

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 November 2012 – January 2013.

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.

RESEARCH PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES

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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). This edition of *Analytical* called *Migration and development: the effects of remittances on education*

and health of family members left behind is devoted to the state of migration and remittances' development and their role in the recipient countries of the region and beyond, as well as the remittances' impact on the families left behind. We believe that with this issue of *Analytical* we contribute to the increasing of the understanding of remittances and their impact at national level but also at regional level. Drawing from the experiences of the countries in the region and beyond, the selected papers in this Journal's edition try to present some new insights and raise interesting points regarding the mentioned issues. Their arguments range from the positive to the negative impacts of remittances on the family members left behind and discussed the situation in Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine focusing on various aspects of migration and remittances.

The issue was published at the website of the journal: http://www.analyticalmk.com/files/2012/02/J_IX_2012.pdf

SURVEY SUMMARY

During the period from 1st of July 2012 till 31st of October 2012 the survey was conducted in Macedonia and Albania. By targeting mothers, the survey attempted to collect information on both individual and household characteristics as well as on child education and health outcomes. In Macedonia 193 questionnaires have been conducted, while in Albania 94 questionnaires. The brief summary of the surveys in the two countries is given below.

Macedonia

Participants of this study are mothers of children at the age of 6-14. From total 193 respondents, 39.9% (77) have a family member abroad and 60.1% (116) do not have a family member abroad. The average age on the mother is from 24 to 59 years old. All of the respondents

live in Skopje. 36.3% (70) of the respondents live in a rural area and 63.7% (123) live in the urban area of the city of Skopje. 94.8% (183) of the respondents are married, 3.1% (6) are divorced and 2.1% (4) is a widow. Structure of the respondents regarding their ethnic origin is as follows: 24.4% (47) - Macedonian, 67.9% (131) - Albanian, 4.1% (8) are Turks, 2.6% (5) are Roma and also 1% (2) other. 24.4% (45) are orthodox and 74.1% (143) are Muslim. The education structure of the respondents is as follows: 3.6% (7) did not complete primary education, 40.4% (78) completed primary education, 31.1% (60) completed secondary education, 6.7% (13) completed college and 18.1% (35) completed university. The employment structure of the respondents is as follows: 17.1% (33) of the respondents are employed in the private sector, 17.6% (34) are employed in the public sector, 39.9% (77) are unemployed, 24.9% (48) are housewives and only one respondent is a pensioner. The majority of the respondents are housewives, 51.3% (99) and 4.7% (9) are primary teaching professionals, 3.6% (7) are secondary teaching professionals, 4.1% (8) are shop sales person. Profession of the other respondents is medical doctors, medical assistant, pharmacist, police officers, photographers, philologists, market salesperson etc. Majority of the respondents live in a household with 4 members (52.8%), which means a family with 2 children at the age of 6-14.

Albania

Some preliminary results of 94 interviewed mothers in urban and rural areas suggest that migration and remittances play an important role to Albanian families and particularly to the education and health outcomes of children in the age group 6-15. More than 50 % of households have family members abroad and in 15% of the cases the member abroad is a husband, 38% is a brother or a sister and the rest have different relationships as mother, father, relatives etc. In more than 50% of the cases the interviewed mothers confirm to receive remittances from the family members abroad. The frequency of

receiving remittances appears to be mainly on monthly bases or once a year respectively for one fourth of the mothers, and for the rest the delivery of remittances is rather sporadic or for important events. The average received remittances of amount ranges from 100 to 1000 Euro and more than a third of the mothers received remittances for periods longer than 10 years. Mothers also confirm that in 66% of the cases the received remittances support the family on their daily life expenses, and 10% are allocated to expenses related to health, 4 % to education related expenses and the rest for other reasons. Among the interviewed mothers we have also women with migration experience that ranges from 1 to 8 years, who returned mainly from Italy, Greece, UK and USA. The interviewed mothers, in more than 30% of the cases, have more than one child and the gender distribution is 53% girls and 47% boys. The detailed information collected about age, height, weight and health and education related indicators will allow us to analyse the potential effects of migration and remittances on the health and education outcomes of children.

STATISTICAL AND ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS

The statistical analysis is made on the gathered data from the surveys, such as summary statistics of the variables by migration experience (household characteristics, migrant characteristics, child characteristics and mother characteristics). The methodology on the child health and migration is also set up. These analyses will be used to compare the impact of migration and remittances on education and health achievements of children left behind from migration in Macedonian and Albanian contexts.

Following activities:

Next activities as of February 2013 include completion of the statistical and econometric analysis of the gathered data in STATA and preparation of the working papers and the final paper.



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