

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL MIGRATIONS IN ALBANIA: MIGRATORY PATTERNS AND CONSEQUENCES ON POPULATION STRUCTURES

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ABSTRACT

Being a country in transition, Albania has sustained vast political and socio-economic changes for the past 15 years. The pathway to transition was laid with economic hardship and political unrest, accompanied by intense, large scale, geographic mobility in the form of internal and external migration. Thus, on one hand, mass external migration, mostly to the neighbouring countries of Greece and Italy and on the other, an exodus of rural population affected this country. In this paper we address the issue of international and internal migration in the period of 1989-2001, using Census data for the two last censuses at District level. Descriptive analysis of the data for the 36 Districts, will be based on a simulation of the expected population >12 years old at 2001 and the observed population at the last census on the one hand, and on an Origin-Destination Matrix for internal migration on the other.

This analysis will enable us (with some assumptions on mortality) to estimate the intensity of the migration movements as well as the weight of internal and international migration in order to define the migration geographical patterns. The used methodology will enable us to create various indices that characterise migration intensity such as an “Index of Conservation” of the population, Expulsion Indexes for internal and international migration as well an Expelling Ratio for the studied spatial levels. By considering the duality of migration movements, we will give emphasis to the consequences of the outflow, classifying the Districts according to migration patterns and the migration consequences on their population age structure.

Keywords: Albania; Mobility; Internal migration; External migration; Population; Mortality; Age structure