

Cost of Youth Emigration - Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia

After the research “Cost of Youth Emigration” in Serbia, the Institute for Development and Innovation, with the support of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, conducted the research for the countries in the region (North Macedonia/Albania/Montenegro).

The analysis has a focus on the economic effects of emigration in these countries, which are known as ones from which people emigrate, especially the youth. It explores the positive and negative implications, assesses the potential gains and losses for the economy of these countries and society, and indicates the need for broader research and improvement of economic policy measures that would mitigate the effects of youth emigration from these countries.

The analysis is trying to answer three key questions:

- 1) What are the average higher education expenses;
- 2) What is the opportunity cost in terms of potential GDP growth generated by the annual populace emigration;
- 3) Are there positive effects from the migration flow on the economy of these countries? And, if so, what are they?

This research study „Cost of Youth Emigration,, is the first to provide data about North Macedonia/Albania/Montenegro emigration and the first that answers one simple question: How much does youth emigration cost these countries? Even so, the question is simple and touches upon a very complex issue. Although there has been researching into the various reasons for emigration, which is a global phenomenon that has existed since the beginning of humanity, there has been very little or no data or other information about the actual cost of emigration.

The research study presents an assessment of the costs and financial impact on North Macedonia/Albania/Montenegro and the losses generated by the alarmingly high number of people who leave these countries every year. The research quantifies the effects and implications of emigration of the overall economy and the losses in the gross domestic product (GDP) while taking a closer look at how remittances are spent.

The intention is to present this evidence to stakeholders, the wider public, the media, and state and non-state actors. We hope that this research will help in the creation of policy solutions on how to tackle and decrease the cost of youth emigration and its negative effects.