BRAIN DRAIN
A CASE STUDY FROM ALBANIA

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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
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:

- Biographic variables
- Education and professional profile
- Migration project
Some results
The migration project – who are they?

**THE YOUNGEST**
- One out of quater 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 they?

Higher educational level by sex

Female migrants are less educated than the male one; almost 80% of them attended the degree and only 15% the PhD.
The migration project – who are they?

Age at migration by educational level

The one that migrated at younger age are of course less educated than those who migrated in the middle of their 30’s.
The migration project – where did they go?

**Brain drain according to the host countries**

America is the country that gained almost 50% of 1074 brains drained from Albania from 1990 to 2008. Most of them are women.

Italy is the first European destination country with 133 brain gained.
The migration project – when did they leave from Albania?

Albanian brain drain had the same timetable by gender until 1998 after that male migration began to decline while female migration had still some peaks. Female migration began to decline a few years later.
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.
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.
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
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