PROFILING OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS AND ANALYSIS OF REINTEGRATION NEEDS OF POTENTIAL RETURNEES FROM KOSOVO (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO), ALBANIA AND FYROM IN BELGIUM, ITALY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND GERMANY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With more than 20 Assisted Voluntary Return programmes operating, IOM has assisted more than 1.6 million migrants to voluntarily return home to more than 130 countries in the past ten years. The assistance provided within these schemes ranges from the basic assisted-return scheme of providing pre-departure information, counselling and the organization of the voluntary return to projects aimed at facilitating the long-term reintegration and economic viability of migrants following their return home.

This IOM project, "Fostering Sustainable Reintegration in Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, by reinforcing local NGO capacity service provision to returnees," carried out within the framework of the European Commission's High Level Working Group, was composed of, broadly, two stages. The first step, this research study, sought to determine what drove people to leave their homes, what causes them to want to return and what type of return assistance would be most useful to returnees, focusing on migrants from Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (to be subsequently referred to as FYROM) in Belgium, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. The project's second step was to take the findings of this research study, presented here, apply them to the practical problem of the reintegration of return migrants – specifically, 200 migrants for whom funding is available through this project – and be instrumental in helping them to enjoy a successful return to their home countries. Ideally, the project will succeed in identifying means of making return sustainable which can be applied to return migrants in the future.

This report first discusses background information concerning the three target regions/countries and then presents the findings of the survey conducted by IOM for this project. The survey was carried out with 211 potential return migrants, of whom 103 were Kosovars, 68 Albanians and 37 Macedonians.

The main findings of the report are:
- The main reasons for departure were: general insecurity (53.1%), economic hardship (49.3%) and political reasons (46.4%);
- The primary circumstances under which migrants would be willing to return on a permanent basis are: secured employment (77.3%), acceptable level of security (74.4%) and acceptable living standards (68.2%);
- The main types of return assistance desired were: loans for small and mid-size business start-up (63.0%), followed by job-seeking assistance (55.9%) and a housing allowance (50.2%).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Aims and background

With more than 20 Assisted Voluntary Return programmes operating across the globe, in the past ten years, IOM has assisted more than 1.6 million migrants to voluntarily return home to more than 130 countries. The assistance provided within these schemes ranges from the basic assisted-return scheme of providing pre-departure information, counselling and the organization of the voluntary return itself to projects aimed at facilitating the long-term reintegration and economic viability of migrants following their return.

Previous research projects (IOM, 2002; Koser, 2001) have examined the process of return and reintegration and its degree of success or failure. It became clear, however, that something more needed to be built upon the foundation of these previous studies. This project goes one step further than these previous studies in that it explores the specific reintegration needs of irregular migrants prior to their return and seeks to find means of meeting those needs in the country/region of origin. While this is not yet a focal point of migration research, one recent study (Black et al., 2004) offers an analysis of voluntary return, as well as the sustainability of return. Our project chose to focus upon a region which has experienced considerable irregular and regular migration in the past decade, namely Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and FYROM. The four host countries chosen, Belgium, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom, are countries in which the target group has a large presence and in which it was logistically possible for IOM to carry out the research and the complete project, that is to say, in which IOM has Assisted Voluntary Return programmes. The results of this project, then, promise to be more meaningful with reference to the question of the sustainability of return than similar projects to date.

Faced with a need to make return more sustainable, IOM posed the question of "How do we do this?". The answer to that question is, clearly, that by knowing more about what return migrants want, we will be more capable of meeting their reintegration needs. Thus, this three-part project was developed: first, 211 potential return migrants[1] were surveyed concerning their needs and wishes when they return home. Second, research results were conveyed to the IOM offices in the countries/region of return. IOM worked together with NGOs to develop return assistance schemes which will provide those needs most wished for. Leaflets and brochures were developed to inform return migrants about their options. Third, 200 return migrants will benefit from these projects. Their success in reintegration will be analysed.

This report, then, is the major result from the first phase of this project, the research phase. Based upon the survey, focus groups with smaller groups of migrants and secondary literature research, this report represents a thorough analysis of the data gathered for this project and will contribute substantially to the debate and to the body of literature on the subject of return migration.

In recent years, interest in voluntary return has increased among IOM Member Governments, as well as within the European Commission (European Commission, 2002a, 2002b). IOM has carried out a number of research projects on voluntary return, (IOM, 2002a; Koser, 2001) while return is increasingly a topic for purely academic researchers as well.

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[1] The study targets migrants who are asylum-seekers, rejected asylum-seekers, visa overstayers and other irregular migrants. These groups form the focus of this study because they are in a situation which is precarious and therefore are the most likely to be returned to their home countries.

Despite the increasing volume of research undertaken on the topic of voluntary return, the question of the long-term sustainability of such voluntary return remains open. This project seeks to address that question by combining IOM research with IOM's on-the-ground expertise in three areas of origin, namely Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and FYROM. By carrying out a research phase in which potential returnees were asked about their needs and expectations if they were to return, IOM can, collaborating with local NGOs, work to identify and provide for these needs in as far as possible. Insofar as needs of returnees are identified and provided for, voluntary return can be given a more sustainable nature.

This project was developed with the intention of promoting and facilitating the return and reintegration of irregular migrants from Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and FYROM, three regions which have experienced considerable irregular migration in the past decade. Albania was specifically targeted for this project to respond to the call from the European Commission for projects targeting Albania and the region. A further aspect of the project, namely the role of this project in helping NGOs to tailor their services to be the most relevant possible for returning migrants, will be an ongoing result from this project. The mechanism by which this goal is to be achieved is through fostering service provision and counselling capacities of local NGOs and local service providers in Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and FYROM.

The purpose of this project is to establish new mechanisms and to develop existing ones, to promote the return and reintegration of irregular migrants from Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and FYROM through fostering service provision and counselling capacities of local NGOs and local service providers in the areas of origin.

1.2 Methodology and implementation

The research phase was undertaken in order to achieve one of the key aims of the project, that of determining the needs of returning migrants to Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and FYROM. The results of the research, disseminated to IOM offices in Tirana, Skopje and Pristina, are to be used by these offices, working together with NGOs in Albania, FYROM and Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) to establish assistance programmes to support sustainable return. In other words, the needs of the returnees cannot be met only for a limited time; their needs must continue to be met in a way that will enable them to remain in their home countries. As noted above, the input of this project into the reintegration work of the NGOs will be an ongoing result of this project.

The research phase of the project was initiated in March 2004, with the drafting of the questionnaire. The survey (see Annex 1) was pre-tested in April 2004, and as a result of the pre-test, the focus of the questionnaire was sharpened and the order of questions re-arranged, so that personal questions were moved to the conclusion of the survey rather than opening the survey. The survey was thus made stronger and more precise as a result of the pre-testing. For the most part, the analysis here reflects the questions as they were posed in the survey (see Annex 1).[2]

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[2] For three multiple response questions, the survey results were re-coded because of an apparent misunderstanding on the part of the respondents. For these three questions, respondents were asked to mark their top three choices with "1", "2" and "3," where "1" is the most important selection and to mark those they viewed as least important with "*". The results were then to be encoded as "Important 1", "Important 2" and "Important 3" and "Least Important". These instructions were often not followed, and respondents marked a number of choices as "most important" rather than ranking them first, second and third. The results have been re-coded so that every selection of "important," whether ranked as first, second or third, has simply become "important". The top three options have then been selected on the

Following the pre-test and modifications, the survey was translated into Albanian and Macedonian and distributed to the IOM offices in Bonn, Rome, London and Brussels, where it was distributed to respondents from Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), FYROM. IOM staff were instructed to distribute the questionnaire to respondents matching the criteria from these three regions in as representative a manner as possible but were given a great deal of latitude in finding the respondents, due to different situations in each host country and different relationships between IOM offices and pool of potential respondents. Ultimately, the pools of respondents differ significantly from host country to host country as do the groups of potential migrants (see below).

The methods used in finding respondents, thus differed from country to country. IOM colleagues in London, Rome, Bonn and Brussels were instructed to find as representative a group of Albanian, Kosovar and Macedonian irregular migrants as possible. In Belgium, respondents were found through the REAB (Return and Emigration of Asylum Seekers from Belgium) partner network. REAB, like IOM's other voluntary assisted return programmes, assists migrants, including rejected asylum seekers and victims of trafficking, to return home. Four migrant associations dealing with the target group were also used in identifying respondents. These associations distributed the survey to the respondents. In Germany, the survey was distributed at three cafes which were known meeting points of the target group, while in the United Kingdom, rejected asylum seekers who approached IOM about voluntary return were surveyed and 17 were personal contacts of IOM Kosovar staff. In Italy, different strategies were used for each national group, with Albanians contacted at the Albanian consulate, Kosovars at popular meeting spots and Macedonians by the snowball method, starting with the Macedonian consulate.

While we cannot verify that our survey is representative of all Albanians, Kosovars and Macedonians living in Belgium, Italy, the United Kingdom and Germany, for the most part because there is no clear picture of exactly what is representative of this population, we are reasonably certain that these findings can be used to determine needs assessment relatively accurately: the population surveyed in each host country separately may be less representative due to different data gathering techniques, but the overall sample is that much more heterogeneous and more closely reflects the total population. Further information on the different host societies and country/region of origin is below.

We surveyed 211 individuals, 103 of whom were Kosovars, 68 Albanians and 37 Macedonians. All told, 68 respondents were in Belgium, 58 in Italy, 45 in the United Kingdom and 40 in Germany. On a breakdown by origin and of host country, there were 18 Albanians in Belgium, Italy and in the United Kingdom, and 14 in Germany. Kosovars were distributed as follows: 36 in Belgium, 19 in Italy, 26 in the United Kingdom and 22 in Germany. There were 12 Macedonians in Belgium, 21 in Italy, none in the United Kingdom and 4 in Germany. (See Table 1 in Annex 4). When percentages are mentioned below, these figures should be borne in mind: when 75% of the Macedonians in Germany are mentioned, for instance, this refers to three individuals. Therefore, the figures should be taken as indicative of profile and preferences, but not as a representative reflection when broken down by host country and origin of the whole population. The purpose of this research – that of determining reintegration needs – is thus answered with overall data and slightly less so on a country basis.

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basis of frequency of respondent selection. The option selected by the largest percentage of respondents is referred to in the analysis as the first-most important option that selected with the second-highest percentage the second-most important, etc. Some respondents, in particular in Germany, did not mark any responses "least important" so that this information point is missing for Germany.

In terms of status, 1.4% (three respondents) chose not to answer, 23.2% (49) were asylum seekers, 21.8% (46) visa overstayers, 21.3% (45) rejected asylum seekers, 20.9% (44) were undocumented since first entry, 3.3% (7) did not know their status, 2.4% (5) said "other" and 5.7% (12) have some form of legal status.

Of the 12 individuals with some legal status, only one notes that he has an unlimited residence permit, one says that he has the Belgian nationality (interestingly, this individual states that he would definitely like to return to his origin permanently), one notes that he

TABLE 1[3]

CURRENT STATUS BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Current Status	No answer	Count		2	1		3
		% within Current Status		66.7%	33.3%		100.0%
	Undocumented since first entry	Count	15	10	9	10	44
		% within Current Status	34.1%	22.7%	20.5%	22.7%	100.0%
	Overstayed the visa	Count	8	24	3	11	46
		% within Current Status	17.4%	52.2%	6.5%	23.9%	100.0%
	Rejected asylum-seeker	Count	26	1	10	8	45
		% within Current Status	57.8%	2.2%	22.2%	17.8%	100.0%
	Asylum-seeker	Count	13	15	17	4	49
		% within Current Status	26.5%	30.6%	34.7%	8.2%	100.0%
	I don't know	Count		5	2		7
		% within Current Status		71.4%	28.6%		100.0%
	Other Legal Status	Count	3	1	2	6	12
		% within Current Status	25.0%	8.3%	16.7%	50.0%	100.0%
	Other	Count	3		1	1	5
		% within Current Status	60.0%		20.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Current Status	32.2%	27.5%	21.3%	19.0%	100.0%

was born in Germany – at the time, birth in Germany did not confer any permanent resident or citizenship rights – and the remaining nine either note that they were regularized (one) or have regular status (three) or legal status (five). Thus, of the 12 who note that they have some legal status, only two (unlimited residence permit and Belgian nationality) have an absolute, unlimited right to stay. We do not know whether this legal status has an expiration date, thus, ten of these 12 individuals may at some point become visa overstayers. In other words, they are part of the target group of this study, that is to say, potential return migrants.

1.3 Relevance of this study for existing literature

Although disregarded by researchers for many years – migration was initially regarded (mistakenly so) as a one-way, permanent trip – return migration has increasingly become a topic of interest for researchers and organizations alike. These studies have a wide range of focus. As noted,

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[3] Unless otherwise specified, all data given are from the survey carried out by IOM for this HLWG project. Titles given for tables reflect the two variables which were cross-tabulated to produce the results.

IOM has published widely on return, publishing both theoretically and survey-based studies (Ghosh, 2000; Koser, 2001). The return migration of skilled workers, contributing to a "brain gain"[4] is one of the more recent topics and one in which IOM participates through its Return of Qualified Nationals programmes.[5] For an excellent review of the different types of return migration, see Ammassari and Black (2001).

It should be noted that return migration is closely linked to the question of irregular migration: very often, individuals considering a return home – a return which will likely be an assisted one, as opposed to the return home of regular migrants at the expiry of a short-term work visa – are irregular migrants. The European Commission, as well, has become interested in the topic of voluntary return, not least because of its connection with irregular migration (European Commission, 2002a). Based upon the Commission's Green Paper and the intensive discussion surrounding it, a Communication was issued in October 2002 (European Commission, 2002b). This Communication, among other things, noted the importance of integration, saying that

> Care will also have to be taken to ensure that the ground is prepared for profitable reintegration both for the returnee and for the place of origin. This will require both a firm commitment on the part of the third country and the readiness of the European Union and its Member States to provide the necessary assistance where required (European Commission, 2002b: 5).

In other words, this project answers, in part, the call for preparing the ground for profitable (sustainable) reintegration as a part of return within the context of the potential return of irregular migrants in EU Member States.

Other studies focus, instead, upon the mechanics and data of the return – how many have returned, how has their integration proceeded, etc. In the particular case of Albania, Russell King and Julie Vullnetari (2003) point out that one area in which further research should be done are the questions:

> Will Albanian migrants return, and who will return? At what stage will they come back, and what are the conditions for their return? What impacts will different types of return have in different locations within Albania? In particular, what are the prospects for returnees to finance, either directly or indirectly, the development of small and medium businesses; what kinds of businesses; and with what economic and employment impacts? (King and Vullnetari, 2003: 56)

The research which IOM has undertaken in the course of this project on Sustainable Return, and the results of which are presented here, is not far-reaching enough to attempt to answer all of these questions, but does address what the conditions for a return are, as well as answering, through its own activities, the question of what prospects are open to returnees. Thus, it fills a gap in the literature, providing information not yet available in the complex study of irregular and return migration.

The study presented here also builds upon previous IOM research, in particular the 2002 study and publication "The Return and Reintegration of Migrants to the South Caucasus: An Exploratory Study," in which respondents were interviewed twice, once immediately upon return

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[4] This term refers to the gain of skilled workers in any given country, usually, but not always, a developing country. With a net immigration of skilled workers, a net "brain gain" occurs. The converse is true with a net emigration of skilled workers, again, usually referring to a developing economy. In that case, a "brain drain" is said to be occurring.
[5] See, for instance, Return of Qualified Afghans, http://www.iom-rqa.org/.

and a second time six months later. Among other findings, the results of this study showed that successful reintegration was not likely among respondents, indeed, "In terms of employment opportunities in their home countries, most respondents were worse off than before departure" (IOM, 2002: 26). Furthermore, about half of the respondents would return to Western Europe again if they had the chance (IOM, 2002: 26). This study will present a different perspective upon return migration, determining returnees' needs prior to return and attempting to meet those needs upon return. The question of equity, or the question of why return migrants should be granted special assistance while their non-migrating fellow countrymen and –women receive no particular assistance, will not be addressed here. While it is a key question underlying all research on reintegration measures, it is not, however, the focus of this study.

In sum, the research presented here will provide valuable input into several questions of increasing importance, namely irregular migration and return migration. This report will provide an overview of the countries and migrants involved and what is generally known about migrants from these areas. The report will present the results of this research study, comparing the results where relevant with other similar studies. The results are presented in three sections: first, the profile of the migrants is presented; second, the stay in the country abroad is discussed and, third and most significantly for this study, the migrants' expectations for return are presented.

2. ORIGIN, PROFILE OF POTENTIAL MIGRANTS

Before presenting the results of this IOM research study, this report will first give a brief introduction into the background of the three regions of origin, migration from those countries, and the profile of the typical migrant – as determined from other sources, but not relying upon our data. This background will then be compared to IOM data, thus providing us with an indication of the representativity of IOM data.

2.1 Background information on Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and FYROM

The three regions included in this study are multi-ethnic, with an Albanian population in each of the three – a majority in Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and in Albania, a minority in FYROM. Indeed, the Albanian diaspora is widespread, with significant numbers of persons of Albanian origin, over 1 million, said to be living outside Albania. The United States, Germany and Switzerland are three of the most significant host countries, with Greece and Italy recent additions (International Crisis Group, 2004: 25).

Well worth noting in a report on migration and return migration is the fact that each of these three countries has experienced significant upheaval in the last decade to 15 years, resulting in considerable out-migration. While many of those who left have returned home to Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and FYROM, many more still remain abroad. It is not only the political upheaval and armed conflict which has resulted in migration, but the downward spiral of the economy associated with these upheavals and conflicts as well, causing individuals to seek other means of supporting themselves and their families, whether nuclear or extended. Return migration is thus of crucial importance to this region. Brain drain and brain gain, mentioned above, likewise play an important role in this region. The return home of skilled individuals will doubtless contribute to the continued development of the region although studies indicate that support, such as that offered by this project, are necessary to maximize such contributions: "Creating a fertile ground for migration

and remittances to contribute to broad-based income growth in migrant sending areas is the key to promoting development from migration" (Taylor, 1999: 81).

Source: Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, www.lib.utexas.edu/maps.

It appears certain that the profile of the migrants from this region is a broad one, including refugees and asylum seekers, legal labour migrants, irregular labour migrants and visa overstayers. Irregular labour migrants, rejected asylum seekers and visa overstayers are all represented in our sample. What remains unclear – and which is not answered here – is the percentage of each type of migrant in each host country.

Albania

Economically speaking, Albania is a very poor country: the GDP per capita in 2002 was US$ 4,830 (UNDP, 2002a: 140), which ranked well below the world average of US$ 7,804, and slightly above the average for all developing countries of US$ 4,054 (UNDP, 2002b). It has the lowest GDP per capita in Europe. The unemployment rate in Albania, according to the CIA World Factbook, was officially 15.8% in 2003, but it is estimated to be as high as 30% (CIA World Fact Book, 2003). Albania is 95% ethnically Albanian, with 5% other ethnicities, including Roma. It is 70% Muslim – although, due to the establishment of a secular state in Albania under Enver Hoxha, these are, for the most part, Muslims in name only. The population is quite young, with some 28% of the population below the age of 14 and 65% aged 14-65 (CIA World Fact Book, 2003). The estimated net migration rate for 2004, again according to the CIA World Factbook, is -4.93

migrants per 1,000 population (CIA World Fact Book, 2003),[6] one of the highest rates in the world, with just ten countries having a higher rate of emigration.[7]

Although there has long been a history of Albanian migration, albeit numerically small, contemporary Albanian migration has been characterized as having four stages, as outlined here by Ferruccio Pastore (Pastore, 1998: 2):

I. 1990: the stage of protest-migration;
II. 1991-1992: the stage of uncontrolled migration;
III. 1993-1996: the stage of "sensible" migration;
IV. 1997: the stage of flight-migration.

Under Communist rule, emigration from Albania had been fiercely limited, with only very few opponents to the regime permitted to emigrate. Immediately post-transition, the political and economic chaos led migrants to flee Albania in search of economic survival and, in part simply because they had not been allowed to do so for 50 years. Conservatively estimated, some 300,000 Albanians left the country from 1991-1993 (Pastore, 1998: 2), and by 1996, some 350,000 were "steadily" living abroad (Pastore, 1998: 2). In 1997, after the collapse of the pyramid savings scheme, some 70,000 are estimated to have left Albania within a few short months (Kosta, 2004). It is now estimated that 25% of the population, or 35% of the workforce, is abroad (Kosta, 2004). One additional aspect of the migration which has been noted in various anecdotal reports is that, during the Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) conflict, Albanians pretended to be ethnic Albanian Kosovars, thus increasing their chances of receiving asylum.[8] The exact scale of this aspect of the migration is unknown.

Indeed, in the 1990s, Albania experienced the highest rate of emigration in the world (Cassou et al., 2004: 8). Greece, the United States and the European Union are the most significant host countries of the Albanian diaspora, with Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and FYROM having played host to temporary Albanian migrants as well as the ethnic Albanian population in these two regions. This diaspora is separated into those who migrated many years ago and, for recent migrants, those who will remain abroad and those who will, eventually, return home. When discussing Albanian migration, the spectre of trafficking should be mentioned as well, although it is not directly relevant to the subject at hand. While reliable and complete statistics are difficult to come by, available statistics do show that nearly 2,300 Albanian women were trafficked for sexual exploitation while nearly 2,500 were trafficked to, through and from Albania (Counter-trafficking Regional Clearing Point). The real number could be many times higher, due for the most part to the underground nature of trafficking, the legal system affecting trafficked women and many other factors, including the very nature of data collection itself.[9] Recent reports also indicate that trafficking is on the rise in southeastern Europe (Counter-trafficking Regional Clearing Point).

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[6] For a thorough analysis of emigration from Albania, see the "National Strategy on Migration", written by IOM Tirana.

[7] The rate of emigration, i.e. the ratio of emigrants to 1,000 population is different from the number of total emigrants, in which case countries with higher populations, such as Mexico, clearly have higher numbers of emigrants. The ten countries with higher rates than Albania are, according to http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/, Seychelles, Marshall Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Greenland, Ecuador, Suriname and the Virgin Islands.

[8] Personal communication with Elizabeth Warn, IOM Tirana.

[9] For more information on trafficking and data problems, see, e.g. Frank Laczko and Amanda Klekowski von Koppenfels "Migrant Trafficking and Human Smuggling in Europe: A Note on Data and Definitions" In: *Irregular Migration: Dynamics, Impact, Policy Options*, Eds Dilek Çinar, August Gächter and Harald Waldrauch, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, 2000 and Frank Laczko, Amanda Klekowski von Koppenfels and Jana

IOM Assisted Voluntary Return data show that the vast majority of returns to Albania come from the United Kingdom (of the 747 individuals assisted to return from the United Kingdom in 2002, 547 were Albanian) while Belgium is the second-most significant host country, with 108 Albanians returning in 2002 (in 2003, there were 82 Albanian returnees from Belgium and in 2004, through October, 21 Albanians returning from Belgium). These patterns were the same in 2001, but in 2000, Germany was a more significant host country for Albanians (with 111 returning) than was Belgium (with 80 Albanians returning).

According to many different sources, emigration from Albania is a broad, complex picture. It has been characterized as

> recent (post-1990); intense (a rate of emigration much higher than any other Eastern bloc country); largely economically driving – a form of 'survival migration'; a high degree of irregularity, with many undocumented migrants; lots of to-and-fro movement, especially with Greece; and dynamic and rapidly evolving, especially as regards new destinations and routes of migration (King and Vullnetari, 2003: 28).

Despite its rapidly evolving nature, some general characteristics of the migration can be determined. For the most part, according to King and Vullnetari, young males migrate from Albania to Greece for the short term, seeking financial capital to bring back home (King and Vullnetari, 2003: 29), while others invest in a more ambitious plan to go to Italy or elsewhere in Western Europe. As the migration history of Albania has grown longer and richer, the patterns have shifted, with families and even "migrating grannies" – older women joining sons or daughters already abroad – playing a role in migration. The increasing numbers of Albanians who have taken part in regularization procedures in Greece and Italy are one aspect of the increasing ratio of regular to irregular Albanian migrants (King and Vullnetari, 2003: 28).

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, FYROM

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or FYROM, broke away from Yugoslavia in 1991. The net migration rate was estimated to be -1.45/1,000 population for 2004, in other words, 3000 registered emigrants from a population of 2 million for 2004. FYROM's strongest affiliation with migration was in 1998, when the Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) crisis resulted in nearly a quarter million of Kosovar Albanians fleeing to FYROM at the rate of 1,000/day at the height of the movements, the majority of whom returned to their homes in Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) by mid-1999 (IOM, 2000: 174).

Not quite as poor as Albania, the per capita GDP in FYROM, at US$ 6,470 (UNDP, 2002b), is 25% higher than the US$ 4,830 per capita GDP of Albania, and just below the 6,560 of Romania. FYROM has a significant Albanian majority – 25% of the population – as well as some 11% of the population comprising other ethnicities, including Roma, Turks and Serbs. Just under two-thirds (64%) of the population is ethnically Macedonian (CIA World Fact Book, 2003). This multi-ethnic mix led to tensions prior to and during the Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) crisis 1998-1999, ultimately leading to heightened Albanian-Slav tensions in FYROM and as yet unresolved armed

conflict, which nearly exploded into civil war in 2001, now being held at bay by European Union peacekeepers, who replaced NATO peacekeepers in April 2003.

Comparatively little has been written on emigration from FYROM, while more has been written on ethnic relations between the Albanian minority and the Macedonian majority – a crucial factor which affects emigration from FYROM. There were 5,613 claims for asylum by Macedonians in 2001 and 5,549 in 2002, with a low 2% recognition rate and a 7% total rate of protection (including temporary protection status), which likely accounts for a certain number of returning migrants. Although no information is available about the ethnicity of the asylum-seekers, the circumstantial evidence indicates that many are members of either the Albanian or of the Roma minority.

It must be noted that, until 1991, FYROM was a part of Yugoslavia, from which Germany recruited *Gastarbeiter*, many of whom remained in Germany when recruitment was halted in 1974, bringing their families. Other labour migrant programmes have since been developed, bringing more migrants to Germany. Data show that in Germany, at the end of 2002, there were 58,250 persons from FYROM living officially in Germany, indicating that the total number of migrants, including those with irregular status, is likely much higher. Other countries also continue to have migrants from the former Yugoslavia, including FYROM.

Indeed, the table below shows the surprisingly high percentage of labour migrants in Western European countries which is of Balkan origin. Likewise, between 1986 and 1993, nationals of the former Yugoslavia were among the top three countries of origin[10] for the 1.9 million persons naturalizing in EU and EFTA countries (Muus, 2001: 39).

IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) data support these data, showing that, of the 390 Macedonians assisted to return home in 2003, 326 returned from Germany while "only" 32 returned from Belgium. Returns from Germany made up the majority of AVRs to FYROM in 2000, 2001 and 2002 as well.

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[10] Morocco and Turkey occupied places 1 and 2.

TABLE 2
STOCK OF MIGRANT POPULATION FROM THE BALKANS
IN SELECTED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES,
1990, 1995, 1999 (IN 000S AND % OF TOTAL POP)

	1990	1995	1999
Belgium	5.9	11.0	13.7
% total pop.	*0.1*	*0.1*	*0.1*
Denmark	11.0	29.6	35.1
% total pop.	*0.2*	*0.6*	*0.7*
Finland	0.3	4.1	5.9
% total pop.	*0.0*	*0.1*	*0.1*
Germany	662.7	1508.8	1318.8
% total pop.	*0.8*	*1.8*	*1.6*
Norway	4.8	18.7	24.9
% total pop.	*0.1*	*0.4*	*0.6*
Netherlands	15.2	36.0	18.0
% total pop.	*0.1*	*0.2*	*0.1*
Spain	0.7	3.6	12.1
% total pop.	*0.0*	*0.0*	*0.0*
Sweden	47.5	103.6	70.7
% total pop.	*0.6*	*1.2*	*1.0*
Switzerland	144.5	300.4	342.2
% total pop.	*2.1*	*4.3*	*4.8*

Source: Bonifazi, Conti and Mamolo 2003. Original source: Eurostat
and New Cronos, 2002.

Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro)

Like FYROM, migrant workers have been leaving Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) for Western Europe for many years. Unlike FYROM, great numbers of refugees have also fled their homes for Western Europe in the past 15 years. The story of Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) is difficult to tell in figures, as it is not a separate nation-state and data are not gathered on Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) *per se*, but part of the nation-state of Serbia and Montenegro, until recently the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. However, IOM data do give some insight into the magnitude of migration out of and to Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro). In 1999 and in 2000, IOM assisted 87,000 Kosovars per year to return home to a more stable homeland, a figure which dropped precipitously to 7,000 in 2001. Slightly more than 42,000 asylum claims from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia[11] were made in 2000 in Europe and 120,700 in 1999. Germany's official data show nearly 600,000 persons from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia living in Germany at the end of 2002. Indeed, IOM AVR data show that Germany is by far the main host country for Kosovars, with 1,567 assisted to return in 2003 of 2,585, which is a significant drop from 4,756 in 2001 (total 7,066) and 55,140 in 2000 (total 87,416).

2.2 Profile of potential migrants: Background information

This section addresses the question of the profile of potential migrants based upon secondary literature – in other words, sources other than the survey which was carried out for the

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[11] Data are not gathered separately for Kosovo.

purposes of the research presented here. The presentation of this information is intended to supplement the survey information and to confirm it.

When discussing potential migration from Central and Eastern Europe to Western Europe, it is important to distinguish between those who wish to migrate permanently – usually relatively few[12] – and those who wish to migrate for a short- or medium-stay, usually to accomplish goals such as education or earning money. The two should not be conflated, for two reasons: first, one (short-term) is much more common than the other and, second, each has vastly different repercussions for both sending (countries of origin) and receiving (host) countries in terms of remittances, brain drain, integration and competition for jobs.

A 1998 IOM study of migration potential in Central and Eastern Europe found that Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (excluding Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro)) made up, together with Romania, the group of countries with "high migration potential", that is, countries with more than two-thirds of respondents saying they would like to migrate abroad (IOM, 1998: 11). Young people, in particular, see few prospects in their home countries, and wish to seek better prospects abroad.

Another 1998 study (Papapanagos and Sanfey), this one based upon 1992 Eurobarometer data, indicates a high propensity for migration among Albanians. Some 54% of Albanians reported that they had considered going to work in Western Europe, while 1% spontaneously remarked that they had already done so. For Macedonians, 44% said they had considered going to work, and 5% (the highest of the 18 countries in the study) said they had already done so. The region averages were 29% and 1%, respectively. When asked how likely it is that they will do so, 53% of Albanians and 22% of Macedonians said they were likely to move to Western Europe to live and work. The region average was 9% (Central and Eastern Eurobarometer).

The Papapanaganos and Sanfrey study goes on to look at exactly which Albanians are more likely to migrate. The study reports three clear findings: males are more likely than females to migrate – some 70% of men report that they are more likely to leave than not, compared to 50% of women. Those under 40 are more likely to leave than those over 40 – more than three-quarters of those under 40 say they are more likely to leave than not, compared with less than half of those over 40. Finally, those with only an elementary education are least likely to do so (Papapanagos and Sanfey, 1998: 3-4). Just over half (52.6%) of those with an elementary education report a likelihood to leave, compared with 79.2% for those with some secondary, 62.3% for those with completed secondary and 74.0% for those with higher education.

Interestingly, there is no significant distinction on the basis of income, with respondents with low, medium and high income noting a likelihood to emigrate at 66.1%, 60.5% and 68.8%, respectively. There is some distinction, however, on the basis of occupation: pensioners (26.7%) and housewives (31.8%) report the least likelihood to emigrate, while students (89.0%) and the unemployed (72.6%) report the highest (Papanagos and Sanfey, 1998: 12).[13] Thus, it is noteworthy that in Albania in 1991, a time and place of high unemployment, education level is a stronger predictor for emigration than is current occupation.

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[12] Asylum seekers, of course, also seek permanent residence, yet, because of the very nature of asylum, they cannot be included among figures of potential migrants wishing to migrate permanently.

[13] Also own calculations from table of Eurobarometer data.

The findings from the Papapanaganos and Sanfrey study corroborate the findings from other migration potential/migrant profile studies across the globe, namely that it is neither the desperately poor nor the quite wealthy who migrate. While this finding usually is applied with respect to household income and/or per capita GDP, in this case, as noted above, education is a far better indicator. Indeed, while Papapanagos and Sanfrey discuss only the situation for Albania, their findings do reflect those of other migrant profile studies,[14] so that a case could be made for applying their socio-demographic profile findings to FYROM and Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) as well.

3. LIFE AT HOME

This section is the first in which the findings of this research study are presented. First, we look at the life at home, or background which explains why our respondents may have chosen to migrate from their homes. Respondents were asked to comment on their housing and economic conditions, unemployment and to give the reasons for which they left. Sections below (4, 5 and 6) will address migrants' life in host countries as well as covering their wish to return and what assistance they feel is necessary in order to be able to do so successfully.

3.1 Housing and economic conditions at home

Overall, nearly two-thirds (65.0%) of our 211 respondents found their housing conditions very unsatisfactory (33.2%) or unsatisfactory (31.8%), with one-third (31.8%) finding conditions satisfactory. In terms of economic conditions, the situation was somewhat worse, with slightly over three-quarters (77.8%) of respondents finding their economic conditions either very unsatisfactory (31.8%) or unsatisfactory (46.0%).

Having said that, the overall economic/housing situation in the home country appears to have been the worst for Macedonians, with 35.1% of Macedonians noting that their economic conditions were very unsatisfactory and 48.6% noting they were unsatisfactory. With respect to housing conditions, 48.6% of Macedonians felt they were very unsatisfactory and an additional 27.0% felt they were unsatisfactory (See Tables 2 and 3 in Annex 4).

Although Kosovars and Albanians had slightly better impressions of their housing and economic conditions in their home countries, the situation was not entirely positive: two-thirds of Albanians felt that their housing conditions were very unsatisfactory (33.8%) or unsatisfactory (35.3%), while 28.2% of Kosovars noted their housing conditions to be "very unsatisfactory" and

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[14] See, for example, Eurostat, *Push and Pull Factors of International Migration: A Comparative Report,* European Commission*:* 2000: 57-71.

FIGURE 2[15]

Satisfaction with Economic Conditions
at home, in %

very unsatisfactory ■ unsatisfactory ■ satisfactory □ very satisfactory   n=209
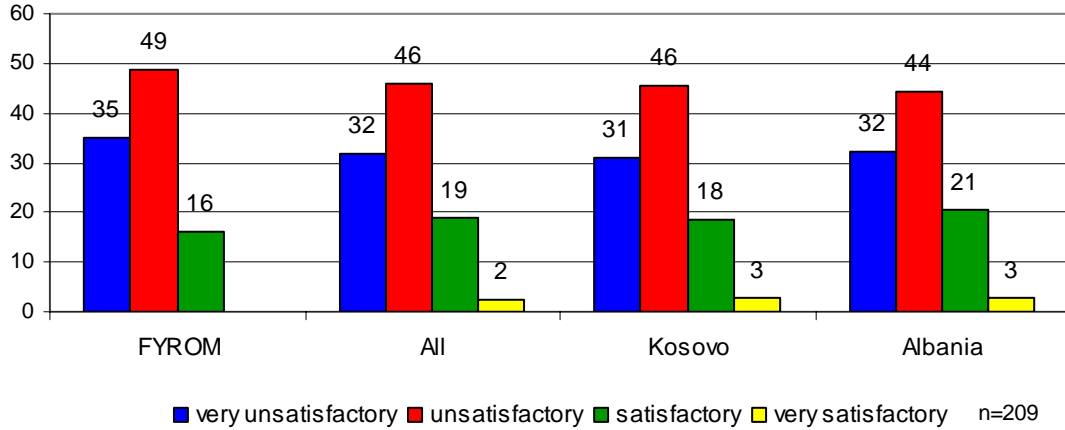
31.1% "unsatisfactory." With respect to economic conditions, the situation is again slightly better than in FYROM, but only slightly: over three-quarters of Albanians were not satisfied with their economic conditions, with 32.4% saying they were very unsatisfied and another 44.1% noting that they were unsatisfied. For Kosovars, the same figures are 31.1% and 45.6%.

FIGURE 3

Housing Conditions at home, in %

■ Albania ■ All ■ Kosovo □ FYROM   n=141
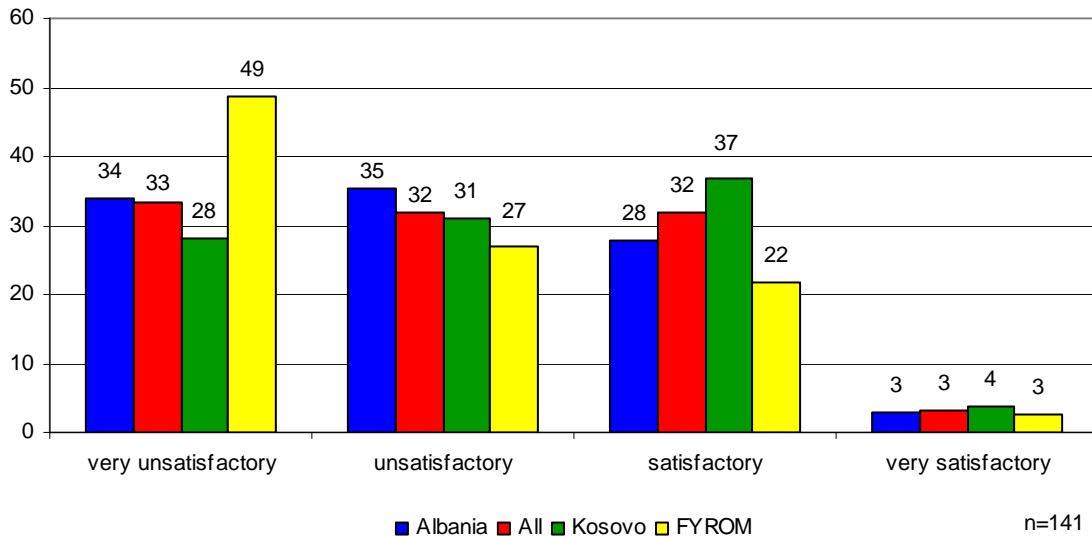
In terms of host countries [See Tables 4 and 5 in Annex 4], there is one clearly noticeable trend: respondents in Germany were substantially more dissatisfied with their housing and economic conditions than respondents living in other host countries. Of all respondents living in Germany, 77.5% replied that they were very unsatisfied with the economic conditions in their home country (31.8% is the overall response) and another 20.0% replied that they were unsatisfied (46% were unsatisfied overall). The figures are approximately the same for housing conditions, with 80.0% of the respondents in

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[15] In figures, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) will be referred to as Kosovo.

Germany noting that they were very unsatisfied, and another 17.5% noting that they were unsatisfied, more than double the overall response (33.2% and 31.8%, respectively) – a situation which can, in part, be explained by the high unemployment prior to migration of those living in Germany.

FIGURE 4

Gender Differences in Satisfaction with Economic Conditions at home
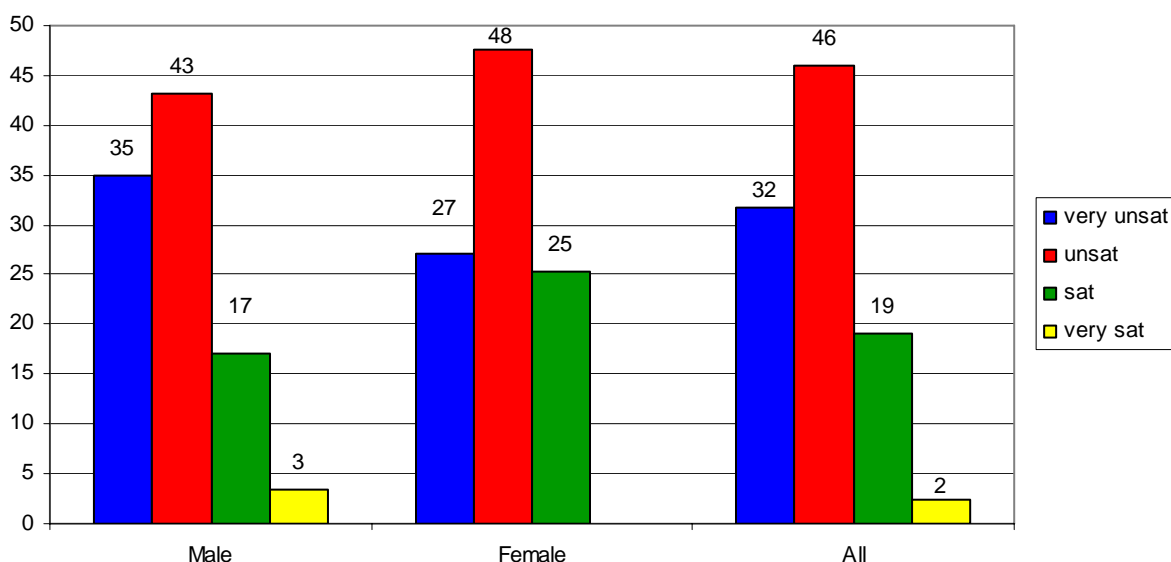
With respect to gender, women appear to have been slightly less dissatisfied with their housing and economic conditions than men. For housing conditions, 34.9% of men said their housing conditions were "very unsatisfactory", compared to 27.1% of women. More women, however, said that their housing conditions were "unsatisfactory", at 35.6%, than did men, at 30.1%. (See Figure 5). With respect to economic conditions, the situation is very similar, with the same percentage of men and women noting that economic conditions were "very unsatisfactory" and 43.2% of men and 47.5% of women that they were "unsatisfactory". (See Tables 6 and 7 in Annex 4).

FIGURE 5

Gender Differences in Satisfaction with Housing Conditions
at home
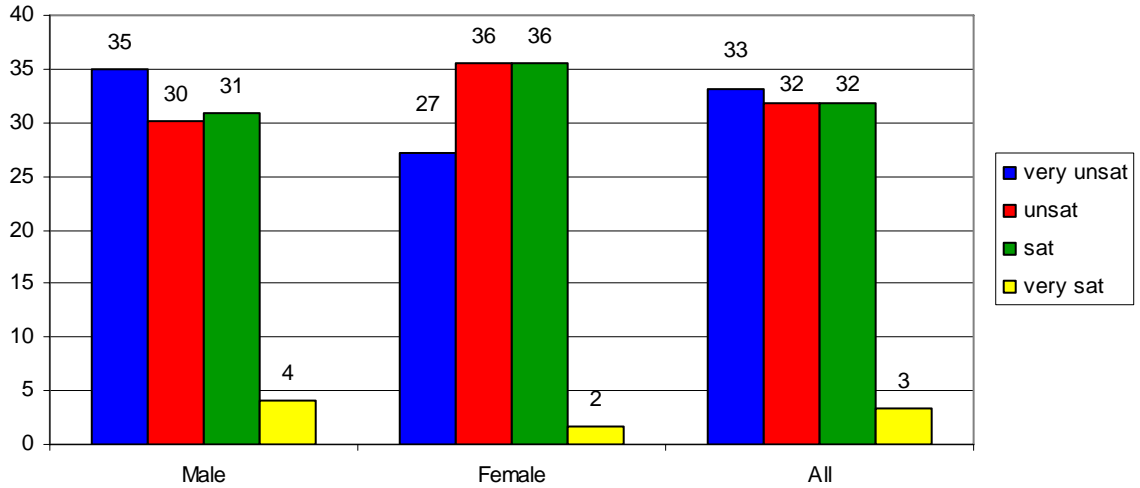
3.2 Unemployment

Of the 211 respondents, just one-third (34.1%) had been working prior to leaving the country; in other words, two-thirds (or 134) had been unemployed, a finding which

FIGURE 6

Employment Status Prior to Migration, in %
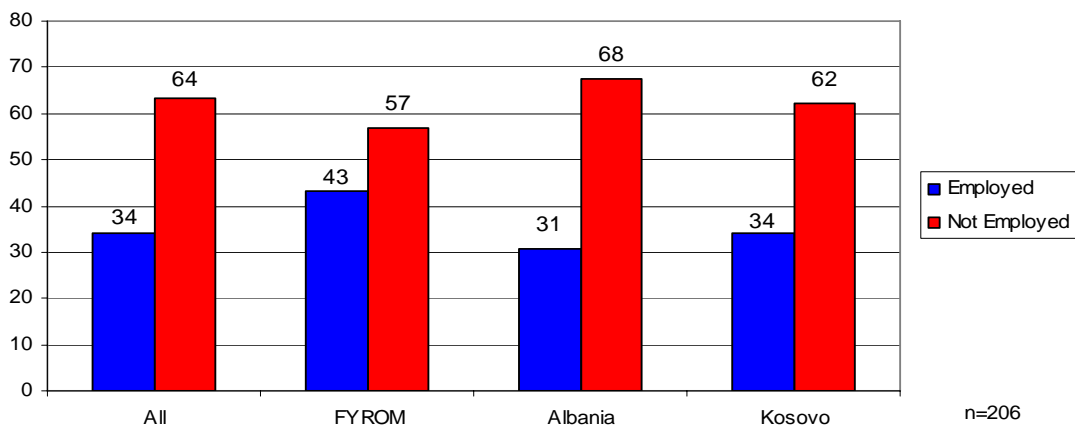
corresponds with the Papapanagos and Sanfrey study discussed above. Some 14.7% had been unemployed for one to five years, and 7.6% for less than one year. However, some 3.3% had been unemployed for five to ten years. On the basis of gender, nearly three-quarters (71.2%) of women, compared to 61.0% of men, had not worked prior to departure. The most common response for length of unemployment was the same for both men and women – some 17.1% of men noted that they had been unemployed for between one and five years, as did 10.2% of women.

TABLE 3[16]

EMPLOYED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Employed Prior to Departure	No Answer	Count		1	4		5
		% within Origin		1.5%	3.9%		2.4%
	Yes	Count		21	35	16	72
		% within Origin		30.9%	34.0%	43.2%	34.1%
	No	Count	3	46	64	21	134
		% within Origin	100.0%	67.6%	62.1%	56.8%	63.5%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Broken down by origin, Albanians had the highest rate of unemployment prior to departure (67.6%, or 46), although Kosovars (62.1%, or 64) and Macedonians (56.8%, or 21) were not far behind. In terms of host countries, those respondents living in Germany had by far the highest unemployment rate of all groups (77.5% unemployed before leaving their home country). This very high unemployment rate may very well explain the startlingly high rates of very unsatisfactory housing and economic conditions at home for those respondents in Germany (see Housing and Economic Conditions above). Respondents in the United Kingdom and Italy had the lowest rates of unemployment (55.6% and 56.9%, respectively), while Belgium, like Germany, had quite a high rate of unemployment (66.2%).

Kosovars had the most long-term unemployment, with 5.8% of respondents saying they had been unemployed for five to ten years, and just 1.5% of Albanians saying the same. Extremely long-term unemployment was rare, with just 1.5% of Albanians selecting this option. Unemployment for one to five years is the standard, with 19.1% of Albanians, 12.6% of Kosovars and 10.8% of Macedonians unemployed for this time period. Unemployment for less than one year is slightly less common, with 5.8% of Kosovars, 8.1% of Macedonians and 8.8% of Albanians having been unemployed for less than one year prior to their departure from their countries of origin.

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[16] In tables, FYROM will be referred to as "Macedonia".

TABLE 4

LENGTH OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Length of Unemployment	No answer	Count	1	47	78	30	156
		% within Origin	33.3%	69.1%	75.7%	81.1%	73.9%
	Less then a year	Count	1	6	6	3	16
		% within Origin	33.3%	8.8%	5.8%	8.1%	7.6%
	Between 1 and 5 year	Count	1	13	13	4	31
		% within Origin	33.3%	19.1%	12.6%	10.8%	14.7%
	Between 5 and 10 yea	Count		1	6		7
		% within Origin		1.5%	5.8%		3.3%
	More then 10 year	Count		1			1
		% within Origin		1.5%			.5%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Just 55 individuals – one-quarter of the sample – responded to the question of length of unemployment. This low response rate can likely be attributed to short-term and part-time work and odd jobs, which respondents might not regard as constituting "employment," but also not as "unemployment." The response rate was approximately the same for all three regions of origin.

3.3 For what reasons do migrants leave? (simpler to say "Why do migrants leave?)

Classic migration theory talks about push and pull factors affecting migration: push factors are negative factors, essentially "pushing" a person to leave his or her country, while pull factors are positive factors which draw a person to a certain region or country.[17] Common push factors could include a shaky economy at home, issues of security and political persecution. Pull factors are more often economic, primarily a strong economy and job availability in other countries, or personal, i.e. joining family members. In other words, some migrants leave their home countries, while others seek out another country. The medium-term result is the same, but the reasoning behind the decision differs as may the implications of the decision.

In our survey, potential returnees – already in host countries – were asked why they had left their countries of origin. The results show that, for this group, push factors played a considerably more significant role than did pull factors. Indeed, in light of recent events such as the collapse of the pyramid savings scheme in Albania in 1998, the Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) crisis and war in 1999, it appears quite clear that push factors are more relevant than pull factors for migrants from Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), Albania and FYROM. Indeed, when the circumstances at home, as discussed above, are quite negative, the role of push factors is quite clear.

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[17] One other theory which has been used to explain migration is the (?) World Systems Theory, which sees migration with relation to the more developed (core) and less developed (periphery) regions of the world.

Departure from home

Reasons for Departure

In our study, respondents were asked to select the top three reasons for leaving among 12. Overall, respondents noted that the main reason for which they left was general insecurity, with slightly over half (53.1%, or 112 respondents) noting this as the most important reason for which they left. Mentioned second-most often is economic hardship, with 49.3% of respondents (104) noting this reason.[18] The unemployment figures above give an indication as to the origin of this hardship, i.e. having no means of income. The third-most important reason, with 46.4% of respondents (98) selecting it, were political reasons. As discussed above, all three of these reasons are clearly in line with the usual reasons for departing : economic reasons and general insecurity also often interact to result in an even more powerful push factor than either one alone. Distinctions between men and women play little role, although men do mention general insecurity more often than women (55.0% to 47.5%) while women mention political reasons slightly more often (47.5% to 45.2%). Both groups cite economic reasons as well, although men do so at a higher rate (50.0% to 45.8%).

Seen as least important by all respondents were better prospects in Western European countries, with 35.5% (75) of respondents selecting this option. There is no gender distinction whatsoever here, with men and women both agreeing at 35.6%. These findings seem to show that push factors, rather than pull factors, are the motivators behind emigration, indicating that, if certain circumstances were to improve in the countries of origin (see "Circumstances of Permanent Return" below), sustainable return and reintegration is a realistic possibility.

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[18] As noted in the Introduction, the data analysis of the reasons for departure (Q I.4) departs slightly from the format of the question itself. Rather than relying upon the respondents themselves to rank the most important reasons as first, second and third, which was not done properly, the ranking of first, second and third most important is based upon frequency of mention by respondents.

FIGURE 7

Reasons for Leaving Home, in %
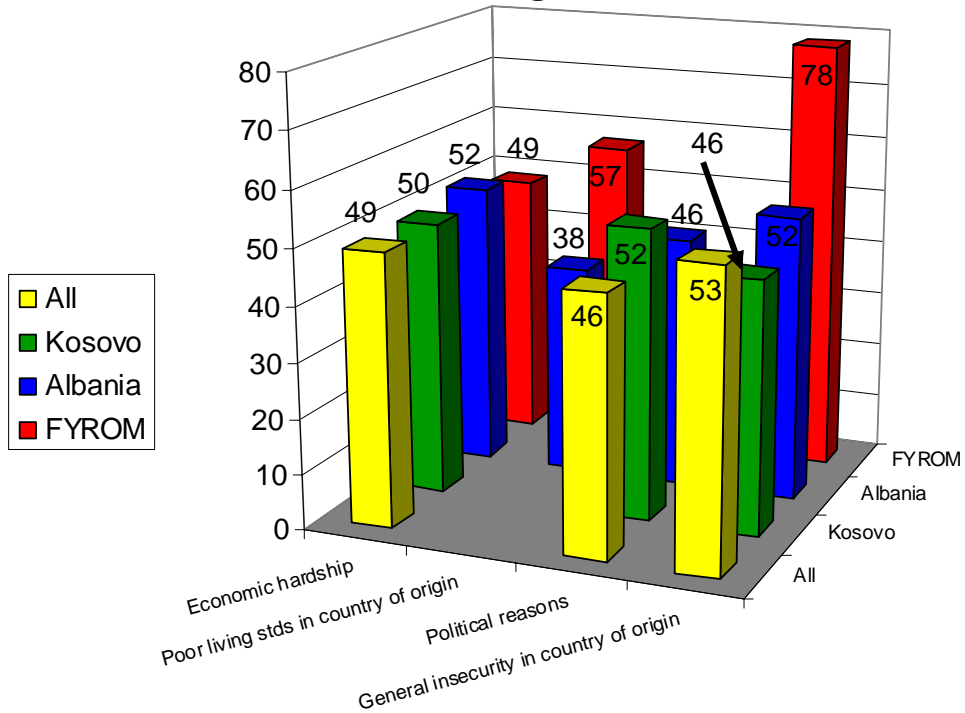
When looked at from the perspective of origin, these three top reasons for leaving (general insecurity, economic hardship and political reasons) differ slightly. Just over half (51.5%, or 35 respondents) of Albanians selected economic hardship and general insecurity as the most important reasons for leaving their home country, while Kosovars selected political reasons (52.4%, or 54) as their primary reason, and Macedonians overwhelmingly (78.4% or 29 respondents) selected general insecurity as their main reason for leaving. Complete figures are available below. Better prospects in Western European countries was selected as the least important factor motivating respondents to leave their home countries by Albanians (27.9%, or 19) and Kosovars (45.6%, or 47) while ethnic reasons were held to be the least important by Macedonians (35.1%, or 13).

TABLE 5
MOST IMPORTANT REASONS FOR LEAVING, IN %

All			
	1	General insecurity in country of origin	53.1
	2	Economic hardship	49.3
	3	Political reasons	46.4
Albania			
	1	General insecurity in country of origin	51.5
	1	Economic hardship	51.5
	2	Political reasons	45.6
	3	Poor living stds in country of origin	38.2
Kosovo			
	1	Political reasons	52.4
	2	Economic hardship	49.5
	3	General insecurity in country of origin	45.6
FYROM			
	1	General insecurity in country of origin	78.4
	2	Poor living stds in country of origin	56.8
	3	Economic hardship	48.6

The second-most important reason for leaving their countries of origin also differs from country to country, with Albanians (45.6%, or 31 respondents) mentioning political reasons and Macedonians (56.8%, or 21) indicating that poor living standards was the second-most important reason they left. Kosovars mentioned economic hardship as the reason for departure second-most often (49.5%, or 51).

The third-most important reason according to our survey results also has some variation, with 38.2% (26 respondents) of Albanians selecting poor living standards, 45.6% of Kosovars selecting general insecurity and 48.6% (18 respondents) of Macedonians selecting economic hardship. (For complete results, see Tables 10-29 in Annex 4].

Indeed, in their own study, Russell King and Julie Vullnetari point out that, while emigration from Albania was once a survival strategy, "Albanians nowadays emigrate also to improve their economic situation, to secure a better future for their children, to access better professional opportunities, to pursue study opportunities abroad, and to escape the constraints of certain social practices and norms, such as in the case of women or other marginalized groups" (King and Vullnetari, 2003: 31). In other words, while emigration was an economic survival strategy for Albanians in the immediate post-transition years, the reasons for emigration (whether temporary or longer-term) have become more complex, with more persons applying for asylum, for instance.[19]

Overall in the host countries, there is some variation, with nearly three-quarters (73.5%) of those in Belgium mentioning general insecurity as the main reason for leaving, while those living in Italy selected economic hardship and poor living standards equally (44.8%). In the United Kingdom and Germany, political reasons were the most important factor (64.4% and 65%, respectively). Further data on differences among individuals in host countries is available in Annex 4.

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[19] The focus group also said that people might be giving responses that the interviewers want to hear.

Circular migration, or repeated emigration and return, does not appear to be the case for the population we surveyed. According to other literature, it appears that, for Albanians at least, Greece – not included in this study[20] – is the destination for such repeated, short-term migration:

> In several cases migration to Greece is a strategy of acquiring short-term financial capital and experience in order to plan a more ambitious and longer-term migration to another Western country, such as Italy or further afield. When discussing migration, many Albanians refer to Greece as the "key" and Italy as the "door" (King and Vullnetari, 2003: 29).

For more than three-quarters of the respondents in our survey (76.3%), the departure from their home countries was the first time they had left, with the highest rate of first departures being among Kosovars (80.6%) and the lowest for Albanians (69.1%) – who, as noted, have a stronger tradition of repeated, short-term migration. At 78.4%, slightly more Macedonians than average had left their home countries for the first time. There was little variation on the basis of gender, with 76.0% of men leaving for the first time and 78.0% of women.

On the basis of host country, Germany has more first-time migrants than others, with 80.0%, while the United Kingdom, at 68.9% has more respondents who have left their home countries more than once. The highest overall rate of persons who have left for the first time is that of Macedonians in Belgium, where 91.7%, or 11 individuals, of them have left FYROM for the first time.

4. MIGRANTS IN HOST COUNTRIES

4.1 Brief overview of migrants in the host countries

Before going on to present our own findings concerning migrants in host countries, this section will provide an overview of migrants in Europe based upon secondary literature and data. This section thus provides the framework for our own results from the survey we carried out.

IOM's *World Migration Report 2000* includes a broad migrant profile, indicating that, of the estimated 150 million migrants worldwide, some 52.5% are men and 47.5% women, while there are more women than men in developed (50%) than developing (46%) countries (IOM, 2000: 7). OECD data show that in 2000 in Austria, the Netherlands and Sweden, more than 10% of the population is foreign-born, while in Germany in 2000, 8.9% of the population held only a foreign citizenship. At the same time, there is an increasing feminization of migration, with more women migrating on their own – as opposed to with their families – and an increase in highly qualified migrants (IOM, 2000: 6). In terms of type of migration, labour migration – both authorized and unauthorized – is the most widespread type of migration, with family reunification a close second. Forced migration is also quite widespread, with refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons also making up a large percentage of the world's migrants (IOM, 2000: 8-15).

At the same time, those who are characterized as labour migrants – persons working outside their countries of origin – have not necessarily migrated in order to search for work *per se*, but may have other motivating factors, such as will be discussed below.

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[20] Greece was not included in our study due to logistical difficulties.

The four host countries from which our sample was drawn, Belgium, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom, vary somewhat in terms of migration. Germany, Belgium and Italy all recruited guest workers in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, while the United Kingdom had considerable post-colonial migration. Italy had post-colonial migration to a much lesser extent, Germany not at all, and Belgium to a very limited extent. Very few migrants come to Italy legally, yet many ultimately gain a permanent legal residence there – through a tradition of regularization programmes (Ruspini, 2000: 81). All four countries do have, however, regardless of their histories, a considerable foreign-born segment of the population, as seen in the table above. Data are collected differently from country to country, with some countries focusing upon status at birth and others current status. While some countries, such as the Netherlands, collect data on both points, others collect data on only one. The United Kingdom, for example, must have a large number of foreign-born citizens, simply based upon an analysis of its immigration patterns, yet the data are not available. Likewise, in Germany, ethnic or national origin does not factor into statistical data; the passport is the only datum registered.

A further, related point – and one more relevant for this study – is already implied by the term "regularization"; in addition to the estimates above of the regular population – there is another, considerable population with irregular status. It is – for the most part – this population which was surveyed for this study. Irregular migrants are a diverse group. Visa overstayers – who make up one-quarter of our sample – often migrated to the host country for short-term or seasonal work, and simply remained for one reason or another. Those who entered undocumented – about one-fifth of our sample – are another common grouping of irregular migrants. The asylum system is another way in which irregular migrants can be "created" – rejected asylum seekers who then remain in the host country without the right to do so become irregular migrants. In our sample, asylum seekers and rejected asylum seekers make up about one-half of our respondents. The average European Union-wide refugee recognition rate, including all appeals, in 2001 was 15.6% (16.2% in 2000). The "total recognition rate", which includes those permitted to stay for humanitarian reasons, but not granted asylum status *per se*, was 27.4% in 2001 (26.2% in 2000) (UNHCR, 2001).

In addition to institutionalized labour migration programmes, there are also seasonal and temporary worker programmes – which have the potential to create visa overstayer situations (nearly one-quarter of our sample are visa overstayers). By its very nature, irregular migration is difficult to quantify, yet estimates of the order of magnitude of the stock of irregular migrants can be made, based upon other factors. Indicative of the total number of irregular migrants is the number of those regularized: some 2.5 million people have been incorporated into the EU between 1995 and 2002 through amnesties and regularization programmes (Münz, 2004: 6).

As seen in the table below, Belgium and Italy periodically carry out regularization campaigns while the United Kingdom and Germany do so less often. The figures indicate that regularization is quite common. Indeed, in our survey, 38.9%, or 82 respondents, had taken part in a regularization procedure, of whom 54.4% (37) had done so in Belgium, indicating the importance of regularization as an integral part of Belgium's immigration policy. As not quite 6% (12 respondents) of our survey have legal status, it is, however, clear that the most were either not successful in their regularization or the procedure is not yet concluded.

It must be noted that the percentage of the population which is of migrant origin can be underestimated in these four countries: data is based upon citizenship, so naturalized citizens (or irregulars) are not counted. Thus, migration to these four countries is even more considerable than indicated here; this high migration will also, in turn, result in further chain migration.

OECD data show that naturalizations from citizens of the former Yugoslavia are quite high in Germany, where they rank second after former Turkish citizens, in Belgium (first rank) and the United Kingdom (first rank). In Italy, the former Yugoslavia does not play a role, but Albania ranks third, after Romania and Switzerland (OECD).

TABLE 6
REGULARIZATION PROGRAMMES IN EUROPE

	Year	Number	Target Group	Conditions/Target Group	Benefit
Belgium	1974-75	7,448	All foreigners living in Belgium	None	Perm residence and work permit
	1995-99	6,137	Exceptional circumstances	Asylum-seekers who had waited unreasonably long for a decision, those seriously ill, victims of trafficking, in long-term relationship with a Belgian or legal resident etc.	Perm residence and work permit
	2000	60,000*	Exceptional circumstances	Those who have developed long-term social ties with Belgium, but could claim TPS, those seriously ill, those whose requested refugee status had not been recognized after 4 years, etc.	Perm residence and work authorization
Germany	1998	7,856*	Rejected asylum-seekers	Rejected asylum seekers who had entered Germany prior to 01/1990 and whose lives were based in Germany.	Perm residence and work authorization
	1999	23,000	Rejected asylum-seekers	Rejected asylum seekers with at least one underage child, had been denied asylum for reasons they could not be held responsible for, and in Germany since 01/1993.	Perm residence and work authorization
Italy	1987-88	118,700	Workers	Open to all those employed, those looking for employment, to students and for family reunification	Perm residence and work authorization
	1990	217,700	Workers	All those in Italy prior to 31 Dec 1989.	2-year renewable residence and work permit
	1996	147,900	Workers	Open to all those employed, those looking for employment, to students and for family reunification	2-year renewable residence and work permit
	1998-99	350,000	Workers	Open to all those in Italy prior to 27 March 1998, who had housing, no criminal record and whose employers paid required taxes on their wages.	2-year renewable residence and work permit
	2002	704,000*	Caretakers and dependent workers	Those registered before 11/2002 whose employers paid USD 300 in back pension contributions; also applicable to other unauthorized workers registered before 09/2002 and whose employers paid USD 1000 fine.	Residence and work permit
United Kingdom	1974-78	1,809	Commonwealth and Pakistani citizens	Those residing illegally in Britain between 03/1969 and 01/1973	Perm residence and work authorization
	1977	462	Commonwealth and Pakistani citizens	Those eligible for 1974-78 reg.	Perm residence and work authorization
	1998-99	600	Domestic workers	Proof of entry prior to 07/1998 and current occupation as domestic worker	One-year renewable residence and work permit

*Applications received

Source: Papademetriou 2004

It can clearly be seen that Italy uses regularization programmes as a means of immigration policy, whereas Germany's use of amnesties is based upon humanitarian principles, and Belgium falls somewhere in between. The United Kingdom's earlier regularization programmes were closely linked to its colonial past, but the most recent amnesty was for one specific target group – domestic workers. The regularization programmes are an excellent indication of the level of irregular migration in a country.

All four countries have also played host to large numbers of asylum seekers over the decade – the United Kingdom increasingly so. Italy remains the country with the lowest asylum figures of our four host countries, as well as being one of the lowest in the EU. Asylum seekers and rejected asylum seekers account for nearly half of our sample. The high rates of rejection – three-quarters of asylum seekers in the European Union receive neither asylum nor temporary protected status on humanitarian grounds – then account for a certain percentage – in our sample, 22% – of rejected asylum seekers who remain, now with irregular status, until they either choose to return home individually, are assisted to return home via an IOM Assisted Voluntary Return programme, or are deported. The figures below from IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return Service Area show the numbers of returnees to Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), Albania and FYROM as well as selected others in Central Europe, for the sake of comparison.

TABLE 7
SELECTED IOM ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN DATA

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004*	Total
Kosovo	87,416	7,066	2,657	2,585	802	100,526
Albania	433	876	747	976	375	3,407
Croatia	1,404	2,406	3,934	1,693	318	9,755
FYROM	265	200	438	390	190	1,483
Slovakia	1,829	966	638	851	168	4,452
Romania	233	255	331	332	146	1,297
Czech Republic	365	338	474	572	97	1,846
Poland	1,051	146	115	241	63	1,616
Hungary	58	49	54	57	32	250
Total	93,054	12,302	9,388	7,697	2,191	124,632
					*through June 2004	

Remittances

The importance of remittances is not disputed; in many countries, money contributed by migrants abroad brings in more money than does foreign aid. The countries which receive the largest amounts of remittances globally span the globe, with India, Mexico, Turkey, Egypt and Spain heading the list (IOM, 2003a: 311). It must be noted that these are all relatively populous countries – especially when compared to Albania's population of 3.5 million. While Albania is not among the top countries receiving remittances in terms of absolute dollar amounts, in terms of the ratio of remittances to exports of goods and services, as of 2003, Albania held the top position, with a 154% ratio, followed by Jordan at 43% (King and Vullnetari, 2003: 48). Remittances to Albania are estimated at anywhere from US$ 300 million to US$ 1 billion annually (King and Vullnetari, 2003: 48).[21] The debate is, however, not yet over as to whether remittances can make a substantial difference in a country's level of development. Some argue that the mere infusion of money into the economy – in the form of returning migrants building themselves homes, buying goods and even employing fellow countrymen – is of great benefit. On the other hand, the argument is also made

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[21] The wide range given for remittances results from the significant sums of money which are transferred through informal – and therefore not easily recorded – channels.

that unfocused and non-directed funding brings no benefit to the country, but only to the individual, family or immediate community, especially in countries where emigration takes place from only a few localities.

4.2 Migrants from FYROM, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), Albania in Belgium, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom

Profile of potential returnees

Returning to the findings of our survey carried out as part of this research study, we turn now to the profile of our respondents. We surveyed 211 potential returnees from FYROM, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and Albania currently residing in Belgium, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom. Our findings, as will be seen below, do show that our respondents are fairly similar to the broad group of migrants described above.

As noted above, we surveyed 211 individuals for this study, 103 of whom were Kosovars, 68 Albanians and 37 Macedonians.[22] For the most part, the respondents (potential returnees) are young single men without children and with a secondary education.

Native language

When asked as to their native language, 88.6% (187 respondents) identify Albanian, 7.6% (16) Macedonian and 1.9% (4) other. The question of ethnic group identification confirms these results, with 88.2% (186 respondents) saying that they identify as Albanian, 9.0% (19) as Macedonian and 2.4% (5) as Roma. For the most part, ethnic Albanians make up the vast majority of the population in each host country; Italy is the exception. Nearly all of the ethnic Macedonian respondents are in Italy, as evidenced by the responses of 27.6% of those in Italy (16 respondents) both that they are ethnic Macedonians and that Macedonian is their native language.

Age

In terms of age, our respondents do not differ greatly from the estimates of irregular populations: half of the respondents are aged 19-29 and slightly over a third aged 30-39. This breakdown changes slightly from country to country, with considerably more respondents in Italy being aged 19-29 (nearly three-quarters) and Germany having a slightly older population (30% aged 19-29, 45% aged 20-39).

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[22] All told, 68 respondents were in Belgium, 58 in Italy, 45 in the United Kingdom and 40 in Germany. On a breakdown by origin and of host country, there were 18 Albanians in Belgium, Italy and in the United Kingdom, and 14 in Germany. Kosovars were distributed as follows: 36 in Belgium, 19 in Italy, 26 in the United Kingdom and 22 in Germany. There were 12 Macedonians in Belgium, 21 in Italy, none in the United Kingdom and four in Germany.

FIGURE 8

Age Distribution by Origin, in %
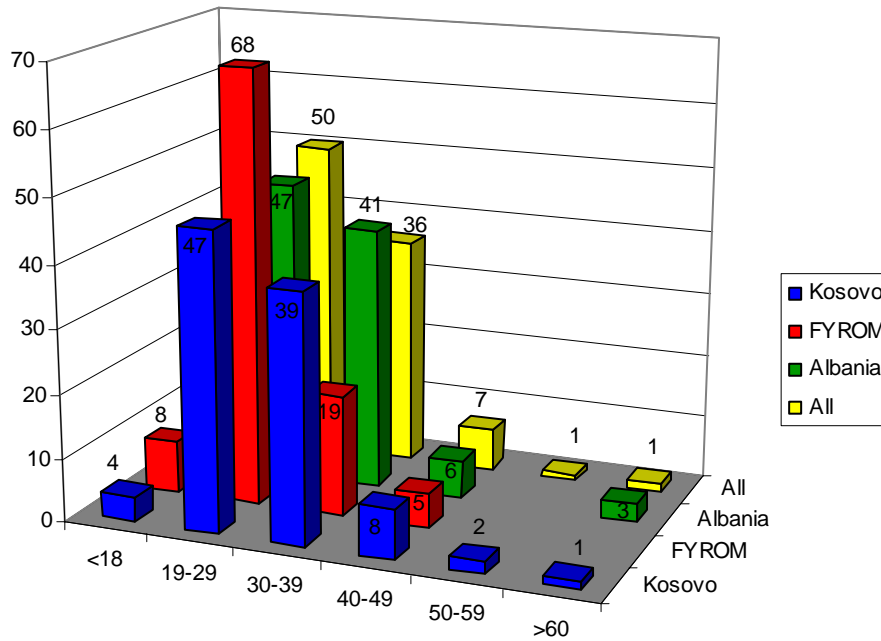
When regarded by origin, the Macedonians are the youngest, with slightly over two-thirds (67.6%) aged 19-29, and 18.9% aged 30-39. For Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), the comparable figures are 46.6% and 38.8%, and for Albania, 47.1% and 41.2%.

FIGURE 9

Age Distribution in Host Countries, in %
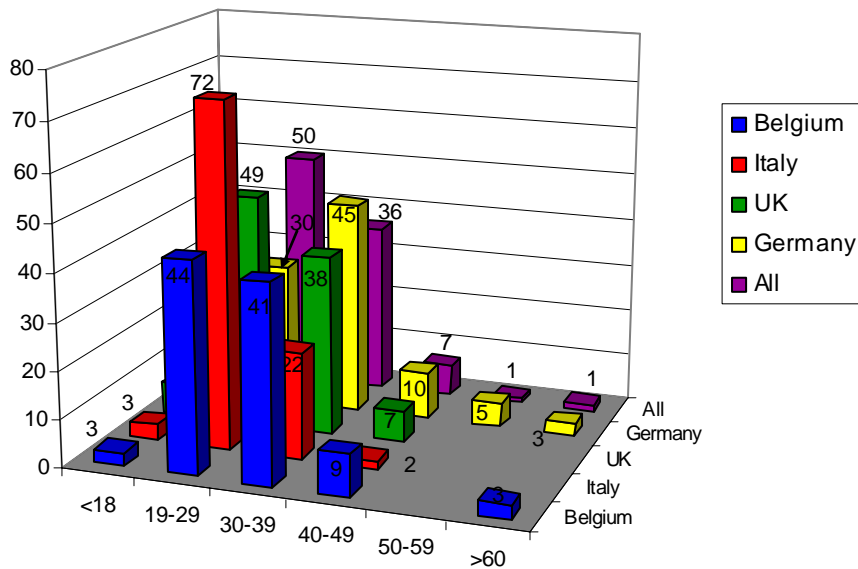
Gender

Just under three-quarters (69.2%) of all respondents are male, with Kosovars having the strongest share of men (71.8%), Albania being at the average (69.1%) and FYROM having the highest percentage of women (40.5% female, 59.5% male). Belgium has the most male respondents, at 77.9%, followed by the United Kingdom with 68.9%, Italy with 65.5% and Germany with 60%.

Marital status

Slightly more than half (56.9%) of all respondents are single, 37.9% are married, and 2.4% are divorced. Macedonians have the highest rate of single and divorced persons, with three-quarters (75.7%) single, 16.2% married and 8.1% divorced. Kosovars have the highest rate of married couples, with 44.7% married and 49.5% single, while 57.4% of Albanians are single and 39.7% married. The highest rate of married couples is in Belgium, with 51.5% of respondents married, and 45.6% single. Italy has the highest rate of single persons, with 69% single and just 25.9% married. In the United Kingdom and Germany, more than half of the respondents are single (53.3% and 62.5%, respectively). Somewhat more women are married than are men, with 40.7% of women and 36.3% of men being married. Substantially more women (6.8%, or four individuals) are divorced than are men (0.7%, or one individual).

Children

The majority of respondents (59.7%) do not have children, while just over one-third (34.1%) do. Macedonians have the fewest children, with 86.5% of respondents noting that they do not have children. Kosovars most often have children, with 51.5% saying they do not have (42.7% do have children), while one-third of (33.8%) Albanians do have children, and 58.8% do not. The respondents in Italy have the fewest children, with 72.4% saying they do not have children (27.6% do), while in Belgium 58.8% do not have children (38.3% do), in the United Kingdom 55.6% do not (37.8% do) and in Germany 47.5% do not (32.5% do have children). Of those who are married, 85%, or 68 respondents, have children.

Education

In terms of education, nearly half (49.8%) of the respondents from Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and FYROM in Belgium, Italy, the United Kingdom and Germany have a secondary education, with 16.1% having a primary education, 15.2% vocational training and 12.3% university or other higher education. Albanians are the most highly educated, with 14.7% having a university education, 25% vocational training, 42.6% secondary education and 14.7% primary. Macedonians have the least higher education, with 5.4% having university education, 2.7% having vocational training, 59.5% secondary and 16.2% primary. The age breakdown explains some of this difference – Macedonians are the youngest of all respondents, with, as noted above, over two-thirds between the ages of 19 and 29.

TABLE 8

EDUCATION BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Education	No answer	Count		2	6	6	14
		% within Origin		2.9%	5.8%	16.2%	6.6%
	Primary school	Count		10	18	6	34
		% within Origin		14.7%	17.5%	16.2%	16.1%
	Secondary school	Count	2	29	52	22	105
		% within Origin	66.7%	42.6%	50.5%	59.5%	49.8%
	Vocational training/technical institute	Count		17	14	1	32
		% within Origin		25.0%	13.6%	2.7%	15.2%
	University or high school	Count	1	10	13	2	26
		% within Origin	33.3%	14.7%	12.6%	5.4%	12.3%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

In terms of host countries, Germany plays host to the most educated population, with 20% having a university education, 15% vocational training, 40% secondary education and 15% primary. Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) has the highest rate of respondents with a primary education, namely 17.5%, while FYROM has the lowest rate of university education (5.4%, compared to Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro)'s 12.6% and Albania's 14.7%) and the highest rate of secondary education at 59.5%. Italy hosts the least educated population, with 31% having primary education, 43.1% secondary, 10.3% vocational training and just 3.4% university education. Belgium has the highest rate of secondary school education, with nearly two-thirds (61.8%) of respondents having a secondary education, 4.4% primary, 17.6% vocational training and 14.7% university. For complete data, see Table 31 in Annex 4.

On the basis of gender, women appear to be slightly less well-educated than men, but not strikingly so. Men and women both attended primary school at approximately the same rate (16.4% vs. 16.9%) as well as secondary school (50.0% vs. 50.8%). Although men attended vocational school considerably more often (17.8% vs. 5.1%), more women (15.3%) attended university than did men (11.0%).

TABLE 9

EDUCATION BY GENDER

			Gender			
			No answer	Male	Female	Total
Education	No answer	Count		7	7	14
		% within Gender		4.8%	11.9%	6.6%
	Primary school	Count		24	10	34
		% within Gender		16.4%	16.9%	16.1%
	Secondary school	Count	2	73	30	105
		% within Gender	33.3%	50.0%	50.8%	49.8%
	Vocational training/technical institute	Count	3	26	3	32
		% within Gender	50.0%	17.8%	5.1%	15.2%
	University or high school	Count	1	16	9	26
		% within Gender	16.7%	11.0%	15.3%	12.3%
Total		Count	6	146	59	211
		% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Work experience

When asked about their work experience in their countries of origin, nearly one-quarter (23.2%) noted that they had had less than one year of work experience, another quarter (25.6%) note they have had one to five years, and just 5.2% say they have had five to ten years of experience. Some 4.3% have had over ten years of work experience. These results again echo the common wisdom that those persons who migrate are neither the most desperate nor the most well-off.

FIGURE 10

Years of Work Experience at home, in %

n=211
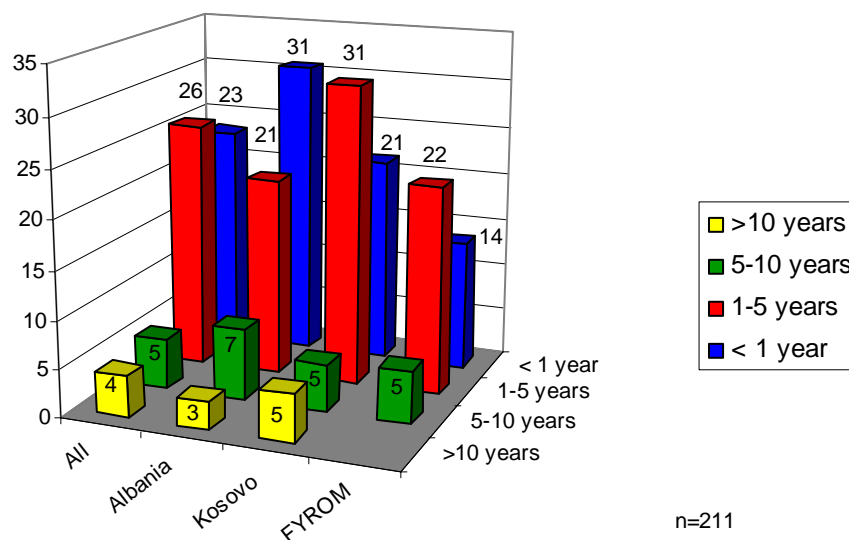
When broken down origin, the results show that Kosovars have had the most work experience, with 21.4% having worked less than a year, 31.1% for one to five years, 4.9% for five

to ten years and another 4.9% for more than ten years. Albanians have just slightly less work experience, overall, with 30.9% having worked less than one year, 20.6% for one to five years, 7.4% for five to ten years and 2.9% for more than ten years. Macedonians had the least work experience of all, with just 13.5% having working less than one year, nearly one-quarter (21.6%) for one to five years and 5.4% for more than ten years. See Table 32 in Annex 4.

In terms of host countries, Germany has the respondents with the lowest rate of employment (just 22.5% with less than one year of experience and 15% with one to five years). Italy has slightly higher employment (8.6% with less than one year, 27.6% with one to five years, and 3.4% each with five to ten years and more than ten years). Belgium has the respondents with the most work experience, with 33.8% having worked less than one year and 29.4% for one to five years, 7.4% for five to ten years and 5.9% for more than ten years. These figures also link in quite closely with the figures for housing conditions and economic conditions in the home country.

Overall, women have less work experience in their home countries than men: 27.1% of women had worked less than one year, compared to 20.5% of men. However, 11.9% of women had worked one to five years, compared to 30.1% of men; 1.7% of women had worked between five and ten years, compared to 6.8% of men, and 3.4% of women had worked more than ten years, compared to 4.8% of men. (See Table 33 in Annex 4).

Reasons for selecting this host country
When asked as to why they selected a particular host country (Q II.5), the conclusion emerges that, in fact, the main reason for selecting a particular host country is not an actual selection for that country. Indeed, most respondents said that their host country was a temporary destination until they moved permanently to another host country (20.4% of respondents noted this). Some 18.5% of respondents noted that "pure coincidence" was the reason they had landed in this particular host country. Respondents from Albania more often (22.1%) chose "coincidence", while those from FYROM overwhelmingly noted that their host country was a temporary destination (37.8%). Kosovars selected "coincidence" as well as family unification (19.4%).

TABLE 10

WHY THIS HOST COUNTRY BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Why this host country?	No answer	Count		3	3		6
		% within Origin		4.4%	2.9%		2.8%
	Contacts with residents from the country of origin	Count	1	12	8	7	28
		% within Origin	33.3%	17.6%	7.8%	18.9%	13.3%
	Pure coincidence	Count		15	20	4	39
		% within Origin		22.1%	19.4%	10.8%	18.5%
	A temporary destination until moving permanently elsewhere	Count		11	18	14	43
		% within Origin		16.2%	17.5%	37.8%	20.4%
	Rumours about advantageous asylum policy in the host country	Count	1	11	15	3	30
		% within Origin	33.3%	16.2%	14.6%	8.1%	14.2%
	Good social assistance for asylum seekers in host country	Count		2	7		9
		% within Origin		2.9%	6.8%		4.3%
	Joining family	Count	1	9	20	5	35
		% within Origin	33.3%	13.2%	19.4%	13.5%	16.6%
	The person who assisted me to leave my country of origin suggested it	Count		3	6	3	12
		% within Origin		4.4%	5.8%	8.1%	5.7%
	Other	Count		2	6	1	9
		% within Origin		2.9%	5.8%	2.7%	4.3%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

On the basis of host country, there are again differences, with those living in Belgium more often (29.4%) noting that Belgium was a temporary destination and those in Italy already having contacts with people living in Italy (24.1%). In the United Kingdom, respondents had heard rumours about advantageous asylum policy (24.4%) while respondents were more often living in Germany (47.5%) because of "coincidence".

When host country and origin are taken together, one response stands out: all respondents in the United Kingdom noted that rumours they had heard about the advantageous asylum policy were an important reason for selecting the United Kingdom as their destination: 24.4% of respondents overall noted this, as did 27.8% of Albanians and 23.1% of Kosovars. It is not possible to determine from our findings whether the asylum sought is for legitimate reasons or for opportunistic ones. The asylum recognition rate in the United Kingdom in 2002 was 32.3%, including recognition as an asylum-seeker as well as individuals permitted to stay for humanitarian reasons. No Macedonians were surveyed in the United Kingdom. Belgium was a temporary destination for Albanians, Kosovars and Macedonians (27.8%, 30.6% and 33.3%, respectively), perhaps a way station while underway to the United Kingdom from one of its ferry ports, while most respondents seemed to have selected Germany by coincidence (71.4% of Albanians and 36.4% of Kosovars). More respondents had contact with residents in Italy than in any other country (this was the case for 27.8% of Albanians in Italy and 26.3% of Kosovars). Macedonians in Italy more often (47.6%) noted that it was a temporary destination.

Employment, status, remittances

Length of stay

For the most part, the respondents have lived in the host countries for quite some time: 32% of respondents for two to five years, 48.2% for five to ten years and 13.7% for more than ten years. The length of stay does, of course, differ from host country to host country as well as on the basis of origin: respondents were more likely to have stayed either a relatively short period (13.9% for one to two years) or a relatively long period (30.6% each for five to ten years and more than ten years) in Germany, while in Belgium, respondents were more often resident for a medium-length period of time (35.4% for two to five years and 47.7% for five to ten years). In the United Kingdom, over two-thirds of respondents (67.4%) had been in the United Kingdom for five to ten years, and somewhat over one-quarter (27.9%) for two to five years. See details in Table 29 in Annex.

Half (51.5%) of Albanians had been in their host country for five to ten years, with another quarter (27.3%) having been there two to five years, and 15.3% for more than ten years. The United Kingdom has hosted the most Albanians for five to ten years (81.3%). For Kosovars likewise, more than half (54.6%) had been in their host countries for five to ten years, and another 15.5% for more than ten years. For Kosovars, Italy is the country which has hosted the most Kosovars for five to ten years (89.5%). In the case of Macedonians, the majority have been abroad for a shorter period, with 56.3% having been in their host countries for two to five years, with Italy hosting the most, at 68.8% of those abroad for two to five years.

TABLE 11

HOW LONG IN HOST COUNTRY BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
How long in host country?	1-2 years	Count		4	2	6	12
		% within Origin		6.1%	2.1%	18.8%	6.1%
	2-5 years	Count		18	27	18	63
		% within Origin		27.3%	27.8%	56.3%	32.0%
	5-10 years	Count	1	34	53	7	95
		% within Origin	50.0%	51.5%	54.6%	21.9%	48.2%
	more than 10 years	Count	1	10	15	1	27
		% within Origin	50.0%	15.2%	15.5%	3.1%	13.7%
Total		Count	2	66	97	32	197
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Considerably more women than men had stayed for one to two years (17.2% compared to 1.5%) while fewer had stayed for two to five years (25.9%) than had men (35.6%). On the question of longer stays, men and women were approximately equal.

TABLE 12

HOW LONG IN HOST COUNTRY BY GENDER

			Gender			
			No answer	Male	Female	Total
How long in host country?	1-2 years	Count		2	10	12
		% within Gender		1.5%	17.2%	6.1%
	2-5 years	Count		48	15	63
		% within Gender		35.6%	25.9%	32.0%
	5-10 years	Count	4	65	26	95
		% within Gender	100.0%	48.1%	44.8%	48.2%
	more than 10 years	Count		20	7	27
		% within Gender		14.8%	12.1%	13.7%
Total		Count	4	135	58	197
		% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Knowledge of the language of the host country

About one-tenth (11.4%) of respondents report that they speak the language of the host country fluently and another 39.8% that they speak it well. Some 40.8% speak the language on a basic level, and just 7.6% do not speak it at all. Language capabilities are best in the United Kingdom (55.6% speak well, and 26.7% fluently), also the country in which migrants have lived the longest (see above). Language capabilities are worst in Belgium, where 17.6% of the respondents note that they do not speak the local language,[23] 55.9% that they speak it on a basic level, 20.6% well and 5.9% fluently.

TABLE 13

KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL LANGUAGE BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Knowledge of Local Language	No answer	Count				1	1
		% within Host Country				2.2%	.5%
	None	Count	12	1		3	16
		% within Host Country	17.6%	1.7%		7.5%	7.6%
	Basic	Count	38	21	7	20	86
		% within Host Country	55.9%	36.2%	15.6%	50.0%	40.8%
	Good	Count	14	34	25	11	84
		% within Host Country	20.6%	58.6%	55.6%	27.5%	39.8%
	Fluent	Count	4	2	12	6	24
		% within Host Country	5.9%	3.4%	26.7%	15.0%	11.4%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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[23] It should be noted that Belgium is a tri-lingual country, with French, Flemish (Dutch) and German all official languages. None of the respondents is from the German province, however.

Albanians have learned the local language better than Kosovars or Macedonians (refer back to Table 11 for length of stay by origin), with just 4.4% saying they do not speak the language of the host country at all, 35.3% that they speak it at a basic level, 42.6% well and 17.6% fluently. Kosovars speak the local language just slightly worse: 11.7% of Kosovars speak the local language fluently, 41.7% speak it well, 37.9% on a basic level and 7.8% do not speak it at all. For Macedonians, 13.5% do not speak the local language at all, 59.5% speak it on a basic level and 27.0% speak it well. No respondent notes that he or she speaks it fluently.

TABLE 14

KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL LANGUAGE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Knowledge of Local Language	No answer	Count			1		1
		% within Origin			1.0%		.5%
	None	Count		3	8	5	16
		% within Origin		4.4%	7.8%	13.5%	7.6%
	Basic	Count	1	24	39	22	86
		% within Origin	33.3%	35.3%	37.9%	59.5%	40.8%
	Good	Count	2	29	43	10	84
		% within Origin	66.7%	42.6%	41.7%	27.0%	39.8%
	Fluent	Count		12	12		24
		% within Origin		17.6%	11.7%		11.4%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Men's knowledge of the local language is stronger than is women's: although 8.9% of men (and 5.1% of women) do not speak the local language at all, 52.5% of women speak it on a basic level (37.0% of men), while 43.2% of men speak the language well (32.2% of women) and 11.0% of men speak it fluently (compared to 8.5% of women).

Legal status of departure

Slightly more than half (52.1%) the respondents left their country/region of origin illegally. While 6.6% reported that they did not know whether they had left legally or not, 40.3% had left legally. There is not a great deal of variation on the basis of origin; slightly over half of all respondents left illegally (Albania: 52.9%; Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro): 51.5%; FYROM: 54.1%). When these data are looked at from the perspective of host country, however, the respondents in the United Kingdom are much more likely to have left home legally (53.3%, with 37.8% having left illegally), while Italy has a much higher percentage of persons who left illegally (62.1% left illegally, 34.5% legally).

TABLE 15

LEGAL DEPARTURE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Leave Legally?	No answer	Count		1		1	2
		% within Origin		1.5%		2.7%	.9%
	No	Count	1	36	53	20	110
		% within Origin	33.3%	52.9%	51.5%	54.1%	52.1%
	Don't know	Count	2	2	6	4	14
		% within Origin	66.7%	2.9%	5.8%	10.8%	6.6%
	Yes	Count		29	44	12	85
		% within Origin		42.6%	42.7%	32.4%	40.3%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

With the two characteristics taken together, however, there are quite significant differences. The highest percentage of those leaving illegally are Kosovars living in Italy, with 78.9% of them having left their home countries illegally, followed by 66.7% of Albanians living in Belgium. The lowest percentage of illegal departure is of Macedonians living in Germany (25%, or one person, left illegally) and of Kosovars living in the United Kingdom (34.6%). Women are more likely than men to have left home legally: 52.5% of women left legally, compared to 35.6% of men.

Current residence status

Overall, the plurality (23.2%, or 49 respondents) were asylum seekers, 21.8% (46) visa overstayers, 21.3% (45) rejected asylum seekers, 20.9% (44) were undocumented since first entry, 3.3% (7) did not know their status, 2.4% (5) said "other" and just 5.7% (12) have some type of a status which grants them legal residence in their host country.

It is important to note that those who are currently asylum seekers do in fact have the right to stay in the host country (even though they do not, in all cases, have the right to work), although it is certainly possible that if their applications are rejected and they do not leave the country, their status may in fact become illegal. Likewise, rejected asylum seekers are not necessarily illegal. The 12 individuals who have some form of legal status are also not currently illegal but, not knowing their exact status, we cannot be sure they will remain so. According to UNHCR data, of Macedonian asylum seekers worldwide, 142 were granted asylum in 2003 and a further 58 temporary protection from deportation. In the case of Serbia and Montenegro,[24] 2,705 were granted asylum in 2003 and a further 4,129 temporary protection, while for Albanian asylum seekers in 2003, the figures were 1,597 and 243. Other appeals and legal procedures also come into play.

The plurality of respondents in Germany are visa overstayers (27.5%) and one-fifth (20.0%) are rejected asylum seekers. Belgium has the highest percentage of respondents who have been

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[24] No asylum data are gathered separately for Kosovo; the Serbia and Montenegro data are the closest approximation.

FIGURE 11

Status in Host Country, in %
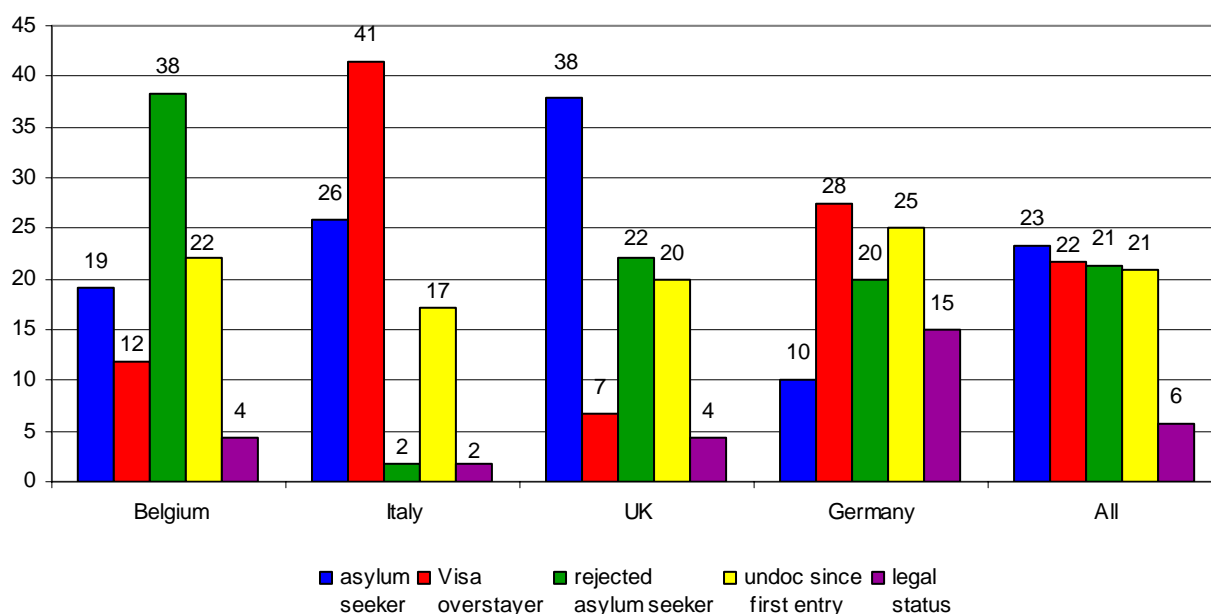
undocumented since their first entry, at 22.1%, yet the largest group in Belgium is made up of rejected asylum seekers, at 38.2%. The plurality of Italy's respondents (41.4%), however, is visa overstayers. Some 4.4% of respondents in Belgium have a legal residence status, as do 4.4% in the United Kingdom, where the plurality (37.8%) is asylum seekers.

Overall, Albanians have the highest percentage of respondents who have a legal residence status (8.8%) while Macedonians have the highest percentage (27.0%) of persons undocumented since the first entry and of visa overstayers (32.4%). Kosovars are most often either rejected asylum seekers (27.2%) or asylum seekers (26.2%).

Albanians living in Italy are, overwhelmingly (61.1%), visa overstayers, while Kosovars living in Italy are, at similar levels (63.2%) asylum seekers. The highest rate of having been undocumented since first entry falls to Macedonians in Belgium, with 41.7%. As noted above, Germany has the highest rates of respondents having a legal residence status, with 14.3% of Albanians and 18.2% of Kosovars having a legal status.

In terms of gender breakdown, women were considerably more likely (32.2% to 17.8%) to be visa overstayers, and less likely (15.3% to 24.0%) to be rejected asylum seekers, but other differences are not significant.

Work history in host country

As discussed above, those migrants who are classified as "labour migrants" may not necessarily have migrated in the search for work. Indeed, as noted above, the main reason for leaving home was general insecurity. Overall, somewhat over half of the respondents (58.8%) have worked in the host countries, with more of those living in Italy and the United Kingdom having worked (66.5% and 66.7%, respectively). Respondents worked less often in Belgium (58.8%) and in Germany (40.0%). On the basis of origin, Kosovars (64.1%) and Albanians (63.2%) worked most

often, while Macedonians (37.8%) did so considerably less often. Kosovars living in Italy worked most, with 94.7% noting that they have done so, and Albanians in the United Kingdom (83.3%) worked the second-most often. Macedonians living in Italy and Albanians in Germany worked least often (28.6%).

TABLE 16

WORK IN HOST COUNTRY BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Work in Host Country	No answer	Count	1	2	1	1	5
		% within Origin	33.3%	2.9%	1.0%	2.7%	2.4%
	Yes	Count	1	43	66	14	124
		% within Origin	33.3%	63.2%	64.1%	37.8%	58.8%
	No	Count	1	23	36	22	82
		% within Origin	33.3%	33.8%	35.0%	59.5%	38.9%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Quite a significant percentage of this work appears to have been on the black market, however, as just 29.4% of respondents note that they have a work permit.[25] Some 25.9% of respondents in Italy report having a work permit, somewhat less than half of the percentage of respondents who report having worked. The figures are closer in the case of the United Kingdom,

TABLE 17

WORK IN HOST COUNTRY BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Work in Host Country	No answer	Count		2	2	1	5
		% within Host Country		3.4%	4.4%	2.5%	2.4%
	Yes	Count	40	38	30	16	124
		% within Host Country	58.8%	65.5%	66.7%	40.0%	58.8%
	No	Count	28	18	13	23	82
		% within Host Country	41.2%	31.0%	28.9%	57.5%	38.9%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

with 55.6% of respondents having a work permit. In Belgium, respondents least often have a work permit (16.2%) which also corresponds to the lowest rate of working – although again the rate of working is significantly higher than that of having a work permit. Kosovars (35.3%) and Albanians (35.9%) have the highest rates of having work permits, while Macedonians (2.7%) have an extremely low rate of work permits. Those who worked the most – Kosovars living in Italy – also

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[25] It should be noted that the question of work permit refers to the present and having worked refers to present and past, so that there could be some discrepancy, although likely not enough to make a significant difference.

have the highest rate of work permits, with 68.4%. Albanians in the United Kingdom again have the second-highest rate of work permits, at 66.7%, while the group who worked the least – Macedonians in Italy – had no work permits at all. The group which had worked the second-least – Albanians in Germany – had the precise percentage of work permits as having worked – 28.6%, indicating that this group works completely legally in Germany. That group is, however, the only one where this holds true. The figure below shows a more complete comparison of work permits and work.

FIGURE 12

Illegal Work: Comparison of Work Permits and Work, in %
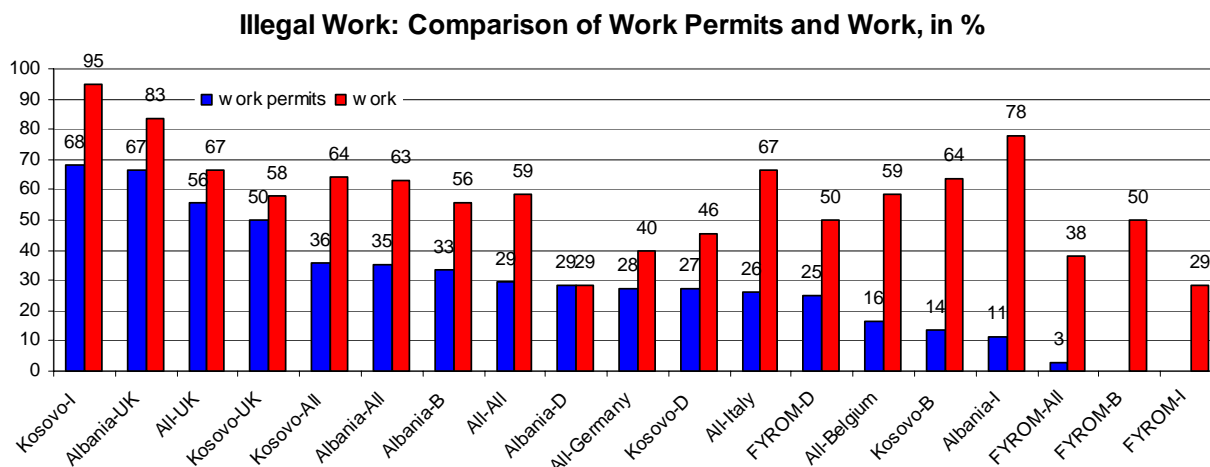
The high discrepancy between the percentage of those who have worked in Italy and Belgium and those who had a permit underlines the point discussed above with reference to regularization programmes as well as to the nature of the labour market. Italy and Belgium both have a substantial shadow economy for labour – estimated at between 23 and 28% of GDP – which, together with Spain, are the only of the developed economies with such high figures. The average among developed economies is 15% ("Black hole" 1999). The largest difference between the two figures for work permits and for working in our sample is, indeed, in Belgium – there is a 43% discrepancy between the figures for all respondents in Belgium, a 41% discrepancy in Italy, 12% in Germany, 9% in the United Kingdom and 30% overall.

TABLE 18

RIGHT TO A WORK PERMIT BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Right to a Work Permit	No answer	Count		1		3	4
		% within Origin		1.5%		8.1%	1.9%
	Yes	Count		24	37	1	62
		% within Origin		35.3%	35.9%	2.7%	29.4%
	No	Count	3	43	66	33	145
		% within Origin	100.0%	63.2%	64.1%	89.2%	68.7%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nearly half (49.4%) of the respondents had worked in the host country for three to five years, with an additional quarter (28.1%) for one to two years. Just 3.4% had worked for less than one year, while 16.9% had worked for six to ten years and 2.2% for more than ten years. This statistic includes part-time, full-time and sporadic work.

Kosovars had worked the longest, with 48.1% having worked for three to five years, 19.1% for six to ten years and 3.8% for more than ten years. Albanians worked nearly as long, with 53.6% having worked three to five years and 14.3% for six to ten years. The longest working period, from the perspective of the host countries, is in Germany, where 45.5% of respondents worked three to five years, 36.4% six to ten years and 9.1% more than ten years.

Women had worked less often than men, with 45.8% of women having worked, compared to 62.3% of men, while also working for shorter periods than men: while 20% of women had worked for one to two years, 23% of men had worked for three to five years.

FIGURE 13

Length of Employment in Host Country by Gender, in %
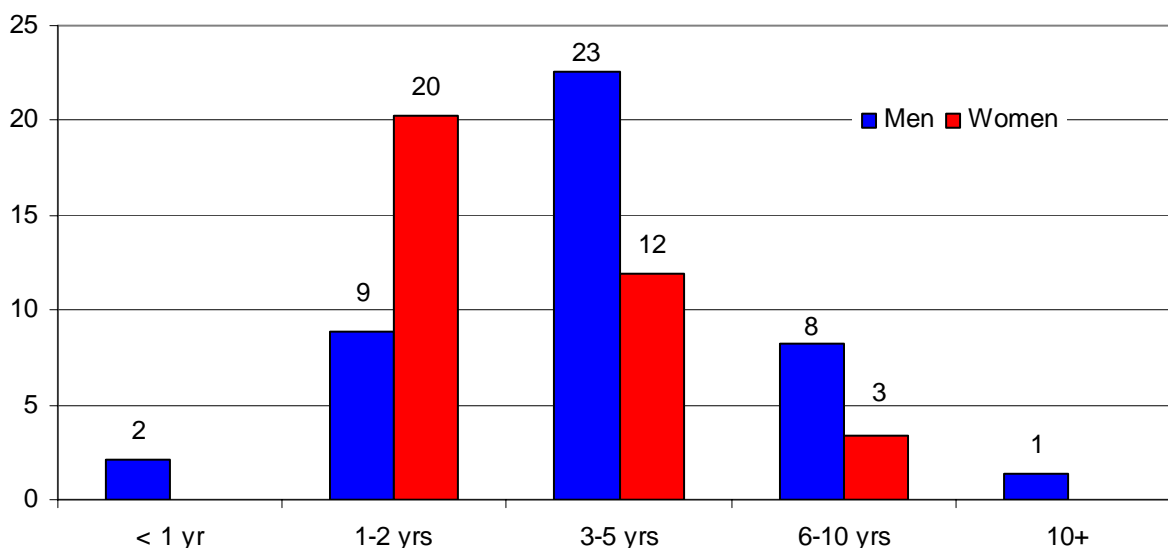
Studies in host country

Just 15.2% of respondents noted that they had studied while abroad. Albanians studied at a considerably higher rate, with 23.5% having undertaken studies, while Macedonians did so the least, at 2.7%. The highest rate of study was in the United Kingdom, with 44.4% of respondents in the United Kingdom having studied, followed by Belgium with 14.7% having studied and 5.0% having done so in Germany. No respondents reported having studied in Italy. Women and men studied at approximately the same rate, with 15.8% (23) of men having done so, and 13.6% (8) of female respondents.

Knowledge of language

Knowledge of language – as discussed above – clearly has an impact upon working in the host country, despite the prevalence of construction and cleaning jobs among irregular migrants in

general which require little language skill. Of those respondents who said they were fluent in a language of their host country, 91.7% (22) had worked, compared with just 12.5% (two) of those who had no language ability. For those who have basic language ability, 40.7% (35) had worked and of those with good language skills, 77.4% (65) had worked.

Men speak the local language considerably better than do women, with over half (52.5%, or 31) of women speaking the language at a "basic" level, compared to just over one-third of men (37.0%, or 54). Over half the men (54.2%, or 79) speak the language either well or fluently, compared to 40.7% (24) of women. For complete data, see Table 8 in Annex 4.

Remittances and importance of remittances

The unsatisfactory economic conditions in the home countries make money earned abroad and sent home by those living abroad all the more necessary and welcome. Indeed, just over one-half (52.1%) of respondents sent remittances home, with Kosovars (63.1%) most often sending money and Albanians (47.1%) and Macedonians (32.4%) doing so somewhat less often. More respondents living in the United Kingdom (62.2%) and in Belgium (60.3%) sent money than in Germany (42.5% did so) or Italy (41.4%). Interestingly, while Macedonians report great dissatisfaction with their economic conditions at home, they also have the fewest percentage of migrants who send money home. Likewise, while respondents in Germany universally reported higher dissatisfaction than respondents living in other host countries, just 42.5% of respondents in Germany reported sending money home.

As is to be expected, given the gender differences in terms of work experience, women sent remittances home somewhat less often than did men, with 40.7% (24) of women sending remittances, and 55.5% (81) of men doing so.

Of those who did send money home to their families (46% did not answer this question), over one-third (39%, or 44 respondents) said that the money was very important, and over half (53%, 60) said that it was important. Just 4% (five respondents) each said either that it was not important or that they did not know. Broken down by origin, of those who sent money home, Macedonians were those who most believed the money is important to their families, with 33% (four respondents) saying it was very important and 67% (eight respondents) that it was important.[26] Kosovars, who have the highest rate of sending money home, have the second-highest rate of believing that the money is important: 39% say that the money is very important (35) and an additional 53% say that it is important (26). Just 3% say that it is not important. For Albanians who sent money home, 40% say that the remittances are very important (14) and 45% that they are important (16).

Kosta Barjaba notes that these remittances, while very important for the families, are less significant in the community because it is

> [i]n only a few cases [that] … remittances [are] invested in real estate, production, and the service or agricultural sectors. Such a model of remittances use alleviates family poverty, but does not create new jobs through investment, which would in turn boost incomes and thereby possibly prevent new migration flows. An individual, family, and local remittances dependency has been created, because remittances are not used as incentives to encourage economic and social development (Kosta, 2004).

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[26] At the same time, it should be noted that Macedonians are the national group with the lowest rate of sending remittances home.

In other words, a programme such as this one currently being undertaken by IOM in the framework of the HLWG "Fostering Sustainable Reintegration in Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, by reinforcing local NGO capacity service provision to returnees" could, in fact, fill a gap and help to channel remittances and help them to have a more long-term and widespread role in developing certain aspects of Albania's economy. The return and gainful employment of migrants could, in theory, provide a focal point for remittances from abroad.

Of all respondents, including those who did not send money home and did not respond to this question, 28.4% (60) of respondents noted that remittances were important and an additional 20.9% (44) that they were very important. Just 2.4% (5) said that they were not important. These findings indicate that, as other research has shown, remittances sent home have an enormous impact upon the home community. Unfortunately, however, such remittances are not always used in a particularly constructive manner – a programme which would channel these funds into particular projects would likely be more productive.

Feelings about stay in host country

Success of stay

More respondents note that their stay was successful (27.0%, or 57 respondents) than unsuccessful (21.8%, or 46 respondents), yet more than twice as many note that it was very unsuccessful (14.7%, or 31) than very successful (6.2%, or 13).

It should be noted that the reasons for the success or lack of success in a stay abroad depend upon the migrant's goals which were established (or taken for granted) at the beginning of the stay abroad. These might include: gaining permanent residency and earning money to send home. The outcome of the asylum process, then, might have a significant impact upon whether a respondent judges the stay to have been successful or not.

Overall, Macedonians report being happiest with the outcome of their stay abroad, with 45.9% noting it to be "successful." Albanians have the strongest opinions about their stay, being the second-most satisfied, with 23.5% noting that the stay was "successful" and another 8.8% calling it "very successful," yet also being the most dissatisfied: 19.1% noted that they felt their stay to be very unsuccessful, and another 27.9% that it was "unsuccessful."

TABLE 19

JUDGEMENT OF STAY BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Judgement of Stay	No answer	Count		1	1	2	4
		% within Origin		1.5%	1.0%	5.4%	1.9%
	very unsuccessful	Count		13	15	3	31
		% within Origin		19.1%	14.6%	8.1%	14.7%
	unsuccessful	Count	1	19	21	5	46
		% within Origin	33.3%	27.9%	20.4%	13.5%	21.8%
	I don't know	Count	1	13	36	10	60
		% within Origin	33.3%	19.1%	35.0%	27.0%	28.4%
	Successful	Count	1	16	23	17	57
		% within Origin	33.3%	23.5%	22.3%	45.9%	27.0%
	Very successful	Count		6	7		13
		% within Origin		8.8%	6.8%		6.2%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

For the most part, respondents are unhappiest about their stay in Germany, with 57.5% (23 respondents) calling the stay "very unsuccessful" and another 10.0% (4) "unsuccessful". Just 12.5% (5) of respondents in Germany note that their stay was successful, and another 10.0% (4) that it was very successful. Respondents in the United Kingdom are the happiest, with 42.2% (19) noting that the stay was successful and another 11.1% (5) that it was very successful. Just 8.9% (4) call the stay very unsuccessful and another 17.8% (8) unsuccessful.

As noted above, individuals may have different bases upon which they base their judgement of the success of their stay. Having been able to send remittances home appears to be one of those criteria (see figure below). Of those who had sent home remittances, 40.9% (45 respondents) said that their stay had been successful or very successful. This compares with 26.2% (23 respondents) of those who had not been able to send home remittances.

FIGURE 14

**Remittances Sent Home and Success of Stay in Host
Country, in %**
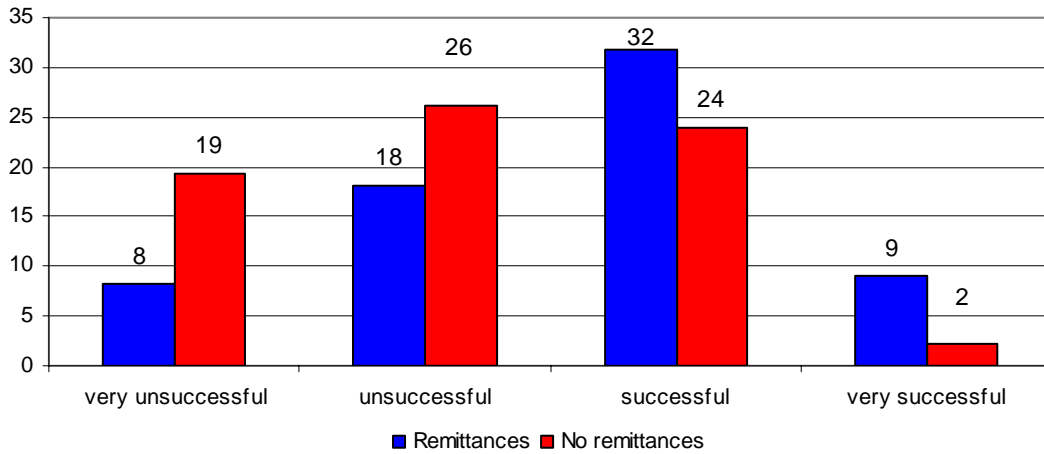
The question of the success of the stay abroad appears to have implications for the success of reintegration as well. According to the IOM South Caucasus reintegration, "Respondents who felt their stay abroad had been successful usually had fewer problems in readapting the situation back home" (IOM, 2002a: 26). Whether this statement is transferable to other situations remains to be seen, but it is certainly one point which should be kept in mind – also when formulating policies concerning irregular migrants (as well as potential irregular migrants, such as those on short-term or seasonal visas and asylum seekers) in host countries.

TABLE 20

JUDGEMENT OF STAY BY WISH FOR PERMANENT RETURN

			Wish for Permanent Return				
			No	Maybe	don't know	Yes	Total
Judgement of Stay	No answer	Count		1	1	2	4
		% within Judgement of Stay		25.0%	25.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	very unsuccessful	Count	20	4	4	3	31
		% within Judgement of Stay	64.5%	12.9%	12.9%	9.7%	100.0%
	unsuccessful	Count	8	10	6	22	46
		% within Judgement of Stay	17.4%	21.7%	13.0%	47.8%	100.0%
	I don't know	Count	7	13	17	23	60
		% within Judgement of Stay	11.7%	21.7%	28.3%	38.3%	100.0%
	Successful	Count	15	12	10	20	57
		% within Judgement of Stay	26.3%	21.1%	17.5%	35.1%	100.0%
	Very successful	Count	3	1	5	4	13
		% within Judgement of Stay	23.1%	7.7%	38.5%	30.8%	100.0%
Total		Count	53	41	43	74	211
		% within Judgement of Stay	25.1%	19.4%	20.4%	35.1%	100.0%

Indeed, of those who judged their stay very unsuccessful, 64.5% (20) indicated that they did not wish to return home permanently. This finding suggests that persons who judge their stay to have been very unsuccessful wish to remain abroad longer, seeking to meet whatever goals they may have set for themselves. On the other hand, the plurality of those who rate their stay as merely "unsuccessful", 47.8% (22 persons) do wish to return home. Those who don't know, or who judged their stay to be successful, also were more likely to want to return home, although a certain percentage of each category does wish to remain abroad.

Women, for the most part, were more positive about their stay abroad than were men, with 10.2% (6) saying that their stay was "very successful," compared to 4.1% (6) of men who said the same. More women than men (18.6% compared to 13.7%) were likely to say that their stay was "very unsuccessful", yet at the same time, over one-quarter (26.7%) of men, compared to one in ten women (10.2%) said their stay was "unsuccessful".

TABLE 21

JUDGEMENT OF STAY BY GENDER

			Gender			
			No answer	Male	Female	Total
Judgement of Stay	No answer	Count		2	2	4
		% within Gender		1.4%	3.4%	1.9%
	very unsuccessful	Count		20	11	31
		% within Gender		13.7%	18.6%	14.7%
	unsuccessful	Count	1	39	6	46
		% within Gender	16.7%	26.7%	10.2%	21.8%
	I don't know	Count	2	40	18	60
		% within Gender	33.3%	27.4%	30.5%	28.4%
	Successful	Count	2	39	16	57
		% within Gender	33.3%	26.7%	27.1%	27.0%
	Very successful	Count	1	6	6	13
		% within Gender	16.7%	4.1%	10.2%	6.2%
Total		Count	6	146	59	211
		% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

5. MIGRANTS AND RETURN

5.1 Wish to return home

Overall, slightly more than one-third (35%, or 74 respondents) of all respondents wish to return home, with one-quarter (25.1%, or 53) saying they do not, a further 19.4% (41) saying "maybe," and another fifth (20.4%, or 43) saying they do not know.

Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) has the highest rate of respondents wishing to return, with 45.6% of respondents (47) saying so. Albania, at 20.6% (14), has the lowest rate, while FYROM weighs in at 29.7% (11). Albania has the highest "don't know" rate, at 25.0% (17), as well as the highest percentage of respondents not wishing to return (35.3%, or 24).

TABLE 22

WISH FOR PERMANENT RETURN BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Wish for Permanent Return	No	Count		24	17	12	53
		% within Origin		35.3%	16.5%	32.4%	25.1%
	Maybe	Count	1	13	19	8	41
		% within Origin	33.3%	19.1%	18.4%	21.6%	19.4%
	don't know	Count		17	20	6	43
		% within Origin		25.0%	19.4%	16.2%	20.4%
	Yes	Count	2	14	47	11	74
		% within Origin	66.7%	20.6%	45.6%	29.7%	35.1%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Belgium has the highest percentage of respondents saying they wish to return, with nearly half (48.5%, or 33) saying they would like to return, and just 16.2% (11) saying no. Nearly one-quarter (22.1%, or 15) responded with maybe, while 13.2% (9) did not know. Italy has the lowest percentage of respondents saying they wish to return (22.4%, or 13), yet also has the highest percentage of "don't know" responses, at 34.5% (20). The United Kingdom has the lowest percentage of respondents saying "no" (13.3%, or 6), along with the highest "maybe" response rate (26.7%, or 12).

Considerably more women do not wish to return home than do men, with just under one-quarter (21.2.%) of men saying they do not wish to return, compared to over one-third (35.6%) of women saying the same. Correspondingly, 27.1% of women do wish to return home while 39.0% of men wish to do so.

TABLE 23

WISH FOR PERMANENT RETURN BY GENDER

			Gender			
			No answer	Male	Female	Total
Wish for Permanent Return	No	Count	1	31	21	53
		% within Gender	16.7%	21.2%	35.6%	25.1%
	Maybe	Count		32	9	41
		% within Gender		21.9%	15.3%	19.4%
	don't know	Count	4	26	13	43
		% within Gender	66.7%	17.8%	22.0%	20.4%
	Yes	Count	1	57	16	74
		% within Gender	16.7%	39.0%	27.1%	35.1%
Total		Count	6	146	59	211
		% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

What return means to respondents

As to what the decision to return would mean to them, if they were to return, there are again, differences of opinion. Overall, nearly one-quarter (23%, or 34) of those who express an opinion[27] (29.4%, those who have answered no to the question of whether they wish to return, do not answer this question) say that return is a natural step, yet a few percent more (27%, or 40) do not know. Some 13% (19) regard a return as a personal failure, while 18% (27) regard it as a positive step, and 19% (28) are indifferent. In other words, nearly half see return either positively or as part of a natural progression. This is confirmed by the focus group who discussed this question and who agreed that returning home with a project – such as this IOM project – is quite positive, but that returning home without a plan/project for the future would be regarded as a failure. For complete information, see Annex 3 and Table 9 in Annex 4.

FIGURE 15

What Does Return Mean to You?
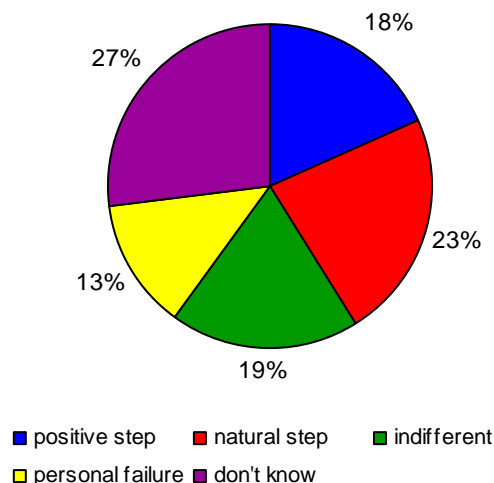
When the status of a return is broken down by origin, the picture changes yet again, with 24% (10) of those Albanians who express an opinion seeing return as a positive step, 20% (16) of Kosovars, and just 5% (1) of Macedonians. At the same time, the Macedonians are the most indifferent of all potential returnees, with nearly one-third (31%, or seven respondents) saying they are indifferent to return. The rate of those saying that return would be a personal failure is the lowest among Kosovars (10%, or eight respondents) and the highest among Macedonians (18%, or four respondents).

FIGURE 16

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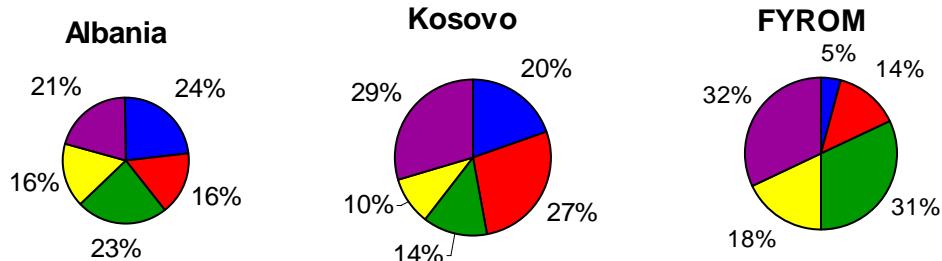
[27] Nearly one-third, (29.4%) of respondents answered this question. Those who answered "no" to the question of whether they wish to return did not answer this question.

When regarded on the basis of host countries, potential returnees from the United Kingdom are the most optimistic, with 41% (14) regarding return as a positive step, and just 6% (3) from Belgium seeing it as such. At the same time, the largest percentage of those believing a return is a

FIGURE 17

| positive step | natural step | indifferent | personal failure | don't know |
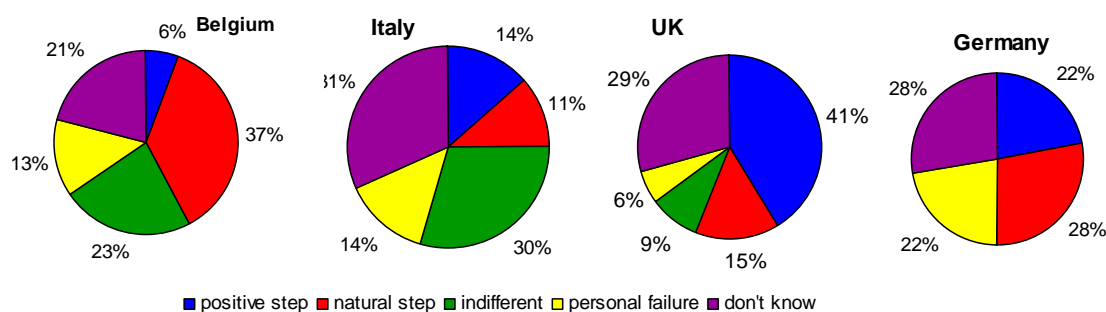
personal failure are those living in Germany, where close to one-quarter (22%, or four respondents) of those who express an opinion believe they have personally failed if they return home. Italy, with 31% (14), has the highest percentage of those who do not know, while Belgium has the highest percentage of those who believe it is a natural step (37%, or 19). Those living in Germany appear to be considerably more decisive than most potential returnees, as not a single respondent mentioned that he or she was indifferent to return.

Reasons for the different responses from host country to host country may be accounted for by different policies regarding return: if one host country enforces return more strictly than another, return may be seen as a less positive step, whereas in another country where return is a more voluntary step, the return may be seen as more positive. In the case of Germany, it should be noted that the percentage of those feeling that their stay was "very unsuccessful" as well as the percentage of those believing return indicates a "personal failure". As shown in a previous IOM study (2002a), there is a connection between perception of success and willingness to return: the stronger the perceived success, the stronger the will to return. The inverse applies in this case. The different migrant communities may also have different attitudes – as noted, much of the assessment of return is subjective; when returnees were asked to say why they were returning in one study, non-economic factors – the more emotional and subjective – dominated (King, 2000: 17). Thus, the immediate social context – both in the host country and at home – plays a significant role. This finding again suggests that information campaigns might be able to play a considerable role in changing how potential return migrants feel about return. The development of such projects as this one, which link return with targeted reintegration assistance, will certainly play a positive role as well.

TABLE 24

JUDGEMENT OF RETURN BY GENDER

			Gender			
			No answer	Male	Female	Total
Judgement of Return	No answer	Count	2	37	23	62
		% within Gender	33.3%	25.3%	39.0%	29.4%
	A positive step	Count	1	22	4	27
		% within Gender	16.7%	15.1%	6.8%	12.8%
	A natural step	Count		27	7	34
		% within Gender		18.5%	11.9%	16.1%
	Indiferrent	Count	1	21	6	28
		% within Gender	16.7%	14.4%	10.2%	13.3%
	A personal failure	Count	1	13	5	19
		% within Gender	16.7%	8.9%	8.5%	9.0%
	don't know	Count	1	25	14	40
		% within Gender	16.7%	17.1%	23.7%	19.0%
	Other	Count		1		1
		% within Gender		.7%		.5%
Total		Count	6	146	59	211
		% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Women are considerably more unsure about what return actually means for them, with over one-third not answering this question (39.0%, compared to 25.3% of men), and nearly one-quarter (23.7%, compared to 17.1% of men) of women responding they "don't know". Given these higher responses among women, it is not surprising that women's responses for all other options – both positive and negative – are consistently lower.

Expectation of return

The expectations of conditions upon return are not overwhelmingly positive. Overall, more than one-third of respondents believe that housing conditions will be "unsatisfactory" (76) when they return home, and another quarter (24.6%, or 52) believe they will be very unsatisfactory.

TABLE 25

EXPECTATION OF HOUSING CONDITIONS UPON RETURN BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Housing Conditions upon Return	No answer	Count		2	3	1	6
		% within Origin		2.9%	2.9%	2.7%	2.8%
	Very unsatisfactory	Count	1	17	23	11	52
		% within Origin	33.3%	25.0%	22.3%	29.7%	24.6%
	Unsatisfactory	Count		23	35	18	76
		% within Origin		33.8%	34.0%	48.6%	36.0%
	Satisfactory	Count	1	14	19	4	38
		% within Origin	33.3%	20.6%	18.4%	10.8%	18.0%
	Very satisfactory	Count		2	2		4
		% within Origin		2.9%	1.9%		1.9%
	don't know	Count	1	10	21	3	35
		% within Origin	33.3%	14.7%	20.4%	8.1%	16.6%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Nearly one-fifth (16.6%, or 35) do not know what their conditions will be like, and 18% (38) say they will be satisfactory. Just 1.9% (4) say their housing conditions when they return home will be "very satisfactory".

Expectations of housing conditions upon return vary significantly from country to country, with nearly three-quarters (72.5% or 29) of respondents in Germany noting that they believe housing conditions will be "very unsatisfactory" upon their return home. It should be noted that Germany also had the highest percentage of migrants whose housing and economic conditions had been unsatisfactory prior to emigration. Overall, as noted, the percentage is 24.6%. In the United Kingdom, nearly half (42.2%, or 19) do not know, and 26.7% (12) say conditions will be satisfactory. In Italy, more than half (55.2%, or 32) say conditions will be unsatisfactory, but just 13.8% (8) that they will be very unsatisfactory. Exactly half of respondents living in Belgium (50.0%, or 34) said that they expected conditions to be unsatisfactory, while 22.1% (15) believed they would be satisfactory.

The Macedonians are the most pessimistic of all national groups, with 29.7% (11) saying they believe conditions will be very unsatisfactory and an additional 48.6% (18) selecting "unsatisfactory". Just 10.8% (4) say conditions will be "satisfactory", 8.1% (3) do not know, and no respondents believed that conditions would be "very satisfactory." Kosovars are the most unsure, with one-fifth (20.4%, or 21) saying they do not know what to expect, and one-third (34.0%, or 35) expecting conditions to be unsatisfactory. About the same percentage (33.8%, or 23) of Albanians also expect conditions to be unsatisfactory, while one-quarter of Albanians (25.0%, or 17) and nearly one-quarter (22.3%, or 23) of Kosovars expect the same. On the basis of gender, there are no significant differences between male and female responses about anticipated housing conditions in the home country.

Circumstances of permanent return

Ammassari and Black examine the different factors which could play a role in a migrant's decision to return home. These are, as Ammassari and Black say, both on the "micro" and on the "macro" level and include changes in the migrant's perception about home, the host country or his/her own circumstances. Achievement of goals set is also another reason for return migration (Ammassari and Black, 2001: 34).

Indeed, when we asked respondents in our survey to note the circumstances under which they would consider returning home permanently, respondents from all countries of origin (Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), FYROM and Albania) and in all host countries (Belgium, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom) restrict their response to just three options: secured employment, acceptable living standards and an acceptable level of security. Respondents overwhelmingly (77.3%, or 163) note that secured employment is the most important circumstance under which they would consider returning home. In second place, 74.4% cite an acceptable level of security, while 68.2% (144) mention acceptable living standards as the third-most important factor. In other words, both personal security and a secured financial status are important to returnees. Acceptable medical services (53.1%, 112) are mentioned as the least important circumstance influencing respondents' wish to return. The only difference on the basis of gender is that, while both men and women note that secured employment is the most important factor (at 78.1% and 74.6%, respectively), men place security at the second-most important position (76.7%) while women rank acceptable living standards second (72.9%).

FIGURE 18

Least Important Circumstance for Permanent Return, in %
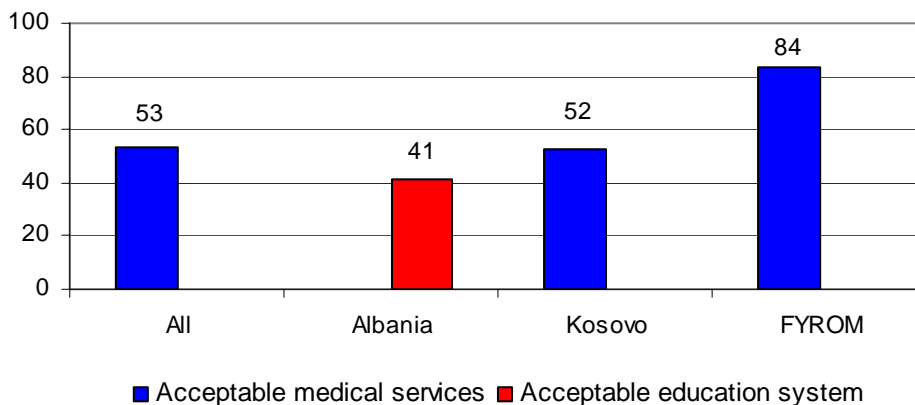
Broken down by origin, Albanians (73.5%, or 50) mention acceptable living standards, while Kosovars (79.6%, or 82) mention an acceptable level of security and Macedonians (91.9%, or 34) note that secured employment is the most important factor in a decision about permanent return. (For complete responses, see Tables 34-39 in Annex 4.)

Secured employment is the second-most important factor for Kosovars (75.7% or 78), and for Albanians (72.1%, or 49), while for Macedonians, acceptable level of security takes second place (83.8%, or 31). Third-most important is an acceptable level of security for Albanians (61.8%,

or 42), while acceptable living standards is third-most important for Kosovars (60.2%, or 62) and Macedonians (81.1% or 30).

For Kosovars and Macedonians, acceptable medical services are the least important factor in a decision on permanent return, with 52.4% (54) of Kosovars and 83.8% (31) of Macedonians noting this. However, for Albanians, the educational system (41.2%, or 28) is the least important factor. Considering that, as seen above, Albanians have the highest education level of all three countries of origin, it is likely that the high selection of this option reflects a satisfaction with the *status quo* in terms of the educational system in Albania rather than a lack of interest in education. This question should be investigated in future studies.

From the perspective of host countries, respondents in Belgium (82.4%, or 56) the United Kingdom (73.3%, or 33 respondents) and Germany (90.0%, or 36) all select secured employment as the most important factor influencing their decision to return home. In Italy, however, an acceptable level of security is the most important factor (86.2%, or 50), while secured employment is mentioned as the third-most important factor by 65.5%, or 38 respondents.

If having children is factored in, the overall top three most important circumstances for permanent return remain the same, yet the rank order does shift. For respondents with children, security becomes the most important issue, with 77.8% (56) respondents selecting that option, followed by employment (66.7%, 48) and acceptable living standards (55.6%, 40). The least important is the educational system (44.4%, 32) meaning that, for parents, an acceptable medical system is more important than an acceptable educational system.

For those respondents without children, employment (81.7%, 103) is the most important, followed by acceptable living standards (74.6%, or 94) and an acceptable level of security (72.2%, 91). The least important is an acceptable medical system, with 61.9% (78) of respondents highlighting this option.

When the circumstances for a permanent return are compared with the original reasons for departure from home, it is clear that there is a certain agreement between the two: overall, general insecurity, economic hardship and political reasons were mentioned as the reasons for departure. The circumstances under which respondents would consider returning home permanently address these three concerns with the responses secured employment, acceptable level of security and acceptable living standards.

TABLE 26
Comparison: Reasons for Leaving and Circumstances of Permanent Return, in %

		Reasons for Leaving		Circumstances for Permanent Return	
All					
	1	General insecurity in country of origin	53.1	Secured Employment	77.3
	2	Economic hardship	49.3	Acceptable level of security	74.4
	3	Political reasons	46.4	Acceptable living stds	68.2
Albania					
	1	General insecurity in country of origin	51.5		
	1	Economic hardship	51.5	Acceptable living stds	73.5
	2	Political reasons	45.6	Secured employment	72.1
	3	Poor living stds in country of origin	38.2	Acceptable level of security	61.8
Kosovo					
	1	Political reasons	52.4	Acceptable level of security	79.6
	2	Economic hardship	49.5	Secured employment	75.7
	3	General insecurity in country of origin	45.6	Acceptable living stds	60.2
FYROM					
	1	General insecurity in country of origin	78.4	Secured employment	91.9
	2	Poor living stds in country of origin	56.8	Acceptable level of security	83.8
	3	Economic hardship	48.6	Acceptable living stds	81.1

6. RETURN AND ASSISTANCE

6.1 Return assistance

Overall, the return assistance most desired by our pool of 211 potential returnees are loans for small and mid-size business start-up (63.0%, or 133). The second-most desired type of assistance is job-seeking assistance (55.9%, or 118), followed by a housing allowance (50.2%, or 106) as the third-most. The least important type of assistance desired is, overall, reimbursement of travel costs (32.7%, or 69 respondents) (See Tables 39-48 in Annex 4 for full results).

If return assistance desired is cross-tabulated with having children, no significant differences arise: loans remain the most important return assistance wished for, although 70.8% (51) of those with children note that loans would be important, while 60.3% (76) of those without children select loans, along with job-seeking assistance. Housing allowance is second for those with children, at 50.0% (36) while it is third for those without children (49.2%, or 62). On the basis of gender, the rank order for the three most important types of assistance and for the least important does not shift.

Loans for small business start-up are clearly the assistance type of choice. There appears to be a widespread lack of confidence in the economy to provide jobs, hence the wish to establish one's own place of business. By starting up one's own business, one is not dependent upon an employer for work. Furthermore, if a returnee starts a small business, there may be jobs created if the business is successful; given the network nature of migration, these jobs could theoretically go to other returnees. However, the decision to open one's own business is not straightforward. In the case of Albania, King and Vullnetari note that:

> As yet, there is not much definitive return migration to Albania. However, those few who have voluntarily returned often find that the amount they are able to save does not generally enable them to invest in the creation of new productive enterprises (but see Kule et al. 2002 for a more positive set of findings). The lack of credit facilities and the poor infrastructure are also very important factors preventing Albanian returnees or receiving households from setting up larger scale productive facilities. Usually, lack of security, political instability and lack of long-term credit are perceived as the most important factors limiting Albanians' confidence in investing in their own country (King and Vullnetari, 2003: 50).

The lack of credit facilities means that loans are not available in Albania, so that a project such as the current one being carried out by IOM, providing loans through NGOs, is a valuable opportunity.

However, there are differences among the respondents on the basis of origin and, perhaps somewhat surprisingly, host country. For instance, Albanian respondents in Germany select transportation of household belongings (78.6%, or 11) as their top choices for return assistance. Such differences may be explained by different conditions in the host country – perhaps there is more opportunity to gather household belongings in Germany, or other returnees have been able to bring their belongings with them. At the same time, just 22.2% (4) of Albanians in the United Kingdom select loans as an important factor, but 83.3% (15) do so in Belgium. While different policies by host countries and different assisted return programmes available may be the explanatory factor, it is as yet too early to state this with certainty.

FIGURE 19

Top Three Types of Return Assistance Desired, in %

Legend: ■ Housing allowance ■ Job-seeking assistance □ Travel costs ■ Assistance in social reintegration ■ Loans for business start-up
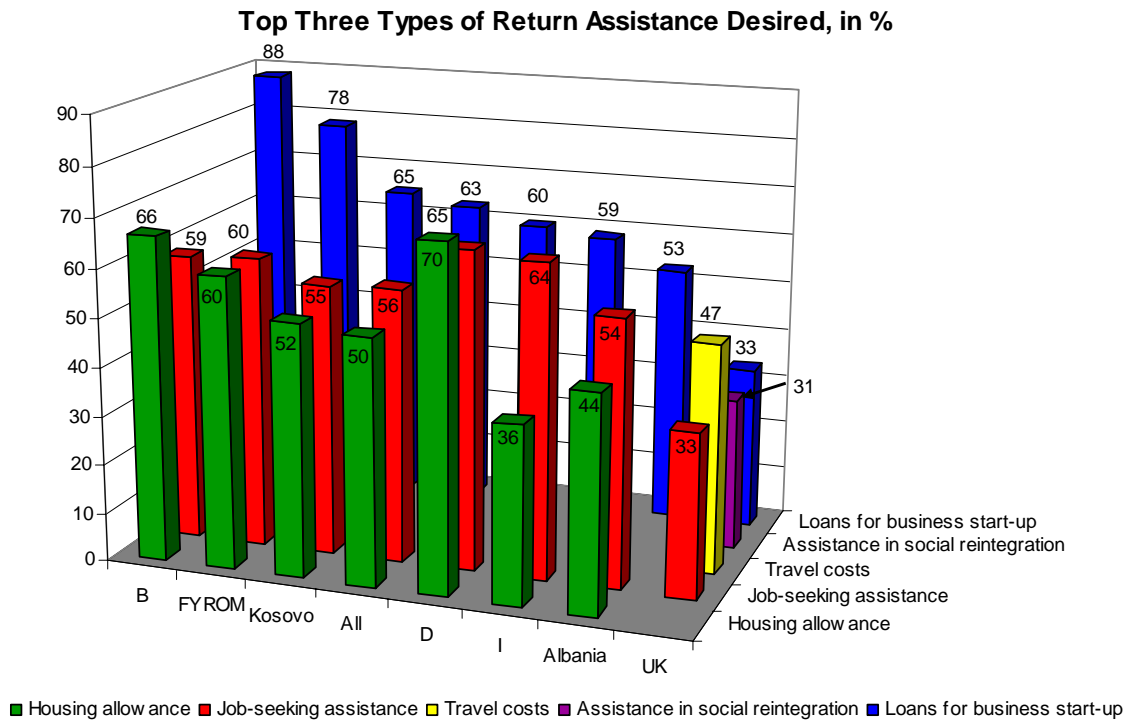
Kosovars (65.0%, or 67) and Macedonians (78.4%, or 29) state that loans would be their first preference for return assistance, while Albanians select job-seeking assistance as their preferred type of return assistance. Loans are, however, the second-most important for Albanians (52.9%, or 36), while job-seeking assistance is the second-most important for Kosovars (55.3%, or 57) and ties with housing allowance for second-most important for Macedonians, at 59.5% (22).

Housing allowance is seen as the third-most important for Albanians (44.1%, or **missing a figure here**), Kosovars (51.5%, or 53) while vocational training (24.3%, or 9) is third-most important for Macedonians.

Least important is, overall, travel cost reimbursement (32.7%, or 69), although here, too, there are country-based differences (35% (36) of Kosovars select transportation of belongings and vocational training as the least important, while 25% (17) of Albanians select psycho-social assistance as the least important and 51.4% (19) of Macedonians select reimbursement of travel costs and transport of belongings.)

FIGURE 20

Least Important Return Assistance Desired, in %
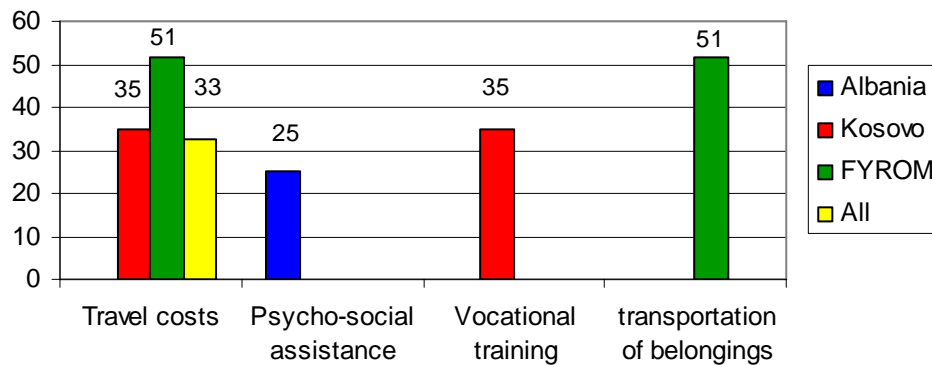
As noted above, when these results are broken down by host country, other patterns appear. Potential returnees living in Belgium (88.2%, or 60) very clearly state that loans are their first preference, while travel costs (72.1%, or 49) is the least desired. On the other hand, respondents in the United Kingdom select travel costs as their top wish for return assistance (46.7%, or 21) and housing allowance as the least (24.4%, or 11).

However, for potential returnees in other host countries, the situation is quite different. In Italy (where the surveyed population is evenly divided between Albanians, Kosovars and Macedonians – see figure above), job-seeking assistance is seen as the highest priority (63.8%, or 37) while loans are second (58.6%, or 34). Lowest priority is psycho-social assistance, with 44.8% (26). As noted, in the United Kingdom, having travel costs (46.7%, or 21) covered is the most requested top priority assistance and housing allowance is the least important (24.4%, or 11), while in Germany, 70.0% (28) of respondents select housing allowance and 65.0% (26) job-seeking assistance as the top priority.[28] The chart attached (return assistance grid) shows the top responses selected by potential returnees from Albania, FYROM and Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) in each of Belgium, Italy, the United Kingdom and Germany, as well as all returnees from each host country and all potential returnees from any particular country/region of origin.

These findings fit in well with what the European Commission envisages as its role in promoting a return and reintegration policy. As noted in its Communication on return in 2002, the Commission notes that,

> Where appropriate, the EU could offer support in the institution and capacity building for the reception and reintegration of returnees. Technical co-operation might be envisaged as well. Principally, consideration should be given to all reintegration measures, which help to ensure the sustainability of the return, such as e.g. start-up support for housing or the reintegration in the labour market including vocational training (European Commission, 2002b: 23).

Vocational training was the fourth most important type of return assistance mentioned, with nearly one-third (32.2%) of respondents selecting that option. Housing was the third-most

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[28] As noted above, due to misunderstanding on the part of respondents, "least important" is not significant in Germany.

important with 50.2%, but assistance in reintegrating into the labour market, either through job-seeking assistance (second-most important, with 55.9%), or, above all, credit assistance to set up small businesses (63.0%), was the most-often mentioned form of return assistance desired.

7. CONCLUSION

This IOM project, "Fostering Sustainable Reintegration in Albania, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, by reinforcing local NGO capacity service provision to returnees," carried out within the framework of the European Commission's High Level Working Group, was composed of, broadly, two stages. The first step, this research study, sought to determine what drove people to leave their homes, what causes them to want to return and what type of return assistance would be most useful to returnees, focusing on migrants from Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), Albania and FYROM in Belgium, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. The project's second step was to take the findings of this research study, presented here, apply them to the practical implementation of the reintegration of return migrants – specifically, 200 migrants for whom funding is available through this project – and be instrumental in helping them to enjoy a successful return to their home countries. Ideally, the project will succeed in identifying means of making return sustainable which can be applied to return migrants in the future.

As noted above, according to the results of this study, the main reasons for which migrants left Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), Albania or FYROM were: general insecurity, economic hardship and, third, political reasons. The primary circumstances under which migrants would be willing to return permanently were secured employment, acceptable level of security and, third, acceptable living standards. In other words, there is significant overlap between reasons for departure and circumstances under which migrants would consider a permanent return.

TABLE 27

Top Three Reasons for Departure	Top Three Circumstances of Permanent Return
General insecurity at home (53.1%)	Secured employment (77.3%)
Economic hardship (49.3%)	Acceptable level of security (74.4%)
Political reasons (46.4%)	Acceptable living standards (68.2%)

With respect to the desired reintegration assistance, the reasons for departure and circumstances for return are again clearly present. The three most important types of reintegration assistance desired are: loans for small and mid-size business start-up (63.0%), followed by job-seeking assistance (55.9%) and a housing allowance (50.2%). The least important type of assistance desired is, overall, reimbursement of travel costs. Thus, it is clear that potential return migrants themselves have a longer-term view, i.e. a more sustainable one, in mind than a short-term one (cff: preference of assistance for employment over travel cost reimbursement).

The preference for loans seems to indicate a belief that self-employment has a higher chance for medium- or long-term success than does seeking a job elsewhere. Indeed, the provision of loans for small business start-up not only provides that individual with employment, but may, ultimately, if the business is successful, provide employment for others as well.

7.1 Sustainability of return?

As noted above, the current lack of credit facilities in our three target countries makes establishing a small business – and sustainable employment – particularly difficult. If indeed loans can be provided – and provided for a long enough period of time so as to have really established a small business, the likelihood appears to be quite strong that return and reintegration can be sustainable.

Altogether, the reasons for leaving (economic hardship, for the most part), the profile of the potential returnees (young, single, unemployed men) and the wish for return assistance do indicate that a sustainable reintegration could be achieved. It appears, in addition to security concerns, secured employment is the most important factor which potential returnees select as most crucial. Thus, together with the migrants' wish for loans for business start-up, it appears that, if these loans are used in such a way as to ensure employment for a foreseeable period of time, return could indeed be sustainable. If, on the other hand, employment resulting from these loans (or other assistance) is clearly only of a short-term nature and no other employment possibilities are likely, return migration to Western Europe is not to be excluded.

7.2 Future research

This study, building both upon previous IOM research (IOM, 2003b) as well as other research (Black et al., 2004), has shown that the types of assistance desired do have strong links to the reasons for which migrants left their home countries as well as to the circumstances under which they would return. While these findings can most likely be applied to the three countries in question, the extent to which they can be applied to other countries should be further pursued. A similar study, building on this one, and carried out in three other countries with high emigration, would help to determine the overall applicability of the findings. In addition, this research study has raised several interesting questions which should be pursued in future studies. One of these is the high percentage of persons with higher education in Germany. For what reasons are the education level there particularly high? What impact would this have upon return and reintegration? Another is the high percentage of migrants who noted that they landed in Belgium by "coincidence" – en route to the United Kingdom? This study has provided valuable findings, and should be a study upon which others can be built.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Part 1: Life in your country of origin prior to your departure

1. Did you have employment before leaving your country of origin: YES ❏ NO ❏ prioremp
   a) If no, how long were you unemployed before you left? Long_UE
   _____

2. Before leaving your country of origin your housing conditions were: houscond
   - ❏ Very unsatisfactory
   - ❏ Unsatisfactory
   - ❏ Satisfactory
   - ❏ Very satisfactory

3. Before leaving your country of origin your economic conditions were: econcond
   - ❏ Very unsatisfactory
   - ❏ Unsatisfactory
   - ❏ Satisfactory
   - ❏ Very satisfactory

4. For what reason did you leave your country/region of origin? Reas_lve
   This question should be answered by identifying the three most important options to you and then rating them in order of importance. Mark these 1, 2 and 3 where 1 is the most important. Once this is done from the remaining options the three which in your opinion are the least important should be marked with an *. There is no need to rank these choices in order.

Economic hardship	
Joining family abroad	
Ethnic conflict	
Poor living standards in country of origin	
Medical problems	
General insecurity in country of origin	
Political reasons	
Educational reasons	
Better prospects in Western European countries	
Personal conflicts	
Religious reasons	
Other (please specify)	

Part 2: Departure from your country/region of origin

1. When did you most recently leave your country/region? when_lve
    (Year) _____

2. Did you leave your country of origin legally? Lve_leg
    - ❑ No
    - ❑ Don't know
    - ❑ Yes

3. Did you pay to come to this host country? YES ❑ NO ❑ pay_come

    a) If Yes: how much did you pay? amt_pay
        _____

4. Did you leave your country of origin: lve_with
    - ❑ On your own
    - ❑ With a member of your family
    - ❑ With (a) friend(s)
    - ❑ In a group with people that you didn't know
    - ❑ Other (please specify) _____

5. For what reason did you decide to come to your current host country? hc_why
    - ❑ Contacts with residents from the country of origin currently living in the host country
    - ❑ Pure coincidence
    - ❑ A temporary destination until moving permanently to another host country
    - ❑ Rumours about advantageous asylum policy in the host country
    - ❑ Good social assistance offered to asylum seekers in the host country
    - ❑ Joining family
    - ❑ The person who assisted me to leave my country of origin proposed this country
    - ❑ Other (please specify) _____

6. Is this the first time you have left your country/region of origin: YES ❑ NO ❑ firstdep

Part 3: Your stay in your current host country

1. When did you arrive in your current host country? (Year)_____ when_arr

2. What is your current status in this host country? curr_stt
   - ❑ Undocumented since first entry
   - ❑ Overstayed the visa
   - ❑ Rejected asylum-seeker[*]
   - ❑ Asylum-seeker
   - ❑ I don't know
   - ❑ Other (please specify)————————————

3. Have you participated in any regularization procedure organized in this host country? YES ❑ NO ❑ reg_proc

4. What is the level of knowledge of the language (or one of the official languages) spoken in the host country? knowlang
   - ❑ None
   - ❑ Basic
   - ❑ Good
   - ❑ Fluent

5. Have you studied in this host country: YES ❑ NO ❑ studhost
   a) If yes, what type of studies (please specify)_____

6. Are you entitled to a work permit under the status that you currently have? wp_right
   YES ❑ NO ❑ Do not know ❑

7. Have you ever worked in the host country? YES ❑ NO ❑ workhost
   a) If yes, how long have you worked? _____ yrswk_hc
   b) If yes, what type of employment? Type_emp
   ❑ Full-time   ❑ Part-time   ❑ On-and-off

8. Do you send money home? YES ❑ NO ❑ mon_home
   a) If yes, how frequently do you send money? freq_mon
      - ❑ Randomly
      - ❑ Once per month
      - ❑ Once every 3 months
      - ❑ Once every 6 months
      - ❑ Other (please specify)

   b) If yes, how important is this money to your family? Mon_imp
      - ❑ Not important
      - ❑ Don't know
      - ❑ Important
      - ❑ Very important

9. How would you consider your stay abroad? jugestay
   - ❑ Very unsuccessful
   - ❑ Unsuccessful

---

[*] Rejected asylum seeker is a person who has finished and completed the whole official procedure as asylum-seeker (including all possible appeals). Their asylum claim has been finally rejected.

- ❑ I don't know
- ❑ Successful
- ❑ Very successful

Part 4: Perception of the return and sustainable reintegration

---

1. Would you like to return permanently to your country of origin: perm_ret
   - ❑ No
   - ❑ Maybe
   - ❑ Don't know
   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ Other (please specify) _____

   a) If yes, would you consider your permanent return as? Pr_stat
      - ❑ A positive step
      - ❑ A natural step
      - ❑ Indifferent
      - ❑ A personal failure
      - ❑ Don't know
      - ❑ Other (please specify) _____

2. What do you think your housing conditions would be in your country of origin in case you decide to return?
   - ❑ Very unsatisfactory hscndret
   - ❑ Unsatisfactory
   - ❑ Satisfactory
   - ❑ Very satisfactory
   - ❑ Don't know

3. Under what circumstances would you consider to return permanently in your country of origin? This question should be answered by identifying the three most important options to you, and then rating them in order of importance. Mark these 1, 2 and 3 where 1 is the most important. Once this is done from the remaining options the three which in your opinion are the least important should be marked with an *. There is no need to rank these choices in order.circprrt

Secured employment	
Acceptable living standards	
Acceptable level of security	
Family reasons	
Acceptable education system	
Acceptable medical services	
Acceptable economic conditions	
Other (please specify)	

4. What type of assistance would you like to be provided upon your return home? (For filling in, see the explanations of question 3) ret_ass

Travel costs	
Transportation of belongings	
Assistance in obtaining travel documents	
Credit for start up of small or mid-sized enterprise	
Housing allowances	

Vocational training	
Job seeking assistance	
Educational assistance	
Assistance in social reintegration	
Psycho-social assistance	
Other (please specify)	

Part 5: General Information

1. Gender: ❑ Male ❑ Female gender

2. With which ethnic group do you identify? Ethn_grp
   - ❑ Albanian
   - ❑ Bosnian
   - ❑ Macedonian
   - ❑ Roma
   - ❑ Serb
   - ❑ Other (please specify)_____

3. Region/Country of origin: Please select region and specify (town/village) origin
   - ❑ Albania
   - ❑ Kosovo
   - ❑ Macedonia
   - ❑ Other (please specify)_____

4. Mother tongue: nat_lang
   - ❑ Albanian
   - ❑ Macedonian
   - ❑ Serbian
   - ❑ Other (please specify)_____

5. Age group: age
   - ❑ Under 18   ❑ Between 40 and 49
   - ❑ Between 19 and 29   ❑ Between 50 and 59
   - ❑ Between 30 and 39   ❑ Over 60

6. Civil status: mar_stat
   - ❑ Single
   - ❑ Married
   - ❑ Divorced
   - ❑ Separated
   - ❑ Widowed
   - ❑ Other (please specify)_____

7. Do you have children: YES ❑ NO ❑ children
   a) If Yes → Their age is:
   First child _____Second child _____
   Third child _____ Fourth child_____

8. Education (highest level of education <u>completed</u> in your country of origin): educ
   - ❑ Primary school
   - ❑ Secondary school
   - ❑ Vocational training/technical institute
   - ❑ University or high school

❑ Other _____

9. What was your profession (main occupation after education) before travelling prof_abr abroad? _____

10. How many years of work experience did you have in your country of origin? yrswkexp
    ❑ Less then a year
    ❑ Between 1-5 years
    ❑ Between 5-10 years
    ❑ More then 10 years

EXPLANATORY LETTER

**EC DG JHA High Level Working Group 2002 Programme
« Preparatory Actions for Cooperation with Third Countries
in the Area of Migration 2002 »**

**IOM/EU project « Fostering sustainable reintegration in Albania, the Kosovo province
and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), by reinforcing local NGO
capacity service provision to returnees »**

The purpose of the above project is to establish new mechanisms and to develop existing ones, to promote the return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants from Albania, the Kosovo province and FYROM through fostering service provision and counselling capacities of local NGOs and local service providers in the areas of origin. This project was initiated in December 2003 to be completed in November 2004 by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with the support of the European Commission Directorate General Justice and Home Affairs (EC DG JHA).

As the initial step of the project, a three-month research will be carried out by IOM Brussels in close collaboration with IOM offices in Tirana, Skopje and Pristina, IOM offices in the European Union namely in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and finally with the network partners.

The general aim of this research is to assess the profile of irregular migrants from Albania, the Kosovo province and FYROM residing in the above four selected EU Member States and explore their attitudes towards return and reintegration, in order to provide substantial input to the capacity building of the local reintegration assistance services according to the needs and expectations of the target group thereby improving their chances for a sustainable reintegration upon return to their countries/regions of origin.

The survey about irregular migrants will be undertaken in the selected EU Member States and, through application of a specific questionnaire and organisation of focus groups to capture quantitative and qualitative data on the target group's profile, reasons, motives and ways of migration; status and stay in the host country; perception of return; and their needs and expectations in view of the assistance necessary to achieve a sustainable reintegration.

Simultaneously, an assessment of socio-economic conditions in the countries or origin will be carried out, focusing especially on the existing reintegration and assistance schemes available to returning irregular migrants. Views and opinions of the local stakeholders on the modalities of improving the local conditions and reintegration services available to the target group will be explored.

The research findings will be used as a basis for building and strengthening of the local reintegration capacities and schemes in the three countries/regions of origin. A number of networking and capacity building activities will be then undertaken in the three target areas of origin to build up and reinforce the regional schemes and offer to returnees improved reintegration including services such as vocational training, educational and employment assistance, psycho-social assistance, etc. These improved schemes will be available to the irregular migrants returning through the existing Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) Programmes as from June 2004.

Following this component, profiling, screening and referral through the existing AVR schemes of 200 irregular migrants requesting the AVR assistance in the EU Member States will be carried out. Dissemination of promotion and information material on the existing AVR schemes and reintegration assistance and services set up under the project will couple the above screening and referral activities in the EU. Collaboration with IOM network of partners in implementation of these activities in the EU during the second part of the year 2004 will be crucial.

In addition to the existing AVR assistance packages, the returnees will also benefit from the reintegration assistance and services set up and offered through the project in the countries/regions of origin.

The information on the project and its components will be posted and regularly updated at the IOM site: www.belgium.iom.int

For any additional information relating to this project you can contact the IOM offices:

Please put here the complete address of you respective office and preferably the contact details of the person who was in charge of the distribution of the questionnaires

EC DG JHA High Level Working Group 2002 Programme/IOM/EU project « Fostering sustainable reintegration in Albania, the Kosovo province and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), by reinforcing local NGO capacity service provision to returnees »

REPORT ON THE INTERVIEWS OF THE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

In the framework of the project, IOM met with different groups of migrants originating from Albania, FYROM and the Kosovo province. These meetings took place in Kortrijk and Namur. The meeting in Kortrijk was organised in cooperation with IOM's REAB Partner, *Buurt Initiatieven Kuurne* (BIKK) in their premises. It was attended by 8 participants (4 from Albania and 4 from Kosovo province), out of whom 5 were irregular migrants and 3 recognised refugees. The meeting in Namur was organised with the collaboration of the *Collectif Communauté Albanaise de Namur* in their premises. It gathered 7 participants (4 from FYROM and 3 from the Kosovo province) out of whom 2 were regular migrants and 5 irregular migrants.

These interviews were done in order to confront the Albanian/Kosovar/Macedonian Diasporas with the results of the quantitative research and to refine the results obtained, with particular emphasis on the analysis of certain key aspects of the return decision as well as on the development of information campaign.

Interviews were conducted, focusing on 6 main questions related to the reasons for leaving one's home country; the will to return; the personal meaning of return; the conditions for a sustainable return; the type of assistance required; and the channels of distribution. Answers to each question are divided by country of origin.

Push factors/Reasons for leaving the country

ALBANIA

The main reasons for leaving the country are political instability, followed by corruption, and a desire for a better life. Political instability refers to the fact that changing governments are said to persecute the governments previously in power. When asked whether they belonged to these previous governments, the answer was "no, but we belong to an opposition party requesting the return of the monarchy and therefore we are persecuted by the governing socialist party who strongly opposes this movement".

FYROM

The main reasons for leaving the country are the political tensions that followed the civil war between the Slave majority and the Albanian minority. People seem to fear a new war between these two ethnic groups.

KOSOVO PROVINCE

The main reason for leaving the country is the economical instability, which results in a high rate of unemployment.

The voluntary return option

ALBANIA

Interviewees are not keen on voluntary return, mainly for political reasons linked to instability and corruption. From an economical point of view, they know they would depend on knowing the right persons. For their children, they also fear human trafficking.

FYROM

According to the migrants, agreements between the two ethnic groups, the Slave majority and the Albanian minority, could be reached but never implemented. For this reason, the interviewees expressed their doubts about people's will to return. This point of view contrasts with the results of the research, mentioning that 35.1% of the people are willing to return.

KOSOVO PROVINCE

Return could be envisaged by the interviewees only if linked with reintegration opportunities such as employment and micro-credits. However, one of the interviewees mentioned that persecutions by the Serbian secret services were still ongoing in Kosovo, which appeared as a reason not to return (although he was the only one mentioning this particular fact).

The personal perception of the voluntary return option

The answer to this question was shared by all of the interviewees, regardless from their nationality. As long as return could be linked with sustainable economic activities, all of them would see return as a positive issue. Returning home with no project would be experienced as a failure. It is an important decision to make requiring reflection and preparation.

Reasons that favour the return option

All interviewees, regardless from their country of origin, also shared the answer to this question. They all emphasised the need for improved political conditions and sustainable economical reintegration programmes. The interviewees also emphasised the fact that they would not refer to psychosocial reintegration or vocational training. They expressed their need for economical and direct financial assistance.

Regarding Kosovo, interviewees said that the definite political status of the province would also be a key element in considering returning home.

Return assistance

All interviewees from all countries referred to job placement and micro-credits as the most important reintegration assistance, followed by the operational arrangements of the return.

Information campaign

The general comments on the brochure to be used in the frame of the project information campaign were that the brochures were clear and understandable and contained accurate information. However, a general remark brought up that there were not enough contacts mentioned. Other specific remarks are highlighted below:

ALBANIA

According to the interviewees, the fact sheet at the end of the brochure is not a real necessary tool.

FYROM

The interviewees stressed the fact that names of Macedonian cities should be written in Albanian (e.g. *Skopje* should be written *Shkup*). One interviewee mentioned that the Slavic Association should not be referred to in the brochure.

KOSOVO

The interviewees strongly requested that the brochure would not refer to *Kosovo province* but to *Kosove*.

Regarding the channels of diffusion of information, the interviewees declared that 3 Albanian-written newspapers distributed in Belgium (Bota Sot, Zeri and Koha Ditore) could be used to target both the Albanian, Macedonian and Kosovar communities. However, as people do not all get to read these newspapers, Albanian television channels (RTK, TVSH and ALSAT) would also constitute an important tool for diffusion. Albanian-speaking radio channels present in Belgium were also strongly recommended, especially in Namur. A last point mentioned was the diffusion of information through the various migrants' associations active in Belgium. The use of website was not seen as interesting and useful.

TABLES

TABLE 1[29]

HOST COUNTRY BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Host Country	Belgium	Count	2	18	36	12	68
		% within Host Country	2.9%	26.5%	52.9%	17.6%	100.0%
	Italy	Count		18	19	21	58
		% within Host Country		31.0%	32.8%	36.2%	100.0%
	United Kingdom	Count	1	18	26		45
		% within Host Country	2.2%	40.0%	57.8%		100.0%
	Germany	Count		14	22	4	40
		% within Host Country		35.0%	55.0%	10.0%	100.0%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Host Country	1.4%	32.2%	48.8%	17.5%	100.0%

TABLE 2

HOUSING CONDITIONS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Housing Conditions	Very unsatisfactory	Count		23	29	18	70
		% within Origin		33.8%	28.2%	48.6%	33.2%
	Unsatisfactory	Count	1	24	32	10	67
		% within Origin	33.3%	35.3%	31.1%	27.0%	31.8%
	Satisfactory	Count	2	19	38	8	67
		% within Origin	66.7%	27.9%	36.9%	21.6%	31.8%
	Very satisfactory	Count		2	4	1	7
		% within Origin		2.9%	3.9%	2.7%	3.3%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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[29] Throughout the tables, "Kosovo" refers to Kosovo (Serbia and Macedonia) and "Macedonia" refers to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).

TABLE 3

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Economic Conditions	No answer	Count			2		2
		% within Origin			1.9%		.9%
	Very unsatisfactory	Count		22	32	13	67
		% within Origin		32.4%	31.1%	35.1%	31.8%
	Unsatisfactory	Count	2	30	47	18	97
		% within Origin	66.7%	44.1%	45.6%	48.6%	46.0%
	Satisfactory	Count	1	14	19	6	40
		% within Origin	33.3%	20.6%	18.4%	16.2%	19.0%
	Very satisfactory	Count		2	3		5
		% within Origin		2.9%	2.9%		2.4%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 4

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Economic Conditions	No answer	Count	1		1		2
		% within Host Country	1.5%		2.2%		.9%
	Very unsatisfactory	Count	20	10	6	31	67
		% within Host Country	29.4%	17.2%	13.3%	77.5%	31.8%
	Unsatisfactory	Count	35	39	15	8	97
		% within Host Country	51.5%	67.2%	33.3%	20.0%	46.0%
	Satisfactory	Count	10	9	20	1	40
		% within Host Country	14.7%	15.5%	44.4%	2.5%	19.0%
	Very satisfactory	Count	2		3		5
		% within Host Country	2.9%		6.7%		2.4%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 5

HOUSING CONDITIONS BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Housing Conditions	Very unsatisfactory	Count	11	15	12	32	70
		% within Host Country	16.2%	25.9%	26.7%	80.0%	33.2%
	Unsatisfactory	Count	25	25	10	7	67
		% within Host Country	36.8%	43.1%	22.2%	17.5%	31.8%
	Satisfactory	Count	29	18	19	1	67
		% within Host Country	42.6%	31.0%	42.2%	2.5%	31.8%
	Very satisfactory	Count	3		4		7
		% within Host Country	4.4%		8.9%		3.3%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 6

HOUSING CONDITIONS BY GENDER

			Gender			
			No answer	Male	Female	Total
Housing Conditions	Very unsatisfactory	Count	3	51	16	70
		% within Gender	50.0%	34.9%	27.1%	33.2%
	Unsatisfactory	Count	2	44	21	67
		% within Gender	33.3%	30.1%	35.6%	31.8%
	Satisfactory	Count	1	45	21	67
		% within Gender	16.7%	30.8%	35.6%	31.8%
	Very satisfactory	Count		6	1	7
		% within Gender		4.1%	1.7%	3.3%
Total		Count	6	146	59	211
		% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 7

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS BY GENDER

			Gender			
			No answer	Male	Female	Total
Economic Conditions	No answer	Count		2		2
		% within Gender		1.4%		.9%
	Very unsatisfactory	Count		51	16	67
		% within Gender		34.9%	27.1%	31.8%
	Unsatisfactory	Count	6	63	28	97
		% within Gender	100.0%	43.2%	47.5%	46.0%
	Satisfactory	Count		25	15	40
		% within Gender		17.1%	25.4%	19.0%
	Very satisfactory	Count		5		5
		% within Gender		3.4%		2.4%
Total		Count	6	146	59	211
		% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 8

KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL LANGUAGE BY GENDER

			Gender			
			No answer	Male	Female	Total
Knowledge of Local Language	No answer	Count			1	1
		% within Gender			1.7%	.5%
	None	Count		13	3	16
		% within Gender		8.9%	5.1%	7.6%
	Basic	Count	1	54	31	86
		% within Gender	16.7%	37.0%	52.5%	40.8%
	Good	Count	2	63	19	84
		% within Gender	33.3%	43.2%	32.2%	39.8%
	Fluent	Count	3	16	5	24
		% within Gender	50.0%	11.0%	8.5%	11.4%
Total		Count	6	146	59	211
		% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 9

JUDGEMENT OF RETURN BY ORIGIN

					Origin		
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Judgement of Return	No answer	Count	1	24	22	15	62
		% within Origin	33.3%	35.3%	21.4%	40.5%	29.4%
	A positive step	Count		10	16	1	27
		% within Origin		14.7%	15.5%	2.7%	12.8%
	A natural step	Count	2	7	22	3	34
		% within Origin	66.7%	10.3%	21.4%	8.1%	16.1%
	Indiferrent	Count		10	11	7	28
		% within Origin		14.7%	10.7%	18.9%	13.3%
	A personal failure	Count		7	8	4	19
		% within Origin		10.3%	7.8%	10.8%	9.0%
	don't know	Count		9	24	7	40
		% within Origin		13.2%	23.3%	18.9%	19.0%
	Other	Count		1			1
		% within Origin		1.5%			.5%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 10

LEFT BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP BY ORIGIN

					Origin		
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Left bc of economic hardship	important	Count		35	51	18	104
		% within Origin		51.5%	49.5%	48.6%	49.3%
	intermediate	Count	2	25	32	14	73
		% within Origin	66.7%	36.8%	31.1%	37.8%	34.6%
	least important	Count	1	8	20	5	34
		% within Origin	33.3%	11.8%	19.4%	13.5%	16.1%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 11

LEFT BECAUSE OF ETHNIC CONFLICT BY ORIGIN

					Origin		
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Left bc of ethnic conflict	important	Count		9	41	9	59
		% within Origin		13.2%	39.8%	24.3%	28.0%
	intermediate	Count	2	53	50	15	120
		% within Origin	66.7%	77.9%	48.5%	40.5%	56.9%
	least important	Count	1	6	12	13	32
		% within Origin	33.3%	8.8%	11.7%	35.1%	15.2%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 12

LEFT BECAUSE OF POOR LIVING STANDARDS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Left bc of poor living standards	important	Count	1	26	33	21	81
		% within Origin	33.3%	38.2%	32.0%	56.8%	38.4%
	intermediate	Count	2	32	39	9	82
		% within Origin	66.7%	47.1%	37.9%	24.3%	38.9%
	least important	Count		10	31	7	48
		% within Origin		14.7%	30.1%	18.9%	22.7%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 13

LEFT BECAUSE OF MEDICAL REASONS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Left bc of medical reasons	important	Count		6	9	1	16
		% within Origin		8.8%	8.7%	2.7%	7.6%
	intermediate	Count	3	53	67	24	147
		% within Origin	100.0%	77.9%	65.0%	64.9%	69.7%
	least important	Count		9	27	12	48
		% within Origin		13.2%	26.2%	32.4%	22.7%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 14

LEFT BECAUSE OF GENERAL INSECURITY BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Left bc of general insecurity	important	Count	1	35	47	29	112
		% within Origin	33.3%	51.5%	45.6%	78.4%	53.1%
	intermediate	Count	2	25	35	4	66
		% within Origin	66.7%	36.8%	34.0%	10.8%	31.3%
	least important	Count		8	21	4	33
		% within Origin		11.8%	20.4%	10.8%	15.6%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 15

LEFT FOR POLITICAL REASONS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Left for political reasons	important	Count	2	31	54	11	98
		% within Origin	66.7%	45.6%	52.4%	29.7%	46.4%
	intermediate	Count	1	28	38	19	86
		% within Origin	33.3%	41.2%	36.9%	51.4%	40.8%
	least important	Count		9	11	7	27
		% within Origin		13.2%	10.7%	18.9%	12.8%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 16

LEFT FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Left for religious reasons	important	Count		2	1	1	4
		% within Origin		2.9%	1.0%	2.7%	1.9%
	intermediate	Count	3	61	93	27	184
		% within Origin	100.0%	89.7%	90.3%	73.0%	87.2%
	least important	Count		5	9	9	23
		% within Origin		7.4%	8.7%	24.3%	10.9%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 17

LEFT FOR EDUCATIONAL REASONS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Left for educational reasons	important	Count	1	6	4	1	12
		% within Origin	33.3%	8.8%	3.9%	2.7%	5.7%
	intermediate	Count	2	49	84	26	161
		% within Origin	66.7%	72.1%	81.6%	70.3%	76.3%
	least important	Count		13	15	10	38
		% within Origin		19.1%	14.6%	27.0%	18.0%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 18

LEFT BECAUSE OF BETTER PROSPECTS IN WESTERN EUROPE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Left bc of better prospects in West Eur	important	Count		15	15	16	46
		% within Origin		22.1%	14.6%	43.2%	21.8%
	intermediate	Count	3	34	41	12	90
		% within Origin	100.0%	50.0%	39.8%	32.4%	42.7%
	least important	Count		19	47	9	75
		% within Origin		27.9%	45.6%	24.3%	35.5%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 19

LEFT TO JOIN FAMILY ABROAD BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Left to join family abroad	important	Count	13	9	4	3	29
		% within Host Country	19.1%	15.5%	8.9%	7.5%	13.7%
	intermediate	Count	21	37	33	35	126
		% within Host Country	30.9%	63.8%	73.3%	87.5%	59.7%
	least important	Count	34	12	8	2	56
		% within Host Country	50.0%	20.7%	17.8%	5.0%	26.5%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 20

LEFT BECAUSE OF PERSONAL CONFLICTS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Left bc of personal conflicts	important	Count	1	2	9	4	16
		% within Origin	33.3%	2.9%	8.7%	10.8%	7.6%
	intermediate	Count	2	57	82	25	166
		% within Origin	66.7%	83.8%	79.6%	67.6%	78.7%
	least important	Count		9	12	8	29
		% within Origin		13.2%	11.7%	21.6%	13.7%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 21

LEFT BECAUSE OF ETHNIC CONFLICT BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Left bc of ethnic conflict	important	Count	14	21	19	5	59
		% within Host Country	20.6%	36.2%	42.2%	12.5%	28.0%
	intermediate	Count	37	28	22	33	120
		% within Host Country	54.4%	48.3%	48.9%	82.5%	56.9%
	least important	Count	17	9	4	2	32
		% within Host Country	25.0%	15.5%	8.9%	5.0%	15.2%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 22

LEFT BECAUSE OF POOR LIVING STANDARDS BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Left bc of poor living standards	important	Count	34	26	13	8	81
		% within Host Country	50.0%	44.8%	28.9%	20.0%	38.4%
	intermediate	Count	10	15	27	30	82
		% within Host Country	14.7%	25.9%	60.0%	75.0%	38.9%
	least important	Count	24	17	5	2	48
		% within Host Country	35.3%	29.3%	11.1%	5.0%	22.7%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 23

LEFT BECAUSE OF MEDICAL REASONS BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Left bc of medical reasons	important	Count	5	4	4	3	16
		% within Host Country	7.4%	6.9%	8.9%	7.5%	7.6%
	intermediate	Count	36	40	34	37	147
		% within Host Country	52.9%	69.0%	75.6%	92.5%	69.7%
	least important	Count	27	14	7		48
		% within Host Country	39.7%	24.1%	15.6%		22.7%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 24

LEFT BECAUSE OF GENERAL INSECURITY BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Left bc of general insecurity	important	Count	50	38	18	6	112
		% within Host Country	73.5%	65.5%	40.0%	15.0%	53.1%
	intermediate	Count	7	8	20	31	66
		% within Host Country	10.3%	13.8%	44.4%	77.5%	31.3%
	least important	Count	11	12	7	3	33
		% within Host Country	16.2%	20.7%	15.6%	7.5%	15.6%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 25

LEFT FOR EDUCATIONAL REASONS BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Left for educational reasons	important	Count	2	1	6	3	12
		% within Host Country	2.9%	1.7%	13.3%	7.5%	5.7%
	intermediate	Count	58	34	33	36	161
		% within Host Country	85.3%	58.6%	73.3%	90.0%	76.3%
	least important	Count	8	23	6	1	38
		% within Host Country	11.8%	39.7%	13.3%	2.5%	18.0%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 26

LEFT BECAUSE OF BETTER PROSPECTS IN WESTERN EUROPE BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Left bc of better prospects in West Eur	important	Count	10	25	6	5	46
		% within Host Country	14.7%	43.1%	13.3%	12.5%	21.8%
	intermediate	Count	24	5	27	34	90
		% within Host Country	35.3%	8.6%	60.0%	85.0%	42.7%
	least important	Count	34	28	12	1	75
		% within Host Country	50.0%	48.3%	26.7%	2.5%	35.5%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 27

LEFT BECAUSE OF PERSONAL CONFLICTS BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Left bc of personal conflicts	important	Count	2	8	4	2	16
		% within Host Country	2.9%	13.8%	8.9%	5.0%	7.6%
	intermediate	Count	59	30	40	37	166
		% within Host Country	86.8%	51.7%	88.9%	92.5%	78.7%
	least important	Count	7	20	1	1	29
		% within Host Country	10.3%	34.5%	2.2%	2.5%	13.7%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 28

LEFT FOR POLITICAL REASONS BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Left for political reasons	important	Count	30	13	29	26	98
		% within Host Country	44.1%	22.4%	64.4%	65.0%	46.4%
	intermediate	Count	29	33	13	11	86
		% within Host Country	42.6%	56.9%	28.9%	27.5%	40.8%
	least important	Count	9	12	3	3	27
		% within Host Country	13.2%	20.7%	6.7%	7.5%	12.8%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 29

LEFT FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Left for religious reasons	important	Count	2			2	4
		% within Host Country	2.9%			5.0%	1.9%
	intermediate	Count	60	48	39	37	184
		% within Host Country	88.2%	82.8%	86.7%	92.5%	87.2%
	least important	Count	6	10	6	1	23
		% within Host Country	8.8%	17.2%	13.3%	2.5%	10.9%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 30

LENGTH OF TIME IN HOST COUNTRY BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
How long in host country?	1-2 years	Count	1	6		5	12
		% within Host Country	1.5%	11.3%		13.9%	6.1%
	2-5 years	Count	23	19	12	9	63
		% within Host Country	35.4%	35.8%	27.9%	25.0%	32.0%
	5-10 years	Count	31	24	29	11	95
		% within Host Country	47.7%	45.3%	67.4%	30.6%	48.2%
	more than 10 years	Count	10	4	2	11	27
		% within Host Country	15.4%	7.5%	4.7%	30.6%	13.7%
Total		Count	65	53	43	36	197
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 31

EDUCATION BY HOST COUNTRY

			Host Country				
			Belgium	Italy	United Kingdom	Germany	Total
Education	No answer	Count	1	7	2	4	14
		% within Host Country	1.5%	12.1%	4.4%	10.0%	6.6%
	Primary school	Count	3	18	7	6	34
		% within Host Country	4.4%	31.0%	15.6%	15.0%	16.1%
	Secondary school	Count	42	25	22	16	105
		% within Host Country	61.8%	43.1%	48.9%	40.0%	49.8%
	Vocational training/technical institute	Count	12	6	8	6	32
		% within Host Country	17.6%	10.3%	17.8%	15.0%	15.2%
	University or high school	Count	10	2	6	8	26
		% within Host Country	14.7%	3.4%	13.3%	20.0%	12.3%
Total		Count	68	58	45	40	211
		% within Host Country	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 32

YEARS OF WORK EXPERIENCE AT HOME BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Years of Work Experience at home	No asnwer	Count	1	26	39	22	88
		% within Origin	33.3%	38.2%	37.9%	59.5%	41.7%
	Less then a year	Count	1	21	22	5	49
		% within Origin	33.3%	30.9%	21.4%	13.5%	23.2%
	Between 1 and 5 years	Count		14	32	8	54
		% within Origin		20.6%	31.1%	21.6%	25.6%
	Between 5 and 10 years	Count	1	5	5		11
		% within Origin	33.3%	7.4%	4.9%		5.2%
	More then 10 years	Count		2	5	2	9
		% within Origin		2.9%	4.9%	5.4%	4.3%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 33

YEARS OF WORK EXPERIENCE AT HOME BY GENDER

			Gender			
			No answer	Male	Female	Total
Years of Work Experience at home	No asnwer	Count		55	33	88
		% within Gender		37.7%	55.9%	41.7%
	Less then a year	Count	3	30	16	49
		% within Gender	50.0%	20.5%	27.1%	23.2%
	Between 1 and 5 years	Count	3	44	7	54
		% within Gender	50.0%	30.1%	11.9%	25.6%
	Between 5 and 10 years	Count		10	1	11
		% within Gender		6.8%	1.7%	5.2%
	More then 10 years	Count		7	2	9
		% within Gender		4.8%	3.4%	4.3%
Total		Count	6	146	59	211
		% within Gender	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 34

WOULD RETURN IF THERE WERE SECURED EMPLOYMENT BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would return if secured employment	important	Count	2	49	78	34	163
		% within Origin	66.7%	72.1%	75.7%	91.9%	77.3%
	intermediate	Count		8	8	1	17
		% within Origin		11.8%	7.8%	2.7%	8.1%
	least important	Count	1	11	17	2	31
		% within Origin	33.3%	16.2%	16.5%	5.4%	14.7%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 35

WOULD RETURN IF LIVING STANDARDS WERE ACCEPTABLE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would go back if acceptable living stds	important	Count	2	50	62	30	144
		% within Origin	66.7%	73.5%	60.2%	81.1%	68.2%
	intermediate	Count	1	12	17	1	31
		% within Origin	33.3%	17.6%	16.5%	2.7%	14.7%
	least important	Count		6	24	6	36
		% within Origin		8.8%	23.3%	16.2%	17.1%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 36

WOULD RETURN IF SECURITY WERE ACCEPTABLE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would go back if acceptable security	important	Count	2	42	82	31	157
		% within Origin	66.7%	61.8%	79.6%	83.8%	74.4%
	intermediate	Count		13	6	2	21
		% within Origin		19.1%	5.8%	5.4%	10.0%
	least important	Count	1	13	15	4	33
		% within Origin	33.3%	19.1%	14.6%	10.8%	15.6%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 37

WOULD RETURN FOR FAMILY REASONS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would go back for family reasons	important	Count	2	21	28	5	56
		% within Origin	66.7%	30.9%	27.2%	13.5%	26.5%
	intermediate	Count		31	32	6	69
		% within Origin		45.6%	31.1%	16.2%	32.7%
	least important	Count	1	16	43	26	86
		% within Origin	33.3%	23.5%	41.7%	70.3%	40.8%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 38

WOULD RETURN IF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WERE ACCEPTABLE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would go back if acceptable educ system	important	Count	1	16	19	2	38
		% within Origin	33.3%	23.5%	18.4%	5.4%	18.0%
	intermediate	Count	1	24	44	6	75
		% within Origin	33.3%	35.3%	42.7%	16.2%	35.5%
	least important	Count	1	28	40	29	98
		% within Origin	33.3%	41.2%	38.8%	78.4%	46.4%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 39

WOULD RETURN IF MEDICAL SERVICES WERE ACCEPTABLE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would go back if acceptable med services	important	Count		25	27	2	54
		% within Origin		36.8%	26.2%	5.4%	25.6%
	intermediate	Count	1	18	22	4	45
		% within Origin	33.3%	26.5%	21.4%	10.8%	21.3%
	least important	Count	2	25	54	31	112
		% within Origin	66.7%	36.8%	52.4%	83.8%	53.1%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 39

WOULD RETURN IF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WERE ACCEPTABLE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would go back if acceptable econ cond	important	Count		33	39	9	81
		% within Origin		48.5%	37.9%	24.3%	38.4%
	intermediate	Count	3	18	24	18	63
		% within Origin	100.0%	26.5%	23.3%	48.6%	29.9%
	least important	Count		17	40	10	67
		% within Origin		25.0%	38.8%	27.0%	31.8%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 40

WOULD LIKE TRAVEL COSTS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would like travel costs	important	Count	1	22	26	6	55
		% within Origin	33.3%	32.4%	25.2%	16.2%	26.1%
	intermediate	Count		31	44	12	87
		% within Origin		45.6%	42.7%	32.4%	41.2%
	least important	Count	2	15	33	19	69
		% within Origin	66.7%	22.1%	32.0%	51.4%	32.7%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 41

WOULD LIKE TRANSPORT OF BELONGINGS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would like transport of belongings	important	Count	1	20	28	6	55
		% within Origin	33.3%	29.4%	27.2%	16.2%	26.1%
	intermediate	Count	1	39	39	12	91
		% within Origin	33.3%	57.4%	37.9%	32.4%	43.1%
	least important	Count	1	9	36	19	65
		% within Origin	33.3%	13.2%	35.0%	51.4%	30.8%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 42

WOULD LIKE HELP OBTAINING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would like help obtaining travel docs	important	Count		17	16	7	40
		% within Origin		25.0%	15.5%	18.9%	19.0%
	intermediate	Count	2	39	74	16	131
		% within Origin	66.7%	57.4%	71.8%	43.2%	62.1%
	least important	Count	1	12	13	14	40
		% within Origin	33.3%	17.6%	12.6%	37.8%	19.0%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 43

WOULD LIKE LOANS FOR BUSINESS START-UP BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would like loans for business start-up	important	Count	1	36	67	29	133
		% within Origin	33.3%	52.9%	65.0%	78.4%	63.0%
	intermediate	Count	1	28	25	6	60
		% within Origin	33.3%	41.2%	24.3%	16.2%	28.4%
	least important	Count	1	4	11	2	18
		% within Origin	33.3%	5.9%	10.7%	5.4%	8.5%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 44

WOULD LIKE HOUSING ALLOWANCE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would like housing allowance	important	Count	1	30	53	22	106
		% within Origin	33.3%	44.1%	51.5%	59.5%	50.2%
	intermediate	Count	1	29	27	10	67
		% within Origin	33.3%	42.6%	26.2%	27.0%	31.8%
	least important	Count	1	9	23	5	38
		% within Origin	33.3%	13.2%	22.3%	13.5%	18.0%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 45

WOULD LIKE VOCATIONAL TRAINING BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would like vocational training	important	Count	1	27	31	9	68
		% within Origin	33.3%	39.7%	30.1%	24.3%	32.2%
	intermediate	Count	2	33	36	15	86
		% within Origin	66.7%	48.5%	35.0%	40.5%	40.8%
	least important	Count		8	36	13	57
		% within Origin		11.8%	35.0%	35.1%	27.0%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 46

WOULD LIKE JOB-SEEKING ASSISTANCE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would like job-seeking assistance	important	Count	2	37	57	22	118
		% within Origin	66.7%	54.4%	55.3%	59.5%	55.9%
	intermediate	Count	1	21	28	13	63
		% within Origin	33.3%	30.9%	27.2%	35.1%	29.9%
	least important	Count		10	18	2	30
		% within Origin		14.7%	17.5%	5.4%	14.2%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 47

WOULD LIKE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would like educ assistance	important	Count	2	19	14	3	38
		% within Origin	66.7%	27.9%	13.6%	8.1%	18.0%
	intermediate	Count	1	38	62	24	125
		% within Origin	33.3%	55.9%	60.2%	64.9%	59.2%
	least important	Count		11	27	10	48
		% within Origin		16.2%	26.2%	27.0%	22.7%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 48

WOULD LIKE ASSISTANCE IN SOCIAL REINTEGRATION BY ORIGIN

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would like assistance in social reintegration	important	Count		24	22	6	52
		% within Origin		35.3%	21.4%	16.2%	24.6%
	intermediate	Count	3	32	60	24	119
		% within Origin	100.0%	47.1%	58.3%	64.9%	56.4%
	least important	Count		12	21	7	40
		% within Origin		17.6%	20.4%	18.9%	19.0%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

TABLE 49

WOULD LIKE PSYCHO-SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

			Origin				
			No answer	Albania	Kosovo	Macedonia	Total
Would like psycho-social assistance	important	Count		14	22	4	40
		% within Origin		20.6%	21.4%	10.8%	19.0%
	intermediate	Count	3	37	65	27	132
		% within Origin	100.0%	54.4%	63.1%	73.0%	62.6%
	least important	Count		17	16	6	39
		% within Origin		25.0%	15.5%	16.2%	18.5%
Total		Count	3	68	103	37	211
		% within Origin	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%