

RRPP: Migration and development in Albania and Macedonia: the effects of remittances on education and health of family members left behind

NEWSLETTER

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This newsletter will give information on all of the relevant events, project outputs and project implementation for the period May –July 2012.

Project description: *Analytica* and *ACSER* are implementing the RRPP funded project *Migration and development in Albania and Macedonia: the effects of remittances on education and health of family members left behind* from February 2012 till June 2013. Albania and Macedonia as a small developing countries have high dependency on remittances which play an important role both in providing complementary social protection, poverty alleviation etc. Beside their important microeconomic impact, remittances have a key role on both education and health outcomes of the family members left behind.

Project aim: The project aims to inspect the impact of remittances on health and education outcomes of the family members left behind, particularly in Macedonia and Albania and to test the main hypothesis of whether remittances have positive influence on the two subjects.

Methodology: The methodology includes a comprehensive literature review, 2 surveys in the respective countries, descriptive and econometric analysis of the attained survey results. The end product

is to be two empirical working papers and a policy paper containing recommendations to the respective authorities based on the research results.

I. RESEARCH PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONTEXT ANALYSIS PAPER

The Context analysis paper follows the aim of offering better understanding of the migration pattern and development in both countries and seeks to provide assessment of the context of the migration, remittances, education and healthcare in Albania and Macedonia. The paper can be accessed at:

http://analyticamk.org/images/stories/files/ContextAnalysis_01072012.pdf

SURVEY DESIGN

This survey is the main methodological tool which will give answer to our main research questions. It is composed of 60 questions and structured in a way that collects information about socio-demographic characteristics, household characteristics, questions about the standard of living, migration experience as well as questions about health and education outcomes. The target group is children of the age group 6-14, while the interviewees will be their mothers. Proportional distribution of migrant and non-migrant families, geographical, ethnic and ru-

ral-urban distribution in both countries will be taken into consideration in order to respect the appropriate sampling criterion.

SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

Following the design of the questionnaire, preparatory activities and pilot interviews have been undertaken place to improve and test the questionnaire. By targeting mothers the survey attempts to collect individual, household characteristics and child education and health outcomes. The collected data will be used to perform a comparative analysis regarding the impact of remittances on education and health of children emphasizing similarities and differences in the Macedonian and Albanian context. The interviewing has started on the 1st of July and will run until the end of August 2012.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR ANALYTICAL

For the purpose of enriching the research on the Western Balkans and emphasizing the importance of remittances and their impact in the long term, Analytica issued a Call for papers for the Journal Analytical (www.analyticalmk.com). The topic is the same, but it welcomes research from the whole region of Southeast Europe. Analytical Journal invites articles that address these issues from any perspective. Analyses utilizing different

methodologies will be welcomed.

The deadline for the abstracts was 31st May 2012 and we received and accepted 7 abstracts. The deadline for the submission of final papers is 15th September 2012. For more information, please contact: astojilovska@analyticamk.org.

II. CONFERENCES/TRAININGS

SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

Ana Stojilovska, Analytica and Teuta Saka, ACSER attended the second RRPP training on 3-4 May 2012 in Skopje. This training is a Workshop on academic writing and was run by Dr Simone Baglioni and Dr Ross Campbell, Glasgow School for Business and Society, Glasgow Caledonian University (UK). The motto of the workshop was “Publish or perish” and had the aim to provide young academic scholars tips, aspects, details etc. on how to get their work published in a scientific journal. The training was about preparing abstracts, structure of academic papers, the language use, proofreading procedures, peer-reviewing etc. This workshop provided sessions for a deeper appreciation of the demands in academic writing, the skills and techniques required, as well as enabled one-to-one interaction for improving the participants’ writing skills.

THIRD RRPP TRAINING IN BUDVA

From 20 -22 June 2012 Jovanka Joshevska, Analytica and Teuta Saka, ACSER

attended the training on qualitative methods in Budva, Montenegro. The lecturer was Ms. Liz Spencer, a Research Director in the Qualitative Research Unit at the National Centre for Social Research in UK. The training included theories of interviewing and on different kinds and degrees of structure of an interview, including semi – structured and in-depth interviews, focus groups and similar.

RRPP ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE 2012

On 25-26 May 2012 in Sarajevo, Ana Stojilovska, Analytica and Isilda Mara and Edlira Narazani, ACSER attended the RRPP Annual Scientific Conference 2012. The title of the conference is “Social, Political and Economic Change in the Western Balkans” <http://www.rrpp-westernbalkans.net>. The conference gathers approximately 100 researchers from the region and beyond (mainly PhD students) and aims to provide a platform for scientific exchange, as well as regional and international networking. It served as a forum for the RRPP grantees and other researchers to present their scientific projects, papers or PhD thesis.

The beginning and the end of the conference was reserved for general presentations and discussions, while the core of the conference was the presentation of the projects and papers in theme-focused workshops. The workshop in which the team participated was called “Migration,

diaspora and development”. Ana Stojilovska presented this RRPP project at the panel together with Isilda Mara and Edlira Narazani.

This year RRPP has also organized a Research Market at the conference in order to ensure the visibility of the produced knowledge in the region (and RRPP related publications), as well as better networking among researchers and institutions in the region. The Research market was an opportunity for all interested to present their organization, research publications and books at one place. Analytica and ACSER disseminated their publication either from RRPP or from other projects.

GDN 13th SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE Budapest June 2012

Edlira Narazani, ACSER attended the 13th Annual conference of Global Development Network organized in Budapest on the 16-19th of June where she presented the project to an international audience.

Following activities:

Next activities as of August 2012 include continuing the survey implementation, after what statistical and econometric analysis of the gathered data will follow. Also, a second team meeting will take place in September as well as one researcher per organization will participate at the forth RRPP training in Kosovo.



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