

IMPORTANCE OF KOSOVO DIASPORA IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Diaspora has great importance in economic development of Kosovo, because today Diaspora its main contributor in economic development in our state and in social, culture, political and historical development, because diaspora all of the time it has contribute in building of Kosovo in every economic field and other social aspects. Therefore, increase of investment from diaspora in Kosovo is key object for economic development, so it should be the main priority for our government.

Government of Republic of Kosovo should have serious approach in treating effectively and efficient of diaspora, and should make long term strategy for ensuring of better conditions, to make ideal conditions to invest in Kosovo in different fields. Different investments from diaspora, today require liberal politics and pragmatic and planned strategy development, drafting favorable legal rates for strategic investment in all of economic activities. Where such investment from diaspora present the most effective way to create new opportunities for jobs and creating condition to increase and develop economic sustainable. Diaspora should stimulated to invest in Kosovo in different fields as in: education system, healthcare, tourism, hotel, energy, agriculture, farming, etc. A special importance have investment from diaspora and its specifically for Kosovo by taking into account condition in how it should be realised economic development.

Key words: *Diaspora, Strategic management, Economic Development, remittances.*

Introduction

Kosovo diaspor for the country, it gives continuously economic, politics, and moral support. The typical example that shows importance of diaspora for development of Kosovo is sum of remittances that diaspora sent in the country every year.

Importance of Diaspora for Economic development of Kosovo is undeniable and indispensable. Especially large diaspora such as Kosovo that contain a large part of direct foreign investment and for more they can be ready to invest more in conditions to discourage other investors. Every year hundred millions invests of diaspora enter in Kosovo economy. Increasing of investments from diaspora its key object for economic development, so, it should be priority of priorities for country government. Government of Kosovo should have serious access about diaspora and it should have long term project to offer better condition, in that way diaspora will invest in different fields in the country. So, diaspora is potential with multidimensional value for the country. Even though they are outside home country, it has been constantly treated as an inseparable part of Kosovo's culture and people.

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Outside home country lives and operate over 800⁴ thousands members of diaspora⁵, but this number is increasing, taking into account that immigration is challenge almost in every country (family reunion, education, living standar).

Genesis of immigrations outside of home country it has happened in different phase, starting from 60's, where in massive manner hundred and thousands family were subjected to ill-treatments, rape and discrimination from authorities of Serbia. Much of it in previous years has been placed in Turkey. Nowdays, Albanian community in this country it is believed is bigger than it present in statistics, but in absence of updated statistics we still have no real figures. However, its very important to understand that a very large part today saves customs and language, and other part it is fully integrated, is assimilated in Turkish society.⁶

From that time, immigration has been continuous characteristic of our society. With the exception of the postwar period, trends for immigrations, first, that was by persecution of Yugoslavia system for political reason, then economic reason, etc. In this viewpoint, the case of saving mother tongue and identity, and strengthening of relationship with diaspora it's very important for Kosovar's citizens, in that manner to avoid assimilation of this communities and risk losing this part of society⁷. Diaspora, in general, its distributed across the world, however, always it has remained the best and most meaningful link between Kosovo and the countries where it operates and lives. Apart from the distribution mainly in Western countries, our diaspora characterizes its integration into the countries where they live and operate, especially younger generations who are born and grown from outside home, the most recent part of the country of origin. This factor is very good explanatory because part of the diaspora is active and the second and third generation are more disconnected from the country of origin, and this disconnect is more and more present. A large percentage of our diaspora is well integrated in the countries where they live and from this diaspora there is created enormous potential of human and economic capital, therefore integration of diaspora in the countries where it lives and operates is also an important aspect of the relationship interstate for our country, using diaspora as a mediator partner. Taking these indicators into account, the diaspora has multiple powers for many reasons, both in terms of human capital and economic capital. Therefore, the preservation and development of national identity has a special importance, both for the state and for the society of Kosovo. Fortunately, from what we see and from ongoing contacts with Diaspora members, we can conclude that the national identity is still preserved to a high degree in the first generations. However, in the second and third generations there is a trend of impoverishment of language and connections with the country of origin. Organizing mother tongue and culture education through the educational system could create opportunities for preserving national identity to a greater extent⁸.

Which is importance of Diaspora in Economic development in Kosovo

Kosovo is the youngest country in the world, today still faces with a lot difficulties in different aspects of state of construction and economic.

Economic increase in Kosovo behave about 4% where country economic is based in import and we buy more and we sell less, local production its supported littlebit from state institutions of the country and the market its not ensured, and as well as providing few facilities to Kosovar producers. Kosovo has powerful Diaspora, and consequently the majority of the population lives with remittances that Diaspora sent to them. Kosovo Economy still is faced with serious problems. Since the time of rapid and immediate development in the early post-war years of 1999, Kosovo's economy has had little or no progress.

Despite the fact that the level of donor assistance is still high, although this level of assistance has experienced a downward trend, and since 2001 Kosovo has had very little GDP growth, ie Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as well as there was a non-movement of BPV per inhabitant⁹. Kosovo has youngest population in Europe, with population growth one of the fastest in Europe. To prevent further unemployment growth¹⁰.

⁴IOM Kosovo (2012), Need to add the link,

⁵Easy immigration profile 2017,

⁶Project strategy for Diaspora pg. 6, 2019-2023 and Operation Plan 2019-2021,

⁷Project strategy for Diaspora pg. 6, 2019-2023 and Operation Plan 2019-2021,

⁸Project strategy for Diaspora pg. 6, 2019-2023 and Operation Plan 2019-2021,

⁹Diaspora and Immigration policies pg. 7, Forum 2015, December 2007 Prishtin

¹⁰Diaspora and Immigration policies pg. 15, Forum 2015, December 2007 Prishtin

Remittances are largely stimulating domestic consumption, which affects the deepening of imports and consequently the trade deficit. This view mainly sees Kosovo as a transit country for remittances, where diaspora money goes in, circulates for several months and then goes out of the country usually through the import of food products. Excepted of this, a large sum of money the diaspora invests in the property, where as a results, last year's there is an increase in the demand for real estate purchase, this phenomenon has also affected the rise of prices for local citizens who live in Kosovo. Diaspora related financial transactions include remittances, travel expenses in Kosovo and international investments made or facilitated by members of the Diaspora. Given the Diaspora population as opposed to the resident population in Kosovo, the economic impact of these transactions is high in relation to domestic production of Kosovo and of great importance for Kosovo's international reserve inflows¹¹.

Remittances strengthen demand for imported and domestic goods and services, raise prices and ultimately payrolls throughout the Kosovo economy, thus contributing to the Kosovo transition from economic recovery following the investment-inclusive and inclusive growth conflict, which is a prerequisite for human development¹². Creating appropriate policies regarding immigration and Kosovo's diaspora status is key to boosting economic growth and reducing macroeconomic disproportion in Kosovo. Through the implementation of such policies, the diaspora could contribute more effectively to raising human and financial capital, increasing economic growth and creating new jobs in Kosovo¹³. Strategic objectives aim at empowering, facilitating and encouraging diaspora engagement in the socio-economic development of the country of origin. Within this objective, the strategy aims to promote, stimulate and co-operate with formal and informal economic platforms in different parts of the world. Also, this objective aims to provide mechanisms for knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences from the Diaspora and vice versa¹⁴. Labor migration and economic interaction with the Kosovar diaspora abroad have a profound impact on the economic and livelihoods of many individuals in Kosovo and this is not limited to the level of households. Economic cooperation with Kosovo Diaspora are deep and they strengthining impact in macroeconomic development of Kosovo and in this manner of all Kosovar's¹⁵.

According data of Central Bank of Kosovo, shipments, which are mainly spent on consumption, amount to about 750 million euros a year. Capital investments, mostly in real estate, amount to 250 million and expenditures during their stay in Kosovo amount to 900 million per year. Given these, with this strategy, this large multidimensional capital of the diaspora is aimed at the overall development of the country, these investments, which benefit both the diaspora and Kosovo. Diaspora investments in the country are a very important factor in preserving the identity of young people in the diaspora and their connection with the homeland¹⁶.

Diaspora investments require planned policies and strategies, continuous improvements in the legal and institutional framework, improvement and modernization of the infrastructure and improvement of the business climate. These investments represent the most effective way to create new jobs and at the same time create conditions for sustainable economic growth. Almost, every diaspora member has high interest to invest in Kosovo in different fields such as: Healthcare, Agriculture, Farming, Energy, Tourism, Hotels.

Diaspora remittances in Kosovo are one of the main sources of funding

Remmitances from Diaspora, today present source that ensure social stable statement and this money mainly send in the most case in consumation of family and less for investments on business. Kosovo Diaspora today is the most powerfull promotor of economic development and raising of social welfare in Kosovo. It has been around for years 700 million euro Remmitances per year that impact in country stable.

In 2018, total value of remmitances from Diaspora was 730.5 million euro. Remmitances of Diaspora's, according to the delivery channels mostly sends from agencies for money transfer, followed by other channels of delivery and banks¹⁷.

¹¹Diaspora and Immigration policies pg. 33, Forum 2015, December 2007 Prishtin

¹²Diaspora and Immigration policies pg. 33, Forum 2015, December 2007 Prishtin

¹³Diaspora and Immigration policies pg. 7, Forum 2015, December 2007 Prishtin

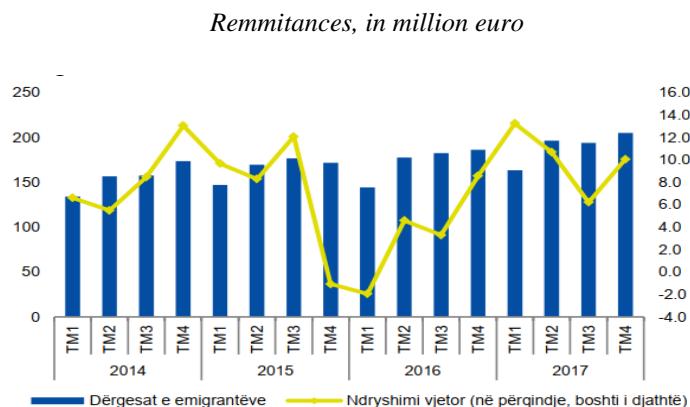
¹⁴Project strategy for Diaspora pg. 16, 2019-2023 and Operation Plan 2019-2021

¹⁵Immigration as force for developmentpg. 12, Human Development Report in Kosovo 2014 Swiss Cooperation Office Kosovo

¹⁶Project Strategy for Diaspora pg. 10, 2019-2023 and Operation Plan 2019-2021

¹⁷Macroeconomic overview Ministry of Finance ASK and CBK 2018

While, accepted remittances in Kosovo for 2017, which at the same time represent the largest category within the secondary income account, amounted to euro 759.2 million, representing an annual growth of 9.9%. Remittances in Kosovo come mainly from Germany and Swiss, country which sent from 39.9% respectively 22.5% of general accepted remittances in Kosovo. A significant part of remittances is accepted and from USA, namely 7.0% of total remittances¹⁸.



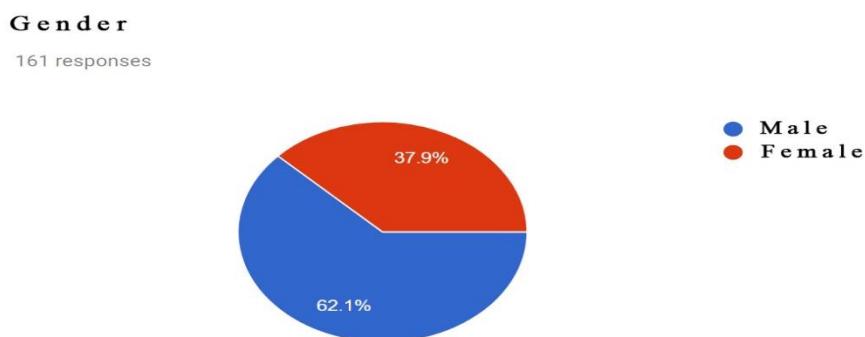
Source: CBK (2018)

Accepted remittances in Kosovo for 2016, which at the same time presented the largest category within the secondary income account, amounted to euro 691 million, which represents an annual growth of 3.8%¹⁹.

Analys Importance of Kosovo Diaspora in economic development

In practical part of research and that what is role importance and what important role plays in Diaspora in economic development in the Republic of Kosovo through various forms is presented through a clear analysis which gives clear directions about the future which are the main forms to the implementation of the needs and forms of cooperation better with the diaspora for the development of Kosovo. In this online survey 161 respondent's that answer 12 question closely related to the subject, while the other two appear of information collectors in this part.

In this survey are answered 62.1% from *male* gender and 37.9% female gender.



¹⁸CBK report for 2017, pg. 32, <https://www.bqk-kos.org/>

¹⁹Annual Report 2016, pg. 31, <https://www.bqk-kos.org/>.

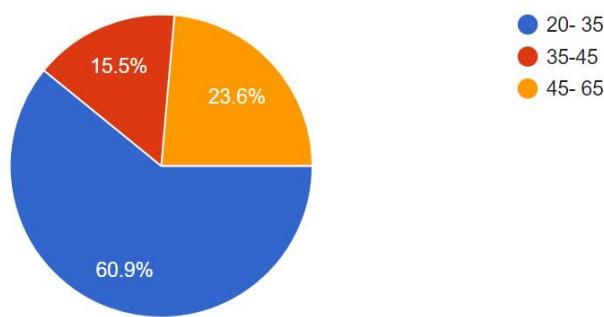
In the second part author's have decided to collect respondent of different age which are presented as three options and are as chronology assigned related with topic as below:

- ✓ 20-35;
- ✓ 35-45;
- ✓ 45-65.

For first option in general are 161 respondents 60.9% are answered in survey those aged 20 to 35 years old, with 23.6% those from 45 to 65 years old from all respondents are answered 15.5% in aged 35 to 45 years old.

Age

161 responses

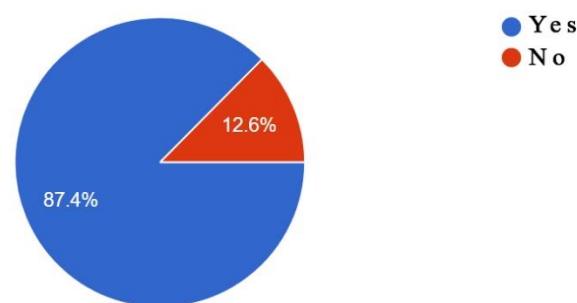


Question 1:

Research had aimed to extract importance of Diaspora's and its role in Kosovo, respondet's are answered question with 87.4% that have at least members of family outside of country and with 12.6% do not have anyone of family member.

1. Do you have family members living abroad?

159 responses

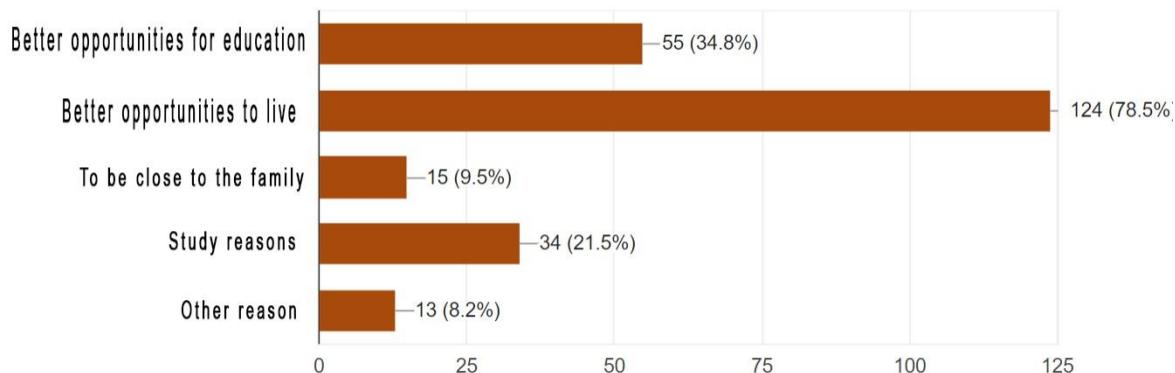


Question 2:

In second question related with the reason of leaving from Kosovo taking into account a lot of factors and circumstances in Kosovo as transition country and with no less importance in this phase, whereas answers/research results for this question it gives interesting results over leaving the country, where 78.5% give reason if they go abroad from Kosovo they can have more opportunities for a better life, with 34.8% they think that they can find better opportunities for better education, 21.5% think for study reason, etc.

2. What are the reasons for leaving Kosovo?

158 responses



Question 3:

According a lot of research of scientific that have done for their forms and investments in Kosovo have given different results which leaves much to be desired. In this question, respondents with 46.3% think that investments in Kosovo made by Diaspora for *emotional reason with hometown* with 40.6% think for family reason and with 10% think for increasing and business development to operate in Kosovo.

3. What do you think, what they push to invest Diaspora in Kosovo?

160 responses



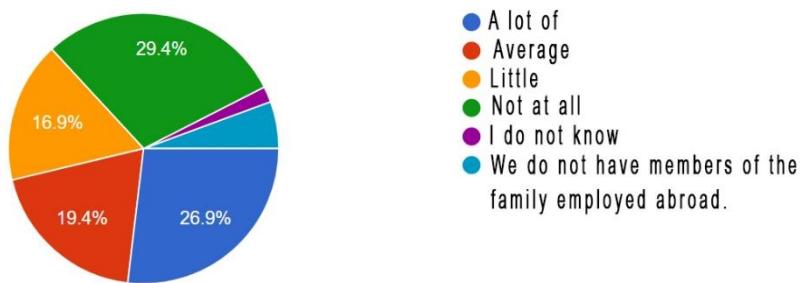
Question 4:

The issues raised try to give a solution to the question of the diaspora role for Kosovo, where fourth question require from respondents to give reason which present dependences of citizens of Kosovo from inputs of Diaspora. So, with 29.4% responded that they are not at all dependent on these investments, 26.9% respond that they are very dependent on 19.4 think they are on average.

So, according to the reasoning of the diaspora respondents with their investments for a large part, they have no impact and are not dependent on their businesses, their having good income and other reasons, while the rest see themselves more dependent leaving a vacancy in that investments should be increased in order to stabilize the market and economy in the country.

4. How much are you dependent on the revenues coming from the diaspora?

160 responses

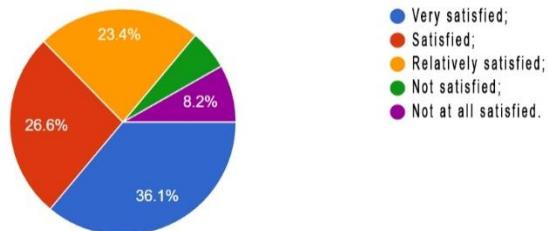


Pyetja 5:

Investigations of Diaspora and their help through citizens that live in Kosovo according respondents is good, even are express as *very satisfied* with 36.1%, while with 26.6% are *moderately satisfied*, and with 23.4% of respondents think that are *relatively satisfied*. This present that those investments excepts that have increase their impact they have improve living in Kosovo for family that help doing of daily obligation for a better life.

5. Do your family financially contribute and how satisfied are you with the support and assistance that is offered to you?

158 responses



Question 6:

Different circumstances and reasons have pushed our nations together to invest in Kosovo and as such are referred to as diaspora investments, so according to the research we can see that 58.8% of respondents do not have any family members employed outside the Republic of Kosovo and they do not have the idea and even the knowledge about Diaspora investments in the country that is primarily economic development is very doubtful. While 29.4% think that these investments are on average good and have a positive effect by raising the quality of the market economy.

6. Which is importance of Kosovo Diaspora in economic development of the country?

160 responses

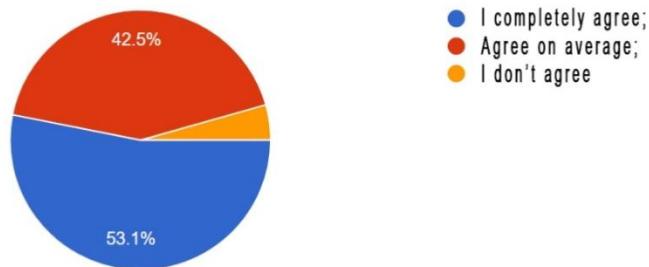


Question 7:

Bearing in mind development and development policies in the Balkans and beyond, of the 160 respondents surveyed think that diaspora is among the most important contribution of investment success in Kosovo, giving particular importance to this field, while 42.5% think that there are other forms of investment but also this is among the most important by *agreeing on average*.

7. Is Diaspora one of the most important contributors of success for investments in Kosovo?

160 responses

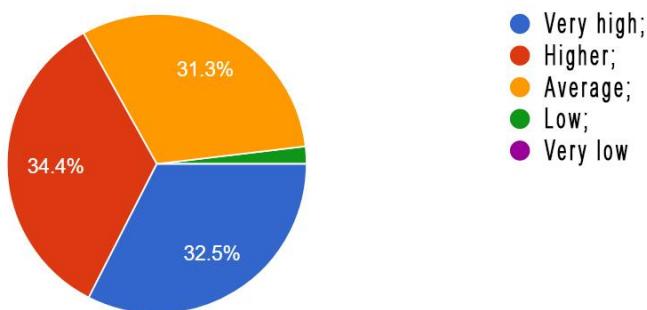


Question 8:

Any investment made in any given field gives rise to its impact, which has little or no negative or positive impact, so foreign investments (diaspora investments) in Kosovo have created a new logic of aid by facilitating many things. According to respondents, 34.4% think that the diaspora influence on economic development is high and is estimated at the same time for the citizens, with 32.5% think that the impact is very high and this support is expected to be even greater in the future while 31.3% of the respondents think that their influence is moderate.

8. Do you think the diaspora's influence on the economic development in Kosovo is high?

160 responses

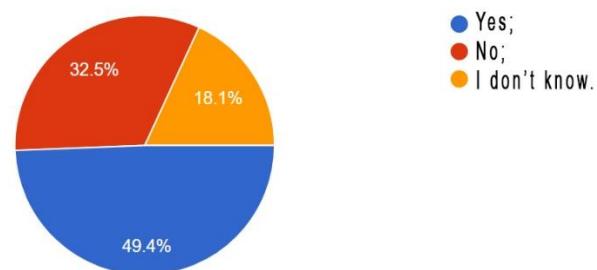


Question 9:

Considering the disturbance of the many citizens in this period in the Republic of Kosovo, it is necessary to take measures to create favorable conditions to regulate the situation and young people to work for their country, developing it in different forms and making it even stronger compared to economic competition and beyond. Considering many factors, respondent's responded with Yes 49.4%, 32.5% with No and 18.1% were shown as neutral.

9. Do you think that people should not leave their hometown?

160 responses

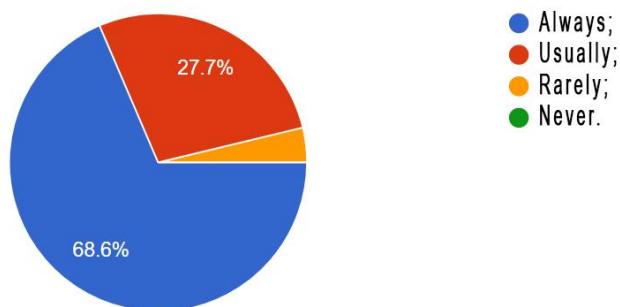


Question 10:

According to the respondents' responses, it is very disturbing to leave the citizens, which situation is also evidenced by the responses of respondents who with 49.1% answered positively that they would leave, with 26.4% not leaving and 20.1% responding with the option possibly leaving an opportunity to flee, but even in the case of improving economic and social conditions, they would stay in Kosovo.

11. Is the diaspora arrival in Kosovo well expected?

159 responses

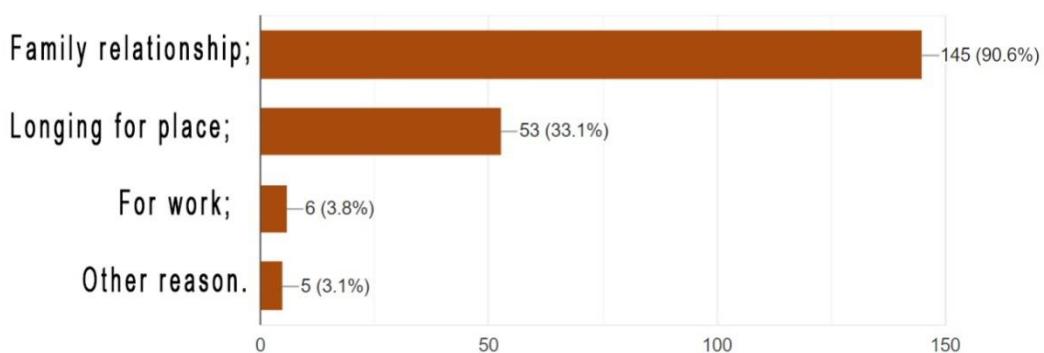


Question 12:

Our comrades, besides having the reasons for the investments and the growth of the economic situation in Kosovo, have other reasons for the visit in Kosovo and the authors have established a number of them where the reason for family ties was chosen with 90.6%, then with 33.1% reason for country respite, 3.8% for work, and 3.1% for different reasons they visit our country and theirs.

12. What do you think, which are reason's of visiting of Diaspora's in Kosovo and no other countries?

160 responses



Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusion

Diaspora's contribute through remittances in Kosovo according assessments has been very large for postwar years to the present day with their investments, even though the state of Kosovo should make the drafting of institutional strategies for the best use of the Diaspora and Kosovo connections for the realization of projects of national interest such as projects: health, education, energy, minerals, etc. Make greater engagement of Kosovar authorities in involving diaspora in decision-making on Kosovo development projects.

Deeper cooperation between diaspora and local associations of Kosovo to exchange their experiences and knowledge in different fields of business. All this would contribute to sending remittances from abroad to greater sustainability towards Kosovo's development, and to alleviate unemployment in Kosovo, which is currently very high where there is still employment potential through investments. In the future it is expected that the level of remittances will be further reduced, where one of the main reasons for the decline of remittances from the Diaspora is the reunification of families with their members, as well as the employment of family members in Kosovo.

Recommendations

Since the post-war, remittances from the diaspora have played a very important role in Kosovo's economic development. The main recommendations for the diaspora role are for the country to develop a development strategy and to orient itself towards absorbing investment from the diaspora. The realization of this goal can be achieved by working in several directions: improving the investment climate in the country, improving the remittance transfer channels because a considerable part is brought to Kosovo through informal roads, orienting and utilizing the potential of investors in tourism and other economic areas for the purpose of opening up new jobs.

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