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### Migration trends, challenges, priorities and new policy pathways

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### Book of Abstracts

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## **SETTLERS FROM TETOVO IN THE PAZARDZHIK KAZA (DOBRICH) IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY**

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### **Abstract**

The oriental department collection of the national library of Bulgaria consists dozens of financial documents for crafts and trade for settlers from the town of Tetovo in the Pazardzik kaza (today city of Dobrich) for the period from the second half of XIX till the beginning the of XX century. The settlers from Tetovo are represented in 12 documents “Yabancı esnaf ruhsatiye tezkeresi”, related to the payment of taxes of migrant workers arriving in the city. All the settlers from Tetovo were “boza” sellers who first visited the town during the annual fair. The subject of this analysis will be the translation of the documents from Old Turkish to English language, through which the reasons for this type of commercial emigration would be found out. In the period of the second half of the 19th century, the region of South Dobrudja, as well as the city of Dobrich, represented an important crossroads where one of the largest fairs in the Balkans was held. The research will unravel many questions related to the finances of these merchants, the taxes they paid, the time they settled and stayed and their position at the beginning of the 20th century. In addition, it will give a new picture of the closeness between the inhabitants of different cities who, due to migrations for financial reasons and freedom, have forever left their centuries-old hearths.

**Keywords:** Migration, Tetovo, Dobrich (Pazardzik kaza), crafts, trade

# **AN OVERVIEW OF HEALTHCARE WORKER MIGRATION FROM GENDER PERSPECTIVE. THE ALBANIAN CASE STUDY**

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## **Abstract**

The emigration of healthcare workers has become a phenomenon for which people in everyday life, researchers and to a lesser extent policymakers are showing special interest.

Sending countries of the Western Balkans such as: Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, etc. see this phenomenon as a problem, while host countries such as Germany, Sweden, Finland, etc. consider it a "rescue" to fill the gaps created in their health system in the health care sector, at a time when their population is aging.

This article aims to explore the phenomenon of emigration of healthcare workers, according to a gender perspective, in the context of Albanian society. It is based on the examination of secondary data on the one hand, and on the thematic analysis of in depth interviews with healthcare workers who have emigrated from Albania to western countries or who live in Albania and intend or not to emigrate.

From a gender perspective, the study highlighted that there is a general tendency for woman nurses to be the first to emigrate from a family, thus changing the traditional model of emigration from Albania, according to which male heads of families emigrate first. This situation re-dimensions family functions, in families affected by emigration. On the other hand, the study revealed that there is an increased interest of boys to pursue university studies in the nursing study program, with the aim of being employed, especially in Germany.

These and other findings of the study evidenced that, the emigration tendency of the health care staff from Albania to the developed western countries is influencing the gender dynamic in Albanian society.

**Keywords:** Healthcare workers, migration, Western countries, Albania, gender

# **NORTH MACEDONIA IN A ROAD OF MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY**

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## **Abstract**

In the last week of April 2023, a news from North Macedonia again was in a top European media, because of a murdering of a pregnant young woman with name Fatmata, migrant from Sierra Leone, by a police officer near to a borderline with Greece. This act was covered almost a week from the public. In 2005 a TV station Channel 4 from UK though a story by a journalist Ramita Navai discovered a house in village of Vaksince near Kumanovo, where more than 100 migrants from Afghanistan, Syria and other states were kept as hostages by smugglers.

In a last report of US State department about North Macedonia is written, “the Government of North Macedonia does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so... As reported over the past five years, human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in North Macedonia, and traffickers exploit victims from North Macedonia abroad. Women and girls in North Macedonia are exploited through sex trafficking and forced labor within the country in restaurants, bars, and nightclubs. Sex traffickers recruit foreign victims typically from Eastern Europe and the Balkans, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine. Citizens of North Macedonia and foreign victims transiting North Macedonia are exploited for sex trafficking and forced labor in construction and agricultural sectors in Southern, Central, and Western Europe”.

The agreement reached between the EU and the Republic of Turkey has significantly reduced the number of new refugee and migrant arrivals, but the irregular migration flows have continued. The numerous deportations and deportations contrary to lawful procedure additionally influence irregular migrants, turning them to organized criminal groups dealing in the smuggling of migrants.

**Keywords:** Migrant smuggling, human trafficking

**THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF “BRAIN DRAIN” CASE  
STUDY THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

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## **Abstract**

This paper examines the economic consequences of brain drain in the Republic of North Macedonia. The phenomenon of brain drains, or the emigration of highly skilled and educated individuals from a country, has been a persistent issue in North Macedonia since the country gained independence in 1991. The paper analyzes the impact of brain drain on the country's human capital, innovation, entrepreneurship, investment, and economic growth. It also considers the potential social and cultural implications of brain drain, such as the loss of national identity and a culture of emigration. The paper concludes by exploring policy proposals and initiatives that could be implemented to address the issue of brain drain in North Macedonia, including creating a more favorable business and investment climate, investing in education and training programs, and improving governance and the rule of law. The Republic of North Macedonia has been experiencing brain drain for several decades, resulting in significant economic consequences for the country. The loss of highly skilled and educated individuals has reduced overall productivity and competitiveness, decreased investment in education and training, and created a vicious cycle that makes it more challenging to attract and retain skilled workers. To address these consequences, the North Macedonian government has implemented policies and programs aimed at encouraging skilled individuals to stay and contribute to the country's growth and development. Despite these efforts, the negative economic consequences of brain drain in North Macedonia continue to pose significant challenges for the country.

**Keywords:** GDP, Migration, North Macedonia, investments

# **THE CURRENT FEELINGS SITUATION AFFECTS THE STUDENTS' DESIRE TO EMIGRATE: POST-PANDEMIC SITUATION OF ALBANIAN YOUTH CASE STUDY**

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## **Abstract**

Understanding youth as a social category is an important issue to analyze of the dynamic of social structure. In a society, the categorization of a group 'young people' occupies a very important place, due to the perform of the function of 'connecting bridge' between the past and the future, in a socio-cultural structure of society. This main indicator shows that this group plays a functional role in the structure and dynamism of society. Youth have a factual reality, not only biologically, but also as a group; it contains the truth of a sociological phenomenon. Consequently, it is important to point out that this group might be evaluated as a social category to understand the importance of analyzing several stages of development and their impact on the social structure changes in society. This study analyzes youth from a sociological perspective, as a very important age group and category of Albania, which influences the society's structure changes due to the formation of emigration flows. Focusing on the current post-pandemic social and political situation, reflections and opinions on the everyday life of university youth, social tensions that are facing, and being satisfied with the country's conditions, influence on desire and decision to emigrate. This study aims to analyze the opinions and feelings of happiness with the current post-pandemic situation and analyze the main factors (pull and push) that influence desire to emigrate. This study focused on the usage of a quantitative approach to field research methods. The data collection occurred during January-February, 2023, and it included the representative sample of 210 university students at the Faculty of Education, Aleksander Moisiu University Durrës (UAMD). The cluster age is from 18-30 years old, To conduct and reach the aim, this study focuses on the theoretical and analytical (field research) analysis of data by usage of the statistical program SPSS 22.

**Keywords:** Current Situation as Post-Pandemic; Being happy; Desire to emigrate; Albanian Youth

# **ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN THE UNITED STATES: MIGRATION, INTEGRATION, AND CULTURAL IDENTITY**

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## **Abstract**

The Albanian diaspora in the United States is a diverse community that experiences unique migration patterns, socio-economic integration processes, and cultural identity issues. This study aims to explore these aspects of the Albanian diaspora in the United States using a mixed-methods approach to collect data through surveys, interviews, and archival research. Specifically, this study investigates the motivations behind Albanian migration to the United States, the challenges that Albanian immigrants face in the process of integrating into American society, and the factors that influence their cultural identity.

To achieve this aim, the study examines the historical context of Albanian migration to the United States, including the waves of immigration that have occurred over time and the factors that have driven Albanians to leave their homeland. Additionally, the study investigates the socio-economic integration of Albanian Americans, including their experiences in the labor market, access to education and healthcare, and participation in civic life. Furthermore, the study analyzes the cultural identity of Albanian Americans, including the ways in which they maintain their cultural heritage, the role of language in preserving their identity, and the extent to which they assimilate to American culture.

The findings of this paper provide valuable insights into the experiences of the Albanian diaspora in the United States, including the challenges and opportunities that they encounter in the process of integration and cultural preservation. By shedding light on the unique experiences of this community, this study contributes to a broader understanding of the impact of migration on cultural identity and the role of diaspora communities in shaping their own cultural narratives. The study's results are of interest to policymakers, academics, and practitioners working in the fields of migration, cultural preservation, and diaspora studies.

**Keywords:** Albanian diaspora, United States, Migration patterns, Socio-economic integration, Cultural identity



# **ALBANIAN EMIGRATION: TRENDS, CHALLENGES, PRIORITIES, AND POLICY PATHWAYS**

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## **Abstract**

Albania has experienced significant emigration in recent years, with a large number of its population leaving the country in search of better opportunities abroad. This paper provides an overview of the trends, challenges, priorities, and policy pathways related to Albanian emigration. The paper discusses the main drivers of emigration from Albania, including economic disparities, limited job opportunities, low wages, lack of access to social services, and demographic changes. It also highlights the challenges faced by Albanian emigrants, including issues related to social integration, discrimination, exploitation, access to healthcare and education, and legal status in destination countries. The paper identifies the priorities in addressing the issue of Albanian emigration, including the need for comprehensive and rights-based approaches that protect the human rights and well-being of emigrants. It emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes of emigration through targeted policies and interventions. Furthermore, the paper outlines potential policy pathways that can be considered to address the challenges of Albanian emigration, including innovative approaches and solutions that can contribute to more sustainable and equitable outcomes for Albanian emigrants and their communities. Additionally, the paper discusses the potential benefits and opportunities of emigration, including remittances, skills and knowledge transfer, and diaspora engagement in Albania's development. The paper concludes with a call for further research, analysis, and dialogue on the issue of Albanian emigration, and for continued efforts to develop evidence-based policies and strategies that can address the challenges, protect the rights, and promote the well-being of Albanian emigrants and their communities. In summary, this paper provides a comprehensive overview of the trends, challenges, priorities, and policy pathways related to Albanian emigration. It highlights the need for coordinated and multi-dimensional approaches, and emphasizes the importance of addressing the root causes of emigration while maximizing the potential benefits. This paper serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders interested in understanding and addressing the complex issue of emigration from Albania.

**Keywords:** Albania, emigration, trends, challenges, priorities, policy pathways

# **SOCIAL MEDIA USE AND ANTI-IMMIGRANT ATTITUDES: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON XENOPHOBIA IN NORTH MACEDONIA**

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## **Abstract**

North Macedonia is a multi-ethnic society where six major ethnicities coexist being attached to different ethnic, political and religious groups. However, this coexistence has been accompanied by a political, ethnic, and religious polarization and social media have played a special role in this process by disseminating hate speech, propaganda and disinformation. This practice was used to spread prejudices and xenophobia on social networks toward migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and foreigners in general. Understanding how social media may influence attitudes toward immigrants is very important to be investigated since North Macedonia remains one of the main transit routes for mixed movement.

This research contributes to the migration field and the media research area by understanding the relationship between social media exposure to immigrant prejudices and North Macedonians' xenophobic attitudes by using the cultivation effect of social media. In addition, moderation effects of ethnicity, religiosity and social media trust in the relationship between perceived immigrant prejudices online and xenophobic attitudes among North Macedonians were investigated. A quantitative study was conducted based on respondents' self-reports. The findings showed that positively significant relationship exists between social media exposure to immigrant hate speech and xenophobic attitudes. The study provides insightful data for policymakers for effective interventions to combat xenophobic rhetoric online and deal with harmful practices in the media and communication sphere in North Macedonia.

**Keywords:** Xenophobia, social media, cultivation theory, racism, migration

# ANTI-URBAN FASCIST POLICY AND INTERNAL MIGRATIONS IN SARDINIA, 1931-1936

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## Abstract

Mussolini in 1927, in his well-known *Ascension Speech*, announced a radical change in the demographic policy of the Fascist regime, which aimed at the ambitious (and objectively unattainable) goal of reaching 60 million inhabitants in the Italian kingdom by the mid-twentieth century. Mussolini, who, until then, had considered emigration an inevitable evil for the nation's development, started to consider it an enemy that had to be fought. The struggle was not limited to expatriation, already prevented by the closure of borders to other nations, but primarily to internal mobility. The cities, previously considered the symbol of modernity, were conceived as the places where "neo-Malthusian fertility control practices" would proliferate. The urbanization process, therefore, had to be halted because it ran counter to both the pro-natalist policy and the objectives of self-sufficiency imposed in 1925 with the battle for grain. The regime tried to impose a return to *rurality*.

This restrictive migration policy by the Fascist regime led many demographers to neglect the post-1927 period as irrelevant in migration studies (Treves 1976), leaving a significant gap in our knowledge of the phenomenon.

Using the 1931 and 1936 Censuses and the civil status records of births and deaths, the paper aims to estimate the municipal migratory balances in Sardinia. Studying internal migration in this region during the Fascist regime could provide valuable insights into how fascist policies influenced the region's socio-demographic dynamics. This region is particularly interesting for analyzing the impact of fascist policies due to the concurrent efforts to populate parts of land that were reclaimed in those years. In addition, Sardinia was one of the regions where the fertility decline started later in Italy. This aspect and the fact that the inefficient agriculture practiced in the island barely allowed subsistence make it interesting to understand how the Sardinian population tried to react to the closure of migratory movements.

**Keywords:** Fascist anti-migration policies, internal migratory policies, Sardinia, Municipal level analysis

# CAUSES AND SOME POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE ALBANIAN IMMIGRATION

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## Abstract

Albania still remains one of the poor and third world countries despite the many efforts of its post-dictatorship governments. The desire to be integrated into the EU since the beginning of democracy was found in the slogans of the students in December: ``We love Albania as Europe".

During the transition period, after the 90s until today, the change of systems in addition to the positive effects in the isolated and poor Albanian society of the post-dictatorship, were also accompanied by some serious negative phenomena such as emigration abroad, the displacement of the population within the country, from rural and deep areas to the big cities of Albania. This, especially in Tirana and Durres, but also with the increase in criminality, the gradual introduction of drugs, prostitution, and the sale and purchase of children and women, as well as with the increase in corruption and the corrupt in state institutions, bribery, and the sale of fake diplomas. Some of the other negative causes that have caused the increase in emigration have certainly been poverty, lack of political and social stability, non-functioning and indifference of state institutions, and many other factors that will be clarified in this article.

Important to stabilize the economy and finances has been the help of international institutions such as the IMF and the EU, but also the unsparing help of the CE, OSCE, and NATO membership with the help of the USA. In recent years, significant efforts have been made to improve the economy, but immigration, the departure of young people and brain drain remain a problem. In order to realize a possible solution to reduce Albanian emigration, the following aspects have been analyzed in this article: problems, causes of emigration, characteristics of emigration among young people, why Albanians have a bad reputation in the world, how can emigration of Albanians be reduced.

**Keywords:** CE, OSCE, USA, NATO, Emigration

# **CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ALBANIAN LEGISLATION REGARDING THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE BY IMMIGRANT VOTERS**

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## **Abstract**

In Albanian legislation, the right to vote is treated in accordance with the requirements of international documents. For its exercise by citizens, the Electoral Code defines as a necessary requirement their registration in the Electoral List. The National Register of Citizens for each electoral unit in which the permanent residence of the voter is located generates the list. Voters residing outside the territory of the country can exercise their right to vote only by being physically present at the polling station, where it is registered. With Law no. 101/2020, dated 23.7.2020, in the Electoral Code were included the special provisions for the voting of voters, immigrants, from outside the territory of the country. In order to vote from outside the country, an Albanian citizen must make a request to the Central Election Commission (CEC). A certificate must accompany the request that the address of permanent residence in the country where he emigrated is registered in the Albanian registry of citizens living outside Albania. This condition significantly complicates their voting from outside the country.

According to the Electoral Code, all issues related to voting from outside the territory of the country, must be addressed and resolved through the by-laws of the CEC. These issues include: (i) the decision for inclusion, for the first time, voting from abroad in voting procedures (ii) drafting of the legal guarantees for observation, monitoring and access to the CEC during the administration of votes from abroad the country; (iii) the determination of the method of voting from outside the country, by ordinary post or electronic, and (iv) drafting the regulation issues related to the administration of electoral material. This legislative solution overloads the CEC with responsibilities that go beyond the requirements for an institution that has duties and responsibilities for the organization and administration of elections. The solution of the above issues should be developed as the duty and responsibility of political parties.

**Keywords:** Right to vote, Emigrant voters, Legislation, Albania

# WHAT IS LEFT BEHIND? CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND MIGRATION: THE CASE OF UNESCO SITES IN ALBANIA

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## Abstract

This paper focuses on the relationship among migration trends and cultural heritage preservation. The authors used systematic literature review to respond to the hypothesis that massive migration rates bring challenges to local heritage preservation, and that conservation can serve as a tool to achieve sustainable development, thus lowering migration trends. To explore the current dynamics of this relationship, Gjirokastra and Berat, Albanian cities, enlisted as World Heritage Sites, are studied. Both of these cities are faced with major social and conservation challenges. While their status places them at the center of tourism development, they have the highest decline in number of inhabitants on a national scale. Migration brings new challenges for the development of the cities. Equally important, urban conservation has a significant role of conserving much more than the built environment, it must work with the communal values, the spirit of place, and the personal and collective memories. Moreover, urban conservation is an integral component of social and community values, strengthening different aspects of the cultural and financial dimensions of a site. While migration brings difficulties to heritage conservation, contributing to the deterioration of the condition of the historic buildings, it also leads to lack of specialized work force in the conservation practice, decreased societal cohesion, and weaker individual well-being and economic development. Finally, this research aims to showcase some examples of the migration-preservation correlation and on-the-ground initiatives that are aiming to tackle these issues, as cases for lessons learned that could inform future interventions in Albania, and the Western Balkans region.

**Keywords:** Migration, cultural heritage, economic reintegration, heritage preservation, sustainable development goals

# **CUSTOMS FRAUD AND SMUGGLING OF GOODS, AS CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST FISCAL REVENUES OF THE STATE**

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## **Abstract**

Economic crime as an integral part of any society is a kind of element or indicator of the level of development of each modern state and is characterized by disrespect for the boundaries of channeled behavior, which is the primary feature of economic phenomena. In the modern world, the most common perpetrators of economic crime are educated and above all people in high positions and positions in the state hierarchy, who enjoy the reputation and trust that their position brings in both economic and political life, with privileges arising from their position in the public or private sector.

Economic crime on the territory of our country is most prevalent through the crimes that will be explained below in the paper, which are: financial fraud, customs fraud, professional fraud, tax evasion, money laundering, smuggling. The Customs Law of the Republic of North Macedonia stipulates that failure to perform the duties determined by the provisions of the customs regulations or performance of activities contrary to the provisions of the customs regulations represent violations of customs regulations, which may be criminal offenses or customs violations. It is thus prescribed that the item that is the subject of the violation, in the cases prescribed by law, will be confiscated, as well as the means of transport that was committed before the breach in the conditions prescribed by law.

Knowledge of the phenomenology of this crime is the basis for planning and taking operational measures to detect it. Economic crime is constantly changing its forms, due to which the detection of this type of crime shows the worst results. Due to its characteristics, it is most important to take measures for timely detection and preventive action using the most appropriate methods, which will largely depend on the expertise and skill of the responsible staff.

The Stabilization and Association Agreement between the Republic of North Macedonia and the European Communities and their member countries in Article 68 contain explicit obligations to comply with the Macedonian legislation European Union Legislation: The Republic of North Macedonia will strive to ensure the compatibility of all laws with those of the Community. Our criminal legislation and customs law have the whole incorporated legislation of the European legislation

**Keywords:** Crimes, financial fraud, smuggling, tax evasion, financial fraud

# **FORCED MIGRATION - WHY THE BALKAN COUNTRIES ARE STILL AT THE TOP IN EUROPE AND AROUND THE WORLD**

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## **Abstract**

Migration as a phenomenon is as ancient as humanity itself. In search of better living conditions, people tend to leave their country of origin for new destinations, where the conditions to build a more dignified life are higher. However, such a phenomenon is as profitable as it is destructive for the countries that host or send away this part of the migrant population or even for the individuals themselves. In today's world, when the main goal is free movement, it is questioned whether such a policy should be supported unconditionally or if filters should definitely be placed. It is known that the largest source of immigrants in the world are countries with weak economies or countries in war crises that force the civilian population to relocate. In addition to this broad view at the global level, this paper focuses on the Western Balkans countries to analyze the internal political conditions of the countries that promote migration, the employment and education policies on which the population movement depends, and the consequences that such policies leave behind. The ground is being created for the loss of national identities and for an increase in the level of discontent of those strata of the population who suffer the most from the great global changes that time brings with it. The main concern when it comes to migration is illegal migration because the number of such immigrants cannot be planned, and the integration in the country to which they migrate constitutes a problem for the social structures of the host state. The other concern is the displacement of the population capable of working legally, which indeed fulfills the needs of the host countries for qualified workers, but on the other hand, causes a great wound in the society of the country of origin.

**Keywords:** Migration, phenomenon, employment, education, population



# **IMPACT OF THE EMIGRATION ABROAD ON THE RESIDENT POPULATION DECREASE IN REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

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## **Abstract**

The aim of the paper is to determine the impact of emigration abroad on the resident population decrease in North Macedonia - total and by regions. In terms of identifying the reasons for the depopulation, the changes in the scope and demographic characteristics of the migration contingent as well as the population natural growth in the country in the period 2002-2021 were analyzed. In addition, to determine the real volume of the migration balance the vital-statistics method was used. The available data of State Statistical Office and foreign data sources are used.

According to the Migration Atlas of 2022 data, the number of citizens of North Macedonia abroad in 2020 amounts 892 thousand (294 thousand more than in 2005), and the emigration rate reached 48.6%. Intensified emigration was accompanied by family members increase in the migration contingent and rise of the children born abroad. Threats, the impact of emigration on reduction of the resident population is twofold. The Population Census 2021 compared to the 2002 Census, showed that the total resident population in the country is lower by 186.3 thousand or 9.2%, and all regions except Skopje faced population decrease. All regions had a negative migration balance (including Skopje) and it is highest in Polog (73468 inhabitants or 22.6%) and Southwest region (46311 and 20.6%, respectively). The decrease in the resident population is accompanied by numerous consequences and implications in the mid and longer term. Due to the narrowed reproductive basis of the population and further decrease in the natural population growth can be expected. The reduced influx of new generations will enlarge the existing lack of labor force on the labor market. At the same time, great increase of the population aged 65+ can be expected, that will create additional problems in the health and pension system, as well as the care for the elderly. Due to the complexity of the existing unfavorable demographic situation in the Republic of North Macedonia, there is the need for a holistic approach in the creation of the new demographic strategy and a more serious approach of the state to this serious problem.

**Keywords:** Population growth, Emigration abroad, Population natural growth, Depopulation, Republic of North Macedonia

# **LABOR MOBILITY AS CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY IN THE PACIFIC**

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## **Abstract**

Vulnerable to climate change, the Pacific Island countries (PICs) face an existential threat. In fact, in response to rising sea levels, a set number of citizens from Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Samoa are provided access to permanent migration to New Zealand annually. Projected to be submerged in the future, citizens from PICs are being prepared for labor markets in Australia and New Zealand through labor mobility. Labor mobility, particularly, circular migration, serves as a ramp way through which workers are equipped with technical and vocational skills to access labor markets in host countries and with soft skills to enable their integration, especially when their home countries may no longer be habitable. To manage the risk of decreasing domestic employment opportunities as a direct impact of climate change, labor mobility as an adaptation strategy is recognized in policies of PICs (e.g., Tuvalu's National Labour Migration Policy Report, Kiribati's Joint Implementation Plan on Climate Change, Vanuatu's National Policy on Climate Change and Displacement).

My paper focuses on two labor mobility schemes between Australia and PICs: the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) and the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS). Kiribati is an example of why these schemes are linked to climate adaptation. The SWP, for instance, did not originally include Kiribati because travel costs are high, but since it is one of the first projected countries that will be submerged, it was included in the program to enable its people to move to Australia voluntarily. More broadly, these schemes are a climate adaptation strategy in the Pacific because they: a) generate financial and social remittances to cope with impacts of climate change; b) lower population pressure on climate-stressed environments and natural resources; and c) reduce the number of people supported in home countries thereby exerting less pressure on household food stocks. For example, financial remittances are used for building climate-resilient houses, installing water pumps and water tanks given droughts and intrusion of saltwater, improving seawalls, and purchasing solar panels. Moreover, social remittances enable transfer of agricultural skills, such as pruning, which was applied to breadfruit trees, which were previously not producing fruits because of drought and salty

water. These benefits present opportunities to: a) train migrant workers in and connect them with agricultural extension services in home and host countries; b) offer agricultural certifications because some migrant workers are interested in training on salt-tolerant crops which can be applied in home and host countries; and c) partner with agricultural training centers in PICs (e.g., Rural Training Centers in Solomon Islands).

However, these schemes can be maladaptive if they shift the costs of adaptation to migrant workers and their home countries, including through: a) transfer of unsustainable agricultural practices (e.g., use of synthetic chemicals in fertilizers and pesticides); b) abuse (e.g., underpayment and non-payment of wages); and c) high social and emotional costs (e.g., poor mental health due in part to homesickness, marital dissolution). While measures are being carried out to resolve these issues, such as payment of minimum hourly rates, improved employer portability, and bringing families of longer-term workers, my paper recommends the following: a) delivery of agriculture training on safe and effective use, and benefits and risks of transfer of synthetic chemicals to farms; b) latching agricultural labor mobility onto work placements or farm tours on organic and protected cropping farms and farmer exchanges; c) improved regulation of recruitment practices; d) involvement of diaspora in governance and support structures; e) creation of opportunities for permanent residency; and f) climate financing mechanisms, notably, the Readiness Resources from the Green Climate Fund, and funding from multilateral development banks and international organizations for financial sustainability.

**Keywords:** Labor mobility, climate adaptation, training, remittances, sustainability, agriculture, maladaptation

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND MIGRATION

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### Abstract

Some of the basic principles of European Union Law are the protection of human rights, the right of migration and the prevention of an accused person from being tried again on the same, or similar charges following an acquittal, or conviction .

The principle of the criminal law that a person can not be punished and be subject to several procedures twice for the same fact.

Taking in account the economic difficulties with which cope with different countries in progress development, their citizens have rights to migrate in other states, with a bigger scale of development. But these citizens have to fulfill the criteria of other states as the amounts of money necessary to cope with cost of living there, the guarantee of accommodation, etc.

If the individuals do not respect the laws of hosting countries, the authorities of these countries follow the procedures of deportation. But in these procedures, the individual have their rights, where the institutions of the other countries have the obligation of respect.

Arise the below – mentioned questions:

Will respect the richer countries the human rights in the procedure of deportation of individuals with misconduct in staying in the national territories? How is modified the law in different countries that belong in EU, according to the fundamental principles of European Union law about the human rights in deportation procedures?

The objective of this abstract is to analyze the fulfillment of human rights in the deportation procedures in the countries, which belong to European Union.

**Keywords:** European Union, deportation, return and readmission, human rights, European Union countries

# MIGRANT HEALTH RESEARCH IN NORTH MACEDONIA: A SCOPING REVIEW

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## Abstract

North Macedonia remains one of the main transit routes for irregular movement of migrants on their way to Western Europe. Health outcomes of migrants can be impacted by factors including their legal status, access to healthcare and language barriers. Our aim was to scope existing research on migrants' health in North Macedonia, in order to identify gaps in the evidence. A scoping review of empirical research and grey literature on migrants' health in North Macedonia was conducted. Three electronic databases (PubMed, Google Scholar, EBSCO) and governmental and non-governmental organizations' databases were searched for articles published between 2015 and 2022. Findings were analyzed using the 2016 World Health Organization Strategy (WHO) and Action Plan for Refugee and Migrant Health in the WHO European region, which outlines nine strategic areas. Of the 444 articles screened, 428 were excluded because the title was not related to migrants' health in North Macedonia. A total of 16 papers about the migrants' health in North Macedonia were identified, 9 were peer reviewed journal articles and 7 were grey literature reports with joint academic/ government / authorship conducted by national and/ or international organizations. Most studies related to three WHO strategic areas; 1: "establishing framework for collaborative action among, international, national, local organizations; 4: "achieving public health preparedness and ensuring an effective response"; and 5: "strengthening health systems and their resilience". The evidence about migrants' health in North Macedonia is scarce. There is a need to improve knowledge about advocating for the right to health of migrants, social determinants of health, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, effective health screening and health information and communication system.

**Keywords:** Migrants, Health, Scoping review, North Macedonia, World Health Organization

## MIGRATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC AGEING: CASE STUDY OF NORTH MACEDONIA

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### Abstract

Demographic aging is a process of systematic and long-term increase of the participation of elderly people in the total population. This process is accompanied by the process of reducing the participation of the young population (from 0 to 14 years). The process of demographic aging is determined from two key factors: an increase in longevity and a decrease in the fertility rate. An increase in longevity causes an increase in the average age of the population and the number of elderly people, while a decrease in the fertility rate means a decrease in the number of live births that causes a decrease in the number of young people overall. Although the impact and importance of these factors has been extensively researched and scientifically proven, there are other factors that have impact on the demographic ageing that need to be investigated. One of them is the process of migration. The impact of migration on the demographic ageing which can be observed and investigated in terms of its influence on the total number of the population and the age structure of the population, on the one hand, and its influence on the future rates of fertility (overall number of future births), on the other hand. Using official data from the State Statistical Office the aim of this paper is to analyze the impact of the migration on the demographic aging in the Republic of North Macedonia in the period from 2002 to 2021.

**Keywords:** Age structure, migration and demographic ageing

## **MIGRATION POLICIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS FOR EU COMPLIANCE**

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### **Abstract**

This paper reflects on reports documenting changes in migration policies because of the Balkan route as one of the implications of European migration policies, and applies them to the North Macedonian context. The Republic of North Macedonia is considered as one of the main transit countries for the migrant traffic on the Balkan Peninsula and eventually has become an unlikely gatekeeper of European Union when many migrants got stranded on its territory as a result of gradual border securitization. Further politics of North Macedonia in its deepening efforts to align its migration policies with EU acquis have caused a serious concern of anti EU sentiments. North Macedonia, in its pursuit of EU accession, must prove compliance with EU migration policy while not losing sight of its national interest. Given the variation of migration policy changes at EU level with each wave of migration comers, North Macedonia adopts its migration policy. This paper will try to focus on tracing changes in migration policies in North Macedonia`s case by trying to compare with other Western Balkan countries regarding the compliance with EU migration policy, and how might this effect the overall prospect of membership.

**Keywords:** Migration policy, EU compliance, North Macedonia

## **MIGRATORY MOVEMENTS IN ALBANIA DURING THE 1900S. CASE STUDY TIRANA**

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### **Abstract**

The political changes that took place after the 90s created the possibility for a free movement of the inhabitants from different regions that can be grouped as follows:

- Movement or emigration outside Albania;
- Movement from the villages around the city or the administrative centres of the respective district;
- Movement toward the suburbs of big centres such as Tirana, Durrësi, Vlora, Elbasani, Shkodra, etc.

In this paper, I have focused on the movement towards the capital city. I have concentrated mainly on the grouping of residents from the northern and southern areas of Albania who have settled in Bathory, Baldushk, Sauk, Dajt, Selitë and Farkë. Residents were mainly asked about these problems:

- a. Reasons for moving
- b. Problems of adaptation in the new environment (confrontation with the new mentality of the Capital City, employment, education, etc.)
- c. Cohabitation with the natives (found there, including marital and social relations, etc.)

These are problems that willingly or unwillingly these newcomers have had to face and will face in the future, up to the moment when they will be fully integrated into a metropolitan city such as Tirana. Here we will take into consideration the changes they have had to undergo due to the living conditions they have left behind and from which they are still affected.

**Keywords:** Migratory, Movements, Albania, Tirana



# PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHERS AND TEACHING STUDENTS ON MIGRATION

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## Abstract

This study focuses on the perception of teachers and teacher candidates on migration. Referring to this perception, the research question is: what are the demographic, political, and economic factors and their impact on teacher migration.

In this study participated 380 respondents, of which 70% were teachers and 30% were teaching students. The survey of this study consists of two parts and contains 20 questions. The first part of the survey contains demographic data, and the second part contains questions related to migration and its consequences.

The research findings of this study revealed a moderate relationship between economic factors and teacher migration. Also, it was evident that increasing the teacher's status is as important as increasing the salary, therefore better policies in this direction are recommended.

**Keywords:** Migration, economic factors, political factors, teaching profession

# **POLICY OF COMBATING TERRORISM IN SERBIA: DEROGATION OF RIGHTS OF CHILDREN RELATED TO FTFs?**

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## **Abstract**

A significant number of children who are third party nationals are currently detained in North East Syria due to being related to foreign terrorist fighters of IS. This includes children who are of Serbian nationality, accompanied by their mothers, who have been in large ignored as part of public discourse on combating violent extremism. This paper accounts for an overview of information available to public in Serbia, and points to the exclusion of this topic within broader policy to combat terrorism, as a unique case in Western Balkans region. Secondly, it explores children's rights arising from Serbia commitments within framework of international law, with reference to the issue of extraterritorial jurisdiction of the State. It seeks to discuss the potential for repatriation in reference to varying return policy trajectories and growing human rights case law on repatriation. This research finds children related to FTF to be a marginalized from public debate and that their potential return appears contingent on continuous advocacy of civil society organizations. It finds these children disproportionately affected by the current counter-terrorism policy, through exclusion. A major issue related to this, is that CSOs are not included in the process of forming policy. Research asserts that extraterritorial jurisdiction can be established using a functionalist approach, but that its nationality-based link appears weak at securing consensus at international courts. Regrettably, it finds Serbia has not joined international child rights Optional Protocol procedure that has established a precedent of violation in this question, but that it is crucial for Serbia's institutions to addresses the issue substantively in light of derogated rights of child.

**Keywords:** FTFs, return, repatriation, children's rights, Serbia

## **POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EMIGRATION AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

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### **Abstract**

The history of Albanians in general and of Albanians who live outside the current borders of the Albanian state and in the diaspora, is the history of a people whose national feeling, independent spirit and love for the homeland is an Albanian characteristic.

The paper aims to bring data about the emigration of Albanians after the Second World War, who for political and economic reasons were forced to leave their homeland. A relatively large number of Albanians today live outside their ethnic territories and constitute what is called the diaspora. This diaspora formed over the centuries and spread over many countries of the world from Europe to America and Australia, expanded a lot after the Second World War.

The paper presents in a comparative manner the reasons for this departure of Albanians, creating a new political emigration, both from Albania, due to the establishment of the communist dictatorship, and from Kosovo and other Albanian countries in Yugoslavia and Chamëri, due to politics anti-Albanian chauvinists of Belgrade and Athens. The work brings source data that Albanians, in addition to the political causes of emigration, starting from the 50s from Kosovo and other ethnic Albanian countries in Yugoslavia, economic emigration, which consisted of workers with temporary jobs, was added a lot.

The paper analyzes the historical events in their cause-and-effect relationships, explains the consequences in the conclusion of the events and different immigrant situations.

Using various archival and statistical sources, the reasons for this Albanian emigration situation are explained, figures and facts from the post-war reality and today, studying and analyzing the causes and problems faced by Albanians in Albania, Kosovo and Cham.

**Keywords:** Emigration, political emigration, economic emigration, seasonal workers, ethnic territory

# **PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT FROM THE ASPECT OF PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN THE PERIOD FROM 2018-2020**

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## **Abstract**

Human rights represent basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world equally, from birth until death. They guarantee that, regardless of where a person comes from, what they believe in or how they choose to live their lives. Those rights can never be taken away; they are based on common values, such as dignity, impartiality, fairness, equality, respect and independence.

Numerous national and international instruments guarantee these rights. Basic rights and freedoms, as well as the rule of law are fundamental values of the constitutional order of the Republic of North Macedonia. As the highest legal act of the state, the Constitution defines a list of freedoms and rights, the ratified international agreements as part of the international legal order, the possibility of including additional freedoms and rights provided for in the Constitution is given. The Constitutional Court of the Republic of North Macedonia performed its function within the framework of the competences established by Article 110 of the Constitution, according to the court: it decides on the trial of laws with the Constitution, on the territorial status of other regulations and collective agreements with the Constitution and laws, protects them from the Constitution . and the laws of man and council relating to freedom of belief, conscience, opinion, political association and action and refusal of discretionary crime on grounds of sex, race, religion, national, social and political affiliation, decides on the conflict of competences between the holders of the legislative, executive and judicial authorities, decides on the conflict of competences between the organs of the Republic and the local self-government units, decides on the responsibility of the President of the Republic, decides on the constitutionality of the programs and statutes of the political parties and of the citizens' associations decides on other issues determined by the Constitution.

Other guarantees for the protection of human rights provided for by the Constitution include judicial protection of the legality of individual acts and active familiarization of citizens with them. In addition to these guarantees, protection is achieved through respect for the rule of law (constitutionality, legality, public publication of laws, vacation legis period, prohibition of

retroactive effect of regulations as well as independent advocacy) Limitation of freedoms and rights is only allowed in cases determined by the Constitution or during a state of war and emergency, but also in this case only in a manner determined by the Constitution. In addition to the protection before courts, the Constitution also establishes the Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia, as a special body that protects constitutional and legal rights of citizens when they are violated by the bodies of the state administration and by other bodies and organizations that have public powers.

The Constitutional Court can assert itself as an authoritative protector of constitutionality and legality, only if it is composed of members with extensive professional knowledge, with a highly developed sense of responsibility towards society and citizens. After evaluating the constitutionality of the laws and the constitutionality and legality of the by-laws, the next important function of the Constitutional Court is the protection of the freedoms and rights of man and citizen.

**Keywords:** Proceedings, Constitution, human rights, protection, values

## **LABOR PRODUCTIVITY – A COMPARISON WITH EU AND NORTH MACEDONIA**

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### **Abstract**

The level of total output is quite conditioned by many factors, but one of them is the productivity of the labor force, or the ratio of output units to the engagement of work units. This economic indicator is quite discussed in microeconomic aspects, but little in macroeconomic aspects, giving a general overview. We try, through the presentation of statistical trends, correlations and other empirical tools, to give a description compared over the years for Macedonia, but also by comparing it with EU countries. We find that the productivity of the labor force in different countries is positively correlated with a higher salary and vice versa. Also for Macedonia, it is concluded that the level of productivity has increased less compared to the salary increase, taking a time interval of 2003-2021.

**Keywords:** Productivity, correlation, workforce, North Macedonia, European Union

**DAVID AND GOLIATH?:  
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS OF FILIPINO MIGRANT  
WORKERS  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

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**Abstract**

There exists an international normative and institutional framework on the internationally guaranteed human rights of migrant workers, which includes the 1990 Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention Numbers 97 and 143, ILO's eight fundamental rights conventions, ILO Convention Number 189, General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and more fundamentally, international human rights law. While the Philippines has ratified the ICRMW and ILO Convention Numbers 97 and 143 to protect its migrant workers, powerful Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) destination countries, notably, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates (UAE) have not.

Repatriation, restriction, deployment ban, and employer portability are some of the policy levers that the government of the Philippines used to protect its migrant workers from abuses of their human rights, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, in the three aforementioned countries. Evidence suggests they are effective in influencing host governments to recognize migrant worker rights because of a) a high degree of dependency on Filipino migrant workers owing to synergistic effects of first-mover advantage—the country started to export labor as early as 1970s, critical mass, and revealed preferences by employers as well as b) migration governance in the Philippines which is considered a model globally.

Despite power asymmetry, these policy levers may work on condition of a combination of key factors, including migration dependency and governance, information dissemination, regulation of and compliance by recruitment agencies, control of illegal recruitment and corruption, and development of enabling regulations. In Indonesia, for instance, information about the deployment ban did not reach rural areas where several migrant workers come from resulting in continued deployment in the Middle East which heightened risk of abuse. Additionally, illegal recruitment is a main reason why the deployment ban by the government of Kenya on household service workers to

the Middle East was ineffective. Enabling regulations also need to be put in place to make employer portability effective—a lesson learned from South Korea’s Employment Permit System.

**Keywords:** Human rights, migrant workers, repatriation, restriction, deployment ban, employer portability



## REFRAMING PUSH FACTORS AND ANALYZING NEW TRENDS OF ALBANIAN EMIGRATION FROM NORTH MACEDONIA

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### Abstract

According to the official data of the National Census of 2021, Albanians in North Macedonia are the second largest ethnic group, although Emigration of the Albanian community from the country towards other more developed countries remains one of less explored in terms of available data and analysis related to emigration based on ethnicity. Much literature concerning Albanian emigration focuses on the role and importance of diaspora but other aspects related to the Albanian emigration in the period of transition remain underexplored. There is a lack of data regarding the exact number of people who have fled the country; lack of data and analysis related to age, gender, profession or other evidence regarding regions of the country that are more affected by emigration, socio-economic consequences, cultural aspects, etc.

Therefore, this research aims to analyze migratory processes related to the Albanian ethnicity in North Macedonia in the period of transition and additionally explore the new push factors of Albanian emigration. Can we discuss about new factors or the classical one still prevail?

Methodologically, this study is a combination of literature review and empirical data analysis based on in-depth interviews with different experts. The research has been conducted in the period of January 2023 – May 2023. The results of this research show that the willingness, among Albanians, to leave the country remains high but the push factors seem to have changed.

**Keywords:** Albanian emigration; North Macedonia; Albanian Diaspora

# **REVERSING THE BRAIN DRAIN – NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES. ENGAGING THE DIASPORA THROUGH SUCCESS STORIES AND BEST PRACTICES**

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## **Abstract**

Migration is a fundamental human right, within all its complexities as a very important social phenomenon. The Western Balkans region has experienced significant brain drain in recent years, where highly skilled workers emigrate for better opportunities. This distinctive feature of transition, has significant economic, social, and political impacts on the region.

This paper examines the relationship between human rights and migration, policy approaches to migration, and the specific case of brain drain in the Western Balkans.

By analyzing existing policies and exploring potential remedies, this paper argues that policies aimed at creating a more attractive environment for highly skilled workers and supporting economic growth can help alleviate the problem of brain drain in the

Western Balkans while safeguarding the human rights of migrants. Engaging the diaspora through success stories and best practices can be an effective way to inspire and motivate members of the diaspora community to get involved and contribute to their home countries or communities. Success stories can highlight the achievements of individuals or organizations that have made a positive impact in their respective fields, while best practices can provide guidance and recommendations on how to replicate those successes.

One way to engage the diaspora is by sharing success stories of individuals or organizations that have made a positive impact in their respective fields. These success stories can be shared through various channels, such as social media, newsletters, or events. Sharing these stories can inspire and motivate members of the diaspora to get involved and contribute their skills and expertise.

Another way to engage the diaspora is by hosting events that display success stories and best practices. These events can bring together members of the diaspora community, provide an opportunity for them to network, and learn

from each other. Events can also feature keynote speakers who share their experiences and provide guidance on how to replicate their success.

Providing resources such as toolkits or guides on best practices can be helpful for members of the diaspora who want to contribute to their home countries or communities. These resources can provide guidance on how to start a business, launch a nonprofit organization, or navigate the legal and regulatory landscape in their home countries.

Collaborating with diaspora organizations can help to amplify success stories and best practices. Diaspora organizations can share these stories with their members and help to promote events and resources that are aimed at engaging the diaspora.

Overall, engaging the diaspora through success stories and best practices can be a powerful way to inspire and motivate members of the diaspora community to get involved and contribute to their home countries or communities.

**Keywords:** Diaspora, migration, policy, success stories, region, international

# **THE CURRENT FEELINGS SITUATION AFFECTS THE STUDENTS' DESIRE TO EMIGRATE: POST-PANDEMIC SITUATION OF ALBANIAN YOUTH CASE STUDY**

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## **Abstract**

Understanding youth as a social category is an important issue to analyze of the dynamic of social structure. In a society, the categorization of a group 'young people' occupies a very important place, due to the perform of the function of 'connecting bridge' between the past and the future, in a socio-cultural structure of society. This main indicator shows that this group plays a functional role in the structure and dynamism of society. Youth have a factual reality, not only biologically, but as a group it contains the truth of a sociological phenomenon. Consequently, it is important to point out that this group might be evaluated as a social category to understand the importance of analyzing several stages of development and their impact on the social structure changes in society. This study will analyze youth from a sociological perspective, as a very important age group and category of Albania, that influences the society's structure changes due to the formation of emigration flows. Focusing on the current post-pandemic social and political situation, reflections and opinions on the everyday life of university youth, social tensions that are facing, and being satisfied with the country's conditions, influence on desire and decision to emigrate. Being not enough satisfied with life and social, political, and economic potential in everyday life, are analyzed as the pull factors of the emigration phenomenon of the university youth. This study aims to analyze the opinions and feelings of happiness with the current post-pandemic situation and analyze the main factors (pull and push) that influence desire to emigrate. This study focused on the usage of a quantitative approach to field research methods. The data collection occurred during January-February, 2023, and it included the representative sample of 210 university students in the Faculty of Education, the University of Aleksander Moisiu Durres (UAMD). The age category of the sample group is from 18-30 years old, To conduct and reach the aim, this study focuses on the theoretical and analytical (field research) analysis of data by usage of the statistical program SPSS 22.

**Keywords:** Current Situation as Post-Pandemic; Being happy; Desire to emigrate; Albanian Youth

# THE IMPACT OF FORCED EMIGRATION ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY

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## **Abstract**

Forced emigration is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that can have significant impacts on social security. This paper examines the impact of forced emigration on social security, both for individuals forced to leave and for the countries they leave behind. The paper discusses the disruptions to social security that forced emigration can cause, including loss of access to healthcare, education, and other social services. It also explores the economic and social costs of forced emigration, including brain drain, loss of human capital, and increased social tension, discrimination, and xenophobia. This can include promoting intercultural dialogue, education, and community engagement to help build more inclusive and welcoming societies. Moreover, international cooperation and coordination are crucial in addressing forced emigration, as it often involves multiple countries and regions. This can include the provision of humanitarian assistance, resettlement programs, and efforts to address the root causes of forced emigration through diplomatic and development channels. The paper concludes with a discussion of the importance of policies and programs to support those who are forced to emigrate and to address the root causes of forced emigration.

**Keywords:** Forced emigration, social security, international cooperation, discrimination

# THE REFLECTION OF THE MIGRATION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

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## Abstract

Because of the unstable political and economic situation in the state, such as unemployment, low wages, corrupt administrative system, judiciary with very low credibility, corrupt police, corrupt and dysfunctional health system, unreliable education system, etc., which reflects insecurity for the citizens. Citizens are concerned about their future therefore a large part of citizens decides to migrate abroad for a better life. This massive migration of citizens to the countries of the European Union and across the ocean reflects the drastic reduction in the number of students in primary schools in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The data are alarming and disturbing as the number of students is clearly decreasing. Compared to the school year 2006/07 and 2020/21, the number of students in general is less for 42,282 students. While 23,224 Macedonian students are less within this period and 17,856 Albanian, students are less for the same period. This drastic drop only for this certain period causes fear for the future. If this trend continues then for a short period, many schools will be closed and many settlements will be empty.

The responsible state institutions must urgently respond to this alarming issue and intervene in order to create conditions so that the youth does not leave the country.

**Keywords:** School, society, migration, students, state policy

# THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN SHAPING PERCEPTIONS OF BRAIN DRAIN

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## Abstract

It is widely accepted that the media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion. The framing theory and agenda-setting theory demonstrate that the media has the power to decide what issues are most important and can dominate public and political discussions. Migration is a significant issue that governments around the world need to address, as it affects not only politics but also society and the economy. Brain drain, where skilled workers leave their home country in search of better opportunities abroad, is a particular concern for developing nations like Albania, but not only. This study aims to examine the media's role in influencing skilled workers' decisions to leave by analyzing news coverage and perspectives on migration as a means of improving economic status and quality of life.

Recent years have seen a surge in scholarly research exploring the relationship between the media and migration. Consistently, studies indicate that the media significantly impacts public perceptions and attitudes towards migration. This research will specifically investigate the connection between the media and brain drain perceptions by scrutinizing news narratives and trending occupations. The study will also consider the possibility of reinforcing prejudices that arise due to news reporting that portrays a cliché of “the skilled leaving and the unskilled staying.” The analysis will utilize the framing, agenda-setting, social constructivism, and critical discourse on globalization perspectives.

The study will collect empirical data from 50 Albanian news articles related to brain drain and incorporate theoretical approaches and in-depth scientific studies in this field. Findings suggest that the media can influence perceptions of migration, particularly regarding professions and quality standards. This study highlights the importance of a balanced and objective framing of brain drain perspectives to prevent the growth of prejudices against professionals who choose to stay in their country.

**Keywords:** Media, Perceptions, Brain drain, Skilled workers, Framing, Agenda setting

# THE SENSE OF BELONGING IN HOST COUNTRY: CULTURAL IDENTITY (IES) AND SELF-ALIENATION AMONG ADOLESCENT IMMIGRANTS

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## Abstract

Host countries' integration policies and processes are two substantial components in the settlement of immigrants. Very often, they are great indicators of how the relations between the state, society and immigrants are built and developed. There are found many cases in everyday practice where integration means acculturation or in the worst cases assimilation. All those experiences are an outcome of prejudices, stereotypes and expectations of the host country related to the immigrants on one side, and immigrants' expectations from their desired destination on the other side. In other words, it is a triangle where the impact and effect are reciprocal. Migration is an old phenomenon so questions like what makes a person “a good immigrant” and a state “immigrant friendly state” endure in the political debate as well as in the academic research. One of the challenges faced by the policy makers and immigrants themselves is finding an appropriate solution on the need and demand of recognition and cultivation of the cultural identity (ies) of immigrants in the host country; even though, the idea that immigration is a voluntary form of migration prevails in the public discourse. Considering that the question “who I am in the host country?” embodies both the inherited cultural identity from the country of origin and receiving the cultural identity of the host country, in this paper it is analyzed how integration policies can facilitate settlement of the immigrants and their interaction with the host society. The focus is on the psychological factors that trigger self-alienation of the adolescent immigrants. Based on the analysis of the national integration policies and recent studies on regional and international level, it is concluded that the sense of belonging can be particularly difficult for the adolescent immigrants because they are in a sensitive period of identity formation.

**Keywords:** Cultural identity, immigration, adolescents, self-alienation, integration policies, host country



## **THE TENDENCY OF MIGRATION, CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES - THE CASE OF KOSOVO**

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### **Abstract**

Migrations are one of the social phenomena that have accompanied society step by step up to the present day. Despite the fact that modern society has made progress in the technological and informational aspect, especially in digitalization, migration has become a challenge for every society today, even for developed societies. This tendency continues to be a challenge for Western Balkan countries, including the state of Kosovo. In recent years, Kosovar society has clearly faced the aspect of migration, which has opened the gates of social discourse in Kosovar society on future orientations and massive migration in case of visa liberalization in 2024. Data from the Kosovo Agency of Statistics and other credible organizations emphasize that in the period from 2000 to 2020, 380,033 inhabitants have left Kosovo, with an average of over 19,000 inhabitants per year. The majority of citizens who have migrated are the demographic structure of young people aged 20 to 40 of both genders. These data give an alarm to Kosovar society and the state that this tendency of increasing migration will have an impact on the decline of the birth rate, aging of the population, and urgent needs for social policy changes in the country so that the state can have a greater focus on the well-being of its citizens. The paper aims to analyze the movements of migration in Kosovo, potential factors, and possible consequences of migration. The methodology applied in this study focuses on conducting an empirical survey with 150 respondents of both genders and ages from 18 to 65 and beyond, and is carried out with a simple random sample in the municipalities of Pristina, Fushë Kosovë, Graçanicë, and Obiliq. The overall results show that 50% of the respondents would migrate in case of visa liberalization, while around 25% see the lack of socio-economic development as the main reason, 20% see the standard of living, and other percentages fall within other factors.

**Keywords:** Tendency, migration, youth, causes and consequences, Kosovo

## TRANSNATIONAL TEXT AND CONTEXT OF SEMEZDIN MEHMEDINOVIĆ'S MY HEART

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### **Abstract**

Semezdin Mehmedinović's autobiographical, or rather, autofictional novel, *My Heart* (2017), represents the author's self-reflection into his own life while covering themes such as war, post-war trauma, and migration, displacement, ageing, illness, love, identity, etc. Mehmedinović's close connection to his family, his son Harun, and his wife Sanja inspired him to compose his novel out of three parts, each devoted to a different family member, but still, these three parts create unity the same way as three of them create a family. If we consider the fact that Semezdin Mehmedinović has spent half of his life in ex-Yugoslavia and another half of his life in the United States, it is easy to conclude that the most prominent idea in the novel is the question of identity. By relying on the latest research in the area of transnationalism, this paper focuses on the analysis of the duality of identity in Semezdin Mehmedinović's *My Heart*. The main aim of this paper is to analyze the novel through transnational context in order to prove that identity is not always pure, but it is often stratified, consisting of two or even more different identities. Moreover, the essence of this paper is to prove that Mehmedinović's identity, as well as the identity of his novel *My Heart*, is dual, consisting of both its Bosnian and American segments.

**Keywords:** Semezdin Mehmedinović, *My Heart*, Transnational, Identity, Nation, Language

# **VIOLENT BORDERLANDS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS: A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF MIGRANT VICTIMS' EXPERIENCES**

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## **Abstract**

Although irregular and mixed migration through the Western Balkans has significantly decreased over the last eight years, matched by a significant decrease of its salience in the public discourse and sparser media coverage, the crimes that have been documented as committed by police forces in the region remain uninvestigated, under-researched, and outside policy discussion. Therefore, this paper studies police-on-migrant violence at the borders between Western Balkans states in the context of pushbacks, focusing on the first-hand testimonials of people on the move compiled by the Border Violence Monitoring Network, in order to develop a coherent picture of the perpetrators and victims of various incidents, dangers and types of violence faced by people on the move, and means of protection employed by people on the move. This large-n dataset is further stratified by age, by geographic direction, by group composition (including presence of individuals from vulnerable groups and group size), by location, by origin, and by time.

**Keywords:** Violence, borders, Western Balkans, victims

## YOUTH AND EMIGRATION IN TURBULENT TIMES

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### **Abstract**

Since the fall of the communist regime, Albania has been affected by a large wave of population exodus, a phenomenon that continues at a high rate, ranking Albania among the countries with the highest levels of emigration in Europe and beyond. Albania is also known for its relatively young population, which with recent social-economic developments, where emigration is a very important factor, is facing the shrinking and aging of the population. Young people are one of the most vital age groups in society, which have the potential to change policies, economy, social patterns and contribute to sustainable development. The article examines the issues related to youth emigration, researching the trend of youth emigration in today turbulent times, focusing on analyzing the reasons for leaving or their wish to leave. Attention is focused on young people who are pursuing university studies, whose departure contributes to the deepening of the brain drain phenomenon. Although the official data does not seem to show a significant increase in the number of young people leaving the country, Albanian auditors show every year how the number of young people is falling significantly, certainly not only because of emigration. The article notes that the most developed countries are seen as the best opportunity for young people, because they offer more opportunities for them to develop both personally and professionally, as well as in ensuring economic stability. High levels of unemployment, economic issues, low wages, lack of opportunities to develop and advance in career, lack of stability and harsh competition climate are considered as some of the main reasons why they want to leave or those who have left to not return.

**Keywords:** Emigration, development, youth, brain drain, social issues

## **EUROPIAN IDENTITY IN THE FACE OF BALKAN NACIONALISM**

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### **Abstract**

This study seeks to examine the crucial perception of European identity in general, as it is influenced in relation to the nationalism in the Balkans. This confrontation between European identity and Balkan nationalism will be treated as two phenomena that complement and contradict each other. The sphere of globalization, identity, nation and nationalism are flexible definitions. Above all, the reflection of globalization as a global village has combined the nations in a collective identity by diminishing the individual or national. Thus, my goal in this research is to synchronize nationalism with identity in general. The study employs a survey, which includes essential terminological and conceptual definitions of identity and nationalism without bypassing the elements of facts and historical, philosophical, religious, folk and main references. The elaboration paralleled in the confrontation of space incorporation, identity and European values with hermetic fanaticism in the preservation and cultivation of future nationalism in the Balkans within the European Union. On that basis the study critically analyzes paradoxical trends in identity creation such as, the objective of national Albanian unity within the European Union, pro-Russian and Serbian nation beliefs and recent trends on bypassing the ancient origins of the Macedonian nation in the Republic of North Macedonia. Particular attention is paid to pressures and challenges of European identity as a result of the large influx of immigrants from the third world especially from Syria, Palestine and due to visa liberalization for several Balkan countries, as well as the security of the European Union and fundamental religious beliefs. Moreover, the study addresses the terrorist and political rights as beneficiaries of being a citizen of the European Union. Findings reveal that Balkan nationalism faces rational European identity as a universal form that realizes all beliefs, desires and dispositions of ethnicity in European international level.

**Key words:** European identity, Balkan nationalism, national identity, European Union