

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

NEWSLETTER

October 2012 / Issue 3

This newsletter will give information on all of the relevant events, project outputs and project implementation for the period August –October 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 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

SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

By targeting mothers the survey attempts to collect

information on both individual and household characteristics as well as on 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 left behind emphasizing similarities and differences in the Macedonian and Albanian context. The interviewing has started on the 1st of July 2012 and has ended on 31st of October 2012.

In Macedonia 193 questionnaires have been conducted in the city of Skopje (the urban area and its surrounding rural areas), while in Albania 95 questionnaires were done.

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 deals with the same issues as the project, however 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 submission of final papers was 15th September 2012. The collected papers are being reviewed. The issue will be published in November 2012.

II. CONFERENCES/TRAININGS FOURTH RRPP TRAINING IN PRISHTINA

From 13th till 15th of September 2012 Jovanka Jovshevska from Analytica attended the workshop on the theory and practice of sampling in the social sciences in Prishtina, Kosovo. The lecturers were Prof. Dr. Marco Steenbergen and Mr. Kushtrim Veseli from the University of Zurich, Department for Political Science. During this training the participants worked on sampling in qualitative and quantitative research as well as on data analysis by using STATA. They also learned how to conduct simple random sampling, stratified random sampling; cluster sampling and multi-stage sampling and sampling for longitudinal and multilevel research. The training also included practical use of different sampling by using STATA software.

III. MEETINGS

SECOND TEAM MEETING

From 31.09-02.09 2012 ACSER and Analytica had their second team meeting in Tirana, Albania. At the meeting the progress of survey implementation in both countries was discussed as well as the obstacles to achieving greater number of completed samples. It was decided to extend the questionnaire conducting period for the purpose of having greater number of conducted questionnaires. This meeting was also

used as training on use of data entry and analysis in STATA. It was decided that the econometric analysis will be presented in 2 tables. The first will be for statistics showing all household characteristics, the characteristics of the migrant and of the non-migrant cases. In this context, relevant for our research, the child health status will be measured by 1) chronic disease; 2) weight-height ratio; 3) visits to the doctor. The education level will be measured by 1) school attendance; 2) private schooling; 3) age-education proportion. Also, important is the choice of valid instrumental variables that in the case of our research should be connected to migration, but not to the dependent variable - health or education outcome. In our case, this instrumental variable will be proxied by the variable whether household has experienced migration before the 80ties (up till 1989, also including this year). The second table will show which of the factors for health and education (mentioned for each 1-3 in the upper text) have significant impact on the dependent variable (health or education status).

Following activities:

Next activities as of November 2012 include statistical and econometric analysis of the gathered data in STATA and preparation of the working papers and the final paper.



This newsletter is prepared in the framework of the Regional Research Promotion Programme in the Western Balkans (RRPP), which is run by the University of Fribourg upon a mandate of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent opinions of the SDC and the University of Fribourg and neither the views of the organizations that the authors work for. Please address any correspondence to: Ana Stojilovska, Analytica think tank, e-mail: astojilovska@analyticamk.org.