

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

This newsletter will give information on all of the relevant events, project outputs and project implementation for the period February 2013 – July 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 August 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

WORKING PAPER: EDUCATION OUTCOMES FROM MIGRATION AND REMITTANCES IN ALBANIA AND MACEDONIA

This paper provides analysis of the impact of migration and of remittances on education outcomes of the children left behind, by looking into the cases of Albania and Macedonia, countries that have experienced substantial outward migration in recent years.

For Albania the results of the study state that the hypothesis that the absence of the father might affect negatively the years of schooling of children left behind is confirmed only for the initial years of the migration experience considering that for longer stays the effect becomes positive. However, as concerns migration of the

mother, her absence in the long run negatively influences the education of the child suggesting migration of the mother would play a detrimental role. In addition, receiving remittances and allocating part of remittances to the education of the child plays an important and positive effect on the years of schooling and education of the children.

The main conclusion for Macedonia is that parental migration and the length of stay abroad of the parents is important, but remittances sent to the family member left behind have no significant impact on the education status of children. The absence of the father in short term has a negative impact, but his migration status in the long term contributes to better education attainment of the child i.e. probability of attending higher level of education, while the migration status of the mother in long term has negative impact on the probability of girls to attain higher education level.

The paper will be published in August 2013.

WORKING PAPER: IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON HEALTH OUTCOME OF CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND: THE CASE OF ALBANIA AND MACEDONIA

This paper analyses how remittances affect children's health outcomes. The research ques-

tion on the health outcomes is whether remittances and migration experience deteriorate or improve health outcomes of the non - migrants or family members left behind in Albania and Macedonia. Five model specifications are used as child health indicators: body mass index, weight, height, stunting (reduced growth primary due to malnutrition in early childhood) and obesity.

In the case of Albanian survey data, the results show that children living in migrant households are less likely to be stunted and shorter than those living in non - migrant households. The likelihood to be stunted is smaller for girls than boys and also decreases with age. Mother's education level is important for having less obese and shorter children while children living in rural area are more stunted than those living in urban area.

In the case of Macedonian survey data, it is seen that Macedonian children living in migrant households are more likely to have higher weight and body mass index (BMI) value but in the same time, higher possibilities for being obese. The possibility to be stunted and obese decreases as the child is growing. Mother's education is important for having less obese children, while living in a rural area makes the

obesity among children to be less likely.

The paper will be published in August 2013.

II. CONFERENCES/TRAININGS FIFTH RRPP TRAINING IN SKOPJE

From 11-12 April 2013 Jovanka Joshevska from Analytica attended the RRPP training on academic writing in Skopje. This training was run by Dr Simone Baglioni and Dr Ross Campbell, Glasgow School for Business and Society, Glasgow Caledonian University (UK). The workshop consisted of interactive sessions on the key features of academic writing, discussions on generic aspects on the skills and properties of high-quality published writing, group exercises to refine and enhance participant's skills and individual consultation on how to improve your writing.

RRPP ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE 2013

Jovanka Joshevska, Analytica and Teuta Saka, ACSER attended the 5th Annual RRPP Scientific Conference 2013 held on 24-26 May 2013 in Belgrade, Serbia. The conference title was "Social, Political and Economic Change in the Western Balkans" and gathered researchers from the region and beyond. The conference objectives are to provide opportunities for

researchers to exchange and discuss their research projects and results, to discuss the challenges and contradictions in the transformation process of the social sciences field within the Balkans and to discuss potential areas that may be addressed to more effectively influence policy development with the aid of scientific research results.

The main part of the conference was reserved for presentations from researchers dealing with the Western Balkans. There were five workshops wherein researchers involved in RRPP research projects and other researchers presented their scientific projects, papers or

PhD thesis. Jovanka Joshevska presented the initial findings for the case of Macedonia from RRPP funded project “Migration and development in Albania and Macedonia: the effects of remittances on education and health of family members left behind” in the workshop called “Migration, Diasporas and Remittances”.

The conference was completed with the round table “Do Politicians Need Scientists?” which aimed at exploring to what extent policy development and research are connected in the Western Balkans and what are the hindering factors and opportunities for bridging the gap between research and policy in the region.

RRPP also organized a Research Fair, which gave the opportunity for all interested to present their organizations, research publications and books.

Following activities:

Next activities are the preparation of the policy paper highlighting the relevant issues and policy recommendations from the project’s main findings and organization of a regional workshop in August 2013 at which the final project products will be presented and a regional debate on the impact of migration and remittances in the Western Balkan region will be initiated. ■

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