

Migration Profile

2015

Republic of Albania

Tirana 2016

This document presents the 2015 Migration Profile of the Republic of Albania. It is drafted and published based on paragraph 4 article 141 of Law no. 108/2013 "On aliens", amended. Information collected and data analysis to prepare this Profile is provided by official sources. Migration Profile approved by order of Minister of Internal Affairs is published on the official website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Albanian State Police. All rights reserved.

Unlike the Extended Migration Profile which consists of comprehensive and detailed information, this abridged Migration Profile is a useful tool with a limited number of pages that clearly show the areas of interest aiming at priorities and key problems, updated on annual basis.

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1. General Country Information

1.1. Surface area, population, bordering countries and borderline

Official designation	Albania
Capital	Tirana
Surface area	28,748 km ²
Population	4 329 326 (registered according to the National Civil Registration Office) 2 894 475 (inhabitants according to INSTAT)
Language:	Albanian is the official language of Albania. In addition to Albanian, Greek, Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian language are spoken in the territories inhabited by the minorities.
Border and bordering countries:	Total length: 1079 km (land: 717 km; sea: 362 km; Bordering countries: Montenegro 151 km, Kosovo 112 km, Macedonia 172 km, Greece 282 km)

1.2. Country characteristics

Albania is a parliamentary republic with three independent branches - legislative (Parliament), executive (government) and judiciary (courts). Albania has a territorial division into 12 regions of the country which capital is Tirana.

Even though at government level there is no coordinating structure or leader structure for migration, the administrative competences in the area of migration and asylum are intertwined and distributed among the government structures and other state bodies, whose rights and obligations are stated in the Albanian constitution and various legal and sub-legal acts.

The elaboration of responsibilities of authorities in charge of treatment of aliens is based on law 108/2013 "On aliens", amended. Ministry of Internal Affairs bears the main responsibility in the area of migration, integration and asylum. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the most important authorities for implementation are the General Directorate for Border and Migration in the Directorate of State Police and Directorate for Asylum.

Migration, as a critical global, European, regional and national problem, is a very important aspect of relations of the Republic of Albania with the neighbouring countries, EU Member States and other countries and it is a serious challenge in the context of efforts of Albania for European Union membership. Generally, Albania is still considered a country of origin for economic emigrants, transit and destination country for economic immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees. Migration

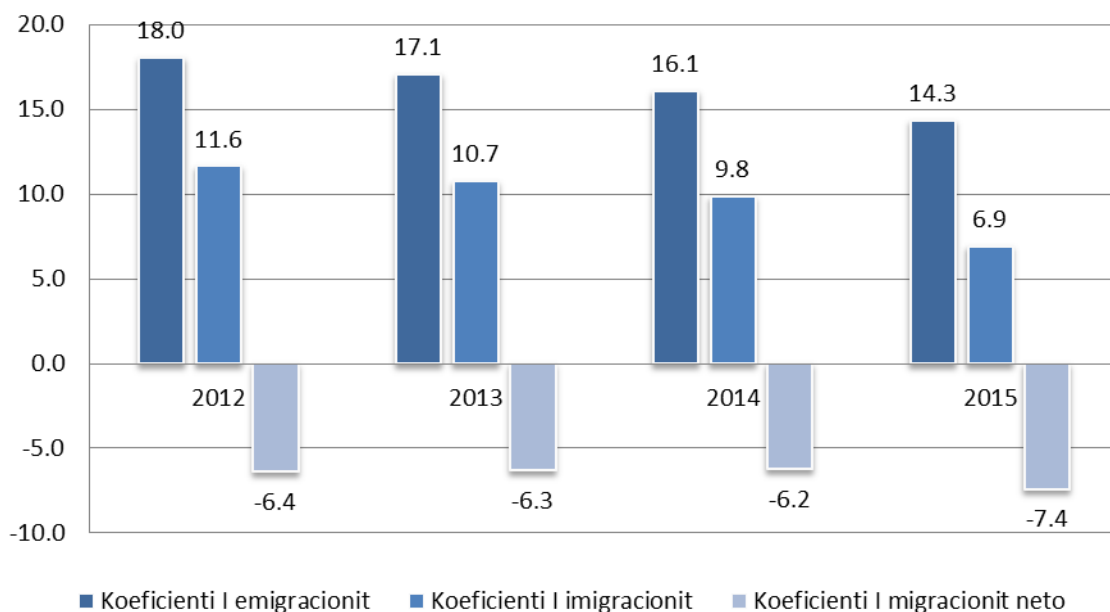
in the Albanian context is characterised more by international emigration of the local population and less by immigration of aliens in the country. During 2015, Albanian emigrants leaving the country outnumbered immigrants entering the country. Net migration rate marked a slight decrease from -6.4 persons per one thousand inhabitants in 2012 to -7.4 persons per one thousand inhabitants in 2015. This slight decrease is mostly attributed to the decrease of the immigrants flow.

2. Overall migration flows and migrant stock

2.1. Migration flows

After the nineties, Albania is dominated by migrant flows which may be considered intensive, irregular and evolving because of the combined action of economic and political push factors. Throughout the period it is observed a consistent migrant flow of Albanians to Greece, Italy and other EU countries, USA and Canada.

Figure 2.1. Dynamics of migration, 2012-2015 (*net migration = immigrants – emigrants*)



Source: INSTAT, 2016

Migration flows of aliens in Albania are low compared to the resident or migrant population. During the last decade, the total number of aliens residing in Albania has remained approximately at 0.3% of the local population and the origin of legal immigrants has not marked any significant changes. The table presents data on aliens residing in Albania compared to the resident and migrant population.

Table 2. 1. Migration flows, 2010-2015

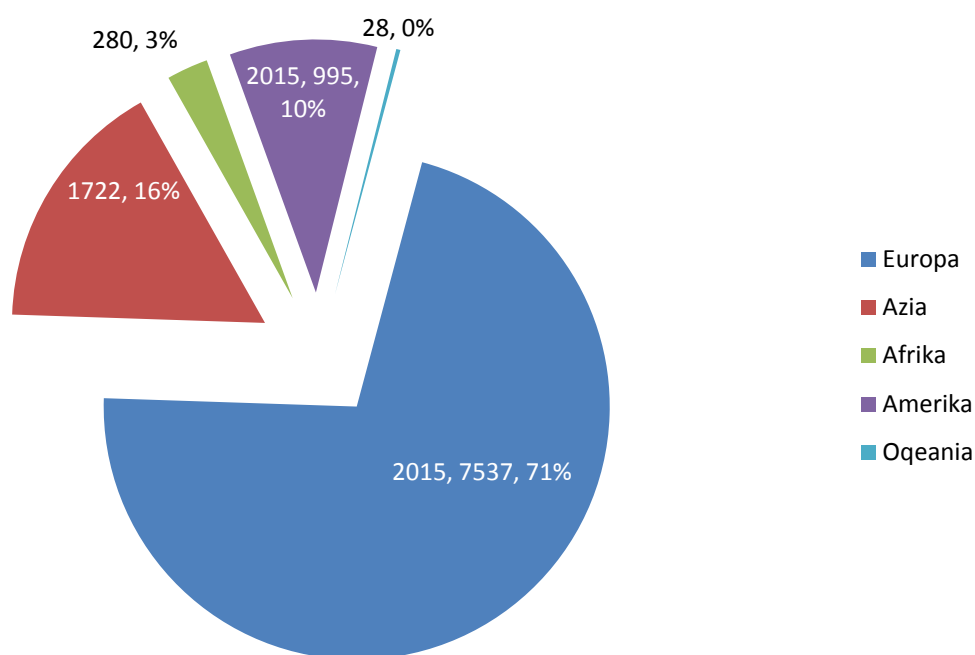
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Resident population in Albania	2900247	2896652	2893654	2889167
Registered immigrants	7353	8330	9118	10563

Source: INSTAT, General Directorate for Border and Migration, Tirana 2016 (processed data)

2.2. Migrant stock

On 1 January 2016 the number of aliens residing in Albania was 10562 or 0.3% of the population. In 2015, immigration from European countries occupied 71%, while 10% from the American continent, 16 % from the Asian continent, 3% from Africa and the number of emigrants from other states was insignificant.

Figure 2.2. Aliens residing in Albania by continent of origin on 1 January 2016



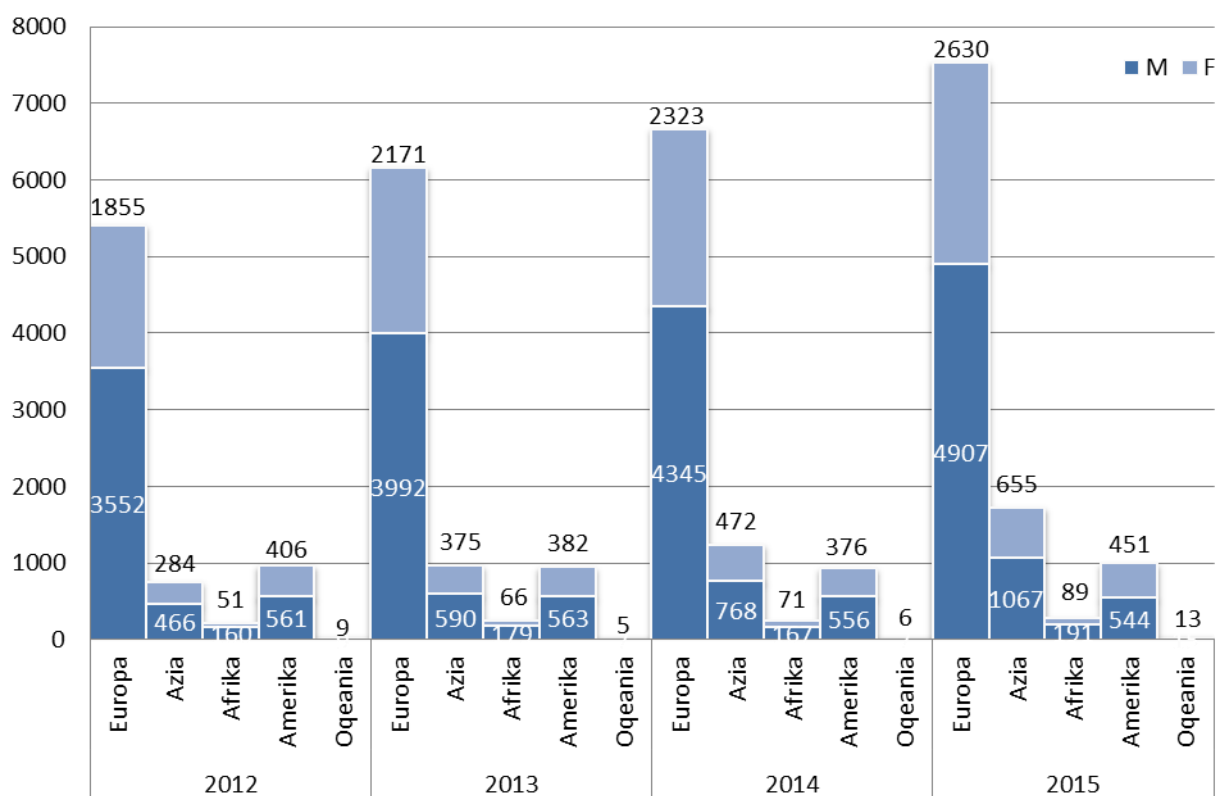
Source: FER-TIMS System in the Directorate of State Police, Tirana, 2016.

Migration flow of citizens from the countries of the region bordering (Kosovo- Macedonia- Montenegro- Serbia) is dominated mainly by ethnic Albanian citizens. Out of the total number of European immigrants in 2015, 28 % (2129) were Italian, 26% (1942) Turkish, 20% (1538) from the countries of the region (mainly Kosovo) and some 26% from other European countries. Almost half of Asian immigrants were asylum-seekers from Iran, 20% from China (339 persons), 8% from Syria (146) and 6% from India (101). Immigrants from the U.S.A constituted 65 % of the American

emigrants (650 persons), whereas immigrants from African countries occupied approximately 3% (280 persons) of the total number of immigrants (10562) in 2015.

Referring to the country of origin and gender of aliens, the figure below shows the migrant stock living in Albania in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Figure 2.3. Aliens residing in Albania by origin and gender, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015



Source: FER-TIMS System in the Directorate of State Police, Tirana, 2016.

3. Regular migration focused on migration for employment

3.1. State responsible authorities

The Ministry of Internal Affairs through the structures including the State Police (General Directorate for Border and Migration), Directorate for Asylum etc. is the main responsible authority for the management of migration and its integration. The General Directorate for Border and Migration under the State Police, as the authority responsible for the treatment of aliens who enter, transit or stay in the territory of the Republic of Albania, organised at national and local level, is responsible for the control of aliens and taking of decisions in relation to the visa application procedures by the aliens who intent to enter the Republic of Albania; border control as regards the conditions and criteria of entry, stay and transit in the Republic of Albania; provision of aliens with residence permits or extended stay etc.

Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth through its Directorates and the National Employment Service, performs its activity in line with the respective legislation in the field of development and monitoring of state policies for emigration concerning employment, education and vocational training, social standards, pensions, family, children and youth policies etc. This institution is responsible for permitting aliens to be employed at any time, including the professions.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the drafting and implementation of visa policy and negotiation of necessary acts of international cooperation in the field of migration; supporting the Albanian emigrants abroad and protecting their rights, organising the Albanian diaspora etc.

The Directorate of Consular Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the structure responsible for the treatment of aliens, drafting of policies of their entry and stay in the RoA. This directorate drafts the policies of the consular service activity, monitors and directs this activity.

3.2. Policy context

The institutions responsible for the handling of various aspects of migration in the Republic of Albania are responsible for implementation of special migration policies, component part of the overall migration policy according to the definitions in the legal and subordinate legal acts which govern migration policy in the Republic of Albania.

Changes of migration rules during the last years in the spirit of the EU legislation aimed at building a new platform of migration policies, for more partnership in global migration management. Thus, the Albanian legal framework (Law 108/2013 "On aliens" and the normative acts in implementing the law) has gone through several improvements as regards procedures for the travel documents, visas, employment, stay, family reunification etc.). During 2015, it was approved a Joint Order no. 265 dated 25.05.2015 on cooperation of structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and State Intelligence Service on the treatment of aliens staying regularly in the territory of the Republic of Albania.

The National Strategy for Employment and Skills 2014-2020 approved by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 818 dated 26.11.2014 has the overall objective to promote qualitative jobs and opportunities for skills for all Albanian males and females throughout the life cycle. The National Strategy for Employment and Skills is focused on four strategic priorities: promotion of decent employment opportunities through effective labour market policies, provision of qualitative education and vocational training for the youth and adults, promotion of social inclusion and territorial cohesion and strengthening of governance of labour market and qualification system.

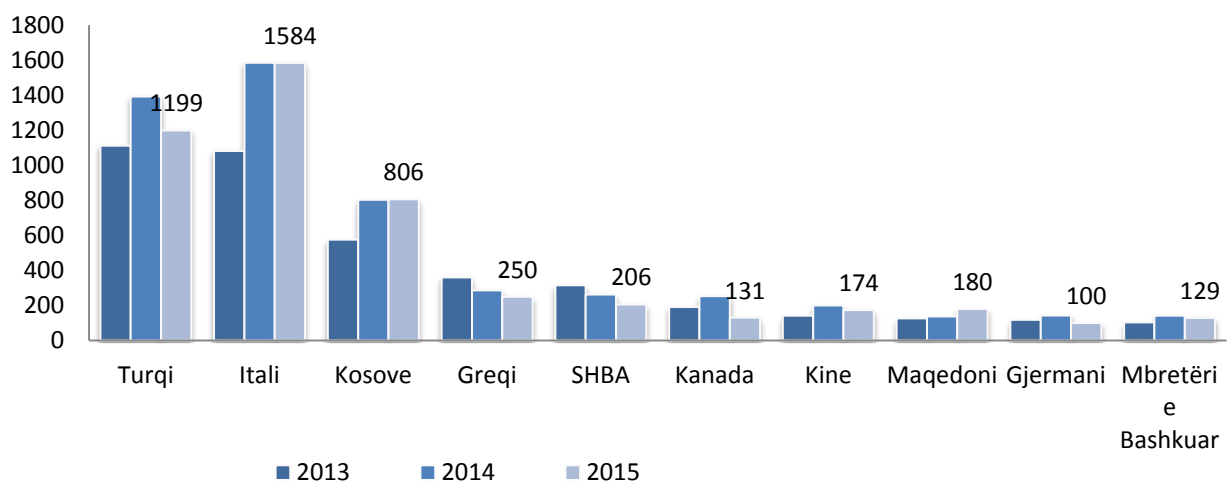
Migration policies and services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs include inter alia improvement and treatment of aliens in Albania by guaranteeing rights of aliens upon arrival to Albania and cooperation with other institutions dealing with aliens and facilitation of entry conditions of aliens in Albania through removal of seasonal visas and procedural improvement in visa issuing.

3.3. Statistics

The common grounds of residence permit application of aliens in Albania are employment activity, family reunification and study. The number of applications to obtain a residence permit in Albania in 2015 has remained the same even though migrant stock has increased by 16% compared to 2014.

During the last decade, the total number of aliens residing in Albania has remained approximately at 0.3% of the local population. Moreover, the number and origin of aliens who have applied for residence permit have not changed significantly. In 2012, some 74% of immigrants were of European origin, 10% Asian, 13 % American and 2% African. In 2013, 74 % were immigrants of European origin, 12% Asian, 11% American and 3% African. In 2014, 75% were immigrants of European origin, 13% American, 10 % Asian and the percentage of emigrants from other states was insignificant, some 1-2%. The figure presents the data on aliens who have applied for residence permit in Albania by citizenship.

Figure 3.1. Residence permit application by citizenship, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015



Source: FER-TIMS System in the Directorate of State Police, Tirana, 2016.

Referring to data of the Electronic Register of Aliens, it is observed a prevalence of the Italian and Turkish citizens who come to Albania for employment purposes. Therefore, among European immigrants in 2015, approximately 23% were Italians, 20% Turkish, 15% from Kosovo and Macedonia and 30% from other countries. Migration flows from Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia in 2015 continue to be dominated by those of Albanian nationality.

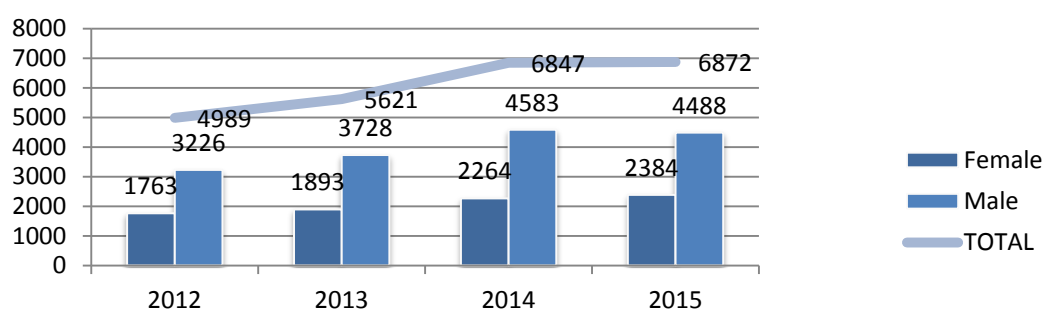
Table 3.1. Aliens residing in Albania by citizenship, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

State	2012	2013	2014	2015
Turkey	991	1112	1392	1199
Italy	893	1082	1585	1584
Kosovo	437	576	803	806
Greece	304	360	286	250
USA	461	315	262	206
Canada	206	191	253	131
China	169	142	200	174
Macedonia	122	126	137	180
Germany	120	118	143	100
United Kingdom	111	103	142	129

Source: FER-TIMS System in the Directorate of State Police, Tirana, 2016.

According to the data of the Electronic Register of Aliens (ERA) 6872 applications of aliens for residence permits were processed in 2015. The figure below shows the dynamics of residence permit applications in Albania during 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Figure 3.2. Aliens provided with residence permit by gender

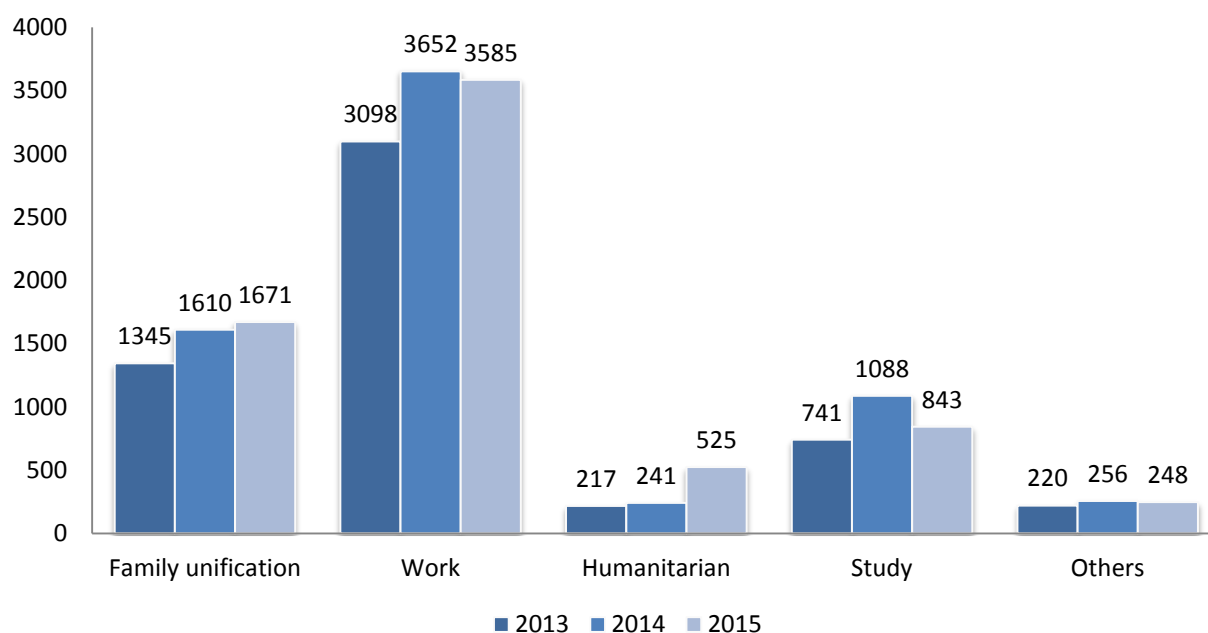


Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration, Tirana 2016

By the reason of stay, the highest number of aliens are those residing in Albania for employment purposes, for a period of over 12 months, mainly males, settled in the capital, Tirana. Data on aliens who applied for residence permit in the Republic of Albania by reason of stay during 2012, 2013,

2014 and 2015 is given in the following figure.

Figure 3.3. Aliens provided with residence permit by reason, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015



Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration, Tirana 2016

Concerning aliens coming to Albania for employment purposes, it is observed an increase of employment requests mainly by Italian citizens (1613 applications), Turkish citizens (1228 applications), Kosovo citizens (822 applications) etc, while the number of self-employed aliens is increased 8%, with the Italians on the top of the list.

Tirana is the region with the highest flow of aliens provided with work permits accounting for some 68% of aliens in 2015.

According to the sources of Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, the top position is occupied by the work permit applications for the category of employees (1802 in 2012, 1888 in 2013, 1792 in 2014 and 1300 in 2015). The second position consists of applications of the self-employed (258 work permits in 2012, 234 in 2013, 177 in 2014 and 203 in 2015). Referring to data of the General Directorate of National Employment Service, the issuing of work permits by Regional Directorates is presented in the following table.

Table 3.2. Distribution of work permits issued to aliens, by Employment Offices

Distribution of work permits	2012	2013	2014	2015
RDNES –Tirana	48 %	50 %	41.1%	38%
RDNES	20%	13.7 %	13%	27.1%
RDNES- Lezhë	1.3%	7.7 %	2.6%	7.8%
RDNES- Fier	9%	7.7 %	8.6%	6.3%
RDNES - Shkodër	2.6%	2.8%	1.41%	1.1%

RDNES - Durres	5.1%	5.7%	4.4%	5.9%
RDNES - Elbasan	3.3%	6.9%	14%	4.9%
Total	2499	2189	2054	1711

Source: General Directorate of NES, Tirana, 2016

As for work permit applications by investors, 8 work permits are issued during 2015.

The sector most attractive for employment of aliens is construction (19% in 2012, 25% in 2013, 31% in 2014 and 32.3% in 2015), followed by services (7% in 2012, 13% in 2013 and 17 % in 2014 and 15.7% in 2015), extractive industry (12% in 2012, 10% in 2013 and 14% in 2014 and 12% in 2015) and trade (15% in 2012, 12% in 2013, 9% in 2014 and 9% in 2015).

By citizenship, the top position is occupied by the non-EUMS citizens: Turkish (19% in 2012, 39.5% in 2013, 52% in 2014 and 51.8% in 2015), followed by Chinese (7.5% in 2012, 5% in 2013, 12% in 2014 and 10.9% in 2015) and Canadians (8% in 2012, 7% in 2013, 8 % in 2014 and 5.5% in 2015).

Table 3.3. Issue of work permits, by states

	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	WP	%	WP	%	WP	%	WP	%
Turkey	474	19	865	39.5	1068	52	888	51.8
China	188	7.5	112	5	248	12	188	10.9
Canada	195	8	156	7.1	162	7.8	95	5.5
India	17	0.6	37	1.7	54	2.6	57	3.3
Serbia	11	0.4	15	0.6	37	1.8	45	2.6
Egypt	26	1	47	2.1	32	1.5	44	2.57
Total	2499		2189		2054		1711	

Source: General Directorate of NES, Tirana, 2016

Aliens provided with work permits were mostly males (86.2% in 2012, 88.5% in 2013, 92% in 2014 and 89.5% in 2015).

During January - December 2015, **1693** aliens are provided with the Employment Declaration Certificate (EDC) of which:

By gender: 408 females and 1285 males are provided with EDC;

By citizenship: On top position are the citizens from Italy- 799 EDC; Kosovo - 227 EDC, Greece - 168 EDC and U.S.A. - 143 EDC;

By sectors: in the field of other service activities- 303 EDC; in the sector of trade, wholesale and retail, motor vehicles and motorcycles repair- 305 EDC; in the

sector of construction - 168 EDC; volunteers and religious missionaries - 165 EDC;

During January - December 2015, 274 aliens are provided with the Employment Registration Certificate (ERC) of which:

By gender: 62 females and 212 males are provided with ERC.

By citizenship: On top position are the citizens from Turkey- 92 ERC; China - 62 ERC, Canada - 17 ERC and South Korea - 16 ERC;

By professional status: volunteers and religious missionaries - 100 ERC; welders - 53 ERC and technicians - 46 ERC.

During 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, 180, 199, 194 and 274 persons respectively were exempt from the obligation to be provided with work permit. Most of exemptions in 215 are made for residents in Tirana (38.3%), Elbasan (32.8%), Rrëshen (5.4%) and Shkodra (5.1%).¹

Foreign employees without work permit, according to statistical indicators of inspections, constitute 10% of aliens in 2012, 4% in 2013, 1% in 2014 and 0.8% in 2015.

¹Directorate of Employment and Migration Policies, MSWY, Tirana 2016

4. Irregular Migration in the country

4.1. Responsible authorities

MIA through the structures including the State Police (General Directorate for Border and Migration, General Directorate Against Organised Crime and Serious Crimes), Directorate for Asylum, Anti-trafficking Directorate etc has the main responsibility in the areas of irregular migration. The General Directorate for Border and Migration through its central and local structures is responsible for prevention and fight against irregular migration through integrated border management; control of regularity of stay of aliens in the territory and taking of measures of voluntary removal, expulsion, detention of irregular aliens in the territory and their return to the country of origin or transit country from where they come; implementation of Readmission Agreements with other countries; reception, interviewing and selection of citizens returned in the border, and their information on the possibilities of reintegration in the country; regional and broader cooperation in the field of exchange of statistical data on illegal migration and early warning; identification and treatment of victims/potential victims of trafficking in persons in implementing the National Referral Mechanism and Standard Operating Procedures for identification, referral and assistance to potential victims of trafficking; including the unaccompanied minors as regards the fight against trafficking and smuggling of persons.

The General Directorate for Border and Migration in order to conduct effective control and manage irregular migration, cooperates and interacts with the Directorate for Asylum in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, that deals with cases of asylum, refugees in Albania. This directorate is the decision-making authority responsible for asylum and refugees, a responsible structure in the respective ministry for asylum and refugees. It is responsible for the handling of applications, processing, hearing and collection of other data necessary for the completion of documentation for each asylum application.

The Anti-trafficking Directorate deals only with the monitoring, coordination, promotion and orientation of the activity of central/local structures in issues of prevention and fight against trafficking in persons, in the framework of implementation of the National Strategy of Fight Against Trafficking in Persons.

4.2. Policy context

The Albanian legal framework (Law 108/2013 "On aliens" and sublegal acts implementing the law) has marked a lot of improvements even with regard to the procedures for the treatment of irregular aliens including fight against illegal migration, as well as unaccompanied children, illegal entry, stay, employment, fictitious marriages, carriers' responsibilities etc.

Law on asylum no. 121/2014 which is partially approximated with several Directives of the Council and European Parliament provides for the conditions and procedures for granting and cancelling asylum, supplementary protection and temporary protection in the Republic of Albania, rights and

obligations of asylum-seekers, refugees and persons under temporary and supplementary protection, right to family reunification and also definition of conditions for integration of refugees and persons under supplementary protection in the Republic of Albania.

National Strategy of Integrated Border Management 2014-2020 adopted by DCM no. 119 dated 05.03.2014 is designed for coordination and cooperation among all authorities and agencies involved in border security and trade facilitation, in order to improve effective and productive systems of integrated border management, aiming at reaching the common goal of open, but controlled and secure borders.

4.3. Statistics

During 2015 there was observed a decrease in the number of aliens, apprehended while attempting to transit illegally through Albania. Number of citizens apprehended during this year (2047) was 22 % lower than the number of aliens apprehended one year ago (2618). In 2014, some 33.8 % of them were apprehended inland, while 66.2 % in the vicinity of the state border and BCP. In 2015, some 25.4% of them were apprehended inland, while 74.6% in the vicinity of the state border.

The number of aliens irregular immigrants who were apprehended while attempting to enter illegally through the green border with Greece during 2015 was 1629. Compared to 2014, with 2328, it results that there is a decrease by 629 irregular immigrants. Aliens irregular immigrants who have transited through the territory of Albania are those citizens who are located in the part of Ioanninna and Igoumenitsa, Greece. Aliens irregular immigrants who are apprehended by the border and migration staff have declared that their aim was to transit through the country and reach the final destination in EUMS.

The number of aliens irregular immigrants who attempted to cross the green border illegally from Albania to Montenegro during 2015 decreased considerably from 94 in 2014 to 353 in 2015. Aliens irregular immigrants who are apprehended in the border with Montenegro did not apply for asylum or stay in Albania.

Before the local border and migration authorities they declared their intent to transit through the Balkan countries (Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia) as their final destination were EU countries and possibly Germany.

Table 4.1. Irregular aliens by country of apprehension, 2012 - 2015

Irregular aliens	2012	2013	2014	2015
in the border area	1068	959	1712	1527
at the BCP	26	11	17	-
inland	79	996	778	520
Total	1182	1978	2618	2047

Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration, Tirana 2016

Concerning the origin of aliens apprehended in attempt to cross the border illegally, the highest number corresponds to those coming from Syria (1.354), Eritrea (171), Congo (46), Somalia (118), while in 2015 it is observed a considerable decrease of apprehended citizens from Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan.

Table 4.2. Third country nationals by citizenship, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

State/Year	2012	2013	2014	2015
Algeria	439	66	-	-
Syria	163	543	1941	1354
Morocco	147	47	-	66
Afghanistan	127	138	35	-
Palestine	99	-	17	29
Tunisia	79	13	-	-
Pakistan	26	400	30	-
Congo	-	-	64	46
Guinea	-	11	19	58
Somalia	-	204	48	118
Sudan	--	82	44	31
Eritrea	-	274	324	171
Nigeria	-	38	-	-
India	-	13	-	-
Comoros	-	12	-	-
Iran - Iraq	-	-	-	70
Ghana	-	-	-	52
Other	102	132	96	52

Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration, Tirana 2016

Number of citizens who have been refused entry by BCPs (land, air, sea) and by year 2012-2015, is given in the table.

Table 4.3. Aliens refused entry by type of BCP, 2012, 2013, 2014

Border/Year	2012	2013	2014	2015
Land	278	209	366	290
Air	100	90	101	327
Sea	12	6	5	12
Total	390	305	472	629

Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration, Tirana 2016

Referring to the data in the following table, the reasons for refusal have been the missing travel and vehicle documentation, invalid documents, missing visa, exceeding the time limits of stay, lack of financial means and also failure to justify the purpose of travel.

Table 4.4. Aliens who have been refused entry by reason, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

Reason of refusal/Year	2012	2013	2014	2015
Invalid documentation, missing visa	225	152	169	129
Failure to justify the purpose	64	54	98	311
Exceeding the time limits of stay	7	16	43	17
System notification	9	6	25	10
Lack of financial means	11	10	6	6
Failure to meet the conditions of stay in the RoA	0	0	9	0
Other	74	67	124	156
Total	390	305	474	629

Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration, Tirana 2016

Albanian and foreign citizens who are returned by the police service of other countries in the border undergo special reception procedures, interviewing and then screening. Referring to data administered by the Anti-trafficking Directorate in the Ministry of Internal Affairs there are 4 foreign citizens (females) in 2015 identified as potential victims of trafficking, who are: 1 from the Philippine, 1 from Kosovo and 2 from the United Kingdom.

5. Return, readmission and re-integration

5.1. Responsible authorities

Ministry of Internal Affairs through the structure of the General Directorate for Border and Migration in the State Police is the main responsible authority for the drafting of return/readmission policy in relation to aliens who stay illegally in Albania and also for implementing the bilateral and multilateral legal instruments (readmission agreement) in order to follow and perform the return/readmission procedures of citizens, voluntary return, which implementation is assisted by the International Organisation for Migration in Albania IOM.

Implementation of return/readmission is supported by the liaison officers and Albanian consular staff abroad who participate in the practices of cooperation with the authorities of the respective countries in order to support the return of persons. Because of refusal of Albanian asylum-seekers in some EUMS, returns, upon termination of the asylum-seeking process, have been converted from a deportation nature into voluntary return. Bilateral talks anticipated the phenomenon of voluntary return mainly through special flights from EU member states including Germany, France, Great Britain, Sweden etc. Many flights of this nature are coordinated by Frontex (European Border and Coast Guard Agency).

The new re-integration process includes many institutions of central and local level dealing with implementation of policies for re-integration of repatriated persons. The most important are: Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, etc.

Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth through the re-integration programme supported by the International Organisation IOM etc is responsible for re-integration of Albanian returnees mainly to:

- include the category of Albanian returnees who have economic problems in the special group of unemployed job-seekers who benefit from the employment promotion programme;
- identify existing needs for the vocational training of Albanian returnees;
- provide free of charge training in the regional directorates of public vocational training of Albanian returnees who have economic problems;
- establish and make functional the Migration Counters in all the Local Employment Offices.

Ministry of Education and Sports is responsible for contributing to integration of aliens and Albanians returnees in the field of education, culture and science.

5.2. Policy context

When it comes to addressing illegal migration in order to ensure effective and sustainable return to Albania, voluntary return continues to be a priority. In accordance with the Return Directive, the return policy in Albania supports voluntary return of persons who are obliged to leave the territory of Albania. Sustainable return, readmission and re-integration policy of returnees; removal, expulsion, detention policy; policy of protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of immigrants and personal data protection; repressive measures and appeal policy; immigrants' integration policy

etc are expressed in the legal framework for aliens (Law 108/2013 "On aliens", amended by law 74/2016 and sublegal acts implementing the law). During 2015, it was approved the Instruction of the Minister of Internal Affairs no. 293 dated 04.06.2016 on the treatment of aliens staying irregularly in the territory of the Republic of Albania.

Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth through its directorates and National Employment Service, performs its activity in line with the respective legislation, in the field of development and monitoring of state policies for emigration and related issues: employment, education and vocational training and labour immigration, labour relations etc.

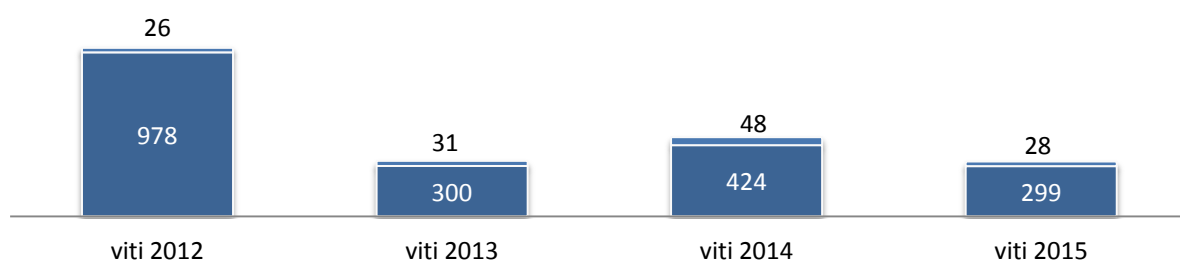
As of 2010, Migration Counters (MC) have been operating under the National Employment Service and they are set up in all the Local Employment Offices. Migration Counters are an important part of the mechanism of support for reintegration. These structures serve as key contact points at local level to collect detailed data for the Albanian returnees who approach them voluntarily. Migration Counters perform the following functions: i) interviewing Albanian citizens, returnees who approach the counters voluntarily; ii) giving information for public and private services in line with the identified needs (where appropriate); iii) referring to the public and private services (where relevant) and also specific projects of civil society in line with their needs. Migration policy is included even in the National Strategy for Employment and Skills 2014-2020.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates actions with the structures of Ministry of Internal Affairs for implementation of bilateral and multilateral readmission agreements.

5.3. Statistics

In 2015, out of a total of 2047 aliens apprehended or found in irregular situation, 299 persons are removed through readmission procedures, mainly to Greece. Returnees, according to the General Directorate for Border and Migration, are from Syria, Eritrea, Somalia, Morocco etc. The procedure of voluntary removal has been applied for third-country nationals and they have been placed in the Closed Reception Centre, awaiting the return procedures based on bilateral agreements between Albania and countries of origin/transit.

Figure 5.1. Third country nationals in the Closed Reception Centre, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015



Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration, Tirana 2016

Number of persons placed in the Closed Centre decreased by 29.5% respectively from 424 in 2014 to 299 in 2015. Such decrease is because most of aliens, who are bound by law to leave the territory of the Republic of Albania, have enforced the removal orders on voluntary basis.

Voluntary return of Albanian citizens is a characteristic for migration flows in Albania. The table below shows the number of Albanian citizens returned from EU countries during the last years, by age group.

Table 5.1. Albanian returnees by age group during 2012-2015

Year	Total	Male		Female	
		Total	under 18 years of age	Total	under 18 years of age
2012	14762	14097	495	665	46
2013	20751	20461	535	290	56
2014	20376	19354	397	1022	78
2015	25134	23592	260	1542	37

Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration, Tirana 2016

Thus, around 93.8% of returned emigrants in 2015 were males compared to 6.2% females, whereas in 2014 males constituted 95% of returnees.

The table below shows the main countries that returned Albanian unaccompanied minors.

Table 5.2. Main countries returning unaccompanied minors, 2013-2015

Year	2013	2014	2015
Greece	803	611	10
France	34	92	54
Great Britain	25	46	1
Switzerland	17	38	0
Sweden	14	29	16
Germany	10	28	19
Brussels	-	-	5
Norway	-	-	4
England	-	-	1
Total	972	907	120

Source: TIMS System in the Directorate of State Police, Tirana, 2016

During 2015, unlike 2014, the number of requests for return of unaccompanied minors or separated minors in EU countries increased. This is observed in the following table (5.3) which shows that in 2015, the geography and number of returning countries has increased.

In order to address these critical problems and with the good intent to minimise this uncommon phenomenon of unaccompanied or separated minors several meetings are organised with representatives of Migration Agencies of countries including Germany, France, Sweden, Belgium, Greece etc. Cooperation in this area is focused on obtaining information from the requesting countries and enabling safe return/readmission of unaccompanied or separated minors to their families or their surrender to the state entity which is entrusted by the law with their reception. Cooperation of the border and migration police structures with the state social service, as the main state entity of social treatment of children, is at satisfactory level.

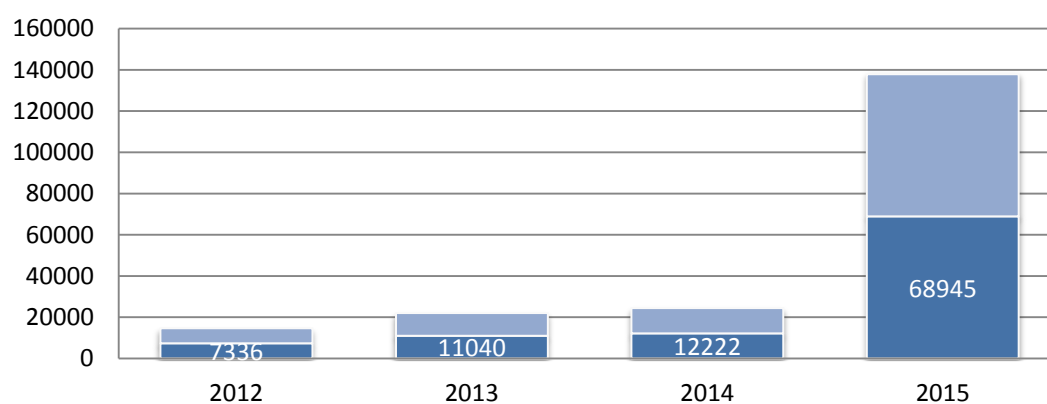
Figure 5.3. Return of unaccompanied minors from EU countries based on readmission procedure during 2014 and 2015

State	2014		2015	
	Requests	readmitted	Requests	readmitted
France	4	3	55	24
Germany	-	-	19	13
Sweden	6	2	26	12
Belgium	-	-	5	4
Norway	-	-	4	4
Greece	3	3	10	9
England	-	-	1	1
Italy	1	1	-	-
Total	14	9	120	68

Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration, Tirana 2016

Meanwhile, during 2015 a considerable increase of the flow of Albanian citizens requesting asylum in EU countries is observed. The figure below presents the dynamics of requests for asylum in these countries during the period 2012-2015.

Figure 5.2. Albanian citizens requesting asylum in EU Member States, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015



Source: General Directorate for Border and Migration, Tirana 2016 (processed data)

Main countries where Albanian citizens have applied for asylum are Germany, Greece, Sweden, France, United Kingdom and Belgium. The main reasons for seeking asylum have been economic reasons, therefore the number of cases of refusal of asylum requests by EUMS is quite high.

Return of emigrants referring to the INSTAT and IOM study of 2014 is intensified during the last years. Referring to the age, it results that the most common age of return varies from 25 to 29 years, while the percentage of returnees of retirement age is lower, around 6%. Concerning gender, most of the returnees are males 73.7% compared to 26.3% females. Concerning the marital status, it results that over 30% of all the returnees marital status is "single" during migration and after return to Albania. Meanwhile, the percentage of migrants who are married abroad is higher than the percentage of those who get married after return to Albania (11.8% against 6.6%). Referring to the willingness to return, around 94% of returnees admit to have returned voluntarily while less than 6% admit to have been forced to return. As for the country of return, Greece has been the last destination country of most of the returnees (70.8%) followed by Italy, United Kingdom and Germany².

Some of the Albanian citizens returning from migration approach the Migration Counters (MC) located in all the regional and local employment offices. 36 MC are set up throughout the country. These structures in implementing the Strategy for Reintegration of Albanian Returnees 2010-2015 and its Action Plan interview the Albanian returnees who approach the counters, provide information on public and private services, in line with the identified needs and refer them to public and private services and specific projects of civil society, based on the needs of the Albanian returnees. Returnees approach the counters voluntarily.

The table shows the number of returnees, registered in the MC during the last four years.

Table 5.4. Albanian returnees registered in the Migration Counters (MC) by years;

YEAR	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014	Year 2015
Albanian nationals	1536	1171	834	520

Source: Report on Monitoring of the Action Plan of the Strategy for Re-integration of Albanian returnees, 2010-2015 Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth. National Employment Service. Tirana, 2016

The two main countries of return of Albanian citizens are Greece and Italy.

Most of them, around 80% of the Albanian returnees who approach the MC have been returned from Greece, while 14% from Italy. Returnees from other EU and non-EU Member States who have approached the MC constitute 6% of the total number of returnees who approach the MC.

The table below shows the number of Albanian returnees, registered by the MC during the last four years, by state of return.

² Return migration and re-integration in Albania 2013, INSTAT and International Organisation for Migration, 2014;

Table 5.5. Albanian citizens who approach the MCs by state of return, 2012-2015.

YEAR	Year 2012		Year 2013		Year 2014		Year 2015	
STATE	%		%		%		%	
Greece	1321	86	963	82 %	679	81	383	73 %
Italy	188	12.2	131	11 %	121	14	113	21 %
Other EU Member States	17	1.1	64	5.4 %	21	2.5	15	2.8 %
non-EU Member States	10	1	13	1 %	12	2	9	1.7 %

Source: Report on Monitoring of the Action Plan of the Strategy for Re-integration of Albanian returnees, 2010-2015 MSWY, NES, Tirana 2016

Most of returns took place because of unemployment in the host country. In some cases, return occurred because of lack of documentation in the host country, but they are not considerable in number compared to the number of returns because of unemployment. From 2012 to 2015 it is observed an increase in the number of returnees because of other reasons including investment.

Table 5.6. Albanian returnees registered in MCs, by reason of return during: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

YEAR	Year 2012		Year 2013		Year 2014		Year 2015	
REASON OF RETURN	%		%		%		%	
Unemployment	1348	88 %	1060	91 %	736	88 %	436	83.8 %
Lack of Documentation	31	2 %	67	5.1 %	43	5 %	52	10%
For investment	9	1 %	-	-	-	-	2	0.3%
Other reasons	-	-	43	3.7 %	55	6.5 %	30	5.7 %

Source: Report on Monitoring of the Action Plan of the Strategy for Re-integration of Albanian returnees, 2010-2015 Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth. National Employment Service.

Most of Albanian returnees who approach the MCs belong to the age group 25-34, 35-44 and over 45 years of age. This may be linked to the fact that the individuals pertaining to these age groups have created their family and are searching for a job as they want to fulfil other needs for them and their family.

Most of Albanian returnees who approach MCs have presented the need to find a job and 2752 returnees have been advised of this during this period. The request to find a job has been the main request of returnees approaching the counters in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. This group is followed by the group of returnees who have asked for and received information for vocational training, which is increased especially in 2013-14.

Returnees of school age are provided with facilities for involvement in the education system. Referring to the data of the Ministry of Education and Sports, during the academic year 2013-2014,

over 2060 children returned from emigration were enrolled in undergraduate education. As of 2010, information on education of Albanian citizens returned from emigration is distributed in the border crossing points and near RDE/EO.

During the academic year 2014-2015 (September - June), almost 8542 students emigrated abroad, thus abandoning the institutions of undergraduate education. In the beginning of the academic year 2015-2016, almost 801 students³ returned and were enrolled again.

From the data submitted by RDE/EO concerning enrolment in the academic year 2015-2016, some 1800 students of undergraduate education have been returned from abroad and registered to resume education in the homeland.

In addition to the instructions given in the beginning of each academic year concerning re-integration of returnees in education, MES by letter no. 9242 dated 10.11.2015 addressed to all the RDE/EO recommends the taking of measures "for registration and treatment of students who return from emigration", in order to:

- register and treat the student returnees with priority, by facilitating their integration into school and community.
- draft a special action plan by the unit of the psycho-social service i the RDE/EO for the provision of services that help educational, social and personal development of students who return from emigration.
- provide free Albanian language courses to students returning from emigration.
- provide tailor-made treatment to students registered with educational institutions to fulfil obligations of the curricula during the period of their absence.

³ *Source: Ministry of Education and Sports, 2015*

6. Integration

6.1. Responsible authorities

Ministry of Internal Affairs has the overall responsibility in the field of migration and integration but there is no specialised institutional system in Albania for coordination of integration and citizenship.

Acquisition of Albanian citizenship is done by decree of the President of the Republic, but it is the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the authority responsible for implementation of policies and procedures as regards citizenship in the Republic of Albania. In this context, the structures of the State Police and the Sector for Citizenship in the Directorate of Legal Issues and Approximation in the Ministry of Internal Affairs receive the application, control, verify and decide to send this request to the President for a decree.

6.2. Policy context

Integration support except for the persons who come from the Albanian speaking regions is necessary for emigrants from third countries who do not speak Albanian, beneficiaries of international protection (refugees and supplementary protection) and also stateless persons. Aliens living in Albania (beneficiaries of international support, EU citizens, third country citizens) are entitled to a wide range of services, but these are fragmented, depending on the reason of stay. There is no complex programme of integration that applies to all the aliens.

The rules on acquisition of Albanian citizenship are governed through law no. 8389, dated 5.8.1998, "On Albanian citizenship" amended by law no. 8442, dated 21.1.1999 "On some amendments to law no.8389, dated 5.8.1998 "On Albanian citizenship". It is evident that the recent legal amendments were made in 1999.

In implementing the legal provisions that define the rules and criteria for acquisition, renouncement and re-acquisition of Albanian citizenship, several sub-legal acts have been issued to define the rules, the time limits, documents and authorities competent for the reviewing of these requests.

6.3. Statistics

Only a small number of aliens residing in Albania apply for Albanian citizenship. In 2015, 257 persons acquired Albanian citizenship, most of whom were from Kosovo and Turkey. Comparison of data of 2012-2015 shows that after the increase in 2014, during 2015 there is a significant decrease. The table below presents data on application for Albanian citizenship during the last four years.

Table 6.1. Albanian citizenship applications 2012-2015

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Acquisition of citizenship	205	221	553	257
Granting of citizenship	-	59	140	3
Recognition of citizenship	-	-	76	20
Re-acquisition of citizenship	124	64	76	23

Source: Directorate of Legal Issues and Approximation, Tirana, 2016

7. Migration and development

7.1. Responsible authorities

Ministry of Internal Affairs has the overall responsibility in the field of migration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for Albanian communities in the neighbouring countries and also Diaspora abroad.

Given the fact that economic growth of the country is linked directly to the migration processes, several ministries including: Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth; Ministry of Education and Sports; etc according to their scope of activity draft the policies and strategies which directly or indirectly regulate the issues which concern migration and development.

7.2. Policy context

The common aim of authorities responsible in the field of migration and development of the country is to create a favourable climate for the promotion and attraction of foreign investment and diaspora. In this context, remittances of emigrants are considered an integral component of the foreign direct investment. Moreover, one of the objectives of the Albanian government is development of free economic zones or technology and economic development zones.

Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship in the framework of development policies and Law no 55/2015 "on strategic investment" supports and contributes indirectly in the field of migration.

7.3. Statistics

Currently, the presence of foreign investment in Albania by origin is as follows: i) Investment from Greece occupies the top position with a stock of 1.23 billion EUR in the end of 2015, showing an increase of 5% compared to the previous year and focused on the banking sector and telecommunications. ii) Investment from the Netherlands occupies the second position with a stock of 688 million EUR, showing an increase of 36% compared to the previous year and focused on energy and telecommunications; iii) investment from Canada occupies the third position with a stock of 664 million EUR, showing a decrease of 8% compared to the previous year ago and focused on oil extraction industry; iv) investment from Italy occupies the fourth position with a stock of 544 million EUR, showing an increase of 4% on annual basis and focused on the banking sector and industry; v) investment from Turkey occupies the fifth position with a stock of 451 million EUR and showing an increase of 9% on annual basis and focused on telecommunications, banking sector and industry. Investment from Austria occupies the sixth position with a stock of 387 million EUR, showing an increase of 8% compared to the previous year and focused on financial services (banking sector and insurance) and energy.

From the point of view of attraction of foreign direct investment, the following sectors are dominant: i) information and communication which have the highest stock of foreign direct

investment, with 1.23 billion EUR by the end of 2015; ii) second most important sector includes the financial activities and insurance, which investment stock amounts to 860 million EUR; iii) third sector is electrical energy, gas, steam and air conditioning supply, with a stock amounting to 620 million EUR.

In 2015, the FDI flows reached 890 million EUR.

According to data of the Bank of Albania, Albania in 2015 attracted more FDI compared to the previous year, showing an increase of 2.4% from 869 million EUR in 2014 to 890 million EUR in 2015. FDI in 2015 constituted 11.6% of GDP. Industry sector (production, processing and extraction industry) was the main sector attracting investment with an amount of 567 million EUR in the FDI flow. Some industries of employment intensity, including the shoe and textile industry have attracted several projects but of modest capital amount. Other important sectors are transport and financial services and insurance sector. Canada was on top position in 2015 with an investment flow of 228 million EUR followed by the Netherlands with an amount of 172 million EUR, Switzerland 146 million EUR and Turkey 85 million EUR. In the end of 2013, there were found 3046 foreign-owned enterprises running economic activity in the Republic of Albania, whereas in 2014 there were counted 3478 active enterprises. 2015 marked an increase compared to the two previous years with 4084 foreign enterprises. Concerning enterprises of joint ownership (Albanian - foreign), there were 1.608 active enterprises in 2013 and 1.767 enterprises in 2014. The end of 2015 accounts for 1855 active enterprises of foreign and joint ownership.

During 2013-2015, it is observed that in 64% of them the foreign party dominates the Albanian party in the group of foreign and joint ventures.

The Albanian legislation⁴ provides that registration of subjects in the commercial register implies also their concurrent registration with the tax administration, central and local, social and health insurance scheme and labour inspectorate. In 2015, there were 2761 subjects of the category Employer, 2226 subjects of the category Self-employed with employees, 31921 subjects of the category self-employed and 53 subjects of the category self-employed with employees and unpaid family member.⁵ In 2015, there were 1058 enterprises owned by foreign owners compared to 3500 enterprises in 2014. The difference shows the decreasing trend of investments by aliens. Enterprises of foreign owners or co-owners occupy around 4% of enterprises in the country on annual basis. The region of Tirana (with 931 foreign and joint investor) and Durres (with 169 foreign and joint investor) attract most of foreign investors: some 81.2% of foreign and joint ventures are concentrated in these regions.

Moreover, foreign investors in the regions of Tirana and Durres operate mainly in these areas:

- wholesale and retail trade - 318 (28.9%)
- professional scientific and technical activities - 124 (11.27 %)
- construction - 83 (7.54%)

⁴Law no. 9723, dated 03.05.2007, "On Business Registration", amended, article 59, paragraph 1.

⁵NRC- National Registration Centre, established by law no. 131/2015 "On the National Business Centre" as a result of merger of the two institutions, National Licensing Centre and National Registration Centre

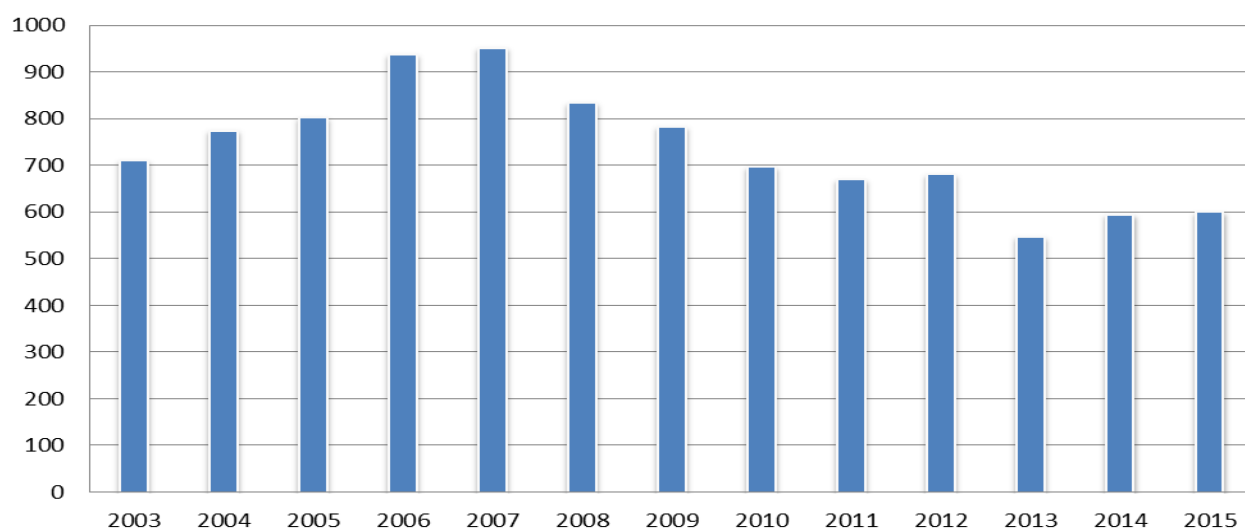
- information and communication - 74(6.72%)
- processing industry - 108(9.81%)

Real GDP growth is one of the most important indicators of national accounts. During 2015, the Albanian economy marked a real growth by 2.77 % while in 2014, the economy growth was 1.83 % in real terms.⁶ GDP per capita in 2014 amounted to 482 thousand ALL. The impact of economic growth on the welfare system and consequently on the generation of migrant flows, is linked with the contribution of the branches of economy in the GDP and employment. During 2015⁷ the main contribution in economic growth derived from services (46.2%), agriculture (19.5%), construction (9.5%) and industry (12.9%).⁸ Meanwhile, the contribution of sectors in employment has been disproportional, especially in the case of agriculture and services. Services attract a small share of formal workforce, while they are among the sectors of highest informality. Lack of jobs and informality in economy and labour market eventually feed migrant flows of Albanians.

The Albanian diaspora currently consists of five main groups: i) economic emigrants; ii) family members of economic emigrants; iii) students; iv) asylum-seekers and refugees; v) unaccompanied children. The biggest groups of Diaspora consist of economic emigrants, family members of economic emigrants and students. Even during 2015, the flow of asylum-seekers especially in Germany was still evident.

Albania is still highly dependent on remittances. As of 2007, remittances reached the highest level, 952 million EUR until 2013 when remittances fell to reach the lowest amount of 547 million EUR, to increase relatively during 2014 in 595 million EUR. During 2015, there was observed a slight increase of 600 million EUR.⁹

Figure 7.1. Dynamics of remittances of Albanian emigrants, 2003-2015



Source: Bank of Albania, 2016

⁶INSTAT, Tirana, 2016

⁷2015 data are based on quarterly assessment

⁸INSTAT, Tirana, 2016

⁹Bank of Albania

Remittances decreased because of crisis in reception countries, Greece and Italy and also because of other reasons: costs of the migration process, ageing of the first generation of emigrants, increase of expenses for the second and third generation of emigrants, formalisation of migration projects, increase of costs of public services and living in host countries, modification of behaviour and individual and family projects, because of insecurity caused by the financial crisis etc.

8. Asylum and international protection

8.1. Responsible authorities

Ministry of Internal Affairs has the main responsibility in the area of migration and asylum. General Directorate for Border and Migration is responsible for the screening of foreign asylum-seekers, registration, data collection, analysis and assessment concerning asylum.

Directorate for Asylum is the authority responsible for granting, removing and excluding from the right to asylum and international protection. It is part of the structure of Ministry of Internal Affairs. This Directorate operates **based on the law 121/2014 "On asylum in the Republic of Albania"**. The asylum-seeker, after the filing of the asylum request, is placed in the reception centre for asylum-seekers. The centre receives persons who have been refused asylum application, until the end of the appeal procedures or the time limit of appeal. The asylum-seeker has the right to stay in the reception centre during the duration of the procedure of granting the refugee status. If the asylum-seeker has the possibility to stay outside the reception centre and afford minimum living conditions, the Directorate for Asylum decides removing the asylum-seeker from this centre;

8.2. Policy context

Republic of Albania, in order to harmonise the legislation with the EU Directive has drafted the law no. 121/2014 "On asylum in the Republic of Albania" which provides for the conditions and procedures for granting and cancelling **refugee** status, supplementary protection and temporary protection in the Republic of Albania, rights and obligations of asylum-seekers, refugees and persons under temporary and supplementary protection, right to family reunification and also definition of conditions for integration of refugees and persons under supplementary protection in the Republic of Albania.

Moreover, the law provides for the principle of non-refoulement according to which:

1. The Republic of Albania recognizes and respects the obligation of authorities not to return, extradite or remove from the territory those persons who have been granted or applied for the right to asylum or other forms of protection in these cases:
 - a) in a country where their life or freedom would be threatened on basis of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion;
 - b) in a state where there is reason to believe that an asylum seeker may be at risk to be subjected to torture or to inhuman and degrading punishment or any other treatment provided by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, interpreted by the European Court or in treaties / international conventions to which Albania is a party;
 - c) in a state where there is reason to believe that an asylum seeker may be subject to enforced disappearance;

- d) in their country of origin, if foreigners were given a form of protection, in accordance with the provisions of this law;
 - e) in a third country, which may return or send the person to a country specified by the letters "a", "b" and "c", of this article.
2. The alien, whose application for asylum has been refused by the authority responsible for asylum and refugees, is not expelled or sent outside the Republic of Albania before exercising or giving legal opportunity for the exercise of procedural rights and guarantees stipulated by Law, except when the law provides otherwise.
 3. There are only two exceptional cases where the asylum seeker can be refused:
 - a) when there are reasonable grounds to consider him as a danger to the national security of the Republic of Albania;
 - b) has been convicted by a final decision for a crime punishable by a minimum of 7 years' of imprisonment, which constitutes a danger to public order and security of the Republic of Albania.

National Commission for Asylum and Refugees

This law foresees even the administrative link of appeal against decisions of the directorate that constitutes an extra guarantee to the asylum-seekers and refugees. The law foresees that the National Commission for Asylum and Refugees is the only authority responsible for decision-making in case of appeals against decisions of the authority responsible for asylum and refugees.

In 2016, it was approved the DCM no. 206, dated 16.03.2016 "On establishment, composition, organisation and functioning of the National Commission for Asylum and Refugees" and the Commission was completed with staff.

Reception standards

Law no. 121/2014 "On asylum in the Republic of Albania" is partially approximated with the Council Directive 2003/9/EC dated 27 January 2003 laying down the minimum standards for the reception of asylum-seekers. In this context, it is being restructured the National Reception Centre for Asylum-Seekers in order to ensure better living conditions as regards accommodation, hygiene etc.

8.3. Statistics

During 2015, the number of asylum-seekers in Albania increased. From 2014 until 2015 the number increased mainly because of Iranian citizens of the ASHRAF camp who came to Albania under the government agreement qualified with a special humanitarian status.

The dynamics of aliens with international protection, by citizenship, excluding citizens from Iran ASHRAF camp, is presented in the following Table:

Table 8.1. Foreign asylum-seekers by citizenship, 2012-2015

State/Year	2012	2013	2014	2015
Kosovo	1	-	8	1
Iraq	1	-	1	1
Ukraine	-	-	1	3
Eritrea	-	-	11	7
Iran	-	-	-	1
Sudan	-	-	2	4
Gambia	-	-	3	1
South Africa	-	-	1	-
Lebanon	-	-	1	-
Dagestan	-	-	1	-
Somalia	-	-	-	1
Gabon	-	-	-	1
Cameroon	-	-	-	2
Macedonia	-	-	-	2
Azerbaijan	-	-	5	-
Afghanistan	2	-	2	3
Syria	-	18	97	79
Pakistan	1	-	-	-
Jordan	5	-	-	-
Bosnia-Herzegovina	-	1	-	-
Croatia	-	1	-	-
Montenegro	-	1	-	-
TOTAL	10	21	133	106

Source: Directorate for Asylum, Tirana, 2016

The table shows data on decisions suspending applications by citizenship.

Table 8.2. Suspension decisions by citizenship, 2014-2015

Citizenship	2014	2015
Armenia	-	1
Cameroon	-	2
Gabon	-	1
Iran	-	1
Kosovo	-	1
Iraq	1	-
Ukraine	1	-
Eritrea	11	2
Sudan	2	-
Gambia	3	-

Lebanon	1	-
Azerbaijan	-	2
Afghanistan	2	1
Syria	51	2
TOTAL	73	13

Source: Directorate for Asylum, Tirana, 2016

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This analytical report is a follow-up of the process initiated in 2007 by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for the drafting of the first Migration Profile, followed by Migration Profile 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2014 prepared by the Albanian Government with the assistance of international bodies including IOM, ICMPD etc.

2015 Migration Profile is drafted based on the methodology and format established by ICMPD under the Prague Process, under the leadership of the General Directorate for Border and Migration (GDBM) in the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) in cooperation with other organisations contributing in the field of migration in Albania.

In this context, special thanks for completing data, making comparison with the contemporary international contexts and full compliance of its structure with the standards defined in legal and sub-legal acts which govern this activity, and also comparison with the international requirements for the drafting and publication of the migration profile, by the representatives of the contributing institutions:

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

State Police Directorate

General Directorate for Border and Migration

Directorate for Asylum

Anti-trafficking Directorate

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND YOUTH

Directorate of Employment and Migration Policies

National Employment Service

INSTAT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS

BANK OF ALBANIA

NATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE