

BRAIN DRAIN

A CASE STUDY FROM ALBANIA

Elena Ambrosetti – Sapienza University of Rome

Cinzia Castagnaro – Sapienza University of Rome

Eralba Cela – Polytechnic University of Marche

Ilir Gedeshi – Centre for Economic and Social Studies - Albania



Albania – Basic facts

Population (2010) 3,169.000

Total Area 28.748 sq km

GDP per Capita PPP USD 7,976.3 (2008)

Human Development Index (HDI) Rank 64 od 177

Net Migration Rate (2005-2010)-4.8 migrants/1,000 population

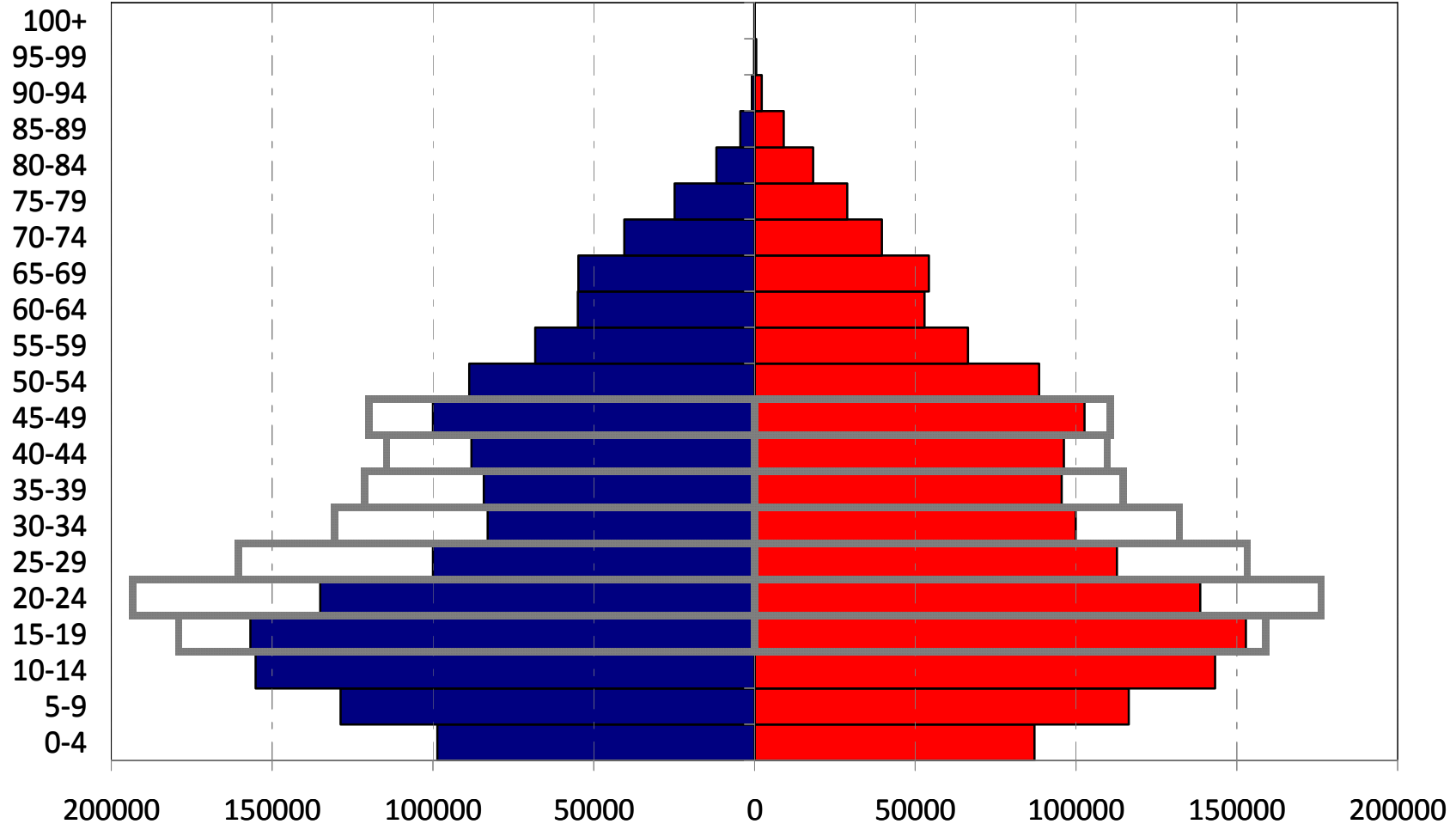
Outline of the presentation

- Demographic context
- Purposes
- Data sources
- Some results
- Conclusions
- Further developments



The demographic context

Age pyramid, Albanian Population 2008 (including migrants abroad)



Fertility and Net Migration

TFR (2008/9)

1.6 children per woman

Fertility has declined substantially in Albania since 1960.

The decline has been exacerbated by the emigration of young people

Net Migration Rate (2005-2010)

- 4.8 migrants per 1,000 population

About 1 million Albanians living abroad



Purposes

Purposes

The aim of this study is to analyze the main characteristics of highly skilled migration from Albania in order to ...

... describe the phenomenon of the brain drain in relation to the migratory project

... provide a mapping of the destination countries of migrants in relation to their main socio-demographic characteristics



Data sources

Data sources

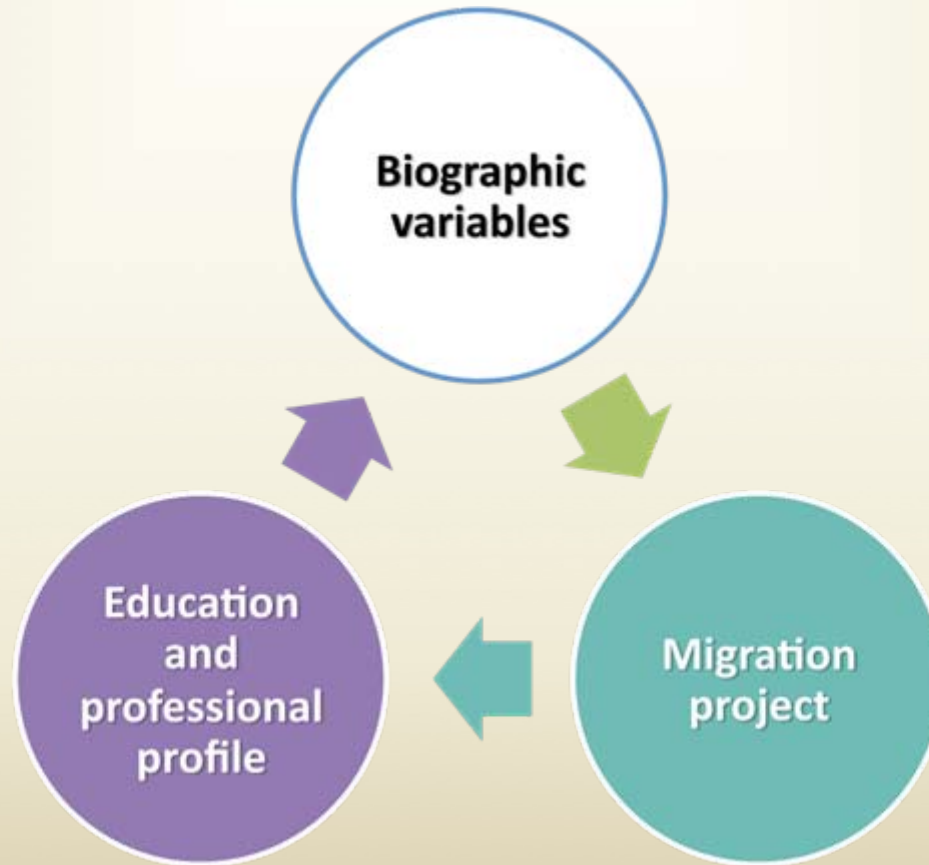
❑ Albanian Demographic and Health Surveys (ADHS); official data from Instat (Albanian Statistical Institute), Istat (Italian Statistical Institute).

❑ A survey carried out in 9 districts, during the period June - July 2008, which has involved more than 40 research institutions and centres under the umbrella of the Academy of Sciences (6), Ministry of Agriculture and Food (4) and other ministries (4), as well as in 10 public universities.

Through face to face interviews with either the Directors of Human Resources, or heads of the research institutions, there have been collected information on 1074 scholars emigrated in the period 1990-2008 from these institutions/universities.

Survey on brain drain from Albania

The informations collected in this survey are related to following topics:





Some results

The migration project – who are they?

THE YOUNGEST

- One out of quarter had between 25 and 29 years old
- Almost 70% of them had age between 25 and 39 years old

MALE MIGRATION

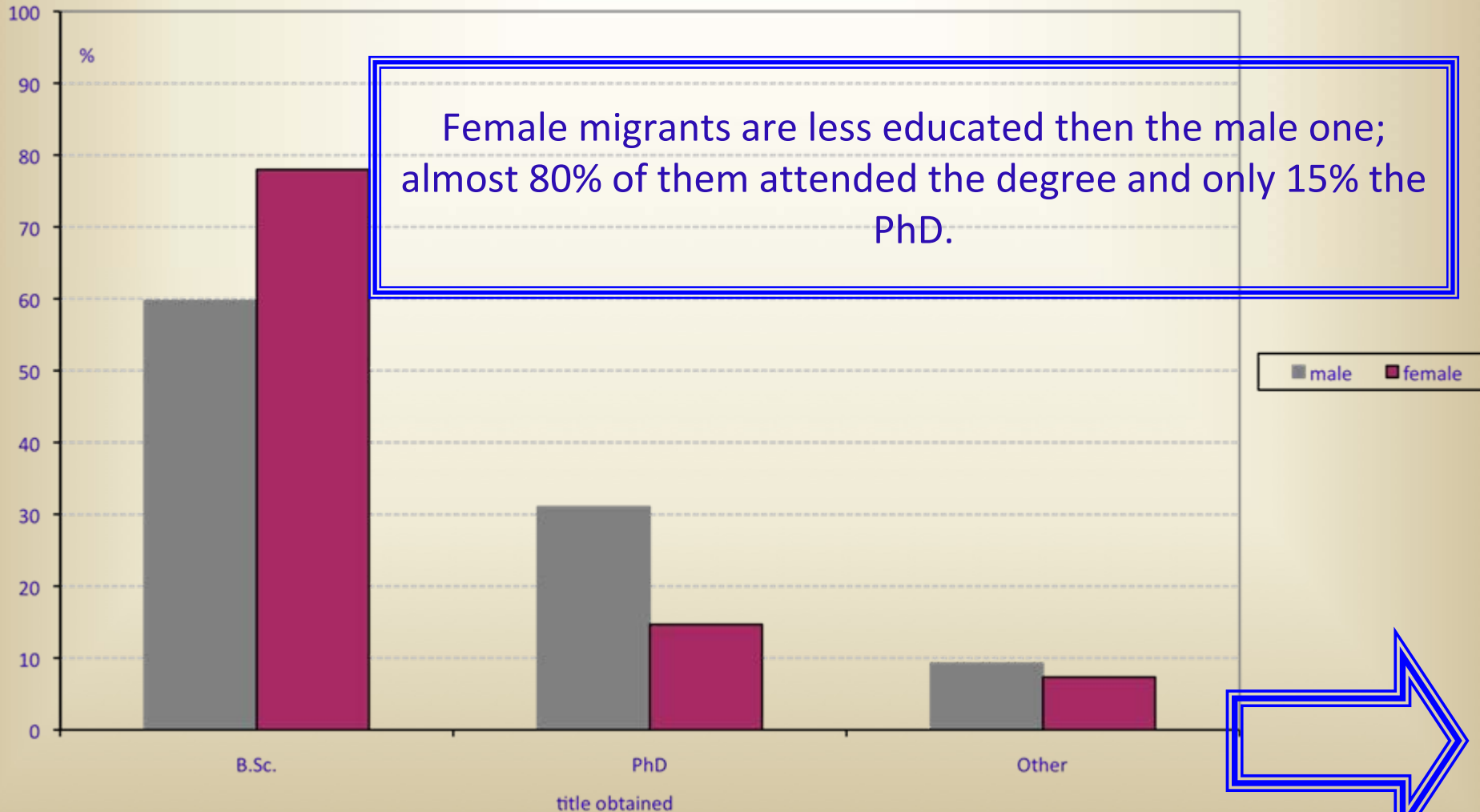
- 59% of them are male
- In spite of a total sex ratio of 105 men per 100 women, it's possible to appreciate different gender ratio per destination countries

THE LESS EDUCATED

- Almost 70% of them left Albania after the degree
- 23% of them left Albania with PhD

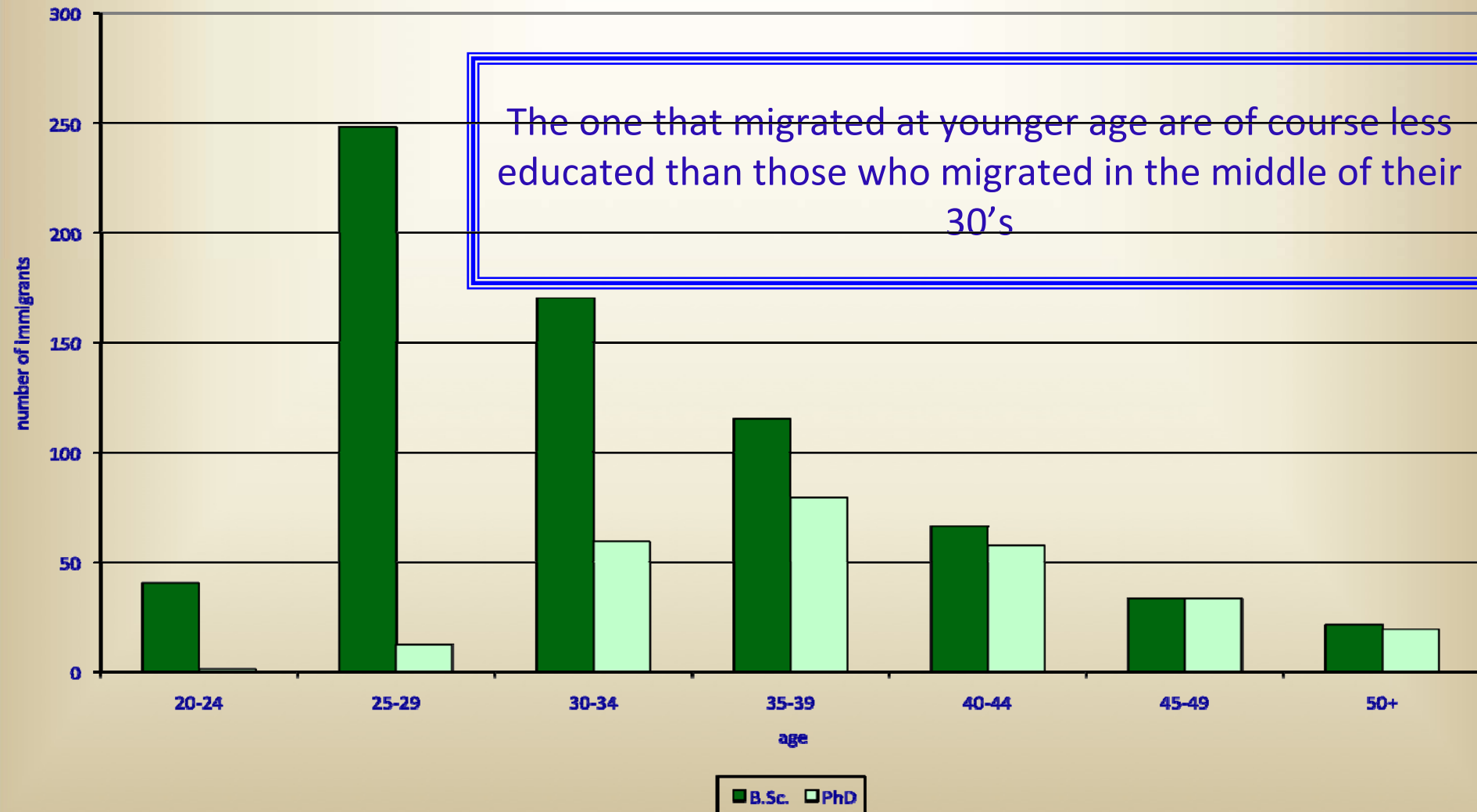
The migration project – who are them?

Higher educational level by sex



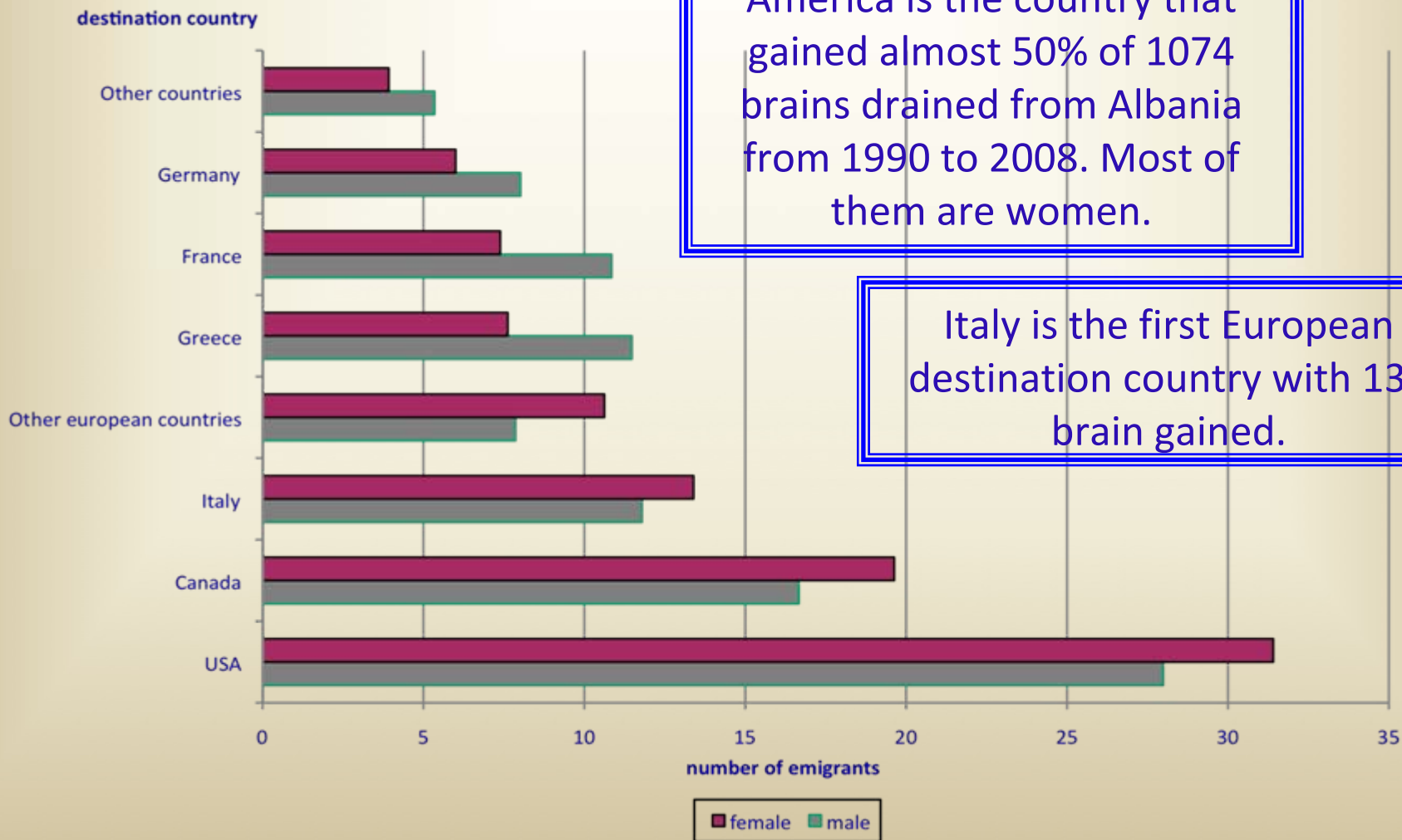
The migration project – who are them?

Age at migration by educational level



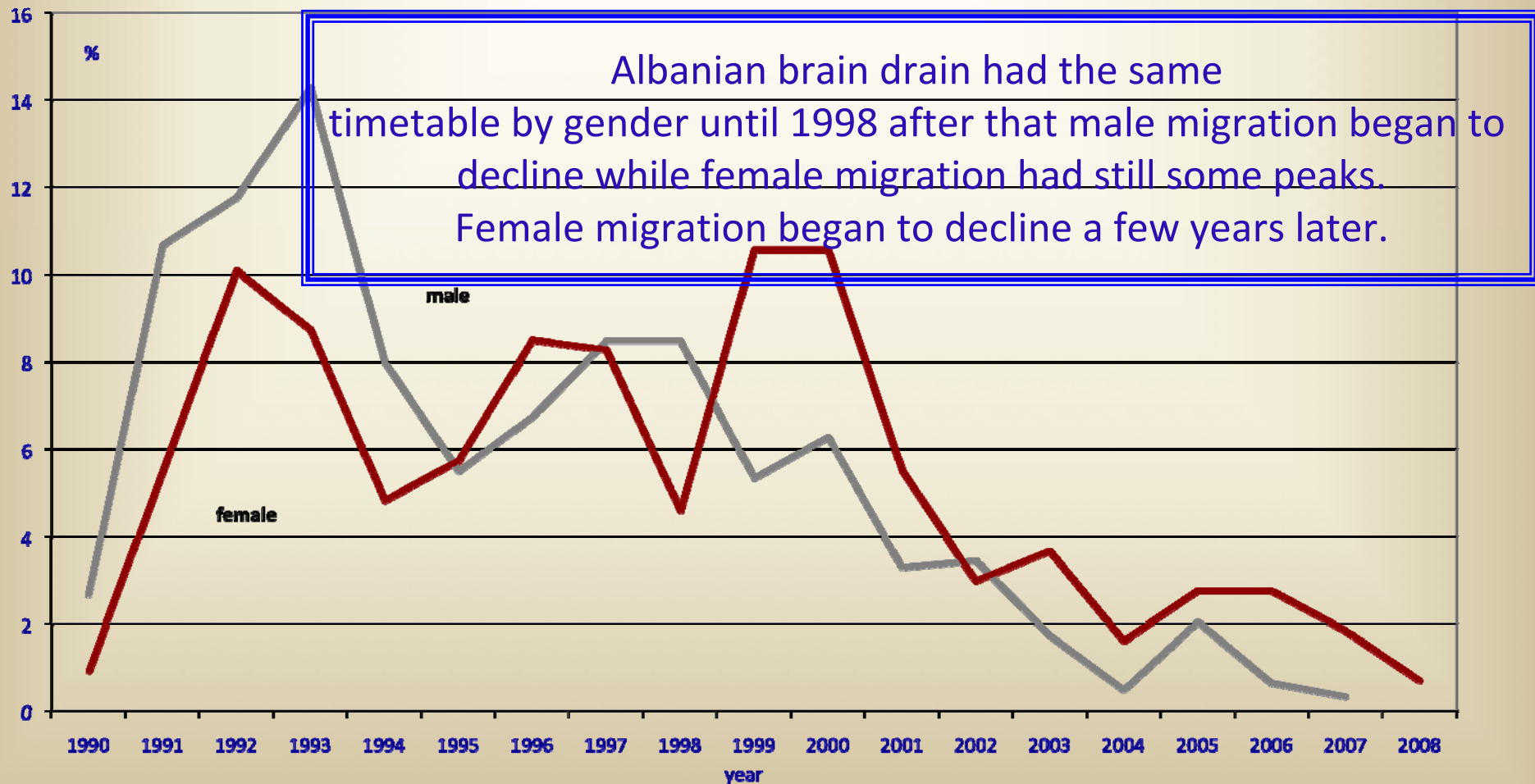
The migration project – where did they go?

Brain drain according to the host countries



The migration project – when did they leave from Albania?

Brain drain curve during transition

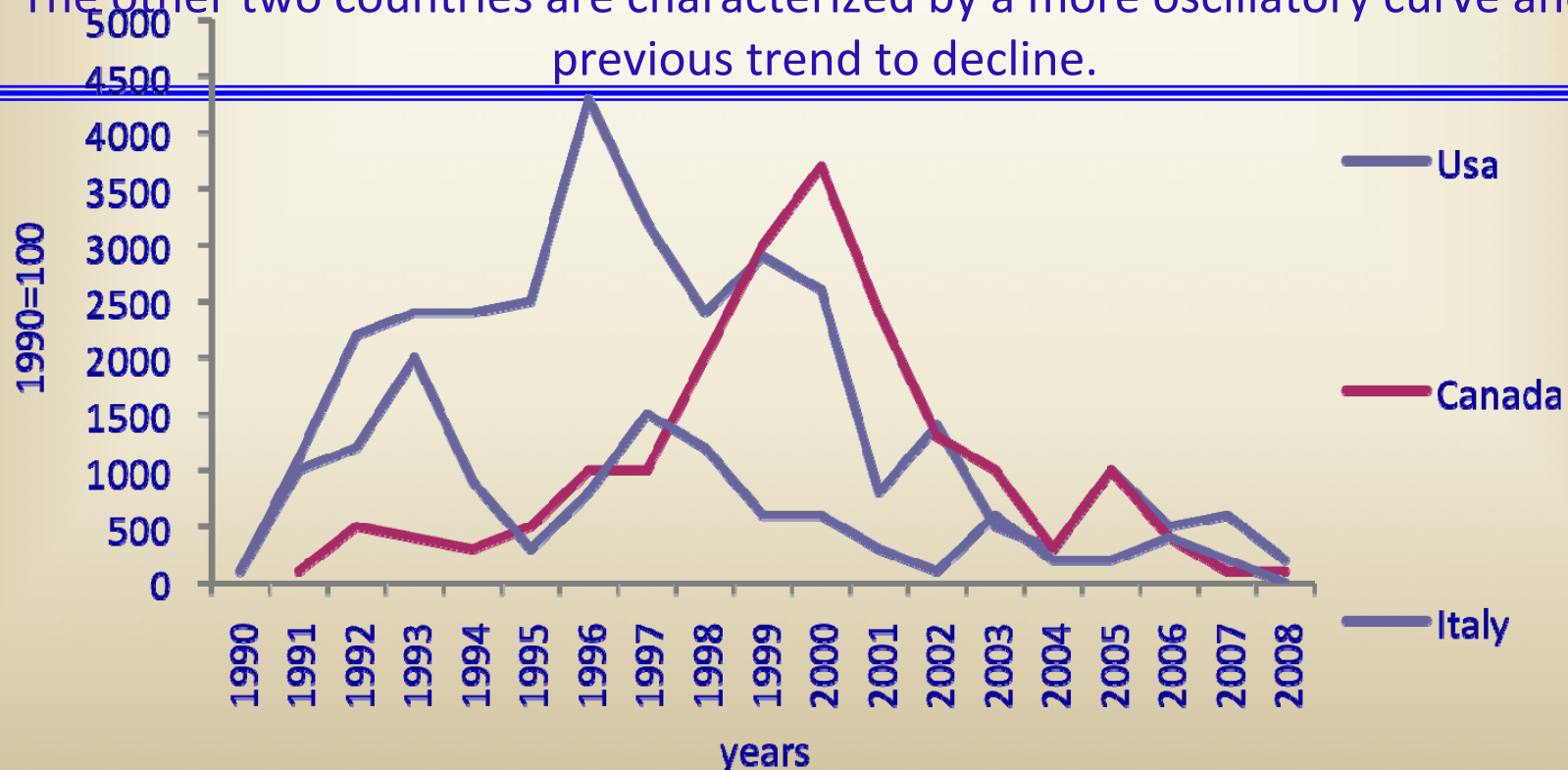


What is the migration project by receiving country?

Brain drain curve during transition by host country

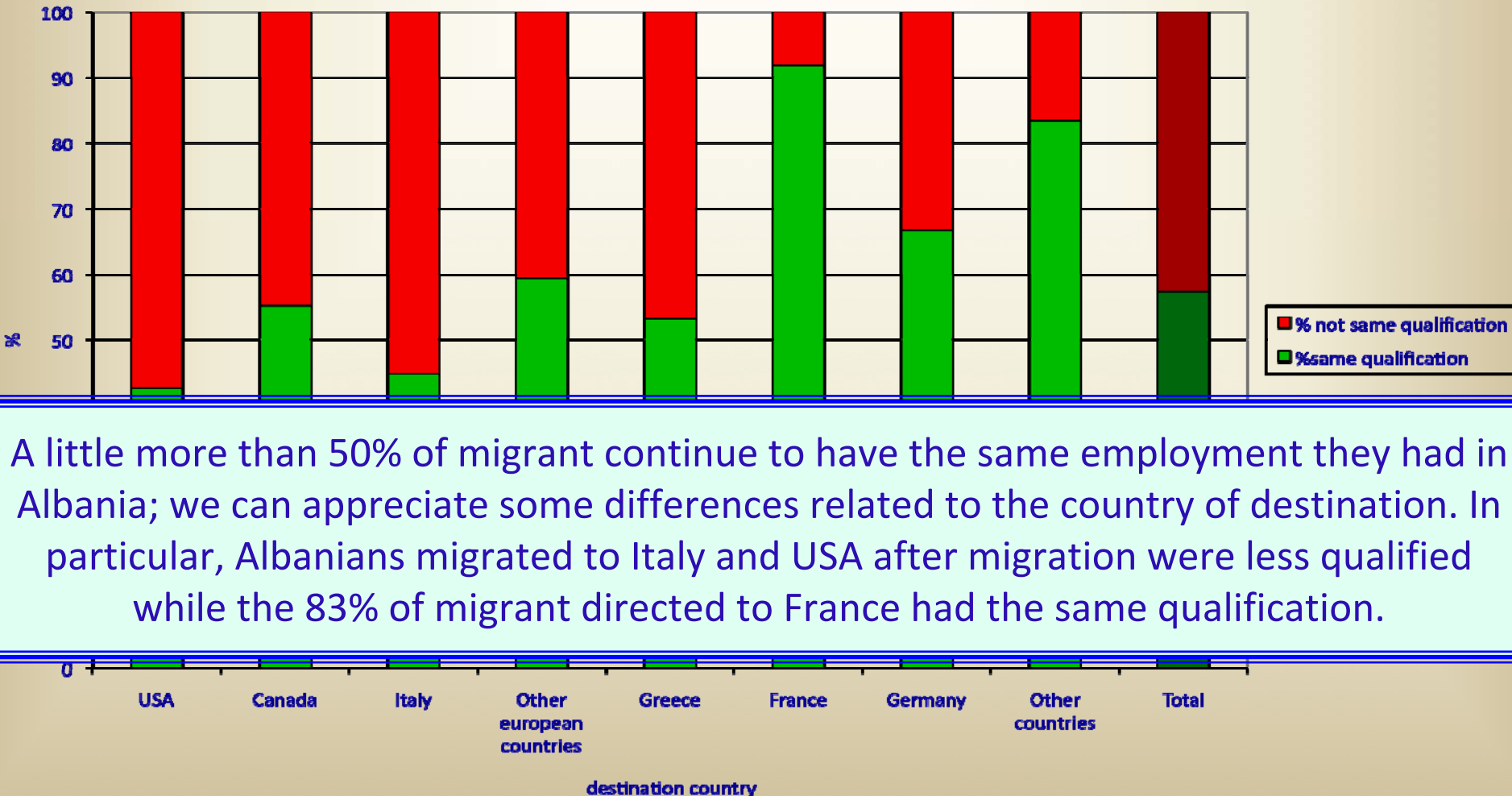
Brain drain to Canada had a trend more linear; indeed the migration to Canada rises steadily until 2000 after that it falls suddenly.

The other two countries are characterized by a more oscillatory curve and a previous trend to decline.



The migration project – brain waste?

Brain drain by qualification level in the country of destination



A little more than 50% of migrant continue to have the same employment they had in Albania; we can appreciate some differences related to the country of destination. In particular, Albanians migrated to Italy and USA after migration were less qualified while the 83% of migrant directed to France had the same qualification.



Conclusions

Conclusions

- ✧ Albania has been affected by a (huge) loss of skills (and investments in education), since in several countries of destination Albanians are employed in under qualified jobs.
- ✧ Albanian universities suffer a decline of competition capacity and a weakening of the work quality.
- ✧ General decrease of brain drain as from 2000 for both men and women.
- ✧ Reforms in the Albanian educational system had a positive impact on brain drain decrease.
- ✧ The inverse trend of brain drain from universities and research institute was compensated by an increase number of Albanian undergraduate and graduate students who decide to study abroad.

A large, light blue arrow pointing to the right is centered on the page. Inside the arrow, there is a dark blue rounded rectangular box containing the text 'Further developments' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Further developments

To go over a descriptive analysis

- ✧ Through a multivariate analysis we will evaluate the simple effects of some determinants to the decision to migrate from Albania. The stepwise procedure will be used as selection criterion.
- ✧ Study on Albanian diaspora networks to see how they are operating.
- ✧ Survey on Albanian researchers and lecturers working in research and academic institutions abroad in order to understand what sectors are the most drained and the intention to get in touch with their country of origin in order to contribute to its development.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

References

- ✧ Abella M. I., Migration of the Highly Skilled: The Global Dimensions. Migration and Development, GTZ, 2004
- ✧ AII.S., Turning the Tide. Albanian Brain Drain. Tirana 2005
- ✧ Ambrosetti E., Cela E., Gedeshi I., “Migration, remittances and inter-generational relationships: a case study from Albania”, paper presented at European Population Conference 2010, Vienna, Austria 1-4 September 2010.
- ✧ Barjaba, K (2004) 'Albania: Looking Beyond Borders', Mimeo. Washington DC: Migration Policy Institute
- ✧ Beine M., Defoort C. and Rapoport H., (2006b), “Brain drain and human capital formation in developing countries: winners and losers’, IRES Discussion Paper n° 2006-23, May
- ✧ De Soto H., Gordon P., Gedeshi I., Sinoimeri Z., Poverty in Albania. A Qualitative Assessment, The World Bank Washington D.C., 2002

References

- ✧ De Zwager N., Gedeshi I., Germenji E., Nikas Ch., Competing for Remittances. Tirana 2005
- ✧ Ditter J-G., Gedeshi I., Conditions économiques et émigration des élites intellectuelles en Albanie, (French), in Cahiers d'Etudes sur la Méditerranée Orientale et le Monde Turco-Iranien, CERI, 1997, n° 23, janvier-juin.
- ✧ Docquier F. and Marfouk A. (2006), “International migration by educational attainment (1990-2000)”, in: Ozden, C. et Schiff (eds), International migration, remittances and the brain drain, Chap 5, Palgrave-Mcmillan.
- ✧ Gedeshi I., Mara H., Dhimitri R., Krisafi K., Emigration of the elite from Albania during the transition period, Shtepia Botuese “Luarasi”, Tirane 1999
- ✧ Institute of Statistics, Institute of Public Health [Albania] and ICF Macro, Albania Demographic and Health Survey 2008-09. Tirana, Albania 2010
- ✧ King R., Albania as a laboratory for the study of migration and development., Journal of Southern Europe and the Balkans., Vol. 7., No 2., August 2005