

THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA MIGRATION PROFILE



IOM International Organization for Migration



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
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Foreword

Migration patterns and trends have profound consequences for demographic, social and economic conditions. Studying these trends and patterns is required for national accounting and planning.

Recognizing the above, in view of its upcoming EU Presidency during the first half of 2008 and its migration agenda therein, the Slovenian government has taken the initiative to request IOM to draft “migration profiles” (as defined by the European Commission) for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia and Turkey.

This undertaking strengthens the EC’s efforts to address migration in its broadest sense, in partnerships with third countries. It follows the lines of the EU’s Global Approach to Migration¹ and more particularly sets the ground for concrete action along the lines of the EC Communication on Applying the Global Approach to the Eastern and South-Eastern Regions Neighbouring the European Union of May 2007.²

This document was prepared by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in July and August 2007 on the basis of publicly available information and data, analysis and comment, and on IOM’s own knowledge.

The “migration profiles” documents represent ad-hoc compilation of existing data drawn from various sources including the governments of the countries; international organisations and bodies; independent academic research reports; as well as IOM’s internal sources and information. As such, it does not purport to be either exhaustive or conclusive.

All sources are cited. For clarifications on the definitions, the reader must refer to the original source of the data, where more than one source may be given. The variety of sources might result in inconsistencies due to differences in data collection, definitions, and reference dates used.

National contexts differ from one country to another with regard to the existing institutional settings, legislative and strategic frameworks, as well as methodological approaches.

¹ Presidency Conclusions on the Global Approach to Migration: Priority actions focusing on Africa and the Mediterranean, European Council, Brussels, 15-16 December 2005.

² EC Communication (“COM(2006) 735 final) The Global Approach to Migration one year on: Towards a comprehensive European migration policy”

In general, fragmented national institutional frameworks can be noted in all the countries with several institutions and offices recording and compiling migration-related information; along with various international organisations and bodies present in most of the countries.

The results of this exercise point out to the imminent need for agreement on uniform definitions and methodology to record information on emigration and immigration. A general problem is the actual lack of or availability of data per se. Where data exists, the low level of standardization in terms and methodology results in varying degrees of comparability of data.

Despite such shortfalls on information available and comparability, it is our hope that this publication raises awareness on migration issues in these countries and provides useful background for policy development.



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Albania – Basic facts	
Population (2005)	3,154.000
Total Area	28.748 sq km
GDP per Capita PPP	USD 4.978
Human Development Index (HDI) Rank	73 od 177
Net Migration Rate	-6.5 migrants/1,000 population
Sources: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division's World Population Prospects: the 2006 Revision Population Database. UN Development Programme Human Development Report, 2006	

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1. IMMIGRANTS

1.1. Number of immigrants

[Data from Albanian Border and Migration Directorate]

----- -3.814 (2006)¹

1.2. Status of immigrants

Refugees - - - - -56 (2006)²

Asylum seekers - - - - -36 (2006)³

Labour migrants

Work permits issued- - - - -857 (2006)⁴

Residence permits issued - - - - -3.006 (2006)⁵

1.3. Main countries of origin of immigrants

[Data from the Border and Migration Directorate]⁶

USA, Italy, China, Turkey and Greece

[Data from the World Bank]⁷

The Czech Republic, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro, Russia.

¹ Border and Migration Directorate, Albania [2006]. The figure refers to the number of foreigners with residence permits in 2006 plus the number of irregular migrants provided with an expulsion order.

² UNCHR [2006]: *Statistical Yearbook 2006. Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*. Figures represent end-2006 statistics. Data are provisional and subject to change. Status as at 15 June 2007. The figure refers to "persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection".

³ UNCHR [2006]: *Statistical Yearbook 2006. Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*. Figures represent end-2006 statistics. Data are provisional and subject to change. Status as at 15 June 2007. The figure refers to Persons whose application for "asylum or refugee status is pending at any stage in the asylum procedure.

⁴ Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Albania [August 2007]

⁵ Border and Migration Directorate, Albania [2006]

⁶ Border and Migration Directorate, Albania [2006]

⁷ World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*

2. EMIGRANTS

2.1. Number of emigrants

----- 860.485 (2005, World Bank)⁸
 As percentage of total population ----- 27,5 % (2005, World Bank)⁹
 Gender ratio ----- 75% male /25 % female
 (INSTAT, Albanian Statistical Institute)¹⁰

Table 1: Main Countries of Destination for Albanian Emigrants

Country	Number	Year	Source
Greece	434.810	2003	European Commission Annual Report on Statistics on Migration, Asylum and Return ¹¹
Italy	348.813	2006	ISTAT Italian Statistical Office ¹²
USA	113.661	2000	US Census ¹³
UK	50.000	2005	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Employment and Equal Opportunities, Albania ¹⁴
Canada	14.935	2001	Canadian Census ¹⁵
Germany	11.630	2002	Federal Statistical Office ¹⁶

2.2. Status of emigrants

Refugees ----- 14.080 (2006)¹⁷
 Asylum-seekers ----- 2.258 (2006)¹⁸
 Emigration rate of tertiary educated ----- 20% (2005)¹⁹

⁸ World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Albanian Statistical Institute (INSTAT) [2002]: *Population Census of 2001*

¹¹ European Commission [2003]: *Annual Report on Statistics on Migration, Asylum and Return*

¹² ISTAT (Italian Statistical Office) [2007]: *Popolazione straniera residente per area geografica e principali paesi di cittadinanza, al 1 Gennaio 2007*.

¹³ US Census Bureau [2000]: www.census.gov

¹⁴ De Zwager, N., Gedeshi, I., Germenji, E., Nikas, C., IOM Tirana [2005]: *Competing for Remittances*

¹⁵ Statistics Canada [2001]: <http://www.statcan.ca>

¹⁶ Federal Statistical Office of Germany [2002]: <http://www.destatis.de>

¹⁷ UNCHR [2006]: *Statistical Yearbook 2006. Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*. Figures represent end-2006 statistics. Data are provisional and subject to change. Status as at 15 June 2007. The figure refers to "persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection

¹⁸ UNCHR [2006]: *Statistical Yearbook 2006. Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*. Figures represent end-2006 statistics. Data are provisional and subject to change. Status as at 15 June 2007. The figure refers to Persons whose application for "asylum or refugee status is pending at any stage in the asylum procedure

¹⁹ World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, after Docquier and Marfouk [2004] and Docquier and Bhargava [2006]

2.3. Main countries of destination

Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States, Turkey.²⁰

(Refer to section 2.1. for the numbers in selected destination countries)

2.4. Male/female emigration

Participation of Albanian women in migration has increased in recent years, in particular as a result of family reunification. This is an important change from the previously male-dominated pattern of Albanian contemporary migration. Statistics of regularizations and the censuses in Greece and Italy, the main two destinations for Albanian migrants since 1990s, show that, while women accounted for around 20% of total Albanian migrants in the early and mid-1990s, by 2000-01 the share was approximately 40%.²¹ According to the 2001 Census in Greece, 59% of Albanian nationals in Greece were male. The data from the residence permits issued in 2004 (latest year available) indicates that 77% of applicants were men.²²

The majority of women have migrated as part of a family, either together with the family (especially migration to the USA through the Diversity Visa programme), or to Canada through the Skilled Worker Visa programme or following their husband/fiancé after he had established himself in a host country. The majority of (single) females who have migrated alone have done so to pursue their studies in different EU countries, as well as in the USA. Single women emigrating to work abroad through legal channels are still few, and mostly comprise the professional and highly qualified women, frequently from middle and high-income families.²³

2.5. Main sectors of activity

The main sectors of male Albanian migrant employment in Greece are construction (49%) and agriculture (21%). While in Italy the primary sectors are construction (43%), manufacturing (19%) and services (16%) for men. In both neighbouring countries women are primarily occupied by domestic work. In the United Kingdom, construction and services are the two main sectors of occupations for men (33% and 32% respectively), while for women the services sector seems the most "preferred" (66%).²⁴

²⁰ World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*

²¹ Russell K., Vullnetari, J., Sussex Centre for Migration Research [2003]: *Migration and Development in Albania, Working Paper No C5*

²² Ministry of the Interior, Greece, Department of Social Integration, 30/08/2004.
(http://www.antigone.gr/statistics/residence_permits_all_types.htm)

²³ Russell K., Vullnetari, J., Sussex Centre for Migration Research [2003]: *Migration and Development in Albania, Working Paper No C5*

²⁴ De Zwager, N., Gedeshi, I., Germenji, E., Nikas, C., IOM Tirana [2005]: *Competing for Remittances*

3. REMITTANCES

3.1. Quantitative aspects of remittances

Table 2: Amount of incoming migrant remittances in million USD

Year	World Bank ²⁵	National Bank of Albania ²⁶
2003	889	778
2004	1161	1028
2005	1290	1161
2006	1359	No data

Table 3: Remittances as the percentage of the GDP

Year	World Bank ²⁷ ,	National Bank of Albania ²⁸
2003	14,5%	13%
2004	15,4%	13,7%
2005	15,4%	14%
2006	14,8%	No data

Remittances received in Albania by host country (remittance providers):

Greece (60%), Italy (30%), followed by USA, Germany and other European states²⁹

3.2. Qualitative aspects of remittances

The amount of remittances to Albania is three times as high as foreign net direct investments and nearly twice as much as the official development aid received by Albania.³⁰ Albanian emigrants mainly send remittances through informal channels (77.4%) – primarily by hand;

²⁵ World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*

²⁶ Bank of Albania [2004]: *Presentation to IMF in June 2006*
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/bop/2006/luxgrp/pdf/albani.pdf>

The Bank calculates remittances as the difference between foreign currency coming in and foreign currency going out. This calculation does not exclude the possibility that income from suspicious activities, such as trafficking, are also taken into account.

²⁷ World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook, own calculations based on World Bank data.*

²⁸ Bank of Albania [2004]: *Presentation to IMF in June 2006*
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/bop/2006/luxgrp/pdf/albani.pdf>

²⁹ World Bank [2006]: *Italy-Albania Remittance Corridor*

³⁰ Social Policies Institute [2007]: *Report on exiting initiatives over the regulation of foreign currency exchange and investment in Albania.* Available at www.iomtirana.org.al

and less with the formal ones (22.6%) - the banking system remaining the least preferred formal channel.³¹ Due to geographical vicinity Albanians residing in Greece or Italy travel an average of 2-3 times per year to Albania and bring the money with them.

Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) dominate the formal market for money transfers to Albania from Italy.³² The MTOs have advantages compared to the banks, such as faster transfer services, and no requirement for a bank account for the sender. In addition, recipient migrant households in Albania lack easy access to the banking sector. The results of the emigrant households' survey undertaken by IOM in Albania in 2005 indicate that emigrant households in Albania show little familiarity with the banking system in Albania. Only 45.3% of all households in Albania maintain a bank account. When only emigrant households residing in rural areas are considered, the percentage is even lower.³³

Overall, the following factors seem to limit the formal transfer of migrant remittances to Albania: difficulties in accessing banking services by migrant senders in the host country, relatively slow speed of bank transfers, little trust in the Albanian banking services among senders and recipients of remittances, high transfer fees, and the strength of an informal money exchange market in Albania.³⁴

3.3. Number of families depending on remittances

68.6% of emigrants send remittances back to Albania. The most common recipients are the parents of the sender, then spouse and children, followed by extended family. Financing the families' daily needs is the primary use of remittances, followed by construction, upgrading and furnishing homes; and investment in real estate.

According to the results of the Living Standard Measuring Survey (LSMS) in 2002, remittances from emigrants represented 13% of the average household income, while for recipient households they represented 47% of the household income. The average size of monthly remittances was 13,600 Lek or USD 95 (IMF, 2005).³⁵

4. MIGRANT COMMUNITIES/DIASPORAS

4.1. Description of the relationship between the diasporas and the country of origin

Under the responsibility of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the National Institute of

³¹ World Bank [2006]: *Italy-Albania Remittance Corridor*.

³² Ibid.

³³ De Zwager, N., Gedeshi, I., Germenji, E., Nikas, C., IOM Tirana [2005]: *Competing for Remittances*

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

Diaspora is the government entity in charge of the policies related to the Albanian Diaspora.

In particular the Institute deals with the following tasks:

- Protection of the rights and interests of Albanian communities abroad;
- Elaboration of policies for the promotion of both, the old and new Albanian diasporas;
- Definition of programs on relations and co-operation between Albania and Albanian communities abroad;
- Surveys on the dynamics and development of Albanian communities abroad;
- Encouragement and support to the establishment of specific groups/associations of Albanian migrants, on the basis of common interests, professions or geographical locations;
- Support for the establishment of Albanian cultural centres in receiving countries with a major Albanian community;
- Drafting of policies on teaching the mother tongue to the children in diasporas.

Director: Mr. Flamur Gashi

Email: fgashi@mfa.gov.al

Tel: +355 4 232882

4.2. Migrant communities/diasporas' organisations

(Please note the lists below do not purport to be exhaustive or representative. IOM does not take responsibility for the accuracy of the contact details).

International:

- Alb-Shkenca Forum, for scholars from diaspora,
alb-shkenca@alb-net.com, <http://www.alb-shkenca.org/>
- Albstudent (International Network of the Students' Associations)
<http://www.albstudent.net/>
- Albanians - Today (News and Information)
<http://www.alb-net.com/mailman/listinfo/albanians-today>

Greece: ³⁶

- Albanian Migrants' Cultural Club, 121 Irakleous St, 176 72 Kallithea, Tel.: 210-9571224

³⁶ More information can be obtained through the Albanian Embassy in Athens, address available at www.mfa.gov.al

- Forum of Albanian Migrants in Greece, 35 Valtetsiou St, 106 81 Exarheia, Tel.: 210 381 3928
- Albanian Association of Thessaloniki Tel.: 2310 556349
- Albanian Cultural Association 'AETOS' Tel.: 6942 992866
- Albanian Migrant Writers' Club 'DRITA' Tel.: 210 958 2538
- Albanian Migrants Association 'VELAZERIMI' Tel.: 210 271 9271
- Albanian Newspaper Gazetta e Athines 3 Polytechniou St, Tel.: 210 524 3987
- Greek Albanian Friendship Association – Socrates, Kapodstriou 38, Athens, elassocrates@diavatirio.net, www.diavatirio.net

Italy: ³⁷

- Le Pagine Gialle Albanesi (a directory of Albanian businesses and organizations in Italy) <http://www.paginegiallealbanesi.it/>
- The League of Albanian Associations in Italy <http://www.legalbanese.com/>
- Egnatia – Albanian Association in Emilia - Romania <http://www.egnatia.org/>
- P. I. A. T. (Association for the Promotion of Integration of Albanians in Trentino) - www.apiat.tk
- Cultural Association "New Albanian Generation" in Genoa albandaci@hotmail.com
- Association Italian-Albanian Friendship Onlus of Rimini-E-mail: italbarimini@libero.it <http://digilander.libero.it/italbarimini/>
- Socio-Cultural Albanian Association "DEA" in Pisa - <http://www.dea-associazione.com>
- Albanian Cultural Centre "Madre Teresa" - Via XX Settembre, 81/a - 14100 Asti - Tel: 0141 324134
- Vatra – Association of Albanian intellectuals in Genoa - vatra@interfree.it

A full list is available from <http://www.arbitalia.it/cultura/associazioni/associazioni.htm>

The United States:

- Albanian American Civic League <http://www.accl.com>
- Albanian-American National Organisation <http://www.aano.org/>
- Albanian-American Women Association <http://www.aawomq.org>
- Frosina Information Network (Boston-based) <http://www.frosina.org>
- National Albanian American Council <http://www.nacc.org>

The United Kingdom:

(list compiled by the Albanian embassy in the UK)

<http://www.albanianembassy.co.uk/page9.html>

³⁷ More information can be obtained through the Albanian Embassy in Rome as well as the General Consulate in Milan and Bari, both addresses available at www.mfa.gov.al

- Anglo-Albanian Association Tel:02086740800
- Midlands Ethnic Albanian Foundation (MEAF) www.meaf.org.uk
- Albanian Community "FAIK KONICA" E-mail: bashkshqipfk@yahoo.com
- "DITURIA" www.dituria.ik.com
- Albanian Youth Centre www.albanianyouthaction.org.uk
- Shoqata Artistiko-Kulturore "EDITH DURHAM", web: www.edithdurham.com
- Shoqata "SKËNDERBEU" (SCANDERBEG ASSOCIATION)
- E-mail: albengskenderbeu@hotmail.com
- Shoqata "ARDHMËRIA", www.ardhmeria.co.uk

In the framework of an existing project aimed at enhancing the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration, IOM Tirana will provide technical support to the Institute of Diaspora to create and update a database reflecting all the Albanian associations abroad in 2007.

5. IRREGULAR MIGRATION

5.1. Numbers/estimates of irregular movements

Table 4: Albanian nationals apprehended within the EU-25 (2003-2005)³⁸

2003	2004	2005
41.789	36.965	52.365

Source: European Commission, 2006.

Table 5: Apprehensions of Albanian nationals by country in 2003³⁹

Greece	34.882
Italy	4.086
Slovenia	139

Source: European Commission, 2003.

³⁸ European Commission [2006] *Second annual report on the development of a common policy on illegal immigration, smuggling and trafficking of human beings, external border controls, and the return of illegal residents*

³⁹ European Commission [2003]: *Annual Report on Asylum and Migration*
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/asylum/statistics/doc_annual_report_2003_en.htm

Table 6: Irregular migrants detected within Albania⁴⁰

Year	Number
2005	82
2006	16

Source: Ministry of Interior, Albania.

Table 7: Third country nationals refused entry to Albania⁴¹

Year	Number of third country nationals refused entry to Albania
2003	448
2004	94
2005	510
2006	2884

Source: Ministry of Interior, Directorate for Border Police and Migration, Albania.

Table 8: Irregular migrants readmitted from other countries to Albania⁴²

Year	Number of Albanians	Number of Foreigners
2003	34.533	35
2004	18.012	101
2005	56.043	no data
2006	28.362	35

Source: Ministry of Interior, Albania.

5.2. Figures and information on return migration flows

In 2003 there were 39,663 Albanian nationals forcibly removed from the territory of the EU. Slovenia and Norway, although not part of the EU, also registered a relatively high number of removals (Slovenia 118 and Norway 225).⁴³ In 2006 the Directorate for

⁴⁰ Data below relates to the IOM response to the DG JLS request for "information and analyses of the main migratory flows that can be detected in the eastern and south-eastern regions neighbouring the European Union with a view to identifying the main routes used to enter the EU illegally and the main countries of origin", 15th February 2007.

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

Border Police and Migration within Albanian Ministry of Interior (MOI) registered 42, 254 cases of forcibly removed persons (with agreement on readmission or return) and 15, 879 without a formal agreement in place with the sending country⁴⁴.

Between 2002 and 2006, 3,079 individuals returned to Albania through IOM voluntary assisted return programs with the largest groups returning from the UK (2,138), Bosnia & Herzegovina (328) and Belgium (306).⁴⁵ Large numbers of Albanians return also spontaneously, due to the circular character of the Albanian migration to neighbouring countries.

6. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS OF MIGRATION ISSUES

6.1. Summary assessment of migration issues

Migration is one of the most important social and economic phenomena affecting Albania in the last decade. Since 1990, almost a quarter of the Albanian population has left the country along with a large urban-rural migration. The most important factor triggering Albanian migration was the collapse of the socialist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe after 1989. Having been denied the right to emigrate and in the situation of political instability and economic decline, many Albanians opted for emigration. In the run-up to the first democratic elections of 1991, approximately 20,000 Albanians crossed the Adriatic by boats to Italy. Another phase of mass emigration took place in 1996-1997 following the elections of 1996 and the collapse of the 'pyramid schemes' in which Albanians lost 1.2 billion USD savings (roughly half of the country's GDP) and subsequent breakdown of law and order.⁴⁶ In 1999 more than half a million of Kosovo Albanian refugees arrived in Albania. Since 2000 the political situation in the country has stabilized with a steady outflow of migrants nevertheless continuing.

Migration in Albania is an important livelihood coping strategy in one of the poorest countries in Europe with a per capita income at around USD 2,570 (2005)⁴⁷ and 25.4% of population below the poverty line.⁴⁸ Albania is one of the emigration countries where remittances constitute the largest source of foreign exchange and surpass both foreign direct investment and the value of exports.

⁴⁴ MOI Albania [2006]. *Analysis of the work carried out by the Border and Migration Police Directorate during 2006 and tasks for the future*

⁴⁵ IOM AVR database.

⁴⁶ Russell K., Vullnetari, J., Sussex Centre for Migration Research [2003]: *Migration and Development in Albania, Working Paper No C5*

⁴⁷ World Bank [2005]. <http://go.worldbank.org/QSMTKY2TE0>

⁴⁸ World Bank [2003]. *Albania Poverty Assessment*

The primary destination countries for Albanian migrants are neighbouring Greece and Italy due to their geographical and cultural proximity as well as extensive exposure of the Albanian society to their cultural influences (such as the Italian TV); followed by the USA and the United Kingdom. Greece is a preferred destination for Albanians from south and south east, areas populated mainly by Albanian Orthodox Christians and ethnic Greeks. Meanwhile, Italy is the most preferred destination for Albanians from the central and western areas. The massive emigration of Albanians affects a considerable part of the economically active section of the population, majority being male (estimates of the 2001 Census showed that about three fourths of the Albanian emigrants were young men). Family reunification has been the main reason for emigration of women from Albania, reflecting the patriarchal family model. Albanian emigrants also tend to be better educated compared to those that do not migrate.

Irregular migration from (and through) Albania remains a concern with as many as 240,000 Albanians regularized in Greece in 1997-1998 only.⁴⁹ Much of the Albanian migration is low-skilled and located in informal economy sectors (male Albanian emigrants are mainly engaged in construction or agriculture, whereas women are employed in domestic work), circular in character and economically driven.

6.2. Government institutions responsible for migration policy

By a recent decision of the Albanian Council of Ministers⁵⁰ the **Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MOLSAEO)** is the authority in charge of co-ordination and monitoring of the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration and its corresponding Action Plan. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (including the National Employment Service, the State Social Service and other relevant structures) is also responsible for labour migration policies in Albania, for both nationals and foreign citizens as well as for negotiation of seasonal work agreements with other countries. Within this Ministry, the **Directorate for Migration Policies** is the responsible entity in Albania for migration management and for migration policy. The National Employment Service (NES) is the main entity responsible for employment policy at the national level, with the regional offices dealing with regional concerns. The regional offices are also responsible for collecting demands for migration for employment purposes abroad from Albanian citizens.

<http://www.mpcs.gov.al>

The **Ministry of Interior (MOI)** represents one of the key actors in the field of migration in the country. In particular, the **Directorate for Border Police and Migration** is responsible for border control, prevention and interdiction of illegal activities carried out through

⁴⁹ OECD [2007]: *International Migration Outlook*

⁵⁰ Decision No. 425, date 11.7.2007

the state borders. In addition, it oversees the facilitation of legal movement of persons, goods and vehicles and timely processing of foreigners' documents, collection and analysis of data processed at state borders and is responsible for the implementation of readmission agreements between Albania and other countries. During 2007, MOI in cooperation with other government and non-government actors have developed the National Strategy on Integrated Border Management and its corresponding Action Plan, currently under revision by the Council of Ministers.

www.moi.gov.al

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is another key actor in the field of migration management in Albania. Under the responsibility of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the National Institute of Diaspora is the government entity in charge of the policies related to Albanian diasporas. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for coordinating bilateral negotiations between Albania and other countries at the political level⁵¹.

<http://www.mfa.gov.al/english/>

The National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) is tasked with the creation of the National Registry on Migration.⁵²

<http://www.instat.gov.al/>

6.3. Migration policies in place

The policy framework for migration management in Albania is outlined by the following policy documents:

a) The Action Plan for the Implementation of Association and Stabilization Agreement

On 12 June 2006, Albania signed a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU, which represents an important step forward on Albania's relationship with the EU. The country now faces the challenge of successfully implementing its SAA, which requires a very ambitious political, administrative and economic reform. The Albanian Government has placed EU integration high on its agenda and set a list of priorities also in the area of Justice and Home Affairs; these are reflected in the Action Plan for the Implementation of Association and Stabilization Agreement⁵³. These priorities (for the period 2006 – 2009) stress the need to improve administrative and financial capacities

⁵¹ Note that the MFA had a more limited role during the negotiations with the EU, which were led and coordinated by the Ministry of Integration due to the leading role of this ministry in the negotiations for the SAA agreement with the European Community. The negotiations with the EU and their specificity will be explicated in more detail in section

⁵² The Government of Albania [2005]: *Response to an IOM Questionnaire for the Workshop on Labour Migration* in Feb 2005, Zagreb.

⁵³ Subchapter 3.24 Cooperation in Justice and Home Affairs, Section 3.24.3. Border Management and Section 3.24.4 Migration Policies.

for the implementation of legislation on asylum and migration, and in particular for the implementation of the national strategies and corresponding action plans.⁵⁴ In this context, the full implementation of the National Strategy on Migration (NSM) and its Action Plan (NAP) remains a paramount objective.

b) The National Strategy on Migration

The National Strategy on Migration and the corresponding National Action Plan on Migration have been developed in 2004-2005 with assistance from the EC and IOM.⁵⁵

The aim of the Strategy is to provide Albania with a more comprehensive policy on migration from one that has mainly reacted to combat irregular flows to a more holistic policy based on the management of migration. The Action Plan represents one of the very first attempts to concretize the idea of linking the management of migration and the development of the country of origin in line with the orientations of the common immigration policy of the EU. The emphasis is put on the management of emigration flows as an immediate priority, rather than on the development of a policy for immigration as Albania will certainly remain for a certain period of time a country of emigration. Nevertheless, the strategy incorporates immigration in the parts devoted to the legal and institutional framework on the basis of the previous report "Analysis of Albanian Immigration Legislation and Practice as Compared to EU and International Standards Gap Analysis on Migration Management", compiled by IOM.

The Action Plan covers the following main domains: addressing root causes of migration, the protection of the rights of Albanian emigrants abroad, the improvement of consular services by Albanian embassies and consulates and supporting of the Albanian communities abroad. It envisions also several measures aimed at enhancing migrant mobility, especially with the neighbouring countries. The Action Plan details for each of the 66 measures agreed upon all the necessary elements for implementation (objective, activities required and possible pre-conditions, politically responsible body and implementing body, human and financial resources necessary, deadline, and possible benchmarks).

While many efforts to foster the implementation have been made by the government and other responsible structures, to date, the provisions of the NAP remain largely unimplemented and much needs to be done. The preliminary findings of the assessment carried out by the European Institute of Tirana in 2006 indicate that not all government officials in the ministries dealing with migration issues are aware of the content of the strategy.⁵⁶ This is mainly due to the lack of a central unit responsible for

⁵⁴ 1. Implementation of the National Strategy on Migration, 2. Ratification and progressive implementation of the international conventions in the field of migration.

⁵⁵ Copy is available for download from www.iomtirana.org.al

⁵⁶ European Institute of Tirana [2006]. *Report on the implementation of National Action Plan on Migration*.

coordination and monitoring of the implementation of NAP. The Institute of Diaspora was established within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and tasked with the responsibility to conceptualise and coordinate policies for emigration, immigration and diasporas, however this Institute does not have the capacity⁵⁷ to take over this function. In addition to coordination difficulties, the financial commitment of the government for funding the implementation of different measures has not yet been fulfilled.

Currently IOM Tirana is involved in a project supporting the Government of Albania in the process of implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan, particularly its measures related to addressing the root causes of migration, successful return and reintegration of Albanian migrants, the promotion of the link between emigration and development and elaborating an appropriate legal and institutional framework for emigration and immigration.

c) The Readmission Agreement with the European Community

Faced with huge emigration pressure, Albania signed its first bilateral readmission agreement with Italy in 1998. Since then, Albania has signed ten readmission agreements (RAs) and is in the process of signing seven more. Albania is the first country⁵⁸ in Europe to have negotiated and signed a readmission agreement with the European Community for the return of its own citizens and third country nationals, as part of the negotiations for the stabilization association agreement with the EU (the agreement replaces previously signed bilateral agreements with individual EU member states).⁵⁹

The Albanian government has acknowledged the importance that a successful implementation of the readmission agreement with the EU will bring to the SAA process, however, the challenges faced by the Albanian administration in implementing RA cannot be overlooked.⁶⁰ Besides the needs for proper resources and facilities, the issue of return and sustainable reintegration of Albanian citizens needs to be addressed. Moreover, adequate return procedures and readmission agreements with countries of origin must be put in place in order to address the issue of the return of irregular migrants from third countries who had previously transited through Albania.

d) Border Management⁶¹

According to the 2006 Progress Report of the European Commission, Albania has made some progress in the field of border management during 2006. Progress has been

⁵⁷ The Institute of Diaspora is composed of four members only.

⁵⁸ Other agreements include Sri Lanka, Macao, Hong Kong, and the Russian Federation.

⁵⁹ IOM [2006]: Return and Readmission to Albania

⁶⁰ Article 81 of the SAA agreement, states that Albania should fully implement the EC Albania Readmission Agreement

⁶¹ EC [2006]: *Albania 2006 Progress Report*.

made in improving immigration checks and controls at Border Crossing Points (BCPs). New equipment and logistics support has increased the efficiency of green border surveillance. Co-operation between the Border Police Directorate with counterparts in neighbouring countries has improved. The police and its border control structures have been much more active in preventing the smuggling of commodities through green borders, as well reducing the irregular migration to Greece.

The Border and Migration Police Directorate has revised the border management policy according to the EU guidelines for Integrated border Management in the Western Balkans but the strategy has not yet been adopted. Considerable efforts are also still required to bring all Albanian BCPs up to European standards.

e) Other policy documents

The National Strategy on Migration makes several provisions on return and reintegration of Albanian migrants, similar to those specified in other policy documents, such as the National Strategy for the Fight against Trafficking, the draft National Strategy for the Fight against Child Trafficking, the National Strategy on Employment and Vocational Training, and their action plans. The Action Plan on Free Movement also contains provisions on return of Albanian nationals, which relate mainly to implementation of readmission procedures, including the need for training police personnel in readmission issues.

The Law on Foreigners has been drafted by a working group composed of different entities, including IOM. The new draft law includes the provisions on the pre-screening and handling of irregular migrants in the territory of Albania as well as the provisions of detention and removal in case of irregularity. At the time of writing, the draft law is under review by the Ministry of Justice.

6.4. International legal framework in place relevant to migration

International Treaties Ratified by Albania:

- C97 Migration for Employment Convention 1949, ratified 02/03/2005
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees 1951, ratified 18/08/1992
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1965, ratified 10/06/1994
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966, ratified 04/01/1992
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966, ratified 04/01/1992
- C143 Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention 1975, ratified 12/09/2006
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979, acceded to 11/05/1994

- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984, ratified 10/06/1994
- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, ratified 28/03/1992
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, ratified 05/06/2007
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2000, ratified 21 August 2002
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2000, ratified 21 August 2002

Council of Europe Conventions:

- European Convention on Human Rights, 2/10/1996
- Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, 2005, ratified 6/2/2007

Bilateral labour agreements

Bilateral labour agreements on seasonal employment have been signed with Germany (1991), Greece (1996) and Italy (1997)⁶².

Readmission agreements

Readmission agreements are in place with the European Community (2005, came into force 1 May 2006), the United Kingdom (2005), Croatia (2005), Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania (2002)⁶³ and Switzerland.

6.5. The scale of brain drain and policies to address it

According to the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) survey, during the period 1991–2005, more than 50% of the lecturers and research workers of the universities and research institutions of Albania emigrated from Albania.⁶⁴ In 2005, main host countries for the Albanian lecturers and researchers were the US (26.3%), Canada (18.4%), Italy (13.7%), Greece (12.9%), France (9.7%), Germany (6.3%), England (2.9%) and Austria (2.6%).⁶⁵

⁶² The Government of Albania [2005]: Response to an IOM Questionnaire for the Workshop on Labour Migration in February 2005, Zagreb.

⁶³ ICMPD [2005]: *Yearbook on Illegal Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Central and Eastern Europe*, Vienna

⁶⁴ Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) - Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalization and Poverty [2006]: UNDP Policy Paper: From Brain Drain to Brain Gain: *Mobilizing Albania's Skilled Diaspora*

⁶⁵ Ibid.

It is estimated that every year 2,000 to 4,000 Albanian students leave to attend universities abroad, mainly in Italy, France, Germany, the UK, Greece and USA. In Italian universities alone, some 12,000 Albanian students are enrolled. A survey realized in 2004 with 181 PhD holders and PhD candidates revealed that only 56% of those surveyed were willing to return to Albania.⁶⁶

At present there are no policies in place to promote short-term return of expatriate academics to Albanian institutions where they originally trained or worked. The new law on higher education grants universities the possibility to determine the policies to engage the academics from abroad in the master and Ph.D. programs.

(See section 9 for the description of the UNDP Brain Gain Programme).

6.6. Irregular migration routes and policies to address irregular migration

Since 1990 Albanian migration to Greece has followed three main routes: the two main road crossings at Kakavi (leading to Ioannina) and Bilisht (leading to Kastoria and Florina), and the short sea link from Sarandë to Corfu. A fourth route goes via southern Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Thessaloniki.⁶⁷

Following the approval by the Albanian Parliament of the law on the ban of boats in the Adriatic and Ionian Sea in July 2006, the irregular migration route is now oriented towards the green border.

The main irregular migration routes are:

Albania – the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Greece and destination to other Western European Countries

Albania – Montenegro – Serbia – Slovenia – Italy

Albania – Kosovo (Rep of Serbia) – Croatia - Slovenia and destination to other Western European Countries

Albania – Greece – Italy

Foreign citizens apprehended at the Albanian borders are mostly Chinese, Indian, Turkish, and Pakistani nationals. The majority have been refused entry at “Nene Tereza” airport, Rinas.

⁶⁶ bid.

⁶⁷ Russell K., Vullnetari, J., Sussex Centre for Migration Research [2003]: Migration and Development in Albania, Working Paper No C5 p.37

6.7. Trafficking in human beings and policies to address it

Albania, while still a source country for trafficking, is no longer a significant country of transit or destination. Albanian victims are trafficked to Greece and Italy, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Norway, Germany and the Netherlands. Internal trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation is on the rise.

The total number of Albanian victims identified and assisted between 2000 and 2004 was 1750.⁶⁸ Minors accounted for a significant percentage of assisted Albanian victims abroad (21.1% in 2003 and 23.6% in 2004). Minors constituted 100% of the reported victims of trafficking for labour, begging and delinquency in 2003 and 93.2% in 2004. Roma and Egyptian minorities are highly represented among all types of Albanian victims. Mentally and physically disabled victims represent as much as one-third of Albanian victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Most Albanian victims were trafficked by somebody known to them and families were at times complicit in trafficking (particularly in cases of trafficking for labour, begging and delinquency). The transportation route is mainly illegal and with false or no documents. In 2003, 33.7% of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation were re-trafficked.⁶⁹

Between 1999 and 2006 IOM assisted 90 Albanian victims trafficked to the EU Member States.⁷⁰

In 2006 the police referred 51 new trafficking cases to the General Prosecutor's Office, which investigated 65 people on charges related to trafficking. Forty-three cases were referred to the Serious Crimes Court, with 62 prosecutions and 57 convictions for trafficking. Some police officers, customs officials, and border police were allegedly involved in facilitation of trafficking. Albania ratified a bilateral agreement with Greece to assist with the return of child trafficking victims.⁷¹

The National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005-2007 was adopted in July 2005. It includes the National Strategy for the Fight against Child Trafficking and the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking and the Co-operation Agreement to establish a National Referral Mechanism for the Enhanced Identification of and Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking.

The National Action Plan seeks to address poor co-operation between police and prosecution, insufficient action against police, prosecutors, judges and other officials complicit in trafficking; as well as the need for greater government, as opposed to

⁶⁸ Surtees, R., [2005]: *Second Annual Report on Victims of Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe. Regional Clearing Point*

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ IOM database of assisted VOTs.

⁷¹ US Dept of State, [2007]: *Trafficking in Persons Report*

NGO-led initiatives in the areas of protection and prevention. It is structured under the following headings: Investigation and Prosecution, Support and Protection of Victims and Witnesses, Prevention of Trafficking and Re-Trafficking, Coordinating Framework. An Anti-Trafficking Unit has been established under the supervision of the Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator within the Ministry of Interior.

In 2006 the Albanian government, with support from IOM and UNODC, carried out a campaign to launch the services offered by a hotline on promoting safe migration and prevent human trafficking. With the support of the ILO, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities implemented a micro-loan programme for female trafficking victims to assist them in starting small businesses, foster reintegration, and prevent re-trafficking.⁷² Joint police operations were undertaken with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece and Montenegro through the Southeast Europe Cooperative Initiative Regional Centre for Combating Transborder Crime (SECI).⁷³

6.8. Refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons in the country and relevant policies in place

The Albanian law provides for the granting of asylum or refugee status in accordance with the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 protocol. The government has established a system for providing protection to refugees. Under the law, requests for asylum must be made within 10 days of arrival to the country and the decision for granting asylum status must be given within 51 days of the initial request. During 2006 the government granted six asylum requests and seven other requests were granted positive decisions in the period Jan-July 2007. The UNHCR, through the government-run national reception centre for asylum seekers (Babrru Reception Centre), provided social and legal services, health care coverage, insurance, and limited training support for the small refugee community and co-ordinated further assistance through a network of NGOs.⁷⁴ In 2006, 54 refugees and asylum-seekers were accommodated at the Babrru Centre.⁷⁵ Another 50 refugees and asylum-seekers living in private accommodation also received medical, legal and social assistance, including a subsistence allowance. All asylum-seeker and refugee children attended primary school. No cases of refoulement were reported.⁷⁶

The pre-screening programme which was implemented by UNHCR in cooperation with IOM, the OSCE and the Ministry of the Interior, was officially handed over to

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ ICMPD [2005]: *Yearbook on Illegal Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Central and Eastern Europe*

⁷⁴ US Dept of State [2006]: *Human Rights Report*

⁷⁵ Data provided from the UNHCR office in Tirana, August 2007.

⁷⁶ UNHCR [2006]: *Global Report 2006 – South-Eastern Europe Sub-regional Overview*

the government in March 2006. The pre-screening system is an operational tool to identify and channel asylum-seekers, irregular migrants and victims of trafficking into appropriate systems and procedures. By the end of this joint project, over 2,000 border guards, police officers and government officials had been trained, 11 transit reception centres at major border crossings had been rehabilitated, and eight vehicles and computer equipment had been provided to the authorities.

According to the EC 2006 Progress Report for Albania the overall legislative framework for asylum is in compliance with international standards. Equipment for processing asylum requests has been significantly improved and a pre-screening process is now in place. All asylum seekers and refugees are now provided with the necessary documents. Two shelters were recently constructed: a shelter for asylum seekers and a national reception centre for victims of trafficking in Albania.⁷⁷

In 2007 Albania accepted eight former Guantanamo detainees who could not be returned to their home country due to fear of persecution and torture. Former detainees from China, Algeria, Uzbekistan and Egypt are currently housed in a refugee reception centre.

6.9. Projects and programmes on migration and development

Measure 38 of the National Action Plan on Migration (see section 6.3) calls for the elaboration of the National Action Plan on Remittances in order to promote formal channelling of migrant remittances to Albania and to promote the use of remittances for investment purposes. To support the implementation of this measure, IOM conducted research on possible policies, actions and initiatives that could be carried out by the Albanian Government and other actors in order to enhance the positive aspects of remittances – in particular their function as a development and poverty alleviation tool. The study “**Competing for Remittances**” was completed in July 2005.⁷⁸

Following the recommendations of the IOM study above, IOM and ILO (International Labour Organization) implemented a joint project on **Enhancing the Impact of Migrant Remittances in Albania: Creating an Integrated Migrant Remittance System** (1 Oct 2006 – June 2007). The objective of the project was to strengthen the institutional and technical capabilities of the Albanian government, international organizations, non-government agencies, and local government offices in order to enhance the economic, social and political impact of labour migrants’ remittances in line with the National Strategy on Migration (measure 38). The project was carried out with technical support and funding from the Italian MFA.

⁷⁷ European Commission [2006]: *Albania 2006 Progress Report*

⁷⁸ The study report can be accessed at www.iomtirana.org.al

The main result of the project was the elaboration of the draft of **the National Action Plan on Remittances**. The Action Plan contains eight specific measures aimed at enhancing the social and economic impact of migrant remittances in Albania. They range from expanding and improving remittance data collection and research, to expanding banking services linked to remittances; to enhancing migrants' knowledge of and access to remittance transfer options, savings and investment; and to enhancing the capacity of Albanian Government and migrant communities to collaborate on transnational development initiatives.

The draft National Action Plan on Remittances represents the combined efforts of 24 institutions, comprising of government agencies, private banks, local development agencies operating in the financial market in Albania, and international organizations who invited to participate at an Interagency Working Group (IWG) to elaborate a National Action Plan on Remittances and to advise on the implementation of project activities. It is currently awaiting the endorsement by the Government of Albania.

Brain Gain Programme (start date: September 2006) aims to support the creation of the necessary incentives and national policy mechanisms to effectively engage the Albanian diasporas in the scientific, administrative and economic development of the country. The project will seek to reverse Albania's "brain drain" and it will support the Government in the preparation of a policy framework to address the issue. An online database will be established to match the demand of Albania's academic institutions, public administration, and private sector with the expertise offered by the Albanian diasporas.

The Programme is implemented by the Council of Ministers, and its main Government partners are the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Interior's Department of Public Administration, the Diaspora Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education through UNDP funding.

Other partners include:

- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Open Society Foundation Albania Fellowship scheme
- "Mjaft!" (Enough!) Foundation
- Alb-Student
- Albanian Student Association Network.

IOM will partner with the UNDP and the Soros Foundation to implement a component aiming at virtual return and short consultancies by expatriate Albanians.

6.10. Other important migration actors within the country

International actors

British Embassy in Albania supports the British policy in South East Europe, by encouraging Albania's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures and its role in regional cooperation. In this regard, they work closely with IOM and national authorities to curb the irregular migration flow and prevent trafficking of human beings.

Rruga Skenderbeg 12, Tirana, Tel: + 355 4 234973/4/5, Fax: + 355 4 247697

www.uk.al

Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo (Italian Development Cooperation) www.italcoopalbania.org Italy remains the largest bilateral donor to Albania with priorities focusing on supporting Albania's accession to the EU, socio-economic development and overall stability. Funded projects focus on infrastructure rehabilitation, improvement of basic services and socio-sanitary conditions, strengthening of the institutions and the development of private sector.

COOPI – Cooperazione Internazionale www.coopi.org is an Italian non-governmental organization founded in 1965, carrying out development programmes and emergency interventions in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Balkans)

Delegation of the European Commission in Albania

The EC Delegation in Albania supports the efforts of the Albanian Government in the process of establishing and implementing an effective, migration, asylum, return and readmission system in compliance with EU and international standards.

Rruga e Durrësit, 127/1, Laprake, Tirana, Tel: + 355 4 228 320, Fax: + 355 4 270 679

Dorcas Aid International www.dorcas.net, is a Christian relief and development organization, which implements projects for shelter/reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure.

International Catholic Migration Commission

http://www.icmc.net/e/programmes_operations/present_programmes/counter_trafficking_albania.htm

Between 1999 and 2002 International Catholic Migration Commission operated the first shelter for victims of trafficking in Albania and provided protection and assistance services to women. ICMC continues to cooperate with the NGOs, inter-governmental and governmental agencies that address issues of trafficking in human beings in Albania. In 2002, ICMC, with the British Embassy, implemented a pilot activity, in collaboration with the anti-trafficking unit of the Durrës Police, by rehabilitating a police unit and providing information sharing sessions for the anti-trafficking police.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

ILO in Albania aims to foster the use of migrant remittances for productive investment leading to poverty reduction and conducts activities aimed at reducing child labour, including child trafficking through its IPEC project. In the framework of the ILO/MIGRANT Project, the ILO has provided comments on the Albanian new law on emigration, and developed a country-specific training manual on labour immigration policy and management. A direct action consisting in providing victims of trafficking with vocational training and employment opportunities and micro-credits will also be implemented.⁷⁹

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IOM Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe www.ilo-ceet.hu

International Organization for Migration (IOM) www.iomtirana.org.al

The IOM Mission works closely with Albanian counterparts and international partners to achieve tangible results at every stage of the migration process. The National Strategy for Migration and its Action Plan is one of the strategic tools produced by the Albanian Government in collaboration with IOM and with the technical and financial assistance of the EU in order to provide efficient and long-term tools to manage migration. In the framework of the re-admission agreement between Albania and the European Union IOM is committed to assist the Government of Albania to enhance institutional and operational capacity, boost dialogue with its neighbours, and strengthen border cooperation. IOM in Albania promotes regular migration and help channel remittances for local development.

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International Social Service (ISS) <http://www.iss-ssi.org>

The International Social Service (ISS) is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to helping individuals and families with personal or social problems resulting from migration and international movement.

OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) www.osce.org/albania The OSCE Presence in Albania provides assistance to Albanian authorities and civil society on promoting democratization, rule of law, human rights and on consolidating democratic institutions in conformity with OSCE principles, standards and commitments. The Presence works in the fields of legislative and judicial reform, property reform, electoral reform, regional administrative reform, parliamentary capacity-building, anti-trafficking and anti-corruption, media development, promotion

⁷⁹ ILO [2006]: *Albania Decent Work Country Programme 2006-2007*

of good governance, the development of civil society and police assistance.
Sheraton Tirana Hotel & Towers, 1st Floor, Sheshi "Italia", Tirana
Tel: +355 4 23 59 93, Fax: +355 4 23 59 94

PAMECA Mission in Albania

Through its commitment to excellence, PAMECA will work with Albanian institutions and partner organizations to enhance the professionalism, leadership and management performance of the Police and Criminal Justice system in achieving sustainable advancements.

Rruga "Murat Toptani", Qendra e Biznesit "EUROCOL", P.O. Box 8189, Tirana
Tel: +355-4-267700/1, Fax: +355-4-267702

Save the Children UK <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk/jsp/wherewework/country.jsp?ukww=§ion=europe&subsection=albania&page=2>

Save the Children aims to combat trafficking in Albania through prevention, protection and reintegration. STC provides protection and support to trafficked women and girls in the form of accommodation, food, psychosocial counselling, social and medical care, and legal advice. Vocational training and job placements to help women and girls reintegrate into mainstream society are also provided.

SIDA - <http://www.sida.org>

The overall goal of Swedish development cooperation is to reduce poverty by supporting reforms designed to bring Albania economically and politically closer to the EU. SIDA's most important tasks are to help develop an efficient and democratic public administration, including decentralisation to a local and regional level, as well as a reliable legal system and a greater respect for human rights. Swedish support also goes to health, natural resource management and gender issues.

Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) - <http://www.sdc-gov.ch> -

The primary philosophy of SDC is to fight poverty through participatory programs, creating sustainable improvements in peoples' lives by involving them in the process. Its main intentions are to improve access to education and basic health care, to promote environmental health, to encourage economic and governmental autonomy, and to improve equity in labour.

United Nations in Albania www.un.org.al

United Nations Development Programme UNDP Albania www.undp.org.al

UNDP supports Albania's aspirations towards European Union integration and contributes to national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To address the capacity gaps in institutions and the public sector, UNDP and the Government of Albania are working together to develop the necessary incentives and

mechanisms for reversing the “brain drain” and engaging the diasporas in the country’s development.

Rr. “Deshmoret e 4 Shkurtit”, Villa 35, Tirana

Tel.: +355 (4) 233148, 233149, 233122, Fax: +355 (4) 232075, 234448

United Nations Populations Fund UNFPA www.unfpa.org.al

The 2006-2010 UNFPA Country Programme will focus on gender equity and equality, population and development, and reproductive health and rights. Activities under the population and development component will be implemented nationally; activities under the reproductive health component will focus on three geographical areas, within the context of the regional MDG development plans.

Rruga ‘Donika Kastrioti’, Villa No. 1/1, Tirana, E-mail: registry@unfpa.org.al

UNHCR <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/country?iso=alb>

In Albania, UNHCR cooperates with the Government to protect and assist asylum-seekers and refugees. This will include monitoring of the refugee status determination procedure conducted by the Government, the search for durable solutions for recognized refugees and their temporary accommodation, primarily in the National Reception Centre.

UNICEF <http://www.unicef.org/albania/>

UNICEF supports the government and other civil society institutions to develop the structures needed to fulfil the rights of every child through social policy, advocacy and information; ensuring children’s health and development and protection against child trafficking, substance abuse and violence and HIV/AIDS.

USAID Albania www.usaidalbania.org

Migration-related programmes supported by USAID:

The Coordinated Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) <http://www.caaht.com/> represents one of the biggest programs in the area of counter trafficking in Albania. This six-year program (2004 to 2009), is funded by the USAID and implemented by Creative Associates International, Inc. CAAHT is galvanizing the efforts of local government and civil society representatives to lead their communities in practical steps to decrease trafficking of Albania’s citizens and provide life-changing opportunities to victims and those at-risk.

The International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) assists the Albanian Government to develop the capacity to provide professional law enforcement services based on best policing practices, respect for human rights and the rule of law since 1998. ICITAP offers support to the Ministry of Interior and the Albanian State Police. This assistance comprises projects in border management and anti-trafficking; combating organized crime; police accountability and human resource management; academy and training development; and information management systems, including TIMS (Total Integration Management System).

Local Actors:

All Together against Child Trafficking (Se Bashku Kunder Trafikimit Te Femijeve (BKTF) network is a coalition of international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The coalition works to prevent child trafficking in Albania, and contributes legal expertise and general advice.

<http://www.bktf-coalition.org/index2.html>

Address: Blv "Zhan D'Ark" Kulla5, Kt 3, Ap 9, Tirana

Tel +355 4 269307

Centre for Legal Initiative for Women

The Centre is a project of the Women Jurists' Association that provides legal support to the victims of trafficking and violence, raises awareness on the causes and negative effects of trafficking in human beings and trains local law enforcement officials in Albania.

Tel: +355 4 259795

Different and Equal (DandE) - Tirana's only long-term shelter for trafficking victims, DandE provides direct reintegration services to victims of trafficking. DandE's 'hands on' reintegration, residential, and outreach services enable young women who have suffered the devastating consequences of trafficking to recover their sense of dignity and re-establish normal, happy lives.

Rr. Jeronim Derada, Nr.55, Ap.2, Tirana

Phone & Fax: + 355 4243606

E-mail: different&equal@icc.al.org

Hope for the Future Association provides reintegration assistance for returning migrants since 1999. The services provided to returning migrants consist of support to employment in private companies, vocational trainings, language courses, computer and driving license courses, as well as social services. In total, 1138 individuals have benefited from Hope projects during the period 1999-2006.

Bulevardi "Gjergj Fishta", Kulla 8, Ap 11, Tirana, Albania

Tel. + 355 4 253 649 Tel/Fax: + 355 4 224 033

E-mail: shprese@shprese.org, Web: www.shprese.org

Other Vision, funded through the Coordinated Action against Human Trafficking project runs a residential centre, community day care, and secure apartments for minors in difficulty, including trafficking victims. The mission of the association is to protect the rights, and raise awareness about the disadvantaged groups in Albania.

Vatra Psychosocial Centre "The Hearth"

An NGO working to combat trafficking in women for sexual exploitation through a

wide range of activities such as raising public awareness and conducting research on the social status of women in Albania and trafficking in human beings, and by providing services such as counselling for trafficked women at the Hear Psycho-Social Centre.

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