

The Incomplete Trajectory of Albanian Migration in Greece

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Migration System 1: Albania to Greece





Outline

- Background
- Definition
- Typology
- Methodology
- Incomplete migration cycle
- Answering to research questions

Background

- ❑ Irregularity ⇒ endemic element of migration system Balkans to the EU: Albania to Greece
- ❑ Greek-Albanian borders ⇒ main point of irregular entry in 1990'
- ❑ Beginning 2000s ⇒ signalled a change ⇒ integration ⇒ family reunification
- ❑ Crisis ⇒ unemployment ⇒ de-regularisation ⇒ return ⇒ circular/seasonal mobility
- ❑ FRONTEX (2012) ⇒ irregular border crossings reduced by 85%
- ❑ Greek police force (2014) ⇒ Albanians 21.53% of total arrested for irregular entry
- ❑ FRONTEX (2014) ⇒ increase in irregular circular migration by 59%
- ❑ Returnees: 133,544 in 2013 (IOM)
- ❑ 2010': a new dynamic to the 'irregularity' of Albanians ⇒ temporary/circular movements for seasonal, informal employment



Definition – Albanian irregular migrant

- Does not hold a valid entry visa
- Violates the conditions and the terms of entry and/or stay
- Does not possess legal status
- An expulsion order has been issued in their name
- Has lost legal status or is in a semi-legal status
- Irregular/seasonal employment

Typology of Albanian irregular migration

		Type 1 Legal Entry-Irregular employment	Type 2 Migrants loss the legal status	Type 3 Irregular stay and employment
DIMENSIONS				
	Category	seasonal/daily cross-border movement	Unemployed migrant that failed to renew their stay permit/ female mainly domestic worker failed to renew their family reunification stay permit/children whose parents fall into irregularity/second generation over 18	visa overstayer, sex workers, trafficked children, refuse entrance, penal cases
1	Demographic features	Single male migration	Married male and female, children/young migrant	single male/female/children, family,
2	Residence status in Greece	Regular (visa free regime)	Undocumented/semi-regular	Undocumented
3	Duration	3 months – usually for seasonal work Daily cross-border	Permanent/temporary/return/	Varies according to the activity
4	Skill level of occupation in Greece	Low skilled	Low and semi- skilled	Low skilled and unskilled
5	Sector of Employment	Work mainly in agriculture or other seasonal employment such as herding or tourism.	Male worked in construction sector or tourism. Women are mostly domestic workers. Second generation is student and/or work irregularly.	Mainly in agriculture and tourism, sex services, beggary, illegal activities
6	Country where migrants' families are permanently situated	Albania	Greece	Greece, Albania



Methodology

- ❑ 87 interviews with irregular migrants, members of families, representatives of associations, and smugglers
- ❑ Purposive and qualitative sampling method – snowballing technique
- ❑ August - December 2013, 57 qualitative semi-structured interviews in Greece.
- ❑ December 2013 - March 2014, 30 interviews in Albania
- ❑ Analysis of qualitative data - MaxQDA
- ❑ Map of irregular migration flows

Map of migration flows of Albanians in Greece



<http://irma.eliamep.gr/migration-routes/>

An incomplete migration cycle

□ **1st Phase 1991-1998:**

- mass exodus of Albanians towards Greece and Italy
- 'norm' irregular status
- Law: 1975/1991 - P.D. 358/1997

□ **2nd phase, 1999-2009:**

- permanent/legal settlement
- family reunification
- second generation
- Laws: 2910/2001 and 3386/05

□ **3rd phase, 2010-2015:**

- Liberalisation of visa
- economic crisis – de-regularisation
- Irregular circular migration
- Return
- Re-migrate to other destination
- Laws: 3838/2010 and 4251/2014

Answering to research questions

- ❑ **How do Albanians shape their strategies in reaction to migration policies?**
 - Visa liberalisation ⇒ legal entry ⇒ irregular work ⇒ circular mobility
 - Increase in asylum applications
 - Increase second-generation stay permits
 - De-regularisation ⇒ Return to Albania
 - Code of Migration ⇒ Return to Greece

- ❑ **Which institutions and agents impact on their decisions and actions?**
 - Demand for seasonal work
 - Role of family/relatives network ⇒ Greek employees
 - Knowledge of Greek language ⇒ familiar with Greek reality
 - Ethnic/family networks in other countries

- ❑ **Why are some agents more effective than state policies?**
 - Precarious legal status - inefficiency of integration policies - unemployment
 - Facilitation provided by migration networks – demand for cheap/“flexible” work force

- ❑ **‘Sketching’ the profile of Albanian irregular migrant**

Thank you for your attention

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