

**Workshop on Emigration
Issues in the Western Balkans -
Joint Approach to Linking
Migration and Development of
the Countries of Origin**

**Country Presentation
Republic of Macedonia**

Instead of Introduction

- ❑ **The Republic of Macedonia has been traditionally emigratory for more than a hundred years.**
- ❑ **The changes in the scope and the nature of emigration starting from 1945 until now correspond to the country's socio-economic development stages, and the changes in the migration policies of the receiving countries.**
- ❑ **In the last decades, the impact of the emigration abroad on the development of the country was caused by the changes in the scope and types of emigration, as well as the demographic and socio-economic features of the migrants.**

Contemporary Emigration Abroad – Changes and Trends -

- ❑ Concerning the contemporary emigration abroad from Republic of Macedonia four periods can be identified:
 - ✓ Period I, from 1945 to early sixties
 - ✓ Period II, 1961 - 1975
 - ✓ Period III, 1976 - 1990
 - ✓ Period IV, 1990 - until now

Number of Macedonian Citizens Abroad

- ❖ The data on emigration abroad, coming from administrative and statistical sources, can generally be qualified as incomplete.
- ❖ Today the number of the Macedonian citizens abroad could be estimated only with the available foreign data sources (World Bank data, Eurostat, data from the receiving countries records)
- ❖ According to all available data the total number of Macedonian citizens residing abroad in 2010 could be approximated at almost **550 thousand persons**, which amounts to **26%** of the total population in the country.
- ❖ **Top destination countries:** Australia, USA, Canada, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, Belgium, Sweden.

Types of Macedonian Emigration Abroad

- ❖ **In the pre-transitional period, the temporary economic emigration has been gradually transforming into a permanent one.**

According to the Population Census data the share of the family members in the total number of Macedonian citizens abroad increased from 3.6% (1971) to 49.5% (1994).

- ❖ **In the period 1990-2010, there were three types of Macedonian emigration abroad:**
 - ✓ *Permanent family emigration or family reunification*
 - ✓ *Temporary and circular emigration for employment and for other reasons (education, training, visits of the family members abroad)*
 - ✓ *Small number of Macedonian citizens have left the country illegally or sought international protection in other countries*

Demographic and Socio-Economic Features of the Migrants

The changes in the demographic and socio-economic features of the migrants are manifested by:

- Growing share of women in the overall migration contingent
- Significant increase of certain population contingents (children, young population, fertile female population)
- Enormous increase of the intellectual emigration (**emigration rate of tertiary-educated population** in the period 2000-2004 was **29.5%**)
- *Emigration from the rural areas* is prevailing, even with the significant increase of the emigration from the urban areas in the last two decades
- Continued inclination of migrants from particular parts of the country towards the same receiving countries, indicating the increased impact of the migration networks
- The *re-migration trends* since 1990 register a tendency of decline.

Consequences and Implications of the Macedonian Emigration Abroad

Impact on the demographic development

- **Total population of the country** (significantly decreased as a result of a considerable permanent emigration)
- **Natural population increase** - (more than 20,000 children were born abroad in the period 1994-2002, which is almost the annual number of live born children in the country in recent years)
- **Population ageing** – (increased direct and indirect influence of the emigration abroad on speeding up the process of demographic aging).
The age dependency ratios of young population decreased from 37.4% (1994) to 24% (2010), while the age dependency ratios of old population increased from 12.7% and 17% respectively.

Consequences and Implications of the Macedonian Emigration Abroad

Impact on the socio-economic development

- ❖ **Labour force and employment**
- ✓ Decrease of the working-age population in the country, especially in the rural areas
- ✓ Decrease of the young labour force, particularly in the agricultural sector and in certain occupation
- ✓ Growing intellectual emigration implies changes in the labour force quality and reduced level of the human capital in the country
- ✓ The employment rates remained at a very low level, and the unemployment rates remained very high recording 30%.

Consequences and Implications of the Macedonian Emigration Abroad

Impact on the socio-economic development

❖ Remittances and the development

- ✓ The remittances have large social and economic implications at the macro level and on the family members left behind
- ✓ All studies on remittances by migrants primarily point out to the very serious problem of lacking relevant data
- ✓ **The macro-economic impact** - the results of the recent GDN research shows that on average for the period 2003-2008, officially recorded remittances amounted to 10.4% of GDP, over 50.8% of the trade deficit and they are almost three times bigger than the foreign direct investments
- ✓ **Impact on the family members left behind** – remittances mostly are used for purchase of land, building or renovation of houses, purchase of vehicles and household interior, organisation of ceremonies. The cases of remittances being invested in business are rare.

Consequences and Implications of the Macedonian Emigration Abroad

The impact of the economic emigration abroad on the socio-economic development of the Republic of Macedonia is manifested through:

- **Insufficiently expressed short-term development effects**
- **Numerous and adverse long-term consequences and implications, particularly on the demographic development.**

RESOLUTION ON MIGRATION POLICY OF REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA 2009-2014

In 2009, The Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the Resolution on the Migration Policy for the 2009-2014 period.

Seeking to benefit from legal migration flows, with its policy of legal and free migration aimed at broadening the free economic initiative and free flow of capital, the Republic of Macedonia will create conditions conducive to a decreased emigration rate and to a utilization of its great development potentials.

Concerning the migration and development issues, the migration policy is focused on creating an efficient and transparent management of legal migration in accordance with the national development, especially the economic growth and demographic development.

RESOLUTION ON MIGRATION POLICY OF REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA 2009-2014

In respect of the migration and development issues the adopted migration policy includes the following aspects:

- ❖ Providing relevant data and information on the emigration
- ❖ Supporting temporary emigration and labor force circulation
- ❖ Deepening the connections with the emigrants and facilitating their return to the country
- ❖ Utilizing the development potentials of the emigration, particularly at the local level
- ❖ Mitigating the consequences of the intensive intellectual emigration

RESOLUTION ON MIGRATION POLICY OF REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA 2009-2014

Regarding the policy toward the Diaspora, the following measures have been planned:

- ✓ Establishment, maintenance and development of administrative registry of the population of Republic of Macedonia
- ✓ Introduction of a fully automated vital, i.e. registry records of the citizens (births, marriages and death registers)
- ✓ Measures for consistent application of the legal obligation for notice of departure/arrival of the Macedonian citizens upon leaving/returning to the country
- ✓ Diaspora mapping and creation of a database for distinct categories of migrants (businessmen, scientific workers, artists, students etc.) where the emigrants would register voluntarily

RESOLUTION ON MIGRATION POLICY OF REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA 2009-2014

- ✓ Supporting temporary emigration and circulation of workforce, including staff with higher education
- ✓ Measures for facilitation of return of citizens with legal stay abroad
- ✓ Creation of a policy for reduction of intellectual emigration (brain drain), return of highly educated persons from abroad („brain gain“), as well as reducing the unfavorable implications of intellectual emigration
- ✓ Measures for facilitation of the legal transfer of remittances and their productive utilization
- ✓ Mobilization of the diaspora development potentials for local economic development support.

Thank you for your attention