



Research Article

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Global migration strategies: Albanian migration after 1990

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Abstract

The migration is a form of mobility that is carried out in many ways, in different times and different distances. In the migration process, apart from the motives, the distance and the place are important. Today, thanks to traffic systems, the migration flows tend to become more and more massive and global. Also, the culture and economy in the globalization process is distributed widely, motivating even more international migration. On the other hand, human migration can contribute to economic and cultural globalization. The migratory movements have traditionally played a very important role in developing and distributing the population all over the world. But what are the causes, consequences and strategies of Albanian migration after 1990? The used methodology consists of analysis, synthesis and evaluation. The migration of Albanians has played an important role in demographic developments in Albania after 1990 and is one of the biggest problems of the country. In these conditions, it is imperative that in all the projects and strategies that were developed for Albania, to take into account the changes and effects that the migration process brings in different spatial ranges.

Keywords: Migration, Strategy, Cause, Consequences, Population.

1. Introduction

The migration with all forms of its emergence will continue to play a very important and determining role for many demographic, economic, regional and local developments of countries. Through this process, people have traversed in all directions of the earth's surface. The models reflect the importance of migration from the least developed countries to the more developed ones. After the geographical discoveries and the population of the American continent, many populations of European countries migrated to the United States, Canada, South America, and so on. Likewise, during the many wars that have taken place in the world, the population has tended to move to the Far East, mainly to America, Australia, Asia and so on. But the vast majority of people moves for economic reasons. It is estimated that in every 10 emigrants, 9 of

them emigrate for economic reasons. The main motive for emigration to Europe and America is, firstly and foremost, linked primarily to economic goals, better working conditions, housing and a category of people with high and specific education and qualifications. The country or territory is another important element that influences the cultural identity and the progress of a human society. Within a global culture, people emigrate to take away the discrimination and domination of large groups and dominate the territory. For this reason, several different human groups emigrate to USA and Europe with multiculturalism and where they can "protect" some common values of humans and their groups.

2. Global Migration Models

Today on a global scale Asia, Africa and Latin America have emigrants, while North America, Europe and Oceania have more immigration of the population. Three major migration flows are towards Europe, from Africa and Asia, from Asia to North America and from Asia to Latin America.

Historically these flows have been different and in different directions. Smaller flows have been from colonial Europe to colonized countries. The global models reflect the importance of migration from less developed countries to more advanced ones, for the reasons outlined above (King & Vullnetari, 2003). In all this powerful migratory movement, Europe has been the main continent as a supplier, especially in the age of colonialism and large geographic discoveries, as well as hosting different emigrants, from developing and underdeveloped countries. Especially after the end of the Second World War and the establishment of peace, Europe will return along North America to the main hosting continent of the displaced population from different countries of the world. Migrant arrivals in various European countries after the end of WWII were motivated by the need for labor force in rebuilding many war-torn countries. Firstly Germany, but also France, Italy, etc., became the host countries of many emigrants, giving them all the rights of economic emigrants. Today, Europe's main supply emigrants are Turkey, the former Yugoslav countries and other former communist countries of Eastern Europe, the former Russian republics, the countries of North Africa (UN, 2010).

The US, the country with the largest number of international migrations

The US has had three main periods of immigration. The first was from colonial countries; the second was dominated by European countries, in the beginning of the 20th century; the third in the early 1970s, which continues today, mainly with Latin American and Asian dominance. These periods reflect three different spaces and different characteristic typologies. Despite changes, the motives have been the same. Immigrants today in the US constitute over 12% of its population, and are in a continuation process. Nowadays 8.6 million immigrants are counted only in Germany, 4.4 million in France, 1.1 million in Switzerland etc. Albania is part of the

European and American supplying countries. Particularly after 1990, there are great flows of Albanian emigration to different European countries. It is estimated that only in Greece over 500,000 Albanians have emigrated, about 250,000 to Italy, and thousands to the United States, Germany, England, Austria, Switzerland (Greiling, 1954)

The global migration control strategies

The global migrations, although they do not change the population of the world, play a major role in the distribution of the population by contributing to the resolution of some developmental problems, territorial imbalance and territorial imbalances. But chaotic moves have had bad consequences in migration processes. It is therefore necessary to draft and implement policies of a kind of regional and international administration of this phenomenon, known differently as migration policies. Some of these measures have been the Law on Quotas for Migration, where immigrant countries each year receive quotas through various programs and the law on temporary employment migration.

3. Emigration and history of Albanians in the world

The foreign emigration is a phenomenon that has historically accompanied the historical development of the Albanian population. Factors such as: multiple wars, foreign invasions by foreigners, difficult economic conditions, etc., have forced Albanians to often take the path of the curb. Though a century-long phenomenon, early and detailed data on the extent of Albanian emigration are missing. There are some cases of Albanian emigration in the history of Albanian emigration. The first massive wave of emigration of Albanians is known after the death of Skanderbeg when about 200, 000 Albanians were forced to leave and settled in southern Italy. Nowadays, there are about 80 settlements in Italy inhabited by Albanians, or known as the Arberes of the south of Italy. Also, the 500-year period of Ottoman conquest forced many Albanians to abandon their country. It is this population, which during its century-long development, is estimated to have reached today about 1 million of Albanian descent only in Turkey (Draçi & Koka, 2015). During the reign of King Zog and during the Second World War, the process of massive immigration of Albanians continued. In this period the emigration crossed the borders of Europe, heading towards the United States, Canada and Australia. There are more than 500,000 Albanian residents in the US today (Tirta, 1999). During the period of communist rule (1945-1990) in Albania, as a result of its total isolation, foreign emigration ceased to exist. With democratic changes occurring in Albania after 1990, a new phase of migration of Albanians started, especially of emigration abroad. It can even be said that this emigration gave the first blows to the communist system in Albania, when in July 1990 about 5,000 Albanians entered some of the foreign embassies in Tirana and sought emigration. Most of them emigrated to Germany, France and Italy. They

entered some of the foreign embassies in Tirana and sought emigration. The transition period of the Albanian economy from the planned to market economy was associated since 1991 and onwards with a series of political and socio-economic problems, such as immediate growth of unemployment, political uncertainty, criminality, etc.

Other flows of mass emigrants and smaller sizes resulted in the rapid growth of the number of Albanian emigrants abroad. During 1992 - 1993, the number of emigrated Albanians abroad was estimated at about 300,000 persons. In the years that followed the general situation in Albania, with its improvements and deterioration continued to be difficult. This made the phenomenon of foreign emigration of Albanians to continue, involving more and more people of different ages and gender. It is estimated that about 1 million Albanians have emigrated abroad since 1991. Most of them, about 500,000 are in Greece, about 200,000 in Italy, while the rest have emigrated to other Western European countries, USA and Canada (Instat, 2004).

The foreign emigration of Albanians has been an illegal phenomenon to its extent. Therefore, official data can not coincide with the massive influx of this emigration. However, on the basis of data and estimates from different directions, the external migration performance of Albanians can be summarized as until 2017 about 1 000, 000 Albanians emigrated (Instat, 2019).

The overall reform of the country, with the frequent fluctuations that have accompanied this difficult process over the last two decades, has also affected the dimensions, directions and motivations of the Albanian emigration abroad. In a significant part of this emigration has taken on the character of a seasonal phenomenon, especially for immigrants addressing Greece. The structure of this emigration was expanded to a considerable degree, including the feminine element, the agrarian and mountainous areas of the North and Northeast, and so on. In its overwhelming extent, this emigration has continued to be illegal, but in recent years family reunification is also a factor. The visa liberalization, starting in December 2010, facilitated the free movement of Albanians to the EU area, along with the decline in fertility which are the main reasons leading to the population shrinking in Albania.

4. Causes, consequences and strategies of Albanian migration after 1990

The causes of mass emigration of Albanians abroad after 1990 are all different. Launched as a protest against the communist regime and the total multi-annual isolation of the country from all over the world, the basis of the foreign emigration of Albanians are currently the economic motives. But there are also important reasons for education, better life, political stability, and so on. Causes of foreign emigration of Albanians are: Low wages in Albania; Better working conditions in the emigrated country; Better opportunities for leisure time; Better access to education in the emigrated country; Political motives. The phenomenon of migration continues today in Albania.

The brain emigration is also severely damaging the health service in the country. Over

the last three years, more than 600 doctors have left the country, where only around 201 people have requested referral of removal, mainly cardiologists, orthopedists, pediatricians etc. The preparation of a doctor requires at least 20 years of education, so their replacement is difficult. Meanwhile Saranda, Përmet and Dibra hospitals are almost without medical staff. Unlike the early 1990s, the problem is the emigration of qualified force. Skillful workforce has been an early problem that has accompanied Albanian entrepreneurs but, recently, call center businesses, technology services and information technology have started to feel the lack of interest to hire even simple operators. At certain times, finding some specific professions has been very difficult not only for IT but also for profile economists, managers, and so on. In the years 2015-2017, asylum seekers in the EU are 132,000 Albanians, but on the other hand, thousands of others have left the country with employment contracts, studies, American Lottery, applications to Canada or are joining relatives, as illegal immigration is flourishing to far-flung Australia. Another problem is the emigration of the new generations, which will cause problems later in the workforce, reduce productivity and the pension scheme. The problem of unemployment and job creation and a decent salary will be a challenge for which there is no special address by public authorities for 2018. For this reason, the social and economic problems will continue to remain sharp and serious and Albanians will want to leave more and more in search of better opportunities. Albania has lost 18% of its population in the last two decades as a result of massive brain drain.

5. Consequences of Albanian migration after 1990

The massive outward migration of Albanians after 1990 has been accompanied by a series of positive and negative effects and consequences. Among the positive effects that have accompanied the foreign emigration of Albanians in recent years are:

- The financial and material income coming to Albania from the remittances of its emigrants abroad. In the difficult economic conditions of the country this foreign exchange income is a great help for Albania and Albanians. In addition to the financial incomes, through immigrants there was also a lot of material incomes (cars, equipment, furniture, etc.), thus contributing significantly to improving the quality of housing and living in Albania.
- The very positive effect of external emigration is related to its impact on the labor market in Albania. Removing a large number of working age persons through foreign emigration has considerably alleviated the problem of unemployment. If these people had stayed in Albania, the level of unemployment would be at least twice of what it is currently.
- Albanian emigrants abroad have benefited not only financially and materially, but also professionally. They have learned a lot of new professions and many have implemented them in different Albanian economic sectors, especially in the sectors of services, trade, construction, etc.

- Immigration abroad gave many Albanians the opportunity not only to work, but also to study and educate their children there. This has further increased their educational and cultural level, thus investing in a more professional and qualified generation for the future of themselves, and perhaps even Albania.

Albania's foreign emigration since 1990 has also been accompanied by a number of negative effects.

They result, above all, from the almost completely illegal character of this emigration. This illegal character does not allow Albanian emigrants to enjoy the status of emigrant in their country, or in the best case it took a long time to gain their status. Only out of the official data over 2000 have resulted missing persons during their immigration to Greece and Italy. Being largely illegal immigration, it is often associated with elements of criminality and prostitution, thus negatively affecting both the integration of Albanians in their countries, their image and Albania in the outside world. The massive departure of Albanians through foreign emigration, which involved after 1990 over 1 million people, most of whom are young, is one of the biggest losses of human capital in the country.

6. Strategies for solving migration problems

The phenomenon of mass migration of Albanians is foreseen to continue for many years in the future, for two main reasons: Firstly, the difficult living conditions in villages, has forced the population to leave the village. Secondly due to the fact that in the structure of Albania's population the rural population still dominates. Migration in this sense is the main instrument of the realization of this process.

The problem lies in the fact that this migration has become more common as an irregular, unorganized phenomenon and without clear strategies. Therefore, it has been associated with a number of problems, both in the settlements of the coming population and in the areas where it is displaced. Such problems include: the lack of infrastructure in the areas of newly established newcomers, the labor market and housing market, the difficulties in the social integration of the new population coming with the autochthonous, etc., are more present in the placement areas of the incoming population (Vullnetari & Imiscoe, 2019).

Population resettlement areas are faced with a number of other issues, such as the risk of dropping out of these areas, the lack of prospects for economic and social development for the future. Especially the rural areas of the suburbs tend to abandon and remove the population. This abandonment is happening at different levels. In addition to a general decline in the number of inhabitants, there is evidence of a process of concentration or interregional structuring within the internal migration system in Albania.

Many villages in the suburbs are gradually abandoned and some of them have been depopulated over the last ten years. Medium sized settlements are in the position of the first reception point of migrants from rural areas with peripherals. For example,

in the Prefecture of Kukes, cities such as Bajram Curri, Kukesi and Kruma are the stations of these inter-national movements.

The reasons for emigration are more than the difficult economic situation. Agriculture provides modest income, but this is not considered as a chance for the children's future. In this way, the creation of a better future is the main reason for migration plans.

One of the most notable consequences of this process is the mentality of abandonment and stepping back and forth without ruling back to the majority of the population in the areas of resettlement. There it seems that people have lost their self-esteem, work and territory. The main symptoms of this condition are related to three main factors:

- general geographic terms;
- historical elements;
- structural-economic effects of the transition period.

As these factors are for a short-term, unchanging period, the problem solving needs to be sought in the "internal" circumstances of these areas.

It is very important that the internal migration movement of the population in Albania should not be left to spontaneity, but be organized on the basis of clear migration policies and strategies according to the requirements of the areas where the population is located and the areas from which she moves.

7. Conclusion

The migration of Albanians, whether foreign or local, constitutes a very important phenomenon in the entire demographic development of Albania since 1990 and at the same time one of the biggest problems that the country is experiencing since the beginning of the transition period. Due to the difficult economic, political and social situation of the country, compared to neighboring countries, especially Italy or Greece, the trend of Albanians leaving for other countries in search of conditions for a good life will continue for many years. Such a tendency is also encouraged by the unstable political situation in the entire Balkan region. Most of Albania's population, with about 52 percent, lives in the countryside. Due to the more difficult living conditions in the mountainous areas, the internal movement of the population will continue in the following years in different areas of the country. The central and western parts will attract even more populism from other areas, especially from the mountainous areas of the northern and northeastern parts of the country. The measures that must be taken are the drafting and implementation of clear migration policies; study of the most suitable areas and regions for the concentration of the displaced population; promotion of economic development and infrastructure, political and economic cooperation with countries where the largest number of emigrant Albanians are concentrated to help them recognize the rights of emigrants. Migration in all its forms will continue to play a very important role in many demographic, economic, regional and local developments of the country. It is imperative that in all projects

and strategies developed for the development of the country, the changes and effects brought by the migration process are taken into account.

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