



Migration and Local Development

1 June 2006

**Tirana
Albania**

Migration has an impact on local economic development. The impact is two-fold, including both positive and negative impacts. With remittances and new skills attainment migration can boost local economic development, and by reducing human resources migration hinders local development capacity and capability. It is therefore important to address migration as a cross-portfolio issue. This calls for strong integration and co-ordination of related policies and programmes at all government levels. Locally, a clear and mutually agreed local development strategy is an important instrument to make territories more attractive for people to stay and for emigrants to return. Once established, the strategy can be translated into an action plan with clear priorities and roles for partners, timescales and resources, which facilitate a more productive use of remittances contributing to local economic development.

In 2004, the OECD LEED Programme and its Centre for Local Development carried out field work in three Albanian regions (Tirana, Vlora and Gjirokaster). Challenges and progress made have been discussed in all three regions with local stakeholders in form of round table meetings and interviews with returnees. A consultation meeting was conducted with the main international organisations active in migration and development issues. The review has looked at how local development can help containing migration outflows, whilst attracting returning migrants. The research has examined national and local initiatives aimed at: a) promoting local development to avoid the “brain drain” problem and attract talents; b) devising specific measures aimed at re-integrating returning migrants in the labour market, and c) effectively fighting illegal migration. Special attention has been devoted to issues of skills development, job creation and upward labour mobility, as well as to broader local development strategies, which affect the conditions for migration. The study examined whether the promotion of self-employment and entrepreneurship can provide satisfactory answers to both the issues of re-integration and the emersion of the informal economy. Finally, the role of migrants’ remittances and their impact on local development has been reviewed.

The ILO developed several activities in South Eastern Europe to foster the use of remittances for income generation activities. Indeed, the ILO views remittances as a form of social finance, i.e. financial transaction that optimizes private and social returns, and which can yield a win-win situation for the migrant, for his/her family, for the home community and for the economy of the home country. In Albania, the ILO has joined efforts with the Government, international community and relevant actors to define a policy to foster the productive use of remittances (including the elaboration of a National Action Plan included in the National Strategy for Migration in November 2005), and, as follow up for the biennium 2007 – 2008, will explore the implementation of concrete local project to connect migrants with their family who remained in Albania.

Purpose of the meeting

This Meeting is an opportunity for policy-makers and practitioners to discuss findings of the field work on migration and impacts on local economic development. The debate on prospects for and barriers in implementing the draft policy recommendations will provide inspirations for further country work in this thematic area.

This event is a joint initiative by the ILO and OECD LEED Centre for Local Development based on recent field work in Albania.

Thursday 1 June 2006

“Local Development and Migration”

Tirana International Hotel

- 9:00 – 9:15 Moderators: OECD/ILO
Welcome remarks
Chair: High Official from the Ministry
- 9:15 - 10:30 **Migration and local development: opportunities and barriers for skills development and endogenous development**
Presentation by Mr. *Harry Papapanagos*, Associated Professor at the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Thessalonica, Author of the Albanian case study report.
Questions and Answers
- 10:30 – 11:15 **Migration, Remittances and Local Development**
Presentation by Ms. *Severine Deboos*, ILO and Mr. *Andrea Salvini*, ILO
Questions and Answers
- 11:15 – 11:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Statements on Migration and its potentials for Local Development**
UNDP
IOM, Mr Maurizio Buzatti
ETF,
University of Modena
- 12:30 – 13:30 **Outlook – What is adoptable in Albania and how to facilitate the implementation?**
Discussion
Moderator: Mr. *Adrian Civici*, President of the Centre for Development Studies, Tirana and former Director of the NSSD Albania
Panel: representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Partners
- 13:30 - 13:45 **Closure remarks: IOM, OECD, Ministry of Labour**