

# Migration in Kosovo: Causes and impacts

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First WB-MIGNET Conference, 15 April 2016, Tirana

# Objectives of the presentation

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Put migration into context



Attempt to explain it



Explore the impact of migration



# Migration trends

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- ▶ A phenomenon that has continued throughout recent decades
  - ▶ 1989 -99 period
    - ▶ mostly young men, due to political and economic reasons
  - ▶ 1999 war
    - ▶ a surge of migration, but most returned
  - ▶ Period after the war, generally...
    - ▶ migration continued at a lower intensity
    - ▶ reasons typically economic
    - ▶ circular migration and reasons related to studies and professional advancement become more prominent



# Current situation

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- ▶ Irregular migration trends “stabilised” after a surge of migration in 2014-5 (peaking Q4 2014 and Q1 2015)
  - ▶ Many returned?
- ▶ Some regular migration
  - ▶ e.g. medical occupations
- ▶ Significant diaspora
  - ▶ estimated lower bound 380,000 (i.e. approx. 20% of the population)
- ▶ Strong links and impact on the host country

*Migration remains a relevant topic*

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# Economic reasons for migration

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- ▶ Unemployment and economic conditions represent a key 'push factor' (e.g. UNDP Public Pulse; Kotorri, 2010)
  - ▶ Unemployment rate at 35.5% in 2014
  - ▶ Continuous LM pressure
    - An estimated net entry of 20,000 individuals in the working-age population annually



# Circular/temporary migration for work and/or study is desired

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- ▶ Students report study and work as main reasons for (intended) migration (Cipuseva et al., 2013)
  - ▶ Professional advancement cited as goal the of migration
    - ▶ As opposed to ‘for long term stability and security’ cited by only 6%
  - ▶ Prefer to return immediately after studies (51%), or stay up to 5 years to gain work experience (23%)



# The 2014-2015 migration surge (?)

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- ▶ Möllers et al. (2015) argue
  - ▶ Facilitated travel and incentivising rumours and  
*“a lack of perspectives and...frustration about the existing political caste, nepotism and corruption”* (p. 1)  
*“statistics do not support...economic situation worsened...sufficiently [to] explain...migration wave”* (p. 2) (?)
- ▶ However, it coincides with
  - ▶ The lowest growth rate recorded
  - ▶ Drop in employment (rate)
  - ▶ Drop in economic confidence



# Effects of migration are (largely) positive...

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- ▶ **Alleviation of LM pressure**
  - ▶ Opportunity for work experience and skill development
  
- ▶ **Remittances received by 1 in 4 households** (UNDP, 2012)
  - ▶ Act as a social safety net
  - ▶ Reduce poverty (even controlling for endogeneity)
  - ▶ Help to finance human capital development

(e.g. Shaorzade and Miyata, 2010; World Bank, 2011; UNDP, 2014)



## ...and seem to include brain gain/circulation

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- ▶ **Returnees likely to**
  - ▶ work in higher-skilled jobs than current migrants
  - ▶ enjoy better employment outcomes upon return
  - ▶ report having advanced their education while abroad
    - ▶ And are considerably more skilled than the resident population
  - ▶ report developing business ideas (or partnerships) while abroad
  
- ▶ **Migrants who plan to return tend to be higher-skills than those who do not**
  - ▶ Over 50% in managerial positions or professional jobs

(World Bank, 2011; Census 2011; Cipuseva, 2013; UNDP,

2014)

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**Thank you!**

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