



# Engaging the Diaspora development – the case of Albania

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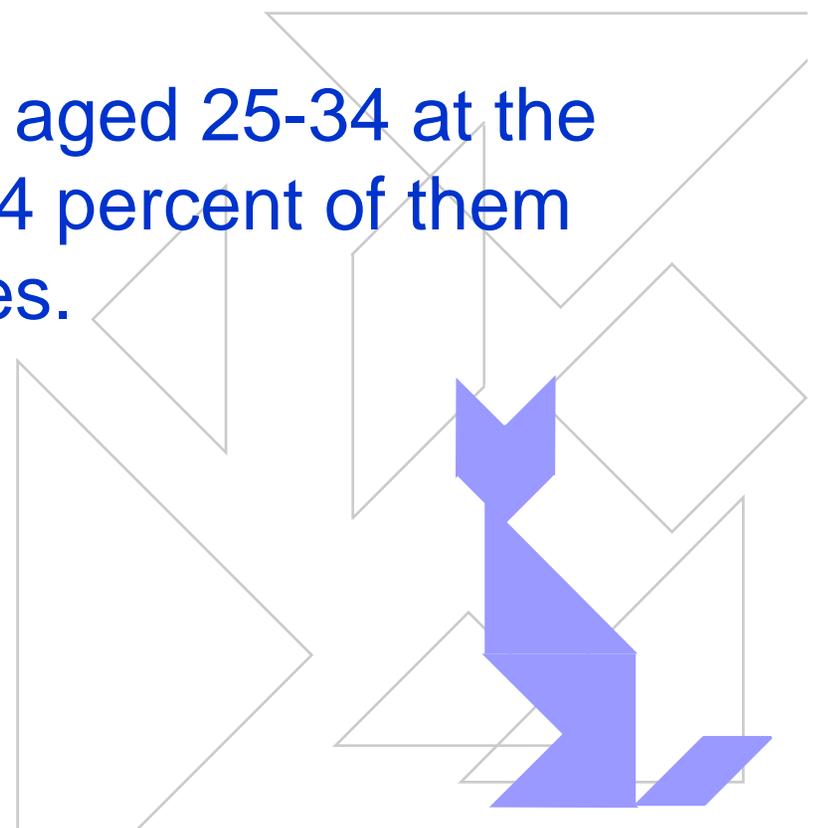
# Albanian migration

- High rate of migration during the 90s (one of the highest in the world)
- One out of five Albanians emigrated between 1990 and 2001
- Greece, Italy, Germany, UK, USA, Canada
- Diverse migration in terms of age, skills and socio-economic status (poverty, despair, lack of opportunities, crumbling state, lack of law and order).



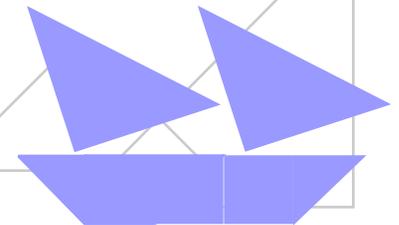
# Brain Drain

- ◆ 1991–2005, more than 50 percent of university lecturers and researchers emigrated from Albania.
- ◆ 47.3 percent of them were aged 25-34 at the moment of emigration, 71.4 percent of them emigrated with their families.



# Brain Waste

- ◆ Surveys suggest that as many as 60 percent of Albanian intellectuals abroad are not working in their profession.
- ◆ The brain drain from Albania has strong features of “brain waste”
- ◆ Considerable and more importantly irreversible loss for the country.



# Brain Drain continues

- ◆ 2,000 to 4,000 Albanian students leave annually to attend universities abroad.
- ◆ 25,000 students enrolled in universities abroad
- ◆ Much higher figures if we take into account family emigration

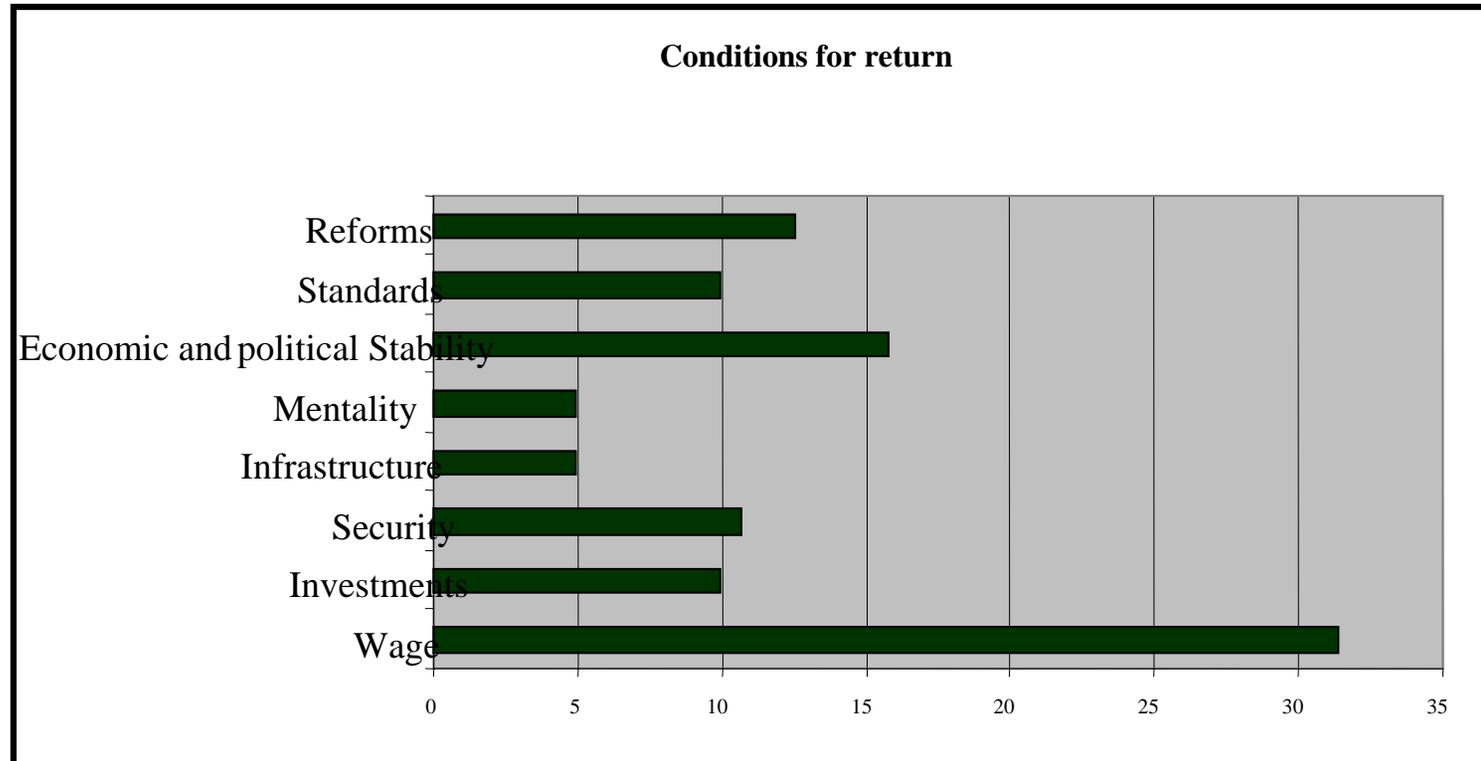




# Diaspora Resources

- ◆ Economic capital: Financial remittances to households, monetary contributions to special projects or funds, direct spending on specialized exports or tourism
- ◆ Human capital: Skills, know-how, expertise and knowledge;
- ◆ Social capital: social networks, transnational ties between expatriates and the country of origin.

# Necessary conditions for return





# Relationship-building

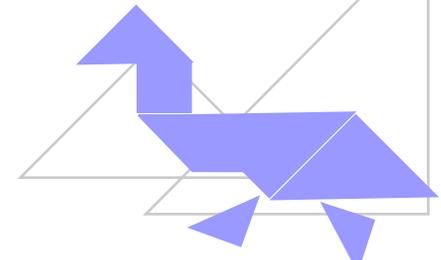
- ◆ Political will
- ◆ Reliable links with Albanians abroad.
- ◆ Identification of skilled professionals,
- ◆ Establishment of trust and sense of common purpose.





# UNDP Brain Gain Programme

- ◆ National Human Development Report on economic and social security and migration (2000)
- ◆ Remittances study (2003)
- ◆ Diaspora study – Columbia University (2004)
- ◆ Close cooperation with OSI/Soros, IOM



# Target Groups

## Qualified Albanians:

- ◆ Open to permanent return
- ◆ Cannot return but are interested to contribute in one way or another
- ◆ Students





# Programme Components

- ◆ The Policy Framework
- ◆ Diaspora Database and website-matching supply and demand
- ◆ Recruitment
- ◆ Support to the new academic institutions



# Human Capital

- ◆ Identify and Bring Together Albanian Students
- ◆ Technical assistance for crucial areas of reform
- ◆ Create an enabling legal and regulatory environment for the return and employment of overseas graduates in the civil service



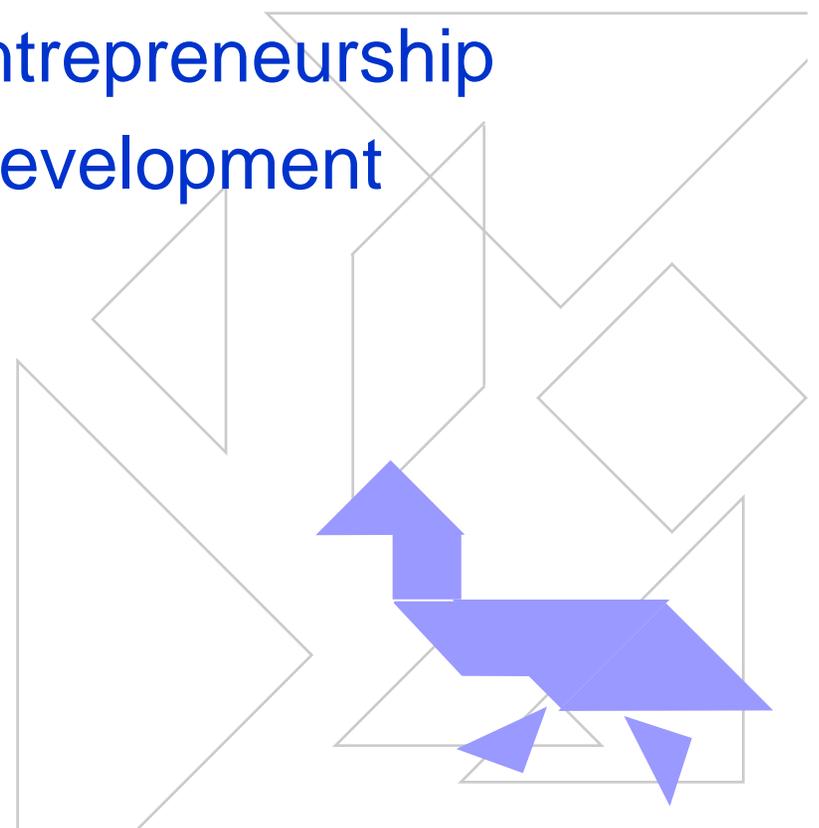
# Capacity Building

- ◆ Academic and research knowledge transfer
- ◆ Virtual transfer of knowledge and expertise  
Sponsor central and local government,
- ◆ Private Sector and Civil Society internships

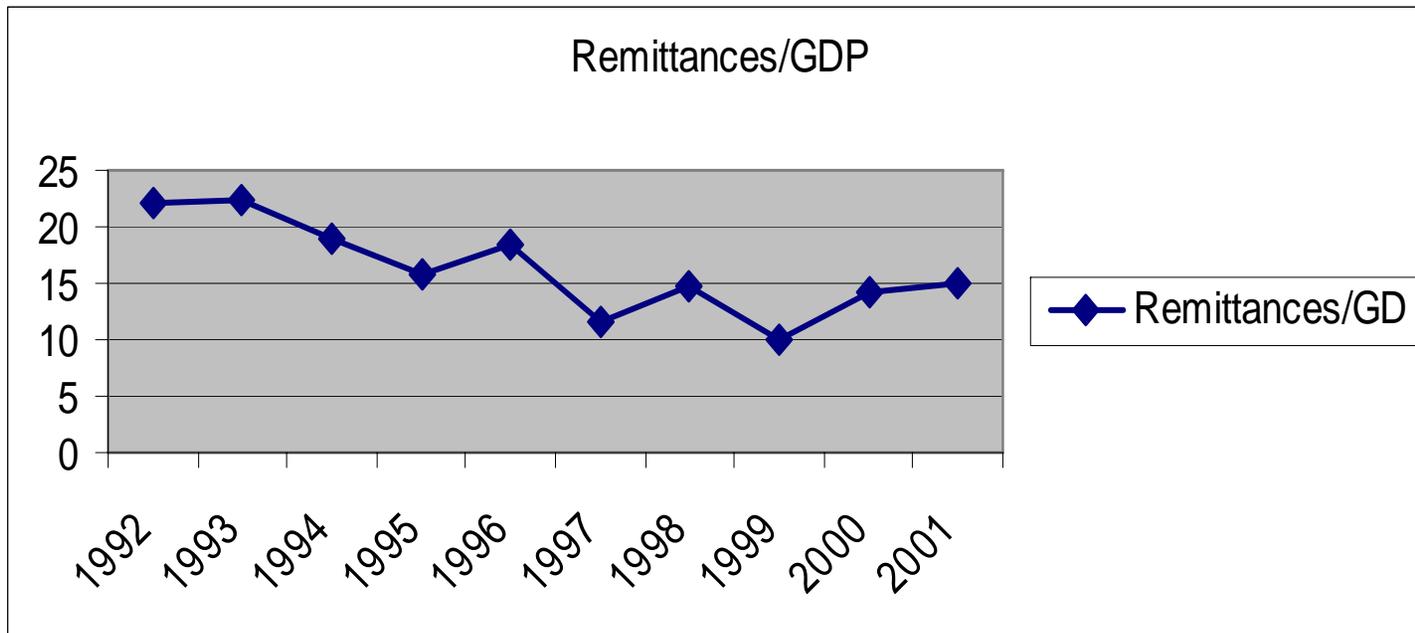


# Private Sector

- ◆ Investment in the Country of Origin
- ◆ Returning Migrants and Entrepreneurship
- ◆ Channel Remittances to Development



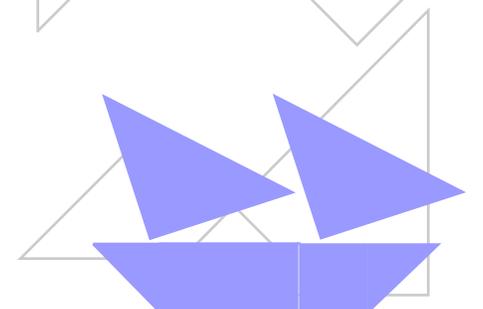
# Importance of Remittances





# Challenges Ahead

- ◆ Initial phase
- ◆ Best practices and lessons learned from other UNDP interventions
- ◆ Definition of incentives – salary top ups versus alternative incentives (allocation expenses, additional benefits in cooperation with the government and private sector)





# Thank you

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