuring regime, making the difficult transition to a more modern open-market economy. Macroeconomic growth has averaged around 5% over the last five years and inflation is low and stable. The government has taken measures to curb violent crime, and recently adopted a fiscal reform package aimed at reducing the large gray economy and attracting foreign investment. The economy is supported by annual remittances from abroad representing about 15% of GDP, mostly from Albanians residing in Greece and Italy; this helps offset the towering trade deficit.

The Albania mass emigration has produced substantial demographic changes in the Albanian population in the recent decades. Since to emigrate were mainly young people, Albania has experienced a tremendous loss of population and workforce, and strong changes in the society, however, compensated by a formidable flow of remittances.

During the 2007, the Albanians emigrants have sent to their home more than 950 million Euro. The Bank of Albania has estimated that the formal remittances flows represent the 15% of the GDP for 2007. They were three times higher that Foreign Direct Investment and represent more than twice the income of the Foreign Economic Aid for development received by Albania.

Remittances flows have had a very important impact on individual households, as well as Albanian society as a whole. These transfers are still very important for the financial survivor of the country and have had an important role in the Albanian economy during these years, thanks to the support offered, in particular to the alleviation of the poverty, to the household consumption and to the construction activities.

Fig.2 Flows of remittances in Albania (in particular from Greece, Italy and United Kingdom)



Source: Bank of Albania

In this paper we will analyze the financial transfers (remittances) and skills (non financial remittances) wherever possible. We will deepen these issues, analyzing the socio-demographic characteristics of migrants and their relatives in Albania. We will analyse the relationship between migrants and their families who remained in Albania: the frequency of visits, phone calls and correspondence.

Furthermore, we will focus on the intention of emigrants to return back home in the future, on the investments made for this project and the reasons of a possible return.

We use data from a series of surveys conducted between 2006 and 2009 by the Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) on a sample of 2200 Albanians both in the origin (Albania) and destination countries (Italy and Greece). The analysis will be initially descriptive, then logistic regressions will be made in order to find out which socio-demographic characteristics of migrants have the largest impact on the transfer of funds and human capital between countries origin and destination countries.

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