



# Migration and Social Protection in Countries of Origin

What the migrants need?  
How the migrants help?

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# Outline

- Introduction
  - Migration trends in BiH
  - Social protection for migrants
  - Migrants for social protection
  - Conclusions
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# Types of migrants

- Emigrants
  - Highly skilled emigrants
- Returned asylum seekers
- Returned refugees
  - Returned refugees - IDPs
- Internally displaced and returned IDPs
  
- No specific social protection programs for these vulnerable groups



# Emigrants



- ▶ BiH is among top countries with regards to the share of emigrants to total population
- ▶ Largest emigration flow during the war in 1990s
- ▶ Currently, estimates range between 20,000 and 80,000
- ▶ Large number of students, mainly in Croatia, Serbia, Austria



# Emigration: Challenges

- Families left behind
  - Regular inflows of remittances
  - Parental absence and education of children (Oruc, 2016)
- Return of highly skilled emigrants
  - Integration into the labour market (Cosic and Ovcina, 2014)
- Brain drain



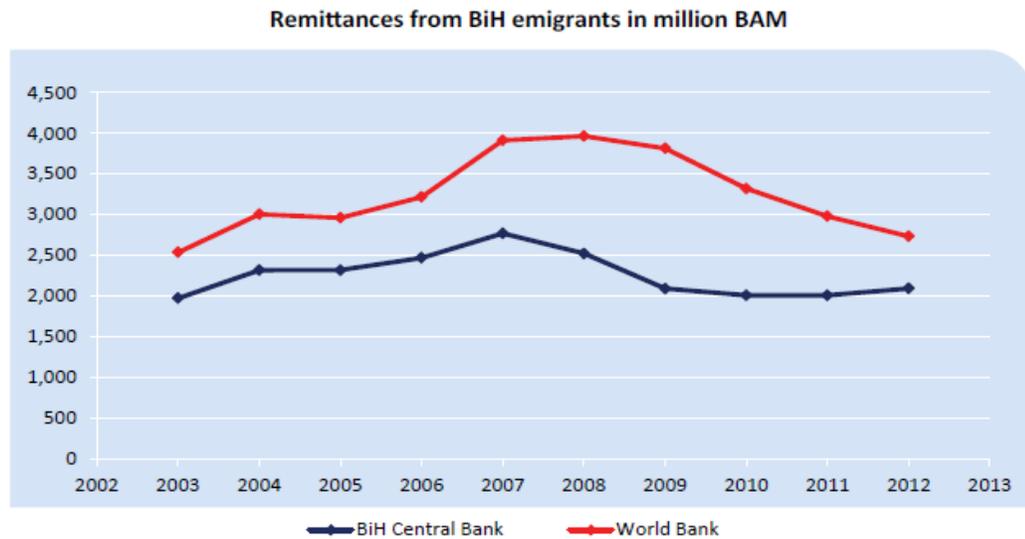
# Migration as a safety net

# Migration as a safety net

- Remittances inflows to BiH 14% of GDP
- No clear expectation about the direction of influence of remittances on poverty and inequality
  - Remittances reduce poverty (Adams and Page, 2008; Brown and Jimenez, 2007; Gubert et al., 2010, Beyene, 2011)
  - Remittances have no impact or increase poverty (Acosta et al., 2007; Adams, 2004)
  - The impact also depends on poverty measures used.
    - ▣ Remittances increase income inequality (Adams, 1991; Anyanwu, 2011), or
    - ▣ The effects are heterogeneous and depend on the circumstances (Ebeke and Le Goff, 2009; Kimhi, 2010)
- No evidence about the effect of global economic crisis

# Effect of the crisis in BiH

## Macro level

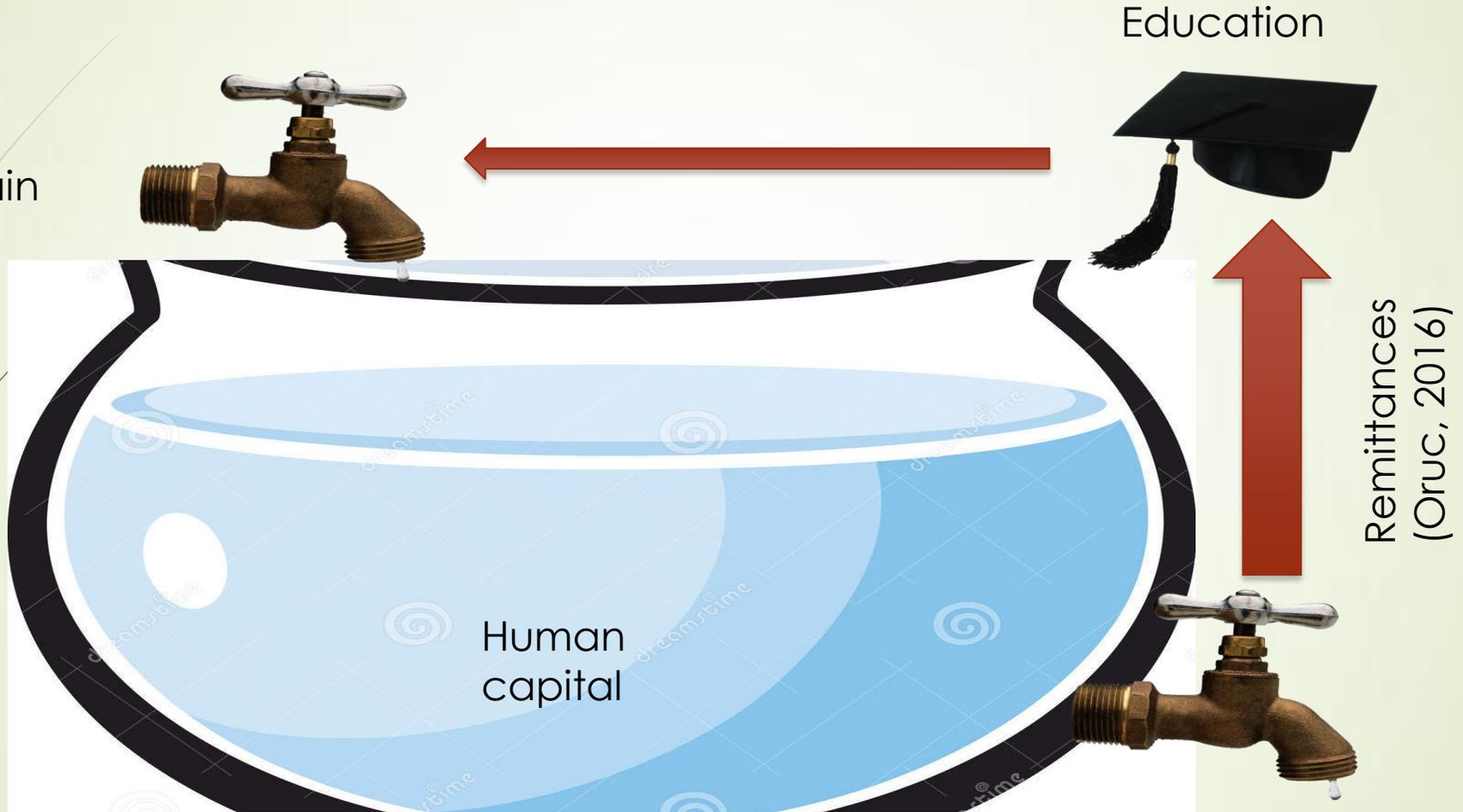


## Micro level

Variable	2007	2011	Change
% of recipients	7.72	5.88	↓
Average annual amount (EUR)	2,499	3,188	↑

# Remittances and education

Brain gain



Education



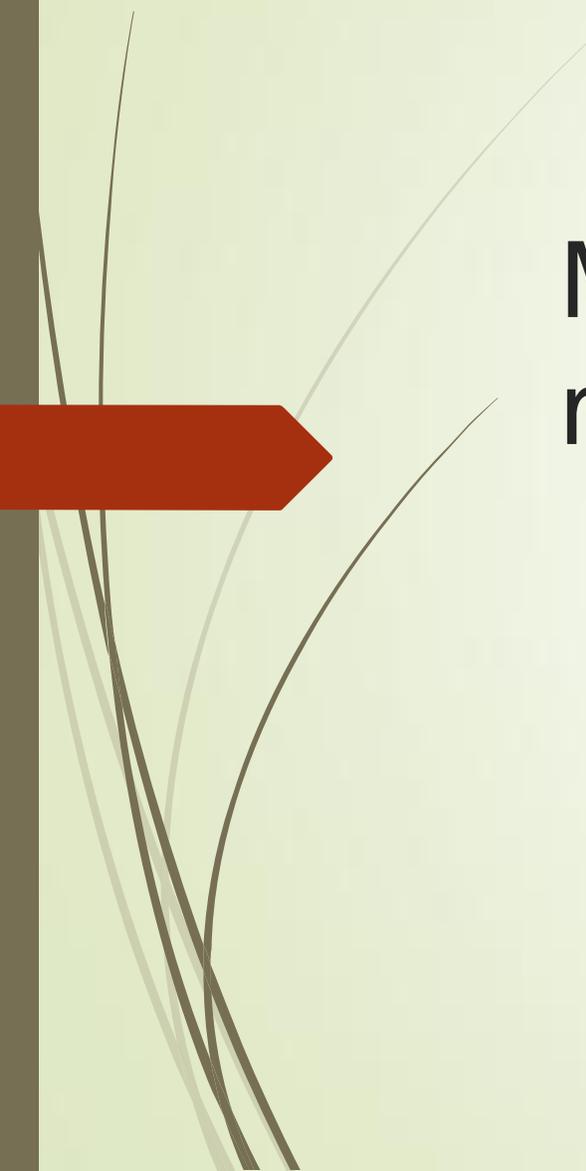
Remittances  
(Oruc, 2016)

Brain drain



# Main findings

- ▶ The effect of remittances on educational attainment is positive
  - ▶ However, it's limited to only a particular income deciles of remittance-receiving households.
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# Migration and access to the labour market



# Obstacles for labour market participation

- Kondylis (2008): Displaced persons have more difficulties in finding employment, mainly due to the lack of social networks
- Cosic and Ovcina (2014): Diaspora members (interested in return) have more difficulties in accessing public sector employment, mainly due to complicated procedures
- Oruc (2015): Internally displaced people are more often employed informally

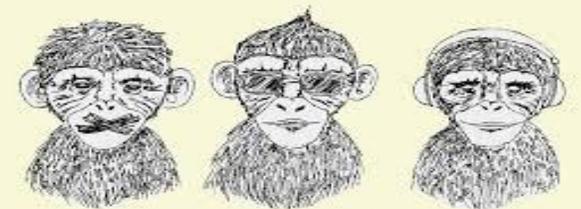
# A few more answers



*„...because I have only a foreign citizenship, in BiH I am treated like a foreigner, that means that I would have to apply for a work permit and go through the rest of the bureaucratic obstacles. For all firms where I applied for vacancies it was too much work and they would rather hire locals. That is a pity, because I think that people from the Diaspora could with their experience acquired abroad transfer a lot of knowledge and help the development of BiH.”*

*“I tried opening two companies in BiH this year, but the bureaucracy, corruption in the institutions and haughtiness for work and responsibility, as a non-existent code of conducting business forced me to go back to USA. I have a master in international management and I am a graduated IT expert with 10 + years of working experience. I am fluent in English and German and I have successfully conducted business across Europe, Canada and USA. Unfortunately very unsuccessfully in my BiH.”*

*“I returned to BiH because I strongly believed that I could utilize my education gained overseas to contribute to the development of my country, but after almost 3 years I decided to leave BiH again because I couldn't find adequate employment. I worked for \$ 500.00 a month for 10 months, and I simply could not go on living such a small salary.”*





# IDPs



- Still around 3,000 people live in refugee centres
- Poverty more predominant among (returned) internally displaced (Oruc, 2015)



# Social benefits and remittances

- Social benefits “crowd-in” remittances (Oruc, 2012)
  - Suggesting that the main motive for remittances is “exchange”
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# Other issues

- Identification of specific groups included or affected by migration
- Addressing specific obstacles these groups are facing
- Specific types of migration: seasonal, temporary, etc.
- Portability of benefits
- Social cohesion
- Immigrants to BiH
  - Students
  - Minorities from neighbouring countries



# Conclusions



- Migration brings specific challenges for social protection systems
- On the other hand, migrants contribute to social protection, both formally and informally
- Links and effects on countries of origin need to be better understood