



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË

MINISTRI I SHTETIT
PËR DIASPORËN

ALBANIA'S DIASPORA POLICIES



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The State Minister for Diaspora

Outline

Overview of Albanian Diaspora



Outline



Overview of Albanian Diaspora



State-Diaspora Relations



Outline



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Critical Diaspora Matters



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Critical Diaspora Matters



Diaspora Summit

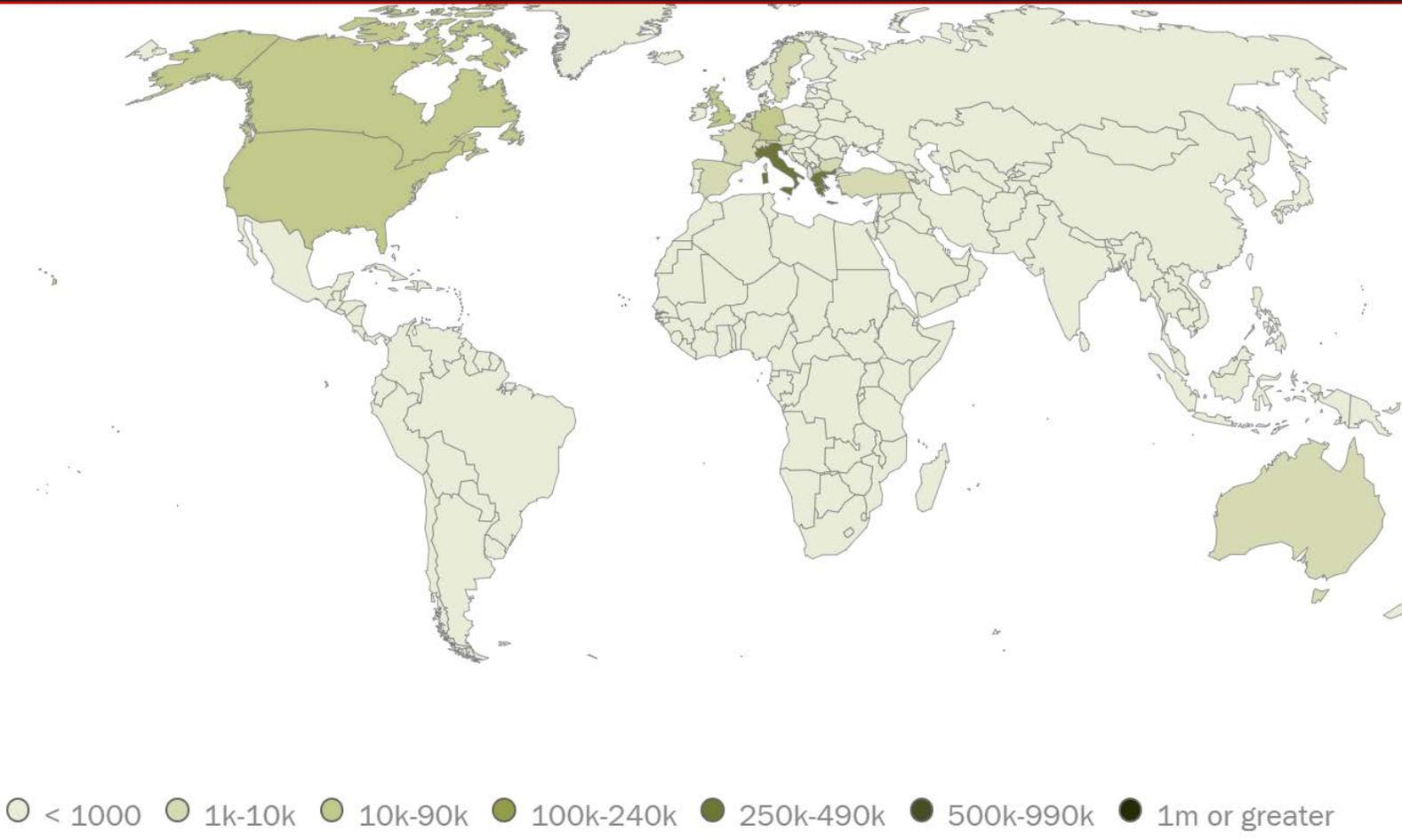
Albania

Population: 2.876.591
(2017)



Source: Institute of Statistics, 2017.

Albanian population living abroad



Source: Pew Research Center (2018).

Albanian International Migration



- Over 1.2 million Albanians living abroad (United Nations, 2015)
- Almost half of the population living in Albania
- Intense, irregular and rapidly evolving flows
- Diaspora consists of i) economic migrants; ii) family members of economic migrants; iii) students; iv) asylum seekers and refugees; and v) unaccompanied minors (Government of Albania, 2015).

Old vs. New Diaspora



The Albanian Diaspora is generally seen as divided into two subsets: the old diaspora and the new diaspora.

- Period of migration
- Destination country

OLD DIASPORA	NEW DIASPORA
Migrated before or during the communism period	Migrated after the communism period
Mainly settled in the United States, Latin America, Australia and a few countries in Western Europe	Greatest concentrations in Italy, Greece, and a smaller part in the countries of the old diaspora

Destination Countries



- Italy - 450,000 (media: 800,000)
- Greece - 440,000 (media: 600,000)
- USA - 82,000
- Canada - 13,000
- UK - 15,000

The Albanian Diaspora is also present in other countries such as Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, 2015.

Why do Albanians migrate?



PUSH FACTORS	PULL FACTORS
<p>Economic reasons Unemployment Poor living conditions Public safety Weak institutions Corruption Organized crime</p>	<p>Family reunification Better education Job vacancies Positive work environment Higher wages Better quality of life</p>

State-Diaspora Relations



1. The State Minister for Diaspora
2. Parliamentary Sub-Commission on Diaspora
3. The State Committee for Diaspora
4. Consultative Council of the Albanian Diaspora
5. National Agency for Diaspora
6. National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2024)

1. The State Minister for Diaspora



- Drafts and implements policies that promote interests and values of Diaspora;
- Facilitates initiatives designed to build on and develop two-way Diaspora engagement;
- Implements the National Strategy on Diaspora; and
- Expands Diaspora rights.

2. Parliamentary Sub-Commission on Diaspora



- 5 members of the Parliament of Albania
- Responsible for proposing, reviewing and monitoring the implementation of diaspora legislation and policies.

3. The State Committee for Diaspora



- Drafts guidelines for new policies and strategic priorities for Diaspora;
- Suggests areas of legal and institutional reform;
- Promotes dialogue between entities for the implementation of the Strategy;
- Coordinates the implementation of the National Strategy for Diaspora; and
- Supports and monitors the National Agency for Diaspora.

4. Consultative Council of the Albanian Diaspora



- An Inter-Institutional Structure for the Diaspora engagement;
- Establish a network of Albanian communities in the destination countries and Albania as an "environment of transition"; and
- Emphasize the importance of the Diaspora organizations.

5. National Agency for Diaspora



- Coordinate the registration and participation of diaspora in elections;
- Build a database for diaspora;
- Improve diaspora engagement;
- Attract investment through promoting transparent policies;
- Engage diaspora as development partners (private-public partnerships);
- Coordinate programs for the preservation of the Albanian identity and culture; and
- Encourage establishment of student networks.

6. National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2024)



Aims of the Strategy:

- Transform migration into an added value for Albania;
- Engage diaspora for political and economic development;
- Strengthen institutional framework targeting diaspora policies and migration management; and
- Promote the migration-development nexus.

6. National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2024) (continued)



General objectives of the Strategy:

- Create a diaspora-oriented policy framework;
- Build institutional capacities for management of diaspora matters;
- Create a useful instrument to improve diaspora-oriented policy framework; and
- Improve state-diaspora relations.

The Action Plan covers the implementation of the activities planned for period 2018-2024.

Critical Diaspora Matters



- Promoting Diaspora Rights
- Diaspora Public Diplomacy
- The Economic Contribution of Diaspora
- Social Remittances
- Measures for Promoting Diaspora Investments
- Diaspora Development Fund
- Preserving and Strengthening National Identity

Promoting Diaspora Rights



Albanian Government:

- Advocate for the voting right and engage diaspora in the national decision-making process;
- Help Albanian Communities Abroad to better organize themselves in new international and global contexts;

Diaspora associations:

- facilitate a dialogue between the Albanian Government and host countries over important issues such as language learning and citizenship;
- assess diaspora needs and expectations;
- improve civil society in Albania; and
- provide human capital.

Diaspora Public Diplomacy



- Renowned members to serve as "public diplomats" in the destination countries
E.g. athletes, actors, businessmen;
- Promote a positive perception for Albania and Albanians;
- Encourage diaspora to interact more with the host societies; and
- Show values that will replace the myths about Albanian migrants.

The Economic Contribution of Diaspora: Remittances



- A high dependence on remittances:
 - the country's economy (9%-27% of Albania's GDP) (World Bank, 2017)
 - individual households
- Remittances have allowed for:
 - higher income
 - better healthcare and education
 - higher economic growth
- Remittances are mainly used for consumption and economic survival

The Economic Contribution of Diaspora: Remittances (continued)



Remittances for sustainable development

- Introducing best practices for formal remittance channels;
- Expanding and improving banking services related to remittances;
- Improving and expanding financial services, including Albanian Post services; and
- Reducing informality of Albanian emigrants in the labour market of the destination countries.

Social Remittances



- Diaspora has been transferring ideas, behaviors and values;
- Technical knowledge and skills
 - Potentially useful in construction and agriculture;

Measures:

Brain Gain

- Create institutional structures that enable the return of professionals;
- Create the Science Research Fund to attract diaspora professionals through projects in IT, science, medicine, tourism, etc.;
- Support networks of Albanian diaspora professionals.

Measures for Promoting Diaspora Investments



- Improving business climate;
- Fighting corruption;
- Review of fiscal policies and applying fiscal incentives
 - goods exempted from import
 - corporation tax exemption;
- Bank of Diaspora or special banking policies;
- Using diaspora savings for cheaper loans;
- Local associations can be transformed into economic cooperatives.

Diaspora Development Fund



- help members of the diaspora promote economic and social development in Albania;
- improve the flow of remittances;
- increase investment in Albania; and
- promote philanthropic initiatives.

Preserving and Strengthening National Identity



Diaspora:

- Shaped the Albanian history and independence;
- Supports the preservation of the national language;
- Improves Albania's relations with receiving countries.

Government of Albania:

- Initiate joint actions with the Government of Kosovo;
- Provide educational and cultural programs (e.g., Albanian language courses);
- Establish cultural centers/institutes abroad;
- Establish a TV channel that will broadcast specific programs targeting Diaspora.

Albanian Diaspora Summit



First Diaspora Summit: November 2016

- Build cooperation, communication, and interaction between Diaspora and homeland governments.
- Diaspora's contribution in the preservation of language, culture and identity.
- Share success stories and exchange experience.

Next Summit: November 2018

Albanian Diaspora Summit



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THANK YOU

