



IOM International Organization for Migration  
ONM Organizata Ndërkombëtare për Migracionin

# **MIGRANTS**

# **AGENTS OF DEVELOPMENT**

**Ancona, 15 June 2007**

# International Organization for Migration - IOM

- ✦ As an intergovernmental organization established in 1951, IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society
- ✦ IOM present in Albania since 1992
- ✦ 2005 National Strategy for the Migration and National Action Plan for Migration

# Migration & Development

- ◆ September 2006, UN HLD on International Migration and Development
- ◆ Integration of migration into development policy and planning
- ◆ Countries need migration policies and internal capacity to develop them

# Case of Albanian Migrants

## Return Migration

IOM Tirana VARRP – Reintegration Assistance:

- vocational training
- start up a business

Albania – an interesting country for investments

Geographical position, property and labor low cost, young well educated population, quick procedures for business registration (One Stop Shop) [www.albinvest.gov.al](http://www.albinvest.gov.al)






# Enhancing the impact of remittances

- 1/3 of Albanian population has emigrated
- 6.6 billion Euros flown to Albania for the last 15 years, exceed Foreign Direct Investments and Development Assistance
- Enhancing the impact of remittances through:
  - a- increasing the volume of remittances
  - b- supporting to shift them into formal channels
  - c- enhancing their use in support of country's economic growth

# How to achieve these goals?

1. National Action Plan on remittances – to be approved by the Albanian Council of Ministers
2. Improvement of statistics on remittances – accurate estimation of capital flow
3. Bring workers remittances into formal channels
  - a more attractive financial products (remittances oriented)
4. Directing workers remittances into country's development and investments and transfer of know-how – supporting the migrants' contribution for the development of the country
  - ◆ Local government to promote the LED through SME/MSEs
  - ◆ Pre-departure seminars to emphasize also return reintegration opportunities



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- ◆ Create a Diaspora/Migrants Data base to facilitate greater support to migrants, investments and brain gain
  - ◆ Review of tax policies
  - ◆ Promote Home Town Associations to help Albanian remain in contact abroad
  - ◆ Sound return policies – reintegration assistance
  - ◆ Guarantee Funds – Assistance with Business Plans
  - ◆ Vocational trainings





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## About this web page

It has been widely accepted that migrant remittances have been a major factor in the financial survival of the country.

When comparing the percentage of emigrant remittances weighted against GDP, Albania is placed firmly at the top of the list of 20 emigration countries...

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## RECENT DATA

Albania has absorbed, in the form of inward remittance flows, substantial quantities of hard currency each year. Specifically speaking, around 6.6 billion Euros are estimated to have flown to Albania for the last 15 years (since 1992) as emigrant transfers, standing for approximately 13% of the GDP.



## MANAGING REMITTANCES

### Initiatives in Albania

[Albanian National Action Plan on Remittances](#)  
[Banks network in Albania, Products and Services](#)  
[How to transfer money to Albania](#)  
[How to invest in Albania](#)

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## DEFINITION

According to IOM, migrant remittances are defined broadly as the monetary transfers that a migrant makes to the country of origin.

In other words, financial flows associated with migration.

Most of the time, remittances are personal, cash transfers from a migrant worker or immigrant to a relative in the country of origin. They can also be funds invested, deposited or donated by the migrant to the country of origin.

[learn more...](#)

## PUBLICATIONS



Survey Analysis of the current situation of the Albanian financial system and recommendations to take a pro-active attitude toward remittances market...

[learn more...](#)

Thank you for the attention!

