

**THE NATIONAL STRATEGY OF DIASPORA  
AND ACTION PLAN  
2018 - 2024**

**Tirana, March 2018**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**THE NATIONAL STRATEGY OF DIASPORA**

ENTRY

DIASPORA AS NATIONAL QUALITY

**I. CURRENT CONDITIONS**

- 1.1 CURRENT SITUATION AND SITUATION'S ASSESSMENT
- 1.2 ALBANIAN MIGRATION STAGES AND DIASPORA
- 1.3 ALBANIAN DISPLACEMENT FACTORS
- 1.4 "BRAIN DRAIN" PHENOMENON
- 1.5 MIGRATION AND NEIGHBOURING
- 1.6 SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FACTORIZATION
- 1.7 CURRENT SITUATION OF DIASPORA
- 1.8 DIASPORA AND INTEGRATION IN THE EU
- 1.9 ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

**II. VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 VISION AND MISSION
- 2.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES**

- 3.1 ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK POLICY MAKING ON DIASPORA

3.1.1 STATE AND DIASPORA

- NATIONAL AGENCY OF DIASPORA
- ALBANIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND OF DIASPORA
- PUBLISHING CENTER OF DIASPORA
- STATE COMMITTEE FOR DIASPORA
- SUMMIT OF DIASPORA
- COORDINATION COUNCIL OF DIASPORA
- DIASPORA AND STATE MANAGEMENT
- CONSULAR SERVICES AND DIPLOMACY
- STATE RELATIONS WITH DIASPORA
- ESTABLISHMENT OF A DATABASE ON DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS

- ESTABLISHMENT OF ALBANIAN CULTURAL CENTERS
- PROMOTION OF DIASPORA RIGHTS
- STATE POLICY AND DIASPORA
- ORGANIZATION OF THE ALBANIAN COMMUNITIES OF DIASPORA
- THE RIGHT OF VOTING
- PARLIAMENTARY SUBCOMMISSION FOR DIASPORA AND MIGRATION
- PUBLIC DIPLOMACY OF DIASPORA

### 3.2 ESTABLISHING A GOOD INSTRUMENT IN THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ACTORS TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH DIASPORA AND LEGAL MIGRATION.

#### 3.2.1 INCLUSION OF DIASPORA IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

- REMITANCES - FROM CONSUMPTION TO DEVELOPMENT
- DIASPORA - CONTRIBUTOR OF ALBANIA'S DEVELOPMENT
- DIASPORA NETWORKS
- EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTS

### 3.3 PREPARATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NEW LEVEL OF STATE POLICY RELATIONS WITH DIASPORA.

#### 3.3.1 ALBANIAN COMMUNITIES ABROAD AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### 3.3.2 PROTECTION OF IDENTITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

- HUMAN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CAPITAL
- PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY
- LITERACY, EDUCATION AND MEDIA

## **IV. COST AND BUDGETING**

## **V. MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

### 5.1 MONITORING

## **ACTION PLAN OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY OF DIASPORA 2018-2024**

### **WORKING GROUP**

## **ENTRY**

### **DIASPORA AS NATIONAL QUALITY**

Diaspora is a term known more than 2500 years ago. Today, this word can be defined as “a community of migrants whom maintain material or sentimental ties with their homeland, by adopting themselves in the environment and institutions of the host society”. The diaspora should not be understood as something immutable and rigid, neither as a unitary or rigid social moment. On the contrary, the diaspora should be referred to as migrant communities, whose identities and qualities are changing over time.

Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (the Valley) are spaces, which include the sending states from which Albanians migrate.

Albanian diaspora is traditional. About 200 000 people migrated when Ottomans invaded Albanian lands in the 15th century. Later, Albanians moved within the Ottoman territory, and also held important positions in Ottoman structures in various parts of the Empire.

One of the oldest Albanian Diasporas is the Arbëresh community in Italy, which still maintains its own cultural and linguistic roots. This population is the descendant of those Albanian families who led Albania in the 15th century when the Ottomans invaded the area and they became refugees mainly in the Kingdom of Naples.

Diaspora of Albanian origin is found in Turkey. For a long time it was dangerous to declare Albanian ancestry, but in today's Turkey, the Albanian diaspora is respected and Turkish historiography appreciates the important role played by Albanians in the Ottoman hierarchy, but also later in the time of the founding of the modern state of Turkey.

Migration to the United States is consolidated in time and in 2012, the oldest Albanian cultural association “Vatra” celebrated its 100th anniversary.

In Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Egypt, and Argentina there is a Diaspora, which, though old, maintains language links and is looking for its proper identity.

Today, Albanian diaspora is present in European countries, Canada, Australia and Africa. In most host countries, Albanians have established their own organizations.

In dealing with the Albanian Diaspora, international organizations focus mainly on the current one. It is about those who left Albania and Kosovo after the collapse of communism in the 1990s and later. This definition is partial and does not represent the reality of the Albanian Diaspora. Many of those who left the 1990s joined their relatives or friends who were already living abroad. They have joined the Albanian associations, which have long existed in many host countries.

Migration remains a difficult challenge for Albanian state institutions and society. The aim of the National Strategy is to provide Albania with a comprehensive diaspora policy and its placement in alignment with the EU integration policy orientations and its treatment with the best international standards.

The National Strategy supports migrants who live outside the territory of the Republic of Albania in a lawful manner. It aims to produce a synthesis of the collective commitment of the Albanian society towards its compatriots living abroad.

The strategy promotes the development of state policies for the inclusion and contribution of Albanian communities abroad in the socio-economic and political development of Albania. It does not cover issues related to foreign nationals who live or want to live in Albania.

The strategy aims to strengthen and facilitate Albania's relations with their host countries through cooperation policies with the Diaspora and migrants.

The strategy considers Diaspora an added value of the Albanian society and envisions increasing the Government's ability to policy-making towards it. It supports the organization of Albanian communities in the world, in a structured diaspora, in order to factorize them in the interaction for the acceleration to the development of the country.

The document seeks to reassess the diaspora as a factor that will exert its impact on the homeland and vice versa, adapting the nation to the new conditions of the time we live.

The document is divided into two parts: the National Strategy of Diaspora and Action Plan, which contains the objectives and activities planned to be implemented in 2018-2024.

The National Strategy of Diaspora and Action Plan 2018-2024 of the Republic of Albania are drafted with the contribution provided by the Inter-ministerial Working Group chaired by the State Minister for Diaspora. Experts coming from different ministries and institutions are involved in this process. This document includes contributions and proposals made by the civil society.

## **I. CURRENT CONDITIONS**

### **1.1 CURRENT SITUATION AND SITUATION'S ASSESSMENT**

The National Diaspora Strategy 2018-2024 is an instrument that deals with the state of migratory phenomenon and diaspora of Albania. It gives a number of recommendations, which could clarify the future work of state structures.

The complexity of the Diaspora phenomenon requires the coordination of many institutions and state bodies and sets out the nature of the strategic document as a complex interdisciplinary strategy. The same work nature was followed by the preparation and elaboration of the National Action Plan. This last one through its own Measures will enable the implementation of the Albanian National Strategy of Diaspora 2018-2024.

The National Strategy is a dynamic document that needs tracking, adaptation and continuous monitoring. The strategy will be a valuable tool for the interested citizens and will encourage state structures to fulfill the obligations set out in it.

In Albania, public policies towards diaspora have so far been influenced by the donor community and NGOs. In 2004, Albania adopted the “National Migration Strategy 2005-2010” for migration management as entirely as possible. It was the first document that tried to involve the interests of Albanians both at home and abroad in the profile of a state policy. The first Albanian migration strategy of 2004 required Albania to be considered a country capable of managing migration flows. It was prepared with EU funding and supported by IOM. Despite the wish, the goal had little to do with the economic development of the country. The National Strategy of Diaspora 2018-2024 is also based on the critical assessment of the implementation of the Albanian Government policies in the field of migration through:

- study of former strategies in the area of migration and their action plans,
- verification of undertaken measures and their impact on state action,
- verification of the reasons for the delays and measures to be taken in progress,
- analyzing the existing conditions for achieving goals,
- drafting of conclusions and recommendations for the development of the state policy on this issue.

The National Strategy Document addresses:

- causes of migration,
- mechanisms of social and political factorization of diaspora in Albanian society,
- protection of Albanian Diaspora communities abroad,
- organization of Albanian communities abroad,
- improvement of consular services by consulates and Albanian embassies.

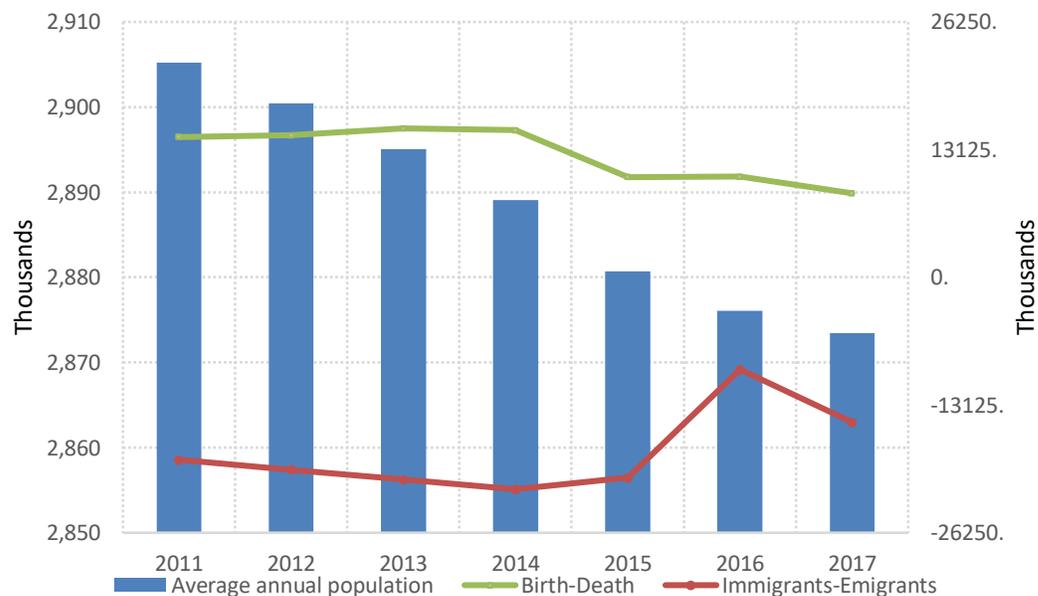
## 1.2 ALBANIAN MIGRATION STAGES AND DIASPORA

Diaspora is related to the “maturity” of migration. In relation to it, for the recent and late time of Albania, we can identify three stages of migration:

- the wave of migrants before 1944,
- the later diaspora of those who left during 1945-1990 and which coincides mainly with Albanians in the former Yugoslavia,
- the great wave of migration after the fall of communism, after 1990.

In 1989, around 19.5% of the population belonged to the age group of 15-24 years. The political isolation of the communist regime and the idea of freedom in the West were personified as ideas of freedom of movement and migration to neighboring states, mainly in Italy and Greece. Moving abroad was seen as an investment for the future and for a better life.

**Fig.1 Annual average population and two main components (Natural Supplements and Net Migration), 2017**

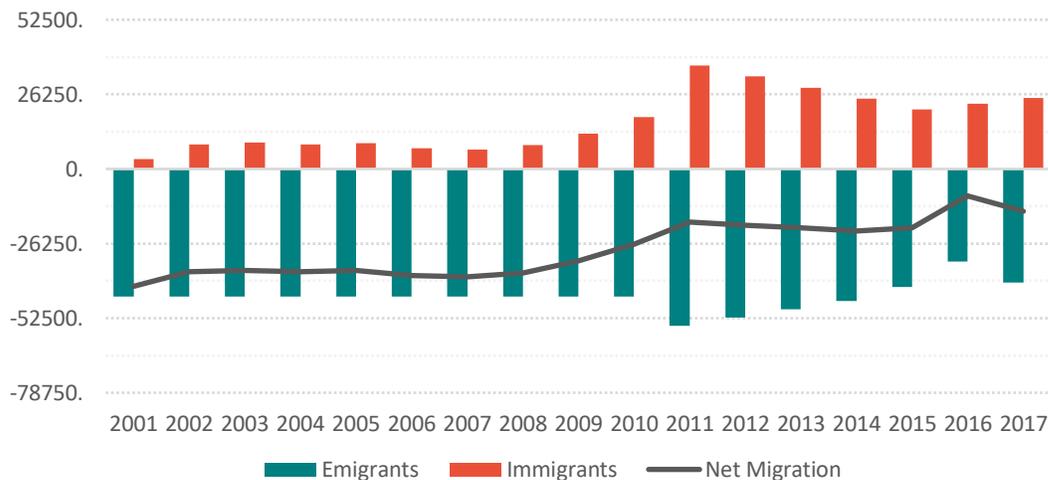


Source: INSTAT

Albania became the country with the largest influx of migration in Europe, according to the measurement of the relationship between migrants and the population. This phase of migration can be divided into several periods:

- the period 1991-1992, which was completely uncontrolled, when approximately 300 000 Albanians abandoned the country,
- the period 1992-1996, when they migrated, mainly illegally, despite temporary improvements to the economy and better border control,
- the period 1996-1997, shortly after the crisis of the collapse of the pyramid schemes of savings of a considerable number of people. Albania plunged into anarchy and many others were displaced for fear of violence,
- the period after the establishment of the free movement of people where they could only move freely with the Albanian passport.

**Fig. 2** *Number of immigrants, emigrants and migrants (net)*



Source: INSTAT

During the first decade of transition, there was a lack of government control over migration. In the early 2000s, approximately 25% of the total population, or over 35% of the workforce, had emigrated.

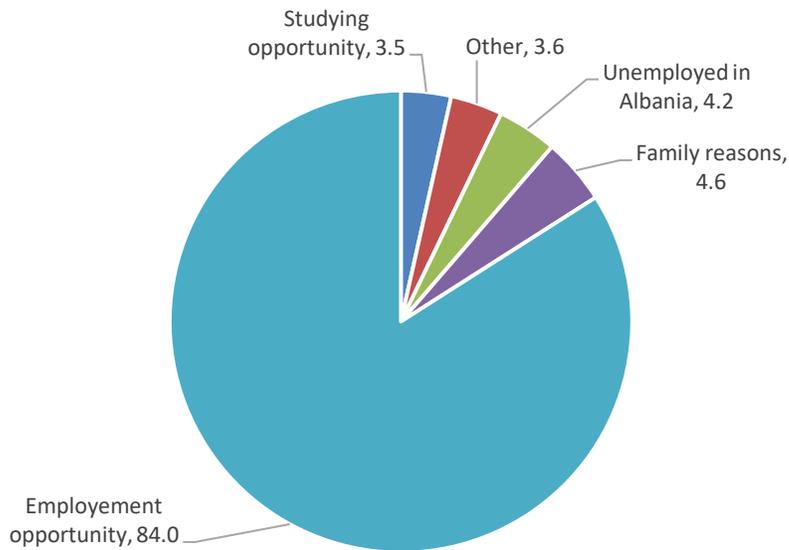
### 1.3 ALBANIAN DISPLACEMENT FACTORS

People migrate when they lack resources and opportunities to meet their needs and aspirations. The term "for a better life" includes some factors that force Albanians to leave the country, which is reflected in the lack of uniformity among Albanian migrants.

The main factors are principally:

- **Economic factor:** Albanians have largely left for economic reasons such as: lack of employment opportunities, poor living conditions, especially in some areas where basic conditions such as electricity, water and shelter are lacking.
- **Public safety:** Albania has faced massive emigration flows as a result of the low level of public security or rioting in the country. A large number of qualified people, with good economic conditions, have left the country for a safer future for themselves and their family. This phenomenon occurred particularly after the 1997 riots and was accompanied by another departure wave.
- **Weak institutions:** lead to a lack of trust in citizens to improve the situation in the country where corruption and organized crime paralyze the normal functioning of state institutions. Poor institutions and difficulties in law enforcement also affect immigrants' efforts and perspectives to return and settle in the country, especially when they face difficulties in building private activities or in dealing with public administration.
- A special case is the departure due to the tradition of "blood feuds", which have a special social and cultural burden in the northern areas of the country.  
The reasons for the departure have changed their weight over time. In a study showing the reasons for leaving Albania in 2017, according to INSTAT, five factors are estimated to be the country's departure factors.  
The reasons for the departure have changed their weight over time. In a study showing the reasons for leaving Albania in 2017, according to INSTAT, five factors are estimated to be the country's departure factors.

**Fig. 3 Factors of leaving Albania, 2017**



*Source: Labor Force Survey, by INSTAT, 2017*

Among the main factors in free movement in the European Union, the opportunity to work abroad is in the first place (in the case of individuals who have been employed in Albania, 84%), then the family factor (4.6%), which is followed by the unemployment factor as inability (4.2%), study opportunities (3.5%) and other factors (3.6%).

In previous government documents, leaving the country to go abroad was mainly dealt within the framework of the measures against trafficking and border management. By its very nature, it cannot be fought with repressive measures, but also preventive measures are required. The phenomenon requires reflection in dealing with long-term methods focused on the causes of migration from a practical point of view. This approach should consider compliance with the Common European Migration Policies.

## **1.4 “BRAIN DRAIN” PHENOMENON**

The high level of the leaving the country of qualified people is a migration characteristic of the Albanians from Albania, compared to those Albanians from Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

In 1990, 40% of teachers and scholars left Albania. In the early 2000s, about 60 percent of the graduates in Western countries had either left the country or had not returned after graduation.

It is to be concerned the fact that the majority of qualified professionals have found jobs in sectors that differ from their qualifications.

The brain “drain” includes academics, qualified persons in various fields, as well as a significant number of Albanian students studying at foreign universities. From Italy and Greece, the country’s “brain” goes to Canada, USA, Germany, Great Britain and other EU countries.

The “Brain Drain” phenomenon has been symbolically labeled as the “Canada” phenomenon, since Canada's emigration policies favor emigration of qualified people.

The “loss” of qualified and educated people is considered to be a detriment to a country's socio-economic development as they are the driving force of any country.

Taking measures to avoid the permanent departure of qualified and educated individuals requires the encouragement and promotion of temporary migration, in particular the circulating migration of qualified individuals.

The Government of Albania intends to promote the voluntary return of qualified, permanent or temporary migrants through short-term positions for consultation, teaching or training purposes. This will also serve to identify all the intellectual capacities that are located abroad.

The National Strategy of Diaspora will foster representatives of the talented young generation abroad to retreat to a professional career in the country. An opportunity will be the provision of scholarships for further study abroad and the creation of opportunities for participation in programs for exchanging experiences with third countries, subject to the obligation to return. This will be considered an investment for the future by increasing the level of young academics. In order to ensure their return, the (sending) institutions will maintain close relations with migrants and representatives of the qualified diaspora and will offer them employment opportunities at home.

## **1.5 MIGRATION AND NEIGHBOURING**

In the selection of the host country, the main factor for the new Albanian migration was geographical, cultural and linguistic proximity. Neighbors like Greece and Italy were the main destinations during the 1992-1995 period. The abovementioned countries are also preferred due to the scarce ability to implement a costly migration project. The preference of Albanian

migrants to other Western European countries or the United States was limited due to the economic situation and migration policies in these countries.

Migration statistics are clear in their ambiguity. Twenty years after the collapse of communism, it was estimated that approximately 1.44 million Albanians, or 45% of the 3.2 million people currently living in Albania, had migrated and lived abroad, mainly in Greece and Italy. The Albanian government estimated that 600 000 Albanians lived in Greece in 2005, while 250 000 in Italy (although Italian sources claimed that there were about 400 000 Albanians). If we take into account the “peplemovin” data, which refers to the state of migration, we can discuss this data on Albania (fig.4).

**Fig. 4 Albanian migrants by main destination countries**

<b>Migrants</b>	
<b>Greece</b>	<b>676 846</b>
<b>Italy</b>	<b>522 647</b>
<b>Macedonia</b>	<b>91 128</b>
<b>America</b>	<b>83 018</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>15 964</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>11 985</b>
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>3 712</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>3 065</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>3 037</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>2 628</b>

*Source: Peplemovin*

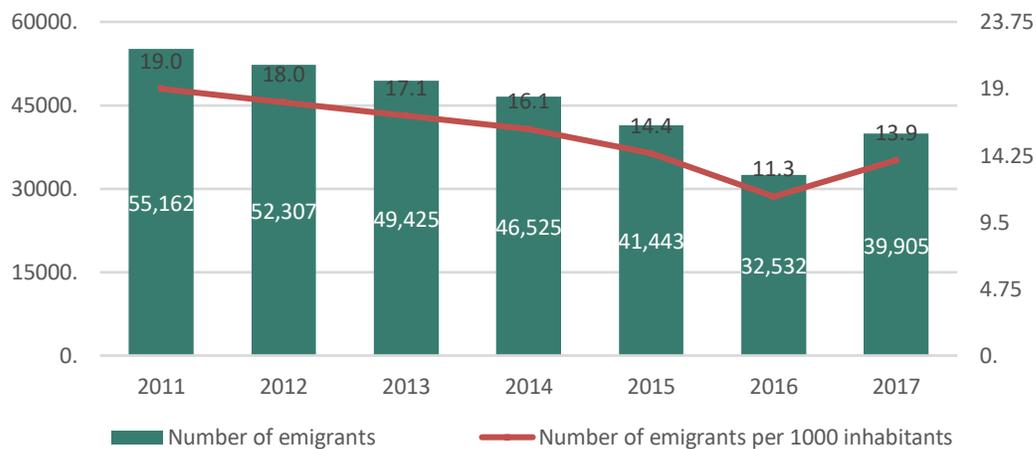
Italy for Albanians was a place that combines cultural preferences and geographical proximity. Living under the country’s communist regime had led Italy to be seen as a symbol of freedom and as the West. Broadcasting on radio and television was the most important route through which Albanians in communism maintained ties with the West. Italian was the most spoken foreign language in Albania, Italian art and culture constituted special attraction. All of these factors help to understand why Italy was the most sought-after country by Albanian emigrants. In Italy, the number of Albanians in mid-2005 was highest compared with other immigrants in that country, or 13.7% more than Romanians and Moroccans.

Referring to the data of the Italian Institute of Statistics, in 2005 Albanian emigrants in Italy were in the first place with 348 813, with Romanians with 297 570 in second place.

Greece is the other country that is geographically close to the Albanians. Illegal crossing of the Greek-Albanian border did not require large financial expenses. Citizens of both countries also share certain cultural and historical similarities. Although Greek is not spoken in Albania but only in some southern regions where the Greek community resides, massive migration towards this country has included an increasing number of Albanians. This led to the high growth of those who could speak Greek, shortening the cultural and linguistic distance between the two neighboring countries.

Researchers describe migration from Albania as economical one and with a high level of irregularity, with undocumented immigrant flows, and quickly and dynamically developed. A particular migration quality appeared (with plenty of going and forth) especially with Greece.

**Fig. 5 Number of emigrants, and emigrants per 1000 inhabitants**



Source: INSTAT

Mobility of migrants traveling frequently between their homeland and host countries has been normalized due to the regulatory process (of legal status) in Italy and Greece and free movement of visas. This process has created the Albanian Diaspora in these countries, which focuses on stabilizing the social and legal status in the host countries for the next generation.

## 1.6 SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FACTORIZATION

A distinctive feature of the Albanian migration especially in Greece and Italy is the creation of organizations based on the interests of political parties in Albania. They have played and play an important role in encouraging compatriots to participate in electoral voting (traveling to

Albania). In some political parties, representatives of these organizations are part of the governing structures, thus increasing the political influence of migration in Albanian politics.

By regulating the legal status of host societies, particularly in Italy and Greece, Albanian migrants are moving towards taking a natural role. Their votes are being considered important in local electoral processes. This is creating opportunities for the representation of candidates of Albanian nationality in the political and representative structures of the host countries.

The organized engagement of migration in Italy and Greece has significantly influenced the relations of Albania with these two countries. They have been raised at the level of strategic partnership by being an example of how migration and diaspora affect bilateral relations between the two states.

## **1.7 CURRENT SITUATION OF DIASPORA**

The analysis of the current situation shows that Albanian diaspora is very dynamic. It is found in many leading states of the world such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Greece, Italy, Turkey, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and France, but also in new economic powers such as Canada and Australia.

The Albanian Diaspora is increasingly organized, educated and willing to keep in touch with the countries of origin. The current level of remittances is debatable, but the main interest is related to the future of these revenues.

The assessment of Albanian diaspora organizations and migration policies indicate the growing role that diaspora plays as a mediator between host countries and the country of origin.

Albanian Diaspora organizations in the West are focusing more on their better organization in their host countries and their domestic priorities. They are addressing the situation of Diaspora members, their needs and demands related to political participation and the rights of foreign workers, citizenship and the rights of religious communities.

The main quality of the Albanian diaspora is the mobilization through indirect lobbying to persuade the receiving government to act in favor and support the country of origin. Such an engagement has been showed from the Albanian diaspora in its efforts for the independence, firstly of Albania and later of Kosovo. Reactive abilities have been better than those with created by a better self-organization.

Migration remains a difficult challenge for Albanian state institutions and society. The aim of the National Strategy is to provide Albania with a comprehensive diaspora policy and its placement in alignment with the EU integration policy orientations and its treatment with the best international standards.

The National Strategy supports migrants who live outside the territory of the Republic of Albania in a lawful manner. It aims to produce a synthesis of the collective commitment of the Albanian society towards its compatriots living abroad.

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## **1.8 DIASPORA AND INTEGRATION IN THE EU**

Diaspora and migration are two communicating “pots” in the process. Migration has been an important topic of European Union policy reflection in recent years. European 2020 Strategy and Stockholm Program recognize the high potential and large contribution of migrants to the EU as well as for building a competitive and sustainable economy.

## **1.9 ALBANIA AND KOSOVO**

Albania and Kosovo are supposed to be among the poorest countries in Europe. But this assessment only occurs if viewed in the values of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). These values do not give a complete picture of the economic power of the Albanian nation. Among the hidden assets of these two countries, a large diaspora is also to be considered, spread across many parts of the world, which regularly sends remittances, thus bearing important responsibilities for the well-being of its homeland and its population.

The National Strategy foresees a close co-operation with Kosovo's state institutions for a re-evaluation of the relationship with the common diaspora. Diaspora agreements between the two countries have served as a qualitative step in this regard. Building a Joint Action Plan would be important as well as mandatory.

Both countries will assess the common level of cooperation with Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia in order to coordinate with the responsible institutions, on a case-by-case basis, the rights of the Albanian diaspora in their homeland.

## II. VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 VISION AND MISSION

The Albanian National Strategy of Diaspora is a reflection of the work that the institutions have to carry out to create a new state policy for the diaspora.

The **vision** of the National Strategy supports the re-evaluation of the situation and the qualitative structure of Albanian state relations with the Diaspora.

Diaspora and Albanian communities are linked to Albania and each other by the way of understanding the development interests and preserving national identity in the new conditions of society and international relations.

The **mission** of the National Strategy aims to include and strengthen the participation of Diaspora and migrants as a factor of Albania's development through the assets of knowledge and values they possess.

The **fundamental values** that this document seeks to achieve is the creation of trust and involvement of the Albanian Diaspora contribution through mutual benefit, facilitation with a supportive policy that changes the quality of the relationship and strengthens the ties of Albanians wherever they are with each other and their homeland.

### 2.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In implementing diaspora policies, strategic forecasting and planning it shall lead to an understanding of the main risks of the future both for the country of origin and the diaspora, which currently face political, economic and social challenges.

The main objectives of the strategy are:

- Establishing a comprehensive policy making framework on Diaspora.
- Creating a useful instrument to assist the Government and other stakeholders to improve and strengthen cooperation with the Diaspora and lawful migration.
- Preparing the administration for the new level of state policy relationship with the Diaspora.

### **III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES**

#### **3.1 ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY MAKING FRAMEWORK ON DIASPORA**

##### **3.1.1 STATE AND DIASPORA**

###### **- NATIONAL AGENCY OF DIASPORA**

The National Agency of Diaspora was created by a special law. It is responsible for the development and consolidation of institutional cooperation with the Diaspora, throughout the improvement of the diaspora's position and the protection of its rights and interests, wherever it is situated; offering assistance for the preservation of national language and cultural heritage; promoting economic cooperation between the country of origin and the diaspora; cooperating for prosperity, peace, well-being, culture and social solidarity of the whole nation.

The Steering Council is the decision-making body of the Agency. The chairman and members of the Steering Council are appointed and dismissed by order of the minister responsible for the diaspora.

The Steering Council of the Agency consists of representatives of various institutions related to the implementation of policies for the Albanian Diaspora.

###### **The National Agency of Diaspora has as purpose:**

- the establishment of a single diaspora database based on the free will of the person, in accordance with the applicable legislation on personal data protection,
- the implementation of the policies and projects related to the Diaspora,
- the coordination of the Diaspora with their country of origin,
- the co-operation and coordination of activities with state institutions, civil society and organizations at home and abroad to improve the position of the diaspora in the world,
- the preservation and development of the diaspora's language, national and cultural values,
- the information released to Diaspora on political processes in the country of origin,
- the preparation of periodic reports on its activity.

###### **- ALBANIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND OF DIASPORA**

The Albanian Development Fund of Diaspora (ADFD) aims to provide and distribute financial means for concrete projects that will be assessed as a priority and have an impact on improving the living conditions. It will promote co-operation and interaction through promotion, encouragement of philanthropic trends and diaspora investments to support development in the country.

The Albanian Development Fund of Diaspora (ADFD) will cooperate with communities and Albanian associations / organizations abroad that may be willing to channel their savings towards any investments, development of projects for Diaspora investments, based on the best experiences.

**ADFD serves as a mechanism recognized by law where the main objectives are:**

1. to support Diaspora members to assist for their contribution to educational, cultural, health and rural development issues;
2. to cooperate with non-profit organizations, organizations and individuals for philanthropic purposes that operate in areas related to the socio-economic, cultural and educational development of the diaspora.

**- PUBLISHING CENTER OF DIASPORA**

The Publishing Center of Diaspora is responsible for publishing and distributing the approved educational textbooks and supplementary literature that will serve to teach and preserve the national identity in the Albanian Diaspora communities. The establishment, organization and functioning of the Publishing Center of Diaspora will be regulated by a Decision of the Council of Ministers.

**- STATE COMMITTEE FOR DIASPORA**

The State Committee for Diaspora is a consultative body of the Council of Ministers for the coordination of policies and state activities in the diaspora field. The Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister and is composed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Finance and Economy, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth, the Minister of Culture, the Minister of Environment and Tourism, The State of Diaspora, the Governor of the Bank of Albania, the Chairman of the Academy of Sciences, the Director of INSTAT.

**The field of the activity of the Committee includes:**

- a) Preparing orientation lines for drafting new active policies and defining strategic priorities in the diaspora field;
- b) Proposing legal and institutional mechanisms for issues related to improving the position of Diaspora members and protecting their rights and interests in their countries of residence;
- c) Encouraging and developing a dialogue on the implementation of the strategy, policies and legislation in the field of development of Diaspora communities;

- d) Coordination and implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy;
- e) Supporting and monitoring the activities of the National Agency of Diaspora.

### **- SUMMIT OF DIASPORA**

The summit of Diaspora will return to a nationwide event addressing and it will be a joint event of the most successful and representative members of the Diaspora. Creating this tradition will strengthen the sense of national identity and unity. It will increase the sense of respect for the Diaspora and will foster practical conclusions in its coordination and engagement at home and abroad.

The summit will gather prominent figures of business, science, art, culture, sports and successful students living abroad. They will evaluate achievements and exchange experiences in discussing national challenges and overcoming them.

### **- COORDINATION COUNCIL OF DIASPORA**

The new relationship of the state with the Diaspora will be formalized and institutionalized with the establishment of the Coordination Council of Albanian Diaspora, which will be established as a central organization of co-representation. The Council will guide the process of cooperation of state institutions with Albanian communities abroad.

The Council will be an inter-institutional structure for the engagement of the Diaspora and emigrants and will be composed of the main institutional partners of the Albanian state and of the Diaspora.

The Diaspora Council will support the creation of an organized network of Albanian communities in host countries and countries of origin.

Diaspora organizations will determine their goals, strategies, functions and areas of action, in accordance with the available resources and legal options and institutional arrangements in host countries.

The importance of diaspora organizations has been recognized by national and international political institutions in recent years, such as the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the governments of the host countries. In the United States, the Albanian-American organizations are publicly thanked for their work by high-level institutions and politicians.

### **- DIASPORA AND STATE MANAGEMENT**

Migration management includes a number of practices for the advancement and positive impact of the Albanian diaspora in the regions of origin. These practices are based on models

that will encourage the administrations of sending countries of origin to create migration strategies and capacity building for its application.

The National Strategy of Diaspora 2018-2024 targets a future where Albania will be considered a country capable of managing migration flows. This strategic goal is related to the economic and social development of society and the image of the country.

In this context, evaluating the organizational level of the Albanian communities in the diaspora and preparing a special action plan to promote the organization at the regional and state level in the host countries is a priority. To this purpose, it will be encouraged the idea of holding activities that promote this level of organization through informing the Albanian community and identifying human resources.

The National Strategy values the creation of a joint Action Plan with the State of Kosovo in the field of Diaspora relations directed to the enrichment of the existing agreements between the two countries in this regard. The preparation and implementation of necessary agreements in the field of diaspora with all the countries that are considered important and “productive” of the Albanian diaspora in the world.

The National Strategy considers establishing cooperation with national and international institutions for the implementation of programs for this purpose (for example with UNDP to implement TOKTEN in Albania).

The National Strategy considers the reassessment of existing legal acts in the field of migration and as well as expanding the sphere of protection of Albanian communities abroad in accordance with international standards and aiming at adjustment with the Acquis Communautaire.

## **- CONSULAR SERVICES AND DIPLOMACY**

The Strategy will support the enhancement of the quality of services in the countries where the largest communities of Albanians in the Diaspora have been established. The establishment of a consular network in accordance with financial and human resources is necessary and natural.

The Albanian Embassies will prepare periodic reports related to the situation and organization of the Albanian community in host countries. Albanian diplomats should have the necessary knowledge in the field of human rights and migration policies, in particular with regard to international and bilateral conventions on migration and migrant rights. In order to properly protect the rights of Albanian citizens, Albanian embassies and consulates will have at their disposal legal experts specialized in migrants and human rights with high competency level of the immigration regulations and practices of the host countries.

Embassies, consulates and central Albanian diplomacy services will have at their disposal and make available lists of lawyers specialized in rule of law and migration issues.

Basic information for the Albanian community in the host country will be made available through the website for each embassy and consular service. It will contain information on the

contacts of embassies and consulates, the types of services they provide to Albanian citizens, and how to complain about poor quality or lack of services.

The National Strategy will raise awareness and orientation of Albanian citizens abroad for the use of consular and diplomatic services provided by Albanian representations through the online consular platform. Provide information about non-governmental organizations accredited by the host country, which provide legal assistance and protection to foreign communities.

## **- STATE RELATIONS WITH DIASPORA**

The National Strategy is based on a new qualitative report by the state institutions for the diaspora according to the best European practices. It will promote the transparency of the institutions in each aspect of the decision-making process and the effectiveness of policies that will ensure coherence in the areas to be applied.

Diaspora is the “hidden” treasure of the Albanians, which must be shown and marked. Despite the documents produced by the state policy, little concrete action has been taken to make the Diaspora feel welcome in the development of the country of origin. When they even try to invest in it, often face bureaucracy and corruption.

The strategy estimates that the role of the Albanian diaspora in the future will be stronger than in the past. This is also due to its structure, which is changing with a qualitative dynamics. If in the past, the Albanian diaspora was less educated and has done ordinary work, today the diaspora possesses skills that are missing in the homeland.

Diaspora has been educated and enriched over the years and is ready to help their families in the country of origin.

Evaluate the approach of other national strategies existing or to be adopted with the National Strategy and Action Plan for Diaspora. This process will lead to the organization of existing state policies or to be adopted in the future in relation to policies for Albanian communities abroad.

## **- ESTABLISHMENT OF A DATABASE ON DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS**

The diaspora organization’s database will be an important information, which will create a database for the present and the future state memory. It will have multiple roles which are:

- to support of the right of voting;
- the establishment of networks of professional organizations abroad;
- the functioning as a repository for information gathering on the diaspora potentials and capacities by profession.

The National Diaspora Strategy aims at re-evaluating and expanding the National Civil Register with data on migrants and periodically reviewing the legal basis for migrant’s

registration. Particular importance takes the determination of the responsibilities and data to be collected as well as the identification and planning of the establishment of the appropriate network and infrastructure

The National Strategy of Diaspora aims at the organization of public activities and civil society having as purpose the system of registration and voting of nationals abroad. It will evaluate the identification of cultural, sports, educational, social, scientific associations operating in host countries as well as talented and successful individuals working in the diaspora. Creating a separate register for this purpose will have a particular importance.

### **- ESTABLISHMENT OF ALBANIAN CULTURAL CENTERS**

The establishment of the Albanian Cultural Centers in Diaspora's host countries will be realized in cooperation with the state of Kosovo with the intention to preserve national identity, to promote the image of the hometown and the Albanians abroad and to provide services and information to the communities of Albanians in Diaspora. The respect of the principle of "a diaspora" will be enriched by the cooperation with other states that are the producers of the Albanian diaspora.

### **- PROMOTION OF DIASPORA RIGHTS**

The promotion of the Albanian diaspora rights start with the fundamental issue: self-reorganization. It will be based on the Albanian ethnic and national unity and the needs of the nation in the new international conditions.

The National Strategy will promote a coordinated action of the government and state institutions with Albanian diaspora organizations. It will promote clear dialogue policies with host countries on important issues, including integration, language learning, citizenship policies, etc.

In host countries, Diaspora organizations will be assisted to support Albanians working and living abroad, needs and requests for information and services for young migrants, political participation, labor rights, naturalization process, religious rights or other issues.

Diaspora has capacities that can turn it into a factor for the development of civil society in Albania through mediation, conveying of ideas, practices, values and attitudes, norms of behavior and social capital. Old and young migrants can play an important role in this regard by providing assistance to the development and financing local partners.

The National Strategy will be focused in enabling information about the Albanian Diaspora and the development of communities abroad. In this framework, will be conducted an annual report where will be reflected the data and the assessment of the countries where priority should be given to Albanian Diaspora policies.

The accomplishment of general and specific training in the field of migration and their inclusion in the Albanian university programs will be a priority. Periodic training will be organized in the area of domestic and international legislation for officials covering migration issues.

This will be accompanied by a periodic identification assessment to needs and experts in need of legal training. The respective drafting training modules in the current field and the inclusion of such a module in the training of civil servants will receive a special importance.

The National Strategy of Diaspora will encourage state cooperation with the host country institutions which are profiled and deal with migrant issues, women's rights and children's rights. It will promote the establishment of bilateral high-level consultative committees between the host countries for the protection of the rights of the Albanian diaspora communities and their periodically functioning on this purpose.

A particular attention will be devoted to public information on the performance and the development of this activity for the interested public.

#### **- STATE POLICY AND DIASPORA**

The National Diaspora Strategy will structure the public mechanisms of state's policy for the Albanian communities in the country. This will start with the development of practical manuals related to diaspora and migration issues and making them available to officials dealing with the practical implementation of Diaspora legislation.

The National Strategy will identify the law / by-law acts that are implemented in practice by any institution that covers specified issues of diaspora and migration. A particular importance will be given to the training and certification of Albania's diplomatic corps in relation to the migration legislation and in particular with the rights of Albanian communities in the Diaspora.

The responsible public structures will establish regular contacts with the European Group of Regional and Local Authorities in the Field of Immigration (ERLAI), based in Brussels, to assess the possibilities of supporting the policy of protecting the Albanian communities of the diaspora in the EU host countries.

In this framework, the intensification of close contacts between Albanian organizations in Diaspora and local migration protection associations will be encouraged. The identification of the organizations in host countries dealing with the protection of human rights and migrants in these countries will be assessed as a functional mechanism in the interest of the Albanian communities.

The National Diaspora Strategy will conduct a periodic reassessment of their services policy, procedures and tariffs towards the diaspora. Based on the information received, an annual report on the concrete situation of Albanian communities will be carried out, with proposals for respective measures to improve their assistance.

The National Strategy aims to create a register for Albanian citizens who find themselves deprived of their freedom as detained in prison abroad and organize an annual meeting organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Ombudsman's Office and the Albanian Red Cross organization on this issue. The evaluation of periodic information and conclusions on this issue will also be discussed at the State Diaspora Committee.

The National Strategy will consider revising the framework of existing migration agreements with the host countries of Albanian communities in the Diaspora. Negotiating the framework of employment agreements with host countries will also be assessed with the aim of incorporating into the latter ones the vocational training agreements, or discussing in particular on them.

The National Diaspora Strategy assesses and encourages circular migration between Albania and the host countries of the Albanian communities in the Diaspora through preferential measures or the negotiation of bilateral agreements (giving priority to Greece and Italy). A special reassessment will occur in co-operation with the EU countries as well as special projects to facilitate the implementation of employment agreements, benefiting from the temporary and special legislation of host countries, that lack workforce.

#### **- ORGANIZATION OF THE ALBANIAN COMMUNITIES OF DIASPORA**

The organization of Albanian communities in the diaspora aims at:

- establishing a coordinated state structure for the registration of citizens abroad,
- recording of the organizations and repository of special skills in Diaspora by profession,
- establishing the Diaspora Women Network,
- establishing the networks of "Nation Ambassadors" in Diaspora,
- functioning of a coordinated international media structure for the Diaspora.

#### **- THE RIGHT OF VOTING**

The National Strategy foresees undertaking a series of steps for significant changes in Albania's legal framework, which will guarantee the welcome and respect of the diaspora role with Albanian citizenship and lawful migration.

The right to vote and involvement in national decision-making will create a new space for a protagonist Diaspora in the Albanian society.

Diaspora's involvement in the political and electoral system is important as it enables its involvement and expertise in state administration. New Diaspora generations have admirable educational levels for state administration. Diaspora expertise will also be required in other fields of science, technology and development in Albania.

## **- PARLIAMENTARY SUBCOMMISSION FOR DIASPORA AND MIGRATION**

The Sub-Commission on Diaspora and Migration acts within the established composition of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy and is responsible for proposing, examining and monitoring the implementation of public legislation and policies on diaspora and migration. It will also serve as a builder of political cohesion in the Assembly in matters concerning to the Diaspora.

## **- PUBLIC DIPLOMACY OF DIASPORA**

Assessing Diaspora's achievements will encourage its most renowned members to work as state's "public diplomats" abroad. Public diplomacy has to do with the influence of attitudes and opinions on the development and implementation of the policies of the host countries. It contains dimensions of international relations beyond traditional diplomacy and nurtures public opinion in other states.

The protagonists of the societies in which diaspora members live, actors, singers, athletes and businessmen who have influence, direct acquaintance with the media, friends on social networks and create public influence will naturally become the best "ambassadors" in fostering the positive image of the Albanian nation.

The National Strategy will require the engagement of public institutions, which also includes support for diaspora activity when it addresses a given situation in the hosting state. This will include the activation of political institutions in the country of origin to act in favor of migrants towards the authorities in the host country.

Inclusive migrant organizations will have culture and information centers that will be funded by state authorities or in cooperation with the host country and interested donors. Cultural centers will be engaged in disseminating information and organizing various activities to preserve and strengthen the national identity in the Diaspora.

## **3.2 ESTABLISHING A GOOD INSTRUMENT IN THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ACTORS TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH DIASPORA AND LEGAL MIGRATION.**

### **3.2.1 INCLUSION OF DIASPORA IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY**

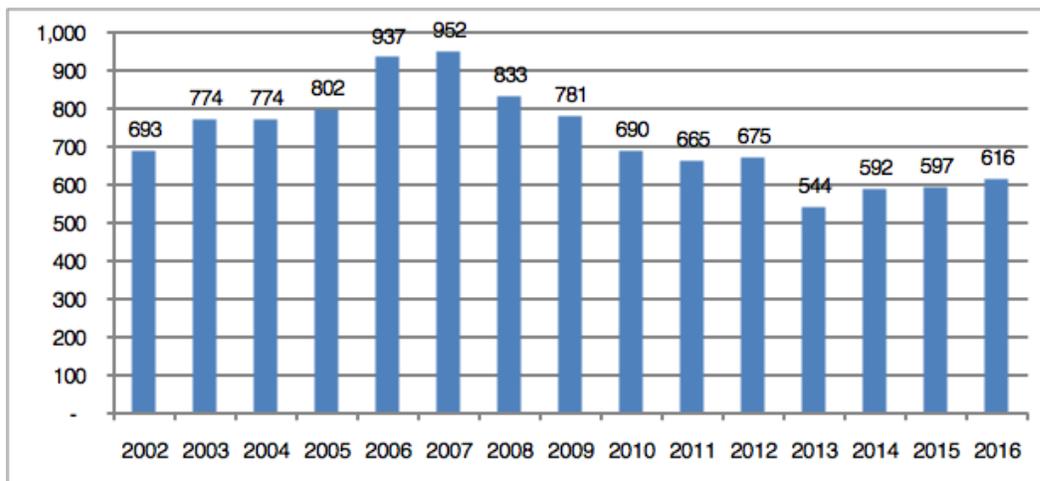
#### **- REMITANCES - FROM CONSUMPTION TO DEVELOPMENT**

Migrants' remittances have mainly contributed to the daily consumption and economic survival of Albanian families. They have met basic living needs for food, clothing, healthcare, childcare or housing construction and furnishing. Studies show that a year of emigration of a

family member brings a 5 percent increase in consumption to his family. But these deliveries have not had a good impact on the economic development of the country and the opening up of new jobs.

The dependence of the Albanian economy on remittances is significant. They consist in 9-15 percent of GDP and about 15 percent of family income. (At a time that India, as the world's largest remittance provider, benefits around Euro 20 per capita and less than 1 per cent of GDP.) Albania ranks among countries with a high dependence on remittances.

**Fig. 6 The dynamics of remittances of Albanian migrants, 2002-2016**



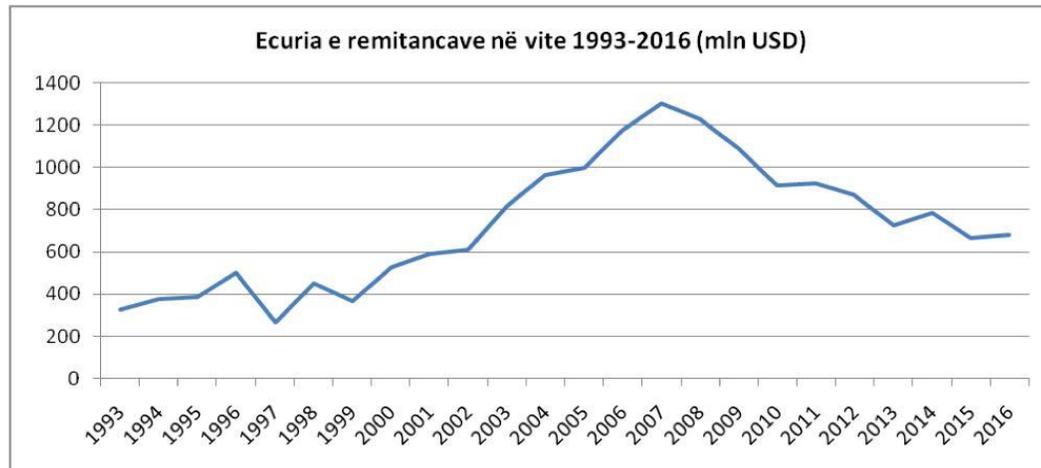
Source: Open Data Albania, 2016 & Bank of Albania, 2016

**The dynamics of remittances in the country has developed in three stages:**

- 1- growth stage, 1991-2007;
- 2- fall stage, 2008-2013;
- 3- revival stage, since 2014.

Remittances continued to rise from 1991 to 2007 when they reached their maximum. In the latter year, in Albania, remittances amounted to Euro 952 million and it was the country with the highest dependence on remittances in the region, with over 300 EURO per capita. After this year, remittances declined, reaching the lowest point in 2013, under the level of Euro 500 million. The reduction of remittances caused a rise in poverty. Remittances began to increase in 2014, reaching Euro 592 million and in 2016 amounted to 616 million Euro.

**Fig. 7 The performance of remittances in the years 1993-2016**



*Source: Bank of Albania (the figures are converted to USD and consequently have an impact on the USD exchange rate with other currencies)*

The decline of remittances to Albania occurred mainly due to the economic crisis in the main host countries such as Greece and Italy. However, it's worth to be mentioned other causes such as the maturity of the migration process, the aging of the first generation of migrants, the expenditures' increase towards the second and third generation of migrants, the crystallization of migratory projects, the cost's increase of public services and living in the host countries, modification of behavior as well as individual and family projects due to uncertainty and anxiety that cause financial crisis.

The National Strategy estimates that high dependence on remittances requires necessarily their strategic management. Avoiding this process increases the risk consequences towards a poor management. The latter is particularly evident in the lack of interaction in the economy between remittances and other development resources such as foreign direct investment and trade.

The main channels of money transfer from Albanian emigrants to their families were initially informal. They have been brought close to the family by the interested ones or sending them through relatives and friends. At a later stage, their formalization began through paid couriers and non-bank institutions. In the third phase, they have also started sending them through the banking system.

The banking system was initially scarcely used for remittances. This has happened for historical, psychological and practical reasons.

Among the main reasons to be mentioned are limited banking culture, scarce banking products, high transfer costs and low confidence in banks, idea especially developed among rural residents in the country. Non-banking institutions, such as the Western Union, which had about 80% of the remittances' market in 2005, prevailed because of the reliability, speed, lack of bureaucracy and the flexibility of the extended hours they worked with.

The channeling of remittances towards formal mechanisms increases transparency, and promotes the domestic banking system by increasing the power of the remittance market. The National Strategy foresees, in cooperation with international organizations and governments of remittances host countries, the promotion of lower cost transfers through formal channels.

Migrants' remittances will be considered as one of the country's development instruments. The National Diaspora Strategy foresees a national co-ordination of responsible state institutions to interact and to establish an action plan for remittances, which will:

- identify good practices for remittances,
- expand banking services in Albania and improve co-operation between Albanian and foreign banks regarding remittances,
- expand the capacity of other financial institutions and the Albanian Post to improve the remittances' transfer service,
- increase state capacities and diaspora organizations in host countries to co-operate together on the development of joint initiatives between these countries.
- encourage channeling of bank remittances and undertaking practical steps in using remittances for the country's development.

The National Strategy will encourage the training of migrants' families as recipients of remittances for a more efficient use of them as well as the management of small businesses. Generating examples that will show the diaspora how their relatives will return the money they receive would be an incentive to increase remittances to families in Albania.

## **- DIASPORA - CONTRIBUTOR OF ALBANIA'S DEVELOPMENT**

The National Strategy will encourage diaspora participation in the country's economic development. It encourages the absorption of diaspora investments, the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises, including those in the field of agriculture, the food industry and the development of rural areas.

The National Strategy will create a favorable home country environment for the diaspora such as fiscal incentives, information dissemination, avoidance of corruption, risk reduction, avoidance of import taxation for machinery, equipment and raw materials for investment, abolishment of tax corporation, and reduce the number of procedures for obtaining a construction permit.

The National Strategy encourages the promotion of specific banking products for the diaspora and supports the establishment of special banking policies (or the establishment of the Diaspora Bank). It encourages the banking system to undertake a reform of interest rates that will encourage the diaspora to go a step further than transferring payments to the country of origin. Funds deposited by migrants can be used for local lending. Diaspora savings may return to cheaper loans, which will support local businesses.

The National Strategy promotes the establishment of a platform that will provide micro-credit funds to the diaspora and migrants. This can also be performed through existing micro-

financial institutions. Credit delivery models generating small income activities for individuals and for business development on behalf of organized groups will also be applied. Local associations can be transformed into economic co-operatives, throughout access to diaspora-funded loans, as well as technical assistance provided by the projects. Bid development potential lies in its capacity to reduce the cost of loans to the underprivileged micro-creditors. In this case, final target activities that benefit from loans may not have been foreseen for direct diaspora engagement. Within the context, the diaspora may prefer channeling funds towards businesses of an unknown creditor rather than a relative with familiar ties, as this increases the possibility of returning the loan. Payments for family or friends may be exposed to the risk of being seen more as “gifts” rather than as a “borrowing”.

Diaspora investments will be geared towards collective businesses, which will be highly appreciated for diaspora communities. In these cases, migrants will have their direct share in the business. This will be done through support to collective initiatives or private businesses, for example, by choosing a particular economic sector of greater importance for local communities. For migrants who want to return to Albania, empowering sustainable businesses makes this option more attractive, or allows the second or third generation to spend more time in their country of origin.

Diaspora will be encouraged to take part in public-private partnership projects and invest in infrastructure projects.

The National Strategy of Diaspora will encourage the coordination and organization of meetings or the “Days of Albania” in the host countries of the Albanian communities in Diaspora on the basis of an annual program as well as other periodic activities for Albanian tourism and the facilitations related to investments in Albania.

## **- DIASPORA NETWORKS**

Establishing functional diaspora business networks will increase the interest of diaspora investors. These venture networks will contribute to development policies and strategic plans for Albania’s economic development. To promote the establishment of business networks, a Diaspora Business Register will be established.

The Strategy provides for the creation of an independent forum of diaspora experts and experts in Albania to promote and orient the Diaspora entrepreneurship and investment in the country's economy. The possibility of establishing a Diaspora Business Chamber would profile interests and create a co-operation mechanism in the field of investment.

The National Strategy foresees the increase of professional capacities for providing support services related to investment opportunities in Albania (business environment, legal changes, etc.), serving as a link between diaspora investors and the business community in the country of origin.

Withdrawal of diaspora investments will need a mentality change within the public administration. Initial mechanisms of the Strategy’s action are considered crucial to the process that it promotes.

The national Strategy will encourage to this footprint a network organization and administration for foreign and Albanian scholars specializing in the field of migration and public administration officials specializing in institutions dealing with Diaspora and Migration policies.

Establishing and updating a database of newspapers, websites, radios and diaspora TVs that operate in countries that are considered as a priority for national policies on the Diaspora. In this framework, the establishment of the Albanian television and radio networks in Diaspora and implementation of an action plan for training of journalists in Diaspora with incentive projects and annual activities for this purpose.

Another goal of the national Strategy will be the organization of an information network for Albanian and foreign media to appeal and raise awareness on the violations of Albanian migrants' rights to the respective structures of the host countries as well as those of international organizations.

The national Strategy of Diaspora will assess the quality of the state institutions' website for detailed information regarding Albanian communities abroad by opening a section devoted to this issue (where necessary). In this framework, part of the Action Plan of the National Strategy on Diaspora includes the conduction of periodic meetings (every 6 months) for assessing and coordinating with the "supervisors" of the institution's information pages on the level of information that these pages provide for the Albanian Diaspora.

A very important aim of the national Strategy is the organization and support of networks (even international) of special groups and associations of the Albanian diaspora based on interests, common professions or geographical location.

Mediation in order to establish contacts between "counterpart" groups in different countries to create functional networks of this nature will be of particular priority.

In relation to the diaspora functional network building will also take place planning and implementing information campaigns on:

- Migration and Diaspora issues
- Considerable migrant registration promotion and information on the right of voting (after approval);
- Identity of Albanians, Albanian history and culture in Diaspora
- Existence of information resources on issues affecting migration and diaspora and dealing with recent political, social and economic developments in the country;

The aim of this process will make possible for diaspora and migration to be an integral part of Albania's political and economic development.

In this regard, it is important to create media projects that promote the establishment of information networks for students and the coordination of responsible educational institutions for the promotion of exchange and internship programs of Albanian universities with host countries universities where there exists a high presence of Albanian students.

It is of particular importance the realization of a media action plan for the promotion, attraction and motivation of the Albanian Diaspora to ensure exploration of all its potential and exploitation of all advantages in Albania for tourism and investment purposes.

The preparation by the responsible tourism institutions of a promotional campaign will be assessed in order to attract the attention of that diaspora segment in search of the roots, culture and traditions of the ancestors. In collaboration with the private sector, a package will be prepared that provides the above expectations and in exceptional cases provides the introduction of Albanian language bases. As icons of this campaign may be included well-known diaspora figures in each market.

One of the highlighted purposes of the National Strategy of the Diaspora is the encouragement of Diaspora's Women Networking Organizations and the development of specific policies in this regard. In the function of this aim will be the organization in Albania or abroad of the Women's Diaspora Summit.

Establishing a sustainable cooperation network with organizations and institutions covering this issue in the host countries and with civil society in Albania which for this purpose is part of the Strategic Action Plan.

Promotion of cases of successful personalities either in Diaspora or in Albania as well as the awarding of the title of "Ambassador of the Nation". The establishment of the Ambassadors of the Nation's Network (formulation of legal acts necessary for this issue) is a quality of diaspora networking. Protagonism and success will be intertwined to the Albanian diaspora organization.

## - **EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTS**

The National Diaspora Strategy aims to support the Albanian Diaspora organizations to establish local advisory structures for foreign nationals in cities where Albanian migrants are concentrated on the basis of a guide prepared by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the Council of Europe.

The National Strategy will appreciate the negotiations related to signing bilateral agreements on the social protection of migrants with host countries so that they can transfer their social insurances in Albania. There will also be the reassessment of the accumulating arrangements of voluntary contributions for social insurance and whether necessary, the signed agreements between the Social Insurance Institute and the banks. In this framework, an assessment of a specific action plan on the issue of Albanian migrants' pensions will be carried out.

The National Diaspora Strategy will carry out awareness-raising campaigns on the various opportunities to appeal against violations of migrants' rights, in host and international

countries' structures dealing with the protection and respect of human rights as well as the protection of migrants' rights, through activities such as:

- Publication of this information on the migration website dedicated to this issue,
- Publication in Albanian newspapers abroad,
- Publishing and distributing leaflets related to this information,
- Publication of these rights through websites created by the Albanian community operating abroad.
- Periodic reporting by the Albanian government of cases of violations of Albanian migrant rights.

**Some of the international structures that deal with these rights are as follows:**

- Special Rapporteur for Migrant's Rights of the United Nations
- Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe
- European Court in Human Rights
- European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe
- Commission for Petitions of the European Parliament for the EU
- Ombudsman of the EU

### **3.3 PREPARATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NEW LEVEL OF STATE POLICY RELATIONS WITH DIASPORA.**

#### **3.3.1 ALBANIAN COMMUNITIES ABROAD AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Involvement of the Albanian communities in Diaspora in the country's economic development, which will focus on:

- Establishing a Diaspora Professional Networking Coordination Scheme,
- Establishing of a Business Diaspora Chamber,
- Organizing motivating legal proposals for diaspora investments,

The Action Plan will also focus on the implementation of Albania's bilateral agreements with Kosovo on co-ordination between the two countries in co-operation with the Albanian

Diaspora. An important step is also the realization of a joint institutional action plan with the IOM office in Tirana.

### **3.3.2 PROTECTION OF IDENTITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

#### **- HUMAN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CAPITAL**

Albanian Diaspora has accumulated considerable non-monetary capital, in the form of human, social and cultural capital.

Human capital is linked to the knowledge and professional skills and work culture that migrants have acquired while working, studying and living in host countries.

Social capital has to do with the social values that migrants acquire when they stay in the host country.

Cultural capital appraises the cultural values that migrants acquire, which serve to strengthen cultural coexistence between host and sending countries. These values are in co-operation with the promotion of Albanian culture in host countries, through cultural diplomacy.

Diaspora can contribute not only through physical returns to Albania or the transfer of financial capital, but also through the aforementioned capitals as well as technical knowledge and skills, “technological remittances” etc.

Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and the Valley have considerable potential Albanian intellectuals living in the diaspora. Creating a state-owned repository will provide more information on professional diaspora profiles in different fields, such as business, science, technology, health, tourism, etc.

The National Strategy will promote the practice of “open invitations” for projects to be promoted within the diaspora. For this purpose, the Development Fund of Diaspora will encourage diaspora professionals to apply in different projects, enabling the transfer of knowledge and best practices.

The strategy re-evaluates the cooperation with donors and in this regard in “Brain Gain” model programs in order to create institutional structures that enable the return of talented professionals and prevent from moving the persons who have graduated abroad.

For this purpose, the program established in 2008, which provided financial support for the qualified persons invited to make return to work in Albania, will be re-evaluated. It built a database with students and academics abroad, and has driven over 150 professionals to return to their homeland. It also planned to establish contact networks with those whom are still abroad. This program supports universities and public administration in hiring managerial and academic positions of qualified individuals coming from abroad, selected on a competitive and transparent basis.

The return of highly qualified individuals is part of the National Strategy in order to include the Albanian diaspora in the country's economic, scientific and administrative development.

This includes a critical analysis of existing public administration laws and practices that promote the attractiveness of those who have graduated abroad.

## **- PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY**

The identity of the diaspora is a social structure that develops over time. In the case of the Albanian diaspora, this process of identity construction is based on a common understanding of history, remembrances and reminders, injustices related to the division of Albanian inhabited territories, victimization and violent migration waves etc. Even if all Albanian migrants will not abandon their hometowns for the aforementioned reasons, these common historical traumas unite them when they are in the host countries and thus grow the feeling that together they constitute a “Diaspora”.

The main axis of the Albanian nation has been and remains the family. Most of its activities are defined by this concept. The Albanian diaspora and its organization have a lot to do with the “family”, family relationships and ties with the homeland. It is an ethno-national diaspora. Common history and language, myths and legends, food, heritages and folklore create and preserve the identity of the Albanian ethno-social Diasporas.

The culture of close ties of Albanian families is considered to be one of the main advantages of the Albanian Diaspora.

In the early years of Albania’s independence, the role of well-educated Diaspora members was important either in state’s administration or in the international negotiations on its status.

Various associations in the world like “Vatra” printed textbooks, which were then sent to Albania. American Albanians were also protagonists in establishing special political and trade relations between the United States and Albania. Diaspora communities had been lobbying host countries’ governments in support of their homeland, and many of their figures later became political authorities and representatives of the Albanian state.

The Strategy foresees the increase of the contribution of the Diaspora and the cooperation of the government and institutions of the Albanian state with regard to the preservation and strengthening of the national identity of the Albanians.

Diaspora Cultural Centers as a product of the state-owned agreement between Albania and Kosovo will be the “infrastructures” with the aim of preserving the national identity in Diaspora.

## **- LITERACY, EDUCATION AND MEDIA**

The Albanian Diaspora, with its common cultural characteristics and traditions, encourages younger generations to preserve national identity and remain as members of the diaspora, even though they live in host societies and have dual identity or dual citizenship.

The National Strategy dedicates particular importance to the preservation of the cultural, linguistic and national identity of the Diaspora. This shall only be achieved through close cooperation and co-ordination between the Diaspora and Albania as a country of origin. Engaging with specific projects of educational and cultural programs will prevent the further linguistic assimilation, especially for the second and third generations in the Diaspora. This will include Albanian language courses and teachers working in supplementary classes. In this regard, the Strategy provides special agreements with the state institutions of Kosovo. The responsible administrations of Albania and Kosovo will co-operate to create educational policies and programs that will be welcomed by the new generations. Establishing a tradition like that of the “summer school” model will be a tool that will turn into an educative tradition for diaspora children.

The National Strategy assesses the role of audiovisual media and social media in preserving language. Public broadcasters will be legally obliged to devote 10 to 15 percent of their programs (terrestrial and satellite) to the diaspora and migration issue.

The national Strategy pays attention to social media. They are turning into a revolution of interaction tools among people, throughout which they are creating, exchanging and sharing information and ideas in communities and virtual networks. Social media in Diaspora have created a sort of new reality in terms of a “public” opinion of Albanian communities abroad.

#### **IV. COSTS AND BUDGETING**

*THE NATIONAL DIASPORA STRATEGY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE PERIOD 2018-2024.*

Taking into account the fact of establishing for the first time in a governmental structure of the State Minister for Diaspora, only preliminary costs for 2018 are initially foreseen in order to enable the implementation of the strategy.

In the Action Plan for the period 2018-2024, there have been identified the relevant measures and costs to be implemented during 2018.

The financing of these multidisciplinary measures will be mainly covered by budget programs of the implementing institutions of this Strategy. The initial estimated costs for 2018 will amount to 130,000,000 lekë:

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| - The National Agency of Diaspora           | 60 milion lekë; |
| - The Albanian Development Fund of Diaspora | 50 milion lekë; |
| - The publishing center of Diaspora         | 20 milion lekë. |

They refer mainly to the administratively functional and operative establishment of these new state structures. This calculation is in accordance with Law no. 115, dated 28.12.2017, as well as other law and by-law acts in force. Other costs will be borne by the state budget of the responsible institutions as well as donors.

A special working group under the direction of the office of the State Minister for Diaspora will be set up to determine and detail the costs of the Action Plan for the period 2019-2024. It will consist of representatives from all the responsible institutions for the implementation of this strategy and action plan, which are involved in the implementation of the action plan. The deadline for finalizing the action plan for the period 2019-2024 will be within one year from the adoption of this strategy. The working group will be established following the entry into force of the decision for the Approval of the National Strategy for Diaspora 2018-2024 and the Action Plan.

**For the initial calculation of the expenditures for the main activities that will be borne by the state budget and donors is acted as follows:**

- The calculation of human resources expenditure is based on the estimated time spent on carrying out the activities and a daily average salary of a certain category of civil servants.
- The calculation of expenditures for services is done taking into account the costs of the services of the respective institutions, based on the approved standards.
- The calculation of expenditures for activities related to drafting and revision of legislation, monitoring and functioning of permanent structures, etc. It is done taking into account the ongoing costs that will take place, for example on wages, social insurance contributions, foreign expertise (when provided in the plan) and consumption tools.
- The calculation of costs for “specific activities” or similar specific initiatives was based mainly on the nature of the activities and the costs the market provides for such services.

In calculating training expenditures has been taken in consideration the training cost per person. As unit costs, have been used the costs of ASPAs and / or the costs associated with similar training in the past.

For that part of the activities where the information is not complete, the analytical assessment method has been followed or the costs incurred for similar activities that have been included in the 2011-2015 strategy or similar products in the PBA have been considered.

Conclusions in the field of budgeting for the National Strategy 2018-2024 and the Action Plan will be an outcome of the State Committee for Diaspora, which was set up by Decision No. 690, dated on 27.11.2017 of the Council of Ministers “On the Establishment and Functioning of the State Committee for Diaspora”.

## **V. MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5.1 MONITORING**

The National Strategy is a foreseeable political document. So far, the public should be aware of the uncertainties and the risks of its implementation. The prevision may play a role in

accomplishing the challenges of the current world by providing the National Strategy and Action Plan as an opportunity for “change”.

Members of the Albanian diaspora are interested in the political and economic situation of their country and will certainly continue to do so in the future.

A negative scenario would be for the diaspora to feel neglected and left apart from the developments in the country of origin and would thus be less interested in the situation and less willing to do something about it. This would open the way to its slow assimilation.

A positive and desirable scenario would involve diaspora members to be closer to the political and economic developments of the countries of origin, where they would feel respected, welcomed and would perceive clear priorities from their engagement in the developing of their country of origin while living abroad.

The monitoring structure for the implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy will be coordinated by the Minister of State for Diaspora.

A working group will be set up for the annual report, which will be chaired by the representative of the Minister of State for Diaspora and will be composed of representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs and Foreign Affairs and representatives of the National Diaspora Agency. The report will be submitted for approval to the State Department for Diaspora.

Following the monitoring and implementation of the National Diaspora Strategy, the Minister of State for Diaspora and the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs will report to the:

- Sub-Commission on Diaspora and Migration, which will function under the composition of the Foreign Policy Committee in the Albanian Parliament,
- State Committee for Diaspora, which will be chaired by the Prime Minister.

Monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy document also applies to the avoidance of any negative scenario. This process will re-emphasize the simple truth that may Albanians everywhere be, are part of the nation.

A nation that elevates its peculiarity to the level of virtue makes peace with itself and the future. Time works for the nation that acts.

**ACTION PLAN**

**OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY**

**OF DIASPORA**

**2018 – 2024**

The Action Plan of the National Strategy of Diaspora will promote the aims of Albania's state policy towards Albanian communities abroad.

**The institutional development and governing of the responsible state structure for the diaspora is represented by:**

- The Sub-Committee on Diaspora and Migration in the Parliament of Albania
- The State Committee for Diaspora.
- The State Minister for Diaspora.
- The Coordination Council of the Diaspora.
- The National Agency of Diaspora
- The Albanian Diaspora Development Fund.
- The Publishing Center for Diaspora.

The National Strategy of Diaspora is complex and multi-sectoral, which will have the key to the success in its intervention in coordination between the institutions of the Albanian state and the latter with the organizational structures of the Diaspora and civil society.

The Action Plan of the National Strategy of Diaspora foresees concrete measures, which should be implemented mainly by the Albanian Government but also by other actors involved in this process.

Most of the measures provided for in the Action Plan foresee activities and actions that will need to be implemented within the established deadlines. Most of them require co-ordinated intervention of more than one public institution.

The Action Plan of the National Strategy will be part of the activity of Albanian state institutions in order to guarantee its implementation. The document will be accompanied by detailed measures and the necessary elements for their implementation. It will be the fruit of the cooperation of a large number of ministries and institutions, who will be involved in the elaboration of a new policy in this area of public action.

Diaspora and the policy towards it have a future where the assessment relates to action.

## **1. ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK POLICY MAKING ON DIASPORA**

### **STATE AND DIASPORA**

*Measure 1* \_\_\_\_\_

*Making functional all the institutions that the new legislation entails in the field of state's relations with the Diaspora, such as the National Agency for Diaspora, the Diaspora Development Fund and the Diaspora Publishing Center.*

*Drafting a detailed plan for absorbing the funds needed to finance the policies and measures provided for in the National Strategy. A clear division of competencies between structures that will deal with diaspora treatment. Establishing a specialized unit for reviewing Diaspora legislation to undertake the necessary changes.*

**INDICATORS:** *Establishing a National Agency of Diaspora, Albanian Development Fund of Diaspora, Publishing Center of Diaspora*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester of 2018 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Vice Prime Minister*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

**Measure 2** \_\_\_\_\_

*Approval from the State Committee for Diaspora of the diaspora's annual program (activities involving books, education, culture and business) and in cooperation with the Parliament of Albania the assessment of participation and representation in them. Prepare estimating information for the State Committee for Diaspora and the Parliamentary Subcommittee on Diaspora and Migration.*

**INDICATORS:** *Approval from the State Committee for Diaspora of the Diaspora Annual Program.*

**DEADLINE:** *Second semester of 2018 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Culture*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*State Minister for the Protection of Enterprise*

**Measure 3** \_\_\_\_\_

*The follow up of the necessary coordinating procedures to be discussed each year at the State Committee for Diaspora and to provide in the annual (successive) budget the funds needed to implement the National Strategy of Diaspora and Action Plan by 2024.*

**INDICATORS:** *The necessary coordinating procedures to discuss and forecast in the annual budget (successive).*

**DEADLINE:** *Second semester of 2018 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Ministry of Culture*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

**Measure 4** \_\_\_\_\_

*The establishment of the Working Group for the preparation and organization of the Summit of Diaspora as the most important event for the Albanian communities abroad. The periodically organization of the Albanian Summit of Diaspora, in order to review the current policies for the mobilization of the Albanian diaspora, where issues such as language and culture preservation, brain drain phenomenon and investments in Albania will be considered.*

**INDICATORS:** *Establishing a Working Group for the preparation and organization of the Second Summit of Diaspora. Periodic organization of the Albanian Summit of Diaspora.*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester of 2018 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth*

**Measure 5** \_\_\_\_\_

*Establishment of the Coordination Council of Diaspora as a coordinating structure to work for the organizational strengthening of the Albanian communities with the purpose of engagement and partnership in the development of Albania.*

**INDICATORS:** *Establishing the Diaspora Coordination Council as a coordinating structure.*

**DEADLINE: Second semester of 2018**

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Measure 6* \_\_\_\_\_

*Assessing the organizational level of the Albanian communities in the diaspora and preparing a special action plan to promote the organization at the regional and state level in the host countries. Promoting the idea of holding activities that promote this level of organization throughout informing the Albanian community and identifying human resources.*

**INDICATORS:** *Assessment of the organizational level of Albanian communities in Diaspora. Promoting the idea.*

**DEADLINE: Second semester of 2018 (periodically)**

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Ministry of Culture*

*Measure 7* \_\_\_\_\_

*Establishing a joint Action Plan with the State of Kosovo in the field of Diaspora relations and put in place for the enhancement of the existing agreements between the two countries in this regard. Preparation and implementation of necessary agreements in the field of Diaspora with all countries that are considered important and "productive" of Albanian diaspora in the world.*

**INDICATORS:** *Establishing a Joint Action Plan with the State of Kosovo.*

**DEADLINE: Second semester of 2018**

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Measure 8*

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*Establishing cooperation with national and international institutions for the implementation of programs for this purpose (for example with UNDP to implement TOKTEN in Albania).*

**INDICATORS:** *Cooperation with national and international institutions.*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester of 2019*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Measure 9*

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*Reassessment of existing legal acts in the field of migration expanding the sphere of protection of the Albanian communities abroad in compliance with international standards and aiming at adjustment with the Acquis Communautaire.*

*Conduct procedures for concluding ratification of international instruments (if not yet implemented) as follows:*

- *International Labor Organization Convention Nr. 143 “On migrant workers”.*
- *Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention “On the legal status of migrant workers”.*
- *Ratification of the United Nations Convention “On the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families”.*

**INDICATORS:** *Reassessment of existing legal acts in the field of migration. Implementation of procedures for ratification of international instruments.*

**DEADLINE:** *Second semester of 2019*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Interior*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Justice*

*Measure 10* \_\_\_\_\_

*Assessing a new presence of diplomatic or consular representation in countries with a substantial presence of Albanian communities which are of particular importance for further strengthening the diplomatic and economic relations of the host country with the country of origin. Orientation of the working plan of the diplomatic and consular body with a special focus on relations with the Albanian communities abroad.*

**INDICATORS:** *Assessment of a new presence of diplomatic or consular representation.*

**DEADLINE:** *Second semester of 2018*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Measure 11* \_\_\_\_\_

*Promoting awareness and orientation of Albanian citizens abroad for the use of consular and diplomatic services provided by Albanian diplomatic missions through the online consular platform. Provide information about non-governmental organizations accredited by the host country, which provide legal assistance and protection to foreign communities.*

**INDICATORS:** *Orientation of Albanian citizens abroad for services through the online consular platform.*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester of 2019 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Measure 12* \_\_\_\_\_

*Assessing the approach of other national strategies existing or to be adopted with the National Strategy and Action Plan for Diaspora. This process will lead to the organization of existing public policies or to be adopted in the future in relation to policies for Albanian communities abroad.*

**INDICATORS:** *Approach of other existing national strategies or to be adopted.*

***DEADLINE: First semester of 2019 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Vice Prime Minister*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*State Minister for the Protection of Enterprise*

*Measure 13*

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*Assessment and extension of the National Civil Register with data on migrants and periodically revision of the legal basis for migrant registration. Defining the responsibilities and data to be collected as well as identifying and planning the establishment of the appropriate network and infrastructure.*

*Organization of public activities and civil society on the purpose of the system of registration and voting of nationals abroad.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Expanding the National Civil Status Register with data on migrants. Determining responsibilities and organizing activities abroad.*

***DEADLINE: Second semester of 2018 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Vice Prime Minister*

*Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Minister of Interior*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Measure 14*

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*The establishment of the Albanian Cultural Centers in Diaspora's host countries in cooperation with the state of Kosovo in order to preserve national identity, to promote the image of the homeland and Albanians abroad and to provide services and information to the communities of Albanians in the Diaspora.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Establishment of the Albanian Cultural Centers in host countries in cooperation with the state of Kosovo*

***DEADLINE: Second semester of 2019***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Minister of Finance and Economy*

*Ministry of Culture*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Measure 15*

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*Enabling information about the Albanian Diaspora as well as the development of communities abroad. Carry out an annual report to reflect the data and assess countries where priority should be given on Diaspora policies.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Enable information and carry out an annual report about the Albanian Diaspora.*

***DEADLINE: Second semester 2018 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Institute of Statistics INSTAT*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

*Measure 16*

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*Implementation of general and specific training in the field of migration and their inclusion in the programs of Albanian universities. Organization of periodic trainings in the field of domestic and international legislation for officials covering migration issues. Identification of needs and experts that may need legal training. Development of training modules in this area and incorporating such modules into civil servants training.*

***INDICATORS:*** *General and special training. Organization of periodic training. Identification of needs and experts. Development of training modules.*

**DEADLINE: Second semester of 2018 (periodically)**

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Vice Prime Minister*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Ministry of Justice*

*Measure 17* \_\_\_\_\_

*Encourage state co-operation with host countries profiled institutions and address migrants' issues, women's rights and children's rights. Establishment of high level bilateral consultative committees with host countries for the protection of the rights of Albanian diaspora communities and their periodic functioning for this purpose. Sharing public information on the performance and development of this activity for the interested public.*

**INDICATORS:** *State co-operation with the institutions of the host countries. Establish bilateral consultative committees. Public information on its performance.*

**DEADLINE: First semester of 2019 (periodically)**

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Justice*

*Measure 18* \_\_\_\_\_

*Prepare and distribute information (brochures, leaflets, websites, etc.) to Albanian communities in the Diaspora, where information about their status and rights is provided, as well as the services provided by diplomatic and consular missions as well as from migrant associations with the support of international organizations.*

**INDICATORS:** *Distributing information about status rights as well as the services you provide.*

**DEADLINE: First semester of 2019 (periodically)**

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Interior*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Institute of Statistics INSTAT*

*Ministry of Justice*

*Measure 19* \_\_\_\_\_

*Develop practical manuals related to migration issues and make them available to officials dealing with the practical implementation of legislation on migration. Identify the law / by-laws acts that are implemented in practice by any institution that covers certain issues of diaspora and migration. Training and certification of Albania's diplomatic corps on migration's legislation and in particular on the rights of Albanian communities in the Diaspora.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Develop practical manuals. Identification of the law / by-laws acts. Training and certification of Albanian diplomatic corps.*

***DEADLINE:*** *Second semester of 2018 (periodically)*

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Vice Prime Minister*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Interior*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Justice*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

*Measure 20* \_\_\_\_\_

*Establish regular contacts with the European Group of Regional and Local Authorities in the Field of Immigration (ERLAI) centered in Brussels in order to assess the opportunities for supporting the protection policy of the communities of the diaspora in the EU host countries.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Regular contacts with the European Group of Regional and Local Authorities in the field of Immigration.*

***DEADLINE: Second semester of 2018***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora - The National Agency of Diaspora.*

*Ministry of Justice*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

***Measure 21***\_\_\_\_\_

*Encourage and intensify close contacts between Albanian organizations in Diaspora and local migration protection associations. Identify organizations in host countries for the protection of human rights and migrants in these countries.*

*Awareness through online information, roundtables and meetings on social and health protection in host and home countries.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Close contacts between Albanian diaspora organizations and local associations, awareness of social and health protection.*

***DEADLINE: Second semester of 2018 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora - The National Agency of Diaspora*

*Ministry of Health and Social Protection*

*Ministry of Justice*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

***Measure 22***\_\_\_\_\_

*Periodic reassessment of services' policy, procedures and respective tariffs. Based on the information provided by missions, the ministry responsible for the Diaspora shall draft an annual report on the current situation of Albanian emigrants with proposals for respective measures in order to improve assistance for them.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Periodic reassessment of services' policy. The ministry responsible for the Diaspora shall draft an annual report.*

***DEADLINE: First semester of 2019 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Ministry of Justice*

*Measure 23* \_\_\_\_\_

*There will be negotiations related to signing bilateral agreements on the social protection of migrants with host countries so that they can transfer their social insurances in Albania. There will also be the reassessment of the accumulating arrangements of voluntary contributions for social insurance and whether necessary, the signed agreements between the Social Insurance Institute and the banks. (Reassessment of a specific action plan on the issue of Albanian migrants' pensions)*

***INDICATORS:*** *Negotiating bilateral agreements with host countries. Reassessment of the accumulating arrangements of voluntary contributions for social insurances.*

***DEADLINE:*** *Second semester of 2018 (periodically)*

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*Ministry of Health and Social Protection*

*Ministry of Justice*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

*Measure 24* \_\_\_\_\_

*Establishment of a register for Albanian citizens who find themselves deprived of their freedom as detained in prison abroad and organize an annual meeting organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Ombudsman's Office and the Albanian Red Cross organization on this issue. The evaluation of periodic information and conclusions on this issue will also be discussed at the State Committee for Diaspora.*

**INDICATORS:** Establishment of a register for Albanian citizens who find themselves deprived of their freedom as detained in prison abroad. Evaluation of periodic information.

**DEADLINE:** Second Semester of 2019 (periodically)

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

State Minister for Diaspora

Ministry of Justice

Measure 25

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Review of the framework of existing migration agreements with the host countries of Albanian communities in the Diaspora. Negotiate the framework of employment agreements with host countries with the purpose of incorporating into the latter vocational training agreements, or to discuss on them separately.

Reassessment will occur in co-operation with the EU countries as well as special projects to facilitate the implementation of employment agreements, benefiting from the temporary and special legislation of host countries that lack workforce.

**INDICATORS:** Review of the framework of existing migration agreements. Negotiate the framework of employment agreements. Cooperation with EU countries for specific projects.

**DEADLINE:** First semester of 2019 (periodically)

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

State Minister for Diaspora

Ministry of Finance and Economy

Measure 26

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Assessing and encouraging circular migration between Albania and the host countries of the Albanian communities in the Diaspora through preferential measures or the negotiation of bilateral agreements (giving priority to Greece and Italy).

Establishing a contact and coordination office for evaluating and monitoring the situation of foreign labor markets and then passing this information to the responsible institutions.

**INDICATORS:** Favorable Measures or Negotiation of Bilateral Agreements; Realizing a contact office and coordination for foreign labor markets.

***DEADLINE: Second semester 2019 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*Measure 27* \_\_\_\_\_

*Organization of a special annual program for the promotion of Albanian agricultural and food products by organizing periodic activities in the function of organized networks of Albanian producers and the network of Albanian businesses in diaspora that trade products of such nature.*

***INDICATORS: Annual program for the promotion of Albanian agricultural and food products***

***DEADLINE: First semester of 2019 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*

*Ministry of Tourism and Environment*

*Measure 28* \_\_\_\_\_

*The preparation of the Diaspora Certificate, for which can be applied on-line and along with the registration of the interested person, it provides him with a printable document ("I am Albanian") which can be placed in open spaces to assert the Albanian national identity.*

***INDICATORS: Preparation of the Diaspora Certificate.***

***DEADLINE: First semester 2020***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*

**ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT TO AID THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ACTORS TO IMPROVE AND EMPOWER COOPERATION WITH LEGAL DIASPORA AND MIGRATION.**

**ENGAGEMENT OF DIASPORA IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY**

*Measure 29* \_\_\_\_\_

*Aid for microcredit institutions to implement policies aimed at channeling remittances through agreements with financial institutions in host countries.*

*Encourage migrant associations to promote local development through volunteer gathering of donations from members so as to grant different projects in their city or village.*

**INDICATORS:** *Aid to microcredit institutions; volunteer gathering of donations from members of migrant associations.*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester 2019 (periodically every year)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*State Minister for the Protection of Enterprise*

*Measure 30* \_\_\_\_\_

*Organize and administer a network for foreign and Albanian scholars specialized in the field of migration as well as administration officials specialized in institutions dealing with Diaspora and Migration policies. (Filling the network with names and details of scholars and civil servants from administrative agencies that will deal with diaspora policies).*

**INDICATORS:** *Organize and administer a network for foreign and Albanian scholars specialized in the field of migration.*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester of 2019 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*  
*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*  
*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Measure 31* \_\_\_\_\_

*Promotion of cases of successful personalities either in diaspora or in Albania and award the title “Ambassador of the Nation”. Establishment of Nation’s Ambassadors’ Network (formulation of necessary legal acts on this issue).*

***INDICATORS:*** *Promotion of personalities. Establishment of Ambassadors’ Network*

***DEADLINE:*** *First semester 2019 (periodically)*

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*  
*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Measure 32* \_\_\_\_\_

*Establishment of a Repository of a qualified Diaspora and implementation of national and joint programs with international institutions in order to attract qualified diaspora members to serve Albania’s economy. Assessment of the programs that encourage investors to hire skilled staff from diaspora abroad. Based on these programs, the coordination and creation of opportunities for Albanian students in order to be welcomed and assisted by members of the Albanian diaspora to facilitate their studies at foreign universities through a network set up for this purpose in the Diaspora.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Repository of a qualified Diaspora; National programs; Assessment of programs; Coordination and creation of opportunities for Albanian students.*

***DEADLINE:*** *First semester 2020 (periodically every year)*

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*  
*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*  
*Ministry of Economy and Finance*  
*Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy*  
*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*  
*The National Agency of Diaspora*

*Measure 33* \_\_\_\_\_

*Creation of a Diaspora Business Room in cooperation with the diaspora business network. Creating a Diaspora Business Register as the basis for creating a Business Diaspora Chamber as an organizer and facilitator in business relations with the state administration.*

**INDICATORS:** *Creation of Diaspora Business Room; Creating a Diaspora Business Register.*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester 2019*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*State Minister for Protection of Enterprise*

*Measure 34* \_\_\_\_\_

*Development of annual activities in the field of domestic products in coordination with diaspora buying businesses (creating a map of restaurants and diaspora food businesses) to connect vending and purchasing businesses in and out of the country*

**INDICATORS:** *Development of annual activities; creating a map of restaurants and businesses.*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester 2019 (periodically every year)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*State Minister for the Protection of Enterprise*

*Measure 35* \_\_\_\_\_

*The re-evaluation of national, religious holidays through attentive planning of activities, in collaboration with the private sector, non-profit organizations, sports federations and promotion by relevant tourism institutions in important markets so as to significantly increase tourist flows.*

**INDICATORS:** *Activity planning and promotion to increase tourist flows.*

**DEADLINE: Second semester 2019**

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Culture*

*Ministry of Tourism and Environment*

*Measure 36* \_\_\_\_\_

*An annual assessment of remittances and incentive banking policies for the Albanian Diaspora. Developing and implementing a coherent and comprehensive policy on the management of Diaspora remittances. Reassessment of the measures to be taken in order to increase the remittances' flows by motivating migrants that bring their savings to Albania (such as through favorable exchange rates as well as the ability to keep them in foreign currency).*

**INDICATORS:** *Annual assessment of remittances; A coherent and comprehensive policy on remittances; Reassessment to increase delivery flows.*

**DEADLINE: First semester 2019 (periodically every year)**

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Bank of Albania*

*Measure 37* \_\_\_\_\_

*Reassessment of the measures to be taken for the transfer of migrant's remittances from informal to formal transfer ways and less costly ones. Establish a periodic dialogue with representatives of the country's banking system on this issue. Encourage private companies to attract remittances through financial products (such as securities).*

**INDICATORS:** *Measures for formal transfers; Dialogue with representatives of the banking system; Withdrawal of remittances through financial products.*

**DEADLINE: The first 6 months 2019 (periodically every year)**

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*  
*State Minister for Diaspora*  
*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*  
*Bank of Albania*

*Measure 38*

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*Establishment of special administrative offices within the responsible economic institutions to deal with the Albanian diaspora, especially in implementing migration remittances policies and facilitating the attraction of diaspora investments*

**INDICATORS:** *Establishment of administrative offices.*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester 2019*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Vice Prime Minister*  
*Ministry of Finance and Economy*  
*Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy*  
*State Minister for Diaspora*  
*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*  
*State Minister for the Protection of Enterprise*

*Measure 39*

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*Reassessment for the improvement and expansion of banking services in Diaspora host countries as well as for their relatives in Albania (mainly in rural areas). Encourage banks in host countries to provide “ad hoc” services to emigrants (within the degree of opportunity and negotiation) with the help of Albanian migrant associations.*

**INDICATORS:** *Reassessment for the improvement and expansion of banking services in Diaspora host countries; Determining “ad hoc” services for immigrants.*

**DEADLINE:** *Second semester 2018 (periodically every year)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*  
*State Minister for Diaspora*  
*State Minister for the Protection of Enterprise*

*Measure 40* \_\_\_\_\_

*Identification of cultural, sports, educational, social, scientific associations operating in host countries as well as talented and successful individuals working in the diaspora. Establishing a separate register for this purpose.*

**INDICATORS:** *Identification of Associations. Establishing a register.*

**DEADLINE:** *Second semester of 2018 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Ministry of Culture*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Academy of Sciences*

*Measure 41* \_\_\_\_\_

*Promote the organization of a Women's Network in Diaspora and build specific policies in this regard. Organize in Albania or abroad the Women's Diaspora Summit. Establish a sustainable cooperation network with organizations and institutions that cover this issue in host countries and with the civil society in Albania for this purpose.*

**INDICATORS:** *Organization of a Women's Network in Diaspora; Organization of Women's Summit of Diaspora; Establishment of a network of cooperation with organizations, institutions and civil society.*

**DEADLINE:** *Second Semester of 2019 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Health and Social Protection*

*Measure 42* \_\_\_\_\_

*Organization and support of networks (even international) of special groups and associations of the Albanian diaspora based on interests, common professions or geographical location.*

*Mediation in order to establish contacts between “counterpart” groups in different countries to create functional networks of this nature will be of particular priority.*

**INDICATORS:** *Organization and support of networks of special groups and associations; Create facilities; Establish contacts between “counterpart” groups.*

**DEADLINE:** *The first 6 months 2019*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Measure 43*

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*Support the Albanian Diaspora organizations to establish local advisory structures for foreign nationals in cities where Albanian migrants are concentrated on the basis of a guide prepared by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the Council of Europe.*

**INDICATORS:** *Support the Albanian Diaspora organizations to establish local advisory structures.*

**DEADLINE:** *The first 6 months 2019*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora - The National Agency of Diaspora.*

*Ministry of Justice*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

*Measure 44*

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*Carry out awareness-raising campaigns on the various opportunities to appeal against violations of migrants’ rights, in host and international countries’ structures dealing with the protection and respect of human rights as well as the protection of migrants’ rights, through activities such as:*

- *Publication of this information on the migration website dedicated to this issue,*
- *Publication in Albanian newspapers abroad,*
- *Publishing and distributing leaflets related to this information,*

- *Publication of these rights through websites created by the Albanian community operating abroad.*

*Periodic reporting by the Albanian government of cases of violations of Albanian migrant rights. Some of the international structures that deal with these rights are as follows:*

- *Special Rapporteur for Migrant's Rights of the United Nations*
- *Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe*
- *European Court in Human Rights*
- *European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the Council of Europe*
- *Commission for Petitions of the European Parliament for the EU*
- *Ombudsman of the EU*

***INDICATORS:*** *Carry out awareness-raising campaigns on violations of migrant rights. Periodic reporting of cases of violations of the rights of Albanian migrants.*

***DEADLINE: Second semester 2019 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:***

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora - The National Agency of Diaspora.*

*Ministry of Justice*

*Measure 45*

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*Coordination and organization of meetings or the "Days of Albania" in the host countries of the Albanian communities in Diaspora on the basis of an annual program as well as other periodic activities for Albanian tourism and the facilitations related to investments in Albania.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Coordination and organization of meetings of the Albanian communities in Diaspora on the basis of an annual program*

***DEADLINE: Second semester of 2018 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Culture*

*Ministry of Tourism and Environment*

*Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy*

*State Minister for the Protection of Enterprise*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

*Measure 46*

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*Coordination with public and private Health Institutions concerning the preparation of a campaign to promote health tourism, mainly related to some services for which Albania has provided advantages (dental, neurosurgery, cardio surgery, etc.).*

**INDICATORS:** *Coordination with public and private Health Institutions for the promotion of health tourism.*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester of 2019 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministria e Shëndetësisë dhe Mbrojtjes Sociale*

*Ministry of Tourism and Environment*

**PREPARATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NEW LEVEL OF STATE POLICY RELATIONS WITH DIASPORA.**

*Measure 47*

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*Periodic organization of meetings with diaspora business networks and exchange of functional information to them from any institution covering the field of interest to invest in the home country.*

**INDICATORS:** *Meetings with business networks and information exchange.*

**DEADLINE:** *Second semester 2018 (periodically every year)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*State Minister for the Protection of Enterprise*

*Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*

*Ministry of Tourism and Environment*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

*Measure 48* \_\_\_\_\_

*MEFA through its economic diplomacy structures will pay special attention to relations with the Albanian diaspora in the world for the exploitation of the economic potential this diaspora carries in itself, serving the country's economic and social development. Cooperation with the private business sector and line institutions for the dissemination of information of an economic character and the development of periodic annual activities' programs that foster the business relations between the Albanian communities in the diaspora with each other and the hometown.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Cooperation with the private business sector and line institutions; Development of periodic annual activities' programs.*

***DEADLINE: Second semester 2018 (periodically every year)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*State Minister for the Protection of Enterprise*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

*Measure 49* \_\_\_\_\_

*Establishing and updating a database of newspapers, websites, radios and diaspora TVs that operate in countries that are considered as a priority for national policies on the Diaspora. In this framework, the establishment of the Albanian television and radio networks in Diaspora and implementation of an action plan for training of journalists in Diaspora with incentive projects and annual activities for this purpose.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Database of newspapers, websites, radio and television of diaspora; the establishment of the Albanian television and radio networks in Diaspora, training journalists in Diaspora.*

***DEADLINE: First semester of 2019 (periodically)***

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Albanian Radio Television (RTSH)*

*Measure 50*\_\_\_\_\_

*Organization of an information network for Albanian and foreign media to appeal and raise awareness on the violations of Albanian migrants' rights to the respective structures of the host countries as well as those of international organizations.*

**INDICATORS:** *The information network to appeal and sensitize violations of migrant rights.*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester of 2019 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Measure 51*\_\_\_\_\_

*Assess the quality of the state institutions' website for detailed information regarding Albanian communities abroad by opening a section devoted to this issue (where necessary). Conduct periodic meetings (every 6 months) for assessing and coordinating with the "supervisors" of the institution's information pages on the level of information that these pages provide for the Albanian Diaspora.*

**INDICATORS:** *Quality of the state institutions' websites. Periodic meetings with the information pages "supervisors".*

**DEADLINE:** *Second semester of 2018 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*National Agency of the Society of Information (AKSHI)*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

*Measure 52*\_\_\_\_\_

*Planning and implementation of an information campaign on:*

- *Migration and Diaspora issues*
- *Considerable migrant registration promotion and information on the right of voting (after approval);*
- *Identity of Albanians, Albanian history and culture in Diaspora*
- *Existence of information resources on issues affecting migration and diaspora and dealing with recent political, social and economic developments in the country;*

*Expression in this campaign of the process that diaspora and migration will be an integral part of Albania's political and economic development.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Migration and Diaspora issues; registration of migrants and information about the right of voting; The existence of information resources;*

***DEADLINE: First semester of 2020***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Interior*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy*

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*Measure 53* \_\_\_\_\_

*Review and evaluation of the broadcasting area by national televisions and radios in all countries where there are diaspora communities and Albanian migrants. Generate and promote TV programs in the country on the diaspora issue and its role in the Albanian society. Realizing and structuring a public television channel (and radio) on the diaspora theme.*

*Encourage media agreements with host countries to broadcast programs for the Albanian communities.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Areas of broadcasting from Albanian televisions and radios; Diaspora TV programs; Public television channel (and radio) for diaspora; Media agreement with host countries.*

***DEADLINE: First semester of 2019***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs  
Albanian Radio Television*

*Measure 54* \_\_\_\_\_

*Generate media projects that promote the establishment of information networks for students and the coordination of responsible educational institutions for the promotion of exchange and internship programs of Albanian universities with host countries universities where there exists a high presence of Albanian students.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Generate media projects, promotion of exchange programs and internships.*

***DEADLINE:*** *First Semester of 2019 (periodically)*

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora  
Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth  
Radio Televizioni Shqiptar (RTSH)  
Academy of Sciences*

*Measure 55* \_\_\_\_\_

*Arrange a media action plan for the promotion, attraction and motivation of the Albanian Diaspora to ensure exploration of all its potential and exploitation of all advantages in Albania for tourism and investment purposes.*

*The preparation by the responsible tourism institutions of a promotional campaign will be assessed in order to attract the attention of that diaspora segment in search of the roots, culture and traditions of the ancestors. In cooperation with the private sector, a package will be prepared that provides the above expectations and in exceptional cases provides the introduction of Albanian language bases. As icons of this campaign may be included well-known diaspora figures in each market.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Media Action Plan; Prepare a promotional campaign; Prepare a package that provides the above expectations and in exceptional cases provides the introduction of Albanian language bases.*

***DEADLINE: Second Semester of 2019 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Culture*

*Ministry of Tourism and Environment*

*Albanian Radio Television (RTSH)*

*Measure 56*

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*Involvement of Albanian Diaspora community in the cultural life of the host country and in Albania with a view to promoting them (signing and / or amending bilateral agreements with the diaspora host countries including the latter's interests) and promoting the establishment of annual activities for this purpose.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Albanian Diaspora communities in the cultural life of the host country, in order to promote them in Albania.*

***DEADLINE: Second Semester of 2018***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Culture*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

*Measure 57*

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*Establish administrative tools at central and local level for assistance and transparency, to support investments and the needs of the interested diaspora stakeholders. Diaspora shall be informed on the investment opportunities in Albania through media, banks (internet, brochures), etc. and promote motivation of Albanian migrants to invest their earnings in particular sectors of the economy.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Administrative tools at central and local level; Diaspora's information on investments through media, banks (internet, brochures), etc. and motivate it to invest.*

***DEADLINE: Second Semester of 2018 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*  
*State Minister for Diaspora*  
*State Minister for the Protection of Enterprise*  
*Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*  
*Ministry of Tourism and Environment*

*Measure 58* \_\_\_\_\_

*Reviewing of the practices and conditions for the education of young generations of diaspora in their mother tongue. Identify the needs of Albanian language courses in host countries. Re-evaluate the drafting of standard curricula for teaching in Albanian.*

*Continuous identification of learning needs in Albanian language and knowledge of Albanian cultural heritage for children in Diaspora.*

**INDICATORS:** *Reviewing the practices and conditions for education; identify the needs for courses; Reassessment of draft curricula for teaching; identify the needs of children.*

**DEADLINE:** *Second Semester of 2019 (periodically)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*  
*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*  
*Academy of Sciences*

*Measure 59* \_\_\_\_\_

*Annual assessment of the needs for the learning of Albanian language and acknowledgment of Albanian cultural heritage for children in Diaspora. Periodic improvement of common curricula with Kosovo on the teaching of the Albanian language. Support on the implementation of common curricula.*

**INDICATORS:** *Annual needs assessment; Improvement and implementation of curricula with Kosovo.*

**DEADLINE:** *Second Semester of 2019 (periodically every year)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*  
*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Measure 60*

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*Produce a Register of Diaspora teachers and generate support programs for the implementation of standards for diaspora teachers. Constant teachers' identification and drafting a pension scheme for teachers in the Diaspora. Promotion of educational activities with Albanian teachers and students in Diaspora.*

**INDICATORS:** *Register of Diaspora teachers and generate support programs; Identification of teachers and drafting of the pension scheme; Promotion of educational activities.*

**DEADLINE:** *The first 6 months 2019 (periodically every year)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Academy of Sciences*

*Measure 61*

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*Establishment of a permanent structure that will follow the assessment and provision of necessary textbooks. It will follow the training of teachers who will teach in the courses that will be created for this purpose.*

*Continuous provision of school textbooks to the diaspora and teacher's training on common curricula with Kosovo.*

**INDICATORS:** *Establishment of a permanent structure for textbooks and teacher's training; Provide textbooks and teacher's training.*

**DEADLINE:** *First semester 2019 (periodically every year)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Measure 62*

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*Development of the e-book project (on-line download of textbooks set up in the diaspora education program) with the aim of distributing books all over the world and creating the facilities to supply everyone with the necessary materials for learning the Albanian language and culture.*

***INDICATORS:*** *E-book project for distributing books*

***DEADLINE:*** *Second semester of 2018*

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Academy of Sciences*

*Measure 63*

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*Reviewing and signing cooperation agreements with educational institutions in host countries for the opening of Albanian language courses in existing schools and educational establishments in these countries. (Generation and promotion of Albanian language teaching programs for children of Albanian emigrants in cooperation with relevant structures of host countries).*

*Signing of cooperation agreements with educational institutions in the host countries for the opening of courses in Albanian language in the schools and educational establishments existing in these countries.*

***INDICATORS:*** *Cooperation agreement for the opening of courses in Albanian language;*

***DEADLINE:*** *Second semester of 2018 (periodically every year)*

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Measure 64*

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*Reviewing and guiding of programs / donors, which provide study scholarships abroad to the areas of expertise needed by Albania. Evaluating the performance of a profound study on the number of the Albanian students in the universities abroad and on the areas where they are specialized.*

*Reassessment for the inclusion of a return requirement in Albania (for a period of not less than one year) for all the students receiving study scholarships abroad in the framework of different donor study programs for Albania.*

*INDICATORS: Guiding of programs / donors needed by Albania; Study on the number of Albanian students and areas of specialization; Reassessment of a return requirement in Albania.*

*DEADLINE: Second 6 months 2018 (periodically every year)*

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Measure 65*\_\_\_\_\_

*Drafting and approving necessary shared agreements with Kosovo and specific ones to support the teaching of Albanian language and culture in Diaspora.*

*Reassessment of the legal framework regarding the responsibility of the Albanian state to enable Albanian language learning for the new generations of Albanian communities in the Diaspora.*

*INDICATORS: Agreements with Kosovo; Reassessment of the legal framework.*

***DEADLINE: First semester of 2019 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*Measure 66*\_\_\_\_\_

*Promoting programs or donors who offer scholarships for studies abroad, for Albania.  
Running information activities for high schools and Universities aiming to raise awareness  
of professors, students and pupils on these programmers and application procedures.*

**INDICATORS:** *Scholarship programs; running information activities.*

**TIMELINE:** *second half of 2018 (periodically run – every year)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION:**

*Minister of State for Diaspora  
Ministry of Europe and Foreign affairs  
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth  
Financial costs shall be covered by the forecasted budget approved by implementing  
institutions.*

**Measure 67** \_\_\_\_\_

*Conducting an assessment report on the difficulties of the Albanian students studying abroad  
and on the factors influencing this situation. Getting organized in the host countries on taking  
measures so as to enable communication and functional networks to assist Albanian students.*

**INDICATORS:** *Scholarship programs; Organizing information activities.*

**DEADLINE:** *Second semester of 2018 (periodically every year)*

**THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION**

*State Minister for Diaspora  
Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth  
The financial cost will be met, within the budget approved by the implementing institutions.*

**Measure 68** \_\_\_\_\_

*Reassessment of policies aimed at promoting the return of skilled migrants. Evaluating the  
supply and demand for qualified personnel in the Albanian labor market and establishing  
contacts between migrants and large and medium-sized enterprises in Albania by creating an  
electronic database with CVs of highly qualified migrants.*

**INDICATORS:** *Encouraging the return of skilled migrants; Creating an electronic CV  
database.*

**DEADLINE:** *Second semester of 2018 (periodically every year)*

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Ministry of Interior*

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy*

*Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth*

*The financial cost will be borne by the PBA approved for implementing institutions.*

*Measure 69* \_\_\_\_\_

*Monitoring of the National Action Plan on 6 months assessment and reporting to the State Committee for Diaspora. Reporting to the Subcommittee on Migration and Diaspora in the Albanian Parliament on the progress of the National Strategy and Action Plan. The Subcommittee will propose that on the issue of migration and diaspora treatment shall be adopted by the Assembly every year to adopt a resolution on this matter.*

***DEADLINE: The first 6 months 2019 (periodically every year)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Measure 70* \_\_\_\_\_

*Evaluation by the Sub-Commission on Migration and Diaspora and the State Committee for Diaspora in special meetings of the below produced documents:*

- *A written reporting by the National Agency of Diaspora;*
- *Bank of Albania for remittances in the Republic of Albania;*
- *INSTAT for annual data on migration and diaspora;*
- *State Insurance Institute for annual information on the status of pensions and status of citizens abroad;*
- *By the Ministry of Interior on the state of registration of Albanian nationals abroad.*

***DEADLINE: Second semester of 2019 (periodically every year)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Vice Prime Minister*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Interior*

*Ministry of Finance and Economy*

*Bank of Albania*

*Measure 71*\_\_\_\_\_

*Assessment, discussion and proposals for changes to the National Strategy document and Action Plan at the Albanian Summit of Diaspora. These proposals will be seen as initiators to make the possible changes.*

***DEADLINE: Second semester of 2018 (periodically)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

*Measure 72*\_\_\_\_\_

*Determining the indicators that will denote the level of implementation of the measures set by this strategy. Obligation of the institutions responsible for implementing the strategy for drafting the annual reports of the measures taken, including quantitative and qualitative monitoring data, based on the defined indicators.*

***DEADLINE: First semester of 2019 (periodically every year)***

***THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION***

*Vice Prime Minister*

*State Minister for Diaspora*

*Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs*

**WORKING GROUP:**

Pandeli Majko,

**State Minister for Diaspora - Chair**

Sonila Qato,

**State Minister for Protection of Enterprise - Member**

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**Vice Minister of Tourism and Environment - Member**

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