

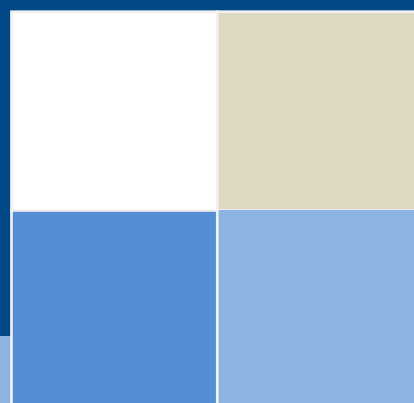
Policy Analysis - No. 01/2015



GROUP FOR LEGAL  
AND POLITICAL  
STUDIES

# Migration 2.0: Who are the Kosovars most willing to migrate to EU countries?

- An empirical perspective



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## Policy Analysis No. 01/2015

### Who are the Kosovars most willing to migrate to EU countries? - An empirical perspective

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## WHO ARE THE KOSOVARS MOST WILLING TO MIGRATE TO EU COUNTRIES? - AN EMPIRICAL PERSPECTIVE

### I. Background Information

Even 15 years after the end of conflict, Kosovo continues to struggle with high unemployment and poverty rates. According to the latest official data, 29.7 percent of Kosovars live below the national poverty line, and an estimated 10.2 percent live in extreme poverty<sup>1</sup>; whereas 30.0 percent of working age individuals (15-64) in 2013 are unemployed, the rate being significantly higher amongst youth (55.9 percent)<sup>2</sup>. Kosovo has traditionally had a large Diaspora, with roughly 400,000 Kosovars living abroad since the late 1960s, particularly as a result of the war in 1998/99<sup>3</sup>.

Migration is considered to be a coping mechanism for households who are in a disadvantaged position regarding employment and income. In 2012, 43 percent of household reported to have a family member abroad whereas 22.4 percent of households received remittances<sup>4</sup>. Even to date migration continues to be a phenomenon amongst Kosovars. The data from the “Survey of Awareness of the EU and European Integration in Kosovo” suggest that the percentage of respondents willing to permanently settle in any EU country marked an increase of 26 percent in 2014 compared to 2012, more precisely from around 34 percent to 43 percent. Migration is considered to be an expensive journey, especially if done illegally. Therefore, the recent drastic increase in the number of Kosovars that migrate via illegal routes to EU countries suggests that Kosovo is in fact exporting money by paying smugglers for their services and creating an impoverishing process for the country. Despite the economic factors, amongst some other potential reasons for the increasing willingness to migrate to EU countries are the lack of trust towards the political process, dissatisfaction with the socio-economic system in Kosovo as well as lack of information regarding EU asylum policies and penalties resulting from illegal migration. Moreover, similar to the findings of the 2012 survey, despite the ‘fight against corruption’, ‘economic situation in general’ and ‘unemployment’, respondents also ranked ‘inability to travel to EU’ as one of the most important issues that Kosovo faces at the moment<sup>5</sup>. Therefore, another potential reason for the increasing migration could be the isolation of

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<sup>1</sup> Kosovo Agency of Statistics (2013). Consumption Poverty in the Republic of Kosovo in 2011. Available at: [http://esk.rks-gov.net/ENG/publikimet/doc\\_view/1070-consumption-poverty-in-the-republic-of-kosovo-in-2011?tmpl=component&format=raw](http://esk.rks-gov.net/ENG/publikimet/doc_view/1070-consumption-poverty-in-the-republic-of-kosovo-in-2011?tmpl=component&format=raw)

<sup>2</sup> Kosovo Agency of Statistics (2014). Results of the Kosovo 2013 Labour Force Survey. Available at: [http://ask.rks-gov.net/ENG/publikimet/cat\\_view/16-labour-market](http://ask.rks-gov.net/ENG/publikimet/cat_view/16-labour-market)

<sup>3</sup> UNDP (2010). Kosovo Remittance Study 2010. Available at: <http://www.bqk-kos.org/repository/docs/Final-english.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> UNDP (2014). Kosovo Remittance Study 2013. Available at: [http://ask.rks-gov.net/publikimet/cat\\_view/17-standarti-jetesor](http://ask.rks-gov.net/publikimet/cat_view/17-standarti-jetesor)

<sup>5</sup> Ubo Consulting (2014). Survey of Awareness of the EU and European Integration in Kosovo. Available at: [http://www.mei-ks.net/repository/docs/2014\\_Survey\\_of\\_Awareness\\_of\\_the\\_EU\\_and\\_European\\_Integration\\_in\\_Kosovo\\_\[EUPK\]\\_\(Final\)\[1\].pdf](http://www.mei-ks.net/repository/docs/2014_Survey_of_Awareness_of_the_EU_and_European_Integration_in_Kosovo_[EUPK]_(Final)[1].pdf)

Kosovars' given they are the only citizens in the Balkan countries that cannot travel within the Schengen Zone without a visa.

Between 2008 and 2010 other neighbouring countries, more precisely, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia were granted the permission to travel visa-free. Nevertheless, on 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2012, Kosovo received the roadmap for visa liberalization from the European Commission. The roadmap encompasses a list of reforms and other requirements regarding the Reintegration and Readmission, Document Security, Migration Management and Asylum, Public Order and Security, and Fundamental Rights related to the Freedom of Movement<sup>6</sup>. This said, Kosovo is still in the process of fulfilling the visa liberalization requirements, and for the second time in July 2014, the European Commission has assessed the migratory impact of visa liberalization with Kosovo. More precisely, in order to assess the impact of expected migration, the Commission has monitored the performance indicators such as the visa refusal rate, the rate of refused entry to the Schengen area, the number of citizens staying illegally in EU Member States, the number of asylum applications and the number of rejected readmission applications. Similarly to 2011, the visa refusal rate continued to increase in 2012 and 2013; however, the increase was more pronounced in the later year, more precisely, from 625 to 1400 applications. This has been largely attributed to Croatia's accession to the EU which is one of the countries with the highest number of recorded refusals in 2013<sup>7</sup>. Similarly, the number of citizens found to be illegally present in EU Member states marked an increase in 2012 and 2013. The number of asylum applications submitted by Kosovo citizens in the member states is reported to have doubled in 2013 after a decrease in 2011, whereas the acceptance rate in fact dropped from 6.4 percent in 2012 to 3.7 percent in 2013<sup>8</sup>. Regarding illegal immigration, the overall number of illegal immigrants increased in 2013 compared to 2012 from 5200 to 7870<sup>9</sup>. Although there are no official data for late 2014 and early 2015, recently we have observed a drastic increase in the number of illegal immigrants that seek asylum in EU Member States. In Germany alone, roughly 25.000 asylum seekers were registered in January, which is an increase of 73 percent compared to the same period of last year<sup>10</sup>.

Given that illegal migration has an important impact on the visa liberalization process, this policy analysis aims to provide a quantitative assessment of the characteristics that impact the individuals' willingness to migrate in order to inform the policy makers on the areas that need to be addressed in order to decrease the willingness of Kosovars to migrate. This is the second analysis of this kind. The first utilized data from the survey "Survey of Awareness of the EU and European Integration in Kosovo2012"

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<sup>6</sup> Merja, A. (2012). Visa Liberalization Process in Kosovo: A prologue to achievements, challenges and needs. Group for Legal and Political Studies No.03/2012. Available at: <http://legalpoliticalstudies.org/download/Policy%20Note%2003%202012%20eng.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> European Commission (2014). Working Document Accompanying the Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council. Available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/docs/accompanying\\_staff\\_working\\_document\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/docs/accompanying_staff_working_document_en.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Alb Info (2015). *Kosova e dyta pas Sirise*. [online] Available at: <http://www.albinfo.ch/azil-kosova-e-dyta-pas-sirise/> [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

whereas this analysis uses the data of 2014 from the same survey. As Castaldo et al (2005) points out, surveys of actual migrants or individuals that could potentially migrate can be effective at profiling their demographic and labour force characteristics however such surveys do not generally provide information on the households where the individual comes from such as structure, welfare status and composition. The opposite is mainly the case for household level surveys where no or only limited information is available on migrants living abroad and this is the case for Kosovo as well. Considering the abovementioned data limitations, several studies have been motivated to explore migrants' behavior rather indirectly by using intentions data, and thus develop the empirical analysis in terms of willingness to migrate<sup>11</sup>. Therefore, following the same approach, this study analyses the factors that impact the willingness of individuals to migrate to any EU country.

The policy analysis is organized as follows: Section II presents the data used in the study and the descriptive statistics. Section III and IV describe the methodological approach adopted in this study and the empirical results, respectively. The last section concludes and provides a list of recommendations that gives policymakers information on the key policy responses that need to be addressed to tackle the causes of the potential migration in Kosovo.

## II. Data and descriptive statistics

This study used data from the "Survey of Awareness of the EU and European Integration in Kosovo2014", conducted by Ubo Consulting on behalf of the EU Office in Kosovo and the Kosovo's Government Ministry of European Integration.<sup>12</sup> A total of 1500 individuals have been interviewed face-to-face and the survey is nationally representative for Kosovo. The questionnaire consists of 37 questions and was composed of three sections: a) Awareness of the European Union and EU structures, b) Integration: hopes and concerns, and c) Information channels.

In our econometric estimates we use both individual and region specific variables as explanatory variables as well as a household characteristic give our survey mainly collects individual characteristics and perceptions. For the individual characteristics we follow the literature on the willingness to migrate in other countries and use gender, age, highest completed education (primary or less, secondary and tertiary) and marital status and occupation (employed, unemployed, student and other). We also include a variable to control for the household income and a subjective measure of household financial situation. Other studies also included other household indicators such as number of adults

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<sup>11</sup> Huber, P. and Fidrmuc, J. (2006). Who Is Willing to Migrate in the CEECS? Evidence From the Czech Republic. ERSA Conference Papers from European Regional Science Association; Castaldo et al (2005). Who is Most Likely to Migrate from Albania? Evidence from the Albania Living Standards Measurement Survey. Working Paper T11. University of Sussex: The Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty; Drinkwater, S. (2003 a). Go West? Assessing the Willingness to Move from Central and Eastern European Countries. Mimeo. University of Surrey: Department of Economics; Drinkwater, S. (2003 b). Estimating the Willingness to Move within Great Britain: Importance and Implications. Mimeo. University of Surrey: Department of Economics.

<sup>12</sup> Ubo Consulting (2014). Survey of Awareness of the EU and European Integration in Kosovo. Available at: [http://www.mei-ks.net/repository/docs/2014\\_Survey\\_of\\_Awareness\\_of\\_the\\_EU\\_and\\_European\\_Integration\\_in\\_Kosovo\\_\[EUPK\]\\_\(Final\)\[1\].pdf](http://www.mei-ks.net/repository/docs/2014_Survey_of_Awareness_of_the_EU_and_European_Integration_in_Kosovo_[EUPK]_(Final)[1].pdf)

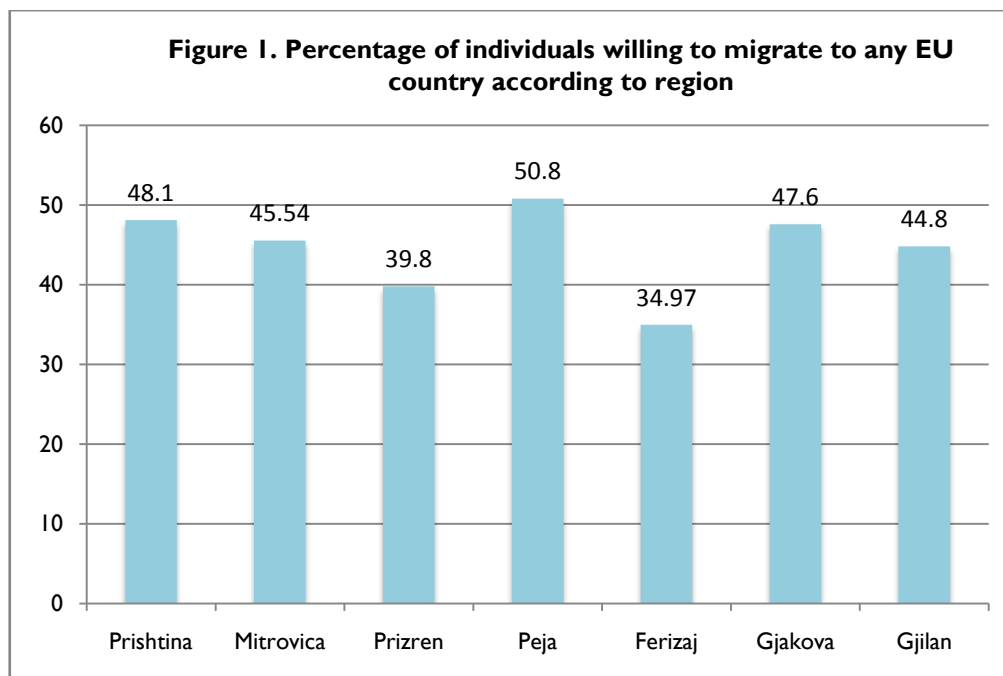
and children as well as dependency ratio and male ratio, however we are unable to control for this given the data limitations. In addition, we include subjective measures of improvements of the present situation compared to five years ago and life satisfaction. Given our analysis is concerned with the willingness to migrate specifically to EU countries we also include a subjective measure of individuals' knowledge about EU policies and institutions. More knowledgeable individuals' are expected to be more informed about rules and procedures of asylum. In addition we include an indicator of individuals' perception of how EU membership would benefit them personally. Among the regional variables we include region dummy variables and due to multicollinearity problem we also run a separate regression including the regional unemployment rate to capture regional differences (see Appendix 2).

The descriptions of the variables that will be used in this analysis are presented in Table 1. A probit model will be employed in this policy analysis and the dependent variable used is the willingness of individuals to migrate to EU countries (henceforth willingness to migrate) derived from the question 'Would you like to go to permanently settle in an EU country'. Since the dependent variable is a binary variable, we have included in the analysis only individuals who responded Yes or No in the abovementioned question (hence, excluded 'Don't know' and 'Refuse'). As a result, the total number of observations dropped to 1425. From these individuals, 45 percent said they would like to go and permanently settle in any EU country ('willing to migrate') which is an increase by 25 percent compared to 2012. The 'willingness to migrate' shows merely the will or desire of those who responded Yes, but cannot in any way be taken as a Yes to illegal forms of migration. Those reading this analysis, therefore, are advised to translate these results with considerable attention, adding that 'willingness to migrate' indicator is not and could not be associated with illegal migration.

Table 2 presents the descriptive statistics of the variables used in the empirical analysis. Considering the regional distribution of respondents, Gjilan has the highest percentage, more precisely 19.6 percent, followed by Mitrovica and Prizren with 15.7 and 14.8 percent respectively. Figure 1 presents the percentage of individuals willing to migrate according to region. The data suggest that Peja and Prishtina have the highest percentage of individuals willing to migrate whereas Prizren and Ferizaj are the regions with the lowest percentage. With respect to gender, the respondents were almost equally distributed. The majority of individuals belong to the age group 35 to 64 and around 59 percent are married. Concerning the education levels of individuals, most of them have completed secondary (around 50 percent) and 32.2 percent have completed tertiary. Regarding income and financial situation, roughly 49 percent of individuals have a monthly income ranging between 200€ - 400€ and approximately 72 percent of respondents consider they are in a good financial situation. Moreover, 54 percent consider that their economic situation has not improved over the last 5 years. The majority of the individuals interviewed are employed and 98 percent of respondents have travelled to any of the EU countries in the last 5 years which can be considered a very high amount, given that Kosovars are the only residents in the Balkans who cannot travel without visas. Therefore, it can be considered as right to assume that the question has been misunderstood by the respondents as if they were asked whether they travelled anywhere outside Kosovo. Considering the level of awareness of Kosovars about the EU, 65 percent have no or



moderate knowledge about the EU and approximately 73 percent consider joining EU would benefit them personally.



**Table 2.** Description of variables used in regressions

Variable name	Description
<b>Dependent variable</b>	
<b>Migration</b>	1 if individual would like to go and settle permanently in an EU country; 0 otherwise
<b>Independent variables</b>	
<b>Regions</b>	
Prishtina	1 if individual resides in Prishtina; 0 otherwise
Mitrovica	1 if individual resides in Mitrovica; 0 otherwise
Prizren	1 if individual resides in Prizren; 0 otherwise
Peja	1 if individual resides in Peja; 0 otherwise
Gjakova	1 if individual resides in Gjakova; 0 otherwise
Gjilan	1 if individual resides in Gjilan; 0 otherwise
Urban/Rural	1 if individual resides in Urban area; 0 if in Rural area
Gender	1 If individual is male; 0 if female
<b>Awareness about EU</b>	
NotModerateKnowledge	1 if individual has no or moderate knowledge about EU; 0 otherwise
Knowledgeable/veryKnow	1 if individual has knowledge or is very knowledgeable about EU; 0 otherwise
Other	1 if individual refused to answer or did not know; 0 otherwise
TravelledtoEU	1 if individual travelled to any EU country during the last 5 years; 0 otherwise
<b>Life Satisfaction</b>	
Satisfied	1 if individual is very/somewhat satisfied with his/her life; 0 otherwise
Dissatisfied	1 if individual is very/somewhat dissatisfied with his/her life; 0 otherwise
Other	1 if individual refused to answer or did not know; 0 otherwise
<b>Economic Situation</b>	
Improved	1 if individual's present economic situation has improved or improved a lot compared to 5 years ago (2007); 0 otherwise
NotImproved	1 if individual's present economic situation has not changed much or stayed the same compared to 5 years ago (2007); 0 otherwise
Other	1 if individual refused to answer or did not know; 0 otherwise
<b>EU membership</b>	
Benefit	1 if individual believes EU membership would benefit a lot or somewhat benefit him/her personally; 0 otherwise
Neutral	1 if individual belief about how EU membership would benefit him/her personally is neutral; 0 otherwise
NotBenefit	1 if individual believes EU membership would not benefit at all him/her personally; 0 otherwise
Other	1 if individual refused to answer, the answer was other or did not know; 0 otherwise
<b>Age</b>	

Age15-24	1 if individual belongs to age group 15-24 years; 0 otherwise
Age25-34	1 if individual belongs to age group 25-34 years; 0 otherwise
Age35-64	1 if individual belongs to age group 35-64 years; 0 otherwise
65andover	1 if individual belongs is 65 years or older; 0 otherwise
<b>Marital Status</b>	
Single	1 if individual is single, divorced and widowed; 0 otherwise
Married	1 if individual is married or cohabiting; 0 otherwise
Other	1 if individual refused to answer; 0 otherwise
<b>Financial Situation</b>	
Good	1 if individual financial situation is very good or somewhat good; 0 otherwise
Bad	1 if individual financial situation is somewhat bad or very bad; 0 otherwise
Other	1 if individual refused to answer; 0 otherwise
<b>Income</b>	
Upto200	1 if individuals' income is less than 100€ or between100€-200€; 0 otherwise
200to400	1 if individuals' income is 200€-300€ or between 300€-400€; 0 otherwise
400andover	1 if individuals' income more than 400€; 0 otherwise
Other	1 If individuals' income was other or refused to be reported; 0 otherwise
<b>Education</b>	
Primary/lessPrimary	1 if individual has completed primary education or less, 0 otherwise
Secondary	1 if individual has completed high school, 0 otherwise
Tertiary	1 if individual has completed some college, associate degree, college graduate or Graduate school degree: Master's or Doctorate degree 0 otherwise
<b>Occupation</b>	
Employed	1 if individual is skilled manual/unskilled worker; employed in a service job; general management, director or top management; self-employed; owner of a company; professional; public servant; farmer; 0 otherwise
Unemployed	1if individual is unemployed or temporary not working; 0 otherwise
Student	1if individual is a student; 0 otherwise
Other	1 if individual is retired or has other occupation; 0 otherwise

**Table 3.** Descriptive Statistic of the key variables

Variables	Proportion
<b>Dependent</b>	
Willingness To Migrate	44.77
<b>Independent</b>	
<i>Regions</i>	
- Prishtina	12.98
- Mitrovica	15.71
- Prizren	14.80
- Peja	12.56
- Ferizaj	10.00
- Gjakova	14.31
- Gjilan	19.57
<b>Gender</b>	
- Male	52.56
- Female	47.44
<b>Awareness EU</b>	
- No to Moderate Knowledge	65.05
- Knowledgeable/very Knowledgeable	32.77
- Other AW	2.18
<b>Travelled to EU</b>	
	98.45
<b>Life Satisfaction</b>	
- Satisfied	69.50
- Dissatisfied	29.54
- Other LS	1.26
<b>Economic Situation</b>	
- Improved	45.47
- Not Improved	54.04
- Other ES	0.49
<b>EU Membership</b>	
- Benefit	72.91
- Neutral	14.18
- Not Benefit	10.88
- Other EIM	2.03

<b>Age</b>	
- Age 15 to 24	28.42
- Age 25 to 34	24.84
- Age 35 to 64	39.86
- 65 and over	6.88
<b>Marital Status</b>	
- Single	40.77
- Married	58.95
- Other MS	0.28
<b>Financial Situation</b>	
- Good	71.93
- Bad	27.58
- Other FS	0.49
<b>Household Income</b>	
- Up to 200	22.45
- 200 to 400	49.19
- 400 and over	24.14
- Other	4.22
<b>Education</b>	
- Primary/less Primary	17.96
- Secondary	49.89
- Tertiary or higher	32.15
<b>Occupation</b>	
- Employed	43.65
- Unemployed	22.25
- Student	16.84
- Other	17.26

### III. Methodology: How do we reach the results?

The aim of this policy analysis is to provide an updated version of the analysis regarding the willingness of Kosovo citizens to migrate (settle permanently) in an EU country using the data from European Perspective in Kosovo 2014. This allows us to gain insights concerning the causes and characteristics that increase or decrease the likelihood of willingness to migrate, and to draw comparisons with the results of 2013.

This analysis utilizes a binary choice model since the dependent variable takes only two values: 1 if the individual is willing to migrate and 0 if not. Models that have a binary or dichotomous dependent variable are known as the probability models.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, the empirical approach for conducting this analysis involves a Probit model as expressed below:

$$P = (Y_1 = 1 | x_{1i}, \dots, x_{ki}, \beta_0, \dots, \beta_K) = \Phi \left( \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_k x_{ki} \right) \dots \dots (1)$$

$$\Phi = (\beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{i1} + \dots + \beta_k X_{ki}) \dots \dots (2)$$

Where  $\Phi$  represents the cumulative distribution of the standard normal distribution.

The equation of the probit model used in the study is as follows:

$$Y_i = \alpha + \beta A + \gamma R + \delta K + \theta E + \Omega M + \omega I + \varepsilon \quad (2)$$

Where  $Y_i$  is an indicator of willingness to migrate which takes values of 0 and 1 whereas A, R, K, E, M, and I, are vectors of individuals' perception of their financial and economic situation, life satisfaction, knowledge about EU, travel to EU, and individual characteristics (income, gender, age, education, occupation, and region of residence). Since the probit coefficients are not directly interpreted, marginal effects will be computed at the median values of the regressors of the Probit model.

### IV. Results: Who are most willing to migrate to EU countries?

This section presents the results of the probit model for 2014 and a parallel comparison with the results of 2013 study using the data from "Survey of Awareness of the EU and European Integration in Kosovo 2012"<sup>14</sup>. This said, different from the results of 2013 where the vast majority of the regional dummies are significant, the results of 2014 indicate that only residence in Prizren has a significant impact on the willingness to migrate. More precisely, *ceteris paribus*, individuals residing in the region of Prizren are less willing to

<sup>13</sup> Gujarati, D. (2004). *Basic Econometrics*. Fourth Edition. New York: McGraw Hill. pp. 581–583

<sup>14</sup> See Appendix III for the 2013 results

migrate compared to those in Prishtina by 11.2 percentage points. This suggests, that migration is becoming a national phenomenon rather than limited to particular regions. As expected and in line with the results of 2013, those who are dissatisfied with their current living conditions are more willing to migrate compared to their satisfied counterparts, by roughly 7 percentage points, *ceteris paribus*.

The results suggest that contrary to 2012 results, the indicator of current economic situation appears statistically insignificant. As expected, the indicator measuring the perception of individuals regarding the benefits stemming from EU membership appears to be highly significant in 2014 as well. More specifically, *ceteris paribus*, individuals who consider 'accession to EU would not benefit them personally', or are neutral to that matter, are less willing to migrate than those who consider that EU accession would benefit them 'a lot' or 'somewhat benefit' them by 37.3 and 25.9 percentage point, respectively. Different from the results of 2013, we found that, *ceteris paribus*, individuals that perceive their financial situation as 'somewhat bad' or 'very bad' are less willing to migrate as compared to those with good financial situation by approximately 8.6 percentage points. Although individuals with a bad financial situation may have higher incentives to migrate, given that migration is considered an expensive journey, such individuals may be too poor to migrate. It could also be an indication of lack of access to migration networks.

From the set of the individual characteristics, the results suggest that, other things being equal, gender is another important indicator of willingness to migrate to EU for 2012; nevertheless, the 2014 results suggest that this is an insignificant indicator. This in turn seems to indicate that gender is not an important predictor of the willingness to migrate which indicates that migration is no longer only a phenomenon amongst males. Moreover, in terms of age, the results suggest that individuals belonging to age group 25 to 34 and those 65 and over appear significant. More precisely, *ceteris paribus*, compared to individuals aged 15-24 individuals, those aged 25 to 34 are more willing to migrate whereas those 65 and over are less willing to migrate by 9.5 and 24.5 percentage points, respectively.<sup>15</sup> Contrary to 2013, the results suggest that compared to married individuals, single individuals have a higher willingness to migrate by around 12.1 percentage points, *ceteris paribus*. One reason could be that single individuals perceive the EU as a good opportunity to start a better life. Most of the income dummy variables appear insignificant except for the one up to 200€ household income. More specifically, individuals with monthly income up to 200€ are more willing to migrate than those with monthly income of 200€-400€ by roughly 15.3 percentage points, *ceteris paribus*. In line with 2012, the results suggest that as expected, unemployed individuals have a higher willingness to migrate to any EU country compared to their employed counterparts by 7.6 percentage points, *ceteris paribus*. Similar to 2012, human capital variables are not found to significantly impact the willingness of Kosovars to migrate to EU countries. In addition to

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<sup>15</sup> In the 2013 study we included only three age dummy variables more precisely one for the age group 15to24, 25to64 and 65 and over. In the current analysis we include a more detailed division of the age variable by also including the 25to34 age group dummy. For the sake of comparability we run the regression including the same division of the age variable as in 2013 and the results (significance level and coefficients) remain largely the same to those when four age dummy variables are included. Therefore, we present the later regression results given they are more informative. The results using the same age indicators as in the 2013 analysis are presented in Appendix I.

the above, those who travelled to the EU during the last 5 years, have knowledge about the EU, education, and economic situation variables are not significant predictors of willingness to migrate.



**Table 4:** Regression Results

Variables	Probit Model		Marginal Effects	
	Coefficients	Robust Standard Errors	Coefficients	Standard error
Mitrovica	-.0622	.1356	-.0244	.0528
Prizreni	-.2937**	.1398	-.1123**	.0515
Peja	.0364	.1402	.0143	.0553
Ferizaj	-.1787	.1553	-.0690	.0588
Gjakova	-.1639	.1398	-.0635	.0533
Gjilan	-.1664	.1307	-.0646	.0500
Knowlegable	.0234	.0822	.0092	.0323
Other AW	.0444	.2578	.0175	.1019
Travelled~5y	-.2670	.2758	-.1061	.1096
Dissatisfied	.1800*	.0934	.0710*	.0369
Other LS	-.1902	.4327	-.0730	.1615
Improved	.0044	.0829	.0017	.0325
Other ES	.3648	.6550	.1447	.2569
Neutral	-.0727***	.1103	-.2589***	.0335
Not Benefit	-1.190***	.1498	-.3729***	.0309
Other EUM	.0533	.2435	.0210	.0963
Gender	-.0286	.0755	-.0112	.0296
Age25to34	.2393**	.0960	.0946**	.0380
Age35to64	-.0462	.1017	-.0181	.0398
Age65over	-.7000***	.1883	-.2450***	.0544
Single	.3069***	.0897	.1206***	.0351
Other MS	.1969	.7474s	.0781	.2981
Bad finances	-.2211**	.1074	-.0858**	.0410
Other FS	.0189	.5270	.0074	.2076
Incomeup~200	.3875***	.1064	.1532***	.0418

Income400o~r	-.0675	.0960	-.0264	.0374
Other Inc	-.1206	.1914	-.0468	.0732
Primaryles~n	.1135	.1111	.0448	.0440
Tertiary	.0169	.0875	.0066	.0344
Unemployed	.1922*	.0988	.0759*	.0392
Student	.1595	.1223	.0631	.0486
Other Occu	-.1378	.1183	-.0536	.0454
Cons	.1914	.3250		
The model predicts correctly 66.39% of the cases				

\*, \*\*, \*\*\* - significant level at 10%, 5%, and 1%, respectively

## V. A Policy Conclusion and Recommendations

Kosovo has traditionally had a large Diaspora, around 43 percent and 22 percent of households have someone abroad and receive remittances, respectively.<sup>16</sup> Migration trends dates back to the late 1960s, and this trend still persists in Kosovo. Post-conflict migration has been primarily stimulated by the poor socio-economic conditions. There is a relatively high percentage of Kosovars willing to permanently settle in any of the EU countries and the rate has increased by 26% in 2014 compared to 2012. Despite the economic factors, amongst some other potential reasons for the increasing willingness to migrate to EU countries are the lack of trust towards the political process, dissatisfaction with the socio-economic and political system in Kosovo as well as lack of information regarding EU asylum policies and penalties resulting from illegal migration. Another potential reason for the increasing migration could be the isolation of Kosovars' given they are the only citizens in the Balkan countries that cannot travel within the Schengen Zone without a visa.

This policy analysis estimated the determinants of Kosovars' willingness to migrate to any EU country using data from the survey European Perspective in Kosovo 2014. This is the second analysis of this kind. The study developed a probit model to predict the impact of different individual characteristics – socio-demographic and human capital characteristics – household characteristics and region specific variables on the willingness to migrate to EU countries. The results indicate that most of the regression outcomes are as expected. The evidence of the impact of region on the willingness to migrate suggests that there are no differences in willingness to migrate across most regions and Prishtina, except Prizren. Dissatisfaction with current living is also found to be an important factor

<sup>16</sup> UNDP (2012). Kosovo Remittance Study 2012. Available at: [http://www.ks.undp.org/content/kosovo/en/home/library/poverty/Remittance\\_Study/](http://www.ks.undp.org/content/kosovo/en/home/library/poverty/Remittance_Study/)

that affects individuals' willingness to migrate. Being aware about the EU is found to negatively affect the willingness of individuals to migrate to the EU, whereas individuals who consider 'accession to EU would not benefit them personally', or are neutral to that matter, are less willing to migrate than those who consider would benefit them 'a lot' or 'somewhat benefit'. The results indicate that, individuals aged 25 - 34 have a higher willingness to migrate whereas those aged 65 and over a lower willingness to migrate compared to individuals aged 15-25. On the other hand, contrary to 2013, the results suggest that compared to married individuals, single individuals have a higher willingness to migrate. Most of the income dummy variables appear insignificant except for the one up to 200€ household income. In line with our expectations unemployed are found to be more willing to migrate compared to employed individuals.

Given the large willingness of Kosovars to migrate to EU countries and the recent large illegal flow of migrants to EU countries, policymakers should utilize the findings of this analysis to orient their policy solutions in the right direction; policies should respond to the causes and characteristics that relate to the 'willingness' to migrate shown in this analysis. More specifically, the policy solutions must be focused on increasing the employment opportunities, especially for youth (those aged 25-34) since they are more willing to leave the country.

## VI. Recommended Policy Directions

1. The Government should develop an awareness campaign, based on a substantial and continuous strategy, which informs citizens about EU policies on migration and the consequences of illegal migration.
2. Seasonal employment opportunities should be utilized accordingly. More precisely, the Government of Kosovo should expand its relations with EU countries, especially those which require low and medium skilled workforce. Therefore, The Ministry of Education should focus on providing short-term vocational education that addresses the requirements of the EU states with which Kosovo has or will reach agreement regarding seasonal employment.
3. The Government should focus on addressing the factors which affect citizens' willingness to migrate. More specifically, it should address the high unemployment amongst youth, especially the age groups that this analysis suggests that are more willing to migrate, by creating pre-conditions that support employment generation.
4. The Government in collaboration with the representatives of Embassies of the Schengen zone countries in Kosovo should provide detailed information that help people realistically assess the real opportunities that these countries offer to immigrants and to consider the real benefit of migration.

**Appendix 1. Regression results using the same age indicators as in 2013 study**

Probit regression		Number of obs=		1425		
		Wald chi2(31)		= 205.80		
Prob> chi2		=		0.0000		
Log pseudolikelihood = -863.01134		Pseudo R2		= 0.1193		
-----						
		Robust				
migration		Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
-----+-----						
gender		-.0407976	.075035	-0.54	0.587	-.1878634 .1062683
Knowlegabl~w		.0282308	.0818369	0.34	0.730	-.1321665 .1886281
otherAW		.0140287	.2623417	0.05	0.957	-.5001517 .528209
Travelledt~U		-.2939873	.2791185	-1.05	0.292	-.8410494 .2530748
Dissatisfied		.1762437	.0930528	1.89	0.058	-.0061364 .3586238
OtherLS		-.1841815	.4297993	-0.43	0.668	-1.026573 .6582097
Improved		.0013858	.0825422	0.02	0.987	-.1603939 .1631656
OtherES		.283323	.6550635	0.43	0.665	-1.000578 1.567224
Neutral		-.7349237	.1091228	-6.73	0.000	-.9488004 -.5210469
NotBenefit		-1.200501	.1490739	-8.05	0.000	-1.492681 -.9083218
OtherEUM		-.0018425	.2441044	-0.01	0.994	-.4802783 .4765933
Age15to24		.1609627	.1060989	1.52	0.129	-.0469872 .3689127
Age65over		-.6868508	.1824915	-3.76	0.000	-1.044528 -.3291739
Single		.2492816	.0950888	2.62	0.009	.0629109 .4356523
OtherMS		.1107273	.7650816	0.14	0.885	-1.388805 1.61026
Bad		-.2311834	.1076055	-2.15	0.032	-.4420864 -.0202804
OtherFS		.0236558	.5394129	0.04	0.965	-1.033574 1.080886

IncomeUp~200	.390022	.1065454	3.66	0.000	.1811969	.5988471
Income400a~r	-.0748405	.0953495	-0.78	0.433	-.2617221	.112041
OtherInc	-.1227439	.1902923	-0.65	0.519	-.49571	.2502223
Primaryand~s	.0918174	.1114064	0.82	0.410	-.1265351	.3101699
Tertiary	.0664252	.0880313	0.75	0.451	-.106113	.2389634
Unemployed	.1824391	.0990459	1.84	0.065	-.0116873	.3765655
Student	.0534506	.1246908	0.43	0.668	-.190939	.2978401
OtherOccu	-.1528418	.117261	-1.30	0.192	-.3826692	.0769855
Gjilan	-.1823472	.1307628	-1.39	0.163	-.4386375	.0739431
Mitrovica	-.0588085	.1355612	-0.43	0.664	-.3245036	.2068865
Peja	.0475775	.1404381	0.34	0.735	-.2276761	.322831
Prizren	-.2900426	.1391497	-2.08	0.037	-.5627711	-.0173141
Ferizaj	-.1850193	.1546789	-1.20	0.232	-.4881843	.1181457
Gjakova	-.1864254	.1398632	-1.33	0.183	-.4605522	.0877015
_cons	.2722738	.3152763	0.86	0.388	-.3456565	.890204
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**Appendix 2. Regression results using the regional unemployment rates instead of region dummies**

Probit regression		Number of obs=		1425		
		Wald chi2(26)		= 198.95		
Prob> chi2		=		0.0000		
Log pseudolikelihood = -865.16665		Pseudo R2		= 0.1171		
-----						
		Robust				
migration		Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
-----+-----						
gender		-.0482681	.0748971	-0.64	0.519	-.1950638 .0985276
Knowlegabl~w		.0350959	.0809609	0.43	0.665	-.1235846 .1937764
otherAW		.0317116	.256772	0.12	0.902	-.4715523 .5349755
Travelledt~U		-.2580206	.280046	-0.92	0.357	-.8069007 .2908594
Dissatisfied		.1700931	.0925923	1.84	0.066	-.0113845 .3515707
OtherLS		-.2221608	.4343041	-0.51	0.609	-1.073381 .6290596
Improved		-.002051	.0820575	-0.02	0.980	-.1628807 .1587787
OtherES		.2851114	.657389	0.43	0.665	-1.003347 1.57357
Neutral		-.720473	.1088457	-6.62	0.000	-.9338067 -.5071393
NotBenefit		-1.185622	.1477313	-8.03	0.000	-1.47517 -.8960743
OtherEUM		.0359383	.2451591	0.15	0.883	-.4445647 .5164414
Age15to24		.1503673	.105707	1.42	0.155	-.0568147 .3575493
Age65over		-.6683954	.1823004	-3.67	0.000	-1.025698 -.3110931
Single		.2553998	.0946212	2.70	0.007	.0699457 .4408539
OtherMS		.0723315	.7684405	0.09	0.925	-1.433784 1.578447
Bad		-.2382467	.1064162	-2.24	0.025	-.4468186 -.0296749

OtherFS	.0072791	.5490384	0.01	0.989	-1.068816	1.083375
IncomeUp~200	.387491	.1055247	3.67	0.000	.1806665	.5943155
Income400a~r	-.1061152	.0939547	-1.13	0.259	-.290263	.0780327
OtherInc	-.1386493	.1886147	-0.74	0.462	-.5083272	.2310287
Primaryand~s	.0857666	.1108344	0.77	0.439	-.1314649	.3029981
Tertiary	.0552633	.0874707	0.63	0.528	-.1161761	.2267027
Unemployed	.1640752	.0978028	1.68	0.093	-.0276147	.355765
Student	.0383103	.1242256	0.31	0.758	-.2051675	.281788
OtherOccu	-.185826	.1151601	-1.61	0.107	-.4115357	.0398837
regionalUn~p	.0052604	.0023049	2.28	0.022	.0007429	.0097779
_cons	-.0032863	.3043303	-0.01	0.991	-.5997628	.5931902

## Appendix III. Regression results of 2013 study

Variables	Probit Model		Marginal Effects	
	Coefficients	Robust Standard Errors	Coefficients	Standard error
Mitrovica	.3026**	.1226	.1146**	.0476
Prizreni	-.4922***	.1227	-.1641***	.0363
Peja	-.5806***	.1280	-.1883***	.0353
Ferizaj	-.4044***	.1340	-.1359***	.0405
Gjakova	-.3643**	.1836	-.1223**	.0553
Gjilani	-.1725	.1308	-.0613	.0450
Urbanrural	-.1287*	.0744	-.0472*	.0273
Knowveryk	-.2721***	.0857	-.0977***	.0300
Other	-.1318	.3206	-.0468	.1102
Travelled~5y	.0650	.1052	.0240	.0391
Dissatisfied	.2571**	.1130	.0967**	.0435
Other0	.1088	.2955	.0406	.1123
Notimproved	-5.528***	.5125	-.9841***	.0097
Improved	-5.216***	.5223	-.9887***	.0084
Neutral	-.2648***	.0916	-.0937***	.0312
Wouldnot	-1.083***	.1639	-.2998***	.0290
Other2	-.1482	.1654	-.0526	.0567
Gender	.2053**	.0800	.0747**	.0289
Age15to24	.2005*	.1148	.0745*	.0432
Age65over	-.4519**	.1888	-.1484***	.0539
Single	.1448	.0982	.0532	.0362
Other3	.4769	.7879	.1855	.3137
Badfinancsit	.0855	.1212	.0316	.0453
Other4	.1256	.4386	.0470	.1675
Incomeup~200	.2914***	.1041	.1095***	.0400



Income400o~r	-.2771***	.1008	-.0973***	.0338
Other5	-.5557**	.2228	-.1762***	.0580
Primaryles~n	-.1480	.1138	-.0530	.0398
Tertiary	-.0441	.0894	-.0160	.0324
Refuse	.2976	.4795	.1141	.1898
Unemployed	.2780**	.1167	.1052**	.0453
Student	-.0186	.1251	-.0068	.0455
Other6	-.0296	.1218	-.0108	.0442
Cons	5.267***	.5431		
The model predicts correctly 70.36% of the cases				

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## **Policy Analysis**

Policy Analysis in general is a policy advice paper which particularly aims to influence the key means through which policy decisions are made in both local and central levels of government. The purpose of Policy Analysis is to address, more in-depth, a particular problem, to examine the arguments related to a concerned policy, and to analyze the implementation of the policy. Through Policy Analysis, Group for Legal and Political studies seeks to stimulate wider comprehensive debate on the given issue via presenting informed policy-relevant choices and recommendations to the key stakeholders and parties of interest.