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STUDIES

POTENTIAL MIGRANT'S PROFILE

Who are the Kosovars
most willing to Migrate?



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Potential Migrant's Profiles: Who are the Kosovars most willing to migrate?

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POTENTIAL MIGRANT'S PROFILES: WHO ARE THE KOSOVARS MOST WILLING TO MIGRATE?

I. Introduction

Traditionally Kosovo has had a sizable Diaspora and remittances have played an important role in improving the welfare of its citizens. Even to date, migration continues to be a phenomenon amongst Kosovars. The survey data suggests that in the period 2010-2014, between 35-43 percent of the population in Kosovo was willing to migrate. According to Eurostat data, the number of asylum applications submitted by Kosovo citizens in EU Member States has almost doubled, from 20,220 in 2013 to 37,875 applications in 2014 (87%). The acceptance rate also experienced an increase from 3.7% to around 7% however the rate remains very low.¹ Although there is no official data for early 2015, a drastic increase in the number of illegal migrants that seek asylum in EU Member States has been observed during late December 2014-March 2015. This is considered to represent the largest flux of migrants since the latest exodus of Kosovars during the conflict in 1999. This said, and considering the lack of a serious approach in tackling the illegal migration problem from the Government of Kosovo, Group for Legal and Political Studies has conducted a nationally representative "Survey on the views of Kosovo citizens on different social, economic and political issues 2015", administered by Ubo Consulting. The data suggests that willingness to migrate remains very high despite migration of a relatively high number of individuals over the last past months, as well as continuous declarations of EU officials that asylum applications of Kosovo citizens will not be accepted. More precisely, 37.2% of individuals surveyed are willing to migrate should they have an opportunity to do so.

Except for economic factors, some of the main reasons for migration are the lack of hope that the socio-economic and political situation will improve in the near future and the search for a better life. The data tends to suggest that increased employment opportunities as well as visa liberalization are some of the factors that can contribute to convincing individuals to avoid migration and stay in Kosovo.

Following the latest empirical analysis using data from 2014, this policy analysis aims to provide an up to date version of the analysis regarding the willingness of Kosovo citizens to migrate, using the data from the abovementioned survey. This allows us to construct potential migrant profiles and assess quantitatively the characteristics that influence the individual's willingness to migrate. Potential migrant's profile is created for the first time in Kosovo and is an indicative of the structure of the factors to be addressed by policy makers in order to decrease the willingness of Kosovars to migrate illegally. A probit model is utilized since the dependent variable takes only two values: 1 if the individual is willing to migrate and 0 if not.

¹ Eurostat Statistics (2015). Countries of origin of (non-EU) asylum seekers in the EU-28 Member States, 2013 and 2014 and Thirty main citizenships of asylum applicants in the EU-28, by age group 4th quarter 2014. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/docs/accompanying_staff_working_document_en.pdf

The policy analysis is organized as follows: Section II presents the methodological approach and data used in the analysis as well as the descriptive statistics. Section III then provides information on the migrant's profile and the empirical results are presented in Section IV. Finally, Sections V and VI conclude and provide a list of recommendations, which aim to inform policymakers how to tackle the causes of the potential migration in Kosovo.

II. Methodology, data and descriptive statistics

a) Data and Methodology

This analysis uses data from the "Survey on the views of Kosovo citizens on different social, economic and political issues 2015", conducted 10-23 March 2015 by Ubo Consulting on behalf of Group for Legal and Political Studies. A total of 1000 individuals were interviewed face-to-face and the survey is representative of the population for Kosovo. The questionnaire consists of 30 questions, which collect individual and household characteristics and perceptions. First, this study aims to develop potential migrant profiles and second, to develop empirical analysis in order to identify factors that influence individuals' willingness to migrate by using a probit model.² The choice of variables included in our regression is based on migration literature as well as the literature on the willingness to migrate in other countries.³ As Castaldo et al. (2005) point out, surveys of actual migrants, or individuals that could potentially migrate, can be effective at profiling their demographic and labor force characteristics. However such surveys do not generally provide information on the households where the individuals come from, such as structure, welfare status, and composition. The opposite is mainly the case for household level surveys where no or only limited information is available on migrants living abroad. This is the case for our data, since both the extent of questions asked and the information gathered for each individual surveyed were limited. Considering the abovementioned data limitations, several studies have been motivated to explore migrants' behavior rather indirectly, by using intentions data and thus develop the empirical analysis in terms of willingness to migrate. Therefore, following the same approach, this study analyses the factors that impact the willingness of individuals to migrate. With regards to individual characteristics, we include in our regression the following variables: gender, age, highest completed education, marital status, occupation, migration network, and region of residence. We also include a variable to control for the household income and a subjective measure of socio-economic situation. Given the data limitations we were unable to include a measure of relative deprivation or asset index, the number of adults and children, as well as a dependency ratio and male ratio. Given that the characteristics of willingness to migrate may differ by location, we estimate separate regressions for rural and urban areas to explore if this is the case.

² Models that have a binary or dichotomous dependent variable are known as the probability models; Gujarati, D. (2004). *Basic Econometrics*. Fourth Edition. New York: McGraw Hill. pp. 581–583

³ For theory/literature on willingness to migrate see: Ahn et al 1998; Yang, 2000; Drinkwater, 2003; Fidrmuc and Huber, 2007; and Shehaj (2012) on determinants of migration.

b) Descriptive Statistics

A description of the variables used in this analysis is presented in Table 1. Out of 1000 individuals, 37.2 percent said they would like to migrate internationally if given a chance. The 'willingness to migrate' shows merely the will or desire of those who responded Yes, but cannot in any way be taken as a Yes to illegal forms of migration.

Table 1. Description of variables used in regressions

Variable name	Description
Dependent variable	
Migration	1 if the individual is willing to migrate; 0 otherwise
Independent variables	
Regions	
- Prishtina	1 if the individual resides in Prishtina; 0 otherwise
- Mitrovica	1 if the individual resides in Mitrovica; 0 otherwise
- Prizren	1 if the individual resides in Prizren; 0 otherwise
- Peja	1 if the individual resides in Peja; 0 otherwise
- Gjakova	1 if the individual resides in Gjakova; 0 otherwise
- Gjilan	1 if the individual resides in Gjilan; 0 otherwise
Urban/Rural	1 if the individual resides in Urban area; 0 if in rural area
Gender	1 If the individual is male; 0 if female
Perception of Socio-economic Situation	
- Bad	1 if the individual perceives his family's socio-economic situation if bad; 0 otherwise
- Average	1 if the individual perceives his family's socio-economic situation if average; 0 otherwise
- Good	1 if the individual perceives his family's socio-economic situation if good; 0 otherwise
Received Remittances	1 if household has received remittances; 0 otherwise
Household size	Number of household members
Migration Networks	Percentage of households that received remittances in 2011 in the respective municipality according to Household Budget Survey 2011 data
Land and Real Estate Ownership	1 if the household owns land and real estate; 0 otherwise
Vehicle Ownership	1 if the household owns vehicles such as car, tractor etc.; 0 otherwise
Livestock Ownership	1 if the household owns livestock; 0 otherwise
Ethnicity	
- Albanian	1 if the individual is of Albanian nationality; 0 otherwise
- Other	1 if the individual is Serbian, Bosnian, Turkish, Goran, Roma, Egyptian, Ashkali, ; 0 otherwise
Age	
- Age18-24	1 if the individual belongs to age group 15-24 years; 0 otherwise

- Age25-34	1 if the individual belongs to age group 25-34 years; 0 otherwise
- Age35-54	1 if the individual belongs to age group 35-44, 45-54 years; 0 otherwise
- 55 and over	1 if the individual belongs to age group 55 years or older; 0 otherwise
Marital Status	
- Single	1 if the individual is single, divorced, or widowed; 0 otherwise
- Married	1 if the individual is married or cohabiting; 0 otherwise
Household Income	
- Up to €150	1 if the household's income is up to €150/month; 0 otherwise
- €151 - €450	1 if the household's income is €151-€300/month or between €301-€450/month; 0 otherwise
- €451 - €750	1 if the household's income is €-451-€600/month or between €601-€750/month; 0 otherwise
- Over € 751	1 if the household's income is €751-€900/month, €901-€1200/month or over €1201/month; 0 otherwise
- No income	1 if the household's did not receive income; 0 otherwise
- Refused to answer	1 if the household refused to answer; 0 otherwise
Education	
- Primary/less Primary	1 if the individual has completed primary education or less; 0 otherwise
- Secondary/less Tertiary	1 if the individual has completed high school or some years of university; 0 otherwise
- Tertiary	1 if the individual has completed an associate degree, a college degree, or a graduate school degree: Master's or Doctorate degree; 0 otherwise
Occupation	
- Employed	1 if the individual is employed in the public or private sector, temporarily employed, or self employed; 0 otherwise
- Unemployed	1 if the individual is unemployed looking for a job and/or not looking for a job; 0 otherwise
- Temporarily employed	1 if the individual is temporarily employed; 0 otherwise
- Student	1 if the individual is a student; 0 otherwise
- Pensioner/Housewife	1 if the individual is pensioner or housewife; 0 otherwise

Table 2 presents the descriptive statistics of the variables used in the empirical analysis. Considering the regional distribution of respondents, Prishtina and Prizren have the highest percentage, 24 and 20 percent respectively, and the respondents are almost equally distributed amongst rural and urban areas and gender. The majority of individuals belong to the age groups 15-24 and 25-34, and around 57 percent are married. Concerning the education levels of individuals, most have completed secondary education or less than tertiary education (around 63 percent). Regarding income and socio-economic situation, roughly 37 percent of households have a monthly income ranging between €151 and €450, and approximately 74 percent of respondents consider their socio-economic situation as average. Moreover, employed individuals constitute roughly 37 percent of the

individuals surveyed and 32 percent of households received remittances. Considering the ownership of assets, 61 percent of respondents own land and real estate and vehicles, whereas roughly 26 percent of them own livestock.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of the key variables (%)

Variables	Proportion
Dependent	
Willingness To Migrate	37.21
Independent	
<i>Regions</i>	
- Prishtina	24.01
- Mitrovica	12.16
- Prizren	20.18
- Peja	10.96
- Ferizaj	10.96
- Gjakova	11.41
- Gjilan	10.32
Residence	
- Urban	48.65
- Rural	51.35
Gender	
- Male	49.43
- Female	50.57
Perception of Socio-economic Situation	
- Bad	12.97
- Medium	74.02
- Good	13.01
Received Remittances	32.15
Land and Real Estate Ownership	61.04
Vehicles/ Tractor Ownership	61.01
Livestock Ownership	25.58
Ethnicity	
- Albanian	96.87
- Other	3.13
Age	
- Age 18 – 24	27.22
- Age 25 – 34	27.08
- Age 35 – 54	31.73
- 55 and over	13.97
Marital Status	
- Single	42.96
- Married	57.04
Household Income	

- Up to €150	7.09
- €151 - €450	36.70
- €451 - €750	33.97
- Over €751	12.58
- No income	5.84
- Refused to answer	3.82
Education	
- Primary education or lower (?)	15.48
- Secondary education or less than tertiary education	63.46
- Tertiary education or higher	21.06
Occupation	
- Employed	36.70
- Unemployed	22.25
- Temporary employed	5.13
- Student	14.99
- Pensioner/Housewife	20.93

III. Migrant's Profile

This section aims to build potential migrant profiles by presenting main characteristics, such as demographics, household and regional characteristics. The percentage of individuals willing to migrate and the potential migrant profiles are portrayed in Graph 1 and 2. The data suggests that 37.2 percent of individuals surveyed are willing to migrate. Given that the survey was conducted right after a large number of migrants illegally left Kosovo (December 2014-March 2015), this hints that the willingness to migrate remains relatively high. The data demonstrates that the main reasons for migration are the lack of hope that the socio-economic and political situation will improve in the near future, the bad economic situation, and a search for a better life. On the other hand, the data tends to imply that increased employment opportunities as well as visa liberalization are some of the factors that can contribute to convincing individuals to avoid migration and stay in Kosovo. Individuals who are willing to migrate consider the government of Kosovo as the most responsible institution for their migration (88%).

Considering region of residence, the willingness to migrate is the highest amongst individuals in Mitrovica and Prishtina, with 54.4 and 44.2 percent respectively. The data on the percentage of individuals willing to migrate according to residence suggests that the willingness to migrate is slightly higher amongst residents of urban areas and the data on distribution of potential migrants advise the same. With respect to gender, the percentage amongst male and female individuals willing to migrate is almost equal, although slightly higher for the former. Regarding marital status, the potential migrant is in general single or married.⁴

⁴ The willingness to migrate is 100% amongst divorced and co-habiting however, it should be noted that these two groups constitute for a relatively small share of individuals willing to migrate in our sample.

Percentage of individuals
willing to migrate according to
region



As expected, the willingness to migrate is highest amongst the younger groups (15-24 and 25-34 years, with 45 percent each), which is line with Eurostat statistics for 2014,⁵ as well as amongst individuals with no monthly income or individuals in the €151-€450 income category. In terms of household monthly income, the willingness to migrate is relatively high amongst individuals belonging to the poorest groups (no income/up to €150), but it is also relatively high amongst those belonging to the two highest income groups (€751 - €1200,

⁵ Eurostat data (2015).Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: 2014
Available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/4168041/6742650/KS-QA-15-003-EN-N.pdf/b7786ec9-1ad6-4720-8a1d-430fcdc55018>

and over €1200). This tends to suggest that potential migrants do not necessarily come from poor or low-income households. Concerning the education levels of potential migrants, around 52 percent have completed secondary education and 17 percent have attained less than tertiary education. In addition, the willingness to migrate is relatively high amongst all education groups.

The willingness to migrate is highest amongst unemployed individuals and students, and surprisingly the percentage is also considerably high amongst individuals employed in the private sector.⁶ This may suggest that individuals are unsatisfied with the employment conditions provided by the private sector. Moreover, as expected, the willingness to migrate is highest amongst individuals who perceive their socio-economic situation as bad (around 57 percent), and the percentage declines as the individuals' perception of their situation improves. The majority of individuals willing to migrate belong to households that did not receive remittances during the last 12 months (72 percent), which indicates that remittances neutralize migration and highlights the importance of the Diaspora in improving the welfare of households in Kosovo. Considering asset ownership, most of the individuals willing to migrate own land and vehicles, whereas the share that owns livestock is very small. The cross tabulations presented in Table A suggests that in general there is a difference in the willingness to migrate between rural and urban areas. However, in several indicators the difference is not substantial (see Appendix A). Willingness to migrate is higher amongst urban households and the differences are most evident between rural and urban residents of Peja and Ferizaj.

In terms of gender, women are more willing to migrate than men and the share is higher amongst urban women than rural women. The figures according to perception of their socio-economic situation suggest differences between locations. However, an important difference lies in the willingness to migrate amongst those who perceive their socio-economic situation as good, the willingness being considerably higher in rural areas (around a quarter of the individuals). The willingness to migrate is also considerably higher amongst asset owners in rural areas as compared to those in urban areas. There are no major differences in willingness to migrate according to marital status, except for widows in rural areas who are not willing to migrate. In terms of household income, there are considerable differences between rural and urban individuals with no household income and those with an income of €1200 and over. The willingness to migrate is higher amongst individuals with no household income occurred in urban areas whereas those living in households with high monthly income is higher amongst rural ones. Figures on the willingness to migrate according to occupation suggest there are no major differences between residents of urban and rural areas. With regards to education, there is no clear pattern. It is worth mentioning that in rural areas the willingness to migrate is highest amongst individuals with secondary or university education.

⁶ The willingness to migrate is also high amongst the self-employed however they constitute for only around 2 percent of the individuals who responded that they are willing to migrate.

POTENTIAL MIGRANT'S PROFILE

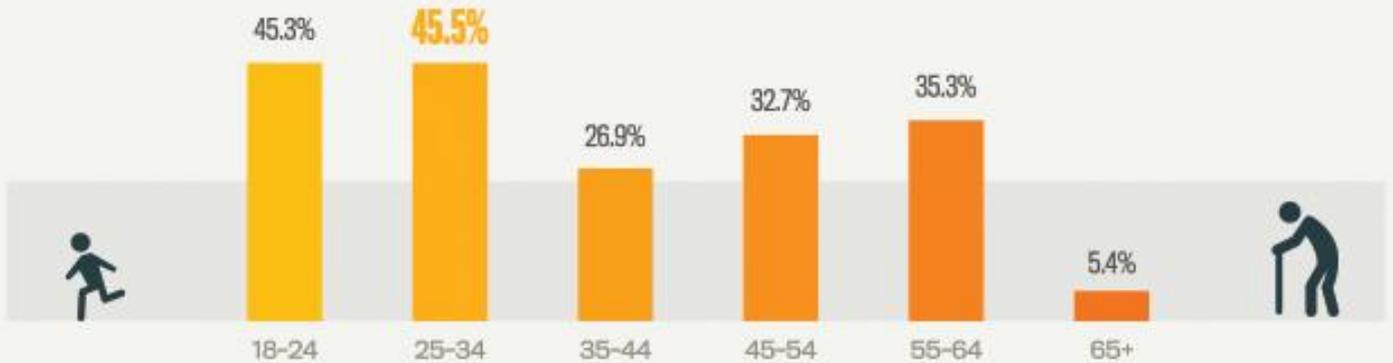
Gender

Percentage of individuals willing to migrate



Age group

Percentage of individuals willing to migrate



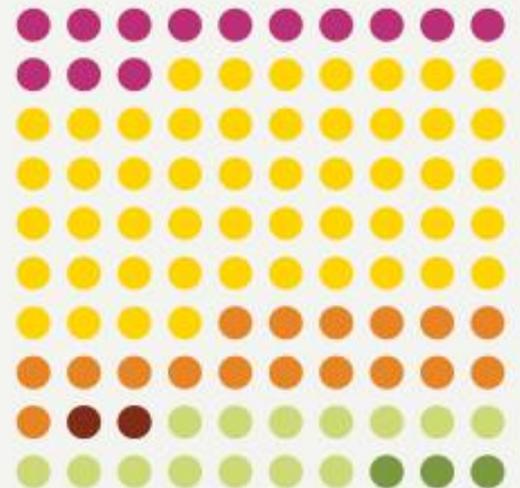
Residence

Percentage of individuals willing to migrate



Education

Distribution of individuals willing to migrate



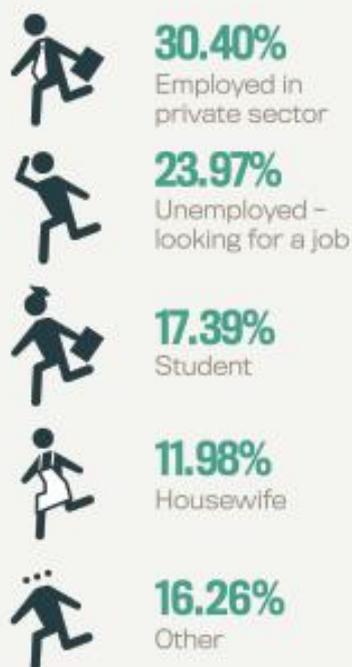
Relationship status

Percentage of individuals willing to migrate



Occupation

Distribution of individuals willing to migrate



Personal vs Household income

Percentage of individuals willing to migrate



Remittance receipt

Percentage of individuals willing to migrate



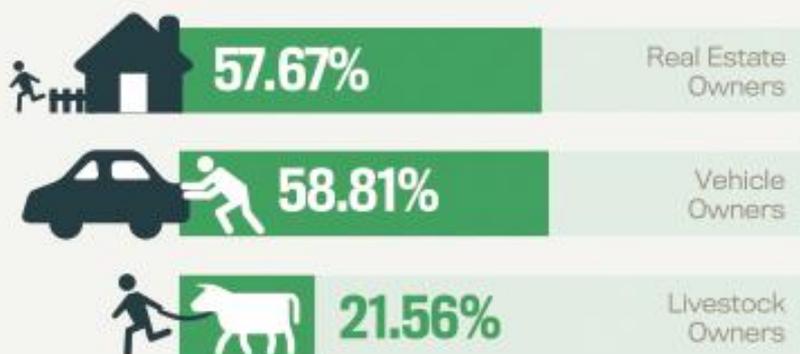
Socio-economic situation

Percentage of individuals willing to migrate



Ownership

Distribution of individuals willing to migrate

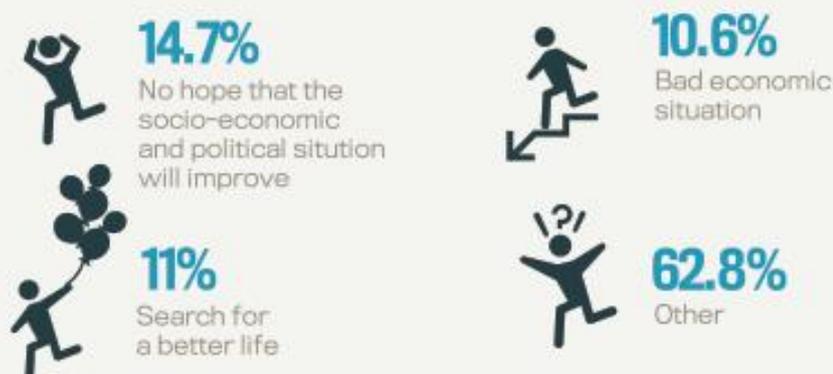


Responsible Institutions

Distribution of institutions considered by individuals as responsible for eventual migration



Main reasons for migration



Three main reasons that would convince individuals not to migrate



16.7%

Visa Liberalization and seasonal employment opportunities in EU countries



16.1%

Hope for a better governance



29.5%

Finding a stable job with an average wage



27.5%

Employment of other members of the household



14.2%

Improvement of the health and education system



2.5%

Payment of debt

IV. Empirical Results

This section presents the results of empirical analysis for the overall sample as well as separate regression results for urban and rural areas which are presented in Table 3. Regional factors affect individuals' willingness to migrate. The results for the overall sample suggest that regional dummy variables⁷ are all significant, except for Mitrovica. More precisely, compared to individuals in Prishtina, those residing in Prizren, Peja, Ferizaj, Gjakova, and Gjilan have a lower willingness to migrate, *ceteris paribus*. In terms of gender, as expected, the results suggest that men are more willing to migrate than women. This result is also in line with Konica and Filer (2009) for Albania. We also find that, *ceteris paribus*, individuals who perceive their socio-economic situation as 'bad' or 'average' are more willing to migrate compared to those who perceive their situation as 'good'. This is in line with our expectations; individuals with a bad or average socio-economic situation may have more incentives to migrate, as the economic situation is one of the most important drivers of migration, although they may not necessarily be able to afford migration.

With regard to asset ownership in general, the results seem to suggest that ownership of assets does not have an important effect on the willingness to migrate. More precisely, only the indicator of livestock ownership appears as significant, however only at a 10 percent significance level.

The demographic characteristics are also assumed to affect the willingness to migrate. Most of the age group indicators appear as highly significant with the expected signs. *Ceteris paribus*, individuals belonging to the age groups 18 - 24 and 25 - 34 are more willing to migrate compared to the age group 35 - 54, although the magnitude of willingness is higher amongst the youngest age groups. The results also suggest that marital status has a significant impact in the willingness to migrate. More specifically, the willingness to migrate is higher amongst married individuals.⁸ This is slightly surprising given that married individuals are expected to have stronger ties to their area. This may be related to the fact that these individuals may come from households that have more adult members at the prime age span of migration. The persistently high unemployment rates over the last decade in the country can be another reason. Due to lack of employment opportunities, especially in rural areas, married individuals may in a way be forced to migrate in order to be able to provide for their families. In the latest wave of illegal migrants we have observed a relatively high number of individuals migrating with their whole family, including their wife and children, although there is no official data on the exact number.

Human capital is likely to have a positive effect on migration if there are more possibilities of employment and expected income-earning opportunities in destination areas compared to the country of origin. Studies have found both a negative and a positive effect of education on migration,⁹ and our results are in line with these results. More precisely, individuals who have completed secondary education or some years of university

⁷ A dummy variable is a binary choice indicator which takes only value of 0 and 1. For instance, the dummy indicating residence in Peja takes the value of 1 if individual resides in Peja and 0 if not.

⁸ Pissarides and Wadsworth (1989) and Boheim and Taylor (2002) find that marital status is important in determining whether or not an individual moves, with single persons having the highest migration probability.

⁹ Some research suggests that migration is negatively associated with education (Borjas, 1990; Mora and Taylor, 2006; Shehaj, 2012), while others suggest it being positively associated (Palloni et al., 2007; Zhu and Luo, 2008).

are more willing to migrate than the ones with tertiary or higher education. Similar results are found for Albania and tend to suggest that Kosovo may not be experiencing a brain drain problem. The occupation dummy indicators generally appear insignificant except for pensioners/housewives who, as expected, are less willing to migrate than employed individuals, *ceteris paribus*.¹⁰

The existence of migration networks and previous experience with migration are key determinants in the decision to migrate internationally, and are considered to have played an important role in Kosovo as well. The migrant networks embody a kind of social capital that is considered to lower the costs and the extent of uncertainty involved in the process of international migration, which as a result enables migration even for the poor.¹¹ The indicator of migration networks used in our study is the share of households that received remittances in respective municipalities in 2011.¹² The results suggest a positive and significant effect of this indicator on the willingness to migrate. More specifically, in line with our expectations, the presence of migration networks in the municipality increases the willingness of individuals to migrate.

Household income is also an important indicator, which can influence individuals' willingness to migrate. Poor households may have higher incentives to migrate, but may not be able to afford the costs of migration, while the richest have no incentives,¹³ although they can in fact afford it. However, the presence of migration networks is expected to substantially lower the migration costs, thus enable migration of the poorest as well. The results suggest that in general, household income does not matter in terms of willingness to migrate, only the indicator of household income group €750 and over appears as significant and only at a 10 percent significance level. The indicators of urban and rural location, receipt of remittances, as well as household size are not significant predictors of individuals' willingness to migrate.

Separate regressions for rural and urban areas allow us to explore whether the characteristics that influence the willingness to migrate differ between these two categories. Certain differences are expected, as for instance rural households are more likely to own livestock; hence is expected to be important for them rather than for the urban ones. The separate regression results for urban and rural areas are presented in Table 3. The results suggest that despite the similarities these areas share in terms of indicators, and which affect willingness to migrate, several differences are evident.

In line with the results of the overall regression, the indicators of perception of the socio economic situation ('average' and 'bad') appear as significant in the urban regression. However, the results of the rural regression suggest that only the indicator for perception of the socio-economic situation as 'bad' is important. More precisely, individuals who perceive

¹⁰ Several measures of employment are also included in other studies. Some of the measures include the occupational status (Rainer and Siedler, 2008; Pfau and Giang, 2010) or the share of household members working in wage employment (Phuong et al., 2008; Zhu and Luo, 2008). We include the former given we have no information regarding the occupation of other household adult members.

¹¹ Massey, D.S., Arango, J., Hugo, G., Kouaouci, A., Pellegrino, A., and Taylor, E.J. (1993). Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal. *Population and Development Review*, Vol. 19(3), pp. 431-466.

¹² The share of households that received remittances in each municipality is extracted from the Household Budget Survey Data of 2011.

¹³ Lucas, R. E. B., 2005. International Migration Regimes and Economic Development. Manuscript.

their socio-economic situation as 'bad' are more likely to migrate compared to those who perceive it as 'good' in both rural and urban areas. Furthermore, urban individuals who perceive their socio-economic situation as 'average' are more willing to migrate compared to those who perceive it as 'good'.

Mainly the region dummy indicators are significant across both regressions. However, residence in Mitrovica appears significant only in rural areas, whereas residence in Gjakova is significant only in urban areas. More precisely, compared to those in Prishtina, rural individuals residing in Mitrovica are more willing to migrate whereas urban individuals residing in Gjakova have a lower willingness to migrate. The results for the other regions are in line with the results of the overall sample. The separate regressions also suggest that gender is only significant for rural areas, indicating that there are no significant differences in the willingness to migrate amongst men and women in urban areas. On the other hand, men residing in rural areas are more willing to migrate than women in rural areas.

The results also suggest that there are significant differences in the results of asset ownership indicators between urban and rural areas. None of the asset ownership indicators appear as significant in the urban regression, whereas most of the indicators appear as significant for rural areas. Also, and different from the results of the overall sample, ownership of a vehicle seems to matter for individuals in rural areas; ownership of a vehicle increases the willingness to migrate in rural areas, whereas the opposite holds for individuals who own livestock.

The results for the age indicators differ between rural and urban areas. With regards to rural areas, all age indicators are significant and have the expected sign. More precisely, compared to individuals aged 35-54, those aged 18-24 and 25-34 are more willing to migrate in rural areas, whereas only the latter age group is significant in urban areas. The indicator for the oldest age group (55 and over) on the other hand, appears important only in the regression for rural areas, however only at 10 percent significance level.

The results for education indicators suggest that education is an important indicator of willingness to migrate for urban areas, the lower the education level, the higher the effect. More precisely, urban individuals with primary or less than primary education or with secondary or less than tertiary education are more willing to migrate compared to highly educated individuals. However, the education level of the individual does not seem to matter in rural areas. This implies that there are no significant differences in willingness to migrate amongst poorly or highly educated rural individuals, and this result is also in line with those for the overall sample.

Additionally, in line with the overall sample results, marital status in rural areas has a significant impact in the willingness to migrate. More specifically, single individuals are less willing to migrate than their married counterparts. Contrary to the overall sample results, marital status in urban areas is not a significant predictor of the willingness to migrate, which tends to suggest that there is no difference in willingness to migrate between urban married and urban single individuals.

Moreover, household income in general does not appear to be an important determinant of an individual's willingness to migrate in urban areas. However, in line with the overall sample results, the separate regression results suggest that it matters for

individuals in rural areas. Although the richer households are expected to be better equipped to meet the financial costs of migration, it is not clear whether they are willing to migrate. Richer households have less incentive to have someone migrate, given the fact that they may be able to provide income generation activities in the home country, such as a household business.¹⁴ This is also supported by our results, as rural individuals with household income in the range of €451-€750 and over €750 are less willing to migrate when compared to those with household income in the range of €151-€450. In other words, rural individuals stemming from richer households are less willing to migrate when compared to those coming from households with lower income. The indicator of no income and income group up to €150 appear as insignificant.

Also, similar to the overall sample results, most of the occupation dummy indicators are insignificant in both areas, except for pensioners/housewives who are less willing to migrate than employed individuals. This implies that there are no significant differences in the willingness to migrate amongst employed individuals with different occupations, except for pensioners/housewives. The unemployment indicator is also statistically insignificant across regressions for both rural and urban areas, and this result is in line with the finding of Drinkwater and Ingram (2010) for most of the states their study has been concerned with.

Lastly, the results suggest that the migration network matters only for urban households. The indicator appears as highly significant and has a positive effect on urban individuals' willingness to migrate. In addition to the above, the remittance indicator is not a significant predictor of the willingness to migrate.

¹⁴ Waddington, H., and Sabates-Wheeler, R., (2003). How Does Poverty Affect Migration Choice? A Review of Literature. Sussex University *Working Paper T3*.

Table 3: Regression Results

Variables	Marginal Effects		
	Overall Sample Coefficients (Standard Errors)	Rural Coefficients (Standard Errors)	Urban Coefficients (Standard error)
Remittances	-.0229 (.0357)	-.0158 (.0487)	-.0355 (.0547)
SE 'bad'	.4523*** (.0625)	.3178*** (.1060)	.6158*** (.0641)
SE 'average'	.2109*** (.0453)	.0509 (.0693)	.3768*** (.0574)
Land asset ownership	-.0132 (.0400)	-.0608 (.0612)	.0481 (.0565)
Vehicles Ownership	.0133 (.0411)	.1309** (.0591)	-.0857 (.0558)
Livestock Ownership	-.0845* (.0453)	-.1092** (.0555)	-.0765 (.1070)
Age 18- 24	.3219*** (.0616)	.4647*** (.0846)	.1471 (.0910)
Age 25-34	.2796*** (.0482)	.3363*** (.0662)	.2164*** (.0756)
Age 55 and over	.0871 (.0689)	.1986* (.1107)	-.0205 (.0924)
Single	-.0968** (.0436)	-.1804*** (.0577)	-.0114 (.0657)
Primary education or less	.0585 (.0651)	-.0346 (.0844)	.1803* (.0982)
Secondary/less than tertiary education	.0847** (.0424)	.0418 (.0584)	.1307** (.0611)
Income up to €150	.0333 (.0726)	.0325 (.1219)	.0151 (.0983)
No income	.0593 (.0759)	-.0658 (.0999)	.1058 (.1122)
Income €451-€750	-.0356 (.0411)	-.1173** (.0523)	.0087 (.0665)
Income over €750	-.0988* (.0411)	-.1720*** (.0523)	-.0954 (.0665)

	(.0531)	(.0649)	(.0775)
Refuse to answer	-.0805 (.0867)	-.1529 (.0971)	.0129 (.1544)
Unemployed	.0111 (.0426)	.0257 (.0606)	-.0261 (.0655)
Temporarily employed	-.0098 (.0756)	-.1271 (.0793)	.0983 (.1346)
Pensioner or housewife	-.3019*** (.0479)	-.2380*** (.0862)	-.3455*** (.0569)
Student	.0053 (.0600)	-.0182 (.0862)	.0140 (.0851)
Mitrovica	.0547 (.0612)	.1923** (.0933)	-.1107 (.0800)
Prizren	-.1873*** (.0434)	-.1258* (.0677)	-.2828*** (.0560)
Peja	-.2521*** (.0449)	-.1832** (.0722)	-.3355*** (.0521)
Ferizaj	-.2187*** (.0467)	-.2415*** (.0553)	-.2154*** (.0788)
Gjakova	-.1668*** (.0577)	.0243 (.1039)	-.3288*** (.0522)
Gjilan	-.2930*** (.0360)	-.1749*** (.0665)	-.3987*** (.0351)
Gender	.0737** (.0345)	.1065** (.0492)	.0278 (.0500)
Migration Network	.0067** (.0031)	-.0010 (.0044)	.0143*** (.0046)
Household size	.0059 (.0054)	.0042 (.0070)	.0088 (.0089)
Urban/rural	.0462 (.0366)		

*, **, *** - significant level at 10%, 5%, and 1%, respectively

V. Conclusion

Considering the large waves of migrants towards EU over the last past months, Group for Legal and Political Studies has conducted a survey with 1000 individuals, which has been administered by Ubo Consulting. Using data from this survey this analysis first aimed at constructing potential migrant's profile and, second, to assess empirically the factors that influence individuals' willingness to migrate by utilizing a probit model. Given the fact that so far the Government of Kosovo has lacked a serious approach to tackle the problem of illegal migration, the study aims to identify the factors that should be addressed by policy makers in order to prevent similar waves of illegal migration in the future. The results suggest that 37.2 percent of individuals surveyed are willing to migrate and that the three main reasons behind this are: lack of hope that the socio-economic and political situation will improve in the near future, bad economic situation and a search for a better life. On the other hand, some of the main reasons that would convince individuals not to migrate are: finding a stable job with an average wage, employment opportunities for other members of the household, visa liberalization, and seasonal employment opportunities. The majority of citizens (roughly 88%) consider that the Government of Kosovo is the institution most responsible for the current migration situation.

In terms of potential migrant profiles, the data suggests that the willingness to migrate is higher amongst individuals residing in Mitrovica and Prishtina, urban areas, both married and single, young (15-34 years), with no or low household monthly income, unemployed, private sector employees, and those who perceive their socio-economic situation as bad, amongst others. In terms of education, the willingness to migrate is the highest amongst individuals with a secondary level education. The probit model results for the overall sample suggest that compared to individuals residing in Prishtina, those residing in the rest of the regions are less willing to migrate. Moreover, individuals who perceive their socio-economic situation as 'bad' or 'average' are more willing to migrate compared to those who perceive it as 'good'. Also, the willingness to migrate is higher among young individuals in the age group 18-34, as compared to the age group 35 to 54, and among individuals who have completed secondary education or some years of university as compared to the ones with tertiary or higher education.

Empirical results suggest that region, age, household income, education, marital status and migration networks have a significant impact on the individuals' willingness to migrate. More precisely, the results suggest that in general individuals in Prishtina have a higher willingness to migrate compared to those residing in other regions. Rural residents of Mitrovica however, have a higher willingness to migrate compared to Prishtina highlighting once again the residents of this region as most willing to migrate. Young individuals are also found to have a higher willingness to migrate as compared to the base group (35-54 years). Those who perceive their socio-economic situation as bad or average in general have a higher willingness to migrate compared to those who perceive it as good. The willingness to migrate is lower amongst single individuals compared to married ones and presence of migration networks positively impacts the willingness of individual to migrate. In terms of education, attainment of secondary or less than tertiary education increases the willingness to migrate compared to higher education.

VI. Recommendations

Given the high willingness of Kosovo citizens to migrate and the recent flux of migrants, policymakers should utilize the findings (causes and characteristics of potential migrants) of this analysis to orient their policy solutions in the right direction and prevent a similar flux of migrants in the future.

1) More precisely, the Government of Kosovo should create conditions for new employment opportunities, especially for youth and individuals with no or low monthly income, who the analysis suggests are most willing to migrate. Therefore, an important priority of the government should be the development of the private sector and to attract foreign direct investments, among other things, by improving the business climate through fighting corruption and establishing the rule of law.

2) The government should have a more proactive approach towards the negotiation and signing of agreements for seasonal employment with EU countries, US, Canada, Australia, as well as touristic countries, especially those that need a low and medium skilled workforce. The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare should focus on providing short-term professional education/vocational training that prepare potential candidates for seasonal employment.

3) As the profile of migrants suggests that some regions of Kosovo are more inclined to migrate, the concentration of government policies and investment aimed at preventing illegal migration should have a regional focus. In this dimension, individuals from the Mitrovica region are most willing to migrate; hence the government should orient seasonal employment opportunities and investment towards this region and other regions with high willingness to migrate.

4) The migrant profiles show that the potential migrant is not necessarily an unemployed individual. The high willingness to migrate among private sector employees reflects the uncertainty and dissatisfaction in the workplace due to employments without contracts, delays in obtaining wages, lack of insurance and risk in the workplace, amongst others. This is as a result of the failure of government (?) institutions to ensure that private employers guarantee the rights of workers. Therefore, the government should strengthen the control of institutions responsible for guaranteeing workers' rights, and these institutions, the Labor Inspectorate in particular, should be more responsible in carrying out their duties in order to ensure that the rights of workers guaranteed by law are respected, thus increasing the trust and satisfaction of citizens towards the private sector.

5) Given that most of the individuals who are willing to migrate have completed secondary education, the government should draft post-secondary professional education and training programs as a measure of developing individuals' skills and the creation of employment opportunities, especially for young individuals. The aforementioned education and trainings should reflect the actual needs of the labor market in Kosovo and those of foreign direct investors.

Appendix I

Table A: Urban/rural differences in characteristics of the individuals willing to migrate

Variables	Urban	Rural
Dependent		
Willingness To Migrate	39.80	34.76
Independent		
<i>Regions</i>		
- Prishtina	48.02	40.36
- Mitrovica	52.34	56.40
- Prizren	41.01	35.27
- Peja	39.57	17.40
- Ferizaj	35.21	22.70
- Gjakova	38.93	43.10
- Gjilan	11.25	18.18
Gender		
- Male	39.09	37.69
- Female	40.47	31.75
Perception of Socio-economic Situation		
- Bad	60.14	52.99
- Medium	41.32	32.42
- Good	12.13	30.33
Received Remittances	23.77	33.46
Land and Real Estate Ownership	49.67	66.34
Vehicles/ Tractor Ownership	46.40	72.28
Livestock Ownership	6.21	38.21
Age		
- Age 18-24	46.60	43.80
- Age 25- 34	48.15	43.23
- Age 35- 44	32.72	23.30
- Age 45 - 54	39.07	26.90
- Age 55- 64	33.38	37.76
- Age 65 and over	3.12	8.32
Marital Status		
- Married	35.87	31.85
- Single	45.26	38.00
- Divorced	100.00	100.00
- Widow	25.04	0.00
- Co-habitation	100.00	100.00
Household Income		
- Up to €150	48.82	49.33

- €151 to €450	36.21	35.42
- €451 to €750	39.77	34.32
- €751 to €1200	36.13	30.92
- €1200 and over	27.78	50.00
- No income	50.65	33.73
- Refused to answer	38.09	27.27
Education Distribution		
- Primary education or lower	13.97	12.28
- Secondary education	46.78	56.63
- Less than tertiary education	20.08	13.06
- Associate degree	1.64	2.38
- University degree	13.15	15.05
- Masters/PhD degree	4.38	0.59
Occupation		
- Unemployed – looking for a job	22.71	25.35
- Unemployed –not looking for a job	2.19	2.97
- Employed in the public sector	3.83	6.94
- Employed in the private sector	31.06	29.69
- Temporary Employed	5.49	4.36
- Pensioner	1.64	1.19
- Housewife	11.89	12.08
- Student	19	15.64
- Self-employed	2.19	1.78

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Policy Analysis

Policy Analysis in general is a policy advice paper which particularly aims to influence the key means through which policy decisions are made in both local and central levels of government. The purpose of Policy Analysis is to address, more in-depth, a particular problem, to examine the arguments related to a concerned policy, and to analyze the implementation of the policy. Through Policy Analysis, Group for Legal and Political studies seeks to stimulate wider comprehensive debate on the given issue via presenting informed policy-relevant choices and recommendations to the key stakeholders and parties of interest.