MAPPING AND PROFILING OF ALBANIAN DIASPORA

AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY IN 5 ITALIAN REGIONS
OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM

AGENZIA ITALIANA PER LA COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO

IOM UN MIGRATION

This publication is developed in the framework of the IOM Albania programme "Engage the Albanian Diaspora to the Social and Economic Development of Albania", with funding from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and operational involvement of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) in Albania. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

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The collection of questionnaires was carried out by Albanian Diaspora associations: Integra Onlus for Lazio and Lombardy, URA for Piedmont, RIDAI for Tuscany, and Edita Fino coordinating the work for Emilia Romagna.

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Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale CeSPI

REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
KËSHILLI I MINISTRAVE
MINISTRI I SHTETIT PËR DIASPORËN

REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
MINISTRIA E FINANCAVE DHE EKONOMISË

REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
MINISTRIA PËR EVROPËN DHE PUNËT E JASHTME

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report was elaborated by CeSPI within the context of the four-year Programme "Engage the Albanian Diaspora to the Social and Economic Development of Albania" (2018–2021), funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, and implemented by IOM, in cooperation with the State Minister for Diaspora (SMD),[1] the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEFA), the Ministry of Finances and Economy (MFE) and other line ministries as appropriate, and in close coordination with the Italian Embassy in Tirana and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

CeSPI's research provides a comprehensive updated picture of economic and social trends of Albania's diaspora community in five regions of Italy (Lombardy, Piedmont, Tuscany, Emilia-Romagna and Lazio), and an overview of the situation in the Albanian diaspora communities in France and Belgium.

It should be mentioned that the main goal of the research is not to make a comparison between Albanian Diaspora communities in Italy, France, and Belgium, but rather to provide an analysis on the driving factor, which has stimulated the migration in these countries. Meanwhile considering that the Albanian Diaspora in Italy is amongst the largest Diaspora abroad, the research is mainly focused on the different patterns of communities in the main five regions of Italy.

Moreover, it provides a profiling of Albanian citizens residing in Italy, who have declared an interest in investing in Albania, in order to offer an instrument aimed at strengthening the role of the diaspora for the development of Albania. In Italy, the methodology included a survey and focus groups realized in the period of June to December 2019 in five Regions (Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, Piedmont and Lazio) and across four sectors: the agribusiness sector (profiles related to agro-food and agro-tourism); the Social Enterprises sector (profiles related to social health services); the Cultural Preservation and Heritage sector (profiles related to archaeological and cultural sites); and other sectors (Potential Investors). Overall, 631 questionnaires were collected, by five regional organizations/key reference persons, who organized local teams and also organized regional focus groups, namely Integra Onlus for Lazio and Lombardy, Associazione URA for Piedmont, Associazione RIDAI for Tuscany, and Mrs Edita Fino coordinating the work for Emilia-Romagna.

The methodology also for this research included literature review and secondary sources collected in the first phase of the research (by April 2019) and additional in-depth qualitative interviews (April 2019–January 2020). For France and Belgium, the pilot study was based on desk analysis, qualitative interviews and online questionnaires filled in remotely (43 questionnaires were collected).

The aim of the present research is to better understand the characteristics of the Albanian diaspora in the three countries, investigating plans and expectations of migrating Albanian citizens with particular interest to a possible direct or indirect contribution and investment. Diaspora and diaspora networks are indeed considered key possible actors to economic and financial contribution to the country of origin, besides the help they grant through family remittances. More particularly, they are recognized for their more trusted and lasting relationships with domestic actors, being able to merge self-economic and solidarity motivation to invest in the country of origin and also be able to mobilize larger networks and forms for capitals and resources. Based on these assumptions, the research had been designed to verify and analyse the extent and the conditions in which could the Albania diaspora abroad be a relevant economic player benefiting the development and investment policies in Albania.

The overall study made a great effort to profile the Albanian diaspora, collecting a large set of data on the demographic and sociological traits, its economic and professional profile and its relationship with the country of origin, including the likely present/future interest or past experience in investing in or contributing to the Homeland.

1 State Minister for Diaspora stopped its functions in September 2021.

FINDINGS FROM THE RESEARCH IN ITALY

BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH

The desk analysis on the Albanian diaspora in Italy, based on reports, academic articles as well as statistical official sources, is presented in Chapter II.

Italy has served as a country of destination for Albanian diaspora since ancient times, the most notable example being that of the Arbëresh – Italian - Albanian communities mostly located in Southern Italy. The "new diaspora" – which is the main target of this research – dates back at the massive migration flows from Albania to Italy taking place during the 1990s, following the collapse of the totalitarian Albanian regime.

According to ISTAT (Italian National Institute of Statistics), in 2019 (1 January), Italy was home to 441,027 Albanian residents. They represent 8.4 per cent of the entire foreign residents in the country. Albanian population is concentrated mainly in Northern and Central regions, with a substantially balanced gender distribution. A decreasing number of Albanian citizens in many Italian regions can be reported in recent years. This is explained by the significant number of members of the Albanian community receiving Italian citizenship in recent years. According to the Italian Institute of Statistics, in 2018 alone, 21,841 Albanians obtained Italian citizenship (and more than 27,000 in 2017). However, flows from Albania to Italy are still very dynamic.

According to the reports published by the Italian Ministry of Labour in 2018[2] and 2019[3] the main features of the Albanian community in the labour market in Italy include: a higher level of unemployment and inactivity if compared with the average of other foreign communities, an unbalanced gender distribution in the labour market, a medium-low level of education, a strong concentration in the industrial sector (and in particular in the construction sector), strong prevalence of specialized manual work; higher salaries if compared to other non-EU communities, and positive variation of contracts between 2016 and 2017.

Albanian entrepreneurship in Italy represents a growing phenomenon. According to Unioncamere, at the end of 2018 (31 December), 32,383 enterprises with Albanian ownership were operating in Italy. Albanian community is ranked the third in Italy for entrepreneurship on the overall non-EU population. Moreover, an analysis of the evolution of Albanian entrepreneurship in Italy from a long-term perspective shows how entrepreneurship has grown constantly in the last decades. The majority of companies are run by men and are in the construction sector; in terms of geographical distribution, data show that these enterprises are widely distributed in the Italian territory.

In order to provide a general picture of the Albanian diaspora in Italy, the research has analysed the number of Albanian associations. Moreover, it has analysed financial inclusion, as a key instrument in encouraging and accelerating the integration process and the participation of immigrants in all aspects of the Italian life. Building positive relationships with financial intermediaries helps immigrants in a number of different spheres: finding work, buying a home, starting a savings plan or setting up a business. Based on original data from the "National Observatory for the Financial Inclusion of Third Country Nationals in Italy",[4] the research reports that the relationship between immigrants and banks has improved markedly over the last few years, although there is still room for further improvement. The research has also analysed financial inclusion in Albania: by comparing the situation in Italy with the overall financial inclusion of Albanians in their home country. The results show that financial inclusion in Albania is significantly lower than the average in the Eurozone, but there is an overall positive trend. Data also show a significant gap

2 www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/studi-e-statistiche/Documents/Rapporti%20annuali%20sulle%20comunit%C3%A0%20migranti%20%20Italia%0-%20anno%202017/Albania-Report-2017.pdf.

3 www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/studi-e-statistiche/Documents/Rapporti%20annuali%20sulle%20comunit%C3%A0%20migranti%20in%20Italia%20-%20anno%202018/Albania-rapporto-2018.pdf.

4 www.migrantiefinanza.it.

between the financial inclusion of men compared with women. Limited access to bank accounts is also reflected in a limited number of debit or credit card holders, as well as in a limited use of debit or credit cards for payments. The percentage of those that have saved money in the past year is also low in Albania, and a very small percentage of these savings are deposited in a bank account. Remittances were reported of being received by 21 per cent of the Albanian population in 2017. In 54 per cent of cases, remittances were received in cash, by either family members or friends. However, through formal channels, in 2018 Albania received from Italy almost EUR 137 million (+ 7% in 2017). Remittances are thus still a very relevant instrument (financially) connecting the two countries.

EVIDENCE FROM THE SURVEY

The data collected in 2019 through the 631 questionnaires are presented and discussed with a cross-regional and cross-sector analysis (in Chapter III) and in five Regional Chapters (from Chapter V to Chapter IX), offering an in-depth analysis of results for each region (Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Lombardy, Piedmont, Tuscany). Moreover, Chapter X presents a detailed analysis of the 215 respondents who expressed an interest in investing in Albania in the next future. The attempt is to profile the "investment candidate", to be targeted by any campaign aimed at attracting diaspora's investments in Albania.

Overall, the analysis conducted in this research offers new perspectives on the professional profile of Albanian citizens in Italy, with respect to the picture emerging from the desk analysis. Overall, the sample is made up of 631 respondents, mainly male, with the gender distribution not being even per sector and per region. The majority of the sample (98.57%) was born in Albania, with a prevalence of respondents born in Tirana, Shkodra, and Durres. Most of the respondents are between 30–39 years old. Almost the entire sample is made up of respondents with Albanian citizenship at birth. Today, around 50 per cent of the sample have Italian citizenship, thus showing an accomplished integration process. In terms of marital status, the majority of the sample (63.41%) is married/cohabiting, with the partner most frequently being an Albanian, but Italian partners are well reported. In terms of legal and administrative status, on average, the majority of respondents in all the regions covered by the present research declared dual citizenship (52.74%), followed by a Residence Card or Long-Term EC Permit. This confirms the picture of a well-integrated and stable community. With respect to the reason for choosing the area of living in Italy, the presence of friends/relatives is mentioned as the main reason.

The sample is predominantly highly skilled, with more than 60 per cent holding at least a Bachelor's degree. These highly skilled professionals are particularly concentrated in the Cultural and Social Enterprises sectors. A significant number (56.10%) of these professionals have obtained their highest degrees in Italy. Most of the respondents (36.77%) are employed permanently (full-time); there is, however, an interesting percentage of self-employed workers (17.59%) or business owners (11.41%) with some differences across regions and sectors. The vast majority (98.91%) of these business owners have their centre of affairs in Italy; when they have employees, they are usually Albanian origin (62.72%), but also Italian (19.01%) or other nationalities (18.27%).

Generally speaking, the average income of the sample is in line with or higher than the Italian national average (which is EUR 20,670 for individual income in 2018 and EUR 39,595 for family income in 2017).

This trend is coherent with the above-mentioned educational characteristics of the sample and with their working status. Most part of the household income of respondents stays in Italy, either spent as living expenses, or as savings. The percentage of remittances sent to Albania is quite low (13%), with some differences per region and sector, as analysed in the regional chapters. Around half the respondents of the sample own a house, mainly in Italy. Also, in terms of plans for the future, the percentage of respondents that are thinking to buy a house in Italy is higher than those planning to buying a house in Albania (the detailed figures can be found in the section: 3.3.2. Remittances and saving behaviour).

Of the 33.12 per cent of the respondents having properties in Albania, most of them come from the agribusiness sector and Potential Investors' group.

Overall, the sample seems not to have suffered much from the economic crisis of the last 10 years, or the negative effects of the crisis were compensated by growing stability and integration in Italy. Indeed, the general sense among respondents is that their situation today is better than ten years ago, in terms of income, working status, social life, and amount of savings (for more detailed elements see Chapter 3.4).

With respect to the relationship with Albania, most of the respondents in all the considered sectors report that they do not have an interest in moving to another country. This answer was prevalent in particular among agribusiness and Potential Investors' groups that present the highest number of entrepreneurs. Among those planning to move abroad in the next three years, the most represented sector is that of Social Enterprises, while the Cultural Sector the most represented among those thinking they might consider moving over the next three years.

At the same time, the large majority of respondents in all sectors and regions report that they think it is important for them to know what is happening in Albania, and they get informed about the new developments mainly through internet and social media. Family and personal linkages with Albania seem to be quite strong in all the considered regions, with Albanian residents in Italy tending to return to and visit Albania quite often. More than 80 per cent of the respondents report of not enrolling in any formal or informal Albanian association abroad, supporting the idea that associations are not particularly strong in this specific community.

The majority of respondents strongly agree with the fact that, with their visits and exchange in Albania, they transfer ideas, information, and capital to their families and friends. Moreover, most of the respondents reported they inform friends and acquaintances about their visits to Albania.

A portion of the respondents (22.82%) report that they are also interested in increasing their business relations and contacts in Albania. From this point of view, the most interested are those falling part of the Potential Investors' Group, followed by the Cultural and Social Sectors. A smaller percentage (12.34%) of respondents reports it is interested in moving the centre of their business elsewhere; this answer was particularly prevalent in the Cultural Sector. Very few respondents are interested in moving permanently to Albania, or moving their business activity there. Research shows that the main reason for this attitude is to be found in the good level of integration reached in Italy and in a perceived better quality of life with respect to Albania. Moreover, many respondents reported a low level of trust in their country of origin and its development opportunities.

At the same time, the majority of respondents expressed some interest in contributing to the future of Albania. Considering different sectors, the more interested are the Cultural and Social Sectors, followed by Potential Investors. Agribusiness employees confirm to be the least interested in Albania, in relative terms.

When asked about their interest and availability in participating more concretely in activities to support the development of Albania (in terms of "virtual assignments"), a smaller percentage answered "yes" (around 47%). However, also in this case, most of the respondents confirmed a stronger interest in the Cultural and Social Sectors compared to other sectors.

Asked about the interest to invest in Albania in the future in their own vocational sector, around 34 per cent confirmed this interest. The respondents report that they are mostly interested in the Cultural Sector and Potential Investors Group. A lower interest was reported in the field of agribusiness.

The in-depth analysis of these investment candidates, presented in Chapter X, shows that, in terms of sub-sectors, the respondents are most interested in the categories of "Architect/Cultural heritage restorer/ Designer" (within the cultural sector group), followed by "Coffee shop/Restaurants/Pastry Shop/Bakery" (within the Potential Investors group) and Social Health Workers (within the Social Enterprises group). Considering the regions of residency, the most of positive answers were collected in Lazio, followed by Lombardy, Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna, while residents in Piedmont are apparently the least interested in investing in Albania. In terms of gender, male respondents are more interested in investing than women respondents, with significant differences among sectors. The majority of respondents interested in investing is between 30–39 years old.

Overall, the main drivers for investment in Albania are identified in the following: tax incentives; legal and administrative support to investors; direct subsidies and benefits for investors; public investment in training and education; reduction of burden and cost of bureaucracy; provision of services; and low interest loans.

The large majority of those who declared they are not interested in potential investments in Albania mentioned that they are simply not interested to invest. Other problems/barriers identified also in for those having the potential of investing are similar to those experienced by who have actually made the investments, and in particular: bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy; unfavourable business environment; deficiencies in quality, efficiency, and transparency of the Public Administration.

Overall, 13.50 per cent of the sample, on average, made attempts to expand or move their professional activity in Albania, with some differences per sector. The five principle obstacles that have been mentioned are the following: deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency of the Public Administration; lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors; unfavourable business environment; bureaucratic effort/cost of bureaucracy; lack of management capacities.

EVIDENCE FROM THE FOCUS GROUPS

Five Focus Groups were conducted (in Rome, Milan, Florence, Bologna, and Novara) between 2019 and 2020, in order to discuss with Albanian citizens their opinions and perceptions on the development of Albania, and their interest towards their country of origin. The general results of the Focus Groups are presented in Chapter IV, while each regional chapter (from V to IX) includes a sub-section dedicated to the findings from the focus group held in that specific region.

In total, 49 persons (26 women and 23 men) participated within an age range between 23 and 72 years. The group presented very high educational and professional profiles. All participants came to Italy mainly to accomplish their studies. In terms of the relation with the country of origin, generally speaking, Albania is perceived with an emotional, positive and proud sense of origin and belonging. Still, there is some ambivalence for the bitter-sweet sense of nostalgic attachment and disappointment for what Albania is today. Most persons participating in the FGs left Albania 15–25 years ago and besides occasional visits and holidays – they have become more fully integrated in their life in Italy.

Considering the role that the diaspora could play for the economic development of Albania, the direct investments of the diaspora are mainly recognized in entrepreneurial activities that would largely require the migrants' ownership, management and presence in Albania. This could be overall feasible in terms of geographic closeness between Italy and Albania and accessible rapid and easy connections. Nevertheless, very rarely FGs participants mentioned the likelihood condition that running a business in Albania could be granted with an intermittent mobility and that they could be interested/available to leave Italy. None mentioned other ideas or forms of investment excluding the personal business/entrepreneurial activity directly run in Albania. The theme of the return – necessary and functional to forms of investment (via entrepreneurship) in Albania – is in fact described as a long-term perspective (often mentioned in relationship with the future retirement) rather than an option easy at hand, but still dreamed about.

The barriers for the diaspora to contribute to the development of Albania belong to different dimensions. These are referred both to the lack of updated knowledge of Albania today by migrants and their lack of experience as entrepreneurs, but mostly to elements of weakness in the country of origin. Corruption and the lack of meritocracy are among the main recurrent reasons mentioned to explain why doing business in Albania is hard and will keep the diaspora away. These aspects also undermine the trust for the public institutions and the ruling class. In addition, the difficulty to obtain in a clear and simple way the normative/bureaucratic information required for running a business, especially for those that reside abroad, was as well underlined. Local conditions mentioned include poor infrastructures, decreasing population and emigration of talented profiles. Some participants are migrants that tried their fortunes back to Albania, but failed. Most express general ideas based on genuine and positive intentions, but miss in concreteness or in feasibility.

The resources that the diaspora could mobilize to contribute to Albania, besides remittances sent to their families back home, include ideas, skills and competences gained while abroad (social, human, intellectual capitals). Cultural and artistic aspects and ideas are mentioned, too as are the fields related to the professional/work profile of the migrants abroad (University/research, architecture, health, etc.).

EVIDENCE FROM THE QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS

Seven qualitative interviews were conducted with Albanian Diaspora representatives, one for each of the Regions included in this study, plus two additional interviews. The aim of the interviews was to collect opinions and perceptions, during in depth conversations, about the characteristics of the Albanian diaspora, its relation with Albania, limits and constraints to the investment of the diaspora in Albania and opportunities to strengthen its role for the development of the country of origin. A synthesis of the qualitative interviews is presented in Chapter XI.

With respect to the characteristics of the Albanian diaspora, qualitative interviews have highlighted that, although the Italian reaction to the first wave of Albanian migration in the 1990s was of hospitality and solidarity, the situation rapidly changed in the following years, and a strong stigma started to develop towards Albanian citizens in Italy. This situation was particularly hard for Albanians, because of their very different expectations. Today, according to the interviews, Italy is not anymore perceived as an attractive destination. The main reason is to be found in the difficulties experienced by the diaspora that moved to Italy in the 1990s. There will always be some migration flows from Albania to Italy, due to geographical proximity, but generally speaking Albanians today prefer other destinations such as Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States, Canada, Belgium, Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand. The situation is different for second generation immigrants: according to some interviews, in most cases they feel fully Italian, with no strong sense of belonging to Albania. Harnessing this sense of belonging is a crucial aspect in order to enhance the role of diaspora in the development of Albania.

With respect to social interaction and integration, interviews have basically confirmed the peculiarities of Albanian diaspora in Italy, which cannot be considered as a real community, but rather a national group. This relates to the fact that the Albanian Diaspora does not act as a community but is rather perceived as national group of migrants spread across the regions of Italy. While according to some interviewees Albanians are nowadays a fully integrated community, other interviewees have highlighted how this integration is still very fragile. Albanians do not really have social networks in Italy, but still rely in many cases on their relations with family and friends in Albania. The social network of Albanians in Italy is mainly connected to their occupation, hence that if they lose their job, they are often left alone to face the effects of this loss.

With respect to associations, different opinions have been recorded among the different interviewees. One point of view is that Albanian associations in Italy were never strong, because of the already mentioned social stigma and consequent social mimicry of Albanians. According to this point of view, associations are more present nowadays among young Albanians (second generation), are recovering a sense of belonging and pride for their origins. Another, opposite opinion that was recorded, is that associations were more useful and relevant years ago. According to this point of view, second generation Albanians rarely have a strong feeling of belonging with their country of origin; moreover, new media (internet and social networks) have changed deeply the means of communication and organization, and associations are thus less relevant than ever before.

As already mentioned above many Albanians moving to Italy during the 1990s have now acquired Italian citizenship. However, it is a very long process. This means that, in many cases, according to the interviews, Albanians didn't have the chance to take advantage of Italy their qualifications or professional experience acquired in their country of origin. Once they obtained citizenship and were allowed to do so, it was too late for them to start a new professional life.

With respect to the sectors identified for their field of work, according to the interviews:

- agriculture/agritourism is surely an important sector in Albania; there are examples of members of the diaspora investing in this sector in Albania;

- a number of Albanians work in the Social Sector (in particular women), but, usually, in low profile occupations; Social Sector will be growingly important in Albania as the population is aging (as is the Italian one);

- not many Albanians – and not many immigrants, generally speaking, work in the Cultural Heritage Sector. At the same time, there are numerous examples of Albanians who lived in Italy for some time and went back to Albania to run tourism related activities (for example, restaurants).

The interviews reported about a majority of Albanians in Italy with a low level of education. About this issue, the sample of this research has different characteristics. However, interviews have confirmed that there are numerous exceptions, with a large number of graduates and highly skilled professionals. In particular second-generation Albanians are generally highly skilled, and this is considered as one of the main strengths of the Albanian diaspora. With respect to entrepreneurship, interviews highlighted that business owners need to have direct access to clear and updated information. Moreover, they often have problems in accessing credit, because of poor credit history and insolvency of some Albanian enterprises in the past.

According to the interviews, the 2008 economic crisis impacted deeply on Albanians in Italy, in particular, due to their main occupation sectors, hardly hit by the crisis. Again, the sample of this research presents a different picture. However, some interviewees expressed the belief that crisis had a strong impact on gender roles within the Albanian community in Italy. Indeed, many Albanian men have lost their job (because of their sector of employment); not many women lost their jobs though, as they often were occupied in the domestic sector (that has suffered less from the effects of the crisis). As a consequence, in many cases, women found themselves as the main contributors to the family income. Generally speaking, some interviewees expressed the belief that migration was often an opportunity of emancipation for Albanian women.

In terms of their relations with the country of origin, the respondents have confirmed that first generation immigrants from Albania have often a strong relationship with their country of origin. It was highlighted that these older generations are generally speaking more optimistic in respect to younger generations. Some respondents have highlighted the crucial role played by Albanian women in keeping family relations across the two countries. Second generation is considered a crucial potential bridge between Italy and Albania. A strong and common perception among respondents is that in many cases the Albanian diaspora in Italy feels "abandoned" by the Albanian Government, and this does not help to build a positive relationship. From this point of view, many interviewees expressed the belief that a crucial step would be to ensure the voting right for members of the diaspora.

According to the interviews, after the crisis, there was a return flow from Italy to Albania. In many cases, men went back to Albania alone, leaving in Italy their wives and children, who were enrolled in the Italian school system. When a member of the diaspora goes back to Albania, they usually stay in major cities; small centres and villages consequently remain depopulated. The respondents reported several success stories of Albanian citizens who successfully got back to Albania to run their own enterprises, highlighting the added value that is offered by the country to the people that have made experiences abroad. However, other respondents highlighted the difficulties of this process. Others have mentioned numerous cases where the return to Albania was only temporary; after a while, (former) members of the diaspora tend to go back abroad.

Generally speaking, the topic of the European Union was not central in the opinions expressed by the respondents, with some exceptions. Living in an EU country is considered important in particular for the opportunities to access EU funds and markets. The perspective of EU enlargement to Albania is considered crucial for granting a better democratic system to the country and better perspectives for Albanian citizens.

One interview was focused on the situation of the Albanian diaspora in France and Belgium. In France, the first arrivals of the Albanian diaspora date back to the aftermath of the Second World War. In the '60s–'70s, a flow of Albanians, in particular from Kosovo,[5] was registered. Currently, the Albanian diaspora in France is not very significant. Moreover, there is not a concentration of the diaspora in a specific locality. Consequently, according to the respondents we cannot define the diaspora as an Albanian "community". The Albanian diaspora in France is very well integrated. Moreover, there are many Albanian intellectuals. Lately, an important number of asylum seekers entered the country, some of them registered as unaccompanied minors, even though recognition rates for Albanian asylum applicants are low in France. Moreover, in the last 15 years, the number of Albanian students coming from Kosovo[4] has increased. According to the interviews, second/third generation immigrants are very interested in Albanian culture and language.

In Belgium, the presence of the Albanian diaspora dates back to 1956. During the 1960s, many Albanians headed for the United States of America, and Belgium was only one part of that journey. In 1966, the first radio in Albanian started broadcasting in the country; it was an important step to keep the community together. During the 1970s many Albanian associations started to develop in Belgium, mainly guided by second generation Albanians. Albanians in Belgium have always shown a strong pride for their origins. In the 1990s new flows of Albanians arrived in Belgium, as elsewhere in Europe. These new flows started to become more integrated in Belgium, for example by creating many mixed families. According to the respondents, Albanians in Belgium nowadays basically feel European, while keeping at the same time a very strict relationship with their country of origin. However, according to the respondents, they share no real interest in the development of Albania, it is not something that is on the agenda of the diaspora. Many associations have been created in the 2000s, as the likes of cultural associations and not profit associations, with the aim of promoting gender equality and human rights.

In terms of recommendations and proposals, as already mentioned, the respondents basically share the opinion that members of the Albanian diaspora feel "abandoned" by the Albanian Government. Consequently, they suggest that the Albanian Government should build initiatives in order to support the diaspora and create a positive relationship with it (for example, the right to vote), so that members of the diaspora will keep close ties with their country of origin. Moreover, interviews have highlighted how there is often no perception of the role that diaspora could play for the development of Albania among members of the diaspora, while this is also an important element to be taken into account. Finally, interviews have highlighted how, for a member of the diaspora, there are a number of practical issues that have to be faced when deciding to go back to their home country. Offering of practical support as well as ad hoc training may be very effective incentives.

Moreover, a shared opinion is that the economic situation of Albanians in Italy is generally not very favorable. There are, however, some entrepreneurs that might be interested in investing in Albania. With respect to the sectors identified in the context of this present study, some of the respondents believe that those are certainly relevant sectors for the development of Albania, but that there are not so many interesting profiles in the diaspora. Others believe that, while agriculture deserves specific investments (and, where possible, support in the form of concessions or loans), other identified sectors (Social Services and Culture) are too small and parcelled, while Albania should invest in big enterprises in order to create employment opportunities and development.

5 References to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

Second generation Albanians represent a specific group. As already mentioned, their perception of Albania is often different from the one of their parents, therefore a specific approach needs to be applied in their case. To make this happen, the Government could, for example, support the dissemination of culture and language among this second generation of Albanians, not leaving this task to families only. From this point of view and more generally with the aim of attracting diaspora investments, some respondents have highlighted the potentially crucial role that can be played by associations.

Another interesting category that was mentioned during the interviews is that of retired Albanians, which is indeed the position of many Albanians that have moved to Italy, France, Belgium in the 1990s. A strategy for attracting these retired people may prove to be successful and, in some cases, they could also be interested in starting an activity in Albania based on the professional experience they have acquired abroad.

Finally, the interviews highlighted that different forms of investments and in general economic returns are offered to Albania by the Albanian diaspora. All of these should be considered, and not only direct investments in properties or firms. For example, an important source of revenue is offered by people that travel to Albania to visit their home country. Government could consider taking initiatives in this respect.

FINDINGS FROM THE RESEARCH IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

In France, flows of Albanians during the 1990s (secondary to those towards Italy and Greece) started with the end of the Communist era, therefore migrants happen to more likely be political refugees. France had been traditionally chosen especially by intellectuals and highly professional individuals, also due to its open policy to welcome foreign intellectuals asking for asylum. Between the first and second World War it is estimated that 1,200/1,500 Albanians lived in France. The presence of Albanians in France today is small in absolute terms (less than 10,000 persons), but there is still an outmigration wave from Albania (Wilmart, 2010).

In Belgium, Albanians are reported first from 1956, mainly as political refugees. In the 1960s/1970s/1980s more Albanians arrived due to economic reasons. During the 1990s migrants were coming from Albanian for political reasons, as a reaction to the end of the communist regime. Albanians in Belgium today work mainly in the construction sector and in the hospitality/food and beverage sector. However, for individuals with a high level of education (University degree), it is likely possible for them to shade away from low skilled occupations.

All in all, ethnic Albanians (descendants) in Belgium are commonly considered to be around 50,000/60,000. If we consider more strictly the people of Albanian nationality only, the number of Albanians in Belgium is around 10,000 persons. Migrants who arrived after the 1990s appeared interested to fully integrate within a European identity (Pew Research Centre, 2017).[6]

EVIDENCE FROM THE SURVEY

In the case of France and Belgium, the information was collected through an online questionnaire, which was more limited when compared to the work done in Italy. The questionnaire circulated among ethnic, cultural and student groups, employing different social media and exploiting transnational connections of the

6 www.pewglobal.org/2018/02/28/global-migrant-stocks/?country=BE&date=2017.

Italian questionnaire respondents, where possible. This is a pilot study as it did not imply any statistical or sector based sampling and it was coordinated from remote, therefore without the intermediation of local enumerators.

The survey among Albanian residents in France and Belgium took place in 2019 (from June to November). In total, 43 anonymous questionnaires had been filled out and submitted. The survey was conducted with 20 respondents from Belgium and 23 from France, with more than half aged between 30 and 40. Most of them have a good education level and are working, but students are as well present among the respondents.

Given the main scope of the survey, namely to verify the conditions and interest of the diaspora towards the country of origin, we can say that among the group of respondents in France and Belgium, we find elements of connection with the country of origin (in terms of keeping in contact with the family still there, keeping informed on what happens in Albania and maintaining moderately frequent visits every couple of years, etc.). Nevertheless, the explicit interest to possibly invest in Albania is not as strong, with the majority of respondents reporting that they intend to live and keep their current businesses in France or Belgium. Albania seems not to be contemplated neither in terms of possibility to expand the business in the present, nor in a general perspective for the future (71% of respondents explained they never invested in Albanian before, because they are not interested). Thirty-nine per cent of respondents report that they could consider a general interest to invest in Albania, butalmost the entire target group report they have not had previous investment experiences or concrete future plans to invest in their country of origin. Interest or availability to be engaged with a virtual/ temporary work assignment is not evident in a large portion of respondents (76.7%).

The respondents of our survey in France and Belgium though (especially compared to the Italian survey results) indicate a higher behaviour of saving and a tendency to remit a little more than the Italians, potentially implying the presence of better financial resources to possibly be mobilized. For sure, respondents can mobilize friends to visit Albania for tourism (as they have already done in the past) and some respondents consider their skills could be actually transferred and used in Albania. Finally, sometimes it seems that the idea of investment and contribution in Albania is in a way confused or mistaken with solidarity and philanthropy support.

Conclusions and recommendations

Overall, the study allowed a general profiling of the Albanian diaspora in Italy, France and Belgium. First of all, in the case of Italy, the respondents of the survey (631 persons) belonging to the Albanian diaspora in the relevant sectors and regions in Italy are mainly high skilled professionals, mostly with a stable economic and professional situation. In France and Belgium, the small sample (43 persons: 20 respondents from Belgium and 23 from France) has a different composition, with highly and medium skilled workers and students.

In terms of integration, the survey shows two types of diaspora members. In Italy, the first group (the majority) are well integrated migrants, with a strong feeling of belonging to the country of destination. The second (smaller) group of respondents are people who are not very satisfied with their lives in Italy today, therefore they are more likely considering moving abroad (not necessarily to Albania, but also to other countries).

Generally speaking, and in contrast with the general trend emerging from the background analysis, respondents from our sample seem not to have suffered much from the economic crisis of the last 10 years, or, for them, the negative effects of the crisis were compensated by a growing stability and integration in their new country of residence.

In Italy, there is a strong Albanian entrepreneurship, constantly growing in the last decades. The enterprises generally present similar characteristics throughout the national territory, with micro and small sized enterprises and a high level of specialization.

For the Albanian diaspora in Italy, the physical and cultural proximity to Albania is an added value to both maintain strong transnational relationships, but also consider a possible business/investment. According to the literature and qualitative interviews, the Albanian diaspora, in particular in Italy and France, is not a homogeneous community, but features smaller and different groups, or just individuals.

Few respondents seem aware of the role that the diaspora can play for the development of Albania. Awareness-raising initiatives could be of help. Life in Italy, France, Belgium is compared to Albania, with the life in the host countries generally being having prevalence due to the quality of life, economic conditions and social services. These accomplished conditions represent an obstacle when considering the possibility to move to Albania.

At the same time, the large majority of respondents in all the considered sectors and regions considers important to be aware of what is happening in Albania, getting informed mainly through internet and social media. Family and personal linkages with Albania seem to be quite strong. Also, the majority of respondents in all the considered sectors and regions declared to be interested in contributing to the future of Albania, eventually also through virtual assignments. This percentage is much stronger in Italy than in France and Belgium. More than 80 per cent of the sample report of not being enrolled in any formal or informal Albanian associations abroad, confirming the idea that associations are not particularly widespread or strong in that specific community.

In terms of conditions for possible investments, in general term, the longer migrants spent their time and built their life out of Albania, the more they pave a stable existence and perspective in Italy/France/Belgium. This generally affects the possibility to have either time, occasions, interests, and/or monetary resources to invest in Albania. Considering the role that the diaspora could play for the economic development of Albania, the direct investments of the diaspora are mainly recognized in entrepreneurial activities that would largely require migrants' ownership, management and presence in Albania. This could be overall feasible in terms of geographic closeness between Italy and Albania and accessible rapid and easy connections. However, very rarely, our respondents mentioned the likelihood that running a business in Albania could be accompanied with an intermittent mobility and that they could be interested and available to leave Italy. Nevertheless, many respondents in Italy expressed an interest in contributing to the future of Albania, and in more limited, but still significant cases, an interest in being involved in virtual assignment for the development of their country of origin (based of clear conditions and remuneration policies). In many cases, in Italy, as well as in France and Belgium, this interest in Albania translates in an availability to take part in solidarity or philanthropy initiatives.

The theme of the return, necessary and functional to forms of investment (via entrepreneurship) in Albania, is described as a long term perspective (often mentioned in relationship with the future retirement) than an option easy at hand, but still dreamed about. Not many respondents are in fact interested in going back to Albania. However, there are exceptions. In particular two groups of people expressed this interest: older people, who would like to go back to Albania for their retirement and some younger people who would like to go back to Albania (or go abroad) for opportunities they cannot find in Italy.

The majority of respondents see their future in Italy and see Italy as their business or professional domicile. This is particularly true in the agribusiness sector. A number of respondents are also interested in fostering their business relations and contacts with Albania or in making investments in Albania. The most interested respondents under this category are from the Potential Investors' group and the cultural sector, followed by the social sector.

In terms of sectors, even if it is a relatively low percentage in absolute terms, the most interested ones in a possible return are apparently those interested in the cultural preservation sector, probably due to potential developments of this sector in Albania, as well as relative precariousness of their working conditions in Italy (respondents from this sector often mentioned a more unstable professional status compared to other sectors). The least interested group are the respondents active in agribusiness, despite the opportunities of development of this sector in Albania (and the fact that they are the first sector in terms of owning properties in Albania).

The analysis deriving from the information reflected above in this report leads to some final recommendations for the Government of Albania to engage the diaspora in its development and investment, which can be summarized as follows:

1

Recommendation: In order to stimulate the diaspora to invest in Albania, it is necessary to improve the investment environment in Albania and make it attractive and trustworthy for the diaspora, and all possible investors.

2

Recommendation: In order to stimulate the diaspora to invest in Albania, and more generally to contribute to its development, it is necessary to improve its engagement by improving the knowledge, dialogue and trust relationship between the Albanian Government and its diaspora following its needs, requests and indications.

3

Recommendation. In order to promote investments in Albania and to engage the diaspora for the development of Albania, it is important to consider the diaspora as a highly internally diversified subject, which needs targeted strategies for specific groups, based on their specific needs and interests.

4

Recommendation. When considering its National and Diaspora Investment Strategy, the Government of Albania shall take into consideration the interest expressed by the diaspora, in terms of the sectors or initiatives they are mostly interested into, as well as typology of their involvement for the development of Albania.

Note to the reader

The time span of Mapping and Profiling of Albanian Diaspora research is from June 2019 until April 2020.

As a consequence of this time frame the findings and/or conclusions of this research do not take in the account any potential changes that might be the result of the COVID-19 pandemic situation that followed immediately after the close of this research.

CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTION

1.1. THE ROLE OF DIASPORA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALBANIA

According to Albania's Institute of Statistics,[7] in 2018 (on the 1 January), members of Albanian diaspora are 1,584,137, respectively 828,530 males and 755,607 females. In the same period, the overall population of Albania residing in Albania is 2,870,324 people. Figures show that 35.56 per cent of the Albanian population is made up of migrants .

The potential role of the diaspora for the development of the countries of origin is increasingly recognized as crucial (Wei and Balasubramanyam, 2006), and is particularly strong in the Western Balkans: "Few parts of Europe are more marked by emigration than the Western Balkans (…). While it is true that high levels of emigration cause problems, it is also true that the solution to many of these problems lies within emigration itself. (…) Should Western Balkans leaders seize the opportunity, the future of the region can be a globally connected one" (Vracic, 2019, p. 2).

The role of the Albanian diaspora for the development of Albania is indeed increasingly recognized by policymakers at different levels of governance. This clearly depends on the dimension of the phenomenon, while the role of remittances is a key factor in the social and economic development of Albania. In the mid '90s, Albanian migrants working abroad were sending home remittances estimated between USD 300 million and USD 1 billion per year (Mai and Schwandner-Sievers, 2003). Such transfers are officially estimated by IMF to have reached USD 1 billion in 2005 (Azzarri and Carletto, 2009). In 2014, Albania was included by the World Bank (2016) among the top 10 remittance recipients in the percentage of the GDP (8.6%) as well as among the top 10 remittance senders (1.4%).

Moreover, the potential relevance of Albanian diaspora for the development of the country lies also in the profile of Albanian migrants . According to the migration profile of the Republic of Albania in 2016, Albanian communities abroad consist of five main groups: migrant workers, family members of migrant workers, students, asylum seekers and refugees and unaccompanied minors. Of those, the biggest groups are economic migrants and their families, and students. Moreover, in 2010–2011 Albanian emigration ranked the 15th in the list of the top emigration countries of Tertiary Educated (World Bank, 2016).

7 www.instat.gov.al/al/publikime/librat/2018/diaspora-e-shqipërisë-në-shifra-2018/.

Top destination countries for Albanian migrants include, among others, Italy, France and Belgium (Tab. 1.1.1.).

Tab. 1.1.1.: List of the 10 countries with the highest number of Albanian migrants 2016

No.	State	Albanian Citizens
1	Italy	467,687
2	Greece	354,456
3	United States of America	250,000
4	United Kingdom	50,000
5	Germany	48,538
6	Canada	28,270
7	Australia	25,000
8	Turkey	6,000
9	France	5,588
10	Belgium	5,000

Source: 2016 Migration Profile of the Republic of Albania.[8]

8 mb.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Profili_i_Migracionit_2016_Eng.pdf.

1.2. BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH

The four year programme "Engage the Albanian Diaspora to the Social and Economic Development of Albania" (2018–2021), funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, identified and agreed with the governmental counterparts, provides support to the Government of Albania for enhancing the engagement of the Albanian diaspora in the development of the country, with a specific focus on the communities in Italy, through targeted actions following the areas of strategic relevance identified by the Government of Albania. The programme is implemented by IOM, in cooperation with State Minister for Diaspora (SMD), the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEFA), the Ministry of Finances and Economy (MFE) and other line ministries as relevant, and in close coordination with the Italian Embassy in Tirana and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. The proposed programme activities and outputs are organized around the following three main outcomes:

Outcome 1 Government of Albania implements a comprehensive approach towards diaspora engagement for development in line with the overall policy framework.

Outcome 2 Government of Albania facilitates the engagement of diaspora into institutional strengthening and territorial development through transfer of skills and know how.

Outcome 3 Government of Albania facilitates the engagement of diaspora into country's development through investment.

The research Mapping and profiling of Albanian Diaspora in Italy, France and Belgium aims at contributing to the successful implementation of the Outcome 2 of the Programme, or at facilitating the engagement of the Albanian diaspora in the development of the country of origin through know-how and skills' transfer. Indeed, the mapping and profiling of diaspora contributes to the creation of a repository of the skills and knowledge of the Albanian diaspora.

The project was assigned to CeSPI by IOM Tirana, based on a competitive call for proposals. The mapping exercise consisted of the following:

- mapping and profiling of the Albanian Diaspora in Italy, through field data collection and a survey, with the engagement of Albanian Diaspora and Migrant Associations in Italy, conducted in the following regions: Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, Piedmont and Lazio;

- mapping and profiling of the Albanian diaspora in France and Belgium, through desk research and online interviews of the main Albanian and Migrant Associations in these 2 countries.

CeSPI coordinated the research project, including the Elaboration of the methodology, drafting of the questionnaires and their validation, analysis of primary and secondary sources and generation of research reports.

1.3. THE RESEARCH

CeSPI's research provides a comprehensive and updated picture of the Albanian diaspora in Italy, and a pilot study in France and Belgium. In Italy, the methodology included a survey and focus groups realized between June and December 2019 in five Regions (Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, Piedmont and Lazio) and across four sectors: agribusiness sector (profiles related to agri-food and agritourism); Social Enterprises Sector (profiles related to social health services); Cultural Preservation and Heritage Sector (profiles related to archaeological and cultural sites); other sectors (Potential Investors). Overall, the composition of the dataset is the following:

Tab. 1.3.1.: Composition of the dataset

	Emilia-Romagna	Lazio	Lombardy	Piedmont	Tuscany	Total
1. Agribusiness	32	30	30	30	30	152
2. Social Enterprises	30	30	30	31	32	153
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	31	33	30	32	30	156
4. Potential Investors	30	36	44	30	30	170
Total	123	129	134	123	122	631

Source: Elaboration under Section "Intro, demographic and social issues"; Question No. 1: Employment Sector.

The methodology also included a literature review and secondary sources collected in the first phase of the research (by April 2019) and additional in depth qualitative interviews (April 2019–January 2020; for details, see Annex 5). For France and Belgium, the pilot study was based on desk analysis, a qualitative interview and online questionnaires filled out remotely (43 questionnaires were collected from 20 respondents from Belgium and 23 from France).

The aim of the research is to better understand characteristics of the Albanian diaspora in the three countries, investigating plans and expectations of emigrated Albanian citizens with particular interest to a possible direct or indirect contribution and investment.

Diasporas and diasporas' networks are considered key possible actors to economic and financial contribution to the country of origin; besides the help they grant through family remittances. More particularly, they are recognized for their more trusted and lasting relationships with domestic actors, being able to merge self-economic and solidarity motivation to invest in the country of origin and also being able to mobilize larger networks and forms for capitals and resources.

Based on these assumptions, the research had been designed to verify and analyse to what extent and at what conditions could the Albania diaspora abroad be a relevant economic player to be included in the development and investment policies in Albania.

The overall study made a great effort to profile the Albanian diaspora (collecting a large set of data on the demographic and sociological traits, its economic and professional profile and its relationship with the country of origin, including the likely present/future interest or past experience in investing in or contributing to the homeland).

1.4. STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The research is organized in two parts, the first referring to the Albanian diaspora in Italy and the second to the Albanians in France and Belgium.

The first part starts with an introductory chapter offering the main trends and characteristics on Albanians in Italy (based on literature review and secondary sources) (Chapter II). The research results are structured in a comprehensive Chapter (III), where the whole survey sample (631 persons from five regions in Italy) is analysed according to different transversal dimensions (for instance, gender, work sector, education level, etc.). Chapter IV reports general evidence from the five Focus Groups conducted in the target regions. After that, five Regional Chapters offer a similar structure of analysis for each regional group of respondents and Focus Group (V Emilia-Romagna; VI Lazio, VII Lombardy, VIII Piedmont, IX Tuscany). Chapter X offers an in depth analysis of the respondents (215) reporting of thier interest in investing in Albania, thus attempting to offer a profile of interested subjects. The last part includes evidence (Chapter XI) from qualitative in depth interviews with national and international experts and the list of famous Albanian citizens in Italy (Chapter XII).

The second part of the research offers an introductory Chapter with the main trends and characteristics of the Albanians living in France and Belgium (based on literature review and secondary sources) (Chapter XIII) and the analysis of the survey among Albanians residing in France and Belgium (Chapter XIV).

The last Chapter (XV) presents final recommendations linked to the scope of the research, aiming to verify the conditions to leverage and boost diaspora contributions for the economic development and investments in the country of origin.

CHAPTER II - ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY: TRENDS AND MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

2.1. ALBANIAN MIGRATION TO ITALY: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW[9]

According to ISTAT (Italian National Institute of Statistics), in 2018, Italy is home to 440,465 Albanian residents. They represent 8.6 per cent of the entire foreign residents in the country (5,144,440 persons).

Italy has been a country of destination for the Albanian diaspora since ancient times. The most notable example is that of the Arbëresh, the Italian-Albanian communities mostly located in Southern Italy, in villages across the regions of Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise and Sicily. The communities settled in Southern Italy through different waves of migration between the fourteenth and the eighteenth centuries, fleeing from Albania after the Ottoman invasion of the Balkans. The Arbëresh communities still preserve their own identity and are recognized as specific ethnic minorities in Italy, with their own language, religion, traditions and customs. During the years, research has devoted constant attention to these communities, exploring, in particular, their cultural and linguistic peculiarities. An analysis of the relationship between this old and new diaspora has shown similarities and differences, as well as some social conflict between the two groups (Derhemi, 2003).

The "new diaspora", which is the main target of this research was mainly formed during the large migration flows from Albania to Italy taking place during the 1990s, following the breakdown of the Albania's totalitarian regime (Tab. 2.1.1.). Even at that time, migration flows were not a new phenomenon for Albanians in the XXth century. Previous experiences included movements to other European and non European countries (Turkey, the United States, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom), dating back to the Albanian pre-communist past and including ethnic migratory flows from the former Yugoslavia (Mai and Schwandner-Sievers, 2003). Undoubtedly, however, migration flows of the 1990s reached an unprecedented level and affected the current dimension of the Albanian diaspora.

Following the migration flows of the 1990s, academic research has devoted strong attention to the Albanian diaspora in Italy during the 2000s. A number of thematic books, journals' special issues and academic articles, in Italian as well as in English, have been published in the decade 2000–2010 focused on the Albanian diaspora in Italy, and its features and challenges. The attention in the following decade slightly decreased. This relative lack of updated analysis and information gives further value to the current research, which will provide updated information based on extensive fieldwork.

As widely recognized in the literature (King and Vullnetari, 2009; Pittau and Devole, 2008), although emigration from Albania has been more or less continuous since 1990, three clear peaks can be identified: the first following the collapse of the regime in the early 1990s, when around 1 in 10 Albanians left the country. It is estimated that within two years (1991–1992) around 300,000 had left the country, mainly directed towards Italy and Greece (King, 2003). The second flow followed the collapse of the fraudulent pyramid schemes (fuelled mainly by remittances) in late 1996 and early 1997, that bankrupted almost half of the Albanian population. The third flow happened in 1999, when the crisis in Kosovo[4] pushed half a million refugees into Northern Albania. After those peaks, Albanian migration stabilized and diminished, although still

9 This section is mainly based on secondary sources. Articles and reports are cited throughout the section and included in the final list of references. Table 2 is based on primary sources, and in particular an original Elaboration from official ISTAT Data (the Italian National Institute of Statistics).

very relevant (Gedeshi and King, 2018a). Moreover, it is now directed towards a wider range of destination countries. Incidence of Albanian citizens on the overall non EU citizens in Italy has indeed decreased, from 14.1 per cent in 2010 to 11.6 per cent in 2018 (Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, 2018).

Tab. 2.1.1.: Albanian residents in Italy. Census data 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011 and 31 December 2012, 2013 and 2014 (absolute values and%)

Year	Albanian	Total foreign	Albanian	Total foreign
	Absolute values		%	
1981	n.a.	210,937	….	100.00
1991	10,594	356,159	3.00	100.00
2001	173,064	1,334,889	13.00	100.00
2011	451,437	4,027,627	11.20	100.00
2012	464,962	4,387,721	10.60	100.00
2013	495,709	4,922,085	10.10	100.00
2014	490,483	5,014,437	9.80	100.00

Source: ISTAT.

In 2003, during the Thessaloniki Summit, Albania was included in the list of potential candidate countries for accession to the European Union. Albania was thus included in the pre accession funding scheme of the EU. Albania was awarded the EU Candidate country status on 27 June 2014 by European Council. On 15 October 2019, the EU Council discussed enlargement and the stabilization and association process as regards Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia. Following the discussion, the presidency issued procedural conclusions noting that the Council will discuss the issue after the October European Council. The European Council on 17 and 18 October 2019 decided to revert to the issue of enlargement before the EU-Western Balkans summit in Zagreb in May 2020. On 24 March 2020, the General Affairs Council of the EU (Ministers of EU Affairs) gave a green light to opening of EU accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania through a video conference. However, enlargement perspectives for the Western Balkans are still uncertain.

Research on the topic has shown how Albanian diaspora in the 1990s was mainly motivated by economic reasons, and the idea brewed among the Albanians that migration was the only way out of the chaotic situation of the country (Barjaba and Perrone, 1996). Geographical proximity, as well as the diffused knowledge of the Italian language in Albania, made Italy a particularly attractive destination (Gjergji, 2008). Another important driver , in particular among the educated younger generation, was the quest for self-realization, and freedom (Devole, 2006). In particular in Western, coastal and urban areas of the country, where Italian television signals could be received and decoded, Italy represented an appealing place where to achieve this (Mai, 2001, 2005; Gjergji, 2008; King and Vullnetari, 2009). While during the first peak of Albanian emigration, after the collapse of the communist regime, Albanian emigration affected indifferently all groups of the population, the second and third peak included a specific component, that of the "brain drain", or emigration of highly skilled workers (Memai et al., Bollano and Tahsini, 2008). Between 1990 and 1998, 35.8 per cent of University professors left the country. The University of Tirana alone lost 40 per cent of its professors, 90 per cent of who were under 40 years (ibid.). The reasons for the brain drain are to be found in the weakness and non-independence of the research system in Albania, which drived many talented and skilled workers to move abroad. Moreover, starting from the 2000s, it is possible to observe in some cases a positive correlation between economic situation and propensity to emigrate: who can afford to study abroad leave the country with this aim (ibid.). According to Gedeshi and King (2019) there is a high percentage of Albanian PhD holders and PhD students living abroad (mainly in OECD countries), who maintain close links to Albania, but don't usually foresee return, for perceived economic and political obstacles. Strengthening the links of this diaspora with the country of origin is an important development strategy (Gedeshi and King 2018b).

During the 1990s, Italy was still going through the transformation from an emigration to an immigration country. Moreover, labour market and welfare systems were going through a general process of deregulation and growth of the service sector. These processes translated in an increase of social inequalities, which affected migrants above all (Mai and Schwandner-Sievers, 2003; Pittau and Devole, 2008). The perception of Italy and Western countries as a sort of "promised land" started to change for many Albanians, based on their direct (often hard) experience, even though difficult economic conditions in Albania still represented an important driver (Devole, 2006). Based on qualitative interviews conducted in the context of the project the same situation can be observed today: Italy is no longer seen as a particularly attractive destination, nevertheless (reduced) migration flows do still exist, mainly because of the difficult economic situation in Albania and its geographical and cultural proximity.

The difficulties experienced by the Albanian community are also related with the process of stigmatization and isolation they have suffered for many years in Italy. Many Albanian citizens claimed that integration in Italy was more difficult than in any other European country, due to the negative attitude of Italian citizens as well as complex bureaucracy (Gjergji, 2008). After 2000, however, the community started to be progressively integrated, losing its negative connotation, built on generalizations and stereotypes, in the public debate in Italy. The Albanian case is indeed indicated by many scholars as a parable of integration (Alessandrini, 2008; Devole, 2006; Pittau and Devole, 2008). This change of perception has been explained by scholars based on different variables, including the progressive regularization of Albanian citizens, (Nokaj, 2008), the skills and reliability of Albanian workforce (Alessandrini, 2008), the capacity of Albanian elites in Italy to represent their community, building a bridge between their country of origin and their new settlements (Pittau and Devole, 2008), the capacity of Albanian individuals and families to integrate into Italian society better than many other migrant groups, developing family based private networks of friendship and solidarity and not gathering in (gated) migrant communities (Mai, 2005). This capacity of integration has been considered as a consequence of stigmatization (Romania, 2004), with many Albanians adopted forms of "social mimicry", aimed at looking at Italians instead of Albanians.

According to a research conducted in 2008 on a number of Albanian citizens living in Italy (Gjergji, 2008), the propensity to go back to Albania, in case of emerging acceptable conditions in terms of economic and employment perspectives, was stronger among older people.

2.2. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE IN ITALY AND IN THE TARGET REGIONS[10]

Albanian population in Italy is concentrated mainly in Northern and Central regions. As shown in Tab. 2.2.1., 63 per cent (277,941) of the overall Albanian residents in Italy is located in the five target regions of the project (Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Lombardy, Piedmont and Tuscany). The Table also highlights an overall negative variation in the number of residents between 2012 and 2018 (-2.32%). However, the situation among regions is diversified, whereas a negative variation in Tuscany (-1.77%), Lombardy (-2.64%) and Piedmont (-4.77%) are paralleled with a moderate (+0.72%) and significant (+20.77%) increase in Emilia-Romagna and Lazio respectively.

Tab. 2.2.1.: Albanian citizens in Italy per regions of residence (2012-2018)

		Albanian residents (absolute values)						
Region	% variation 2012-2018	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Abruzzo	-5.70%	11,927	12,196	12,752	13,679	13,924	13,049	12,648
Basilicata	15.24%	1,838	1,726	1,671	1,695	1,691	1,600	1,595
Calabria	10.05%	2,903	2,821	2,821	2,852	2,794	2,657	2,638
Campania	20.11%	6,923	6,805	6,866	6,843	6,781	6,051	5,764
Emilia - Romagna	0.72%	57,536	58,167	60,217	62,661	63,392	59,393	57,124
Friuli Venezia Giulia	-22.22%	9,670	10,001	10,661	11,762	12,470	12,518	12,433
Lazio	20.77%	24,431	24,531	24,864	25,207	24,674	21,230	20,230
Liguria	10.90%	21,720	21,814	22,186	23,511	23,651	20,520	19,586
Lombardy	-2.64%	92,565	95,102	99,571	103,223	104,458	98,318	95,073
Marche	-22.51%	15,904	16,760	18,484	20,062	20,739	20,888	20,525
Molise	5.33%	810	850	868	854	890	836	769
Piedmont	-4.77%	40,952	41,578	43,849	46,339	47,103	44,180	43,001
Puglia	10.19%	22,904	22,639	23,047	23,324	23,047	21,594	20,785
Sardinia	31.67%	661	642	643	683	617	548	502
Sicily	30.31%	8,598	8,251	8,039	7,999	7,440	6,820	6,598
Tuscany	-1.77%	62,457	63,932	66,548	70,219	69,931	64,906	63,580
Trentino - Alto Adige	-5.83%	10,903	11,111	11,888	12,414	12,555	11,915	11,578
Umbria	-16.13%	13,225	13,924	14,843	16,155	16,698	15,999	15,769
Valle d'Aosta	-21.58%	723	799	869	994	1,037	1,028	922
Veneto	-15.01%	33,815	34,758	37,000	40,007	41,817	40,912	39,788
Total ITALY	**-2.32%**	**440,465**	**448,407**	**467,687**	**490,483**	**495,709**	**464,962**	**450,908**

Source: ISTAT.

10 This section is mainly based on primary sources, namely original Elaborations on official data provided by the Italian National Institute of Statistics - ISTAT.

The variation between 2017 and 2018 is anyway negative for all the target regions of this analysis (Tab. 2.2.2.). Positive variation during this period was indeed registered only in Italian Southern regions. The table also offers other useful elements to characterize the presence of Albanian residents in particular in the target regions, in terms of percentage of the overall Albanian diaspora in Italy as well as the percentage of the foreign population in the specific region. The table shows a substantially balanced gender distribution of Albanian residents in 2018.

Tab. 2.2.2.: Albanian citizens in Italy per regions of residence (year 2018)

Region	Albanian citizens in 2018				% of the foreign population	Variation% on the previous year
	Male	Female	Total	%		
1. Lombardy	46,684	45,881	92,565	21.00%	8.02%	-2.70%
2. Tuscany	32,292	30,165	62,457	14.20%	15.29%	-2.30%
3. Emilia - Romagna	29,649	27,887	57,536	13.10%	10.73%	-1.10%
4. Piedmont	20,662	20,290	40,952	9.30%	9.67%	-1.50%
5. Veneto	16,933	16,882	33,815	7.70%	6.93%	-2.70%
6. Lazio	12,556	11,875	24,431	5.50%	3.60%	-0.40%
7. Puglia	11,765	11,139	22,904	5.20%	17.05%	1.20%
8. Liguria	11,384	10,336	21,720	4.90%	15.33%	-0.40%
9. Marche	7,975	7,929	15,904	3.60%	11.69%	-5.10%
10. Umbria	6,697	6,528	13,225	3.00%	13.82%	-5.00%
11. Abruzzo	6,096	5,831	11,927	2.70%	13.70%	-2.20%
12. Trentino - Alto Adige	5,690	5,213	10,903	2.50%	11.48%	-1.90%
13. Friuli Venezia Giulia	4,764	4,906	9,670	2.20%	9.06%	-3.30%
14. Sicily	4,575	4,023	8,598	2.00%	4.45%	4.20%
15. Campania	3,812	3,111	6,923	1.60%	2.68%	1.70%
16. Calabria	1,477	1,426	2,903	0.70%	2.68%	2.90%
17. Basilicata	964	874	1,838	0.40%	8.17%	6.50%
18. Molise	419	391	810	0.20%	5.81%	-4.70%
19. Valle d'Aosta	384	339	723	0.20%	8.91%	-9.50%
20. Sardinia	325	336	661	0.20%	1.22%	3.00%
Total ITALY	225,103	215,362	440,465		8.60%	-1.80%

Source: ISTAT.

However, Tab. 2.2.3. shows how this balance distribution was the product of a progressive adjustment in the last 15 years, whereas the number of male Albanian residents at the beginning of the considered period (2003) was sharply higher than the number of females.

Tab. 2.2.3.: Albanian citizens in Italy per regions of residence and gender (male, female and total), 2003–2018

Year	Gender	Piedmont	Lombardy	Emilia - Romagna	Tuscany	Lazio	ITALY
2003	Male	11,468	22,391	12,990	16,204	6,428	121,004
	Female	9,641	17,346	9,728	11,906	5,380	95,578
	Total	21,109	39,737	22,718	28,110	11,808	216,582
2004	Male	15,139	29,634	16,767	20,948	7,561	155,082
	Female	11,752	21,391	12,103	14,691	6,138	115,301
	Total	26,891	51,025	28,870	35,639	13,699	270,383
2005	Male	17,417	35,892	20,349	24,787	8,615	182,145
	Female	13,461	25,874	14,773	17,415	6,791	134,514
	Total	30,878	61,766	35,122	42,202	15,406	316,659
2006	Male	18,509	39,682	22,707	27,086	9,354	196,744
	Female	15,225	30,049	17,154	20,068	7,575	152,069
	Total	33,734	69,731	39,861	47,154	16,929	348,813
2007	Male	19,517	42,828	24,937	29,099	10,116	209,209
	Female	16,517	33,620	19,281	22,380	8,273	166,738
	Total	36,034	76,448	44,218	51,479	18,389	375,947
2008	Male	20,761	45,842	26,892	31,292	10,607	222,198
	Female	17,786	36,328	21,185	24,414	8,833	179,751
	Total	38,547	82,170	48,077	55,706	19,440	401,949
2009	Male	22,699	49,658	30,062	34,346	11,414	241,829
	Female	19,622	40,438	24,272	27,593	9,464	199,567
	Total	42,321	90,096	54,334	61,939	20,878	441,396
2010	Male	23,459	52,196	31,835	36,159	12,105	253,048
	Female	20,833	43,520	26,424	29,883	10,239	213,636
	Total	44,292	95,716	58,259	66,042	22,344	466,684
2011	Male	24,058	53,654	32,865	37,132	12,567	259,352
	Female	21,700	46,139	27,830	31,201	10,770	223,275
	Total	45,758	99,793	60,695	68,333	23,337	482,627
2012	Male	22,073	49,461	29,942	33,433	10,410	234,670
	Female	20,928	45,612	27,182	30,147	9,820	216,238
	Total	43,001	95,073	57,124	63,580	20,230	450,908
2013	Male	22,677	50,892	30,924	33,970	10,953	241,217
	Female	21,503	47,426	28,469	30,936	10,277	223,745
	Total	44,180	98,318	59,393	64,906	21,230	464,962
2014	Male	24,268	54,419	33,311	36,733	12,729	258,702
	Female	22,835	50,039	30,081	33,198	11,945	237,007
	Total	47,103	104,458	63,392	69,931	24,674	495,709
2015	Male	23,713	53,172	32,681	36,753	13,129	254,622
	Female	22,626	50,051	29,980	33,466	12,078	235,861
	Total	46,339	103,223	62,661	70,219	25,207	490,483
2016	Male	22,286	50,833	31,245	34,759	12,889	241,329
	Female	21,563	48,738	28,972	31,789	11,975	226,358
	Total	43,849	99,571	60,217	66,548	24,864	467,687

2017	Male	21,050	48,176	30,010	33,121	12,656	229,870
	Female	20,528	46,926	28,157	30,811	11,875	218,537
	Total	41,578	95,102	58,167	63,932	24,531	448,407
2018	Male	20,662	46,684	29,649	32,292	12,556	225,103
	Female	20,290	45,881	27,887	30,165	11,875	215,362
	Total	40,952	92,565	57,536	62,457	24,431	440,465

Source: ISTAT.

The decreasing number of Albanian citizens in many Italian regions is to be read in light of the significant amount of Italian citizenship issued in recent years to members of the Albanian community. Tab. 2.2.4. shows the figures of Albanian citizens who acquired Italian citizenship, per year (2012–2017) and region of residence. Over 70.000 Italian citizenships were issued to Albanian citizens between 2015 and 2016.

Tab.2.2.4.: Albanian citizens who acquired the Italian citizenship, per regions of residence (2012–2017)

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Piedmont	993	1,399	2,239	3,427	3,758	2,335
Lombardy	1,501	2,286	4,406	7,098	7,950	6,417
Emilia-Romagna	1,220	1,836	2,445	4,418	4,539	3,335
Tuscany	1,274	1,877	2,254	4,902	5,171	4,117
Lazio	421	613	754	1,176	1,300	955
ITALY	9,493	13,671	21,148	35,134	36,920	27,112

Source: ISTAT.

According to ISTAT, flows from Albania to Italy are still active: in 2017 15,385 new Albanian citizens moved their residence to Italy (7,201 men and 8,124 women), representing 5.1 per cent of the overall migration inflows, and with a positive variation of + 18.7 per cent with respect to 2016.

Tab. 2.2.5., finally, shows other kinds of documents issued by the Italian Government to Albanian residents between 2008 and 2018: that of residence permit, divided into short term and long-term permits (where data were available). In line with the general trend of Albanian residents in Italy, the number of issued permits grows from 2008 to a peak in 2014 (overall 502,546 permits) and decreases every year starting from 2015.

Tab. 2.2.5.: Typology of residence permit issued to Albanian citizens in Italy, (2008-2018)

Year	short-term residence permit	long-term residence permit	Total
2008	..	..	406,534
2009	..	..	458,497
2010	..	..	480,759
2011	208,531	*274,688*	483,219
2012	182,558	308,937	491,495
2013	169,259	328,502	497,761
2014	156,311	346,235	502,546
2015	150,102	348,317	498,419
2016	139,377	343,582	482,959
2017	126,621	315,217	441,838
2018	122,131	308,209	430,340

Source: ISTAT.

2.3. ALBANIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN ITALY[11]

As already mentioned in the first section, the "social mimicry" adopted by many Albanians in Italy has not encouraged strong forms of associations, despite the large presence of the Albanian diaspora in the Italian territory. A different situation regards the associations based on the preservation and valorization of Arbërësh culture, which are mainly present in Southern Italy (and in particular in the Calabria Region). The interviews conducted for this report have offered different perspectives on the evolution of Albanian associations in Italy. According to some observers, the number of these associations has decreased significantly in the last decade, as an effect of the further integration of Albanian citizens in the Italian society, while others believe that this integration has favored the diffusion of Albanian associations on the Italian territory.

In any case, the number of Albanian associations in Italy is significant. Tab. 2.3.1. includes a list based mainly on three official sources: the first is a mapping conducted by the Research Centre IDOS in 2014 and updated in 2018, that allowed the identification of the following 23 associations of Albanian citizens within 1,413 migrant associations in Italy (in the table, *source*: www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018). Further, 16 Albanian associations were mapped in 2014, for which updating of the information in 2018 was impossible (in the table, *source*: www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014). The second source is the website www.arbitalia.it, mainly focused on Arbërësh associations. The third is the website www.romamultietnica.it, specifically focused on associations based in the Lazio Region. Moreover, some other associations were mentioned during the questionnaires collected for this study.

11 *Source*: http://sitiarcheologici.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/Areetematiche/PaesiComunitari-e-associazioniMigranti/Pagine/mappatura-associazioni.html.

Tab. 2.3.1., Albanian associations in Italy, different sources

Region	Association	*Source*
Abruzzo	Rindertimi	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	ALBA Associazione albanese dell'Abruzzo - ONLUS*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
Basilicata	Associazione Culturale "Basilicata Arbëreshe"	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Associazione Artistico-Culturale-Folkloristica Voxha Arbereshe	*www.arbitalia.it.*
Calabria	Arbitalia, La Casa degli Albanesi d' Italia - Associazione Culturale Arbitalia	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Associazione Culturale "Jeta Arbëreshe" a Ejanina, CS	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Associazione Culturale "Zjarri i Zëmres" - Firmo, CS	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Associazione Insegnanti Albanesi d' Italia a Lungro, CS	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Bashkimi Kulturor Arbëresh a Spezzano Albanese, CS	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Centro Deradiano - Macchia Albanese, CS	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Centro di Iniziative Culturali "G. De Rada" a San Demetrio Corone	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Shpirti Vëndit - Associazione Culturale e di Promozione Turistica, San Demetrio Corone (Cs)	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Lega Italiana per la Difesa della Minoranza Albanese, Cosenza	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Kalendari i Arbëreshëvet di NO. Toçi a Lungro CS	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Circolo culturale "P. Scura" a Vaccarizzo Albanese	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Circolo Culturale "G. Placco" a Civita, CS	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Circolo culturale "G. De Rada" a San Cosmo Albanese	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Centro Ricerche G. C. Skanderbeg, Frascineto	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Centro Studi Albanesi "Zjarri", San Demetrio Corone	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Centro Studi e Ricerche delle Tradizioni Popolari Italo-Albanesi, San Demetrio Corone (CS)	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Centro Studi Genealogia Arbëreshe di San Demetrio Corone	*www.arbitalia.it.*
Campania	Il Camper cooperativa sociale ONLUS	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione Iskander, Forio d'Ischia	*www.albanianews.it.*

Emilia-Romagna	Unione degli studenti albanesi a Bologna	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione degli Immigrati Albanesi a Piacenza*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Associazione Italo - Albanese Amicizia Onlus di Rimini	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Associazione Studentesca Albanese nella città di Modena	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Associazione"Agimi Rimini Centro"	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Lega Nazionale delle Associazioni Albanesi e Arberesh in Italia, Rimini	*www.arbitalia.it.*
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Associazione Culturale P. S. I. I. Projekte e Sherbime të Integruara për Imigrantet	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Associazione italo-albanese - Shoqata Italo-Shqiptare "Arbëria" - Cecchini di Pasiano (PN)	*www.arbitalia.it.*
Lazio	Besa Associazione della comunità albanese in Italia, Roma	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	C.I.R., Centro Internazionale per le Relazioni Culturali, Roma	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Associazione 60 miglia, Roma	*www.romamultietnica.it.*
	Associazione culurale degli Arberesh "BESA", Roma	*www.romamultietnica.it.*
	Associazione fratellanza, Pomezia	*www.romamultietnica.it.*
	Associazione studenti albanesi a Roma A.S.A.R.	*www.romamultietnica.it.*
	Associazione europea studenti albanesi, Roma	*www.romamultietnica.it.*
	Missione cattolica albanese, Grottaferrata, Roma	*www.romamultietnica.it.*
	Associazione scuola albanese, Frosinone	*www.romamultietnica.it.*
	Associazione umanitaria-culturale, Tor Lupara, Roma	*www.romamultietnica.it.*
	Occhio Blu–Onlus, Roma	*www.romamultietnica.it.*
	Avvocati Albanesi in Italia, Roma	*www.albanianews.it.*
	Forum Albanians for EU/Albanians for EU Forum Albanian church (in Trastevere) Forum comunità straniere in Italia (Rome) FolEja Associazione ANIAS	*Additional associations mentioned by respondents to the survey*
Liguria	L'altra sponda dell'Adriatico - ASA	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione Culturale "La nuova generazione albanese" di Genova	*www.arbitalia.it*
	Vatra - Associazione degli intellettuali albanesi di Genova	*www.arbitalia.it.*

Lombardy	ASIAM (Associazione per lo Sviluppo e l'Integrazione degli Albanesi a Milano - Aderente a UAMI)	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione Albania e Futuro	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione Culturale Italia -Albania	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione EJONA	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione Illyricum	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione Interculturale ALBA	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Dora e Pajtimit	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Le Aquile	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Unione degli Albanesi Musulmani in Italia (UAMI)	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione degli studenti albanesi dell'università di Pavia*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Associazione italo-albanese Amicizia e Collaborazione*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Associazione SHQIPONJA*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Associazione Studenti Albanesi Brescia*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Laurus *	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Associazione Culturale "Arbëria" a Milano	*www.arbitalia.it*
	Associazione Culturale Albania e Futuro - Milano	*www.arbitalia.it*
	Qendra Koordinuese Integruese Kulturore e Humanitare «ALBEUROPA» - Olginate - Lecco	*www.arbitalia.it*
	Associazione avvocati albanesi in Italia, Milano Forum "Albanians for EU" Lobi euro Atlantik shqiptar	*Additional associations mentioned by respondents to the survey*
Marche	Ass. Albanesi delle Marche - Cis Benvenuti*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Iliria Associazione Albanese per cultura arte e sport*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Associazione Culturale "Iliria" di Pesaro	*www.arbitalia.it.*
Molise	Shoqata Kulturore Arbëreshe - Associazione Culturale Italo-Albanese CB	*www.arbitalia.it.*

Piedmont	A.A.N.P. Associazione Albanese Novara e Provincia	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	ASSOCIAZIONE "FRATELLANZA - VLLAZNIA"	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione Albanesi all'estero	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione Albanesi del Monferrato	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione Culturale Italo-Albanese Vatra	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Centro di cultura albanese	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Asso Albania Asti*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Associazione Comunità Albanesi A.C.A.*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Associazione Culturale "Vatra Arbëreshe" di Chieri	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Associazione Culturale "Jeta" a Torino	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Centro Culturale Albanese "Madre Teresa", Asti	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Associazione Euroatlantica of albanians in Germany (in Lorach, Germany) Lega degli scrittori e artisti albanesi (Tirana and Italia) Associazione Ura, Novara Associazione Luce a Tirana Asti associazione AlbaArt, associazione informale AMMI	*Additional associations mentioned by respondents to the survey*
Sicily	Associazione Culturale "Nicolò Chetta" a Contessa Entellina	*www.arbitalia.it.*
Trentino Alto Adige	Organizzazione di volontariato internazionale RINIA	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione Culturale Italo Albanese Vatra Shqiptare*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Associazione Panalbanese Arberia di Bolzano*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	A. P. I. A. T. (Associazione per la Promozione dell'Integrazione degli Albanesi nel Trentino)	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	Associazione Rinia, Trento	*www.arbitalia.it.*
Tuscany	Associazione studenti albanesi di Firenze ASUF*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*
	Associazione Socio-Interculturale albanese "DEA", Pisa	*www.arbitalia.it*
	Coordinamento Albanesi in Toscana	*www.arbitalia.it.*

	Asso-Albania Associazione Arberia Associazione Madonnina del Grappa Bijte e shqipes a Filadelfia, United States of America. Iparticipate (associazione mista)	*Additional associations mentioned by respondents to the survey*
Umbria	ASSOCIAZIONE ACAS SKANDERBEG	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
Veneto	Associazione Arberia	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2018.*
	Associazione Della Comunità di Padova e Provincia	*www.arbitalia.it.*
	D.U.A. Diaspora Unita Albanese, Rovigo	*www.albanianews.it.*
Valle d'Aosta	LAVDI SHQIPE LEGA ALBANESE VALLE D'AOSTA*	*www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it 2014.*

Source: Authors' Elaboration from sources included in the table.

2.4. ALBANIAN COMMUNITY IN THE LABOUR MARKET IN ITALY: SOME FIGURES

According to the reports published by the Italian Ministry of Labour in 2018 and 2019 (Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali 2017, 2018), based on Elaborations on figures updated on 1 January 2017 and 1 January 2018, the main characteristics of the Albanian community in the labour market in Italy are the followings:

- The higher level of unemployment and inactivity if compared to the overall third-national communities in the country. On the 1 January 2018, 53,8 per cent of the Albanian population in Italy (between 15–64 years) is occupied, around 5 per cent less than the overall non-EU communities, 34.8 per cent are inactive (versus around 31% of the average for non-EU communities) and 17.5 per cent are unemployed, a percentage which is again higher than unemployment rates in other non-EU communities. There is a positive trend with respect to 2017 when 52.6 per cent of the Albanian population was occupied. However, the growth of occupation of 1.2 per cent is weaker than the growth of other communities (+1.3% for non-EU citizens in Italy, +1.7 for EU citizens and +2.1% for other citizens from Central-Eastern Europe).
- Unbalanced gender distribution in the labour market. On the 1 January 2018, 66,1 per cent of the Albanian employees in Italy are male. Moreover, the employment rate of Albanian men (71%) is on average the same with the overall third-national communities in Italy, while the employment rate of women (36.6%) is significantly lower (with 45.9% as the average), with higher levels of unemployment (24% versus an average of 18% of the overall non-national communities) and inactivity (51.8%, versus an average of 43.9%). However, there is a positive trend, insofar as female employment has grown by 3 per cent between 2017 and 2018, while male employment growth is rated at +0.2 per cent.
- A medium-low level education. On the 1 January 2018, 62 per cent of Albanian citizens employed in Italy hold a secondary school degree, 31 per cent a high school degree[12] and 6 per cent a University degree.
- A strong concentration in the industrial sector (and in particular in the construction sector). In sector-based terms, almost half of the Albanians employed in Italy on the 1 January 2018 work in the industrial sector (47%), (versus an average of 26% for the non-EU communities). In this group, the prevalent sector of employment is the construction sector, with 29 per cent in 2017 as well as in 2018. Nine per cent of the employed workers work in the primary sector (agriculture, hunting and fishing), 16 per cent in services (public services, social services and personal services), a percentage much lower than the average of non-EU nationals (31%), 16 per cent in commercial and hospitality sector, and 12 per cent employed in the Transport and Business Services.
- Strong prevalence of specialization in manual work. On the 1 January 2018, in terms of professional roles, more than 50 per cent of the employed offer specialized manual work, 27 per cent are non-qualified workers, 18 per cent are employees, sales clerks or working in the field of personal services, while 5 per cent are managers or professionals occupied in intellectual or technical fields.
- Higher salaries if compared to other non-EU communities. On the 1 January 2017, 36 per cent of the employed earn a monthly salary higher than EUR 1,200 (versus a 19% in other non-EU communities), 39 per cent have a salary between 801 and EUR 1,200, whereas 26 per cent earn less than EUR 800. These trends are confirmed in 2018.
- Positive variation of contracts between 2016 and 2017. In 2017, the number of new contracts for Albanian citizens was higher if compared to 2016 (+12.9%). This reverses the negative trend between 2015 and 2016 (-2.6%). The positive variation was particularly strong in the service sector (+21.5%) and in the industrial sector (+12.4%); more limited – but still positive – the trend in the agricultural sector (+3.8%). It is worth noting that the occupation in the agricultural sector registered a positive trend already between 2015 and 2016 (+5.9%).

12 Secondary school refers to the four years of intermediary education, while high school degree refers to the final three years of secondary-level education.

2.5. ALBANIAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ITALY

Albanian entrepreneurship in Italy represents a growing phenomenon. According to ISTAT, on 31st of December 2017, 31,773 Albanian entrepreneurs were operating in Italy, representing 8.5 per cent of the overall non-EU entrepreneurs. This number makes the Albanian community the third in Italy for entrepreneurship on the overall non-EU population. The number of Albanian enterprises has increased with respect to the previous year (Tab. 2.5.1.), confirming a constantly positive trend.

Tab. 2.5.1.: Enterprises with Albanian holder in Italy in 2017 and 2018

	1st January 2017	1st January 2018
Number of enterprises with Albanian holder	31,358	31,773
Variation with respect to previous year	+455	+415
% of the overall foreign enterprises in Italy	8.6%	8.5%

Source: Authors' Elaboration on Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali 2018, 2017.

89.1 per cent of companies are held by men and only 10,9 per cent by women. However, data show how the number of companies run by women is growing in the last years. Indeed, the number of enterprises held by men increased between 2016 and 2017 by + 0.6 per cent; while the number of Albanian women holding an enterprise in Italy has grown by +7.4 per cent (from 3.233 in 2016 to 3.471 of 2017).

In terms of geographical distribution, on 1 January 2018, 19,3 per cent of companies are located in Lombardy, 17.2 per cent in Tuscany, 14.5 per cent in Emilia-Romagna. In terms of sectors, 71 per cent of the companies are in the construction sector (1/3 of the overall non-EU enterprises in the construction sector in Italy), 9 per cent in commerce and transports, and 4.5 per cent in the hospitality sector. Table 2.5.2 shows the number and incidence of Albanian entrepreneurs in the major cities of the target regions:

Tab. 2.5.2.: Albanian citizens in the main cities of the target regions, 1 January 2017

	Number of Albanian citizens	% of non-EU citizens in the city	Number of Albanian Entrepreneurs	% of non-EU entrepreneurs in the city	Incidence of entrepreneurs on the Albanian community in the city
Rome	16,965	4.9%	879	2,4%	5.18%
Milan	28,175	6.4%	1,588	4,9%	5.64%
Turin	10,167	8.6%	1,004	7,6%	9.9%
Bologna	7,383	8.7%	647	10,4%	8.8%
Florence	18,437	17.6%	1,660	14,9%	9%

Source: Authors' Elaboration on Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche sociali 2017a, 2017b, 2017c, 2017d, 2017e.

According to Unioncamere (SI.Camera - Mondounioncamere),[13] at the end of 2018 (31 December) 32,383 enterprises with Albanian ownership were registered in Italy. Data show that these enterprises are widely distributed in the Italian territory. Overall, the first six Italian provinces for the number of Albanian enterprises (Tab. 2.5.3.) count only for the 24 per cent of the total Albanian enterprises in Italy.

13 Data were provided by Unioncamere in the framework of the partnership CeSPI- Unioncamere aimed at the National Observatory for the Financial Inclusion of Third Country Nationals in Italy.

Tab. 2.5.3.: First six Italian provinces for number of enterprises with Albanian ownership

Province	*% of the total enterprises with Albanian ownership in Italy*
Florence	5.3%
Milan	5.1%
Genoa	4.3%
Turin	3.3%
Varese	3.3%
Savona	3.0%

Source: Author's Elaboration on Unioncamere.

Tab. 2.5.4. shows the distribution of enterprises with Albanian ownership in Italy, classified according to sectors. The table confirms a high level of specialization: 70 per cent of Albanian enterprises in Italy are in the construction sector.

Tab. 2.5.4.: Enterprises with Albanian ownership in Italy per sector

Sector	*Number of enterprises*	*%*
A Agriculture, forestry, fisheries	896	2.8%
C Manufacturing	1,291	4.0%
F Construction	22,528	69.6%
G Wholesail and retail trade, car repair	2,334	7.2%
H Transport and storage	614	1.9%
I Accomodation and catering services	1,573	4.9%
J Information and communication services	87	...
K Financial and insurance activities	104	...
L Real estate activities	36	...
M Professional scientific and technical activities	139	...
N Rental, travel agencies, business support services	1,376	4.2%
Q Health and social assistance	18	...
R Artistic activities, sport and leisure	57	...
S Other services	876	2.7%
Non-classified	424	1.3%
Other sectors	30	...
Total	32,383	100%

Source: Author's Elaboration on Unioncamere.

Tab. 2.5.5. provides information on the main provinces where the highest percentage of Albanian enterprises in specific sectors are located. Also, in this case, no specific territorial concentration of Albanian enterprises emerges.

Tab. 2.5.5.: Main provinces for specific sectors

Sector	*Province*	*% of sector's total*	*Sector*	*Province*	*% of sector's total*
Agriculture, Forestry Fisheries	Pistoia	19%	Manufacturing	Brescia	5%
	Ragusa	11%		Florence	5%
	Florence	9%		Milan	4%
	Grosseto	5%		Turin	3%
	Imperia	5%		Bergamo	3%
Construction	Florence	6%	Wholesail and retail trade, car repair	Milan	7%
	Genoa	6%		Rome	5%
	Milan	5%		Turin	5%
	Varese	4%		Bologna	3%
	Savona	4%		Brescia	3%
Accommodation and catering services	Turin	7%	Rental, travel agencies, business support services	Milan	8%
	Milan	5%		Pistoia	7%
	Rome	5%		Turin	5%
	Udine	4%		Florence	4%
	Brescia	4%		Rome	4%

Source: Author's Elaboration on Unioncamere.

Tab. 2.5.6. shows the main sectors of Albanian enterprises (in the percentage of the overall Albanian enterprises in the province) in the first six Italian provinces for the number of Albanian enterprises (as presented in Tab. 2.5.5.).

Tab. 2.5.6.: Sectors in the provinces where the most of Albanian enterprises are located

Province	*Sector*	*% Albanian enterprises in the province*	*Province*	*Sector*	*% Albanian enterprises in the province*
Florence	Construction	77%	Milan	Construction	67%
	Wholesail and retail trade, car repair	4%		Wholesail and retail trade, car repair	9%
	Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	4%		Rental, travel agencies, business support services	7%
	Manufacturing	3.5%		Accommodation and catering services	4%
	Rental, travel agencies, business support services	3.5%		Manufacturing	4%
Genoa	Construction	89%	Savona	Construction	91%
	Rental, travel agencies, business support services	2%		Accommodation and catering services	3%
	Wholesail and retail trade, car repair	2%			
Turin	Construction	59%	Varese	Construction	83%
	Wholesail and retail trade, car repair	10%		Rental, travel agencies, business support services	4%
	Rental, travel agencies, business support services	7%		Manufacturing	3%
	Manufacturing	4%		Accommodation and catering services	3%

Source: Author's Elaboration on Unioncamere.

An analysis of the evolution of Albanian entrepreneurship in Italy from a long-term perspective shows how entrepreneurship has been growing constantly in the last decades. In 2003, there were 4.143 Albanian business owners, in 2008, the number of companies run by Albanian citizens reached 17,913, with an increase of 432 per cent in five years (Di Sciullo et al., 2008). 2008 data also show of their traditional crucial role of the construction sector, which represented 84 per cent of the overall Albanian entrepreneurship:

Tab. 2.5.7.: Albanian entrepreneurs per sector in Italy in 2008

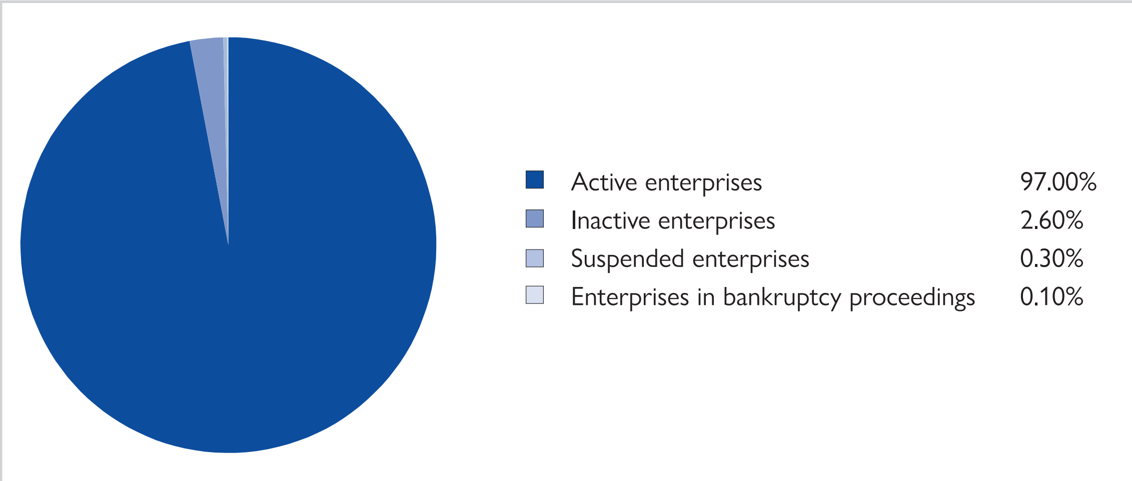
Sector	Number of Albanian Entrepreneurs
Construction	14,997
Manufacturing	839
Commerce	712
Transport	413
Professional services	350
Agriculture	290
Hotels and restaurants	134
Personal services	87
Non commercial	91

Source: Authors' Elaboration on Di Sciullo et al., 2008.

Similarly, the 2008 data show a more concentrated geographical distribution of Albanian enterprises compared to the current situation. In 2008, around 800 entrepreneurs were located both in the provinces of Florence and Milan, 700 in the province of Reggio Emilia, 600 in Torino and Varese, 400 in Prato, Alessandria, Brescia and Rome (Di Sciullo et al., 2008).

According to the database available to the Embassy of Albania in Italy, further other considerations regarding the status and size of Albanian sole proprietorship registered in the Italian business registry can be added. Specifically, in April 2017, 97 per cent of the 31,846 registered enterprises were active. Only a small number was inactive or suspended, while an infinitesimal percentage of them (0.1%) had undertaken to a bankruptcy proceeding.

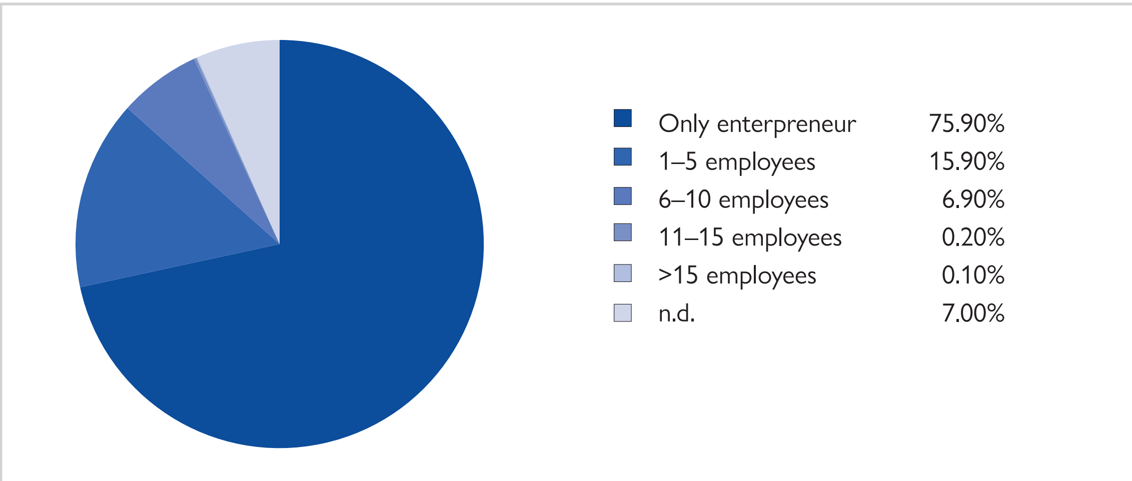
Fig. 2.5.8.: Status of Albanian enterprises in Italy (April 2017)



Source: Authors' Elaboration on the Database of the Albanian Embassy in Italy.

Fig. 2.5.9. offers a specification of the size – i.e. the number of the employees – of the only active enterprises. Almost all of them are individually-run or family businesses with no other employees hired (76%), or are micro-enterprises with less than ten employees (16.8%).

Fig. 2.5.9.: Size of Albanian enterprises in Italy (April 2017)



Source: Authors' Elaboration on Database of the Albanian Embassy in Italy.

An analysis of the 27 enterprises that initiated bankruptcy proceedings in April 2017 shows some typical characteristics of Albanian-owned enterprises both in terms of size (59% are a single or family business, 22% have just an employee) and sectors. Specifically, 50 per cent of them belong to the traditional construction sector, followed by the transport and manufacturing sector and, finally, the trade sector (Tab. 2.5.10).

Tab. 2.5.10: Enterprises in state of bankruptcy per sector in April 2017

Sector	Number of Albanian enterprises in bankruptcy
Construction	9
Commerce	2
Transport	3
Manufacturing	3
Health and social assistance	1
n.d.	9

Source: Authors' Elaboration on Database of the Albanian Embassy in Italy.

In terms of geographical distribution, 56 per cent of enterprises subjected to bankruptcy are located in Northern Italy, 26 per cent in Central Italy, and 18 per cent in the Southern Regions. Particularly, the data show of a high concentration of such companies in one of the study region: 40 per cent of enterprises in bankruptcy proceedings in Northern Italy are based in Piedmont.

2.6. FINANCIAL INCLUSION OF THE ALBANIAN COMMUNITY IN ITALY[14]

Financial inclusion is key in encouraging and accelerating the integration process and the participation of immigrants in all aspects of Italian life. Building positive relationships with financial intermediaries helps immigrants in a number of different spheres, such as in finding work, buying a home, starting a savings plan or setting up a business. Moreover, according to literature (Global Financial Development Report, 2014), there is a strong link between financial inclusion and stability, propensity to invest, propensity to run small businesses, and propensity to send remittances. Therefore, financial inclusion data offers a useful picture of the Albanian community for the aims of this research project.

The relationship between immigrants and banks has improved markedly over the last few years, although there is still room for further improvement. It should be highlighted that the financial inclusion process is a complex one. There is no set structure to be automatically followed by anyone. In fact, a significant degree of variance can be seen in the financial behaviour of immigrants. This may be down to the fact that not enough research has been done regarding their needs, or because they have not been featured often enough in the strategies and policies of financial entities and institutions. Yet, the Italian banking system can undoubtedly play a crucial role in supporting the diverse but ever more important immigrant business sector, which will require financial assistance and advice on ways of developing more advantageous business ventures.

Tab. 2.6.1. presents information on the financial inclusion of the Albanian Community in 2017, based on original data from the "National Observatory for the Financial Inclusion of Third Country Nationals in Italy". The National Observatory for the Financial Inclusion of Third-Party Nationals is a long-term process and the fruit of a partnership between the Italian Ministry of Interior and the Italian Banking Association (ABI). The first of its kind in Italy and in Europe, the Observatory provides an integrated information system, structured analysis and monitoring of financial inclusion process for immigrants in Italy (working on a sample of 21 third-country national communities, including Albania), thus offering crucial information on full integration of migrants.

The information is based on the following indicators of financial inclusion (Tab. 2.6.1):

Tab. 2.6.1.: Indicators used to measure financial inclusion of a sample of 21 migrant communities in Italy within the National Observatory for the Financial Inclusion of Third Country Nationals in Italy"

1. Banking based on the following indicators:
Banking rate: percentage of Albanian adults who hold a bank account in a Bank or Post Office
Annual variation of the number of bank accounts for the overall Albanian community
Rate of seniority of the relationship between the bank and Albanian client, measured by the percentage of current accounts with more than 5 years, as a measurement of the degree of trust and stability in the relation with the financial institution
Percentage of bank accounts held by women, as a measurement of gender balance
Number of holders of cards with IBAN, which are not simultaneously holders of a current account with the same institution. Cards with IBAN are a product that, giving full access to the payment system, is likely to be a tool of first access to the financial system and therefore to financial inclusion.

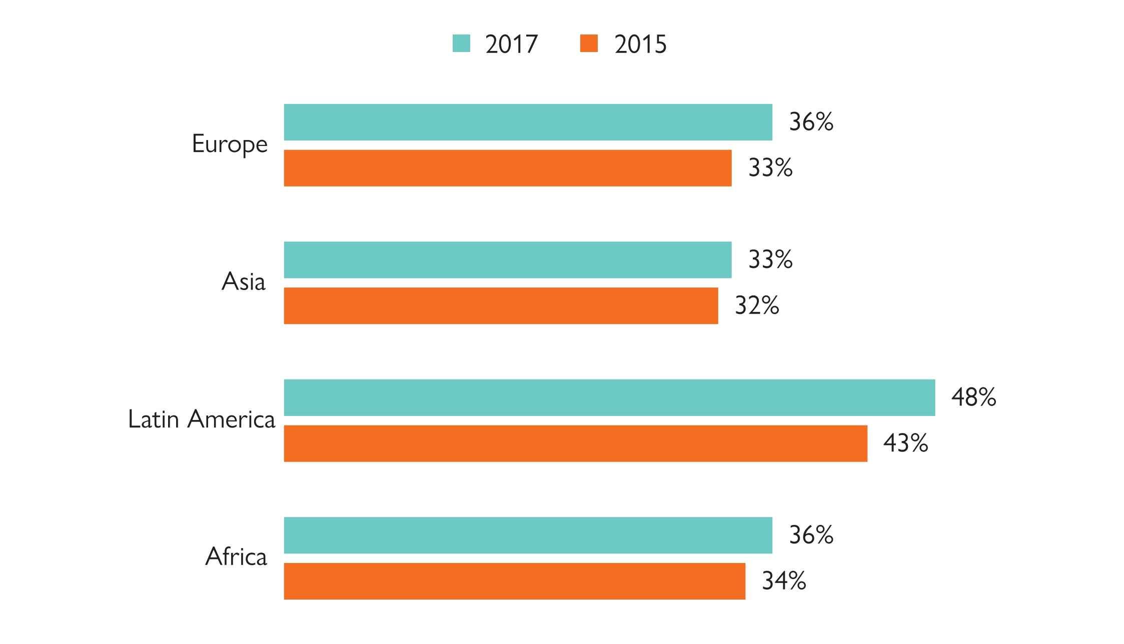
14 This section is mainly based on primary sources, and in particular Elaborations on data provided by the "National Observatory for the Financial Inclusion of Third Country Nationals in Italy", implemented by CeSPI based on an agreement between the Ministry of Interior and the Italian Banking Association. For more information: www.migrantiefinanza.it/.

2. **Access to credit** based on the following indicators
Incidence of credits issued by financial institutions to Albanian citizens on the overall number of Albanian bank accounts
Incidence of loans issued by financial institutions to Albanian citizens on the overall number of Albanian bank accounts, as a measure of long-term plans of settlements in Italy and of an advanced relationship with the Italian financial system
Incidence of credits based on geographical macro-regions of origin of migrants
Average of consumer credit for Albanian Community
Incidence of consumer credit of Albanian Community on the overall sample of 21 nationalities in Italy
3. **Use of banking products** measured considering the ownership of the different financial products and services respect to the existing Albanian bank accounts.
4. **Small business** (number of citizens carrying out professional or handicraft activities: non-profit organizations; companies that employ less than 10 employees and achieve an annual turnover or a total annual balance sheet not exceeding 2 million euros), measured considering:
Incidence of small business on the overall Albanian Bank accounts
Annual variation of the number of small business bank account on the overall Albanian Community
Rate of seniority of the relationship between the bank and Albanian small business client, measured by the percentage of current accounts with more than 5 years
Percentage of small business bank accounts held by women
Percentage of small business client holders of a credit
Percentage of long-term credits on the overall number of credits for small business clients.
5. **Remittances**, measured considering:
Annual variation of remittances sent by Albanian community to the home country
Variation of remittances sent by Albanian community to the home country in four years
Incidence of the Albanian community on the overall remittances sent from Italy
Average cost of remittances sent from Italy to Albania for a transfer of EUR 150

Tab. 2.6.2.: Indicators of Financial Inclusion of the Albanian Community in Italy, 2017

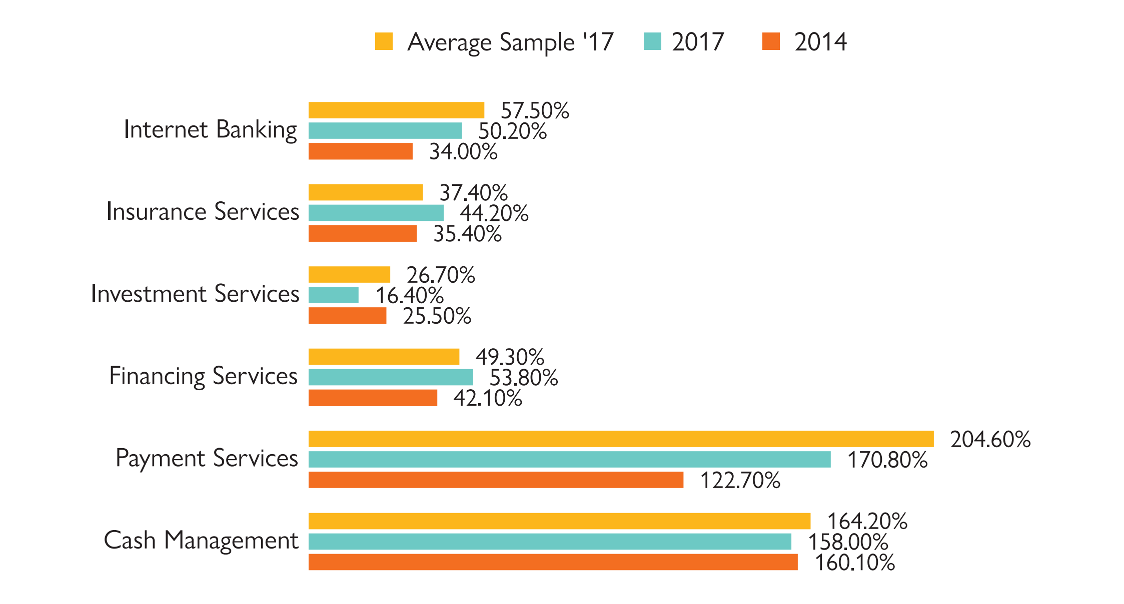
Banking	
Bankarization rate 2017	89%
Variation in the number of bank accounts 2017–2016	+5.0%
Seniority rate (percentage of bank account with more than 5 years)	46%
The percentage is slightly higher than the average of the 21 nationalities considered within the observatory (44%)	
Incidence of holders of IBAN cards on the overall adult population	28%
Percentage of bank accounts held by women	41%
A full comparison among the percentage of bank accounts held by women and the percentage of women in the overall community is not possible, given that the latter is not limited to adult population. However, it is possible to highlight a gender fragility in the process of financial inclusion of Albanian Community.	
Access to credit	
Incidence of credits issued on the overall bank accounts of Albanian citizens	36.3%
Incidence of mortgages on the overall bank accounts of Albanian citizens	18.8%
Albania is in line with the average data on credits issued to the overall 21 nationalities considered by the observatory (36.35), while it shows a higher incidence of mortgages (the average is 11.6%).	

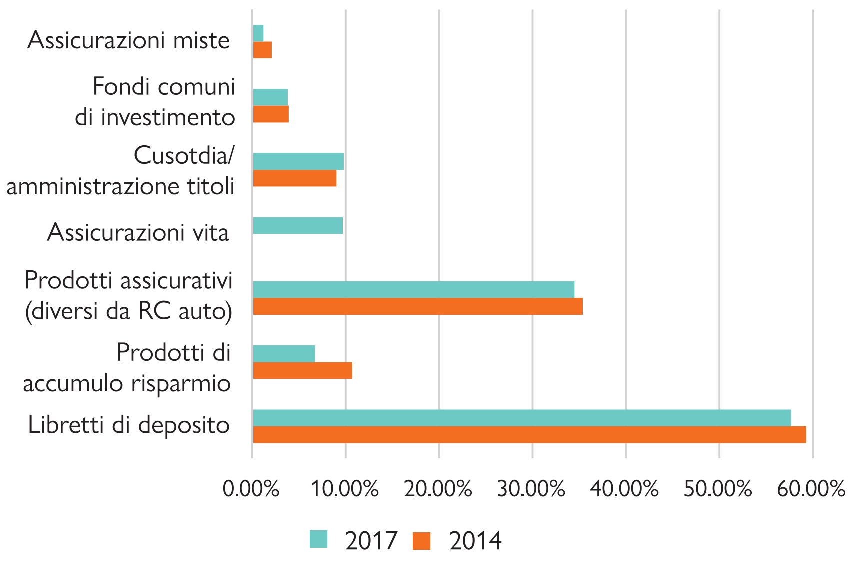
Incidence of credits on the number of bank accounts for geographical macro-regions	



Consumer credit: average single transaction	EUR 556
Consumer credit: incidence of Albanian community's operation (volumes) on the overall database of 21 nationalities	7%

Use of banking products
Incidence of holders of baking products and financial services on the overall bank and PostOffice account holders in the Albanian Community – in comparison with the average data in 2017 for the entire database of 21 nationalities and data of Albanian Community in 2014



Incidence of products of accumulation-protection of savings on the overall bank account holders in the Albanian Community

The detail of the ownership of services and products that provide for a component of accumulation – protection of savings on the one hand shows a preference for liquid instruments (Libretti di deposito)– compared to more stable forms of accumulation, such as the Accumulation Savings Plans. There is a growth in the ownership of asset management services (Gestione e Amministrazione titoli), a sign of increasing savings capacity and a relationship with financial intermediaries that tends to evolve. The growth of the insurance component considered as a whole is confirmed. The data do not allow a comparison with 2014, but on an annual basis these products show a + 19 per cent in the Albanian community compared to a growth of 14 per cent referred to the sample of the 21 nationalities analysed in the database.

Small Business	
Incidence of Small Business bank accounts on the overall accounts held by the Albanian community	5.5%
Variation small business bank accounts 2016-2017	+13%
Small business seniority rate (percentage of small business accounts with more than 5 years)	54%
Percentage of small business bank accounts held by women	16%
Percentage of small business bank account holding credits	42%
Percentage of long-term credits on the overall credits	61%

If compared to the sample of the 21 nationalities analysed in the database, the Albanian Community's small business has a stronger relationship with the financial intermediates; all data are in line or higher with respect to the average, with the only exception of the percentage of bank accounts held by women, confirming a fragility in gender issues: - *Incidence Small Business bank accounts on the overall accounts of 21 nationalities: 4.7%* - *Variation 2016-2017: +10.5%* - *Small business seniority rate: 42%* - *Percentage of bank accounts held by women: 32%* - *Percentage of small business bank accounts holding a credit: 31%* - *Percentage of long-term credit on the overall credits: 53%*	
Remittances	
Variation of remittances sent by Albanian Community 2016–2017	+3.5%
Variation remittances sent by Albanian Community 2014–2017	+1.0%
Incidence of the Albanian community on the overall remittances sent from Italy (2017)	2.5%
Average cost of remittances sent from Italy to Albania for 150€ (March 2018)	6.91%

Source: National Observatory for Financial Inclusion of Migrants in Italy.

2.6.1. METHODOLOGICAL NOTES RELATED TO THE DATA ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Data on financial inclusion refers to a data set annually powered by a sample of banks representing 81 per cent of the total assets and 73 per cent of the total number of branches of the Italian Banking sector, plus BancoPosta and a sampling of Consumer Credit Institutions representing 88 per cent of the total flows disbursed by the Assofin associated.

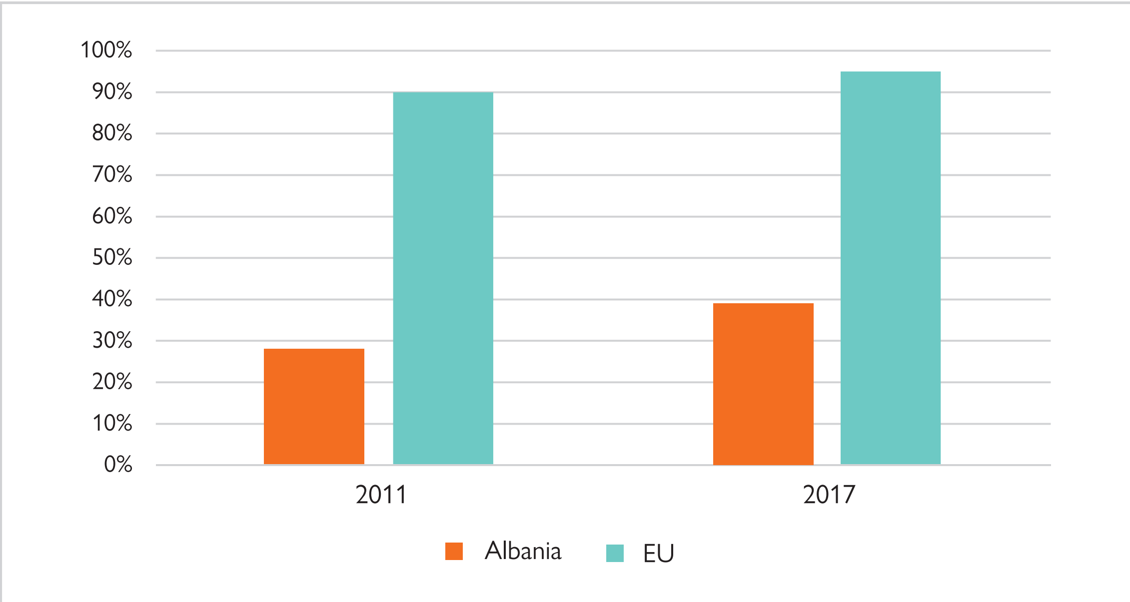
The average cost of remittances refers to periodic surveys carried out at the branches of banks, Money Transfer Operators and Post Office, according to the methodology used by the web site mandasoldiacasa.it and certified by World Bank, as part of the initiatives for compliance with the international agreement (G20) for the worldwide reduction of the costs of remittances.

2.7. FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN ALBANIA[15]

In this section we will present the situation of financial inclusion in Albania. The data on financial inclusion offer an interesting picture, relevant for consideration while evaluating the financial inclusion of the Albanian community in Italy, discussed in the previous section. Indeed, by comparing the situation in Italy with the overall financial inclusion of Albanians in their home country, it is possible to better evaluate the situation of the Albanian diaspora in Italy and the concrete opportunity for better management of the savings between the two countries.

According to data from Global Findex (February 2019), financial inclusion in Albania is significantly lower than the average in the Eurozone (Fig. 2.7.1.). However, comparing data between 2010 and 2017, it is possible to highlight an overall positive trend. Data also shows a significant gap between the financial inclusion of men (41%) if compared with women (37%).

Fig. 2.7.1.: Percentage of owners of a bank account in a formal institution (age +15)

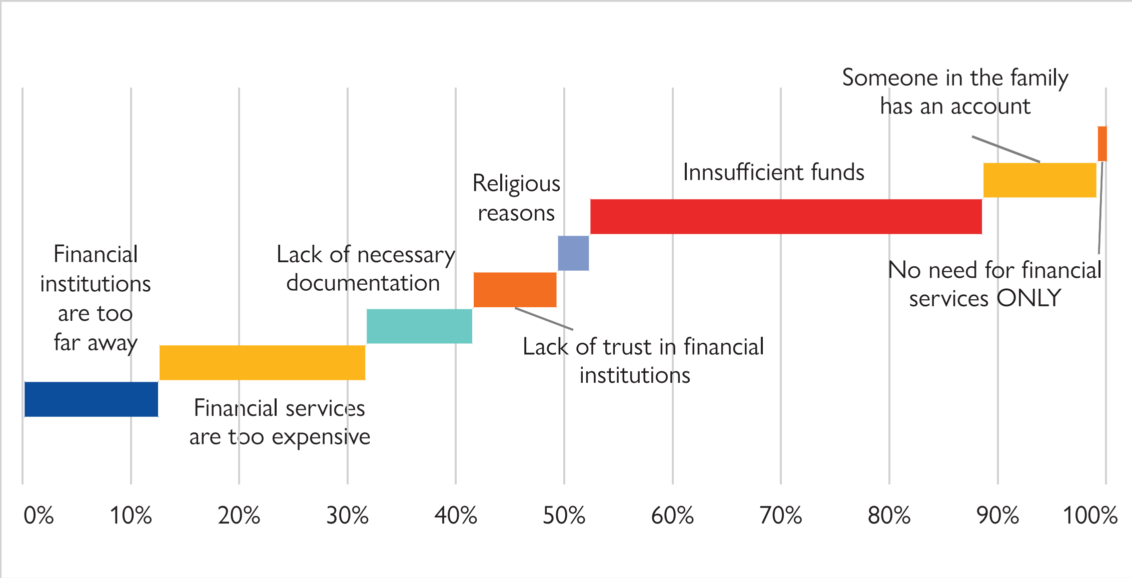


Source: Authors' Elaboration on Findex Database.

If we move to consider the reasons why many people do not hold a bank account (Fig. 2.7.2), accessibility is the main reported issue, in 50 per cent of the cases. A significant percentage (40%) also pointed to the limited revenues while explaining this phenomenon.

15 Authors' Elaboration on Findex Database, World Bank, 2011-2017.

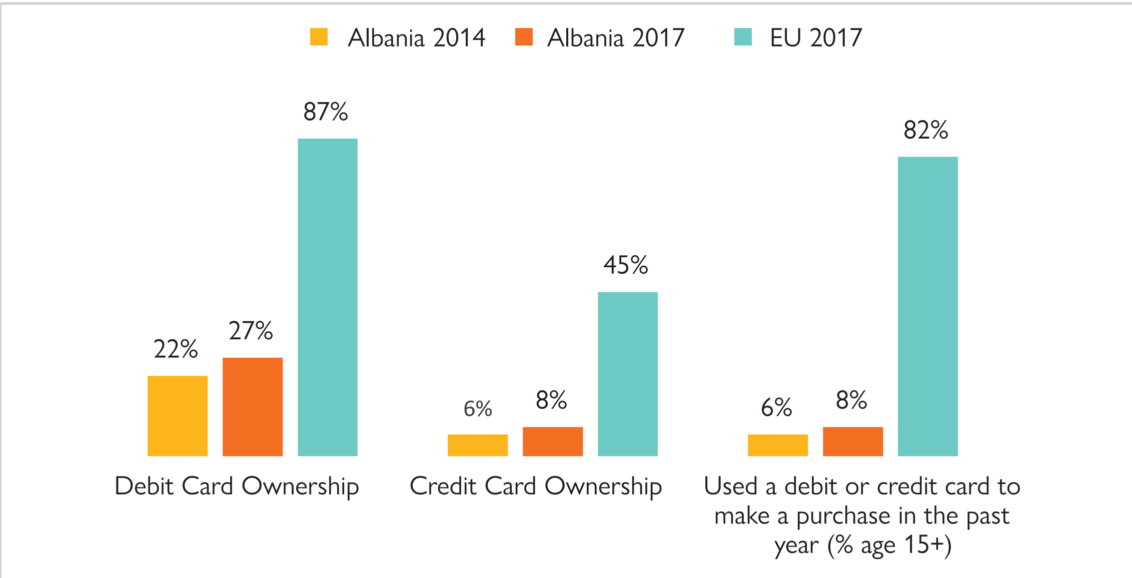
Fig. 2.7.2.: Reasons for not holding a bank account in Albania, 2017.



Source: Authors' Elaboration on Findex database.

The limited access to bank accounts is also reflected in a limited number of debit or credit card holders, as well as in a limited use of debit or credit cards for payments (Fig. 2.7.3.).

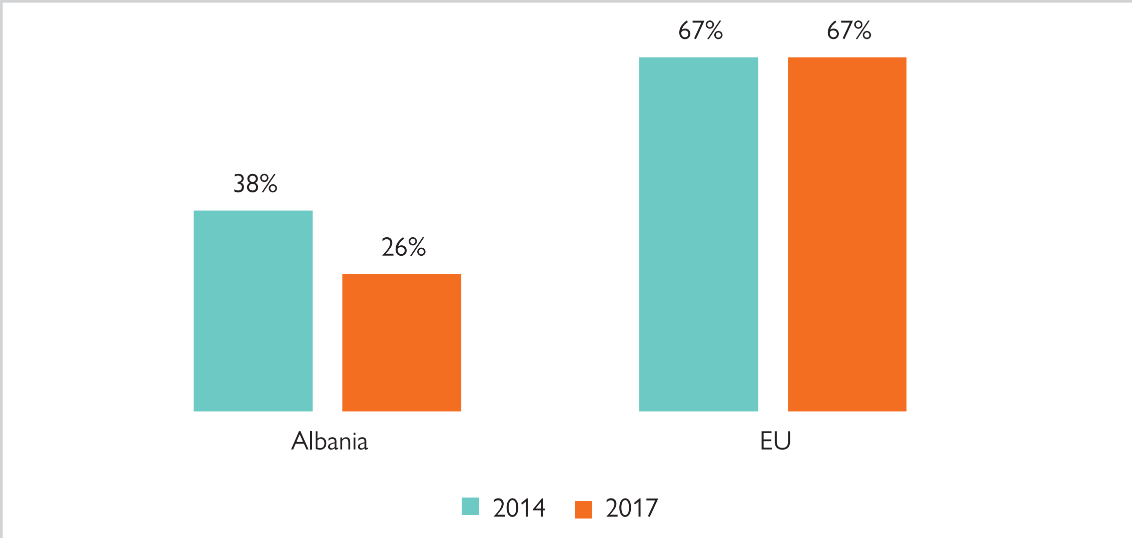
Fig. 2.7.3.: Number of debit/credit card holders and use of debit/credit cards in Albania and in the Eurozone, 2014 and 2017



Source: Authors' Elaboration on Findex Data.

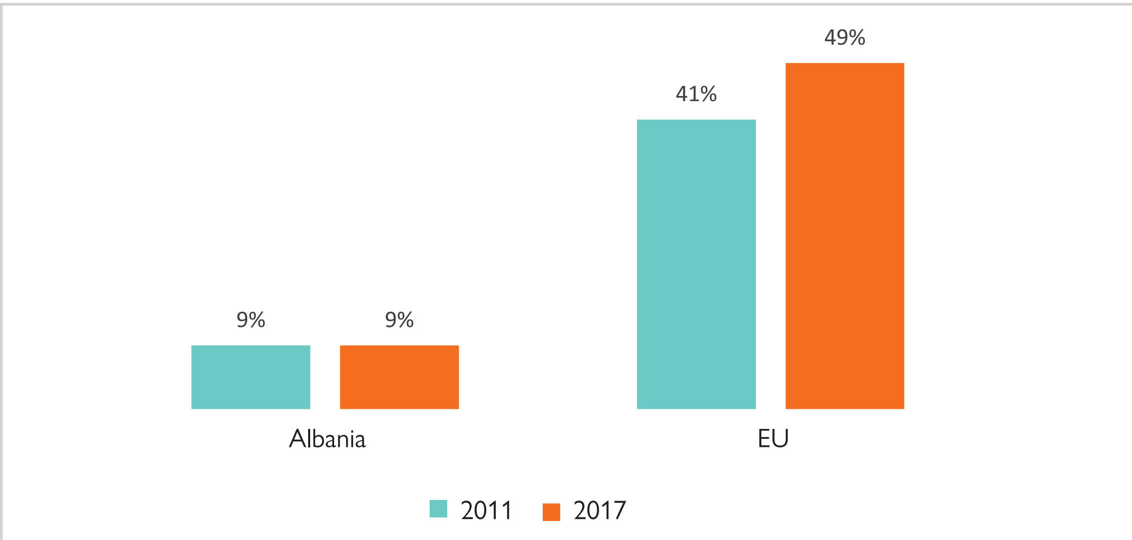
The percentage of those (Age +15) that have saved any money in the past year is also low in Albania and falling between 2014 and 2017 (Fig. 2.7.4.). Moreover, a very small percentage of these savings are in a bank account (Fig. 2.7.5.). Only 9 per cent of the population (age 15+) save for old age care and 7 per cent save to start, operate, or expand a farm or business.

Fig. 2.7.4: Percentage of those that have saved any money in 2014 and 2017 in Albania and the Eurozone



Source: Authors' Elaboration on Findex Data.

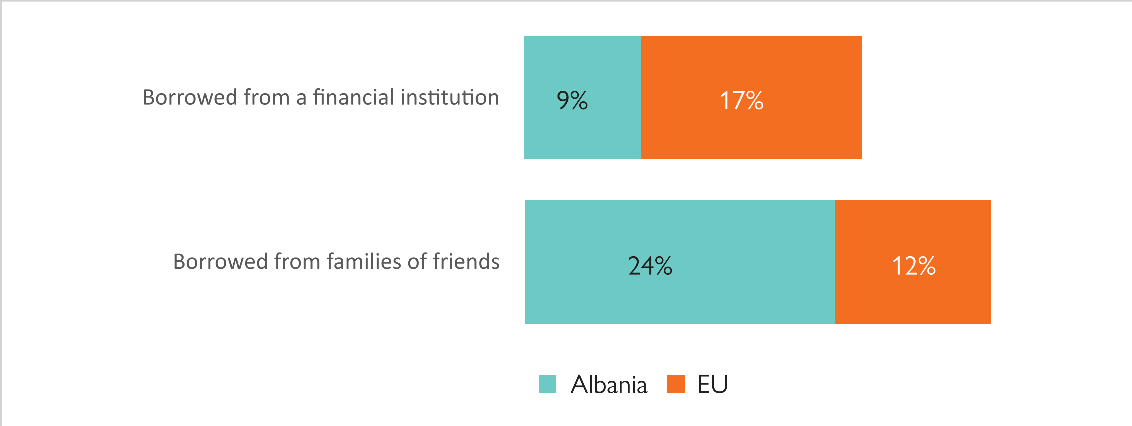
Fig. 2.7.5: Percentage of savings in a bank account in 2011 and 2017, Albania and Eurozone



Source: Authors' Elaboration on Findex Data.

With respect to credit, in 2017, 43 per cent of the Albanians received some credit, compared to 55 per cent of citizens in the Eurozone. In 2014, the percentages of loans received by Albanians (57%) and citizens of the Eurozone (56%) were aligned. This figure points to a worsening of the conditions of credit access in Albania. This interpretation is also sustained by the figures related to Albanian owners of mortgages – 9 per cent in 2014 and 8 per cent in 2017 (while, in the Eurozone, mortgage owners where 23% in 2014 and 25% in 2017). Fig. 6 shows a comparison between formal and informal channels of credit in Albania and the Eurozone in 2017, confirming a preference for informal channels in the Albanian case.

Fig. 2.7.6.: Formal and informal credit channels in Albania and Eurozone in 2017



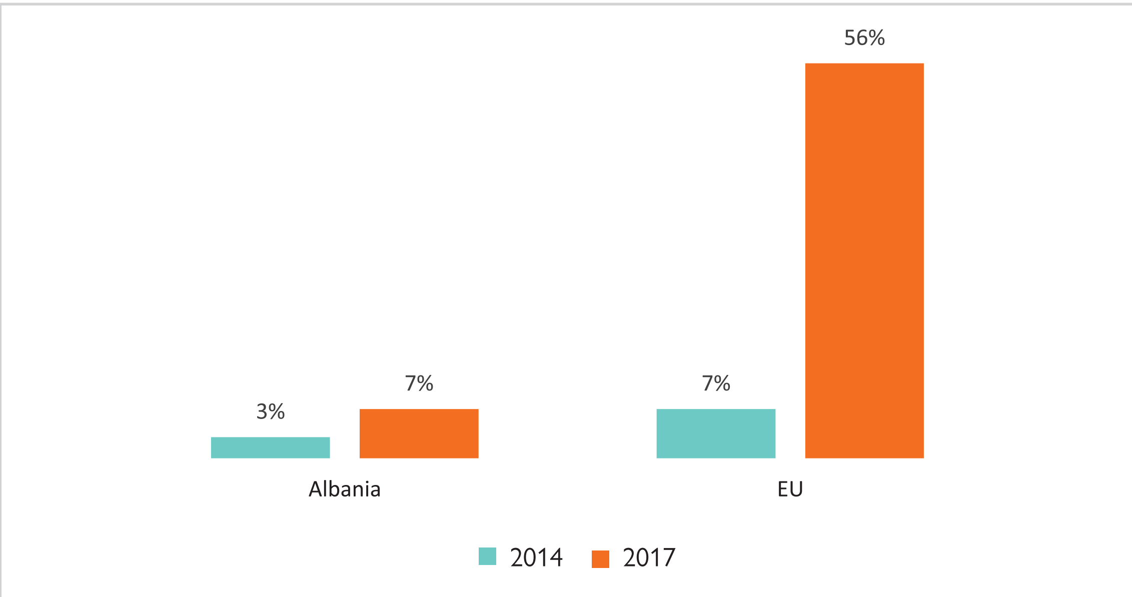
Source: Authors' Elaboration on Findex Data.

Loans aimed at starting a business activity were activated by 4 per cent of the Albanian population (age +15) in 2014, and 8 per cent in 2017. Eurozone average in 2017 was 25 per cent.

Remittances were received by 21 per cent of the Albanian population in 2017 (27% in 2014). In 54 per cent of cases, remittances were received cash, by family and friends.

Finally, there is a significant financial digital divide in Albania (Fig.2.7.7 if compared to the Eurozone: while in Europe, during 2017 half of the population used internet to pay bills or to buy something online, in Albania the percentage drops to a 7 per cent. Looking at the digital divide from a financial point of view, only 29 per cent of Albanians (age +15) made or received digital payments in the past year, while the average in the Eurozone is 92 per cent. Moreover, among those that hold a bank account, only 8 per cent (compared to an average of 47% in the Eurozone) used a mobile phone or the internet to access a financial institution account in the past year.

Fig. 2.7.7.: Used the internet to pay bills or to buy something online in the past year (% age 15+)



Source: Authors' Elaboration on Findex Data.

CHAPTER III - THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY: A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS ACROSS FIVE REGIONS AND FOUR SECTORS

GENERAL OVERVIEW

This section is based on the analysis conducted on the database per sector (Agribusiness; Social Enterprises; Cultural Preservation and Heritage; Potential Investors), as well as on a comparison of the analysis conducted per region (Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Lombardy, Piedmont, Tuscany) presented in the following Chapters.

The sample is made up of 631 respondents, mainly male, but the gender distribution is not even per sector and per region. The majority of the sample (98,57%) was born in Albania, with a prevalence of respondents born in Tirana, Shkodra, and Durres. Most of the respondents are between 30–39 years old. Almost the entire sample is composed of respondents with Albanian citizenship at birth. Currently, around 50 per cent of the sample have acquired Italian citizenship, which shows of an accomplished integration process. In terms of marital status, the majority of the sample is either married or cohabiting. In average terms, Albanian partners are more frequent, but Italian partners are as well quite common. In terms of legal and administrative status, as an average, the majority of respondents in all the considered regions declared double citizenship, followed by residence cards or Long-term EC permit. This confirms the picture of a well-integrated and stable community. With respect to the reason for choosing the area where to live in Italy, the presence of friends/relatives is the first mentioned reason (by more than 50% of the respondents).

Overall, the 631 respondents are distributed evenly among the different sectors, with a slight prevalence of respondents in the Potential Investors Group. The sample is predominantly highly skilled, with more than 60 per cent holding at least a Bachelor's Degree. These highly skilled professionals are particularly concentrated in the Cultural and Social Enterprises sectors, with a significant number of these professionals having obtained their highest degree in Italy. Most of the respondents are employed permanently (or full-time). There is, however, an interesting percentage of self-employed workers or business owners, with some differences across regions and sectors. The vast majority of these business owners have their centre of affairs in Italy. When they hire employees, they are usually Albanian for the most part, but Italian employees are as well present.

Generally speaking, the average income of the sample is in line with or higher than the Italian national average. This trend is coherent with the above-mentioned educational characteristics of the sample and with their working status. Most part of the household family income of the respondents stays in Italy, either spent as living expenses, or as savings. The percentage of remittances sent to Albania is quite low, with some differences per region and sector, as analysed in the regional chapters. Around half the respondents of the sample own a house, mainly in Italy. Also, in terms of plans for the future, there is a higher percentage of respondents that are thinking to buy a house in Italy, compared to buying a house in Albania. Of the 33.12 per cent of respondents that have properties in Albania, the most come from the Agribusiness Sector and Potential Investors group.

Overall, the sample seems not to have suffered much from the economic crisis of the last 10 years, or the negative effects of the crisis were compensated by growing stability and integration in Italy. Indeed, the majority of respondents think that their situation today is better than ten years ago, in terms of income, working status, social life, and capability of collecting savings.

With respect to the relationship with Albania, most of the respondents in all the considered sectors report of not having an interest in moving to another country. This answer was prevalent in particular among Agribusiness and Potential Investors groups, which present the highest number of entrepreneurs. Among those planning to move abroad in the next three years, the most represented sector is that of Social Enterprises, while the Cultural sector is the most represented among those that think they might consider moving over the next three years.

Most of the respondents, in all sectors, do not consider the possibility of going back to Albania. However, the more interested in moving back to Albania are those engaged in the Cultural Preservation sector, probably due to potential developments of this sector in Albania (see regional chapters), as well as relative precariousness of their working conditions in Italy. The less interested group is that of Agribusiness, despite the opportunities of development of this sector in Albania (and the fact that they are ranked the first in terms of owning properties in Albania).

At the same time, the large majority of respondents in all the considered sectors and regions consider that it is important to know what is happening in Albania and report of getting informed about the latest developments back at home mainly through internet and social media. Family and personal linkages with Albania seem to be quite strong in all the considered regions, with Albanian residents in Italy tending to return quite often to their homeland. The majority of respondents also declared that they would be interested in being included in a register of migrants , eventually set up by the Albanian Government. More than 80 per cent of the sample reports that they are not enrolled in any formal or informal Albanian association abroad, confirming the idea that associations are not particularly strong among their specific community (for more information on this matter, refer to Chapter XI reporting about qualitative interviews).

The majority of respondents strongly agree with the fact that, with their visits and exchange in Albania, they transfer ideas, information, and capital to family and friends. Moreover, most of the respondents reported that they have recommended friends and acquaintances to visit Albania.

The majority of respondents see their future in Italy and want to keep their business centre in Italy. This is particularly the case in the Agribusiness Sector. A number of respondents (22.82%) are also interested in increasing their business relations and contacts with Albania. From this point of view, the most interested are persons from the Potential Investors group, followed by the Cultural Sector and Social Sector. A smaller percentage of respondents reports of being interested in moving the centre of business elsewhere. This answer was particularly frequent in the Cultural Sector. Very few respondents report of being interested in moving permanently to Albania or of moving their business centre to Albania. Based on the fieldwork, the main reason for this attitude can be explained with their good level of integration reached in Italy and in a perceived better quality of life in Italy as compared to the quality of life in Albania. Moreover, many respondents expressed a low level of trust in their country of origin and its development opportunities.

At the same time, the majority of respondents expressed some interest in contributing to the future of Albania. Considering the different sectors, the more interested are individuals form the Cultural and Social Sectors, followed by Potential Investors. Agribusiness employees confirm to be the least interested in Albania, in relative terms (even if, as mentioned above, respondents from the Agribusiness Sector are those more frequently owning properties in Albania; consequently, the two aspects don’t seem to be directly correlated).

When asked about their interest and availability in participating more concretely in activities to support the development of Albania (in terms of “virtual assignment”), a smaller percentage answered “yes” (around 47%). However, also in this case, a stronger interest was confirmed in the Cultural and Social Sectors compared to other sectors. This stronger interest and availability may be interpreted in the light of different elements: the general stronger sensibility of social and cultural sectors – and of the third sector more generally – towards needs and vulnerabilities, the habit of people from these sectors to offer consultancy and contribute to wider projects with more agility, and the likelyhood of these professional profiles to transfer knowledge and competences as compared to other sectors.

When asked about the interest to invest in Albania in the future in their own professional sector, around 34 per cent confirmed this interest. The most interested are respondents from the Cultural Sector and Potential Investors group. The least interested are those occupied in Agribusiness. In this case, this low-level interest can be interpreted in light of the potentialities offered in Albania as well as a relative dissatisfaction with the situation in Italy. A more detailed analysis of these respondents is presented in Chapter X.

Overall, 13.50 per cent of the sample, on average, made attempts to expand or move their professional activity in Albania, with some differences per sector. Overall, the five principle obstacles that have been mentioned are the following:

- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency of the PA.
- Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors.
- Unfavourable business environment.
- Bureaucratic effort/cost of bureaucracy.
- Lack of management capacities.

When asked about their interest in making an investment in Albania in the future, most of the respondents gave a negative answer (66.16%). However, a promising 33.84 per cent confirmed this interest.

Overall, the main drivers for investment in Albania are identified in the following:

- Tax incentives.
- Legal and administrative support to investors.
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors.
- Public investment in training and education.
- Reduction of burden and cost of bureaucracy.
- Provision of services.
- Low-interest loans.

The large majority of those who answered with "no" the question of interest for potential investments in Albania mentioned that they are simply not interested in investing in Albania. Other problems or barriers identified also regarding the potentiality of investing are similar to those experienced by those who actually made the investments, and in particular:

- Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy.
- Unfavourable business environment.
- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency of the Public Administration.

The percentage of those that made an attempt to invest in other professional sectors (different from the one they are dedicated to in Italy) is very low. The main negative aspects of these experiences are identified in general in:

- Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy.
- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency of the Public Administration.
- Unfavourable business environment.
- Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors.
- Inadequate transport and other infrastructures.

The percentage of those declaring an interest in investing in Albania in a different sector with respect to the one where they are occupied in Italy is limited, particularly present in the Social Sector. Incentives which are considered particularly relevant by respondents in this perspective are a mix of:

- Financial incentives and support services, including legal and administrative support to investors.
- Tax incentives.
- Low-interest loans.
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors.
- Provision of services.

Similarly, also the reasons why the respondents are not interested in investing in other sectors are similar to those already analysed with respect to their own sector. The majority of respondents report they are simply not interested. Other frequent answers include:

- Bureaucratic efforts/Costs of bureaucracy.
- Unfavourable business environment and deficiencies in Public Administration quality, efficiency, transparency.

3.1. SOCIOECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

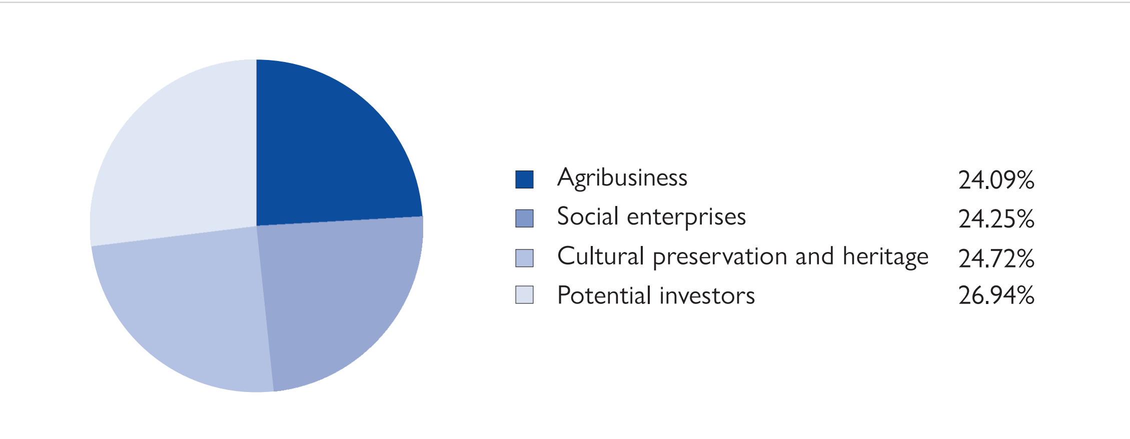
3.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

The sample is made up of 631 respondents, distributed in the five regions targeted by this analysis (see Chapters V–IX), respectively 284 females and 347 males.

There are some significant differences in gender distribution across sectors (Fig. 3.1.1.1.). In particular, while a perfect balance exists among those occupied in the Cultural Preservation and Heritage Sector, Agribusiness and Potential Investors group are mainly made up of men, while the Social Enterprises sector features predominantly women.

In terms of the regional distribution, there is a prevalence of men in four out of five regions (Lazio, Lombardy, Piedmont, and Tuscany), with the only exception in Emilia-Romagna, where a prevalence of women was registered (69 out of 123 respondents).[16]

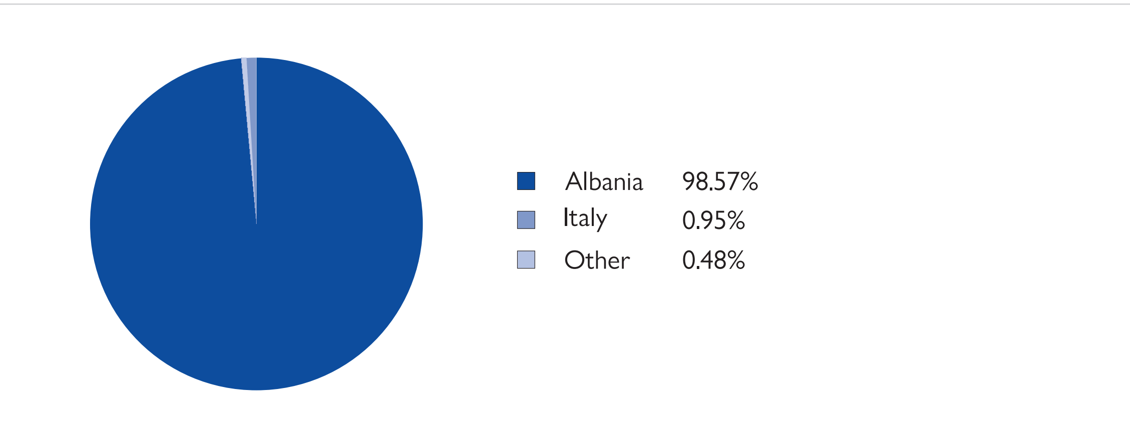
Fig. 3.1.1.1.: Employment per sector (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 1: Employment sector.

98,57 per cent of the sample was born in Albania (Fig. 3.1.1.2.). In terms of city of birth, 81,62 per cent of respondents come from 10 cities, listed in Tab 3.1.1.3. More than 45 per cent of respondents come from the three first cities of the list: Tirana (19.33%), Shkodra (16.64%) and Durres (11.09%).

Fig. 3.1.1.2.: Country of birth (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social", Question No. 5: Country of birth.

16 For more information, refer to the chapters dedicated to analysis at regional scale.

Tab. 3.1.1.3.: City of Birth (distribution per gender and percentage)

	City of birth	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential Investors	Total	%
1	Tirana	20	25	45	32	122	19.33
2	Shkodra/ Scutari	28	25	19	33	105	16.64
3	Durres / Durazzo	14	16	18	22	70	11.09
4	Fier	15	7	8	14	44	6.97
5	Lezha	11	10	10	8	39	6.18
6	Vlora / Valona	10	4	7	11	32	5.07
7	Elbasan	6	11	6	8	31	4.91
8	Berat	6	12	5	3	26	4.12
9	Korca	3	8	10	4	25	3.96
10	Lushnja	5	7	3	6	21	3.33
Rest of Albania		30	28	22	27	107	16.96
Italy		2	0	2	1	5	0.79
Other Countries		2	0	1	1	4	0.63
Total		152	153	156	170	631	100,00

* The sum of the top ten cities of birth represents the 81,62 per cent of the entire sample.

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 5a - City of birth.

The majority of respondents, in all the considered sectors, are between 30–39 years old in four out of five regions, with Piemond being the only exception, where most of the respondents are between 40–49 years old. Overall, the two groups make up for the vast majority of the sample. Minor groups of respondents include individuals under thirties and between 50–59.[17]

Almost the entire sample is made up of respondents who had Albanian citizenship at birth.[18] Many respondents have acquired Italian citizenship in the last decades: today, 317 respondents (out of 631), nearly 50 per cent of the sample, hold the Italian citizenship.

3.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

In terms of the marital status, the majority of the sample in all the considered regions is married or cohabiting, going from a reported minimum in the Lazio Region (where the married/cohabiting respondents represent 59% of the sample) to a reported maximum in the Piedmont Region (where married/cohabiting respondents represent 74.80% of the sample). The following more represented category is that of singles.

Tab. 3.1.2.1. shows the percentages of Albanian, Italian and Albanian/Italian partners mentioned by respondents in each of the considered regions.[19] As an average, Albanian partners are the most frequent (29.64% of respondents), followed by Italian partners (22.82%) and partners with double citizenship Italian and Albanian (10.78%). However, there are interesting differences among regions: in particular, in Emilia-Romagna and Tuscany, the majority of respondents have an Italian partner, followed by a high percentage of respondents with partners with double citizenship.

17 For more information, refer to the chapters dedicated to analysis at regional scale.
18 The few exceptions are detailed in the chapters dedicated to analysis at regional scale.
19 For more information, refer to the chapters dedicated to analysis at regional scale.

In terms of legal and administrative status, as an average, the majority of respondents in all the considered regions have declared a double citizenship, followed by residence card or Long-term EC permit. This confirms the picture of a well-integrated and stable community. The main reasons for these permits are to be found in the subordinate work and, in more limited case, family issues, self-employment, or study.[20]

With respect to the reason for choosing the area where to live in Italy, the presence of friends/relatives is the first reason mentioned in almost all the considered regions (by more than 50% of respondents), with Emilia-Romagna as the only exception, where the presence of public services is considered particularly important (by almost 35% of respondents). On average, the second reason is the presence of work (for 21.58% of respondents). This answer was particularly reported by respondents residing in Lombardy.

Tab. 3.1.2.1.: Percentage of nationality of partner in the different regions

	Albanian	Italian	Italian and Albanian	Italian and Other	Albanian and Other	Other	n.d.	n.a.	Total
Emiia-Romagna	3.65	4.60	4.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.79	6.34	19.49
Lazio	7.45	4.44	0.32	0.00	0.16	0.32	0.00	7.77	20.44
Lombardy	7.29	5.07	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.16	8.08	21.24
Piedmont	8.24	4.44	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.00	4.44	19.49
Tuscany	3.01	4.28	3.96	0.32	0.00	0.63	0.00	7.13	19.33
Total	29.64	22.82	10.78	0.32	0.16	1.58	0.95	33.76	100.00

Source: Analysis in chapters at regional scale.

Tab. 3.1.2.2.: Main reasons for choosing the area where the respondent lives in Italy (percentage per Region)

	For the presence of public services	Because friend/relatives live here	Because there is work	Because I heard good things about it	Other
Emilia-Romagna	34.97	34.27	16.08	11.19	3.50
Lazio	12.93	54.42	20.41	8.16	4.08
Lombardy	4.76	57.74	28.57	7.74	1.19
Piedmont	10.88	53.74	25.85	8.84	0.68
Tuscany	13.64	54.55	17.42	5.30	9.09
Average	15.43	50.94	21.67	8.25	3.71

Source: Analysis in chapters at regional scale.

20 For more information, refer to the chapters dedicated to analysis at regional scale.

3.2. PROFESSIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.2.1. EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAITS

Tab. 3.2.1.1. shows the professional composition of the sample, per sector and subsector. Overall, the 631 respondents are distributed evenly among the different sectors, with a slight prevalence of respondents in the Potential Investors group.

Overall, the sample can be defined as high skilled (Tab. 3.2.1.2.) with 39.14 per cent of respondents holding a Master's degree, 5.07 per cent a PhD or equivalent degree, and 17.43 per cent a Bachelor's degree. This means that, overall, more than 60 per cent of the sample holds at least a Bachelor's degree. 33.12 per cent of the sample holds a secondary education degree (19.49% regular, 13.63% vocational). Only 5.07 per cent of the respondents hold a primary school degree.

However, there are some differences among sectors. The highest percentage of highly skilled respondents are engaged in the Cultural Preservation and Heritage and Social Enterprises sectors. In the Potential Investors group, the situation is more variable, even though the Master's degree is still the prevalent answer. Finally, in the agribusiness sector, most of the respondents hold a secondary education degree.

This situation is perfectly mirrored when considering countries where the highest educational degree was completed: most of the (highly skilled) respondents in the Social Enterprises and Cultural Sector gained their highest educational degree in Italy. Respondents from the agribusiness sector mainly gained their highest educational degree in Albania. While, in the case of Potential Investors, the situation is perfectly balanced among the two countries. There are no significant differences among regions when it comes to this particular aspect.

Tab. 3.2.1.1.: Professional composition of the sample, per sector and subsector

Professional sector and sub-sector	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness (profiles linked to Agri-food and Agritourism)	**38**	**114**	**152**	**13.38**	**32.85**	**24.09**
Agribusiness entrepreneur/ Agritourism	4	28	32	10.53	24.56	21.05
Agribusiness services (as marketing, stoke, etc.)	13	29	42	34.21	25.44	27.63
University and research/studies (Agribusiness sector)	11	4	15	28.95	3.51	9.87
Agricultural operator	10	53	63	26.32	46.49	41.45
2. Social Enterprises (profiles linked to social and health services)	**116**	**37**	**153**	**40.85**	**10.66**	**24.25**
Nurse	22	7	29	18.97	18.92	18.95
Social-cultural mediator	18	1	19	15.52	2.70	12.42
Doctor/dentist	18	11	29	15.52	29.73	18.95
Social and health-care services	8	3	11	6.90	8.11	7.19
University and research/Studies/ Teachers and Educators (health-care sector)	7	5	12	6.03	13.51	7.84
Psychologist and social assistant	3	1	4	2.59	2.70	2.61

Social health worker (as physiotherapist, pharmacist, optician, etc.)	40	9	49	34.48	24.32	32.03
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage (profiles linked to cultural or archeological sites)	**77**	**79**	**156**	**27.11**	**22.77**	**24.72**
Architect/Conservator- restorer/ Designer	17	32	49	22.08	40.51	31.41
Tourism (museum worker, guide, touristic agencies, etc.)	24	21	45	31.17	26.58	28.85
University and research / Studies (cultural heritage sector)	6	5	11	7.79	6.33	7.05
Writer/Journalist/ Translator	3	3	6	3.90	3.80	3.85
Art, sport, show, entertainment and cultural events	27	18	45	35.06	22.78	28.85
4. Potential Investors (all other sectors)	**53**	**117**	**170**	**18.66**	**33.72**	**26.94**
Hotel/accommodation	5	5	10	9.43	4.27	5.88
Lawyer/Accountant/Consultant, etc.	22	14	36	41.51	11.97	21.18
Coffee shop/Restaurants /Pastry shop/Bakery	8	33	41	15.09	28.21	24.12
Trade/Craftsmanship/Service	15	27	42	28.30	23.08	24.71
Building (construction, restoration, etc.)	0	28	28	0.00	23.93	16.47
Manufacturing/ Metalworking	2	7	9	3.77	5.98	5.29
Planners	1	3	4	1.89	2.56	2.35
Total	284	347	631	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations"; Question No. 6: Please tell us about your working situation – the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

Tab 3.2.1.2.: Educational level/qualification (distribution per sector and percentage)

Educational level/ qualification	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential Investors	Total
Primary school	2.85	0.16	0.32	1.74	5.07
Secondary education, vocational	5.23	1.43	1.11	5.86	13.63
Secondary education, regular	7.92	2.69	2.38	6.50	19.49
Tertiary education, Bachelor's degree	2.38	6.50	5.23	3.33	17.43
Tertiary education, Master's degree	4.60	12.52	13.63	8.40	39.14
Quaterny education (PhD or other)	0.95	0.95	2.06	1.11	5.07
Other	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16
Total	24.09	24.25	24.72	26.94	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations", Question No. 1: Educational level/qualification (please select the highest completed).

Tab 3.2.1.3.: Country where the highest educational level was completed (distribution per sector and percentage)

	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential Investors	Total
Italy	6.97	16.01	16.64	13.15	52.77
Albania	16.80	8.08	7.92	13.47	46.28
Albania and Italy	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.16	0.32
Other Country	0.32	0.00	0.16	0.16	0.63
Total	24.09	24.25	24.72	26.94	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations"; Question No. 2 Where did you completed the highest educational/qualification level?

In terms of working status (Tab. 3.2.1.4.), most of the respondents (36.77%) are employed permanently full-time. The second most frequent situation is that of self-employed workers (17.59%), followed by entrepreneurs (11.41%), employed with time-limited contracts (9.51%) and employed permanent part-time (7.13%).

There are, however, differences among sectors that are worth highlighting. In particular, that of employed permanently (or full-time) is, by far, the most frequent situation in the Social Enterprises sector. Also in the agribusiness sector, full-time employment is a prevalent situation, but there is also a number of employees with time-limited (or part-time) contracts. In the cultural sector, the number of permanent contracts is more or less the same as the number of self-employed. Overall, in this sector, there are different situations as regards working status and generally speaking the situation looks less stable than in other sectors. In the case of Potential Investors, finally, three situations are equally frequent: that of employed permanent full-time, self-employed, and business owners. The Potential Investors group is where the business owners are more present, followed by the Agribusiness Sector, the Cultural Sector and, finally, the Social Enterprises group.

Also in terms of regions, there are differences that are worth highlighting, in particular as far as the number of entrepreneurs is concerned. The main concentration of business owners was registered in Tuscany (18.85% of the sample), followed by Lazio (13.95% of the sample), Emilia-Romagna (10.57% of the sample), Piedmont (8.13% of the sample) and, finally, Lombardy (5.97% of the sample). Lombardy and again, Tuscany, are the regions where the highest number of self-employed/freelance workers was registered (23.13% of the sample in Lombardy; 23.77% in Tuscany), followed by Emilia-Romagna (17.89% of the sample), Lazio (14.73% of the sample) and Piedmont (8.13% of the sample).[21]

Tab. 3.2.1.4.: Working status (distribution per sector and percentage)

Working status	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential investor	Total
Unemployed (actively looking for a job)	0.00	0.79	0.95	0.32	2.06
Homemaker	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.16
Student	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.16
Student-worker	0.32	0.48	0.32	0.79	1.90
Employed permanent full time	10.30	13.15	6.18	7.13	36.77
Employed permanent part-time	2.38	1.74	2.06	0.95	7.13
Employed with time limited contract	4.60	2.54	1.43	0.95	9.51

21 For more information, refer to the chapters presenting the analysis conducted at regional scale.

Occupied in layoffs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.16
Occupied irregularly but fairly stable	0.79	0.00	0.63	0.32	1.74
Occupied irregularly in an un-stable way	0.32	0.00	0.63	0.16	1.11
Occupied "para-subordinate" work	0.00	0.79	2.22	0.32	3.33
Self-employed regular /free-lance worker *	1.27	2.69	5.86	7.77	17.59
Self-employed worker not regular	0.48	0.00	0.63	0.32	1.43
Business owner*	2.06	0.63	1.27	7.45	11.41
Cooperative worker member	0.63	0.48	0.32	0.00	1.43
Other/Do not declare	0.95	0.79	2.06	0.32	4.12
Total	24.09	24.25	24.72	26.94	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations", Question No. 6: Please tell us your working situation – the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

3.2.2. FOCUS ON THE SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNERS

Overall, of the total 631 respondents, 183 are self-employed and business owners. Tab. 3.2.2.1. offers information on the employees of these two categories of respondents, as reported by them, and on their nationality. The big number in the Potential Investors group is influenced by the presence of an outliner in Piedmont managed by a single entrepreneur with more than 1,000 employees. Overall, most of the employees work in the sectors with most of the entrepreneurs (respectively Potential Investors and the agribusiness sector). In both cases, most of the employees are Albanian, however, a good presence of Italians is as well noted, in particular in the agribusiness sector, in relative terms. A smaller number of employees is reported in the Cultural and Social Sectors, with a slight prevalence of Albanian employees.

Almost all the respondents under this category sees the centre of their business in Italy (Fig. 3.2.2.2.). However, a number of respondents also report about professional relations with Albania. This is particularly the case in the cultural sector (13 out of 45 respondents) and in the Potential Investors group (14 out of 96 respondents). More details about the typology of these relations are presented in the regional chapters (Chapter V to Chapter IX).

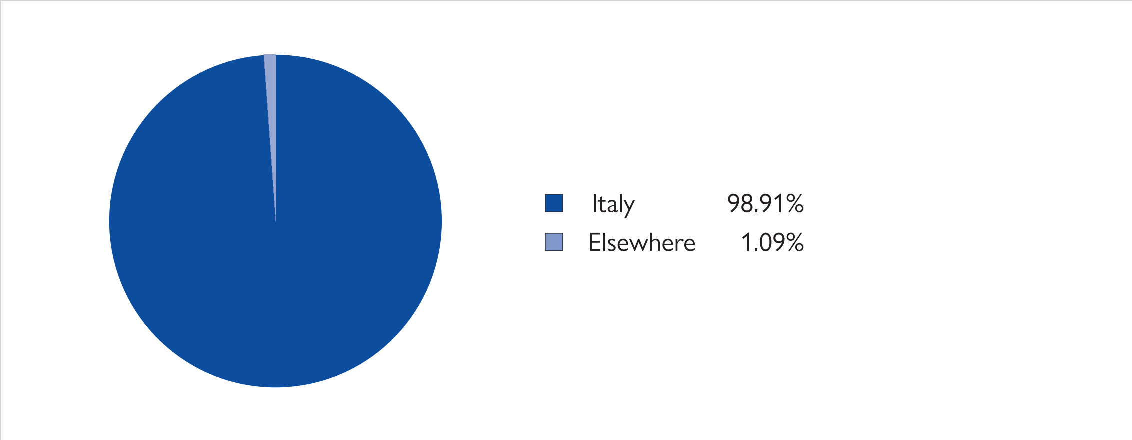
Tab. 3.2.2.1.: Nationality of employees

Nationality of employees	AL	IT	Other	Total	A (%)	I (%)	Other (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	41	37	1	79	2.51	2.27	0.06	4.84
2. Social Enterprises	15	11	6	32	0.92	0.67	0.37	1.96
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	20	14	5	39	1.23	0.86	0.31	2.39
4. Potential Investors	947	248	286	1481	58.06	15.21	17.54	90.80
Total	1023	310	298	1631	62.72	19.01	18.27	100.00

AL = Albanian, IT = Italian, Other = Other nationalities, Total = total number of employees.

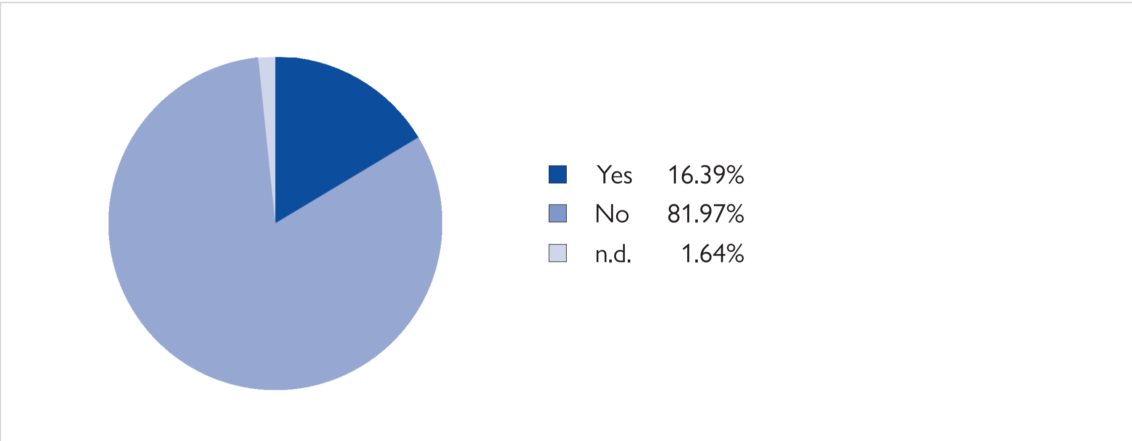
Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations"; Questions No. 8: How many employees do you have? question 8a How many are Italians? And question 8b How many are Albanians?

Fig. 3.2.2.2.: Location of the centre of business in Italy or elsewhere (distribution per sector and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question no. 9 Is the centre of your business interests Italy? Namely are your main business partners, supply relationships, customers, etc., in Italy or elsewhere? and 9a If NO, where is your "centre of business interests" located?

Fig. 3.2.2.3., Business relationship with Albania (percentage of distribution)



Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 10 Do you do business/have business relationships with Albania? (e.g. important customers, suppliers, partners, participation in tenders and calls, etc.).

3.3. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

3.3.1. INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

Tab. 3.3.1.1. shows the average individual and family income in all the considered regions. Generally speaking, the average income is higher than the Italian national average (which is EUR 20,670 for individual income in 2018 and EUR 39,595 for family income in 2017). This trend is coherent with the educational characteristics of the sample (mainly high skilled respondents) and with the working status (many occupied in permanent jobs, as well as self-employed and entrepreneurs), analysed and discussed in the previous sections.

In terms of sectors, the highest individual income is reported in the Potential Investors group. However, one should bear in mind that this data is influenced by the presence of one outliner in this sector, located in Piedmont. The following sectors generating individual income are Social Enterprises and Cultural Preservation and Heritage, whereas the agribusiness is ranked the last. In terms of household income, the distribution is similar, but the Social Enterprises group performs slightly better than the Cultural Preservation and Heritage group. In terms of income per capita, the Cultural preservation is the best performing, followed by Potential Investors, Social Enterprises and, finally, the Agribusiness. This difference can be explained by the fact that in the Cultural Group the household dimension is usually smaller.

Some differences can be highlighted in terms of regions. For example, in Emilia-Romagna, the two sectors accounting for the highest income are Social Enterprises and Potential Investors. In Lombardy, Social Enterprises and Cultural Preservation and Heritage. In Lazio, it is agribusiness, followed by Social Enterprises and Cultural Preservation and Heritage, in Piedmont, Potential Investors and Social Enterprises and in Tuscany, Potential Investors and Social Enterprises.[22]

In terms of gender, female respondents report of relatively lower average income compared to male respondents, excluding agribusiness in three out of five regions (Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy, and Tuscany).

Tab. 3.3.1.1., Average individual income and family income per region

	Individual annual income	Household size	Household income	Income per capita (for each member of the household)
Emilia-Romagna	23,000.56	2.75	39,261.87	16,556.23
Lazio	22,734.64	2.63	37,826.12	16,018.41
Lombardy	26,132.01	2.76	36,198.45	14,869.68
Piedmont*	32,852.03	3.24	43,536.59	13,144.31
Tuscany	27,201.83	3.31	42,394.50	14,087.88
Average	**26,680.66**	**2.93**	**39,775.05**	**14,788.88**

* Distorted by the presence of a potential investor; excluding him, more in line with national average.

Author Elaboration from analysis at regional scale.

22 A more detailed analysis of these data is presented in the chapters dedicated to regional analysis.

Tab. 3.3.1.2.: Economic indicators per sectors
(average, aggregate data from the five analysed regions)

Economic indicators per sector	Individual annual income	Household size	Household income	Income per capita (for each member of the household)
1. Agribusiness	22,352.38	2.99	32,290.20	11,886.32
2. Social Enterprises	23,818.71	2.98	39,632.12	14,704.99
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	23,129.19	2.63	37,149.64	16,193.87
4. Potential Investors	36,035.43	3.10	48,524.00	16,023.30
Average	**26,680.66**	**2.93**	**39,775.05**	**14,788.88**

The monetary data is expressed in Euro, average per sector.
Author Elaboration from analysis conducted at regional level.

3.3.2. REMITTANCES AND SAVING BEHAVIOUR

Most part of the household family income of respondents stays in Italy, either spent as living expenses, or as savings (97.17% in Emilia-Romagna; 95.35% in Lazio; 95.34% in Lombardy; 97.24% in Piedmont; 96.86% in Tuscany). The percentage of remittances sent to Albania is quite low, with some differences per regions and sectors, as analysed below in the regional chapters.

3.3.3. REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

In general terms, around half the respondents of the sample own a house. The majority of these houses are in Italy. Also, in terms of plans for the future, there is a higher percentage of respondents who are thinking of buying a house in Italy rather than in Albania. More specifically:

- In Emilia-Romagna, half of the respondents (58) own a house, of whom 39 in Italy and the rest in Albania, or both in Italy and Albania. In terms of plans for the future, 20.93 per cent are planning to buy a house in Italy and 6.8 per cent in Albania.
- In Lazio, half of the respondents (60) own a house: 30 in Italy and 30 in Albania, with three in both countries. In terms of plans for the future, 52.56 per cent reported of an interest in buying a property in Italy and 16.56 per cent in Albania.
- In Lombardy, half of the respondents (69 out of 134) own a house: 40 in Italy, 12 in Albania, 15 both in Italy and Albania. In terms of plans for the future 27.27 per cent are interested in buying a house in Italy and 21.47 per cent in Albania
- In Piedmont, 2/3 of the respondents (84) own a house (39 do not own a house). The majority (54) possesses a house in Italy, 15 in Albania and 15 in both countries. In terms of plans for the future, 28.72 per cent of respondents report that they are interested in buying a house in Italy and only 3.35 per cent in Albania.
- In Tuscany, half of the respondents (62) own a house, the other half do not own a house (57). Of the first group, the majority (48) own a house in Italy, 13 in Albania. Also regarding the plans for the future, there is a certain balance between who is thinking to buy a house in Italy and who is not (42.55% versus 55.05%); while only 12.66 per cent reported of an interest in buying a house in Albania (versus 84.94% who are not interested in buying a house in Albania).[23]

In terms of sectors, Tab. 3.3.3.1. shows that the 33.12 per cent of respondents (around 1/3 of the sample) have properties in Albania, including in particular respondents from the Agribusiness sector. Smaller percentage

23 More information on this matter is provided in the Chapters on regional analysis.

of respondents are planning to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years, for all the considered sectors, but with a slight preference leaning more towards Agribusiness and Potential Investors groups.

Tab. 3.3.3.1.: Properties in Albania

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania?	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	9.98	12.84	1.27	24.09
2. Social Enterprises	6.50	17.75	0.00	24.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	7.29	16.96	0.48	24.72
4. Potential Investors	9.35	17.59	0.00	26.94
Total	33.12	65.13	1.74	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section, question No. 5c Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania?

Tab. 3.3.3.2.: Plans to buy properties in Albania in the future

Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years?	Yes to the previous		No to the previous	n.d		Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
1. Agribusiness	2.22	7.77	0.32	12.52	1.27	24.09
2. Social Enterprises	0.79	5.71	1.43	16.16	0.00	24.09
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	1.43	5.86	1.90	15.21	0.48	24.88
4. Potential Investors	2.06	7.29	2.38	15.21	0.00	26.94
Total	6.50	26.62	6.02	59.11	1.74	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section, question No. 5d Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years? Note that question 5d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5c.

3.3.4. FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA

In terms of financial investments, there are some differences across regions. For example, more investments are reported in regions such as Lazio, Lombardy, and Piedmont, as compared to Emilia-Romagna or Tuscany.[24] Generally speaking, these investments were made mostly in Italy.

A smaller percentage (13.15%) declared they have made financial investments in Albania. This answer was particularly frequent among the respondents from the Cultural Sector. Very small percentages are planning to make such investments in Albania for the next three years.

Tab. 3.3.4.1.: Financial investments made in Albania

Have you made financial investments in Albania?	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	3.17	19.65	1.27	24.09
2. Social Enterprises	1.90	22.19	0.16	24.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4.75	19.49	0.48	24.72
4. Potential Investors	3.33	23.61	0.00	26.94
Total	13.15	84.94	1.90	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section, question No. 6c Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Albania?

24 More detailed information on this matter is provided in the Chapters on regional analysis.

Tab. 3.3.4.2.: Plans to invest in Albania in the future

Do you plan to invest in Albania in the next 3 years?	Yes to the previous		No to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
1. Agribusiness	1.90	1.27	0.79	18.86	1.27	24.09
2. Social Enterprises	0.48	1.43	0.32	21.87	0.16	24.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	1.90	2.85	0.32	19.18	0.48	24.72
4. Potential Investors	1.27	2.06	1.58	22.03	0.00	26.94
Total	5.55	7.61	3.01	81.93	1.90	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section, question No. 6d Do you plan to invest in Albania the next 3 years? Note that question 6d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given under 6c.

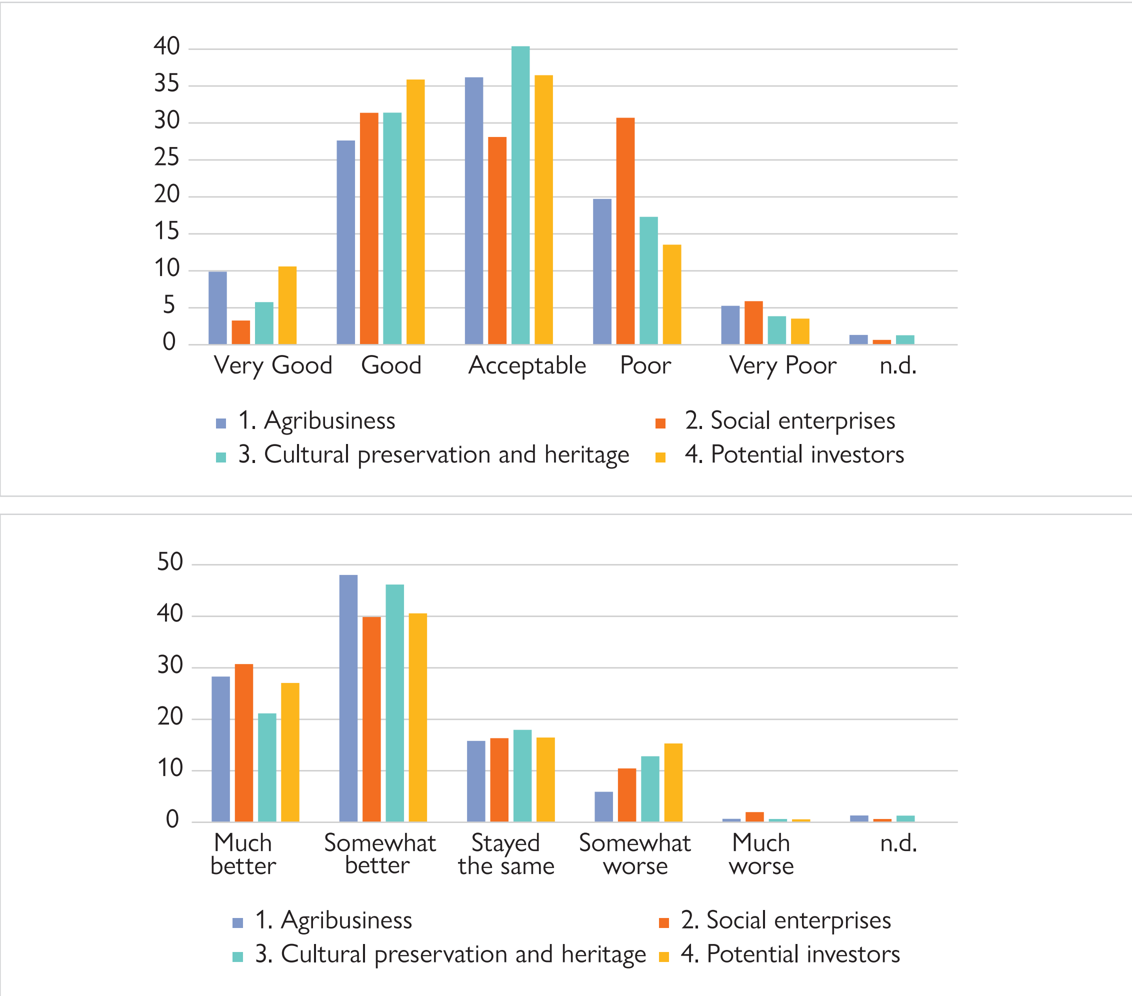
3.4. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

3.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

The analysis of the evolution in the last ten years across regions and sectors, shows that, generally speaking, the situation has improved for the majority of respondents, in economic, professional and social terms. This can be interpreted as the proof that respondents in our sample have suffered limited effects of the economic crisis or, more probably, that the positive effects of integration were stronger than the negative effects of the economic crisis.

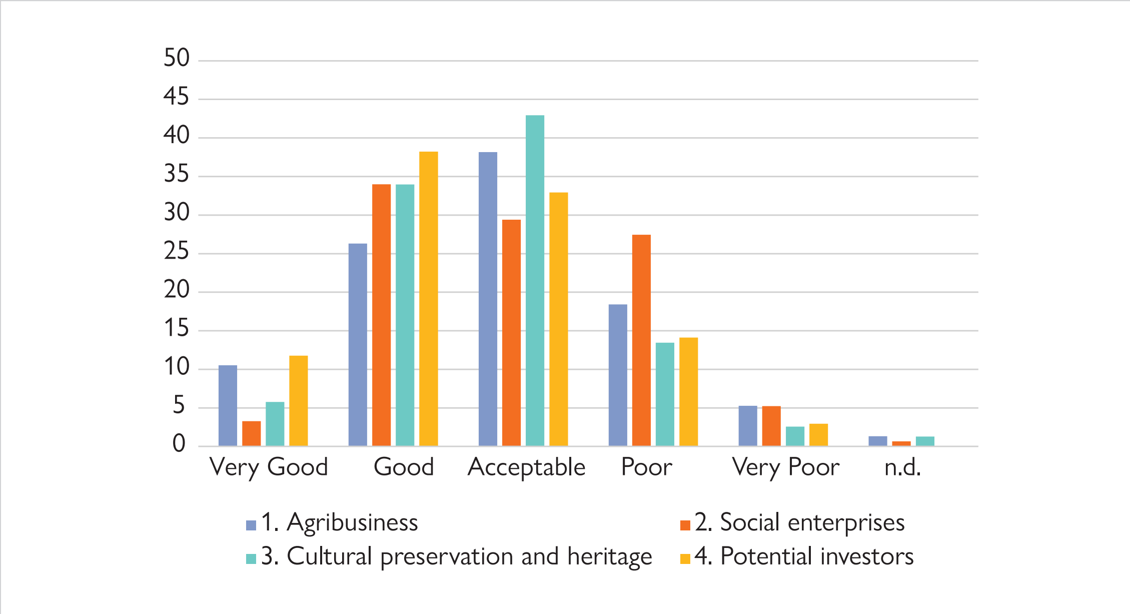
This overall positive trend is common to all the considered regions, despite some differences per sector within each region (as discussed in the next Chapters), and to all the considered sectors, again with some differences, which are worth highlighting. Ten years ago, the situation was considered acceptable or good by most of the respondents in all the considered sectors. However, more than 30 per cent of respondents in the Social Enterprises group considered the situation poor (and more than 5% even very poor). Today, the situation has, generally speaking, improved, and in some cases has improved a lot, but it stayed in a status quo for around 15 per cent of the respondents in all the sectors (including Social Enterprises) and worsened for around 10 per cent in three over four sectors (excluding the agribusiness sector, where the percentage of those that consider the situation worsened is much smaller). This situation is perfectly reflected in terms of family income.

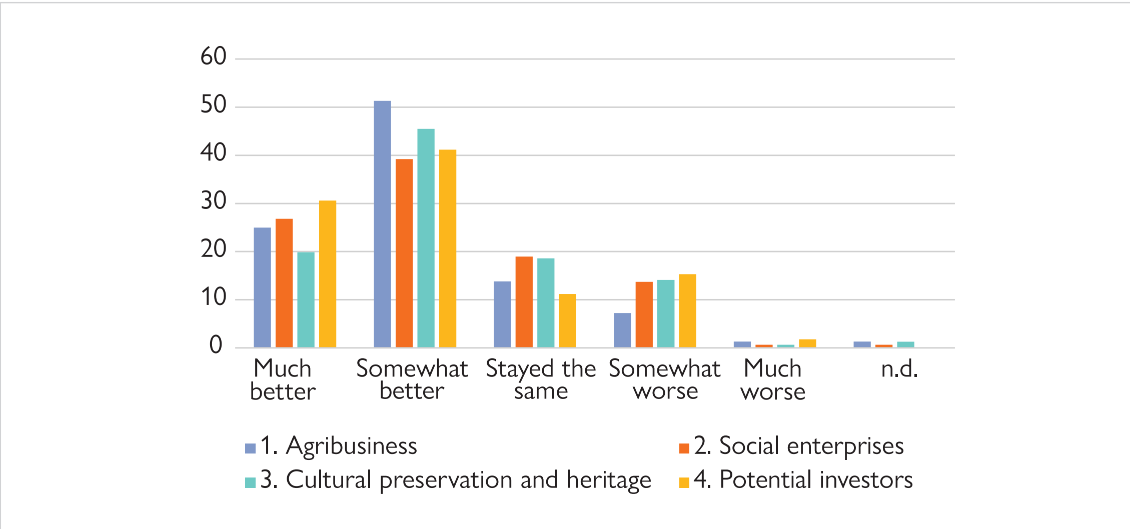
Fig. 3.4.1.1. and 3.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) ten years ago/today



Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, questions No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1a/2a Economic situation (individual income) and question No. 2 Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Fig. 3.4.1.3. and 3.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) ten years ago/today

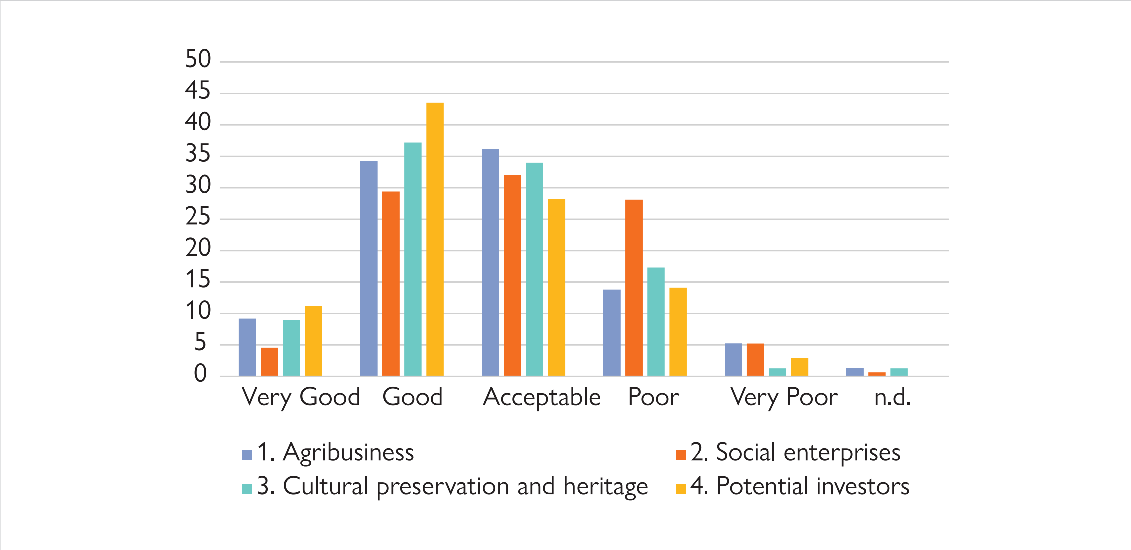


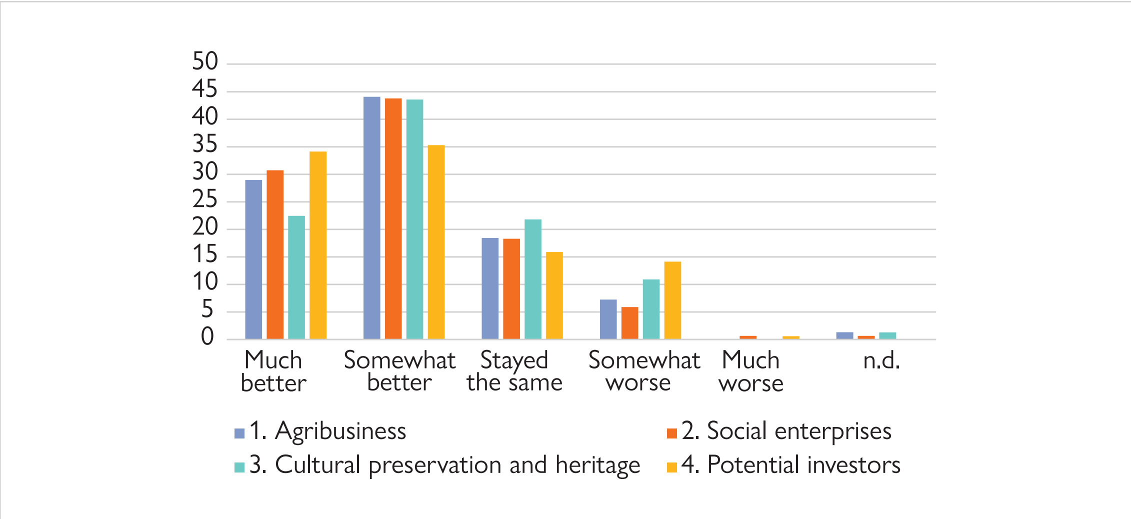


Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, questions No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b economic situation (household income) and question No. 2. Today, considering your experience, how can you compar yourself to the past?

Also, in terms of working conditions, the situation has generally speaking improved. Ten years ago, the situation was particularly different for respondents in the Social Enterprises sector. In this generally positive picture, a deterioration of working conditions was reported in particular by respondents engaged in the Cultural Heritage and Preservation Sector and Potential Investors group.

Fig. 3.4.1.5. and 3.4.1.6.: Working conditions ten years ago/today



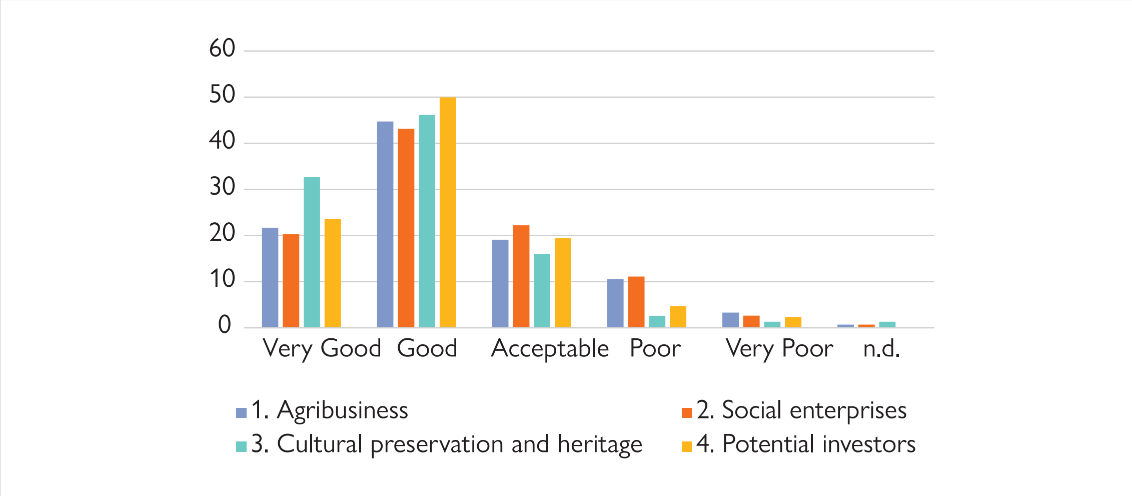


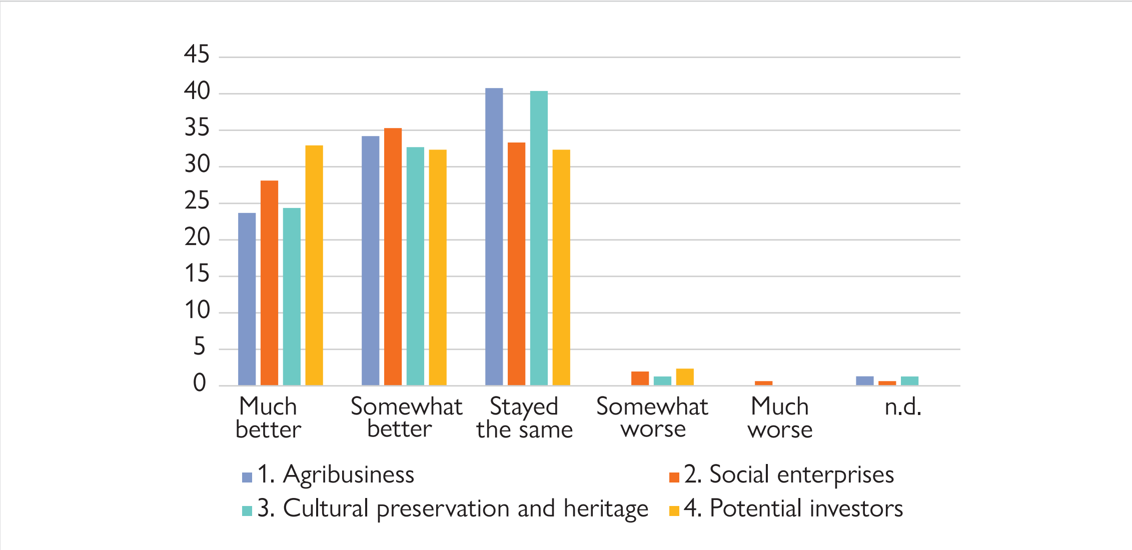
Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, Question No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c Working conditions and question No. 2 Today, considering your experience, how can you compare yourself to the past?

In terms of the social situation, the respondents reported a generally good opinion with respect to ten years ago, either confirmed or ameliorated today. The same applies for legal and administrative aspects, which were apparently more problematic for respondents in the Social Enterprises group ten years ago, but which seem to be solved now.

3.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

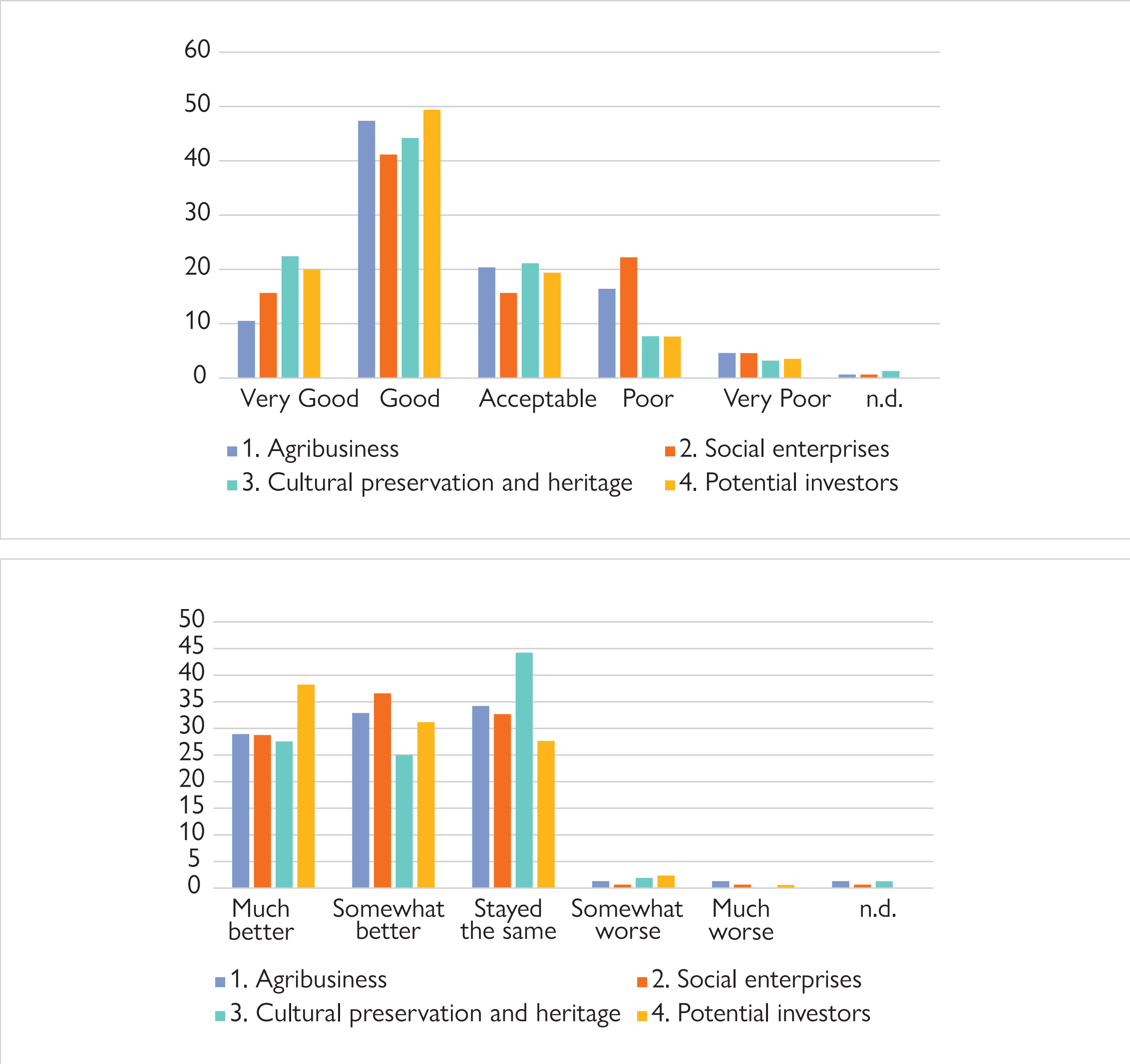
Fig. 3.4.2.1. and 3.4.2.2.: Social relationships ten years ago/today





Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, questions No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d Social relationships (local social relations, integration/discrimination, etc.) and question No. 2 Today, considering your experience, how can you compare yourself to the past?

Fig. 3.4.2.3. and 3.4.2.4.: Legal/administrative situation ten years ago/today



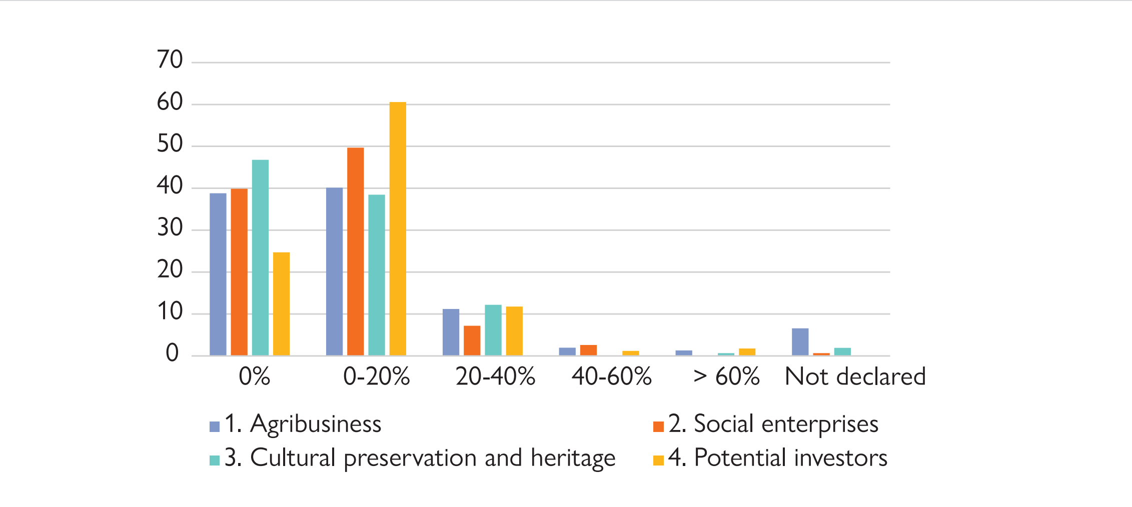
Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, Question No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1f /2f Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit/ citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.) and Question No. 2 Today, considering your experience, how can you compare yourself to the past?

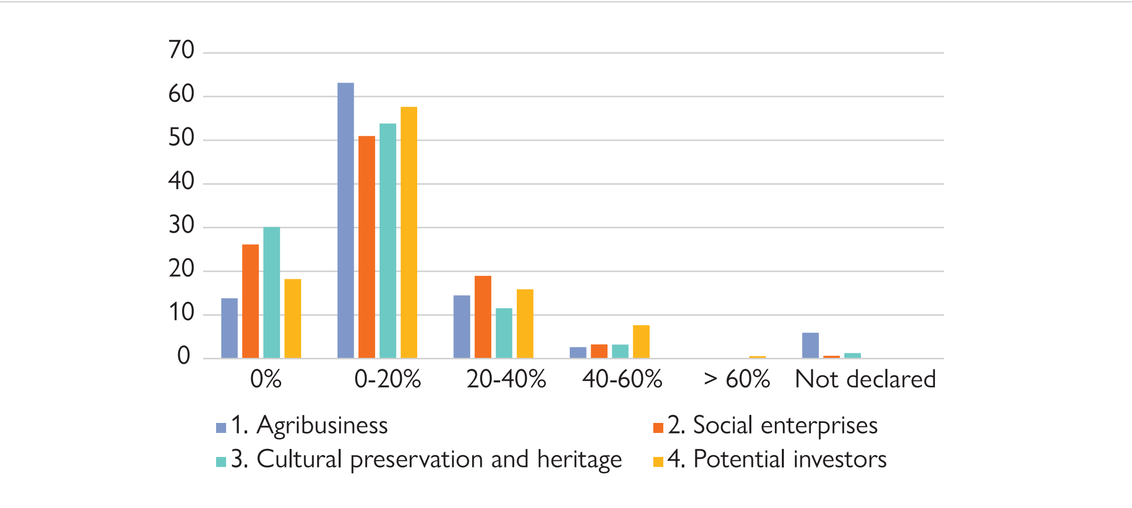
With respect to the savings capacity, the situation has improved in the last ten years. Indeed the number of those that were not able to save has diminished, in favor of a higher percentage of respondents able to save more than 20 per cent of their income. However, most of the respondents report of saving up to 20 per cent of their earnings, today as ten years ago.

The percentage of the savings sent to Albania is less stable. It has slightly diminished in three over our four targeted sector, with the exception of the Potential Investors group.

3.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

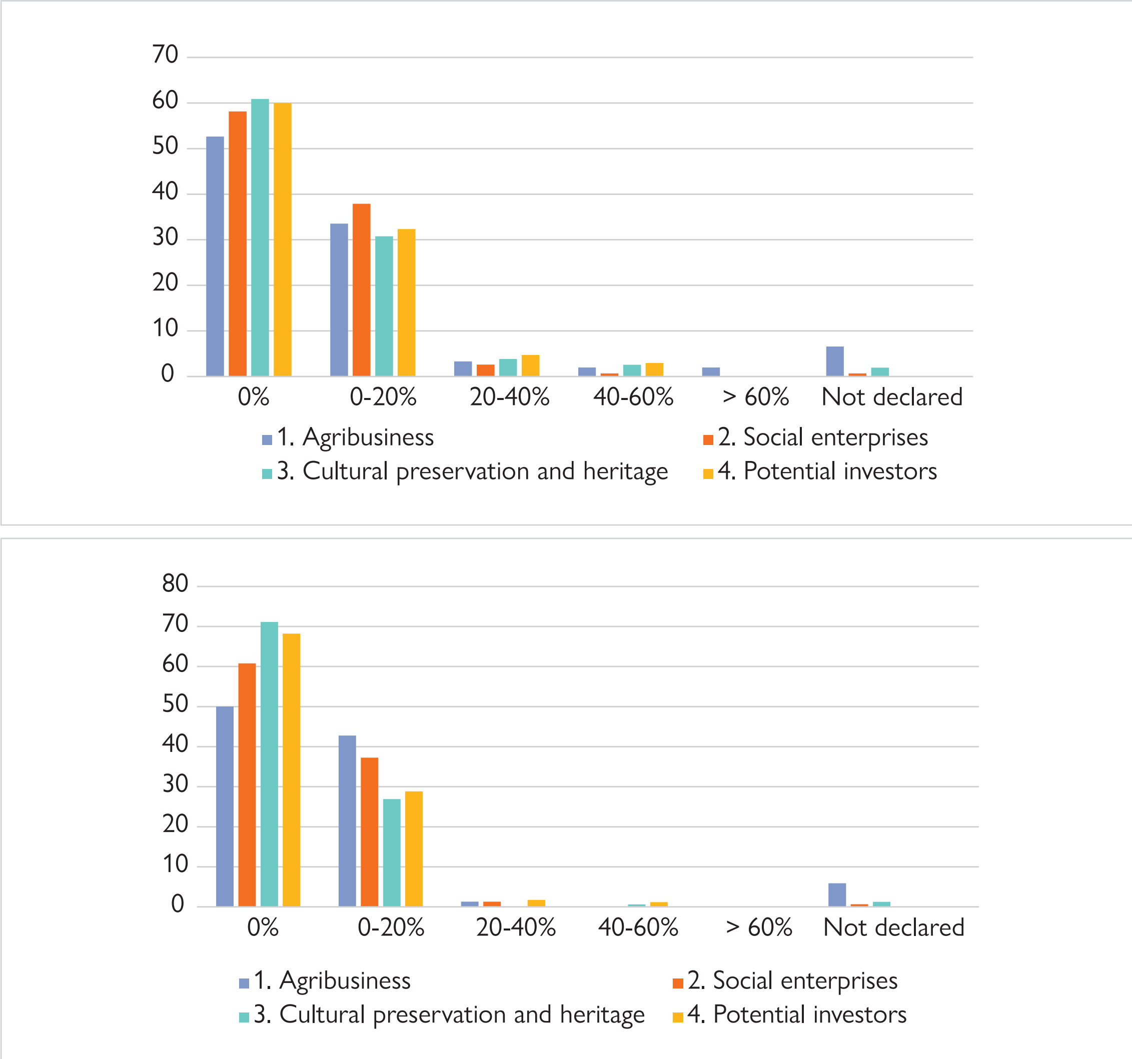
Fig. 3.4.3.1. and 3.4.3.2.: Money saved (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today





Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, Questions No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1g At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis) and 2g How much money do you save today? (on an annual basis).

Fig. 3.4.3.3. and 3.4.3.4.: Saving sent to Albania (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today



Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, questions No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1h At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis) and 2h Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

3.5. PERCEPTION ON MIGRATION

3.5.1. STAY OR GO, BACK OR SOMEWHERE ELSE

To explore the linkages and connections to Italy and Albania, we asked a set of questions aimed at understanding what are the plans for the future of the respondents, and where do they see their children's future.

Most of the respondents (Tab. 3.5.1.1.) in all sectors report that they do not have any interest in moving to another country (67.67%). This answer was frequent, in particular, among the Agribusiness and Potential Investors groups, which are also those with the highest number of entrepreneurs (see Section 2). Among those that are planning to move for the next three years, the most representative sector is that of Cultural Preservation and Heritage, while Social Enterprises group (that is also the sector where the most of respondents wish to see their children abroad, see Tab. 3.5.1.2.) contains most of the respondents who think they might consider moving over the next three years.

Most of the respondents, in all sectors, do not consider going back to Albania. However, out of all the groups, the more interested in moving back to Albania belong to the Cultural Preservation and Heritage sector, probably due to potential developments of this sector in Albania (see regional Chapters), as well as relative precariousness of their working conditions in Italy. The least interested group is that of agribusiness, despite the opportunities for the development of this sector in Albania.

There are no significant differences among regions on this matter

Tab. 3.5.1.1.: Interest to move to another country today or in the future

	No	Yes, over the next 3 years	Yes, in the next 3 years	Total
1. Agribusiness	19.65	3.17	1.27	24.09
2. Social Enterprises	14.26	7.45	2.54	24.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	15.06	6.18	3.49	24.72
4. Potential Investors	18.70	6.81	1.43	26.94
Total	67.67	23.61	8.72	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section, Question No. 3: Would you consider moving to another country?

Tab. 3.5.1.2.: Interest to move to Albania today or in the future

	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	3.92	9.80	0.00	13.73
2. Social Enterprises	8.82	22.06	0.00	30.88
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	10.29	19.12	0.49	29.90
4. Potential Investors	8.82	16.67	0.00	25.49
Total	31.86	67.65	0.49	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section, Question No. 3a: If yes, are you/would you consider moving to Albania?

Tab. 3.5.1.3.: Country preferred for the future of the respondents' children.

	Albania	Italy	Another country	It does not matter	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	0.48	13.79	2.69	7.13	0.00	24.09
2. Social Enterprises	0.48	10.78	8.40	4.60	0.00	24.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.79	9.98	4.60	9.03	0.32	24.72
4. Potential Investors	1.11	16.96	4.60	4.28	0.00	26.94
Total	2.85	51.51	20.29	25.04	0.32	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 2: Today, thinking about your children's future (even if you do not have any), where would you prefer them to live? (only one option).

3.6. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

3.6.1. INTEREST IN THE FUTURE OF ALBANIA

The large majority of respondents in all the considered sectors consider important[25] for them to know what is happening in Albania. In the different regions, percentages go from the almost the entire group in Emilia-Romagna (96%) and Lombardy (95%) to smaller, but still predominant, percentages in Lazio (87%), Piedmont (80%) and Tuscany (79%). Internet and social media are the main instruments used to get informed on the developments at home in all the considered regions.

Family and personal linkages with Albania seem to be quite strong in all the considered regions. Among the closest relationships migrants still maintain in Albania, respondents mainly refer to family members as their mother and father, siblings and other relatives.[26]

Migrants tend to return quite often in particular from Lazio (47% return more than once a year); Emilia-Romagna, Piedmont, and Lombardy (with respectively 42%, 43%, and 48% returning to Albania once a year). Albanian residents in Tuscany tend to return less frequently than the respondents in the other targeted regions (once every 5/10 years for 30.65% of the respondents).[27]

To test the interest of the Albanian diaspora in the development of Albania, we also asked if respondents would be interested in getting recorded a register of migrants eventually set up by the Albanian Government. There are some different answers from different regions: while a prevalent interest was shown in Emilia-Romagna (61.34%). Lombardy (66.42%), Piedmont (61.2%) and Tuscany (72.13%), most of the respondents in Lazio (61%) reported they are not interested in getting registered.

More than 80 per cent of the sample reports of not being enrolled in any formal or informal Albanian association abroad. The majority of respondents strongly agree with the fact that, with their visits and exchanges, they transfer ideas, information, and capital to family and friends. Moreover, the majority of respondents reported that they have recommended friends and acquaintances to pay visits to Albania.[28]

As already discussed under Section 6, the majority of respondents see their future in Italy. Consequently, it is not surprising that 54.04 per cent of the sample also want to keep their business centre in Italy (Tab. 3.6.1.1.). This is particularly the case in the agribusiness sector. A number of respondents (22.82%) are also interested in increasing their business relations and contacts in Albania. On this matter, the most interested are those from the Potential Investors group, followed by the Cultural Sector and Social Sector. A smaller percentage of respondents (12.36%) is interested in moving the centre of business elsewhere. This answer was particularly frequent in the Cultural Sector. Few respondents are interested in moving permanently to Albania (3.49%), or moving their business centre (1.58%) there.

However, Tab. 3.6.1.2. shows that the majority of respondents (72.58%) expressed some interest in contributing to the future of Albania. Considering different sectors, the more interested are form the Cultural and Social Sectors, followed by Potential Investors. Agribusiness employees confirm to be less interested in Albania, in relative terms.

When asked about their interest and availability in concretely participating in activities to support the development of Albania (Tab. 3.6.1.3.), a smaller percentage answered "Yes" (47.07%). However, also in this case, a stronger interest in the Cultural and Social sectors was confirmed, as compared to the other sectors.

25 Including responses as the likes of average, very important, absolutely essential.
26 A more in-depth analysis is presented in the Chapters covering the regional analysis.
27 A more in-depth analysis is presented in the Chapters covering the regional analysis.
28 A more in-depth analysis is presented in in the Chapters covering the regional analysis.

Tab. 3.6.1.1.: Plans for the future

	AGR	SOC	CUL	POT	Total
N.d.	0.63	0.48	0.00	0.32	1.43
Stay in Italy and keep my business centre here	16.16	12.84	11.57	13.47	54.04
Stay in Italy and decrease my contacts and business relations with Albania	0.63	0.32	0.16	0.48	1.58
Stay in Italy but increasing my contacts and business relations with Albania	3.49	5.86	6.50	6.97	22.82
Stay in Italy but move my business centre to Albania	0.32	0.16	0.48	0.63	1.58
Move the centre of my business in another country/countries	1.43	3.01	4.60	3.33	12.36
Move back permanently to Albania	0.79	0.95	0.79	0.95	3.49
Go back to Albania permanently but keeping my business centre in Italy	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.79	2.69
Total	24.09	24.25	24.72	26.94	100.00

Legend: AGR = Agribusiness, SOC = Social Enterprises, CUL = Cultural Preservation and Heritage, POT = Potential Investors.

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", Question No. 8 Which of the following statements is closer to your "plan for the future"?

Tab. 3.6.1.2.: Interest to contribute to Albania

	No	Yes	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	8.08	16.01	0.00	24.09
2. Social Enterprises	5.07	19.18	0.00	24.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	5.71	19.02	0.00	24.72
4. Potential Investors	8.40	18.38	0.16	26.94
Total	27.26	72.58	0.16	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, Question No. 9: Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?

Tab. 3.6.1.3. Interest for virtual assignment

	No	Yes	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	16.64	6.97	0.48	24.09
2. Social Enterprises	10.62	13.63	0.00	24.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	10.46	13.95	0.32	24.72
4. Potential Investors	14.42	12.52	0.00	26.94
Total	52.14	47.07	0.79	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, Question No. 15: Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?

3.6.2. EXPERIENCE AND INTEREST IN EXPANDING OWN PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IN ALBANIA

Overall, 13.50 per cent of the sample, as an average, have made attempts to expand or move their professional activity in Albania (Tab. 3.6.2.1.). However, a comparative analysis per sector confirms significant differences. In particular, for the Cultural Preservation and Heritage sector, 23 per cent of the respondents report of having made this attempt, while the same figure for the agribusiness sector was only 3.95 per cent. The other two groups are in between 11.11 per cent of respondents from the Social Enterprises group and 15.88 per cent of respondents from the Potential Investors group report of having made the same attempt, too.

Overall, the attempt was successful for 46.59 per cent of respondents, and not successful for 50 per cent (Tab. 3.6.2.2.) of them. There are some differences among sectors, which are worth highlighting: in particular, the percentage of those that consider the attempt successful is higher with respect to those that do not in the Cultural sector (23.86% versus 15.91%), while in the other sectors the majority of the respondets expressed a negative opinion on this experience.

We asked those that actually made the attempt to move/expand their professional activity in Albania about the main negative aspects of this experience (Fig. 3.6.2.3.). Overall, the five principle obstacles that have been reported are the following:

1. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency of the PA (16.39%);
2. Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors (12.30%);
3. Unfavourable business environment (11.07%);
4. Bureaucratic effort/cost of bureaucracy (9.02%);
5. Lack of management capacities (7. 38%).

However, also in this case, there are differences among sectors that are worth highlighting:

- Respondents in the Agribusiness sector reflected the above-mentioned priorities identified at the national level, adding also the issue of finding skilled workers.
- Same answers were offered by respondents from the Social Enterprises sector, but they reported more problems with bureaucracy rather than the unfavourable business environment. Moreover, they included in the list of negative aspects also the lack of experience in running a business in Albania.
- For respondents from the cultural sector, the role of the PA is less relevant compared to a generally unfavourable business environment, lack of coordination with other actors, inadequate transport and infrastructures, difficulty in accessing financing and investment instruments, problems in finding skilled workers, lack of managing capacity, and lack of experience in running a business in Albania.
- Finally, for respondents from the group of Potential Investors, the problems are mainly those already reported at the national level, plus the difficulty in finding suitable business partners.

When asked about the interest to invest in Albania in the future (Tab. 3.6.2.4.), most of the respondents gave a negative answer (66.16%). However, a promising 33.84 per cent confirmed this interest. The most interested are respondents from the Cultural Sector and Potential Investors group (around 40% of the sample in both cases). The least interested are surely the respondents working in Agribusiness (only 18.42% of respondents from this group declared interest in investing in Albania).

Overall, the main drivers for investment in Albania are identified as follows:

- Tax incentives (18.21%);
- Legal and administrative support to investors (15.07%);
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (15.07%);
- Public investment in training and education (11.92%);
- Reduction of burden and cost of bureaucracy (10.26%);
- Provision of services (10.10%);
- Low-interest loans (7.95%).

There are no significant differences among sectors on this matter.

The large majority of the respondents that answered "no" to the question of interest for potential investments in Albania (35.77%) mentioned that they are simply not interested in investing (Fig. 3.6.2.5.). Other problems or barriers identified also in the potentiality of investing are similar to those experienced by those who actually made investments (see Fig. 3.6.2.6.), and in particular: bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (9.40%); unfavourable business environment (9.01%); deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency of the PA (8.75%).

Tab. 3.6.2.1.: Attempt to expand or move the professional activity to Albania

Attempt to expand/move your professional activity to Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	3.95	95.39	0.66	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	11.11	88.89	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	23.08	76.92	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	15.88	83.53	0.59	100.00
Average	13.50	86.18	0.31	100.00

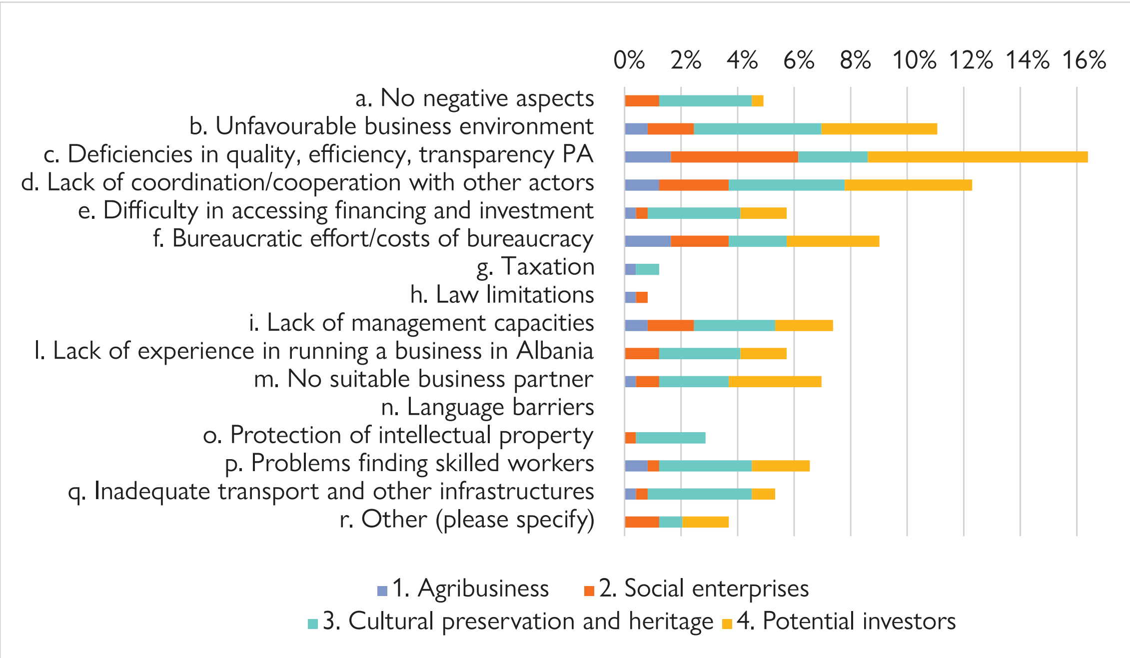
Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section: Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?

Tab. 3.6.2.2.: Success in moving the activity to Albania

Was your "move/activity" successful?	Yes	No	Some	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	2.27	4.55	0.00	1.14	7.95
2. Social Enterprises	9.09	10.23	0.00	0.00	19.32
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	23.86	15.91	1.14	0.00	40.91
4. Potential Investors	11.36	19.32	0.00	1.14	31.82
Total	46.59	50.00	1.14	2.27	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, Question No. 10b: If Yes to 10: Was your "move/activity" successful?

Fig. 3.6.2.3., Main negative aspects of the experience to move/expand the activity to Albania



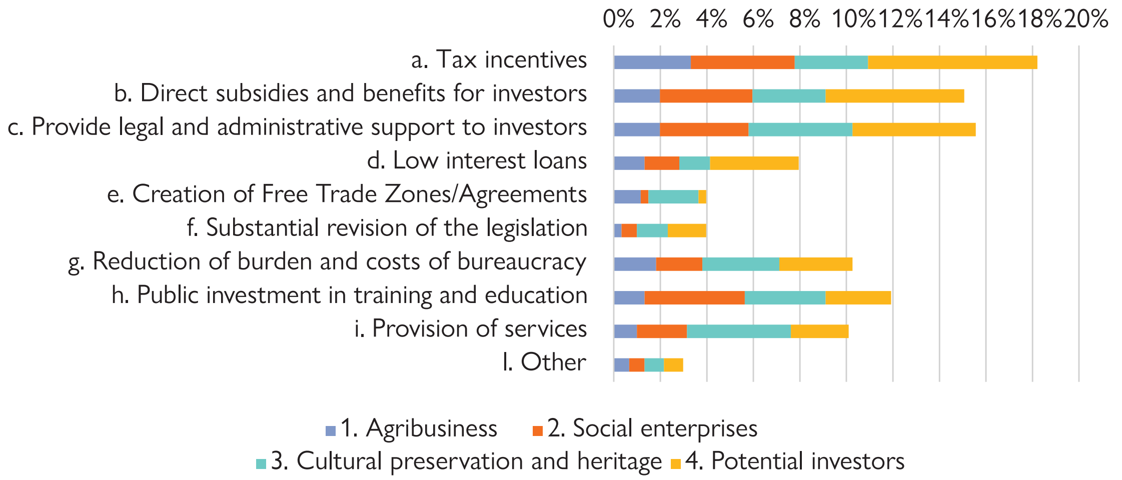
Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, Question No. 10d: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (in relation to Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity to Albania?).

Tab. 3.6.2.4.: Interest to invest in the own professional sector to Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in your professional sector)	Yes	No	Total
1. Agribusiness	18.42	81.58	24.09
2. Social Enterprises	35.95	64.05	24.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	40.38	59.62	24.72
4. Potential Investors	40.59	59.41	26.94
Average	33.84	66.16	100.00

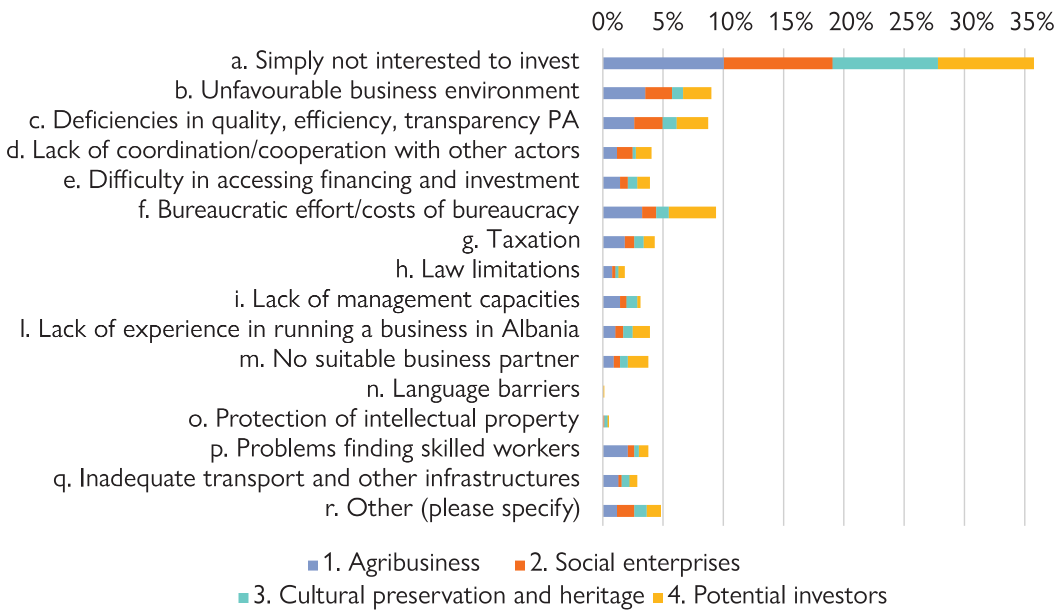
Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, Question No. 11: In general, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

Fig. 3.6.2.5.: Main drivers for investment in Albania in the own sector



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, Question No. 11b: If Yes to 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)?

Fig. 3.6.2.6.: Main barriers/problems/limitations to invest in Albania in the own sector



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, Question No. 11c: If No to 11: What are the main barriers/problems/limitations?

3.6.3. EXPERIENCE AND INTEREST IN EXPANDING OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES IN ALBANIA

The percentage of those that made an attempt to invest in other professional sectors (different from the ones they are engaged in Italy) is very low (3.48% of the sample – Tab. 3.6.3.1.). In terms of sectors, it is particularly low in the case of Cultural Preservation and Heritage and more significant (but always under 5%) for Agribusiness and Potential Investors groups. Tab. 3.6.3.2. shows that these attempts were successful in 61.54 per cent of cases.

The main negative aspects of these experiences are identified in general in bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (12.82% of respondents), followed by deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency of the Public Administration, unfavourable business environment, lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors, inadequate transport and other infrastructural issues.

The percentage of those reporting an interest in investing in Albania in a different sector from the one they are engaged in Italy (Tab. 3.6.3.4.) is more interesting (11.57%), and particularly present in the social sector (where this interest was expressed by 13.07% of the respondents).

Fig. 3.6.3.5. shows the incentives which are considered particularly relevant by respondents from this perspective. They are a mix of financial incentives and support services, and they confirmed what was already discussed in the previous pages. The main incentives would indeed be: legal and administrative support to investors (for 19.58% of respondents), tax incentives (18.18%), low-interest loans (16.78%), direct subsidies and benefits for investors (13.29%), and provision of services (11.19%). Similarly, also the reasons why the respondents are not interested in investing in other sectors are similar to those already analysed with respect to own sector (Fig. 3.6.3.6.). The majority of respondents (46.98%) declared they are simply not interested. Other frequent answers include: bureaucratic efforts/costs of bureaucracy, unfavourable business environment and deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency of the PA.

Tab. 3.6.3.1.: Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania

Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	4.61	94.08	1.32	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	3.27	96.73	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	1.92	96.79	1.28	100.00
4. Potential Investors	4.12	95.88	0.00	100.00
Average	3.48	95.87	0.65	100.00

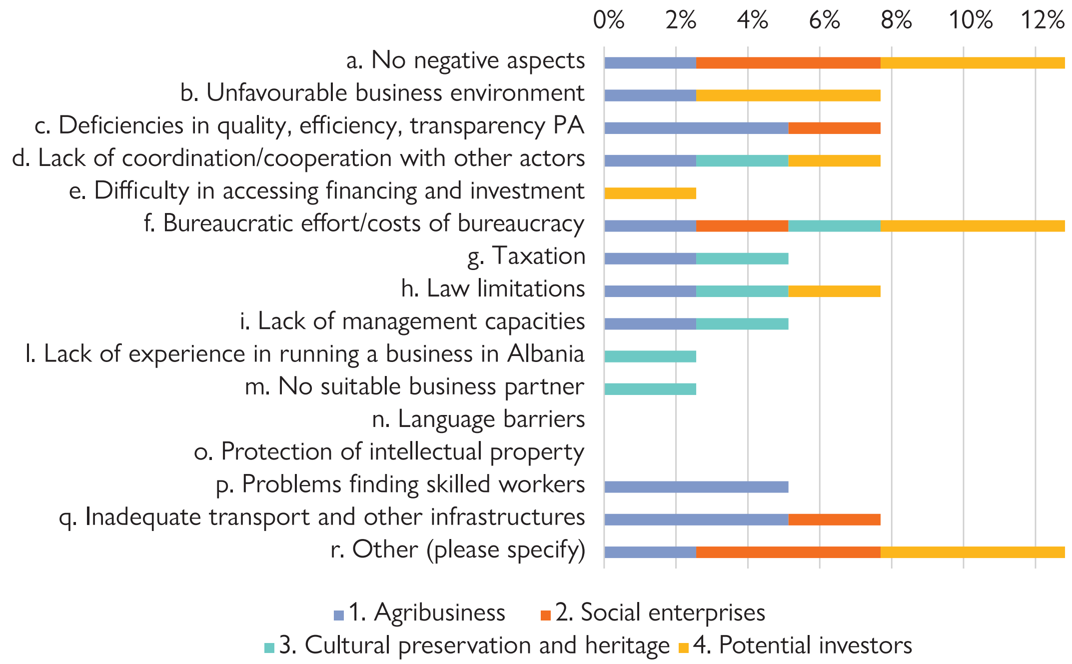
Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12: Talking about any other professional sector, have you ever made any attempt to invest in other activities in Albania?

Tab. 3.6.3.2.: Success of activities tried in other sectors

Was your "activity" successful?	Yes	No	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	23.08	7.69	7.69
2. Social Enterprises	11.54	3.85	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	7.69	3.85	7.69
4. Potential Investors	19.23	7.69	0.00
Total	61.54	23.08	15.38

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, Question No. 12b: If Yes to 12: Was your "activity" successful?

Fig. 3.6.3.3.: Main negative aspects from the experience of investing in another sector in Albania



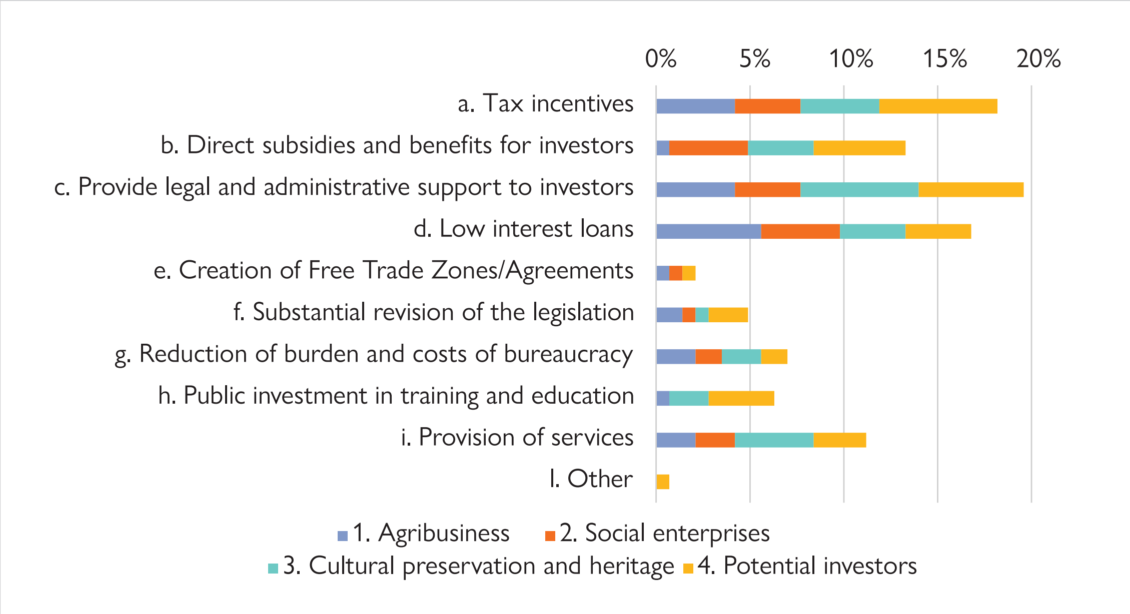
Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section: Question No. 12d: If Yes to 12: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)?

Tab. 3.6.3.4., Interest to invest in a different sector in Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in any other professional sector)	Yes	No	N.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	10.53	88.82	0.66	25.00
2. Social Enterprises	13.07	86.27	0.65	25.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	10.90	87.82	1.28	50.00
4. Potential Investors	11.76	88.24	0.00	0.00
Average	11.57	87.79	0.65	100.00

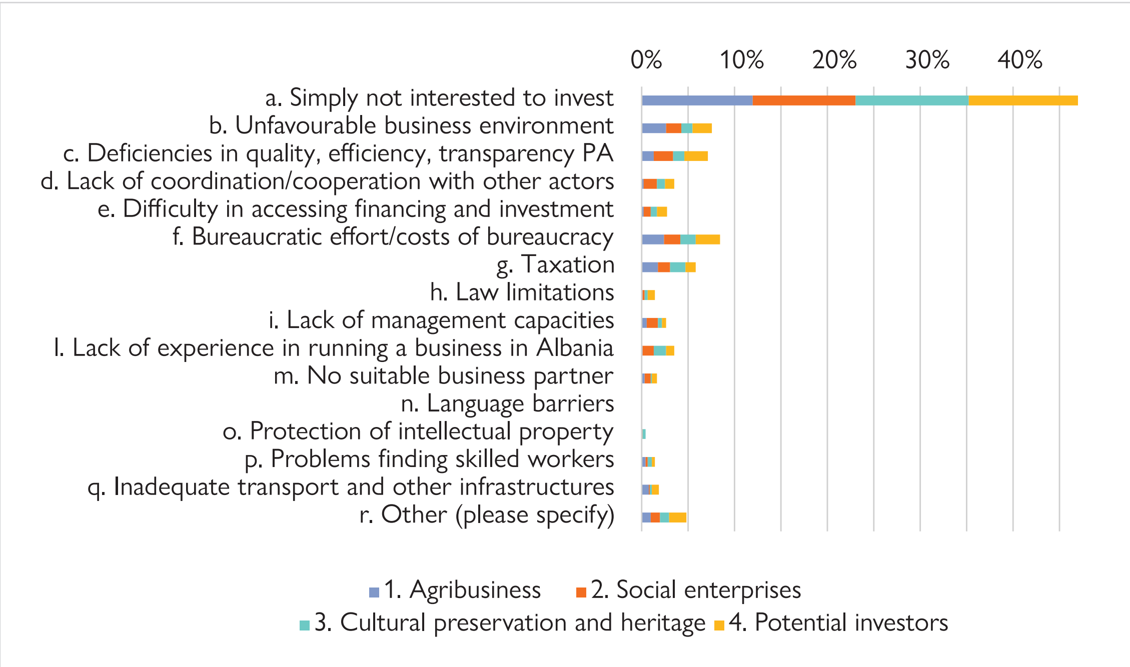
Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13: Talking about any other professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

Fig. 3.6.3.5.: Incentive to invest in Albania



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13b: If Yes to 13: What in practice would push you to invest/or what would facilitate this investment in Albania?

Fig. 3.6.3.6.: Reason why the respondent would not invest



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, Question No. 13c: If No to 13: Why not?

APPENDIX

3.1. SOCIOECONOMIC

3.1.1. AGE AND BIRTH PLACE

Tab. 3.1.1.1.: Employment per sector (distribution per gender and percentage)

	Female%	Male%	Total%
1. Agribusiness	6.02	18.07	24.09
2. Social Enterprises	18.38	5.86	24.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	12.20	12.52	24.72
4. Potential Investors	8.40	18.54	26.94
Total	45.01	54.99	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section, Question No. 1: Employment sector.

Tab. 3.1.1.2.: Country of Birth (percentage distribution per sector of employment)

	Albania%	Other%	Italy%	Total%
1. Agribusiness	23.45	0.32	0.32	24.09
2. Social Enterprises	24.25	0.00	0.00	24.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	24.25	0.16	0.32	24.72
4. Potential Investors	26.62	0.00	0.32	26.94
Total	98.57	0.48	0.95	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section, Question No. 5 - Country of birth.

3.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Tab. 3.2.2.2.: Location of the business centre (distribution per sector and percentage)

Italy as the centre of your business	Yes	No	Yes (%)	No (%)
1. Agribusiness	21	0	11.48	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	20	1	10.93	0.55
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	44	1	24.04	0.55
4. Potential Investors	96	0	52.46	0.00
Total	181	2	98.91	1.09

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section, Question No. 9: Is the centre of your business interests Italy? Namely, are your main business partners, supply relationships, customers, etc. in Italy? and 9a: If NO, where is your "centre of business interests" located?

Tab. 3.2.2.3.: Business relationships with Albania (distribution per sector and percentage)

Business relationships with Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Yes (%)	No (%)	n.d (%)
1. Agribusiness	2	19	0	1.09	10.38	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	1	20	0	0.55	10.93	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	13	29	3	7.10	15.85	1.64
4. Potential Investors	14	82	0	7.65	44.81	0.00
Total	30	150	3	16.39	81.97	1.64

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 10: Do you do business/have business relationships with Albania? (e.g. important customers, suppliers, partners, participation in tenders and calls, etc.).

3.4. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

3.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Tab. 3.4.1.1.: Economic situation (individual income) - ten years ago

Economic situation (individual income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	9.87	27.63	36.18	19.74	5.26	1.32
2. Social Enterprises	3.27	31.37	28.10	30.72	5.88	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	5.77	31.41	40.38	17.31	3.85	1.28
4. Potential Investors	10.59	35.88	36.47	13.53	3.53	0.00
Total	7.45	31.70	35.34	20.13	4.60	0.79

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1a/2a Economic situation (individual income).

Tab. 3.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) - today

Economic situation (individual income) - today	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	28.29	48.03	15.79	5.92	0.66	1.32
2. Social Enterprises	30.72	39.87	16.34	10.46	1.96	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	21.15	46.15	17.95	12.82	0.64	1.28
4. Potential Investors	27.06	40.59	16.47	15.29	0.59	0.00
Total	26.78	43.58	16.64	11.25	0.95	0.79

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 3.4.1.3.: Economic situation (household income) - ten years ago

Economic situation (household income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	10.53	26.32	38.16	18.42	5.26	1.32
2. Social Enterprises	3.27	33.99	29.41	27.45	5.23	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	5.77	33.97	42.95	13.46	2.56	1.28
4. Potential Investors	11.76	38.24	32.94	14.12	2.94	0.00
Total	7.92	33.28	35.82	18.23	3.96	0.79

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b Economic situation (household income).

Tab. 3.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) - today

Economic situation (household income) - today	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	25.00	51.32	13.82	7.24	1.32	1.32
2. Social Enterprises	26.80	39.22	18.95	13.73	0.65	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	19.87	45.51	18.59	14.10	0.64	1.28
4. Potential Investors	30.59	41.18	11.18	15.29	1.76	0.00
Total	25.67	44.22	15.53	12.68	1.11	0.79

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how can you compare youself to the past?

Tab. 3.4.1.5.: Working conditions – ten years ago

Working conditions	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	9.21	34.21	36.18	13.82	5.26	1.32
2. Social Enterprises	4.58	29.41	32.03	28.10	5.23	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	8.97	37.18	33.97	17.31	1.28	1.28
4. Potential Investors	11.18	43.53	28.24	14.12	2.94	0.00
Total	8.56	36.29	32.49	18.23	3.65	0.79

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c Working conditions.

Tab. 3.4.1.6.: Working conditions – today

Working conditions (today)	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	28.95	44.08	18.42	7.24	0.00	1.32
2. Social Enterprises	30.72	43.79	18.30	5.88	0.65	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	22.44	43.59	21.79	10.90	0.00	1.28
4. Potential Investors	34.12	35.29	15.88	14.12	0.59	0.00
Total	29.16	41.52	18.54	9.67	0.32	0.79

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how do you compare your situation to the past?

3.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Tab. 3.4.2.1.: Social relationship – ten years ago

Social relationships	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	21.71	44.74	19.08	10.53	3.29	0.66
2. Social Enterprises	20.26	43.14	22.22	11.11	2.61	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	32.69	46.15	16.03	2.56	1.28	1.28
4. Potential Investors	23.53	50.00	19.41	4.71	2.35	0.00
Total	24.56	46.12	19.18	7.13	2.38	0.63

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d Social relationships (local social relations, integration / discrimination, etc.).

Tab. 3.4.2.2.: Social relationship – today

Social relationships - today	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	23.68	34.21	40.79	0.00	0.00	1.32
2. Social Enterprises	28.10	35.29	33.33	1.96	0.65	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	24.36	32.69	40.38	1.28	0.00	1.28
4. Potential Investors	32.94	32.35	32.35	2.35	0.00	0.00
Total	27.42	33.60	36.61	1.43	0.16	0.79

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how do you compare your situation to the past?

Tab. 3.4.2.3.: Legal/administrative status – ten years ago

Legal / administrative situation	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	10.53	47.37	20.39	16.45	4.61	0.66
2. Social Enterprises	15.69	41.18	15.69	22.22	4.58	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	22.44	44.23	21.15	7.69	3.21	1.28
4. Potential Investors	20.00	49.41	19.41	7.65	3.53	0.00
Total	**17.27**	**45.64**	**19.18**	**13.31**	**3.96**	**0.63**

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1f /2f Legal / administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit / citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.).

Tab. 3.4.2.4.: Legal / administrative status – today

Legal / administrative situation - today	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	28.95	32.89	34.21	1.32	1.32	1.32
2. Social Enterprises	28.76	36.60	32.68	0.65	0.65	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	27.56	25.00	44.23	1.92	0.00	1.28
4. Potential Investors	38.24	31.18	27.65	2.35	0.59	0.00
Total	**31.06**	**31.38**	**34.55**	**1.58**	**0.63**	**0.79**

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how can you compare yourself to the past?

3.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

Tab. 3.4.3.1.: At the time, how much did you save?

At that time, how much money did you save?	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	38.82	40.13	11.18	1.97	1.32	6.58
2. Social Enterprises	39.87	49.67	7.19	2.61	0.00	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	46.79	38.46	12.18	0.00	0.64	1.92
4. Potential Investors	24.71	60.59	11.76	1.18	1.76	0.00
Total	**37.24**	**47.54**	**10.62**	**1.43**	**0.95**	**2.22**

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1g At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 3.4.3.2.: Today, how much do you save? (on annual basis)

Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis)	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	13.82	63.16	14.47	2.63	0.00	5.92
2. Social Enterprises	26.14	50.98	18.95	3.27	0.00	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	30.13	53.85	11.54	3.21	0.00	1.28
4. Potential Investors	18.24	57.65	15.88	7.65	0.59	0.00
Total	**22.03**	**56.42**	**15.21**	**4.28**	**0.16**	**1.90**

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 2g: Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 3.4.3.3.: At the time, how much of the savings did you send to Albania? (on annual basis)

At that time, how much of the savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis)	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	52.63	33.55	3.29	1.97	1.97	6.58
2. Social Enterprises	58.17	37.91	2.61	0.65	0.00	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	60.90	30.77	3.85	2.56	0.00	1.92
4. Potential Investors	60.00	32.35	4.71	2.94	0.00	0.00
Total	**58.00**	**33.60**	**3.65**	**2.06**	**0.48**	**2.22**

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section, Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1h At that time, how much of the savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 3.4.3.4.: Today, how much of that saving do you sand to Albania?

Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania?	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	50.00	42.76	1.32	0.00	0.00	5.92
2. Social Enterprises	60.78	37.25	1.31	0.00	0.00	0.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	71.15	26.92	0.00	0.64	0.00	1.28
4. Potential Investors	68.24	28.82	1.76	1.18	0.00	0.00
Total	**62.76**	**33.76**	**1.11**	**0.48**	**0.00**	**1.90**

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section: Question No. 2h: Today, how much of the savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

3.6. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

3.6.2. EXPERIENCE AND INTEREST IN EXPANDING OWN PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY TO ALBANIA

Tab. 3.6.2.3.: Main negative aspects of the experience to move/expand the activity to Albania

	1. Agribu-siness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential Investors	Total
a. No negative aspects	0.00	1.23	3.28	0.41	4.92
b. Unfavourable business environment	0.82	1.64	4.51	4.10	11.07
c. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency PA	1.64	4.51	2.46	7.79	16.39
d. Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors	1.23	2.46	4.10	4.51	12.30
e. Difficulty in accessing financing and investment	0.41	0.41	3.28	1.64	5.74
f. Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureau-cracy	1.64	2.05	2.05	3.28	9.02
g. Taxation	0.41	0.00	0.82	0.00	1.23
h. Law limitations	0.41	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.82
i. Lack of management capacities	0.82	1.64	2.87	2.05	7.38

l. Lack of experience in running a business in Albania	0.00	1.23	2.87	1.64	5.74
m. No suitable business partner	0.41	0.82	2.46	3.28	6.97
No. Language barriers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
o. Protection of intellectual property	0.00	0.41	2.46	0.00	2.87
p. Problems finding skilled workers	0.82	0.41	3.28	2.05	6.56
q. Inadequate transport and other infrastructures	0.41	0.41	3.69	0.82	5.33
r. Other (please specify)	0.00	1.23	0.82	1.64	3.69
Total	9.02	18.85	38.93	33.20	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10d: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (In relation to Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity to Albania?).

Tab. 3.6.2.5.: Main drivers for investment in Albania in the own sector

	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential Investors	Total
a. Tax incentives	3.31	4.47	3.15	7.28	18.21
b. Direct subsidies and benefits for investors	1.99	3.97	3.15	5.96	15.07
c. Provide legal and administrative support to investors	1.99	3.81	4.47	5.30	15.56
d. Low-interest loans	1.32	1.49	1.32	3.81	7.95
e. Creation of Free Trade Zones/Agreements	1.16	0.33	2.15	0.33	3.97
f. Substantial revision of the legislation	0.33	0.66	1.32	1.66	3.97
g. Reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy	1.82	1.99	3.31	3.15	10.26
h. Public investment in training and education	1.32	4.30	3.48	2.81	11.92
i. Provision of services	0.99	2.15	4.47	2.48	10.10
l. Other	0.66	0.66	0.83	0.83	2.98
Total	14.90	23.84	27.65	33.61	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11b: If Yes to 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)?

Tab. 3.6.2.6.: Main barriers/problems/limitations to invest in Albania in the own sector

	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential Investors	Total
a. Simply not interested to invest	10.05	9.01	8.75	7.96	35.77
b. Unfavourable business environment	3.52	2.22	0.91	2.35	9.01
c. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency PA	2.61	2.35	1.17	2.61	8.75
d. Lack of coordination/ cooperation with other actors	1.17	1.31	0.26	1.31	4.05

e. Difficulty in accessing financing and investment	1.44	0.65	0.78	1.04	3.92
f. Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	3.26	1.17	1.04	3.92	9.40
g. Taxation	1.83	0.78	0.78	0.91	4.31
h. Law limitations	0.78	0.26	0.26	0.52	1.83
i. Lack of management capacities	1.44	0.52	0.91	0.26	3.13
l. Lack of experience in running a business in Albania	1.04	0.65	0.78	1.44	3.92
m. No suitable business partner	0.91	0.52	0.65	1.70	3.79
No. Language barriers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.13
o. Protection of intellectual property	0.00	0.13	0.26	0.13	0.52
p. Problems finding skilled workers	2.09	0.52	0.39	0.78	3.79
q. Inadequate transport and other infrastructures	1.31	0.26	0.65	0.65	2.87
r. Other (please specify)	1.17	1.44	1.04	1.17	4.83
Total	32.64	21.80	18.67	26.89	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11c: If No to 11: What are the main barriers/problems/limitations?

3.6.3. EXPERIENCE AND INTEREST IN EXPANDING OWN PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IN ALBANIA

Tab. 3.6.3.3.: Main negative aspects from the experience of investing in another sector in Albania

	1. Agribu-siness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential Investors	Total
a. No negative aspects	2.56	5.13	0.00	5.13	12.82
b. Unfavourable business environment	2.56	0.00	0.00	5.13	7.69
c. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency PA	5.13	2.56	0.00	0.00	7.69
d. Lack of coordination/ cooperation with other actors	2.56	0.00	2.56	2.56	7.69
e. Difficulty in accessing financing and investment	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.56	2.56
f. Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	2.56	2.56	2.56	5.13	12.82
g. Taxation	2.56	0.00	2.56	0.00	5.13
h. Law limitations	2.56	0.00	2.56	2.56	7.69
i. Lack of management capacities	2.56	0.00	2.56	0.00	5.13
l. Lack of experience in running a business in Albania	0.00	0.00	2.56	0.00	2.56
m. No suitable business partner	0.00	0.00	2.56	0.00	2.56
No. Language barriers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

o. Protection of intellectual property	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
p. Problems finding skilled workers	5.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.13
q. Inadequate transport and other infrastructures	5.13	2.56	0.00	0.00	7.69
r. Other (please specify)	2.56	5.13	0.00	5.13	12.82
Total	35.90	17.95	17.95	28.21	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12d: If Yes to 12: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)?

Tab. 3.6.3.5.: Incentive to invest in Albania

	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential Investors	Total
a. Tax incentives	4.20	3.50	4.20	6.29	18.18
b. Direct subsidies and benefits for investors	0.70	4.20	3.50	4.90	13.29
c. Provide legal and administrative support to investors	4.20	3.50	6.29	5.59	19.58
d. Low-interest loans	5.59	4.20	3.50	3.50	16.78
e. Creation of Free Trade Zones/ Agreements	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.70	2.10
f. Substantial revision of the legislation	1.40	0.70	0.70	2.10	4.90
g. Reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy	2.10	1.40	2.10	1.40	6.99
h. Public investment in training and education	0.70	0.00	2.10	3.50	6.29
i. Provision of services	2.10	2.10	4.20	2.80	11.19
l. Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.70
Total	21.68	20.28	26.57	31.47	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13b: If Yes to 13: What in practice would push you to invest/or would facilitate this investment in Albania?

Tab. 3.6.3.6.: Reason why the respondent would not invest

	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential Investors	Total
a. Simply not interested to invest	11.96	11.09	12.18	11.75	46.98
b. Unfavourable business environment	2.63	1.65	1.21	2.09	7.57
c. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency PA	1.32	2.09	1.21	2.52	7.14
d. Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors	0.22	1.43	0.88	0.99	3.51
e. Difficulty in accessing financing and investment	0.22	0.77	0.66	1.10	2.74
f. Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	2.41	1.76	1.65	2.63	8.45
g. Taxation	1.76	1.32	1.65	1.10	5.82
h. Law limitations	0.11	0.22	0.33	0.77	1.43

i. Lack of management capacities	0.55	1.21	0.44	0.44	2.63
l. Lack of experience in running a business in Albania	0.11	1.21	1.32	0.88	3.51
m. No suitable business partner	0.33	0.66	0.11	0.55	1.65
n. Language barriers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
o. Protection of intellectual property	0.00	0.11	0.33	0.00	0.44
p. Problems finding skilled workers	0.44	0.22	0.44	0.33	1.43
q. Inadequate transport and other infrastructures	0.77	0.11	0.22	0.77	1.87
r. Other (please specify)	0.99	0.99	0.99	1.87	4.83
Total	23.82	24.81	23.60	27.77	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the “Relationship with the country of origin” Section; Question No. 13c: If No to 13: Why not?

CHAPTER IV - FOCUS GROUPS – GENERAL ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The fieldwork included five Focus Groups (FGs) organized in Lazio (Rome), Lombardy (Milan), Tuscany (Florence), Piedmont (Novara) and Emilia-Romagna (Bologna), between 2019–2020.

In total, 49 persons participated within an age range of between 23 and 72. We wish to underline the generally high skills and competences of most profiles, not only because of the high degrees from the country of origin, but also because of the highly educated/well off positioning in Italy in their respective field of work. The Focus Groups (FGs) were, in some cases, attended mostly by entrepreneurs or professionals (as lawyers, engineers, architects), in some other cases they were attended by persons belonging to the third sector (as, for instance, social workers), or the cultural sector (dancers, artists, cultural mediators), educational sector (school teachers, students, university researchers), or health sector (doctors, nurses).

Given that the Focus Group (FG) is a qualitative instrument of research we cannot guarantee that our findings are necessarily representative of all Albanian migrants in Italy. Nevertheless, we found a diversity of certain positions, but also common elements and key intuitions aligned with the evidence from the quantitative survey.

The first aspect to highlight, as it was encountered in all the FGs, is the consideration of Albania with an emotional, positive and proud sense of origin and belonging. Still, there was an accompanying ambivalence for the bitter-sweet sense of nostalgic attachment and disappointment for what Albania is today. Nevertheless, most persons from our FGs left Albania about 15–25 years ago (in some cases less, in earlier in some other cases) and, besides occasional visits and holidays, the Albanian origin migrants have become more fully integrated in their life in Italy. A common answer is “my life is here now”.

The longer migrants spent their time and built their life out of Albania, the more they paved a stable existence and perspective in Italy (made up of their education, work, house, children, schools, family, friends, mortgages, investments). This generally affects their possibility to have either time, or occasions, interests, monetary resources to invest in Albania.

Considering the role that the diaspora could play for the economic development of Albania, the direct investments of the diaspora are mainly recognized in entrepreneurial activities that would largely require the migrants’ ownership, management and presence in Albania. This could be overall feasible in terms of geographic closeness between Italy and Albania and accessible rapid and easy connections. Nevertheless, very rarely did our participants mention the likelihood condition that running a business in Albania could be granted with an intermittent mobility and that they could be interested/available to leave Italy. None of them mentioned other ideas or forms of investment excluding the personal business/entrepreneurial activity directly run in Albania.

The theme of the return – necessary and functional according to forms of investment (via entrepreneurship) in Albania – is in fact described as a long-term perspective (often mentioned in relationship with the future retirement) than an option that easy at hand, but still dreamed about.

The barriers for the diaspora to contribute to the development of Albania are multifaceted. These are referred both to the lack of updated knowledge of Albania today by migrants and their lack of experience as entrepreneurs, but mostly to elements of weakness in the country of origin. Corruption and the lack of meritocracy are among the main recurrent reasons mentioned to explain why doing business in Albania is hard and will keep the diaspora away. These aspects also undermine the trust for the public institutions and the ruling class. In addition, the difficulty to obtain in a clear and simple way the normative/bureaucratic information required for running a business, especially for those that reside abroad, is a clear obstacle. Local conditions mentioned include poor infrastructure, decreasing population and emigration of talented people. An issue that can impede migrants to give value to their family properties (investing on them) refers to the lack of clearness on how to solve problems on land property rights. Some participants are migrants that tried their chances back in Albania, but failed. Most of the respondents express general ideas based on their genuine and positive intentions, but miss concrete, feasible or tangible plans.

The resources the diaspora could mobilize to contribute to Albania, besides remittances sent to the family still residing in Albania, include ideas, skills and competences gained while abroad (social, human, and intellectual capitals). Cultural and artistic aspects and ideas are mentioned, too. Fields related to the professional/work profile of the migrants abroad (university/research, architecture, health, etc.) is another aspect often mentioned by the respondents.

While contributing to the development of the diaspora through economic investments and entrepreneurship shows to be hard, both intention-wise and in practice, it seems actually more feasible through philanthropy, although the Albania diaspora is often described as too scattered and individualistic. The most recurring sectors addressed as appealing for investments in Albania are tourism and rural tourism, restaurants, health sector/elderly services, and agriculture.

The different recommendations discussed in the five FGs include:

- Give diaspora the right to vote;
- Institutional reforms in Albania;
- Fight corruption;
- Role of second/future generations to differently help Albania;
- Create opportunities for diaspora exchange, networking and crowdfunding;
- Better develop the tourist potentials;
- Better develop/sustain bio-agriculture/market and bio-certifications;
- Give value to the competences of diaspora to be employed in developing medical services/elderly care/third and health sector;
- Sustain a consortium of Albanian enterprises in Italy and a cabinet to help companies (Italians and from the diaspora) find opportunities in Albania;
- A system/platform to provide clear and exhaustive information on the existing regulation specially to face problems with the land registry office;
- A diaspora bureau at the Consulates/Embassy in Italy;
- Create a superintendent/trustee of the abandoned artistic and cultural heritage in Albania;
- Become an EU member state to create mandatory new standards for the public administration;
- Sustain migrant associations abroad with capacity-building;
- Give value to the competences of the diaspora;
- Give the diaspora the direct management of certain initiatives/projects (as the diaspora census).

CHAPTER V - EMILIA-ROMAGNA

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The study, of interest for us to observe the conditions experienced by the Albanian diaspora in Italy, as well as their still-existing relationship with the country of origin, was developed around seven different sections (socioeconomic, professional, economic sectors, impact respectively of the economic crisis, perception on migration and relationship with the country of origin). The first two sections do specifically allow one to observe information more closely related to the life of the Albanian migrants in Italy, such as sociodemographic aspects (such as age, country of origin, social and/or legal and administrative status, etc.) and professional traits (such as the level of education, conditions and contracts of employment, the nature of the company, etc.). The third section, on the other hand, studies individual and family resources, with particular attention to income, savings, properties and investments, while the fourth section analyses the impact of the 2008 economic crisis, relating today's economic, social and legal and administrative situation to that of ten years ago. Sections 5 and 6, on the other hand, take into account the personal experience of migrants within the Albanian diaspora (such as the set of positive or negative aspects lived, the plans for the future, etc.) and the relationship with the country of origin (such as ties with the people who still live there, the frequency of visits, investments on the spot, etc.). Finally, the seventh and last section differs from the previous ones as it focuses on reporting the data collected during the Focus Group work, held in the city of reference for the region (i.e. Bologna), thus offering further ideas for reflections on the subject.

In the specific case of the Emilia-Romagna Region, the study sample was composed of 123 people, distributed equally between the sectors (Agribusiness, Social Enterprises, Cultural Preservation and Heritage, Potential Investors). As for the composition by gender, the number of women is higher than that of men (69 versus 54) and they are more present in the Cultural and Social Enterprises sectors (in particular, in the Social Enterprises sector wehre 90% of the respondents are women).

Despite some differences, the sample is presented as a mostly homogeneous group: in fact, the questionnaires show that the majority of the group is made up of people between 30 and 39 years old, born almost entirely in Albania (98,37 %), in particular from the provinces of Tirana (30.08%), Durres (20.33%) and Shkodra (10.57%) and, in any case, all are Albanian citizens at birth. Moreover, all the 123 people of the sample are resident in Emilia-Romagna, in particular from the provinces of Bologna (35.77%), Ferrara (23.58%) and Modena (10.57%) and they have chosen these places because of the presence of public services (34.97%),[29] or because their relatives/friends lived there (34.27%).

As regards the social and family aspect, most of the respondents are married/cohabiting (63,41%), with mostly Italian partners (34.94%). However, there is a strong presence of partners with other citizenship, respectively 31.33 per cent with dual Italian and Albanian citizenship and 27.71 per cent with Albanian citizenship.

As in most sample regions, the average level of education is high (most have a Bachelor's degree and 43.09%, even a Master's degree) and have generally attained their education in Albania (especially as regards members of the Agribusiness and Potential Investors sectors), although it should be noted that a significant percentage of the respondents active in the Cultural Sector has finished their studies in Italy.

The economic and legal-administrative situation in Italy appears generally good and, despite the economic crisis, has improved in recent years. Hence, almost all of the people interviewed agree, indeed, in believing that their legal-administrative status has improved over the decade, as they have become holders of long-term residence permits (more specifically, 25.28 per cent hold a residence card and 15.53 per cent a Long-term EC Residence Permit), or have even obtained the Italian citizenship (52.74%).

29 Emiliia-Romagna is, indeed, one of the Italian regions with the high level of public services.

This improvement, however, is not always found in the economic aspect, about which conflicting data were collected. If, on the one hand, most of the people interviewed claim to have improved their economic situation, from the point of view of working conditions, both in terms of income (approximately 39.261 € average family income per year) and savings, on the other, a significant percentage denounced a worsening of their economic conditions (20% of all sectors claim to have experienced a reduction in their earnings). In particular, based on the study sample, the Cultural Sector appears to be the sector with a general deterioration in economic conditions: 30 per cent of the respondents reported they had a worse economic situation today than ten years earlier. Not only that, a further 30 per cent claim to work today in worse conditions, which leads to a general deterioration in savings capacities.

This heterogeneity is also reflected in the nature of the working status: 38.21 per cent have a full-time permanent contract, particularly within the Social Enterprises sector;[30] 20.33 per cent are employed with time-limited contracts, especially in the Agribusiness sector;[31] 17.89 per cent are self-employed/freelance workers, in particular in the Cultural sector;[32] 10.57 per cent is business owners, mainly from the Potential Investors group[33] and partially from the Cultural sector.

As regards the self-employed workers and business owners, the group that declares the highest number of employees is that of Potential Investors, followed by the Cultural one (10 employees, of which 5 are Italian and 5 Albanian) and Agribusiness (2 Albanian employees). For all, the centre of activities is located in Italy, with one exception from one member of the Cultural Sector who conducts business between China and Albania. In addition, four respondents under the Cultural Sector and two respondents under the Potential Investors group declared that they have business relationships in Albania. More specifically, for the Potential Investors group, trade of beverage and consultancy, for the Cultural Sector, agent in Italy for Albanian Tour Operators, studies on archaeological heritage in Albania and a collaboration with the Albanian Ministry of Culture.

Despite this ambiguous situation, all the study sample has changed relations with the country of origin: the study, in fact, has found that, despite the majority of respondents still considers it important to stay updated on the events of Albania and maintain close relationships with their family members residing there, they prefer to stay in Italy (41.90%), where stability factors have increased. Interest confirmed also by the data relating to family expenditure (97.17% of family expenditure is already carried out in Italy), to the ownership of real estate (a good percentage have a home in Italy and 73.29 per cent have shown interest in doing so over the next few years) and the family (63.41% is married or cohabiting) and individual (4 people have even renounced Albanian citizenship) aspects. Conversely, almost all do not send money to their country of origin (only 2.70% do so), nor are they interested in investing (93.19%) or returning to live there (66.47%). So, according to the data collected in Emilia-Romagna, Albania does not even seem to be the target/destination of the investments and future projects of the study sample.[34]

However, based on the data collected, it is possible to find some favorable elements in relation to a possible relationship between the Albanian diaspora and the country of origin: in fact, although the majority of respondents have never previously extended and are not planning to expand their business in Albania in the short term (93,19%), a good percentage of men continue to consider the possibility of returning to their home country in the future – also in relation to their children (8.13%) – and 72.87 per cent declare to be interested in generally contribute to Albania. So, it seems that the sample of the Emilia-Romagna region is generally unwilling to invest, also due to an absence of previous investment experiences in Albania, but that there are some positive signs, especially from the Cultural sector and Potential Investors (respectively 45.16% and 50% do not completely exclude the possibility of investing there). In addition, 57.30 per cent, especially from the Social Enterprises sector, said they are interested in a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of their country of origin, if an appropriate salary, clear and transparent conditions, a part-time/not too much long work commitment will be granted.

30 The Social Enterprises sector is equivalent to 24,39 per cent of the sample. It shows a strong female presence (39,13% of the sample) against a minimal male presence (5,56%). The most numerous group in this sector is that of the social health workers (11 respondents), followed by doctors (7).

31 The Agribusiness sector is the mainly represented (26,02%) and it is made mainly of employed in services related to agriculture (17), followed by researchers in the field of Agribusiness (11) and agricultural operators (4).

32 The Cultural sector represents 25,20 per cent of the sample. Most of the respondents work in the art sector (12) and in tourism (11).

33 The Potential Investors sector is equivalent to 24,39 per cent of the sample. It includes quite different profiles, with a certain number of respondents employed in trade/craftsmanship/services (9), in coffee shop/restaurant/bakery/pastry shop (7) and in the manufacturing/metalworking sector (5).

34 See Chapter X for an analysis on investor candidates from the five regions.

5.1. SOCIOECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

In this introductory section, information on the characteristics of the Albanian community in Emilia-Romagna is reported, taking into consideration the main sociodemographic aspects (as age, country of birth, citizenship, social status, legal and administrative status refining to the nature of the permit to stay in Italy).

5.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

In the Emilia-Romagna Region, the sample is composed of 123 people, distributed in a balanced way among the different sectors (Tab. 5.1.1.1.). The number of women (69) is higher than the number of men (54). However, there are differences among sectors with respect to gender composition. In particular, as shown in Tab. 5.1.1.1., the sample is predominantly made up of men in the Agribusiness sector and in the Potential Investors group, and of women in the Cultural Sector. Ninety (90) per cent of respondents in the Social Enterprises sector are women.

Tab. 5.1.1.1.: Employment per sector (distribution per gender and percentage)

Employment per sector	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	12	20	32	37.50	62.50	26.02
2. Social Enterprises	27	3	30	90.00	10.00	24.39
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	19	12	31	61.29	38.71	25.20
4. Potential Investors	11	19	30	36.67	63.33	24.39
Average	69	54	123	56.10	43.90	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section, Question No. 1: Employment sector.

All the 123 people of the sample are resident in Emilia-Romagna.[35] 44 out of 123 (35.77%) reside in Bologna; 29 (23.58%) in Ferrara; 13 (10.57%) in Modena. More details about the city of residence can be found in the table below.

Tab. 5.1.1.2.: City or residence (distribution per gender and percentage)

City of residence	Female	Male	Total	%
Bagnacavallo	1	0	1	0.81
Bologna	28	16	44	35.77
Ferrara	14	15	29	23.58
Forlì	2	1	3	2.44
Fornovo di Taro	3	0	3	2.44
Imola	0	2	2	1.63
Lugo	2	0	2	1.63
Meldola	1	0	1	0.81
Modena	4	9	13	10.57
Noceto	0	1	1	0.81
Parma	6	6	12	9.76
Piacenza	1	1	2	1.63
Ravenna	0	1	1	0.81

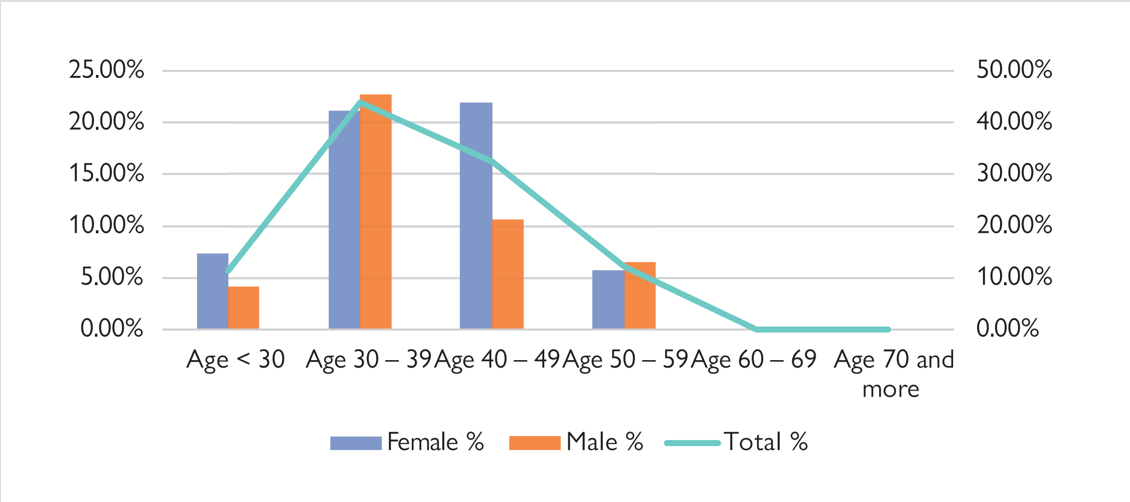
35 100 per cent of the respondents reside in the Emilia-Romagna Region (according to the Elaboration of Question No. 2: Region of Residence). .

Reggio Nell'Emilia	1	1	2	1.63
Riccione	2	1	3	2.44
Rimini	2	0	2	1.63
Soragna	1	0	1	0.81
Varano de Melegari	1	0	1	0.81
Totale complessivo	57	72	123	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 2a - City of residence.

Most of the respondents (54, 43.90% of the sample) are 30–39 years old. 32.52 per cent are 40–49; 12.20 per cent are 50–59; 11.38 per cent are under 30 (Fig. 5.1.1.3.).

Fig. 5.1.1.3.: Composition per age (distribution per gender and percentage)[36]

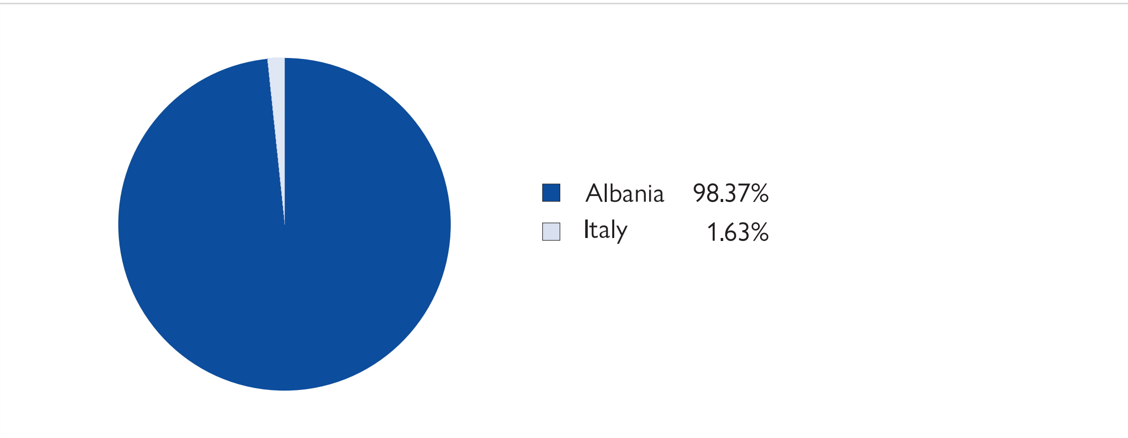


Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 4 - Age of the respondent.

Ninety eight point thirty seven (98.37) per cent of the sample is made of respondents born in Albania; there are only two exceptions (1 male and 1 female), as detailed in Fig. 5.1.1.4.

Tab. 5.1.1.5. shows the City of Birth of the respondents. More than 60 per cent of the sample comes from three of the main Albanian cities: Tirana (30.08% of respondents were born there); Durres (20.33% of respondents) and Shkodra (10.57).

Fig. 5.1.1.4.: Country of Birth (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 5 - Country of birth.

36 The source table for this and the following figures are reported in the appendix of this chapter.

Tab. 5.1.1.5.: City of Birth (distribution per gender and percentage)

City of birth	Female	Male	Total	%
Alessio	0	1	1	0.81
Berat	3	1	4	3.25
Bulqiza	0	1	1	0.81
Dibra	1	2	3	2.44
Durres / Durazzo	17	8	25	20.33
Elbasan	3	1	4	3.25
Fieri	3	4	7	5.69
Kavaja	1	3	4	3.25
Korca	2	1	3	2.44
Kruja	0	1	1	0.81
Kucova	0	1	1	0.81
Lac	1	0	1	0.81
Lezha	1	1	2	1.63
Lushnja	5	1	6	4.88
Mirdita	0	1	1	0.81
Orikum	0	1	1	0.81
Peshkopia	0	1	1	0.81
Reshen	1	0	1	0.81
Shijak	0	1	1	0.81
Shkodra/ Scutari	5	8	13	10.57
Tirana	24	13	37	30.08
Vlora / Valona	1	2	3	2.44
Modena (Italy)	0	1	1	0.81
Parma (Italy)	1	0	1	0.81
Total	69	54	123	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 5a - City of birth.

100 per cent of the sample was born with Albanian citizenship. Tab. 5.1.1.6. shows that many members of the sample acquired Italian citizenship during their life (65 - 37 women and 28 men). Some respondents (2 women and 2 men) renounced their Albanian citizenship.

Tab 5.1.1.6: Citizenship at birth and today (distribution per gender)

	Citizenship at birth			Citizenship today		
	Albanian	Italian*	Other	Albanian	Italian	Other
Female	69	0	0	67	37	0
Male	54	0	0	50	28	0
Total	123	2	0	117	65	0
*cases of dual citizenship						

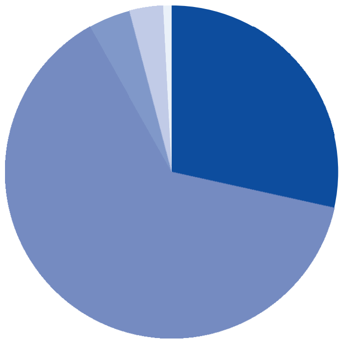
Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 6: Citizenship at birth, and Question No. 7: Citizenship today.

5.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Most of the respondents are married/cohabiting (63.41% of the sample), with a predominance of women in the group (Fig. 5.1.2.1.). The second most represented group is that of singles (28.46% of the sample).

As shown in Tab. 5.1.2.1., most of the married/cohabiting or separated respondents (34.94%) have an Italian partner. 31.33 per cent have a partner with dual citizenship, while 27.71 per cent have an Albanian partner.

Fig. 5.1.2.1.: Marital status (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 8: What is your marital status?

Tab. 5.1.2.2.: Current citizenship of married/cohabiting and separated partner (distribution per gender and percentage)

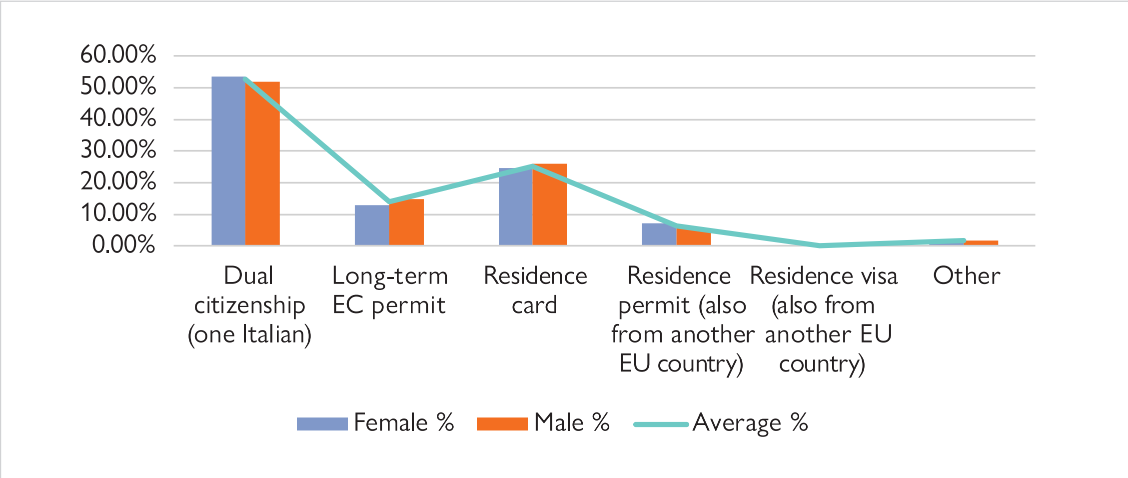
Current citizenship of the partner	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Albanian	12	11	23	24.49	32.35	27.71
Italian	17	12	29	34.69	35.29	34.94
Italian and Albanian	17	9	26	34.69	26.47	31.33
n.d.	3	2	5	6.12	5.88	6.02
Total	49	34	83	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 8a: Check previous answer: if a. married / cohabiting or c. separated: What's the current citizenship of the partner?

The high number of respondents who gained Italian citizenship is reflected also in Fig. 5.1.2.3., where the legal and administrative status of the sample with respect to the stay in Italy is illustrated. Most of the respondents have dual citizenship, Albanian/Italian (52.74% of the sample). The second most frequent situation is that of residence cards (25.28% of the sample). The third most common situation is that of a Long-term EC Permits (15.53% of the sample). In all three cases, the situation is equally distributed among men and women.

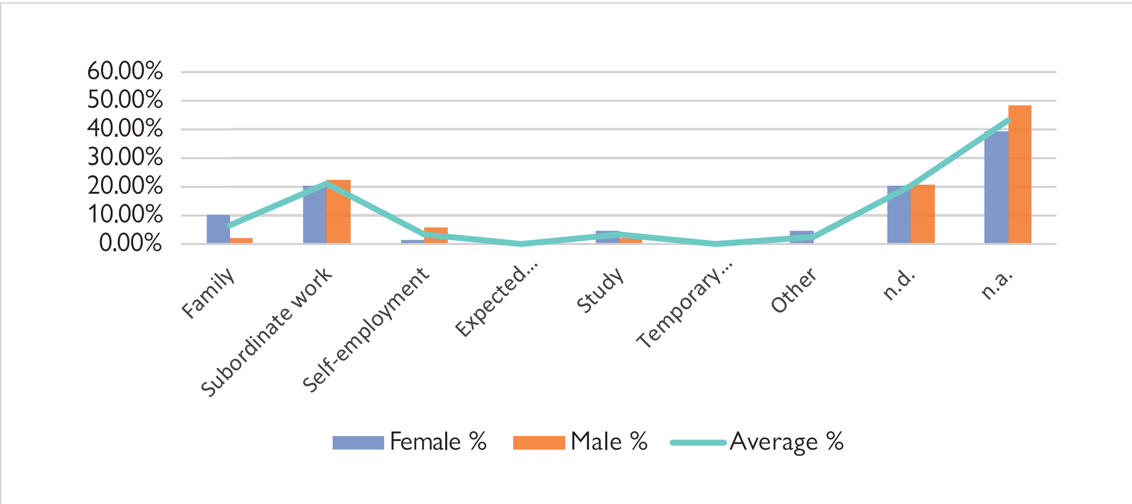
Residence permits (among those that answered to the question) are mainly for working reasons (21.14%), in particular for subordinate work (Fig. 5.1.2.4.). The second most frequent reason is family, especially among women (10.14% of women versus 1.86% of men).

Fig. 5.1.2.3.: Current legal and administrative status (distribution per gender and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 10: Please tell us your current legal and administrative status with respect to your stay in Italy.

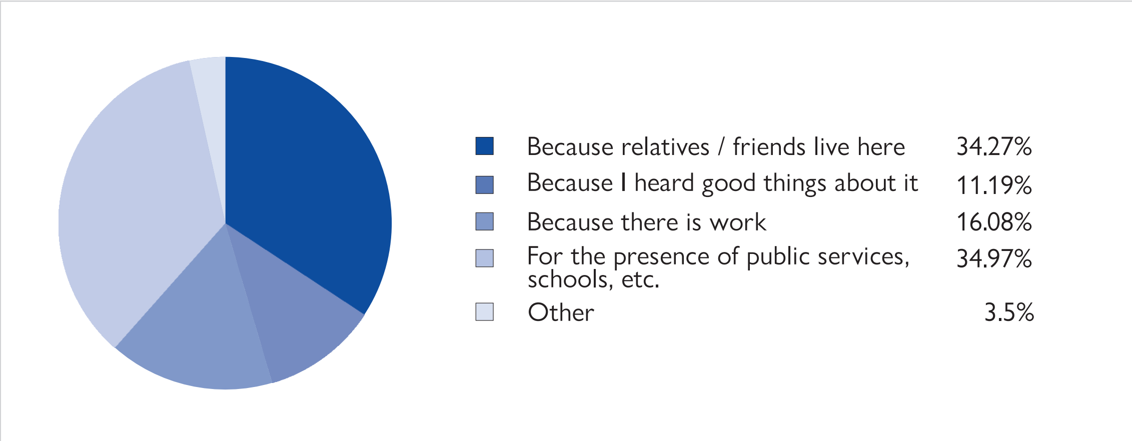
Fig. 5.1.2.4.: Typology of valid visa or residence permit (distribution per gender and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 11: If you have a valid visa or residence permit or are renewing it, please indicate its type.

Finally, the main driver for the selection of the area where to locate in Italy (Fig. 5.1.2.5.) is apparently the presence of public services (for 34.97% of the respondents). Emilia-Romagna is, indeed, one of the Italian regions with a high level of public services. Almost the same number of respondents indicated the presence of relatives/friends (this was indicated by 34.27% of the sample). Work is the third reason that supported the location choice (for 16.98%).

Fig. 5.1.2.5.: Reason for choosing the area where he/she lives (percentage)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 13: What are the reasons you choose this area for? (multiple choices, even more than one).

5.2. PROFESSIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section offers information on the professional traits and profiles of their interviewees including the educational level, employment (work condition/contract) and the nature of the company (for entrepreneurs).

5.2.1. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAITS

The sample is mainly composed of highly skilled workers (Tab. 5.2.1.1.): 43.09 per cent of respondents hold a Master's degree; 11.38 of the respondents hold a Bachelor's degree; 10.57 per cent of the respondents hold a PhD or equivalent. This means that, overall, around 64 per cent of the sample hold at least a Bachelor's degree. Of the rest, 21.14 per cent have a secondary education regular degree and 13.82 per cent a secondary education vocational degree.

In this general picture, there are interesting differences among sectors, which are worth highlighting. The sector with the highest level of education is that of Social Enterprises, where 70 per cent of respondents hold a Master's degree. Only 20 per cent of the sample hold only a secondary education degree. This sector is followed by the Cultural Sector, where 16.13 per cent of the respodents hold a Bachelor's degree, 45.16 per cent a Master's degree, and 16.13 per cent quaternary education. The third group is that of Agribusiness. In this case, more than 60 per cent of the sample hold at least a Bachelor's degree, and around 40 per cent hold a secondary education degree. Finally, the group of Potential Investors is made up of 60 per cent of the respondents holding a secondary education degree and almost 40 per cent with at least a Bachelor's degree.

This information is reflected in Tab. 5.2.1.2., which shows the professional composition of the sample. In the agribusiness sector, the sample is made up of mainly of employed in services related to agriculture (17), followed by researchers in the field of agribusiness (11) and agricultural operators (4). The most numerous group in the Social Enterprises sector is that of social health workers (11 respondents), followed by doctors (7). In the cultural field, most of the respondents work in the art sector (12) and in tourism (11). Finally, the Potential Investors group includes quite different profiles, with a certain number of respondents in Trade/ Craftsmanship/Services (9), employed in Coffee Shops/Restaurants/Pastry Shops/Bakery (7), and employees in the manufacturing/ metalworking sector (5).

Tab. 5.2.1.3. shows the country where the highest educational level was completed. There is a perfect balance between Albania and Italy in the cases of Agribusiness and Potential Investors groups, with a a predominance of (higher) educational degrees gained in Italy for those employed in Social Enterprises and, even more, in the cultural sector.

Tab. 5.2.1.1.: Educational level/qualification (distribution per sector and percentage)

Educational level/ qualification	1. Agribu-siness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential investor	Total
None or preschool	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Primary school	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Secondary education, vocational	6.25%	10.00%	6.45%	33.33%	13.82%
Secondary education, regular	31.25%	10.00%	16.13%	26.67%	21.14%

Tertiary education, Bachelor degree	18.75%	3.33%	16.13%	6.67%	11.38%
Tertiary education, Master's degree	31.25%	70.00%	45.16%	26.67%	43.09%
Quaternary education (Ph.D. or other)	12.50%	6.67%	16.13%	6.67%	10.57%
Other	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 1: Educational level/qualification (please select the highest level completed).

Tab. 5.2.1.2.: Professional composition of the sample, per sector and subsector

Professional sector and sub-sector	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness (profiles linked to Agri-food and Agritourism)	**12**	**20**	**32**	**17.39**	**37.04**	**26.02**
Agribusiness services (as marketing, stoke etc)	3	14	17	25.00	70.00	53.13
University and research / studies (Agribusiness sector)	9	2	11	75.00	10.00	34.38
Agricultural operator	0	4	4	0.00	20.00	12.50
2. Social Enterprises (profiles linked to social and health services)	**27**	**3**	**30**	**39.13**	**5.56**	**24.39**
Nurse	4		4	14.81	0.00	13.33
Sociocultural mediator	3		3	11.11	0.00	10.00
Doctor/Dentist	6	1	7	22.22	33.33	23.33
Social and health - care services	1		1	3.70	0.00	3.33
University and research / Studies / Teachers and Educators (health-care sector)	3	1	4	11.11	33.33	13.33
Social health worker (as physiotherapist, pharmacist, optician, etc.)	10	1	11	37.04	33.33	36.67
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage (profiles linked to cultural or archeological sites)	**19**	**12**	**31**	**27.54**	**22.22**	**25.20**
Architect / Conservator - restorer / Designer	1	6	7	5.26	50.00	22.58
Tourism (museum worker, guide, touristic agencies, etc.)	7	4	11	36.84	33.33	35.48
Writer / Journalist/ Translator	1	0	1	5.26	0.00	3.23
Art, sport, show, entertainment and cultural events	10	2	12	52.63	16.67	38.71
4. Potential Investors (all other sectors)	**11**	**19**	**30**	**15.94**	**35.19**	**24.39**
Hotel/accomodation	1	0	1	9.09	0.00	3.33
Lawyer / Accountant / Consultant, etc.	2	2	4	18.18	10.53	13.33
Coffee shop / Restaurants / Pastry shop / Bakery	2	5	7	18.18	26.32	23.33
Trade / Craftsmanship /Services	4	5	9	36.36	26.32	30.00

Building (construction, restoration, etc.)	0	3	3	0.00	15.79	10.00
Manufacturing/ Metalworking	2	3	5	18.18	15.79	16.67
Planners	0	1	1	0.00	5.26	3.33
Total	69	54	123	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Author's classification of the main professional profiles of the respodents for Emilia-Romagna Region.

Tab. 5.2.1.3.: Country where the highest educational level was completed (distribution per sector and percentage)

Employment sector	Albania	Italy	Other	Total	Albania (%)	Italy (%)	Other (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	16	16	0	32	50.00	50.00	0.00	26.02
2. Social Enterprises	13	17	0	30	43.33	56.67	0.00	24.39
3. Cultural Preserva-tion and Heritage	10	21	0	31	32.26	67.74	0.00	25.20
4. Potential Investors	15	15	0	30	50.00	50.00	0.00	24.39
Total	54	69	0	123	43.90	56.10	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 2: Where did you complete the highest educational/ qualification level?

In terms of working status, most of the respondents are employed permanently, full-time (38.21% of the sample). With regards to sectors, most of these employed are in the Social Enterprises group. Another 20.33 per cent are employed with part-time contracts. This form of contract is particularly present in the agribusiness sector. 17.89 per cent are self-employed/freelance, in particular in the Cultural Sector. 10.57 per cent are business owners, mainly from the Potential Investors group, and partially from the Cultural Sector.

Tab. 5.2.1.4.: Working status (distribution per sector and percentage)

Working status	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential Investor	Total
Unemployed (actively looking for a job)	0.00%	1.63%	0.81%	0.00%	2.44%
Homemaker	0.00%	0.00%	0.81%	0.00%	0.81%
Student	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Student-worker	0.81%	0.00%	0.00%	0.81%	1.63%
Employed permanent full time	5.69%	17.07%	5.69%	9.76%	38.21%
Employed permanent part-time	1.63%	0.00%	2.44%	0.81%	4.88%
Employed with limited time (part-time) contract	13.82%	1.63%	3.25%	1.63%	20.33%
Occupied in layoffs	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
On the move	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Occupied irregularly but fairly stable	0.00%	0.00%	0.81%	0.00%	0.81%
Occupied irregularly in an unstable way	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Occupied in "para-subor-dinate" work	0.00%	1.63%	0.00%	0.00%	1.63%
Self-employed regular/ freelance worker *	3.25%	2.44%	8.13%	4.07%	17.89%
Self-employed worker not regular	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Business owner*	0.00%	0.00%	3.25%	7.32%	10.57%
Cooperative worker member	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other/Do not declare	0.81%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.81%
Total	26.02%	24.39%	25.20%	24.39%	100.00%

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 6: Please tell us about your working situation - the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

5.2.2. FOCUS ON SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNERS

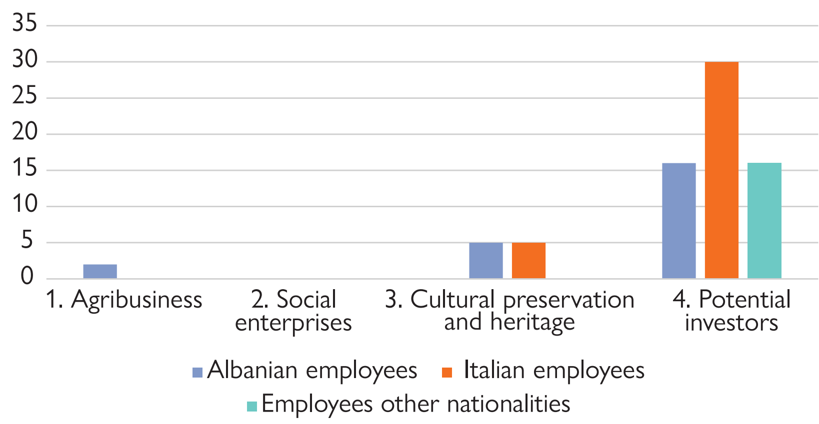
Some questions were directed specifically to those respondents who reported of being self-employed or business owners.

When respondents reported of having employees, they were asked to specify how many are Italian, Albanian or from other nationality backgrounds. The results are presented in Fig. 5.2.2.1. The group that declared the highest number of employees is that of Potential Investors. In this case, most of the employees are Italian. Some employees were reported also in the Cultural Sector (5 Italian and 5 Albanian) and in the Agribusiness Sector (2 Albanian)

We asked if the centre of business of these self-employed or business owners is in Italy or elsewhere (Tab. 5.2.2.2.). Italy was by far the most frequent answer, with only one exception in the cultural sector. In this case, the respondent declared that his business is mainly located between China and Albania.

Four respondents in the Cultural Sector and two respondents in the Potential Investors group declared that they have business relationships in Albania (Tab. 5.2.2.3.). According to the qualitative answers they offered, these relationships include the following: for the Potential Investors group, trade of beverage and consultancy; for the Cultural Sector, agent in Italy for Albanian Tour Operators, studies on archaeological heritage in Albania and a collaboration with the Albanian Ministry of Culture.

Fig. 5.2.2.1.: Nationality of employees (for self-employed and business owners)



Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section: Question No. 8: How many employees do you have? Question 8a: How many are Italians? And question 8b: How many are Albanians?

Tab. 5.2.2.2.: Location of the centre of business interests in Italy (distribution per sector and percentage)

Italy as the centre of your business	No	Yes	No (%)	Yes (%)
1. Agribusiness	0	4	0.00	11.43
2. Social Enterprises	0	3	0.00	8.57
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	1*	13	2.86	37.14
4. Potential Investors	0	14	0.00	40.00
Total	1	34	2.86	97.14

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 9: Is Italy the centre of your business interests? Namely are your main business partners, supply relationships, customers, etc. in Italy? and 9a If NO, where is your "centre of business interests" located?

Tab. 5.2.2.3.: Business relationships with Albania (distribution per sector and percentage)

Business relationships with Albania	Yes	No	Yes (%)	No (%)
1. Agribusiness	0	4	0.00	11.43
2. Social Enterprises	0	3	0.00	8.57
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4	10	11.43	28.57
4. Potential Investors	2	12	5.71	34.29
Total	6	29	17.14	82.86

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section: Question No. 10: Do you do business/have business relationships with Albania? (e.g. important customers, suppliers, partners, participation in tenders and calls, etc.).

5.3. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The objective of this section is to study and analyse the individual and family assets of the respondents focusing on the yearly income, saving and remitting habits, real estate properties between Italy and Albania (if not elsewhere) and other forms of investments. Based on these aspects we intend to grasp, on the one hand, general indications on the earning capacity of Albanians in Italy and their financial stability or fragility. On the other hand, the geography of the real estate properties can offer us indications on concrete existing capitals, linkages and possible investments of the diaspora – more likely in the country of origin, or in Italy.

5.3.1. INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

The average yearly individual income declared by the respondents in Emilia-Romagna[37] is EUR 23,000, which is above the national average income in Italy in 2018[38] (EUR 20,670).

The average family annual income[39] declared by Albanian respondents in Emilia-Romagna is EUR 39,261, which is overall higher than the Italian national average family income.[40] The two sectors that account for the highest household income of respondents are Social Enterprises and Potential Investors.

In addition, data on the average annual income per capita of the respondents - referring to the income for each household member[41] - show no particular difference between the Albanian female and male component (EUR 16,122 versus EUR 17,615). When compared to the average individual yearly income per capita in Italy in the central regions, the figure a bit lower (ISTAT, 2018).[42]

While this information provides us with a general positive indication -- meaning a certain income and earning capacity and solidity of respondents, we can highlight significant differences and variations by considering the gender dimension and the professional sector of belonging.

Female respondents state a relatively lower average yearly individual income (EUR 22,856) compared to the male component (EUR 23,342). More evident differences can be found within each sector. The sectors that present the higher individual and household income for both men and women are Social Enterprises and Potential Investor. The sectors that present the lowest income levels for both men and women are Agribusiness and Cultural Preservation and Heritage sectors. The sector that shows the highest internal individual income difference (of EUR 20,000) between men and women is Social Enterprises.[43] While data confirm a general trend in gender income discrepancy with women generally earning less than men[44] - due also to the prevalence of women in part-time jobs, in the case of Emilia-Romagna we can also highlight that women in the Agribusiness earn more compared to men.

37 The fieldwork took place in 2019 and this question referred to that year.
38 Site consulted on 23 January 2010. www.repubblica.it/economia/miojob/lavoro/2019/03/28/news/mef_il_reddito_medio_italiano_e_sceso_a_20_670_euro-222716008/.
39 Including all sources of family income and referring to the average family household size of 2.75 persons, see *Tab.* 5.3.1.3., *Average family household size per gender and sector.*
40 For the fiscal year 2017, the national Italian average family income was EUR 30,595, excluding real estate rents. *Source*: www.istat.it/it/files/2018/12/Report-Reddito-Condizioni-di-vita-2017.pdf.
41 By elaborating the household size in relationship with the household income.
42 Fiscal year of reference 2017, calculated in 2018. In 2017, in the North-Eastern regions of Italy, the average yearly individual income was EUR 21,900; in the north-western regions it was 21.400; in the central regions it was 19.500 and in the southern regions it was 13.700. *Source* : www.istat.it/it/files/2018/12/Report_Conti-regionali_2017.pdf.
43 It is useful to remind that in this sector are included nurses, medical doctors, psychologists, physiotherapists, etc.
44 As reported by the EU Commission, in 2017 "the gender pay gap in the EU stands at 16 per cent and has only changed minimally over the last decade. It means that women earn 16 per cent on average less per hour than men". *Source*: ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/equal-pay/gender-pay-gap-situation-eu_en.

Tab. 5.3.1.1.: Distribution of individual average annual income per gender and sector

Individual annual income (average in euro)	
Female	**22,856.36**
1. Agribusiness	19,017.00
2. Social Enterprises	25,684.21
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	17,200.00
4. Potential Investors	27,050.00
Male	**23,342.11**
1. Agribusiness	16,125.00
2. Social Enterprises	45,000.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	22,428.57
4. Potential Investors	25,285.71
Total	**23,000.56**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 1: What is your annual (individual) income? (Important: Please include the sum of all your incomes - those declared + all "extras"/undeclared/cash-in-hand).

Tab. 5.3.1.2.: Distribution of household average annual income per gender and sector

Household income (average in euro)	
Female	**39,414.45**
1. Agribusiness	16,654.50
2. Social Enterprises	48,176.47
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	38,916.67
4. Potential Investors	45,000.00
Male	**38,888.89**
1. Agribusiness	32,666.67
2. Social Enterprises	70,000.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	35,571.43
4. Potential Investors	40,428.57
Total	**39,261.87**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 3: Considering all different sources (income from work, annuities, assistance, etc.), what is the approximate average annual sum of the income of your entire household?

Tab. 5.3.1.3.: Average family household size per gender and sector.

Household size (average)	
Female	**2.79**
1. Agribusiness	1.11
2. Social Enterprises	3.20
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	2.79
4. Potential Investors	3.30
Male	**2.67**
1. Agribusiness	2.00
2. Social Enterprises	4.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	2.50
4. Potential Investors	3.12
Total	**2.75**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 2: Household size: How many people are there in your "household" (interviewee included)? By "household" we mean the group of people with whom there is a relationship of kinship/love, which also means sharing expenses (food, clothing, leisure) and income.

Tab. 5.3.1.4.: Distribution of annual income per capita per gender and sector

Income per capita (for each member of the household, average in euro)	
Female	**16,122.79**
1. Agribusiness	16,654.50
2. Social Enterprises	16,691.18
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	14,784.72
4. Potential Investors	16,428.57
Male	**17,615.74**
1. Agribusiness	16,000.00
2. Social Enterprises	17,500.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	16,440.48
4. Potential Investors	19,500.00
Total	**16,556.23**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 2: Household size; and Question No. 3: Household income.

5.3.2. REMITTANCE AND SAVING

Most part of the household family income of the respondents (97.17%) stays in Italy, either spent as living expenses or as savings. This means that only a small portion of the family income (2.70%) is sent elsewhere.[45] Tracking down results by gender, we do not remark significant differences. When considering the four sectors respondents belong to, we can highlight slight variations in the data. The male respondents from the Social Enterprises and Agribusiness sectors are the ones that save more in Italy (13.75%–13.33% compared to 9.40%) while people from the Cultural Preservation and Heritage sector are able to send more abroad (4.47%–4.17% to 2.70%) and save more than the others in Italy (20% of the household income compared to 13%).

In terms of remittances, 84 persons (77%) do not remit to Albania while 25 persons (13%) do. On average (considering only those who send money elsewhere), 97,92 per cent is sent to Albania.[46] Almost all the money sent (98%) goes to family members (parents, relatives and/or siblings),[47] while 2 per cent of savings sent are spent during the holidays the individual spends in Albania. The respondents report that they do not use bank transfers to remit (by 19.51% of respondents), but the majority of the respondents (79.17%) preferred not to answer this question.

It is important to remember that many migrants visit their families in Albania quite frequently, directly giving them money, or asking their friends visiting the country to pass on some money to their families on their behalf. Also, family reunion happened extensively over the years and the longer migrants live and settle abroad, the less they tend to remit due to increasing needs in the country of residence (for their children, house, mortgage, etc.).

45 According to the survey of the National Observatory for Financial Inclusion of Migrants in Italy, the average remittances in terms of percentage of income is around 12,3 per cent in 2017.
46 *Source: Elaboration on the "Economic" Section; Question No. 3c: How much of the money "sent elsewhere" goes to Albania?*
47 *Source: Elaboration on the "Economic" Section; Question No. 3d: Who do you send this money to in Albania?*

Tab. 5.3.2.1.: Percentage of household income employed in Italy (either spent or saved) or elsewhere, per gender and sector.

Money spent and saved	% spent in Italy	% saved in Italy	% sent elsewhere
Female	**88.05**	**8.76**	**2.83**
1. Agribusiness	88.33	10.33	1.33
2. Social Enterprises	87.41	9.63	2.96
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	87.06	7.11	4.47
4. Potential Investors	90.91	8.18	0.91
Male	**87.39**	**10.33**	**2.50**
1. Agribusiness	82.92	13.75	3.33
2. Social Enterprises	86.67	13.33	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	86.25	9.58	4.17
4. Potential Investors	91.05	8.06	1.32
Total	87.77	9.40	2.70

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 3a: Considering the figure just mentioned (Question No. 3) as 100 per cent of your household income: how much do you spend Italy, how much do you save in Italy and how much do you send elsewhere?

Tab. 5.3.2.2.: Remittances sent to Albania, per sector

Do you send anything to Albania?	No	Yes	Total	No (%)	Yes (%)
1. Agribusiness	17	4	21	15.60	3.67
2. Social Enterprises	22	8	30	20.18	7.34
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	20	9	29	18.35	8.26
4. Potential Investors	25	4	29	22.94	3.67
Total	84	25	109	77.06	22.94

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 3b: Of the previous percentage "sent elsewhere", do you send anything to Albania?

Tab. 5.3.2.3.: Remittances sent to Albania, per sector

	Do you send it to a bank account?	
	Absolute value	%
Yes	1*	0.81
No	24	19.51
n.d.	98	79.67
Total	123	100.00

*Do you have control of this bank account in any way? Answer is YES.

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 3e: Do you send it via a bank account? And Question 3f: Do you have control of this bank account in any way?

5.3.3. REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

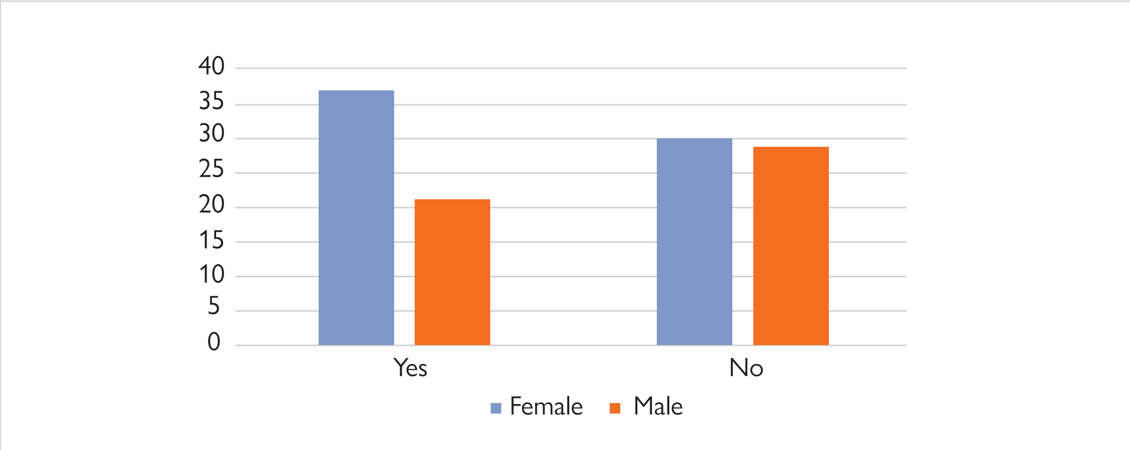
Half of respondents (58 persons) own a house, while the other half does not (59 persons), with women owning a house more than men (37 compared to 21). Among the house owners, the major part (39 persons out of 58) possesses a house in Italy, while the rest either in Albania, or in Italy and Albania.[48] Verifying the presence of additional properties (as land, real estate, etc.), 4.43 per cent of respondents report of owning such properties in Italy and 8.45 per cent in Albania.

48 4,43 per cent of respondents report of possessing also other properties in Italy (*question No. 5a: Do you own any other property - e.g. other real estate, land, etc. - in Italy?*).

Owning a house or a property in the country of origin can be a stimulus to either invest in the renovation for the family still living there or for the holidays, but also for possible investment as business or in tourism (frequently mentioned during the focus groups as well as the barriers due to the lack of clarity in the private property register in Albania). At the same time, owning a house in Italy is a signal of stability in the destination country (often implying a mortgage to repay it, therefore choosing this as an important and significant family investment in the long term).

The survey also asked about future plans in terms of intentions in the nearby future, whether in Albania, or in Italy, or elsewhere.[49] Considering the plan to buy a property for the next three years in Italy, the responses are shared between those who are not considering it (73.92%)[50]and those who are interested (20.93%)[51] to buy one. The same question applied to buy a property in Albania in the next future shows that only (6.8%)[52] is planning to buy a property, while the majority (87.32%)[53] of the respondents is not.

Fig. 5.3.3.1.: Ownership of a house



Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 4: Do you own any houses?

Tab. 5.3.3.2.: Country where the house is owned

Where	Female	Male	Total
Albania	8	2	**10**
Italy	25	14	**39**
Italy and Albania	4*	5	**9**
n.d.	0	0	**0**
Total	**37**	**21**	**58**

*of which 1 person declared to have more than two properties.

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 4a: If yes, how many and where?

Tab. 5.3.3.3.: Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property in Italy?	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
Female	1.45	95.65	2.90	100.00
Male	7.41	85.19	7.41	100.00
Average	4.43	90.42	5.15	100.00

49 Almost all the respondents (98%) report of not being interested in buying any property elsewhere.
50 This sums up to: 0,93 per cent + 72,99 per cent, see *Tab. 5.3.3.3., Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future.*
51 This sums up to: 17,43 per cent+3,50 per cent, see *Tab. 5.3.3.3., Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future.*
52 This sums up to: 1,85 per cent+4,95 per cent, see *Tab. 5.3.3.4., Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future.*
53 This sums up to: 6,60 per cent+80,72 per cent, see *Tab. 5.3.3.4., Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future.*

Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	1.45	0.00	14.49	81.16	2.90	100.00
Male	5.56	1.85	20.37	64.81	7.41	100.00
Average	**3.50**	**0.93**	**17.43**	**72.99**	**5.15**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section: Question No. 5a: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Italy? and Question 5b: Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy for the next 3 years? Question 5b has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to Question 5a.

Tab. 5.3.3.4.: Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	5.80		91.30		2.90	100.00
Male	11.11		81.48		7.41	100.00
Average	**8.45**		**86.39**		**5.15**	**100.00**
Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	5.80	4.35	85.51	4.35	100.00
Male	3.70	7.41	5.56	75.93	7.41	100.00
Average	**1.85**	**6.60**	**4.95**	**80.72**	**5.88**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 5c: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania? And Question 5d: Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years? Question 5d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to Question 5c.

Tab. 5.3.3.5.: Additional properties elsewhere and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) elsewhere?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	0.00		95.65		4.35	100.00
Male	1.85		90.74		7.41	100.00
Average	**0.93**		**93.20**		**5.88**	**100.00**
Do you plan to buy real estate in elsewhere for the next 3 years?	Yes. to the previous		No. to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	0.00	0.00	95.65	4.35	100.00
Male	1.85	0.00	3.70	87.04	7.41	100.00
Average	**0.93**	**0.00**	**1.85**	**91.34**	**5.88**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section: Question No. 5e: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) elsewhere? Question 5g: Do you plan to buy real estate elsewhere for the next 3 years? Question 5g has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to Question 5e.

5.3.4. FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

When investigating financial investments in the past, 30.11 per cent of the respondents state they invested in Italy (while 64.1% never did) and only 1.65 per cent declare investments in Albania (while 92.47% never did).

When considering the next three years, one-third of the respondents (28.98%)[54] say they are planning to financially invest in Italy, while the rest (65.15%)[55] is not. When asked about the possibility to financially invest in Albania for the next three years, the large majority of the respondents reported of not planning to invest in Albania (93.19%).[56]

These data tell us that, in this region, respondents are moderately prone to invest, mentioning basically no experiences of investment in Albania before and the perspective for the future excluding Albania as target/destination of financial investments.

Tab. 5.3.4.1.: Financial investments made in Italy

Have you made financial investments in Italy?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	23.19		72.46		4.35	100.00
Male	37.04		55.56		7.41	100.00
Average	**30.11**		**64.01**		**5.88**	**100.00**
Do you plan to do this in Italy for the next 3 years?	Yes. to the previous		No. to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	20.29	2.90	4.35	68.12	4.35	100.00
Male	33.33	3.70	0.00	55.56	7.41	100.00
Average	**26.81**	**3.30**	**2.17**	**61.84**	**5.88**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 6a: Have you made financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Italy? And Question 6a: Do you plan to do this in Italy for the next 3 years? 6b has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to Question 6a.

Tab. 5.3.4.2.: Financial investments made in Albania

Have you made financial investments in Albania?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	1.45		94.20		4.35	100.00
Male	1.85		90.74		7.41	100.00
Average	**1.65**		**92.47**		**5.88**	**100.00**
Do you plan to do this in Albania for the next 3 years?	Yes. to the previous		No. to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	1.45	0.00	94.20	4.35	100.00
Male	1.85	0.00	0.00	90.74	7.41	100.00
Average	**0.93**	**0.72**	**0.00**	**92.47**	**5.88**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 6c: Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Albania? And Question 6d: Do you plan to do this in Albania for the next 3 years? 6d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to Question 6c.

54 This sums up to: 26,81 per cent+2,17 per cent, see *Tab. 5.3.4.1., Financial investments made in Italy.*
55 This sums up to: 3,3 per cent+61,84 per cent, see *Tab. 5.3.4.1., Financial investments made in Italy.*
56 This sums up to: 92,47 per cent+0,72 per cent, see *Tab. 5.3.4.2., Financial investments made in Albania.*

Tab. 5.3.4.3.: Financial investments made elsewhere

Have you made financial investments elsewhere?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	0.00		95.65		4.35	100.00
Male	1.85		90.74		7.41	100.00
Average	**0.93**		**93.20**		**5.88**	**100.00**
Do you plan to do this elsewhere for the next 3 years?	Yes. to the previous		No. to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	0.00	0.00	95.65	4.35	100.00
Male	1.85	0.00	0.00	90.74	7.41	100.00
Average	**0.93***	**0.00**	**0.00**	**93.20**	**5.88**	**100.00**

*Where = United States of America.

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section, Questions 6e. Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) elsewhere? Question 6f: If yes, where? Question 6g: Do you plan to do this elsewhere for the next 3 years? Question 6h: If Yes, where?

5.4. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

In this section we intended to analyse the impact of the recent economic crisis on the individual/family conditions, considering how the situation of respondents changed in the last ten years (or during the first two years in Italy, for those that arrived in Italy afterward) from the economic/working/social and legal point of view.

Consequently, we asked respondents how they judge their (economic, social, professional, etc.) situation ten years ago (or during the first two years in Italy) and today. The results are shown comparatively in the following figures.

5.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

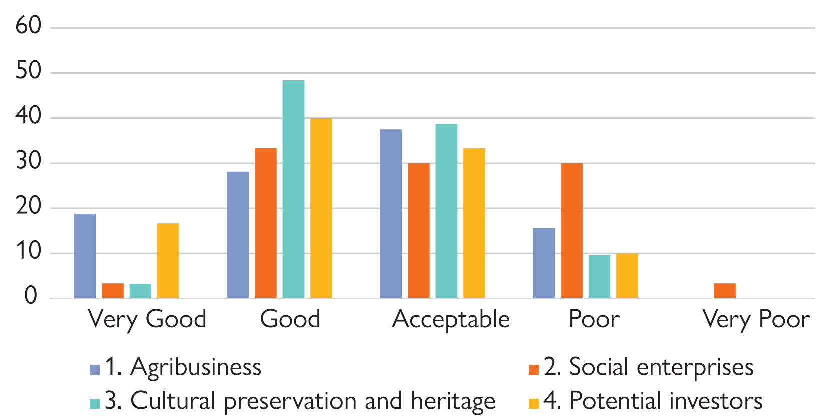
With respect to economic situation (individual income), the situation has improved for respondents in the Agribusiness sector. While the situation ten years ago was considered “acceptable” by almost 40 per cent of respondents, “good” by less than 30 per cent and very good by less than 20 per cent; the situation today is considered “better” or “much better” by more than 70 per cent of respondents. Less than 20 per cent of respondents consider that the situation stayed the same, and less than 10 per cent consider that it is worse.

A similar improvement emerges in the Social Enterprises sector: more than 60 per cent of respondents consider their situation 10 years ago between “acceptable” and “good”, while the situation was considered “poor” or “very poor” by more than 30 per cent of respondents. Today, almost 60 per cent consider that the situation is “better” or “much better”; still, 20 per cent consider their situation as worse.

In the case of Cultural Sector, the improvement is not linear. 10 years ago, almost 50 per cent consider that the situation was “good”, and a further 40 per cent consider it acceptable. Today, the situation is considered “better” or “much better” by less than 40 per cent; almost 30 per cent consider it stayed the same, while another 30 per cent consider it worse.

Finally, in the case of Potential Investors group, more than 70 per cent of respondents consider the situation 10 years ago between “good” and “acceptable”; today, more than 50 per cent consider the situation “better” or “much better”; almost 30 per cent consider it stayed the same, while a further 30 per cent consider the situation worse.

Fig. 5.4.1.1. and 5.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) ten years ago/today



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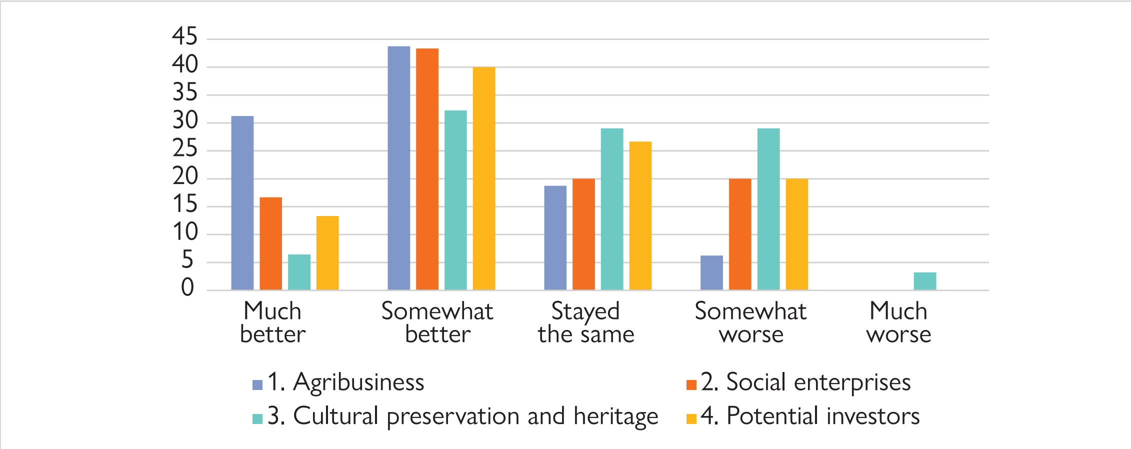
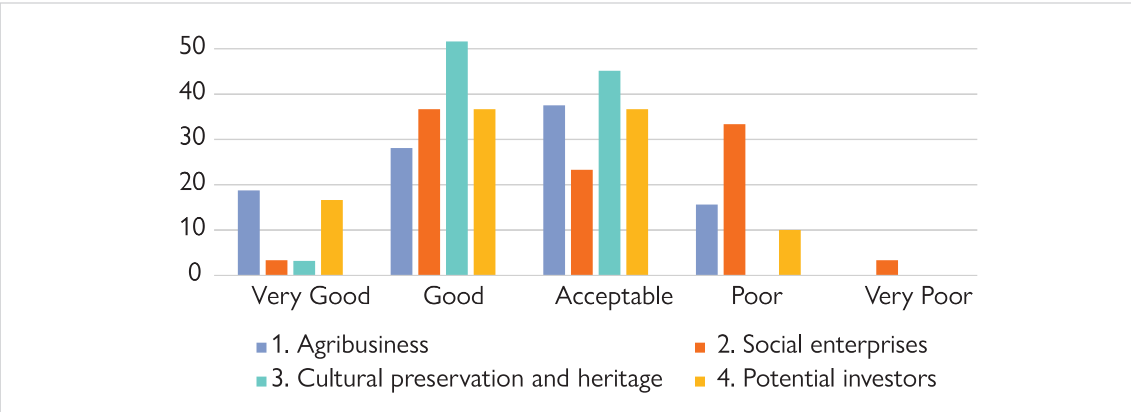
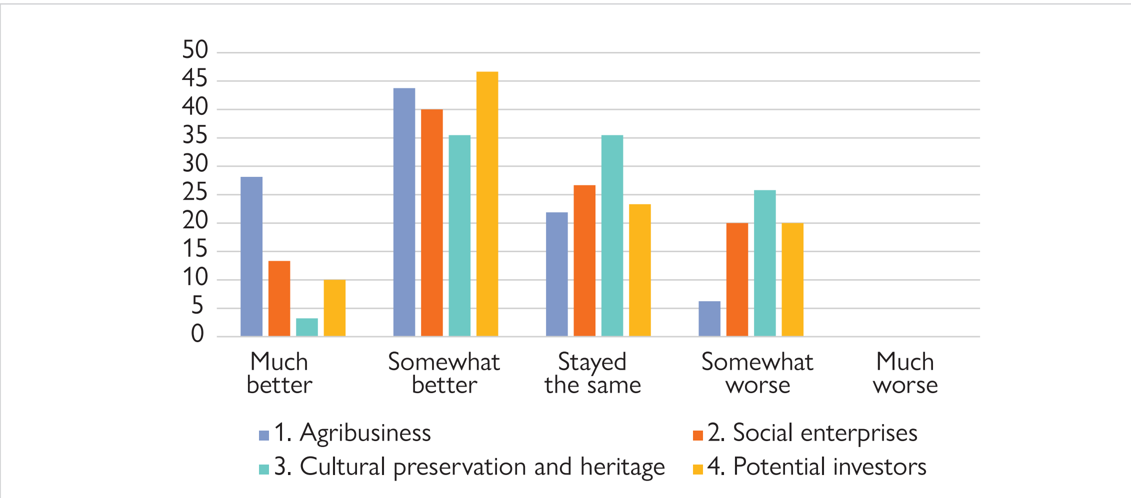


Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding Question 1a/2a: Economic situation (individual income) and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

This analysis fits with the following two figures, which show the perception of respondents on economic situation ten years ago and today in terms of household income. Generally speaking, around 40 per cent of respondents consider the situation "somewhat better". The situation looks ameliorated in particular for respondents in the agribusiness sector, where 70 per cent consider the situation today "better" or "much better". Also, in the other sectors the trend is quite positive, but it is worth highlighting that around 20 per cent of respondents in each of the three sectors consider the situation worse than 10 years ago.

Fig. 5.4.1.3. and 5.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) ten years ago/today

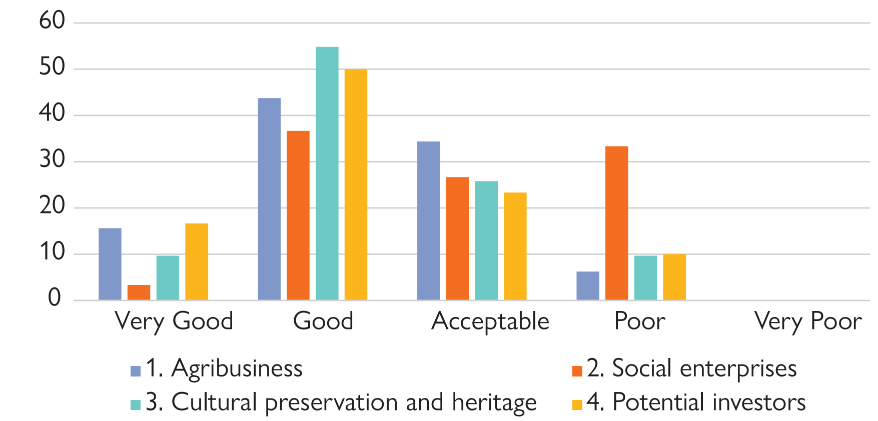


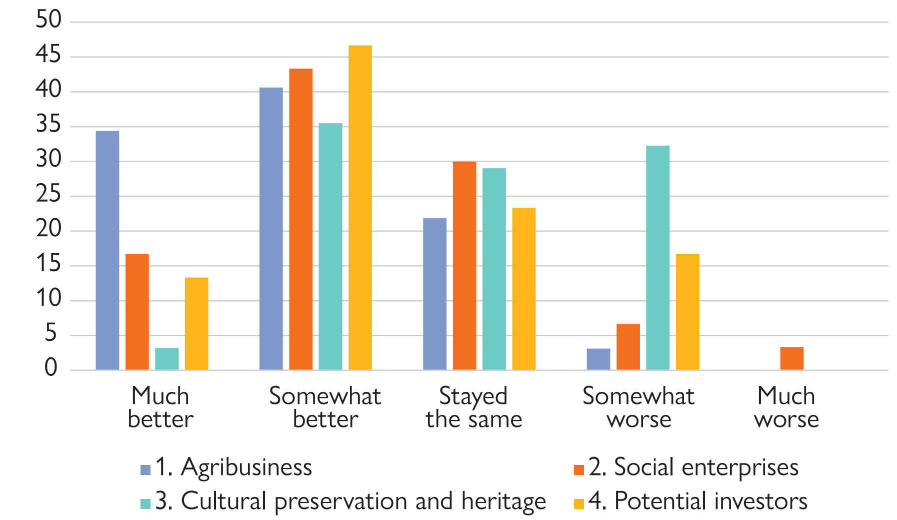


Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questios No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b Economic situation (household income) and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Interesting facts emerge in working conditions (Fig. 5.4.1.5. and 5.4.1.6.). On average, around 40 per cent of respondents consider their situation today "better" than 10 years ago. Overall, respondents from the Agribusiness sector confirm to be the most satisfied - a further 30 per cent consider the situation "much better", and few respondents consider the situation worse. On the contrary, the professional situation of respondents in the Cultural sector looks the more complicated, given that more than 30 per cent consider their situation today worse than ten years ago.

Fig. 5.4.1.5. and 5.4.1.6.: Working conditions ten years ago/today



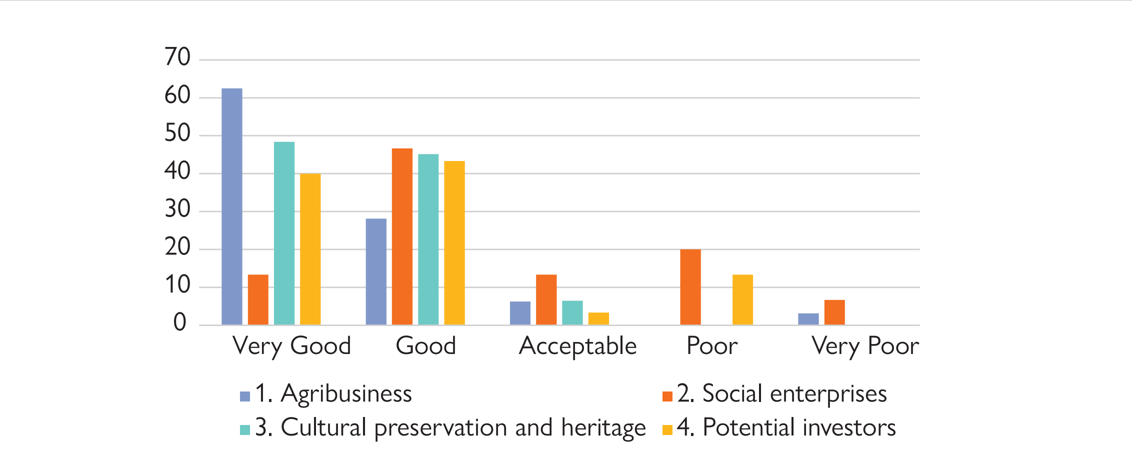


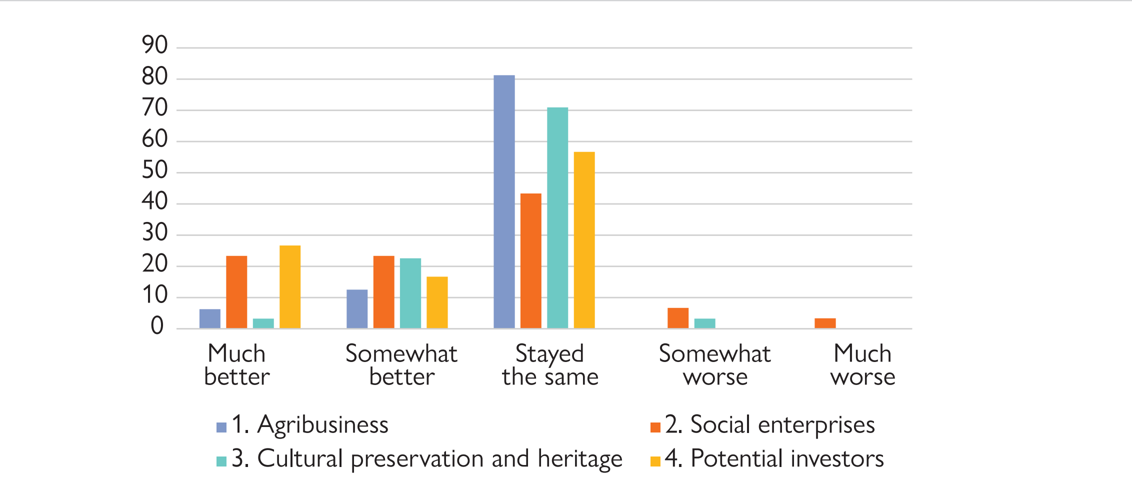
Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c Working conditions and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

5.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

The next figures show the perception of social relations (local social relations, integration/discrimination, etc.). In this case, the situation is considered stable by the largest majority of respondents in all the considered sectors and it was considered already "good/very good" by most of the respondents 10 years ago.

Fig. 5.4.2.1. and 5.4.2.2.: Social relationships ten years ago/today

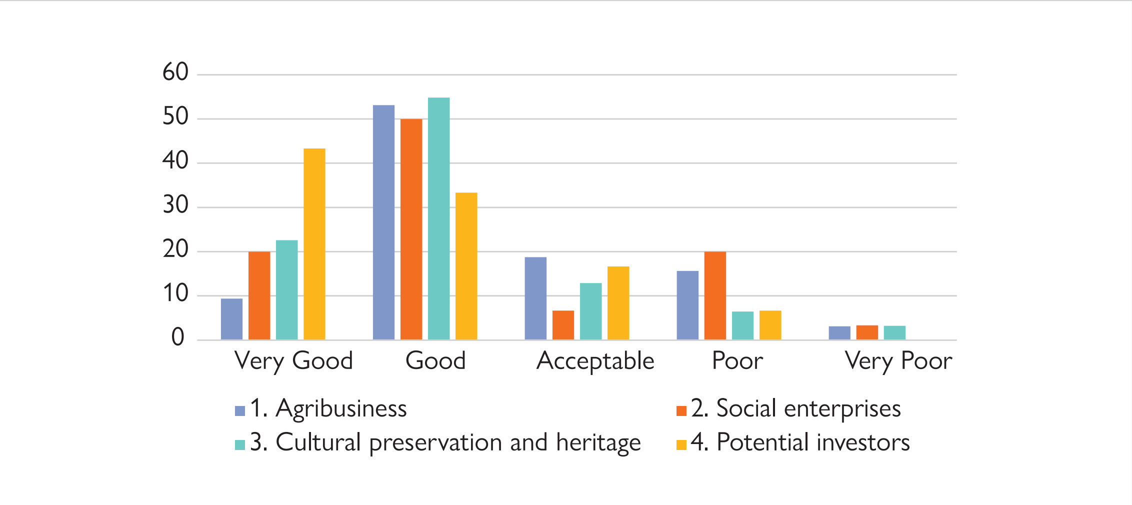


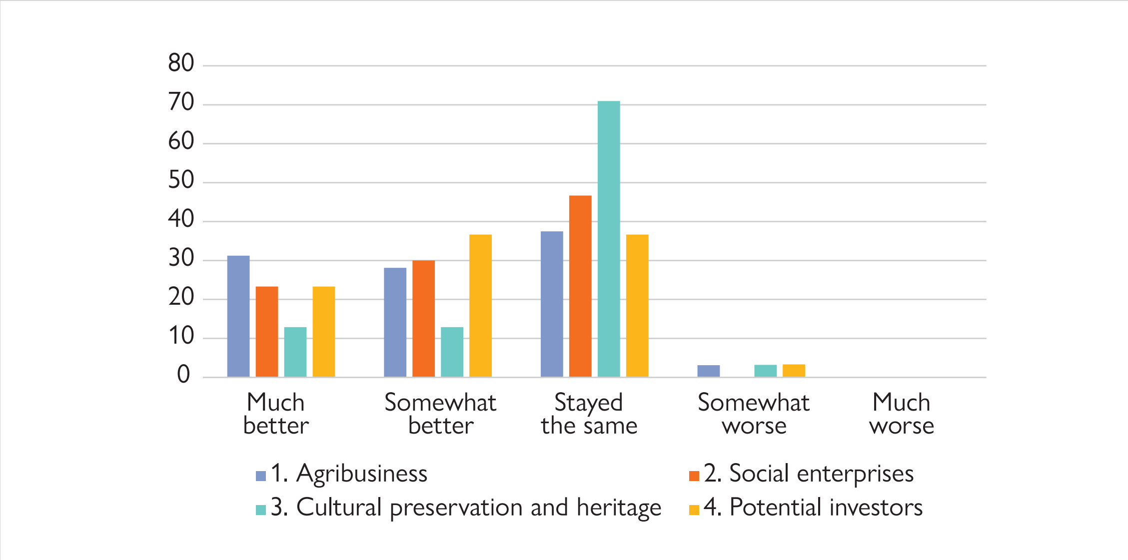


Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d social relationships (local social relations, integration / discrimination, etc.)? and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Similarly, also the legal situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit/citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas/documents, etc.) was considered "good" by most respondents ten years ago, and the situation is mainly considered stable and, in some cases, "better".

Fig. 5.4.2.3. and 5.4.2.4.: Legal / administrative situation ten years ago/today





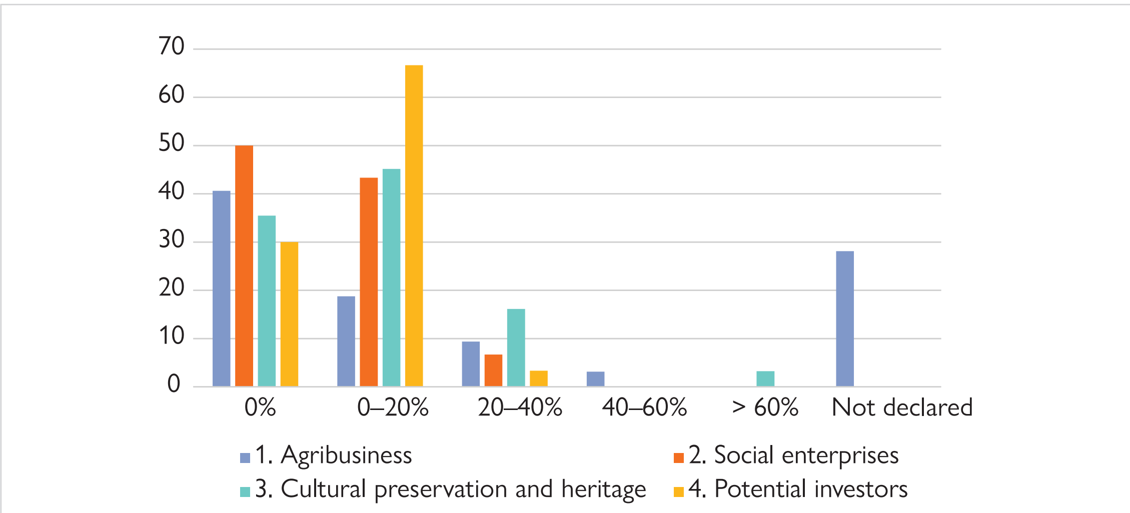
Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1f /2f Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit/ citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.) and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

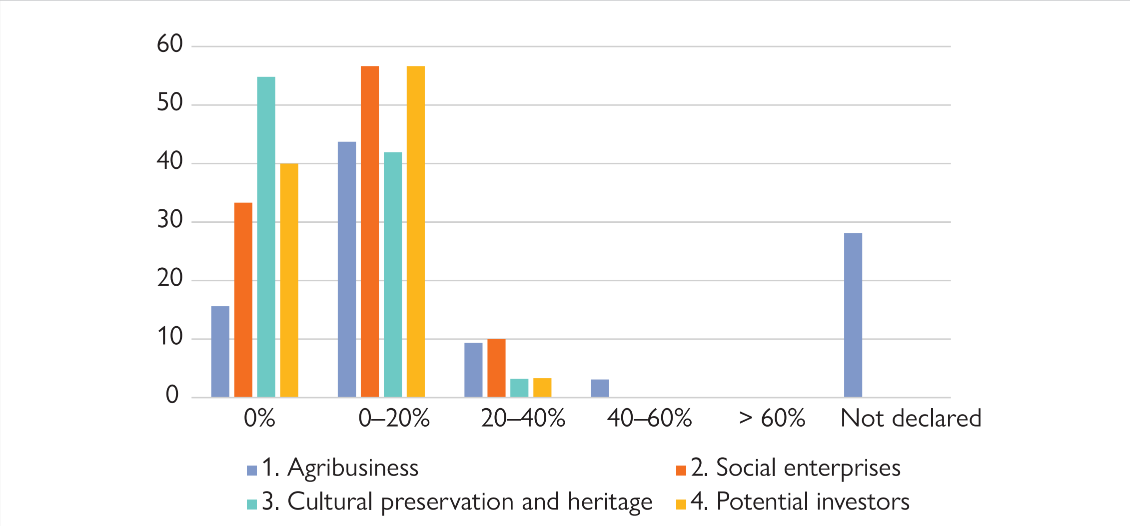
5.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

The next two figures focus on the situation of savings, reflecting the trend in the individual and household income. Indeed, sectors where the income situation has improved (Agribusiness and Social Enterprises) show an increase in the savings in the last ten year. Most of the respondents save now between 0 per cent and 20 per cent. On the contrary, respondents from the Cultural sector, who have seen their income situation worsening in the last decade, declare that they are not able to save anything in more than 50 per cent of the cases (while, 10 years ago, it was around 30%). Also, the Potential Investors group has overall reduced savings, with 40 per cent declaring they don't save anything today (with respect to 30% ten years ago) and more than 50 per cent reporting that they save between 0 and 20 per cent (it was more than 60% ten years ago).

Already ten years ago, only a small part of these savings was directed to Albania, and this amount was reduced in the last ten years. Today the vast majority of respondents mention that they don't send anything to Albania, although with some sectorial differences: 40 per cent of respondents in Agribusiness sector, 60 per cent of respondents in Social Enterprises and Cultural sector; 80 per cent of respondents among Potential Investors. Those that send something, usually don't send more than 20 per cent of their savings.

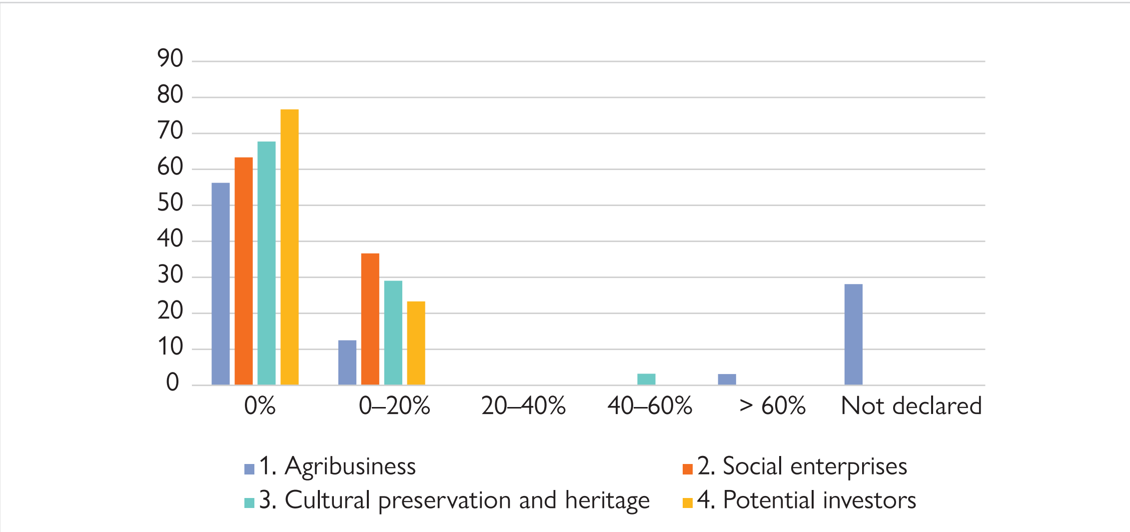
Fig. 5.4.3.1. and 5.4.3.2.: Money saved (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today

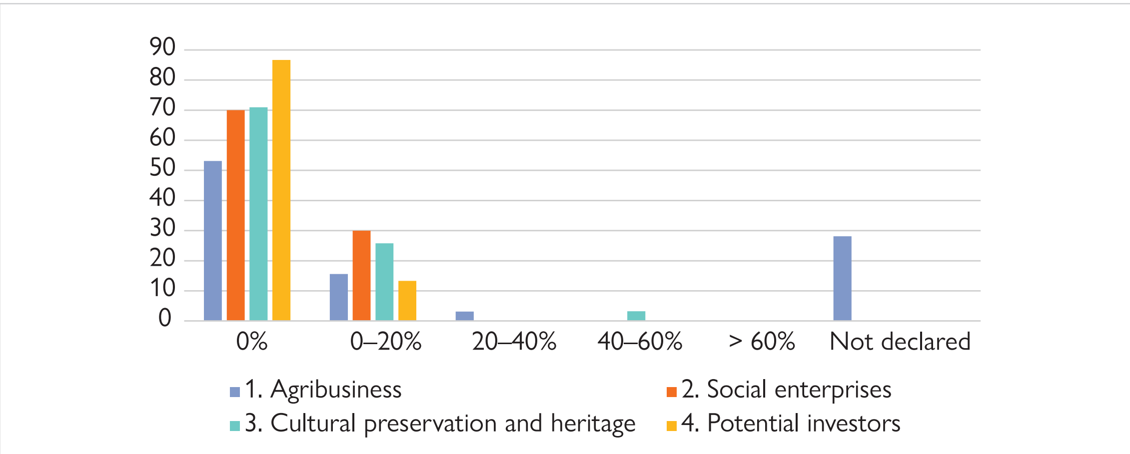




Source:Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1g: At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis) and Question 2g: Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis).

Fig. 5.4.3.3. and 5.4.3.4.: Saving sent to Albania (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today





Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1h? At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis) and Question 2h: Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

5.5. PERCEPTION ON MIGRATION

This section is about the way respondents consider and evaluate their personal experience of being part of the Albanian diaspora, including a large set of positive and negative aspects and plans for the future in terms of possible mobility or migration.

5.5.1. STAY OR GO, BACK OR SOMEWHERE ELSE

To explore linkages and connections to Italy and Albania, we asked a set of questions aimed at understanding what the plans for the future of the respondents are and where do they see their children's future.

When asked if they would consider moving from Italy to another country (Tab. 5.5.1.1.), 66.47 per cent of the respondents said that their plans are to stay in Italy, with a slight majority of women respondents giving this answer. Around 10 per cent (again, with a slight majority of women respondents) plan to move in the next three years - which means that concrete plans are being set up. 23.11 per cent of the respondents think that they might move over the next three years - probably this means that these respondents are not fully satisfied with their life in Italy, but moving is still a very general idea.

When it comes to Albania, the majority of women that plan to move in the next three years are not considering going back to the country of origin, while the majority of men do. Also, in the long-term plans (moving over the next three years), there is a balance among women that are thinking to go back to Albania and those that are thinking to go somewhere else while the great majority of men are considering going back to Albania.

For those who replied "If not to Albania, where would you go?",[57] all of the respondents mentioned wealthy countries as the likes of the United States of America, Germany, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, and Switzerland. The main drivers for the decision of moving are in fact the presence of better work or study opportunities, together with family/friends issues (Tab. 5.5.1.3.).

Tab. 5.5.1.1.: Interest to move to another country today or in the future

Would you consider moving country?	No	Yes, in the next 3 years	Yes, over the next 3 years	Total
Female	68.12	11.59	20.29	100.00
Male	64.81	9.26	25.93	100.00
Average	**66.47**	**10.43**	**23.11**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 3: Would you consider moving to another country?

Tab. 5.5.1.2.: Interest to move to Albania today or in the future

Are/would you consider moving to Albania?	No	Yes, in the next 3 years		Yes, over the next 3 years			Total
	n.a.	No	Yes	No	Yes	n.a.	
Female	68.12	7.25	4.35	10.14	10.14	0.00	100.00
Male	64.81	3.70	5.56	7.41	18.52	0.00	100.00
Average	**66.47**	**5.48**	**4.95**	**8.78**	**14.33**	**0.00**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 3a: If yes, are/would you consider moving to Albania?

57 *Source*: Elaboration on section "Perception on migration", question No. 3b If not to Albania, where would you go?

Tab. 5.5.1.3.: Main drivers for the decision of moving

Main drivers for this decision of moving	%
Family/friendship issues	34.38
Work/Study	33.85
Economic conditions	13.02
Presence of public services, schools, etc.	10.42
I heard good things about it	2.60
For the protections of your rights	0.52
Other reasons	5.21
Total	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 4: Your main drivers for this decision (referring to answer 3) (maximum 2 options).

When asked about their children's future, most of the respondents answered that it doesn't matter (36.59%), followed by those that see this future in Italy (34.96% of respondents). Albania, with 8.13 per cent of respondents, is the least frequent answer. However, there are significant differences among sectors. In agribusiness, for example, the largest majority of those that expressed an opinion are for staying. In the case of culture, only a few expressed an opinion and, even though Italy is the most frequent answer, many expressed also the wish to see their children in Albania or elsewhere. The majority of Potential Investors group would like to see their children's future in Italy, followed by "another country". In the case of Social Enterprises, the majority of respondents wish to see their children living abroad. This is reported despite the fact that Social Enterprises, together with Agribusiness, are the sectors where the situation improved the most in the last 10 years (see Section 4).

With respect to why they gave these answers[58], there are no significant differences among sectors. Among those that mentioned Italy, the most frequent explanations are because of: (i) Feelings of belonging; (ii) Quality of life; (iii) Quality of services, including education and health; (iv) Physical proximity to Albania; (v) Better opportunities; (vi) Satisfaction with the professional/personal position acquired in Italy; (vii) Sacrifices and difficulties experienced as migrants; consequently, they don't want their children to live the same experience. On the contrary, those that mentioned "a different country" expressed: (i) The belief that abroad there are better education/employment opportunities; (ii) Dissatisfaction for the high level of taxes in Italy and in general the economic crisis and the lack of perspectives; (iii) The belief that the experience of migration can enrich a person's life. Finally, the main reasons for those that mentioned Albania are (i) the desire to make their children grow with Albanian values and traditions; (ii) the desire to reinforce children's links with their country of origin; (iii) the hope for a better future for Albania.

Tab. 5.5.1.4., Country preferred for the future of the respondents' children.

Children's future	Albania	Italy	Another country	It does not matter	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	0.81	11.38	0.81	13.01	0	26.02
2. Social Enterprises	1.63	8.94	10.57	3.25	0	24.39
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	2.44	4.88	2.44	15.45	0	25.20
4. Potential Investors	3.25	9.76	6.50	4.88	0	24.39
Total	8.13	34.96	20.33	36.59	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 2: Today, thinking about your children's future (even if you do not have any), where would you prefer for them to live? (only one option).

58 *Source*: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 2: Today, thinking about your children's future (even if you do not have any) where would you prefer for them to live? And, Question No. 2a: Why?

5.5.2. PERCEPTION AND EVALUATION OF BEING PART OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA

In order to stimulate respondents to self-evaluate their experience of migration, we asked respondents to identify up to three positive and up to three negative aspects of their experience. There are no significant differences among sectors.[59] Generally speaking, answers to these questions allow the identification of two different types of members of the diaspora. The first group is made up of those who are very well integrated in Italy. On the other hand, another (more limited) group of respondents is made up of those that have experienced stronger difficulties in integration, and whose social contacts are mainly with other members of the Albanian diaspora. For these reasons, positive and negative aspects are sometimes in direct contrast.

Most frequent positive aspects mentioned by respondents are the following:

- Good quality of life in Italy (food, climate, etc.).
- Better education and employment opportunities if compared to Albania.
- Good social services, including health in Italy.
- Better administrative services with respect to Albania.
- Better environment, including less discrimination, more security, stability.
- Hope for a better future.
- Ability to adapt to different contexts.
- Cultural proximity to Italy.
- Mind openness contact with different cultures.
- Good organization as an Albanian community in Italy.
- Integration capacity of Albanian diaspora.

Moreover, in the case of professionals in the cultural sector, a specific added value of Italy is identified in its cultural heritage.

It is worth highlighting that some of the respondents did not answer this question, mentioning that they don't feel part of a specific Albanian community.

With respect to negative aspects, many respondents could not identify any negative aspects of their experience. For the others, most frequent answers are as follows:

- Difficult bureaucracy, especially at the beginning (in particular for children this translated in discrimination, for example, for attending extra activities during their school experience).
- Racism episodes, discrimination.
- Inefficient judiciary system.
- Economic crisis and lack of perspectives.
- The high cost of living in general.
- Difficulty in finding a job.
- Nostalgia and distance from family and parents.
- Personal difficulties connected with the condition of migrant, in between two different cultures.
- Lack of organized networks of Albanians in Italy.
- Loss of Albanian identity/cultural values.
- Difficult social relations/integration.
- Lack of meritocracy.
- Low salaries.

59 *Source*: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Questions No. 5: Considering your overall experience as a member of the Albanian diaspora, please tell us: 5a, Up to 3 positive aspects of your experience and 5b, Up to 3 negative aspects of your experience.

5.6. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

This section includes information on the nature of the relationship of migrants with their country of origin and their closest connections. Quite a considerable investigation was dedicated to the investments respondents undertook in the past and their plans for the future, especially towards Albania, whether in their same sector of work/employment in Italy, or in other sectors.

The general interest to be part of or available to contribute to Albanian's development is included in the survey.

While we can overall say that in individual and personal terms most people maintain a strong link with their country of origin and the people/family there, in terms of trust and interest to invest in Albania, the research does not show of extensive results. As a general perspective of life, most respondents prefer to stay in Italy, eventually increasing exchanges with Albania.

The large majority of respondents (81.18%) never tried to expand their business in Albania before (especially those from the agribusiness sector), except for those coming from the cultural sector (64.52%).

63.92 per cent of the respondents reported they are not interested in investing in their own sector in Albania (especially persons from the agribusiness sector). Persons interested in investing belong to the Cultural sector (45.16%) and Potential Investors sectors (50%).

Almost all of the respondents (99.63%) reported they had never tried to invest in other sectors before.

When asked about the interest to generally contribute to Albania, respondents tend to positively confirm it (72.87%). When asked if, specifically, they are interested in a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania, more than half the respondents said they share an interest in this type of investment (57.3%, mainly form the Social Enterprises sector).

5.6.1. RELATIONSHIP WITH ALBANIA

The large majority of respondents (96%) consider somehow important[60] to know what it happening in Albania and they mainly employ internet (37%) and social media (31%) to keep informed. A smaller percentage gets informed via telephone/Skype (14%).

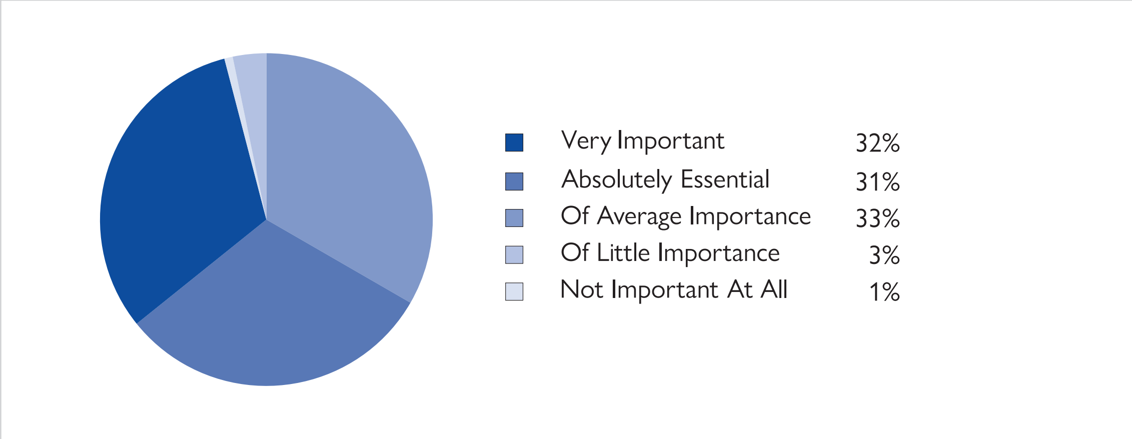
The family and personal linkages with Albanian seem to be quite strong. Among the closest relationships migrants still maintain in Albania, respondents mainly refer to family members, like their mother (23.41%) and father (21.10%), siblings (14.74%) and other relatives (26.01%).

Migrants tend to return quite often (28.7% more than once a year; 42.71% once a year; 24.56% every 3/5 years) to their country of origin.

About 61.34 per cent of the respondents report of being interested in being included in the register of migrants of the Albanian Government and 84.5 per cent say they are not enrolled in any formal Albanian association abroad.

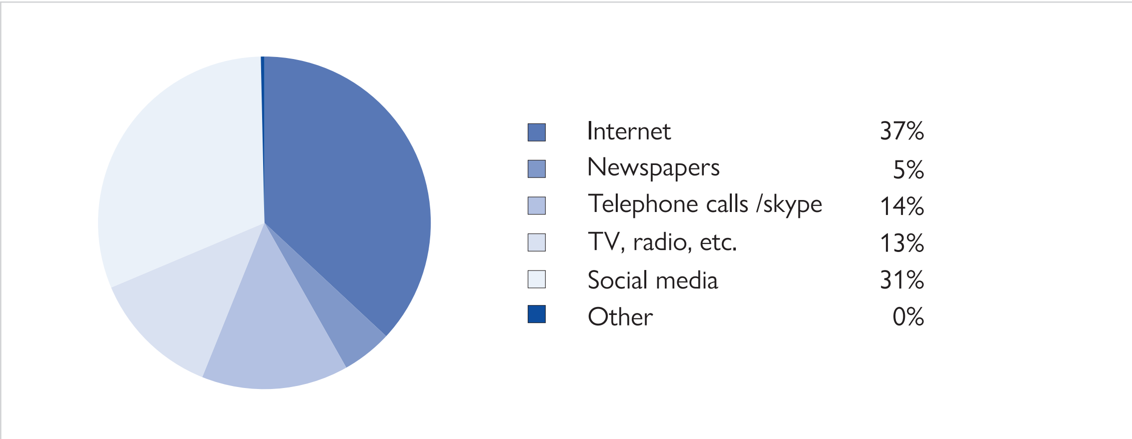
60 Including responses as the likes of *on average, very important, absolutely essential.*

Fig. 5.6.1.1.: Interest to know what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 3: How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania?

Fig. 5.6.1.2.: Means employed to keep informed on what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, if the answer to Question No. 3: How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania? ranges between "Of little importance" and "absolutely essential", then Question 3a is asked: What are the main means by which you keep yourself informed?

Tab. 5.6.1.3.: Relationship with people in Albania

Relationship with people in Albania	%
Mother	23.41
Father	21.10
Siblings	14.74
Partner	0.87
Son(s)/Daughter(s)	0.29
Other relatives	26.01
Partners in business/work mates	7.23
Other*	6.07
None	0.29
Total	100.00

*Mostly "friends"

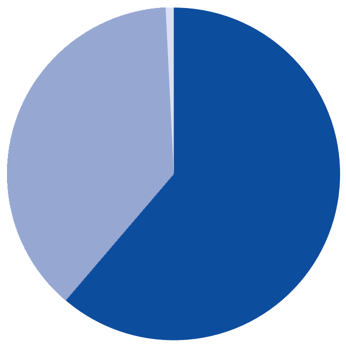
Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 1: With who of the following people, if they are in Albania, do you still have a close relationship? (more than one answer allowed).

Tab. 5.6.1.4.: Frequency of visits to Albania

Frequency of visit to Albania	Female	Male	Average
Frequently (more than once a year)	33.33	24.07	28.70
Often (every year)	39.13	46.30	42.71
Sometimes (every 2/3 years)	23.19	25.93	24.56
Rarely (once every 5/10 years)	4.35	3.70	4.03
Never	0.00	0.00	0.00
n.d.	33.33	24.07	28.70
Total	100.00	100.00	-

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 6: How often do you go to Albania?

Fig. 5.6.1.5.: Interest in the "register of migrants "



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 4: In 2016 Albania approved establishment of a "register for migrants ". Once this register is established, do you think you will register yourself?

Tab. 5.6.1.6.: Participation in formal/informal associations

Participation in any formal/informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania	%
Yes	15.50
No	84.50
n.d.	0.00
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 5: Did you enrol in any list/register or are you in touch with any formal or informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania?

5.6.2. ROLE OF THE DIASPORA MEMBERS IN CONTRIBUTING FOR ALBANIA

The majority of respondents strongly agree with the fact, through their visits and exchanges, they have transferred ideas, information and capitals (not only monetary) to the family and friends in the homeland.

Albanians abroad can also indirectly contribute to Albania when suggesting or recommending friends to visit the country. Almost 81.52 per cent of the respondents (especially men) stated that they have recommended friends and acquaintances[61] for tourism (97%), in some cases travelling together, in some others partially separated.

61 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Sector; if the answer to Question No. 7: Do you have friends/ acquaintances in Italy ever visiting Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion? Is followed by Question No. 7a: If yes, for tourism, business, or other reasons?

The respondents report that they are mainly interested in staying in Italy. Hence, 50.44 per cent say they want to also keep the business in Italy (especially men), while 32.93 per cent of the respondents report that they would like to increase contacts and business relations with Albania (especially women). Most respondents mention[62] as reasons for these preferences: the presence of family and work stability in Italy as the main reasons to stay in Italy, including the effort to build a life in Italy. Some say they lost contacts in Albania and feel more comfortable in Italy. Few refer to the possibility to find new opportunities in Albania, the lower taxes in Albania and the more chances given by their two-folded relationship with the two countries.

When asked about the interest to generally contribute to Albania, respondents tend to positively confirm it (72.87%). This is particularly true for the male respondents (especially those belonging to the Social Enterprises sector – 100%) and for women belonging to the Social Enterprises and Agribusiness sectors).

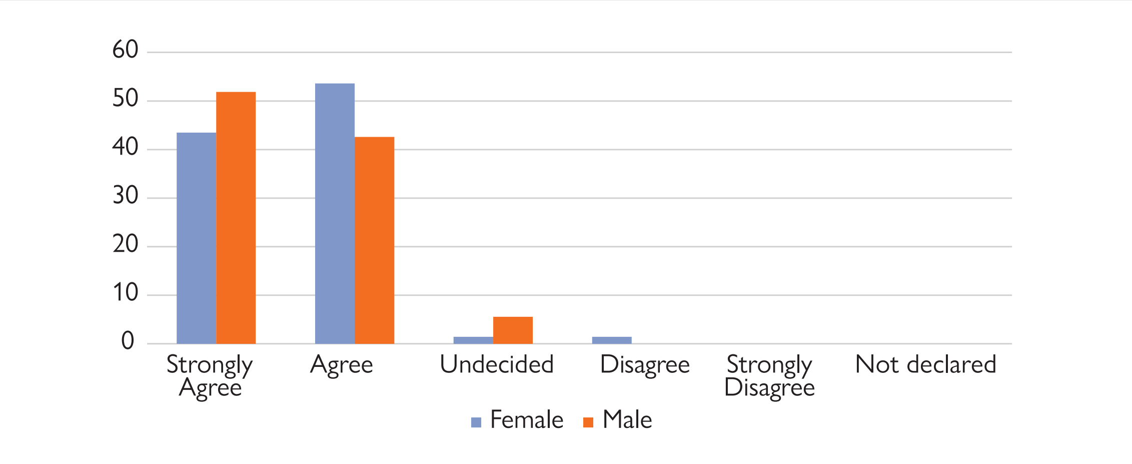
More specifically,[63] quite a few refer to ideas of business (in tourism/restaurant/ice-cream shops), whereas the remaining part of the respondents have no precise ideas. Some mention their own sectors/expertise (as IT, shoemaking, finance) and others say they would contribute for the social needs in Albania.

Those that are not interested to contribute for Albania,[64] indicate they either have their all life settled in Italy, they do not trust Albania, they left too long ago and lost their interest or contacts, they have no specific ideas on what to do.

When asked if, specifically, they would be interested in a temporary/virtual assignment, which would contribute to the development of Albania, more than half of the respondents reported to be interested (57.3% especially those from Social Enterprises sector). The others said they are not interested in this option (especially people from the Agribusiness sector).

The conditions mentioned to eventually collaborate include[65] the request for: a proper salary, clear and transparent conditions, part time jobs/not too much working time.

Tab. 5.6.2.1.: Transferring social, cultural and human capital gained in Italy through visits and exchange with family and friends in Albania



Note: The information is expressed in percentage (%)

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 2: How much do you agree with the following statement: "In the relationships with/visits to my family/friends/acquaintances in Albania, I transmit and transfer new knowledge, ideas, visions, and/or approaches (for example social, cultural, professional) that I have acquired during my life experience in Italy."

62 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 8a: Why (to find a motivation to previous question about the "plan for the future").

63 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 9a: If yes, how? What would you do/like to do? (in relation to the motivation referred to in the previous question "Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?").

64 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 9b: If no or I don't care, why? (in relation to the motivation referred to in the previous question "Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?").

65 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 15a: If Yes, at what conditions? (Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?).

Tab. 5.6.2.2.: Visits to Albania from friends/acquaintances

Friends/acquaintances in Italy who visited Albania due to your recommendation	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
Female	79.71	20.29	0.00	100.00
Male	83.33	16.67	0.00	100.00
Average	81.52	18.48	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 7: Do you have friends/acquaintances in Italy who ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion?

Above: Yes – if yes, for what reason: business, tourism, other

Business	3.00
Tourism	97.00
Other	0.00
Total	100.00

Tab. 5.6.2.3.: Friends/acquaintances mode of travelling to Albania

Did they travel with you, alone or both?	%
With me	8.13
Both with me and alone	34.15
Alone	39.02
n.a.	18.70
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section. If the answer to Question No. 7: Do you have friends/acquaintances in Italy who ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion? Is positive then Question No. 7b: Did they travel with you, alone or both? is asked.

Tab. 5.6.2.4.: Plan for the future

Plan for the future	Female	Male	Average
N.d.	1.45	0.00	0.72
Stay in Italy and keep my business centre here.	43.48	57.41	50.44
Stay in Italy and decrease my contacts and business relations with Albania.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stay in Italy but increasing my contacts and business relations with Albania.	36.23	29.63	32.93
Stay in Italy but move my business centre to Albania.	1.45	0.00	0.72
Move the centre of my business to another country/countries.	8.70	3.70	6.20
Move back permanently to Albania.	7.25	5.56	6.40
Go back to Albania permanently, but keep my business centre in Italy.	1.45	3.70	2.58
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 8: Which of the following statements is closer to your "plan for the future"?

Tab. 5.6.2.5.: Interest to contribute to Albania

Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?	No	Yes
Female	**24.64**	**75.36**
1. Agribusiness	16.67	83.33
2. Social Enterprises	18.52	81.48
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	36.84	63.16

4. Potential Investors	27.27	72.73
Male	**29.63**	**70.37**
1. Agribusiness	35.00	65.00
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	25.00	75.00
4. Potential Investors	31.58	68.42
Total average (male and female)	27.13	72.87

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 9: Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?

Tab. 5.6.2.6.: Interest for virtual assignment

Consideration for a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	31.25	68.75	0.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	80.00	20.00	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	61.29	38.71	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	56.67	43.33	0.00	100.00
Average	57.30	42.70	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 15: Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?

5.6.3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENTS TOWARDS ALBANIA

The large majority of respondents (81.18%) never tried to expand their business in Albania before (especially those from the Agribusiness sector), except for those from the Cultural sector (35.48%). Those who tried mentioned as examples the following activities:[66]

- Two persons tried to open an icecream shop;
- One person contributed to building a restaurant;
- Education.

Not all businesses went well, as 60.87 per cent of the respondents reported of not being successful (although respondents from the Social and Cultural sector were more satisfied than all other groups).

Moreover, other negative aspects of the experience of investing in Albania that was more often mentioned[67] include:

- Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.). (29;73%);
- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) (27;03%);
- Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) (21;62%);
- Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (21,62%);

66 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10a: If yes, What did you do? (in relation to Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).
67 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10d: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (in relation to Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).

Tab. 5.6.3.1.: Attempt to expand or move professional activity in Albania

Attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	3.13	96.88	0.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	20.00	80.00	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	35.48	64.52	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	16.67	83.33	0.00	100.00
Average	18.82	81.18	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?

Tab. 5.6.3.2.: Success in moving the activity to Albania

Was your "move/activity" you successful?	Yes	No
1. Agribusiness	4.35	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	8.70	17.39
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	17.39	30.43
4. Potential Investors	8.70	13.04
Total	39.13	60.87

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10b: If Yes to 10: Was your "move/activity" successful?

5.6.4. POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA IN OWN SECTOR

Some 63:92 per cent of the respondents are not interested to invest in their own sector in Albania (especially persons from the Agribusiness sector). Persons interested in investing belong to the Cultural sector (45.16%) and Potential Investors sector (50%). The ideas reported by those interested to invest are mixed:[68]

- Work in the law sector;
- Invest in a restaurant;
- In shoemaking;
- A beauty saloon;
- Architecture/construction sector;
- Financial consultancy;
- Green energy.

Among the main drivers that would influence the possibility to invest in Albania, respondents mention, among others:

- The presence of tax incentives (20.74%);
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development) (20%);
- Provide legal and administrative support to investors (16.30%);
- Public investment in training and education (11,85%).

68 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11a: If Yes to 11: How? What would you do?

Nevertheless, barriers and obstacles exist impeding investments. Among them, the most relevant ones that were indicated by the respondents are:

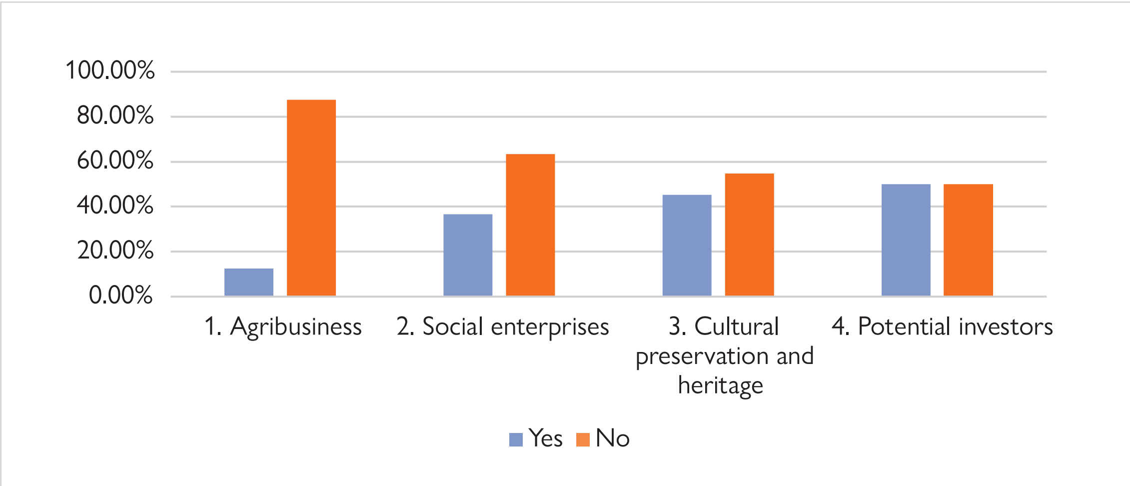
- A general lack of interest to invest (29.94%);
- Unfavorable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) (11.98%);
- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) (9.58%);
- Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (8;38%).

Tab. 5.6.4.2.: Main drivers for investment in Albania in the own sector

Main drivers for investment in Albania	%
Tax incentives	20.74
Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development)	20.00
Provide legal and administrative support to investors	16.30
Public investment in training and education	11.85

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11b: If Yes to Question 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)?

Fig. 5.6.4.1.: Interest to invest in the own professional sector in Albania



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11: More generally, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

Tab. 5.6.4.3.: Main barriers/problems/limitations to invest in Albania in own sector

Main barriers/problems/limitations	%
Simply not interested to invest	29.94
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	11.98
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	9.58
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	8.38

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11c: If No to Question No. 11: What are the main barriers/problems/limitations?

5.6.5. INVESTMENTS IN OTHER PROFESSIONAL SECTORS IN THE PAST OR IN THE FUTURE

Almost all of the respondents (99.63%) had never tried to invest in other sectors before, with the exception of just a few respondents belonging to the Agribusiness and Cultural sector (3 persons in total). Those few that tried to do something[69] refer to activities in the Cultural/social sector and construction sector that had little or no success.

Among the main negative aspects, the respondents list: lack of management capacities (25%), lack of experience in running a business in Albania (25%), and absence of a suitable business partner (25%).

Considering the possibility to invest in Albania in any other professional sector, 93.44% of respondents report they are not interested in investing in Albania, whereas 6.56% of the respondents say they are interested, especially from the Cultural sector.

Among the main incentives that would encourage Albanians to invest are:

- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development) (18.18%);
- Provision of services (e.g. sector-based specific services) (18.18%);
- Tax incentives (13.64%);
- Provide legal and administrative support to investors (13.64%).

Tab. 5.6.5.1.: Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania

Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania	Yes	No	N.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	6.25	93.75	0.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	3.23	96.77	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Average	2.37	97.63	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12: Talking about any other professional sector, have you ever made any attempt to invest in other activities in Albania?

Tab. 5.6.5.2.: Success of activities tried in other sectors

Was your "activity" successful?	Yes	No
1. Agribusiness	33.33	33.33
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	33.33
4. Potential Investors	0.00	0.00
Total	33.33	66.67

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12b: If Yes to 12: Was your "activity" successful?

69 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12a: If Yes to 12: What did you do?

Tab. 5.6.5.3.: Main negative aspects from the experience of investing in another sector in Albania

Main negative aspects	%
Lack of management capacities	25.00
Lack of experience in running a business in Albania	25.00
No suitable business partners	25.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12d: If Yes to 12: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any?).

Tab. 5.6.5.4: Interest to invest in a different sector in Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in any other professional sector)	Yes	No	N.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	0.00	100.00	0.00	26.02
2. Social Enterprises	6.67	93.33	0.00	24.39
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	12.90	87.10	0.00	25.20
4. Potential Investors	6.67	93.33	0.00	24.39
Average	6.56	93.44	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13: Do you have an interest to invest in a different professional sector in Albania?

Tab. 5.6.5.5.: Incentive to invest in Albania

Incentive to invest in Albania	%
Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development)	18.18
Provision of services (e.g. sectorial specific services)	18.18
Tax incentives	13.64
Provide legal and administrative support to investors	13.64

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13b: If Yes to 13: What would in practice push you to invest/or would facilitate this investment in Albania?

Tab. 5.6.5.6.: Reason why the respondent would not invest

Why not interested?	%
Simply not interested to invest	53.55
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	8.74
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	7.10
Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.).	6.01
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	6.01

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13c: If "No" to Question 13: Why not?

5.7. FOCUS GROUP: BOLOGNA, 21 JANUARY 2020

The Focus group was organized in Bologna by the local research team. The group of participants (6) was composed of a mixture of men and women, between the ages of 31 and 47. The group was composed of persons who left Albania at least 20 years ago, and also of more recent and younger migrants. The group presented very high educational and professional profiles: all participants graduated in Albania and some also attended additional courses or University education abroad. Three of the respondents held a PhD degree.

Those with a University degree in Albania mentioned problems related to the recognition of their qualifications in Italy, noting the fact that there are different aspects of emigration and subsequent integration abroad that are difficult and frustrating to face (along with discrimination), but rarely mentioned or known before leaving Albania.

After the introduction of the scope of the meeting and a presentation of the “Mapping and Profiling Albanian diaspora in Italy, France and Belgium” Project, we started an open and friendly discussion that is reported below.

5.7.1. WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY AND ALBANIA?

The relationship with Albania is expressed through a mix of sweet and **positive** terms and feelings, referring to recollections of their childhood, family, nostalgic places, and sense of identity, but also a **critical** view of Albania by some of the respondents. The country is described, for instance, as “underdeveloped” – a place that is not advanced, but it can also be seen as genuine and it recalls the “personal and collective trauma” that migrants lived through in the past.

When going through previous **comments** from other Focus Groups, bitter reactions arose to a post mentioning “criminality and drug”. The participants refuse to see Albania in these terms. But, they ultimately agree that today young Albanians are facing a different reality (of general social decadence). Moreover, as the diaspora lives detached from everyday life in Albania, it could be understandable that someone perceives the country is such negative terms. The group agrees that the diaspora has no **objective** view when considering Albania, due to the fact that they do not live there anymore and that they have a personal linkage (made up by a bitter-sweet feeling). A definition that summarizes well the general feeling is “love in chaos”.

As discussed in the Focus Group in Novara, here as well someone speaks of **“the dream”** migrants left with. It refers to those first generations of migrants that left Albania (especially in the 1990s) dreaming of and believing in the (economic, social and democratic) future of their country. But, this dream never came true, and today recent Albanian migrants just go away without even hoping for a future in/of their homeland.

Moreover, someone refers to the fact that, when leaving in Albania, people are not really aware of their conditions and rights but, once abroad, they realize all the **obstacles** they have to face for not being part of the European Union.

5.7.2. WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS DETERMINING AN IMPACT (POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE) IN MAKING VALUE AND ENGAGE SKILLS, COMPETENCES AND RESOURCES OF ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY TOWARDS ENTREPRENEURIAL/INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN ALBANIA?

The group is quite clear in what makes it difficult for the diaspora to contribute with the development of its country of origin (additionally to what they are already doing for the family still there).

Corruption can be found in the all-pervading mechanism and habit of *bakshis* – giving a bribe as a way to secure things done, and *taraf* – needing an informal personal/political connection and support. These aspects are considered as deeply ingrained in the local culture and mentality as well as in the political environment. These aspects prevent the possibility to largely invest in Albania.

Additionally, among the **barriers** discussed, another problem the respondents made mention of is reciprocal **communication** and **understanding** between the diaspora abroad and those in the homeland. Someone says: "We are too *Italianized* nowadays", meaning that the view of life, the mentality and perspective of migrants changed over time and this can impede or complicate the relationships with Albania/Albanians today (especially in terms of investing/starting a business there). Local people are seen as too used to immobility and stuck in a never-ending transition phase. They are perceived through the lens of apathy, lack of proactivity and professionalism and, also, with limited capacity to cooperate (individualism versus teamwork).

The shortage of **money** itself is not the main barrier.

Also, the **education system** in Albania today has lost its past quality and is not responding to the need to offer more professional/**vocational schools** and profiles demanded in the labour market.

Commenting on the recent **earthquake** that hit Albania, few aspects emerged that can exemplify the limited room for diaspora engagement in the local development, overcoming the opportunity represented by the reconstruction. Migrants from abroad mobilized, but either to support their own families, or in small groups. Any initiative from the central government received no trust from the diaspora due to risks of corruption and money misuse. The diaspora of Albanians is also considered too scattered into individual/distinguished subgroups without the capacity to express and organize around a larger sense of solidarity (as it is recognized for the Albanians of Kosovo[4] or other groups).

The role of the diaspora could be valued thanks to the ***bridge*** it can build between the countries of origin and residence, letting its competences at disposal without the need to come back definitively. Nevertheless, this option is very rare to happen due to objective obstacles and to the lack of updated knowledge and ability to deal with Albania today.

There are few examples of Albanians from the diaspora that either invested or tried to invest in Albania. In most cases the epilogue is **negative** (with attempts and first investments and final failures). None from the group of participants had direct experience in investing in Albania, but some actually tried to come back and work there, but returned to Italy. One has a very transnational professional profile and work, bringing foreign tourists in the Balkans – particularly to Albania.

Besides tourism, the **health sector/medical clinics/services for elderly persons** are considered as areas of intervention where the diaspora could offer/dispose of competences to be valued and where Albania could benefit in terms on market need.

5.7.3. WHAT ARE THE SUGGESTED AND RECOMMENDED CHANGES OR CONDITIONS THAT WOULD FACILITATE A DIRECT OR INDIRECT ENGAGEMENT OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INVESTMENT?

- The possibility to eradicate the local habits and mentality, too damaged by corruption, is a too big and long endeavor. Something that could be taken into consideration is the possibility to give the diaspora the **direct management** over some projects/initiatives – as could be the case with the *diaspora census* (without the intervention of the public actor, especially when managing the financial resources).
- Facilitate the creation of **professional networks** between the diaspora and local profiles, keeping the Government aside these relationships.
- Solve the problem with the recognition of the **land property**. Many migrants have precise ideas and projects (not only to renovate private/family houses, but also to extend to larger interventions). The risk to invest in something without being sure on the property certification is a clear obstacle.
- General **philanthropy** and solidarity for the diaspora could do a lot with little effort (considering for instance the number of Albanians abroad and the chance to easily **raise funds**). Nevertheless, the Government/Public actors should not be involved in managing the resources.

APPENDIX

SECTION 1 – SOCIOECONOMIC

5.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

Tab. 5.1.1.3: Composition per age (distribution per gender and percentage)

Age	Female	Male	Total	Female%	Male%	Total%
Age < 30	9	5	14	7.32	4.07	11.38
Age 30–39	26	28	54	21.14	22.76	43.90
Age 40–49	27	13	40	21.95	10.57	32.52
Age 50–59	7	8	15	5.69	6.50	12.20
Age 60–69	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Age 70 and more	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	69	54	123	56.10	43.90	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 4: - Age of the respondent.

Tab. 5.1.1.4.: Country of Birth (distribution per gender and percentage)

Country of Birth	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Albania	68	53	121	55.28	43.09	98.37
Italy	1	1	2	0.81	0.81	1.63
Total	69	54	123	56.10	43.90	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 5 - Country of birth.

5.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Tab. 5.1.2.1.: Marital status (distribution per gender and percentage)

Marital status	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Single	15	20	35	21.74	37.04	28.46
Married/cohabiting	46	32	78	66.67	59.26	63.41
Separated	3	2	5	4.35	3.70	4.07
Divorced	4	0	4	5.80	0.00	3.25
Widowed	1	0	1	1.45	0.00	0.81
n.d.	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	69	54	123	56.10	43.90	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 8: What is your marital status?

Tab. 5.1.2.3.: Current legal and administrative status (distribution per gender and percentage)

Legal and administrative status	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Average (%)
Dual citizenship (one Italian)	37	28	65	53.62	51.85	52.74
Long term EC permit	9	8	17	13.04	14.81	13.93
Residence card	17	14	31	24.64	25.93	25.28
Residence permit (also from another EU country)	5	3	8	7.25	5.56	6.40
Residence visa (also from another EU country)	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	1	1	2	1.45	1.85	1.65
Total	69	54	123	56.10	43.90	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 10: Please tell us your current legal and administrative status with respect to your stay in Italy.

Tab. 5.1.2.4.: Typology of valid visa or residence permit (distribution per gender and percentage)

Typology of valid visa or residence permit	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Average (%)
Family	7	1	8	10.14	1.85	6.50
Subordinate work	14	12	26	20.29	22.22	21.14
Self-employment	1	3	4	1.45	5.56	3.25
Expected occupation	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Study	3	1	4	4.35	1.85	3.25
Temporary protection/asylum	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	3	0	3	4.35	0.00	2.44
n.d.	14	11	25	20.29	20.37	20.33
n.a.	27	26	53	39.13	48.15	43.09
Total	69	54	123	56.10	43.90	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 11: If you have a valid visa or residence permit or are renewing it, please indicate its type.

Tab. 5.1.2.5.: Reason for choosing the area where he/she live (percentage)

Reason for choosing the area where he/she lives	%
Because relatives / friends live here	34.27
Because I heard good things about it	11.19
Because there is work	16.08
For the presence of public services, schools, etc.	34.97
Other	3.50
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 13: For what reasons did you choose this area? (multiple choices, even more than one).

SECTION 2 – PROFESSIONAL

5.2.2. FOCUS ON SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNERS

Tab. 5.2.2.1.: Nationality of employees

Nationality of employees	AL	IT	Other	Total	A (%)	I (%)	O (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	2	0	0	2	8.70	0.00	0.00	2.70
2. Social Enterprises	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	5	5	0	10	21.74	14.29	0.00	13.51
4. Potential Investors	16	30	16	62	69.57	85.71	100.00	83.78
Total	23	35	16	74	31.08	47.30	21.62	100.00

AL = Albanian, IT = Italian, Other = Other nationalities, Total = total number of employees.

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 8: How many employees do you have? Question 8a: How many are Italians? And Question 8b: How many are Albanians?

SECTION 3 – ECONOMIC

5.3.3. REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

Tab. 5.3.3.1.: Ownership of a house

Do you own any house?	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
Female	37	30	2	69
Male	21	29	4	54
Total	58	59	6	123

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 4: Do you own any house?

SECTION 4 – IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

5.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Tab. 5.4.1.1.: Economic situation (individual income) - ten years ago

Economic situation (individual income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	18.75	28.13	37.50	15.63	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	3.33	33.33	30.00	30.00	3.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	3.23	48.39	38.71	9.68	0.00
4. Potential Investors	16.67	40.00	33.33	10.00	0.00
Total	10.49	37.46	34.89	16.33	0.83

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1a/2a Economic situation (individual income)?

Tab. 5.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) - today

Economic situation (individual income)	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	31.25	43.75	18.75	6.25	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	16.67	43.33	20.00	20.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	6.45	32.26	29.03	29.03	3.23
4. Potential Investors	13.33	40.00	26.67	20.00	0.00
Total	16.93	39.84	23.61	18.82	0.81

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2: Today, how do you compare your experience with the past?

Tab. 5.4.1.3.: Economic situation (household income) - ten years ago

Economic situation (household income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	18.75	28.13	37.50	15.63	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	3.33	36.67	23.33	33.33	3.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	3.23	51.61	45.16	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	16.67	36.67	36.67	10.00	0.00
Total	10.49	38.27	35.67	14.74	0.83

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b Economic situation (household income)?

Tab. 5.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) - today

Economic situation (household income)	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	28.13	43.75	21.88	6.25	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	13.33	40.00	26.67	20.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	3.23	35.48	35.48	25.81	0.00
4. Potential Investors	10.00	46.67	23.33	20.00	0.00
Total	13.67	41.48	26.84	18.01	0.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2: Today, how would you compare your experience with the past?

Tab. 5.4.1.5.: Working conditions – ten years ago

Working conditions	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	15.63	43.75	34.38	6.25	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	3.33	36.67	26.67	33.33	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	9.68	54.84	25.81	9.68	0.00
4. Potential Investors	16.67	50.00	23.33	10.00	0.00
Total	11.33	46.31	27.55	14.82	0.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c Working conditions?

Tab. 5.4.1.6.: Working conditions – today

Working conditions	Much better	Somewhat better	The same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	34.38	40.63	21.88	3.13	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	16.67	43.33	30.00	6.67	3.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	3.23	35.48	29.03	32.26	0.00
4. Potential Investors	13.33	46.67	23.33	16.67	0.00
Total	16.90	41.53	26.06	14.68	0.83

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2: Today, how would your compare your experience with the past (experience)?

5.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Tab. 5.4.2.1.: Social relationship – ten years ago

Social relationships	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	62.50	28.13	6.25	0.00	3.13
2. Social Enterprises	13.33	46.67	13.33	20.00	6.67
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	48.39	45.16	6.45	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	40.00	43.33	3.33	13.33	0.00
Total	41.06	40.82	7.34	8.33	2.45

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d Social relationships (local social relations, integration/discrimination, etc.)?

Tab. 5.4.2.2.: Social relationship – today

Social relationships	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	6.25	12.50	81.25	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	23.33	23.33	43.33	6.67	3.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	3.23	22.58	70.97	3.23	0.00
4. Potential Investors	26.67	16.67	56.67	0.00	0.00
Total	14.87	18.77	63.05	2.47	0.83

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2: Today, how would you compare your experience with the past?

Tab. 5.4.2.3.: Legal / administrative status – ten years ago

Legal / administrative status	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	9.38	53.13	18.75	15.63	3.13
2. Social Enterprises	20.00	50.00	6.67	20.00	3.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	22.58	54.84	12.90	6.45	3.23
4. Potential Investors	43.33	33.33	16.67	6.67	0.00
Total	23.82	47.82	13.75	12.19	2.42

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1f /2f Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit / citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.)?

Tab. 5.4.2.4.: Legal/administrative status – today

Legal / administrative status	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	31.25	28.13	37.50	3.13	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	23.33	30.00	46.67	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	12.90	12.90	70.97	3.23	0.00
4. Potential Investors	23.33	36.67	36.67	3.33	0.00
Total	22.70	26.92	47.95	2.42	0.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2: Today, how would your compare your experience with the past (experience)?

5.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

Tab. 5.4.3.1.: At the time, how much did you save?

At that time, how much money did you save?						
	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	40.63	18.75	9.38	3.13	0.00	28.13
2. Social Enterprises	50.00	43.33	6.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	35.48	45.16	16.13	0.00	3.23	0.00
4. Potential Investors	30.00	66.67	3.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	39.02	43.09	8.94	0.81	0.81	7.03

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1g At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis)?

Tab. 5.4.3.2.: Today, how much do you save? (on annual basis)

Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis)						
	0%	0–20%	20–40%	40–60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	15.63	43.75	9.38	3.13	0.00	
2. Social Enterprises	33.33	56.67	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preserva-tion and Heritage	54.84	41.94	3.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	40.00	56.67	3.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	35.77	49.59	6.50	0.81	0.00	7.32

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2g: Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 5.4.3.3.: At the time, how much of that saving did you send to Albania? (on annual basis)

At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis)						
	0%	0–20%	20–40%	40–60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	56.25	12.50	0.00	0.00	3.13	28.13
2. Social Enterprises	63.33	36.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	67.74	29.03	0.00	3.23	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	76.67	23.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	65.85	25.20	0.00	0.81	0.81	7.03

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1h At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania (on an annual basis)?

Tab. 5.4.3.4.: Today, how much of that saving do you sand to Albania?

Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania?						
	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	53.13	15.63	3.13	0.00	0.00	28.13
2. Social Enterprises	70.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	70.97	25.81	0.00	3.23	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	86.67	13.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	69.92	21.14	0.81	0.81	0.00	7.32

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2h: Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania (on an annual basis)?

SECTION 6 – RELATION WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

5.6.1. RELATION WITH ALBANIA

Tab. 5.6.1.1.: Interest in the "register of migrants "

Interested in the "register for migrants "	%
Yes	61.24
No	37.98
n.d.	0.78
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 4: In 2016 Albania approved establishmen of a "register for migrants ". Once this register is established, do you think you will register yourself in it?

5.6.3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENTS TOWARDS ALBANIA

Tab. 5.6.3.3.: Main negative aspects of the experience to move/expand the activity in Albania

Main negative aspects of your experience	%
Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.).	29.73
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	27.03
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	21.62
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	21.62

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section: Question No. 10d: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (in relation to the Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).

5.6.4. POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA IN THE OWN SECTOR

Tab. 5.6.4.1.: Interest to invest in the own professional sector in Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in your professional sector)	Yes	No	Total
1. Agribusiness	12.50	87.50	26.02
2. Social Enterprises	36.67	63.33	24.39
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	45.16	54.84	25.20
4. Potential Investors	50.00	50.00	24.39
Average	36.08	63.92	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11: More generally, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

CHAPTER VI - LAZIO

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The study, of interest for us to observe the conditions experienced by the Albanian diaspora in Italy, as well as their still-existing relationship with the country of origin, was developed around seven different sections (respectively, Socioeconomic Considerations, Professional Considerations, Economic Considerations, Impact of the Economic Crisis, Perception on Migration and Relations with the Country of Origin). The first two sections do specifically allow one to observe information more closely related to the life of the Albanian migrants in Italy, such as sociodemographic aspects (such as age, country of origin, social and/or legal and administrative status, etc.) and professional traits (such as the level of education, conditions and contracts of employment, the nature of the company, etc.). The third section, on the other hand, studies individual and family resources, with particular attention to income, savings, properties and investments, while the fourth section analyses the impact of the 2008 economic crisis, relating today's economic, social and legal and administrative situation to that of ten years ago. Sections 5 and 6, on the other hand, take into account the personal experience of migrants within the Albanian diaspora (such as the set of positive or negative aspects lived, the plans for the future, etc.) and the relationship with the country of origin (such as ties with the people who still live there, the frequency of visits, investments in loco, etc.). Finally, the seventh and last section differs from the previous ones as it focuses on reporting the data collected during the Focus Group work, held in the city of reference for the region (i.e. Rome), thus offering further ideas for reflections on the subject matter.

In the specific case of the Lazio Region, the study sample is composed of 129 people, distributed in a balanced way between the sectors (Agribusiness, Social Enterprises, Cultural Preservation and Heritage, Potential Investors). Overall, the number of men in the sample (72) is higher than the number of women (57). The percentage of their presence is different among sectors: in particular, the male presence is predominant both in Agribusiness and Potential Investors sectors, while most of the respondents in the Social Enterprises sector are women, alternatively the Cultural sector looks well balanced in terms of gender.

Despite some differences, the sample presents itself as a mostly homogeneous group: in fact, the questionnaires show that most of the group is made up of people in their 30s (44.96%), born almost entirely in Albania (98%) – in particular, in the provinces of Tirana (20.93%), Korca and Lezha (both by 10.08%) – and, in any case, all Albanian citizens at birth. Most of the respondents live in Rome (58.14%), specifically because of the presence of their relatives/friends there (54.42%).

As regards the social and family aspect, most of the respondents are married/cohabiting (58.91%) with mostly Albanian partners (58.75% of married people). However, looking at the sample, it is possible to notice some gender differences: in fact, although Albanian men have married mostly Albanian women (70.73%) and only minimally Italian women (21.95%), Albanians women show, on the contrary, a more balanced situation, with a minimal majority of Italian partners (48.72%) compared to Albanian ones (46.15%).

The sample's average level of education is high (most have a three-year higher education degree and 38.76% even a Master's degree), with their education received in Albania (especially as regards members of the Agribusiness and Potential Investors sectors), although it should be noted that a significant percentage of respondents from the Cultural sector have received their degrees in Italy.

The economic and legal-administrative situation in Italy appears generally good and, despite the economic crisis, has improved in recent years: almost all of the people interviewed agree, in fact, in believing that they have improved their legal-administrative status over the decade, becoming holders of long-term residence permits (specifically, 38 per cent have a residence card and 15.53 per cent of a Long-term EC Residence Permit) or even obtaining the Italian citizenship (53.41%).

Moreover, the improvement of the legal-administrative status seems to have also contributed to a general improvement in the individual and family economic situation, thanks also to an improvement in the working conditions of almost all respondents. Most, today, have, in fact, an indeterminate full-time contract (32.56%), alongside which good percentages of self-employed/free-lance workers (14.73%) and entrepreneurs (13.95%) appear. However, it is important to highlight that, in relation to the sectors, certain differences are undeniable: in fact, the status of "full-time permanent worker" it is mostly widespread in the Agribusiness,[70] Social Enterprises[71] and Potential Investors[72] sectors, followed the by self-employed/free-lance workers (in particular in the Potential Investors group) and business owners (especially in the Agribusiness sector).[73] The working situation of the Cultural Preservation and Heritage sector[74] appears to be much more heterogeneous, with the presence of the unemployed, students/workers, full-time or part-time workers, irregular employment and pre-subordinate workers, self-employed, business owners, and others.

Nonetheless, almost all the sample agrees that they both experienced a marked improvement in annual income (around EUR 37,826 average family income per year), especially in the Agribusiness and Cultural sectors, and that they are now more capable of saving.

The improvement of the legal-administrative status, of the economic conditions, as well as of the social relationships lived in Italy, however, has determined changes in the relationship with the country of origin. The study found that most of the respondents prefer to stay in Italy (41.90%), where stability factors have increased. The interest was confirmed also by the data relating to family expenditure (95.35% of family expenditure is already carried out in Italy), to the ownership of real estate (about 20% already own a house owned in Italy and 52.56% has shown interest in doing so over the next few years) and in family (58.91% is married or cohabiting) and individual (16 people have even renounced Albanian citizenship) aspects. Conversely, almost all have no plans to invest in the next three years (86.40%) or to return to live in Albania (54.46%). So, based on the data collected in Lazio, Albania does not even seem to be the target/destination of the investments and future projects of the studied sample.

Nonetheless, it should be noted that, within the sample, a small percentage (34%) continue to send money to Albania, also due to the close relationship maintained with family members present in the country of origin. Moreover, although most of the respondents have never previously extended and are not planning to expand their business in Albania (84.60%), 55 people (equivalent to 42.68% of the sample and equally distributed among the sectors) do not completely rule out the possibility of a possible future investment in the country of origin in their own sector or – to a small extent – in another field. Furthermore, half of the respondents (mostly part of the Social Enterprises and Cultural preservation sectors) declare to be interested in a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania. This interest could be facilitated – according to the data collected – if there was recognition of the skills, knowledge and previous work of the members of the diaspora.

70 The Agribusiness sector is equivalent to 23.36 per cent of the sample and it has a strong male component (31.94%). Mostly it is composed of agricultural operator (10) and employees in agribusiness services (9), but there are also agricultural entrepreneurs/ Agritourism (7) and researchers in the field (4).

71 The Social Enterprises sector is equivalent to 23.26 per cent of the sample and shows a strong female presence (36.84%) against a minimum male component (12,50%). Many works as sociohealth workers (13 respondents), followed by sociocultural mediators (7) and doctors (5).

72 The Potential Investors sector is the main sector of the sample (27.91%) and it shows a balanced presence of men and women (respectively, 30.26% and 24,56%). There are present different job profiles, but with a prevalence of employees in coffee shop/restaurants/pastry shop/bakery (11) and in construction sector (8), as well as lawyers/business consultants (8).

73 As specifically regards the self-employed workers and business owners, both the Agribusiness and Potential Investors sectors have the highest number of employees (respectively, 47 in Agribusiness and 40 in Potential Investors), mostly Italians. Vice versa, fewer employees are declared in the Social and Cultural sectors and they are mostly Albanians. All centres of business are located in Italy, with only one exception in the Social Enterprises sector which is not run in Albania. Furthermore, very few respondents declare that they have business relationship with Albania and they are mainly in the form of contacts with sister initiatives or institutions or support to enterprises located in Italy and interested in investing in Albania.

74 The Cultural sector is the second most-represented sector among the sample (25.28%). Most of the respondents work in tourism (13), followed by architects/restorers/designers (7), researchers in the field (7) and employees in art/entertainment (6).

6.1. SOCIOECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

In this introduction section, information on the characteristics of the Albanian community in Lazio is reported taking into consideration the main sociodemographic aspects (as age, country of birth, citizenship, social status, legal and administrative status refining to the nature of the permit to stay in Italy).

6.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

In the Lazio Region, the sample is composed of 129 people, distributed in a balanced way among the different sectors (Tab. 6.1.1.1.). Overall, the number of men in the sample (72) is higher than the number of women (57). However, there are differences among sectors with respect to gender composition. In particular, as shown in Tab. 6.1.1.1., the sample is predominantly made up of men in the Agribusiness sector and in the Potential Investors group; on the contrary, most respondents in the Social Enterprises sector are women. The Cultural sector looks well balanced in terms of gender.

Tab. 6.1.1.1: Employment per sector (distribution per gender and percentage)

Employment per sector	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	7	23	30	23.33	76.67	23.26
2. Social Enterprises	21	9	30	70.00	30.00	23.26
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	15	18	33	45.45	54.55	25.58
4. Potential Investors	14	22	36	38.89	61.11	27.91
Average	57	72	129	44.42	55.58	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 1: Employment sector.

All the 129 persons of the sample are resident in the Lazio Region.[75] Seventy-five out of 129 (58,14%) reside in Rome. More details about the city of residence can be found in the table below.

Tab. 6.1.1.2.: City or residence (distribution per gender and percentage)

City of residence	Female	Male	Total	%
Acilia	0	1	1	0.78
Anzio	2	3	5	3.88
Aprilia	0	1	1	0.78
Ariccia	1	0	1	0.78
Artena	1	1	2	1.55
Bellegra	0	1	1	0.78
Castel Gandolfo	0	1	1	0.78
Cerveteri	1	0	1	0.78
Cori	0	1	1	0.78
Fiuggi	1	0	1	0.78
Fondi	1	0	1	0.78
Fonte Nuova	1	2	3	2.33
Frosinone	1	3	4	3.10

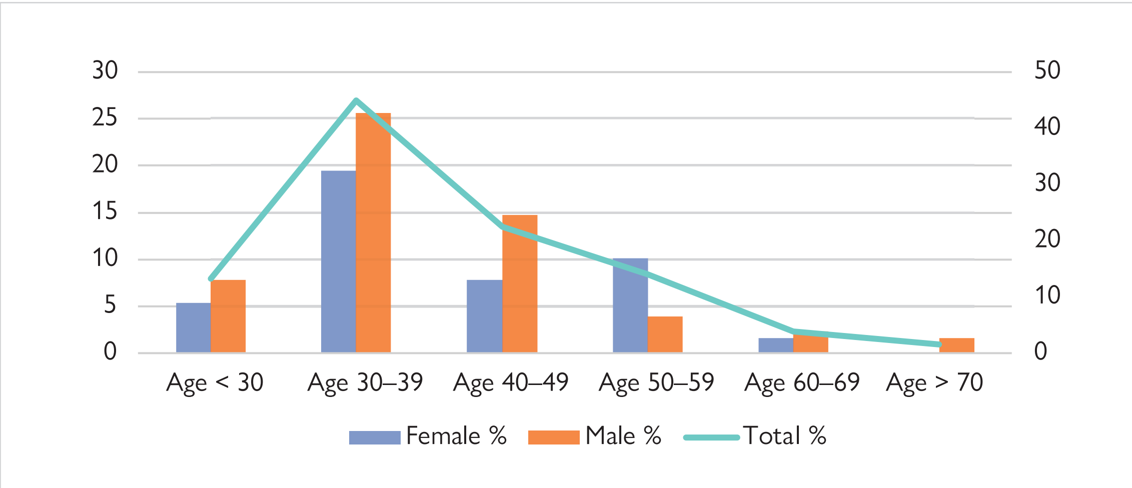
75 100 per cent of the interviewed resides in Lazio region (according to the Elaboration of question No. 2 - Region of residence).

Genzano di Roma	1	0	1	0.78
Grottaferrata	0	1	1	0.78
Ladispoli	4	0	4	3.10
Latina	1	0	1	0.78
Lavinio	0	1	1	0.78
Marino	0	1	1	0.78
Mentana	3	3	6	4.65
Morlupo	1	0	1	0.78
Orte	1	0	1	0.78
Ostia	1	2	3	2.33
Palestrina	2	1	3	2.33
Palombara Sabina	0	1	1	0.78
Rieti	0	2	2	1.55
Rocca Priora	0	1	1	0.78
Rome	32	43	75	58.14
Ronciglione	1	0	1	0.78
Tivoli	0	1	1	0.78
Toma	1	0	1	0.78
Viterbo	0	1	1	0.78
Total	57	72	129	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 2a - City of residence.

Most of the respondents (44.96% of the sample) are 30–39 years old. 22.48 per cent are 40–49 years old; 13,18 per cent and 13.95 per cent are aged under 30 or 50–59 respectively (Tab. 6.1.1.3.).

Fig. 6.1.1.3.: Composition per age (distribution per gender and percentage)[76]



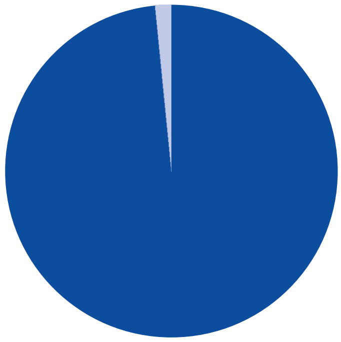
Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 4: - Age of the respondent.

Almost 98 per cent of the sample is made up of respondents born in Albania; there are only two exceptions (1 male and 1 female), as detailed in Fig. 6.1.1.4.

Tab. 6.1.1.5. shows the City of birth of the respondents. Predictably enough, Tirana was the most quoted city (20.93% of respondents were born there) followed by Korca and Lezha (10.08% of the respondents each) and Shkodra (9.3% of the respondents); however, the table shows that the origin of the sample is very distributed across Albania.

76 The source table for this and the following figures are reported in the appendix of this Chapter.

Fig. 6.1.1.4.: Country of Birth (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section, Question No. 5 - Country of birth.

Tab. 6.1.1.5.: City of Birth (distribution per gender and percentage)

City of birth	Female	Male	Total	%
Berat	1	4	5	3.88
Burrel	1	0	1	0.78
Durres / Durazzo	5	3	8	6.20
Elbasan	2	3	5	3.88
Erseka	0	1	1	0.78
Fieri	1	5	6	4.65
Gjirokastra	0	1	1	0.78
Gramsh	0	1	1	0.78
Kavaja	2	3	5	3.88
Koplik	1	0	1	0.78
Korca	4	9	13	10.08
Kucova	0	1	1	0.78
Kukes	1	0	1	0.78
Kurbin	0	1	1	0.78
Lac	1	0	1	0.78
Lezha	4	9	13	10.08
Lushnja	6	3	9	6.98
Manati	0	1	1	0.78
Mat	0	1	1	0.78
Mirdita	0	3	3	2.33
Ostia	0	1	1	0.78
Peqin	0	1	1	0.78
Pogradec	0	1	1	0.78
Puka	1	1	2	1.55
Rome	1	0	1	0.78
Rreshen	1	0	1	0.78
Shkodra /Scutari	4	8	12	9.30
Tamara	1	0	1	0.78
Tirana	17	10	27	20.93
Tropoja	0	1	1	0.78
Vlora / Valona	3	0	3	2.33
Total	57	72	129	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 5a - City of birth.

100 per cent of the sample was born with Albanian citizenship; in two cases, respondents had also Italian citizenship at birth. Table 6.1.1.6. shows that many members of the sample acquired Italian citizenship during their life (53.41% of the sample). Some respondents (16) renounced to their Albanian citizenship.

Tab. 6.1.1.6.: Citizenship at birth and today (distribution per gender)

	Citizenship at birth			Citizenship today		
	Albanian	Italian*	Other	Albanian	Italian	Other
Female	57	1	0	48	28	0
Male	72	1	0	65	27	0
Total	129	2	0	113	55	0
*cases of dual citizenship						

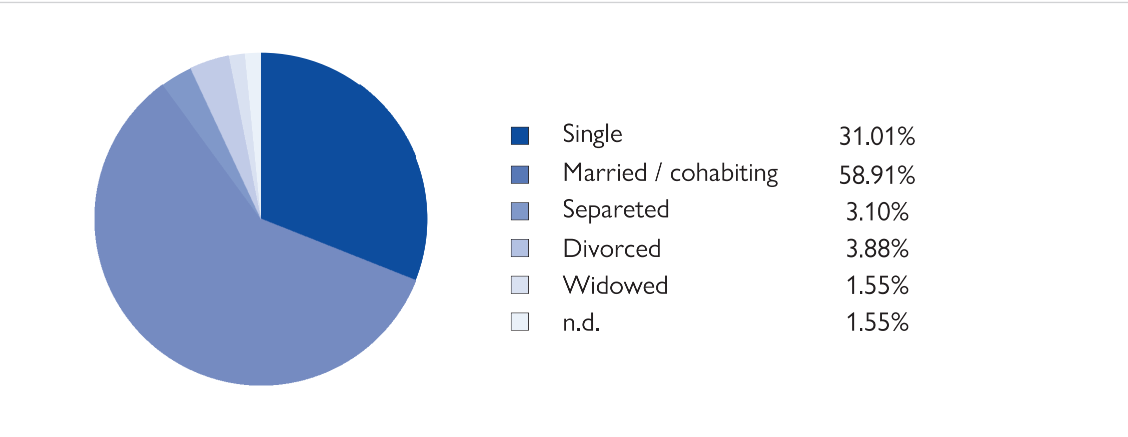
Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 6: Citizenship at birth and Question No. 7 Citizenship today.

6.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Most of the respondents are married/cohabiting (58.91% of the sample), with a predominance of women (Fig. 6.1.2.1.). The second most represented group is that of singles (31% of the sample).

As shown in Tab. 6.1.2.2., 58,75 per cent of the married/cohabiting people have an Albanian partner; 35 per cent of married/cohabiting people have an Italian partner. However, there are some notable gender differences. While 70.73 per cent of Albanian men in the sample are married to Albanian women, and only 21.95 per cent to Italian women; the situation for Albanian women is much more balanced, with a slight predominance of Italian partners (for 48.72% of married women) over Albanian ones (for 46.15% of married women).

Fig. 6.1.2.1.: Marital status (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 8: What is your marital status?

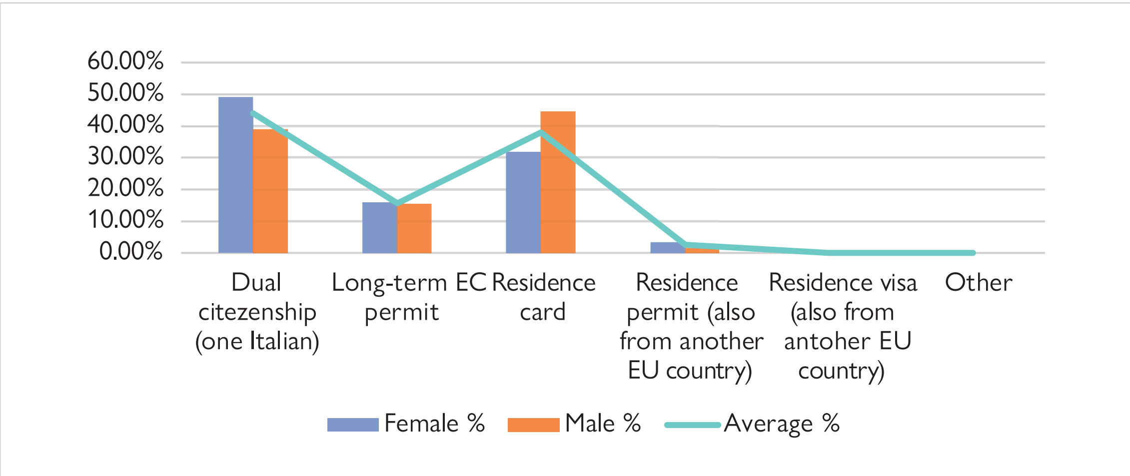
Tab. 6.1.2.2.: Current citizenship of the partner (distribution per gender and percentage)

Current citizenship of the partner	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Albanian	18	29	47	46.15	70.73	58.75
Italian	19	9	28	48.72	21.95	35.00
Italian and Albanian	1	1	2	2.56	2.44	2.50
Albanian and German	1	0	1	2.56	0.00	1.25
Romanian	0	2	2	0.00	4.88	2.50
Total	39	41	80	48.75	51.25	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 8a, Check previous answer: if a. married/ cohabiting or c. separated: What's the current citizenship of the partner?

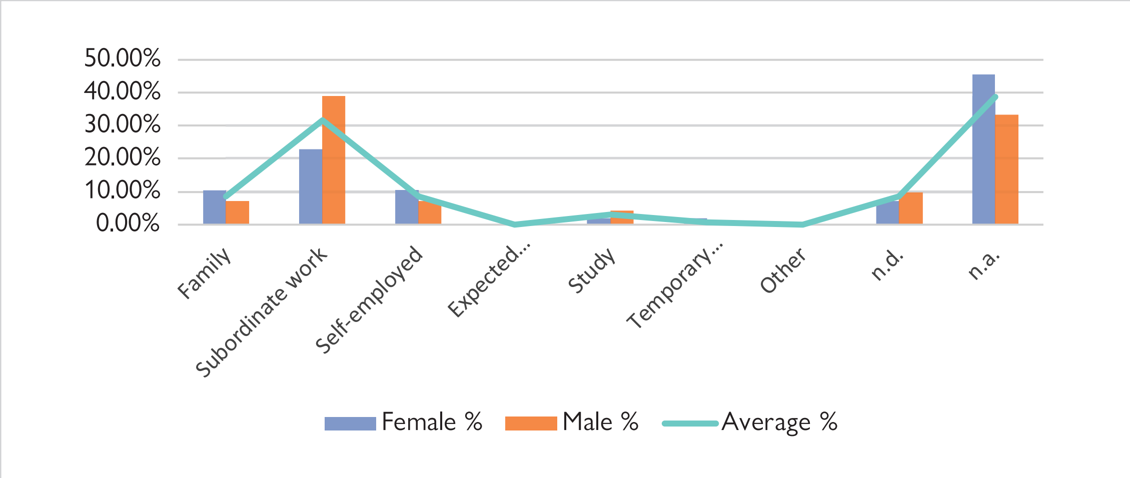
The high number of respondents who gained Italian citizenship is reflected also in Fig. 6.1.2.3., where the legal and administrative status of the sample with respect to the stay in Italy is illustrated. Most of the respondents have double citizenship (Albanian/Italian) (44% of the sample); this situation applies in particular to women. The second most frequent situation is of residence card (38% of the sample), particularly present among men. The third most common situation is that of Long-term EC permit (15.53% of the sample), equally distributed among men and women. Residence permits are mainly for working reasons, in particular for subordinate work (Fig. 6.1.2.4.); this category applies in particular to men (almost 38.89% of men versus almost 22.81% of women). 10.53 per cent of women and 6.94 per cent of men declared family reasons and self-employment reasons.

Fig. 6.1.2.3.: Current legal and administrative status (distribution per gender and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 10: Please tell us your current legal and administrative status with respect to your stay in Italy.

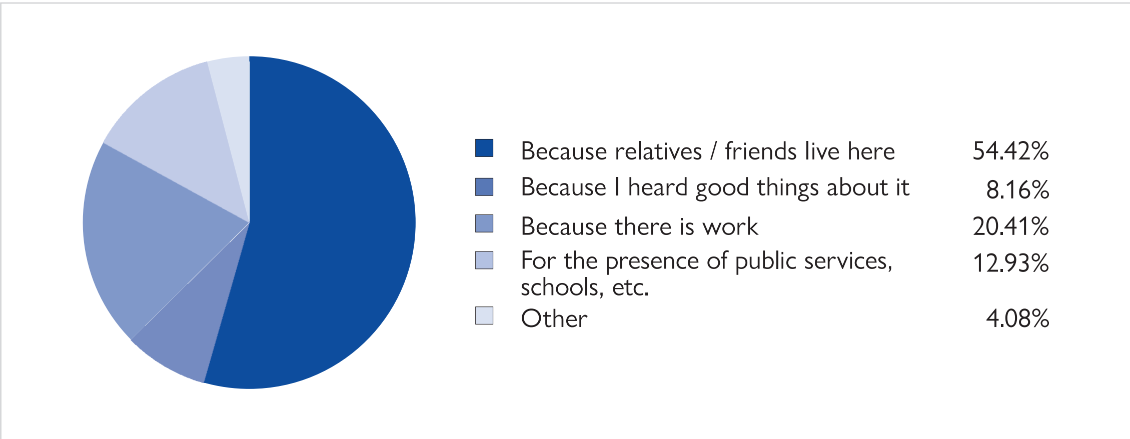
Fig. 6.1.2.4.: Typology of valid visa or residence permit (distribution per gender and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 11: If you have a valid visa or residence permit or are renewing it, please indicate its type.

Finally, the main driver for the selection of the area where to locate in Italy is apparently the presence of relatives/friends (Fig. 6.1.2.5.): this was indicated by 54.42 per cent of the sample. Another relevant driver is work (for 20.41% of the respondents) and the presence of public services (for 12.93% of the respondents).

Fig. 6.1.2.5.: Reasons for choosing the area where he/she lives



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 13: For what reasons did you choose this area? (multiple choices, even more than one).

6.2. PROFESSIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section offers information on the professional traits and profiles of the interviewees including the educational level, employment (work condition/contract) and the nature of the company (for entrepreneurs).

6.2.1. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAITS

The sample is mainly composed of high skilled workers (Tab. 6.2.1.1.): 38.76 per cent of respondents hold a Master's degree; 20,16 of the respondents hold a Bachelor's degree; 10.85 per cent of the respondents hold a PhD or equivalent degree. This means that, overall, almost 70 per cent hold at least a Bachelor's degree. Of the rest, 20.16 per cent have a secondary education regular degree, 6.2 per cent a secondary education vocational degree, and only 3.88 per cent stopped at primary school.

In this general picture, there are interesting differences among sector that it is worth highlighting. The sector with the highest level of education is that of Culture, where around 88 per cent of the sample have at least a Bachelor's degree, followed by the sector of Social Enterprises, where around 80 per cent of respondents hold at least a Bachelor's degree. In the field of Agribusiness and Potential Investors the sample is more balanced; however, also in these cases, more than 50 per cent of the respondents have at least a Bachelor's degree.

Tab. 6.2.1.2. shows the professional composition of the sample. In the Agribusiness sector, most of the respondents are agricultural operators (10), followed by Agribusiness services (as marketing, stoke, etc.) (9), Agribusiness entrepreneur/Agritourism (7) and researcher in the field (4). The most numerous group in the Social Enterprises sector is that of social health workers (13 respondents), followed by social-cultural mediators (7) and doctors (5). In the Cultural field, most of the respondents work in tourism (13), followed by architects/restorers/designers (7) and researchers in the field (7), and employed in arts/entertainment (6). Finally, the Potential Investors group includes quite different profiles, but with a prevalence of employed in Coffee shop / Restaurants / Pastry shop / Bakery (11), lawyers/business consultants (8) and the construction sector (8).

Tab. 6.2.1.3. shows the country where the highest educational level was completed. While in the case of Agribusiness and Potential Investors groups the situation is quite balanced (with a slight predominance of Albania in the case of Agribusiness and Italy in the case of Potential Investors), the largest majority of professionals in the field of Culture and Social Enterprises completed their (higher) educational level in Italy.

Tab. 6.2.1.1.: Educational level/qualification (distribution per sector and percentage)

Educational level/qualification	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential investor	Total
None or preschool	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Primary school	10.00%	3.33%	0.00%	2.78%	3.88%
Secondary education, vocational	16.67%	3.33%	0.00%	5.56%	6.20%
Secondary education, regular	20.00%	13.33%	12.12%	33.33%	20.16%
Tertiary education, Bachelor's degree	23.33%	23.33%	9.09%	25.00%	20.16%
Tertiary education, Master's degree	23.33%	50.00%	63.64%	19.44%	38.76%
Quaternary education (PhD or other)	6.67%	6.67%	15.15%	13.89%	10.85%
Other	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 1: Educational level/qualification (please select the highest completed).

Tab. 6.2.1.2.: Professional composition of the sample, per sector and sub-sector

Professional sector and sub-sector	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness (profiles linked to Agri-food and Agritourism)	**7**	**23**	**30**	**12.28**	**31.94**	**23.26**
Agribusiness entrepreneur/Agritourism	1	6	7	14.29	26.09	23.33
Agribusiness services (as marketing, stoke, etc.)	4	5	9	57.14	21.74	30.00
University and research / studies (Agribusiness sector)	2	2	4	28.57	8.70	13.33
Agricultural operator	0	10	10	0.00	43.48	33.33
2. Social Enterprises (profiles linked to social and health services)	**21**	**9**	**30**	**36.84**	**12.50**	**23.26**
Nurse	0	1	1	0.00	11.11	3.33
Sociocultural mediator	7	0	7	33.33	0.00	23.33
Doctor/dentist	3	2	5	14.29	22.22	16.67
University and research / Studies / Teachers and Educators (health - care sector)	1	1	2	4.76	11.11	6.67
Psychologist and social assistant	1	1	2	4.76	11.11	6.67
Social health worker (as physiotherapist, pharmacist, optician, etc.)	9	4	13	42.86	44.44	43.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage (profiles linked to cultural or archeological sites)	**15**	**18**	**33**	**26.32**	**25.00**	**25.58**
Architect / Conservator- restorer / Designer	2	5	7	13.33	27.78	21.21
Tourism (museum worker, guide, touristic agencies, etc.)	5	8	13	33.33	44.44	39.39
University and research / Studies (cultural heritage sector)	4	3	7	26.67	16.67	21.21
Art, sport, show, entertainment and cultural events	4	2	6	26.67	11.11	18.18
4. Potential Investors (all other sectors)	**14**	**22**	**36**	**24.56**	**30.56**	**27.91**
Hotel/Accommodation	2	1	3	14.29	4.55	8.33
Lawyer / Accountant / Consultant, etc.	8	0	8	57.14	0.00	22.22
Coffee shop / Restaurants / Pastry shop / Bakery	2	9	11	14.29	40.91	30.56
Trade / Craftsmanship /Services	1	3	4	7.14	13.64	11.11
Building (construction, restoration, etc.)	0	8	8	0.00	36.36	22.22
Manufacturing/ Metalworking	0	1	1	0.00	4.55	2.78
Planners	1	0	1	7.14	0.00	2.78
Total	57	72	129	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Author's classification of the main professional profile included in the sample for Lazio Region.

Tab. 6.2.1.3.: Country where the highest educational level was completed (distribution per sector and percentage)

Employment sector	Albania	Albania and Italy	Italy	Other	Total	Albania (%)	Albania and Italy (%)	Italy (%)	Other (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	17	0	13	0	30	56.67	0.00	43.33	0.00	23.26
2. Social Enterprises	8	1	21	0	30	26.67	3.33	70.00	0.00	23.26
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	7	0	25	1	33	21.21	0.00	75.76	3.03	25.58
4. Potential Investors	15	1	19	1	36	41.67	2.78	52.78	2.78	27.91
Total	47	2	78	2	129	36.43	1.55	60.47	1.55	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 2: Where did you complete the highest educational/ qualification level?

The high skills and educational level of the respondents are reflected in the positive working situation frequently reported by the respondents (Tab. 6.2.1.4.). Most of the respondents (32.56%) have a permanent full-time job; 14.73 per cent are freelance or self-employed; 13.95 are business owners. With respect to sectors, there are quite different situations. The status of "employed permanent full time" is the most common for Agribusiness, Social Enterprises and Potential Investors groups. In the case of Agribusiness, business owner is the second most frequent situation. This is a frequent status also in the case of Potential Investors, but in this case, the second-highest percentage is that of self-employed/freelance workers. In the case of Cultural Preservation and Heritage the situation is more variable, with different statuses that include unemployed, student/workers, employed full time, employed part-time, occupied irregularly and para-subordinate, self-employed (regular and not regular), business owners and others.

Tab. 6.2.1.4.: Working status (distribution per sector and percentage)

Working status	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential Investor	Total
Unemployed (actively looking for a job)	0.00%	1.55%	1.55%	0.00%	3.10%
Homemaker	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Student	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Student-worker	0.00%	0.00%	1.55%	2.33%	3.88%
Employed permanent full time	10.85%	9.30%	3.10%	9.30%	32.56%
Employed permanent part-time	0.00%	3.88%	3.10%	0.78%	7.75%
Employed with time limited contract	3.10%	2.33%	0.78%	0.78%	6.98%
Occupied in layoffs	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.78%	0.78%
On the move	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Occupied irregularly but fairly stable	1.55%	0.00%	0.00%	1.55%	3.10%

Occupied irregularly in an unstable way	0.00%	0.00%	1.55%	0.00%	1.55%
Occupied "para-subordinate" work	0.00%	0.00%	1.55%	0.00%	1.55%
Self-employed regular/ freelance worker *	0.00%	3.88%	4.65%	6.20%	14.73%
Self-employed worker not regular	0.00%	0.00%	1.55%	0.78%	2.33%
Business owner*	5.43%	0.78%	2.33%	5.43%	13.95%
Cooperative worker member	1.55%	0.78%	0.78%	0.00%	3.10%
Other/Do not declare	0.78%	0.78%	3.10%	0.00%	4.65%
Total	23.26%	23.26%	25.58%	27.91%	100.00%

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 6: Please tell us your working situation - the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

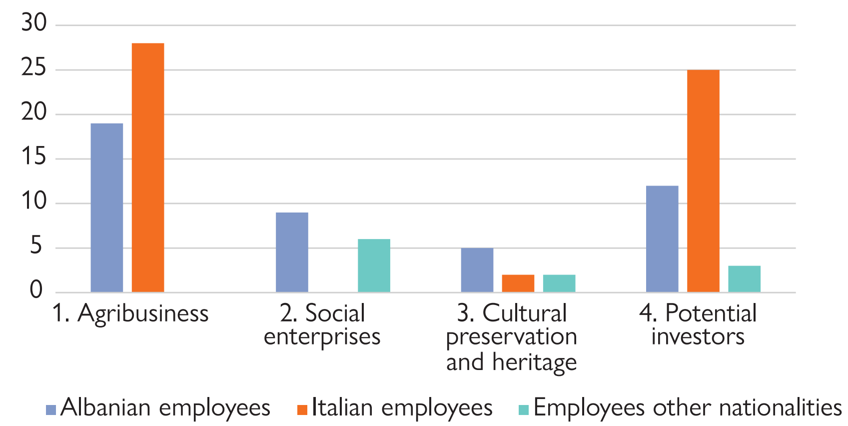
6.2.2. FOCUS ON SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNERS*

Some questions were directed specifically to those respondents who reported to be self-employed or business owners.

When respondents do have employees, they have been asked to specify how many are Italian, Albanian, or of other nationalities. The results are presented in Fig. 6.2.2.1. There is again a similar trend in Agribusiness and Potential Investors sectors. These are the two groups where the overall number of employees is highest (47 in Agribusiness; 40 in Potential Investors); moreover, in both cases, the most of the employees are Italian, followed by Albanians. On the contrary, fewer employees were declared in the Social Enterprises and Cultural sectors (15 and 9 respectively); moreover, in most cases, they are Albanians (in the Social Enterprises sector, no Italian employee was reported).

We asked if the centre of business of these self-employed or business owners is in Italy or elsewhere (Tab. 6.2.2.2.); Italy was by far the most frequent answer, with only one exception in the sector of Social Enterprises; however, in this case, the business is not run in Albania. Indeed, very few respondents declared that they have business relationships in Albania (Tab. 6.2.2.3.). According to the qualitative answers they offered, these relationships are mainly in the form of contacts with sister initiatives or institutions or support to enterprises located in Italy interested in investing in Albania.

Fig. 6.2.2.1.: Nationality of employees (for self-employed and business owners)



Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 8: How many employees do you have? Question 8a: How many are Italians? And question 8b How many are Albanians?

Tab. 6.2.2.2.: Location of the centre of the business (distribution per sector and percentage)

Italy as the centre of your business	No	Yes	No (%)	Yes (%)
1. Agribusiness	0	7	0.00	17.50
2. Social Enterprises	1	5	2.50	12.50
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0	11	0.00	27.50
4. Potential Investors	0	16	0.00	40.00
Total	1	39	2.50	97.50

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 9: Is the centre of your business interests Italy? Namely are your main business partners, supply relationships, customers, etc. in Italy? and Question 9a: If NO, where is your "centre of business interests" located?

Tab. 6.2.2.3.: Business relationships with Albania (distribution per sector and percentage)

Business relationships with Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Yes (%)	No (%)	n.d. (%)
1. Agribusiness	2	5	0	5.00	12.50	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	1	5	0	2.50	12.50	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	2	6	3	5.00	15.00	7.50
4. Potential Investors	3	12	1	7.50	30.00	2.50
Total	8	28	4	20.00	70.00	10.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 10: Do you do business/have business relationships with Albania? (e.g. important customers, suppliers, partners, participation in tenders and calls, etc.).

6.3. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

This section has the objective to study and analyse the individual and family assets of the respondents focusing on the yearly income, saving and remitting habits, real estate properties between Italy and Albania (if not elsewhere) and other forms of investments. Based on these aspects we intend to grasp, on the one hand, general indications on the earing capacity of Albanians in Italy and their financial stability or fragility. On the other hand, the geography of the real estate properties can offer us indications on concrete existing capitals, linkages and possible investments of the diaspora – more likely in the country of origin or in Italy.

6.3.1. INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

The average yearly individual income declared by respondents in Lazio[77] is EUR 22,734, a little above the national average income in Italy in 2018[78] (EUR 20,670).

The average family annual income[79] declared by Albanian respondents in Lazio is EUR 37,826 that results overall higher of the Italian national average family income.[80] The two sectors that account for the highest household income of respondents are Agribusiness and Cultural Preservation and Heritage.[81]

In addition, data on the average annual income per capita of the respondents – referring to the income for each household member[82] – show no particular difference between the Albanian female and male component (EUR 15,236 versus EUR 16,637). When compared to the average individual yearly income per capita in Italy in the central regions, it results a little lower (ISTAT, 2018).[83]

While this information provides us with a general positive indication meaning a certain income and earning capacity and solidity of respondents, we can highlight significant differences and variations by considering the gender dimension and the professional sector of belonging.

Female respondents state in fact a much lower average yearly individual income (EUR 17,451) compared to the male component (EUR 26,916), confirming also their inferior earnings within each sector. The sectors that presents the higher individual and household income for women are Agribusiness and Cultural Preservation and Heritage. Female respondents' works in these two sectors include for instance: entrepreneurs, agri-tourism owners, tourist operators, university researchers, architects. The sectors that show the highest internal individual income distance/difference (of EUR 11/15,000) between men and women are Social Enterprises[84] and Cultural Preservation and Heritage. These data confirm a general trend in gender income discrepancy with women generally earning less than men.[85] Also, income divergence can be also explained by the prevalence of women in part-time jobs to meet family/children needs.

Also, by transversally considering the respondents belonging to the Potential investor sector, we can highlight the tendency to indicate lower individual/household and per capita levels of income, compared to the other sectors. Within this group, many persons worked in restaurants/food sectors (as chefs, waiters/waitress, etc.), if not in the Construction sector.

77 The fieldwork took place in 2019 and this question referred to that year.
78 Site consulted on 23 January 2010.
www.repubblica.it/economia/miojob/lavoro/2019/03/28/news/mef_il_reddito_medio_italiano_e_sceso_a_20_670_euro-222716008/.
79 Including all sources of family income and referring to the average family household size of 2.6 persons, see *Tab.* 6.3.1.3., *Average family household size per gender and sector.*
80 For the fiscal year 2017, the national Italian average family income was EUR 30,595, excluding real estate rents. *Source*: www.istat.it/it/files/2018/12/Report-Reddito-Condizioni-di-vita-2017.pdf.
81 The sector Cultural preservation and heritage presents higher individual and household income levels.
82 By elaborating the household size in relationship with the household income.
83 Fiscal year of reference 2017, calculated in 2018. In 2017, in the North-Eastern regions of Italy, the average yearly individual income was 21,900 euros; in the north-western regions it was 21,400; in the central regions it was 19,500 and in the southern regions it was 13,700. *Source* : www.istat.it/it/files/2018/12/Report_Conti-regionali_2017.pdf.
84 It is useful to recall that this sector includes nurses, medical doctors, psychologists, physiotherapists, etc.
85 As reported by the EU Commission, in 2017, "The gender pay gap in the EU stands at 16 per cent and has only changed minimally over the last decade. It means that women earn 16 per cent on average less per hour than men".
Source: ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/equal-pay/gender-pay-gap-situation-eu_en.

Tab. 6.3.1.1.: Distribution of individual average annual income per gender and sector

Individual annual income (average in euro)	
Female	**17,451.75**
1. Agribusiness	26,864.29
2. Social Enterprises	13,023.81
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	17,600.00
4. Potential Investors	19,228.57
Male	**26,916.93**
1. Agribusiness	30,939.96
2. Social Enterprises	28,400.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	28,655.56
4. Potential Investors	20,681.82
Total	**22,734.64**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 1: What is your annual (individual) income? (Important: please include the sum of all your incomes - those declared + all "extras"/undeclared/cash-in-hand).

Tab. 6.3.1.2.: Distribution of household average annual income per gender and sector

Household income (average in euro)	
Female	**41,088.60**
1. Agribusiness	44,292.86
2. Social Enterprises	34,142.86
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	58,533.33
4. Potential Investors	31,214.29
Male	**35,243.32**
1. Agribusiness	37,261.70
2. Social Enterprises	31,222.22
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	36,555.56
4. Potential Investors	33,704.55
Total	**37,826.12**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 3: Considering all different sources (income from work, annuities, assistance, etc.), what is the approximate average annual sum of the income of your entire household?

Tab. 6.3.1.3.: Average family household size per gender and sector

Household size (average)	
Female	**2.79**
1. Agribusiness	2.57
2. Social Enterprises	2.62
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	3.00
4. Potential Investors	2.93
Male	**2.50**
1. Agribusiness	2.70
2. Social Enterprises	2.67
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	2.17
4. Potential Investors	2.50
Total	**2.63**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section: Question No. 2: Household size: how many people comprise your "household" (interviewee included)? By "household" we mean the group of people with whom there is a relationship of kinship/love, which also means sharing expenses (food, clothing, leisure) and income.

Tab. 6.3.1.4.: Distribution of annual income per capita per gender and sector

Income per capita (for each member of the household, average in euro)	
Female	**15,236.84**
1. Agribusiness	18,192.86
2. Social Enterprises	14,738.10
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	18,144.44
4. Potential Investors	11,391.67
Male	**16,637.16**
1. Agribusiness	15,239.41
2. Social Enterprises	14,259.26
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	22,807.54
4. Potential Investors	14,022.73
Total	**16,018.41**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 2: Household size and Question No. 3: Household income.

6.3.2. REMITTANCE AND SAVING BEHAVIOR

Most part of the household family income of respondents (95.35%) stays in Italy, either spent as living expenses or savings. This means that only a small portion of the family income (4.38%) is destined for other purposes. Tracking down results by gender, we do not evidence significant differences. When considering the four sectors respondents belong to, we can highlight slight variations in the data. The male respondents from the Social Enterprises sector are the ones that spend less for leaving (72% compared to 81%) and that save more than the others in Italy (20% of the household income compared to 13%). Among those that send more money elsewhere (but still not that considerable percentages), we include Potential Investors (men and women) and Social Enterprises (men).

Considering that "small portion" above mentioned, 34 per cent of respondents (44 persons out of 129) that send money elsewhere, actually remit to Albania.[86] The totality of the money sent goes to family members (parents, relatives and/or siblings).[87] This percentage is not tremendously high if we consider the general remittance behaviour of migrants.[88] Around 73 per cent of those that remit to Albania, do not send money to a bank account. Also, family reunion happened extensively over the years. And finally, the longer migrants live and settle abroad, the less they tend to remit due to increasing needs in the residence country (for the presence of children, house, mortgage, etc.).

Tab. 6.3.2.1.: Percentage of household income employed in Italy (either spent or saved) or elsewhere, per gender and sector.

Money spent and saved	% spent in Italy	% saved in Italy	% sent elsewhere
Female	**82.98**	**13.93**	**3.09**
1. Agribusiness	82.14	13.57	4.29
2. Social Enterprises	84.05	13.33	2.62
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	84.67	13.67	1.67
4. Potential Investors	80.00	15.29	4.71

86 On average (considering only those who send money), 97,95 per cent is sent to Albania. *Source*: Elaboration on the "Economic" Section, Question No. 3c: How much of the money "sent elsewhere" goes to Albania?
87 *Source*: Elaboration on section "Economic", question No. 3d Who do you send this money to in Albania?
88 According to the survey of the National Observatory for Financial Inclusion of Migrants in Italy, the average remittances in terms of percentage of income is around 12,3 per cent in 2017.

Male	81.00	13.60	5.40
1. Agribusiness	81.91	13.57	4.52
2. Social Enterprises	72.22	20.00	7.78
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	86.28	10.94	2.78
4. Potential Investors	79.32	13.18	7.50
Total	81.88	13.74	4.38

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 3a: Considering the figure just mentioned (question No. 3) as 100 per cent of your household income: How much do you spend in Italy, how much do you save in Italy and how much do you send elsewhere?

Tab. 6.3.2.2.: Remittances sent to Albania, per sector

Money sent to Albania	No	Yes	Total	No (%)	Yes (%)
1. Agribusiness	16	14	30	12.40	10.85
2. Social Enterprises	20	10	30	15.50	7.75
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	26	7	33	20.16	5.43
4. Potential Investors	23	13	36	17.83	10.08
Total	85	44	129	65.89	34.11

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 3b: Of the previous percentage "sent elsewhere", do you send anything to Albania?

Tab. 6.3.2.3.: Remittances sent to Albania, per sector

	Do you send it to a bank account?		Do you have control of this bank account in any way?	
	Absolute value	%	Absolute value	%
Yes	11	25.00	7	58.33
No	32	72.73	4	33.33
n.d.	1	2.27	1	8.33
Total	44	100.00	12	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 3e: Do you send it to a bank account? And Question 3f: Do you have control of this bank account in any way?

6.3.3. REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

Half the respondents (60 persons) own a house, the other half does not (69 persons), with no significant differences between men and women. Half owners (30 persons) possess a house in Albania, while the rest in Italy.[89] Just three persons have a house in both countries. Verifying the presence of additional properties (as land, real estate, etc.), 7 per cent of respondents declare to have them in Italy and 29 per cent in Albania.

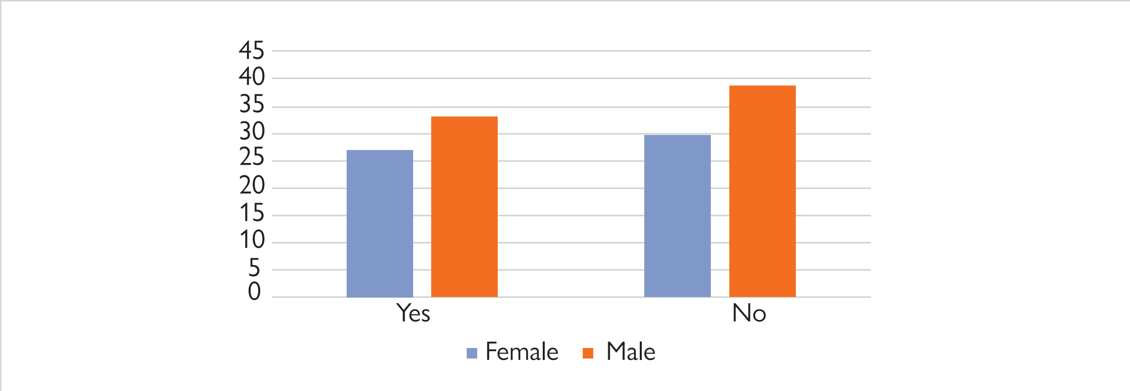
Owning a house or a property in the country of origin can be a stimulus to either invest in the renovation for the family still living there or for the holidays, but also for possible investment as business or in tourism (frequently mentioned during the focus groups as well as the barriers due to the lack of clarity in the private property register in Albania). At the same time, owning a house in Italy is a signal of stability in the destination country (often implying a mortgage to repay it, therefore choosing this an important and significant family investment in the long term).

The survey also asked about future plans in terms of intentions in the nearby future, whether in Albania, or in Italy, or elsewhere.[90] Considering the plan to buy a property in the next three years in Italy, the responses are

89 7 per cent of respondents declare to possess also other properties in Italy (question No. 5a: Do you own any other property – e.g. other real estate, land, etc. – in Italy?).
90 Almost all of the respondents (98%) are not interested in having/buying any property elsewhere.

shared between those that are not considering it (46.75%)[91] and those that are interested (52.56%)[92] to buy one. The same question applied to buy a property in Albania in the next future shows that only (16.56%)[93] is planning it, while the majority (82.1%)[94] is not.

Fig. 6.3.3.1., Ownership of a house



Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 4: Do you own any houses?

Tab. 6.3.3.2.: Country where the house is owned

Where	Female	Male	Total
Albania	10	21	31
Italy	17	8	25
Italy and Albania	0	3	3
n.d.	0	1	1
Total	27	33	60*

*of which 52 people declare to have one property, and 8 two.

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 4a: If yes, how many and where?

Tab. 6.3.3.3.: Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future

<table>
<tr><th>Do you own any other property in Italy?</th><th colspan="2">Yes</th><th colspan="2">No</th><th>n.d.</th><th>Total</th></tr>
<tr><td>Female</td><td colspan="2">10.53</td><td colspan="2">89.47</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Male</td><td colspan="2">4.17</td><td colspan="2">94.44</td><td>1.39</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Average</td><td colspan="2">7.35</td><td colspan="2">91.96</td><td>0.69</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><th>Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy for the next 3 years?</th><th colspan="2">Yes, to the previous</th><th colspan="2">No, to the previous</th><th rowspan="2">n.d.</th><th rowspan="2">Total</th></tr>
<tr><th></th><th>Yes</th><th>No</th><th>Yes</th><th>No</th></tr>
<tr><td>Female</td><td>5.26</td><td>5.26</td><td>36.84</td><td>52.63</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Male</td><td>1.39</td><td>2.78</td><td>50.00</td><td>44.44</td><td>1.39</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Average</td><td>3.33</td><td>4.02</td><td>43.42</td><td>48.54</td><td>0.69</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
</table>

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 5a: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Italy? and Question 5b: Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy for the next 3 years? 5b has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to Question 5a.

91 This sums up into: 43.42 per cent+3.33 per cent, see Tab. 6.3.3.3., Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future.
92 This sums up into: 48.54 per cent+4.02 per cent, see Tab. 6.3.3.3., Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future.
93 This sums up into: 9.43 per cent+7.16 per cent, see Tab. 6.3.3.4., Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future.
94 This sums up into: 19.55 per cent+63.16 per cent, see Tab. 6.3.3.4., Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future.

Tab. 6.3.3.4.: Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	31.58		68.42		0.00	100.00
Male	26.39		72.22		1.39	100.00
Average	28.98		70.32		0.69	100.00
Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	10.53	21.05	8.77	59.65	0.00	100.00
Male	8.33	18.06	5.56	66.67	1.39	100.00
Average	9.43	19.55	7.16	63.16	0.69	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 5c: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania? and Question 5d: Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years? Please note that Question 5d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to Question 5c.

Tab. 6.3.3.5.: Additional properties elsewhere and plan to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) elsewhere?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	0.00		100.00		0.00	100.00
Male	2.78		95.83		1.39	100.00
Average	1.39		97.92		0.69	100.00
Do you plan to buy real estate in elsewhere for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	3.51	0.00	96.49	0.00	100.00
Male	1.39	9.72	1.39	86.11	1.39	100.00
Average	0.69	6.62	0.69	91.30	0.69	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 5e: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) elsewhere? Question 5g: Do you plan to buy real estate elsewhere for the next 3 years? 5g has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to Question 5e.

6.3.4. FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

When investigating financial investments undertaken in the past, respondents state they did invest both in Italy, in larger part (43.61%), and also in Albania (20.21%). When considering the next three years, almost half of the respondents (48.59%)[95] say they are planning to financially invest in Italy, while the other half (50.11%)[96] is not. When asked about the possibility to financially invest in Albania for the next three years, the large majority of respondents declare not to be planning it (86.4%).[97]

These data tell us that, while the group had previous experience of financially investing in the country of origin, the perspective is not confirmed for the future that seems to exclude Albania as a target/destination of financial investments, but either direct plans towards Italy or just do not invest.

95 This sums up into: 32.27 per cent+16.32 per cent, see *Tab. 6.3.4.1., Financial investments made in Italy.*
96 This sums up into: 11.33+38,78 per cent, see *Tab. 6.3.4.1., Financial investments made in Italy.*
97 This sums up into: 12.02 + 74.38, see *Tab. 6.3.4.2., Financial investments made in Albania.*

Tab. 6.3.4.1.: Financial investments made in Italy

Have you made financial investments in Italy?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	38.60		61.40		0.00	100.00
Male	48.61		50.00		1.39	100.00
Average	**43.60**		**55.70**		**0.69**	**100.00**
Do you plan to do this in Italy for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	29.82	8.77	15.79	45.61	0.00	100.00
Male	34.72	13.89	18.06	31.94	1.39	100.00
Average	**32.27**	**11.33**	**16.92**	**38.78**	**0.69**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 6a Have you made financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Italy? and Question 6a: Do you plan to do this in Italy for the next 3 years? 6b has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to Question 6a.

Tab. 6.3.4.2.: Financial investments made in Albania

Have you made financial investments in Albania?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	14.04		85.96		0.00	100.00
Male	26.39		72.22		1.39	100.00
Average	**20.21**		**79.09**		**0.69**	**100.00**
Do you plan to do this in Albania for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	5.26	8.77	5.26	80.70	0.00	100.00
Male	11.11	15.28	4.17	68.06	1.39	100.00
Average	**8.19**	**12.02**	**4.71**	**74.38**	**0.69**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 6c: Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Albania? And Question 6d: Do you plan to do this in Albania for the next 3 years? 6d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to question 6c.

Tab. 6.3.4.3.: Financial investments made elsewhere

Have you made financial investments elsewhere?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	3.51		94.74		1.75	100.00
Male	2.78		95.83		1.39	100.00
Average	**3.14**		**95.29**		**1.57**	**100.00**
Do you plan to do this elsewhere for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	3.51	0.00	1.75	92.98	1.75	100.00
Male	2.78	0.00	4.17	91.67	1.39	100.00
Average	**3.14***	**0.00**	**2.96***	**92.32**	**1.57**	**100.00**

*Where = Ireland, France and unknown

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section, Questions 6e. Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) elsewhere? 6f If yes, where? Question 6g: Do you plan to do this elsewhere for the next 3 years? Question 6h: If Yes, where?

6.4. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

In this section we intended to analyse the impact of the recent economic crisis on the individual/family conditions, considering how the situation of respondents changed in the last ten years (or during the first two years in Italy, for those that arrived in Italy afterward) for the economic/working/social and legal point of view.

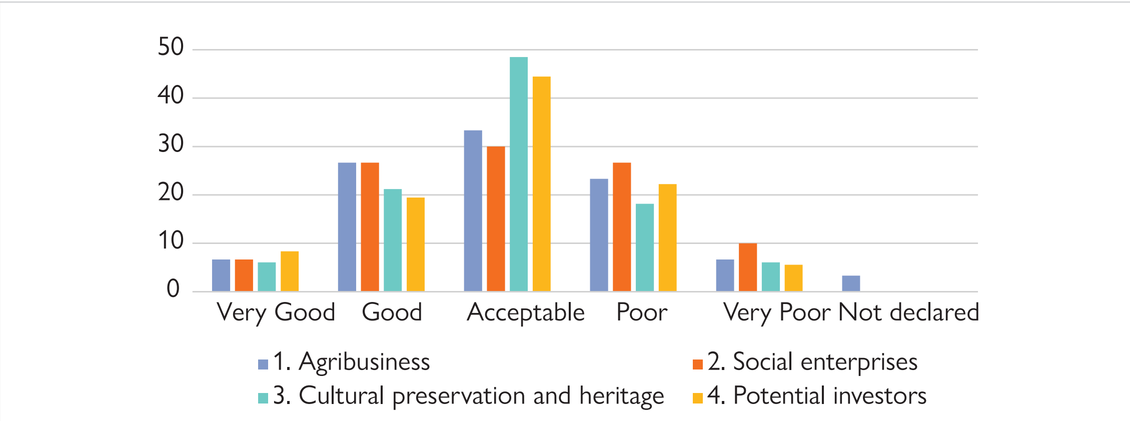
Consequently, we asked respondents how they judge their (economic, social, professional, etc.) situation ten years ago (or during the first two years in Italy) and today. The results are shown comparatively in the following figures. Overall, it is possible to highlight that the situation of most of the respondents has improved in the last ten years, despite the economic crisis and in all the considered sectors. This trend is not surprising, insofar as often respondents compare their first period in Italy with a situation in which, ten or more years later, they are more stable and organized.

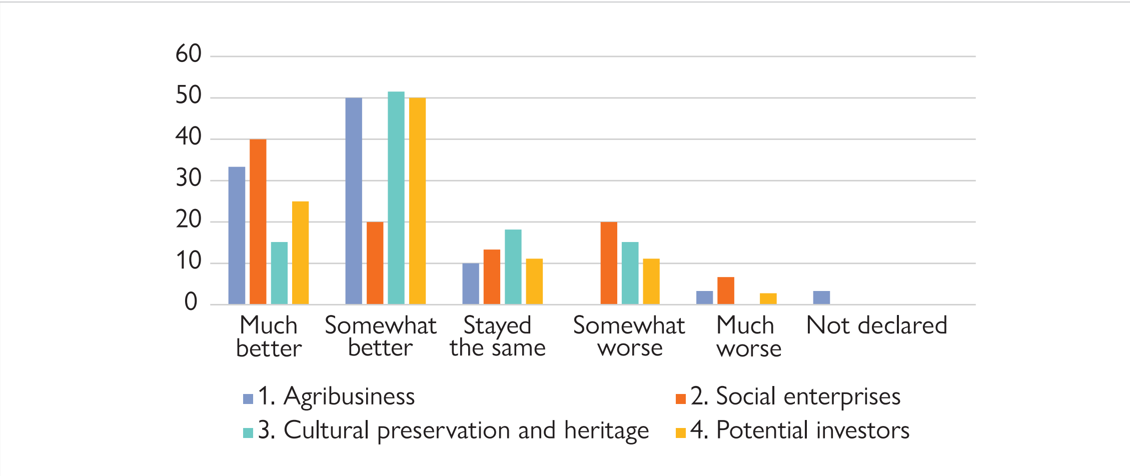
6.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

With respect to economic situation (individual income), this was considered "acceptable" ten years ago by most of the respondents in all the considered sectors.

Generally speaking, today, the economic situation is considered "somewhat better" by most of the respondents in the Agribusiness, Cultural and Potential Investors groups; while it is considered "much better" from most of the respondents from the Social Enterprises group (Fig. 6.4.1.2.).

Fig. 6.4.1.1. and 6.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) ten years ago/today



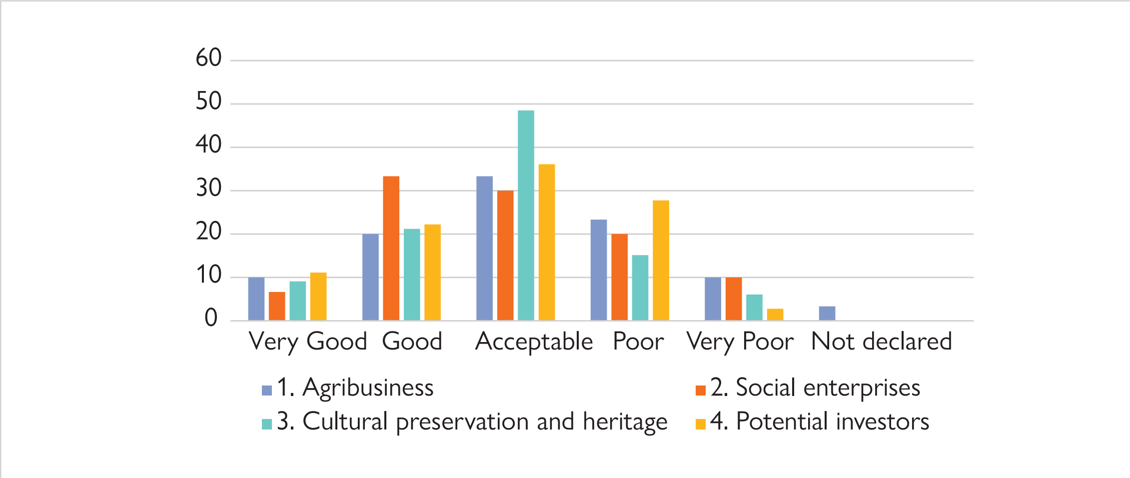


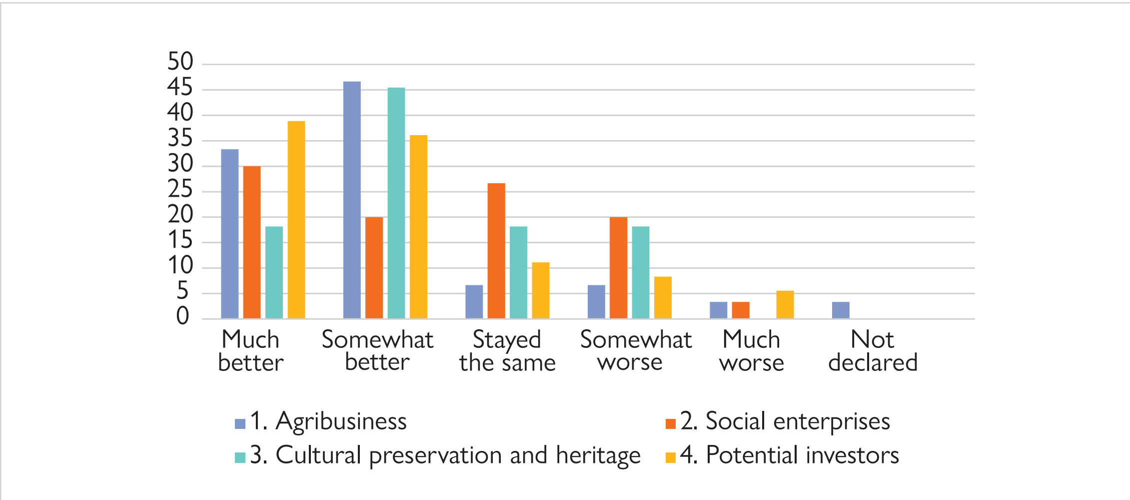
Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1a/2a Economic situation (individual income); and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Fig. 6.4.1.3. and 6.4.1.4. show the situation in terms of household income. In this case "acceptable" was the most frequent answer to describe the situation ten years ago for three over four sectors; the only exception is represented by the Social Enterprises sector, where the most frequent answer was "good".

Today, the situation is ameliorated for all the considered sectors. Around 70 per cent of respondents in the Agribusiness and Potential Investors group, around 60 per cent in the Cultural sector and around 50 per cent in the Social Enterprises group think their situation today is "somewhat better" or "much better" than ten years ago.

Fig. 6.4.1.3. and 6.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) ten years ago /today

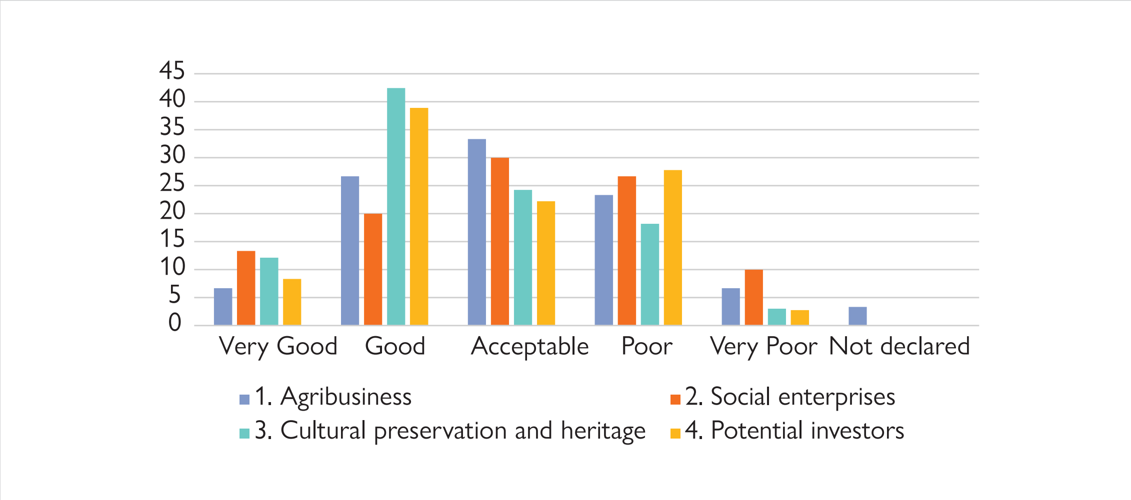


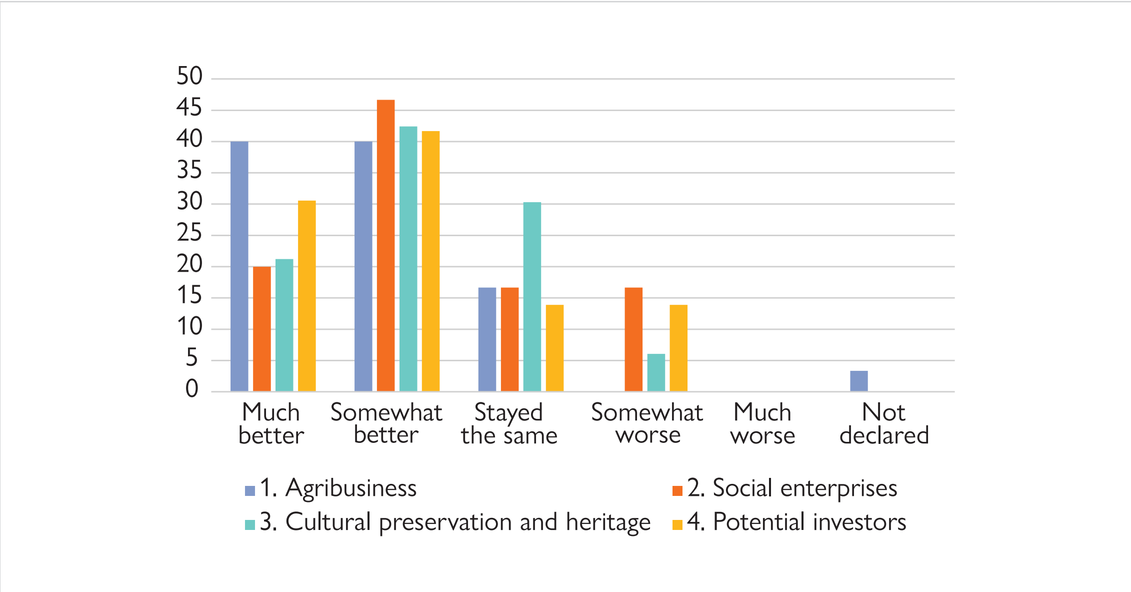


Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b Economic situation (household income) and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

The positive trend is confirmed also with respect to working conditions (Fig. 6.4.1.5. and 6.4.1.6.). They were considered "acceptable/good" by most of the respondents ten years ago (with slightly better conditions declared by Potential Investors and respondents in the Cultural field). Today, they are considered "better" by at least 40 per cent of respondents in all the considered sectors, and "much better" by 40 per cent of the Agribusiness respondents, 30 per cent of the Potential Investors respondents, around 20 per cent of respondents in the Social and Cultural groups. It's worth highlighting that in this positive trend, 30 per cent of respondents in the Cultural sector consider that the situation stayed the same, and more than 10 per cent in Agribusiness and Social Enterprises groups consider the situation somewhat worse.

Fig. 6.4.1.5. and 6.4.1.6.: Working conditions ten years ago/today



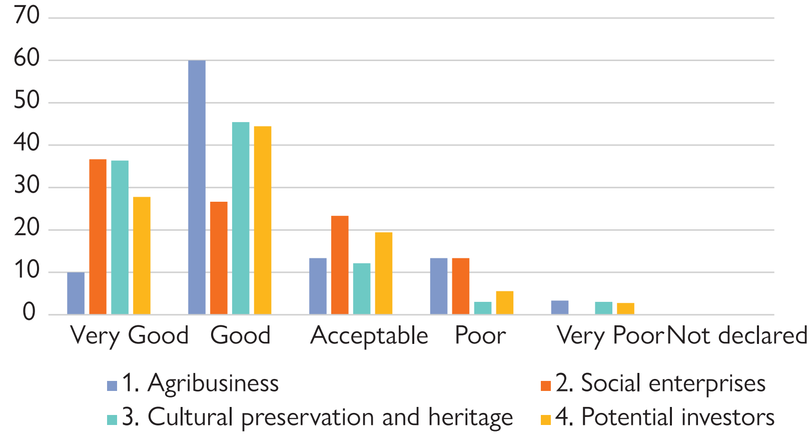


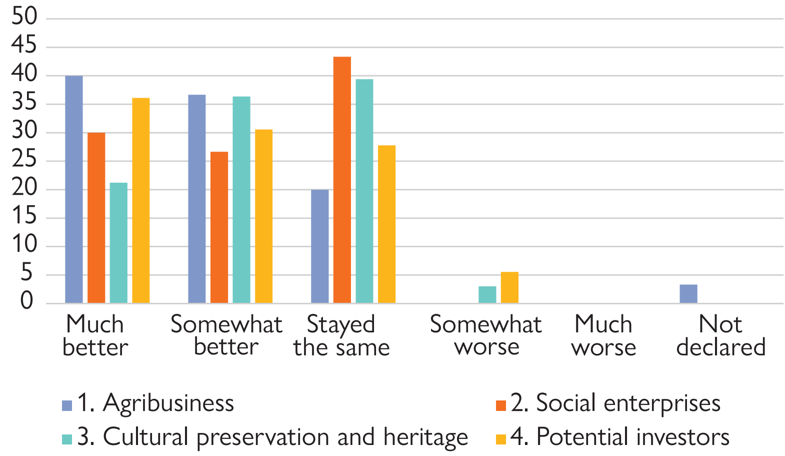
Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c: Working conditions; and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

6.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Social relationships (Fig. 6.4.2.1. and 6.4.2.2.) have improved as well, with some differences among sectors. Employed in Agribusiness, in particular, expressed a positive value of social relationships also ten years ago (with 60% of respondents considering to had "good" social relationship); today the situation has generally speaking improved, with 40 per cent that declare that the situation is "much better" and almost 40 per cent that is "better" than 10 years ago. Also, in the case of Social Enterprises, the situation has improved; however, more than 40 per cent of respondents feel that their social relationships more or less stayed the same. As clearly shown in Fig. 6.4.2.2., more or less the same applies to the Cultural sector; while Potential Investors consider their social relationships "much better" or "somewhat better" in almost 70 per cent of the cases.

Fig. 6.4.2.1. and 6.4.2.2.: Social relationships ten years ago/today

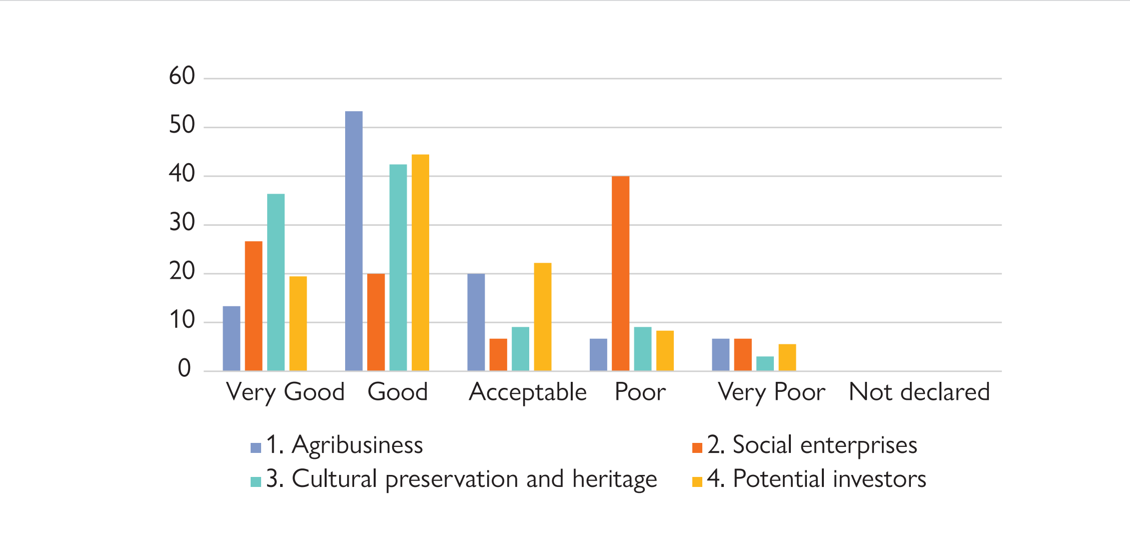


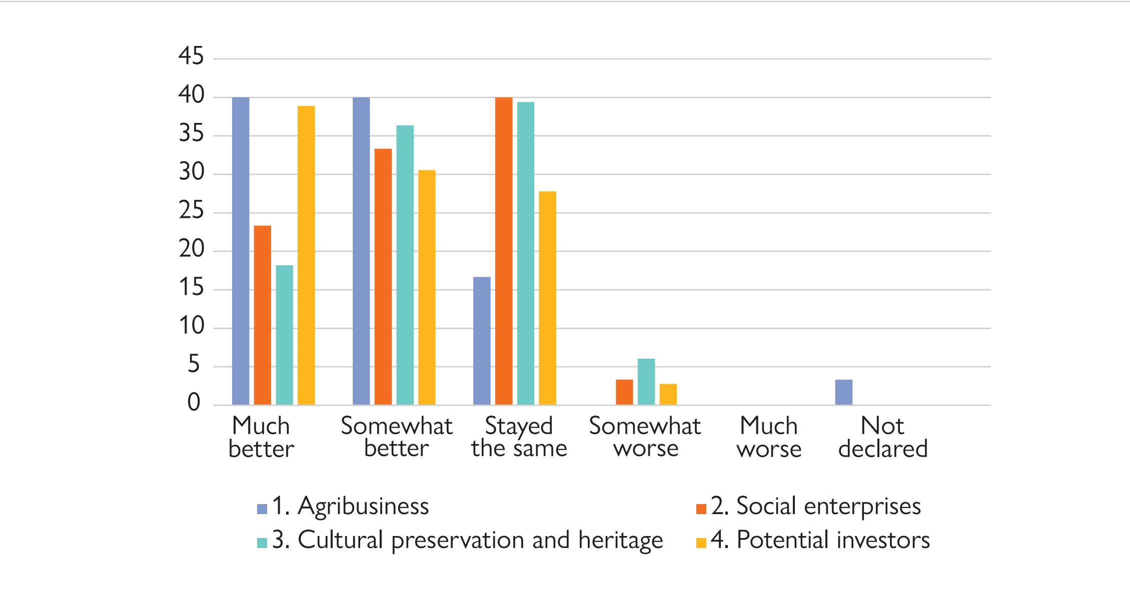


Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d Social relationships (local social relations, integration / discrimination, etc.) and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Finally, also the situation for legal and administrative status has generally speaking improved. In the Agribusiness sector the situation was considered good ten years ago by more than 50 per cent of the respondents. Still, today, 80 per cent of respondents consider the situation "better" or "much better". In the Social Enterprises sector, 40 per cent of respondents declare that ten years ago their situation was "poor"; today, more than 50 per cent of respondents from this sector consider the situation better or much better, but 40 per cent consider it stayed the same. In the Cultural sector the situation was considered "good" or "very good" by more than 70 per cent of respondents already ten years ago; today 40 per cent consider it stayed the same, and 50 per cent that is was improved. Finally, in the group of other sectors, around 60 per cent considered the situation "good" or "very good" ten years ago, while 70 per cent of respondents consider the situation today "better" or "much better".

Fig. 6.4.2.3. and 6.4.2.4.: Legal/administrative situation ten years ago/today





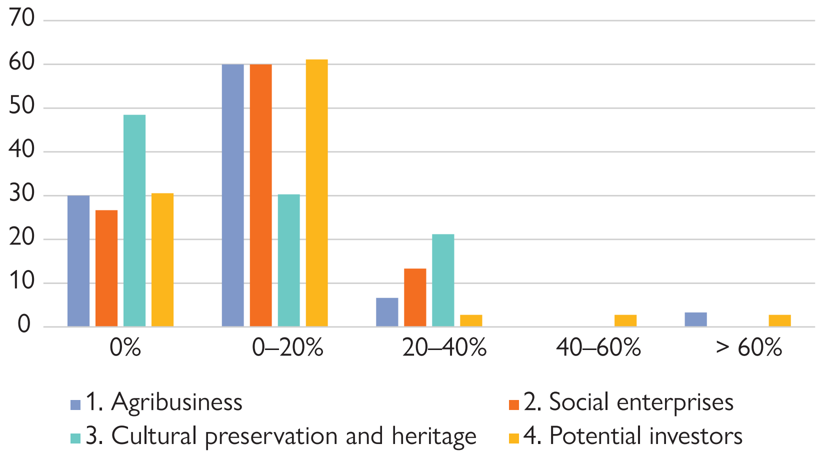
Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding Question 1f: /2f Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit / citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.) and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

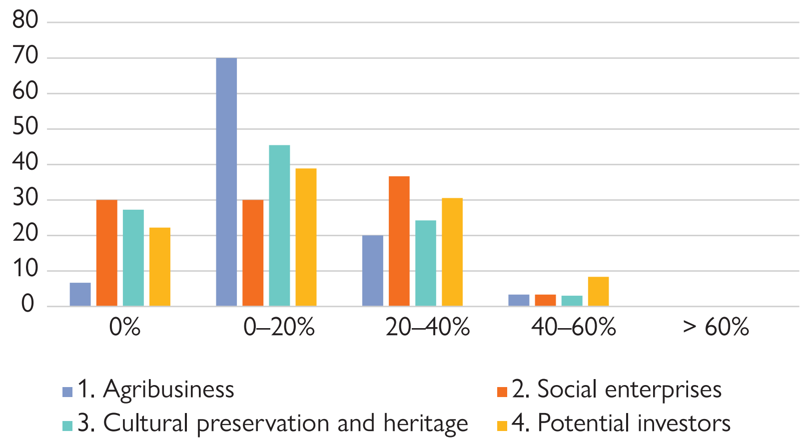
6.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

The general improvements in the quality of life of the respondents have reflected also on the trend with respect to savings. The same trend is followed by respondents within Agribusiness, Social Enterprises and Potential Investors groups: ten years ago, according to the collected questionnaires, around 30 per cent of respondents in these sectors were not able to save anything, while 60 per cent of respondents were able to save up to 20 per cent of their income (on an annual basis). A slightly different picture applies to respondents in the Cultural sector. Almost 50 per cent were not able to save anything; around 30 per cent were able to save up to 20 per cent of their income, but 21 per cent were able to save between 20 per cent and 40 per cent.

Today, savings have increased in the Agribusiness sector (where 70% of respondents save up to 20% of their income, and 20% of respondents save between 20% and 40%), in the Cultural sector (where more than 40% of respondents save up to 20% and more than 20% of respondents save between 20% and 40%) and in the group of Potential Investors (where almost 40% of respondents save up to 20% and 30% of respondents save between 20% and 40%). The number of those that are not able to save anything has slightly increased in the Social Enterprises sector (from almost 27% to 30%). At the same time, also the percentage of those that save between 20 per cent and 40 per cent has significantly increased (from 13% to 36%).

Fig. 6.4.3.1. and 6.4.3.2.: Money saved (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today



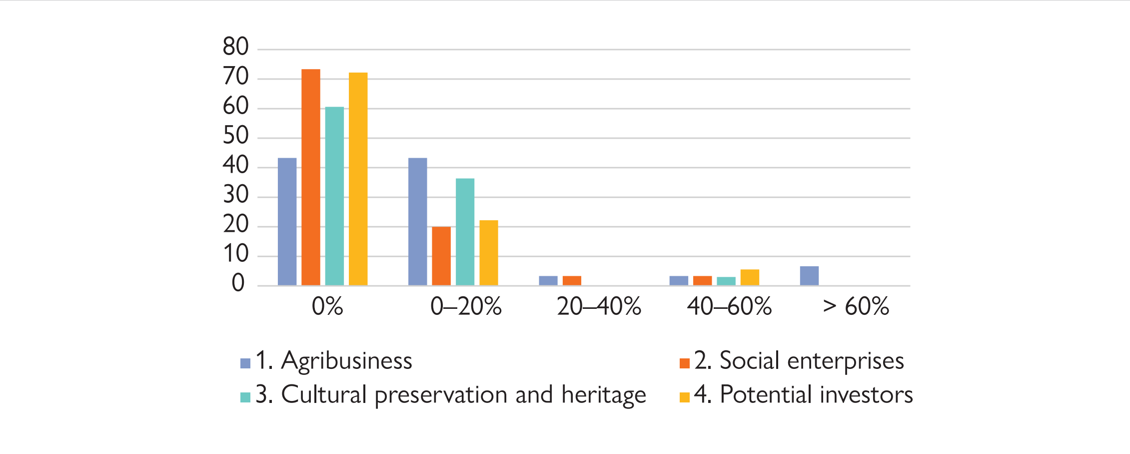


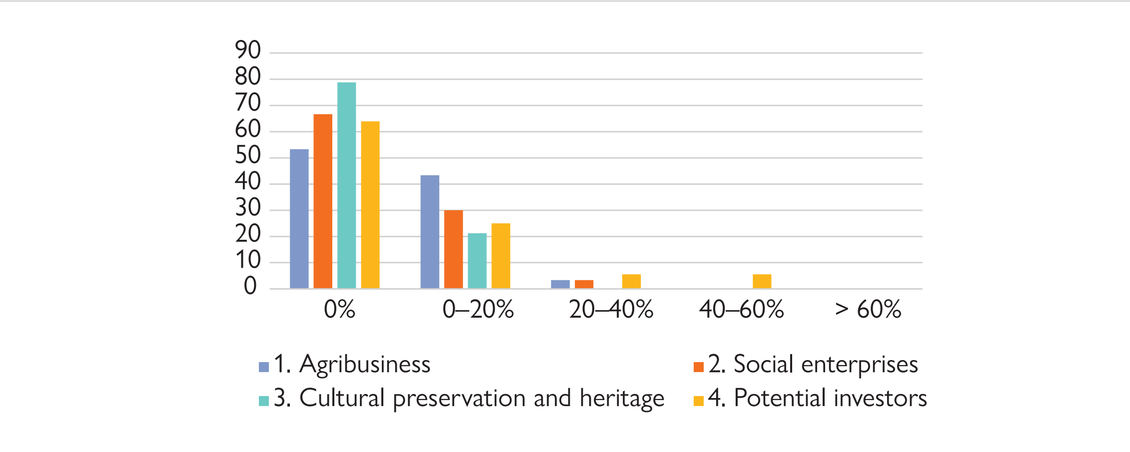
Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section: Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding Question 1g: At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis) and Question 2g: Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis).

Finally, the percentage of savings sent to Albania is, on average, stable: the most of respondents (62%–65%) were and are not able to send any money home; while around 30 per cent used to send – and still send home – up to 20 per cent of their savings.

In sectorial terms, respondents from the Agribusiness used to send more money in the past (even more than 60% of their savings); today, they do not send money home in 70 per cent of the cases. However, the percentage of those that send up to 20 per cent of their income is stable. Respondents from the Cultural sector have decreased the amount of money they send home. On the contrary, respondents from Social Enterprises and Potential Investors groups, generally speaking, send more often today than in the past.

Fig. 6.4.3.3. and 6.4.3.4.: Saving sent to Albania (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today





Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding Question 1h: At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis) and Question 2h: Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

6.5. PERCEPTION ON MIGRATION

This section is about the way respondents consider and evaluate their personal experience of being part of the Albanian diaspora, including a large set of positive and negative aspects and plans for the future in terms of possible mobility or migration. While the majority express no interest or plans to leave Italy (both for the completed integration process and for reasons that keep persons in the country as the presence of children or a general life settlement), a small group would consider the possibility to either go back to Albania (for personal/family relations and in some cases to look for opportunities) while others consider instead other international destinations, mainly for work and career chances.

6.5.1. STAY OR GO, BACK OR SOMEWHERE ELSE

More than half of respondents state not to be interested to go back to Albania (54.46%), nor to be interested to leave Italy and go to another country (54.46%), while the rest would consider it in the future. In fact, some would contemplate the possibility to go to another country in the next three years (12%), if not after (33%); only 13 per cent[98] would consider the possibility to move to Albania (but in the next three years or after). The reasons mentioned for the possibility to move to another country mainly and equally refer to the presence of friends/family, study/work reasons and increased economic opportunities compared to Italy. Among the destination countries mentioned to further migrate,[99] we can list the United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and others, explained to career and better work opportunities.

Only 1.55 per cent of respondents would prefer his/her children to live in Albania in their future, mainly due to personal relations, while 27 per cent express no preference. At the same time, those that would prefer the children to stay/live in Italy are the majority (41.9%), but still almost 30 per cent would prefer a different country (from Italy and Albania) for the children. More specifically, the main reasons indicated to prefer Italy are: (i) The good level of integration of young generations; (ii) The opportunities for high-quality university education, (iii), The higher quality of life, if compared to Albania; (iv) Physical proximity to Albania; (v) In a few cases, better Health system; (vi) In a few cases, the Italian nationality of one of the parents. Those that mentioned “a different country” think basically that there are more opportunities abroad and a better quality of life, also in light of a stronger meritocracy; in a few cases, they mentioned specific difficulties of integration in Italy.

In the responses there are no significant differences among the sectors.[100]

Tab. 6.5.1.1.: Interest to move to another country today or in the future

Would you consider moving to another country?	No	Yes, in the next 3 years	Yes, over the next 3 years	Total
Female	56.14	12.28	31.58	100.00
Male	52.78	12.50	34.72	100.00
Average	**54.46**	**12.39**	**33.15**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the “Perception on migration” Section, Question No. 3: Would you consider moving to another country?

98 *Source: Elaboration on Tab. 6.5.1.2., Interest to move to Albania today or in the future, summing up the answers for “yes” in the next three years and over.*
99 *Source: Elaboration on the “Perception on migration” Section; Question No. 3b: If not to Albania, where would you go?*
100 *Source: Elaboration on the “Perception on migration” Section; Question No. 2: Today, thinking about your children’s future (even if you do not have any) where would you prefer them to live? And Question No. 2a: Why?*

Tab. 6.5.1.2.: Interest to move to Albania today or in the future

Are/would you consider moving to Albania?	No	Yes, in the next 3 years		Yes, over the next 3 years			Total
	n.a.	No	Yes	No	Yes	n.a.	
Female	56.14	8.77	3.51	21.05	8.77	1.75	100.00
Male	52.78	6.94	5.56	26.39	8.33	0.00	100.00
Average	54.46	7.86	4.53	23.72	8.55	0.88	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 3a If yes, are/would you consider moving to Albania?

Tab. 6.5.1.3.: Main drivers for the decision of moving

Main drivers for this decision of moving	%
Family/friendship issues	28.23
Work/Study	26.32
Economic conditions	23.92
For the presence of public services, schools, etc.	7.66
I heard good things about it	3.35
For the protection of your rights	2.87
Other reasons	7.66
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 4: Your main drivers for this decision (referring to answer 3) (maximum 2 options).

Tab. 6.5.1.4.: Country preferred for the future of the respondents' children.

Children's future	Albania	Italy	Another country	It does not matter	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	0.78	11.63	3.88	6.98	0.00	23.26
2. Social Enterprises	0.78	6.98	11.63	3.88	0.00	23.26
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	10.08	7.75	6.98	0.78	25.58
4. Potential Investors	0.00	12.40	6.20	9.30	0.00	27.91
Total	1.55	41.09	29.46	27.13	0.78	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 2: Today, thinking about your children's future (even if you do not have any) where would you prefer them to live? (only one option).

6.5.2. PERCEPTION AND EVALUATION OF BEING PART OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA

By commenting on their overall experience as a member of the Albanian diaspora,[101] respondents can be distinguished between one group including persons who are very well integrated in Italy and another group (more limited) with persons that faced stronger difficulties in integration and that keep social relationships mainly with their co-nationals. For these reasons, positive and negative aspects are sometimes in direct contrast. There are no significant differences in terms of sectors of belonging.

101 Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Questions No. 5: Considering your overall experience as a member of the Albanian diaspora, please tell us: 5a, Up to 3 positive aspects of your experience and 5b, Up to 3 negative aspects of your experience.

When asked to list the aspects of their migratory experience in Italy and of being part of the Albanian diaspora refer to:

Positive aspects. Most frequent answers are the following:

- Intimate relations with relatives in Albania/physical proximity to Albania;
- A high number of Albanians in Italy, and strong relations with them;
- Mind openness, contact with different cultures, capacity to speak different languages;
- Good level of social services, including health, in Italy;
- Better employment/education opportunities if compared to Albania, including the opportunity to collaborate with high-level professionals;
- Opportunity to travel;
- Better environment, including in terms of a democratic system, cultural environment, gender equity, less corruption, freedom, social integration, stability.

Negative aspects. Most frequent answers are the following:

- Negative impact of massive emigration for Albania and its development perspectives; Lack of consciousness on the potential of diaspora.
- Negative attitude towards the diaspora/foreigners in Italy, also in the professional field; stereotypes.
- Cultural and emotional eradication.
- Loss of Albanian identity, especially among young generations.
- Difficulty and distance in the relation to family and parents.
- Lack of a centre of reference for the diaspora, and limited events/activities for the members of the diaspora. Limited support/activities organized by the Albanian Embassy and from Albanian institutions.
- Lack of an organized network of Albanians in Italy.
- Difficult and in some cases unfair bureaucracy.
- High taxes.
- Lack of information on individual rights and obligations.
- Uncertainty and fear; Economic difficulties.
- Lack of reliable social relations.
- Difficult communication.
- Lack of meritocracy and “Italians first” attitude.

6.6. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

This section includes information on the nature of the relationship of migrants with the country of origin and their closest connections. A considerable part of our investigation was dedicated to the investments respondents have undertaken in the past and their plans for the future, especially with regards to Albania – whether in their same sector of work/employment in Italy, or in different sectors.

The general interest to contribute to Albanian's development is included in the survey.

While we can overall say that in individual and personal terms most people maintain a strong link with the country of origin and the people/family there, in terms of trust and interest to invest in Albania the research does not evidence extensive results. As a general perspective of life, most respondents prefer to stay in Italy or eventually move their business to other countries (to increase economic opportunities), but Albania is not the prevalent destination.

The large majority of respondents (84.6%) never tried to expand its business in Albania before. Those that did it, do not mention relevant positive and successful examples. Almost all of respondents (94.31%) had never tried to invest in other/different sectors before. 42.68 per cent of respondents (55 persons) declare to be interested to invest in their own sector in Albania (equally distributed among sectors) and 14.99 per cent of respondents (19 persons) would consider investing in a different sector in Albania. Among the barriers and obstacles differently mentioned (either experienced or envisaged) we can list: deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration; unfavourable business environment; lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration; bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy; lack of management capacities, in addition to corruption.

When asked about the interest to generally contribute to Albania, respondents tend to positively confirm it (86,40%), but they report they are moderately available to contribute with temporary/virtual assignments – requiring clear contractual and payment conditions and autonomy from political powers.

This section explains that there is only a small part of the diaspora that would be interested in investing in Albania and that investment could happen more easily by giving value to their own competences, knowledge and previous work, not by necessarily finding the corresponding and feasible conditions back in Albania.

6.6.1. RELATIONSHIP WITH ALBANIA

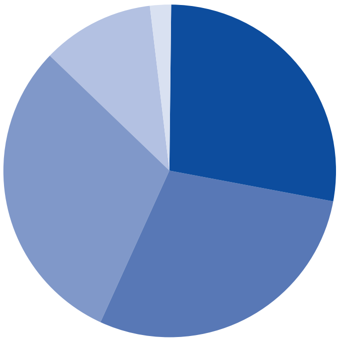
The large majority of respondents (87%) consider it somehow important[102] to know what is happening in Albania and they mainly employ internet (38%) and social media (15%) to keep informed. A smaller percentage gets informed via telephone/Skype (15%).

Among the closest relationships migrants still maintain in Albania, respondents mainly refer to family members as their mother (24%) and father (22%), siblings (17,76%) and other relatives (21,50%). Migrants tend to make return quite often (47% more than once a year; 24% once a year; 22% every 3/5 years).

While the family and personal linkages with Albanian seem to be quite strong, 61 per cent of respondents though say not to be interested in e included in the register of migrants of the Albanian Government and 84 per cent declare not to be enrolled in any in/formal Albanian association abroad.

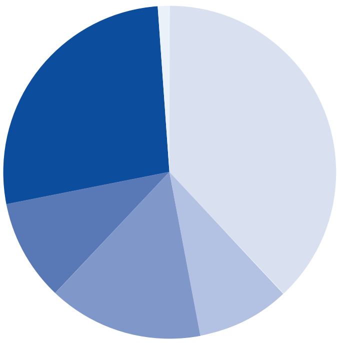
102 Including responses as of average, very important, absolutely essential.

Fig. 6.6.1.1.: Interest to know what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, Question No. 3: How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania?

Fig. 6.6.1.2., Means employed to keep informed on what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, if the answer to Question No. 3: How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania? Ranges between "Of little importance" and "Absolutely essential", then Question 3a follows: What are the main means by which you keep yourself informed?

Tab. 6.6.1.3.: Relationship with people in Albania

Relationship with people in Albania	%
Mother	24.30
Father	22.43
Siblings	17.76
Partner	1.25
Son(s)/Daughter(s)	0.93
Other relatives	21.50
Partners in business/work-mates	3.12
Other*	6.23
None	2.49
Total	100.00

*Mostly "friends"

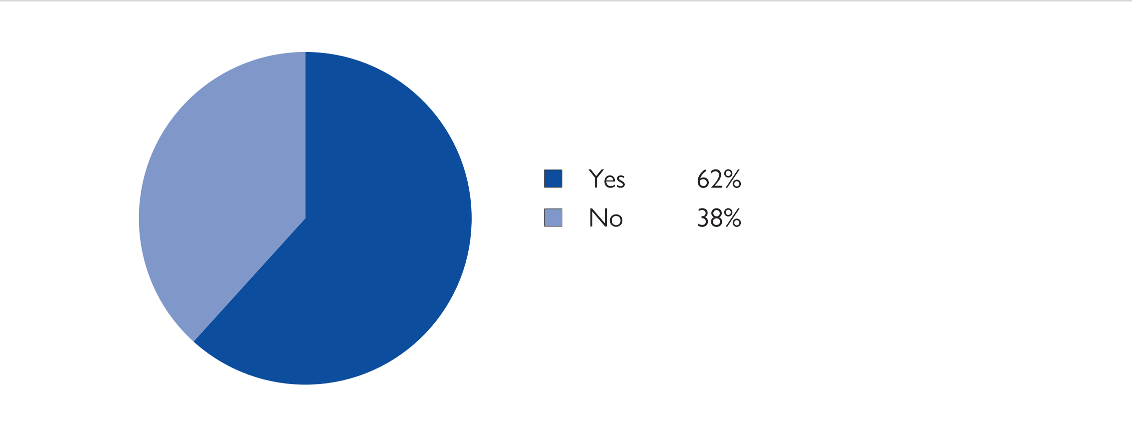
Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 1: Who of the following people, if they are in Albania, do you still have a close relationship with? (more than one answer allowed).

Tab. 6.6.1.4.: Frequency of visits to Albania

Frequency of visit to Albania	Female	Male	Average
Frequently (more than once a year)	50.88	43.06	46.97
Often (every year)	22.81	25.00	23.90
Rarely (once every 5/10 years)	21.05	22.22	21.64
Sometimes (every 2/3 years)	3.51	8.33	5.92
Never	1.75	0.00	0.88
n.d.	0.00	1.39	0.69
Total	100.00	100.00	-

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 6: How often do you go to Albania?

Fig. 6.6.1.5.: Interest in the "register of migrants "



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 4: In 2016 Albania approved the establishment of a "register for migrants ". Once this register will be established, do you think you will register yourself?

Tab. 6.6.1.6.: Participation in in/formal associations

Participation in any formal/informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania	%
Yes	15.63
No	84.38
n.d.	0.00
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 5: Did you enroll in any list/register or are you in touch with any formal or informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania?

6.6.2. ROLE OF DIASPORA MEMBERS IN CONTRIBUTING TO ALBANIA

The majority of respondents strongly agree with the fact that, through their visits and exchanges, they transfer ideas, information and capitals (not only monetary) to the family and friends in the homeland.

Albanians abroad can also be indirectly contributing to Albania when suggesting or recommending friends to visit the country. Almost 70 per cent of respondents (especially women) reported they recommended friends and acquaintances,[103] in some cases travelling together with them, in some other cases partly separated.

103 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 7: Have your friends/acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion?*
Followed by Question No. 7a: If yes, for tourism, business, or other reasons?

When asked about their general perspectives for the future, respondents mainly prefer three options: almost half consider staying in Italy and keeping in Italy the centre of their business (45.72%). The rest is mainly divided between those that want to stay in Italy but increase the business relations in Albania (more prominent option among women), and those that would definitively move the centre of their activities in another country (more prominent option among men). Considering the reasons that explain the different plans for the future of respondents,[104] we can highlight that:

- Those preferring to stay in Italy consider it the country where all their life is stably based and they do not contemplate to move away (for the overall integration process; the family; children education; work; investments/activities; house and home; life; self-realization; Italy as adoptive country; the difficulties to reintegrate in Albania or the failures for those that tried before; etc.)
- Those that consider Albania refer to the different work possibilities there (compared to Italy); to the presence of family/relatives; to the desire to contribute to Albania (as it is the country of origin) or in a faraway future (when retired).

When asked about the interest to generally contribute to Albania, respondents tend to positively confirm it (86.40%). This is particularly true for the female component (especially those belonging to the Cultural Preservation and Heritage – 93.3% - and Potential Investors – 92.8%) and for men from Social Enterprises – 100 per cent.

More specifically,[105] many respondents would be willing or would like to make value of their own technical competences for Albania (medicine/health sector; social sector; psychology; education; culture; engineer; for an NGO). Others refer to their own ideas of starting a private business (a company, becoming an entrepreneur, open an agritourism business, a restaurant, a farming activity, breeding).

Those that are not interested or not willing to contribute to Albania[106] refer to reasons: corruption in the country, a lack of interest/idea and opportunity to Albania, the suggestion that the next generations will do something instead of them.

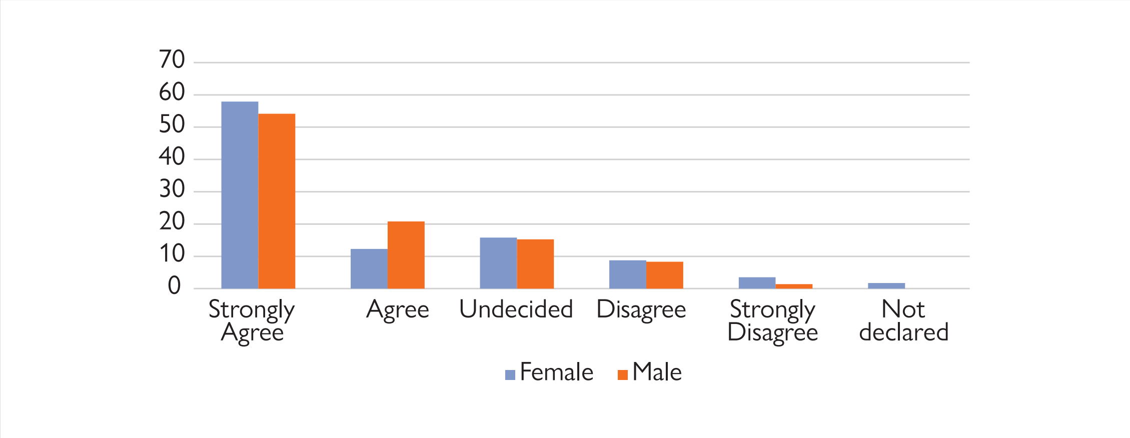
When asked if they are specifically interested in a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania, half of the respondents said they interested (especially those from Social Enterprises and Cultural preservation sector). The other half refuses to provide an answer to this question (especially people from Agribusiness).

The conditions mentioned to eventually collaborate are:[107]

- Not being connected with the political sphere or with a different political ruling class;
- Work in a favorable environment;
- Transparency of the contract conditions ;
- Work from remote (from Italy);
- Based on a formal and institutional invitation;
- To be free to express and implement ideas;
- Depends on the contents of the assignment;
- After agreeing the times/days (short time availability);
- Only with a proper salary/monetary compensation (very common answer);
- For many based in Rome, with easy transport connection (if in Rome).

104 *Source:* Elaboration on the “Relationship with the country of origin” Section; Question No. 8a: Why (to five a motivation to previous question about the “plan for the future”).
105 *Source:* Elaboration on the “Relationship with the country of origin” Section; Question No. 9a: If yes, how? What would you do/like to do? (in relation to the motivation to the previous question “Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?”).
106 *Source:* Elaboration on the “Relationship with the country of origin” Section; Question No. 9b: If no or I don’t care, why? (in relation to the motiva tion to the previous question “Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?”).
107 *Source:* Elaboration on the “Relationship with the country of origin” Section; Question No. 15a: If Yes, at what conditions? (Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?).

Tab. 6.6.2.1.: Transferring social, cultural and human capital gained in Italy through visits and exchange with family and friends in Albania



Note: The information is expressed in percentage (%).

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 2: How much do you agree with the following statement "In the relationships with/visits to my family/friends/acquaintances in Albania, I transmit and transfer new knowledge, ideas, visions, and/or approaches (for example social, cultural, professional) that I acquired during my experience of life in Italy."

Tab. 6.6.2.2.: Visits to Albania from friends/acquaintances

Friends / acquaintances in Italy who visited Albania due to recommendation	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
Female	75.44	24.56	0.00	100.00
Male	63.89	34.72	1.39	100.00
Average	**69.66**	**29.64**	**0.69**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 7: Have your friends/ acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion?

Tab. 6.6.2.3.: Friends/acquaintances mode of travelling to Albania

Did they travel with you, alone or both?	%
With me	17.05
Both with me and alone	30.23
Alone	21.71
n.a.	31.01
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; if the answer to Question No. 7: Have your friends/ acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion? Then Question No. 7b follows: Did they travel with you, alone or both?

Tab. 6.6.2.4.: Plan for the future

Plan for the future	Female	Male	Average
N.d.	0.00	1.39	0.69
Stay in Italy and keep my business centre here	45.61	45.83	45.72
Stay in Italy and decrease my contacts and business relations with Albania	1.75	1.39	1.57
Stay in Italy but increasing my contacts and business relations with Albania	28.07	11.11	19.59

Stay in Italy but move my business centre to Albania	0.00	2.78	1.39
Move the centre of my business in another country/countries	19.30	26.39	22.84
Move back permanently to Albania	5.26	4.17	4.71
Go back to Albania permanently but keeping my business centre in Italy	0.00	6.94	3.47
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 8: Which of the following statements is closer to your "plan for the future"?

Tab. 6.6.2.5.: Interest to contribute to Albania

Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?	No	Yes
Female	**10.53**	**89.47**
1. Agribusiness	14.29	85.71
2. Social Enterprises	14.29	85.71
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	6.67	93.33
4. Potential Investors	7.14	92.86
Male	**16.67**	**83.33**
1. Agribusiness	13.04	86.96
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	27.78	72.22
4. Potential Investors	18.18	81.82
Total average (male & female)	13.60	86.40

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 9: Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?

Tab. 6.6.2.6.: Interest for virtual assignment

Consideration for a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	23.33	73.33	3.33	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	56.67	43.33	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	66.67	33.33	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	50.00	50.00	0.00	100.00
Average	49.17	50.00	0.83	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 15: Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?

6.6.3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA

The large majority of respondents (84.6%) within each sector never tried to expand his/her business in Albania before. Those they actually tried mentioned as examples of activities undertaken:[108]

- Cultural and educational projects (with schools and university);
- Writing articles;
- Construction activities;
- A Pharmacy;
- Started collaboration with local partners;

108 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10a: If yes, What did you do? (in relation to the question No. 10 Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).*

- A restaurant;
- A company for medical equipment.

Not all business went well (especially for Potential Investors), as 57 per cent declared not to be successful (although female respondents from Social and Cultural sectors were more satisfied than all others). But lessons learned from these experiences taught respondents that:[109]

- Before investing, there is a need for me/us to understand well the Albanian mentality;
- The professional environment is difficult to enter into and different from Italy;
- It is important to build personal relations locally;
- There is no coordination among local institutions in Albania;
- Corruption is amongst the main obstacles.

Moreover, other negative aspects of the experience of investing in Albania that are more often mentioned[110] include:

- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) (20.9%);
- Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (11.2%);
- Lack of management capacities (9.6%);
- Problems finding skilled workers/lack of appropriately skilled labour force (9,6%).

Tab. 6.6.3.1.: Attempt to expand or move the professional activity in Albania

Attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	10.00	86.67	3.33	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	16.67	83.33	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	12.12	87.88	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	19.44	80.56	0.00	100.00
Average	14.56	84.61	0.83	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?

Tab. 6.6.3.2.: Success in moving the activity to Albania

Was your "move/activity" you successful?	Yes	No
1. Agribusiness	5.26	10.53
2. Social Enterprises	15.79	10.53
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	15.79	5.26
4. Potential Investors	5.26	31.58
Total	42.11	57.89

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section: Question No. 10b: If Yes to 10: Was your "move/activity" successful?

109 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10c: What are the main positive lessons learned from your experience? (in relation to the question No. 10 Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in | Albania?).

110 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10d: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (in relation to the Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).

6.6.4. POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA IN THE OWN SECTOR

57.3 per cent of the respondents are not interested to invest in their own sector in Albania (especially persons from Agribusiness and Potential Investors groups). Within the other sectors, there are persons that would consider investing and people that would not. The ideas mentioned by those interested to invest (42.68%) are mixed:[111]

- Either have a private business (as a restaurant, in the tourism sector, in the health sector, i.e. with a private clinic; in the consultancy and legal sector; optician; with a start-up on recycling; a construction company; offering services for administration, horse breeding).
- More generally respondents mention their availability to employ their given competences to work in Albania (in the elderly care; to work with children; in the culture sector/art/journalism – publishing; in the field of architecture; teaching; university; as food technician, etc.).

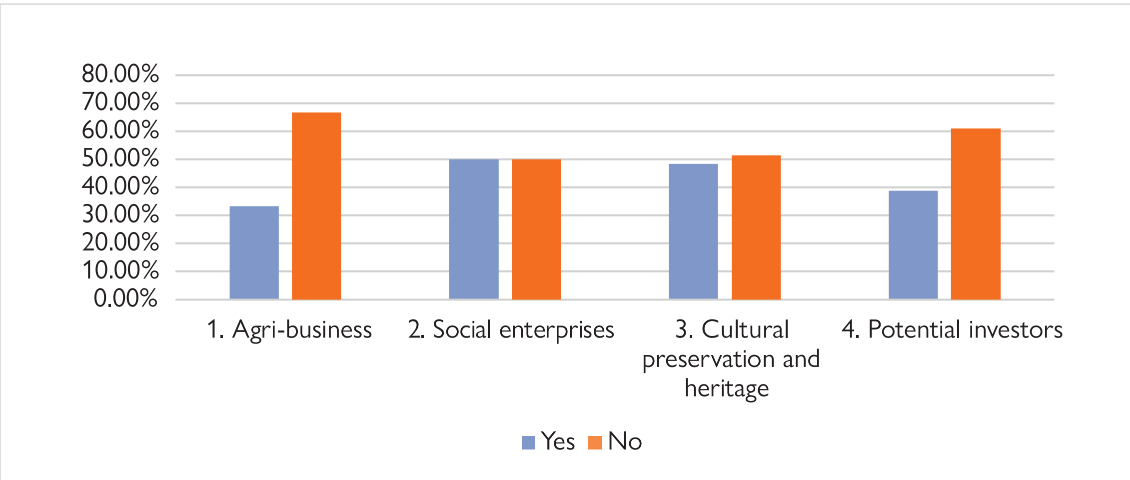
Among the main drivers that would influence the possibility to invest in Albania, respondents mention, among others:

- The presence of tax incentives (17.5%);
- A substantial revision of the legislation (e.g. labour law) (17.5%);
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development) (12.1%);
- Low-interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit (12.1%).

Nevertheless, barriers and obstacles exist that impede investments. Among them, the most relevant ones that were indicated were:

- Most declare not to be interested to invest (33.78%);
- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) (12.84%);
- Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) (8.11%);
- Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.) (8.11%).

Fig. 6.6.4.1.: Interest to invest in the own professional sector in Albania



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11: More generally, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

111 *Source:* Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11a follows If "Yes" to Question 11: How? What would you do?

Tab. 6.6.4.2., Main drivers for investment in Albania in the own sector

Main drivers for investment in Albania	%
Tax incentives	17,57
Substantial revision of the legislation (e.g. labour law)	17,57
Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development)	12,16
Low-interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit	12,16

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11b: If Yes to 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)?

Tab. 6.6.4.3., Main barriers/problems/limitations to invest in Albania in the own sector

Main barriers/problems/limitations	%
Simply not interested to invest	33,78
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	12,84
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	8,11
Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.).	8,11

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section, Question No. 11c If No to 11: What are the main barriers/problems/limitations?

6.6.5. INVESTMENTS IN OTHER PROFESSIONAL SECTORS IN THE PAST OR IN THE FUTURE

The overwhelming majority of the respondents (94,31%) had never tried to invest in other sectors before, with only some from Social Enterprises (10%) mentioning their attempt. Those few that tried to do something[112] declared they were mainly successful (80%) – excluding those from Agribusiness – and refer to activities for instance as:

- Cultural activities
- Published booked
- Training courses
- Open a shop
- A health related project

The main positive lessons learned from their experience[113] refer basically to the awareness that Albania needs to develop and also that the migrants' personal networks could be willing to help/be involved.

Among the main negative aspects underlined, there are: deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) (15,38%) and bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (15,38%).

Considering the possibility to invest in Albania in any other professional sector, 84,18 per cent of respondents are not interested while 15 per cent are – especially from Social Enterprises, Agribusiness and Potential

112 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12a: If Yes to 12: What did you do?*
113 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12c If Yes to 12: What are the main positive lesson learned of your experience?*

Investors in activities as: hotel/tourism/agritourism, cultural and social projects, construction sector, and services.

Among the main incentives that would influence Albanians to invest are:

- Tax incentives (18.18%);
- Provide legal and administrative support to investors (15.91%);
- Low-interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit (15.91%);
- Provision of services (e.g. sectorial specific services) (15.91%).

Tab. 6.6.5.1.: Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania

Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania	Yes	No	N.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	3.33	90.00	6.67	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	10.00	90.00	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	2.78	97.22	0.00	100.00
Average	**4.03**	**94.31**	**1.67**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12: Talking about any other professional sector, have you ever made any attempt to invest in other activities in Albania?

Tab. 6.6.5.2.: Success of activities tried in other sectors

Was your "activity" successful?	Yes	No
1. Agribusiness	0.00	20.00
2. Social Enterprises	60.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	20.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	0.00	0.00
Total	**80.00**	**20.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12b: If Yes to 12: Was your "activity" successful?

Tab. 6.6.5.3.: Main negative aspects from the experience of investing in another sector in Albania

Main negative aspects	%
No negative aspects	15.38
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	15.38
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	15.38

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12d: If Yes to 12: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)?

Tab. 6.6.5.4.: Interest to invest in a different sector in Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in any other professional sector)	Yes	No	N.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	16.67	80.00	3.33	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	23.33	76.67	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	6.06	93.94	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	13.89	86.11	0.00	0.00
Average	**14.99**	**84.18**	**0.83**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13: Talking about any other professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

Tab. 6.6.5.5.: Incentive to invest in Albania

Incentive to invest in Albania	%
Tax incentives	18.18
Provide legal and administrative support to investors	15.91
Low-interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit	15.91
Provision of services (e.g. sectorial specific services)	15.91

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13b If Yes to 13: What in practice would push you to invest / or would facilitate this investment in Albania?

Tab. 6.6.5.6.: Reason why the respondent would not invest

Why not interested?	%
Simply not interested to invest	52.30
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	8.62
Other	7.47
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	5.17

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13c If No to 13: why not?

6.7. FOCUS GROUP: ROME, 8 NOVEMBER 2019

The Focus group was organized in Rome by the association Integra Onlus. The group of participants (7) was composed of a prevalence of men (5) between 28 and 47 years of age, with a predominance of adults on their 30s. All the participants have lived in Italy for the past 15/20 years. The group presented very high educational and professional profiles, this overrepresentation is perhaps partly due to a higher probability to take part in FGDs among individual with a higher educational attainment : all participants came to Italy mainly to accomplish their studies (from high school to university/PhD) and today work in third sector (as a statistician, economic experts, journalist, lawyer, researcher and social entrepreneur).

After the introduction on the scope of the meeting and a presentation of the "Mapping and Profiling Albanian diaspora in Italy, France and Belgium" Project, we started an open friendly discussion that is reported here as follows.

6.7.1. WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY AND ALBANIA?

The participants see a difference in the nature of the relationship and linkage with Albania between their generation and the generation of their parents. The participants connect Albania with their personal, family and affective dimension (the country of birth, the motherland, the Grandpa house, etc.). Few see the country as a land of opportunities (to invest, for tourism, industry, services, for new economic policies). On the other hand, they are aware that the previous migrants' flows from Albania (like their parents or other co-nationals) escaped from the country and their main feeling towards Albania is of disappointment. This is due to the fact that, as reported, first waves of Albanians that arrived in the early 1990s decided to invest in the homeland at some point, but they failed in their projects and they now feel disappointed by their experience and express therefore negative moods towards Albania.

The aspect of the **return** (and **non-return**) is quite essential in the perspective of the diaspora. Albania is seen as the place where most people dream/plan to go when they retire, but it is not the country where people want to return during their adult age, unless for holidays. This is confirmed reporting by the fact that all Albanian migrants that returned during past years want to leave again today and all the local population wants to migrate. Albania does not represent a good place to live. Two persons in the group actually returned to Albania to start an economic activity there in recent years, but both their experiences were not positive (one just came back and the other one has still activities there but want to close up). Failure, frustration and disappointment are what is left from their experience as entrepreneurs. Discussing in the possibility to invest in Albania only takes to running an **entrepreneurial business** there and this requires a **longer permanence** in the country that does not fit with the personal, family, professional and career plans of the participants.

6.7.2. WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS THAT DETERMINE AN IMPACT (POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE) IN MAKING VALUE AND ENGAGE SKILLS, COMPETENCES AND RESOURCES OF ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY TOWARDS ENTREPRENEURIAL/INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN ALBANIA?

Albania could offer **opportunities** for business and investment that are commonly recognized: it is an emerging economy, there is a large young population, the salaries and costs are low compared to other EU countries, there is a general and growing interest towards modernity and globalization. Tourism and infrastructures can be sectors with interesting growth rates.

Nevertheless, serious **barriers** are highly linked to the corruption habits in Albania that are negatively judged by the diaspora and that are an obstacle both for everyday life and moreover for starting an economic activity. The "**bakshish**"/bribe practice determines that the ruling class or important positions might be more due to money contributions/exchanges of favors than to the presence of real talents and capacities. Moreover, the mitigation of the rule of law towards dishonest political representatives creates an environment of mistrust. This is the dominant opinion among participants.

Before looking at incentives to invest in Albania, the Government shall consider the **root causes** of current emigration and the weakness of **intellectuals** and decision-makers, in the public and private sphere.

Also, due to the fact that absence of the right to vote, the diaspora has also no political exchange power in terms of ensuring votes to any political candidate. Achieving the possibility to vote from abroad would change a lot the relationship with the Government and the sense of protagonism of the diaspora.

A general **normative incertitude** exists for the diaspora that has no clear information on the rules and regulations and no clear idea on how/where to get this information, as normally it is not possible to access information from a distance and once in Albania, too much time and bureaucracy is required to collect needed material/information. This is especially difficult for the problems related to private property and land property uncertainty.

An obstacle to engage in economic activities in Albania is represented by the general **culture** and **mentality** of Albanians, who are very much used to patronizing habits and behaviors. Also, the economic environment in Albania is not very active, also due to the cultural heritage of the communist regime not to support individual skills, talents and economic innovation/dynamism. This contributed to making people too used to depend on the public sphere of decision. For these reasons entrepreneurship from the local population is quite limited and meritocracy is not granted. "We (my family between Italy and Albania) have lots of land in Albania; we also offered it for free in exchange of an airplane ticket, but people refused; they are not autonomous in Albania, the problem is the mentality of people"; "in Albania, they prefer to open a cafeteria than a factory, they are afraid of creating industry"; "they have no sense of entrepreneurship".

On the other hand, as the diaspora live abroad, it has no real and updated **knowledge** of how the system in Albania really works. The diaspora does not participate in the local running changes in Albania and it has a distorted vision of what Albania is today.

Moreover, due to the fact that many persons left the country, the local availability of **know-how** and of skilled resources in Albania is not abundant. These aspects weaken the local economic environment and the possibilities for foreign firms to recruit skilled profiles.

This discussion showed that the participants mis-confused the **local limits** in Albania to develop economic activities and entrepreneurship among the local population with the **barriers** the diaspora itself can meet in investing/creating business in Albania. Once highlighted this contradiction, the group agreed that the main turning point for the diaspora economic engagement is that, besides the mentioned obstacles, being an entrepreneur in Albania would mean and require a **physical presence** in the country but Albanian migrants do not want to leave Italy.

6.7.3. WHAT ARE THE SUGGESTED AND RECOMMENDED CHANGES OR CONDITIONS THAT WOULD FACILITATE A DIRECT OR INDIRECT ENGAGEMENT OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INVESTMENT?

- The right to **vote for the diaspora** would be a requirement for any further possibility to engage the diaspora.
- A reform of the **rule of law** is hardly needed, to solve root causes of migration.
- A system/platform to provide clear and exhaustive **information** on the existing **regulation** for those interested to open a business and invest in Albania, with the possibility to download all required documents.
    - The possibility to have a ***diaspora bureau*** at the Consulates/Embassy in Italy to offer a desk with dedicated staff and simplified/quick procedures to the diaspora interested to open a business/invest in Albania.
    - In the same diaspora desk, the possibility to handle problems with the ***land registry office.***
    - Due to the fact that large properties from the Albanian migrants abroad are abandoned, a superintendent/trustee of the **artistic and cultural heritage** shall protect existing properties that can suffer risks of deterioration or demolition.
- A generational change and turnover in the public administration might help in grating meritocracy instead of corruption.
- Entering in the **EU** would really be of help in order to change and create mandatory new **standards** for the public administration.

APPENDIX

6.1. SOCIOECONOMIC

6.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

Tab. 6.1.1.3: Composition per age (distribution per gender and percentage)

Age	Female	Male	Total	Female%	Male%	Total%
Age < 30	7	10	17	5.4	7.8	13.18
Age 30–39	25	33	58	19.4	25.6	44.96
Age 40–49	10	19	29	7.8	14.7	22.48
Age 50–59	13	5	18	10.1	3.9	13.95
Age 60–69	2	3	5	1.6	2.3	3.88
Age > 70	0	2	2	0.0	1.6	1.55
Total	57	72	129	44.19	55.81	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 4 - Age of the respondent.

Tab. 6.1.1.4.: Country of birth (distribution per gender and percentage)

Country of birth	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Albania	56	70	126	43.75	54.69	98.44
Italy	1	1	2	0.78	0.78	1.56
Total	57	71	128	44.53	55.47	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 5 - Country of birth.

6.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Tab. 6.1.2.1.: Marital status (distribution per gender and percentage)

Marital status	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Single	13	27	40	22.81	37.50	31.01
Married / cohabiting	38	38	76	66.67	52.78	58.91
Separeted	1	3	4	1.75	4.17	3.10
Divorced	2	3	5	3.51	4.17	3.88
Widowed	2	0	2	3.51	0.00	1.55
n.d.	1	1	2	1.75	1.39	1.55
Total	57	72	129	44.19	55.81	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 8: What is your marital status?

Tab. 6.1.2.3.: Current legal and administrative status (distribution per gender and percentage)

Legal and administrative status	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Dual citezenship (one Italian)	28	28	56	49.12	38.89	44.01
Long-term EC permit	9	11	20	15.79	15.28	15.53
Residence card	18	32	50	31.58	44.44	38.01
Residence permit (also from another EU country)	2	1	3	3.51	1.39	2.45
Residence visa (also from antoher EU country)	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	57	72	129	44.19	55.81	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 10: Please tell us your current legal and administrative status with respect to your stay in Italy.

Tab. 6.1.2.4.: Typology of valid visa or residence permit (distribution per gender and percentage)

Typology of valid visa or residence permit	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Family	6	5	11	10.53	6.94	8.53
Subordinate work	13	28	41	22.81	38.89	31.78
Self-employed	6	5	11	10.53	6.94	8.53
Expected occupation	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Study	1	3	4	1.75	4.17	3.18
Temporary protection / asylum	1	0	1	1.75	0.00	0.78
Other	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
n.d.	4	7	11	7.02	9.72	8.53
n.a.	26	24	50	45.61	33.33	38.76
Total	57	72	129	44.19	55.81	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 11: If you have a valid visa or residence permit or are renewing it, please indicate its type.

Tab. 6.1.2.5.: Reasons for choosing the area where he/she lives

Reasons for choosing the area where he/she lives	%
Because relatives / friends live here	54.42
Because I heard good things about it	8.16
Because there is work	20.41
For the presence of public services, schools, etc.	12.93
Other	4.08
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 13: For what reasons did you choose this area? (multiple choices, even more than one).

6.2. PROFESSIONAL

6.2.2. FOCUS ON SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNERS

Tab. 6.2.2.1.: Nationality of employees

Nationality of employees	AL	IT	Others	Total	AL (%)	IT (%)	O (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	19	28	0	47	42.22	50.91	0.00	42.34
2. Social Enterprises	9	0	6	15	20.00	0.00	54.55	13.51
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	5	2	2	9	11.11	3.64	18.18	8.11
4. Potential Investors	12	25	3	40	26.67	45.45	27.27	36.04
Total	45	55	11	111	44.19	49.55	9.91	100.00

AL = Albanian, IT = Italian, Other = Other nationalities, Total = total number of employees.

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 8: How many employees do you have? Question 8a: How many are Italians? And question 8b How many are Albanians?

6.3. ECONOMIC

6.3.3. REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

Tab. 6.3.3.1.: Ownership of a house

Do you own any houses?	Yes	No	Total
Female	27	30	57
Male	33	39	72
Total	60	69	129

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 4: Do you own any houses?

6.4. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

6.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Tab. 6.4.1.1.: Economic situation (individual income) – ten years ago

Economic situation (individual income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	6.67	26.67	33.33	23.33	6.67	3.33
2. Social Enterprises	6.67	26.67	30.00	26.67	10.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	6.06	21.21	48.48	18.18	6.06	0.00
4. Potential Investors	8.33	19.44	44.44	22.22	5.56	0.00
Total	6.93	23.50	39.07	22.60	7.07	0.83

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1a/2a Economic situation (individual income).

Tab. 6.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) – today

Economic situation (individual income)	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	33.33	50.00	10.00	0.00	3.33	3.33
2. Social Enterprises	40.00	20.00	13.33	20.00	6.67	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	15.15	51.52	18.18	15.15	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	25.00	50.00	11.11	11.11	2.78	0.00
Total	28.37	42.88	13.16	11.57	3.19	0.83

Source: Elaboration on the “Impact of economic crisis” Section; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 6.4.1.3.: Economic situation (household income) – ten years ago

Economic situation (household income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	10.00	20.00	33.33	23.33	10.00	3.33
2. Social Enterprises	6.67	33.33	30.00	20.00	10.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	9.09	21.21	48.48	15.15	6.06	0.00
4. Potential Investors	11.11	22.22	36.11	27.78	2.78	0.00
Total	9.22	24.19	36.98	21.57	7.21	0.83

Source: Elaboration on the “Impact of economic crisis” Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b Economic situation (household income)?

Tab. 6.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) – today

Economic situation (household income)	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	33.33	46.67	6.67	6.67	3.33	3.33
2. Social Enterprises	30.00	20.00	26.67	20.00	3.33	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	18.18	45.45	18.18	18.18	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	38.89	36.11	11.11	8.33	5.56	0.00
Total	30.10	37.06	15.66	13.30	3.06	0.83

Source: Elaboration on the “Impact of economic crisis” Section; Question No. 2. Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 6.4.1.5.: Working conditions – ten years ago

Working conditions	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	6.67	26.67	33.33	23.33	6.67	3.33
2. Social Enterprises	13.33	20.00	30.00	26.67	10.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	12.12	42.42	24.24	18.18	3.03	0.00
4. Potential Investors	8.33	38.89	22.22	27.78	2.78	0.00
Total	10.11	31.99	27.45	23.99	5.62	0.83

Source: Elaboration on the “Impact of economic crisis” Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c Working conditions?

Tab. 6.4.1.6.: Working conditions – today

Working conditions	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	40.00	40.00	16.67	0.00	0.00	3.33
2. Social Enterprises	20.00	46.67	16.67	16.67	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	21.21	42.42	30.30	6.06	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	30.56	41.67	13.89	13.89	0.00	0.00
Total	27.94	42.69	19.38	9.15	0.00	0.83

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

6.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Tab. 6.4.2.1.: Social relationship – ten years ago

Social relationships	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	10.00	60.00	13.33	13.33	3.33	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	36.67	26.67	23.33	13.33	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	36.36	45.45	12.12	3.03	3.03	0.00
4. Potential Investors	27.78	44.44	19.44	5.56	2.78	0.00
Total	27.70	44.14	17.06	8.81	2.29	0.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d Social relationships (local social relations, integration/discrimination, etc.).

Tab. 6.4.2.2.: Social relationship – today

Social relationships	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	40.00	36.67	20.00	0.00	0.00	3.33
2. Social Enterprises	30.00	26.67	43.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	21.21	36.36	39.39	3.03	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	36.11	30.56	27.78	5.56	0.00	0.00
Total	31.83	32.56	32.63	2.15	0.00	0.83

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 6.4.2.3.: Legal / administrative status – ten years ago

Legal / administrative situation	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	13.33	53.33	20.00	6.67	6.67	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	26.67	20.00	6.67	40.00	6.67	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	36.36	42.42	9.09	9.09	3.03	0.00
4. Potential Investors	19.44	44.44	22.22	8.33	5.56	0.00
Total	23.95	40.05	14.49	16.02	5.48	0.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1f /2f Legal / administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit / citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.).

Tab. 6.4.2.4.: Legal / administrative status – today

Legal / administrative situation	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	40,00	40,00	16,67	0,00	0,00	3,33
2. Social Enterprises	23,33	33,33	40,00	3,33	0,00	0,00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	18,18	36,36	39,39	6,06	0,00	0,00
4. Potential Investors	38,89	30,56	27,78	2,78	0,00	0,00
Total	30,10	35,06	30,96	3,04	0,00	0,83

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

6.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

Tab. 6.4.3.1.: At the time, how much money did you save?

At that time, how much money did you save?	0% of the household income	between 0% and 20% of the household income	between 20% and 40% of the household income	between 40% and 60% of the household income	More than 60% of the household income"
1. Agribusiness	30.00	60.00	6.67	0.00	3.33
2. Social Enterprises	26.67	60.00	13.33	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	48.48	30.30	21.21	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	30.56	61.11	2.78	2.78	2.78
Total	34.11	52.71	10.85	0.78	1.55

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1g At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 6.4.3.2.: Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis?)

Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis)	0% of the household income	between 0% and 20% of the household income	between 20% and 40% of the household income	between 40% and 60% of the household income	More than 60% of the household income"
1. Agribusiness	6.67	70.00	20.00	3.33	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	30.00	30.00	36.67	3.33	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	27.27	45.45	24.24	3.03	0.00
4. Potential Investors	22.22	38.89	30.56	8.33	0.00
Total	21.71	45.74	27.91	4.65	0.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2g: Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 6.4.3.3.: At the time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis)

At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis)	0% of the household savings	between 0% and 20% of the household savings	between 20% and 40% of the household savings	between 40% and 60% of the household savings	More than 60% of the household savings"
1. Agribusiness	43.33	43.33	3.33	3.33	6.67
2. Social Enterprises	73.33	20.00	3.33	3.33	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	60.61	36.36	0.00	3.03	0.00
4. Potential Investors	72.22	22.22	0.00	5.56	0.00
Total	62.79	30.23	1.55	3.88	1.55

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1h At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 6.4.3.4.: Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania?

Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania?	0% of the household savings	between 0% and 20% of the household savings	between 20% and 40% of the household savings	between 40% and 60% of the household savings	More than 60% of the household savings"
1. Agribusiness	53.33	43.33	3.33	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	66.67	30.00	3.33	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	78.79	21.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	63.89	25.00	5.56	5.56	0.00
Total	65.89	29.46	3.10	1.55	0.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 2h: Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

6.6. RELATION WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

6.6.1. RELATION WITH ALBANIA

Tab. 6.6.1.1.: Interest for a register of migrants

Interested in the "register for migrants "	%
Yes	61.72
No	37.50
n.d.	0.78
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 4: In 2016 Albania approved the establishment of a "register for migrants ". Once this register is established, do you think you will register yourself in it?

6.6.3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENTS TOWARDS ALBANIA

Tab. 6.6.3.3.: Main negative aspects of the experience to move/expand the activity in Albania

Main negative aspects of your experience	%
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	20.97
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	11.29
Lack of management capacities	9.68
Problems finding skilled workers/Lack of appropriately skilled labour force	9.68

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10d: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (in relation to the question No. 10 Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).

6.6.4. POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA IN THE OWN SECTOR

Tab. 6.6.4.1.: Interest to invest in the own professional sector in Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in your professional sector)	Yes	No	Total
1. Agribusiness	33.33	66.67	23.26
2. Social Enterprises	50.00	50.00	23.26
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	48.48	51.52	25.58
4. Potential Investors	38.89	61.11	27.91
Average	42.68	57.32	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11: More generally, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

CHAPTER VII - LOMBARDY

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The study, of interest for us to observe the conditions experienced by the Albanian diaspora in Italy, as well as their still-existing relationship with the country of origin, was developed around seven different sections (respectively, Socioeconomic Considerations, Professional Considerations, Economic Considerations, Impact of the Economic Crisis, Perception on Migration and Relations with the Country of Origin). The first two sections do specifically allow one to observe information more closely related to the life of the Albanian migrants in Italy, such as sociodemographic aspects (such as age, country of origin, social and/or legal and administrative status, etc.) and professional traits (such as the level of education, conditions and contracts of employment, the nature of the company, etc.). The third section, on the other hand, studies individual and family resources, with particular attention to income, savings, properties and investments, while the fourth section analyses the impact of the 2008 economic crisis, relating today's economic, social and legal and administrative situation to that of ten years ago. Sections 5 and 6, on the other hand, take into account the personal experience of migrants within the Albanian diaspora (such as the set of positive or negative aspects lived, the plans for the future, etc.) and the relationship with the country of origin (such as ties with the people who still live there, the frequency of visits, investments in loco, etc.). Finally, the seventh and last section differs from the previous ones as it focuses on reporting the data collected during the Focus Group work, held in the city of reference for the region (i.e. Milan), thus offering further ideas for reflections on the subject matter.

In the specific case of the Lombardy Region, the study sample is composed of 134 people, distributed in a balanced way among the Agribusiness, Social Enterprises and Cultural sectors (22.39% each), and with a higher number of respondents from other sectors, such as Potential Investors (32.84%). As for the composition by gender, the sample is predominantly made of men (79 out of 134), especially in the Agribusiness and Potential Investors groups, while in the Cultural sector the number of male respondents is higher than the female ones, but the distribution is quite balanced. On the contrary, in the Social Enterprises sector, 90% of respondents are women.

All the 134 persons of the sample are residents in the Lombardy region, generally in Milan (49.25%), because of the presence of their relatives/friends (57.74%) or, in a little percentage, because of work (28.57%).

Unlike those of the other regions, the sample of the Lombardy region looks extremely heterogeneous. Although most of the members are in their 30s (50%), they were mostly born in Albania (99.25%) and all are Albanian citizens at birth, their city of origin is quite variable.[114] Also the level of education is very different: despite a high percentage having obtained a Bachelor's degree or even a Master's degree (47.76%), members of the Agribusiness sector have mostly second-level education. Moreover, unlike the other regions, the highest levels of education (more frequent in the Social and Cultural sector and in the Potential Investors group) were more frequently gained in Italy, and not in Albania. While, in the Agribusiness sector (where the highest level of education is usually secondary), the respondent's education was mainly gained in Albania.

As regards the social and family aspect, most of the respondents are married/cohabiting (61.19%) with mostly Albanian partners (55.42%) – in particular, among the male respondents. 35.55 per cent have an Italian partner, with a substantially balanced gender distribution.

114 The most recurrent cities are: Tirana (20.90%), Skhodra (17.91%), Fier (12.69%), Valona (9.70%) and Lezha (8.96%).

With regard to the current economic, social and legal/administrative situation, most agree that they have experienced a general improvement in their condition over the past ten years, despite the economic crisis. In particular, from a legal and administrative point of view, a good percentage of respondents hold a long-term residence permit (25.28% have a residence card, 13.93% have a long-term EC permit), while more than half even obtained Italian citizenship (52.74%).

On the other hand, the economic situation appears to be much more controversial: although most claim to have experienced an improvement in working conditions and the economic situation, with a consequent net improvement in earnings (especially, both in Social and Cultural sectors), 20 per cent of the Agribusiness and Potential Investors sectors say they have faced a worsening of their conditions. Certainly, Lombardy stands –compared to the other study samples – as the region with the lowest family income (EUR 36,198 average family income per year) and the only one that has faced a clear deterioration in its savings capacity (in particular, a high percentage claim to save 0%, while others reach only 20%).

This heterogeneity is also reflected in the nature of the working status: 37/31 per cent have a permanent full-time job, particularly in the Agribusiness,[115] Social Enterprises[116] and Cultural[117] sectors; 23.13 per cent are self-employed or freelance workers, especially in Potential Investors sector;[118] 7.46 per cent are respectively employed part-time or with limited-time contracts, mostly in the Agribusiness and Social sectors; 5.97 per cent are business owners, in particular both in the Social Enterprises and Potential Investors groups. So, considering the self-employed workers and the business owners, the Potential Investors sector is the one with the highest number of employees and enterprises. Generally, the centre of their business is in Italy, but someone declared that he/she has a business relationship in Albania. Most of these respondents did not specify the typology of relations, with two exceptions: one, in the Cultural sector, that declared that these relations are mainly in the form of artistic collaborations; the other, in the Potential Investors group, that declared that he takes part to tenders and serve some important clients in Albania.

This ambiguity is also reflected in the relationships both with the country of origin and with the country of residence: many respondents admit to having lived a difficult migration experience, so only 27.27 per cent are interested in buying a property in Italy for next three years; however, they spend almost all of their earnings in Italy (95.34%) and 31 people have even given up their Albanian citizenship.

At the same time, relations with Albania are also much more controversial than those shown by the other study regions: for most of the data collected, the Lombard sample, as well as those of other Italian regions, shows a reduced interest towards the country of origin (84.42% do not want to invest in Albania in the future; 77,90% have no interest in buying a property in Albania for the next three years; only 2.99% want the children to return to live in Albania). However, a substantial percentage send money to Albania (53%, of which 6.7% through banking systems) and 23.90 per cent would like to increase their business relations in Albania, generally because of possible work opportunities, the relationship with their country of origin and a desire to contribute to Albania. Considering a possible contribute to Albania, 69.24 per cent of respondents are interested in doing it (especially, from the Cultural sector, both men and women, and men from the Agribusiness), but they actually have no idea how they could do it: some mentioned social/cultural aspects or exchanging experiences and competence, others reported politics; very few referred to entrepreneurial activities, such as restaurants, tourism, etc. Among the main drivers that would influence the possibility to invest in Albania, respondents mention the provision of services, tax incentives, reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy, public investments in training and education, legal and administrative support to investors. Furthermore, half respondents (50.87%) would be interested in a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania, if a good salary, not much time required, transparency of contracts/terms and no pressure from the politics were guaranteed.

115 The Agribusiness sector represents 22.39 per cent of the sample. Most of the respondents are agricultural operators (14), followed by employed in agribusiness services (12) and agribusiness entrepreneurs/Agritourism (4).

116 The Social Enterprises is equivalent to 22.39 per cent of the sample. The most numerous group is that of nurse (8 respondents), followed by social health operators (7) and employed in social health services (7) and other different profiles.

117 The Cultural preservation and heritage sector is equivalent to 22.39 per cent of the sample. There is a balance among employees in art/entertainment sector (10) and architects/restorers/designers (9).

118 The Potential Investors sector has the higher number of respondents (32.84%). It includes quite different profiles, such as lawyers/business consultants (23), employees in coffee shop/restaurant/bakery/pastry shop (11) and in trade/craftsmanship/services (6).

7.1. SOCIOECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

In this introductive section, information on the characteristics of the Albanian community in the Lombardy region is reported taking into consideration the main sociodemographic aspects (as age, country of birth, citizenship, social status, legal and administrative status refining to the nature of the permit to stay in Italy).

7.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

In Lombardy, the sample is composed of 134 people, distributed in a balanced way among the Agribusiness, Social Enterprises and Cultural sectors (30 respondents each), and with a higher number of respondents from other sectors, such as Potential Investors (Tab. 7.1.1.1.). As for gender, the sample is predominantly made of men (79 out of 134); male respondents are predominant in the Agribusiness and Potential Investors group; in Cultural Preservation and Heritage, the number of male respondents is higher, but the distribution is quite balanced. In the Social Enterprises sector, finally, the most of respondents are women.

Tab. 7.1.1.1.: Employment per sector (distribution per gender and percentage)

Employment per sector	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	5	25	30	16.67	83.33	22.39
2. Social Enterprises	23	7	30	76.67	23.33	22.39
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	12	18	30	40.00	60.00	22.39
4. Potential Investors	15	29	44	34.09	65.91	32.84
Total	55	79	134	41.04	58.96	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 1: Employment sector.

All the 134 persons of the sample are resident in the Lombardy Region.[119] 66 out of 134 (49,25%) reside in Milan. Other respondents are distributed in the region. More details about the city of residence can be found in the table below.

Tab. 7.1.1.2.: City or residence (distribution per gender and percentage)

City of residence	Female	Male	Total	%
Bergamo	3	2	5	3.73
Bollate	1	0	1	0.75
Brescia	5	7	12	8.96
Burago di Molgara	0	1	1	0.75
Cassano D'Adda	1	0	1	0.75
Castel Legnano	0	1	1	0.75
Chingnolo Po Lodi	0	1	1	0.75
Cinisello Balsamo	0	1	1	0.75
Como	1	0	1	0.75
Crema	1	0	1	0.75
Cremona	0	3	3	2.24
Gallarate	0	1	1	0.75
Iacchiarella	0	1	1	0.75

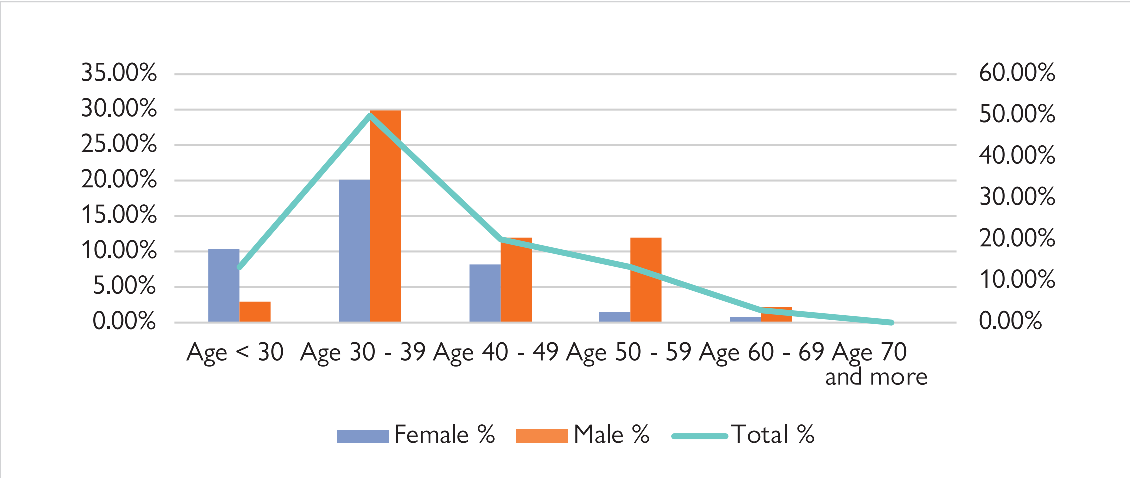
119 100 per cent of the respondents reside in the Lombardy Region (according to the Elaboration of Question No. 2 - Region of residence).

Lecco	1	0	1	0.75
Legnano	2	5	7	5.22
Lodi	1	6	7	5.22
Meda	0	1	1	0.75
Mezzago	0	1	1	0.75
Milan	32	33	66	49.25
Monza	4	5	9	6.72
Ornago	0	1	1	0.75
Pavia	0	2	2	1.49
Rho	0	2	2	1.49
Robecchetto con Induno	0	1	1	0.75
San Colombano	0	1	1	0.75
Segrate	0	1	1	0.75
Solbiate Olona	0	1	1	0.75
Varese	3		3	2.24
Total	55	78	134	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 2a - City of residence.

As shown in Fig. 7.1.1.3., most of the respondents (50%) are in their 30–39. The second most numerous group is that of age 40–49 /20.15%), followed by the same number of respondents in the group under 30 and in the group 50–59.

Fig. 7.1.1.3.: Composition per age (distribution per gender and percentage)[120]

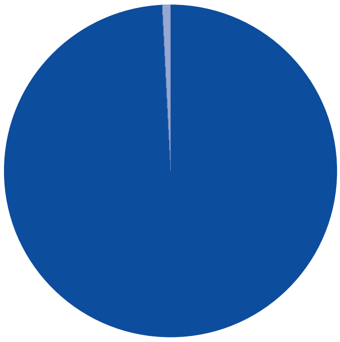


Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 4 - Age of the respondent.

All the respondents (Fig 7.1.1.4.) are born in Albania, with only one exception (a woman born in Italy). Tab. 7.1.1.5. reports about the City of Birth of respondents; the city of origin of respondents in Lombardy is quite variable. The most recurrent cities are Tirana (20.90% of respondents); Shkodra (17.91%), Fier (12.69%), Vlora (9.70%), Lezha (8.96%).

120 The source table for this and the following figures are reported in the appendix of this Chapter.

Fig. 7.1.1.4.: Country of birth (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 5 – Country of birth.

Tab. 7.1.1.5.: City of Birth (distribution per gender and percentage)

City of birth	Female	Male	Total	%
Ballsh	0	1	1	0.75
Berat	1	3	4	2.99
Burrel	0	1	1	0.75
Corovode	1	0	1	0.75
Dibra	1	0	1	0.75
Durres / Durazzo	1	4	5	3.73
Elbasan	5	2	7	5.22
Fier	6	11	17	12.69
Fushe Kruja	1	0	1	0.75
Gjirokastra	0	1	1	0.75
Himara	1	0	1	0.75
Korca	3	0	3	2.24
Kukes	0	1	1	0.75
Lezha	4	8	12	8.96
Librazhd	0	1	1	0.75
Lushnja	1	0	1	0.75
Lushnje	0	2	2	1.49
Milan	1	0	1	0.75
Mirdita	1	1	2	1.49
Orikum	0	1	1	0.75
Pogradec	0	1	1	0.75
Puka	1	0	1	0.75
Rreshen	1	0	1	0.75
Shkodra	8	16	24	17.91
Tirana	15	13	28	20.90
Treshe	0	1	1	0.75
Tropoja	1	0	1	0.75
Vlora / Valona	2	11	13	9.70
Total	55	79	134	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 5a - City of birth.

100 per cent of the sample was born with Albanian citizenship; in two cases (both women), respondents had also Italian citizenship at birth (Tab. 7.1.1.6.). Today, 68 respondents have Italian citizenship (39 males, 29 females); 31 have lost their Albanian citizenship (14 female and 17 male).

Tab. 7.1.1.6., Citizenship at birth and today

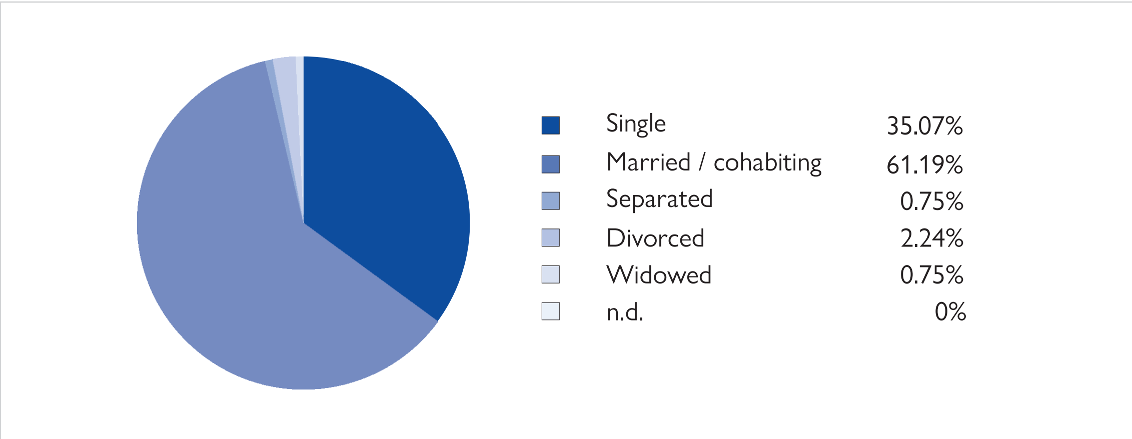
	Citizenship at birth			Citizenship today		
	Albanian	Italian*	Other	Albanian	Italian	Other
Female	55	2	0	41	29	0
Male	79	0	0	62	39	0
Total	134	2	0	103	68	0
*cases of dual citizenship						

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 6: Citizenship at birth and Question No. 7: Citizenship today.

7.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Fig. 7.1.2.1. reports about the marital status of respondents. The most are married/cohabiting (61,19%), followed by singles (35,07%). While among singles the gender is perfectly balanced, among married/cohabiting people there is a predominance of male (53 out of 82). Tab. 7.1.2.2. reports about the citizenship of the partner, for married/cohabiting or separated respondents; the majority of respondents have an Albanian partner (46 out of 83), with a predominance of male. 32 have an Italian partner, with a substantially balanced gender distribution.

Fig. 7.1.2.1.: Marital status (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 8: What is your marital status?

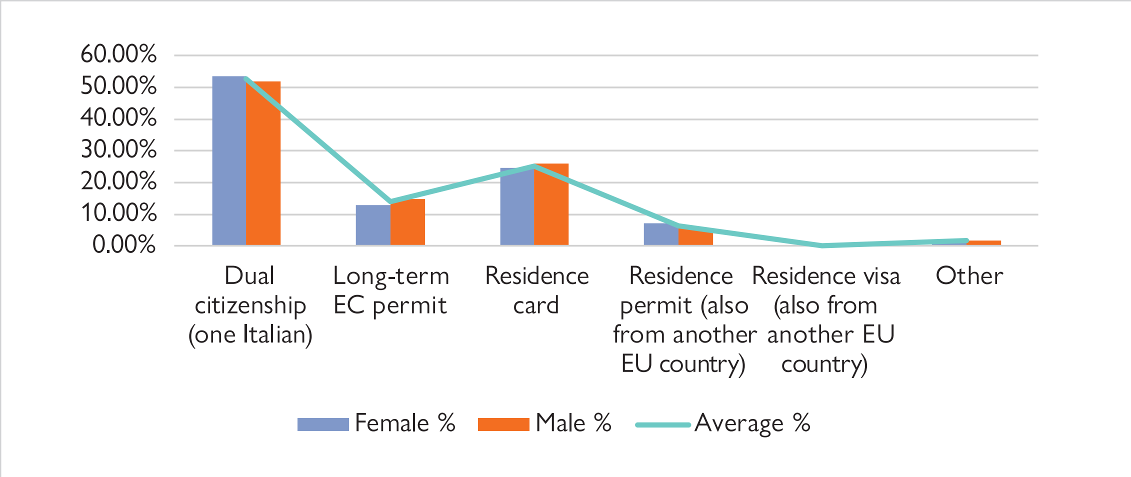
Tab. 7.1.2.2., Current citizenship of the partner (distribution per gender and percentage)

Current citizenship of the partner	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Albanian	13	33	46	44.83	61.11	55.42
Italian	14	18	32	48.28	33.33	38.55
Italian and Albanian	1	0	1	3.45	0.00	1.20
German	1	2	3	3.45	3.70	3.61
n.d.	0	1	1	0.00	1.85	1.20
Total	29	54	83	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 8a, Check previous answer: if a. married / cohabiting or c. separated: What's the current citizenship of the partner?

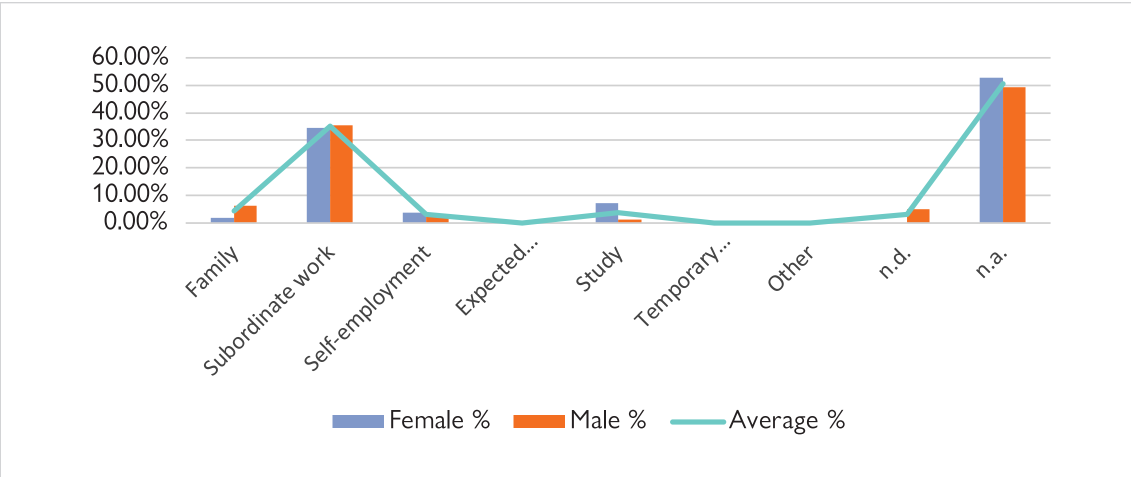
In terms of legal and administrative status (Fig. 7.1.2.3.), the majority of respondents (65 out of 123, 52,74%) have now Italian citizenship together with Albanian. This situation applies to women more than to men. The second most frequent answer is that of residence cards (25.28%), followed by Long-term EC permits (13.93% of respondents). Fig. 7.1.2.4. shows the typology of these visa cards or residence permits, showing that in the majority of cases (35.07%) these permits are linked to subordinate work.

Fig. 7.1.2.3.: Current legal and administrative status (distribution per gender and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 10: Please tell us your current legal and administrative status with respect to your stay in Italy.

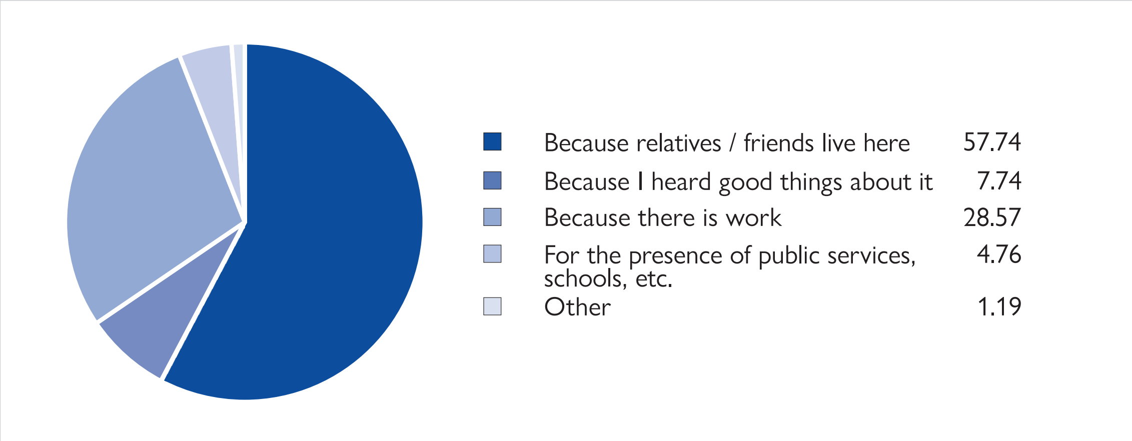
Fig. 7.1.2.4.: Typology of valid visa or residence permit (distribution per gender and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 11: If you have a valid visa or residence permit or are renewing it, please indicate its type.

Finally, when asked about the reasons for choosing the area where they live, respondents declared that the choice was motivated by the presence of friends/relatives in 57.74 per cent of cases and by work opportunities in 28.57 per cent of cases.

Fig. 7.1.2.5.: Reasons for choosing the area where he/she lives



Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 13: For what reasons did you choose this area? (multiple choices, even more than one).

7.2. PROFESSIONAL CONSIDERATIONAL

This section offers information on the professional traits and profiles of the interviewees including the educational level, employment (work condition/contract) and the nature of the company (for entrepreneurs).

7.2.1. EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAITS

The most of respondents (Tab. 7.2.1.1.) holds a tertiary education, Master's degree (47.76%), 14.94 per cent hold a tertiary education, Bachelor's degree around 34 per cent hold a secondary degree (23,88% regular, 10,45% vocational).

In this general picture, there are interesting differences among sector that it is worth highlighting In the Cultural sector, 90 per cent of respondents hold at least a Bachelor's degree (of which, 70% a Master's degree); 10 per cent a secondary, vocational degree. In the Social Enterprises sector, more than 73 per cent hold at least a Bachelor's degree (of which 43.33% a Master's degree). 20 per cent hold a secondary degree (regular or vocational). In the Potential Investors group, around 64 per cent hold a Bachelor's degree, and around 36 per cent a secondary degree (vocational and regular). Overall, the Agribusiness sector has a lower level of skilled workers: 23.33 per cent of the sample hold a tertiary education, while the most frequent situation is that of secondary education (around 70% of respondents).

Tab. 7.2.1.2. shows the professional composition of the sample. In the Agribusiness sector, most of the respondents are agricultural operators (14), followed by employed in agribusiness services (12) and Agribusiness entrepreneur / Agritourism (4). The most numerous group in the Social Enterprises sector is that of nurse (8 respondents), followed by social health operators (7 respondents) and employed in social health services (7) and other differentiated profiles. In the Cultural field, there is a balance among employees in art/entertainment sector (10), tourism (11) and architects/restorers/designers (9). Finally, the Potential Investors group includes quite different profiles, but with an interesting component of lawyers/business consultant (23), followed by employed in Coffee shop/Restaurants/Pastry shop/Bakery (11) and employed in Trade/Craftsmanship /Services (6).

Tab. 7.2.1.3. shows the country where the highest educational level was completed. If compared to previous tables, it shows that highest levels of education (more frequent in Social Enterprises, Culture and Potential Investors group) were more frequently gained in Italy; while, in the Agribusiness sector (where the highest level of education is usually secondary) this was gained mainly in Albania (for 24 out of 30 respondents).

Tab. 7.2.1.1.: Educational level/qualification (distribution per sector and percentage)

Educational level/ qualification	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential investor	Total
None or preschool	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Primary school	3.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.75%
Secondary education, vocational	16.67%	3.33%	10.00%	11.36%	10.45%
Secondary education, regular	53.33%	16.67%	0.00%	25.00%	23.88%
Tertiary education, Bachelor's degree	3.33%	30.00%	20.00%	9.09%	14.93%

Tertiary education, Master's degree	20.00%	43.33%	70.00%	54.55%	47.76%
Quaternary education (PhD or other)	0.00%	6.67%	0.00%	0.00%	1.49%
Other	3.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.75%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 1: Educational level/qualification (please select the highest completed).

Tab. 7.2.1.2.: Professional composition of the sample, per sector and sub-sector

Professional sector and sub-sector	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness (profiles linked to Agri-food and Agritourism)	**5**	**25**	**30**	**9.09**	**31.65**	**22.39**
Agribusiness entrepreneur / Agritourism	1	3	4	20.00	12.00	13.33
Agribusiness services (as marketing, stoke , etc.)	4	8	12	80.00	32.00	40.00
Agricultural operator	0	14	14	0.00	56.00	46.67
2. Social Enterprises (profiles linked to social and health services)	**23**	**7**	**30**	**41.82**	**8.86**	**22.39**
Nurse	6	2	8	26.09	28.57	26.67
Sociocultural mediator	2	0	2	8.70	0.00	6.67
Doctor/dentist	1	0	1	4.35	0.00	3.33
Social and health-care services	5	2	7	21.74	28.57	23.33
University and research / Studies / Teachers and Educators (health-care sector)	2	2	4	8.70	28.57	13.33
Psychologist and social assistant	1	0	1	4.35	0.00	3.33
Social health worker (as physiotherapist, pharmacist, optician, etc.)	6	1	7	26.09	14.29	23.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage (profiles linked to cultural or archeological sites)	**12**	**18**	**30**	**21.82**	**22.78**	**22.39**
Architect / Conservator - restorer / Designer	2	7	9	16.67	38.89	30.00
Tourism (museum worker, guide, touristic agencies, etc.)	6	5	11	50.00	27.78	36.67
Art, sport, show, entertainment and cultural events	4	6	10	33.33	33.33	33.33
4. Potential Investors (all other sectors)	**15**	**29**	**44**	**27.27**	**36.71**	**32.84**
Lawyer / Accountant / Consultant, etc.	12	11	23	80.00	37.93	52.27
Coffee shop / Restaurants / Pastry shop / Bakery	1	10	11	6.67	34.48	25.00
Trade / Craftsmanship /Services	2	4	6	13.33	13.79	13.64
Building (construction, restoration, etc.)	0	3	3	0.00	10.34	6.82
Manufacturing/ Metalworking	0	1	1	0.00	3.45	2.27
Total	55	79	134	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Author's classification of the main professional profile included in the sample for Lazio Region.

Tab. 7.2.1.3.: Country where the highest educational level was completed (distribution per sector and percentage)

Employment sector	Albania	Italy	Other	Total	Albania (%)	Italy (%)	Other (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	24	6	0	30	80.00	20.00	0.00	22.39
2. Social Enterprises	8	22	0	30	26.67	73.33	0.00	22.39
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	8	22	0	30	26.67	73.33	0.00	22.39
4. Potential Investors	14	30	0	44	31.82	68.18	0.00	32.84
Total	54	80	0	134	40.30	59.70	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 2: Where did you complete the highest educational/qualification level?

In terms of the working situation (Tab. 7.2.1.4.), most of the respondents (37.31%) have a permanent full-time job; 23.13 per cent are freelance or self-employed; 7.46 per cent are respectively employed part-time or employed with limited time contracts; 5.97 per cent are business owners. The category of self-employed is particularly frequent among the group of Potential Investors, which is not surprising given the above-mentioned predominance of lawyers/business consultants within this group.

Tab. 7.2.1.4.: Working status (distribution per sector and percentage)

Working status	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential investor	Total
Unemployed (actively looking for a job)	0.00	0.00	0.75	1.49	2.24
Homemaker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Student	0.00	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.75
Student-worker	0.00	1.49	0.00	0.75	2.24
Employed permanent full time	10.45	10.45	10.45	5.97	37.31
Employed permanent part-time	3.73	2.24	0.00	1.49	7.46
Employed with time limited contract	3.73	2.24	0.75	0.75	7.46
Occupied in layoffs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
On the move	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Occupied irregularly but fairly stable	1.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.49
Occupied irregularly in an unstable way	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	0.75
Occupied "para-subordinate" work	0.00	0.75	1.49	0.75	2.99
Self-employed regular /freelance worker *	0.00	0.75	5.97	16.42	23.13
Self-employed worker not regular	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	0.75
Business owner*	0.75	2.24	0.75	2.24	5.97
Cooperative worker member	1.49	0.75	0.00	0.00	2.24
Other/Do not declare	0.75	0.75	2.24	1.49	5.22
Total	22.39	22.39	22.39	32.84	100.00

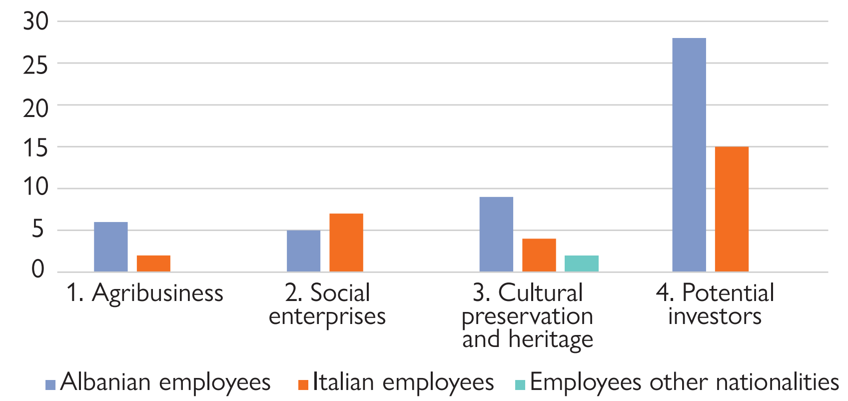
Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section: Question No. 6: Please tell us of your working situation - the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

7.2.2. FOCUS ON SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNERS*

Some questions were directed specifically to those respondents who declared to be self-employed or business owners.

When respondents do have employees, they have been asked to specify how many are Italian, Albanian, and/or of other nationalities. As shown in Fig. 7.2.2.1., most of the employees are Albanian in all the considered sectors. In absolute terms, the Potential Investors group is the one with the highest number of employees (and enterprises). We asked if the centre of business of these self-employed or business owners is in Italy or elsewhere (Tab. 7.2.2.2.) and Italy was the only answer. 8 respondents in the Cultural sector and 5 in the Potential Investors group declared that they have business relationships in Albania (Tab. 7.2.2.3.). Most of these respondents did not specify the typology of relations, with two exceptions: one, in the Cultural sector, that declared that these relations are mainly in the form of artistic collaborations; the other, in the Potential Investors group, that declared that he takes part to tenders and serve some important clients in Albania.

Fig. 7.2.2.1: Nationality of employees (for self-employed and business owners)



Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section: Questions No. 8: How many employees do you have? Question 8a: How many are Italians? And Question 8b: How many are Albanians?

Tab. 7.2.2.2.: Location of the centre of the business (distribution per sector and percentage)

Italy as the centre of your business	Yes	No	Yes (%)	No (%)
1. Agribusiness	1	0	2.56	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	4	0	10.26	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	9	0	23.08	0.00
4. Potential Investors	25	0	64.10	0.00
Total	39	0	100.00	0.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 9: Is the centre of your business interests Italy? Namely are your main business partners, supply relationships, customers, etc. in Italy? And Question 9a: If NO, where is your "centre of business interests" located?

Tab. 7.2.2.3.: Business relationships with Albania (distribution per sector and percentage)

Business relationships with Albania	Yes	No	Yes (%)	No (%)
1. Agribusiness	0	1	0.00	2.63
2. Social Enterprises	0	4	0.00	10.53
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	8	0	21.05	0.00
4. Potential Investors	5	20	13.16	52.63
Total	13	25	34.21	65.79

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Question No. 10: Do you do business/have business relationships with Albania? (e.g. important customers, suppliers, partners, participation in tenders and calls, etc.).

7.3. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

This section has the objective to study and analyse the individual and family assets of the respondents focusing on the yearly income, saving and remitting habits, real estate properties between Italy and Albania (if not elsewhere) and other forms of investments. Based on these aspects we intend to grasp, on the one hand, general indications on the earing capacity of Albanians in Italy and their financial stability or fragility. On the other hand, the geography of the real estate properties can offer us indications on concrete existing capitals, linkages and possible investments of the diaspora – more likely in the country or origin or in Italy.

7.3.1. INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

The average yearly individual income declared by respondents in Lombardy[121] is EUR 26,123[122], higher than the national average income in Italy in 2018[123] (EUR 20,670). The average family annual income[124] declared by Albanian respondents in Lombardy is EUR 36,198 that result higher of the Italian national average family income.[125] The sector that accounts for the highest individual, household and per capita, income of respondents is Social Enterprises and Cultural Preservation and Heritage (mainly for both man and women).[126]

Data on the average annual income per capita of the respondents – referring to the income for each household member[127] – there is some difference between the Albanian female and male component (EUR 16,408 versus EUR 13,810).

While this information provides us with a general positive indication meaning a certain income and earing capacity and solidity of respondents, we can highlight differences and variations by considering the gender dimension and the professional sector of belonging.

Female respondents state in fact a lower average yearly individual income (EUR 23,892) compared to the male component (EUR 27,673), with inferior earnings within each sector, excluding Agribusiness. The sector with the lowest income levels is Potential Investors for women and Agribusiness from men, while the sector with the highest income is Social Enterprises (both for men and women).

The sector that shows the highest internal individual income distance/difference (of EUR 15.000) between men and women is Potential Investors. Less significant compared to other regions, still data confirm a general trend in gender income discrepancy with women generally earning less than men.[128] Also, income divergence can be also explained by the prevalence of women in part-time jobs to meet family/children needs.

121 The fieldwork took place in 2019 and this question referred to that year.
122 Site consulted on 23 January 2010. www.repubblica.it/economia/miojob/lavoro/2019/03/28/news/mef_il_reddito_medio_italiano_e_sceso_a_20_670_euro-222716008/.
123 Site consulted on 23 January 2010. www.repubblica.it/economia/miojob/lavoro/2019/03/28/news/mef_il_reddito_medio_italiano_e_sceso_a_20_670_euro-222716008/.
124 Including all sources of family income and referring to the average family household size of 2.6 persons, see Tab. 7.3.1.2., Average family household size per gender and sector.
125 For the fiscal year 2017, the national Italian average family income was 30.595 euros, excluding real estate rents. *Source*: www.istat.it/it/files//2018/12/Income-and-living-conditions-Report-2017.pdf.
126 The Cultural Preservation and Heritage sector presents higher individual and household income levels.
127 By elaborating the household size in relationship with the household income.
128 As reported by the EU Commission, in 2017 "the gender pay gap in the EU stands at 16 per cent and has only changed minimally over the last decade. It means that women earn 16 per cent on average less per hour than men". *Source*: ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/equal-pay/gender-pay-gap-situation-eu_en.

Tab. 7.3.1.1.: Distribution of individual average annual income per gender and sector

Individual annual income (average in euro)	
Female	**23,892.85**
1. Agribusiness	21,680.00
2. Social Enterprises	30,180.95
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	25,650.00
4. Potential Investors	14,421.40
Male	**27,673.25**
1. Agribusiness	18,416.00
2. Social Enterprises	39,157.14
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	33,552.50
4. Potential Investors	29,637.93
Total	**26,132.01**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section: Question No. 1: What is your annual (individual) income? (Important: Please include the sum of all your incomes - those declared + all "extras"/undeclared/cash-in-hand).

Tab. 7.3.1.2.: Distribution of household average annual income per gender and sector

Household income (average in euro)	
Female	**38,087.70**
1. Agribusiness	35,680.00
2. Social Enterprises	43,619.05
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	36,341.67
4. Potential Investors	32,543.20
Male	**34,898.05**
1. Agribusiness	24,526.00
2. Social Enterprises	52,942.86
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	40,650.00
4. Potential Investors	36,310.34
Total	**36,198.45**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 3: Considering all different sources (income from work, annuities, assistance, etc.), what is the approximate average annual sum of the income of your entire household?

Tab. 7.3.1.3.: Average family household size per gender and sector

Household size (average)	
Female	**2.78**
1. Agribusiness	2.20
2. Social Enterprises	2.91
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	2.33
4. Potential Investors	3.13
Male	**2.75**
1. Agribusiness	2.72
2. Social Enterprises	3.29
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	2.56
4. Potential Investors	2.76
Total	**2.76**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 2: Household size: How many people comprise your "household" (interviewee included)? By "household" we mean the group of people with whom there is a relationship of kinship/love, which also means sharing expenses (food, clothing, leisure) and income.

Tab. 7.3.1.4., Distribution of annual income per capita per gender and sector

Income per capita (for each member of the household, average in euro)	
Female	**16,408.48**
1. Agribusiness	18,180.00
2. Social Enterprises	17,293.65
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	20,178.47
4. Potential Investors	11,562.76
Male	**13,810.50**
1. Agribusiness	9,768.33
2. Social Enterprises	16,823.81
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	18,940.63
4. Potential Investors	13,737.36
Total	**14,869.68**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 2: Household size and No. 3 Household income.

7.3.2. REMITTANCES AND SAVING BEHAVIOUR

Most part of the household family income of respondents (95,34%) stays in Italy, either spent as living expenses or savings. This means that only a small portion of the family income (4,57%) is destined for other purposes. Tracking down results by gender, we do not evidence significant differences. When considering the four sectors respondents belong to, we can highlight slight variations in the data. The female Potential Investors are those that spend most of their income in Italy (93,27%) whole men from the Cultural sectors are those that save a little more (20,88%). Among those that send more money elsewhere (but still not that considerable percentages), we find females from Agribusiness.

Considering that "small portion" of the income sent above,[129] 53 per cent of respondents (70 persons out of 132) that send money elsewhere, actually remit to Albania.[130] The totality of the money sent goes to family members (parents, relatives and/or siblings).[131] Only 6,7 per cent of respondents send money through a bank account. We can comment on this by arguing that many persons visit the family in Albania quite frequently, directly giving them money or handing it out to friends going to the homeland. Also, because family reunion happened extensively over the years many migrants live and settled in Italy and tend to remit less due to increasing needs in the residence country (for the presence of children, house, mortgage, etc.).

Tab. 7.3.2.1., Percentage of household income employed in Italy (either spent or saved) or elsewhere, per gender and sector.

Money spent and saved	% spent in Italy	% saved in Italy	% sent elsewhere
Female	**83,17**	**11,62**	**5,00**
1. Agribusiness	77,00	15,00	8,00
2. Social Enterprises	79,41	13,43	6,55
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	80,00	14,75	5,25
4. Potential Investors	93,27	5,20	1,53
Male	**82,62**	**13,12**	**4,27**
1. Agribusiness	88,76	6,96	4,28

129 According to the survey of the National Observatory for Financial Inclusion of Migrants in Italy, the average remittances in terms of percentage of income is around 12,3 per cent in 2017.
130 On average (considering only those who send money), 97,95 per cent is sent to Albania. *Source: Elaboration on the "Economic" Section; Question No. 3c: How much of the money "sent elsewhere" goes to Albania?*
131 *Source: Elaboration on the "Economic" Section; Question No. 3d: Who do you send this money to in Albania?*

2. Social Enterprises	82.86	10.71	6.43
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	74.41	20.88	4.71
4. Potential Investors	82.07	14.45	3.48
Total	82.84	12.50	4.57

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 3a: Considering the figure just mentioned (question No. 3) as 100 per cent of your household income: How much do you spend in Italy, how much do you save in Italy and how much do you send elsewhere?

Tab. 7.3.2.2.: Remittances sent to Albania, per sector

Money sent to Albania	No	Yes	Total	No (%)	Yes (%)
1. Agribusiness	8	22	30	6.06	16.67
2. Social Enterprises	11	18	29	8.33	13.64
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	16	13	29	12.12	9.85
4. Potential Investors	27	17	44	20.45	12.88
Total	62	70	132*	46.97	53.03

* 2 people did not answer this question.

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 3b: Of the previous percentage "sent elsewhere", do you send anything to Albania?

Tab. 7.3.2.3.: Remittances sent to Albania, per sector

	Do you send it to a bank account?		Do you have control of this bank account in any way?	
	Absolute value	%	Absolute value	%
Yes	9	6.72	7	77.78
No	61	45.52	2	22.22
n.a.	64	47.76	0	0.00
Total	144	100.00	9	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section, Question No. 3e: Do you send it to a bank account? And Question 3f: Do you have control of this bank account in any way?

7.3.3. REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

Half the respondents (69 persons out of 134) own a house, the rest does not (65 persons), with no significant differences between men and women. The majority of respondents (40 persons out of 68[132]) have a house only in Italy, while 15 persons declare to have it also in Albania and 12 persons only in Albania. Verifying the presence of additional properties (as land, real estate, etc.), 6.88 per cent of respondents declare to have them in Italy and 34.25 per cent in Albania.

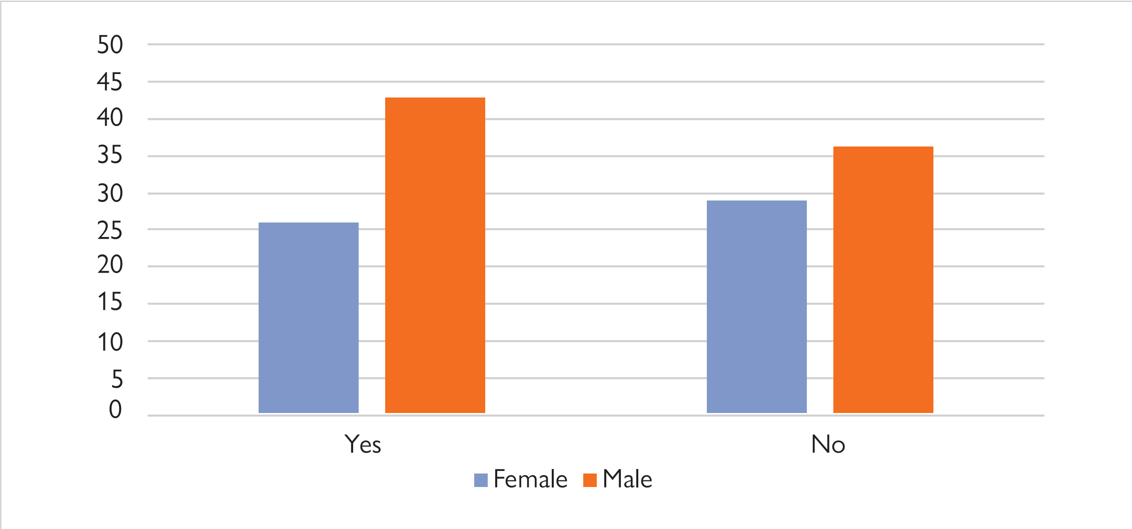
Owning a house or a property in the country of origin can be a stimulus to either invest in the renovation for the family still living there or for the holidays, but also for possible investment as business or in tourism (frequently mentioned during the focus groups as well as the barriers due to the lack of clarity in the private property register in Albania). At the same time, owning a house in Italy is a signal of stability in the destination country (often implying a mortgage to repay it, therefore choosing this an important and significant family investment in the long term).

The survey also asked about future plans in terms of intentions in the nearby future, whether in Albania or in Italy or elsewhere.[133] Considering the plan to buy a property for the next three years in Italy, the responses are shared between those that are not considering it (72.73%)[134] and those that are interested (2.27%)

132 A high number or persons did provide a valid response to this question (65+1).
133 Almost all the respondents (97.19%) reported they are not interested in any property elsewhere.
134 This sums up to: 3.64 per cent +69.09 per cent, see *Tab. 7.3.3.3., Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future.*

to buy one. The same question applied to buy a property in Albania in the next future shows that only a minority (21.47%)[135] is planning it, while the majority (77.9%)[136] is not.

Fig. 7.3.3.1.: Ownership of a house



Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 4: Do you own any house?

Tab. 7.3.3.2.: Country where the house is owned

Where	Female	Male	Total
Albania	7	5	12
Italy	14	26	40
Italy and Albania*	4	11	15
Italy and Germany	1	0	1
n.a.	29	36	65
n.d.	0	1	1
Total	55	79	134

*3 of which with multiple properties.

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 4a: If yes how many and where?

Tab. 7.3.3.3.: Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property in Italy?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	3.64		96.36		0.00	100.00
Male	10.13		88.61		1.27	100.00
Average	**6.88**		**92.49**		**0.63**	**100.00**
Do you plan to buy real estate for Italy for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	3.64	27.27	69.09	0.00	100.00
Male	7.59	2.53	24.05	64.56	1.27	100.00
Average	0.00	3.64	27.27	69.09	0.63	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 5a: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Italy? and Question 5b: Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy for the next 3 years? 5b has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5a.

135 This sums up to: 8.78 per cent +12.69 per cent, see *Tab. 7.3.3.4., Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future.*
136 This sums up to: 25.47 per cent +52.43 per cent, see *Tab. 7.3.3.4., Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future.*

Tab. 7.3.3.4.: Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	25.45		74.55		0.00	100.00
Male	43.04		55.70		1.27	100.00
Average	34.25		65.12		0.63	100.00
Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	3.64	21.82	12.73	61.82	0.00	100.00
Male	13.92	29.11	12.66	43.04	1.27	100.00
Average	8.78	25.47	12.69	52.43	0.63	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 5c: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania? and 5d Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years? 5d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5c.

Tab. 7.3.3.5.: Additional properties elsewhere and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) elsewhere?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	1.82		98.18		0.00	100.00
Male	2.53		96.20		1.27	100.00
Average	2.17		97.19		0.63	100.00
Do you plan to buy real estate in elsewhere for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	1.82	3.64	94.55	0.00	100.00
Male	0.00	2.53	6.33	89.87	1.27	100.00
Average	0.00	2.17	4.98	92.21	0.63	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 5e: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) elsewhere? 5g Do you plan to buy real estate elsewhere for the next 3 years? 5g has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5e.

7.3.4. FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

When investigating financial investments undertaken in the past, respondents state they did invest both in Italy, in larger part (44.96%), and in smaller part also in Albania (18,86%). When considering the next three years, less than half of the respondents (40%)[137] say they are planning to financially invest in Italy, while the majority (60%)[138] is not. When asked about the possibility to financially invest in Albania in the next three years, the large majority of respondents reported they are not planning to invest in Albania (84.42%).[139]

The data tell us that this group had a relative experience of financially investing in the country of origin and that this perspective is not highly considered for the future as Albania is not indicated as their target/destination of financial investments.

137 This sums up to: 25.45 per cent +14.55 per cent, see *Tab. 7.3.4.1., Financial investments made in Italy.*
138 This sums up to: 16.36 per cent + 43.64 per cent, see *Tab. 7.3.4.1., Financial investments made in Italy.*
139 This sums up to: 7.99 per cent + 76.43 per cent, see *Tab. 7.3.4.2., Financial investments made in Albania.*

Tab. 7.3.4.1.: Financial investments made in Italy

Have you made financial investments Italy?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	41.82		58.18		0.00	100.00
Male	48.10		50.63		1.27	100.00
Average	**44.96**		**54.41**		**0.63**	**100.00**
Do you plan to do this in Italy for the next 3 years?	**Yes, to the previous**		**No, to the previous**		**n.d.**	**Total**
	Yes	**No**	**Yes**	**No**		
Female	25.45	16.36	14.55	43.64	0.00	100.00
Male	36.71	11.39	8.86	41.77	1.27	100.00
Average	**25.45**	**16.36**	**14.55**	**43.64**	**0.00**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 6a: Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Italy? and 6a Do you plan to do this in Italy for the next 3 years? 6b has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 6a.

Tab. 7.3.4.2.: Financial investments made in Albania

Have you made financial investments in Albania?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	20.00		80.00		0.00	100.00
Male	17.72		81.01		1.27	100.00
Average	**18.86**		**80.51**		**0.63**	**100.00**
Do you plan to do this in Albania for the next 3 years?	**Yes, to the previous**		**No, to the previous**		**n.d.**	**Total**
	Yes	**No**	**Yes**	**No**		
Female	9.09	10.91	1.82	78.18	0.00	100.00
Male	12.66	5.06	6.33	74.68	1.27	100.00
Average	**10.87**	**7.99**	**4.07**	**76.43**	**0.63**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 6c: Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Albania? and Question 6d: Do you plan to do this in Albania for the next 3 years? 6d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 6c.

Tab. 7.3.4.3.: Financial investments made elsewhere

Have you made financial investments elsewhere?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	5.45		94.55		0.00	100.00
Male	6.33		92.41		1.27	100.00
Average	**5.89**		**93.48**		**0.63**	**100.00**
Do you plan to do this elsewhere for the next 3 years?	**Yes, to the previous**		**No, to the previous**		**n.d.**	**Total**
	Yes	**No**	**Yes**	**No**		
Female	5.45	0.00	1.82	92.73	0.00	100.00
Male	5.06	1.27	2.53	89.87	1.27	100.00
Average	**5.26**	**0.63**	**2.17**	**91.30**	**0.63**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Questions 6e: Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) elsewhere? 6f If yes, where? 6g. Do you plan to do this elsewhere for the next 3 years? 6h. If Yes, where?

7.4. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

This section analyses the impact of the recent economic crisis on the individual/family conditions, considering how has the situation of respondents changed in the last ten years (or during the first two years in Italy, for those that arrived in Italy afterward) for the economic/working/social and legal point of view.

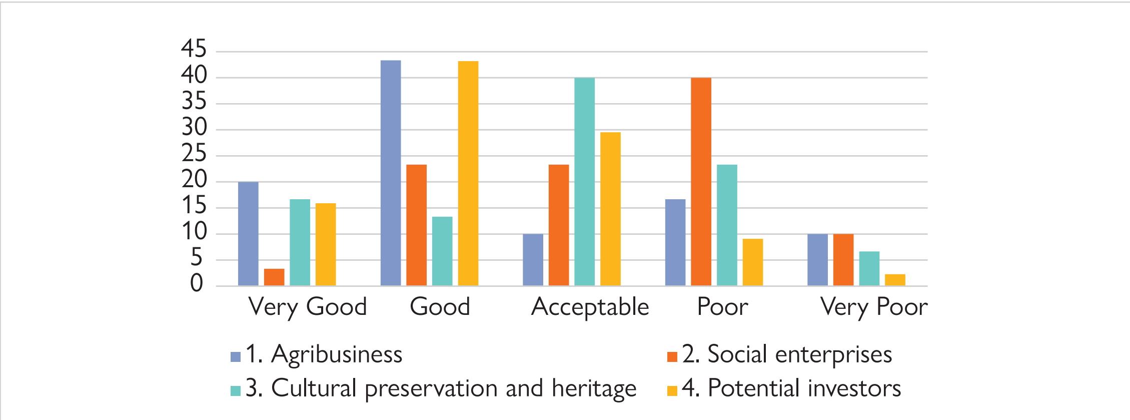
Consequently, respondents were asked to judge their (economic, social, professional, etc.) situation ten years ago (or during the first two years in Italy) and today. The results are shown comparatively in the following figures.

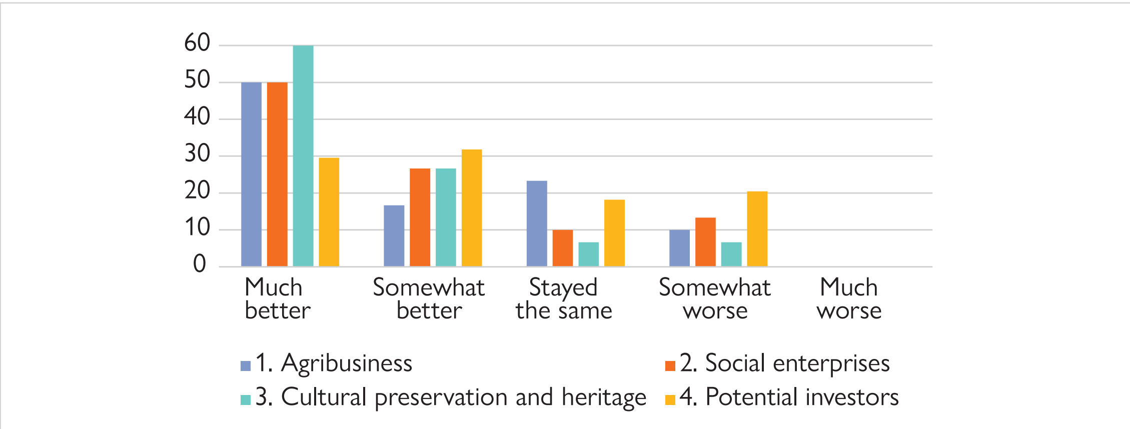
7.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

In terms of individual income, the situation ten years ago was quite different for different sectors. Most of the respondents (more than 40%) from the Agribusiness and other sectors (Potential Investors) considered the situation "good"; less than 20 per cent of the respondents from the Agribusiness sector considered the situation "poor"; and less than 10 in the case of Potential Investors. On the other hand, 40 per cent of respondents in the Social Enterprises group considered the situation "poor" ten years ago. 40 per cent of respondents in the Cultural sector considered it "acceptable".

Today, the majority of respondents in all sectors consider that their situation is "much better" or "somewhat better"; few respondents consider that it stayed the same, mainly from sectors (Agribusiness and Potential Investors) that considered their situation "good" already ten years ago.

Fig. 7.4.1.1. and 7.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) ten years ago/today

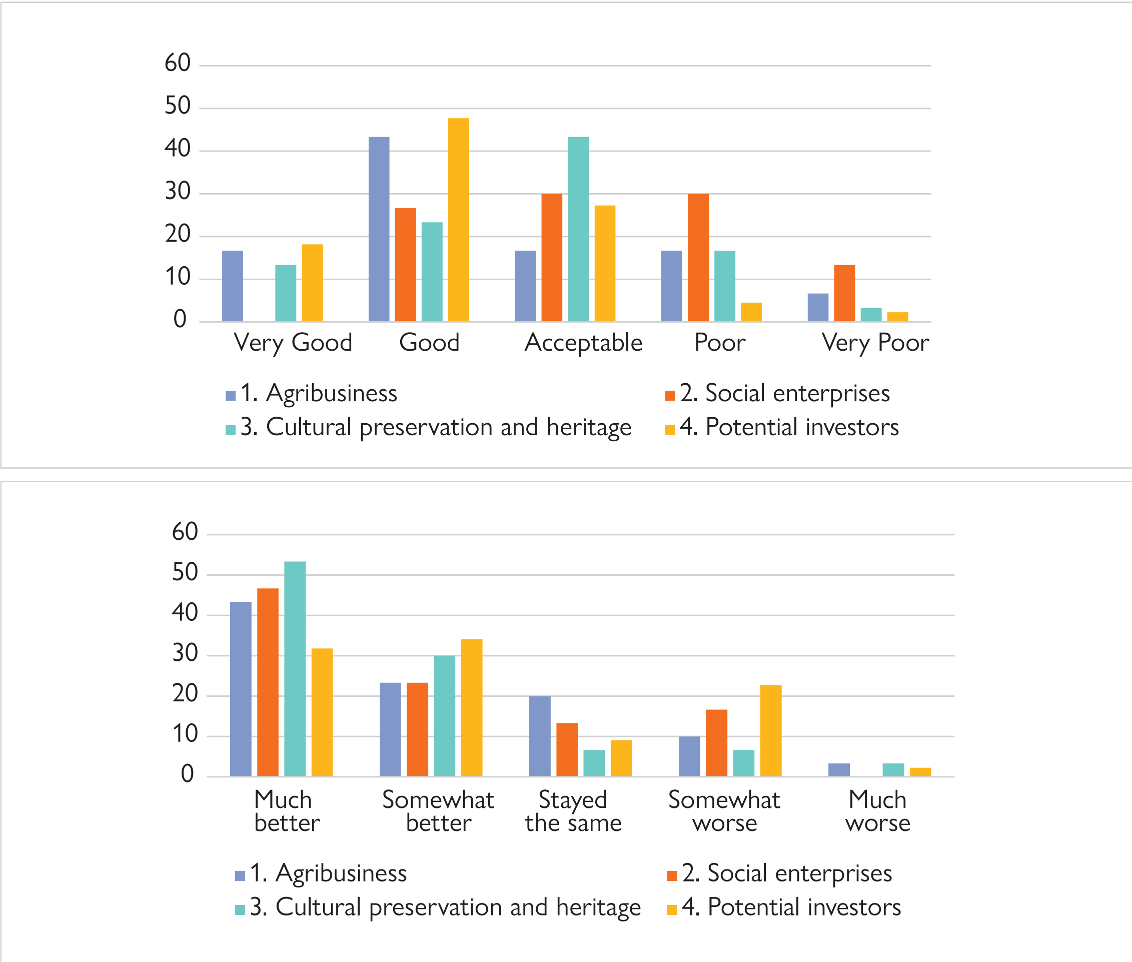




Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1a/2a Economic situation (individual income) and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

This picture is reflected in Fig. 7.4.1.3. and 7.4.1.4., related to the household income. Also, in this case, Agribusiness and, in particular, Potential Investors reported in the majority of cases a "good" situation ten years ago; most of the respondents from the Cultural sector (more than 40%) considered their situation "acceptable"; while in Social Enterprises sector 30 per cent considered the situation "acceptable" and 30 per cent "poor". Today, the majority of respondents from all the considered sectors believe that their situation is "somewhat better", and, more often, "much better".

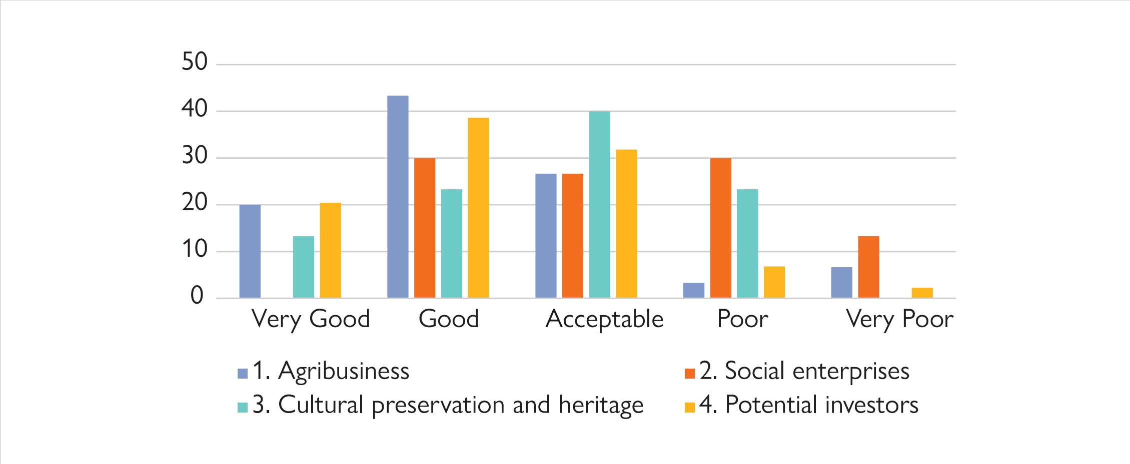
Fig. 7.4.1.3. and 7.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) ten years ago/today

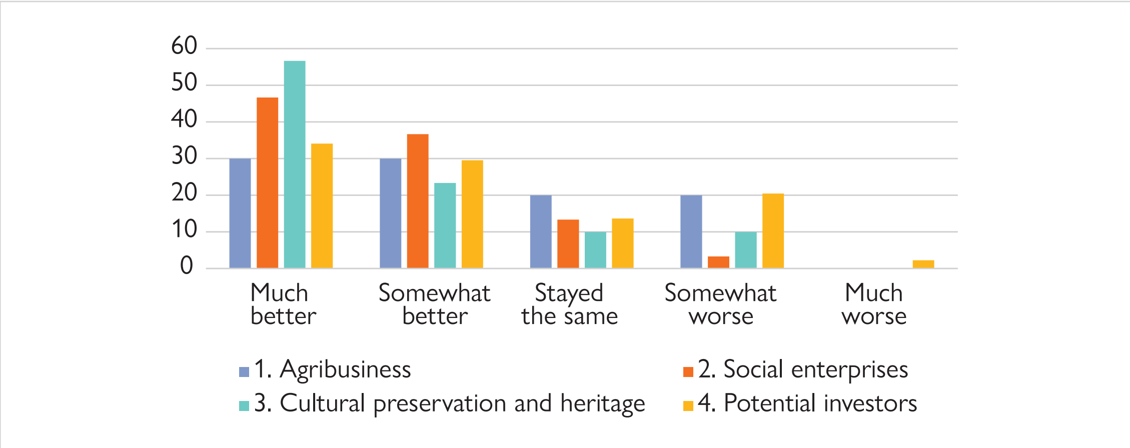


Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b Economic situation (household income) and Question No. 2.: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

The positive trend is confirmed also with respect to working conditions (Fig. 7.4.1.5. and 7.4.1.6.). In the Agribusiness and Potential Investors groups, they were mainly considered "good" or, at least, "acceptable", ten years ago. In the Cultural sector the situation was considered mainly "acceptable" (40% of respondents); then more than 20 per cent of respondents considered the situation "good" and "poor" respectively. Similarly, 30 per cent of respondents in the Social Enterprises group considered the situation "good"; but the same percentage considered it "poor"; and less than 30 per cent considered it "acceptable". Today, the situation is considered "somewhat better" or "much better" in every sector, and in particular in the Cultural and Social enterprise groups. Agribusiness and Potential Investors, that were generally speaking more satisfied with their situation ten years ago, consider for the most part that the situation has improved; however, it is worth highlighting that 20 per cent of respondents in both sectors consider their situation today "somewhat worse".

Fig. 7.4.1.5. and 7.4.1.6.: Working conditions ten years ago/today



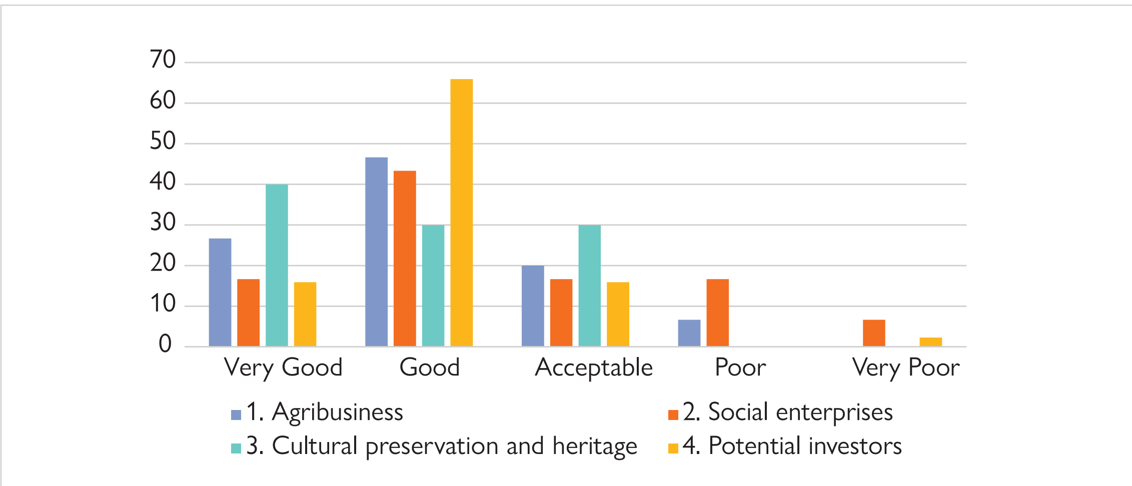


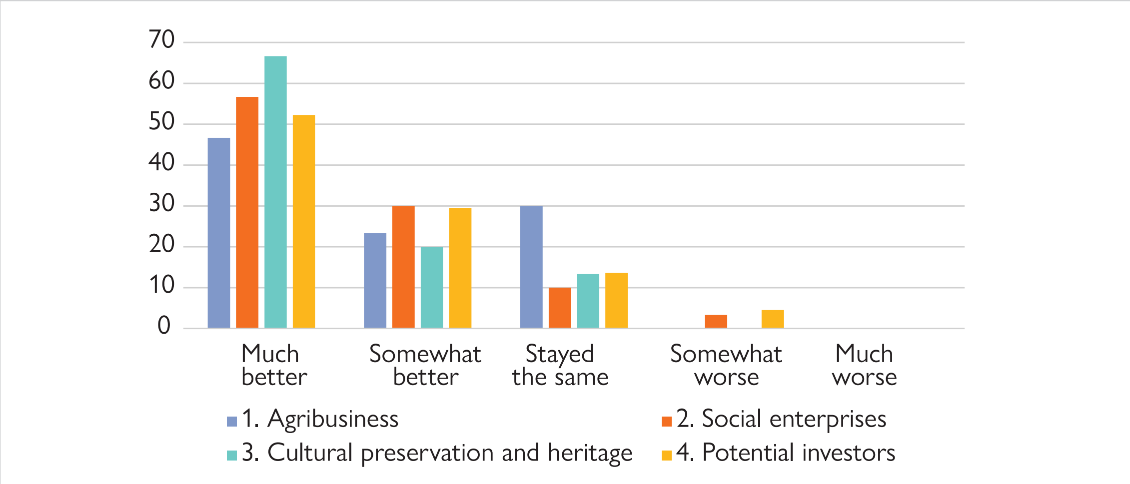
Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c Working conditions and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

7.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

On average, social relationships (Fig. 7.4.2.1.) were considered "good" already 10 years ago, with a peak in particular in the Potential Investors group. However, the vast majority of the respondents consider that the situation today is "much better" than the past.

Fig. 7.4.2.1. and 7.4.2.2.: Social relationships ten years ago/today

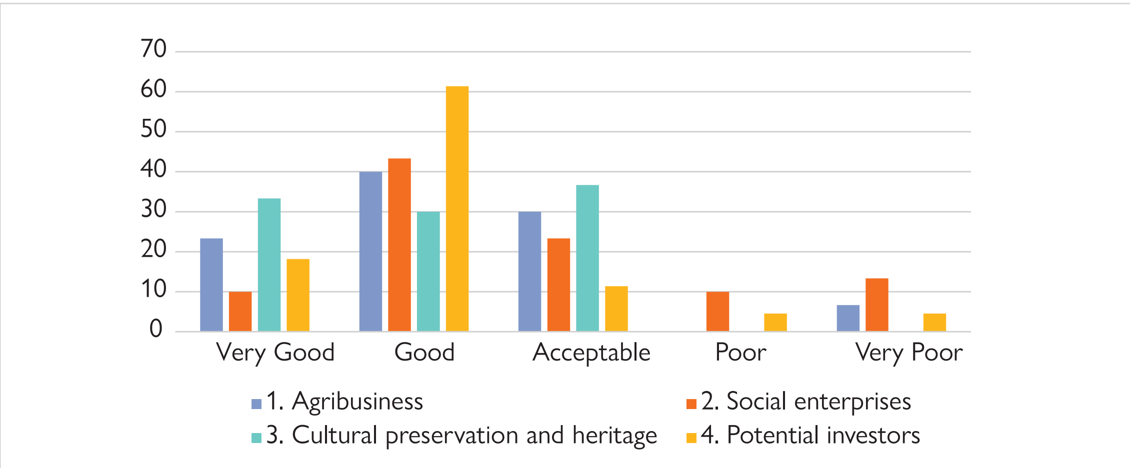


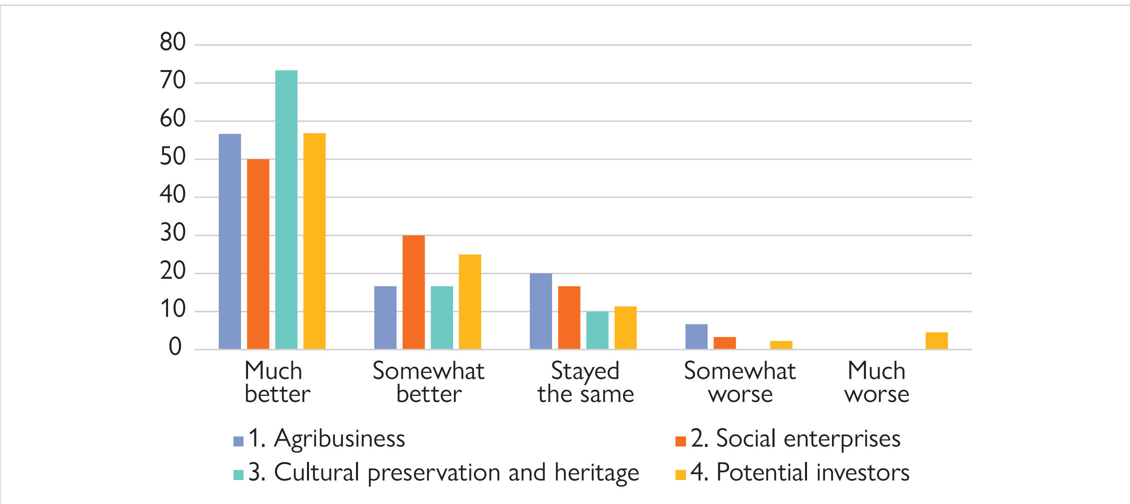


Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d: Social relationships (local social relations, integration / discrimination, etc.) and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Finally, the situation has improved also for legal and administrative status (Tab. 7.4.2.3. and 7.4.2.4.). Again, the opinion was quite positive also with respect to 10 years ago, where the most of the respondents considered the situation "good" (with a peak, again, in the Potential Investors group) or, at least, "acceptable" (this was the most frequent answer – almost 40% – for the Cultural sector). However, today the majority of respondents from all sectors consider that the situation is much better.

Fig. 7.4.2.3. and 7.4.2.4.: Legal / administrative situation ten years ago/today



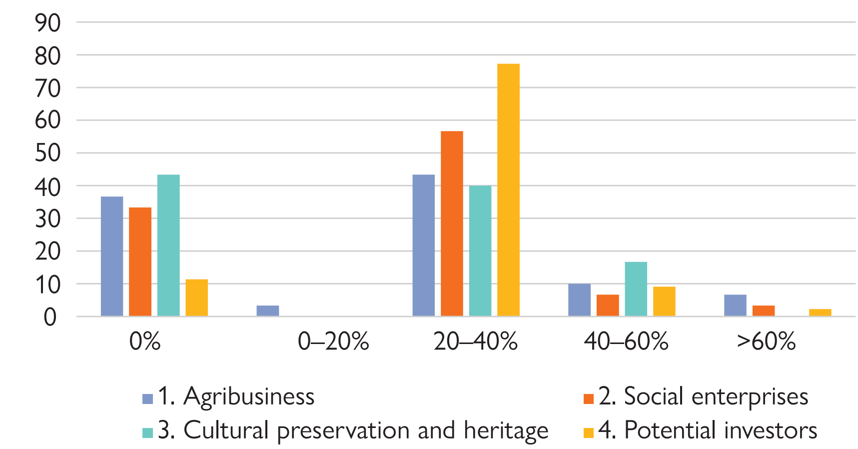


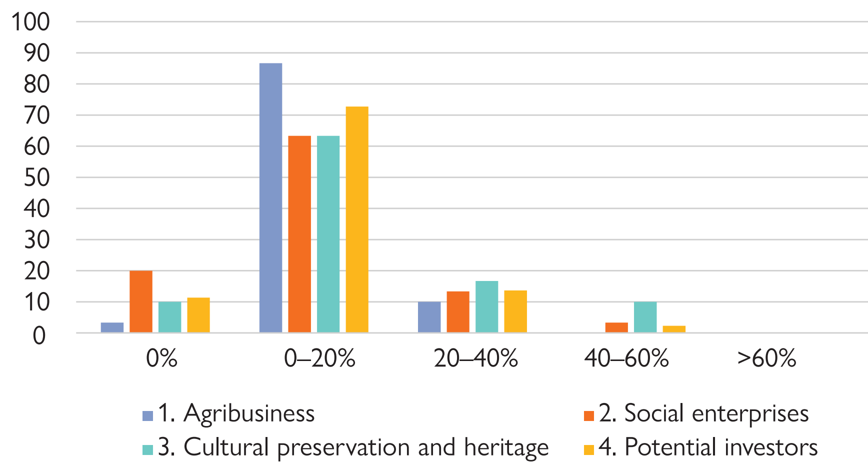
Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1f /2f Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit / citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.) and question No. 2 Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

7.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

The improvement in the economic conditions illustrated with the first figures of this section is not reflected in the evolution of savings. Indeed, ten years ago the majority of respondents used to save between 20 per cent and 40 per cent of their income (43.33% of respondents in the Agribusiness sector; 56.67 per cent in the Social Enterprises sector; 40 per cent in the Cultural sector; 77.27 per cent in the Potential Investors group). At the same time, high percentages used to save 0 per cent (36.67% of respondents in the Agribusiness; 33% among Social Enterprises; 43.33% in the Cultural sector; 11.36% among Potential Investors). Today, there has been a flattening, and the vast majority in all considered sectors save up to 20 per cent.

Fig. 7.4.3.1. and 7.4.3.2.: Money saved (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today

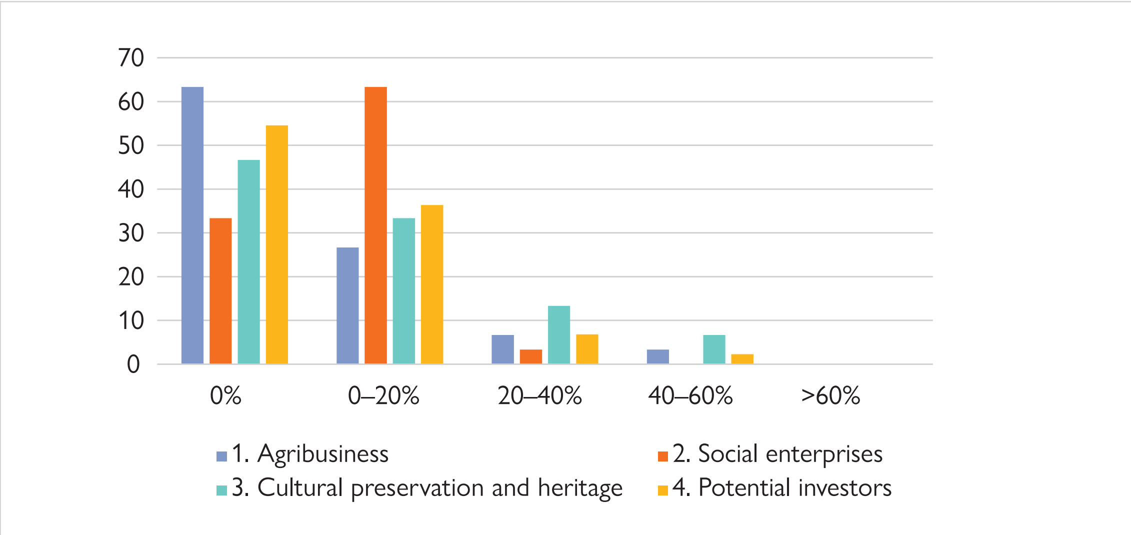


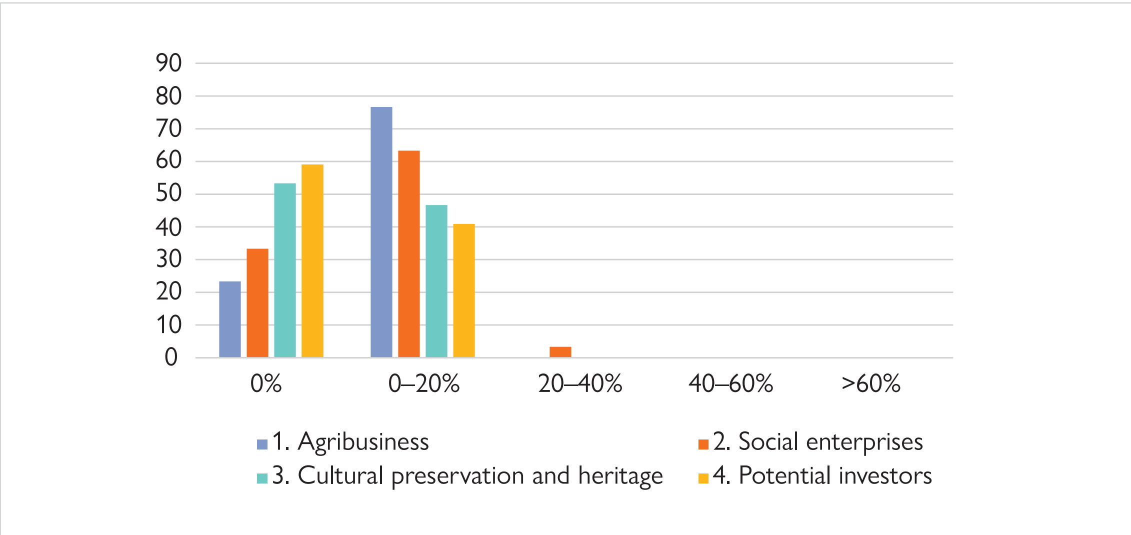


Source: Elaboration on the “Impact of economic crisis” Section; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1g At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis) and 2g Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis).

Finally, the percentage of savings sent to Albania is, on average, stable. Respondents from the Agribusiness sector send more money today (up to 20%) than ten years ago (when 0% was sent by more than 60% of respondents). In Social Enterprises the percentages are stable. In the Cultural sector, the percentage of those that send up to 20 per cent is reduced today with respect to ten years ago, while it is higher in the Potential Investors group.

Fig. 7.4.3.3. and 7.4.3.4.: Saving sent to Albania (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today





Source: Elaboration on the "Impact of economic crisis" Section; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1h: At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis) and 2h: Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

7.5. PERCEPTION ON MIGRATION

This section is about the way respondents consider and evaluate their personal experience of being part of the Albanian diaspora, including a large set of positive and negative aspects and plans for the future in terms of possible mobility or migration. While the majority express no interest or plans to leave Italy (both for the completed integration process and for reasons that keep persons in the country as the presence of children or a general life settlement), a small group would consider the possibility to either go back to Albania (for personal/family relations and in some cases to look for opportunities) while others consider instead other international destinations, mainly for work and career chances.

7.5.1. STAY OR GO, BACK OR SOMEWHERE ELSE

Tab. 7.5.1.1. shows the interest to move to another country today or in the future. 65.36 per cent of respondents are not interested in moving in another country (with a slight majority of male that gave this answer with respect to women). 22.93 per cent answered that they are interested in moving, but over the next three years; which mean that concrete plans to move are today not in place; again, with a slight majority of male giving this answer. 11.70 per cent of respondents are planning to move in the next three years; of those, the majority is made of women. As emerges in Tab. 7.5.1.2., very few are considering going back to Albania, within or over three years. The most think about healthy countries such as Germany or the United States, but many don't have a clear destination in mind yet.[140] The main drivers for the decision to move (Tab. 7.5.1.3.) are family and friends (for 38.94% of respondents), economic conditions (26.92%) and work/study opportunities (24.04%).

Tab. 7.5.1.1.: Interest to move to another country today or in the future

Would you consider moving country?	No	Yes, in the next 3 years	Yes, over the next 3 years	Total
Female	63.64	14.55	21.82	100.00
Male	67.09	8.86	24.05	100.00
Average	65.36	11.70	22.93	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 3: Would you consider moving country?

Tab. 7.5.1.2., Interest to move to Albania today or in the future

Are/would you consider moving to Albania?	No	Yes, in the next 3 years		Yes, over the next 3 years			Total
	n.a.	No	Yes	No	Yes	n.a.	
Female	63.64	12.73	1.82	16.36	5.45	0.00	100.00
Male	67.09	6.33	2.53	15.19	8.86	0.00	100.00
Average	65.36	9.53	2.17	15.78	7.16	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 3a: If yes, are/would you consider moving to Albania?

140 *Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question 3b: If not to Albania, where would you go?*

Tab. 7.5.1.3.: Main drivers for the decision of moving

Main drivers for this decision of moving	%
Family/friendship issues	38.94
Work/Study	24.04
Economic conditions	26.92
For the presence of public services, schools, etc.	4.33
I heard good things about it	1.92
For the protections of your rights	1.92
Other reasons	1.92
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No. 4: Your main drivers for this decision (referring to answer 3) (maximum 2 options).

When asked about where they would like to see their children's future (Tab. 7.5.1.4.), very few mentioned Albania, motivating this answer based on personal relations and potential economic opportunities. For those that mentioned Italy (58.21%), the main reasons are: (i) Better quality of life with respect to Albania; (ii) Italy is considered a safer country with respect to Albania; (iii) Feelings of belonging; (iv) Having a job and a house or investments made in Italy; (iv) Better employment/education opportunities with respect to Albania; (v) Better public services with respect to Albania. Those that selected "a different country" (18.66%) mentioned the following reasons: (i) Lack of meritocracy in Italy; (ii) Racism in Italy; (iii) Economic difficulties in Italy; (iv) better employment/education opportunities abroad; (v) personal reasons; (vi) Lack of policies and support for families in Italy. In the responses, there are no significant differences among the sectors.[141]

Tab. 7.5.1.4.: Country preferred for the future of the respondents' children.

Children's future	Albania	Italy	Another country	It does not matter	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	0.00	13.43	3.73	5.22	0.00	23.26
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	12.69	5.97	3.73	0.00	23.26
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.75	8.21	3.73	9.70	0.00	25.58
4. Potential Investors	2.24	23.88	5.22	1.49	0.00	27.91
Total	2.99	58.21	18.66	20.15	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section: Question No. 2: Today, thinking about your children's future (even if you do not have any) where would you prefer them to live? (only one option).

7.5.2. PERCEPTION AND EVALUATION OF BEING PART OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA

By commenting on their overall experience as a member of the Albanian diaspora,[142] respondents can be distinguished between the first group including persons very well integrated in Italy and another group (more limited) with persons that faced stronger difficulties in integration and that keep social relationships mainly with conational. For these reasons, positive and negative aspects are sometimes in direct contrast. There are no significant differences in terms of sectors of belonging.

We asked the respondents to identify up to three positive aspects and up to three negative aspects of their experience; here following the most frequent answers:

141 *Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Question No 2: Today, thinking about your children's future (even if you do not have any) where would you prefer them to live? And No. 2a Why?*

142 *Source: Elaboration on the "Perception on migration" Section; Questions No. 5. Considering your overall experience as a member of the Albanian diaspora, please tell us: 5a, Up to 3 positive aspects of your experience and 5b, Up to 3 negative aspects of your experience.*

Positive aspects. Most frequent answers are the following:

- The high number of Albanians in Italy, and strong relations with them.
- Integration capacity of Albanian diaspora.
- Entrepreneurship capacity of Albanian diaspora.
- Good level of services, including the health sector, in Italy.
- Good quality of life in Italy (food, climate, culture, etc.)
- Cultural and physical proximity to Albania.
- Opportunity to keep identity and traditions and give value to diaspora; Capacity of the Albanian diaspora to take back home acquired competencies and multicultural perspectives.
- Mind openness, contact with different cultures, the capacity to speak different languages.
- Better environment, in particular in terms of stability and rule of law in Italy.

However, it should be mentioned that a number of respondents declared that they do not feel part of a specific Albanian diaspora, having very limited contacts with other Albanians.

Negative aspects. Most frequent answers are the following:

- Lack of policies (from Albania) to encourage a return in the country of origin for retirement.
- Difficult and in some cases unfair bureaucracy.
- High taxes in Italy.
- Cultural and emotional eradicatioNo.
- Loss of Albanian identity, especially among young generations.
- Lack of a centre of reference for the diaspora, and limited events/activities for the members of the diaspora. Limited support/activities organized by the Albanian Embassy and from Albanian institutions.
- Lack of an organized networks of Albanians in Italy.
- Difficulty and distance in the relation with family and parents.
- Negative attitude towards the diaspora/foreigners, also in the professional field, and stereotypes.
- Criminality of (part of) the Albanian diaspora.

7.6. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

This section includes information on the nature of the relationship of migrants with the country of origin and their closest connections. A considerable space for investigation is dedicated to the investments the respondents have undertaken in the past and their plans for the future, especially towards Albania - whether in their same sector of work/employment in Italy or in different ones.

The general interest to contribute to Albanian's development is included in the survey.

We can overall say that most people maintain a strong link with the country of origin and the people/family there, and that, compared to other regions, the interest to contribute to Albania's development and the possible interest to invest in Albania is slightly higher although most respondents prefer to stay in Italy and eventually move part of their business relations to Albania.

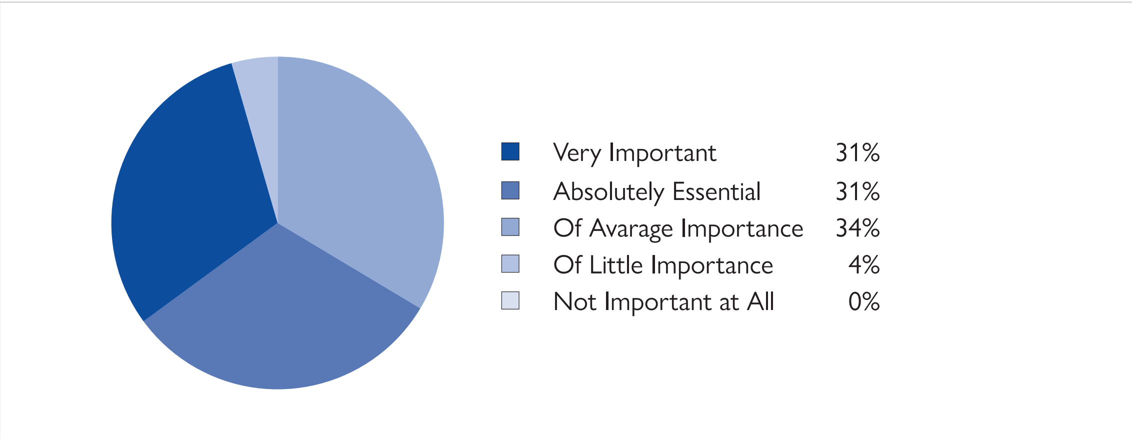
7.6.1. RELATIONSHIP WITH ALBANIA

Almost all of the respondents (95%) consider somehow important[143] to know what is happening in Albania and they mainly employ internet (40%) and social media (30%) to keep informed. A smaller percentage gets informed via telephone/Skype (15%).

Among the closest relationships migrants still maintain in Albania, respondents mainly refer to family members, as their mother (24.22%) and father (22.84%), siblings (16.96%) and other relatives (26.30%). Migrants tend to make return quite often (48.40% once a year; 31.47% more than once a year; 17.2% every 3/5 years).

The family and personal linkages with Albanian seem to be quite strong, and 66.42 per cent of the respondents report they are interested in getting enrolled in the register of migrants of the Albanian Government. At the same time, 85.82 per cent report they are not enrolled in any formal or informal Albanian association abroad.

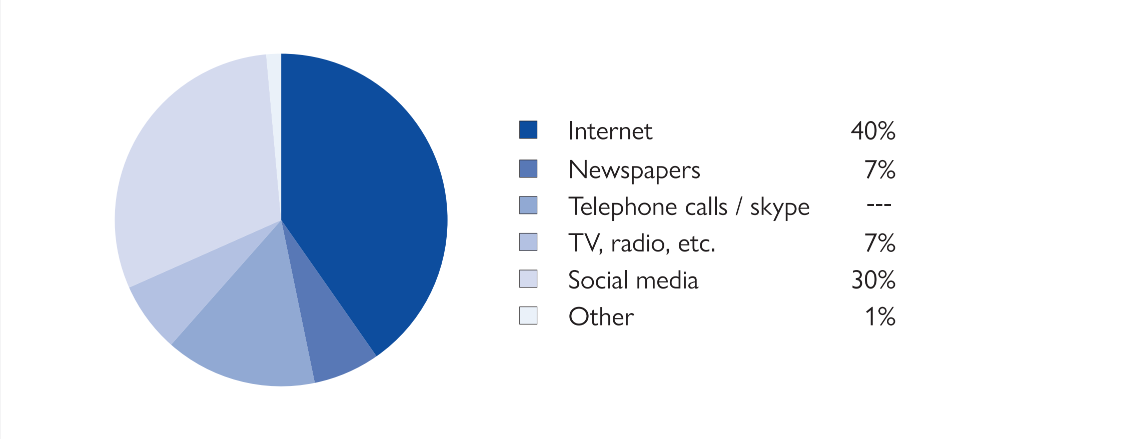
Fig. 7.6.1.1.: Interest to know what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 3: How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania?

143 Including responses as of average, very important, absolutely essential.

Fig. 7.6.1.2.: Means employed to keep informed on what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; If the answer to the Question No. 3 How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania? ranges between "Of little importance" and "Absolutely essential", then Question 3a: what are the main means by which you keep yourself informed? Follows.

Tab. 7.6.1.3.: Relationship with people in Albania

Relationship with people in Albania	%
Mother	24.22
Father	22.84
Siblings	16.96
Partner	0.69
Son(s)/Daughter(s)	0.00
Other relatives	26.30
Partners in business/work mates	4.84
Other*	2.77
None	1.38
Total	100.00

*Mostly "friends".

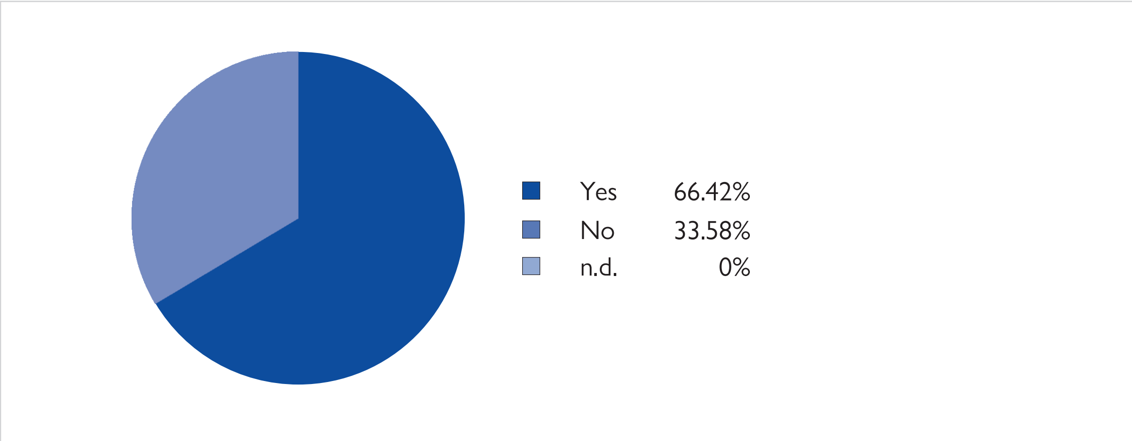
Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 1: Who of the following people, if they are in Albania, do you still have a close relationship with? (more than one answer allowed).

Tab. 7.6.1.4.: Frequency of visits to Albania

Frequency of visit to Albania	Female	Male	Average
Frequently (more than once a year)	36.36	26.58	31.47
Often (every year)	43.64	53.16	48.40
Rarely (once every 5/10 years)	18.18	16.46	17.32
Sometimes (every 2/3 years)	1.82	2.53	2.17
Never	0.00	1.27	0.63
n.d.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totale	100.00	100.00	-

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 6: How often do you go to Albania?

Fig. 7.6.1.5.: Interest for a register of migrants



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 4: In 2016 Albania approved the establishment of a "register for migrants " order. Once this register is established, do you think you will register yourself in it?

Tab. 7.6.1.6.: Participation in in/formal associations

Participation in any formal/informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania	%
Yes	14.18
No	85.82
n.d.	0.00
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 5: Did you enrol in any list/register or are you in touch with any formal or informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania?

7.6.2. ROLE OF DIASPORA MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALBANIA

The majority of respondents strongly agree with the fact that, through their visits and exchanges, they transfer ideas, information and capitals (not only monetary) to the family and friends in the homeland.

Albanians abroad can also be indirectly contributing to Albania when suggesting or recommending friends to visit the country. The 86.75 per cent of respondents declared they recommended friends and acquaintances,[144] more likely travelling together but also all alone.

When asked about their general perspectives for the future, respondents mainly prefer three options: almost half consider to stay in Italy and keep in Italy the centre of their business (47.80%). The rest includes those that want to stay in Italy but increase the business relations in Albania (23.90%) and those that would move the centre of their activities in another country (12.34%). Respondents that are not interested to leave Italy mention the following reasons:[145]

- Their life today is based in Italy (stability, family, work, investments, career, feeling more Italian that Albanian today);
- Preference for the situation in Italy (instability in Albania; economic weakness in Albania).

144 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; If the answer to Question No. 7: Have your friends/acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion?*
Then ask Question No. 7a: If yes, for tourism, business, or other reasons?

145 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 8a: Why (to find a motivation to previous question about the "plan for the future").*

Those that would consider Albania, refer to:

- Possible work opportunities;
- The relationship with their country of origin;
- Desire to contribute to Albania (with no precise ideas though).

When asked about the interest to contribute to Albania, 69.24 per cent of respondents confirm with men being more available (78.48%) than women (60%) to contribute, mostly people from the Cultural sector (men and women) and men from the Agribusiness.

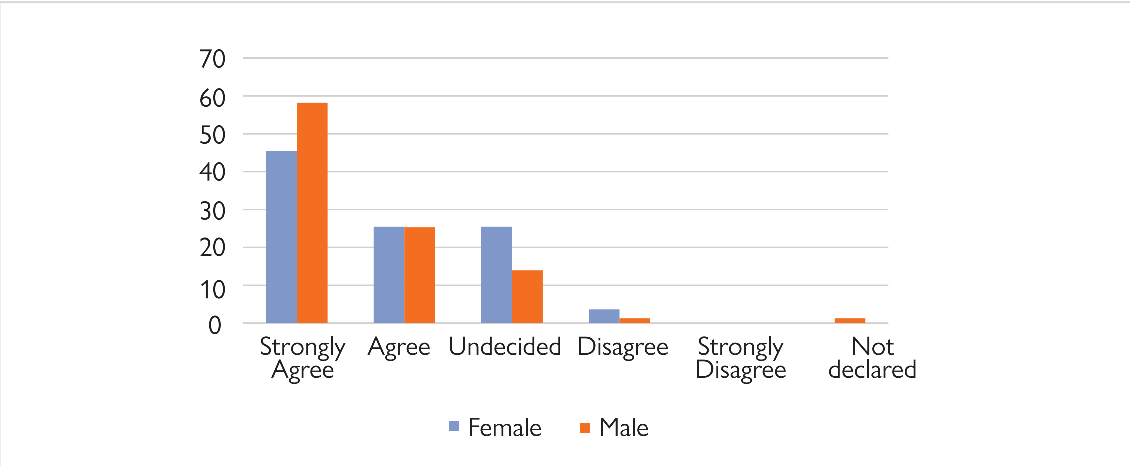
More specifically,[146] in order to contribute to Albania in the future, quite a few respondents say they would contribute but actually have no ideas how; some mention social/cultural aspects or exchanging experiences and competence others politics. Very few refer to entrepreneurial activities (a restaurant, tourism). Those that are not interested to contribute.

Those that are not interested or not willing to contribute to Albania[147] refer as reasons as the likes of: corruption, a general lack of interest in Albania and the local lack of competences, ideas or means. When asked if specifically interested in a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania, half respondents (50.87%) respond to be interested.

The conditions mentioned to eventually collaborate in investing in Albania are:[148]

- Mainly, a good salary;
- Not much time required;
- Transparency of contract/terms;
- No pressure from the politics.

Tab. 7.6.2.1.: Transferring social, cultural and human capital gained in Italy through visits and exchange with family and friends in Albania



Note: The information is expressed in percentage (%).

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 2: How much do you agree with the following statement: "In the relationships with/visits to my family/friends/acquaintances in Albania, I transmit and transfer new knowledge, ideas, visions, and/or approaches (for example social, cultural, professional) that I acquired during my experience of life in Italy."

146 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 9a: If yes, how? What would you do/like to do? (in relation to the motivation to the previous question "Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?").*
147 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 9b: If no or I don't care, why? (in relation to the motivation to the previous question "Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?").*
148 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 15a: If Yes, at what conditions? (Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?).*

Tab. 7.6.2.2.: Visits to Albania from friends/acquaintances

Friends / acquaintances in Italy who visited Albania due to recommendation	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
Female	83.64	16.36	0.00	100.00
Male	89.87	10.13	0.00	100.00
Average	86.75	13.25	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 7: Have your friends/acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion?

Tab. 7.6.2.3.: Friends/acquaintances mode of travelling to Albania

Did they travel with you, alone or both?	%
With me	11.94
Both with me and alone	44.78
Alone	29.10
n.a.	12.69
n.d.	1.49
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; if they answer Question No. 7: Have your friends/acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion? Then ask Question No. 7b: Did they travel with you, alone or both?

Tab. 7.6.2.4.: Plan for the future

Plan for the future	Female	Male	Average
N.d.	1.82	6.33	4.07
Stay in Italy and keep my business centre here	56.36	39.24	47.80
Stay in Italy and decrease my contacts and business relations with Albania	0.00	1.27	0.63
Stay in Italy but increasing my contacts and business relations with Albania	20.00	27.85	23.92
Stay in Italy but move my business centre to Albania	1.82	5.06	3.44
Move the centre of my business in another country/countries	14.55	10.13	12.34
Move back permanently to Albania	1.82	5.06	3.44
Go back to Albania permanently but keeping my business centre in Italy	3.64	5.06	4.35
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 8: Which of the following statements is closer to your "plan for the future".

Tab. 7.6.2.5.: Interest to contribute to Albania

Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?	No	Yes
Female	**40.00**	**60.00**
1. Agribusiness	40.00	60.00
2. Social Enterprises	39.13	60.87
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	25.00	75.00
4. Potential Investors	53.33	46.67

Male	21.52	78.48
1. Agribusiness	20.00	80.00
2. Social Enterprises	42.86	57.14
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	5.56	94.44
4. Potential Investors	27.59	72.41
Total average (male and female)	30.76	69.24

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 9: Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?

Tab. 7.6.2.6.: Interest for virtual assignment

Consideration for a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	53.33	40.00	6.67	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	40.00	60.00	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	53.33	40.00	6.67	100.00
4. Potential Investors	56.82	43.18	0.00	100.00
Average	50.87	45.80	3.33	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 15: Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?

7.6.3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENTS TOWARDS ALBANIA

Most of the respondents (88.83%) never tried to expand their business in Albania before, except for some people from the Cultural sector. Those they actually tried mentioned as examples of activities undertaken:[149]

- A restaurant and cafeteria (and soon closed);
- Trying to get contacts in Albania;
- Some cultural activities/events.

A good part of the business started went well (64.29%) (especially for the Cultural sector). Moreover, other negative aspects of the experience of investing/moving the business in Albania more often mentioned[150] include:

- Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (17.50%);
- Unfavourable business environment (15%);
- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (10%);
- Inadequate transport and other infrastructures (10%).

149 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10a: If yes, What did you do? (in relation to the question No. 10 Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).*

150 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10d: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (in relation to the question No. 10 Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).*

Tab. 7.6.3.1.: Attempt to expand or move the professional activity in Albania

Attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	3.33	96.67	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	30.00	70.00	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	9.09	88.64	2.27	100.00
Average	10.61	88.83	0.57	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?

Tab. 7.6.3.2.: Success in moving the activity to Albania

Was your "move/activity" you successful?	Yes	No
1. Agribusiness	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	7.14
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	57.14	7.14
4. Potential Investors	7.14	21.43
Total	64.29	35.71

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 10b: If Yes to 10: Was your "move/activity" successful?

7.6.4. POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA IN THE OWN SECTOR

34,96 per cent of the respondents are interested to invest in their own sector in Albania (persons from Social and Cultural sector and Potential Investors), while 65,04 per cent are not interested in investing. Within the other sectors, there are persons that would consider investing and people that would not. The ideas mentioned by those interested in investing are mixed:[151]

- Work as lawyer;
- Tourism/restaurant;
- Contribute to art/culture sector;
- Philanthropy or contribute to social needs;
- Give value to competences acquired in the health sector.

Among the main drivers that would influence the possibility to invest in Albania, respondents mention, among others:

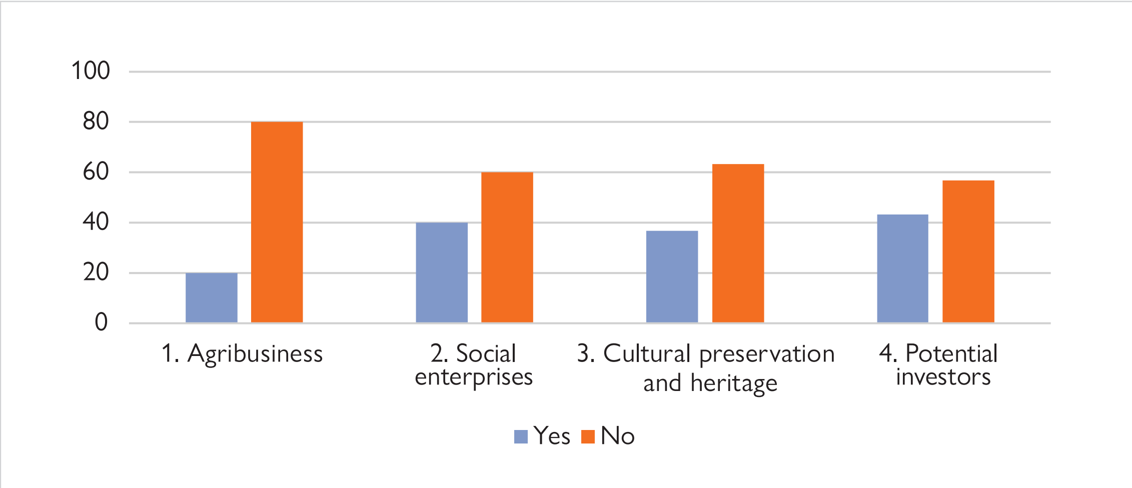
- Provision of services (e.g. sectorial specific services) (14.96%);
- Tax incentives (14.17%);
- Reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy (13.39%);
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development) (12.60%);
- Public investment in training and education (12.60%);
- Provide legal and administrative support to investors (11.81%).

151 *Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 11a If Yes to 11: how? What would you do?*

Nevertheless, barriers and obstacles exist impeding investments. Among them, the most relevant ones that were indicated were:

- Simply not interested to invest (32.32%);
- Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (11.59%);
- Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) (10.98%);
- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) (8.54%);
- Difficulty in accessing financing and investment (6.71%).

Fig. 7.6.4.1.: Interest to invest in the own professional sector in Albania



Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11: More in general, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

Tab. 7.6.4.2.: Main drivers for investment in Albania in the own sector

Main drivers for investment in Albania	%
Provision of services (e.g. sectorial specific services)	14.96
Tax incentives	14.17
Reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy	13.39
Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development)	12.60
Public investment in training and education	12.60
Provide legal and administrative support to investors	11.81

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11b: If Yes to 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)?

Tab. 7.6.4.3.: Main barriers/problems/limitations to invest in Albania in the own sector

Main barriers/problems/limitations	%
Simply not interested to invest	32.32
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	11.59
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	10.98
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	8.54
Difficulty in accessing financing and investment	6.71

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 11c: If No to 11: What are the main barriers/problems/limitations?

7.6.5. INVESTMENTS IN OTHER PROFESSIONAL SECTORS IN THE PAST OR IN THE FUTURE

The overwhelming majority of the respondents (94.17%) had never tried to invest in other sectors before, with only some little attempts reported (60% reported to be successful). Only two answers explain the activities undertaken referring to investments in tourism and real estate.

Among the main negative aspects underlined, there are:

- Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.) (18.18%);
- Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (18.18%);
- Law limitations (e.g. rigid labour law, environmental law, etc.) (18.18%);
- Inadequate transport and other infrastructures (18.18%).

Considering the possibility to invest in Albania in any other professional sector, 84.39 per cent of respondents are not interested while 13.11 per cent are interested. The activities mentioned[152] refer mainly to tourism, but also:

Among the main incentives that would influence Albanians to invest are:

- Tax incentives (18;18%);
- Provide legal and administrative support to investors (15.91%);
- Low-interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit (15.91%);
- Provision of services (e.g. sectorial specific services) (15.91%).

Tab. 7.6.5.1.: Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania

Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania	Yes	No	N.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	6.67	93.33	0.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	3.33	96.67	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	6.67	86.67	6.67	100.00
4. Potential Investors	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Average	4.17	94.17	1.67	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12: Talking about any other professional sector, have you ever made any attempt to invest in other activities in Albania?

Tab. 7.6.5.2.: Success of activities tried in other sectors

Was your "activity" successful?	Yes	No
1. Agribusiness	40.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	20.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	20.00	20.00
4. Potential Investors	0.00	0.00
Total	60.00	40.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12b: If Yes to 12: Was your "activity" successful?

152 *Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13a: If Yes: In what sectors? What would you do?*

Tab. 7.6.5.3.: Main negative aspects from the experience of investing in another sector in Albania

Main negative aspects	%
Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.).	18.18
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	18.18
Law limitations (e.g. rigid labour law, environmental law, etc.)	18.18
Inadequate transport and other infrastructures	18.18

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 12d: If Yes to 12: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)?

Tab. 7.6.5.4.: Interest to invest in a different sector in Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in any other professional sector)	Yes	No	N.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	16.67	83.33	0.00	22.39
2. Social Enterprises	13.33	83.33	3.33	22.39
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	13.33	80.00	6.67	22.39
4. Potential Investors	9.09	90.91	0.00	32.84
Average	**13.11**	**84.39**	**2.50**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13: Talking about any other professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

Tab. 7.6.5.5.: Incentive to invest in Albania

Incentive to invest in Albania	%
Tax incentives	20.00
Low interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit	15.00
Provide legal and administrative support to investors	12.50
Reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy	12.50
Provision of services (e.g. sectorial specific services)	20.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13b: If Yes to 13: what in practice would push you to invest/or would facilitate this investment in Albania?

Tab. 7.6.5.6.: Reason why the respondent would not invest

Why not interested?	%
Simply not interested to invest	43.11
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	8.98
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	7.19
Taxation	7.19
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	5.99

Source: Elaboration on the "Relationship with the country of origin" Section; Question No. 13c If No to 13: Why not?

7.7. FOCUS GROUP: MILAN, 29 OCTOBER 2019

The Focus group was organized in Milan by the association *Integra Onlus*. The group of participants[1] (10) was composed of a mix of men and women between 23 and 49 years. The group was made up of both participants, who lived in Italy for more than ten years (i.e. 29, 20, 14, 10 years) and people who arrived very recently (no more than two years ago). The work profiles include independent professionals, students, third-sector operators.

After the introduction on the scope of the meeting and a presentation of the "Mapping and Profiling Albanian diaspora in Italy, France and Belgium" project, we started an open friendly discussion that is reported here as follows.

7.7.1. WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY AND ALBANIA?

The participants personally consider and see Albania in a **dual manner**: in a positive, nostalgic and idealized way and in a very critical, pessimistic and negative way. On one **hand**, Albania is related to the beloved relationships, family, identity and origin, natural beauty and landscapes, good food, opportunities, for some a perspective for the future and for others "the past". On the other **hand**, Albania is also described as a place of sufferance, poverty, crime, corruption, drugs. This **ambivalence** of feelings and attitudes is what connects the diaspora to its motherland: coexisting of the individual and family history of migration on the one hand, and the difficulty of the reasons that made people migrate, on the other hand. The Albanian diaspora is in fact **emotionally** linked to Albania, but also quite **reluctant** to relate again to the fundamental problems still exacerbating Albania and lose the well-being achieved in Italy.

The connection with Albania is fed and passes through the relationship with **the persons** still living there: the **remittances** sent by the diaspora provide one the main economic source for the country and the diaspora is aware of its role and importance. Nevertheless, the diaspora does not feel **protagonist**, but a "guest" instead. This is also related to the political **vote** issue. Although the question of the vote for the diaspora is under discussion at Government level, this appeared as a quite sensitive theme. The possibility to affect the political environment in Albania (daydreaming of a party of the diaspora) seems to provide the diaspora of a gateway to bring change in the country. Also, this would bring formal credit to its role and protagonism.

When the diaspora returns to Albania for their holidays, they feel different from those that stayed and they are also treated differently ("when you make critics, they tell you 'it's easy to comment this from the outside'"). Leaving Albania is easy while remaining there is much more difficult, as proven by the continuous outflows of medical doctors and also entire families with children. The development role of the diaspora towards Albania is largely declared and preached, but practiced with difficulty and with no intention to make return:

"If I could be able, I would not spend only a week in Albania but a month… so that I could do something"; "I would prefer to invest without returning"; "I would like to do something in import-export, but I do not know what exactly yet, but being here and there would be of help"; And also: "It would be hard to go back to Albania and start from scratches something... after I came to Italy and started from scratches here"; "The economic and social development of Albania depends on the diaspora, it all depends on what the diaspora is available to do".

7.7.2. WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS IMPACTING (POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE) THE VALUE AND ENGAGEMENT OF SKILLS, COMPETENCES AND RESOURCES OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY TOWARDS ENTREPRENEURIAL/ INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN ALBANIA?

Albanians in Italy are present in all main professional categories (from lawyers to construction workers), but they miss a strong entrepreneurial spirit and also the capacity to cooperate and trust, as cultural traits. For these two aspects, the effective impact and presence of migrant companies in Albania are limited.

When asked to list their skills, participants, in fact, mention many **transversal competences** that could apply to an entrepreneur or a project manager. But none had a real experience of entrepreneurship in Albania.

Nevertheless, when asked about their work and future plans and project, different ideas came up involving Albania: to open an "*agriturismo*" (farm restaurant) in the mountain areas; open an ice-cream shop (having worked as iceman in Italy, being able to value experience and skills). Two existing activities had been mentioned: import-export of fruit and vegetables from Albania to Italy; an app to the Albanian diaspora that helps in managing the citizenship procedures and the relationship with the Public Administration in Italy. There are also others that have no interest to either go back or start or invest in any activity in Albania.

Albania represents still an opportunity for those many construction companies that returned to Albania from Italy that still find a growing market of luxury "villas". At the same time, normal houses have no heating and this is a problem for the living conditions of locals. The inability to treat and transform some products (for instance local apples) is seen as an opportunity to invest due to the lack of capital, capacities and interest. Opportunities for investment and entrepreneurship are overall indicated in different fields:

- Rural tourism, both as Hotels and B&B;
- IT, but with the possibility/necessity to increase the availability of IT graduates.

A set of **barriers** to entrepreneurship/investment in Albania (both from migrants and from Italians via diaspora) had been listed:

- poor infrastructures (electricity, heating, roads);
- logistics;
- personal security and legal issues;
- health;
- corruption;
- lack of information.
- lack of professional profiles for their increasing dispersion abroad.

In addition, the **legal condition** in Italy for those that have not yet Italian citizenship is also an obstacle to move back to Albania. It would imply the risk to lose the permit to stay in Italy and none wants to fall into this possibility. Being able to go back to Albania and try a business there, can be feasible only when the possibility to go back to Italy exists.

The relationship of the diaspora with Albania passes also through the ethnic characteristics of the group in Italy: different ones observed that the Albanians from Kosovo[4] and North Macedonia (for instance those that live in in Germany) have a different attitude towards conational and express more trust among their conational. The ethnic belonging (being Albanian from Albania) does not help the diaspora to mobilize.

7.7.3. WHAT ARE THE SUGGESTED AND RECOMMENDED CHANGES OR CONDITIONS THAT WOULD FACILITATE A DIRECT OR INDIRECT ENGAGEMENT OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INVESTMENT?

- Pursue the right to **vote for the diaspora**, this would entitle migrants to have a formal legitimacy to their development role.
- **Diaspora Networking and crowdfunding**: have the opportunity to meet other Albanians from the diaspora and also possible investors to be involved in projects in Albania. An idea to create an app for matching demand and offer between Albania and Italy has been already designed but needs implementing funds. The crowdfunding from the diaspora could be an option but the general suspicion and distrust from Albanians are considered as impeding elements.
- Better develop the **tourist potentials**: not just offering services but also with internet platforms.
- Sustain and develop the **biological market and bio-certification**: due to the fact that the food is not certified in its origin as in the EU, this would help persons to a guaranteed consumption.
- Sustain the creation of a consortium of Albanian enterprises in Italy, so that small and medium enterprises could group up and better respond to market quests. Nevertheless, the typical attitude of mistrust and individualism of Albanians would not support and favor this option.
- Transfer in Albania the "**culture of work**" and the habit of "**volunteering**".
- A **cabinet**, intermediation or matching service would be needed in order to help companies to find opportunities in Albania (both Italians and both from the diaspora), to provide updated information, to show is and where companies are. Even if some services exist already, it is not evident that people/ companies are aware of their presence. The information campaign (for instance related to AIDA) has not been successful and most people in the FG did not know about it.

APPENDIX

7.1. SOCIOECONOMIC

7.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

Tab. 7.1.1.3.: Composition per age (distribution per gender and percentage)

Age	Female	Male	Total	Female%	Male%	Total%
Age < 30	14	4	18	10.45	2.99	13.43
Age 30 – 39	27	40	67	20.15	29.85	50.00
Age 40 – 49	11	16	27	8.21	11.94	20.15
Age 50 – 59	2	16	18	1.49	11.94	13.43
Age 60 – 69	1	3	4	0.75	2.24	2.99
Age 70 and more	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	55	79	134	41.04	58.96	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 4: Age of the respondent.

Tab. 7.1.1.4: Country of Birth (distribution per gender and percentage)

Country of Birth	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Albania	54	79	133	40.30	58.96	99.25
Italy	1	0	1	0.75	0.00	0.75
Total	55	79	134	41.04	58.96	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 5 - Country of birth.

7.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Tab. 7.1.2.1.: Marital status (distribution per gender and percentage)

Marital status	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Single	24	23	47	43.64	29.11	35.07
Married / cohabiting	29	53	82	52.73	67.09	61.19
Separated	0	1	1	0.00	1.27	0.75
Divorced	1	2	3	1.82	2.53	2.24
Widowed	1	0	1	1.82	0.00	0.75
n.d.	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	55	79	134	41.04	58.96	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 8: What is your marital status?

Tab. 7.1.2.3.: Current legal and administrative status (distribution per gender and percentage)

Legal and administrative status	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Average (%)
Dual citizenship (one Italian)	37	28	65	53.62	51.85	52.74
Long term EC permit	9	8	17	13.04	14.81	13.93
Residence card	17	14	31	24.64	25.93	25.28
Residence permit (also from another EU country)	5	3	8	7.25	5.56	6.40
Residence visa (also from another EU country)	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	1	1	2	1.45	1.85	1.65
Total	69	54	123	56.10	43.90	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 10: Please tell us your current legal and administrative status with respect to your stay in Italy.

Tab. 7.1.2.4.: Typology of valid visa or residence permit (distribution per gender and percentage)

Typology of valid visa or residence permit	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Family	1	5	6	1.82	6.33	4.48
Subordinate work	19	28	47	34.55	35.44	35.07
Self-employment	2	2	4	3.64	2.53	2.99
Expected occupation	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Study	4	1	5	7.27	1.27	3.73
Temporary protection / asylum	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
n.d.	0	4	4	0.00	5.06	2.99
n.a.	29	39	68	52.73	49.37	50.75
Total	55	79	134	41.04	58.96	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 11: If you have a valid visa or residence permit or are renewing it, please indicate its type.

Tab. 7.1.2.5.: Reasons for choosing the area where he/she lives

Reason for choosing the area where he/she lives	%
Because of relatives/friends live here	57.74
Because I heard good things about it	7.74
Because there is work	28.57
For the presence of public services, schools, etc.	4.76
Other	1.19
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on the "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 13: For what reasons did you choose this area? (multiple choices, even more than one).

7.2. PROFESSIONAL

7.2.2. FOCUS ON SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNERS

Tab. 7.2.2.1.: Nationality of employees (for self-employed and business owners)

Nationality of employees	AL	IT	Other	Total	A (%)	I (%)	O (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	6	2	0	8	12.50	7.14	0.00	10.26
2. Social Enterprises	5	7	0	12	10.42	25.00	0.00	15.38
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	9	4	2	15	18.75	14.29	100.00	19.23
4. Potential Investors	28	15	0	43	58.33	53.57	0.00	55.13
Total	48	28	2	78	61.54	35.90	2.56	100.00

AL = Albanian, IT = Italian, Other = Other nationalities, Total = total number of employees.

Source: Elaboration on the "Professional Considerations" Section; Questions No. 8: How many employees do you have? Question 8a: How many are Italians? And question 8b: How many are Albanians?

7.3. ECONOMIC

7.3.3. REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

Tab. 7.3.3.1.: Ownership of a house

Do you own any houses?	Yes	No	Total
Female	26	29	55
Male	43	36	79
Total	69	65	134

Source: Elaboration on the "Economic Considerations" Section; Question No. 4: Do you own any houses?

7.4. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

7.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Tab. 7.4.1.1.: Economic situation (individual income) ten years ago

Economic situation (individual income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	20.00	43.33	10.00	16.67	10.00
2. Social Enterprises	3.33	23.33	23.33	40.00	10.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	16.67	13.33	40.00	23.33	6.67
4. Potential Investors	15.91	43.18	29.55	9.09	2.27
Total	13.98	30.80	25.72	22.27	7.23

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1a/2a Economic situation (individual income).

Tab. 7.4.1.2., Economic situation (individual income) today

Economic situation (individual income)	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	50.00	16.67	23.33	10.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	50.00	26.67	10.00	13.33	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	60.00	26.67	6.67	6.67	0.00
4. Potential Investors	29.55	31.82	18.18	20.45	0.00
Total	47.39	25.45	14.55	12.61	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 7.4.1.3.: Economic situation (household income) ten years ago

Economic situation (household income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	16.67	43.33	16.67	16.67	6.67
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	26.67	30.00	30.00	13.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	13.33	23.33	43.33	16.67	3.33
4. Potential Investors	18.18	47.73	27.27	4.55	2.27
Total	12.05	35.27	29.32	16.97	6.40

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b Economic situation (household income).

Tab. 7.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) today

Economic situation (household income)	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	43.33	23.33	20.00	10.00	3.33
2. Social Enterprises	46.67	23.33	13.33	16.67	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	53.33	30.00	6.67	6.67	3.33
4. Potential Investors	31.82	34.09	9.09	22.73	2.27
Total	43.79	27.69	12.27	14.02	2.23

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 7.4.1.5.: Working conditions ten years ago

Working conditions	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	20.00	43.33	26.67	3.33	6.67
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	30.00	26.67	30.00	13.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	13.33	23.33	40.00	23.33	0.00
4. Potential Investors	20.45	38.64	31.82	6.82	2.27
Total	13.45	33.83	31.29	15.87	5.57

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c Working conditions.

Tab. 7.4.1.6.: Working conditions today

Working conditions	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	30.00	30.00	20.00	20.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	46.67	36.67	13.33	3.33	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	56.67	23.33	10.00	10.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	34.09	29.55	13.64	20.45	2.27
Total	41.86	29.89	14.24	13.45	0.57

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis", Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

7.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Tab. 7.4.2.1.: Social relationship ten years ago

Social relationships	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	26.67	46.67	20.00	6.67	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	16.67	43.33	16.67	16.67	6.67
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	40.00	30.00	30.00	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	15.91	65.91	15.91	0.00	2.27
Total	24.81	46.48	20.64	5.83	2.23

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d Social relationships (local social relations, integration/discrimination, etc.).

Tab. 7.4.2.2.: Social relationship today

Social relationship	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	46.67	23.33	30.00	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	56.67	30.00	10.00	3.33	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	66.67	20.00	13.33	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	52.27	29.55	13.64	4.55	0.00
Total	55.57	25.72	16.74	1.97	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis", Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 7.4.2.3.: Legal / administrative status ten years ago

Legal / administrative status	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	23.33	40.00	30.00	0.00	6.67
2. Social Enterprises	10.00	43.33	23.33	10.00	13.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	33.33	30.00	36.67	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	18.18	61.36	11.36	4.55	4.55
Total	21.21	43.67	25.34	3.64	6.14

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1f /2f Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit/citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.).

Tab. 7.4.2.4.: Legal / administrative status today

Legal / administrative status	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	56.67	16.67	20.00	6.67	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	50.00	30.00	16.67	3.33	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	73.33	16.67	10.00	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	56.82	25.00	11.36	2.27	4.55
Total	59.20	22.08	14.51	3.07	1.14

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

7.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

Tab. 7.4.3.1.: At the time, how much money did you save?

At that time, how much money did you save?	0%	0–20%	20–40%	40–60%	> 60%
1. Agribusiness	36.67	3.33	43.33	10.00	6.67
2. Social Enterprises	33.33	0.00	56.67	6.67	3.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	43.33	0.00	40.00	16.67	0.00
4. Potential Investors	11.36	0.00	77.27	9.09	2.27
Total	29.10	0.75	56.72	10.45	2.99

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1g At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 7.4.3.2.: Today, how much money do you save? (on annual basis)

Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis)	0% of the household income	between 0% and 20% of the household income	between 20% and 40% of the household income	between 40% and 60% of the household income	More than 60% of the household income"
1. Agribusiness	3.33	86.67	10.00	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	20.00	63.33	13.33	3.33	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	10.00	63.33	16.67	10.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	11.36	72.73	13.64	2.27	0.00
Total	11.19	71.64	13.43	3.73	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 2g: Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 7.4.3.4.: At the time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on annual basis)

At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis)	0% of the household savings	between 0% and 20% of the household savings	between 20% and 40% of the household savings	between 40% and 60% of the household savings	More than 60% of the household savings"
1. Agribusiness	63.33	26.67	6.67	3.33	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	33.33	63.33	3.33	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	46.67	33.33	13.33	6.67	0.00
4. Potential Investors	54.55	36.36	6.82	2.27	0.00
Total	50.00	39.55	7.46	2.99	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1h At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 7.3.4.5.: Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania?

Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania?	0% of the household savings	between 0% and 20% of the household savings	between 20% and 40% of the household savings	between 40% and 60% of the household savings	More than 60% of the household savings"
1. Agribusiness	23.33	76.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	33.33	63.33	3.33	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	53.33	46.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	59.09	40.91	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	63.43	28.36	2.99	1.49	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 2h: Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

7.6. RELATION WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

7.6.1. RELATION WITH ALBANIA

Tab. 7.6.1.5.: Interest for a register of migrants

Interested in the "register for migrants "	%
Yes	66.42
No	33.58
n.d.	0.00
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin", Question No. 4: In 2016 Albania approved the creation of a "register for migrants ". Once this register will be created, do you think you will register yourself?

7.6.3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENTS TOWARDS ALBANIA

Tab. 7.6.3.3.: Main negative aspects of the experience to move/expand the activity in Albania

Main negative aspects of your experience	%
Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.).	17.50
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	15.00
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration	10.00
Inadequate transport and other infrastructures	10.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 10d: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (in relation to the question No. 10 Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).

7.6.4. POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA IN THE OWN SECTOR

Tab. 7.6.4.1.: Interest to invest in the own professional sector in Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in your professional sector)	Yes	No	Total
1. Agribusiness	20.00	80.00	22.39
2. Social Enterprises	40.00	60.00	22.39
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	36.67	63.33	22.39
4. Potential Investors	43.18	56.82	32.84
Average	34.96	65.04	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 11: More in general, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

CHAPTER VIII - PIEDMONT

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The study, of interest for us to observe the conditions experienced by the Albanian diaspora in Italy, as well as their still-existing relationship with the country of origin, was developed around seven different sections (respectively, Socioeconomic Considerations, Professional Considerations, Economic Considerations, Impact of the Economic Crisis, Perception on Migration and Relations with the Country of Origin). The first two sections do specifically allow one to observe information more closely related to the life of the Albanian migrants in Italy, such as sociodemographic aspects (such as age, country of origin, social and/or legal and administrative status, etc.) and professional traits (such as the level of education, conditions and contracts of employment, the nature of the company, etc.). The third section, on the other hand, studies individual and family resources, with particular attention to income, savings, properties and investments, while the fourth section analyses the impact of the 2008 economic crisis, relating today's economic, social and legal and administrative situation to that of ten years ago. Sections 5 and 6, on the other hand, take into account the personal experience of migrants within the Albanian diaspora (such as the set of positive or negative aspects lived, the plans for the future, etc.) and the relationship with the country of origin (such as ties with the people who still live there, the frequency of visits, investments in loco, etc.). Finally, the seventh and last section differs from the previous ones as it focuses on reporting the data collected during the Focus Group work, held in the city of reference for the region (i.e. Novara), thus offering further ideas for reflections on the subject matter.

In the specific case of the Piedmont Region, the study sample is composed of 123 people, distributed in a balanced way among the different sectors (Agribusiness, Social Enterprises, Cultural Preservation and Heritage, Potential Investors). In terms of gender, the sample is made of 72 male and 51 females, with some significant differences in gender balance within the different sectors: in fact, while male respondents are predominant both in the Agribusiness and Potential Investors group, respondents from the Cultural sector are quite balanced (with a slight predominance of men), and in the Social Enterprises group there is a large majority of women (23 out of 31).

Despite some differences, the sample is presented as a mostly homogeneous group: in fact, the questionnaires show that the majority of the group is made up of people between 40 and 49 years old, born almost entirely in Albania (98%) – in particular, in the provinces of Durres (21.95%), Skhoder (15.45%) and Tirana (13.82%) – and with Albanian citizens at birth (except one man). Moreover, all the 123 people of the sample are residents in Piedmont – quite frequent in the regional territory –, because of the presence of their relatives/friends there (53.74%).

As regards the social and family aspect, most of the respondents are married/cohabiting (74.80%) with mostly Albanian partners (54.74%); however, a good percentage is married/cohabiting with an Italian partner (29.47%).

As in most sample regions, the average level of education is high (most have a Bachelor's degree and 32.52%, even a Master's degree) and have generally been finished in Albania (in three out four sectors), with the only exception of Social Enterprises group, where 18 out of 31 respondents gained their highest degree in Italy. Even if not predominant, the presence of those that studied in Italy is significant also in the Cultural sector (12 out of 32). However, in this general picture, there are interesting differences among sector: in fact, the sectors with the highest level of education are both those of Culture and Social Enterprises (respectively, 50% and 41.94% hold a Master's degree), while in the Agribusiness sector most of the respondents hold a secondary educational degree (40% vocational, 30% regular); otherwise, in the Potential Investors group, the situation is more mixed.

The economic and legal-administrative situation in Italy appears generally good and, despite the economic crisis, has improved in recent years: almost all agree, in fact, to believe that they have improved both their individual and family economic situation over the decade, thanks also to an improvement in working conditions and their annual income, with a consequent increase in their savings capacity. In particular, the working situation is generally good: 46,34 per cent of the respondents are employed permanent full-time, especially in Agribusiness[153] and Social Enterprises[154] sector; 11.38 per cent are employed permanent part-time; 8.13 per cent are self-employed/freelance workers and another 8.13 per cent are business owners. In particular, among the Potential Investors, there is a big entrepreneur who has even an important business in Albania.

As regards social relations and legal and administrative status, respondents claim that they did not observe any substantial changes and that they remained the same as ten years ago. However, it should be noted that ten years ago both were already of an excellent level, or – in any case – acceptable (50.49% of the sample have double citizenship, Albanian/Italian; 25.37% have a residence card; 23.15% have a Long-term EC permit). Most of the respondents report that they have had an excellent migratory experience.

This condition seems to be confirmed also by some data collected in Piedmont, according to which Italy is the centre of interest of the majority of respondents: 80 per cent generally want to maintain their activity in the destination country, while 67.48 per cent would also like their children to grow up there (vice versa: only one person, corresponding to 0.81%, prefers Albania); furthermore, almost all household expenditure is already carried out in Italy (97.24%) and a good percentage of people own a house there.

The long positive experience of the diaspora and the continuous increase in the number of stability factors have inevitably affected relations with Albania: although still today a very high percentage of respondents (80%) deem it important to stay updated on the events of Albania and maintain close relationships with their family members residing there, nobody is planning to return to their country of origin - and only 1.67 per cent assume that they can do so in the near future. So, according to the data collected in Piedmont, Albania does not even seem to be the target/destination of the investments and future projects of the study sample, also due to the serious barriers associated with the taxation and the perceived unfavourable business environment.

However, based on the data collected, it is possible to find some favorable elements in relation to a possible relationship between the Albanian diaspora and the country of origin: in fact, 72.87 per cent have confirmed to be generally interested to contribute to Albania, mainly with voluntary work, helping in the health, cultural and architectural sector and/or helping Albania to enter in the EU. Furthermore, a little percentage of respondents both in the Social and in Cultural sector has expressed interest in a temporary/virtual assignment (respectively, 29.03% and 46.88%), while 8.10 per cent – especially from Cultural sector and Potential Investors – do not rule out the possibility to invest in Albania in a distant future in activities related to tourism (e.g. opening a restaurant/B&B, giving value to the competences in the Cultural sector, etc.).

153 The Agribusiness sector represent 24,39 per cent of the sample. Most of the respondents are agricultural operators (19) or Agribusiness entrepreneur/Agritourism (11).

154 The Social Enterprises is the second group most represented (25,20 per cent) and it includes mainly social health - care workers (10), nurses (8) and doctors (6).

8.1. SOCIOECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

In this introduction section, information on the characteristics of the Albanian community in Piedmont is reported taking into consideration the main sociodemographic aspects (as age, country of birth, citizenship, social status, legal and administrative status refining to the nature of the permit to stay in Italy).

8.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

In Piedmont, the sample is composed of 123 people, distributed in a balanced way among the different sectors (Tab. 8.1.1.1.). In terms of gender, the sample is made of 72 male and 51 females, with some significant differences in gender balance within the different sectors. While male respondents are predominant in the Agribusiness and Potential Investors group, respondents from the Cultural sector are quite balanced (with a slight predominance of men), and in the Social Enterprises group there is a large majority of women (23 out of 31).

Tab. 8.1.1.1.: Employment per sector (distribution per gender and percentage)

Employment per sector	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	6	24	30	20.00	80.00	24.39
2. Social Enterprises	23	8	31	74.19	25.81	25.20
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	14	18	32	43.75	56.25	26.02
4. Potential Investors	8	22	30	26.67	73.33	24.39
Average	51	72	123	41.46	58.54	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social" Section; Question No. 1 Employment sector.

All the 123 persons of the sample are resident in the Piedmont Region[155], quite frequent in the regional territory. Only 24,39 per cent (30 out of 123) are concentrated in Torino, followed by Novara (14.63%) and Cuneo (8.94%). More details about the city of residence can be found in the table below.

Tab. 8.1.1.2.: City or residence (distribution per gender and percentage)

City of residence	Female	Male	Total	%
Alagna	1	1	2	1.63
Alba	0	1	1	0.81
Alessandria	3	2	5	4.07
Asti	5	4	9	7.32
Avigliana	0	1	1	0.81
Biella	1	4	5	4.07
Casale Monferrato	1	0	1	0.81
Cirié	1	1	2	1.63
Cuneo	2	9	11	8.94
Fossano	1	1	2	1.63
Galliate	1	2	3	2.44
Mortara	0	1	1	0.81
Novara	9	9	18	14.63
Oleggio	1	2	3	2.44

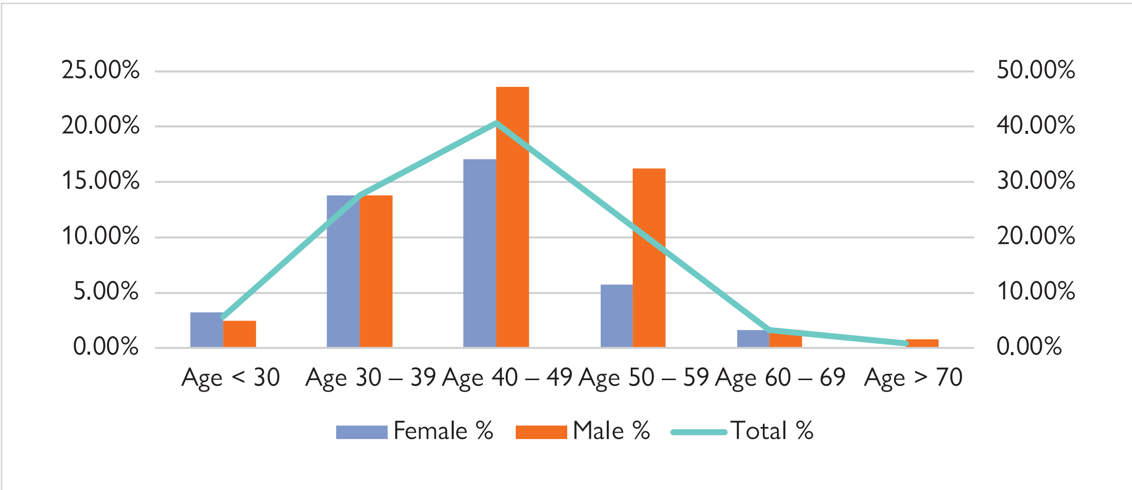
155 100 per cent of the interviewed resides in Piedmont region (according to the Elaboration of question No. 2 - Region of residence).

Pinerolo	1	0	1	0.81
Romentino	3	4	7	5.69
Saluzzo	0	1	1	0.81
Settimo torinese	0	1	1	0.81
Torino	15	15	30	24.39
Trecate	2	6	8	6.50
Verbania	0	2	2	1.63
Vercelli	4	5	9	7.32
Total	**51**	**72**	**123**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 2a - City of residence.

Most of the respondents (50, 40, 65% of the sample) are 40–49 years old, 27.64 per cent are 30–39 years old, whereas 21.95 per cent are 50–59 years old (Fig. 8.1.1.3.).

Fig. 8.1.1.3.: Composition per age (distribution per gender and percentage)[156]

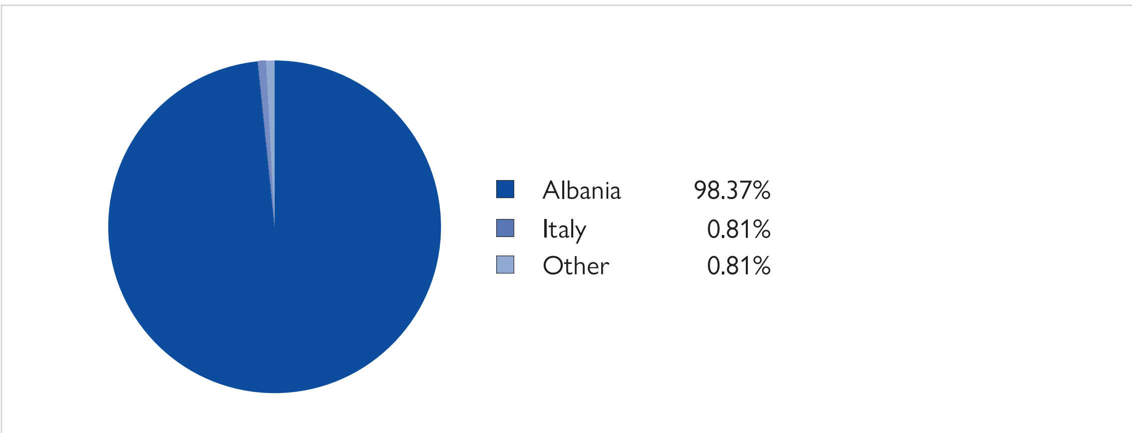


Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 4 - Age of the interviewee.

Almost 98 per cent of the sample is made of respondents born in Albania; there are only two exceptions (2 male) one of which born in Italy, as detailed in Fig. 8.1.1.4.

Tab. 8.1.1.5. shows the City of birth of the respondents. Most of the respondents come from important cities in Albania: 21.95 per cent from Durres; 15.45 per cent from Shkodra; 13.82 per cent from Tirana.

Fig. 8.1.1.4.: Country of birth (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 5 - Country of birth.

156 The source table for this and the following figures are reported in the appendix of this chapter.

Tab. 8.1.1.5.: City of Birth (distribution per gender and percentage)

City of birth	Female	Male	Total	%
Alessio	0	1	1	0.81
Bajzë	0	1	1	0.81
Berat	2	3	5	4.07
Burrel	1	0	1	0.81
Durres / Durazzo	9	18	27	21.95
Elbasan	2	2	4	3.25
Fieri	4	4	8	6.50
Kavaja	0	2	2	1.63
Koplik	0	2	2	1.63
Korca	2	2	4	3.25
Laç	1	0	1	0.81
Lezha	4	6	10	8.13
Librazhd	0	2	2	1.63
Lushnja	0	1	1	0.81
Maminas	3	0	3	2.44
Përmet	1	1	2	1.63
Pogradec	0	1	1	0.81
Puka	1	0	1	0.81
Rreshen	1	1	2	1.63
Shkodra/ Scutari	10	9	19	15.45
Susa	0	1	1	0.81
Tamar	0	1	1	0.81
Tirana	7	10	17	13.82
Vau Dejes	1	0	1	0.81
Vlora / Valona	2	3	5	4.07
Vuthaj	0	1	1	0.81
Total	51	72	123	100.00

Source: Elaboration on “Intro, demographic and social”, question No. 5a - City of birth.

Almost the entire sample was born with Albanian citizenship, with only one exception.

Tab. 8.1.1.6. shows that many members of the sample acquired Italian citizenship during their life (61 out of 123). Some respondents (4) renounced to their Albanian citizenship.

Tab. 8.1.1.6.: Citizenship at birth and today

	Citizenship at birth			Citizenship today		
	Albanian	Italian	Other	Albanian	Italian	Other
Female	51	0	0	51	26	0
Male	71	0	1	67	35	0
Total	122	0	1	118	61	0

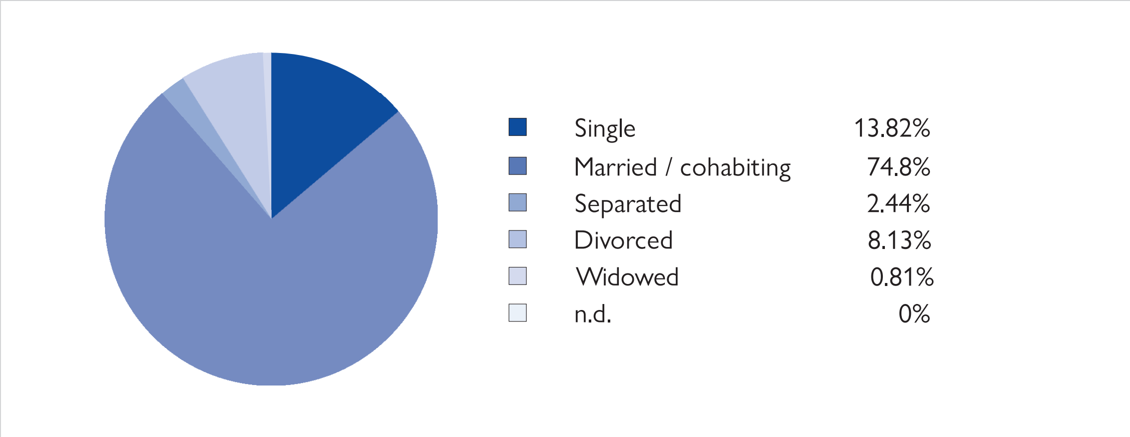
Source: Elaboration on “Intro, demographic and social”, question No. 6 Citizenship at birth and question No. 7 Citizenship today.

8.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

The vast majority of respondents are married/cohabiting (74.80% of the sample), with a predominance of males (Fig. 8.1.2.1.). The second most represented group, but by far less significant, is that of singles (13.82% of the sample).

As shown in Tab. 8.1.2.2., 54.74 per cent of the married/cohabiting people have an Albanian partner (60.34% of men; 45.95% of women); 29.47 per cent of married/cohabiting people have an Italian partner (25.86% of men; 35.14% of women); 12.63 per cent a partner with double citizenship, Italian/Albanian (8.62% of men; 18.92% of women).

Fig. 8.1.2.1.: Marital status (percentage distribution)



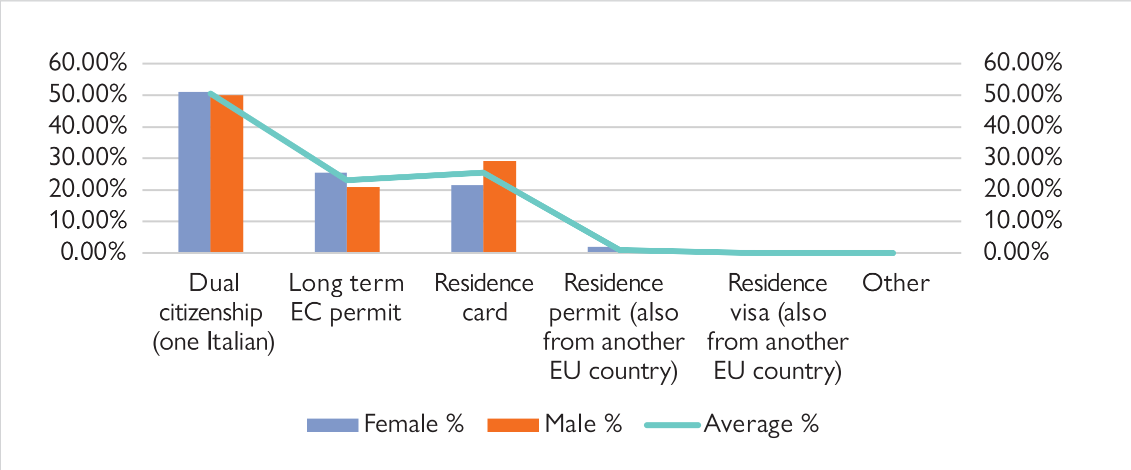
Tab. 8.1.2.2.: Current citizenship of the partner (distribution per gender and percentage)

Current citizenship of the partner	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Albanian	17	35	52	45.95	60.34	54.74
Italian	13	15	28	35.14	25.86	29.47
Albanian and Italian	7	5	12	18.92	8.62	12.63
Romanian	0	1	1	0.00	1.72	1.05
Ukrainian	0	1	1	0.00	1.72	1.05
Spanish	0	1	1	0.00	1.72	1.05
Total	37	58	95	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 8: Check previous answer: if a. married / cohabiting or c. separated: What's the current citizenship of the partner?

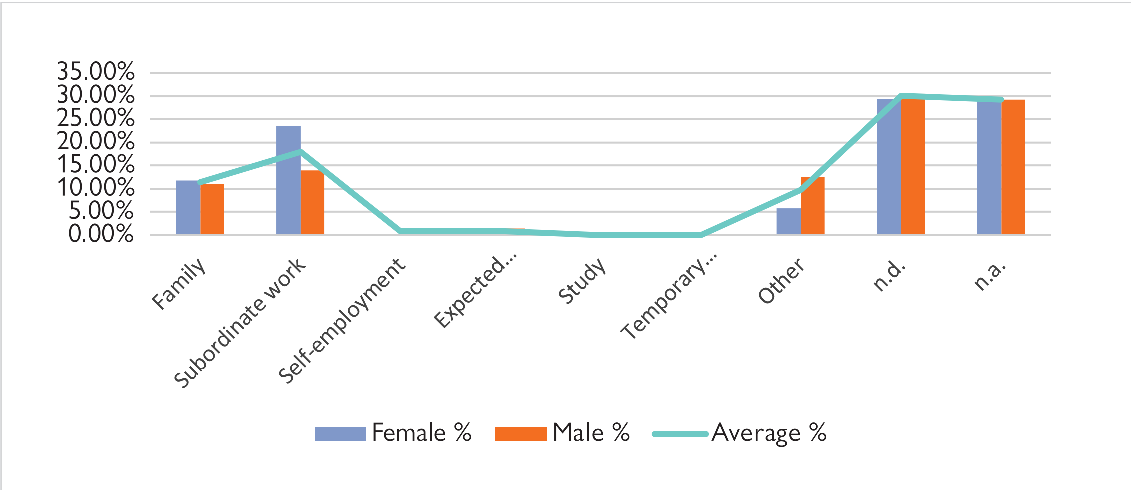
Fig. 8.1.2.3. illustrates the legal and administrative status of the sample with respect to the stay in Italy. Most of the respondents have double citizenship (Albanian/Italian) (50.49% of the sample); this situation applies equally to men and women. The second most frequent situation is of residence card (25.37% of the sample), particularly frequent among men. The third most common situation is that of Long-term EC permits (23.16% of the sample), mostly frequent among women. Residence permits are mainly for working reasons (subordinate work – 17.89% in total, but 23.53% of women) (Fig. 8.1.2.4.), followed by family reasons (11.38%, equally distributed among men and women).

Fig. 8.1.2.3.: Current legal and administrative status (distribution per gender and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 10 Please tell us your current legal and administrative status with respect to your stay in Italy.

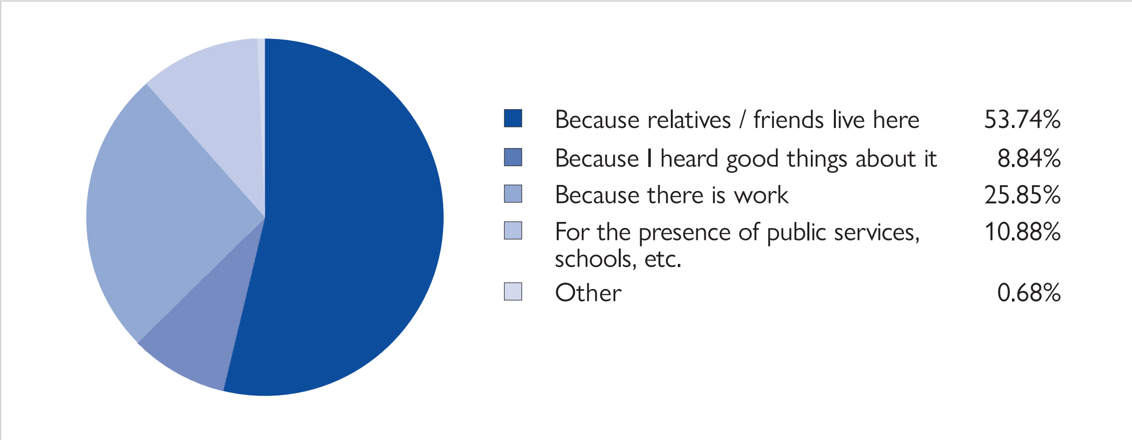
Fig. 8.1.2.4.: Typology of valid visa or residence permit (distribution per gender and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 11 If you have a valid visa or residence permit or are renewing it, please indicate the type.

Finally, the main driver for the selection of the area where to locate in Italy is apparently the presence of relatives/friends, which applies for 53.74 per cent of the sample (Fig. 8.1.2.5.). Another relevant driver is work (for 25.85% of the respondents) and the presence of public services (for 10.88% of the respondents).

Fig. 8.1.2.5.: Reasons for choosing the area where he/she lives



Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 13 For what reasons did you choose this area? (multiple choices, even more than one).

8.2. PROFESSIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section offers information on the professional traits and profiles of the interviewees including the educational level, employment (work condition/contract) and the nature of the company (for entrepreneurs).

8.2.1. EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAITS

The sample has a certain concentration of highly skilled workers (Tab. 8.2.1.1.): 32.52 per cent of respondents hold a Master's degree; 16.26 per cent of the respondents hold a Bachelor's degree; another 16.26 per cent hold a regular secondary education degree and 20.33 per cent hold a secondary degree vocational education, 14.63 per cent have a primary school degree.

In this general picture, there are interesting differences among sector that it is worth highlighting. The sectors with the highest level of education are that of Culture and Social Enterprises. In the Cultural sector, 50 per cent of respondents hold a Master's degree, and a further 21.88 per cent hold a Bachelor's degree. In Social Enterprises sector, 41.94 per cent hold a Master's degree and 35.48 per cent a Bachelor's degree. In the Agribusiness sector, most of respondents hold a secondary education degree (40% vocational, 30% regular). In the Potential Investors group, the situation is more mixed, with 30 per cent with a primary school degree, around 30 per cent with a secondary education degree, around 40 per cent with Bachelor's or Master's degree.

Tab. 8.2.1.2. shows the different professional profiles included in the sample and contribute to a better understanding of the different education level just described. Indeed, in the Agribusiness sector, the most of respondents are agricultural operators (19) or Agribusiness entrepreneur / Agritourism (11). The Social Enterprises group includes mainly social health workers (10), nurses (8), doctors (6). The Cultural group is mainly made of artists of professionals in the field of art and cultural events (17) and profiles such as architects or conservators/restorers (11). The more mixed Potential Investors group is made mainly of entrepreneur or employed in Trade / Craftsmanship /Service (14) and in the Building sector (construction, restoration, etc.) (9).

Tab. 8.2.1.3. shows the country where the highest educational level was completed. Albania was the most mentioned answer in three out of four sectors, with the only exception of Social Enterprises, where 18 out of 31 respondents gained their highest degree in Italy. Even if not predominant, the presence of those that studied in Italy is significant also in the Cultural sector (12 out of 32).

Tab. 8.2.1.1.: Educational level/qualification (distribution per sector and percentage)

Educational level/ qualification	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential investor	Total
None or preschool	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Primary school	26.67%	0.00%	3.13%	30.00%	14.63%
Secondary education, vocational	40.00%	12.90%	6.25%	23.33%	20.33%
Secondary education, regular	30.00%	9.68%	18.75%	6.67%	16.26%

Tertiary education, Bachelor degree	0.00%	35.48%	21.88%	6.67%	16.26%
Tertiary education, Master's degree	3.33%	41.94%	50.00%	33.33%	32.52%
Quaternary education (PhD or other)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations", question No. 1 Educational level/qualification (please select the highest completed).

Tab. 8.2.1.2: Professional composition of the sample, per sector and sub-sector

Professional sector and sub-sector	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness (profiles linked to Agri-food and Agritourism)	**6**	**24**	**30**	**11.76**	**33.33**	**24.39**
Agribusiness entrepreneur / Agritourism	0	11	11	0.00	45.83	36.67
Agricultural operator	6	13	19	100.00	54.17	63.33
2. Social Enterprises (profiles linked to social and health services)	**23**	**8**	**31**	**45.10**	**11.11**	**25.20**
Nurse	6	2	8	26.09	25.00	25.81
Sociocultural mediator	2	1	3	8.70	12.50	9.68
Doctor/dentist	5	1	6	21.74	12.50	19.35
Social and health-care services	1	1	2	4.35	12.50	6.45
University and research / Studies / Teachers and Educators (health-care sector)	1	1	2	4.35	12.50	6.45
Social health worker (as physiotherapist, pharmacist, optician, etc.)	8	2	10	34.78	25.00	32.26
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage (profiles linked to cultural or archeological sites)	**14**	**18**	**32**	**27.45**	**25.00**	**26.02**
Architect / Conservator-restorer / Designer	3	8	11	21.43	44.44	34.38
Writer / Journalist/ Translator	2	2	4	14.29	11.11	12.50
Art, sport, show, entertainment and cultural events	9	8	17	64.29	44.44	53.13
4. Potential Investors (all other sectors)	**8**	**22**	**30**	**15.69**	**30.56**	**24.39**
Hotel/accommodation	1		1	12.50	0.00	3.33
Lawyer / Accountant / Consultant, etc.	0	1	1	0.00	4.55	3.33
Coffee shop / Restaurants / Pastry shop / Bakery	2	2	4	25.00	9.09	13.33
Trade / Craftsmanship /Service	5	9	14	62.50	40.91	46.67
Building (construction, restoration, etc.)	0	9	9	0.00	40.91	30.00
Manufacturing/ Metalworking	0	1	1	0.00	4.55	3.33
Total	51	72	123	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Author's classification of the main professional profile included in the sample of Piedmont Region.

Tab. 8.2.1.3.: Country where the highest educational level was completed (distribution per sector and percentage)

Employment sector	Albania	Italy	Other	Total	Albania (%)	Italy (%)	Other (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	29	1	0	30	96.67	3.33	0.00	24.39
2. Social Enterprises	13	18	0	31	41.94	58.06	0.00	25.20
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	20	12	0	32	62.50	37.50	0.00	26.02
4. Potential Investors	23	7	0	30	76.67	23.33	0.00	24.39
Total	85	38	0	123	69.11	30.89	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations", question No. 2 Where did you completed the highest educational/qualification level?

The working situation of respondents is generally speaking good (Tab. 8.2.1.4.). 46.34 per cent of the respondents are employed permanent full time; 11.38 per cent employed permanent part-time. 8.13 per cent are self-employed and another 8.13 per cent are business owner. Employed permanent full-time are the most common category in all sectors but particularly concentrated in the cases of Agribusiness and Social Enterprises, while among Cultural sectors and Potential Investors the situations are more differentiated.

Tab. 8.2.1.4.: Working status (distribution per sector and percentage)

Working status	1. Agribu-siness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential investor	Total
Unemployed (actively looking for a job)	0.00	0.81	1.63	0.00	2.44
Homemaker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Student	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Student-worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employed permanent full time	13.01	17.89	8.13	7.32	46.34
Employed permanent part-time	4.07	0.81	4.88	1.63	11.38
Employed with time limited contract	0.81	2.44	0.81	1.63	5.69
Occupied in layoffs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
On the move	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Occupied irregularly but fairly stable	0.81	0.00	2.44	0.00	3.25
Occupied irregularly in an unstable way	0.81	0.00	0.81	0.00	1.63
Occupied "para-subordinate" work	0.00	1.63	4.07	0.81	6.50
Self-employed regular /freelance worker *	0.81	0.81	1.63	4.88	8.13
Self-employed worker not regular	2.44	0.00	0.81	0.00	3.25
Business owner*	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.13	8.13
Cooperative worker member	0.00	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.81
Other/Do not declare	1.63	0.00	0.81	0.00	2.44
Total	24.39	25.20	26.02	24.39	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations", question No. 6 Please tell us your working situation - the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

FOCUS ON SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNERS*

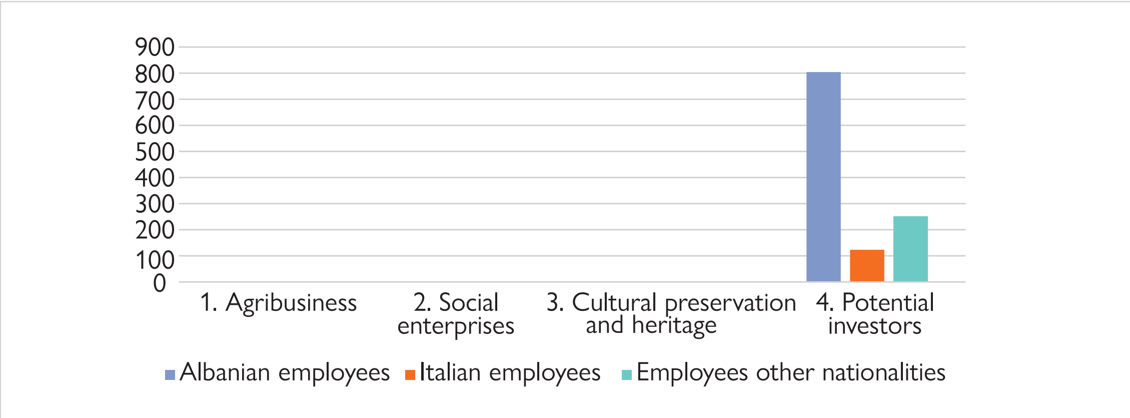
Some questions were directed specifically to those respondents who declared to be self-employed or business owners.

In the case of Piedmont, the answers to this section were affected by one respondent, in particular, a big entrepreneur in the logistics sector, who declared more than 1000 employees. The vast majority of those employees are Albanian, as illustrated in Fig. 8.2.2.1.

We asked if the centre of business of these self-employed or business owners is in Italy or elsewhere (Tab. 8.2.2.2.) and Italy was the only answer.

Only one of the respondents, from the Potential Investors group, declared to have important investments in Albania.

Fig. 8.2.2.1.: Nationality of employees (for self-employed and business owners)



*The distribution of employees in the Piedmont region is distorted by the presence of a single outlier: a potential investor who is a business owner with more than one thousand employees.

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations", Questions No. 8: How many employees do you have? Question 8a How many are Italians? And Question 8b: How many are Albanians?

Tab. 8.2.2.2.: Location of the centre of the business (distribution per sector and percentage)

Italy as the centre of your business	Yes	No	n.d.	Yes (%)	No (%)	n.d. (%)
1. Agribusiness	1	0	0	5.26	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	1	0	0	5.26	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	1	0	0	5.26	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	16	0	0	84.21	0.00	0.00
Total	19	0	0	100.00	0.00	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations"; Question No. 9: Is the centre of your business interests Italy? Namely are your main business partners, supply relationships, customers, etc. in Italy? and 9a If NO, where is your "centre of business interests" located?

Tab. 8.2.2.3.: Business relationships with Albania (distribution per sector and percentage)

Business relationships with Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Yes (%)	No (%)	n.d (%)
1. Agribusiness	0	1	0	0.00	5.26	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	0	1	0	0.00	5.26	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0	1	0	0.00	5.26	0.00
4. Potential Investors	1	15	0	5.26	78.95	0.00
Total	1	18	0	5.26	94.74	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations", question No. 10 Do you do business / have business relationships with Albania? (e.g. important customers, suppliers, partners, participation in tenders and calls, etc.).

8.3. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

This section has the objective to study and analyse the individual and family assets of the respondents focusing on the yearly income, saving and remitting habits, real estate properties between Italy and Albania (if not, elsewhere) and other forms of investments. Based on these aspects we intend to grasp, on the one hand, general indications on the earing capacity of Albanians in Italy and their financial stability or fragility. On the other hand, the geography of the real estate properties can offer us indications on concrete existing capitals, linkages and possible investments of the diaspora – more likely in the country of origin or in Italy.

8.3.1. INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

The average yearly individual income declared by respondents in Piedmont[157] is EUR 32,852, which is above the national average income in Italy in 2018[158] (EUR 20,670). By considering income in the Piedmont region, it should be noted that the economic values are distorted by the presence of a single outlier: a potential investor – a business owner, which shows an extremely high level of income. Excluding him, we can see the average income for the region (for both men and women) that is more in line with national value.

The average family annual income[159] declared by Albanian respondents in Piedmont is EUR 43,536 that results much higher of the Italian national average family income.[160] The sector that accounts for the highest household and individual income of respondents is Potential Investor (for both men and women). Other sectors that show high household income levels are: Social Enterprises (for both men and women), Agribusiness for women and Culture for men.

In addition, data on the average annual income per capita of the respondents (EUR 13,144) – referring to the income for each household member[161] – show difference between female income in the Culture sector and men in the Agribusiness.

In Piedmont, we can confirm the general positive indication of the income level and earing capacity of respondents, but also highlight some differences by considering the gender dimension and the professional sector of belonging.

Female respondents state in fact a lower average yearly individual income (EUR 20,054) compared to the male component (EUR 41,916), except for the Potential Investors sector. The sector with the lowest individual female income is Agribusiness (EUR 13,833), while the highest is that of Potential Investors (EUR 24,500). The sector showing the highest individual income distance/difference between men and women, excluding Potential Investors, is Agribusiness.

These data confirm a general trend in gender income discrepancy with women generally earning less than men.[162] Also, income divergence can be also explained by the prevalence of women in part-time jobs to meet family/children needs.

157 The fieldwork took place in 2019 and this question referred to that year.
158 Site consulted on 23 January 2010.
www.repubblica.it/economia/miojob/lavoro/2019/03/28/news/mef_il_reddito_medio_italiano_e_sceso_a_20_670_euro-222716008/.
159 Including all sources of family income and referring to the average family household size of 3,24 persons, see *Tab.* 8.3.1.2., *Average family household size per gender and sector.*
160 For the fiscal year 2017, the national Italian average family income was EUR 30,595, excluding real estate rents. *Source*: www.istat.it/it/files/2018/12/Report-Reddito-Condizioni-di-vita-2017.pdf.
161 By elaborating the household size in relationship with the household income.
162 As reported by the EU Commission, in 2017 “the gender pay gap in the EU stands at 16 per cent and has only changed minimally over the last decade. It means that women earn 16 per cent on average less per hour than men”. *Source*: ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/equal-pay/gender-pay-gap-situation-eu_en.

Tab. 8.3.1.1.: Distribution of individual average annual income per gender and sector

Individual annual income (average in euro)	
Female	**20,054.90**
1. Agribusiness	13,833.33
2. Social Enterprises	21,339.13
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	18,071.43
4. Potential Investors	24,500.00
Male	**41,916.67**
1. Agribusiness	20,708.33
2. Social Enterprises	24,750.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	23,944.44
4. Potential Investors*	86,000.00
Total	**32,852.03**

*It should be noted that the economic values in the Piedmont Region are distorted by the presence of a single outlier: a potential investor – a business owner, which shows extremely high level of income.

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations", Question No. 1: What is your annual (individual) income? (Important: please include the sum of all your incomes - those declared + all "extras"/undeclared/cash-in-hand).

Tab. 8.3.1.2.: Distribution of household average annual income per gender and sector

Household income (average in euro)	
Female	**30,745.10**
1. Agribusiness	39,666.67
2. Social Enterprises	31,260.87
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	24,285.71
4. Potential Investors	33,875.00
Male	**52,597.22**
1. Agribusiness	29,750.00
2. Social Enterprises	40,750.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	35,388.89
4. Potential Investors*	95,909.09
Total	**43,536.59**

*It should be noted that the economic values in the Piedmont region are distorted by the presence of a single outlier: a potential investor - a business owner, which shows extremely high level of income.

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 3: Considering all different sources (income from work, annuities, assistance, etc.), what is the approximate average annual sum of the income of your entire household?

Tab. 8.3.1.3.: Average family household size per gender and sector

Household size (average)	
Female	**2.92**
1. Agribusiness	3.67
2. Social Enterprises	2.83
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	2.64
4. Potential Investors	3.13
Male	**3.46**
1. Agribusiness	3.79
2. Social Enterprises	3.00

3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	3.06
4. Potential Investors	3.59
Total	3.24

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 2: Household size: How many people comprise your "household" (interviewee included)? By "household" we mean the group of people with whom there is a relationship of kinship/love, which also means sharing expenses (food, clothing, leisure) and income.

Tab. 8.3.1.4.: Distribution of annual income per capita per gender and sector

Income per capita (for each member of the household, average in euro)	
Female	**11,120.92**
1. Agribusiness	11,111.11
2. Social Enterprises	11,811.59
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	9,589.29
4. Potential Investors	11,822.92
Male	**14,577.55**
1. Agribusiness	8,386.11
2. Social Enterprises	13,645.83
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	12,921.30
4. Potential Investors*	23,025.76
Total	**13,144.31**

*It should be noted that the economic values in the Piedmont region are distorted by the presence of a single outlier: a potential investor - a business owner, which shows extremely high level of income.

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 2: Household size and Question No. 3: Household income.

8.3.2. REMITTANCES AND SAVING BEHAVIOUR

Most part of the household family income of respondents (97.24%) stays in Italy, either spent as living expenses or savings. This means that only a small portion of the family income (2.76%) is destined for other purposes. Tracking down results by gender, we can highlight that men send just a little more than women elsewhere (3.29%) and that males from Social Enterprises and Potential sectors are able to save generally more than all others.

Considering that "small portion" above mentioned, 38 per cent of respondents (47 persons out of 123) that send money elsewhere, actually remit to Albania.[163] The totality of the money sent goes to family members (parents, relatives and/or siblings).[164] This percentage is not tremendously high if we consider the general remittance attitude of migrants.[165] Around 43 persons of those that remit to Albania, do not send money to a bank account.[166]

Also, family reunion happened extensively over the years. And, finally, the longer migrants live and settle abroad, the less they tend to remit due to increasing needs in the residence country (for the presence of children, house, mortgage, etc.).

163 *Source: Elaboration on section "Economic", question No. 3c How much of the money "sent elsewhere" goes to Albania?*
164 *Source: Elaboration on section "Economic", question No. 3d Who do you send this money to in Albania?*
165 According to the survey of the National Observatory for Financial Inclusion of Migrants in Italy, the average remittances in terms of percentage of income is around 12,3 per cent in 2017.
166 true is that 76 persons do not provide an answer to this question.

Tab. 8.3.2.1.: Percentage of household income employed in Italy (either spent or saved) or elsewhere, per gender and sector.

Money spent and saved	% spent in Italy	% saved in Italy	% sent elsewhere
Female	**92.02**	**5.96**	**2.02**
1. Agribusiness	92.50	6.00	1.50
2. Social Enterprises	92.30	5.57	2.13
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	92.50	5.71	1.79
4. Potential Investors	90.00	7.50	2.50
Male	**87.78**	**8.93**	**3.29**
1. Agribusiness	91.75	4.88	3.38
2. Social Enterprises	84.38	11.63	4.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	89.33	8.17	2.50
4. Potential Investors	83.41	13.00	3.59
Total	**89.54**	**7.70**	**2.76**

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 3a: Considering the figure just mentioned (question No. 3) as 100 per cent of your household income: how much do you spend Italy, how much do you save in Italy and how much do you send elsewhere?

Tab. 8.3.2.2.: Remittances sent to Albania, per sector

Money sent to Albania	No	Yes	Total	No (%)	Yes (%)
1. Agribusiness	16	14	30	13.01	11.38
2. Social Enterprises	18	13	31	14.63	10.57
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	22	10	32	17.89	8.13
4. Potential Investors	20	10	30	16.26	8.13
Total	**76**	**47**	**123**	**61.79**	**38.21**

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 3b: Of the previous percentage "sent elsewhere", do you send anything to Albania?

Tab. 8.3.2.3.: Remittances sent to Albania, per sector

	Do you send it to a bank account?		Do you have control of this bank account in any way?	
	Absolute value	%	Absolute value	%
Yes	4	3.25	1	25.00
No	43	34.96	3	75.00
n.d.	76	61.79	0	0.00
Total	123	100.00	4	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 3e: Do you send it to a bank account? And Question 3f: Do you have control of this bank account in any way?

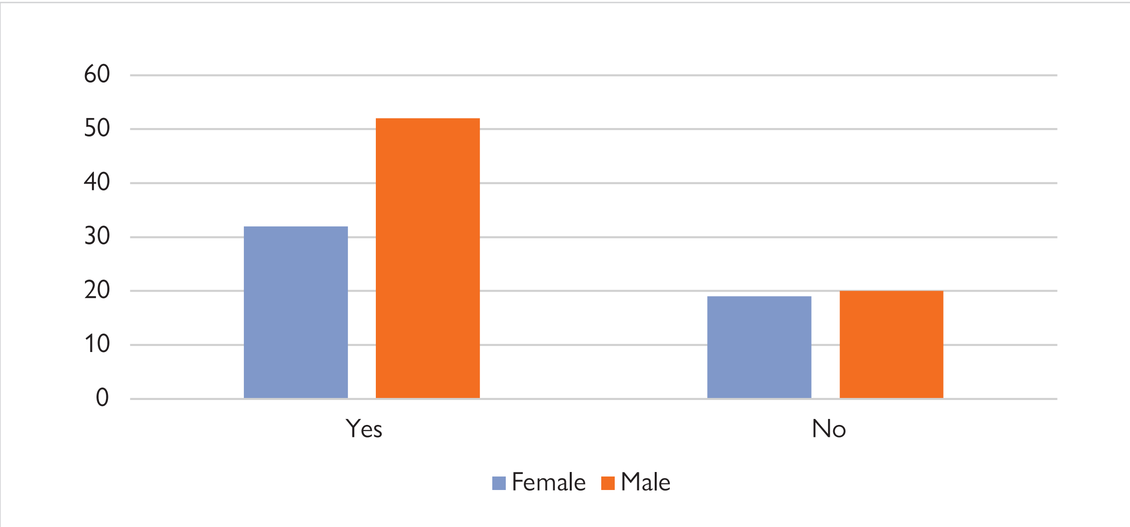
8.3.3. REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

Two-thirds of respondents (84 persons) own a house, the remaining half does not (39 persons), with more men owing to a house than women. The majority (54 persons) possess a house in Italy, while 15 persons only in Albania and 15 persons in both countries. Verifying the presence of additional properties (as land, real estate, etc.), 4.5 per cent of respondents declare to have them in Italy while 41.14 per cent in Albania.

Owning a house or a property in the country of origin can be a stimulus to either invest in the renovation for the family still living there or for the holidays, but also for possible investment as business or in tourism (frequently mentioned during the focus groups as well as the barriers due to the lack of clarity in the private property register in Albania). At the same time, owning a house in Italy is a signal of stability in the destination country (often implying a mortgage to repay it, therefore choosing this an important and significant family investment in the long term).

The survey also asked about future plans in terms of intentions in the nearby future, whether in Albania or in Italy or elsewhere.[167] Considering the plan to buy a property in the next three years in Italy, the responses are shared between those that are not considering it (71%)[168] and those that are interested (28.72%)[169] to buy one. The same question applied to buy a property in Albania in the next future shows that only (3.35%)[170] is planning it, while the majority (96.65%)[171] is not.

Fig. 8.3.3.1.: Ownership of a house



Source: Elaboration o "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 4: Do you own any houses?

Tab. 8.3.3.2.: Country where the house is owned

Where	Female	Male	Total
Albania	3	12	15
Italy	26	28	54
Italy and Albania	3	12	15
n.d.	19	20	39
Total	51	72	123

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations": Question No. 4a: If yes how many and where?

167 Almost all of respondents (98.61%) is not interested in any property elsewhere.
168 This sums up to: 1.39 per cent +69.89 per cent, see *Tab. 8.3.3.3., Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future.*
169 This sums up to: 3.35 per cent + 25.37 per cent, see *Tab. 8.3.3.3., Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future.*
170 This sums up to: 1.39 per cent +1,96 per cent, see *Tab. 8.3.3.4., Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future.*
171 This sums up to: 39.75 per cent +56.90 per cent, see *Tab. 8.3.3.4., Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future.*

Tab. 8.3.3.3.: Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property in Italy?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	3.92		96.08		0.00	100.00
Male	5.56		94.44		0.00	100.00
Average	4.74		95.26		0.00	100.00
Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	3.92	0.00	21.57	74.51	3.92	100.00
Male	2.78	2.78	29.17	65.28	2.78	100.00
Average	3.35	1.39	25.37	69.89	3.35	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 5a: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Italy? and 5b Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy for the next 3 years? 5b has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5a.

Tab. 8.3.3.4.: Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	39.22		60.78		0.00	100.00
Male	43.06		56.94		0.00	100.00
Average	41.14		58.86		0.00	100.00
Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	39.22	3.92	56.86	0.00	100.00
Male	2.78	40.28	0.00	56.94	0.00	100.00
Average	1.39	39.75	1.96	56.90	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations", question No. 5c Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania? and 5d Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years? 5d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5c.

Tab. 8.3.3.5: Additional properties elsewhere and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) elsewhere?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	0.00		100.00		0.00	100.00
Male	2.78		97.22		0.00	100.00
Average	1.39		98.61		0.00	100.00
Do you plan to buy real estate in elsewhere for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Male	0.00	2.78	0.00	97.22	0.00	100.00
Average	0.00	1.39	0.00	98.61	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations", question No. 5e Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) elsewhere? 5g Do you plan to buy real estate elsewhere for the next 3 years? 5g has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5e.

8.3.4. FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

When investigating financial investments undertaken in the past, respondents state they invested in Italy, in larger part (80.19%), and some also in Albania (16.30%). Nobody invested elsewhere. When considering the next three years, more than half of the respondents (55.75%)[172] say they are planning to financially invest in Italy, while the rest is not. When asked about the possibility to financially invest in Albania in the next three years, almost all of the respondents declare not to be planning it (98.61%).[173]

These data tell us that this group had some experience of financial investments, mainly in Italy and in a small percentage in the country of origin. For the future, it seems that Albania is not a target/destination of financial investments.

Tab. 8.3.4.1.: Financial investments made in Italy

<table>
<tr><th>Have you made financial investments Italy?</th><th colspan="2">Yes</th><th colspan="2">No</th><th>n.d.</th><th>Total</th></tr>
<tr><td>Female</td><td colspan="2">78.43</td><td colspan="2">21.57</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Male</td><td colspan="2">81.94</td><td colspan="2">18.06</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Average</td><td colspan="2">80.19</td><td colspan="2">19.81</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Do you plan to do this in Italy for the next 3 years?</th><th colspan="2">Yes, to the previous</th><th colspan="2">No, to the previous</th><th rowspan="2">n.d.</th><th rowspan="2">Total</th></tr>
<tr><th>Yes</th><th>No</th><th>Yes</th><th>No</th></tr>
<tr><td>Female</td><td>47.06</td><td>31.37</td><td>1.96</td><td>19.61</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Male</td><td>61.11</td><td>20.83</td><td>1.39</td><td>16.67</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Average</td><td>54.08</td><td>26.10</td><td>1.67</td><td>18.14</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
</table>

Source: Elaboration "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 6a: Have you made financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Italy? and 6a Do you plan to do this in Italy for the next 3 years? 6b has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 6a.

Tab. 8.3.4.2.: Financial investments made in Albania

<table>
<tr><th>Have you made financial investments in Albania?</th><th colspan="2">Yes</th><th colspan="2">No</th><th>n.d.</th><th>Total</th></tr>
<tr><td>Female</td><td colspan="2">11.76</td><td colspan="2">88.24</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Male</td><td colspan="2">20.83</td><td colspan="2">79.17</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Average</td><td colspan="2">16.30</td><td colspan="2">83.70</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Do you plan to do this in Albania for the next 3 years?</th><th colspan="2">Yes, to the previous</th><th colspan="2">No, to the previous</th><th rowspan="2">n.d.</th><th rowspan="2">Total</th></tr>
<tr><th>Yes</th><th>No</th><th>Yes</th><th>No</th></tr>
<tr><td>Female</td><td>0.00</td><td>11.76</td><td>0.00</td><td>88.24</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Male</td><td>2.78</td><td>18.06</td><td>0.00</td><td>79.17</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Average</td><td>1.39</td><td>14.91</td><td>0.00</td><td>83.70</td><td>0.00</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
</table>

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 6c: Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Albania? and 6d Do you plan to do this in Albania the next 3 years? 6d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 6c.

172 This sums up to: 54,08+1,67 per cent, see *Tab. 8.3.4.1., Financial investments made in Italy.*.
173 This sums up to: 83,70 per cent+14,91 per cent, see *Tab. 8.3.4.2., Financial investments made in Albania.*.

Tab. 8.3.4.3.: Financial investments made elsewhere

Have you made financial investments elsewhere?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	0.00		100.00		0.00	100.00
Male	0.00		100.00		0.00	100.00
Average	0.00		100.00		0.00	100.00
Do you plan to do this elsewhere for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Male	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Average	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Questions 6e: Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) elsewhere? 6f If yes, where? 6g. Do you plan to do this elsewhere for the next 3 years? 6h. If Yes, where?

8.4. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

This section analyses the impact of the recent economic crisis on the individual/family conditions, considering how the situation of the respondents changed in the last ten years (or during the first two years in Italy, for those that arrived in Italy afterward) for the economic/working/social and legal point of view.

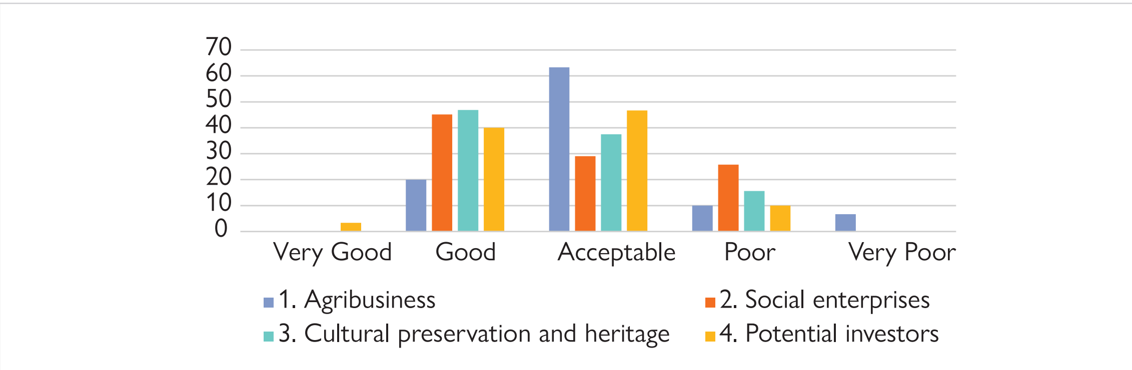
Consequently, respondents were asked to give an opinion on their (economic, social, professional, etc.) situation ten years ago (or during the first two years in Italy) and today. The results are shown comparatively in the following figures. Overall, the situation looks better today – or at least stable – despite the economic crisis and in all the considered sectors.

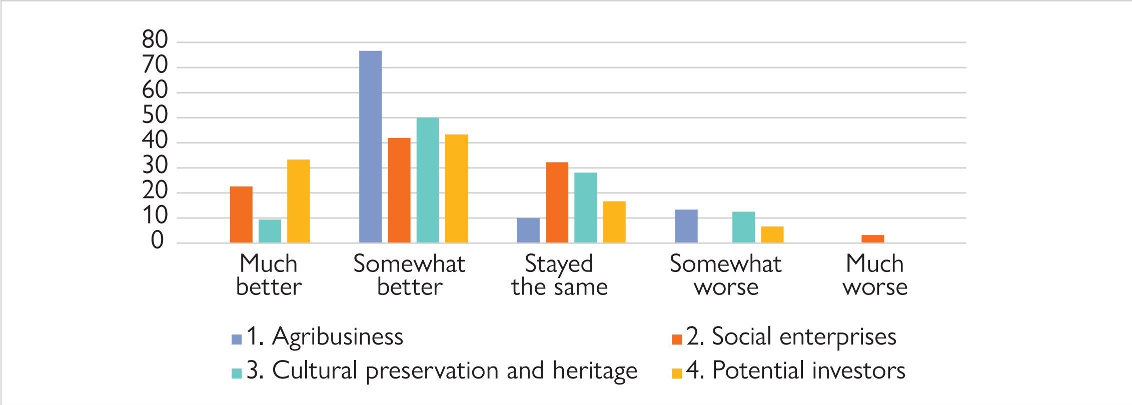
8.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Considering more specifically single dimensions and sectors, there are some differences, which are worth highlighting. In terms of the economic situation (individual income), the situation was considered mainly "acceptable" by most of the respondents in the Agribusiness (more than 60%) and Potential Investors group (almost 50%). In both sectors, a number of other respondents considered their situation "good" (20% in the Agribusiness, 40% within the Potential Investors group); a smaller percentage (around 10%) in those sectors considered the situation "poor" and, in case of Agribusiness, even "very poor" (less than 10%). In the groups of Culture and Social Enterprises, the situation was considered mainly "good" (by around 45% of respondents); in many cases "acceptable" (less than 30% in Social Enterprises, less than 40% in Culture) and in some cases "poor" (almost 25% in the Social Enterprises group, more than 10% in the Cultural sector).

Today, most of respondents in all sector consider their situation "somewhat better" (almost 80% in the case of Agribusiness, between 40% and 50% in the other sectors). In Social Enterprises and Potential investor groups many respondents consider their situation "much better" (more than 20% and more than 30% respectively). A number of respondents (around 30% in the Social Enterprises and Cultural sectors) consider that the situation stayed the same (Fig. 8.4.1.1. and 8.4.1.2.).

Fig. 8.4.1.1. and 8.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) ten years ago/today

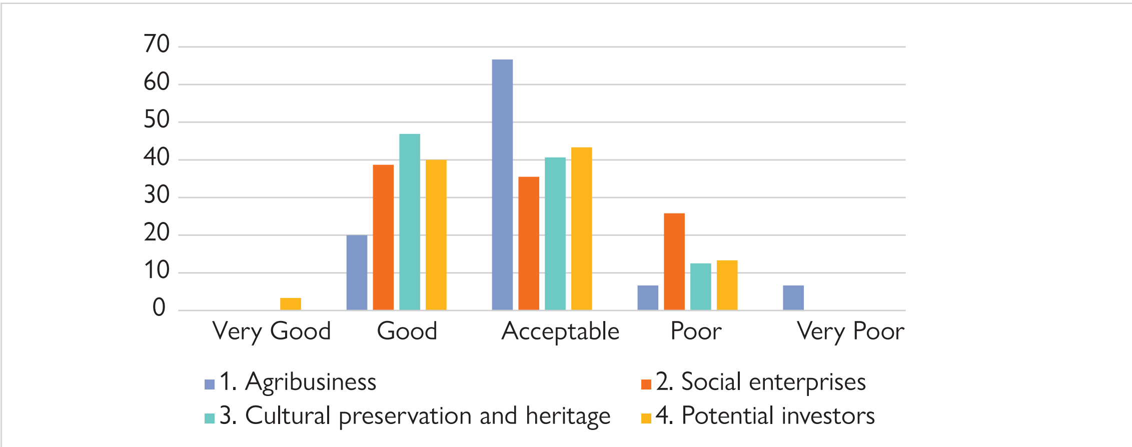


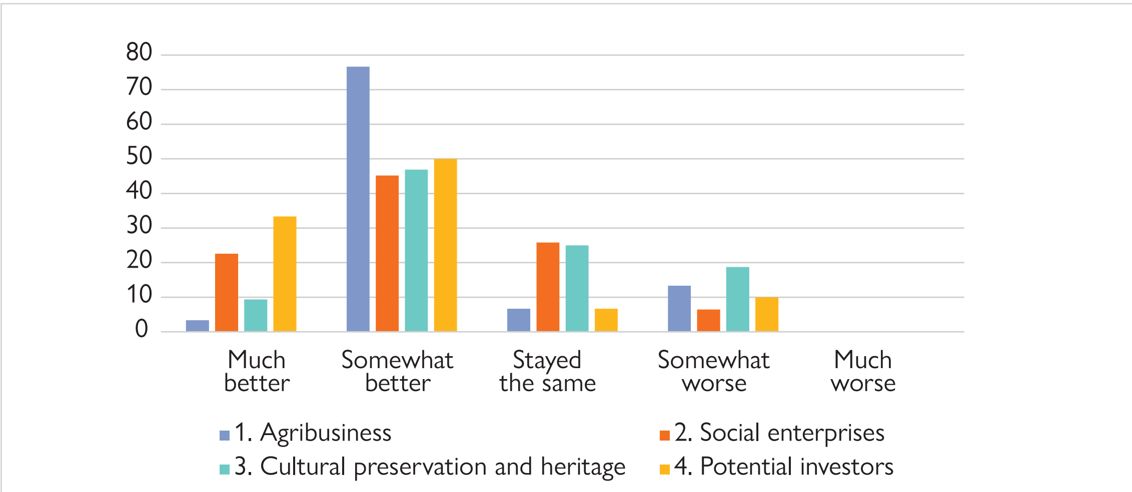


Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; questions No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1a/2a Economic situation (individual income) and question No. 2 Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Fig. 8.4.1.3. and 8.4.1.4. illustrate the responses collected with respect to household income. In this case, "acceptable" was, again, the most frequent answer to describe the situation ten years ago for Agribusiness and Potential Investors group, followed by those that considered the situation "good" and, in more limited cases, "poor". Also in the Social Enterprises and Cultural sectors, the situation of household income reflects that of individual income, with a predominance of "good" in the answers, followed by "acceptable" and, in limited cases (but around 25% in the case of Social Enterprises), "poor". Today, the situation is, generally speaking, ameliorated, the most in the Agribusiness sector; however, it is worth highlighting that between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of respondents in the Social Enterprises and Cultural sectors consider that the situation "stayed the same".

Fig. 8.4.1.3. and 8.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) ten years ago/today

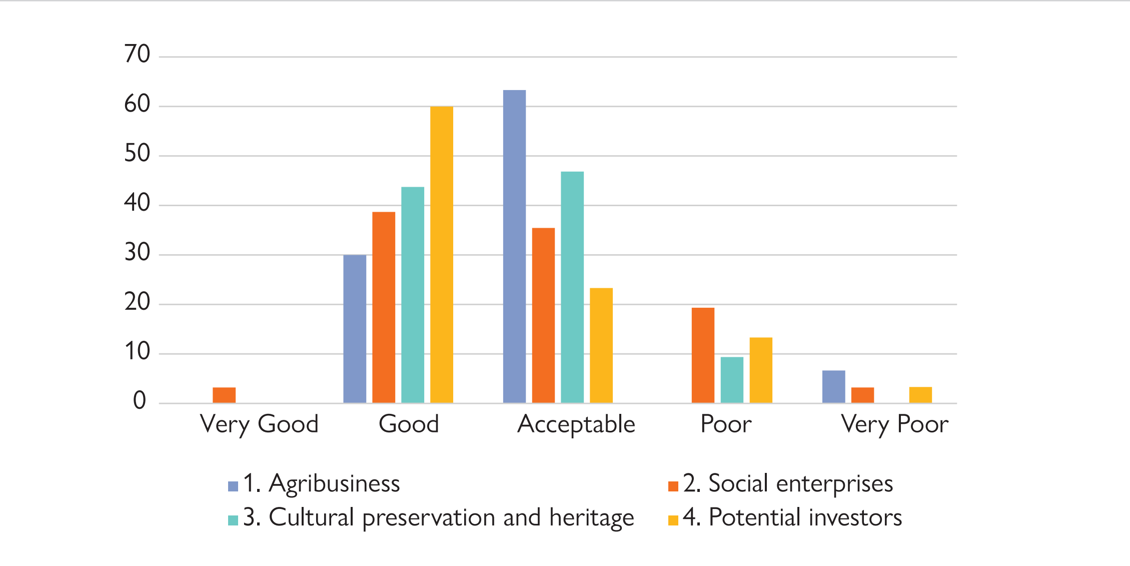


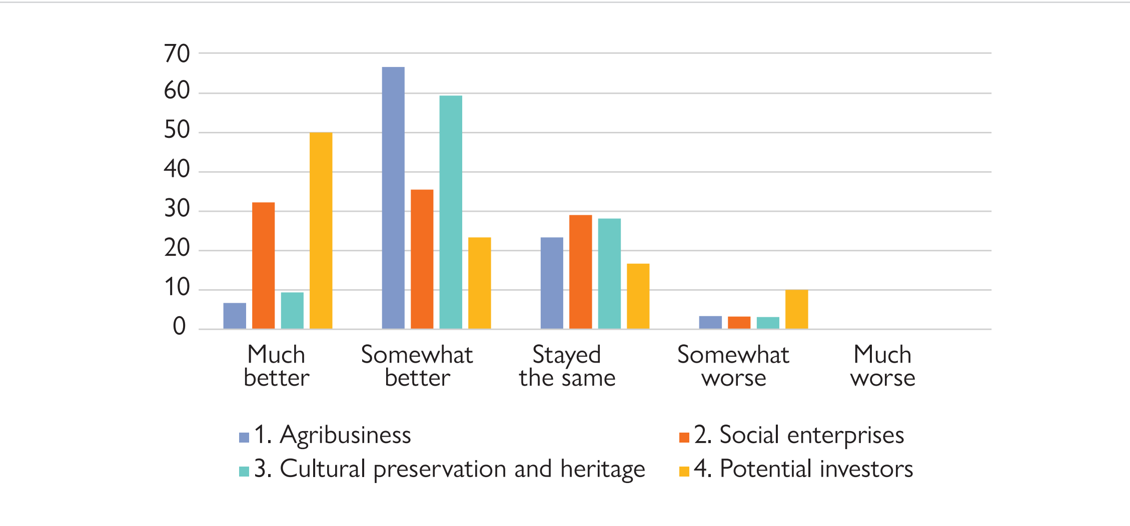


Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b Economic situation (household income) and question No. 2. Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

With respect to working conditions (Fig. 8.4.1.5. and 8.4.1.6.), around 80 per cent of respondents in Agribusiness, Culture and Potential Investors considered their situation "acceptable" or "good". In the case of Social Enterprises, this percentage is a bit lower (around 74%) and around 20 per cent considered their situation "poor". Today, the situation looks ameliorated in all the considered sectors; a number of respondents (around 20–30 per cent depending on sectors) consider that the situation "stayed the same".

Fig. 8.4.1.5. and 8.4.1.6.: Working conditions ten years ago/today



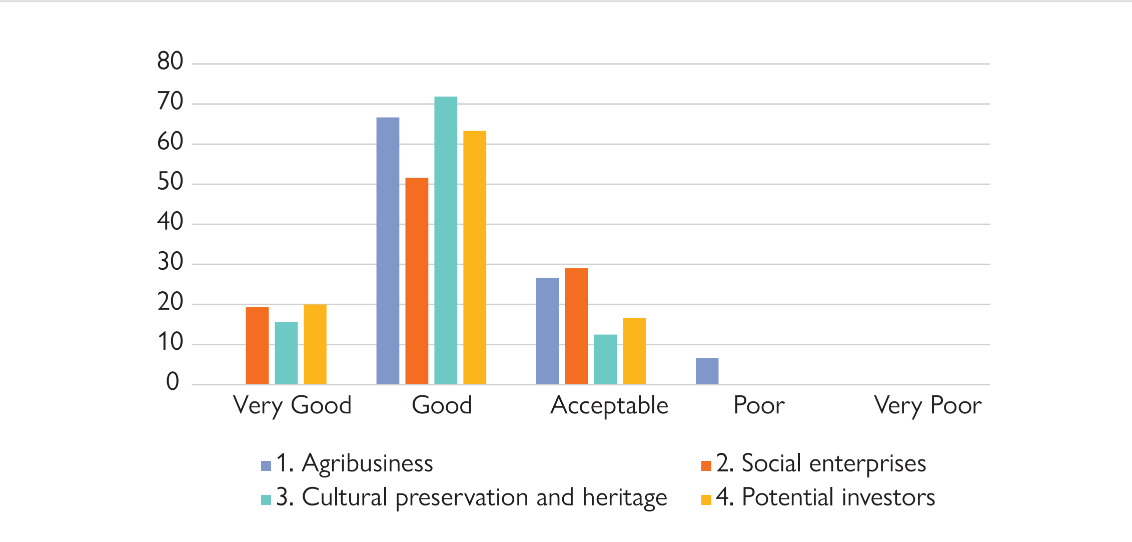


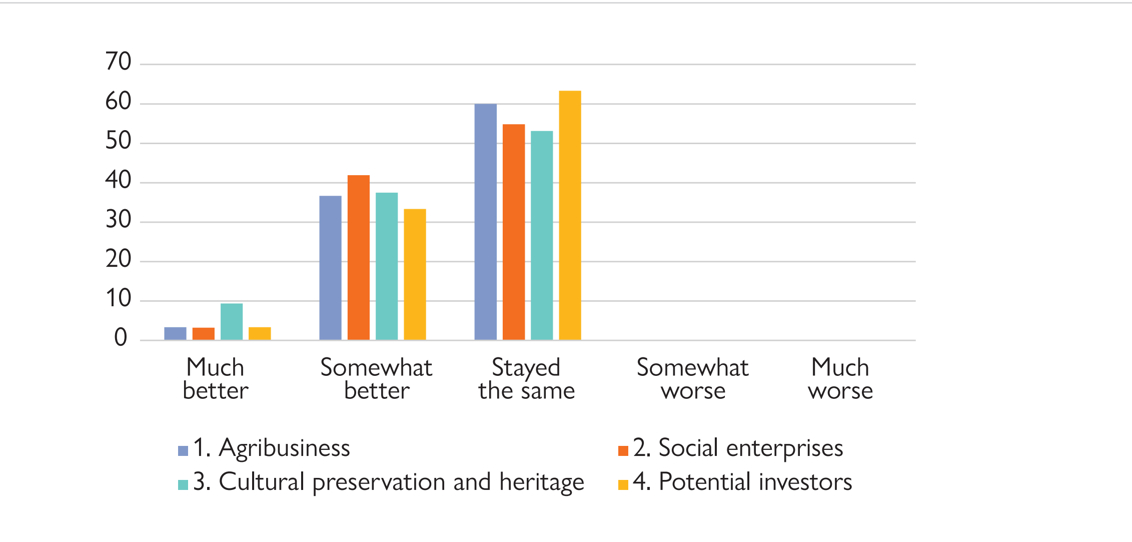
Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c Working conditions and question No. 2 Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

8.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Social relationships (Fig. 8.4.2.1.) were considered "good" already ten years ago by most of the respondents in all the considered sectors. In some cases, they were considered "very good" or, at least, "acceptable". Only a small percentage (less than 10%) considered their social relationships "poor". Not surprisingly then, most of the respondents consider that the situation today "stayed the same". However, a significant number of respondents also consider the situation improved.

Fig. 8.4.2.1. and 8.4.2.2.: Social relationships ten years ago/today

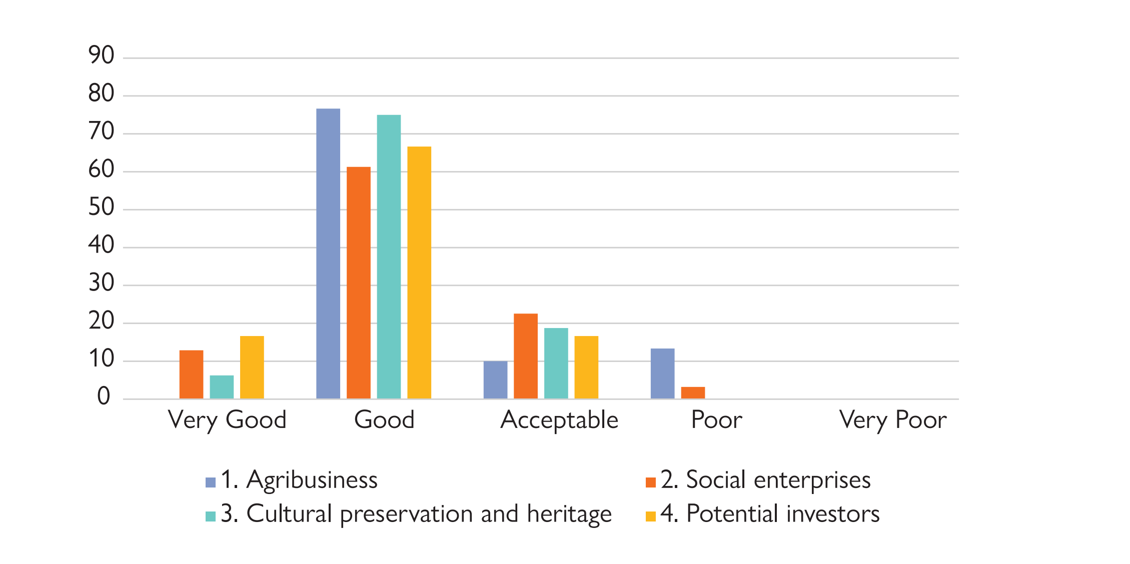


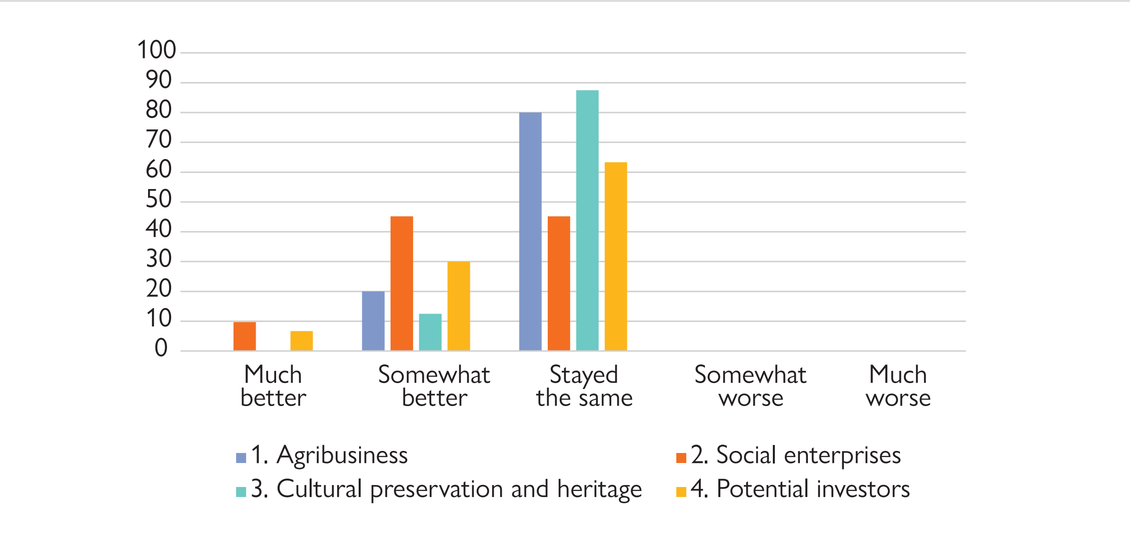


Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d Social relationships (local social relations, integration / discrimination, etc.) and question No. 2 Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Similarly, also for legal and administrative status, the situation was considered "good" by most of the respondents already ten years ago. Today it is considered it "stayed the same" by the majority of respondents, while many respondents (around 30%) from the Social Enterprises group consider the situation improved (Fig. 8.4.2.4.).

Fig. 8.4.2.3. and 8.4.2.4.: Legal / administrative situation ten years ago/today



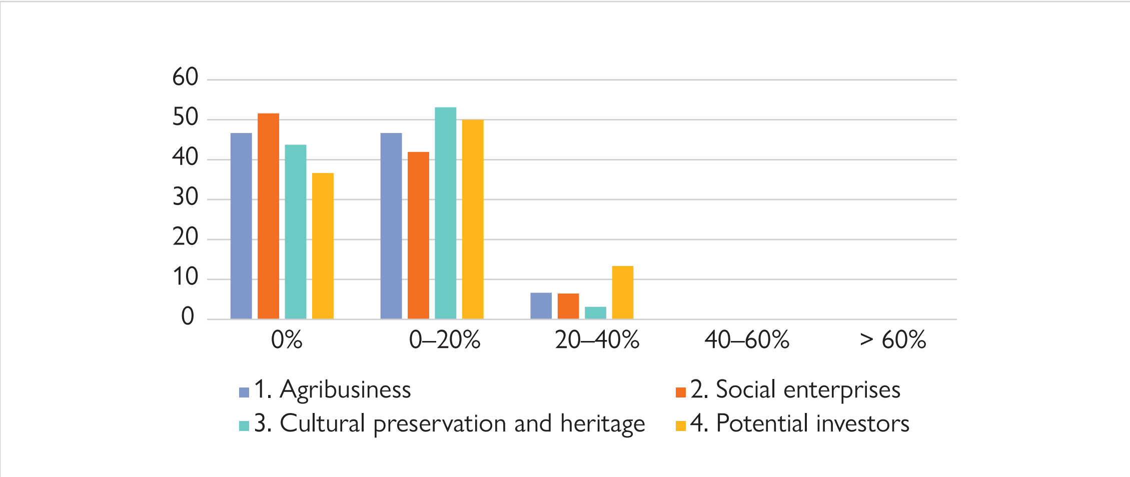


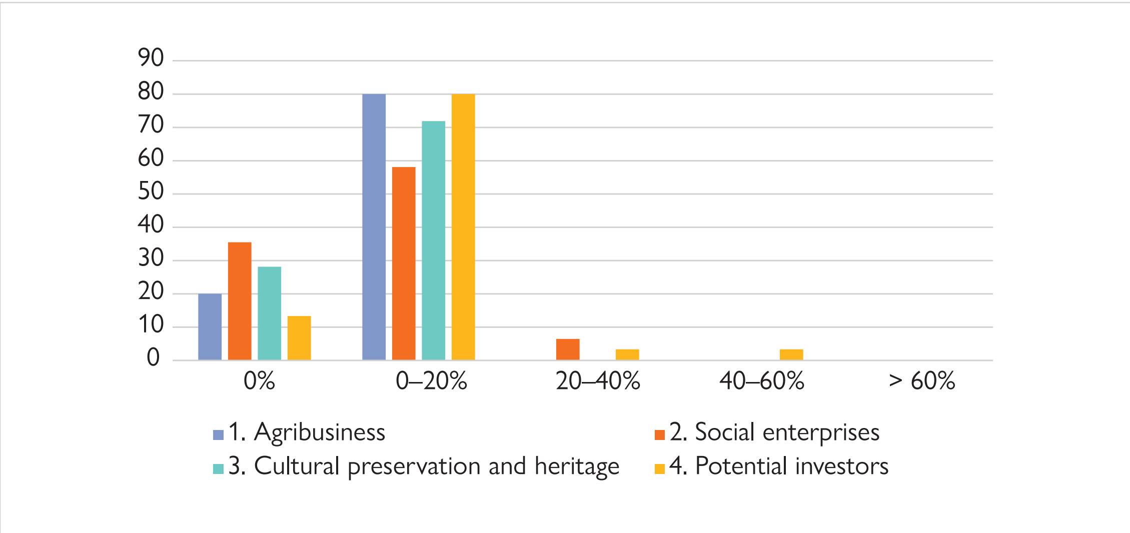
Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1f /2f Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit / citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.) and question No. 2 Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

8.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

The general improvements in the quality of life of the respondents have reflected also on the trend with respect to savings. The percentage of those that save something (usually up to 20% of their earnings) has grown in the last ten years in all the considered sectors: from less than 50 per cent to 80 per cent in Agribusiness, from 40 per cent to almost 60 per cent in Social Enterprises; from more than 50 per cent to more than 70 per cent in Cultural sector; from 50 per cent to 80 per cent in the Potential Investors group.

Fig. 8.4.3.1. and 8.4.3.2.: Money saved (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today

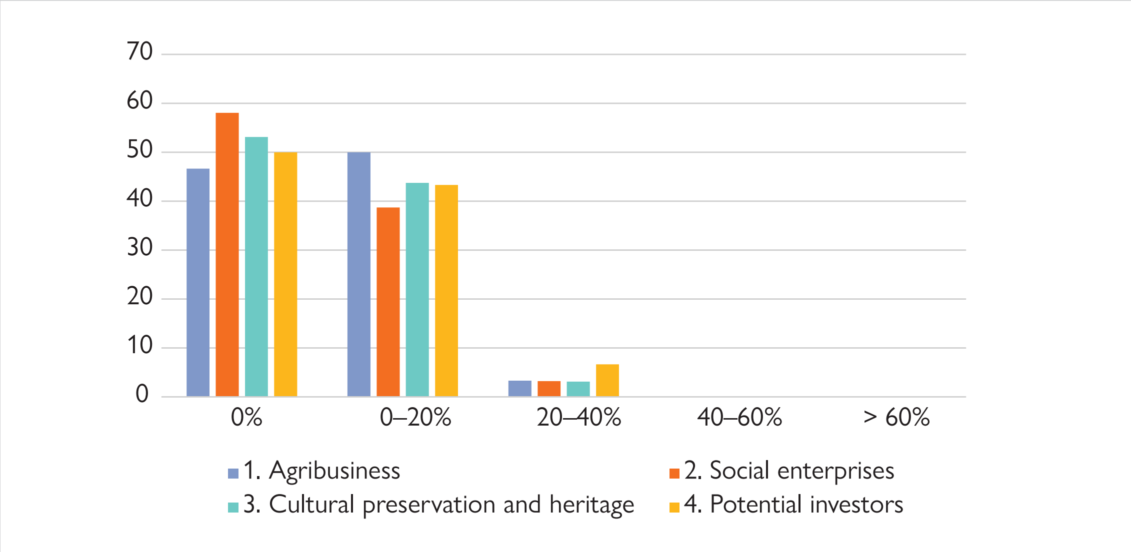


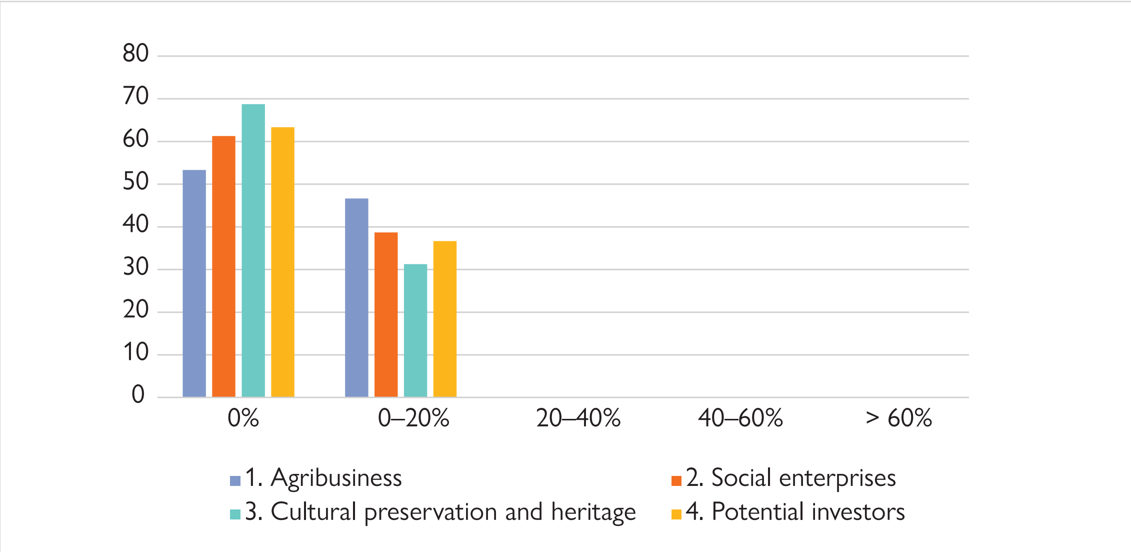


Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1g At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis) and 2g Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis).

Finally, the percentage of savings sent to Albania is, on average, limited and stable: most of the respondents do not send any savings to their country of origin, or, in some cases, up to 20 per cent of their savings. In this picture and in the last ten years, the number of those that send something has slightly reduced in all sectors, with the exception of the Social Enterprises one that remained stable.

Fig. 8.4.3.3. and 8.4.3.4.: Saving sent to Albania (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today





Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1h At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis) and 2h Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

8.5. PERCEPTION ON MIGRATION

This section is about the way respondents consider and evaluate their personal experience of being part of the Albanian diaspora, including a large set of positive and negative aspects and plans for the future in terms of possible mobility or migration. While the majority express no interest or plans to leave Italy (both for the completed integration process and for reasons that keep persons in the country as the presence of children or a general life settlement), a small group would consider the possibility to either go back to Albania (for personal/family relations and in some cases to look for opportunities) while others consider instead other international destinations, mainly for work and career chances

8.5.1. STAY OR GO, BACK OR SOMEWHERE ELSE

As illustrated in Tab. 8.5.1.1., around 90 per cent of respondents not consider moving in a different country (with a slight predominance of women). From this point of view, respondents in Piedmont look fully integrated, and satisfied with their life in Italy. None of the respondents consider moving in the next three years; while around 10 per cent declared that they might consider moving over the next three years - which means that this is a general idea but no concrete moving plan is in place. A very small percentage (1.67%) of those that think they might move over the next three years consider Albania as a possible destination (Tab. 8.5.1.2.). Among those that mentioned other countries to migrate,[174] the most frequent answers included the United States, Canada or northern European countries (such as United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden). The main drivers for the decision of moving (Tab. 8.5.1.3.) are to be found in better work/study opportunities (34.87%), the presence of family/friends (29.83%) or better economic conditions (25.21%).

Tab. 8.5.1.1.: Interest to move to another country today or in the future

Would you consider moving country?	No	Yes, in the next 3 years	Yes, over the next 3 years	Total
Female	90.20	0.00	9.80	100.00
Male	88.89	0.00	11.11	100.00
Average	89.54	0.00	10.46	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration"; Question No. 3: Would you consider moving country?

Tab. 8.5.1.2.: Interest to move to Albania today or in the future

Are/would you consider moving to Albania?	No	Yes, in the next 3 years		Yes, over the next 3 years			Total
	n.a.	No	Yes	No	Yes	n.a.	
Female	90.20	0.00	0.00	7.84	1.96	0.00	100.00
Male	88.89	0.00	0.00	9.72	1.39	0.00	100.00
Average	89.54	0.00	0.00	8.78	1.67	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration"; Question No. 3a: If yes, are/would you consider moving to Albania?

174 *Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration", q. 3b If not to Albania, where would you go?*

Tab. 8.5.1.3.: Main drivers for the decision of moving

Main drivers for this decision of moving	%
Family/friendship issues	29.83
Work/Study	34.87
Economic conditions	25.21
For the presence of public services, schools, etc.	5.04
I heard good things about it	2.10
For the protections of your rights	0.84
Other reasons	2.10
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration"; Question No. 4: Your main drivers for this decision (referring to answer 3) (maximum 2 options).

When it comes to the future of their children[175] (Tab. 8.5.1.4.), most of the respondents see their future in Italy (67,48%), because of: (i) Feelings of belonging; (ii) Quality of life, also compared to Albania; (iii) Employment opportunities; (iv) Second generations that are and feel fully Italian; (iv) Better Education and Health system; (v) Safety; (vi) In a few cases, family links in Italy.

An additional 26.02 per cent believe it doesn't matter. Few respondents expressed the will to see their children moving from Italy, highlighting in particular problems in Italy such as corruption, lack of meritocracy, economic crisis. In a few cases, they mentioned also more opportunities and a more inclusive environment abroad. Only one respondent mentioned Albania, because of the strong link the respondent feels with his/her country of origin.

In the responses there are no significant differences among the sectors.

Tab. 8.5.1.4.: Country preferred for the future of the respondents' children.

Children's future	Albania	Italy	Another country	It does not matter	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	0.00	16.26	1.63	6.50	0.00	24.39
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	15.45	2.44	7.32	0.00	25.20
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.81	17.07	0.81	7.32	0.00	26.02
4. Potential Investors	0.00	18.70	0.81	4.88	0.00	24.39
Total	0.81	67.48	5.69	26.02	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration"; Question No. 2 Today, thinking about your children's future (even if you do not have any) where would you prefer them to live? (only one option).

8.5.2. PERCEPTION AND EVALUATION OF BEING PART OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA

When commenting on their overall experience as a member of the Albanian diaspora,[176] respondents can be distinguished in two groups: the first group including persons who are very well integrated in Italy and another group (more limited) with persons that faced stronger difficulties in integration and that keep social relationships mainly with conational. For these reasons, positive and negative aspects are sometimes in direct contrast. There are no significant differences in terms of sectors of belonging.

175 *Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration", q. 2 Today, thinking about your children's future (even if you do not have any) where would you prefer them to live? And No. 2a Why?*

176 *Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration"; Questions No. 5. Considering your overall experience as a member of the Albanian diaspora, please tell us: 5a, Up to 3 positive aspects of your experience and 5b, Up to 3 negative aspects of your experience..*

When asked to list the aspects of their migratory experience in Italy and of being part of the Albanian diaspora refer to:

Positive aspects. Most frequent answers are the followings:

- Good quality of life in Italy (food, climate, culture, etc.);
- Better environment, including in terms of a democratic system (rule of law), health system, gender equity, freedom, safety, meritocracy (if compared to Albania);
- Physical proximity to Albania;
- Better employment/education opportunities;
- Opportunity to travel;
- Mind openness, contact with different cultures, the capacity to speak different languages;
- Opportunity to keep identity and traditions and give value to diaspora;
- Good level of social services, including the health sector, in Italy;
- The high number of Albanians in Italy, and strong relations with them;
- Integration capacity of Albanian diaspora;
- Inclusiveness and openness of Italians.

Negative aspects. Most frequent answers are the followings:

- Economic crisis in Italy;
- Inadequate political class in Italy;
- Limited support to diaspora from Albanian institutions;
- Cultural and emotional eradication;
- Negative attitude towards the diaspora/foreigners (sometimes also in the professional field);
- Difficult and in some cases unfair bureaucracy (also in gaining citizenship); high taxes;
- High prices for renting or buying houses;
- Lack of an organized networks of Albanians in Italy;
- Lack of meritocracy;
- Difficulty and distance in the relation with family and parents;
- Difficulties in defining one's identity (not fully Italian and not fully Albanian).

8.6. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

This section includes information on the nature of the relationship of migrants with the country of origin and their closest connections. A considerable space for investigation is dedicated to the investments respondent have undertaken in the past and their plans for the future, especially towards Albania – whether in their same sector of work/employment in Italy or in different sectors.

The general interest to contribute to Albanian's development is included in survey.

We can overall say that in individual and personal terms most people maintain a strong link with the country of origin and the people/family there.

When asked about the interest to generally contribute to Albania, respondents tend to positively confirm it (72.7%), but they do not result available to contribute with temporary/virtual assignments (74%).

In terms of explicit interest to invest in Albania the research does not evidence extensive results. As general perspective of life, most respondents prefer to stay in Italy, while Albania is not the prevalent destination for financial or future investments. Among those that either invested or express an interest to invest, this might happen more likely within same sector, instead of different sectors.

8.6.1. RELATIONSHIP WITH ALBANIA

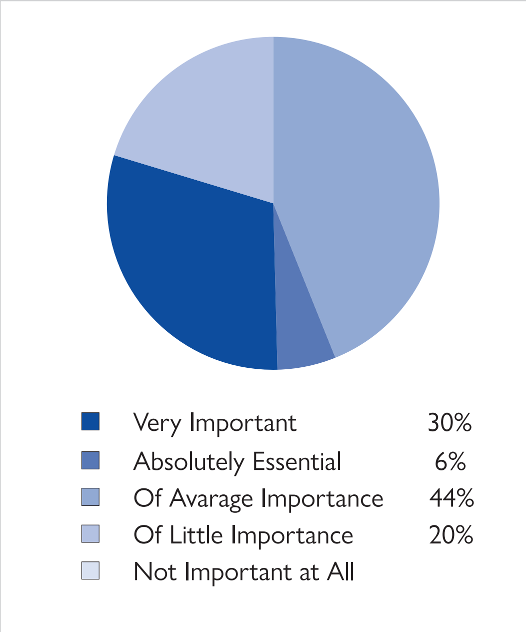
The large majority of respondents (80%) consider somehow important[177] to know what it happening in Albania and they mainly employ internet (48%) and social media (32%) to keep informed. A smaller percentage gets informed via telephone/Skype (11%).

Among the closest relationships migrants still maintain in Albania, respondents mainly refer to family members as their mother (25%) and father (22%), siblings (22.4%) and other relatives (20.08%). Migrants tend to make return quite often (42.7% once a year; 28.7% more than once a year; 24.5% every 3/5 years).

The family and personal linkages with Albanian confirm to be quite strong. While the 61.2 per cent of respondents say to be interested to be included in the register of migrants of the Albanian Government and 84,5 per cent declare not to be enrolled in any in/formal Albanian association abroad.

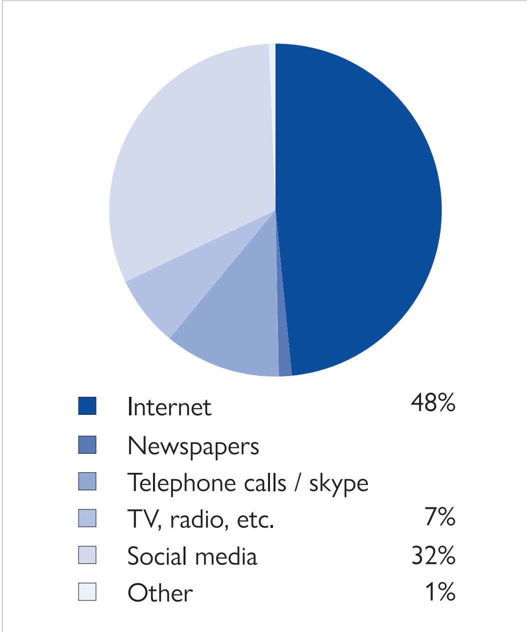
177 Including responses as of average, very important, absolutely essential.

Fig. 8.6.1.1.: Interest to know what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 3 How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania?

Fig. 8.6.1.2.: Means employed to keep informed on what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin", if the answer to Question No. 3 How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania? Ranges between "Of little importance" and "Absolutely essential", then question 3a what are the main means by which you keep yourself informed?

Tab. 8.6.1.3.: Relationship with people in Albania

Relationship with people in Albania	%
Mother	25.6
Father	22
Siblings	22.4
Partner	0.8
Son(s)/Daughter(s)	0
Other relatives	20.8
Partners in business/work mates	5.6
Other*	2.4
None	0.4
Total	100.00

*Mostly "friends".

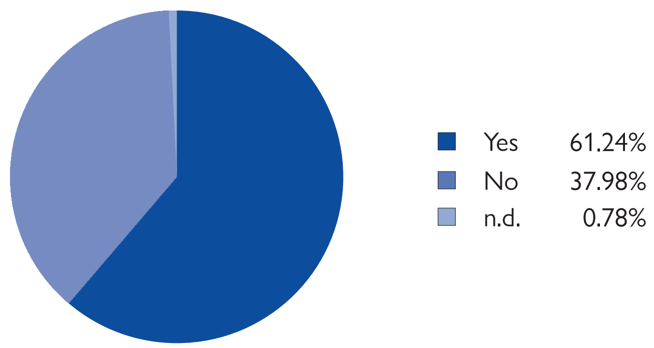
Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 1: With which of the following people, if they are in Albania, do you still have a close relationship? (more than one answer allowed).

Tab. 8.6.1.4.: Frequency of visits to Albania

Frequency of visit to Albania	Female	Male	Average
Frequently (more than once a year)	33.33	24.07	28.70
Often (every year)	39.13	46.30	42.71
Rarely (once every 5/10 years)	23.19	25.93	24.56
Sometimes (every 2/3 years)	4.35	3.70	4.03
Never	0.00	0.00	0.00
n.d.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	100.00	100.00	-

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 6: How often do you go to Albania?

Fig. 8.6.1.5.: Interest in the "register of migrants "



Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 4: In 2016 Albania approved the creation of a "register for migrants ". Once this register will be created, do you think you will register yourself?

Tab. 8.6.1.6., Participation in in/formal associations

Participation in any formal/informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania	%
Yes	15.50
No	84.50
n.d.	0.00
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 5: Did you enrol in any list/register or are you in touch with any formal or informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania?

8.6.2. ROLE OF DIASPORA MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALBANIA

The majority of respondents strongly agree with the fact that, through their visits and exchanges, they transfer ideas, information and capitals (not only monetary) to the family and friends in the homeland.

Albanians abroad can also be indirectly contributing to Albania when suggesting or recommending friends to visit the country. The large majority of respondents, 61.52 per cent (especially women) declared they recommended friends and acquaintances,[178] in some cases, travelling together in some others partly separated.

178 *Source*: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin", if the answer to Question No. 7: Have your friends / acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion?
then Question No. 7a follows: If yes, for tourism, business, or other reasons?

When asked about their general perspectives for the future, respondents mainly prefer three options: the very large majority consider to stay in Italy and keep in Italy the centre of their business (80%). The rest is mainly divided between those that want to stay in Italy but increase the business relations in Albania (10%) and those few that would move the centre of their activities in another country (6.1%). Considering the reasons that explain the different plans for the future of respondents,[179] we can highlight that:

- The majority of those wanting to stay in Italy mention as reasons the fact they bought a house in Italy, their life is in Italy today, the main family is in Italy. Moreover, they prefer the working and living conditions in Italy compared to Albania, they are afraid of the difficulties to migrate again; they know others who came back Albania and failed.
- Those that would consider moving to Albania refer to possible economic opportunities in the future, to the possible convenience, once retired, because of the desire to contribute to the Albanian development.

When asked about the interest to generally contribute to Albania, respondents tend to positively confirm it (72,87%). This is particularly true for the female component (especially all of the men from the Social Enterprises sector and a large majority of women from Agribusiness and Social Enterprises).

More specifically,[180] the ideas and suggestions mentioned by those willing to contribute are:

- Help in the sanitary, culture, architecture sector;
- With voluntary work;
- Helping Albania to enter the EU;
- Technology in agriculture.

Those that are not interested or not willing to contribute to Albania[181] refer to the absence of:

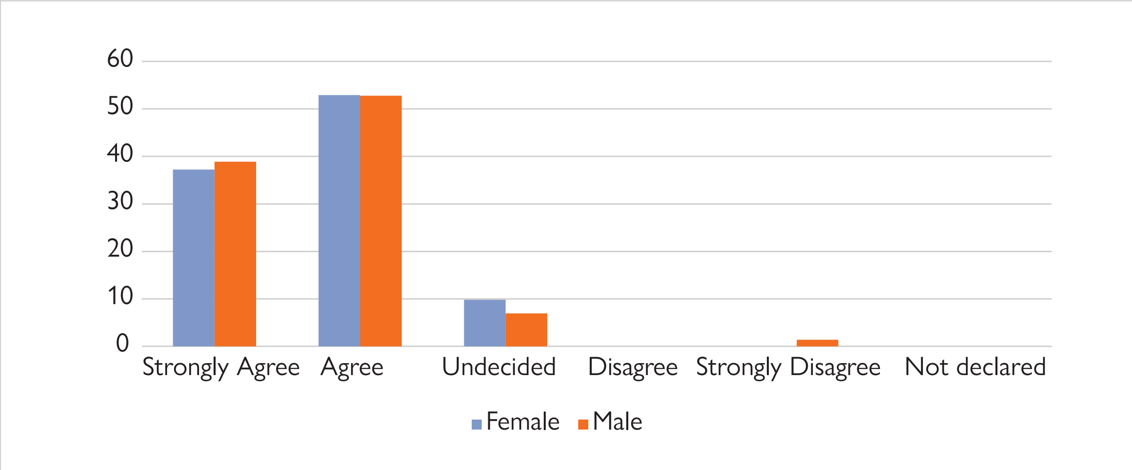
- Interest;
- Willingness to contribute;
- Trust in Albania/Albanians;
- Precise ideas on what to do in Albania.

When asked if specifically interested in a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania, majority respondents respond not to be interested (74.36%) (especially from Agribusiness and Potential Investors); among those interested, respondents from Social and Cultural sector express higher interest.

The conditions mentioned include mainly the possibility to have time to dedicate to a virtual/temporary engagement and to receive a proper and adequate monetary compensation.[182]

179 *Source*: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 8a: Why (to five a motivation to previous question about the "plan for the future").
180 *Source*: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 9a: If yes, how? What would you do/like to do? (in relation to the motivation to the previous question "Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?").
181 *Source*: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 9b: If no or I don't care, why? (in relation to the motivation to the previous question "Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?").
182 *Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin": Question No. 15a: If Yes, at what conditions? (Would you consider to engage through tempo rary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?).*

Tab. 8.6.2.1.: Transferring social, cultural and human capital gained in Italy through visits and exchange with family and friends in Albania



Note: The information is expressed in percentage (%).

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 2: How much do you agree with the following statement "In the relationships with / visits to my family / friends / acquaintances in Albania, I transmit and transfer new knowledge, ideas, visions, and/or approaches (for example social, cultural, professional) that I acquired during my experience of life in Italy."

Tab. 8.6.2.2.: Visits to Albania from friends/acquaintances

Friends / acquaintances in Italy who visited Albania due to recommendation	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
Female	64.71	35.29	0.00	100.00
Male	58.33	41.67	0.00	100.00
Average	61.52	38.48	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 7: Have your friends/acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion?

Tab. 8.6.2.3.: Friends/acquaintances mode of travelling to Albania

Did they travel with you, alone or both?	%
With me	14.63
Both with me and alone	15.45
Alone	30.89
n.a.	39.02
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin", if the answer to Question No. 7: Have your friends/ acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion? Then question No. 7b follows: Did they travel with you, alone or both?

Tab. 8.6.2.4.: Plan for the future

Plan for the future	Female	Male	Average
N.d.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stay in Italy and keep my business centre here	82.35	77.78	80.07
Stay in Italy and decrease my contacts and business relations with Albania	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stay in Italy but increasing my contacts and business relations with Albania	7.84	12.50	10.17

Stay in Italy but move my business centre to Albania	0.00	1.39	0.69
Move the centre of my business in another country/countries	5.88	6.94	6.41
Move back permanently to Albania	1.96	1.39	1.67
Go back to Albania permanently but keeping my business centre in Italy	1.96	0.00	0.98
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 8: Which of the following statements is closer to your "plan for the future"?

Tab. 8.6.2.5.: Interest to contribute to Albania

Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?	No	Yes
Female	**24.64**	**75.36**
1. Agribusiness	16.67	83.33
2. Social Enterprises	18.52	81.48
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	36.84	63.16
4. Potential Investors	27.27	72.73
Male	**29.63**	**70.37**
1. Agribusiness	35.00	65.00
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	25.00	75.00
4. Potential Investors	31.58	68.42
Total average (male & female)	**27.13**	**72.87**

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 9 Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?

Tab. 8.6.2.6.: Interest for virtual assignment

Consideration for a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	6.67	93.33	0.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	29.03	70.97	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	46.88	53.13	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	20.00	80.00	0.00	100.00
Average	**25.64**	**74.36**	**0.00**	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 15: Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?

8.6.3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENTS TOWARDS ALBANIA

The large majority of respondents (88,80%) within each sector never tried to expand their business in Albania before, but 25 per cent of respondents from the Cultural sector did. Those they actually tried mentioned as examples of activities undertaken:[183]

- Publishing books in Albania;
- Contributing to some schools;
- Helping to set some technical equipment in a local factory.

Half of the business went well (especially, for the Culture sector and Potential Investors), and a half was not successful.

183 *Source*: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 10a: If yes, What did you do? (in relation to the question No. 10 Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).

Moreover, other negative aspects of the experience of investing in Albania that are more often mentioned[184] include:

- Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) (14.71%)
- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) (14.71%)
- Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.) (11.76%)
- Difficulty in accessing financing and investment (8.82%)
- Inadequate transport and other infrastructures (8.82%)

Tab. 8.6.3.1.: Attempt to expand or move the professional activity in Albania

Attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	6.67	93.33	0.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	6.45	93.55	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	25.00	75.00	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	6.67	93.33	0.00	100.00
Average	11.20	88.80	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?

Tab. 8.6.3.2.: Success in moving the activity to Albania

Was your "move/activity" you successful?	Yes	No
1. Agribusiness	0.00	14.29
2. Social Enterprises	7.14	7.14
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	28.57	28.57
4. Potential Investors	14.29	0.00
Total	50.00	50.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 10b: If Yes to 10: Was your "move/activity" successful?

8.6.4. POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA IN THE OWN SECTOR

The 83,08 per cent of respondents are not interested to invest in his/her own sector in Albania (especially persons from Agribusiness and Social sector).

The ideas mentioned by those few interested to invest (16.92%) are mixed:[185]

- Open a restaurant/bar;
- Give value to the competences in the Cultural sector;
- Work as a nurse as self-employed.

184 *Source:* Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 10d: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (in relation to the question No. 10 Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).
185 *Source:* Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 11a: If Yes to 11: how? What would you do?

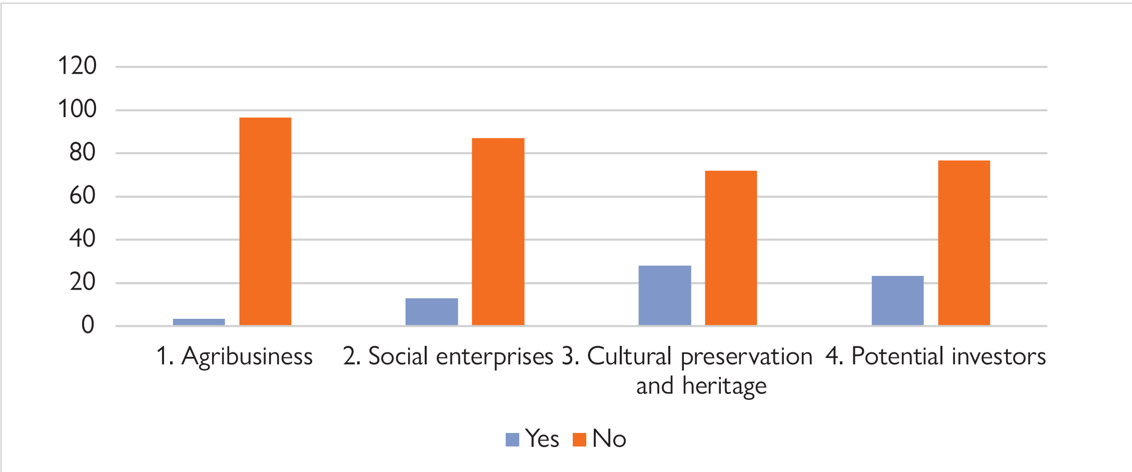
Among the main drivers that would influence the possibility to invest in Albania, respondents mention, among others:

- Provide legal and administrative support to investors (24.49%);
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development) (16.33%);
- The presence of tax incentives (14.29%);
- Reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy (12.24%);
- Public investment in training and education (12.24%);
- Provision of services (e.g. sectorial specific services) (12.24%).

Nevertheless, barriers and obstacles exist that impede investments. Among them, the most relevant ones that were indicated were:

- Most declare not to be interested to invest (34.86%);
- Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (14.29%);
- Taxation (11.43%);
- Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) (5.71%).

Fig. 8.6.4.1.: Interest to invest in the own professional sector in Albania



Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 11: More in general, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

Tab. 8.6.4.2.: Main drivers for investment in Albania in the own sector

Main drivers for investment in Albania	%
Provide legal and administrative support to investors	24.49
Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development)	16.33
Tax incentives	14.29
Reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy	12.24
Public investment in training and education	12.24
Provision of services (e.g. sectorial specific services)	12.24

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 11b: If Yes to 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)?

Tab. 8.6.4.3.: Main barriers/problems/limitations to invest in Albania in the own sector

Main barriers/problems/limitations	%
Simply not interested to invest	34.86
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	14.29
Taxation	11.43
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	5.71

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 11c: If No to 11: What are the main barriers/problems/limitations?

8.6.5. INVESTMENTS IN OTHER PROFESSIONAL SECTORS IN THE PAST OR IN THE FUTURE

The almost majority of respondents (99.17%) had never tried to invest in other sectors before. Only one person tried to do something and mention to be successful in opening a cafeteria.[186]

Among the main negative aspects and barriers underlined, there is a lack of managerial capacities and difficulties to find skilled workforce.[187]

Considering the possibility to invest in Albania in any other professional sector, 91.90 per cent of respondents are not interested while 8.10 per cent are – especially from persons from Cultural sector and Potential Investors. The few respondents[188] all mention activities related to tourism (open a restaurant or a B&B).

Among the main incentives that would influence Albanians to invest are:

- Provide legal and administrative support to investors (40%);
- Low-interest loans to encourage business, export, etc., and other measures to favor access to credit (20%);
- Tax incentives (20%);
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development) (12,00%).

When explaining the reasons for not being interested in investing in Albania, respondents indicate as main reasons:

- The lack of interest to invest (39.13%);
- Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (16.43%);
- Taxation (16.43%);
- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) (5.31%).

186 *Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 12a: If Yes to 12: What did you do?*
187 *The only investor reported these two main negative aspects. Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 12d If Yes to 12: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)?*
188 *Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 13a If Yes to 13: Talking about any other professional sector, in what sector would you invest in Albania? What would you do?*

Tab. 8.6.5.1.: Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania

Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	3.33	96.67	0.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Average	0.83	99.17	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 12: Talking about any other professional sector, have you ever made any attempt to invest in other activities in Albania?

Tab. 8.6.5.2.: success of activities tried in other sectors

Was your "activity" successful?	Yes	No
1. Agribusiness	100.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	0.00	0.00
Total	100.00	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 12b If: Yes to 12: Was your "activity" successful?

Tab. 8.6.5.3.: Main negative aspects from the experience of investing in another sector in Albania

Main negative aspects	%
Lack of management capacities	--
Problems finding skilled workers/Lack of appropriate skilled labour force	--

The only investor reported these two main negative aspects.

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 12d: If Yes to 12: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)?

Tab. 8.6.5.4.: Interest to invest in a different sector in Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in any other professional sector)	Yes	No	N.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	6.67	93.33	0.00	24.39
2. Social Enterprises	3.23	96.77	0.00	25.20
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	12.50	87.50	0.00	26.02
4. Potential Investors	10.00	90.00	0.00	24.39
Average	8.10	91.90	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 13 Talking about any other professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

Tab. 8.6.5.5.: Incentive to invest in Albania

Incentive to invest in Albania	%
Provide legal and administrative support to investors	40.00
Low interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit	20.00
Tax incentives	20.00
Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development)	12.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 13b: If Yes to 13: what in practice would push you to invest / or would facilitate this investment in Albania?

Tab. 8.6.5.6.: Reason why the respondent would not invest

Why not interested?	%
Simply not interested to invest	39.13
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	16.43
Taxation	16.43
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	5.31

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 13c: If No to 13: why not?

8.7. FOCUS GROUP: NOVARA, 4 DECEMBER 2019

The Focus group was organized in Novara by the *Associazione* URA. The group of participants (11) was composed of an adult and mature mix of men (4) and women (7) between 34 and 72 years, mainly with persons in their late 40s. The group was composed of a majority of long-term residents, who arrived in Italy during the first waves of arrivals in 1991–92 and later on, and only a few who have been in Italy for the past 13–15 years. Among these people, some have Italian citizenship. There was only one person that moved to Italy three years ago to marry her conational husband. The education level is quite high – especially from the country of origin, but not always corresponding to the their occupation in Italy.

After the introduction on the scope of the meeting and a presentation of the "Mapping and Profiling Albanian diaspora in Italy, France and Belgium" Project, the discussion started with a friendly discussion, which is reported below.

8.7.1. WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY AND ALBANIA?

The relationship with Albania is strongly described in **nostalgic, sentimental** and **positive** terms. Albania is considered as the mainframe of each one's **identity**, therefore the family, the childhood, old friends, the roots. People are connected with an intimate idea and memory of a faraway past. On the other hand, some persons also include their sense of duty and responsibility towards Albania, providing **help** and **support** to those left behind. This is especially true in terms of remittances but also as general care of the family and protection of the people left there.

When reading through and commenting on the previous "feedback" from other FGs, particular attention is given to a post from someone who described Albania in terms of "**drugs and crime**". This provoked a vivid reaction and – correctly – the participants guessed that this feedback came from a young person that left Albania very recently. They said: "at our time, there was no drug but just poverty". The memories that these participants have of Albania are stuck in a faraway past when Albania was very different (in positive and negative terms) from today. There is a mix of pride and emotional attachment plus a lack of familiarity/knowledge from today's reality in Albania.

Also, someone highlighted that the first waves of migration (in the 90s) were people who left with a **dream**, "it was a **migration producing a dream**": to make fortune abroad, to be successful and come back to Albania. From the 2000s on, migration is seen from some participants as not linked to a dream and a hope to be successful and come back, but just to leave the country.

The discussion brought to the distinction between Albania as the **homeland** (in Italian "patria") that collects all the positive feelings of belonging, memory and identity, and Albania as its **Government**. The group expressed actually a harsh sentiment towards the political governors of Albania that during the years did not help the country to socially, culturally, economically, commercially flourish. There is a missing **trust** for the Government of Albania that impedes the diaspora to consider it a credible and trustful interlocutor. The problem of the deep and rooted **corruption** of public officials - at all levels - is an obstacle for the country development and for the diaspora engagement.

The declining public support to make the country develop is indicated for instance in the worsening condition of the **public education** in Albania – that goes along with the more recurrent strategy of Albanian families to pay for the education abroad (as in Germany) to provide a future to their "children". The declining quality of schools is also linked to the poor quality/competences of public fonctionnaires.

8.7.2. WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS IMPACTING (POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY) THE VALUE AND ENGAGEMENT IN SKILLS, COMPETENCES AND RESOURCES OF ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY TOWARDS ENTREPRENEURIAL/ INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN ALBANIA?

Most participants have a large part of their family and relatives living in Italy, with few others still in Albania. Compared to the other FGs, in this case, the average age of participants is a bit higher. Also, the education and professional profile are quite high (for instance medical doctor, engineer, opera singer, graduated persons, etc.). However, the work/education level gained in Albania does not necessarily correspond to the current professional/working condition of most participants, who are actually employed (downgraded) in low skilled occupations (as health assistant for elderly people, generic workers in a factory, etc.).

From this point of view, identifying those gained **skills and competences**, as part of the migration experience, that could be valued for the development of Albania was not an obvious and evident thing. And mostly, what emerged quite distinctly is that most participants (but one) are **not entrepreneurs** in Italy and it is hard to invent entrepreneurial attitudes from scratches.

The persons within this FG mainly spent most of their adult/working age – having children and grand-children in Italy and building up their career and working stability in Italy. All participants consider **Albania** as the place they will/might live in when they **retire**, when getting the Italian pension.

The possibility of an **investment/enterprise** in Albania is considered only on the base of **moving to the country**, which is not feasible considering the life condition of most participants. Moving to the country is defined as the "necessary condition" to supervise and control any kind of investment: "You have to check and control things yourself". The lack of money is not the main barrier for investments, as it is said that "those that have the money, do not invest as there are too many negative examples, it is too risky". The possibility of investing resources/funds in Albania in a **financial instrument** (a bond, a fund, an insurance, a bank product or a state product) is not of interest to the participants.

Among the **barriers** to investing in the country of origin the main ones mentioned are:

- **Corruption**, deeply rooted in all levels, that requires extra money to pay (the *bakshish*) and also the necessity to "know someone" (for instance to have procedures facilitated). Moreover, corruption originates problems in Albania by not sustaining **meritocracy** and the possible return of **talents**, and this can be an obstacle for a diaspora person wanting to come back and do something in the country.
- The lack of **opportunities** in Albania (due to corruption); if someone from the diaspora goes back and has no connections, there are no possibilities to positively establish an activity.
- There was a moment when many Albanians abroad came back ("trying to fulfill the dream") to start their activities there, but all the **bureaucracy** and corruption impeded them to succeed. After that, the diaspora is very cautious before investing in the country.
- **Mistrust** towards the Government, as the consequence of the corruption.
- The family/life in Italy.

Nevertheless, some examples of diaspora engagement for development were stated. A participant (the youngest in the group, 34 years) is an entrepreneur in Italy and is considering exporting the business idea in Albania in the field of **culture/show business**. At the moment this is still at the stage of an idea that has not been implemented. Some participants that have an interest or that work in the field of **culture** would love to be engaged in Albania by helping young talents to emerge. But these are actually ideas that swing from philanthropy to (difficultly) for profit activities.

The case of an Albanian ***chef*** that used to work in Tuscany and moved to Albania (possibly Scutari) creating a "km0" fancy restaurant is described as successful example of someone from the diaspora that really made it. But this is considered an exception case.

When considering the possible fields of investment or areas of opportunity, tourism could be somehow taken into consideration (as "there is little less corruption in tourism") but "we cannot all open an *agriturismo*".

Also, considering the imaginary condition of being granted EUR 50/100,000 to do something in Albania (to invest), most reactions came as *philanthropic interventions* (help schools to recover; provide books; help local talents to emerge, etc.).

Agriculture could represent a possible sector where to invest, but again, the conditions are considered too hard and the possibilities for profit too little.

When commenting some of the results of the survey (for instance the interest of the diaspora to *contribute to the future of Albania* and to be *virtually/temporary* engaged), the participants said the reality is that the diaspora has **no time** to dedicate to these engagements as their life is already very busy in Italy.

8.7.3. WHAT ARE THE SUGGESTED AND RECOMMENDED CHANGES OR CONDITIONS THAT WOULD FACILITATE A DIRECT OR INDIRECT ENGAGEMENT OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INVESTMENT?

- The need to have a political and cultural "revolution" to clean up the governing class, as when in Italy the *Mani pulite* fight to corruption started and brought to light rooted practices.
- Train the **ruling class** in Albania.
- The **second generation** would probably be the one able to go in Albania (in a phase of life with no engagements in Italy) and bring competences and resources. The first-generation Albanians in Italy are responsible invest in the education of their children and grow them with the values and knowledge of being Albanian and of Albania.

APPENDIX

8.1. SOCIOECONOMIC

8.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

Tab. 8.1.1.3.: Composition per age (distribution per gender and percentage)

Age	Female	Male	Total	Female%	Male%	Total%
Age < 30	4	3	7	3.25	2.44	5.69
Age 30 – 39	17	17	34	13.82	13.82	27.64
Age 40 – 49	21	29	50	17.07	23.58	40.65
Age 50 – 59	7	20	27	5.69	16.26	21.95
Age 60 – 69	2	2	4	1.63	1.63	3.25
Age > 70	0	1	1	0.00	0.81	0.81
Total	51	72	123	41.46	58.54	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 4 - Age of the respondents.

Tab. 8.1.1.4.: Country of Birth (distribution per gender and percentage)

Country of Birth	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Albania	51	70	121	41.46	56.91	98.37
Italy	0	1	1	0.00	0.81	0.81
Other	0	1	1	0.00	0.81	0.81
Total	51	72	123	41.46	58.54	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 5 - Country of birth.

8.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Tab. 8.1.2.1.: Marital status (distribution per gender and percentage)

Marital status	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Single	6	11	17	11.76	15.28	13.82
Married / cohabiting	36	56	92	70.59	77.78	74.80
Separated	1	2	3	1.96	2.78	2.44
Divorced	7	3	10	13.73	4.17	8.13
Widowed	1	0	1	1.96	0.00	0.81
n.d.	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	51	72	123	41.46	58.54	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 8: What is your marital status?

Tab. 8.1.2.3.: Current legal and administrative status (distribution per gender and percentage)

Legal and administrative status	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Average (%)
Dual citizenship (one Italian)	26	36	62	50.98	50.00	50.49
Long term EC permit	13	15	28	25.49	20.83	23.16
Residence card	11	21	32	21.57	29.17	25.37
Residence permit (also from another EU country)	1	0	1	1.96	0.00	0.98
Residence visa (also from another EU country)	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	51	72	123	41.46	58.54	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 10: Please tell us your current legal and administrative status with respect to your stay in Italy.

Tab. 8.1.2.4.: Typology of valid visa or residence permit (distribution per gender and percentage)

Typology of valid visa or residence permit	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Average (%)
Family	6	8	14	11.76	11.11	11.38
Subordinate work	12	10	22	23.53	13.89	17.89
Self-employment	0	1	1	0.00	1.39	0.81
Expected occupation	0	1	1	0.00	1.39	0.81
Study	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Temporary protection / asylum	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	3	9	12	5.88	12.50	9.76
n.d.	15	22	37	29.41	30.56	30.08
n.a.	15	21	36	29.41	29.17	29.27
Total	51	72	123	41.46	58.54	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 11: If you have a valid visa or residence permit or are renewing it, please indicate the type.

Tab. 8.1.2.5.: Reasons for choosing the area where he/she lives

Reason for choosing the area where he/she lives	%
Because relatives / friends live here	53.74
Because I heard good things about it	8.84
Because there is work	25.85
For the presence of public services, schools, etc.	10.88
Other	0.68
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 13: For what reasons did you choose this area? (multiple choices, even more than one).

8.2. PROFESSIONAL

8.2.2. FOCUS ON SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNERS

Tab. 8.2.2.1.: Nationality of employees (for self-employed and business owners)

Nationality of employees	AL	IT	Other	Total	A (%)	I (%)	O (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	1	2	0	3	0.12	1.59	0.00	0.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0	1	0	1	0.00	0.79	0.00	0.08
4. Potential Investors	804	123	250	1177*	99.88	97.62	100.00	99.66
Total	805	126	250	1181	68.16	10.67	21.17	100.00

*The distribution of employees in the Piedmont region is distorted by the presence of a single outlier: a potential investor who is a business owner with more than one thousand employees.

AL = Albanian, IT = Italian, Other = Other nationalities, Total = total number of employees.

Source: Elaboration on “Professional Considerations”; Questions No. 8: How many employees do you have? question 8a How many are Italians? And question 8b How many are Albanians?

8.3. ECONOMIC

8.3.3. REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

Tab. 8.3.3.1.: Ownership of a house

Do you own any houses?	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
Female	32	19	0	51
Male	52	20	0	72
Total	84	39	0	123

Source: Elaboration on “Economic Considerations”; Question No. 4: Do you own any houses?

8.4. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

8.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Tab. 8.4.1.1.: Economic situation (individual income) ten years ago

Economic situation (individual income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	0.00	20.00	63.33	10.00	6.67
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	45.16	29.03	25.81	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	46.88	37.50	15.63	0.00
4. Potential Investors	3.33	40.00	46.67	10.00	0.00
Total	0.83	38.01	44.13	15.36	1.67

Source: Elaboration on “Impact of economic crisis”; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1a/2a Economic situation (individual income)?

Tab. 8.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) today

Economic situation (individual income)	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	0.00	76.67	10.00	13.33	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	22.58	41.94	32.26	0.00	3.23
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	9.38	50.00	28.13	12.50	0.00
4. Potential Investors	33.33	43.33	16.67	6.67	0.00
Total	**16.32**	**52.98**	**21.76**	**8.13**	**0.81**

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis", Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 8.4.1.3.: Economic situation (household income) ten years ago

Economic situation (household income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	0.00	20.00	66.67	6.67	6.67
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	38.71	35.48	25.81	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	46.88	40.63	12.50	0.00
4. Potential Investors	3.33	40.00	43.33	13.33	0.00
Total	**0.83**	**36.40**	**46.53**	**14.58**	**1.67**

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b Economic situation (household income).

Tab. 8.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) today

Economic situation (household income)	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	3.33	76.67	6.67	13.33	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	22.58	45.16	25.81	6.45	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	9.38	46.88	25.00	18.75	0.00
4. Potential Investors	33.33	50.00	6.67	10.00	0.00
Total	**17.16**	**54.68**	**16.03**	**12.13**	**0.00**

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 8.4.1.5.: Working conditions ten years ago

Working conditions	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	0.00	30.00	63.33	0.00	6.67
2. Social Enterprises	3.23	38.71	35.48	19.35	3.23
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	43.75	46.88	9.38	0.00
4. Potential Investors	0.00	60.00	23.33	13.33	3.33
Total	**0.81**	**43.11**	**42.26**	**10.52**	**3.31**

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c Working conditions.

Tab. 8.4.1.6.: Working conditions today

Working conditions	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	6.67	66.67	23.33	3.33	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	32.26	35.48	29.03	3.23	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	9.38	59.38	28.13	3.13	0.00
4. Potential Investors	50.00	23.33	16.67	10.00	0.00
Total	24.57	46.21	24.29	4.92	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

8.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Tab. 8.4.2.1.: Social relationship ten years ago

Social relationships	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	0.00	66.67	26.67	6.67	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	19.35	51.61	29.03	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	15.63	71.88	12.50	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	20.00	63.33	16.67	0.00	0.00
Total	13.74	63.37	21.22	1.67	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d Social relationships (local social relations, integration/ discrimination, etc.).

Tab. 8.4.2.2.: Social relationship today

Social relationships	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	3.33	36.67	60.00	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	3.23	41.94	54.84	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	9.38	37.50	53.13	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	3.33	33.33	63.33	0.00	0.00
Total	4.82	37.36	57.82	0.00	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 8.4.2.3.: Legal / administrative status ten years ago

Legal / administrative situation	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor
1. Agribusiness	0.00	76.67	10.00	13.33	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	12.90	61.29	22.58	3.23	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	6.25	75.00	18.75	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	16.67	66.67	16.67	0.00	0.00
Total	8.95	69.91	17.00	4.14	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1f /2f Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit / citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.).

Tab. 8.4.2.4.: Legal / administrative status today

Legal / administrative situation	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse
1. Agribusiness	0.00	20.00	80.00	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	9.68	45.16	45.16	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	12.50	87.50	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	6.67	30.00	63.33	0.00	0.00
Total	4.09	26.92	69.00	0.00	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

8.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

Tab. 8.4.3.1.: At the time how much money did you save?

At that time, how much money did you save?	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%
1. Agribusiness	46.67	46.67	6.67	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	51.61	41.94	6.45	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	43.75	53.13	3.13	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	36.67	50.00	13.33	0.00	0.00
Total	44.72	47.97	7.32	0.00	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1g At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 8.4.3.2.: Today, how much money do you save? (on annual basis)

Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis)	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%
1. Agribusiness	20.00	80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	35.48	58.06	6.45	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	28.13	71.88	0.00	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	13.33	80.00	3.33	3.33	0.00
Total	24.39	72.36	2.44	0.81	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 2g: Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 8.4.3.3.: At the time, how much of that saving did you send to Albania? (on annual basis)

At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis)	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%
1. Agribusiness	46.67	50.00	3.33	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	58.06	38.71	3.23	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	53.13	43.75	3.13	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	50.00	43.33	6.67	0.00	0.00
Total	52.03	43.90	4.07	0.00	0.00

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1h At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 8.4.3.4.: Today how much of that saving do you send to Albania?

Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania?	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%
1. Agribusiness	53.33	46.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	61.29	38.71	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	68.75	31.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	63.33	36.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	**61.79**	**38.21**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Question No. 2h: Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

8.6. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

8.6.1. RELATIONSHIP WITH ALBANIA

Tab. 8.6.1.5.: Interest in the register of migrants

Interested in the "register for migrants "	%
Yes	61.24
No	37.98
n.d.	0.78
Total	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 4: In 2016 Albania approved the creation of a "register for migrants ". Once this register will be created, do you think you will register yourself?

8.6.3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENTS TOWARDS ALBANIA

Tab. 8.6.3.3.: Main negative aspects of the experience to move/expand the activity in Albania

Main negative aspects of your experience	%
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	14.71
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	14.71
Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.).	11.76
Difficulty in accessing financing and investment	8.82
Inadequate transport and other infrastructures	8.82

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 10d: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (in relation to Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).

8.6.4. POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA IN THE OWN SECTOR

Tab. 8.6.4.1.: Interest to invest in the own professional sector in Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in your professional sector)	Yes	No	Total
1. Agribusiness	3.33	96.67	24.39
2. Social Enterprises	12.90	87.10	25.20
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	28.13	71.88	26.02
4. Potential Investors	23.33	76.67	24.39
Average	16.92	83.08	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 11: More in general, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

CHAPTER IX - TUSCANY

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The study, of interest for us to observe the conditions experienced by the Albanian diaspora in Italy, as well as their still-existing relationship with the country of origin, was developed around seven different sections (respectively, Socioeconomic Considerations, Professional Considerations, Economic Considerations, Impact of the Economic Crisis, Perception on Migration and Relations with the Country of Origin). The first two sections do specifically allow one to observe information more closely related to the life of the Albanian migrants in Italy, such as sociodemographic aspects (such as age, country of origin, social and/or legal and administrative status, etc.) and professional traits (such as the level of education, conditions and contracts of employment, the nature of the company, etc.). The third section, on the other hand, studies individual and family resources, with particular attention to income, savings, properties and investments, while the fourth section analyses the impact of the 2008 economic crisis, relating today's economic, social and legal and administrative situation to that of ten years ago. Sections 5 and 6, on the other hand, take into account the personal experience of migrants within the Albanian diaspora (such as the set of positive or negative aspects lived, the plans for the future, etc.) and the relationship with the country of origin (such as ties with the people who still live there, the frequency of visits, investments in loco, etc.). Finally, the seventh and last section differs from the previous ones as it focuses on reporting the data collected during the Focus Group work, held in the city of reference for the region (i.e. Florence), thus offering further ideas for reflections on the subject matter.

In the specific case of the Tuscany Region, the study sample is composed of 122 people, distributed in a balanced way among the different sectors (Agribusiness, Social Enterprises, Cultural Preservation and Heritage, Potential Investors). The number of males (70) is higher than the number of women (52). However, there are differences among sectors with respect to gender composition: in particular, the male percentage is higher in the Agribusiness sector (73.33%) and in the Potential Investors group (83.33%), while the women one is higher in the Social Enterprises (68.75%) and Cultural (43.33%) groups.

Despite some differences, the sample is presented as a mostly homogeneous group: in fact, the questionnaires show that the majority of the group is made up of people between 30 and 39 years old (39.34%), mainly born in Albania (98.36%) – in particular, in the provinces of Shkodra (30.33%) and Tirana (10.66%) – and most are Albanian citizens at birth (120 out to 122, including one case of double citizenship). Moreover, all the 122 persons of the sample are resident in Tuscany – in particular, in the provinces of Florence (42.62%) and Pistoia (23.77%) – and they chose it because their relatives/friends live there (54.55%).

As regards the social and family aspect, most of the respondents are married/cohabiting (62.30%) with mostly Italian partners (35.06%); however, there is a strong presence of partners with other citizenship, respectively 32.47 per cent with dual Italian and Albanian citizenship and 24.68 per cent with Albanian citizenship.

The average level of education is high, with 24.59 per cent hold a Bachelor's degree and 32.79 per cent, even a Master's degree; however, there are significant differences among sectors: in fact, the most highly skilled are respondents in the Social and in Cultural sector, while both in the Agribusiness and in the Potential Investors group most of the respondents (60% and more than 70% respectively) hold a secondary education degree. Regarding the country where the highest educational level was completed, it is possible to observe that, in the case of Agribusiness and Potential Investors, the (predominant) secondary education degrees were gained in Albania; while the high educational level of respondents in the Social Enterprises and in the Cultural sector was mainly gained in Italy.

As regards the economic and legal-administrative situation in Italy, it appears generally good and, despite the economic crisis, it has improved in recent years: for example, almost all of the group holds a long-term residence permit (specifically, 22.55% have a residence card and 14.22% have a Long-term EC residence permit) or obtained Italian citizenship (55.35%). Moreover, the large majority of the respondents in all sector consider that its individual and family economic situation is "better" or "much better" than ten years ago, especially among the Potential Investors (the family income per year or respondents in Tuscany is around EUR 42.394, which today is far better than the other samples studies). Even the working conditions are improved and most of the respondents are employed permanently full-time (29.51% of the sample), particularly in the Agribusiness group.[189] Other 23.77 per cent are self-employed (with a slight predominance of the Cultural sector),[190] and 18.85 per cent business owners (mainly in the Potential Investors group).[191]

As regards the self-employed workers and business owners, the group that declares the highest number of employees is that of Potential Investors (159 employees of which 87 Albanians), followed by the Agribusiness sector (14 Albanians out of 22) and, in a limited number and mainly Italian, in the Social Enterprises and Cultural sectors. All the respondents have their centre of business in Italy, but three respondents in the Potential Investors group and one in the Cultural sector declared that they have business relationships in Albania: in particular, these relationships include, for the Potential Investors group, construction in Albania, cars import/export, export from Italy to Albania of floriculture structures; on the contrary, no specific info was offered by the respondent in the Cultural sector.

In this context, the presence of such marked stability factors contributed to a drastic reduction in the interest of respondents towards Albania, where almost all the group not only rarely travels (30.65% return to the country of origin every 5/10 years), but he does not even plan to return for the next three years, nor does he have the desire for his children to grow up (less than 1% said he wanted it). Conversely, the study sample showed a close link with Italy: 96.86 per cent of family spending is already carried out in Italy; almost half already own a house in Italy and 42.55 per cent are interested in buying one for the next three years; in general, 50.49 per cent declare that they are interested in staying in Italy in the future. So, based on the data collected in Tuscany, Albania does not seem to be the target/destination of the investments.

However, based on the data collected, it is possible to find some favorable elements in relation to a possible relationship between the Albanian diaspora and the country of origin: in fact, although most of the respondents have never previously extended and are not planning to expand their business in Albania in the short term, 27.03 per cent would like to increase the contacts and business relations with Albania and 34.49 per cent do not rule out the possibility to invest in it in the distant future. Furthermore, 15.62 per cent, especially from Social Enterprises and Potential Investors group, would be interested to invest in any other professional sector, such as restaurant/tourism and real estate. Moreover, half respondents, particularly from the Social and Cultural sectors, will be interested in a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania, if an appropriate salary, a short-assignment, and good conditions will be granted.

189 The Agribusiness sector is equivalent to 24,59 per cent of the sample. Most work as agricultural operators (16), followed by Agribusiness entrepreneurs/ Agritourism (10).

190 The Cultural sector represents 24,59 per cent. Half of the respondents of this group are architects/designers/restorers (15), followed by the employed in the touristic sector (10).

191 The Potential Investors group is equivalent to 24,59 per cent and includes several different profiles, with a majority of employed in trade/craftsmanship/ services (9) and in coffee shop/restaurant/pastry shop/bakery (8).

9.1. SOCIOECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

In this introductive section, information on the characteristics of the Albanian community in Tuscany is reported taking into consideration the main sociodemographic aspects (as age, country of birth, citizenship, social status, legal and administrative status refining to the nature of the permit to stay in Italy).

9.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

In the region, the sample is composed of 122 people, distributed in a balanced way among the different sectors (Tab. 9.1.1.1). The number of males (70) is higher than the number of women (52). However, there are differences among sectors with respect to gender composition. In particular, as shown in Tab. 9.1.1.1., the sample is predominantly made up of men in the Agribusiness sector (73.33%) and in the Potential Investors group (83.33%); and of women in the Social Enterprises (68.75%) and Cultural (43.33%) groups.

Tab. 9.1.1.1.: Employment per sector (distribution per gender and percentage)

Employment per sector	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	8	22	30	26.67	73.33	24.59
2. Social Enterprises	22	10	32	68.75	31.25	26.23
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	17	13	30	56.67	43.33	24.59
4. Potential Investors	5	25	30	16.67	83.33	24.59
Average	52	70	122	42.19	57.81	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 1: Employment sector.

The 122 people of the sample are all resident in the Tuscany region[192]. 52 out of 122 (42,62%) reside in Florence and 29 out of 122 (23,77%) in Pistoia. More details about the city of residence can be found in the table below.

Tab. 9.1.1.2.: City or residence (distribution per gender and percentage)

City of residence	Female	Male	Total	%
Agliana	0	4	4	3.28
Arezzo	1	0	1	0.82
Calenzano	2	0	2	1.64
Camerino	0	1	1	0.82
Campi Bisenzio	1	0	1	0.82
Cascina	1	0	1	0.82
Colle di Val D'Elsa	0	3	3	2.46
Fiesole	0	1	1	0.82
Florence	24	28	52	42.62
Greve in Chianti	0	2	2	1.64
Impruneta	0	1	1	0.82
Lucca	1	0	1	0.82
Montemurlo	0	1	1	0.82

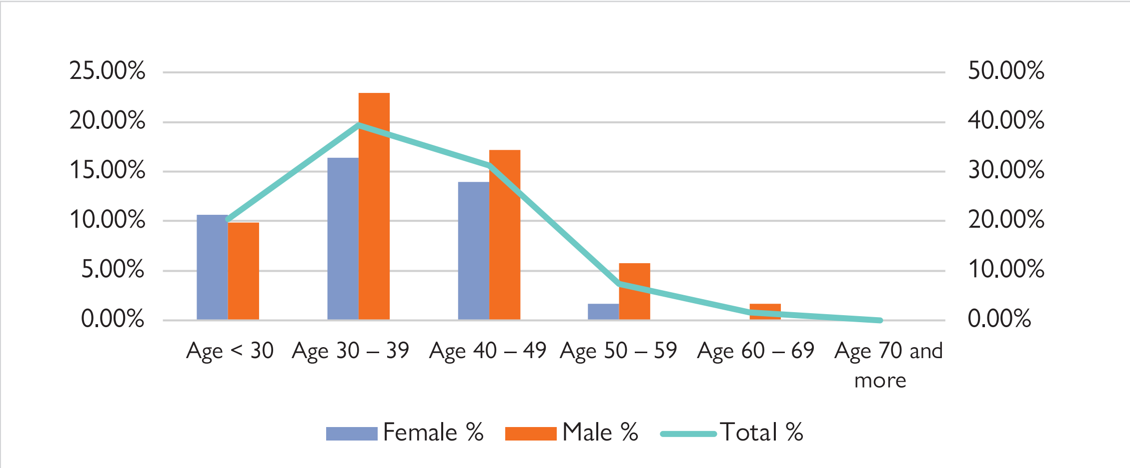
192 100 per cent of the interviewed resides in Toscana region (according to the Elaboration of question No. 2 - Region of residence).

Pisa	1	0	1	0.82
Pistoia	8	21	29	23.77
Pontassieve	0	1	1	0.82
Pontedera	1	0	1	0.82
Prato	5	3	8	6.56
Quarrata	2	2	4	3.28
Reggello	1	0	1	0.82
Scandicci	1	1	2	1.64
Sesto Fiorentino	1	0	1	0.82
Siena	0	1	1	0.82
Signa	1	0	1	0.82
Vaiano	1	0	1	0.82
Total	52	70	122	100

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 2a - City of residence.

Most of the respondents (48, 39,34% of the sample) are 30–39 years old, 31.15 per cent are 40–49; 20.49 per cent are under 30 (Fig. 9.1.1.3.).

Fig. 9.1.1.3., Composition per age (distribution per gender and percentage)[193]

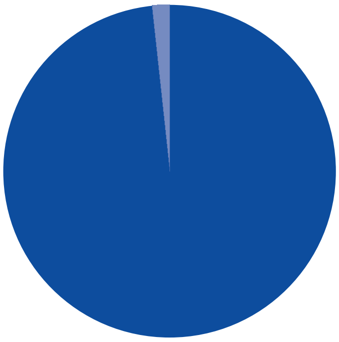


Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 4 - Age of the interviewee.

98,36 per cent of the sample is made of respondents born in Albania; there are only two exceptions (male in both cases), as detailed in Fig. 9.1.1.4., born respectively in Kosovo[4] and North Macedonia. Tab. 9.1.1.5. shows the City of birth of the respondents. Shkodra is the main city of origin of the respondents in Tuscany (30.33% of the sample), followed by Tirana (10.66%) and by a number of other Albanian cities for the other respondents.

193 The source table for this and the following figures are reported in the appendix of this chapter.

Fig. 9.1.1.4.: Country of birth (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 5 - Country of birth.

Tab. 9.1.1.5.: City of Birth (distribution per gender and percentage)

City of birth	Female	Male	Total	%
Berat	6	2	8	6.56
Cerrik	0	1	1	0.82
Durres / Durazzo	3	2	5	4.10
Elbasan	5	6	11	9.02
Fier	1	5	6	4.92
Fushe Arrez	1	0	1	0.82
Gramsh	1	1	2	1.64
Kavaja	0	3	3	2.46
Korca	2	0	2	1.64
Lezha	1	1	2	1.64
Lushnja	1	1	2	1.64
Mirdita	0	1	1	0.82
Permet	0	1	1	0.82
Pogradec	2	0	2	1.64
Prizeren	0	1	1	0.82
Puka	2	4	6	4.92
Rreshen	0	2	2	1.64
Saranda	1	2	3	2.46
Shijak	1	0	1	0.82
Shkodra/ Scutari	12	25	37	30.33
Shkup / Skopje	0	1	1	0.82
Skrapar	0	1	1	0.82
Tepelena	1	0	1	0.82
Tirana	8	5	13	10.66
Velipoja	1	0	1	0.82
Vlora / Valona	3	5	8	6.56
Total	52	70	122	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 5a - City of birth.

120 out of 122 respondents were born with Albanian citizenship, including one case of double citizenship. Today, 68 respondents have acquired Italian citizenship (30 Female and 38 Male). 23 respondents (11 women and 12 men) renounced their Albanian citizenship.

Tab. 9.1.1.6.: Citizenship at birth and today (percentage per gender)

	Citizenship at birth			Citizenship today		
	Albanian	Italian	Other	Albanian	Italian	Other
Female	52	0	0	41	30	1
Male	68	0	3	56	38	2
Total	120	0	3*	97	68	3

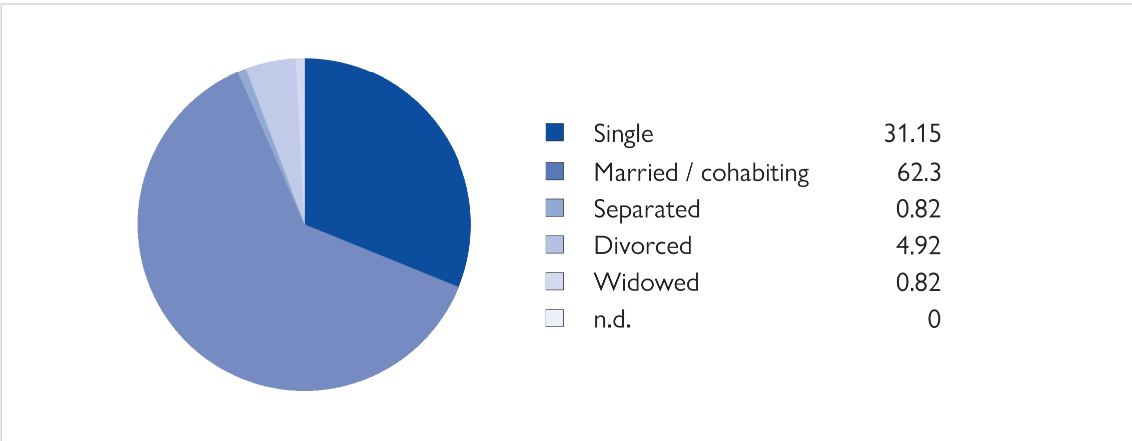
*One case of dual citizenship.
Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 6: Citizenship at birth and Question No. 7: Citizenship today.

9.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Most of the respondents are married/cohabiting (62.30% of the sample), with a predominance of women (Fig. 9.1.2.1.). The second most represented group is that of singles (31.15% of the sample).

As shown in Tab. 9.1.2.2., most of the married/cohabiting or separated respondents have an Italian partner (35.06%) or an Italian/Albanian partner. 24.68% have an Albanian partner.

Fig. 9.1.2.1.: Marital status (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 8: What is your marital status?

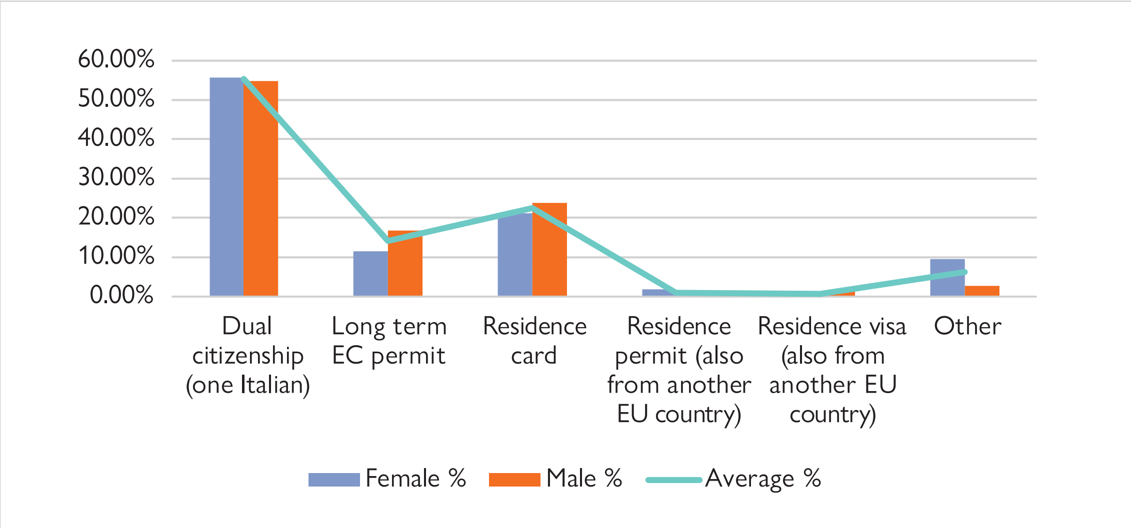
Tab. 9.1.2.2.: Current citizenship of the partner of married/cohabiting and separated (distribution per gender and percentage)

Current citizenship of the partner	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Albanian	9	10	19	11.69	12.99	24.68
Estonian	0	1	1	0.00	1.30	1.30
Italian	11	16	27	14.29	20.78	35.06
Italian and Albanian	13	12	25	16.88	15.58	32.47
Italian and Croatian	1	0	1	1.30	0.00	1.30
Italian e Kosovar	0	1	1	0.00	1.30	1.30
Kazakh	0	1	1	0.00	1.30	1.30
Macedonian	0	1	1	0.00	1.30	1.30
Romanian	0	1	1	0.00	1.30	1.30
Total	34	43	77	44.16	55.84	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 8a: Check previous answer: if a. married / cohabiting or c. separated: What's the current citizenship of the partner?

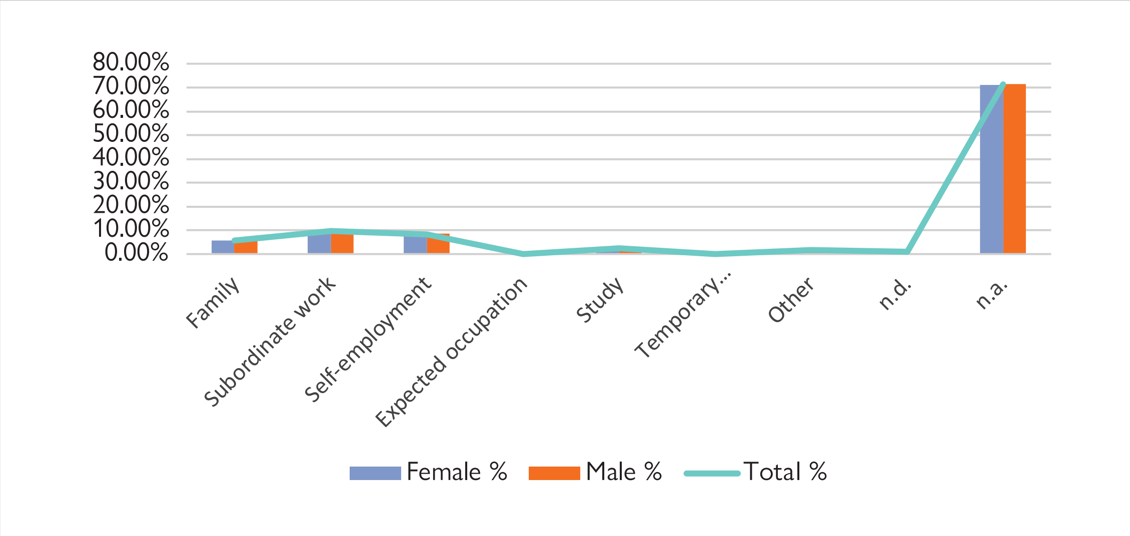
The high number of respondents who gained Italian citizenship is reflected also in Fig. 9.1.2.3., where the legal and administrative status of the sample with respect to the stay in Italy is illustrated. Most of the respondents have double citizenship (Albanian/Italian) (55.35% of the sample). The second most frequent situation is of residence card (22.55% of the sample). The third most common situation is that of Long-term EC permit (14.22% of the sample). In all three cases, the situation is balanced among men and women. Residence permits (among those that answered to the question) are mainly for working reasons (subordinate work or self-employment) (Fig. 9.1.2.4.); (21.14%) followed by family reasons, with no significant gender difference.

Fig. 9.1.2.3.: Current legal and administrative status (distribution per gender and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 10: Please tell us your current legal and administrative status with respect to your stay in Italy.

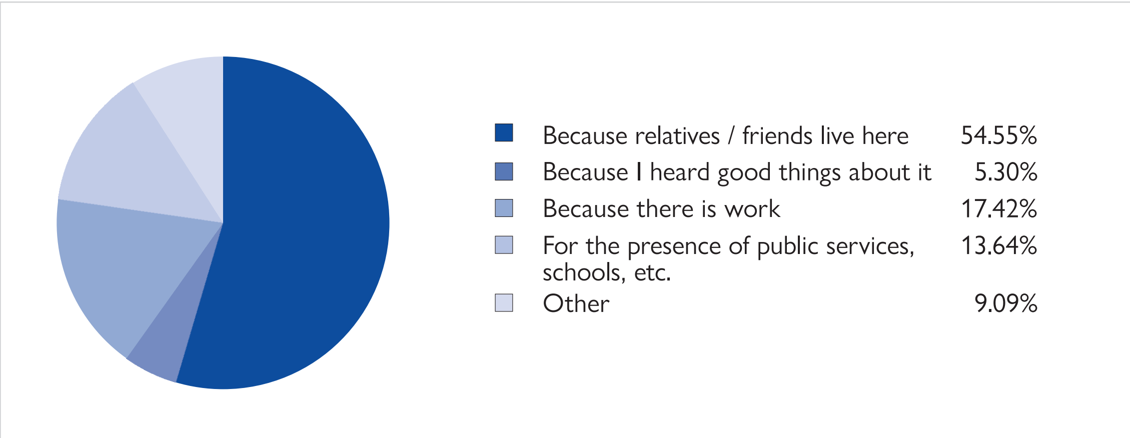
Fig. 9.1.2.4.: Typology of valid visa or residence permit (distribution per gender and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social"; Question No. 11: If you have a valid visa or residence permit or are renewing it, please indicate its type.

Finally, the main driver for the selection of the area where to locate in Italy (Fig. 9.1.2.5.) is the presence of relatives and friends (for 54.55 per cent of the respondents). Other frequent answers include work (for 17.42% of the sample) and the presence of public services (for 13.63% of the sample).

Fig. 9.1.2.5.: Reason for choosing the area where he/she live (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on "Intro, demographic and social", Question No. 13: For what reasons did you choose this area? (multiple choices, even more than one).

9.2. PROFESSIONAL

This section offers information on the professional traits and profiles of the interviewees including the educational level, employment (work condition/contract) and the nature of the company (for entrepreneurs).

9.2.1. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAITS

The sample is mainly composed of highly skilled workers (Tab. 9.2.1.1.): 24.59 per cent of the respondents hold a Bachelor's degree; 32.79 per cent a Master's degree; 2,46 per cent a PhD or equivalent. However, there are significant differences among sectors. The most highly skilled are respondents in the Social Enterprises group (40.63% with a Bachelor's degree; 53.13% with a Master's degree) and in the Cultural sector (40.00% of respondents with a Bachelor's degree; 46.67% with a Master's degree; 10.00% with a PhD or equivalent). In the Agribusiness sector and in the Potential Investors group, the majority of respondents (60% and more than 70% respectively) hold a secondary education degree.

The education level is reflected in Tab. 9.2.1.2., which shows the professional profiles of the respondents. In the Agribusiness sector, the majority of the sample (16 out of 30) is made of agricultural operators, followed by Agribusiness entrepreneur / Agritourism (10). The Social Enterprises group is composed in a balanced way by doctors (10), nurses (8) and social health workers (8). 15 out of 30 respondents in the Cultural sector are architects/designers/restorers, followed by 10 employed in the touristic sector. The Potential Investors group includes several different profiles, with a majority of employed in Trade / Craftsmanship /Service (9) and Coffee shop/Restaurants/Pastry shop/Bakery (8). Tab. 9.2.1.3. shows the country where the highest educational level was completed. In the case of Agribusiness and Potential Investors, the (predominant) secondary education degrees were gained in Albania; while the high educational level of respondents in the Social Enterprises and in the Cultural sector were mainly gained in Italy.

Tab. 9.2.1.1.: Educational level/qualification (distribution per sector and percentage)

Educational level/ qualification	1. Agribusiness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential investor	Total
None or preschool	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Primary school	20.00%	0.00%	3.33%	3.33%	6.56%
Secondary education, vocational	30.00%	0.00%	0.00%	43.33%	18.03%
Secondary education, regular	30.00%	6.25%	0.00%	26.67%	15.57%
Tertiary education, Bachelor's degree	3.33%	40.63%	40.00%	13.33%	24.59%
Tertiary education, Master's degree	16.67%	53.13%	46.67%	13.33%	32.79%
Quaternary education (PhD or other)	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	2.46%
Other	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations"; Question No. 1: Educational level/qualification (please select the highest completed).

Tab. 9.2.1.2.: Professional composition of the sample, per sector and sub-sector

Professional sector and sub-sector	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness (profiles linked to Agri-food and Agritourism)	**8**	**22**	**30**	**15.38**	**31.43**	**24.59**
Agribusiness entrepreneur / Agritourism	2	8	10	25.00	36.36	33.33
Agribusiness services (as marketing, stoke etc)	2	2	4	25.00	9.09	13.33
Agricultural operator	4	12	16	50.00	54.55	53.33
2. Social Enterprises (profiles linked to social and health services)	**22**	**10**	**32**	**42.31**	**14.29**	**26.23**
Nurse	6	2	8	27.27	20.00	25.00
Sociocultural mediator	4	0	4	18.18	0.00	12.50
Doctor/dentist	3	7	10	13.64	70.00	31.25
Social and health-care services	1	0	1	4.55	0.00	3.13
Psychologist and social assistant	1	0	1	4.55	0.00	3.13
Social health worker (as physiotherapist, pharmacist, optician, etc.)	7	1	8	31.82	10.00	25.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage (profiles linked to cultural or archeological sites)	**17**	**13**	**30**	**32.69**	**18.57**	**24.59**
Architect / Conservator- restorer / Designer	9	6	15	52.94	46.15	50.00
Tourism (museum worker, guide, touristic agencies, etc.)	6	4	10	35.29	30.77	33.33
University and research / Studies (cultural heritage sector)	2	2	4	11.76	15.38	13.33
Writer / Journalist/ Translator	0	1	1	0.00	7.69	3.33
4. Potential Investors (all other sectors)	**5**	**25**	**30**	**9.62**	**35.71**	**24.59**
Hotel/accomodation	1	4	5	20.00	16.00	16.67
Coffee shop / Restaurants / Pastry shop / Bakery	1	7	8	20.00	28.00	26.67
Trade / Craftsmanship /Service	3	6	9	60.00	24.00	30.00
Building (construction, restoration, etc.)	0	5	5	0.00	20.00	16.67
Manufacturing/ Metalworking	0	1	1	0.00	4.00	3.33
Planners	0	2	2	0.00	8.00	6.67
Total	52	70	122	100.00	100.00	100.00

*An entrepreneur falls into several sectors, as Hotels/Accommodation, Manufacturing/Metalwork and Building (construction, restoration, etc.)

Source: Author's classification of the main professional profile included in the sample for Tuscany.

Tab. 9.2.1.3.: Country where the highest educational level was completed (distribution per sector and percentage)

Employment sector	Albania	Italy	Other	Total	Albania (%)	Italy (%)	Other (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	20	8	2*	30	66.67	26.67	6.67	24.59
2. Social Enterprises	9	23	0	32	28.13	71.88	0.00	26.23
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	5	25	0	30	16.67	83.33	0.00	24.59
4. Potential Investors	18	12	0	30	60.00	40.00	0.00	24.59
Total	52	68	2	122	42.62	55.74	1.64	100.00

* One from North Macedonia, one from Kosovo.[4]

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations"; Question No. 2: Where did you completed the highest educational/qualification level?

In terms of their working status, most of the respondents are employed permanently, full-time (29.51% of the sample). When it comes to sectors, most of those employed are in the Agribusiness group. 23.77% are self-employed (with a slight predominance of the Cultural sector), and 18,85% are business owners (mainly in the Potential Investors group).

Tab. 9.2.1.4.: Working status (distribution per sector and percentage)

Working status	1. Agribu-siness	2. Social Enterprises	3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	4. Potential investor	Total
Unemployed (actively looking for a job)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Homemaker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Student	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Student-worker	0.82	0.82	0.00	0.00	1.64
Employed permanent full time	11.48	11.48	3.28	3.28	29.51
Employed permanent part-time	2.46	1.64	0.00	0.00	4.10
Employed with time limited contract	1.64	4.10	1.64	0.00	7.38
Occupied in layoffs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
On the move	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Occupied irregularly but fairly stable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Occupied irregularly in an unstable way	0.82	0.00	0.82	0.00	1.64
Occupied "para-subordinate" work	0.00	0.00	4.10	0.00	4.10
Self-employed regular /freelance worker *	2.46	5.74	9.02	6.56	23.77
Self-employed worker not regular	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.00	0.82
Business owner*	4.10	0.00	0.00	14.75	18.85
Cooperative worker member	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.00	0.82
Other	0.82	0.82	2.46	0.00	4.10
n.d.	0.00	1.64	1.64	0.00	3.28
Total	24.59	26.23	24.59	24.59	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations", Question No. 6: Please tell us your working situation - the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

9.2.2. FOCUS ON SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNERS*

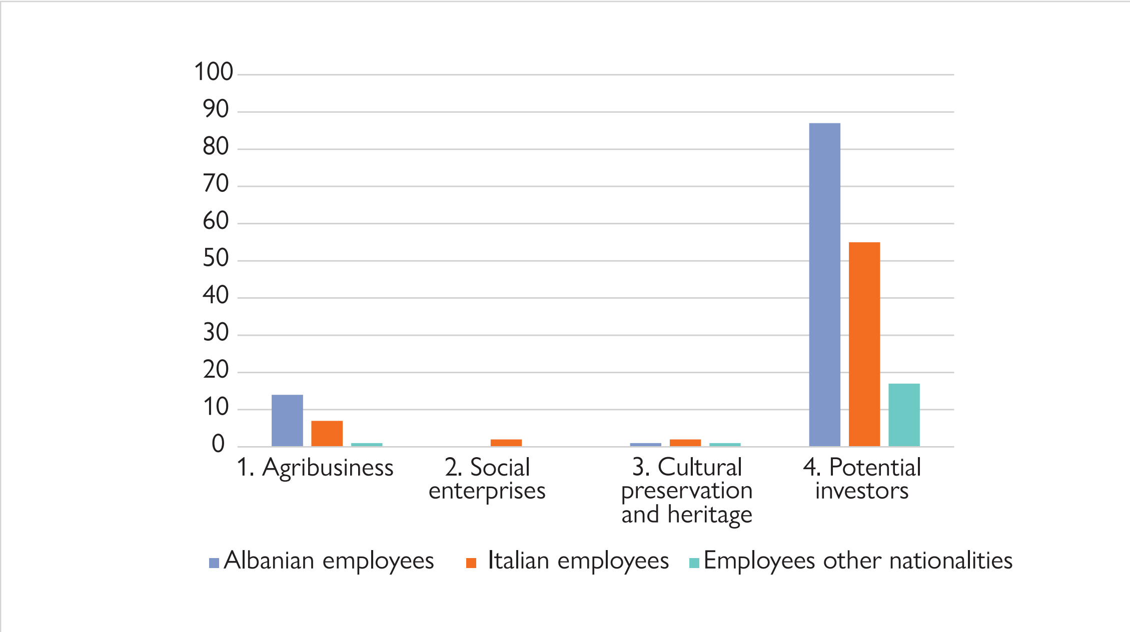
Some questions were directed specifically to those respondents who declared to be self-employed or business owners.

When respondents do have employees, they have been asked to specify how many are Italian, Albanian or of other nationalities. The results are presented in Fig. 9.2.2.1. The group that declared the highest number of employees is that of Potential Investors; in this case, the most of the employees are Albanians (87 out of 159). Employees were reported also in the Agribusiness sector (14 Albanian out of 22), and, in a limited number and mainly Italian, in the Social Enterprises and Cultural sectors.

We asked if the centre of business of these self-employed or business owners is in Italy or elsewhere (Tab. 9.2.2.2.); almost all of the answers indicated Italy as their centre of business.

Three respondents in the Potential Investors group, and one in the Cultural sector, declared that they have business relationships in Albania (Tab. 9.2.2.3.). According to the qualitative answers they offered, these relationships include, for the Potential Investors group, construction in Albania, cars import/export, export from Italy to Albania of floriculture structures (no specific info was offered by the respondent in the Cultural sector).

Fig. 9.2.2.1.: Nationality of employees (for self-employed and business owners)



Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations"; Question No. 8: How many employees do you have? Question 8a: How many are Italians? Question 8b How many are Albanians?

Tab. 9.2.2.2.: Location of the centre of the business interests Italy (distribution per sector and percentage)

Italy as the centre of your business	Yes	No	n.d	Yes (%)	No (%)	n.d. (%)
1. Agribusiness	8	0	0	14.81	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	8	0	0	14.81	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	11	0	1	20.37	0.00	1.85
4. Potential Investors	26	0	0	48.15	0.00	0.00
Total	53	0	1	98.15	0.00	1.85

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations"; Question No. 9: Is the centre of your business interests Italy? Namely are your main business partners, supply relationships, customers, etc. in Italy? and 9a If NO, where is your "centre of business interests" located?

Tab. 9.2.2.3.: Business relationships with Albania (distribution per sector and percentage)

Business relationships with Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Yes (%)	No (%)	n.d (%)
1. Agribusiness	0	8	0	0.00	15.09	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	0	7	0	0.00	13.21	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	1	9	2	1.89	16.98	3.77
4. Potential Investors	3	23	0	5.66	43.40	0.00
Total	4	47	2	7.55	88.68	3.77

Source: Elaboration on "Professional Considerations"; Question No. 10 Do you do business/have business relationships with Albania? (e.g. important customers, suppliers, partners, participation in tenders and calls, etc.).

9.3. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

This section's objective is to study and analyse the individual and family assets of the respondents focusing on their yearly income, saving and remitting habits, real estate properties between Italy and Albania (if not elsewhere) and other forms of investments. Based on these aspects we intend to grasp, on the one hand, general indications on the earing capacity of Albanians in Italy and their financial stability or fragility. On the other hand, the geography of the real estate properties can offer us indications on concrete existing capitals, linkages and possible investments of the diaspora – more likely in the country of origin or in Italy.

9.3.1. INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

The average yearly individual income declared by respondents in Toscana[194] is EUR 27,201, higher than the national average income in Italy in 2018[195] (20,670 euros).

The average family annual income[196] declared by Albanian respondents in Toscana is EUR 42,94 that result overall higher of the Italian national average family income and also higher compared to the average income of respondents/regions studied within this survey.[197] The sector that accounts for the highest individual and household income of respondents is Potential Investors (for both men and women).

In addition, data on the average annual income per capita of the respondents – referring to the income for each household member[198] – show some difference between the Albanian female and male component (EUR 12,723 versus EUR 15,011). When compared to the average individual yearly income per capita in Italy in the central regions, it results a little lower with EUR 14,087 (ISTAT, 2018).[199]

While this information provides us with a general positive indication meaning a certain income and earning capacity and solidity of respondents, we can highlight significative differences and variations by considering the gender dimension and the professional sector of belonging.

Female respondents state in fact a much lower average yearly individual income (EUR 21,000) compared to the male component (EUR 31,400), confirming also their inferior earnings within each sector, excluded the Cultural Preservation and Heritage sector.[200] Agribusiness is the sector with the lowest female individual and household income. The other sectors, especially Potential Investors, show better income rates. The sectors that show the highest internal individual income distance/difference (of EUR 12,000) between men and women are Agribusiness and Potential Investors. These data confirm a general trend in gender income discrepancy with women generally earning less than men.[201] Also, income divergence can be also explained by the prevalence of women in part-time jobs to meet family/children needs.

194 The fieldwork took place in 2019 and this question referred to that year.
195 Site consulted on 23 January 2010. www.repubblica.it/economia/miojob/lavoro/2019/03/28/news/mef_il_reddito_medio_italiano_e_sceso_a_20_670_euro-222716008/.
196 Including all sources of family income and referring to the average family household size of 3.31 persons, see *Tab. 9.3.1.2., Average family household size per gender and sector.*
197 For the fiscal year 2017, the national Italian average family income was EUR 30,595, excluding real estate rents. *Source*: www.istat.it/it/files/2018/12/Report-Reddito-Condizioni-di-vita-2017.pdf.
198 By elaborating the household size in relationship with the household income.
199 Fiscal year of reference 2017, calculated in 2018. In 2017, in the North-Eastern regions of Italy, the average yearly individual income was EUR 21,900; in the north-western regions it was 21,400; in the central regions it was 19,500 and in the southern regions it was 13,700. *Source* : www.istat.it/it/files/2018/12/Report_Conti-regionali_2017.pdf.
200 Female individual and household incomes in Cultural sector are higher compared the male counterpart. Women working in this sector are 56.67 per cent of the female sample.
201 As reported by the EU Commission, in 2017 "the gender pay gap in the EU stands at 16 per cent and has only changed minimally over the last decade. It means that women earn 16 per cent on average less per hour than men". *Source*: ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/equal-pay/gender-pay-gap-situation-eu_en.

Tab. 9.3.1.1.: Distribution of individual average annual income per gender and sector

Individual annual income (average in euro)	
Female	**21,000.00**
1. Agribusiness	13,600.00
2. Social Enterprises	20,619.05
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	20,785.71
4. Potential Investors	33,000.00
Male	**31,400.00**
1. Agribusiness	25,142.86
2. Social Enterprises	24,333.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	17,636.36
4. Potential Investors	45,833.33
Total	**27,201.83**

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 1: What is your annual (individual) income? (Important: please include the sum of all your incomes - those declared + all "extras"/undeclared/cash-in-hand).

Tab. 9.3.1.2.: Distribution of household average annual income per gender and sector

Household size (average)	
Female	**3.24**
1. Agribusiness	4.17
2. Social Enterprises	3.19
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	2.93
4. Potential Investors	3.25
Male	**3.35**
1. Agribusiness	3.90
2. Social Enterprises	3.11
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	2.17
4. Potential Investors	3.54
Total	**3.31**

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 2: Household size: how many people comprise your "household" (interviewee included)? By "household" we mean the group of people with whom there is a relationship of kinship/love, which also means sharing expenses (food, clothing, leisure) and income.

Tab. 9.3.1.3.: Average family household size per gender and sector.

Household income (average in euro)	
Female	**38,954.55**
1. Agribusiness	34,200.00
2. Social Enterprises	40,333.33
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	36,714.29
4. Potential Investors	45,500.00
Male	**44,723.08**
1. Agribusiness	37,523.81
2. Social Enterprises	40,444.44
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	23,636.36
4. Potential Investors	62,291.67
Total	**42,394.50**

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 3 Considering all different sources (income from work, annuities, assistance, etc.), what is the approximate average annual sum of the income of your entire household?

Tab. 9.3.1.4.: Distribution of annual income per capita per gender and sector

Income per capita (for each member of the household, average in euro)	
Female	**12,723.48**
1. Agribusiness	8,233.33
2. Social Enterprises	13,428.57
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	12,952.38
4. Potential Investors	13,833.33
Male	**15,011.47**
1. Agribusiness	9,822.00
2. Social Enterprises	14,637.04
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	13,636.36
4. Potential Investors	20,322.92
Total	**14,087.88**

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 2 Household size and No. 3 Household income.

9.3.2. REMITTANCES AND SAVING BEHAVIOUR

Most part of the household family income of respondents (96.86%) stays in Italy, either spent as living expenses or savings. This means that only a small portion of the family income (2.38%) is destined for other purposes. Tracking down results by gender, we do not evidence significant differences. When considering the four sectors respondents belong to, we can highlight slight variations in the data. The male respondents from the Agribusiness are the ones that save more in Italy as well as women from the Social sector and Potential Investors. Those that send abroad more are men from the Agribusiness (5.95%) while those that send less (minus 0) are men and women from the Cultural sector.

Considering that "small portion" mentioned above, which sent elsewhere (2.38%), 27 persons (out of 122) declare to send money to Albania,[202] while 70 do not.

The totality of the money sent goes to family members (parents, relatives and/or siblings).[203] This percentage is not tremendously high if we consider the general remittance behaviour of migrants.[204] Around 88.89 per cent of those that remit to Albania, do not send money to a bank account. Also, family reunion happened extensively over the years. And finally, the longer migrants live and settle abroad, the less they tend to remit due to increasing needs in the residence country (for the presence of children, house, mortgage, etc.).

Tab. 9.3.2.1.: Percentage of household income employed in Italy (either spent or saved) or elsewhere, per gender and sector.

Money spent and saved	% spent in Italy	% saved in Italy	% sent elsewhere
Female	**80.83**	**17.79**	**1.32**
1. Agribusiness	76.67	21.67	1.25
2. Social Enterprises	79.76	18.33	1.90
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	84.69	15.25	0.06
4. Potential Investors	78.00	19.00	3.00

202 On average (considering only those who send money), 99,26 per cent is sent to Albania. *Source: Elaboration on section "Economic", question No. 3c How much of the money "sent elsewhere" goes to Albania?*

203 *Source: Elaboration on section "Economic"; Question No. 3d: Who do you send this money to in Albania?*

204 According to the survey of the National Observatory for Financial Inclusion of Migrants in Italy, the average remittance in terms of percentage of income is around 12,3 per cent in 2017.

Male	75.90	19.70	3.16
1. Agribusiness	79.05	15.48	5.95
2. Social Enterprises	74.44	25.00	1.50
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	80.83	10.42	0.42
4. Potential Investors	71.40	25.80	2.80
Total	77.96	18.90	2.38

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 3a: Considering the figure just mentioned (question No. 3) as 100 per cent of your household income: How much do you spend in Italy, how much do you save in Italy and how much do you send elsewhere?

Tab. 9.3.2.2.: Remittances sent to Albania, per sector

Do you send anything to Albania?	No	Yes	n.a.	n.d.	Total	No (%)	Yes (%)	n.a. (%)	n.d. (%)
1. Agribusiness	14	9	7	0	30	11.48	7.38	5.74	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	20	8	4	0	32	16.39	6.56	3.28	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	17	2	10	1	30	13.93	1.64	8.20	0.82
4. Potential Investors	19	8	3	0	30	15.57	6.56	2.46	0.00
Total	70	27	24	1	122	57.38	22.13	19.67	0.82

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 3b: Of the previous percentage "sent elsewhere", do you send anything to Albania?

Tab. 9.3.2.3.: Remittances sent to Albania, per sector

	Do you send it to a bank account?		Do you have control of this bank account in any way?	
	Absolute value	%	Absolute value	%
Yes	3	11.11	3	100.00
No	24	88.89	0	0.00
n.d.	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	27	100.00	3	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 3e: Do you send it to a bank account? And 3f Do you have control of this bank account in any way?

9.3.3. REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

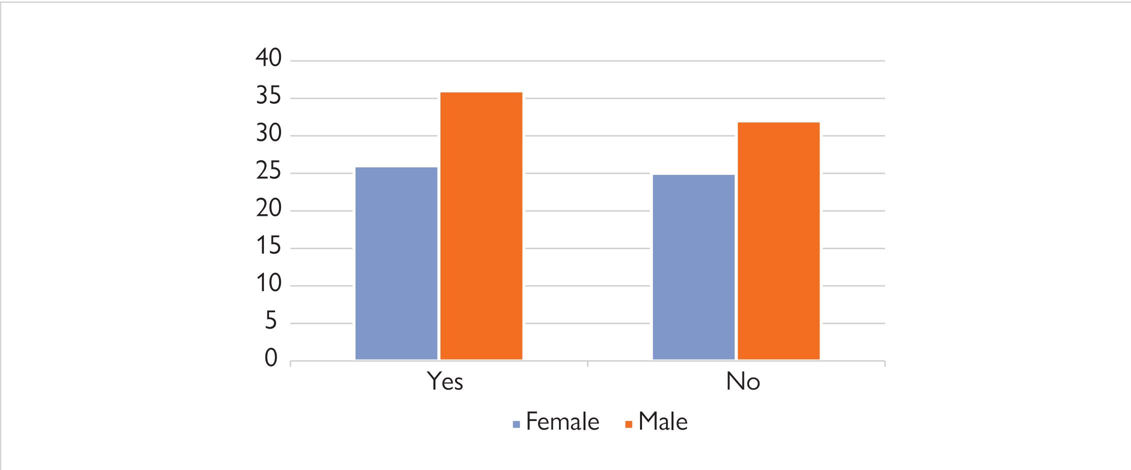
Half the respondents (62 persons) own a house, the other half does not (57 persons), with no significant differences between men and women. The majority (48 persons) has a house in Italy while 13 persons have a house in Albania.[205] Verifying the presence of additional properties (as land, real estate, etc.), 13.87 per cent of respondents declare to have them in Italy and 49.95 per cent in Albania.

Owning a house or a property in the country of origin can be a stimulus to either invest in the renovation for the family still living there or for the holidays, but also for possible investment as business or in tourism (frequently mentioned during the focus groups as well as the barriers due to the lack of clarity in the private property register in Albania). At the same time, owning a house in Italy is a signal of stability in the destination country (often implying a mortgage to repay it, therefore choosing this an important and significant family investment in the long term).

205 Including those that have their only house in Albania and those that have a house both in Italy and in Albania (or more than one property in Albania).

The survey also asked about future plans in terms of intentions to buy properties in the nearby future, whether in Albania or in Italy or elsewhere.[206] Considering the plan to buy a property in the next three years in Italy, the responses are shared between those that are not considering it (55.05%)[207] and those that are interested (42.55%)[208] to buy one. The same question applied to buy a property in Albania in the next future shows that only (12.66%)[209] is planning it, while the majority (84.94%)[210] is not.

Fig. 9.3.3.1.: Ownership of a house



Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 4: Do you own any houses?

Tab. 9.3.3.2.: Country where the house is owned

Where	Female	Male	Total
Albania	2	3	5
Italy	22	26	48
Italy and Albania	2	6*	8**
n.d.	0	1	1
Total	26	36	62

*of which 1 person declares to have more than one property both in Italy and Albania, and** of which 7 declare to have mora than one property both in Italy and Albania.

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 4a: If yes how many and where?

Tab. 9.3.3.3.: Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property in Italy?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	13.46		84.62		1.92	100.00
Male	14.29		82.86		2.86	100.00
Average	13.87		83.74		2.39	100.00
Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	1.92	11.54	34.62	50.00	1.92	100.00
Male	12.86	1.43	35.71	47.14	2.86	100.00
Average	7.39	6.48	35.16	48.57	2.39	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 5a: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Italy? and Question 5b: Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy for the next 3 years? 5b has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5a.

206 Almost all of the respondents (96.18%) are not interested in any property elsewhere.
207 This sums up to: 6.48 + 48.57 per cent, see *Tab. 9.3.3.3., Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future.*
208 This sums up to: 7.39 per cent + 35.16 per cent, see *Tab. 9.3.3.3., Additional properties in Italy and plans to buy properties in the future.*
209 This sums up to: 9.31 per cent +3.35 per cent, see *Tab. 9.3.3.4., Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future.*
210 This sums up to: 40.63 per cent + 44.31 per cent, see *Tab. 9.3.3.4., Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future.*

Tab. 9.3.3.4.: Additional properties in Albania and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	38.46		59.62		1.92	100.00
Male	61.43		35.71		2.86	100.00
Average	**49.95**		**47.66**		**2.39**	**100.00**
Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	5.77	32.69	3.85	55.77	1.92	100.00
Male	12.86	48.57	2.86	32.86	2.86	100.00
Average	**9.31**	**40.63**	**3.35**	**44.31**	**2.39**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 5c: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania? and Question 5d: Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years? 5d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5c.

Tab. 9.3.3.5.: Additional properties elsewhere and plans to buy properties in the future

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) elsewhere?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	0.00		98.08		1.92	100.00
Male	1.43		94.29		4.29	100.00
Average	**0.71**		**96.18**		**3.10**	**100.00**
Do you plan to buy real estate in elsewhere for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	0.00	3.85	94.23	1.92	100.00
Male	1.43	0.00	5.71	88.57	4.29	100.00
Average	**0.71**	**0.00**	**4.78**	**91.40**	**3.10**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 5e: Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) elsewhere? 5g Do you plan to buy real estate elsewhere for the next 3 years? 5g has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5e.

9.3.4. FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

When investigating financial investments undertaken in the past, 59.59 per cent of respondents state they never invested in Italy while 91.60 per cent never invested in Albania. A small difference appears when considering gender, with men actually having invested more than women (both in Italy and in Albania). When considering the next three years, part of the respondents (35.73%)[211] say they are planning to financially invest in Italy, while the majority (61.98%)[212] is not. When asked about the possibility to financially invest in Albania for the next three years, the large majority of respondents declare not to be planning it (87.34%).[213]

These data show this group is moderately interested to invest (eventually in Italy) and the majority has not previously considered and is not considering Albania as a target/destination for financial investments.

211 This sums up to: 23.90 per cent + 11.73 per cent, see *Tab. 9.3.4.1., Financial investments made in Italy.*
212 This sums up to: 14.12 per cent + 47.86 per cent, see *Tab. 9.3.4.1., Financial investments made in Italy.*
213 This sums up to: 85.91 per cent + 1.43 per cent, see *Tab. 9.3.4.2., Financial investments made in Albania.*

Tab. 9.3.4.1.: Financial investments made in Italy

Have you made financial investments in Italy?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	34.62		63.46		1.92	100.00
Male	41.43		55.71		2.86	100.00
Average	34.62		59.59		2.39	100.00
Do you plan to do this for Italy the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	19.23	15.38	13.46	50.00	1.92	100.00
Male	28.57	12.86	10.00	45.71	2.86	100.00
Average	23.90	14.12	11.73	47.86	2.39	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 6a: Have you made financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Italy? and 6a Do you plan to do this for Italy the next 3 years? 6b has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 6a.

Tab. 9.3.4.2.: Financial investments made in Albania

Have you made financial investments in Albania?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	0.00		98.08		1.92	100.00
Male	11.43		85.71		2.86	100.00
Average	5.71		91.90		2.39	100.00
Do you plan to do this in Albania for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	0.00	7.69	90.38	1.92	100.00
Male	8.57	2.86	4.29	81.43	2.86	100.00
Average	4.29	1.43	5.99	85.91	2.39	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Question No. 6c: Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Albania? and 6d Do you plan to do this in Albania for the next 3 years? 6d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 6c.

Tab. 9.3.4.3.: Financial investments made elsewhere

Have you made financial investments elsewhere?	Yes		No		n.d.	Total
Female	0.00		98.08		1.92	100.00
Male	1.43		94.29		4.29	100.00
Average	0.71		96.18		3.10	100.00
Do you plan to do this elsewhere for the next 3 years?	Yes, to the previous		No, to the previous		n.d.	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Female	0.00	0.00	3.85	94.23	1.92	100.00
Male	0.00	1.43	1.43	92.86	4.29	100.00
Average	0.00	0.71	2.64	93.54	3.10	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Economic Considerations"; Questions 6e: Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) elsewhere? 6f If yes, where? 6g. Do you plan to do this elsewhere for the next 3 years? 6h. If Yes, where?

9.4. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

In this section we intended to analyse the impact of the recent economic crisis on the individual/family conditions, considering how the situation of respondents changed in the last ten years (or during the first two years in Italy, for those that arrived in Italy afterwards) for the economic/working/social and legal point of view.

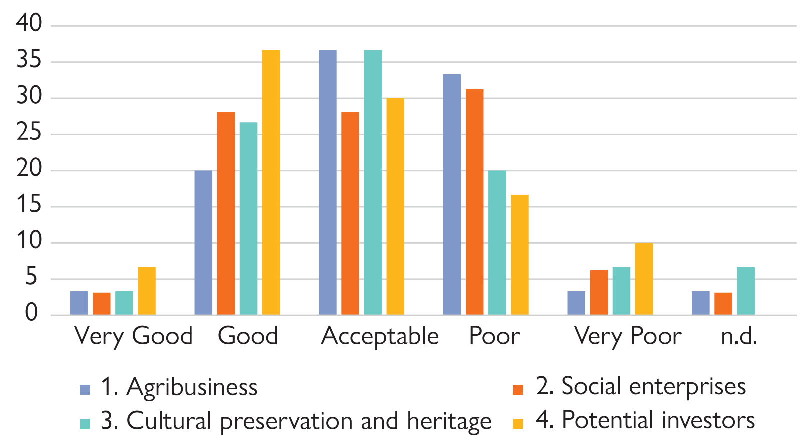
Consequently, we asked respondents how they judge their (economic, social, professional, etc.) situation ten years ago (or during the first two years in Italy) and today. The results are shown comparatively in the following figures.

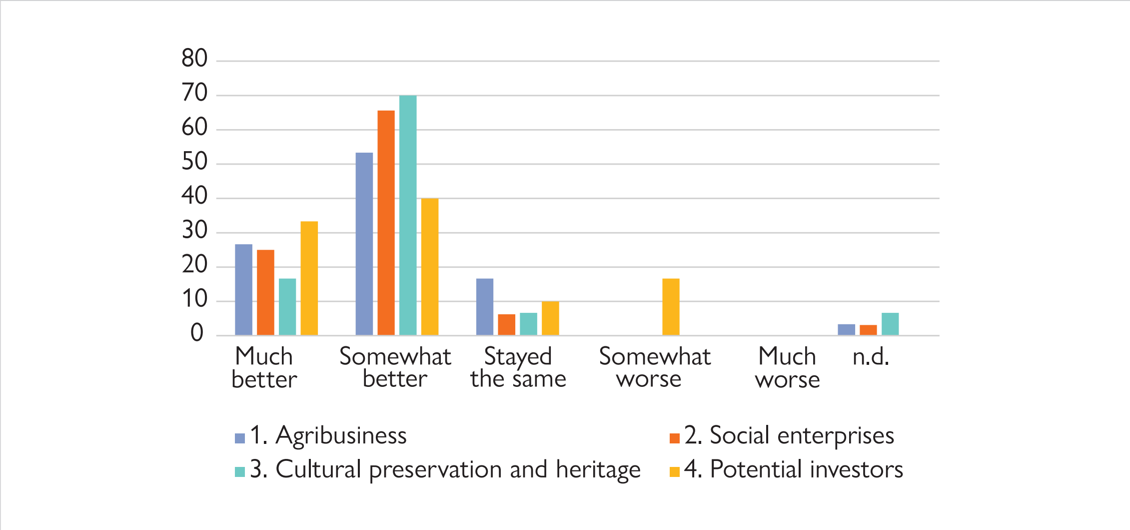
9.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

In terms of economic situation (individual income), the situation of Albanian residents in Tuscany was considered mainly "good" and "acceptable" ten years ago. However, important percentages - in all sectors, but in particular in the Agribusiness and Social Enterprises sectors, consider that their situation was "poor". Today, the largest majority of respondents in all sectors consider the situation "better" or "much better".

The very same situation is reflected in the figures related to the Economic situation in terms of Household income (Fig. 9.4.1.3. and 9.4.1.4.), as well as in the figures related to working conditions (Fig. 9.4.1.5. and 9.4.1.6.).

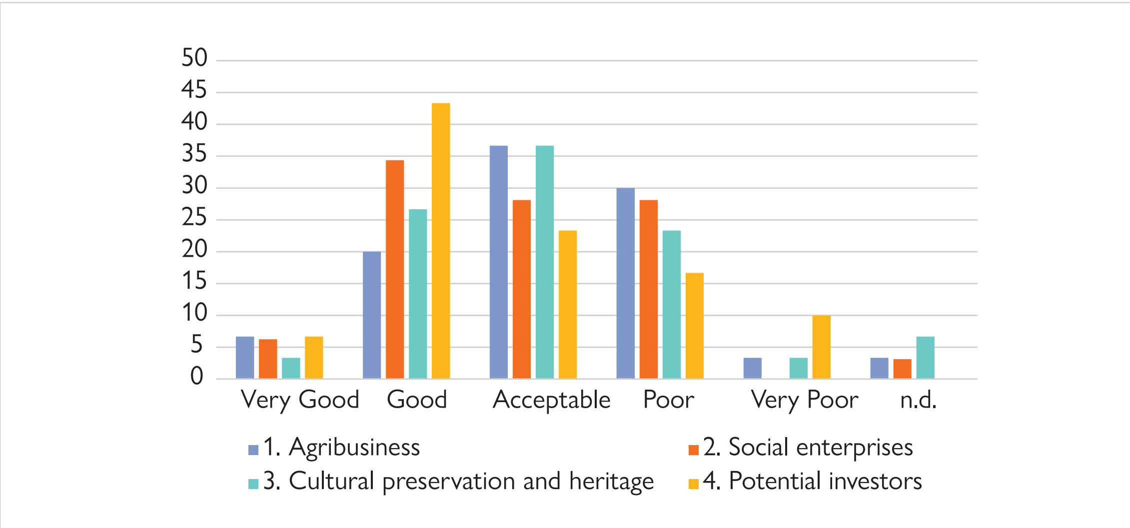
Fig. 9.4.1.1. and 9.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) ten years ago/today

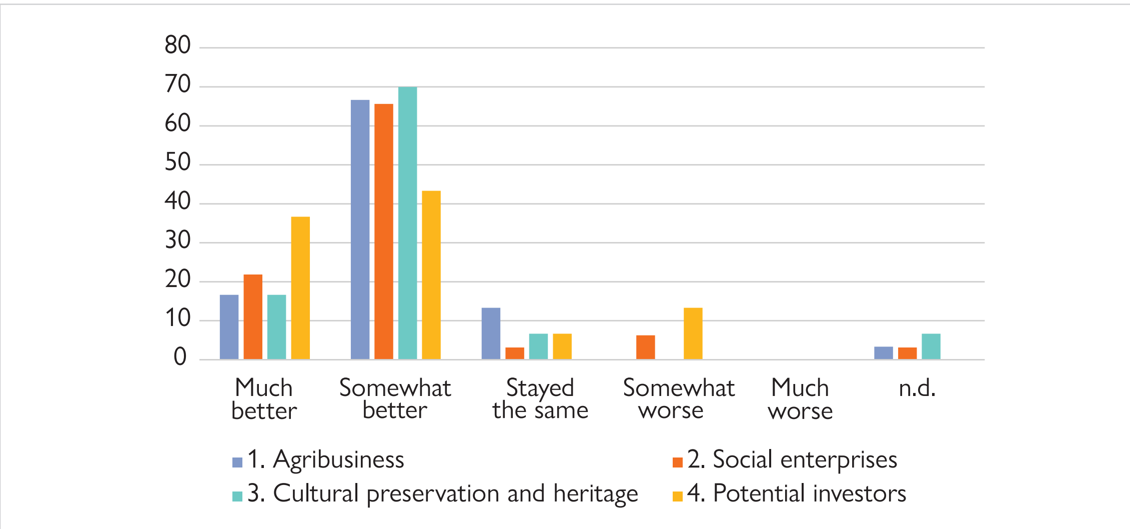




Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1, 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1a/2a Economic situation (individual income) and question No. 2 Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

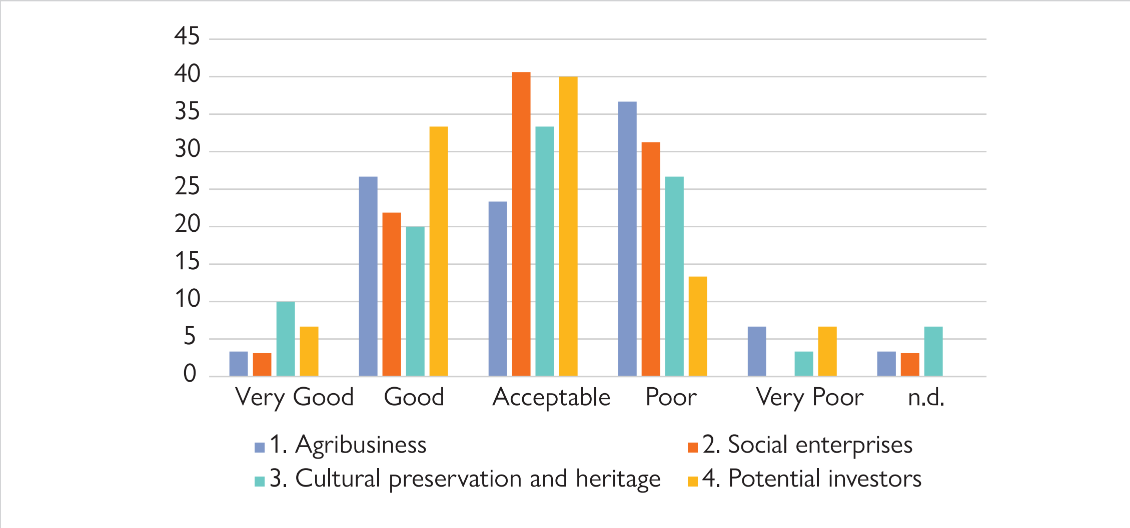
Fig. 9.4.1.3. and 9.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) ten years ago/today

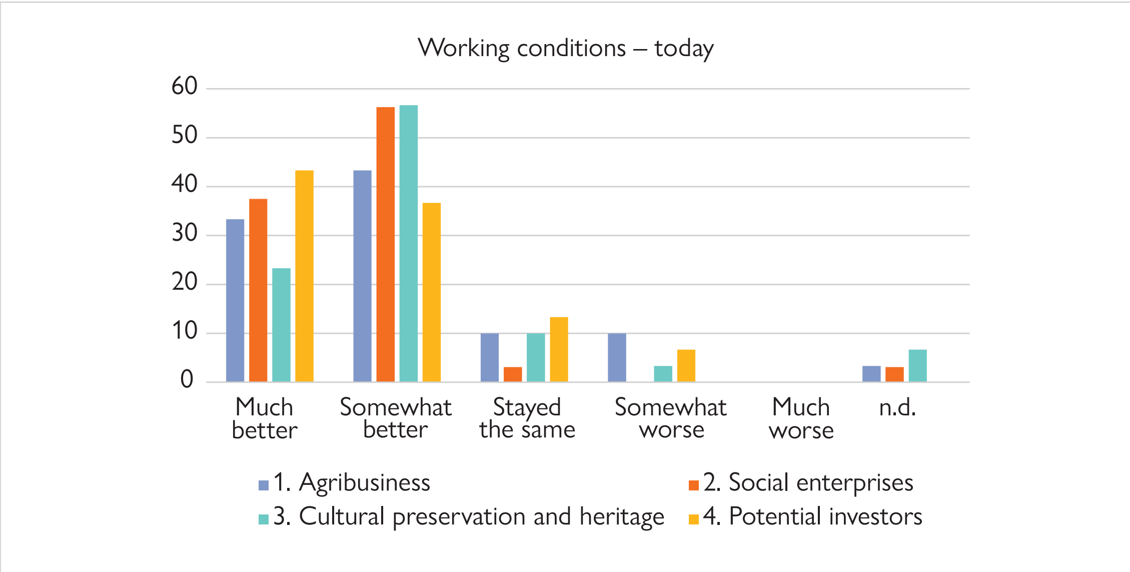




Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b Economic situation (household income) and question No. 2. Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Fig. 9.4.1.5. and 9.4.1.6.: Working conditions



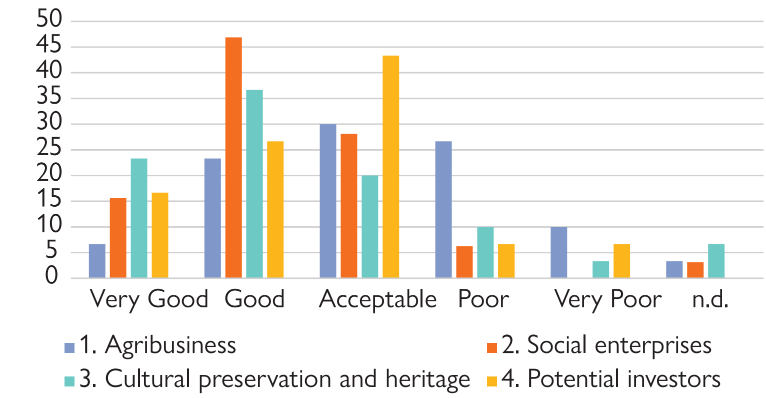


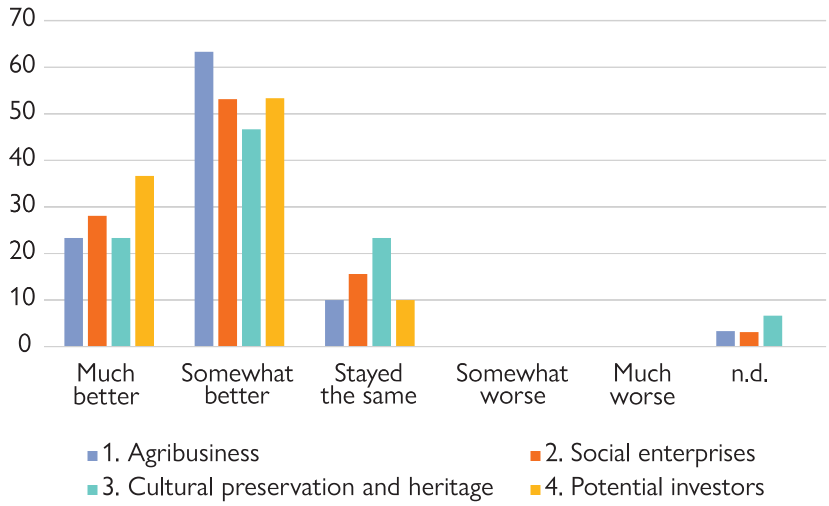
Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c Working conditions and question No. 2 Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

9.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Social relationships (Fig. 9.4.2.1. and 9.4.2.2.) were considered "good" for most of the respondents in the Social Enterprises and Cultural sectors, and "acceptable" by most of the respondents in the Agribusiness and Potential Investors groups. Today, all of the respondents consider the situation "somewhat better" or "much better".

Fig. 9.4.2.1. and 9.4.2.2.: Social relationships ten years ago/today

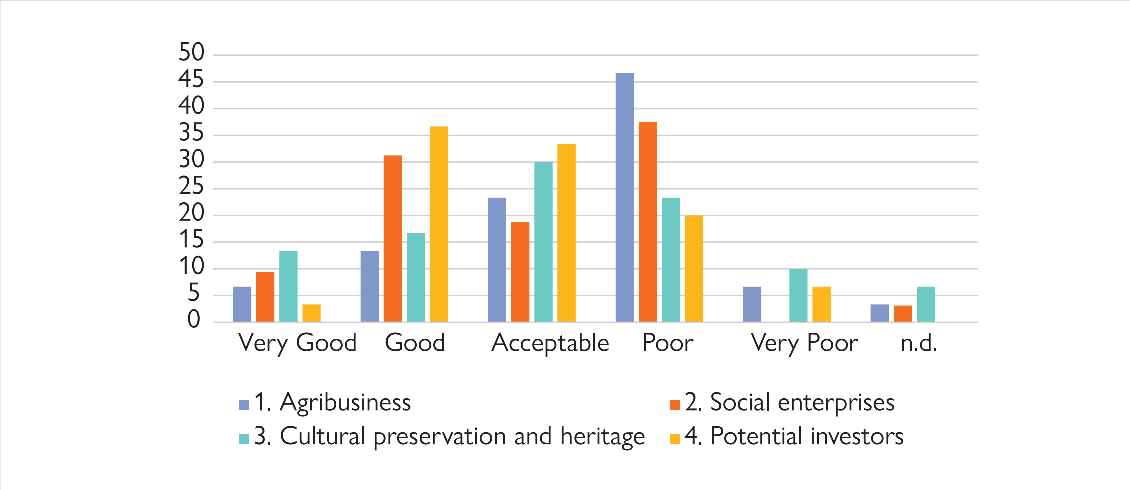


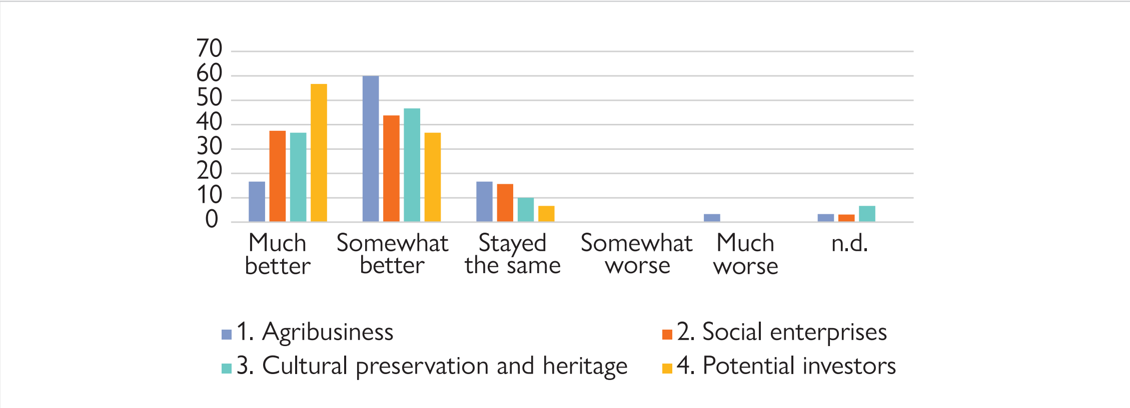


Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d Social relationships (local social relations, integration/discrimination, etc.) and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

The situation has improved also in terms of legal status (e.g. legal status of residence permit/citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas/documents, etc.); despite a general satisfaction, the situation was considered "poor" by a number of respondents ten years ago, in particular in the Agribusiness sector (Fig. 9.4.2.3.). Today (Fig. 9.4.2.4.) it is considered "somewhat better" or "much better" by the largest majority of respondents in all the considered sectors.

Fig. 9.4.2.3. and 9.4.2.4.: Legal/administrative situation ten years ago/today





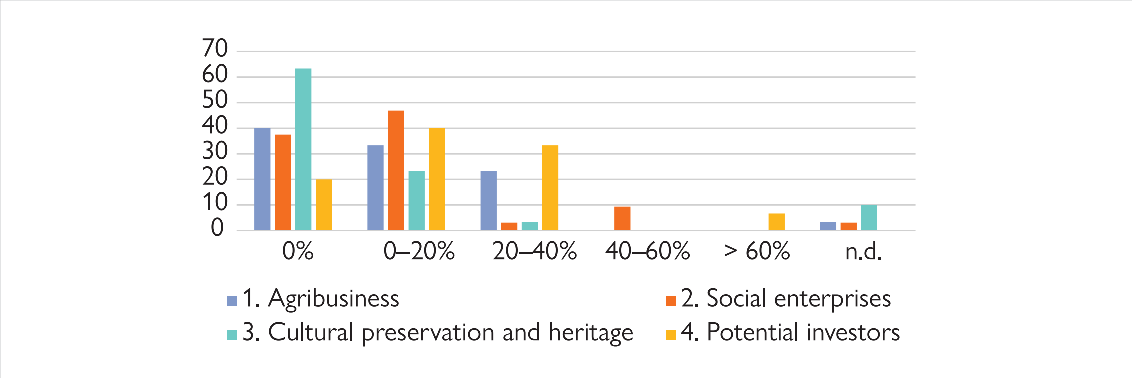
Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1f /2f Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit / citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.) and Question No. 2: Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

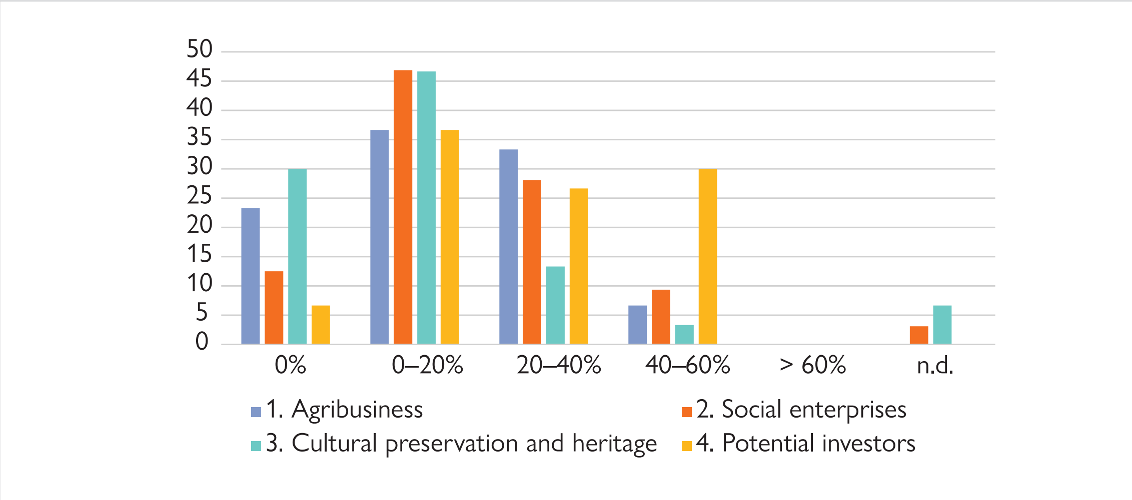
9.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

The next two figures (Fig. 9.4.3.1. and 9.4.3.2.) are focused on the situation of savings. Apparently, respondents from all sectors are able to save more money today than 10 years ago, confirming the positive evolution of income and working situation already discussed.

However, there is a very stable situation with respect to money sent to Albania (Fig. 9.4.3.3. and 9.4.3.4.). To the question of how much of the saved money is sent to Albania, 0 per cent was the most frequent answer with respect to ten years ago and is still the most frequent answer for describing the situation today. Moreover, the number of those that send something (up to 20%) is stable for the Agribusiness and Cultural sector, while is reduced for Social Enterprises and Potential Investors groups.

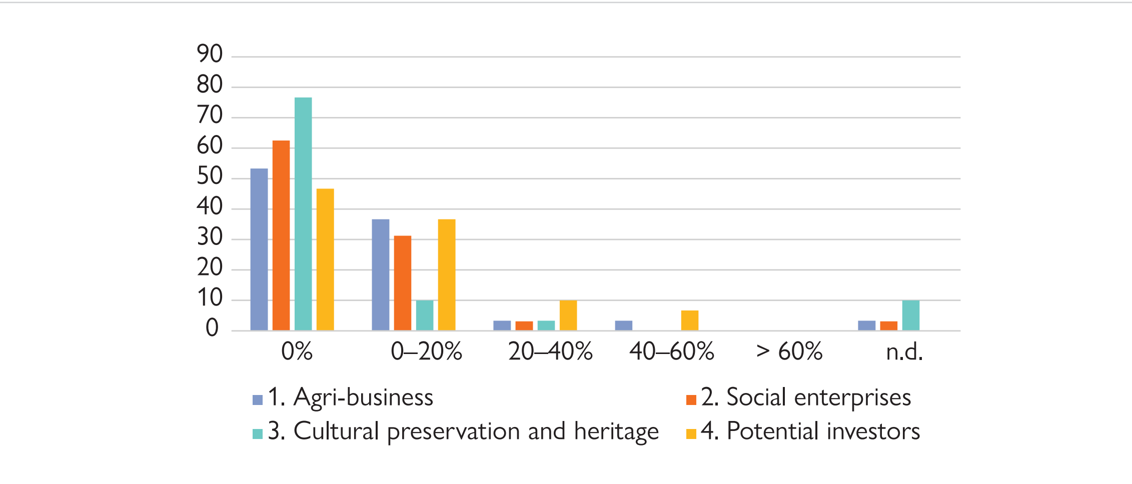
Fig. 9.4.3.1. and 9.4.3.2.: Money saved (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today

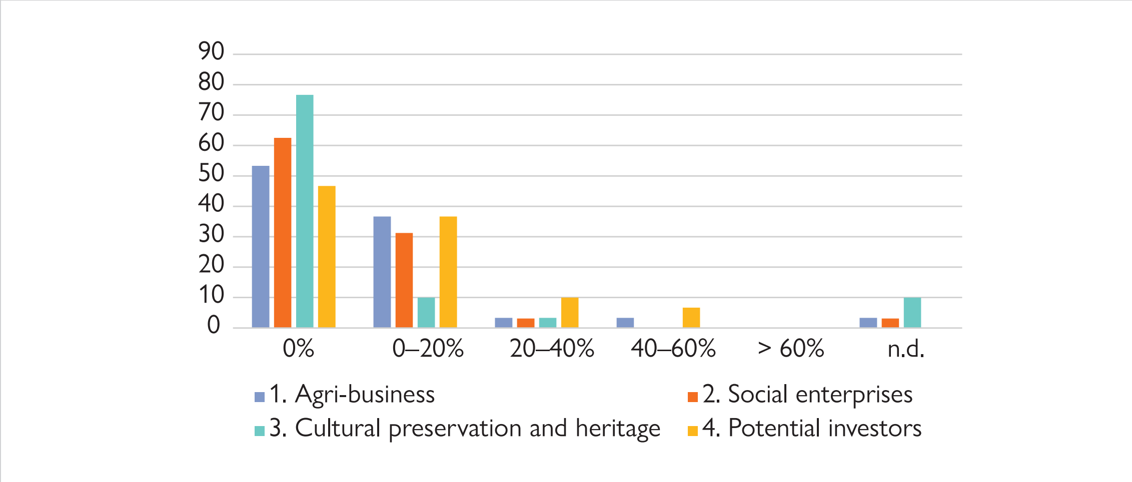




Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1g At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis) and 2g Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis).

Fig. 9.4.3.3. and 9.4.3.4.; Saving sent to Albania (on an annual basis) ten years ago/today





Source: Elaboration on "Impact of economic crisis"; Questions No. 1: 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1h At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis) and 2h Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

9.5. PERCEPTION ON MIGRATION

This section is about the way respondents consider and evaluate their personal experience of being part of the Albanian diaspora, including a large set of positive and negative aspects and plans for the future in terms of possible mobility or migration.

9.5.1. STAY OR GO, BACK OR SOMEWHERE ELSE

To explore linkages and connections to Italy and Albania, we asked a set of questions aimed at understanding what are the plans for the future of the respondents; and where do they see their children's future.

When asked if they would consider moving from Italy to another country (Tab. 9.5.1.1.), 62.91 per cent of respondents said that their plans are to stay in Italy – today with a slight majority of the male giving this answer. 8.35 per cent plan to move in the next three years – today which means that concrete plans are being set up; in this case, there is a significant gender difference: this answer was indeed given by 12.86 per cent of men and only 3.85 per cent of women. 28.74 per cent think that they might move over the next three years - probably this means that these respondents are not fully satisfied with their life in Italy, but moving is still a very general idea. This answer was given mainly by women (34.62%, versus 22.86% of men).

When it comes to Albania, almost all the women that plan to move in the next three years are not considering to go back to the country of origin; while this is an option for a small percentage of men. Among those that consider moving over the next three years, a very small percentage of women is considering Albania; this percentage is bigger for men (even if, smaller than the percentage of those that consider other destinations).

For those who replied "If not to Albania, where would you go?",[214] all of the respondents mentioned wealthy countries, with a predominance of the United States and a generic "Northern Europe" and, less frequently, Australia, Canada or other European countries. The main drivers for the decision of moving are the presence of better work or study opportunities and better economic conditions, also thanks to a stronger meritocracy, together with family/friends issues (Tab. 9.5.1.3.).

Tab. 9.5.1.1.: Interest to move to another country today or in the future

Would you consider moving country?	No	Yes, in the next 3 years	Yes, over the next 3 years	Total
Female	61.54	3.85	34.62	100.00
Male	64.29	12.86	22.86	100.00
Average	**62.91**	**8.35**	**28.74**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration"; Question No. 3: Would you consider moving country?

Tab. 9.5.1.2., Interest to move to Albania today or in the future

Are/would you consider moving to Albania?	No	Yes, in the next 3 years		Yes, over the next 3 years			Total
	n.a.	No	Yes	No	Yes	n.a.	
Female	61.54	3.85	0.00	30.77	3.85	0.00	61.54
Male	64.29	10.00	2.86	14.29	8.57	0.00	64.29
Average	**62.91**	**6.92**	**1.43**	**22.53**	**6.21**	**0.00**	**62.91**

Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration"; Question No. 3a: If yes, are/would you consider moving to Albania?

214 *Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration"; Question No. 3b: If not to Albania, where would you go?*

Tab. 9.5.1.3.: Main drivers for the decision of moving

Main drivers for this decision of moving	%
Family/friendship issues	24.87
Work/Study	32.49
Economic conditions	26.90
For the presence of public services, schools, etc.	4.06
I heard good things about it	3.05
For the protections of your rights	2.54
Other reasons	6.09
Total	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration"; Question No. 4: Your main drivers for this decision (referring to answer 3) (maximum 2 options).

Most of the respondents have an opinion on where they would like to see their children's future: only 15 per cent answered that it doesn't matter. The majority of respondents (55.74%) see their children's future in Italy, whereas 27.05 per cent in another country. Less than 1 per cent (and all from the Agribusiness sector) answered Albania. Generally speaking, this answer can be interpreted as the proof of an integrated and satisfied community; and of a lack of trust in the opportunities that Albania can offer. In relative terms, Social Enterprises group is the only one where the predominant answer was "elsewhere", and not Italy.

With respect to why they gave these answers[215], there are no significant differences among sectors. The only response that mentioned Albania (as already mentioned, from the Agribusiness sector) reported a strong link with the country of origin. The majority of respondents mentioned Italy because of: (i) Better employment opportunities with respect to Albania; (ii) Investments done in Italy; (iii) Feelings of belonging, also of younger generations; (iv) Good quality of life, also compared to Albania; (v) Good education opportunities; (vi) Stability. Those that selected "a different country" mentioned the following reasons: (i) Better economic and social conditions; (ii) Better education and employment opportunities; (iii) Lack of meritocracy in Italy; (iv) Better welfare abroad.

Tab. 9.5.1.4.: Country preferred for the future of the respondents' children.

Children's future	Albania	Italy	Another country	It does not matter	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	0.82	16.39	3.28	4.10	0.00	24.59
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	9.84	11.48	4.92	0.00	26.23
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	9.84	8.20	5.74	0.82	24.59
4. Potential Investors	0.00	19.67	4.10	0.82	0.00	24.59
Total	**0.82**	**55.74**	**27.05**	**15.57**	**0.82**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration", Question No. 2 Today, thinking about your children's future (even if you do not have any) where would you prefer them to live? (only one option).

215 *Source: Elaboration on "Perception on migration", Question No. 2: Today, thinking about your children's future (even if you do not have any) where would you prefer them to live? And No. 2a Why?*

9.5.2. EXPERIENCE AS A MEMBER OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA

We asked respondents to identity up to three positive and up to three negative aspects of their experience as members of the Albanian diaspora. There are no significant differences among sectors.[216] Generally speaking, answers to these questions allow identification of two different types of members of the diaspora. The first group is made up of those who are very well integrated in Italy. On the other hand, another (more limited) group of respondents is made of those that experienced stronger difficulties in integration, and whose social contacts are mainly with other members of the Albanian diaspora. For these reasons, positive and negative aspects are sometimes in direct contrast.

Positive aspects. Most frequent answers are the following:

- Good social services, including health;
- Better education and employment opportunities if compared to Albania;
- Opportunity to travel;
- Better economic conditions;
- Integration capacity of Albanian diaspora;
- Better environment, in terms of Stability, Rule of law, Meritocracy; Freedom/independence;
- Mind openness, contact with different cultures, the capacity to speak different languages;
- Good quality of life in Italy (Food, Climate, Culture, etc.);
- Opportunity to keep identity and traditions and give value to diaspora;
- Opportunity to live in an EU country having access to the single market;
- The high number of Albanians in Italy, and strong relations with them;
- Less intrusiveness of Italians if compared to Albanians.

In the case of professionals in the Cultural sector, a specific added value of Italy is identified in its cultural heritage.

Negative aspects. Most frequent answers are the following:

- Difficulty and distance in the relation with family and parents;
- Difficult bureaucracy;
- High taxes in Italy;
- Political situation;
- Racism/stereotypes/difficult social integration, in particular at the beginning;
- Lack of an organized networks of Albanians in Italy;
- Loss of Albanian identity;
- Limited support from Albanian institutions;
- Lack of social safety nets;
- Difficult to find a house;
- Lack of meritocracy;

In the specific case of employees in the socio-sanitary sector, the difficulty for a foreigner to find a job in the public health sector was also mentioned.

216 *laboration on section "Perception on migration"; Question No. 5: Considering your overall experience as a member of the Albanian diaspora, please tell us: 5a, Up to 3 positive aspects of your experience and 5b, Up to 3 negative aspects of your experience.*

9.6. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

This section includes information on the nature of the relationship of migrants with the country of origin and their closest connections. Large room for investigation is dedicated to the investments respondent undertook in the past and their plans for the future, especially toward Albania – whether in their same sector of work/employment in Italy or in other ones.

The general interest is part or available to contribute to Albania's development is included in the survey.

While we can overall say that in individual and personal terms most people maintain a strong link with the country of origin and the people/family there, in terms of trust and interest to invest in Albania the research does not evidence extensive results. As a general perspective of life, most respondents prefer to stay in Italy or eventually move their business to other countries (to increase economic opportunities), but Albania is not the prevalent destination.

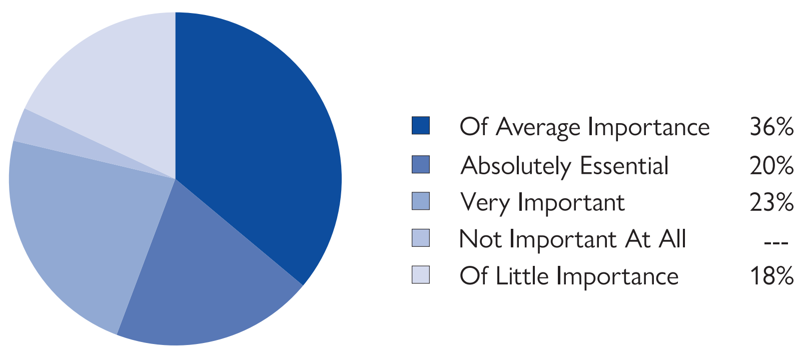
9.6.1. RELATIONSHIP WITH ALBANIA

The majority of respondents (79%) consider it somehow important[217] to know what is happening in Albania and they mainly employ internet (45) and social media (33%) to keep informed. A really small percentage gets informed via telephone/skype (7%).

Among the closest relationships migrants still maintain in Albania, respondents mainly refer to family members as their mother (23.41%) and father (21.10%), siblings (14.74%) and other relatives (26.01%). Migrants tend to make return less frequently than other regional groups: mainly once a year (29.58%) or once every 5/10 years (30.65%) (more often men than women).

While 72.13 per cent of respondents say to be interested to be included in the register of migrants of the Albanian Government, the 81.97 per cent of respondents declare not to be enrolled in any in/formal Albanian association abroad.

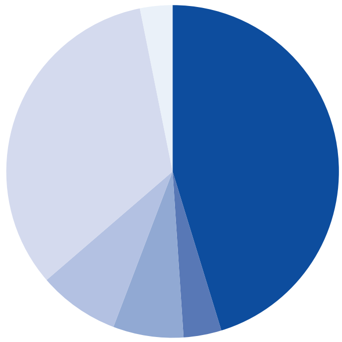
Fig. 9.6.1.1., Interest to know what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 3: How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania?

217 Including responses as the likes of "of average", "very important", "absolutely essential".

Fig. 9.6.1.2.: Means employed to keep informed on what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin", if the answer to Question No. 3: How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania? ranges between "of little importance" and "absolutely essential", then Question 3a follows: What are the main means by which you keep yourself informed?

Tab. 9.6.1.3.: Relationship with people in Albania

Relationship with people in Albania	%
Mother	23.41
Father	21.10
Siblings	14.74
Partner	0.87
Son(s)/Daughter(s)	0.29
Other relatives	26.01
Partners in business/work mates	7.23
Other*	6.07
None	0.29
Total	100.00

*Mostly "friends".

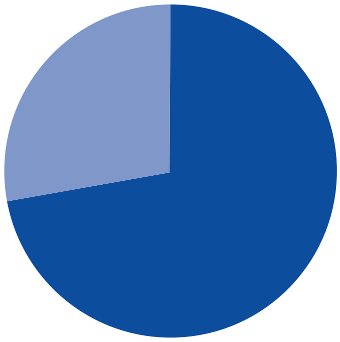
Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 1: Who of the following people, if they are in Albania, do you still have a close relationship with? (more than one answer allowed).

Tab. 9.6.1.4.: Frequency of visits to Albania

Frequency of visit to Albania	Female	Male	Average
Frequently (more than once a year)	5.77	0.00	2.88
Often (every year)	21.15	38.00	29.58
Rarely (once every 5/10 years)	17.31	44.00	30.65
Sometimes (every 2/3 years	7.69	12.00	9.85
Never	48.08	6.00	27.04
n.d.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	100.00	100.00	-

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 6: How often do you go to Albania?

Fig. 9.6.1.5.: Interest in the "register of migrants "



Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 4: In 2016 Albania approved the establishment of a "register for migrants ". Once this register will be established, do you think you will register yourself in it?

Tab. 9.6.1.6.: Participation in (in)formal associations

Participation in any formal/informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania	%
Yes	18,03
No	81,97
n.d.	0,00
Total	100,00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 5: Did you enrol in any list/register or are you in touch with any formal or informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania?

9.6.2. ROLE OF DIASPORA MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALBANIA

The majority of respondents (85.2%) strongly agree with the fact that, through their visits and exchanges, they transfer ideas, information and capital (not only monetary) to the family and friends in the homeland.

Albanians abroad can also be indirectly contributing to Albania when suggesting or recommending friends to visit the country. The 77.3 per cent of respondents declared they recommended friends and acquaintances[218] to come to Albania, especially for tourism (94.68%), in some cases travelling together in some others partly separated.

When asked about their general perspectives for the future, respondents mainly prefer to stay in Italy either keeping the centre of their business in Italy (50.49%) or increasing the contacts and business relations with Albania (27.03%). Some (13.06%) would consider the option to move the business elsewhere.

Considering the reasons that explain the different plans for the future of respondents,[219] we can highlight that:

- Most respondents consider Italy the country they want to live in, because of the stability they have reached, the life spent, the family grown in Italy, the career, the presence of other investments in Italy, the general preference for the quality of life, and there is a general lack of interest to move again.
- There are some that would anyway consider Albania, for possible work opportunities there or for the general interest in the country of origin.

218 *Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with country of origin", Question No. 7: Have your friends/acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion? Followed by Question No. 7a: If yes, for tourism, business, or other reasons?*
219 *Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 8a: Why (to find a motivation to previous question about the "plan for the future").*

When asked about the interest to generally contribute to Albania, respondents tend to confirm it (68,46% say yes).[220] This is particularly true for women (especially in the Social and Cultural sector). Men from the Social and Cultural sector and Potential Investors are more interested to contribute.

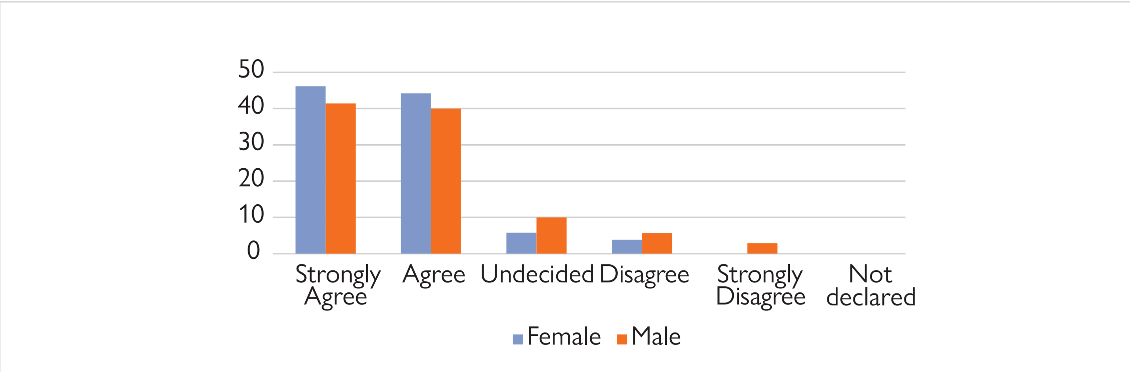
When asked "how would they contribute", quite a few people answer they have no idea how they would be able to contribute to Albania[221]. Others mention their own work competences in a different sector to be valued as: pharma, health care, social/humanitarian, law, design/video-making, architecture, cooking/restaurant.

When asked if specifically interested in a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania, half respondents respond to be interested (especially those from Social Enterprises and Cultural preservation sector). The other half refuses this option (especially people from Agribusiness and Potential Investors)

The conditions mentioned to eventually collaborate are:[222]

- Being well paid;
- Having a short-term assignment;
- Not having impediments related to living/activities in Italy;
- Consider the quality of the project/engagement;
- Find better conditions in Albania.

Tab. 9.6.2.1.: Transferring social, cultural and human capital gained in Italy through visits and exchange with family and friends in Albania



Note: The information is expressed in percentage (%).

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 2 How much do you agree with the following statement "In the relationships with/visits to my family/friends/acquaintances in Albania, I transmit and transfer new knowledge, ideas, visions, and/or approaches (for example social, cultural, professional) that I acquired during my experience of life in Italy."

Tab. 9.6.2.2.: Visits to Albania from friends/acquaintances

Friends / acquaintances in Italy who visited Albania due to recommendation	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
Female	76.92	23.08	0.00	100.00
Male	77.14	22.86	0.00	100.00
Average	77.03	22.97	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 7: Have your friends/acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion?

220 Those that say "no" mention the lack of interest or possibility, and the lack of trust in Albania. *Source*: Elaboration on section "Relationship with country of origin"; Question No. 9b: If "no" or "I don't care", why? (in relation to the motivation to the previous question "Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?").

221 *Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 9a: If yes, how? What would you do/like to do? (in relation to the motivation to the previous question "Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?").*

222 *Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 15a If Yes, at what conditions? (Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?).*

Above: YES – if yes for what reason: business, tourism, other

Business	5.32
Tourism	94.68
Other	0.00
Total	100.00
n.a.	28

Tab. 9.6.2.3.: Friends/acquaintances mode of travelling to Albania

Did they travel with you, alone or both?	%
With me	4.10
Both with me and alone	35.25
Alone	37.70
n.a.	22.95
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin", if the answer to Question No. 7: Have your friends/ acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion? Then Question No. 7b follows: Did they travel with you, alone or both?

Tab. 9.6.2.4.: Plan for the future

Plan for the future	Female	Male	Average
N.d.	0.00	1.43	0.71
Stay in Italy and keep my business centre here	53.85	47.14	50.49
Stay in Italy and decrease my contacts and business relations with Albania	3.85	7.14	5.49
Stay in Italy but increasing my contacts and business relations with Albania	26.92	27.14	27.03
Stay in Italy but move my business centre to Albania	1.92	0.00	0.96
Move the centre of my business in another country/countries	13.46	12.86	13.16
Move back permanently to Albania	0.00	1.43	0.71
Go back to Albania permanently but keeping my business centre in Italy	0.00	2.86	1.43
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 8: Which of the following statements is closer to your "plan for the future".

Tab. 9.6.2.5.: Interest to contribute to Albania

Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?	No	Yes
Female	**23.08**	**76.92**
1. Agribusiness	37.50	62.50
2. Social Enterprises	13.64	86.36
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	23.53	76.47
4. Potential Investors	18.18	27.27
Male	**40.00**	**60.00**
1. Agribusiness	68.18	31.82
2. Social Enterprises	20.00	80.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	30.77	69.23
4. Potential Investors	28.00	72.00
Total average (male and female)	**31.54**	**68.46**

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 9: Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?

Tab. 9.6.2.6.: Interest for virtual assignment

Consideration for a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania	Yes	No	Total
1. Agribusiness	30.00	70.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	75.00	25.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	53.33	46.67	100.00
4. Potential Investors	43.33	56.67	100.00
Average	50.42	49.58	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 15: Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?

9.6.3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENTS TOWARDS ALBANIA

The large majority of respondents (86.82%) never tried to expand his/her business in Albania before, but some people in the Cultural sector (13.3%) and Potential Investors (30%) did. Those they actually tried mentioned as examples of activities undertaken:[223]

- Open two shops in Albania;
- Tried to open a business, but failed;
- Tried to open and manage a beach with services;
- Sold some beauty products in pharmacies in Albania.

More than half business went well (56%), especially Potential Investors being among those that invested more than others, were partly successful and partly unsuccessful.

Among the negative aspects of the experience of investing in Albania more often mentioned[224] we find:

- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. insufficient level of competition in tendering procedures) (22.86%);
- Lack of management capacities (14.29%).

Tab. 9.6.3.1.: Attempt to expand or move the professional activity in Albania

Attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	9.38	90.63	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	13.33	86.67	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	30.00	70.00	0.00	100.00
Average	13.18	86.82	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 10: Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?

223 *Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 10a: If yes, what did you do? (in relation to the question No. 10 Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).*

224 *Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 10d: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (in relation to the question No. 10 Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).*

Tab. 9.6.3.2.: Success in moving the activity to Albania

Was your "move/activity" you successful?	Yes	No
1. Agribusiness	0.00	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	12.50	6.25
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	18.75	6.25
4. Potential Investors	25.00	31.25
Total	56.25	43.75

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 10b: If Yes to 10: Was your "move/activity" successful?

9.6.4. POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA IN THE OWN SECTOR

61,51 per cent of respondents are not interested to invest in his/her own sector in Albania (especially persons from Agribusiness). Within the other sectors, there are persons that would consider it and people that would not. The ideas mentioned by those interested to invest (38.49%) are mixed:[225]

- In the field of construction, real estate, architecture;
- In the health sector (especially private);
- Wine import-export;
- In the culture sector.

Among the main drivers that would influence the possibility to invest in Albania, respondents mention, among others:

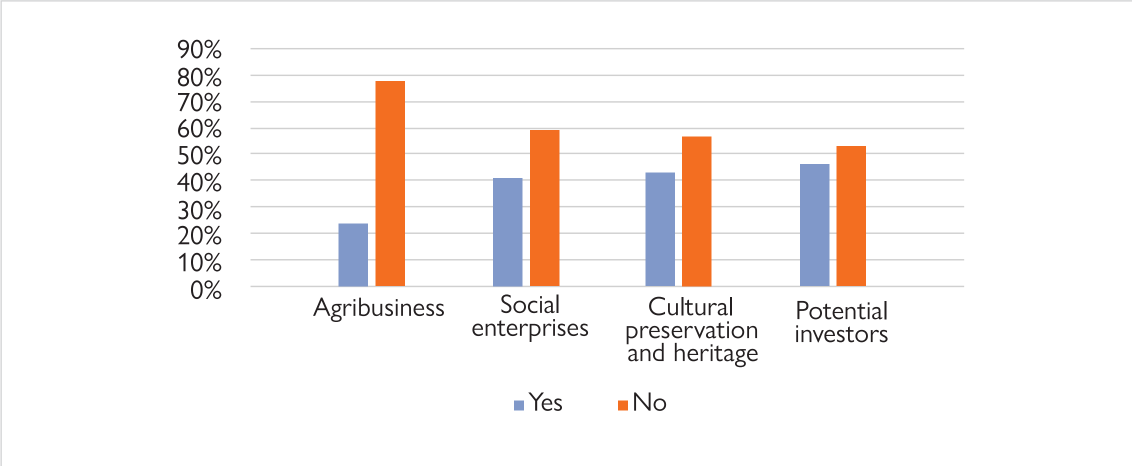
- The presence of tax incentives (21.38%);
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development) (15.17%);
- Provide legal and administrative support to investors (13.10%);
- Low-interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit (12.41%).

Nevertheless, barriers and obstacles exist, impeding the investments. Among them, the most relevant ones that were indicated were:

- Most report that they are not interested in investing (51.11%);
- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) (13.33%);
- Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) (8.89%);
- Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (8.89%).

225 *Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 11a: If Yes to 11: How? What would you do?*

Fig. 9.6.4.1.: Interest to invest in the own professional sector in Albania



Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 11: More in general, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

Tab. 9.6.4.2.: Main drivers for investment in Albania in the own sector

Main drivers for investment in Albania	%
Tax incentives	21.38
Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development)	15.17
Provide legal and administrative support to investors	13.10
Low interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit	12.41
Public investment in training and education	12.41

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 11b: If Yes to 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)?

Tab. 9.6.4.3.: Main barriers/problems/limitations to invest in Albania in the own sector

Main barriers/problems/limitations	%
Simply not interested to invest	51.11
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	13.33
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	8.89
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	8.89

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 11c: If No to 11: What are the main barriers/problems/limitations?

9.6.5. INVESTMENTS IN OTHER PROFESSIONAL SECTORS IN THE PAST OR IN THE FUTURE

The overwhelming majority of respondents (93.39%) had never tried to invest in other sectors before, with some Potential Investors (20%) mentioning their attempt. Those few that tried to do something[226] declared they were mainly successful (62.50%) – excluding those from Agribusiness – and refer to activities for instance as:

- Restaurant;
- A book published;
- Opened two shops;
- Commerce of bags.

Among the main negative aspects underlined, there are unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) (22.22%) and bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy (11.11%).

Considering the possibility to invest in Albania in any other professional sector, 15.62 per cent reported they would be interested – especially from Social Enterprises and Potential Investors mentioning few activities as restaurant/tourism and real estate.

Among the main incentives that would influence Albanians to invest are:

- Tax incentives (17.86%);
- Provide legal and administrative support to investors (17.86%);
- Low-interest loans to encourage business, export, etc., and other measures to favor access to credit (19.64%);
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development) (16.07%).

The reasons not to invest mainly recall the lack of interest to invest (46.99%) and the Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) (13.66%).

Tab. 9.6.5.1.: Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania

Attempt to invest in other activities in Albania	Yes	No	N.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	3.33	96.67	0.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	3.13	96.88	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
4. Potential Investors	20.00	80.00	0.00	100.00
Average	**6.61**	**93.39**	**0.00**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 12 Talking about any other professional sector, have you ever made any attempt to invest in other activities in Albania?

226 *Source: Elaboration on "Relationship with the country of origin"; Question No. 12a: If Yes to 12: What did you do?*

Tab. 9.6.5.2.: Success of activities tried in other sectors

Was your “activity” successful?	Yes	No
1. Agribusiness	12.50	0.00
2. Social Enterprises	0.00	12.50
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	50.00	25.00
Total	62.50	37.50

Source: Elaboration on “Relationship with the country of origin”; Question No. 12b: If Yes to 12: Was your “activity” successful?

Tab. 9.6.5.3.: Main negative aspects from the experience of investing in another sector in Albania

Main negative aspects	%
No negative aspects	33.33
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	22.22
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	11.11

Source: Elaboration on “Relationship with the country of origin”; Question No. 12d: If Yes to 12: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)?

Tab. 9.6.5.4.: Interest to invest in a different sector in Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in any other professional sector)	Yes	No	N.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	13.33	86.67	0.00	100.00
2. Social Enterprises	18.75	81.25	0.00	0.00
3. Cultural Preservation and Heritage	10.00	90.00	0.00	0.00
4. Potential Investors	20.00	80.00	0.00	0.00
Average	15.52	84.48	0.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on “Relationship with the country of origin”; Question No. 13: Talking about any other professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

Tab. 9.6.5.5.: Incentive to invest in Albania

Incentive to invest in Albania	%
Low interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit	19.64
Tax incentives	17.86
Provide legal and administrative support to investors	17.86
Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development)	16.07

Source: Elaboration on “Relationship with the country of origin”; Question No. 13b: If Yes to 13: What in practice would push you to invest / or would facilitate this investment in Albania?

Tab. 9.6.5.6.: Reason why the respondent would not invest

Why not interested?	%
Simply not interested to invest	46.99
Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	13.66
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	8.20
Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.).	5.46

Source: Elaboration on “Relationship with the country of origin”; Question No. 13c: If No to 13: Why not?

9.7. FOCUS GROUP: FLORENCE, 7 NOVEMBER 2019

The Focus group was organized in Florence by the association *Ridai*. The group of participants (15) was composed mostly of women (10) between 25 and 59 years, with a larger predominance of adults in the mid-30s. The group was composed of a majority of participants, who arrived in Italy before 20 years. Only one participant has been in Italy for just 5 years. The education and professional profiles are of high level: all persons are graduated (except a student who is still under his university studies) and there is a large prevalence of female jobs in the third sector, in social and health related works and in intellectual/creative jobs (as a journalist, dance teacher, university researcher, photographer).

After the introduction on the scope of the meeting and a presentation of the "Mapping and Profiling Albanian diaspora in Italy, France and Belgium" Project, we started an open and friendly discussion, which is reported below.

9.7.1. WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY AND ALBANIA?

The general perception of the personal and diaspora relationship with Albania is mainly **positive**. Most elements refer to individual nostalgic and affective sentiments due to personal memories and extended family still there. Albania represents, in fact, the roots, childhood and tradition.

At the same time, a contested feeling of belonging is expressed as the majority of participants feel as **divided identities** or a **bridge** between countries and cultures. In general terms, Albania is considered for the diaspora as the ***identity* of origin** that – due to the migratory experience – made persons face divergent roads: the past (Albania, the motherland, the roots, "identity home", the language) and a new life abroad.

The life in Italy changed people and this has changed their relationship with Albania: "Since I'm here I changed, I gained competences"; "I belong to Albania, I do not want to abandon it, I would like to bring there something that is missing"; "We were transplanted, we cut and have created new roots"; "We are a bridge but if we go back we have to be factor of change".

Very few persons consider Albania within their future life course as a professional occasion or a place where to go once retired (besides being an important place to visit occasionally or regularly for personal visits and holidays).

The **negative** aspects referred to the diaspora relationship with Albania are limited: a place of confusion, hostile, that needs of attention and growth, a "prohibited dream". Someone guesses that the presence of negative elements in Albania (as poverty, corruption, criminality) exists, but as the diaspora do not relate to these aspects during their visits, they do not have to face directly these problems. It is, in fact, interesting to note the difference with the FG in Milan, which expressed larger and more frequent negative perceptions. When confronted with the results from the FG in ***Milan***, the participants in Florence actually guessed that the first group was mainly composed of ***men*** (compared to the one in Tuscany); this had been explained in Florence by a more open "aggressive" attitude of Albanian men.

The relationship with Albania results overall in a **re-discovery** in the mature/adult age, after overcoming the difficulties of the migratory and integration process in Italy. A few reported that, during the first and younger years, the need to integrate brought them to avoid speaking Albanian publicly or to prefer to meet Italians instead of Albanians. For some, integration meant putting aside their relationship with Albania, for a while.

Today, nevertheless, most participants differently perceive their linkage with Albania, feeling more connected due to identity reasons and to their benevolence to be of help for the country.

Younger generations of Albanians or Italo-Albanians express a different interest towards Albania and they do not feel necessarily connected in a strong way.

The possibility of a "**return**" to Albania is controversial, as respondents mainly expressed interest for **circular mobility** that does not imply leaving Italy (the work, the family, the achievements, the investments). "I can go back, but the world definitive return shall not exist". The geographic closeness between Italy and Albania and the ease of transport means can easily allow one to be both in Italy and Albania, but still maintaining the life centre in Italy.

One person reported a heated discussion with her parents, who live in Italy, when she announced that she was interested to move and work in Albania. The "**parents' generation**" consider returning to Albania as a failure, feeling that the sacrifices they faced in migrating simply vanished. For some participants, if a migrant comes back, there is a social stigma of failure, too. Moreover, the knowledge and idea of Albania that they have in mind are that of a country they left in the 1990s, after the civil war or under the Communist regime. Their memories are still full of negativity and they are not updated to today's reality, where people have also changed.

9.7.2. WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS THAT DETERMINE A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE IMPACT IN CREATING VALUES AND ENGAGING SKILLS, COMPETENCES AND RESOURCES OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY TOWARDS ENTREPRENEURIAL/INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN ALBANIA?

As anticipated, the moment/stage in life can affect the possibility to dispose (or not) of general **availability, interest, capacity and resources** to invest in Albania or to be an entrepreneur. The majority of participants express a true and honest **interest** to contribute to the development of Albania. In terms of **availability**, the older the person is and the more settled his/her life is in Italy, the greater the difficulty for him/her to concretely do something in Albania is. The presence of *children* grown up in Italy (being more Italians than Albanians), the lack of interest from the Italian *partner*, and the presence of other *financial duties* and engagements in Italy (the house mortgage, economic activities, number of years to reach the retirement age) are of impediment to look at and go towards Albania. Two participants, for instance, already started extra entrepreneurial farming activities, but they invested in Italy (making wine and oil); two others run a B&B, having no time and resources for any other investment. In terms of **resources**, money has not been mentioned as the main obstacle to being concretely engaged in Albania, although it is obviously clarified that money is needed and that matching of funds from the Albanian Government to private diaspora investments could be an interesting option. More generally, other elements appeared as main **barriers**, but not money ("we could have fiscal incentives or additional state contributions when the diaspora makes a private investment; money is a problem but not the main one").

When considering the ways in which the diaspora can contribute to Albania, the participants mentioned a large set of personal soft and technical **skills and competences** coupled with human and social **capital**. In general, we can highlight that a large set of ideas to engage the diaspora experience and knowledge (of the participants) is related to **solidarity and benevolence projects** of social and cultural development, instead of business and economic development. Nonetheless, participants can generally ensure their availability and readiness for investment in Albania in terms of: their cultural and social values; their profession and gained professionalism and culture of work (for instance, as a medical doctor, a cultural mediator, an architect, a researcher, an artist, etc.); the acquired new values gained through their migration and life experience (in cultural, social and work terms); the capacity to know and relate to two different countries, peoples and cultures; new ideas and strategies for development; art in public spaces; talents and independent contributions. In the group in Florence, large disposal of knowledge and experience to be valued emerged from the *medical/health* sector and from the sociocultural profiles.

The **ethnic diversity** with Albanians from Kosovo[4] is underlined saying that they are generally more well off in the destination countries and with more distinctive solidarity. On the other side, the general individualistic interest among Albanians in Italy and the weakness of **Albanian associations** (in terms of skills, sense of cooperation, trust) are of no help to mobilize as a group. The formal number and presence of Albanian associations are astonishing, but when it comes to sound and concrete facts and activities, the percentage decreases very easily.

Opportunities exist in **Tourism**, but also in the **health care/elderly care** as well as in the **suburban** areas (not only Tirana or Durres). Two out of 15 persons tried to set up economic activities in Albania in the tourism sector: one was not even able to begin and the other one has tried but with enormous difficulties.

Mentioned **Barriers** that prevent the Albanian diaspora to start an activity or invest in the homeland refer to different aspects, such as:

- **Corruption** in all levels of society. For instance, in the health sector the practice of the "*mancia*" – an informal tip/bribe; the informal practice of asking/giving extra money to ensure care or treatment is reported as a very serious problem that migrants refuse to condone as a way society works and do not want to deal with.
- The general culture in Albania, also linked to corruption habits and to the absence of meritocracy.
- Insecurity, being it social, economic and also linked to corruption.
- **High levels of bureaucracy**, that make people waste a lot of time to understand procedures and present the right documents, linked to the general **absence of easy access to transparent and clear information** (what is exactly required, how, when, for what…), especially for those who live abroad. These aspects make it difficult to make decisions and advance in a project.
- Uncertainty in terms of **Private property** (Law No. 7051, 1991): issues are reported in relation to the confusion in the recognition of an existent property right, linked to the difficulty to manage this problem from a distance and the fact that this uncertainty impedes the process of any investments (real estate, farming, building a factory, etc.).
- In terms of **Tourism**, which in fact also relates to other sectors: there is no infrastructure, transportation is poor, no information centres are available, no sufficient tourism structures exist (hotels, B&B, etc.).
- Another form of barrier is that the Diaspora itself has lost "the sense of Albania": there are local resources and capacities in Albanian that we (migrants) ignore, but it is difficult to find occasions and mechanisms of **networking** and exchanges with proficient people in Albania".

9.7.3. WHAT ARE THE SUGGESTED AND RECOMMENDED CHANGES OR CONDITIONS THAT WOULD FACILITATE A DIRECT OR INDIRECT ENGAGEMENT OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INVESTMENT?

- The Right to **Vote for the Diaspora** is crucial in terms of recognition and capacity to influence processes in Albania. However, the trust and optimism from the Diaspora remains limited.
- Competences of the diaspora shall be cherished by use of the following:
    - Considering **Improvements** in the **health structures and professions** by engaging the skilled profiles of the diaspora: training of the medical doctors in Albanian, especially in relation to issues of empathy and patient relationship.
    - Considering **Support/promotion** of ideas to create more widespread **awareness campaigns** aimed at young persons on the risks of drugs and AIDS prevention, if not the creation of a rehab-centre for drug addicts.

Considering **Reinforcing** of a running project on "climate-therapy" with the idea to treat some diseases between coastal and mountain areas in Albania – matching tourism and health care.

- o Considering the need to employ the skills of **Cultural mediators and coaches** that have a vast experience in the field of **public services** working with young children and adults in Albania. Other professionals have specific ideas in terms of their contribution to the development and exchange with the Albanian cultural environment: for instance, this might include working towards a dance show, art, cultural and photo exhibitions, etc.

- A process of knowledge, an exchange and **discussion** between the Diaspora and Albania is needed.
  - o The Diaspora has no clear **information** and awareness of what the real opportunities are in Albania and what the diaspora can actually do in that regard. A solution in terms of access to clear and transparent information is highly recommended.
- Migrant associations abroad are quite scattered (in terms of Albanian community abroad) and weak, and very much in need of **capacity-building** and reinforcement.

APPENDIX

9.1. SOCIOECONOMIC

9.1.1. AGE AND BIRTH PLACE

Tab. 9.1.1.3.: Composition per age (distribution per gender and percentage)

Age	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Age < 30	13	12	25	10.66	9.84	20.49
Age 30–39	20	28	48	16.39	22.95	39.34
Age 40–49	17	21	38	13.93	17.21	31.15
Age 50–59	2	7	9	1.64	5.74	7.38
Age 60–69	0	2	2	0.00	1.64	1.64
Age 70 and more	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	52	70	122	42.62	57.38	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 4 - Age of the interviewee.

Tab. 9.1.1.4.: Country of birth (distribution per gender and percentage)

Country of Birth	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Albania	52	68	120	42.62	55.74	98.36
Other	0	2*	2	0.00	1.64	1.64
Total	52	70	122	42.62	57.38	100.00

*One person Kosovo[4], one North Macedonia.

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 5 - Country of birth.

9.1.2. SOCIAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Tab. 9.1.2.1., Marital status (distribution per gender and distribution)

Marital status	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Single	14	24	38	26,92	34,29	31,15
Married/cohabiting	34	42	76	65,38	60,00	62,30
Separated	0	1	1	0,00	1,43	0,82
Divorced	3	3	6	5,77	4,29	4,92
Widowed	1	0	1	1,92	0,00	0,82
n.d.	0	0	0	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total	52	70	122	42,62	57,38	100,00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 8 - What is your marital status?

Tab. 9.1.2.3: Current legal and administrative status (distribution per gender and percentage)

Legal and administrative status	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Average (%)
Dual citizenship (one Italian)	29	39	68	55.77	54.93	55.35
Long term EC permit	6	12	18	11.54	16.90	14.22
Residence card	11	17	28	21.15	23.94	22.55
Residence permit (also from another EU country)	1	0	1	1.92	0.00	0.96
Residence visa (also from another EU country)	0	1	1	0.00	1.41	0.70
Other	5	2	7	9.62	2.82	6.22
Total	52	71	123	42.28	57.72	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 10 - Please tell us your current legal and administrative status with respect to your stay in Italy.

Tab. 9.1.2.4.: Typology of valid visa or residence permit (distribution per gender and percentage)

Typology of valid visa or residence perm it	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Average (%)
Family	3	4	7	5.77	5.71	5.74
Subordinate work	5	7	12	9.62	10.00	9.84
Self-employment	4	6	10	7.69	8.57	8.20
Expected occupation	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Study	1	2	3	1.92	2.86	2.46
Temporary protection/asylum	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	1	1	2	1.92	1.43	1.64
n.d.	1	0	1	1.92	0.00	0.82
n.a.	37	50	87	71.15	71.43	71.31
Total	52	70	122	42.62	57.38	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 11 - If you have a valid visa or residence permit or are renewing it, please indicate the type.

Tab. 9.1.2.5., Reason for choosing the area where he/she lives (percentage distribution)

Reason for choosing the area where he/she lives	%
Because of relatives/friends live here	54.55
Because I heard good things about it	5.30
Because there is work	17.42
For the presence of public services, schools, etc.	13.64
Other	9.09
Total	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 13 - For what reasons did you choose this area? (multiple choices, even more than one).

9.2. PROFESSIONAL

9.2.2. FOCUS ON SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNERS

Tab. 9.2.2.1.: Nationality of employees

Nationality of employees	AL	IT	Other	Total	A (%)	I (%)	O (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	14	7	1	22	13.73	10.61	5.26	11.76
2. Social enterprises	0	2	0	2	0.00	3.03	0.00	1.07
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	1	2	1	4	0.98	3.03	5.26	2.14
4. Potential investors	87	55	17	159	85.29	83.33	89.47	85.03
Total	102	66	19	187	54.55	35.29	10.16	100.00

AL = Albanian, IT = Italian, Other = Other nationalities, Total = total number of employees.

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 8 - How many employees do you have? Question 8a - How many are Italians? And question 8b - How many are Albanians?

9.3. ECONOMIC

9.3.3. REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

Tab. 9.3.3.1.: Ownership of a house

Do you own any houses?	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
Female	26	25	1	52
Male	36	32	2	70
Total	62	57	3	122

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 4 - Do you own any houses?

9.4. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

9.4.1. CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Tab. 9.4.1.1., Economic situation (individual income) – ten years ago

Economic situation (individual income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	3.33	20.00	36.67	33.33	3.33	3.33
2. Social enterprises	3.13	28.13	28.13	31.25	6.25	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	3.33	26.67	36.67	20.00	6.67	6.67
4. Potential investors	6.67	36.67	30.00	16.67	10.00	0.00
Total	4.11	27.86	32.86	25.31	6.56	3.28

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 1 - 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1a/2a Economic situation (individual income).

Tab. 9.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) – today

Economic situation (individual income)	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	26.67	53.33	16.67	0.00	0.00	3.33
2. Social enterprises	25.00	65.63	6.25	0.00	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	16.67	70.00	6.67	0.00	0.00	6.67
4. Potential investors	33.33	40.00	10.00	16.67	0.00	0.00
Total	25.42	57.24	9.90	4.17	0.00	3.28

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 2 - Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 9.4.1.3.: Economic situation (household income) – ten years ago

Economic situation (household income)	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	6.67	20.00	36.67	30.00	3.33	3.33
2. Social enterprises	6.25	34.38	28.13	28.13	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	3.33	26.67	36.67	23.33	3.33	6.67
4. Potential investors	6.67	43.33	23.33	16.67	10.00	0.00
Total	5.73	31.09	31.20	24.53	4.17	3.28

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 1 - 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1b/2b Economic situation (household income).

Tab. 9.4.1.4.: Economic situation (household income) – today

Economic situation (household income)	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	16.67	66.67	13.33	0.00	0.00	3.33
2. Social enterprises	21.88	65.63	3.13	6.25	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	16.67	70.00	6.67	0.00	0.00	6.67
4. Potential investors	36.67	43.33	6.67	13.33	0.00	0.00
Total	22.97	61.41	7.45	4.90	0.00	3.28

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 2 - Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 9.4.1.5.: Working conditions – ten years ago

Working conditions	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	3.33	26.67	23.33	36.67	6.67	3.33
2. Social enterprises	3.13	21.88	40.63	31.25	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	10.00	20.00	33.33	26.67	3.33	6.67
4. Potential investors	6.67	33.33	40.00	13.33	6.67	0.00
Total	5.78	25.47	34.32	26.98	4.17	3.28

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 1 - 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1c/2c Working conditions.

Tab. 9.4.1.6.: Working conditions – today

Working conditions	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	33.33	43.33	10.00	10.00	0.00	3.33
2. Social enterprises	37.50	56.25	3.13	0.00	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	23.33	56.67	10.00	3.33	0.00	6.67
4. Potential investors	43.33	36.67	13.33	6.67	0.00	0.00
Total	34.38	48.23	9.11	5.00	0.00	3.28

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 2 - Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

9.4.2. TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Tab. 9.4.2.1.: Social relationship – ten years ago

Social relationships	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	6.67	23.33	30.00	26.67	10.00	3.33
2. Social enterprises	15.63	46.88	28.13	6.25	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	23.33	36.67	20.00	10.00	3.33	6.67
4. Potential investors	16.67	26.67	43.33	6.67	6.67	0.00
Total	15.57	33.39	30.36	12.40	5.00	3.28

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 1 - 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1d/2d Social relationships (local social relations, integration/ discrimination, etc.).

Tab. 9.4.2.2.: Social relationship – today

Social relationships	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	23.33	63.33	10.00	0.00	0.00	3.33
2. Social enterprises	28.13	53.13	15.63	0.00	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	23.33	46.67	23.33	0.00	0.00	6.67
4. Potential investors	36.67	53.33	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	27.86	54.11	14.74	0.00	0.00	3.28

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 2 - Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

Tab. 9.4.2.3.: Legal/administrative status – ten years ago

Legal/administrative status	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very Poor	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	6.67	13.33	23.33	46.67	6.67	3.33
2. Social enterprises	9.38	31.25	18.75	37.50	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	13.33	16.67	30.00	23.33	10.00	6.67
4. Potential investors	3.33	36.67	33.33	20.00	6.67	0.00
Total	8.18	24.48	26.35	31.88	5.83	3.28

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 1 - 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1f /2f Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit/ citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.).

Tab. 9.4.2.4.: Legal/administrative status – today

Legal/administrative status	Much better	Somewhat better	Stayed the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	16.67	60.00	16.67	0.00	3.33	3.33
2. Social enterprises	37.50	43.75	15.63	0.00	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	36.67	46.67	10.00	0.00	0.00	6.67
4. Potential investors	56.67	36.67	6.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	36.88	46.77	12.24	0.00	0.83	3.28

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 2 - Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?

9.4.3. CHANGES IN SAVINGS CAPACITY

Tab. 9.4.3.1.: At the time, how much did you save?

At that time, how much money did you save?	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	40.00	33.33	23.33	0.00	0.00	3.33
2. Social enterprises	37.50	46.88	3.13	9.38	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	63.33	23.33	3.33	0.00	0.00	10.00
4. Potential investors	20.00	40.00	33.33	0.00	6.67	0.00
Total	40.21	35.89	15.78	2.34	1.67	4.11

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 1 - 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1g - At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 9.4.3.2.: Currently (Today) how much do you save? (on an annual basis)

Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis)	0%	0-20%	20-40%	40-60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	23.33	36.67	33.33	6.67	0.00	0.00
2. Social enterprises	12.50	46.88	28.13	9.38	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	30.00	46.67	13.33	3.33	0.00	6.67
4. Potential investors	6.67	36.67	26.67	30.00	0.00	0.00
Total	18.13	41.72	25.36	12.34	0.00	2.45

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 2g – Currently (Today) how much money do you save? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 9.4.3.3.: At the time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on annual basis)

At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis)	0%	0–20%	20–40%	40–60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	53.33	36.67	3.33	3.33	0.00	3.33
2. Social enterprises	62.50	31.25	3.13	0.00	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	76.67	10.00	3.33	0.00	0.00	10.00
4. Potential investors	46.67	36.67	10.00	6.67	0.00	0.00
Total	59.79	28.65	4.95	2.50	0.00	4.11

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 1 - 10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding 1h - At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

Tab. 9.4.3.4.: Today, how much of that savings do you sand to Albania?

Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania?	0%	0–20%	20–40%	40–60%	> 60%	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	66.67	33.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Social enterprises	71.88	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.13
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	83.33	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.67
4. Potential investors	73.33	23.33	3.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	73.77	22.95	0.82	0.00	0.00	2.46

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of economic crisis", question No. 2h - Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis).

9.6. RELATION WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

9.6.1. RELATION WITH ALBANIA

Tab. 9.6.1.1.: Interest in the "register of migrants "

Interested in the "register for migrants "	%
Yes	72.13
No	27.87
n.d.	0.00
Total	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with country of origin", question No. 4 - In 2016 Albania approved the creation of a "register for migrants ". Once this register will be created, do you think you will register?

9.6.3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENTS TOWARD ALBANIA

Tab. 9.6.3.3: Main negative aspects of the experience to move/expand the activity to Albania

Main negative aspects of your experience	%
Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition for tendering procedures)	22.86
No negative aspects	11.43
Lack of management capacities	14.29

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 10d - What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (in relation to the question No. 10 - Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity to Albania?).

9.6.4. POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS TO ALBANIA IN THE OWN SECTOR

Tab. 9.6.4.1.: Interest to invest in the own professional sector in Albania

Would you invest in Albania? (in your professional sector)	Yes	No	Total
1. Agribusiness	23.33	76.67	24.59
2. Social enterprises	40.63	59.38	26.23
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	43.33	56.67	24.59
4. Potential investors	46.67	53.33	24.59
Average	38.49	61.51	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 11 - In general, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?

CHAPTER X
- PROFILING INVESTMENT CANDIDATES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter aims to offer an in-depth analysis and profiling of those respondents that declared an interest in investing in Albania in the upcoming future. Two questions were specifically formulated on this topic, in the last section of the questionnaire: “In general, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania” and “Talking about any other professional sectors, would you invest in Albania?”. 215 out of 631 respondents (around 34%) answered yes to the first of these questions; 22 answered yes to the second question (around 0.03%). The percentage of those interested in investing in a sector different from the one they are currently working in is irrelevant; for this reason, these questionnaires were not included. The analysis of this chapter is based on the 215 respondents that declared an interest in investing in Albania in their own professional sector.[227]

227 Please take into account that for reasons of fitting within the table formatting the tables of this chapter entitled “The Cultural Preservation and Heritage” group is often labelled as “Cultural preservation”.

10.1. SOCIOECONOMIC

10.1.1. WHO ARE THE INVESTMENT CANDIDATES?

First of all, the table 10.1.1.1. offers an overview of the professional composition of these 215 respondents. Overall, **the highest percentage of those interested in investing is within the Potential investors group (32.09%), followed by Cultural preservation and heritage (29.30%) and Social enterprises (25.58%). The less interested in investing are apparently respondents from the Agribusiness sector (13.02%).**

If we look only at subsectors, the most interested category is that of architect/cultural heritage restorer/designer (within the Cultural presentation group) (9.77%), followed by workers in coffee shops/restaurants/pastry shops/bakeries (within Potential investors group) (9.30%) and social-health workers (within the Social enterprises group) (8.84%).

Considering the regions of residency, most of the positive answers were collected in Lazio (25.58%), followed by Lombardy (22.33%), Tuscany (21.86%) and Emilia-Romagna (20.47%), while residents in Piedmont are apparently the less interested in investing in Albania (only 9.77%). Looking also at analysis conducted at the regional scale, this result can be interpreted in light of the fact that respondents from Piedmont are predominantly falling into the 40–49 years old group, while respondents from other regions are predominantly falling into the 30–39 years old group. Being older, they might be less interested or unable to invest and/or move abroad.

Tab. 10.1.1.1. Professional composition of the sample, per sector and subsector (absolute and percentage values)

Professional sector and sub-sector	ER	LZ	LO	PD	TU	Total	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	**4**	**10**	**6**	**1**	**7**	**28**	***13.02***
Agribusiness entrepreneur/ Agri-tourism	0	2	1	0	3	6	*2.79*
Agribusiness services (as marketing, stoke, etc.)	2	5	3	0	1	11	*5.12*
Agricultural operator	1	3	2	1	3	10	*4.65*
University & research/studies (Agribusiness sector)	1	0	0	0	0	1	*0.47*
2. Social enterprises	**11**	**15**	**12**	**4**	**13**	**55**	***25.58***
Doctor/dentist	3	2	0	1	5	11	*5.12*
Nurse	2	1	2	1	3	9	*4.19*
Psychologist and social assistant	0	1	1	0	1	3	*1.40*
Social and health-care services	0	0	3	0	0	3	*1.40*
Social health worker*	3	8	4	0	4	19	*8.84*
Sociocultural mediator	2	2	1	1	0	6	*2.79*
University and research/Studies/ Teachers and Educators**	1	1	1	1	0	4	*1.86*
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	**14**	**16**	**11**	**9**	**13**	**63**	***29.30***
Architect/Cultural heritage restorer/Designer	3	5	5	1	7	21	*9.77*
Art, sport, show, entertainment and cultural events	7	2	4	4	0	17	*7.91*

Tourism (museum worker, guide, tourism agencies, etc.)	4	5	2	0	4	15	*6.98*
University & research/Studies (cultural heritage sector)	0	4	0	0	2	6	*2.79*
Writer/Journalist/Translator	0	0	0	4	0	4	*1.86*
4. Potential investors	**15**	**14**	**19**	**7**	**14**	**69**	***32.09***
Building (construction, restoration, etc.)	2	3	1	3	5	14	*6.51*
Coffee shops/ Restaurants/Pastry shops/ Bakeries	3	4	7	2	4	20	*9.30*
Hotel/accommodation	0	1	0	0	1	2	*0.93*
Lawyer/Accountant/Consultant, etc.	2	2	7	0	0	11	*5.12*
Manufacturing/Metalworking	2	0	0	0	1	3	*1.40*
Planners	1	1	0	0	2	4	*1.86*
Trade/Craftsmanship/Services	5	3	4	2	1	15	*6.98*
Total	**44**	**55**	**48**	**21**	**47**	**215**	***100.00***
Total (%)	*20.47*	*25.58*	*22.33*	*9.77*	*21.86*	*100.00*	-

Legend: ER = Emilia-Romagna, LZ = Lazio, LO = Lombardy, PD = Piedmont, TU = Tuscany.

* Such as physiotherapist, pharmacist, optician, etc..

** Only those related to the health-care sector.

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 6 - Please tell us your working situation - the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

Tab. 10.1.1.2.: Distribution per region of residence of investment candidates (absolute values)

	Emilia-Romagna	Lazio	Lombardy	Piedmont	Tuscany	Total
1. Agribusiness	4	10	6	1	7	28
2. Social enterprises	11	15	12	4	13	55
3. Cultural preservation	14	16	11	9	13	63
4. Potential investors	15	14	19	7	14	69
Total	44	55	48	21	47	215

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 2 - Region of residence.

Tab. 10.1.1.3.: Distribution per region of residence of investment candidates (percentage values)

	Emilia-Romagna	Lazio	Lombardy	Piedmont	Tuscany	Total
1. Agribusiness	14.29	35.71	21.43	3.57	25.00	13.02
2. Social enterprises	20.00	27.27	21.82	7.27	23.64	25.58
3. Cultural preservation	22.22	25.40	17.46	14.29	20.63	29.30
4. Potential investors	21.74	20.29	27.54	10.14	20.29	32.09
Total	20.47	25.58	22.33	9.77	21.86	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 2 - Region of residence.

In terms of gender (Tab. 10.1.1.4.), men are more interested in investing than women (59.07% versus 40.93%). However, there are significant differences among sectors, which also reflect a different gender composition of the sample per sector (as described in chapter 3). In particular, while the percentage of males wishing to invest is dominant in Agribusiness and Potential investors group, the situation is more balanced in the Cultural preservation and heritage group; in the Social enterprises group, the large majority of those interested in investing is composed of women (74.55%).

In terms of age (Tab. 10.1.1.5. and Tab. 10.1.1.6.) it is worth noting that the results are influenced by the composition of the sample. However, we may note that the majority of respondents interested in investing is between 30-39 years of age (43.72%), followed by respondents between 40-49 years of age (31.16%). Other age groups are less relevant. In terms of sectors, the group of 30-39 years of age is predominant in the case of Social enterprises and Cultural preservation, that are thus composed of "younger" investment candidates with respect to the other groups.

As shown in Tab. 10.1.1.7., the majority are married/cohabiting (61.40%) followed by singles (31.16%). Almost the total of respondents potentially interested in investing in Albania were born in Albania (Tab 10.1.1.8.). Half of them (52%) currently have Italian citizenship (Tab. 10.1.1.9.); overall, 87 per cent currently have Albanian citizenship. Citizenship seems to be irrelevant in terms of the interest to invest in Albania.

Tab. 10.1.1.4.: Gender distribution per professional sector (absolute and percentage values)

	Female	Male	Total	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	4	24	28	14.29	85.71	13.02
2. Social enterprises	41	14	55	74.55	25.45	25.58
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	26	37	63	41.27	58.73	29.30
4. Potential investors	17	52	69	24.64	75.36	32.09
Total	88	127	215	40.93	59.07	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 1 - Employment sector.

Tab. 10.1.1.5.: Composition per age (absolute values)

	Age < 30	Age 30 – 39	Age 40 – 49	Age 50 – 59	Age 60 – 69	Age > 70	Total
1. Agribusiness	3	12	11	1	1	0	28
2. Social enterprises	10	23	15	6	1	0	55
3. Cultural preservation	9	31	14	7	1	1	63
4. Potential investors	8	28	27	5	1	0	69
Total	30	94	67	19	4	1	215

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 4 - Age of the interviewee.

Tab. 10.1.1.6.: Composition per age (percentage values)

	Age < 30	Age 30 – 39 (%)	Age 40 – 49 (%)	Age 50 – 59 (%)	Age 60 – 69 (%)	Age > 70 (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	(%)	Age 30 – 39	39.29	3.57	3.57	0.00	100.00
2. Social enterprises	(%)	Age 40 - 49 (%)	Age 50 - 59	10.91	1.82	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural preservation	(%)	Age 60 – 69	22.22	11.11	1.59	1.59	100.00
4. Potential investors	(%)	Age > 70 (%)	Total (%)	7.25	1.45	0.00	100.00
Total	13.95	43.72	31.16	8.84	1.86	0.47	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 4 - Age of the interviewee.

Tab. 10.1.1.7.: Marital status, distribution per sector (percentage values)

	1. Agribusiness	2. Social enterprises	3. Cultural preservation	4. Potential investors	Total
a. single	28.57	34.55	46.03	15.94	31.16
b. married/cohabiting	67.86	58.18	42.86	78.26	61.40
c. separated	0.00	1.82	3.17	2.90	2.33
d. divorced	3.57	0.00	7.94	2.90	3.72
e. widowed	0.00	1.82	0.00	0.00	0.47
f. not declared	0.00	3.64	0.00	0.00	0.93
Total	13.02	25.58	29.30	32.09	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 8 - What is your marital status?

Tab. 10.1.1.8.: Country of Birth (absolute values and percentage)

	Albania	Other	Total	Albania (%)	Other (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	27	1	28	96.43	3.57	13.02
2. Social enterprises	55	0	55	100.00	0.00	25.58
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	62	1	63	98.41	1.59	29.30
4. Potential investors	69	0	69	100.00	0.00	32.09
Total	213	2	215	99.07	0.93	100.00

*Kosovo[4], Montenegro.

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 5 - Country of birth.

Tab. 10.1.1.9.: Current Citizenship (absolute values)

	Albanian	Italian	Other
1. Agribusiness	24	9	1
2. Social enterprises	53	29	0
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	54	30	0
4. Potential investors	57	44	0
Total	188	112	1

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographic and social", question No. 7 – Current Citizenship.

10.1.2. EDUCATION AND WORKING STATUS

In terms of education (Tab. 10.1.2.1.), the most interested in investing are the highly skilled (41.40% holds a Master's degree, 18.60% holds a Bachelor's degree); this is particularly the case in Social Enterprises and Cultural preservation and heritage sectors. The situation is more balanced and includes many respondents with a secondary education degree, in particular in the Potential investors group.

Most of the respondents completed their studies in Italy (Tab. 10.1.2.2.), in particular in the Social enterprises and Cultural preservation groups. In the case of Potential investors, that are, generally speaking, the sector group most interested in investing, a slight majority of respondents completed their studies in Albania.

Tab. 10.1.2.1.: Educational level/qualification (distribution per sector and percentage)

Educational level/qualification	1. Agribusiness	2. Social enterprises	3. Cultural preservation and heritage	4. Potential investors	Total
Primary school	1.40	0.00	0.47	2.33	4.19
Secondary education, vocational	2.33	0.93	1.86	6.51	11.63
Secondary education, regular	5.12	1.86	4.19	8.37	19.53
Tertiary education, Bachelor's degree	1.40	8.37	4.65	4.19	18.60
Tertiary education, Master's degree	2.33	13.95	15.35	9.77	41.40
Quaternary education (PhD or other)	0.47	0.47	2.79	0.93	4.65
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	13.02	25.58	29.30	32.09	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 1 - Educational level/qualification (please select the highest completed).

Tab. 10.1.2.2.: Country where the highest educational level was completed (distribution per sector and percentage)

	1. Agribusiness	2. Social enterprises	3. Cultural preservation	4. Potential investors	Total
Albania	8.37	6.05	8.84	16.74	40.00
Italy	4.19	19.53	20.00	14.42	58.14
Albania & Italy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.47
Another Country	0.47	0.00	0.47	0.47	1.40
Total	13.02	25.58	29.30	32.09	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 2 - Where did you complete the highest educational/qualification level?

In terms of the working status (Tab. 10.1.2.3.), the composition of those who deemed to be interested in investing in Albania reflects the composition of the general sample, with a majority (32.09%) of them being in permanent and full time employment, followed by self employed/freelance workers (20.47%) and business owners (15.35%). If we sum up the last two categories, we have more than 35 per cent of self-employed/ business owners; from this point of view, this number is balanced with that of permanently employed.

This means that the composition of those interested to invest includes Albanians with different work contracts in Italy. However, we still consider business owners a significant group of entrepreneurs that often share specific skills (such as experience in running a business or in facing risks) that makes them particularly interesting from the perspective of profiling investment candidates.

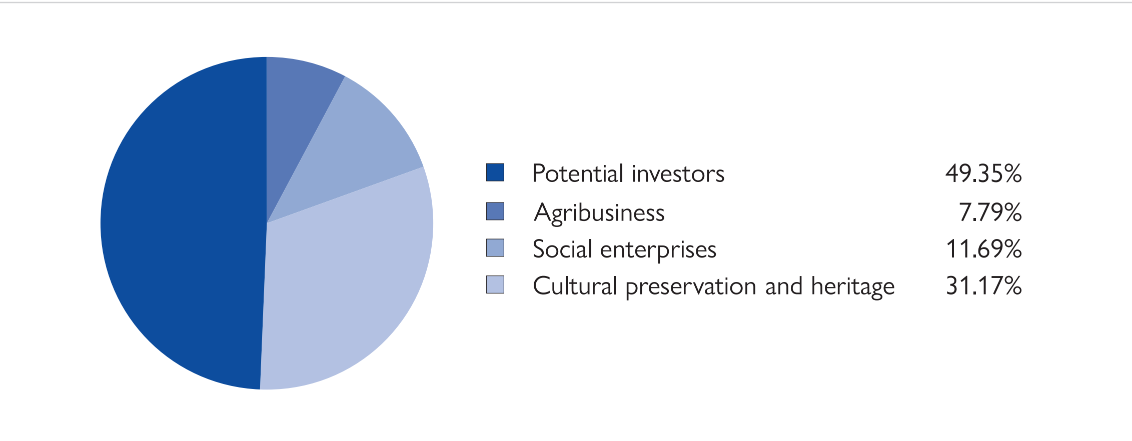
Fig. 10.1.2.4. shows that most of the business owners/freelance workers are within the Potential investors group (49.35%) followed by the Cultural preservation group (31.17%). Taking into account the type of professions and contracts typically used in the Cultural sector in Italy, we can argue that most freelances belong to the Cultural sector and most business owners belong to the Potential investor sector. Almost 100 per cent of these respondents have the headquarter of their business in Italy (Fig. 10.1.2.5.); 65.25 per cent of employees are Albanians (Tab. 10.1.2.6.). Only 25.97 per cent of these respondents already have business relations with Albania (Tab. 10.1.2.7.).

Tab. 10.1.2.3.: Working status (distribution per sector and percentage)

Working status	1. Agribu-siness	2. Social enterprises	3. Cultural preservation and heritage	4. Potential investors	Total
Unemployed (actively looking for a job)	0.00	0.93	1.40	0.47	2.79
Housewife	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Student	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Student worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.86	1.86
Employed permanently full time	7.44	10.70	4.65	9.30	32.09
Employed permanently part time	0.00	2.79	1.40	0.47	4.65
Employed with time limited contracts	1.40	4.19	2.79	0.47	8.84
Occupied in layoffs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.47
Occupied irregularly but fairly stable	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.47
Occupied irregularly in an unstable way	0.00	0.00	0.93	0.47	1.40
Occupied "para-subordinate" work	0.00	0.93	2.33	0.00	3.26
Self employed regular /freelance worker *	0.47	3.72	8.84	7.44	20.47
Self employed worker not regular	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.47	0.93
Business owner*	2.33	0.47	2.33	10.23	15.35
Cooperative worker member	0.93	0.93	0.00	0.00	1.86
Other/Do not declare	0.47	0.93	3.72	0.47	5.58
Total	13.02	25.58	29.30	32.09	100.00

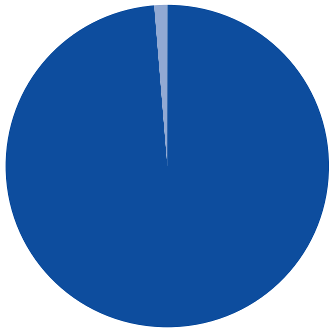
Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 6 - Please tell us your working situation - the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

Fig. 10.1.2.4.: Composition of "Business owners + Self employed/freelance workers" per sector (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 6 - Please tell us your working situation - the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

Fig. 10.1.2.5.: Location of the business headquarters (distribution per sector and percentage)



Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 9 - Is the centre of your business interests Italy? Namely are your main business partners, supply relationships, customers, etc. in Italy? And 9a - If NO, where is your "centre of business interests" located?

Tab. 10.1.2.6.: Nationality of employees

	AL	IT	Other	Total	AL (%)	IT (%)	Other (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	17	7	0	24	1.25	0.51	0.00	1.76
2. Social enterprises	2	3	0	5	0.15	0.22	0.00	0.37
3. Cultural preservation	13	8	5	26	0.96	0.59	0.37	1.91
4. Potential investors	856	181	269	1.306*	62.89	13.30	19.76	95.96
Total	888	199	274	1.361	65.25	14.62	20.13	100.00

AL = Albanian, IT = Italian, Other = Other nationalities, Total = total number of employees.

*Employees in Potential investors group are distorted by the presence of a single outlier: a potential investor who is a business owner with more than one thousand employees (based in Piedmont).

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", questions No. 8 - How many employees do you have? Question 8a - How many are Italians? And question 8b - How many are Albanians?

Tab. 10.1.2.7.: Business relationship with Albania (percentage distribution)

	1. Agribusiness	2. Social enterprises	3. Cultural preservation and heritage	4. Potential investors	Total
Yes	1.30	0.00	12.99	11.69	25.97
No	6.49	11.69	16.88	37.66	72.73
n.d.	0.00	0.00	1.30	0.00	1.30
Total	7.79	11.69	31.17	49.35	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 10 - Do you do business/have business relationships with Albania? (e.g. important customers, suppliers, partners, participation in tenders and calls, etc.).

10.2. ECONOMIC

The average annual individual income declared by respondents[228] is EUR 30,913. It should be noted that the economic values (especially in the potential investors' sector) are distorted by the presence of a single outlier: a business owner that shows an extremely high level of income. Apart from him, we may observe that the average income for the region (for both men and women) is more in line with the national value.

In line with regional and cross regional findings, 13.79 per cent of the income stays in Italy, with Potential investors spending more than others, especially compared to the Cultural sector. The percentage sent to elsewhere is 3.39 per cent, almost completely directed to Albania (97.58%).

Tab. 10.2.1.1.: Economic indicators per sectors (absolute and percentage values)

	Individual income	% of income spent in Italy	% of income sent "elsewhere"	% of the income sent "elsewhere" which goes to Albania
1. Agribusiness	25,595.83	13.70	4.00	96.67
2. Social enterprises	21,588.46	13.71	3.51	97.37
3. Cultural preservation	20,014.55	11.17	3.17	96.67
4. Potential investors	49,558.46	16.28	3.23	99.00
Total	30,913.27	13.79	3.39	97.58

The monetary data is expressed in Euro (average per sector).

Source: author's Elaboration from an analysis conducted at the sectorial level.

Owning a house or a property in the country of origin can be a stimulus to either invest in its renovation for the family still living there or for the holidays, but also for possible investments as business or in tourism (frequently mentioned during the focus groups as well as the barriers due to the lack of clarity in the private property register in Albania). At the same time, owning a house in Italy is a signal of stability in the destination country (often implying a mortgage to repay that normally represents a significant long term family investment). Half of the sub sample analysed in this chapter (53%) own a house, with the other half (46.5%) who doesn't. Among those that have a house, the majority (31.16%) owns it in Italy, followed by 12 per cent that owns it in Albania and 9.3 per cent that has one in both countries.

Tab. 10.2.1.2.: House ownership (absolute and percentage values)

	Yes	No	n.d.	Total	Yes (%)	No (%)	n.d. (%)	Total (%)
1. Agribusiness	17	10	1	28	7.91	4.65	0.47	13.02
2. Social enterprises	26	29	0	55	12.09	13.49	0.00	25.58
3. Cultural preservation	22	41	0	63	10.23	19.07	0.00	29.30
4. Potential investors	49	20	0	69	22.79	9.30	0.00	32.09
Total	114	100	1	215	53.02	46.51	0.47	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 4 - Do you own any houses?

228 The fieldwork took place in 2019 and this question referred to that year.

Tab. 10.2.1.3.: Geographical location of house ownership

	Italy	Albania	Italy and Albania*	n.a.	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	4.19	3.26	0.47	4.65	0.47	13.02
2. Social enterprises	6.51	4.65	0.93	13.49	0.00	25.58
3. Cultural preservation	5.58	2.33	2.33	19.07	0.00	29.30
4. Potential investors	14.88	1.86	5.58	9.30	0.47	32.09
Total	31.16	12.09	9.30	46.98	0.47	100.00

*One or more in each country.

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 4a - If yes how many and where?

Almost 10 per cent of respondents also own other properties in Italy and 36.28 per cent others own properties in Albania (in both cases, especially true for Potential investors), validating the frequent reference to possible investments in tourism/agritourism or smaller case agriculture that implies the presence of family land or real estate properties. This also reminds us of the barrier often mentioned to solve the problems related to the land registry in Albania.

The future plans for respondents in terms of buying new or additional properties, is represented by a figure of almost 10 per cent who would consider buying more property in Italy, while almost 21 per cent would consider buying more property in Albania.

This tells us that this diaspora subgroup has real estate assets in Albania to potentially give value to and expresses also an interest to potentially invest more in real estate in the future.

Tab. 10.2.1.4.: Additional properties in Italy

Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estates, land, etc.) in Italy?	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	2.33	10.23	0.47	13.02
2. Social enterprises	0.47	25.12	0.00	25.58
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	2.79	26.51	0.00	29.30
4. Potential investors	4.19	27.91	0.00	32.09
Total	9.77	89.77	0.47	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 5a - Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estates, land, etc.) in Italy?

Tab. 10.2.1.5.: Plans to buy properties in Italy in the next 3 years

Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy in the next 3 years?	Yes to the previous		No to the previous		n.d	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
1. Agribusiness	0.93	1.40	1.40	8.84	0.47	13.02
2. Social enterprises	0.00	3.72	0.47	21.40	0.00	25.58
3. Cultural preservation	1.86	4.19	0.93	22.33	0.00	29.30
4. Potential investors	2.33	6.51	1.86	21.40	0.00	32.09
Total	5.12	15.81	4.65	73.95	0.47	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 5b - Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy in the next 3 years? 5b has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5a.

Tab. 10.2.1.6.: Additional properties in Albania

Do you own any other property (e.g., other real estates, land, etc.) in Albania?	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	6.05	6.51	0.47	13.02
2. Social enterprises	6.51	19.07	0.00	25.58
3. Cultural preservation	9.30	20.00	0.00	29.30
4. Potential investors	14.42	17.67	0.00	32.09
Total	36.28	63.26	0.47	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 5c - Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estates, land, etc.) in Albania?

Tab. 10.2.1.7.: Plans to buy properties in Albania in the next 3 years

Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania in the next 3 years?	Yes to the previous		No to the previous		n.d	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
1. Agribusiness	2.33	3.72	0.00	6.51	0.47	13.02
2. Social enterprises	1.40	5.12	2.33	16.74	0.00	25.58
3. Cultural preservation	1.86	7.44	4.19	15.81	0.00	29.30
4. Potential investors	5.12	9.30	3.72	13.95	0.00	32.09
Total	10.70	25.58	10.23	53.02	0.47	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 5d - Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years? 5d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 5c.

10.2.2. FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA

Considering this subgroup (215 persons declared an interested to invest in Albania): 11.63 per cent made financial investments in Albania, mostly persons belonging to the Cultural sector and Potential investors, and 11.63 per cent[229] confirmed to be planning to financially invest in the future. Moreover, 21.65 per cent of respondents say they made attempts to expand their business before – with 57.41 per cent being successful, and as examples of activities undertaken[230] we can highlight the following:

- 11 persons mention activities/investments they started in Albania and that are still running: a restaurant, different shops managed by others (parents), a branch of a respondent Italian company, and other non-specified investments.
- 12 persons organized or participated in cultural related activities/projects in Albania (by way of publishing a book, organizing cultural events, art exhibitions, etc.
- 5 persons mentioned work occupations they undertook in Albania (accountant, selling products in pharmacies, participate in architecture restaurant/resort projects, etc).
- Additionally, 16 persons said they tried to get contacts, expand their networks, sent CV or letters/email to possibly start collaborations, but without any follow up or success.

Among from the lessons learned[231] from these experiences (including those that were successful and unsuccessful), the respondents refer to both aspects of weakness and lack of readiness from the Albanians of the diaspora themselves (lack of knowledge of the local context, improvement of project preparation, time needed to enter the local environment, no work to be carried out before a contract is signed, the only desire to do something in Albania is not enough to work there, etc.) and features of the local context in

229 From Tab. 10.2.3.2. summarizing those interested to financially invest in the next three years (7.44% and 4.19%).
230 Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 10a - If yes, what did you do? (in relation to question No. 10 - Have you ever made any attempts to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?).
231 Elaboration on section "Relation with the country of origin", question No. 10c - What are the main lessons learned from your experience?

Albania (corruption and the necessity to "know someone" to have anything done, high levels of bureaucracy, state over presence in business, presence of well educated persons, communication works differently from Italy, less transparency, lack of work culture, very little investments in culture).

10.2.3. OBSTACLES AND PROBLEMS

Reporting on the problems and obstacles people met in expanding their activities in Albania, the main ones encountered are the following:[232]

- Deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency of the PA (16,39%);
- Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors (12,30%);
- Unfavourable business environment (11,07%);
- Bureaucratic effort/cost of bureaucracy (9,02%);
- Lack of management capacities (7, 38%).

Looking at the sectors of belonging, we can find additional elements to explain the problems faced:

- Respondents in the Agribusiness mentioned problems in finding skilled workers;
- Respondents from the Social enterprises sector reported problems with bureaucracy and their lack of experience in running a business in Albania;
- Respondents from the Cultural sector also mention the unfavorable business environment and lack of coordination with other actors;
- Potential investors added the difficulty in finding suitable business partners.

Tab. 10.2.3.1.: Financial investments in Albania

Have you made any financial investments in Albania?	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	1.86	10.70	0.47	13.02
2. Social enterprises	0.47	25.12	0.00	25.58
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	5.12	24.19	0.00	29.30
4. Potential investors	4.19	27.91	0.00	32.09
Total	11.63	87.91	0.47	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 6c - Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Albania?

Tab. 10.2.3.2., Plans to invest in Albania in the next 3 years

Do you plan to invest in Albania in the next 3 years?	Yes to the previous		No to the previous		n.d	Total
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
1. Agribusiness	1.40	1.86	0.47	8.84	0.47	13.02
2. Social enterprises	0.00	0.47	0.47	24.65	0.00	25.58
3. Cultural preservation	3.26	0.47	1.86	23.72	0.00	29.30
4. Potential investors	2.79	4.19	1.40	23.72	0.00	32.09
Total	7.44	6.98	4.19	80.93	0.47	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 6d - Do you plan to invest in Albania in the next 3 years? 6d has been elaborated on the basis of the answer given to the 6c.

232 These same findings are included also in the Chapter III.

Tab. 10.2.3.3.: Attempt to expand or move the professional activity in Albania

Attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania (own sector)	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	3.57	96.43	0.00	100.00
2. Social enterprises	20.00	80.00	0.00	100.00
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	41.27	58.73	0.00	100.00
4. Potential investors	21.74	76.81	1.45	100.00
Total	21.65	77.99	0.36	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 10 - Have you ever made any attempts to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?

Tab. 10.2.3.4.: Success in moving the activity to Albania

Was your "move/activity" successful?	Yes	No	n.d.
1. Agribusiness	1.85	0.00	0.00
2. Social enterprises	12.96	7.41	0.00
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	27.78	18.52	0.00
4. Potential investors	14.81	12.96	3.70
Total	57.41	38.89	3.70

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 10b - If Yes to 10: Was your "move/activity" successful?

10.2.4. POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN ALBANIA IN THE OWN SECTOR

When asked about the interest to invest in Albania in the own sector,[233] the most interested ones are respondents from the Cultural sector and Potential investors. The less interested are those from the Agribusiness group.

Based on the total number of those who confirmed an interest to invest in their own sector (215 persons), the areas and activities of investment mentioned in the qualitative section of the questionnaire include[234] the following: health/socio sanitary; tourism and agritourism; professional competences/studios (firms); construction; culture and other mixed ones.

21 persons expressed ideas to either invest or work in the health sector in Albania: some people generally mentioned the possibility to collaborate or to put their knowledge and competences gained as part of the diaspora at the market disposal (such as, nurses, physiotherapists, neuropsychiatrists). Others (7 persons) explicitly employed the word 'investing' referring to opening services for elderly people, dental services, private clinics, first aid services, and wellness centres.

The other sector that includes more suggestions is the one related to tourism and food/restoration (in total 27 persons). In particular, 9 persons mentioned more specifically the tourism industry (such as, opening a tourist agency, working as a tourist guide or as a tourist communication guide). Additionally, 4 persons referred to opening an agritourism business and 14 others to opening a restaurant/cafeteria.

6 persons expressed ideas to work in the farming sector (as olive oil or with a biological farm) or in a breeding farm (horses or eels).

233 These same findings are included also in the Chapter III.
234 *Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 11a - If Yes to 11: how? What would you do?*

The Cultural sector gathers 13 persons that indicate a variety of possible actives: organize cultural events, give value to the cultural heritage of Albania, being a publisher, make a film, offer cultural entertainment for kids or elderly people, organize intercultural festivals, etc.

Aligned with the above, 8 persons would be interested to collaborate or work in Albania in the teaching sector (mentioning their technical or managerial skills, photography or primary education).

A group of persons (12) are interested in offering professional services: 5 are lawyers interested in opening a legal firm or work in Albania; 4 are architects interested in opening an architectural firm in Albania; 3 others are persons interested in offering services to help investors.

In as far as the construction sector is concerned, 8 persons mentioned the possibility to open a construction firm and work in the field.

A final mixed group (6 persons) includes heterogeneous ideas and suggestions: green economy, a factory of chemical engineering to recycling, import-export, food machinery, and transportation.

Among the main drivers that would influence the possibility to invest in Albania, respondents mentioned, among others[235] the following factors:

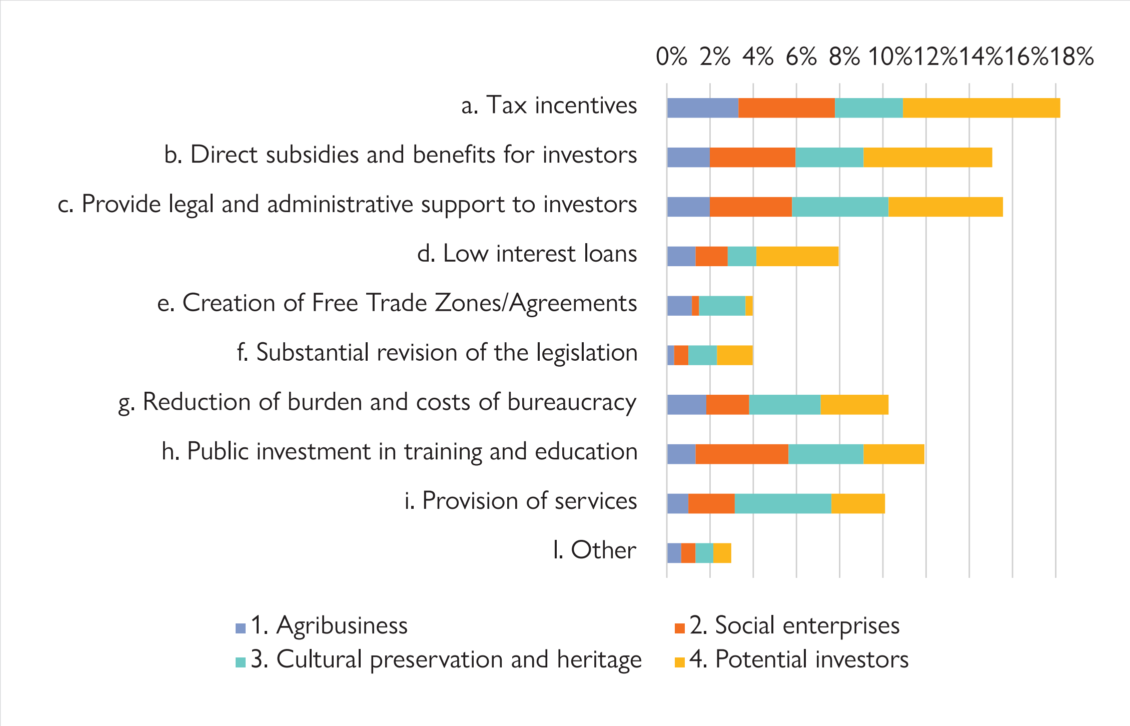
- Tax incentives (18,21%);
- Legal and administrative support to investors (15,07%);
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (15,07%);
- Public investment in training and education (11,92%);
- Reduction of burden and cost of bureaucracy (10,26%);
- Provision of services (10,10%);
- Low interest loans (7,95%).

There are no significant differences among the sectors on this matter. Additionally, among the other elements that could influence the idea to invest, the respondents mentioned, in particular, a diminished corruption, subsidies (as for art initiatives or start ups) and investors' networks.[236]

Among the problems/barriers identified (see Fig. 10.2.4.1.), besides not being interested: bureaucratic efforts/ costs of bureaucracy (9.40%); unfavorable business environment (9.01%); deficiencies in quality, efficiency, transparency of the PA (8.75%).

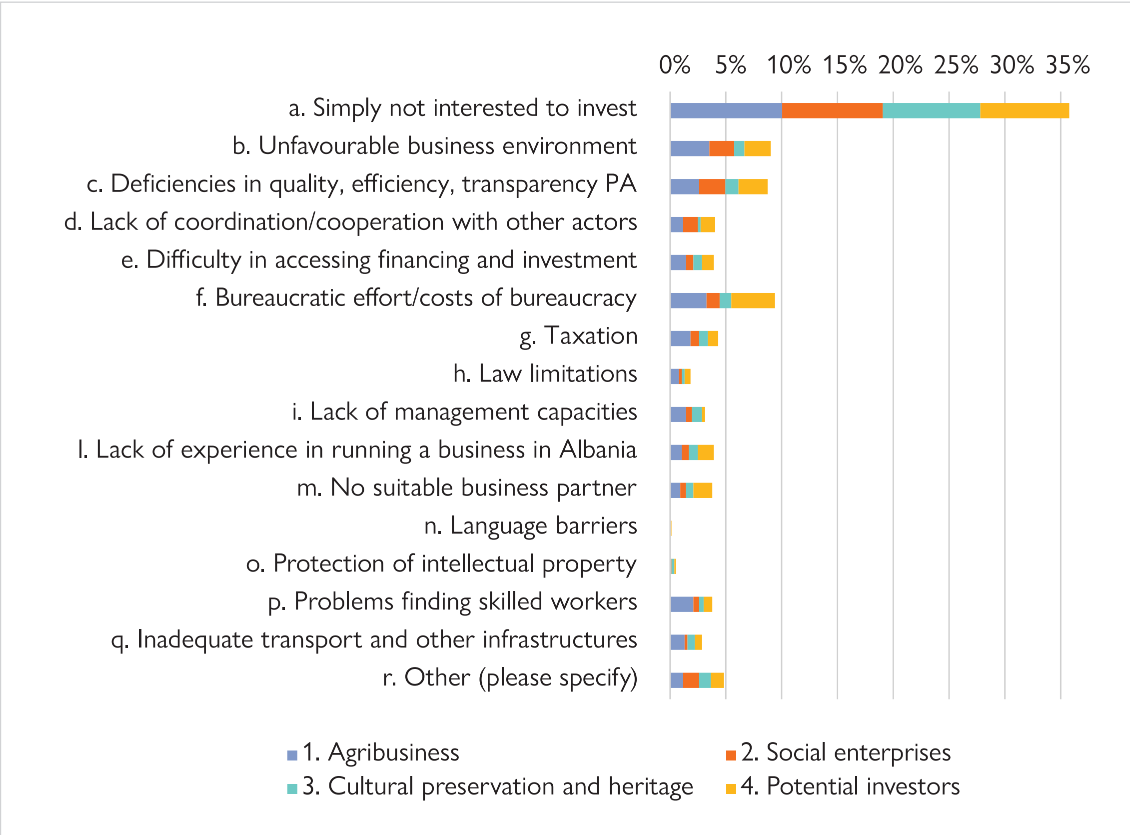
235 These same findings are included also in the Chapter III.
236 *Source:* Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 11b - If Yes to 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)? Answer: Other.

Fig. 10.2.4.1.: Main drivers for investment in Albania in the own sector



Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 11b - If Yes to 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)?

Fig. 10.2.4.2.: Main barriers/problems/limitations to invest in Albania in the own sector



Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 11c - If No to 11: What are the main barriers/ problems/limitations?

10.2.5. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Considering the perspectives for the future, 81.40 per cent of this subgroup of respondents (these 215 interested in investment) confirmed that they would stay in Italy while minor percentages from the Social and cultural sectors and Potential investors stated that they could leave Italy. Almost 30 per cent consider it possible to leave Italy in the next 3 years and 14.42 per cent later, with half of the respondents considering to go to Albania.

A large group (41.4%) consider their future plans in terms of being based in Italy, but with increased contacts and business relations with Albania (especially people from the Cultural and Potential sectors), while 27.91 per cent express a preference to stay in Italy and keep the business headquarters there.

This subgroup expressed higher percentages of interest to possibly move out from Italy in the future if not to increase relationships and circular mobility with Albania. These elements confirm that the idea of investing in or starting a business in Albania requires the condition of being physically in Albania (or to increase the presence there) in order to supervise it or manage it directly. This may also suggest the unlikely possibility of success for investment programmes from remote locations or the requirement of virtual presence.

The plans and aspirations for the future of the children are different, with almost half of respondents preferring their children to be in Italy, with only 5.58 per cent preferring Albania and a further 25.12 per cent of persons hoping to be somewhere else abroad.

Tab. 10.2.5.1.: Interest to stay in Italy in the future

	No	Yes	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	1.86	11.16	0.00	13.02
2. Social enterprises	4.19	20.93	0.47	25.58
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	6.98	21.86	0.47	29.30
4. Potential investors	4.19	27.44	0.47	32.09
Total	17.21	81.40	1.40	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Demographic", question No. 14 - Right now, do you think that you will remain in Italy in the future?

Tab. 10.2.5.2.: Preferred Country for the future of the respondents' children

	Albania	Italy	Another country	It does not matter	Total
1. Agribusiness	0.00	6.05	1.86	5.12	13.02
2. Social enterprises	0.47	10.23	11.16	3.72	25.58
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	2.33	11.16	6.51	9.30	29.30
4. Potential investors	2.79	20.47	5.58	3.26	32.09
Total	5.58	47.91	25.12	21.40	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Perception on migration", question No. 2 - Today, thinking about your children's future (even if you do not have any) where would you prefer them to live? (only one option).

Tab. 10.2.5.3.: Interest to move to another country today or in the future

	No	Yes, in the next 3 years	Yes, over the next 3 years	Total
1. Agribusiness	8.84	2.79	1.40	13.02
2. Social enterprises	11.63	9.77	4.19	25.58
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	13.95	8.84	6.51	29.30
4. Potential investors	21.86	7.91	2.33	32.09
Total	56.28	29.30	14.42	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Perception on migration", question No. 3 - Would you consider moving to another country?

Tab. 10.2.5.4.: Interest to move to Albania today or in the future

	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	5.32	4.26	0.00	9.57
2. Social enterprises	9.57	22.34	0.00	31.91
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	19.15	14.89	1.06	35.11
4. Potential investors	14.89	8.51	0.00	23.40
Total	48.94	50.00	1.06	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Perception on migration", question No. 3a - If yes, are/would you considering/consider moving to Albania?

Tab. 10.2.5.5.: Plans for the future

	1. Agribusiness	2. Social enterprises	3. Cultural preservation and heritage	4. Potential investors	Total
N.d.	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.47	1.40
Stay in Italy and keep my business headquarters here	4.19	9.30	7.44	6.98	27.91
Stay in Italy and decrease my contacts and business relations with Albania	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.93	1.40
Stay in Italy but increase my contacts and business relations with Albania	5.12	9.30	11.16	15.81	41.40
Stay in Italy but move my business headquarters to Albania	0.47	0.47	1.40	1.86	4.19
Move the headquarters of my business in another country/ countries	0.93	4.19	5.58	1.86	12.56
Move back permanently to Albania	0.47	0.47	2.33	2.33	5.58
Go back to Albania permanently but keep my business headquarters in Italy	1.40	0.93	1.40	1.86	5.58
Total	13.02	25.58	29.30	32.09	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 8 - Which of the following statements is closer to your plan for the future?

10.2.6. RELATIONSHIP WITH ALBANIA

In coherence with their interest in investing in Albania, the vast majority of respondents (90%) consider it somehow important[237] to know what is happening in Albania and they mainly employ internet (41%) and social media (31%) to keep informed. A smaller percentage gets informed via telephone/skype (12%).

Among the closest relationships migrants still maintain in Albania, respondents mainly refer to family members as their mother (20.53%) and father (19.02%), siblings (16,01%) and other relatives (26.18%). Migrants tend to make the return more frequently compared to other groups: mainly once a year (45.39%) or more than once a year (32.62%).

In line with the trend of the regional reports, more than half of respondents agree with the fact that, through their visits and exchanges, they transfer ideas, information and capitals (not only monetary) to the family and friends in the homeland. Only around 4 per cent consider it unlikely to mobilize social capital.

237 Including responses as of average, very important, absolutely essential.

Albanians abroad can also contribute indirectly to Albania by way of suggesting or recommending friends to visit the country, 84.17 per cent of respondents stated that they recommended friends and acquaintances[238] to come to Albania, especially for tourism purposes (90.61%).

When asked if specifically interested in a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania, the majority of respondents (69.30%) claimed to be interested (especially those from the Social and Cultural sector and potential investors).

The mentioned conditions to possibly collaborate are[239] the following:

- A good payment/salary;
- Having a part time and short term assignment;
- Not being of an impediment for life/activities in Italy;

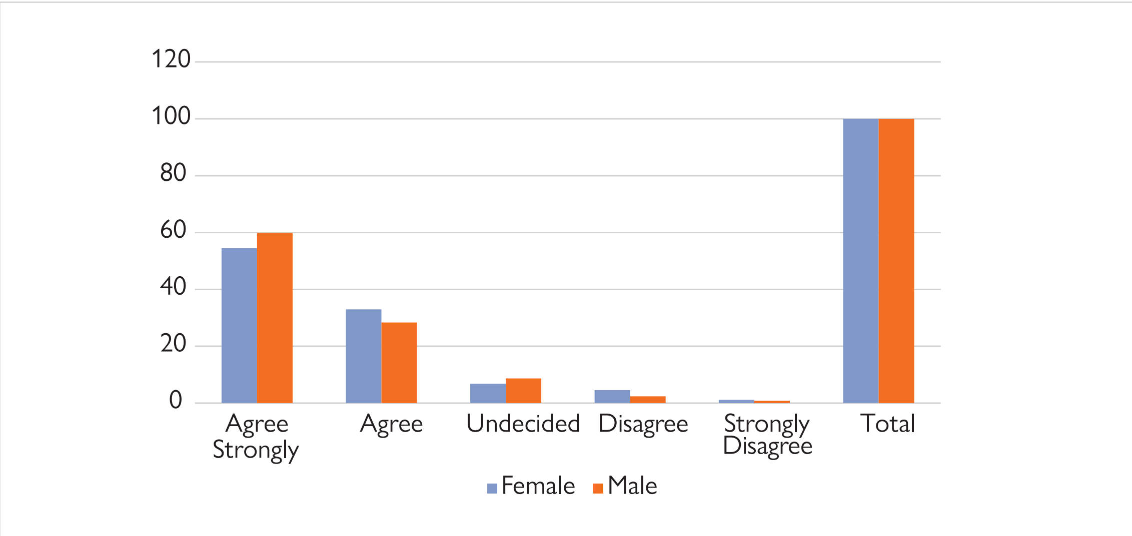
Only a few respondents would be available without any form of reimbursement/salary.

Tab. 10.2.6.1.: Interest for virtual assignment

	Yes	No	n.d.	Total
1. Agribusiness	4.65	7.44	0.93	13.02
2. Social enterprises	18.60	6.98	0.00	25.58
3. Cultural preservation and heritage	22.79	6.05	0.47	29.30
4. Potential investors	23.26	8.84	0.00	32.09
Total	69.30	29.30	1.40	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 15 - Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignments for the development of Albania?

Fig. 10.2.6.2.: Transferring social, cultural and human capital gained in Italy through visits and exchange with family and friends in Albania



Note: The information is expressed in percentages (%).

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 2 - How much do you agree with the following statement "As part of the relationships with/visits to my family/friends/acquaintances in Albania, I transmit and transfer new knowledge, ideas, visions, and/or approaches (for example social, cultural, professional) that I acquired during my experience of life in Italy?

238 *Source*: Elaboration on section "Relationship with country of origin", if the answer to question No. 7 - Have your friends/acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion? Then question No. 7a - If yes, for tourism, business, or other reasons?

239 *Source*: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 15a - If Yes, what conditions would be acceptable to you? (Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignments for the development of Albania?).

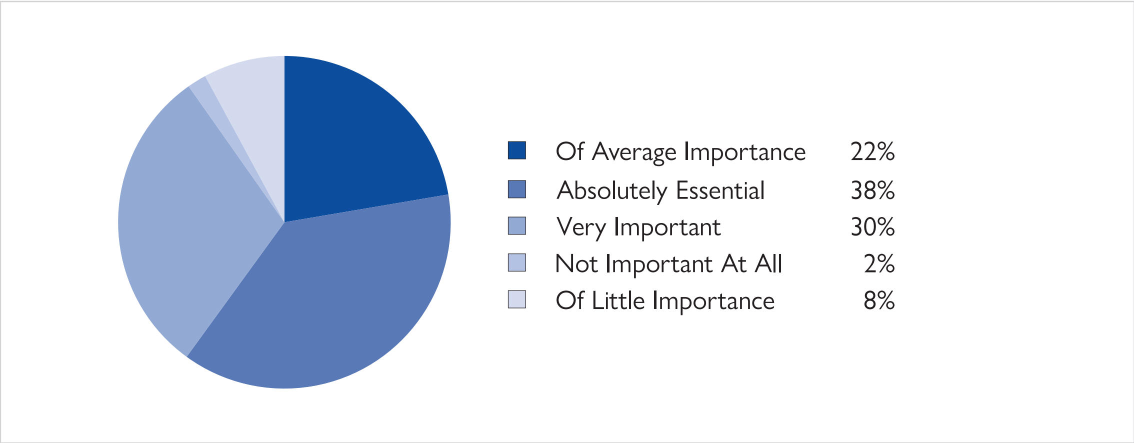
Tab. 10.6.2.3.: Relationship with people in Albania

	Absolute value	%
a. Mother	109	20.53
b. Father	101	19.02
c. Siblings	85	16.01
d. Partner	6	1.13
e. Son(s)/Daughter(s)	1	0.19
f. Other relatives	139	26.18
g. Partners in business/workmates	34	6.40
h. Other	49	9.23
i. None	7	1.32
Total	531	100.00

*Mostly "friends".

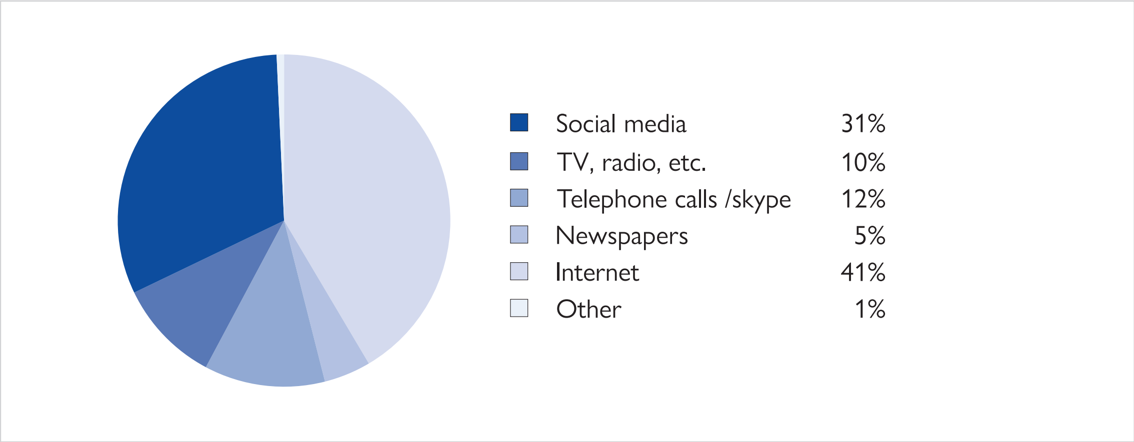
Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 1 - With whom of the following people, if they are in Albania, do you still have a close relationship? (more than one answer allowed).

Fig. 10.6.2.4.: Interest to know what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 3 - How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania?

Fig. 10.2.6.5.: Means employed to keep informed on what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", if the answer to the question No. 3 - How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania? Ranges between "Of little importance" and "Absolutely essential", then question No. 3a - What are the main means by which you keep yourself informed?

Tab. 10.2.6.6.: Frequency of visits to Albania

Frequency of visits to Albania	Female	Male	Total
Never	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sometimes (every 2/3 years)	17.05	16.54	16.79
Frequently (more than once a year)	32.95	32.28	32.62
Rarely (every 5/10 years)	5.68	3.94	4.81
Often (every year)	44.32	46.46	45.39
n.d.	0.00	0.79	0.39
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 6 - How often do you go to Albania?

Tab. 10.2.6.7.: Visits to Albania from friends/acquaintances

	Yes	No	n.d.
Female	84.09	15.91	0.00
Male	84.25	14.96	0.79
Average	**84.17**	**15.43**	**0.39**

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 7 - Have your friends/acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendations or suggestions?

Above: YES – if yes for what reason: business, tourism, other.

	%
Business	7.18
Tourism	90.61
Other	1.66
n.d.	0.55
Total	100.00

CHAPTER XI -QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS: SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

Seven qualitative interviews were conducted, one for each of the Regions included in this study plus two additional interviews. The list of the questions and of the interviewees are presented in Annex 5. The aim of the interviews was to collect opinions and perceptions, during in depth conversations, about the characteristics of the Albanian diaspora, its relation with Albania, limits and constraints to the investment of the diaspora in Albania and opportunities to strengthen its role for the development of the country of origin. The main results of the interviews are presented in this section, based on the main topics that have been discussed.

11.1. THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY

11.1.1 EVOLUTION OF MIGRATORY FLOWS

The Italian reaction to the first wave of Albanian migration in the 1990s was of hospitality and solidarity. However, the situation rapidly changed in the following years, and a strong stigma started to develop towards Albanian citizens in Italy. Stigma was fueled by politics (and the political choice to close the border between Italy and Albania) and by several mass media and their habit to link Albanian immigrants to a sense of insecurity for Italian citizens (Devole, 2006). According to the interviews, this situation was particularly hard for Albanians, because of their very different expectations. Italy and Albania have always been very close, not only in terms of geography but also in terms of cultural proximity; "everybody used to speak Italian in Albania, from children to the elderly people" (quote from an interview), also diffusion of Italian Television channels across Albania since the 1980s. Consequently, "when Albanians moved to Italy, they expected to easily integrate. Italy was considered the next door and the friendly neighbor. To realize that the Italian society was not hospitable...it was a psychological and emotional trauma" (quote from an interview).

Today, according to the interviews, Italy is not perceived as an attractive destination anymore. The main reason is to be found in the difficulties experienced by the diaspora that moved to Italy in the 1990s. Many members of the Albanian diaspora in Italy feel that they have chosen the wrong country. There will always be some migration flows from Albania to Italy, thanks to geographical proximity, but generally speaking Albanians today prefer other destinations. This is the case in particular with Albanian students, who prefer to move to the United Kingdom, or Northern European countries. Interviewees have highlighted that the current migration wave from Albania is different from the past; and is mainly motivated by the search for better opportunities and quality of life. Some mentioned the low quality of the education system in Albania as one of the main drivers for emigration. There is a number of unaccompanied minors entering the country every year, in search of better life opportunities in Italy; some explain these recent follows of minors as a strategy for family reunification.

The situation is different for second generation immigrants: according to some interviews, in most cases they feel fully Italian, with no strong sense of belonging to Albania. To recover this sense of belonging is a crucial aspect in order to enhance the role of diaspora in the development of Albania. To this aim, initiatives are being developed by first generation immigrants; an interesting experience is that of the first European Centre of Albanian culture, opened in Asti (Piedmont) during 2019, with the aim of organizing cultural and social initiatives for the Albanian community and to promote the diffusion of Albanian culture in Italy.

11.1.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY

With respect to social interaction and integration, interviews have basically confirmed the peculiarities of Albanian diaspora in Italy, as already explored in the literature (see section 10.2). "Albanian diaspora cannot be considered as a community in Italy; it is rather a national group. Indeed, Albanians in Italy rarely collaborate or associate" (Quote from an interview). According to the interviews, the "social mimicry" of Albanians (see section 10.2) and their attitude to create networks with local Italian communities (and not with the Albanian diaspora) is to be read as a reaction to the social stigma of Albanians in Italy. While according to some interviewees Albanians are nowadays a fully integrated community, other interviewees have highlighted how this integration is still very fragile; Albanians do not really have social networks in Italy, but still rely on many cases on their relations with family and friends in Albania. The social network of Albanians in Italy is mainly connected to their occupation; so that if they lose their job (as happened to many people with the economic crisis), they are often left alone to face the effects of this loss. Second generation Albanians, on the other hand, feel themselves basically Italians.

With respect to associations, different opinions have been recorded among the different interviewees. One point of view is that Albanian association in Italy were never strong, because of the already mentioned social stigma and consequent social mimicry of Albanians. According to this point of view, associations are more diffused nowadays among young Albanians (second generation), that recover a sense of belonging and pride of their origins. Another, opposite opinion that was recorded, is that associations were more useful and relevant years ago. According to this point of view, second generation Albanians rarely have a strong feeling of belonging with their country of origin; moreover, new media (internet and social networks) have deeply changed the means of communication and organization, and associations are thus less relevant than before.

It was highlighted that many Albanians that moved to Italy during the 1990s have now acquired Italian citizenship. However, it was a very long process. This meant that in many cases, according to the interviews, Albanians didn't have the chance to exploit Italy in terms of qualifications or professional experience acquired in their country of origin (most Albanians work in the construction sector because when they arrived there was a hard labour shortage and they ended up becoming construction workers); once they obtained citizenship and were allowed to do so, it was too late for them to start a new professional life.

The Arbëreshë community was also mentioned during the interviews; the community is considered important in particular because it represents a link for the Albanian diaspora throughout the world.

11.1.3 RECENT TRENDS: EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC CRISIS

Many Albanians in Italy work in the construction sector or in the industrial sector. Other relevant sectors include catering, transportation, tourism, sewing and laundry (especially women). With respect to the sectors identified for the fieldwork, according to the interviews:

- agriculture/agritourism is surely an important sector in Albania; there are examples of members of the diaspora investing in this sector in Albania;

- a number of Albanians are occupied in the Social sector (in particular women), but usually, in low profile occupations; Social sector will be growingly important in Albania as the population is ageing (such as the Italian one);
- not many Albanians and not many immigrants, generally speaking, work in the Cultural heritage sector. At the same time, there are numerous examples of Albanians who lived in Italy for some time and went back to Albania to run tourism related activities (for example restaurants).

Even though the majority of Albanians in Italy don't have a high level of education, there are numerous exceptions, with a large number of graduates and highly skilled professionals. According to the interviews, second generation Albanians are generally highly skilled. This is considered by some interviewees as one of the main strengths of the Albanian diaspora "young people are the strength that can change Albania" (quote from an interview).

According to the interviews, there are around 40,000 Albanian enterprises in Italy, even though 8,000 of them are led by members of the diaspora that have acquired Italian citizenship. The owners are often low skilled; they need to have direct access to clear and updated information; moreover, they often have problems in accessing credit, because of the poor credit history and insolvency of some Albanian enterprises in the past.

The 2008 economic crisis impacted deeply on Albanians in Italy, in particular, due to their main occupation sectors, hardly hit by the crisis. Many Albanians have lost their job in their fifties: a difficult age to start a new life. After the crisis many workers had access to training courses which proved to be helpful to find new temporary employments; however, as in the case of citizenship, this training arrived too late for these people to start a new stable professional life.

As a consequence of the crisis, some interviewees have highlighted the need expressed by the Albanian community to be supported in terms of housing and social services.

Some interviewees expressed the belief that the crisis had a strong impact on gender balance within the Albanian community in Italy: indeed, many Albanian men have lost their jobs (due to their sector of employment); not so much women though, who often were employed in the domestic sector (that has suffered less the effects of the crisis). As a consequence, in many cases, women found themselves as the main contributors to the family income. Generally speaking, some interviewees expressed the belief that migration was often an opportunity of emancipation for Albanian women.

11.1.4 RELATIONSHIP WITH ALBANIA

According to the interviews, first generation immigrants from Albania have often a strong relationship with the country of origin, as they are between two cultures and identities. It was highlighted that these older generations are generally speaking more optimistic with respect to younger generations. Some interviewees have highlighted the crucial role played by Albanian women in keeping family relations across the two countries. As already mentioned, when discussing associations, opinions on the second generation are divergent: while some observers believe that they basically don't have a strong feeling of belonging to Albania, others think quite the opposite. However, the second generation is considered a crucial potential bridge between Italy and Albania; as such, according to the interviews they should be targeted by specific policies. Interviews have highlighted how the perception of Albania among second generations is different from the perspective of their parents; for second generation Albanians, Albania is basically the place of their holidays, but they are not really familiar with the country, its bureaucracy, and often even the language.

A strong and common perception among interviewees is that in many cases the Albanian diaspora in Italy feels abandoned by the Albanian Government, and this does not help to build a positive relationship. From this point of view, many interviewees expressed the belief that a crucial step would be to ensure the voting right for members of the diaspora: "The opportunity to vote assigns you a responsibility, and you are going to be much more active" (quote from an interview).

At the same time, many interviewees also expressed the belief that the transition started by Albania thirty years ago was problematic, and that people in Albania don't feel fully free to express themselves. Members of the diaspora are often nostalgic towards Albania, and feel free to highlight the problems of the country; from this point of view, some interviewees attributed a crucial role to the diaspora, mentioning that "The only way to change the situation in Albania is from the outside" (quote from an interview).

According to the interviews, after the crisis, the return flow from Italy to Albania took place. In many cases, men went back to Albania alone, leaving their wives in Italy (that, as already mentioned, were able to keep their jobs mainly in the domestic work sector) and children, enrolled in the Italian school system. Men decided to return because in Albania they could count on a social network that made it easier for them to find a new occupation. When a member of the diaspora goes back to Albania, they usually concentrate in major cities; small centres and villages consequently remain depopulated. Interviews reported several success stories of Albanian citizens successfully going back in Albania to run their own enterprise, highlighting the added value that is offered to the country by people who have had experiences abroad. However, other interviewees have highlighted the difficulties of this process: "The longer the migration route, the more difficult the return. It is like another migration, as you are deeply changed" (Quote from an interview). Others have mentioned numerous cases where the return to Albania was only temporary; after a while, (former) members of the diaspora tend to go back abroad. There are some ongoing initiatives (privately developed in Italy) trying to help/facilitate the return/circularity of members of the diaspora in Albania, as for example the Italo Albanian Chamber of Commerce, based in Milan, that encourages import-export activities between the two countries.

11.1.5 THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Generally speaking, the topic of the European Union was not central in the opinions expressed by the interviewees, with some exceptions.

Living in an EU country is considered important in particular for the opportunities to access EU funds and markets. The perspective of EU enlargement to Albania is considered crucial for granting a better democratic system to the country and better perspectives for Albanian citizens.

11.2. ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN FRANCE

The first arrival of the Albanian diaspora in France dates back to the aftermath of the Second World War. The first cities of destination were Paris and Nice; in the following years, other destinations included St. Etienne and Lyon, because of the mining industry that offered employment opportunities. In the 60s–70s, an inflow of Albanians, in particular from Kosovo[4], was registered, mainly located in the city of Lille, where they also created diaspora associations.

Currently, the Albanian diaspora in France is not very significant; moreover, there is not a concentration of the diaspora in a specific locality (even if in terms of numbers, most of the Albanians live in Paris and in Southern France); consequently, according to the interviews we cannot define the diaspora as an Albanian "community". The albanian diaspora in France is very well integrated; moreover, there are many Albanian intellectuals. Lately, an important number of unaccompanied minors entered the country, as well as asylum seekers, even if it is very difficult for an Albanian to obtain asylum in France. Moreover, in the last 15 years, the number of Albanian students coming from Kosovo[4] has increased. According to the interviews, second/third generation immigrants are very interested in Albanian culture and language.

11.3. ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN BELGIUM

The presence of the Albanian diaspora in Belgium dates back to 1956. Since the beginning, Albanians in Belgium have helped each other in their migration experience. One of the most important centres of the diaspora in Belgium is the city of Namour; important Albanian communities are also in Brussels, Anverse and Liege.

During the 1960s, many Albanians were heading to the United States, with Belgium being a transit country of the journey. In 1966, the first Albanian Radio was established in the country (Yehona Shqipe); it was an important step to keep the community together. During the 1970s many Albanian associations started to develop in Belgium, mainly guided by second generation Albanians. At the time, the community was quite closed: for example, Albanians tend to marry other Albanians; at the same time, a common strategy of integration was to buy a house in Belgium. Albanians in Belgium have always shown a strong pride of their origin, for example by organizing an Albanian "National Day", or by building a statue of their national hero in Namour. The community had a strong political connotation; in particular, they assumed anti communist positions.

In the 1990s new flows of Albanians arrived in Belgium as elsewhere; at the beginning of the decade, most of them were coming from the North of the country, and with a low level of education. Differently, flows that arrived after 1997 include many people coming from the South of the country and from cities, generally with a higher level of education. These new flows started to be more integrated in Belgium, for example by creating many mixed families.

According to the interviews, Albanians in Belgium nowadays basically feel European, while keeping at the same time a very strict relationship with their country of origin; "transnationalism" is considered as an important social value. However, according to the interviews, there is not a real interest in the development of Albania: it is not something that is on the agenda of the diaspora. In many cases, Albanians that live in Belgium have built their own house in their home country, but there are not many examples of other forms of investment.

Many associations have been created in the 2000s: cultural association, and non profit associations with the aim of promoting gender equality and human rights. With respect to older Albanian associations in Belgium, the new ones are more inclusive and open.

Interviews have confirmed also in Belgium a diffused interest for the Arbëreshë community, mainly as a means to keep old traditions alive.

11.4. THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE DIASPORA TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALBANIA

For a long time, the most important form of investments was remittances; however, remittances are less relevant today, as many members of the Albanian diaspora have been living in Italy/France/Belgium for decades, and have lost many of the strict relations that are at the basis of the remittances process. Similarly, those who could afford to buy or build a house in Albania did it during the 1990s–2000s, but these processes are almost over.

Consequently, there is a need to identify new possible ways to involve and give value to the diaspora. There are two elements that emerged as crucial ones in this regard during the interviews: the consciousness on the role of the diaspora and its relation with Albania; and the economic conditions of the diaspora, that allow/ don't allow investments or transfers in the first place.

With respect to the first element (involvement of the diaspora), as already mentioned, the interviewees basically share the opinion that members of the Albanian diaspora feel abandoned by the Albanian Government. From this point of view, they suggested that the Albanian Government should build initiatives in order to support the diaspora and create a positive relationship with it, so that members of the diaspora will keep close ties with their country of origin. An important element that emerges is to give to the diaspora the possibility to vote and decide for their country of origin, in order to strengthen these ties. Moreover, interviews have highlighted how there is often no perception of the role that the diaspora could play to the development of Albania among members of the diaspora, while this is also an important element to be taken into account. Finally, interviews have highlighted how, for a member of the diaspora, there are a number of practical issues that have to be faced with when deciding to go back to the home country. To offer practical support as well as ad hoc training may offer a very effective incentive.

With respect to the second element, a shared opinion is that the economic situation of Albanians in Italy is generally not very favorable; there are some entrepreneurs that might be interested in investing in Albania, but their number is limited. An exception is represented by the construction sector: in this case, according to the interviews, Albanian entrepreneurs in Italy have exported their activity also to Albania long ago, in some cases opening branches in Albania. With respect to the sectors identified for the purposes of this study (Agribusiness, Social services, Culture preservation and heritage, Potential investors), some of the interviewees believe that those are certainly relevant sectors for the development of Albania, but that there are not so many interesting profiles in the diaspora (see Section 10.1.3); others believe that, while agriculture deserves specific investments (and, where possible, support in the form of concessions or loans), other identified sectors (Social services and Culture) are too small and parceled, while Albania should invest in big enterprises in order to create employment and development.

According to the interviews, many Albanians work in low profile occupations. However, interviewees also recognize that there is a growing number of highly skilled, young people, and those represent one of the main strengths of the Albanian diaspora. Moreover, some interviewees believe that "young people are interested in investing in Albania" (quote from an interview), also because taxes are significantly lower than in Italy. A specific group is represented by second generation Albanians. As already mentioned, their perception of Albania is often different from the one of their parents and needs a specific approach. To make this happen, the Government could, for example, support the diffusion among this second generation of Albanian culture, and language, not leaving this duty to families alone.

From this point of view, and more generally with the aim of attracting diaspora investments, some interviewees highlighted the potentially crucial role that can be played by associations; indeed, some interviewee claim that associations have more experience, knowledge, capacity and critical mass with respect to a single person; consequently, they should represent a privileged interlocutor for policies aiming at attracting investments in Albania.

Another interesting category that was mentioned during the interview is that of the retired Albanians, which is indeed the position of many Albanians that have moved to Italy/France/Belgium in the 1990s. A strategy for attracting these retired people may prove to be successful, and in some cases, they could also be interested in starting an activity in Albania based on the professional experience acquired abroad.

Finally, interviews highlighted that different forms of investments and in general economic returns are offered to Albania by the Albanian diaspora. All of these elements should be taken into account, and not only the direct investments in properties or companies. For example, an important source of revenue is offered by people that travel to Albania to visit their home country. From this point of view, interviewees have highlighted how travelling to Albania is very expensive. During the summer time, at least from Italy, there are more frequent and less expensive flights, but not during the rest of the year. According to the interviews, with cheaper flights, people would travel more frequently especially from Italy to Albania, allowing an immediate transfer of money and, more generally, ensuring a stronger relationship with the country of origin, also for the second generation immigrants.

CHAPTER XII - ALBANIAN CITIZENS POPULAR IN ITALY AND SUCCESSFUL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

12.1.1. LIST OF SOME ALBANIAN CITIZENS POPULAR IN ITALY

The following list includes Albanian citizens popular in Italy, in different sectors and at different degrees. The list was created based on secondary sources and short interviews with members of the Albanian community in Italy, as well as on the results of the 631 questionnaires collected for the purposes of this study.

Music (Singers and musicians)

- Ermal Meta, Albanian singer of Italian citizenship. He was born in Fier in 1981 and moved to Italy when he was 13 years of age.
- Anna Oxa, an Italian Albanian singer (Italian mother and Albanian father) born in Bari, in 1961.
- Elsa Lila, an Albanian singer, born in Tirana, in 1981.
- Elhaida Dani, an Albanian singer, born in 1993 (In 2012 she participated and won the Talent show "The Voice of Italy").
- Olen Cesari, an Albanian violinist, born in Durres, in 1975.
- Alban Skenderaj, an Albanian singer growing up in Italy.
- Ermonela Jaho, an opera singer, born in Tirana in 1974, moved to Italy in 1993.
- Saimir Pirgu, an opera singer.

Dancers/Television

1. Kledi Kadiu, an Albanian dancer with Italian citizenship, born in Tirana, in 1974.
2. Anbeta Toromani, an Albanian dancer, born in Tirana, in 1979 (known in Italy especially for her long-lasting participation to the popular talent show "Amici").
3. Ilir Shaqiri, an Albanian dancer, born in Tirana, in 1973. He participated in several Italian TV shows.
4. Leon Cino, an Albanian dancer, born in Tirana, in 1982 (known in Italy mainly for winning the Talent show "Amici" in 2004).
5. Klaudia Pepa, an Albanian dancer, took part to the Italian Talent Show Amici, in 2016.
6. Hektor Budlla, born in Tirana in 1982, in Italy since 2002.

Sports (Football and basketball players)

7. Igli Tare, former football player and current manager in the Italian football team Lazio, born in Valona, in 1973.
8. Thomas Strakosha, a goalkeeper in the Italian football team Lazio and in the Albanian National Football team, born in Athens, in 1995.
9. Etrit Berisha, a goalkeeper in the Italian football team Atalanta and in the Albanian National Football Team, born in Pristina, in 1989.

10. Valon Berisha, a football player in the Italian football team Lazio. He was born in Sweden – Malmo, in 1993 from Kosovo[4] and Albanian parents.
11. Klaudio Ndoja, born in 1985. An Albanian-Italian, a professional basketball player (currently plays for Virtus Bologna Team). He was a member of the Albanian National Team in 2012.
12. Eraldo Nikoci, a professional basketball player, born in Durres, in 1999 (currently plays in UBS Foligno).
13. Erjon Bogdani, born in Tirana, in 1977. A football coach and former player. He played for several Italian teams and a member of the Albanian National Team. He is regarded as one of the most successful Albanian players of all time.
14. Florian Myrtaj, born in Vlora, in 1976. Former footballer player in several Italian teams.
15. Lorik Cana, former football Player, born in Gjakova (Kosovo), in 1983.
16. Elseid Hysaj, a football player, born in Shkodra, in 1994.
17. Erblira Bici, a volley player in UYBA.

Writers

18. Gëzim Hajdari, Albanian poet and translator with Italian citizenship. Born in Lushnjë, in 1957.
19. Irma Kurti, Albanian poet and writer born in Tirana, in 1966.
20. Ron Kubati, Albanian writer resident in Italy, born in Tirana, in 1971.
21. Anilda Ibrahimi, Albanian writer resident in Italy, born in Valona, in 1972.
22. Darien Levani, Albanian writer resident in Italy, born in Fratar, in 1982.

Contemporary artists

23. Adrian Paci, Albanian contemporary artist resident in Italy, born in Scutari, in 1969.
24. Helidon Xhixha, Albanian contemporary artist resident in Italy, born in Durres, in 1970.
25. Alfred Mirashi, Italo-Albanian artist.

Actors/Directors

26. Edmond Budina, Albanian Actor and Director resident in Italy, born in Tirana, in 1952.
27. Roland Sejko, Albanian director resident in Italy.
28. Xhilda Lapardhaja, Actress, born in Berat, in 1982, moved to Italy as a child.

Others

- Ernest Simoni, Albanian Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church, born in 1928. In 2016, he was appointed a cardinal and assigned the to lead the Church of Santa Maria della Scala, in Rome.

12.1.2. EVIDENCE FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRES ON ALBANIAN CITIZENS POPULAR IN ITALY OR CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL IN THE ALBANIAN COMMUNITY

The 631 questionnaires collected for the purposes of this study included the following question: "Can you mention three names of "successful" people belonging to the Albanian community in Italy?".

Answers to this question include popular Albanians, as well as not so famous people, considered successful in the Community.

The first kind of answer adds a further level of information to the list provided in the previous section, allowing for e deeper understanding of who is more popular among the Albanian diaspora, based on our sample. The results are presented in the following table, where for each region we summarize how many times each person was mentioned. Only people mentioned at least once were included in the table. The last column shows the total.

Tab. 11.1.2.1.: Most mentioned successful people, belonging to the Albanian community in Italy

Category	Name	Tuscany	Piedmont	Lombardy	Lazio	Emilia-Romagna	Total
Music	Ermal Meta	22	12	12	4	7	57
Music	Anna Oxa	3	3	2	1	0	9
Music	Elsa Lila	0		0	2	0	2
Music	Elhaida Dani	1	17	3	0	0	21
Music	Olen Cesari	0	8	9	5	4	26
Music	Alban Skenderaj	2	0	0	0	0	2
Music	Ermonela Jaho	0	13	1	1	0	14
Music	Saimir Pirgu	0	6	0	0	2	8
Dancers	Kledi Kadiu	21	10	16	6	4	57
Dancers	Anbeta Toromani	15	11	0	0	1	27
Dancers	Ilir Shaqiri	1	3	1	0	0	5
Dancers	Klaudia Pepa	2	3	1	1	0	7
Dancers	Hektor Budlla	0	0	0	0	4	4
Sport	Igli Tare	8	23	9	3	2	45
Sport	Thomas Strakosha	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sport	Valon Berisha	0		1			1
Sport	Erjon Bogdani	1		2			3
Sport	Florian Myrtaj	1					1
Sport	Lorik Cana	0	2	1	0	0	3
Sport	Elseid Hysaj	0	2	5	0	0	7
Sport	Erblira Bici	0	1	0	0	0	1
Writers	Irma Kurti	0	1	0	0	0	1
Writers	Ron Kubati	1	1	0	0	1	3
Writers	Anilda Ibrahimi	2	0	3	2	2	9
Writers	Darien Levani	2	1	0	1	2	6
Artists	Adrian Paci	4	0	1	1	5	11
Artists	Helidon Xhixha	6	4	0	0	0	10
Artists	Alfred Mirashi	3	0	0	0	0	3
Actors/ Directors	Edmond Budina	1	0	1	0	3	5
Actors/ Directors	Roland Sejko	1	0	0	1	1	3
Actors/ Directors	Xhilda Lapardhaja	0	5	0	0	0	5

Source: Author's Elaboration of the answers to the question "Can you mention three names of" successful "people belonging to the Albanian community in Italy?" of the questionnaire.

As for the second kind of answers, in all the analysed regions, most of the people that were mentioned are considered successful for advancements and achievements reached in their professional career.

In some cases, the indications are sector related (for example, doctors or nurses in the case of people working in social enterprises), or include professional profiles reached after important study periods (doctors, lawyers, engineers, architects, university professors, etc.). People mentioned in the cultural sector included several journalists, musicians, or people engaged in the social field.

Many respondents referred to entrepreneurs, in particular in the construction sector or in the food sector (restaurants, bars, B&B, etc.). In general terms many people mentioned the perception of a very active community, involved in many entrepreneurial activities (in particular in activities such as restaurants/bar). In other, limited cases, respondents claim they do not have many contacts with the Albanian community in Italy; consequently, they were not able to identify successful Albanians.

In all regions, only in limited cases the interviewees offered full names of people they consider successful, for privacy reasons. In these cases, and where at least the profession was indicated (as in the majority of cases), the names and professions were included in two lists available in the CD ROM annexed to the report (one general, and one that includes persons mentioned in more than one Region). In case of entrepreneurs, where possible, names were matched with information available on the web, and added to the list.

With respect to entrepreneurship, moreover, some associations of Albanian entrepreneurs were mentioned during the interviews, and in particular:

- AssoAlbania Association of Albanian entrepreneurs in Italy; www.facebook.com/AssoAlbaniaItalia/.
- Camera di Commercio Albanese in Italia.
- https://icc-albania.org.al/.
- ANIAS: Associazione Network Italo-Albanese www.albanianews.it/associazioni-albanesi/anias.
- CNA World Albania: CNA Parma www.cnaparma.it/2018/05/10/cna-world-albania/.
- CNA World Albania: CNA Toscana Centro www.cnatoscanacentro.it/cna-world-albania/.

CHAPTER XIII - ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM: TRENDS AND MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

13.1. ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN FRANCE

13.1.1. ALBANIANS IN FRANCE

As already mentioned in the first part of this report, the recent and largest history and chronology of Albanian migration in Europe dates at the beginning of the 1990s and its dynamics developed rapidly during the past two/three decades with a presence grouped in Greece, Italy and slightly in the United Kingdom. The Albanian flows to France during the 1990s (secondary to those towards Italy and Greece) begin with the end of the communist era, therefore migrants happen to more likely political refugees. France had been traditionally chosen especially by intellectuals and high professionals, also for its open policy to welcome foreign intelligentsia asking for asylum.

Between the First and Second World War, it is estimated that 1,200/1,500 Albanians lived in France; four categories of residents could be identified, especially focusing on those in the capital area (Wilmart, 2010): the first category was made of diplomats and noble persons, a stable but very little group; the second, of political refugees and asylum seekers; the third category was made of students, representing approximately the 20 per cent of the Paris-Albanian population; they were mainly coming from the south of Albania thanks to government grants (in need to train medical doctors or engineers) and the recruiting of the French School in Korça. Finally, the majority of the population was composed by migrant workers, working as blue collar workers in the local industries or agriculture. This population described as mobile and temporary, largely came back with the Italian occupation of Albania (1939). The subsequent communist regime impeded out-migration for long.

The presence of Albanians in France today is small in absolute terms, according to the Pew Research Centre (2017)[240] the number of Albanians in France is less than 10,000 persons. Nevertheless, we can report recent growing trends that confirm a contemporary wave outmigration from Albania[241].

Very limited data is available on Eurostat regarding Albanian population in France,[242] while OECD International Migration Database offers quite detailed information for the period 1995 – 2017 (Table 12.1.1.1.). The table shows a very slow increasing in the inflows of foreign population from Albania between 1995 and 2012; while, from 2013 onwards, the number grows significantly, even if still limited in absolute terms. Similarly, also flows of asylum seekers from Albania are limited between 1997 and 2011, while they grow significantly (more than the growth of Albanian population) from 2012 onwards. Data on the stock of foreign population by country of birth and nationality are available up to 2014, when Albanians were 13,335 and 10,598 respectively.

240 www.pewglobal.org/2018/02/28/global-migrant-stocks/?country=FR&date=2017.
241 *Sources*: information provided by key informants and qualitative interviews undertaken.
242 It shall be noted that, based on 2004 data, the share of Albanian Phds, with doctoral were pursued after 1990 – in France (almost 20%) exceeds the same presence in all other destination countries (Germenji and Gedeshi 2008).

Tab. 13.1.1.1.: Albanians in France, according to the Dataset: OECD International Migration Database

Country of birth/nationality	Albania			
Gender	Total			
Variable	Inflows of foreign population by nationality	Inflows of asylum seekers by nationality	Stock of foreign-born population by country of birth	Stock of foreign population by nationality
1995	87	..	..	..
1996	95	..	..	..
1997	94	361	..	..
1998	155	239	..	..
1999	179	290	..	..
2000	226	429	..	..
2001	244	472	..	..
2002	251	435	..	..
2003	334	571	..	..
2004	419	595	..	..
2005	527	471	..	..
2006	474	306	..	..
2007	370	198	..	..
2008	358	334	6,005	4,721
2009	318	536	6,368	4,986
2010	303	479	6,906	5,236
2011	404	477	7,926	6,064
2012	397	2,647	9,535	7,416
2013	502	5,016	11,152	8,873
2014	768	2,843	13,335	10,598
2015	1,128	3,228	..	..
2016	1,384	5,769	..	..
2017	..	..	..	..

Source: Authors' Elaboration on OECD International Migration Database (online: stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=MIG#).

In 2017, the highest number of applications of asylum seekers (7.630) in France was from Albania (not including unaccompanied minors). The demands increased from 2016 (+ 135%), but dropped down in the first months 2018 (-36% compared to same period 2017). In 2017, the French Minister of Interior met his Albanian counterpart, Mr. Fatmir Xhafaj, to sign a document to fight illegal migration and stop illegal immigrant flows.

Tab. 13.1.1.2.: First five countries of origin of asylum seekers in France, 2018

Main requests (not including unaccompanied minors)	2016 position	2017 requests	Evolution 2017/2016
Albania	4th	7,630	+65.8%
Afghanistan	2nd	5,987	+6.0%
Haiti	3rd	4,934	+0.1%
Sudan	1st	4,486	-23.9%
Guinea	7th	3,780	+61.8%

Source : Ofpra (Office Français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides).

The reasons for this contemporary flow are to be found in the poor economic conditions in Albania, especially in rural areas, and the high unemployment rates (for young people is 33% in 2017, according to the World Bank).

13.1.2. THE HOMETOWN AND ETHNIC ORGANIZATIONS OF ALBANIANS IN FRANCE

Groups and associations of Albanians in France date back since 1920s/1930s (Wilmart, 2010). Apparently, the internal political divisions did not help workers and intellectuals to positively merge into the group Illiria (Paris, 1927). A religious orthodox group, Le Coeur Albania, shortly appeared in 1928 but was denounced by laic intellectuals. Due to the Italian occupation of Albania (1939), more reciprocal collaboration and sense of oneness raised among the diverse community of Albanians in Paris to sustain the homeland: an association of students, informal groups of workers, the Fédération des Albanais de France called up. These associations disappeared when most Albanians returned to Albania to support the resistance movement.

A screening on the web has allowed us to identify the following Albanian associations in France:

- Patrimoine sans Frontières (PSF)
- INALCO ALUMNI: Association des anciens élèves et amis des Langues orientales (AAEALO)
- Maison d'Europe et d'Orient: centre culturel pour l'Europe de l'Est et l'Asie centrale
- Association franco-albanaise ARGJIRO
- Les Albanais de France
- Le Courrier des Balkans, association Loi 1901
- Association Albanaise « Iliria » Lyon
- Association Renaissance Albanaise
- Association des amitiés franco-albanaises
- Association culturelle albanaise kerÇova-paris
- Les 4 Couleurs
- Association fraternite franco-albanaise jeanne d'arc rozafat
- Association Albania
- Association Albania Shoqata Albania

Moreover, the following Facebook pages have been identified:

- Les Albanais de France, Belgique et Suisse.
- Maison de l'Albanie de France

Other potentially interesting Facebook page includes wider diaspora groups, such as the following:

- Albanian Diaspora
- Albanian Diaspora: albanianeducation
- Albania Diaspora Network

13.1.3. ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Since 2012, a Chamber of Commerce France Albanie was established, based in Tirana. The chamber countries on 80 members (French companies interested in the Albanian market) and representing more than 6,000 employees. It offers services and possibilities to organize business studies and partnerships between the two countries (www.ccifa.al/fr.html).

13.2. ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN BELGIUM

13.2.1. ALBANIANS IN BELGIUM

First Albanians in Belgium ("Albelges") are reported since 1956 as political refugees, that left their country between 1945-48,[243] arriving mainly from a camp in Croatia and settled predominantly in the Belgium Region of Wallonie, Province of Namur, Andenne.[244]

According to the Dossier Documentaire (1956–2006), 18 per cent of Albanians in Belgium live in Wallonie where the first migrants/refugees settled and lived maintaining habits and traditions. They came from the North of the country, with good levels of education and worked in Belgium mainly in the construction sector.

In the 1960s/1970s/1980s more Albanians arrived for economic reasons, first from Turkey and later also from former Yugoslavia. The arrivals of Albanians in Belgium in the 1960s are mainly constituted of Albanians from Kosovo[4], that declared themselves to be Turkish, based on an existing agreement between Yugoslavia and Turkey that allowed Turkish people living in Yugoslavia to migrate. In the second half of the 1960s most of the Albanians arriving in Belgium were from former Yugoslavia (North Macedonia, Kosovo[4] and Montenegro). In the 1970s and 1980s most of the Albanian arrivals were from Kosovo[4] and North Macedonia.

During the 1990s migrants were coming from Albania for political reasons, as a reaction to the end of the communist regime. Young Albanians (from Albania and Kosovo[4]) settled mainly in Wallonie and in Brussels.

Albanians in Belgium today work mainly in the construction sector and Hospitality/food and beverage sector. Although, when the level of education is higher (university), it is likely possible to shade away from low skilled occupations.

In terms of data, it is hard to specifically state the overall number of Albanians in Belgium as this shall include first refugees (that were recorded as Yugoslavian), all ethnic Albanians (from today Kosovo[4], Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia) and Turks, not to say recent arrivals from Albania. Moreover, many Albanians during the years acquired Belgium citizenship. In all, ethnic Albanians (descents) are commonly considered to be around 50,000/60,000. If we consider more strictly people of Albanian nationality, according to the Pew Research Centre (2017)[245] the number of Albanians in Belgium is less than 10,000 persons. According to Eurostat (Tab. 12.2.1.1.), Albanians in Belgium in 2018 were 11,019, with a balanced distribution among men and women. The number of Albanians in Belgium has been growing slowly but constantly since 2008.[246]

243 From the 1950s onwards the borders were closed, and escaping Albania became difficult.

244 In 1998, according to the «Centre culturel albanais» (C.C.A.) of Namur, the overall Albanian population was formed by 500 persons; in 2002, there were 500 Albanian families (each including 3-4 kids). In Namur the Albanian community was considered to be 1.500/2.000 persons in 2002. From 2002, three main Albanian associations in Namur decided to send collective remittances to their community back in Albania for the Muslim sacrifice celebration (Aïd al Adha). It had been reported that in 2005, 41.7 per cent of persons that required translation services at the cultural mediator service of the Municipality of Nemur (SéTIS - Service de traduction et d'interprétariat social de Namur) were Albanians.

245 www.pewglobal.org/2018/02/28/global-migrant-stocks/?country=BE&date=2017.

246 *Source*: key informants and interviews undertaken.

Table 13.2.1.1.: Albanians in Belgium, population on 1 January by gender (available data)

Year	Male	Female	Total
2001	594	515	**1,109**
2002	809	722	**1,531**
2003	--	--	**--**
2004	--	--	**--**
2005	--	--	**--**
2006	--	--	**--**
2007	--	--	**--**
2008	2,428	2,274	**4,702**
2009	2,736	2,599	**5,335**
2010	3,112	3,020	**6,132**
2011	3,964	3,610	**7,574**
2012	4,524	4,226	**8,750**
2013	4,459	4,276	**8,735**
2014	4,485	4,376	**8,861**
2015	4,711	4,669	**9,380**
2016	4,915	4,940	**9,855**
2017	5,236	5,220	**10,456**
2018	5,526	5,493	**11,019**

Source: Eurostat - Population on 1 January by sex and country of birth [Eurostat migr_pop3ctb available at: appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do].

Table 13.2.1.2. includes data available on the OECD International Migration Database. The table confirms the trends already highlighted by Eurostat data. Moreover, it shows the pikes in the number of asylum seekers from Albania to Belgium, at the end of the 1990s, beginning of 2000s and again in 2011.

Tab. 13.2.1.2.: Albanians in Belgium 1980-2017, according to the Dataset: OECD International Migration Database (available data)

Country of birth/nationality	Albania				
Gender	Total				
Variable	Inflows of foreign population by nationality	Outflows of foreign population by nationality	Inflows of asylum seekers by nationality	Stock of foreign-born population by country of birth	Stock of foreign population by nationality
1980	..	..	4	..	..
1981	..	..	2	..	..
1982	..	..	3	..	..
1983	..	..	1	..	..
1984	..	..	9	..	..
1985	..	..	5	..	..
1986	..	..	5	..	..
1987	..	..	2	..	..
1988	..	..	5	..	..
1989	..	..	9	..	..
1990	..	..	38	..	..
1991	..	..	203	..	..
1992	..	..	93	..	..
1993	..	..	210	..	..
1994	..	..	173	..	..
1995	..	..	228	..	..
1996	..	..	402	..	..
1997	..	..	1,007	..	..
1998	..	..	1,147	..	..
1999	..	..	1,010	..	..
2000	..	..	2,674	..	..
2001	..	..	763	..	..
2002	..	..	539	..	..
2003	..	..	340	..	..
2004	..	..	255	..	..
2005	..	..	167	..	..
2006	..	..	125	..	..
2007	..	..	193	..	..
2008	297	..	172	..	..
2009	351	..	256	..	..
2010	376	78	208	..	..
2011	395	..	1,152	..	4,567
2012	881	468	607	7,397	4,903
2013	830	672	472	9,470	6,750
2014	727	499	487	9,648	6,528
2015	878	565	599	9,380	6,028
2016	912	236	649	9,855	6,088
2017	..	..	..	10,563	6,297

Source: Authors' Elaboration on OECD International Migration Database (online: stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=MIG#).

A different attitude has been reported between migrants that arrived before and after the 1990s. Those migrants who arrived long before 1990s expressed a higher interest in keeping up their ethnic identity and relationship with the motherland, also thanks to endogamic marriages. Those who arrived after the 1990s appeared more interested in fully integrating within a European identity. This is explained by the stronger sense and significance that the European Union undertook in the 1990s and by the wish not to be associated with the bad reputation and stereotype of Albanian migrants.

The Albanian community in Belgium is mainly Muslim, one third is orthodox or catholic.

Recently the number of asylum seekers coming from Albania that asked for protection in Belgium increased, even though (as already mentioned) Albania was included by Belgium in the list of safe countries in 2012. In 2017, 882 requests for asylum were filed by Albanians in Belgium, making Albania the 5th country of origin for asylum seekers. However, only 5 per cent of these requests were granted.

13.2.2. ASSOCIATIONS IN BELGIUM

During the years 2000s different Albanian associations were established to keep up traditions and facilitate exchanges between Belgium and Albania. For instance, "Albabel" association was established by an Albanian who became a counselor at a local municipality, gathering Albanians born in Belgium and promoting knowledge of Albanian culture (language classes, concerts). The association "Faik Konitza" was established to promote cultural and political exchanges. In the first years of the 2000s, an Albanian Radio broadcast ("Jehona e Shqipes") and a magazine ("Albania") were launched for the Albanian community in Belgium. In 2003, a women association called "Dora Dorës" was established.

There is a large number of ethnic associations in Namur/Wallonie: Le Centre culturel Albanais de Namur; Association des femmes Albanaises à Huy; Association des femmes Albanaises à Namur - SHOTA (established in 2005); Association culturelle Albanaise « Abdullah Krashnica » in Namur; K.F. Liria; Ligue des Enseignants albanais; Ligue mondiale albanaise; Democratic League of Kosova.

The "Aigle Club" is a sport club established by Albanians from Kosovo[4]; FC Kosova Schaerbeek – a football club established in 1989 that entered the Belgian Football Union in 1991.

A screening of the web allowed for the identification of the following associations:

- Association "Dora-Dorës"
- Association culturelle Konitza asbl
- Association ALBABEL
- Konitza

and the following Facebook pages, mainly targeted at young Albanians:

- Albanian Events Belgium
- Albanian Party
- Alba-Party Be
- Albanian Top Events

CHAPTER XIV - ALBANIANS IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM: A PILOT SURVEY

GENERAL OVERVIEW

In this section we report on the information collected in relation to the characteristics of the Albanian diaspora in France and Belgium, and on the possible interest to contribute to the homeland's development. The questionnaire circulated among ethnic, cultural and student groups, employing different social media and exploiting transnational connections of the Italian questionnaire respondents, where possible. We consider this a pilot study as it did not imply any statistical or sectorial sampling and it was coordinated remotely, therefore without the intermediation of local enumerators.

The survey among Albanian residents in France and Belgium took place in 2019 (from June till November). In total, 43 anonymous questionnaires had been auto compiled and submitted. The survey collected 20 respondents from Belgium and 23 from France, more than half were aged between 30–40 years old. Most of them have a university education and are working, but there are also students among respondents.

Given the main scope of the survey directed to verify the conditions and interest of the diaspora towards the country of origin, we can say that among the group of respondents in France and Belgium we find elements of connection with the country of origin (in terms of keeping contacts with the family still there, keeping informed on what happens in Albania and maintaining moderately frequent visits every couple of years, etc.). Nevertheless, the explicit interest to possibly invest in Albania is not as strong as the majority of respondents intend to live and keep their current businesses in France or Belgium. Albania seems not to be contemplated neither in terms of possibility to expand the business in the present time, nor in a general perspective for the future (71% of respondents explained they never invested in Albania before, since they were not interested). Even if 39 per cent of respondents could consider a general interest to invest in Albania, the almost total number of them cannot refer to previous investment experiences or concrete future plans. Interest or availability to be engaged with a virtual/temporary assignment is not evident in a large part of respondents (76.7%).

The respondents to our survey in France and Belgium though (especially compared to the Italian survey results) indicate a higher saving behaviour and a tendency to remit a little more than the Italians, potentially implying the presence of more financial resources to be possibly mobilized. For sure, respondents can mobilize friends to visit Albania for tourism purposes (as they did) and some respondents consider their skills could be actually transferred and used in Albania. Finally, sometimes it seems that the idea of investment and contribution in Albania is in a way confused or mistaken with solidarity and philanthropy support.

14.1. SOCIOECONOMIC

14.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

The survey collected 20 respondents from Belgium and 23 from France: 44 per cent being women and 56 per cent men, and more than half aged between 30–40 years old. All respondents but two were born in Albania; 49 per cent were Albanian citizens and 18 per cent have double citizenship, while 32.60 per cent currently are only French or Belgian citizens.

Tab. 14.1.1.1.: Country of residency of the sample (distribution per gender)

Country of residence	Belgium		France		Total
	Absolute value	%	Absolute value	%	
Female	8.00	40.00	11.00	47.83	19.00
Male	12.00	60.00	12.00	52.17	24.00
Total	20.00	100.00	23.00	100.00	43.00

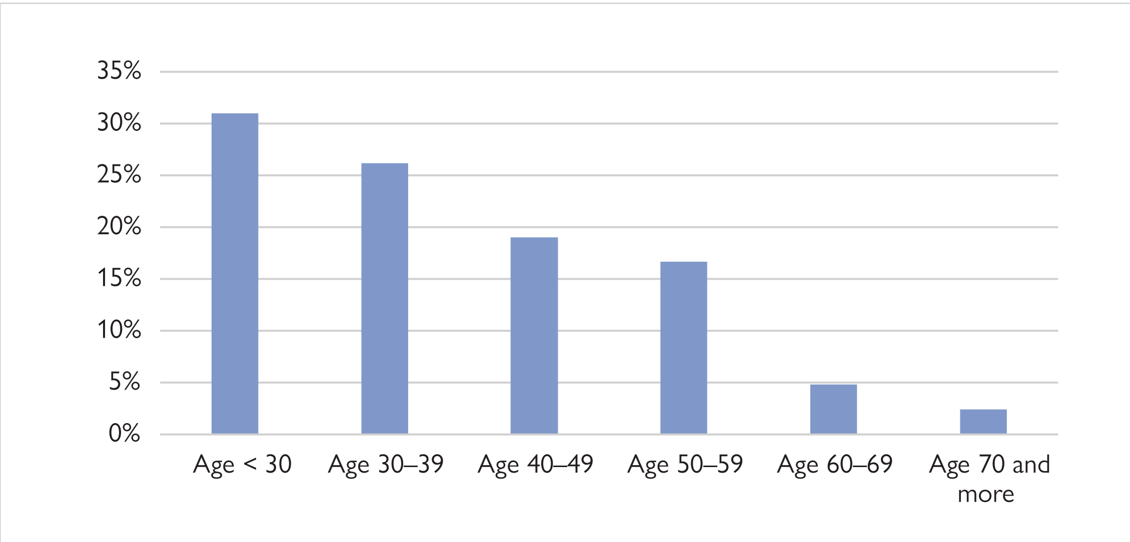
Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 0 - Country of residence.

Tab. 14.1.1.2.: Gender distribution of the sample (percentage distribution)

Gender distribution of the sample	Absolute value	%
Female	19.00	44.19
Male	24.00	55.81
Total	43.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 1 - Gender of the interviewee.

Fig. 14.1.1.3: Composition per age (percentage distribution)



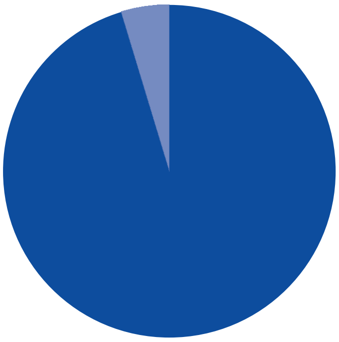
Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 2 - Age of the interviewee.

Tab. 14.1.1.4.: Country of birth (percentage distribution)

Country of birth	Absolute value	%
Albania	41	95.35
Belgium	2	4.65
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 3 - Country of birth.

Fig. 14.1.1.5., Country of birth (percentage distribution)



Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 4 - Citizenship at birth.

Tab. 14.1.1.6.: Current Citizenship (percentage distribution)

Current Citizenship	Absolute value	%
Albanian	21	48.84
Albanian, Belgian	5	11.63
Albanian, French	3	6.98
Belgian	8	18.60
French	6	13.95
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 4a – Current Citizenship.

14.1.2. MIGRATION PROCESS

On average, according to the survey, respondents emigrated in 2002 and 26 per cent without regular permits. The decision to emigrate to France and Belgium was mainly based on the following reasons: because it is easy to find work (26.92%) and due to the presence of family (23.08%) or friends (15.10%). The almost total number of respondents (90.70%) indicates an interest to continue living in France/Belgium.

Based on the qualitative contributions from respondents[247] in the questionnaire, life in France/Belgium has offered them a large set of positive results. Many of them quote larger freedom and a democratic environment. The large majority refers to improved economic conditions (better work opportunities, better salaries, better jobs) that confirms their decision to continue staying there. Also, an improved environment for themselves and their family is largely reported (better health-care system, better education system, more active social and cultural environment). From this point of view, the motivations at the basis

247 Elaboration on section "Perception on migration", question No.2 - Considering your overall experience as a member of the Albanian diaspora, please tell us: 2a. - Up to 3 positive aspects of your experience and 2b - Up to 3 negative aspects of your experience..

of the emigration process and the advantages perceived in the current country of residence with respect to Albania, are similar to those identified in Italy.

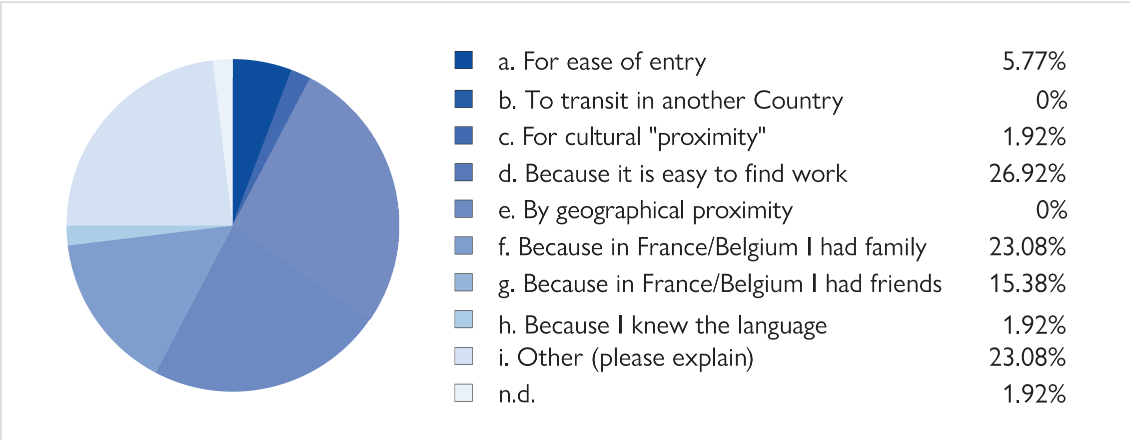
Among the negative aspects mentioned, the large majority refers to the nostalgia and distance from the family back in Albania, initial difficulties with the language and starting the process of integration.

Tab. 14.1.2.1.: Migratory condition of arrival in France/Belgium

Did you migrate regularly or irregularly?	Absolute value	%
Regular	31	72.09
Irregular	11	25.58
n.d.	1	2.33
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 7 - Did you migrate regularly or irregularly?

Fig. 14.1.2.2.: Reason for choosing France/Belgium as destination (up to two options)



Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 6 - Reasons for choosing France/Belgium? (up to two options).

Tab. 14.1.2.3.: Intention to remain in France/Belgium

Right now, do you think that you will remain in France/Belgium in the future?	Absolute value	%
Yes	39	90.70
No	3	6.98
n.d.	1	2.33
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 8 - Right now, do you think that you will remain in France/ Belgium in the future?

14.2. PROFESSIONAL

14.2.1. EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAITS

Considering the education level, 65 per cent has a high school/professional diploma while the rest has a higher level of education (with 30% including University graduates and PhD).

Considering the survey in France and Belgium didn't follow any sampling, we found a high variety of jobs and professions among the respondents. We can actually highlight the following categories: students, highly qualified professionals (doctors, teachers, lawyers, engineers), creative jobs (musicians, artisans) and low-skilled jobs (domestic workers, hairdressers, etc.).

Tab. 14.2.1.1.: Educational level/qualification (percentage distribution)

Educational level/qualification	Absolute value	%
Secondary education, regular	28.00	65.12
Tertiary education, Bachelor's degree	2.00	4.65
Tertiary education, Master's degree	12.00	27.91
Quaternary education (PhD or other)	1.00	2.33
Total	43.00	100.00

Source: Elabration on section "Professional", question No. 1 - Educational level/qualification (please select the highest completed).

Tab. 14.2.1.2.: Professional composition of the respondents (percentage distribution)

Profession of the respondents	Absolute value	%
Student	7	16.28
Coffee shop/Restaurants/Pastry shops/Bakeries	3	6.98
Workman	3	6.98
Building (construction, restoration, etc.)	2	4.65
Doctor	2	4.65
Manager (restaurant)	2	4.65
Professional (IT expert)	2	4.65
Services (Shop assistant)	2	4.65
Trade and Services	2	4.65
Writer/Journalist/Translator	2	4.65
Architect/Cultural heritage restorer/Designer	1	2.33
Business owner	1	2.33
Craftsmanship	1	2.33
Domestic workers	1	2.33
Entertainment and cultural events (Musician)	1	2.33
Lawyer/Accountant/Consultant, etc.	1	2.33
Manager (IT sector)	1	2.33
Manger (Commerce)	1	2.33
Nurse	1	2.33
Professional (Engineer)	1	2.33
Retired	1	2.33
Social and health - care services	1	2.33

Sport sector (Soccer player)	1	2.33
Teacher	1	2.33
Trade unionist	1	2.33
n.d.	1	2.33
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 4 - What is your current job? Please provide a short description of your professional profile.

When considering the possibility to evaluate everyone's skills to potentially contribute to Albanian development, we can highlight that on average, 60.47 per cent provided a negative response. This happened particularly for the French respondents (70%), while Belgians expressed a more positive interest (50%) in contributing.

Among those that think their skills can be useful to Albania (39.53%), everyone considers that their skills can be actually transferred and used in Albania (100% of the 39.53%).

Tab. 14.2.1.3.: Useful skills for the potential development of Albania

Do you think that your skills can be useful for the potential development of Albania?	Absolute value	%
Yes	17*	39.53
No	26**	60.47
Total	43	100.00

*of which 10 people come from Belgium and 7 people from France.

** of which 10 people come from Belgium and 16 from France.

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 3 - Do you think that your skills can be useful for the potential development of Albania?

Considering the most prevalent working condition that provides the largest part of the income of respondents, 53.49 per cent are employees with a permanent working contract (and this is particularly true in the case of Belgium, with 70 per cent of respondents in this condition), while 11.63 per cent are still studying (with more working students in France).

Tab. 14.2.1.4.: Working status (percentage distribution)

Working status	Absolute value	%
a. Unemployed (actively looking for a job)	0	0.00
b. Housewife	0	0.00
c. Student	5	11.63
d. Student-worker	2	4.65
e. Employed with a permanent contract, full time (35 hours or more)	23	53.49
f. Employed with a permanent contract, part time (less than 35 hours)	1	2.33
g. Employed with time limited contract (e.g., seasonal)	0	0.00
h. Occupied in layoffs	0	0.00
i. On the move	0	0.00
l. Employed in maternity leave/illness/injury	0	0.00
m. Occupied irregularly but fairly stable	2	4.65
n. Occupied irregularly in an unstable way/occasional jobs	0	0.00
or. Occupied "para-subordinate" work (collaborations, etc.)	0	0.00
p. Self employed regular/freelance worker *	0	0.00
q. Self employed worker not regular	1	2.33

r. Business owner*	4	9.30
s. Cooperative worker member	0	0.00
t. Another situation (e.g., retired, asylum seeker, etc.)	0	0.00
u. Other/Do not declare	5	11.63
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 5 - Please tell us your working situation - the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

Tab. 14.2.1.5.: Working status (percentage distribution per country of residence)

Working status (per country of residence)	Belgium		France	
	Absolute value	%	Absolute value	%
c. Student	2	10,00	3	13.04
d. Student-worker	0	0,00	2	8.70
e. Employed with permanent contract, full time	14	70,00	9	39.13
f. Employed with permanent contract, part-time	0	0,00	1	4.35
m. Occupied irregularly but fairly stable	1	5,00	1	4.35
m. Occupied irregularly but fairly stable	1	5,00	0	0.00
p. Self-employed regular / freelance worker *	2	10,00	2	8.70
u. Other/Do not declare	0	0,00	5	21.74
Total	20	100,00	23	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 5 - Please tell us your working situation - the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income).

14.2.2. BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP

While the 27:90 per cent of respondents stated that their business headquarter (including partners, customers, etc.) is in the residency country (France or Belgium), only one person stated to have business relationships with Albania.

Tab. 14.2.2.1.: Location of the business headquarters (percentage distribution)

France/Belgium as the centre of your business	Absolute value	%
Yes	12	27.90
n.d.	31	72.09
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 9 - Is the centre of your business interests France/Belgium? Namely are your main business partners, supply relationships, customers, etc. in France/Belgium?

Tab. 14.2.2.2.: Business relationships with Albania (percentage distribution)

Business relationships with Albania	Absolute value	%
Yes	1	2.33
No	12	27.91
Total (Yes and No)	*13*	*30.23*
n.d.	30	69.77
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Professional", question No. 10 - Do you do business/have business relationships with Albania? (e.g., important customers, suppliers, partners, participation in tenders and calls, etc.).

14.3. ECONOMIC

14.3.1. INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

The average size of household members is 2.6 people, although the highest number of respondents is single (which is clearly in line with the student occupation of a part of the group).

Considering the responses that provide information on the income level (also considering the students status), we can highlight that the majority of respondents in Belgium (76%) earn more than 41,000 euros. The income level in France in more widespread with 35 per cent of respondents indicating an income between EUR 11,000 and EUR 25,000, and the rest covering to other cohorts.

Tab. 14.3.1.1.: Household size (percentage distribution)

Size of the household	Absolute value	%
1	18	41.90
2	3	7.00
3	6	14.00
4	12	27.90
5	1	2.30
6	1	2.30
7	1	2.30
Total	**42**	**97.70**

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 1 - Household size: How many people comprise your household (interviewee included).

Tab. 14.3.1.2.: Individual average annual income per country of residence

Individual average annual income	Belgium		France	
	Absolute value	%	Absolute value	%
<10.000€	0	0.00	1	5.88
11.000-25.000	3	18.75	6	35.29
26.000-40.000	1	6.25	4	23.53
41.000-55.000	6	37.50	2	11.76
>56.000€	6	37.50	4	23.53
	16	**100.00**	**17**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 2 - Considering all different sources (income from work, annuities, assistance, etc.), what is the approximate average annual sum of the income of your entire household?

The majority of the income of respondents 93.90 per cent,[248] both considering France/Belgium and gender, stays in the country of residence. The percentage sent elsewhere is 6.08 per cent, which increases especially among men (8.81%) and for Belgian residents (7.11%). Considering that percentage sent abroad, 16 persons out of 43 declare that they send it to Albania but the amount sent in a large part had diminished (as shown in the next section).

248 Summing the money spent in the residence country (53,90%) and the money saved (40%).

14.3.2. REMITTANCE AND SAVING BEHAVIOUR

Tab. 14.3.2.1.: Percentage of household income employed in France/Belgium (either spent or saved) or sent elsewhere.

Money spent, saved and sent	Average	Belgium (%)	France (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)
Money spent in France/Belgium	53.89	53.16	54.67	50.94	56.14
Money saved in France/Belgium	40.03	39.74	40.33	46.56	35.05
Money sent elsewhere	6.08	7.11	5.00	2.50	8.81
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	101.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 2a - Considering the figure just mentioned (Question n. 2) as 100 per cent of your household income: how much do you spend in France/Belgium, how much do you save in France/ Belgium and how much do you save elsewhere?

Tab. 14.3.2.2.: Remittances sent to Albania

Do you send anything to Albania?	Absolute value	%
Yes	16	37.21
n.d.	27	62.79
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 2b - Of the previous percentage "sent elsewhere", do you send anything to Albania?

14.3.3. FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

Almost the total number of respondents (95.35%) never financially invested in Albania and neither are they planning to do so in the next 3 years (81.40%); on the other side, 13.95 per cent of respondents are planning to do so.

Tab. 14.3.3.1.: Financial investments made in Albania

Have you made any financial investments in Albania?	Absolute value	%
No	41	95.30
n.d.	2	4.70
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 3 - Have you made any financial investments (e.g., funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Albania?

Tab. 14.3.3.2.: Plans to invest financially in Albania

Do you plan to do this in Albania in the next three years?	Absolute value	%
Yes	6	13.95
No	35	81.40
Total (Yes and No)	41	95.35
n.d.	2	4.65
Total (Yes and No)	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Economic Considerations", question No. 3 - Do you plan to do this in Albania in the next 3 years?

14.4. IMPACT OF THE CRISIS AND PERCEPTION ON MIGRATION

The survey intended to verify if, during the last ten years and due to the economic crises, the life conditions of Albanians abroad changed in positive or negative terms. We investigated in particular social, working, legal and economic aspects. The evolution of their life conditions in the past 10 years is clearly also connected with the experience of migration.

14.4.1. PAST AND PRESENT: COMPARING LIFE CONDITIONS

The large majority of respondents (81%) is overall satisfied with the life in France and Belgium, only 1 person out of 43 is very unsatisfied.

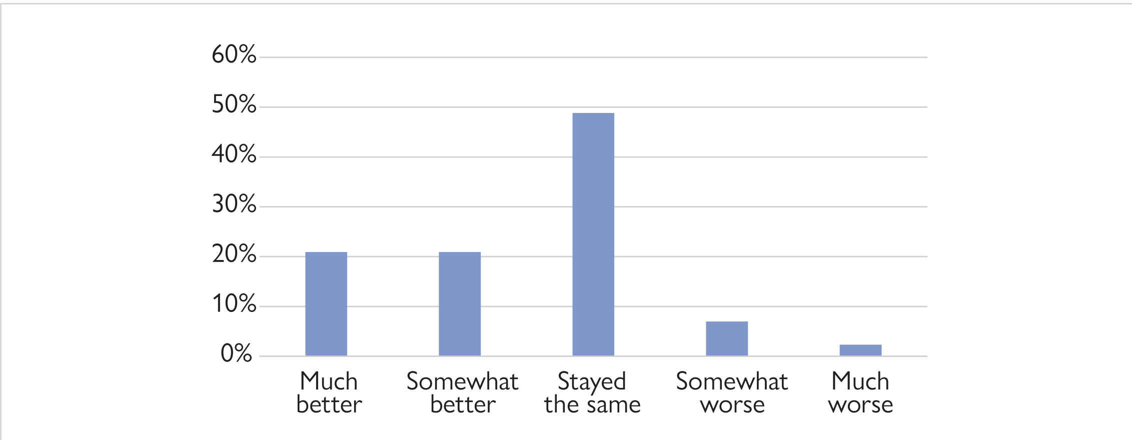
Tab. 14.4.1.1.: Life satisfaction in France/Belgium (percentage distribution)

Are you satisfied with your life in France/Belgium?	Absolute value	%
Very unsatisfied	1	2.33
Neutral	7	16.28
Satisfied	26	60.47
Very satisfied	9	20.93
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Perception on migration", question No. 1 - Are you satisfied with your life in France/Belgium?

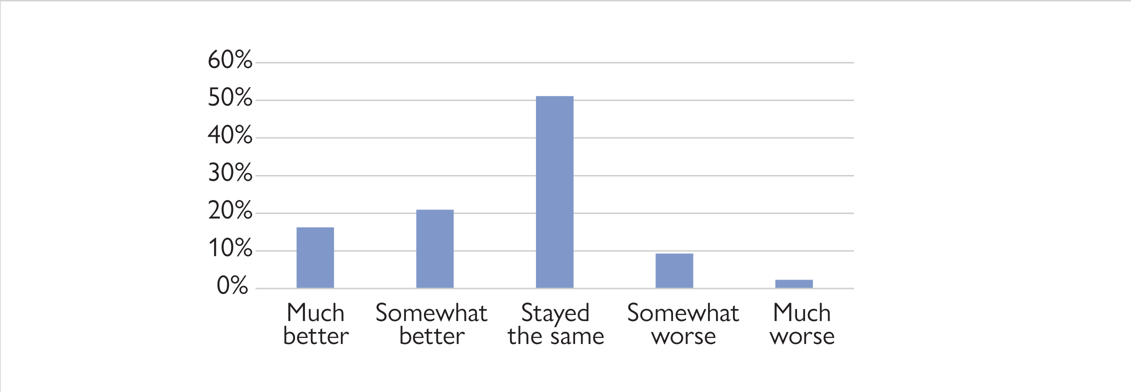
When considering the individual and household income, almost half of respondents stated that their income and working conditions were the same as ten years earlier, while for a larger part (41.80% for individual income; 37.20% for household income; 48.90% for working conditions) the economic conditions had improved. Those that saw their individual and household income and working conditions worsening are a minority (9.30% for individual income and 11.60% for household income; 7% for working conditions).

Fig. 14.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) today



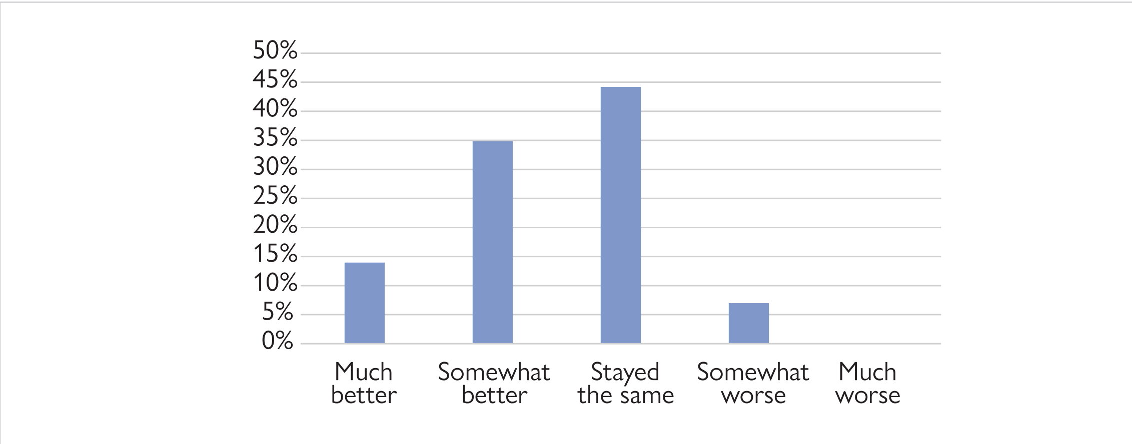
Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the crisis" No. 1 - TODAY, what is your economic situation in terms of INDIVIDUAL income?

Fig. 14.4.1.3.: Economic situation (household income) – today



Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the crisis" No. 1 - TODAY, what is your economic situation in terms of INDIVIDUAL income?

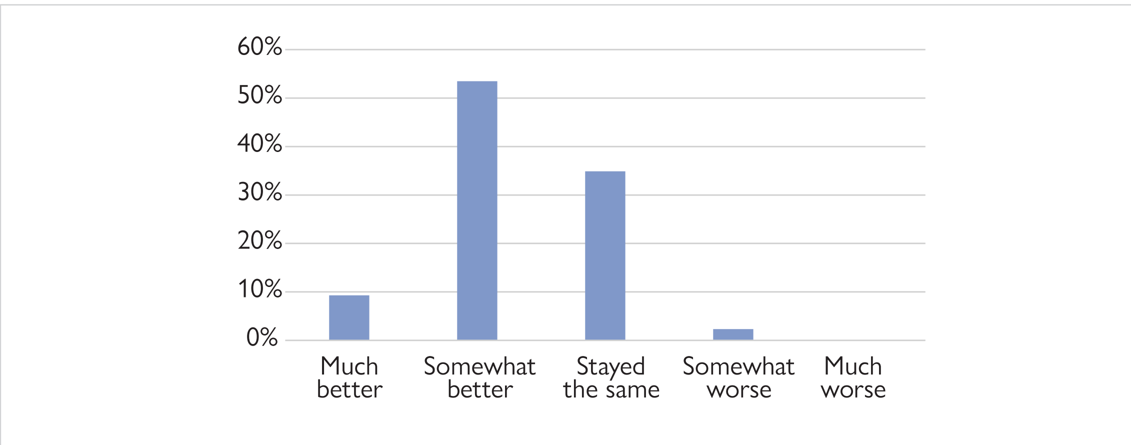
Fig. 14.4.1.4.: Working conditions today



Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the crisis" No. 3 - TODAY, what is your working condition?

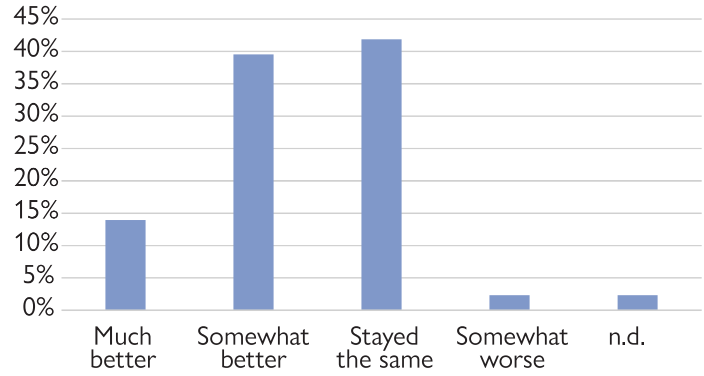
By evaluating the last ten years in terms of social relations, legal status, and accomplished integration, we can highlight a positive picture of respondents' life abroad. The majority consider integration improved (62.79%) if not the same (34.88%). Only one person considers it somewhat worsened in terms of social relationships or based on the legal/administrative status. The percentage of savings sent to Albania have overall diminished for the majority of the sample, as already mentioned in the previous section.

Fig. 14.4.1.5.: Social relationship today



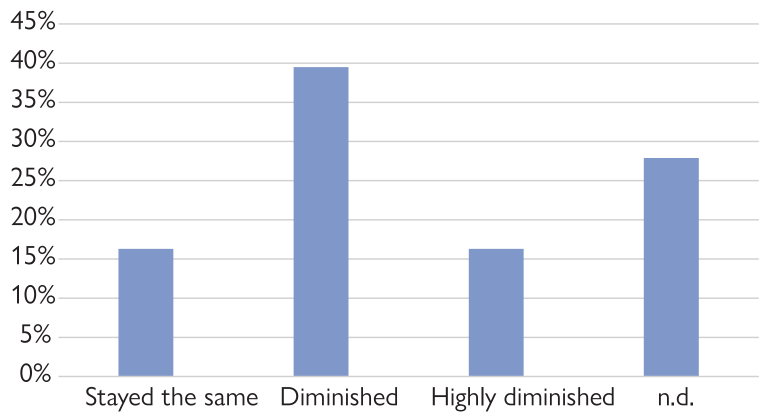
Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the crisis" No. 4 - TODAY, what are your social relationships like (local social relations, integration/discrimination, etc.)?

Fig. 14.4.1.6.: Legal/administrative status today



Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the crisis" No. 5 - TODAY, what is your legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit/citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.)?

Fig. 14.4.1.7.: Savings sent to Albania – today



Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the economic crisis", question No. 6 …the amount of savings that you send to Albania on an annual basis has…

14.5. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

This section includes information on the nature of the relationship of migrants with the country of origin and their closest connections. A large part of the investigation is dedicated to the investments respondents undertook in the past and their plans for the future, especially towards Albania – whether in their same sector of work/employment in Italy or in different ones. The general interest to contribute to Albanian's development is included in the survey.

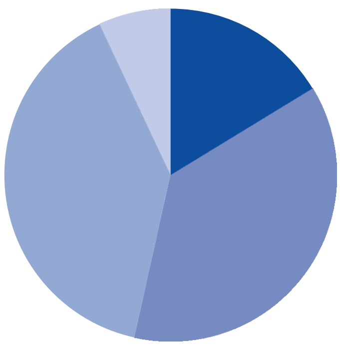
14.5.1. RELATIONSHIP WITH ALBANIA

The large majority of respondents (83.70%) consider it important[249] to be informed about what is happening in Albania. The Albanians in France and Belgium maintain strong relationships with relatives back in the country of origin: mother (around 22%), father (around 22%), siblings (around 27%), other relatives (around 11%) and other friends (around 14%).

Migrants tend to return to Albania every couple of years (34,90% once a year; 14% every two/three years; 39.50% every 3/5 years; only 4.70% goes back more than once a year).

Majority of respondents (83.70%) in both countries is not a member of any Albanian association or group in the country of residence, but half of the respondents would be interested to be enrolled in the diaspora register of migrants in the future. At the same time, the other half expresses no particular interest.

Fig. 14.5.1.1.: Interest to know what is happening in Albania



Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 2 - How interested are you in knowing about what is happening in Albania?

249 Summing responses as: of average, very important and absolutely essential.

Tab. 14.5.1.2.: Relationship with people in Albania

Relationship with people in Albania	Absolute value	%
Mother	21	22.34
Father	21	22.34
Siblings	25	26.60
Partner	2	2.13
Son(s)/Daughter(s)	2	2.13
Other relatives	10	10.64
Partners in business/work mates	0	0.00
Other	13	13.83
Total	94	100.00

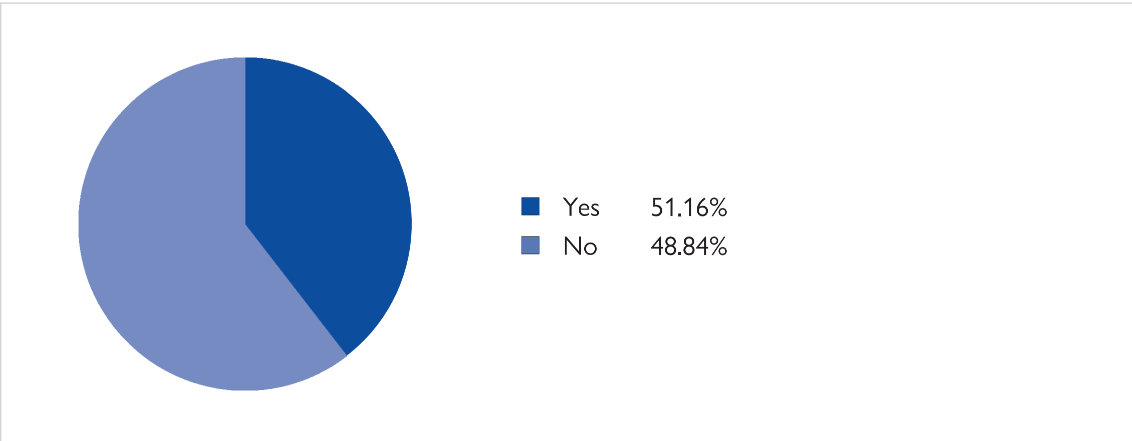
Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 1 - With which of the following people, if they are in Albania, do you still have a close relationship? (more than one answer allowed).

Tab. 14.5.1.3.: Frequency of visits to Albania

Frequency of visits to Albania	Absolute value	%
Frequently (more than once a year)	2	4.65
Often (every year)	15	34.88
Rarely (once every 5/10 years)	17	39.53
Sometimes (every 2/3 years)	6	13.95
Never	3	6.98
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 5 - How often do you go back to Albania?

Fig. 14.5.1.4.: Interest for a "register of migrants"



Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 3 - In 2016, Albania approved legislation about the creation of a "register for migrants ". Once this register is created, do you think you will register?

Tab. 14.5.1.5.: Participation in formal/informal association

Participation in any formal/informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania	Absolute value	%
Yes	7	16.28
No	36	83.72
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "relationship with the country of origin", question No. 4 - Did you enroll in any list/register or are you in touch with any formal or informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania?

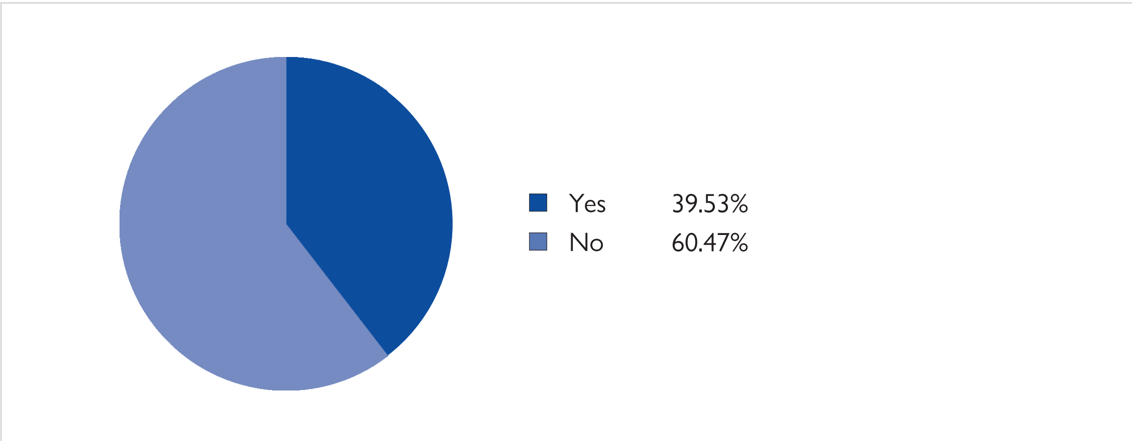
14.5.2. ROLE OF DIASPORA MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALBANIA

The diaspora could be able not only to mobilize money but also other resources. Albanians abroad can in fact also indirectly contribute to Albania when suggesting or recommending friends to visit the country. A part (39.50%) of respondents declared they recommended friends and acquaintances that visited Albania for tourism[250] purposes, in some cases travelling together in some others partly separated.

When asked about the interest to generally contribute to Albania, almost half of respondents positively confirmed it (48.80%) while the other half expressed no interest in the issue (51.20%). When asked about their general perspectives for the future, respondents mainly preferred to stay in their residence country (France/Belgium) and keep there the headquarters of their businesses there (74.40%), without a wide preference to move their business to Albania.

By considering the limited qualitative responses,[251] most persons actually declared they had no ideas about how they would contribute to Albania or at least they did not have any ideas at this stage of their life. Some others mentioned, for example, the cultural/education/humanitarian sector, opening a restaurant, helping young people in Albania (transferring competences), computer technology, health.

Fig. 14.5.2.1.: Visits to Albania from friends/acquaintances



Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 6 - Have your friends/acquaintances in France/ Belgium ever visited Albania due to your recommendations or suggestions?

Above: Yes – if yes, for tourism, business, other

	Absolute value	%
Tourism	16.00	37.21
Other aspects	1.00	2.33
Total (respondents)	**17**	**39.53**
n.d.	26	60.47
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 6a - If yes, for tourism, business, or other reasons?

250 *Source*: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", if the answer to question No. 7 - Have your friends/acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion?
Then question No. 7a - If yes, for tourism, business, or other reasons?

251 *Source*: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 8a - If yes, how? What would you do/like to do? (in relation to the motivation to the previous question "Would you like to contribute to the future of Tab. 13.5.2.4.

Tab. 14.5.2.2.: Friends/acquaintances mode of traveling to Albania

Did they travel with you or alone?	Absolute value	%
With me	4.00	9.30
Both with me and alone	6.00	14.00
Alone	7.00	16.30
Total (respondents)	**17.00**	**39.50**
n.d.	26.00	60.50
Total	43.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 6b - Did they travel with you, alone or both?

Tab. 14.5.2.3.: Interest to contribute to Albania

Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?	Absolute value	%
Yes	21	48.84
No, not interested	22	51.16
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 8 - Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?

Tab. 14.5.2.4.: Plans for the future

Plans for the future	Absolute value	%
Move back permanently to Albania	2	4.65
Go back to Albania permanently but keeping my business headquarters in France/Belgium	4	9.30
Stay in France/Belgium but increasing my contacts and business relations with Albania	2	4.65
Stay in France/Belgium but move my business headquarters to Albania	2	4.65
Stay in France/Belgium and keep my business headquarters here	32	74.42
Stay in France/Belgium Italy and decrease my contacts and business relations with Albania	1	2.33
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 7 - Which of the following statements is closer to your "plans for the future"?

14.5.3. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENTS TOWARDS ALBANIA

When asked about the general interest to invest in Albania, 60 per cent of respondents stated that they were not interested with 39.50 per cent of them actually being interested. Nevertheless, the large majority of respondents (95.30%) never tried to expand his/her business to Albania before, only two people stated that they did so. Moreover, 93 per cent of respondents did not personally know of any Albanian from the diaspora who could be potentially willing and interested in investing in Albania.

Tab. 14.5.3.1.: Interest to invest in Albania

Interest to invest in Albania	Absolute value	%
Yes	2	4.65
No	26	60.50
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 10 - More in general, would you invest in Albania?

Tab. 14.5.3.2.: Attempt to expand or move the professional activity in Albania

Attempt to expand or move the professional activity in Albania	Absolute value	%
Yes	2	4.65
No	41	60.50
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 9 - Have you ever made any attempt to expand/ move your professional activity in Albania?

Tab. 14.5.3.3.: Success in moving the activity to Albania

Was your move/activity successful?	Absolute value	%
Yes	1	50.00
No	1	50.00
Total (respondents)	2	100.00
n.d.	41	
Total	43	

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 9b - If Yes to 10: Was your "move/activity" successful?

Tab. 14.5.3.4.: Other potential investors known

Do you know people who are potentially willing and interested in investing in Albania?	Absolute value	%
Yes	3	6.98
No	40	60.50
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 11 - Do you know people not in Albania who are potentially willing and interested in investing in Albania?

Among that 39.50 per cent that expressed a possible interest to invest in Albania, the qualitative explanations and indications[252] to what exactly they could do were quite vague, with many not being able to provide clear examples. In fact, responses referred to generally improve the living conditions of Albanians, dedicated to culture or education.

Those few that had some ideas talked about opening a restaurant, investing in tourism opportunities, opening an enterprise for house/wall paintings, recycling. In this case, it would seem that the investment in Albania is in a way misconstrued with solidarity and philanthropy.

252 *Source:* Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question n 10a If yes, how? What would you do/like to do? (in relation to the previous question "More in general, would you invest in Albania?").

Among the negative aspects faced due to their experience in Albania, the two respondents mentioned the following:

- The lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.);
- Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy;
- Lack of management capacities;
- Lack of appropriate commercial partners.

Among the main drivers that would influence the possibility to invest in Albania, there is no single item that collects a strong consensus, but respondents mentioned different aspects, such as:

- Tax incentives;
- Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development);
- Provide legal and administrative support to investors;
- Low-interest loans to encourage business, export, etc., and other measures to favor access to credit;
- Creation of Free Trade Zones, and/or agreement with other country partners.

Barriers and obstacles exist that impede investments (including, for instance, the high costs of bureaucracy, the lack of management capacities or the inadequate infrastructure). Nevertheless, the reason that finds the largest consensus of respondents (71%) is that people stated that they are not interested in investing in Albania.

When asked if specifically interested in a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania, the majority of respondents stated that they were not interested (76.70%), for both groups in France and in Belgium.

Tab. 14.5.3.5.: Main negative aspects from the experience of investing in Albania

Main negative aspects	Absolute value	%
Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.).	1	25.00
Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	1	25.00
Lack of management capacities	1	25.00
Lack of appropriate commercial partners	1	25.00
Total (answers)	4	100.00
n.d.	41	

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 9c - If Yes to 10: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)?

Tab. 14.5.3.6.: Incentive to invest in Albania

Main drivers for investments in Albania	Absolute value	%
a. Tax incentives	4	11.43
b. Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g., grants for research and development)	5	14.29
c. Provide legal and administrative support to investors	3	8.57
d. Low-interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit	4	11.43
e. Creation of Free Trade Zones, and/or agreement with other Country partners	4	11.43
f. Substantial revision of the legislation (e.g., labour law)	1	2.86
g. Reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy	3	8.57
h. Public investment in training and education	3	8.57
i. Provision of services (e.g., sectorial specific services)	3	8.57
j. Other	5	14.29
Total (answers)	35	100.00
n.d.	26	

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 10a - If Yes to 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)? (please select the 3 main).

Tab. 14.5.3.7.: Main barriers/problems/limitations to invest in Albania

Main barriers/problems/limitations	Absolute value	%
a. Simply not interested to invest	22	70.97
b. Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations)	0	0.00
c. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency, and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures)	1	3.23
d. Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.).	1	3.23
f. Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy	1	3.23
i. Lack of management capacities	1	3.23
o. Protection of intellectual property	1	3.23
q. Inadequate transport and other infrastructures	1	3.23
r. Other (please specify)	3	9.68
Total	31	100.00
n.d.	17	

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 10c - If No to 11: What are the main barriers/problems/limitations?

Tab. 14.5.3.8.: Interest for temporary/virtual assignment

Consideration for a temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania	Absolute value	%
Yes	8	18.60
No	33	76.74
Total (respondents)	41	95.35
n.d.	2	4.65
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 13 - Would you consider engaging through temporary/virtual assignments for the development of Albania?

Tab. 14.5.3.9.: Interest for temporary/virtual assignment (composition per country of residence)

	Belgique		France	
	Absolute value	%	Absolute value	%
Yes	4	20.00	4	19.05
No	16	80.00	17	80.95
	20	**100.00**	**21**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 13 - Would you consider engaging through temporary/virtual assignments for the development of Albania?

APPENDIX

14.1. SOCIOECONOMIC

14.1.1. AGE AND BIRTHPLACE

Tab. 14.1.1.3.: Composition per age (percentage distribution)

Composition per age	Absolute value	%
Age < 30	13	31.00
Age 30–39	11	26.20
Age 40–49	8	19.00
Age 50–59	7	16.70
Age 60–69	2	4.80
Age 70 and more	1	2.40
Total	42	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 2 - Age of the interviewee.

Tab. 14.1.1.5.: Citizenship at birth (percentage distribution)

Citizenship at birth	Absolute value	%
Albanian	43	100.00
Total	**43**	**100.00**

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 4 - Citizenship at birth.

14.1.2. MIGRATION PROCESS

Tab. 14.1.2.2.: Reasons for choosing France/Belgium as destination (up to two options)

Reasons for choosing France/Belgium as destination (up to two options)	Absolute value	%
a. For ease of entry	3	5.77
b. To transit into another Country	0	0.00
c. For cultural "proximity"	1	1.92
d. Because it is easy to find work	14	26.92
e. By geographical proximity	0	0.00
f. Because in France/Belgium I had family	12	23.08
g. Because in France/Belgium I had friends	8	15.38
h. Because I knew the language	1	1.92
i. Other (please explain)	12	23.08
n.d.	1	1.92
Total	52*	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Intro, demographical and social", question No. 6 - Reasons for choosing France/Belgium? (up to two options).

* This number exceeds the total of 43 respondents because more than one answer was allowed.

14.4. IMPACT OF THE CRISIS AND PERCEPTION OF MIGRATION

14.4.1. PAST AND PRESENT: COMPARING LIFE CONDITIONS

Tab. 14.4.1.2.: Economic situation (individual income) today

Economic situation (individual income) - today	Absolute value	%
Much better	9	20.93
Somewhat better	9	20.93
Stayed the same	21	48.84
Somewhat worse	3	6.98
Much worse	1	2.33
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the crisis" No. 1 - TODAY, what is your economic situation in terms of INDIVIDUAL income?

Tab. 14.4.1.3.: Economic situation (household income) today

Economic situation (household income) - today	Absolute value	%
Much better	7	16.28
Somewhat better	9	20.93
Stayed the same	22	51.16
Somewhat worse	4	9.30
Much worse	1	2.33
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the crisis" No. 2 - TODAY, what is your economic situation in terms of HOUSEHOLD income?

Tab. 14.4.1.4.: Working conditions today

Working conditions - today	Absolute value	%
Much better	6	13.95
Somewhat better	15	34.88
Stayed the same	19	44.19
Somewhat worse	3	6.98
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the crisis" No. 3 - TODAY, what are your working conditions like?

Tab. 14.4.1.5.: Social relationships today

Social relationships - today	Absolute value	%
Much better	4.00	9.30
Somewhat better	23.00	53.49
Stayed the same	15.00	34.88
Somewhat worse	1.00	2.33
Total	43.00	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the crisis" No. 4 - TODAY, what are your social relationships like (local social relations, integration/discrimination, etc.)?

Tab. 14.4.1.6.: Legal/administrative status today

Legal/administrative status - today	Absolute value	%
Much better	6	13.95
Somewhat better	17	39.53
Stayed the same	18	41.86
Somewhat worse	1	2.33
Total (respondents)	**42**	**97.67**
n.d.	1	2.33
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the crisis" No. 5 - TODAY, what is your legal/administrative situation (e.g., legal status of residence permit/citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.)?

Tab. 14.4.1.7.: Savings sent to Albania today

Savings sent to Albania - today	Absolute value	%	% (excluding n.d.)
Stayed the same	7	16.30	22.60
Diminished	17	39.50	54.80
Highly diminished (more than half)	7	16.30	22.60
Total	**31**	**72.10**	**100.00**
n.d.	12	27.90	
Total	43	100.00	

Source: Elaboration on section "Impact of the economic crisis", question No. 6 …the amount of savings that you send to Albania on an annual basis.

14.5. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

14.5.1. RELATIONSHIP WITH ALBANIA

Tab. 14.5.1.1.: Interest to know what is happening in Albania

Interest to know what is happening in Albania	Absolute value	%
Of little importance	7	16.28
Of average importance	16	37.21
Very important	17	39.53
Absolutely essential	3	6.98
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 2 - How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania?

Tab. 14.5.1.4.: Interest for a "register of migrants "

Interest for a "register of migrants "	Absolute value	%
Yes	22	51.16
No	21	48.84
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 3 - In 2016, Albania approved legislation about the creation of a "register for migrants ". Once this register is established, do you think you will register?

14.5.2. ROLE OF DIASPORA MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALBANIA

Tab. 14.5.2.1.: Visits to Albania from friends/acquaintances

Friends/acquaintances in Italy who visited Albania due to recommendations	Absolute value	%
Yes	17	39.53
No	26	60.47
Total	43	100.00

Source: Elaboration on section "Relationship with the country of origin", question No. 6 - Have your friends/acquaintances in France/ Belgium ever visited Albania due to your recommendations or suggestions?

CHAPTER XV - CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1. PROFILING THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA IN ITALY, FRANCE AND BELGIUM

In the following section we summarize some cross-aspects and key elements that emerged from the different components of the research, and that allow for the profiling of the Albanian diaspora in Italy, France and Belgium, as well as some general conditions for possible investments.

15.1.1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DIASPORA

- The respondents of the survey (631 persons) belonging to the Albanian diaspora according to the specific sections and regions in Italy happened to be mainly highly skilled professionals, mostly with a stable economic and professional status. The presence of a significant number of highly skilled respondents, not in line with the general profile of Albanians in Italy as emerged from the background analysis, is probably influenced by the sectors chosen, in particular cultural and social enterprises sectors, which usually imply a higher level of education.
- In France and Belgium, the small sample (43 persons) is of a different composition, with highly and medium skilled workers and students.
- In terms of integration, the survey shows two types of diaspora members. The first group (67.67% of respondents) with well-integrated migrants, with a strong feeling of belonging to the destination country. The second (31.86%) group of respondents are people not being so satisfied with their lives in Italy today and therefore more likely to consider moving abroad (not necessarily to Albania, but also to other countries).
- Generally speaking, and in contrast with the general trend emerging from the background analysis, respondents from our sample seemed not to have suffered much as a result of the economic crisis of the last 10 years; or, the negative effects of the crisis were compensated by a growing stability and integration in their new country of residence. Indeed, the majority of respondents think that their situation today is better than ten years ago, in terms of income, working status, social life, capacity of savings.
- In general terms, in Italy, there is a strong Albanian entrepreneurship (31,773 enterprises in 2018), constantly growing in the last decades. The enterprises generally present similar characteristics throughout the national territory, with micro and small-size enterprises and a high level of specialization (e.g. 70% are in the construction sector).
- Regarding the financial inclusion, the relationship between Albanian migrants and banks has significantly improved over the last few years. However, there is still room for further improvement, specifically in relation to the strong gender fragility that still exists. The low number of bank accounts registered in Albania seems mostly due to the difficulty in accessing or limited revenues.
- According to the data present in the national databases and those collected during the survey, the Albanian diaspora presents a strong gender disparity within the labour market, with a far lower female employment rate and a substantial variation in the average female income compared to the male

counterparts. Also, at the level of banking and entrepreneurship, there is a notable gender fragility, with a positive growth trend in numbers in the recent years.

- For the Albanian diaspora in Italy, the physical and cultural proximity to Albania is an added value to both maintain strong transnational relationships, but also considering a possible business/investment.
- According to the literature and qualitative interviews, the Albanian diaspora – in particular in Italy and France - is not a homogeneous community, and is somewhat smaller and composed of different groups or just individuals. Within this heterogeneity, there are persons very much interested and involved with the country of origin as well as persons who are not so much involved.
- However, few respondents seemed to be aware of the role that the diaspora could play for the development of Albania. Awareness-raising initiatives could be a useful tool in this regard.
- Life in Italy/France/Belgium is compared to Albania, the first being generally preferred for the quality of life, economic conditions and social services. These accomplished conditions represent an obstacle when considering the possibility to move to Albania (necessary to manage a business or an investment).
- At the same time, the large majority of respondents in all the considered sectors and regions considered it important to know what was happening in Albania, getting informed mainly through the internet and the social media. Family and personal linkages with Albania seemed to be quite strong.
- Also, the majority of respondents in all the considered sectors and regions stated that they were interested in contributing to the future of Albania, eventually also through virtual assignments. This percentage is much stronger in Italy than in France/Belgium.
- More than 80 per cent of the sample stated that they were not registered in any in/formal Albanian associations abroad, confirming the idea that associations are not particularly widespread or strong in that specific community.

15.1.2. CONDITIONS FOR POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS

The longer migrants spent their time and built their life out of Albania, the more they paved for a stable existence and perspective in Italy/France/Belgium (made by education, work, house, children, schools, family, friends, mortgages, investments). This generally affected the possibility to have either the time, occasions, interests, or monetary resources to invest in Albania.

Considering the role that the diaspora could play in the economic development of Albania, the direct investments of the diaspora are mainly recognized in entrepreneurial activities that would largely require the migrants' ownership, management and presence in Albania. This could be overall feasible in terms of geographical closeness between Italy and Albania and accessible rapid and easy connections. However, very rarely our participants mentioned the likelihood condition that either run a business in Albania could be granted with an intermittent mobility and that they could be interested/available to leave Italy. None of them mentioned other ideas or forms of investments excluding the personal business/entrepreneurial activity directly run in Albania.

Nevertheless, many respondents in Italy expressed an interest in contributing to the future of Albania, and – in more limited but still significant cases – an interest in being involved in virtual assignment for the development of their country of origin (on the basis of clear and remunerated conditions). In many cases, in Italy as well as in France and Belgium, this interest in Albania seemed to be translated more easily in an availability to take part to solidarity/philanthropy initiatives.

The theme of the return – necessary and functional to forms of investment (via entrepreneurship) in Albania – is described as a long-term perspective (often mentioned in relationship with the future retirement) than an option easy at hand, but still represents something that is dreamed about.

Not many respondents are in fact interested in going back to Albania; however, there are exceptions. In particular, two groups of people expressed this interest: older people, who would like to go back to Albania for their retirement; and some younger people who would like to go back to Albania (or go abroad) for opportunities that cannot find in Italy.

The majority of respondents see their future in Italy and want to keep their business headquarters in Italy. This is particularly the case in the Agribusiness sector. A number of respondents were also interested in increasing their business relations and contacts in Albania or in investments in Albania; from this point of view, the most interested were from the Potential investors group and Cultural sector, followed by the Social sector. Incentives and barriers to investments are explored in the following pages.

In terms of sectors, even if it is a relatively low percentage in absolute terms, the most interested ones in a possible return were apparently from the Cultural preservation sector, probably due to the potential developments of this sector in Albania as well as relative precariousness of their working conditions in Italy (respondents from this sector often mentioned a more unstable professional status if compared to other sectors). The less interested group were the Agribusiness one, despite the opportunities of development of this sector in Albania (and the fact that they are the first sector in terms of owning properties in Albania).

15.2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A GROWING INVOLVEMENT OF THE DIASPORA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALBANIA

In this final section we summarize the most important recommendations for the Government of Albania to engage the diaspora in terms of development and investments, merging elements and key indications from the qualitative and quantitative sides of the research. We have identified four main recommendations, and a number of sub-recommendations, discussed in the following pages.

The main recommendations are the following:

1

Recommendation: In order to stimulate the diaspora to invest in Albania, it is necessary to improve the investment environment in Albania and make it attractive and trustworthy for the diaspora, and all possible investors.

2

Recommendation: In order to stimulate the diaspora to invest in Albania, and more generally to contribute to its development, it is necessary to improve its engagement – improving knowledge, dialogue and trust relationship between the Albanian Government and its Diaspora following its needs, requests and indications.

3

Recommendation: In order to promote investments in Albania and to engage the diaspora for the development of Albania it is important to consider that the diaspora is a highly internally diversified subject, needing to target strategies for specific groups of citizens and their specific needs and interests.

4

Recommendation: When considering its national and diaspora investment strategy, the Government of Albania shall take into consideration the interest expressed by the diaspora, in terms of sectors/initiatives as well as typology of involvement for the development of Albania.

1. Recommendation: In order to stimulate the diaspora to invest in Albania, it is necessary to improve the investment environment in Albania and make it attractive and trustworthy for the diaspora, and all possible investors.

The study investigated in different ways the barriers and obstacles that Albanians see or faced in investing in Albania. A general concern is that, not necessarily, all quoted aspects are to be true in absolute terms, but we have to consider them true based on the perception or experience of our respondents. This implies that the Government of Albania needs to verify if these perceived/experienced barriers really exist and, in such case, what could be done to remove them – not only for potential diaspora investors, but for all types of investors.

The barriers considered by the diaspora to impede their contribution to the development of Albania belong to different dimensions.

There are elements referred to a weakness in diaspora itself, such as:

- lack of updated knowledge of Albania today by migrants abroad;
- lack of experience as entrepreneurs of many Albanian migrants;
- lack of financial resources to invest;
- lack of adequate channels for remittances valorization.

Other elements of weakness are identified in different conditions in the country of origin:

Corruption, lack of freedom and low-quality democracy, and lack of meritocracy are among the main recurrent reasons explaining why doing business in Albania is hard and keeps the diaspora away.

Lack of Trust. Corruption undermines the trust for the public institutions and the ruling class. Moreover, the Albanian Public Administration is not recognized for the presence of qualified and competent human resources.

Bureaucracy. It is difficult to obtain in a clear and simple way the normative/bureaucratic information required for business, especially for those that reside abroad. Together with a weak and sluggish Public Administration this contributes to the creation of an unfavourable economic environment (due to costs, procedures, bureaucracy, excessive norms).

Local conditions. Including poor infrastructures, decreasing population and emigration of talented profiles. Lack of an adequate and competitive high education system.

Local partners. Lack of coordination, cooperation and exchange with local actors or possible intermediaries or partners from the private sector or civic society (besides the Albanian Public Administration).

Land property rights. The possibility to manage and demonstrate (especially from a distance) family land properties can be a serious obstacle to invest in renovating the real estate, dedicating to agritourism or restauration/hotel and hospitality services. This is particularly relevant for professionals in the Agribusiness sector.

2. Recommendation: In order to stimulate the diaspora to invest in Albania, and more generally to contribute to its development, it is necessary to improve its engagement – improving knowledge, dialogue and trust relationship between the Albanian Government and its Diaspora following its needs, requests and indications.

Removing or facing the above-mentioned barriers is a response to stimulate investments from the diaspora. The following aspects are stated by the respondents as possible and positively influencing their interest to invest in Albania.

The following list contains the changes that need to occur in Albania to make it possible to invest there.

- Improve favorable conditions for potential investors: including tax exemptions, direct or indirect subsidies for investors/entrepreneurs, administrative and legal support to entrepreneurs.
- Improve the local social/economic environment and possible recruitment pool with Public investments in training and education.
- Take care and protect the land and cultural heritage in Albania, for instance creating a superintendent/trustee of the abandoned artistic and cultural heritage in Albania.
- Design and implement institutional reforms in Albania (especially, to fight corruption and grant meritocracy).
- Continue the harmonization efforts needed for entering the EU,[253] to create mandatory new standards for the public administration, ensure better democratic system and rule of law; and take hold of growing advantages of EU funds and market opportunities.

2.1 Invest to create a positive relationship with the Albanian diaspora. The Albanian Government should build initiatives in order to support the diaspora and establish a positive relationship so that members of the diaspora will maintain their close ties.

Other drivers refer to possible changes that the Government shall take into consideration outside Albania, in order to finally stimulate the diaspora to invest. Here are a few suggestions that emerged:

Give diaspora the right to vote and make it a real protagonist actor. Involve the diaspora in the decision-making process in their country (in particular, through the voting rights).

Create opportunities for diaspora exchange, networking and crowdfunding. Help the Albanian diaspora to create/strengthen networks in Italy/France/Belgium. These networks are important for the quality of life of Albanian citizens, they help in the preservation of Albanian culture (starting from language) and thus the link with the country of origin.

Give value to the multitude competences of the diaspora.

Create awareness on the potential role of the diaspora: As already mentioned, the awareness of the potential role played by the diaspora for the development of Albania is not well diffused. A process of awareness-raising and sensibilization on the topic could be very useful. This process could be also linked to opportunities of socialization and events (especially through migrant associations).

253 Although not largely highlighted, joining the EU had been mentioned in some Focus Groups and in Lombardy region survey.

Sustain migrant associations abroad also with capacity-building. Albanian associations have experience, knowledge, capacity and critical mass, and surely represent an important interlocutor for policies aimed at stimulating investments from the Albanian diaspora.

Employ social media to dialogue with the Albanian diaspora. Albanian migrants mainly employ internet resources and social media to be informed and get connected. This represents a crucial channel to be employed at all stages.

2.2 Invest in offering requested and needed services that can help favoring possible investments from the diaspora

Sustain or give stronger value to consortium of Albanian enterprises in Italy and a cabinet to help companies (Italians and from the diaspora) find opportunities in Albania.

Provide a system/platform to offer clear and exhaustive information on the existing regulation, especially to faced problems with the land registry office.

Provide a system/platform to reduce the knowledge gap of the diaspora towards investment opportunities in Albania.

Create instruments and channels to increase the connection between Italian and Albanian financial systems, favoring financial flows, valorizing savings and easing access to credit.

Offer support and ad hoc training courses/help to members of the diaspora willing to go back to Albania: for a member of the diaspora, there are a number of practical issues that have to be faced when deciding to go back to the home country. To offer a practical support as well as ad hoc training may offer a very effective incentive.

Reinforce the role of Albanian Embassies. This would further help building trust between the diaspora and Albanian institutions. A diaspora bureau at the Consulates/Embassy in Italy (that could be able for instance to deal with land property issues).

Push for better and cheaper connections: Physical proximity between Italy and Albania is considered an added value by many respondents. However, travelling to Albania is expensive. With cheaper flights people would travel more frequently, allowing an immediate transfer of money and, more generally, ensuring a stronger relation with the country of origin, also for second generation immigrants.

3. Recommendation. In order to promote investments in Albania and to engage the diaspora in the development of Albania it is important to consider the diaspora is a highly internally diversified subject, needing to target strategies for specific groups of citizens and their specific needs and interests.

From this point of view, some potential specific strategies could include the following:

3.1. Develop a specific strategy for retired Albanians. According to the survey, many older people are interested in retiring in Albania. A strategy for attracting this group is needed as well as a specific study, considering the possibility to develop polices to attract them back in Albania.

3.2. Focus on Albanian women. According to the survey, Albanian women represent a crucial element in keeping up transnational relations between Albania and Italy. Moreover, Albanian women in Italy often improved their economic and social status. Women could be the target of specific policies or communication strategies, aimed at attracting their talent and investment interest or capacity in Albania.

3.3. Develop a specific strategy to attract highly skilled workers (especially in relation to culture and health). The number of highly skilled workers among young generations is one of the main strengths of the Albanian diaspora. Young generations are occasionally interested in Albania; moreover, due to the lack of professional opportunities in Italy they can consider to migrate. Albania could develop specific strategies to attract these talented and promising citizens, in particular in sectors of interest for the country (e.g. culture, health). In the Cultural sector, a tailored strategy for the highly skilled professionals in Italy could prove to be successful also in light of the precarious conditions they often experience in their professional life in Italy

3.4. Develop a specific strategy to attract entrepreneurs (especially in agriculture). The Albanian entrepreneurs (especially in Italy) could be the target of a specific programme aimed at involving the diaspora in the development of Albania by way of offering advantages or incentives. It has been largely reported that any form or entrepreneurship or investment in Albania would require a personal supervision and management, therefore either with returns or circular mobility.

3.5. Develop a specific strategy for second generation immigrants. A specific strategy shall be developed to address a sense of belonging among second generation Albanians. According to the qualitative interviews, their perception of Albania is often different from that of their parents. The Government could support the diffusion of Albanian culture and language. The role of Associations can be crucial.

4. Recommendation. When considering its national and diaspora investment strategy, the Government of Albania shall take into consideration the interest expressed by the diaspora, in terms of sectors/ initiatives as well as the typology of involvement for the development of Albania.

4.1. Consider possible initiatives that can offer incentives (such as, tax exemptions and smoother bureaucratic practices) for the sectors that express the highest interest from the diaspora. The most recurrent sectors addressed by the diaspora in the study and considered appealing for possible investments in Albania are: tourism and rural tourism; food sector/restaurants; health medical sector/elderly services; agriculture/bio-agriculture and culture industry.

These sectors emerged both through quantitative and qualitive tools of research, in some cases being activities in Albania already started or rather representing a desire for future/possible activities.

4.2. Consider transnational initiatives able to provide diaspora skill valorization and public recognition for the diaspora's interest. It is important to match the above indication with another result of the survey that highlights an interest to contribute to the Albanian development especially from persons belonging to the social and cultural sectors in the survey. A transversal aspect that emerged is a sincere expression from this diaspora group to put at disposal their experience, knowledge and competences to support social and cultural development in Albania. Finding proper transparent solutions could allow for a positive exploitation of the diaspora interest, skills and availability for the development of Albania, strengthening the ties and resources of these professionals with their country of origin.

4.3. Take into consideration incubator programmes for innovative ideas/start. Targeting specific sectors/areas of interest for the Government. This can be of particular interest especially from second generations that can have competences and interest.

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ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 – METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES

The report is based on a Mixed-Method Approach. The main tools used are the following:

Documentary sources (collected in the first phase of the research - by April 2019)

- Primary data sources, including key information for each Country and, for the Italian case study, for each selected region – namely Lombardy, Piedmont, Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany and Lazio.
- Secondary data sources, including scientific papers, government publications, technical documents, and annual reports published by specialized institutes working and/or monitoring the migration phenomena in the studied geographical areas.

Qualitative "experiential" data

- Identification of Albanian citizens popular[254] in Italy
- Questionnaires aimed at collecting information on diaspora skills and experience, and understanding what the diaspora has to offer, what it is willing to offer and what it expects from the government in return. A semi-structured questionnaire conducted in person was used to collect data in Italy (in Italian), while a structured online questionnaire (in French) to collect data in France and Belgium. 631 questionnaires were collected in Italy; 43 in France and Belgium. The questionnaires are structured around seven main topics: Demographic and sociological profile, Economic profile, Professional profile, Perception on migration, Impact of crisis, Relationship with the country of origin. Questionnaires were collected by local associations (Integra Onlus, RIDAI Association, Associazione URA, a team of consultants coordinated by Mrs. Edita Fino) under the supervision of CeSPI, between June and December 2019.
- Focus groups and direct observation: five focus groups (FG) were organized in Italy (in Milan, Bologna, Rome, Florence and Novara), to discuss with different representatives of the Albanian diaspora (household heads, business representatives, diaspora multipliers, community leaders, religious leaders or intellectuals, aiming at a balanced gender participation) about the experience of migration and the contribution that Albanian diaspora can offer to the development of Albania.
- Qualitative interviews: 7 interviews with stakeholders and expert on Albanian diaspora, one in each of the five target regions, one with an expert in Albanian diaspora in France and Belgium and one with a further expert at national scale.

254 The question asked was "Can you mention three names of 'successful'people belonging to the Albanian community in Italy?".

ANNEX 2: FACE-TO-FACE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ITALY

ANNEX 2.1. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ITALY (ENGLISH VERSION)

ID of the interview	ID (name of interviewer_Country_number e.g., Raffaella_Italy_01)
Date of the interview	# (gg/mm/year)

Introduction

Employment sector (please select only one option)	1. Agrobusiness (profiles related to agro-food and agro-tourism) 2. Social enterprises (profiles related to sociosanitary services) 3. Cultural preservation and heritage (profiles related to archeological and cultural sites) 4. Potential investors (in all the other sectors)
Check previous answer: if answer n. 4 - Potential investors, please specify	text (short open answer)
Region of residence (please select only one option)	Piedmont Valle d'Aosta Liguria Lombardy Tentino Alto Adige Veneto Friuli-Venezia Giulia Emilia-Romagna Tuscany Umbria Marche Lazio Abruzzo Molise Campania Puglia Basilicata Calabria Sicily Sardinia
City of residence	text (name of the city)
Gender of the interviewee	a. male
	b. female
Age of the interviewee	#
Country of birth	*text*
City of birth	text
Citizenship at birth	Albanian
	Italian
	Other (please specify)

Citizenship today	Albanian Italian Other (please specify)
Check previous answers: if one or more citizenship/s are different from Albanian, in what year did you obtained it/them?	text, # (e.g., Italian citizenship, 2005)
What is your marital status?	a. single b. married/cohabiting c. separated d. divorced e. widowed
Check previous answer: if a. married/cohabiting or c. separated: What's the current citizenship of the partner?	text (short open answer)
If born in Albania, in which year did you emigrate?	# (year)
Please tell us your current legal and administrative status with respect to your stay in Italy:	a. Dual citizenship (one Italian) b. Long-term EC permit c. Residence card
If you have a valid visa or residence permit or are renewing it, please indicate the type:	d. Residence permit (also from another EU country) e. Residence visa (also from another EU country) f. Other g. Family h. Subordinate work i. Self-employment j. Expected occupation k. Study l. Temporary protection / asylum m. Other n. Not stated
In which year did you establish yourself in the municipality where you currently reside?	#
For what reasons did you choose this area? (multiple choices, even more than one)	a. because relatives/friends live here b. because I heard good things about it c. because there is work d. for the presence of public services, schools, etc. e. other (specify)
Right now, do you think that you will remain in Italy in the future?	Yes/No
Check previous answer: if "No", what has changed? Where would like to go and why?	text (short open answer) or n/a if not applicable

Professional

Educational level/qualification (please select the highest completed)	a. None or preschool b. Primary school c. Secondary education, vocational or technical d. Secondary education, regular e. Tertiary education, Bachelor's degree f. Tertiary education, Master's degree g. Quaternary education (PhD or other) h. Other (please specify)
Where did you complete the highest educational/qualification level?	text (city and country)

What are your main professional skills (those that you have, not only the skills that you currently use)?	text (short open answer)
What is your current job? Please provide a short description of your professional profile.	text (short open answer)
In which year did you start this job?	# (year)
Please, tell us your working situation – the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income)	a. Unemployed (actively looking for a job) b. Housewife c. Student d. Student-worker e. Employed with permanent contract, full-time (35 hours or more) f. Employed with permanent contract, part-time (less than 35 hours) g. Employed with time limited contract (e.g., seasonal) h. Occupied in layoffs i. On the move j. Occupied irregularly but fairly stable k. Occupied irregularly in an unstable way / occasional jobs l. Occupied "para-subordinate" work (collaborations, project and other atypical) m. Self-employed regular / freelance worker * n. Self-employed worker not regular o. Business owner* p. Cooperative worker member q. Other (specify)/Do not declare
For self-employed and business owner*	
How long have you been working as self-employed or a business owner?	#
How many employees do you have?	#
How many are Italians? (in percentage)	
How many are Albanians? (in percentage)	
Is the centre of your business interests Italy? Namely are your main business partners, supply relationships, customers, etc. in Italy?	Yes/No
If NO, where is your "centre of business interests" located?	text (short open answer) or n/a if not applicable
Do you do business / have business relationships with Albania? (e.g. important customers, suppliers, partners, participation in tenders and calls, etc.)	Yes/No
If YES, briefly explain	text (short open answer) or n/a if not applicable

Economic

What is your annual (individual) income? (Important: please include the sum of all your incomes – those declared + all "extras"/undeclared/cash-in-hand)	# (in EURO)

Household size: how many people comprise your "household" (interviewee included)? By "household" we mean the group of people with whom there is a relationship of kinship/love, which also means sharing expenses (food, clothing, leisure) and income.	#
Considering all different sources (income from work, annuities, assistance, etc.), what is the approximate average annual sum of the income of your entire household?	# (in EURO)
Considering the figure just mentioned (3) as 100% of your household income: how much do you spend Italy? How much do you save in Italy and how much do you send elsewhere?	% spent in Italy % saved in Italy % sent elsewhere
Of the previous percentage "sent elsewhere", do you send anything to Albania?	Yes/No
How much of the money "sent elsewhere" goes to Albania?	% of income "sent elsewhere"
Who do you send this money to in Albania?	text (short open answer)
Do you send it to a bank account?	Yes/No
Do you have control of this bank account in any way?	Yes/No
Do you own any houses?	Yes/No
If yes, how many and where?	text (short open answer)
Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Italy?	Yes/No
Do you plan to buy real estate in Italy for the next 3 years?	Yes/No
Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) in Albania?	Yes/No
Do you plan to buy real estate in Albania for the next 3 years?	Yes/No
Do you own any other property (e.g. other real estate, land, etc.) elsewhere?	Yes/No
If Yes, where?	text (short open answer)
Do you plan to buy real estate elsewhere for the next 3 years?	Yes/No
If Yes, where?	text (short open answer)
Have you made financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Italy?	Yes/No
Do you plan to do this in Italy for the next 3 years?	Yes/No
Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Albania?	Yes/No
Do you plan to do this in Albania for the next 3 years?	Yes/No
Have you made any financial investments (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) elsewhere?	Yes/No
If yes, where?	text (short open answer)
Do you plan to do this elsewhere for the next 3 years?	Yes/No
If Yes, where?	text (short open answer)

Impact of the economic crisis

10 years ago (or, if you arrived later, during your first two years in Italy), what was your situation regarding:	

Economic situation (individual income)	1= Very Good 2= Good 3= Acceptable 4= Poor 5= Very Poor
Economic situation (household income)	1= Very Good 2= Good 3= Acceptable 4= Poor 5= Very Poor
Working conditions	1= Very Good 2= Good 3= Acceptable 4= Poor 5= Very Poor
Social relationships (local social relations, integration/ discrimination, etc.)	1= Very Good 2= Good 3= Acceptable 4= Poor 5= Very Poor
Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit/citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.)	1= Very Good 2= Good 3= Acceptable 4= Poor 5= Very Poor
At that time, how much money did you save? (on an annual basis)	1= 0% of the household income 2= between 0% and 20% of the household income 3= between 20% and 40% of the household income 4= between 40% and 60% of the household income 5= More than 60% of the household income
At that time, how much of that savings did you send to Albania? (on an annual basis)	1= 0% of the household savings 2= between 0% and 20% of the household savings 3= between 20% and 40% of the household savings 4= between 40% and 60% of the household savings 5= More than 60% of the household savings
Today, considering your experience, how are you compared to the past?	
Economic situation (individual income)	1= Much better 2= Somewhat better 3= Stayed the same 4= Somewhat worse 5= Much worse
Economic situation (household income)	1= Much better 2= Somewhat better 3= Stayed the same 4= Somewhat worse 5= Much worse

Working conditions	1= Much better 2= Somewhat better 3= Stayed the same 4= Somewhat worse 5= Much worse
Social relationships (local social relations, integration/ discrimination, etc.)	1= Much better 2= Somewhat better 3= Stayed the same 4= Somewhat worse 5= Much worse
Legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit/citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.)	1= Much better 2= Somewhat better 3= Stayed the same 4= Somewhat worse 5= Much worse
Today, how much money do you save? (on an annual basis)	1= 0% of the household income 2= between 0% and 20% of the household income 3= between 20% and 40% of the household income 4= between 40% and 60% of the household income 5= More than 60% of the household income
Today, how much of that savings do you send to Albania? (on an annual basis)	1= 0% of the household savings 2= between 0% and 20% of the household savings 3= between 20% and 40% of the household savings 4= between 40% and 60% of the household savings 5= More than 60% of the household savings

Perception on migration

Can you mention three names of “successful” people belonging to the Albanian community in Italy?	text (short open answer: name, surname, city, profession and reason why he/she is considered as successful)
Today, thinking about your children’s future (even if you do not have any) where would you prefer them to live? (only one option)	In Italy
	In Albania
	In another country
	It does not matter
Why?	text (short open answer)
Would you consider moving country?	No
	Yes, in the next 3 years
	Yes, but over the next 3 years
If yes, are/would you consider moving to Albania?	Yes/No
If not to Albania, where would you go?	text (short open answer)
Your main drivers for this decision (referring to answer 3) (maximum 2 options)	a. Family/friendship issues b. Work/Study c. Economic conditions d. For the presence of public services, schools, etc. e. I heard good things about it f. For the protections of your rights g. Other reasons (specify)

5. Considering your overall experience as a member of the Albanian diaspora, please tell us:	
Up to 3 positive aspects of your experience	text (short open answer)
Up to 3 negative aspects of your experience	text (short open answer)

Relation with the country of origin

With which of the following people, if they are in Albania, do you still have a close relationship? (more than one answer allowed)	a. Mother b. Father c. Siblings d. Partner e. Son(s)/Daughter(s) f. Other relatives g. Partners in business/work mates h. Other (specify e.g. childhood friends as long as Albanians) i. none
How much do you agree with the following statement "In the relationships with/visits to my family/friends/ acquaintances in Albania, I transmit and transfer new knowledge, ideas, visions, and/or approaches (for example social, cultural, professional) that I acquired during my experience of life in Italy."	1= Strongly Agree 2= Agree 3= Undecided 4= Disagree 5= Strongly Disagree
How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania?	1 = Not Important at All 2 = Of Little Importance 3 = Of Average Importance 4 = Very Important 5 = Absolutely Essential
If yes (answers 2 to 5 of the previous question), what are the main means by which you keep yourself informed?	1 = Internet (es. online newspapers, magazines, etc.) 2 = Newspapers 3 = Telephone calls /skype 4 = TV, radio, etc. 5 = Social media 6= Other
In 2016 Albania approved the creation of a "register for migrants ". Once this register will be created, do you think you will register yourself?	Yes/No
Did you enroll in any list/register or are you in touch with any formal or informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania?	Yes/No
If yes, please tell us more/specify what type (formal / informal) and what kind.	text (short open answer)
How often do you go to Albania?	1. Frequently (more than once a year) 2. Often (every year) 3. Sometimes (every 2/3 years) 4. Rarely (once every 5/10 years) 5. Never
Have your friends / acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion?	Yes/No

If yes, for tourism, business, or other reasons?	1= Tourism 2= Business 3= Other reasons
Did they travel with you, alone or both?	1= With me 2= Alone 3= Both with me and alone
Which of the following statements is closer to your "plan for the future"	1 = Move back permanently to Albania 2 = Go back to Albania permanently but keeping my business centre in Italy 3 = Stay in Italy but increasing my contacts and business relations with Albania 4 = Stay in Italy but move my business centre to Albania 5 = Stay in Italy and keep my business centre here 6 = Stay in Italy and decrease my contacts and business relations with Albania
Why?	text (short open answer)
Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?	Yes / No / I don't care
If yes, how? What would you do/like to do?	text (short open answer) or n.a. if not applicable
If no or I don't care, why?	text (short open answer) or n.a. if not applicable
Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?	Yes/No
If Yes to 10: What did you do?	text (short open answer)
If Yes to 10: Was your "move/activity" successful?	Yes/No
If Yes to 10: What is the main positive lesson learned of your experience?	text (short open answer)
If Yes to 10: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (Please select up to 4 options)	a. No negative aspects b. Unfavourable business environment (e.g., due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) c. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g., Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) d. Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.). e. Difficulty in accessing financing and investment f. Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy g. Taxation h. Law limitations (e.g., rigid labour law, environmental law, etc.) i. Lack of management capacities j. Lack of experience in running a business in Albania k. No suitable business partner l. Language barriers m. Protection of intellectual property n. Problems finding skilled workers/Lack of appropriate skilled labour force o. Inadequate transport and other infrastructures p. Other (please specify)
More in general, always in relation to your specific professional sector, would you invest in Albania?	Yes/No

If Yes to 11: how? What would you do?	text (short open answer)
If Yes to 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)? (please select the 3 main)	a. Tax incentives b. Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g., grants for research and development) c. Provide legal and administrative support to investors d. Low interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit e. Creation of Free Trade Zones, and/or agreement with other Country partners f. Substantial revision of the legislation (e.g., labour law) g. Reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy h. Public investment in training and education i. Provision of services (e.g., sector specific services) j. Other (please specify)
If No to 11: What are the main barriers/ problems/limitations? (Please select up to 4 options)	a. Simply not interested to invest b. Unfavourable business environment (e.g., due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) c. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g., Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) d. Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.). e. Difficulty in accessing financing and investment f. Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy g. Taxation h. Law limitations (e.g., rigid labour law, environmental law, etc.) i. Lack of management capacities j. Lack of experience in running a business in Albania k. No suitable business partner l. Language barriers m. Protection of intellectual property n. Problems finding skilled workers/Lack of appropriate skilled labour force o. Inadequate transport and other infrastructures p. Other (please specify)
Talking about any other professional sector, have you ever made any attempt to invest in other activities in Albania?	Yes/No
If Yes to 12: What did you do?	text (short open answer)
If Yes to 12: Was your "activity" successful?	Yes/No
If Yes to 12: What is the main positive lesson learned of your experience?	text (short open answer)

If Yes to 12: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (Please select up to 4 options)	a. No negative aspects b. Unfavourable business environment (e.g., due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) c. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) d. Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.). e. Difficulty in accessing financing and investment f. Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy g. Taxation h. Law limitations (e.g. rigid labour law, environmental law, etc.) i. Lack of management capacities j. Lack of experience in running a business in Albania k. No suitable business partner l. Language barriers m. Protection of intellectual property n. Problems finding skilled workers/Lack of appropriate skilled labour force o. Inadequate transport and other infrastructures p. Other (please specify)
Talking about any other professional sector, would you invest in Albania?	Yes/No
If Yes to 13: in which sector and how (what would you do)?	sector of activity (e.g. home for holidays) and text (short open answer)
If Yes to 13: what in practice would push you to invest / or would facilitate this investment in Albania? (please select the 3 main)	a. Tax incentives b. Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g. grants for research and development) c. Provide legal and administrative support to investors d. Low interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit e. Creation of Free Trade Zones, and/or agreement with other Country partners f. Substantial revision of the legislation (e.g., labour law) g. Reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy h. Public investment in training and education i. Provision of services (e.g. sectorial specific services) j. Other (please specify)

If No to 13: why not? (Please select up to 4 options)	a. Simply not interested to invest b. Unfavourable business environment (e.g. due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) c. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g. Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) d. Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.). e. Difficulty in accessing financing and investment f. Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy g. Taxation h. Law limitations (e.g. rigid labour law, environmental law, etc.) i. Lack of management capacities j. Lack of experience in running a business in Albania k. No suitable business partner l. Language barriers m. Protection of intellectual property n. Problems finding skilled workers/Lack of appropriate skilled labour force o. Inadequate transport and other infrastructures p. Other (please specify)
Do you know people not in Albania who are potentially willing and interested in investing in Albania?	Yes/No
If yes, please tell us more.	text (short open answer)
Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?	Yes/No
If Yes, at what conditions?	text (short open answer)

Contacts (in a separate questionnaire)

Are you interested in participating in a focus group on the role of diaspora for the development of Albania?	Yes/No
If yes, can you please give us your contact details? (Name, surname or name of the association, e-mail address)	text (short open answer)

ANNEX 2.2. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ITALY (ITALIAN VERSION)

ID dell'intervistatore	ID (nome dell'intervistatore_paese_numero eg. Raffaella_Italy_01)
Data dell'intervista	# (gg/mm/anno)

Introduzione

Settore di occupazione (per favore selezionare solo un'opzione)	1. Agroindustria (profili collegati all'agro-alimentare e all'agro-turismo) 2. Imprese sociali (profili collegati ai servizi socio-sanitari) 3. Tutela e valorizzazione del patrimonio culturale (profili collegati a siti culturali o archeologici) 4. Potenziali investitori (impiegati *in tutti gli altri settori*)
Se la risposta è la n. 4 - potenziali investitori, per favore specificare il settore di occupazione	testo (breve domanda aperta)
Regione di residenza (per favore selezionare solo un'opzione)	Piemonte Valle d'Aosta Liguria Lombardia Tentino Alto Adige Veneto Friuli-Venezia Giulia Emilia-Romagna Toscana Umbria Marche Lazio Abruzzo Molise Campania Puglia Basilicata Calabria Sicilia Sardegna
Città di residenza	testo (nome della città)
Genere dell'intervistato	a. maschio
	b. femmmina
Età dell'intervistato	#
Paese di nascita	Albania
	Italia
	Altro (specificare)
Città di nascita	Text
Cittadinanza alla nascita	Albanese
	Italiana
	Altro (specificare)
Cittadinanza oggi	Albanese
	Italiana
	Altro (specificare)

Se una o più cittadinanze sono diverse dall'Albanese, in che hanno la hai/le hai ottenute?	text, # (es. Cittadinanza italiana, 2005)
Qual è il tuo stato civile?	a. single b. sposato/a o convivente c. separato/a d. divorziato/a e. vedovo/a
Se b. sposato/a o convivente o c. separato/a: Qual è l'attuale cittadinanza del partner?	Testo (indicare tutte le cittadinanze possedute oggi, una o più di una) o n/a
Se sei nato in Albania, in che hanno sei emigrato?	# (anno), o n/a
Per favore indica l'attuale status legale e amministrativo del tuo soggiorno in Italia:	a. Doppia cittadinanza (una italiana) b. Permesso di soggiorno a lungo termine c. Carta di soggiorno d. Permesso di soggiorno (anche di un altro paese UE) e. Visto (anche di un altro paese UE) f. Altro g. Altro (specificare)
Se hai un permesso di soggiorno /visto valido o lo stai rinnovando, per favore indica il tipo di permesso:	a. Famiglia b. Lavoro subordinato c. Lavoratore autonomo d. In attesa di occupazione e. Studio f. Protezione/asilo g. Altro (specificare) h. Non dichiara
In che anno ti sei stabilito nel Comune dove attualmente risiedi?	#
Per quali motivi hai scelto quest'area? (possibili più risposte)	a. perché parenti/amici vivevano qui b. perché ne ho sentito parlare bene c. perché c'è lavoro d. per la presenza di servizi pubblici, scuole ecc. e. altro
Al momento pensi che rimarrai in Italia in futuro?	Sì/No
Se la risposta è no, che cosa è cambiato? Dove ti piacerebbe andare, e perché?	testo (breve domanda aperta) o n/a

Professione

Livello di istruzione (selezionare il più alto livello completato)	a. Niente b. Scuola primaria c. Scuola secondaria (istituto tecnico/professionale) d. Scuola secondaria (liceo) e. Laurea Triennale f. Laurea Specialistica o Master g. Dottorato/PhD h. Altro (specificare)

Dove hai conseguito il tuo più alto titolo di studio?	testo (città e paese)
Quali sono le tue principali competenze professionali (non necessariamente quelle che usi)	text (short open answer)
Che lavoro fai attualmente? Per favore fornisci una breve descrizione del tuo profilo professionale.	testo (breve domanda aperta)
In che anno hai iniziato questo lavoro?	# (year)
Quale è la tua situazione lavorativa - nel caso di più lavori, qual è quella che ti offre il maggiore reddito (considerando sia il reddito dichiarato sia qualsiasi "extra" non dichiarato) (una sola opzione)	a. Disoccupato (alla ricerca di un lavoro) b. Casalinga/o c. Studente d. Studente-lavoratore e. Contratto a tempo indeterminato, full-time (35 ore o più) f. Contratto a tempo indeterminato, part-time (meno di 35 ore) g. Contratto a tempo determinato (ad es. stagionale) h. Occupato in cassa integrazione i. Inmobilità j. Occupato irregolarmente ma in modo abbastanza stabile k. Occupato irregolarmente in modo saltuario / lavoro occasionale l. Occupato parasubordinato (collaborazioni, progetti e altre forme atipiche) m. Lavoratore autonomo regolare / lavoratore freelance * n. Lavoratore autonomo, in nero o. Titolare d'impresa* p. Membro di una cooperativa q. Altro (specificare) r. non dichiara
Per titolari di impresa e lavoratori autonomi*	
Da quanto tempo sei un lavoratore autonomo o un titolare di impresa? (in anni)	#
Quanti dipendenti hai?	#
Quanti dei tuoi dipendenti sono italiani (in percentuale)?	#
Quanti dei tuoi dipendenti sono albanesi (in percentuale)?	#
Il centro della tua attività professionale è in Italia? In altre parole, i tuoi principali partner commerciali, i fornitori, i clienti, ecc. sono in Italia?	Sì/No
Se la risposta è no, dove si trova il centro della tua attività professionale?	testo (breve risposta aperta) o n/a
Fai affari o hai relazioni commerciali/ professionali in Albania? (es: clienti importanti, fornitori, partner, partecipazione a bandi o gare, ecc)	Sì/No
Se sì, spiega meglio che tipo di relazioni hai	testo (breve risposta aperta) o n/a

Situazione economica

Qual è il tuo reddito individuale annuale netto? (Importante: per favore includi la somma di tutti i tuoi redditi, dichiarati ed eventualmente non dichiarati)	# (in EURO)
Dimensione della famiglia: di quante persone è composta la tua famiglia (te incluso)? Per "famiglia" intendiamo il gruppo di persone con cui c'è un legame di parentela/affettivo e con cui si condividono le spese (cibo, vestiti, svago) e il reddito.	#
Considerando tutte le diverse fonti (reddito da lavoro, vitalizi ecc.), quanto è in media il reddito complessivo annuale della tua famiglia?	# (in EURO)
Condiderando la risposta al punto 3 come il 100% del reddito della tua famiglia: quanto di questo spendi in Italia, quanto risparmi in Italia e quanto invii altrove?	% spesa in italia
	% risparmiata in Italia
	% inviata altrove
Della precedente percentuale "inviata altrove", invii qualcosa in Albania?	Sì/No
Se sì, quanto del reddito "inviato altrove" invii in Albania?	% del reddito "inviato altrove"
A chi mandi questi soldi in Albania?	Testo (breve risposta aperta)
Li invii a un conto corrente bancario?	Sì/No
Se sì, hai il controllo di questo conto corrente in qualche modo?	Sì/No
Possiedi una casa?	Sì/No
Se sì, quante e dove?	Testo (breve risposta aperta)
Possiedi altre **proprietà** (es. altri edifici, terreni, ecc.) in Italia?	Sì/No
Pianifichi di acquistare proprietà in Italia nei prossimi 3 anni?	Sì/No
Possiedi altre **proprietà** (es. altri edifici, terreni ecc.) in Albania?	Sì/No
Pianifichi di acquistare proprietà in Albania nei prossimi 3 anni?	Sì/No
Possiedi altre **proprietà** (es. altri edifici, terreni ecc.) altrove?	Sì/No
Se sì, dove?	testo (breve risposta aperta)
Pianifichi di acquistare proprietà altrove nei prossimi 3 anni?	Sì/No
Se sì, dove?	testo (breve risposta aperta)
Hai mai fatto **investimenti finanziari** (es. fondi, depositi, assicurazioni sulla vita, ecc.) in Italia?	Sì/No
Prevedi di farli nei prossimi 3 anni?	Sì/No
Hai mai fatto **investimenti finanziari** (es. fondi, depositi, assicurazioni sulla vita, ecc.) in Albania?	Sì/No
Prevedi di farli nei prossimi 3 anni?	Sì/No
Hai mai fatto **investimenti finanziari** (es. fondi, depositi, assicurazioni sulla vita, ecc.) altrove?	Sì/No
Se sì, dove?	testo (breve risposta aperta)
Prevedi di farli nei prossimi 3 anni?	Sì/No
Se sì, dove?	testo (breve risposta aperta)

Impatto della crisi economica

10 anni fa (prima della crisi) OPPURE nei tuoi primi due anni in Italia (se sei arrivato dopo), com'era la tua situazione:	

Situazione economica (reddito individuale)	1= Molto buona 2= Buona 3= Accettabile 4= Difficile 5= Molto difficile
Situazione economica (reddito familiare)	1= Molto buona 2= Buona 3= Accettabile 4= Difficile 5= Molto difficile
Condizioni lavorative	1= Molto buona 2= Buona 3= Accettabile 4= Difficile 5= Molto difficile
Relazioni sociali (relazioni sociali locali, integrazione / discriminazione, ecc.)	1= Molto buona 2= Buona 3= Accettabile 4= Difficile 5= Molto difficile
Situazione legale/amministrativa (e.g. status legale/ cittadinanza, relazioni con l'amministrazione italiana, ottenimento permessi di soggiorno, ecc.)	1= Molto buona 2= Buona 3= Accettabile 4= Difficile 5= Molto difficile
All'epoca, quanto eri in grado di risparmiare? (su base annuale)	1= 0% del reddito della famiglia 2= tra 0% e 20% del reddito della famiglia 3= tra 20% e 40% del reddito della famiglia 4= tra 40% e 60% del reddito della famiglia 5= Più del 60% del reddito della famiglia
All'epoca, quanto inviavi di questi risparmi in Albania? (su base annuale)	1= 0% dei risparmi della famiglia 2= tra 0% e 20% dei risparmi della famiglia 3= tra 20% e 40%dei risparmi della famiglia 4= tra 40% e 60% dei risparmi della famiglia 5= Più del 60% dei risparmi della famiglia
Oggi, considerando la tua esperienza, come valuti la tua situazione rispetto a quel passato:	
Situazione economica (reddito individuale)	1= Molto meglio 2= Meglio 3= Uguale 4= Peggio 5= Molto peggio
Situazione economica (reddito familiare)	1= Molto meglio 2= Meglio 3= Uguale 4= Peggio 5= Molto peggio
Condizioni lavorative	1= Molto meglio 2= Meglio 3= Uguale 4= Peggio 5= Molto peggio

Relazioni sociali (relazioni sociali locali, integrazione / discriminazione, ecc.)	1= Molto meglio 2= Meglio 3= Uguale 4= Peggio 5= Molto peggio
Situazione legale/amministrativa (e.g. status legale/ cittadinanza, relazioni con l'amministrazione italiana, ottenimento permessi di soggiorno, ecc.)	1= Molto meglio 2= Meglio 3= Uguale 4= Peggio 5= Molto peggio
Oggi, quanto riesci a risparmiare? (su base annuale)	1= 0% del reddito della famiglia 2= tra 0% e 20% del reddito della famiglia 3= tra 20% e 40% del reddito della famiglia 4= tra 40% e 60% del reddito della famiglia 5= Più del 60% del reddito della famiglia
Oggi, quanto di questi risparmi invii in Albania? (su base annuale)	1= 0% dei risparmi della famiglia 2= tra 0% e 20% dei risparmi della famiglia 3= tra 20% e 40%dei risparmi della famiglia 4= tra 40% e 60% dei risparmi della famiglia 5= Più del 60% dei risparmi della famiglia

Percezione della migrazione

Puoi menzionare tre "persone di successo" che appartengono alla comunità albanese in Italia?	testo (breve domanda aperta: nome, cognome, città, professione e ragione per cui lo/la consideri "di successo")
Oggi, pensando al futuro dei tuoi figli (anche se non ne hai) dove preferiresti che vivessero? (solo una opzione)	In Italia
	In Albania
	In un altro paese
	Indifferente
Perché?	testo (breve risposta aperta)
Pensi che potresti cambiare paese?	No
	Si, nei prossimi 3 anni
	Sì, ma oltre i prossimi 3 anni
Se hai risposto sì, pensi che potresti andare in Albania?	Sì/No
Se non in Albania, dove andresti?	testo (breve risposta aperta)
Quali sono le motivazioni per la tua risposta alla domanda 3 (massimo due opzioni)	a. Motivi familiari/amici b. Lavoro/studio c. Condizioni economiche d. Per la presenza di servizi pubblici, scuole ecc. e. Ne ho sentito parlare bene f. Per la protezione dei tuoi diritti g. Altro (specificare)
Considerando la tua esperienza complessiva come membro della diaspora albanese, puoi menzionare:	
Fino a tre aspetti positivi	testo (breve domanda aperta)
Fino a tre aspetti negativi	testo (breve domanda aperta)

Relazioni con l'Albania

Con quali persone, se sono in Albania, mantieni una relazione stretta? (possibile più di una risposta)	h. Madre i. Padre j. Sorelle/Fratelli k. Partner l. Figli m. Altri parenti n. Colleghi di lavoro o. Altri (specifare, es. amici di infanzia) p. Nessuno
Quanto concordi con la seguente affermazione "Nella relazione con/nelle visite presso la mia famiglia/ i miei amici/ le mie conoscenze in Albania, trasmetto e trasferisco nuove conoscenze, idee, visioni e/o approcci (ad es. in ambito sociale, culturale, professionale) che ho acquisito durante la mia esperienza in Italia"	1= Molto d'accordo 2= D'accordo 3= Indeciso 4= In disaccordo 5= Fortemente in disaccordo
Quanto ti interessa sapere quello che succede in Albania?	1 = Per niente 2 = Poco 3 = Mediamente 4 = Molto 5 = Moltissimo
Se ti interessa (risposte da 3 a 5 alla precedente domanda), quali sono i principali mezzi tramite cui ti mantieni informato?	1 = Internet (es. giornali online, riviste, blog, ecc.) 2 = Quotidiani 3 = Chiamate telefoniche/skype/email 4 = TV, radio, ecc. 5 = Social media 6= Altro
Nel 2016 l'Albania ha previsto la creazione di un "registro degli emigrati". Quando questo registro verrà creato, pensi che ti registrerai?	Sì/No
Sei incluso in liste di emigranti o sei in contatto con associazioni formali o informali di Albanesi all'estero o in Albania?	Sì/No
Se Sì, per favore dicci qualcosa di più sul tipo di associazione e se è formale o informale	testo (breve domanda aperta)
Quanto spesso vai in Albania?	1. Molto spesso (più di una volta l'anno) 2. spesso (ogni anno) 3. A volte (ogni 2/3 anni) 4. Raramente (ogni 5/10 anni) 5. Mai
Amici o conoscenti in Italia hanno mai visitato l'Albania grazie alle tue raccomandazioni o consigli?	Sì/No
Se Sì, per affari, turismo o altro?	1= Turismo 2= Affari 3= Altro
Hanno viaggiato con te, da soli, o entrambe le cose?	1= Con me 2= Soli 3= Sia con me sia da soli

Quale di queste affermazioni si avvicina di più ai tuoi programmi per il futuro	1. Tornare stabilmente in Albania 2. Tornare stabilmente in Albania ma mantenere il centro dei miei affari in Italia 3. Rimanere in Italia ma aumentare i miei contatti e le mie relazioni d'affari in Albania 4. Rimanere in Italia ma spostare il centro dei miei affari in Albania 5. Rimanere in Italia e mantenervi il centro dei miei affari 6. Rimanere in Italia e ridurre i miei contatti e le mie relazioni d'affari in Albania 7. Spostarmi o spostare il centro dei miei affari in un altro paese/altro
Perché?	testo (breve risposta aperta)
Ti piacerebbe contribuire al futuro dell'Albania?	Sì/No
Se Sì, come? Cosa ti piacerebbe fare?	testo (breve risposta aperta) o n/a
Se No, perché?	testo (breve risposta aperta) o n/a
Hai mai fatto un tentativo per espandere/ spostare la tua attività professionale in Albania?	Sì/No
Se Sì, cosa hai fatto?	testo (breve risposta aperta)
Se Sì: il tuo tentativo è andato a buon fine?	Sì/No
Se Sì alla 10 a: quali sono state le principali lezioni apprese?	Testo (breve risposta aperta)
Se Sì: quali sono stati i principali problemi? (Fino a 4)	a. Nessun aspetto negativo b. Ambiente economico sfavorevole (ad es. a causa di norme e procedure onerose, comprese le normative settoriali) c. Mancanze nella qualità, efficienza e trasparenza della pubblica amministrazione (ad es. insufficiente livello di competizione nelle procedure di gara) d. Mancanza di coordinamento/cooperazione con altri attori al di fuori della pubblica amministrazione (settore privato, società civile ecc.) e. Difficoltà nell'accedere a finanziamenti e investimenti f. Sforzo burocratico/costi della burocrazia g. Tasse h. Limitazioni derivanti da leggi (ad es. rigide normative sul lavoro, leggi ambientali, ecc.) i. Mancanza di capacità manageriali j. Mancanza di esperienza nel fare affari in Albania k. Mancanza di partner d'affari adeguati l. Barriere linguistiche m. Protezione della proprietà intellettuale n. Problemi a trovare lavoratori qualificati/Mancanza di manodopera qualificata o. Inadeguatezza di trasporti e/o altre infrastrutture p. Altro (per favore specificare)
Più in generale, sempre nel tuo specifico settore professionale, investiresti in Albania?	Sì/No
Se Sì; come, cosa faresti?	testo (breve risposta aperta)

Se Sì: Cosa stimolerebbe il tuo investimento in Albania (o lo renderebbe più semplice)? (selezionare le tre più importanti)	a. Incentivi fiscali b. Sussidi diretti e benefici per investitori (es. sussidi per ricerca e sviluppo) c. Supporto amministrativo e legale agli investitori d. Prestiti a basso interesse per incoraggiare gli affari, l'export ecc. e altre misure per favorire l'accesso al credito e. Creazione di Zone di Libero Scambio, e/o accordi economici con altri paesi f. Revisione sostanziale dell'attuale legislazione (ad es. legislazione sul lavoro) g. Riduzione dell'onere e dei costi della burocrazia h. Investimenti pubblici in formazione e istruzione i. Offerta di servizi (es. servizi settoriali specifici) j. Altro (per favore specificare)
Se No: Quali sono le principali barriere/ problemi/limitazioni? (Fino a 4 opzioni)	a. Non sono interessato a investire b. Ambiente economico sfavorevole ((ad es. a causa di norme e procedure onerose, comprese le normative settoriali) c. Mancanze nella qualità, efficienza e trasparenza della pubblica amministrazione (ad es. insufficiente livello di competizione nelle procedure di gara) d. Mancanza di coordinamento/cooperazione con altri attori al di fuori della pubblica amministrazione (settore privato, società civile ecc.) e. Difficoltà nell'accedere a finanziamenti e investimenti f. Sforzo burocratico/costi della burocrazia g. Tasse h. Limitazioni derivanti da leggi (ad es. rigide normative sul lavoro, leggi ambientali, ecc.) i. Mancanza di capacità manageriali j. Mancanza di esperienza nel fare affari in Albania k. Mancanza di partner d'affari adeguati l. Barriere linguistiche m. Protezione della proprietà intellettuale n. Problemi a trovare lavoratori qualificati/Mancanza di manodopera qualificata o. Inadeguatezza di trasporti e/o altre infrastrutture p. Altro (per favore specificare)
Parlando di altri settori professionali DIVERSI dal tuo, hai mai fatto investimenti in Albania?	Sì/No
Se Sì, cosa hai fatto?	testo (breve risposta aperta)
Se Sì, il tuo tentativo è andato a buon fine?	Sì/No
Se Sì alla 12 a, quali sono le principali lezioni apprese?	testo (breve risposta aperta)

Se Sì: quali sono stati i principali problemi? (Fino a 4)	a. Nessun aspetto negativo b. Ambiente economico sfavorevole (ad es. a causa di norme e procedure onerose, comprese le normative settoriali) c. Mancanze nella qualità, efficienza e trasparenza della pubblica amministrazione (ad es. insufficiente livello di competizione nelle procedure di gara) d. Mancanza di coordinamento/cooperazione con altri attori al di fuori della pubblica amministrazione (settore privato, società civile ecc.) e. Difficoltà nell'accedere a finanziamenti e investimenti f. Sforzo burocratico/costi della burocrazia g. Tasse h. Limitazioni derivanti da leggi (ad es. rigide normative sul lavoro, leggi ambientali, ecc.) i. Mancanza di capacità manageriali j. Mancanza di esperienza nel fare affari in Albania k. Mancanza di partner d'affari adeguati l. Barriere linguistiche m. Protezione della proprietà intellettuale n. Problemi a trovare lavoratori qualificati/Mancanza di manodopera qualificata o. Inadeguatezza di trasporti e/o altre infrastrutture p. Altro (per favore specificare)
Parlando di altri settori professionali (diversi dal tuo), pensi che investiresti in Albania?	Sì/No
Se Sì, in quale settore e come (cosa faresti)?	settore di attività (ad es: casa vacanze) e testo (breve risposta aperta)
Se Sì: Cosa spingerebbe il tuo investimento in Albania (o lo renderebbe più semplice)? (selezionare le tre più importanti)	a. Incentivi fiscali b. Sussidi diretti e benefici per investitori (es. sussidi per ricerca e sviluppo) c. Supporto amministrativo e legale agli investitori d. Prestiti a basso interesse per incoraggiare gli affari, l'export ecc. e altre misure per favorire l'accesso al credito e. Creazione di Zone di Libero Scambio, e/o accordi con altri paesi f. Revisione sostanziale dell'attuale legislazione (ad es. legislazione sul lavoro) g. Riduzione dell'onere e dei costi della burocrazia h. h.Investimenti pubblici in formazione e istruzione i. Offerta di servizi (es. servizi settoriali specifici) j. Altro (per favore specificare)

Se No alla 13: perché no? (fino a 4 opzioni)	a. Non sono interessato a investire b. Ambiente economico sfavorevole ((ad es. a causa di norme e procedure onerose, comprese le normative settoriali) c. Mancanze nella qualità, efficienza e trasparenza della pubblica amministrazione (ad es. insufficiente livello di competizione nelle procedure di gara) d. Mancanza di coordinamento/cooperazione con altri attori al di fuori della pubblica amministrazione (settore privato, società civile ecc.) e. Difficoltà nell'accedere a finanziamenti e investimenti f. Sforzo burocratico/costi della burocrazia g. Tasse h. Limitazioni derivanti da leggi (ad es. rigide normative sul lavoro, leggi ambientali, ecc.) i. Mancanza di capacità manageriali j. Mancanza di esperienza nel fare affari in Albania k. Mancanza di partner d'affari adeguati l. Barriere linguistiche m. Protezione della proprietà intellettuale n. Problemi a trovare lavoratori qualificati/Mancanza di manodopera qualificata o. Inadeguatezza di trasporti e/o altre infrastrutture p. Altro (per favore specificare)
Conosci persone che non si trovano in Albania e che sarebbero potenzialmente interessate a investire in Albania?	Sì/No
Se Sì, per favore dicci qualcosa in più	testo (breve risposta aperta) o n/a
Saresti disponibile ad essere coinvolto attraverso un incarico temporaneo/virtuale per lo sviluppo dell'Albania?	Sì/No
Se Sì, a quali condizioni?	testo (breve risposta aperta) o n/a

Contatti (in un questionario separato)

Sei interessato a partecipare a un focus group sul ruolo della diaspora per lo sviluppo dell'Albania?	Sì/No
Se sì, puoi per favore fornirci i tuoi contatti? (Nome, Cognome o nome dell'associazione, indirizzo e-mail)	testo (breve risposta aperta)

ANNEX 3 – ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FRANCE AND BELGIUM

ANNEX 3.1. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FRANCE AND BELGIUM (ENGLISH VERSION)

Date	day/month/year

Introduction

Country of residence	France Belgium
Gender of the interviewee	a. male b. female
Age of the interviewee	#
Country of birth	text
City of birth	text
Citizenship at birth	text (all, one or more)
Citizenship today	text (all, one or more)
Check previous answers: if one or more citizenship/s are different from Albanian, in what year did you obtained it/them?	text, # (e.g. Italian citizenship, 2005)
If born Albania, in which year did you emigrate?	# (year)
Why did you choose France/Belgium? (up to two answers)	a. for ease of entry b. to transit in another Country c. for cultural "proximity" d. because it is easy to find work e. by geographical proximity f. because in France/Belgium I had family g. because in France/Belgium I had friends h. because I knew the language i. other (please explain)
Did you migrate regularly or irregularly?	j. regularly k. irregularly
Right now, do you think that you will remain in France/Belgium in the future?	Yes/No

Professional

Educational level/qualification (please select the highest completed)	a. None or preschool b. Primary school c. Secondary education, vocational or technical d. Secondary education, regular e. Tertiary education, Bachelor degree f. Tertiary education, Master's degree g. Quaternary education (PhD or other) h. Other (please specify)
What are your main professional skills (those that you have, not only the skills that you currently use)?	text (short open answer)
Do you think that your skills can be useful for the potential development of Albania?	Yes/No
If Yes to the previous answer, do you think that your skills can be transferred (to) and used in Albania.	Yes/No

What is your current job? Please provide a short description of your professional profile.	text (short open answer)
In which year did you start this job?	# (year)
Please tell us your working situation - the one that provides most of your income (considering both declared income, and any "extra" undeclared or cash-in-hand income)	a. Unemployed (actively looking for a job) b. Housewife c. Student d. Student-worker e. Employed with permanent contract, full-time (35 hours or more) f. Employed with permanent contract, part-time (less than 35 hours) g. Employed with time limited contract (e.g. seasonal) h. Occupied in layoffs i. On the move j. Occupied irregularly but fairly stable k. Occupied irregularly in an unstable way/ occasional jobs l. Occupied "para-subordinate" work (collaborations, project and other atypical) m. o. Self-employed regular/freelance worker* n. Self-employed worker not regular o. Business owner* p. Cooperative worker member q. Other (specify/do not declare)
FOR SELF-EMPLOYED AND BUSINESS OWNER*	
How long have you been working as self-employed or a business owner?	#
How many employees do you have?	#
How many are Albanians? (in percentage)	#
How many from France/Belgium? (in percentage)	#
Is the centre of your business interests France/ Belgium? Namely are your main business partners, supply relationships, customers, etc. in France/Belgium?	Yes/No
If NO, where is your "centre of business interests" located?	text (short open answer) or n/a if not applicable
Do you do business / have business relationships with Albania? (e.g. important customers, suppliers, partners, participation in tenders and calls, etc.)	Yes/No
If YES, briefly explain	text (short open answer)

Economic

Household size: how many people comprise your "household" (interviewee included)? By "household" we mean the group of people with whom there is a relationship of kinship/love which also means sharing expenses (food, clothing, leisure) and income.	# (e.g. Me + my wife + one kid = 3)

Considering all different sources (income from work, annuities, assistance, etc.), what is the approximate average annual sum of the income of your entire household?	# (in EURO)
Considering the figure just mentioned (Question n. 2) as 100% of your household income: how much do you spend France/Belgium, how much do you save in France/Belgium and how much do you send elsewhere?	% spent in France/Belgium % saved in France/Belgium % sent elsewhere
Of the previous percentage "sent elsewhere", do you send anything to Albania?	Yes/No
How much of the money "sent elsewhere" goes to Albania?	% of income "sent elsewhere"
Who do you send this money to in Albania?	text (short open answer)
Have you made any **financial investments** (e.g. funds, deposits, life insurance, etc.) in Albania?	Yes/No
Do you plan to do this in Albania in the next 3 years?	Yes/No

Impact of the economic crisis

Can you tell us how is your situation today compared to 10 years ago (period before the economic crisis) or (if you arrived later) your first 1–2 years in France/Belgium?	
TODAY, what is your economic situation in terms of INDIVIDUAL income?	1= Much better 2= Somewhat better 3= Stayed the same 4= Somewhat worse 5= Much worse
TODAY, what is your economic situation in terms of HOUSEHOLD income?	1= Much better 2= Somewhat better 3= Stayed the same 4= Somewhat worse 5= Much worse
TODAY, what are your working conditions?	1= Much better 2= Somewhat better 3= Stayed the same 4= Somewhat worse 5= Much worse
TODAY, what are your social relationships (local social relations, integration/discrimination, etc.)?	1= Much better 2= Somewhat better 3= Stayed the same 4= Somewhat worse 5= Much worse
TODAY, what is your legal/administrative situation (e.g. legal status of residence permit/citizenship, relations with Italian institutions, obtaining visas, documents, etc.)?	1= Much better 2= Somewhat better 3= Stayed the same 4= Somewhat worse 5= Much worse
…the amount of savings that you send to Albania on an annual basis has…	1= strongly increased (more than doubled) 2 = increased 3= remained the same 4= decreased 5= strongly decreased (more than halved)

Perception on migration

Are you satisfied with your life in France/Belgium?	1= Very dissatisfied 2= Dissatisfied 3= Neither 4= Satisfied 5= Very satisfied
Considering your overall experience as a member of the Albanian diaspora, please tell us:	
Up to 3 positive aspects of your experience	text (short open answer)
Up to 3 negative aspects of your experience	text (short open answer)

Relations with Albania

With which of the following people, if they are in Albania, do you still have a close relationship? (more than one answer allowed)	a. Mother b. Father c. Siblings d. Partner e. Son(s)/Daughter(s) f. Other relatives g. Partners in business/work mates h. Other (specify e.g., childhood friends as long as Albanians)
How interested are you in knowing what is happening in Albania?	1 = Not Important at All 2 = Of Little Importance 3 = Of Average Importance 4 = Very Important 5 = Absolutely Essential
In 2016 Albania approved the creation of a "register for migrants ". Once this register will be created, do you think you will register yourself?	Yes/No
Did you enroll in any list/register or are you in touch with any formal or informal association of migrants abroad or in Albania?	Yes/No
If yes, please tell us more/specify what type (formal / informal) and what kind.	text (short open answer)
How often do you go back to Albania?	1. Frequently (more than once a year) 2. Very often (every year) 3. Sometimes (every 2/3 years) 4. Rarely (once every 5/10 years) 5. Never
Have your friends / acquaintances in Italy ever visited Albania due to your recommendation or suggestion?	Yes/No
If yes, for tourism, business, or other reasons?	1= Tourism 2= Business 3= Other reasons
Did they travel with you, alone or both?	1= With me 2= Alone 3= Both with me and alone

Which of the following statements is closer to your "plan for the future"?	1 = Move back permanently to Albania 2 = Go back to Albania permanently but keeping my business centre in France/Belgium 3 = Stay in France/Belgium but increasing my contacts and business relations with Albania 4 = Stay in France/Belgium but move my business centre to Albania 5 = Stay in France/Belgium and keep my business centre here 6 = Stay in France/Belgium and decrease my contacts and business relations with Albania
Would you like to contribute to the future of Albania?	Yes / No / I don't care
If yes, how? What would you do/like to do?	text (short open answer)
If no, or I don't care, why?	text (short open answer)
Have you ever made any attempt to expand/move your professional activity in Albania?	Yes/No
If Yes to 10: What did you do?	text (short open answer)
If Yes to 10: Was your "move/activity" successful?	Yes/No
If Yes to 10: What are the main negative aspects of your experience (if any)? (Please select up to 4 options)	a. No negative aspects b. Unfavourable business environment (e.g., due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) c. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g., Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) d. Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.). e. Difficulty in accessing financing and investment f. Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy g. Taxation h. Law limitations (e.g., rigid labour law, environmental law, etc.) i. Lack of management capacities j. Lack of experience in running a business in Albania k. No suitable business partner l. Language barriers m. Protection of intellectual property n. Problems finding skilled workers/Lack of appropriate skilled labour force o. Inadequate transport and other infrastructures p. Other (please specify)
More in general, would you invest in Albania?	Yes/No
If Yes to 11: how? What would you do?	text (short open answer)

If Yes to 11: What in practice would drive you to invest in Albania (or make your investment easier)? (please select the 3 main)	a. Tax incentives b. Direct subsidies and benefits for investors (e.g., grants for research and development) c. Provide legal and administrative support to investors d. Low interest loans to encourage business, export, etc. and other measures to favor access to credit e. Creation of Free Trade Zones, and/or agreement with other Country partners f. Substantial revision of the legislation (e.g., labour law) g. Reduction of burden and costs of bureaucracy h. Public investment in training and education i. Provision of services (e.g., sector specific services) j. Other (please specify)
If No to 11: What are the main barriers/problems/limitations? (Please select up to 4 options)	a. Simply not interested to invest b. Unfavourable business environment (e.g., due to burdensome regulations and procedures, including sector-specific regulations) c. Deficiencies in quality, efficiency and transparency of the public administration (e.g., Insufficient degree of competition in tendering procedures) d. Lack of coordination/cooperation with other actors outside the public administration (private sector, civil society, etc.). e. Difficulty in accessing financing and investment f. Bureaucratic effort/costs of bureaucracy g. Taxation h. Law limitations (e.g., rigid labour law, environmental law, etc.) i. Lack of management capacities j. Lack of experience in running a business in Albania k. No suitable business partner l. Language barriers m. Protection of intellectual property n. Problems finding skilled workers/Lack of appropriate skilled labour force o. Inadequate transport and other infrastructures p. Other (please specify)
Do you know people not in Albania who are potentially willing and interested in investing in Albania?	Yes/No
Please specify	text (short open answer)
Do you know (personally or because of his/her reputation) any Albanian of the diaspora (or group/organization) in Europe with an interest/ experience in the following sectors? 1. Agribusiness (profiles related to agri-food and agritourism) 2. Social enterprises (profiles related to sociosanitary services) 3. Cultural preservation and heritage (profiles related to archaeological and cultural sites) 4. Potential investors (in all the other sectors)	Yes/No
If yes, please could you provide us with his/her contacts or forward this questionnaire to them?	text (short open answer)
Would you consider to engage through temporary/virtual assignment for the development of Albania?	Yes/No

ANNEX 3.2. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FRANCE AND BELGIUM (FRENCH VERSION)

jour/mois/année #	# jour/mois/année

Introduction

Pays de résidence	France/Belgique
Sexe	masculin
	féminine
Age	#
Pays de naissance	Texte
Ville de naissance	Texte
Citoyenneté à la naissance	Texte (une ou plus)
Citoyenneté aujourd'hui	Texte (une ou plus)
*Vérifiez les réponses précédentes: si vous avez acquis une ou plusieurs citoyenneté (s), en quelle année vous l'avez reçu? (*par exemple: citoyenneté FR/Belg, 2005*)*	Texte #
Si tu es né/e en Albanie, en quel année tu es émigré ?	# (année)
Pourquoi as-tu choisi la France/Belgique comme pays de résidence? (maximum deux réponses)	a. pour l'entrée facilitée b. pou transiter dans un autre pays c. pour la "proximité" culturelle d. parce qu'ici c'est facile de trouver du travail e. pour proximité géographique f. parce que ma famille habitait déjà en France/Belgique g. parce que j'avais des amis en France/ Belgique h. parce que je connaissais la langue i. autre (veuillez expliquer)
Tu es émigré/e de manière régulière ou irrégulière?	régulière
	irrégulière
En ce moment, penses-tu que tu resteras en France / Belgique dans le future?	oui/non

Profession

Qualification/Niveau d'éducation (le plus haute obtenu)	Aucun titre
	École primaire (certificat)
	Collège (Brevet/Diplome)
	Baccalauréat/Certificat professionnel (Lycée; CFA) ou Diplome (école secondaire)
	Licence (Université, Haute école)
	Master
	Doctorat
	Autre
Quelles sont tes principales compétences professionnelles (celles que tu as aquis en général, pas uniquement celles utilisés actuellement)	texte (réponse ouverte courte)
Penses-tu que tes compétences peuvent être utiles pour le développement de l'Albanie?	Oui/non
Si tu as répondu Oui à la réponse précédente, penses-tu que tes compétences pourraient être transférées et utilisées en Albanie?	Oui/non

Quel est ton travail actuellement? Peux-tu nous donner une brève description de ton profil professionnel?	texte (réponse ouverte courte)
Quand (en quelle année) as-tu commencé ce travail?	#
On te demande d'indiquer ta situation de travail – en particulière celle qui fournit la plus grande partie des tes revenus (en tenant compte même du revenus déclarés et non déclarés - travail dissimulé ou revenus en espèces)	a. Sans emploi (en recherche active d'un emploi) b. Ménagère c. Étudiant d. Étudiant et travailleur e. Employé avec contrat permanent, temps plein (35 heures ou plus) f. Employé avec contrat permanent, à temps partiel (moins de 35 heures) g. Employé avec contrat à durée limitée (par exemple saisonnier) h. Occupé en régime de chômage technique/ partiel i. En disponibilité j. Occupé irrégulièrement mais de manière stable k. Occupé irrégulièrement de manière instable / avec des travaux occasionnels l. Travail "para-subordonné" (précaire) (collaborations, projet et autres formes atypiques) m. Travailleur autonome régulier / free-lance* n. Travailleur autonome non régulier o. Entrepreneur/Business man * p. Membre travailleur d'une coopérative q. Autre situation (spécifier/Rien à déclarer)
Seulement pour les entrepreneurs et les business-man	
Pour combien des ans as-tu travaillé comme travailleur autonome ou entrepreneur?	#
Combien des employés travaillent pour toi?	#
D'où est-ce qu'ils viennent?	% français/belges
	% albanais
	% autres pays/nationalités
Le centre de ton business et tes affaires (relations, partenaires,marché, clients) se trouve en France/ Belgique?	Oui/non
Si Non, où se trouve le centre de ton business?	texte (réponse ouverte courte) ou N/A si non-applicable
As-tu des des relations d'affaires/business avec l'Albanie? (par exemple, clients importants, fournisseurs, partenaires, participation à des offres et à des appels, etc.)	Oui/non
Si oui, expliquez brièvement ou indiquez N/A si non-applicable	texte (réponse ouverte courte)

Aspects économiques

Taille du ménage/unité familiale: combien de personnes composent ton "ménage" (y compris toi-même)? Par "ménage", nous entendons le groupe de personnes avec lesquelles il existe une relation de parenté/émotionnel qu'implique également partager des dépenses (nourriture, vêtements, loisirs) et des revenus	# (par example: moi + ma mère + mon fils = 3)
En considération de toutes les différentes sources - économiques et financières – disponibles (revenu du travail, rentes, aide, etc.), quelle est le revenu monétaire total (=somme moyenne annuelle approximative) de ton ménage/ unité familiale?	# (EURO)
Si on considère "100" comme la chiffre totale de tes /vos revenus familiaux mentionnée juste avant (question 2) : a. quelle est la pourcentage d'argent que vous dépensez en France/Belgique (toi/ta famille); b. quelle est la pourcentage que vous épargnez en France/ Belgique ; c. quelle est la pourcentage que vous envoyez à l'extérieur?	% dépensée en France/Belgique % épargnée en France/Belgique % envoyée vers l'extérieur/étrangère
En considérant la pourcentage d'argent "envoyée vers l'extérieur" - juste avant mentionnée, envoyez-vous tout l'argent en Albanie?	Oui/non
Par rapport à l'argent "envoyé vers l'extérieur", quelle est la pourcentage directe vers l'Albanie?	% de revenu qui est "envoyée vers l'extérieur"
À qui envoyez-vous cet argent en Albanie?	Texte (réponse ouverte courte)
Avez-vous réalisé des investissements financiers (fonds, dépôts, assurance-vie, etc.) en Albanie?	Oui/non
Envisagez-vous de les faire (en Albanie) dans les prochaines 3 années?	Oui/non

Impact de la crise économique

On vous demande de comparer la situation d'aujourd'hui avec la période précédant la crise économique (environ il y a 10 ans) ou avec vos premières (1 -2) années de vie en France / Belgique (si vous êtes arrivés après la crise):	
AUJOURD'HUI, quelle est votre situation économique en termes de revenu INDIVIDUEL?	1 = bien meilleur 2 = un peu mieux 3 = la situation est restée la même 4 = un peu pire 5 = bien pire
AUJOURD'HUI, quelle est votre situation économique en termes de revenu FAMILIAL/de ménage?	1 = bien meilleur 2 = un peu mieux 3 = la citation est restée la même 4 = un peu pire 5 = bien pire
AUJOURD'HUI, quelles sont vos conditions de travail?	1 = bien meilleur 2 = un peu mieux 3 = la situation est restée la même 4 = un peu pire 5 = bien pire

AUJOURD'HUI, quel est le niveau de tes RELATIONS sociales (au niveau local, intégration / discrimination, etc.)	1 = bien meilleur 2 = un peu mieux 3 = la situation est restée la même 4 = un peu pire 5 = bien pire
AUJOURD'HUI, quelle est ta situation JURIDIQUE/ administrative individuel (par exemple, permis de séjour; citoyenneté; relations avec les institutions en France/Belgique; visa; documents pour la reconnaissance des qualifications, etc.)	1 = bien meilleur 2 = un peu mieux 3 = la situation est restée la même 4 = un peu pire 5 = bien pire
Le montant d'épargne envoyé en Albanie (montant annuel) est:	1 = fortement augmenté (plus que doublé) 2 = augmenté 3 = resté le même 4 = diminué 5 = fortement diminué (plus de la moitié)

Perception sur la migration

Es-tu satisfait de ta vie en France/ Belgique?	1 = très insatisfait 2 = insatisfait 3 = aucun des deux (neutre) 4 = satisfait 5 = très satisfait
En considération de ta vie en France/ Belgique en tant que migrant, peux-tu nous dire:	
Jusqu'à 3 aspects positifs de l'expérience migratoire que tu as vécue	texte (réponse ouverte courte)
Jusqu'à 3 aspects négatifs de l'expérience migratoire que tu as vécue	texte (réponse ouverte courte)

Relation avec le pays d'origine

Avec quelles personnes, si elles se trouvent en Albanie, es-tu toujours en contact? (plusieurs réponses possibles)	a. mère b. père c. frères / sœurs d. partenaire/fiancé/e e. fils/fille f. autres parents g. partenaire des affaires/du business h. autre (préciser; par exemple amis d'enfance, à condition qu'albanais)
Dans quelle mesure considère -tu important de savoir ce qui se passe en Albanie?	1 = pas du tout important 2 = peu important 3 = d'importance moyenne 4 = très important 5 = absolument essentiel

Depuis 2016, le Gouvernement de Albanie a prévu la création d'un "registre des émigrants". Une fois ce registre sera créé, pensez-vous de vous inscrire vous-même?	Oui/Non
Es-tu inscrit dans un registre /une liste ou es -tu en contact avec une association formelle ou informelle de MIGRANTS à l'étranger ou en Albanie?	Oui/Non
Si ce le cas, peux-tu préciser de quel type d'organisation (nature/formel / informel) et nous donner une brève description?	texte (écrire une réponse ouverte courte)
Tu reviens souvent en Albanie?	1. Fréquemment (plus d'une fois par an) 2. Très souvent (chaque année) 3. Parfois (chaque 2/3 ans) 4. Rarement (chaque 5/10 ans) 5. Jamais
Est-ce que tes amis / connaissances en France/Belgique ont-ils jamais visité l'Albanie sur la base de tes recommandations ou suggestions?	Oui/Non
Si oui: pour tourisme, affaires ou pour d'autres raisons?	1 = tourisme 2 = business 3 = autres aspects
Ont-ils voyagé avec toi, seul ou les deux?	1 = avec moi 2 = seul 3 = avec moi et aussi tous seul
Parmi les affirmations suivantes, peux-tu nous indiquer quelle est la plus proche et en ligne avec ton "plan pour l'avenir"?	1 = retourner en Albanie de façon permanente 2 = retourner en Albanie de façon permanente mais garder le centre de mes contacts et affaires en France/Belgique 3 = Rester en France/Belgique mais augmenter mes contacts et affaires avec l'Albanie 4 = Rester en France/Belgique et garder le centre de mes contacts et affaires en Albanie 5= Rester en France/Belgique et garder mes contacts et affaires en France/Belgique 6 = Rester en France/Belgique et diminuer mes contacts et affaires en Albanie
Est-ce que tu aimerais contribuer au future de l'Albanie?	Oui/Non
Si "Oui", comment? Que aimerais-tu faire?	Texte (écrire une réponse ouverte courte)
Si "Non/ca ne m'intéresse pas", pourquoi?	Texte (écrire une réponse ouverte courte)
As-tu déjà tenté de grandir/ déplacer ton activité professionnelle en Albanie?	Oui/Non
Si la réponse est "Oui" (nr 10): Qu'est-ce qu'as-tu fait?	texte (écrire une réponse ouverte courte)
Si la réponse est "Oui" (nr 10): le "déménagement / l'activité" a-t-il réussi?	Oui/Non

Si la réponse est "Oui" (nr 10): quels sont les aspects négatifs de l'expérience en Albanie (s'il y en a)? (Sélectionnez jusqu'à 4 options)	a. Aucun aspect négatif b. Environnement commercial défavorable (par exemple: lourdeur des réglementations et des procédures, y compris des réglementations sectorielles) c. Lacunes en termes de qualité, efficacité et transparence de l'administration publique (par exemple, concurrence insuffisante dans les procédures d'appel d'offres) d. Manque de coordination / coopération avec d'autres acteurs en dehors de l'administration publique (secteur privé, société civile, etc.). e. Difficulté d'accès au financement et à l'investissement f. Bureaucratie excessive/ coûts de la bureaucratie g. taxation/imposition fiscale excessive h. Limitations légales (par exemple, droit/loi du travail trop rigide, droit de l'environnement, etc.) i. Manque de capacités de gestion j. Manque d'expérience dans la gestion d'une entreprise en Albanie k. Absence des partenaires commerciaux appropriés l. Barrières linguistiques m. Protection de la propriété intellectuelle n. Problèmes pour trouver des travailleurs qualifiés / Manque de main-d'œuvre qualifiée appropriée o. Insuffisance des infrastructures (transport, etc). Autre (veuillez préciser)
Plus en général, voudrais-tu investir en Albanie?	
Si la réponse est "Oui" (nr 11) : comment ? Pour faire quoi ?	
Si la réponse est "Oui" (nr 11): Qu'est-ce que te pousserait à investir en Albanie (ou faciliterait l'investissement)? (indiquer les 3 réponses principaux)	a. Facilitations au niveau fiscale b. Subventions et avantages directs pour les investisseurs (subventions à la recherche et au développement, par exemple) c. Un soutien juridique et administratif aux investisseurs d. Prêts/accès au crédit à faible taux d'intérêt pour encourager les entreprises, les exportations, etc. et autres mesures visant à favoriser l'accès au crédit e. Création de zones de libre-échange et / ou des accords avec autres Pays f. Révision substantielle de la législation (par exemple, droit du travail) g. Réduction de la bureaucratie/des coûts de la bureaucratie h. Investissement public dans la formation et l'éducation i. Fourniture de services (par exemple, services spécifiques à un certain secteur) j. Autre (veuillez préciser)

Si la réponse est Non (nr 11): Quels sont les obstacles / problèmes / limites principaux? (jusqu'à 4 options)	a. pas intéressé à investir b. Environnement commercial défavorable (par exemple: lourdeur des réglementations et des procédures, y compris des réglementations sectorielles) c. Lacunes en termes de qualité, efficacité et transparence de l'administration publique (par exemple, concurrence insuffisante dans les procédures d'appel d'offres) d. Manque de coordination / coopération avec d'autres acteurs en dehors de l'administration publique (secteur privé, société civile, etc.). e. Difficulté d'accès au financement et à l'investissement f. Bureaucratie excessive / coûts de la bureaucratie g. Imposition fiscale excessive h. Limitations légales (par exemple, droit/loi du travail trop rigide, droit de l'environnement, etc.) i. Manque de capacités de gestion j. Manque d'expérience dans la gestion d'une entreprise en Albanie k. absence de partenaire commercial approprié l. Barrière linguistique m. Protection de la propriété intellectuelle n. Problèmes pour trouver des travailleurs qualifiés / Manque de main-d'œuvre qualifiée appropriée o. Insuffisance des infrastructures (transport, etc.) p. Autre (veuillez préciser)
Connais-tu quelqu'un (qui n'habite pas en Albanie) qui aimerait ou serait potentiellement intéressé à investir en Albanie?	Oui/Non
Peux-tu spécifier/nous donner quelques éléments ?	texte (écrire une réponse ouverte courte)
Connaissez-vous (personnellement ou en raison de sa réputation) un/e albanais/e de la diaspora (ou un groupe / une organisation) en Europe ayant intérêt /expérience dans les secteurs suivants? 1. Agroalimentaire (profils liés à l'agroalimentaire et à l'agrotourisme) 2. Entreprises sociales (profils liés aux services socio-sanitaires) 3. Conservation et patrimoine culturel (profils liés aux sites archéologiques et culturels) 4. Investisseurs potentiels (dans tous les autres secteurs)	Oui/Non
Si "Oui", peux-tu nous donner leurs contacts ou peux-tu leur envoyer ce questionnaire ?	texte (écrire une réponse ouverte courte)
Un engagement temporaire / virtuel pour le développement de l'Albanie pourrait être d'intérêt pour toi?	Oui/Non

ANNEX 4 – FOCUS GROUP

CeSPI established 5 Focus Groups in the regions covered by the study: Lombardy, Piedmont, Emilia-Romana, Lazio and Tuscany.

The Focus groups were held in the following dates:

Region	City	Date	Number of participants
Lombardy	Milan	29 Oct. 2019	10
Lazio	Rome	8 Nov. 2019	7
Tuscany	Florence	7 Nov. 2019	15
Piedmont	Novara	4 Dec. 2019	11
Emilia-Romagna	Bologna	21 Jan. 2020	6

The Focus Groups consisted in a group interview and discussion among Albanians and Albanian Origin towards some results of the previous survey undertaken (questionnaire) and some key aspects of the CeSPI study.

In particular, the Focus Groups were organized around the following key aspects:

1) What kind of relationship exists between the Albanian Diaspora in Italy and Albania?

2) What are the conditions that determine an impact (positive or negative) in providing value and engaging skills, competences and resources of Albanian Diaspora in Italy towards entrepreneurial/investment projects in Albania?

3) What are the suggested and recommended changes or conditions that would facilitate a direct or indirect engagement of the Albanian Diaspora in local entrepreneurship and Investment?

A report for each of the FG is included in the Final report.

ANNEX 5 – QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS

Qualitative interviews were conducted with experts on Albanian diaspora or members of the diaspora in the different regions analysed in this study. The list of the interviews conducted is as follows:

- Luljeta Cobanaj, President of the Albanian Chamber of Commerce in Italy, Milan - 1 April 2019 (Lombardy);
- Arber Agalliu, Freelance Journalist (Albania News), Florence (skype interview) - 9 April 2019 (Tuscany);
- Eralba Cela, Researcher at Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona (skype interview) - 26 April 2019;
- Kole Gjeloshaj, Deputy Secretary General at ISF - International School Sport Federation, ISPD Network, Belgium (skype interview) – 14 May 2019;
- Artan Dadikaj, Entrepreneur and among the creators of the cultural centre AssoAlbania Asti (skype interview) - 14 November 2019 (Piedmont);
- Vojsava Tahiraj, Civil Servant, City of Parma (telephone interview) - 8 January 2020 (Emilia-Romagna) ;
- Adele Budina, Movie Producer, Rome (telephone interview) - 14 January 2020 (Lazio).

Interviews were conducted based on the following questions:

1. Can you tell us something about the evolution of the Albanian diaspora in Italy/France and Belgium and the reasons of this trend?
2. What are the main characteristics of the Albanian diaspora, also in comparison with other nationalities?
3. Why does the Albanian diaspora have these characteristics?
4. What are in your opinion the main strengths and weaknesses of the diaspora for the development of Albania?
5. What are in your opinion the main constraints and limits to the investment of the diaspora in Albania?
6. What kind of policies could in your opinion stimulate investments of the diaspora in Albania? National and/or bilateral policies?
7. What are the main sectors in which the diaspora should be valorized?
8. What do you think of Albanian occupation in the key sectors investigated in this study (questionnaire)?
9. Can you mention successful examples of links and connections between the Albanian diaspora and Albania in the economic sector? If so, what do you think are the most relevant conditions for these successful experiences? (origins in specific Albanian regions, level of education, religious or cultural links, economic sectors, etc.)
10. For which sectors and/or through which instruments a better valorization of the diaspora for the development of Albania could be achieved?
11. Have you heard of the ministerial programme for the diaspora?
12. Can you mention interesting secondary sources for the study of Albanian diaspora in Italy, France and Belgium?
13. Can you mention experts that we should contact for an interview in Italy, France or Belgium?