

# Testing the Random Utility Model in Migration: Evidence from Lab-in-the-field Experiments “Data Collection and Descriptive Statistics”\*

Michel Beine<sup>†</sup>, Arnaud Dupuy<sup>‡</sup> and Majlinda Joxhe<sup>§</sup>

March 23, 2020

## Abstract

We report main results of a dataset that we collected from September-December 2019 in the urban areas of the city of Tirana (Albania). We gathered socio-demographic information as well as intended migration plans along with preferred ranking destinations for countries of Europe and World. Furthermore, we included *lab-in-the-field* laboratory games, one regarding a randomized information with respect to the preferred migration destinations and two incentivized laboratory games for measuring risk and time preferences.

We find that approximately 72% of our sample expressed the desire to migrate in a future day. The first country ranked as most preferred European country for the Albanians is Germany, whereas at the World level is USA. Moreover, we find that 57% of the sample declared to evaluate the wage earnings at the destination country as the first important attribute when they decide to migrate.

JEL Classification: C93, C81, F22

Keywords: *Field Experiment, Data Collection, Albania, Intended Migration*

---

\*This project has received financial supported from the Fonds National de la Recherche Luxembourg (Grant CORE C18/SC/12665537 RUMEXP).

<sup>†</sup>Department of Economics, University of Luxembourg, IRES, IZA, Bonn and CESifo, Munich

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Economics, University of Luxembourg and IZA, Bonn

<sup>§</sup>Department of Economics, University of Luxembourg

# 1 Introduction

The stock of immigrants worldwide in 2019, amounted to 272 million individuals with an increase of 51 million since 2010.<sup>1</sup>This represents 3.5% of the world population.

An important branch of the migration literature investigates the motives to migrate by using data about actual migration flows, (Beine *et al.* (2016)). These data, however, do not allow to fully understand migration decision strategies of potential migrants. Observed movements of migrants may result from a complex set of mechanisms: like migration intentions, self-selection and out-selection factors. Evaluating the role of these factors requires also deep understanding of the underlying mechanisms behind each of these components (Beine *et al.* (2019)).

One possible way to overcome the limitation associated to the use of actual migration data is to use data that capture directly migration intentions. The formation of intentions is important in its own right and can be understood as a first step towards actual migration. Analyzing migration intentions may lead to a better understanding of migrant selection by identifying subpopulations that consider migration as a possible future action and reflect the question of which destination to choose based on available information about potential destinations. It may also help in explaining actual migration flows (Bertoli & Ruysen (2018)).

A recent strand of the literature has focus specifically on migration intentions using Gallup data (GWP)<sup>2</sup>, (Dustmann & Okatenko (2014); Docquier *et al.* (2014) among others), which data provide valuable information in the form of respondents answers to questions about their most preferred destination. Nevertheless, the stated unique destination also hides some important information of the decision-making process about migration, i.e. the ranking of alternative destinations. The use of data on actual moves or of the GWP data will reveal information of the most preferred option of prospective migrants (or stayers) but will fail to give information over the other dominated choices.

In this study, we try to retrieve information about these omitted choices that can provide interesting insights on the migration motivation. For this, we designed and

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/international-migrant-stock-2019.html>

<sup>2</sup>[www.gallup.com](http://www.gallup.com)

collected data through a field work survey with 1500 subjects living in the urban areas of the city of Tirana (Albania). We retrieve information not only about their most preferred destination as in GWP data, but also information about the ranking of the 5 most preferred countries. We therefore aimed to overcome some limitations associated to the design of the Gallup data and retrieve not only the preferred destination but also the ranking among alternative destinations.

The second aim of this research was to identify the exact type of information which is processed by individuals in forming their destination choices. The traditional migration literature has advanced many potential motives, such as income differential across regions, relative deprivation, climate shocks at origin and social conflicts ( among others Clark & Davies Withers (2007); Stark & Taylor (1989); Naudé (2010); (Feng *et al.* (2012)); Beine *et al.* (2013)). An important question is to what extent individuals value the utility associated to other factors than income. The literature using actual migration flows indeed suggests that maximizing income alone may not actually lead to utility maximization since other factors such as amenities, climate shocks Beine & Parsons (2015), culture (Collier & Hoeffler, 2018), marriage (Dupuy, 2018) or criminality (Lundquist & Massey, 2005) may additionally be considered by potential migrants. This study is contributing to this strand of the migration literature by including non-monetary characteristics in the set of potential factors.

To detect the effect of information with respect to the intended destination countries, we designed a laboratory experiment where attributes (monetary and non-monetary) were manipulated between two groups. We divided our sample of 1500 individuals into 2 random groups, one group was informed about the average income at the most preferred destination (potentially that they will earn). To the other group, instead, was given information not only about income but also about an attribute other than income.<sup>3</sup> We also checked for the re-ranking of their stated preferred countries after information was given.

Finally, a long-standing hypothesis in the migration literature is that individuals' willingness to take risks plays an important role in migration (see for instance Docquier & Rapoport (2012). Nevertheless, there still is little investigation on whether risk attitudes in fact, influence individuals' migration decisions (Jaeger *et al.* , 2010).

---

<sup>3</sup>See section 2 for more detailed explanation

We included *real incentivized laboratory* games in the field to measure risk and time preferences and this allowed us to test the extent to which these factors are affecting migration intentions.<sup>4</sup>

In section 2 we describe the design of the sample and the collection of the data. Section 3 shows the summary statistics of main variables collected and discuss their representative degree with respect to the whole population of Albania. Section 4 gives key insights for the main outcomes of the survey related to the migration intentions. Section 5 concludes.

## 2 Survey and Sample Design

We collected information for our study by running a field data collection in the urban areas of the capital Tirana (Albania) which comprises roughly the 1/3 of the entire population of the country.<sup>5</sup> Albania also provided an ideal case for our study as it is still considered a low-middle-income country with a GDP per capita around 4078\$ per year (World Bank (2017)). It has a history of out-migration starting in 1990 soon after the fall of communism. Albania exhibits a net emigration rate averaging 3% since 2004, which is high by international standards<sup>6</sup>. This is also the highest rate among European countries, in spite of the fact that it is subject to actual mobility restrictions imposed by most European countries and other developed countries<sup>7</sup>

The survey was completed in Albanian language (translated from English in Albanian and then re-translated by a third official translator). The interviews were conducted by nine trained enumerators and was administrated with the use of a specific IT application,<sup>8</sup> that collected in a digital way all the information of the subjects participating to the survey. The data collection started on August 31, 2019 and ended on December 30, 2019.

Before starting the full data collection, the survey was pilot several times in order

---

<sup>4</sup>For running the field work and the data collection along with the laboratory experiments, we designed and modeled a application that made all the process run smoothly.

<sup>5</sup>[http://www.instat.gov.al/al/temat/treguesit-demografik/unhbox\(voidb@x\bgroup\accent127e\penalty\M\hskip\z@skip\egroup-dhe-social/unhbox\(voidb@x\bgroup\accent127e\penalty\M\hskip\z@skip\egroup/popullsia/](http://www.instat.gov.al/al/temat/treguesit-demografik/unhbox(voidb@x\bgroup\accent127e\penalty\M\hskip\z@skip\egroup-dhe-social/unhbox(voidb@x\bgroup\accent127e\penalty\M\hskip\z@skip\egroup/popullsia/)

<sup>6</sup>[www.indexmundi.com](http://www.indexmundi.com)

<sup>7</sup>Albania is part of the Schengen agreement but not of the European Union.

<sup>8</sup>The application was created for the purpose of the study in order to collect all the info quickly and in a safe way.

to make sure that the questionnaire and the laboratory experiments were fully understood by the potential participants. It was tested with different subjects having distinctive characteristics in terms of age, gender and education level.<sup>9</sup> We gathered socio-demographic information, future plans with the respect their intended migration plans and at the very last, we also included two laboratory experiments that were feasible to be handled and practical in the field.<sup>10</sup>

Our sampling strategy was stratified at the level of a district, as the urban city of Tirana is composed of 11 districts called “mini-bashki”. Each enumerator was assigned to visit all the districts during the survey. In practice, each enumerator was asked to perform at most three interviews per day. A batch of three interviews could be done in only one of the 11 districts of the city, either in a morning session or in an afternoon session. To make sure that each enumerator’s interviews were uniformly distributed across districts, sessions and types of questionnaires,<sup>11</sup> each enumerator was randomly assigned on each day to a district, a session, and a type of questionnaire. In total, 2,374 individuals were randomly intercepted, 1,504 agreed to participate and 1,502 completed the survey. All the subjects were rewarded for their participation with a voucher in terms of top-up of their mobile phone.<sup>12</sup> The average payment for the individuals amounted to 1300Lek (10 Euros), whereas the average interview was around 20 minutes.<sup>13</sup>

The second aim of the study was also to evaluate how the pre-migration information will change the migration intentions and the ranking of the preferred destinations. Most of the literature on migration considers “expected income” in explaining the movements of people (Grogger & Hanson, 2011). Recent research shows that additional non-monetary factors also play a fundamental role ((Beine *et al.*, 2015)). In order to capture also these effects, we introduced in the survey information about country’s’ attributes (average monthly earnings, cost of living, unemployment rate, index of freedom, climate (temperature) and the size of Albanian community)<sup>14</sup> considered to be the most important attributes in the decision to migrate. We constructed a database

---

<sup>9</sup>The pilot phase lasted one month including the training also of the enumerators.

<sup>10</sup>for more information about the laboratory games see 3

<sup>11</sup>Mini-bashki is an administrative division of the urban areas of the city of Tirana.

<sup>12</sup>The payment of the subjects depends on the laboratory games with respect to the risk and time preferences that were played on the end of the survey.

<sup>13</sup>See table 2

<sup>14</sup>see for a review see Baláz *et al.* (2016)

with all the countries of the world and collected information for all these 8 attributes. This database was then used by the application to retrieve information that was given to all the subjects. We asked all the subjects to rank these attributes and subsequently will display (through a vignette) information about the attributes during the first laboratory game. The order of the attributes was randomized in order to avoid framing effects when ranking these attributes. Additionally, in order to capture the effect of additional information on the ranking of the preferred destinations, we randomly divided the sample into two groups:

1. **Treatment 1 or (Control group):** We show information relative to 5 of the ranked preferred countries only for the earning information.<sup>15</sup>
2. **Treatment 2 or (Treated Group):** We show information relative to 5 of the ranked preferred countries not only for the earning information but also for the first ranked attribute (apart earnings).

Table (1) evidence the division of the sample in this two subgroups based on the randomization of the application, producing balanced sub-samples relative to the information treatment.<sup>16</sup> Whereas, Figure (1) provides the exact locations of all the completed interviews, which shows that the process of the collection of the data occurred to all the districts and was spatially distributed over all the city and between the two groups within each district, confirming in this way a full coverage of the all administrative areas of the Tirana city.

Table 1: Treatment Groups

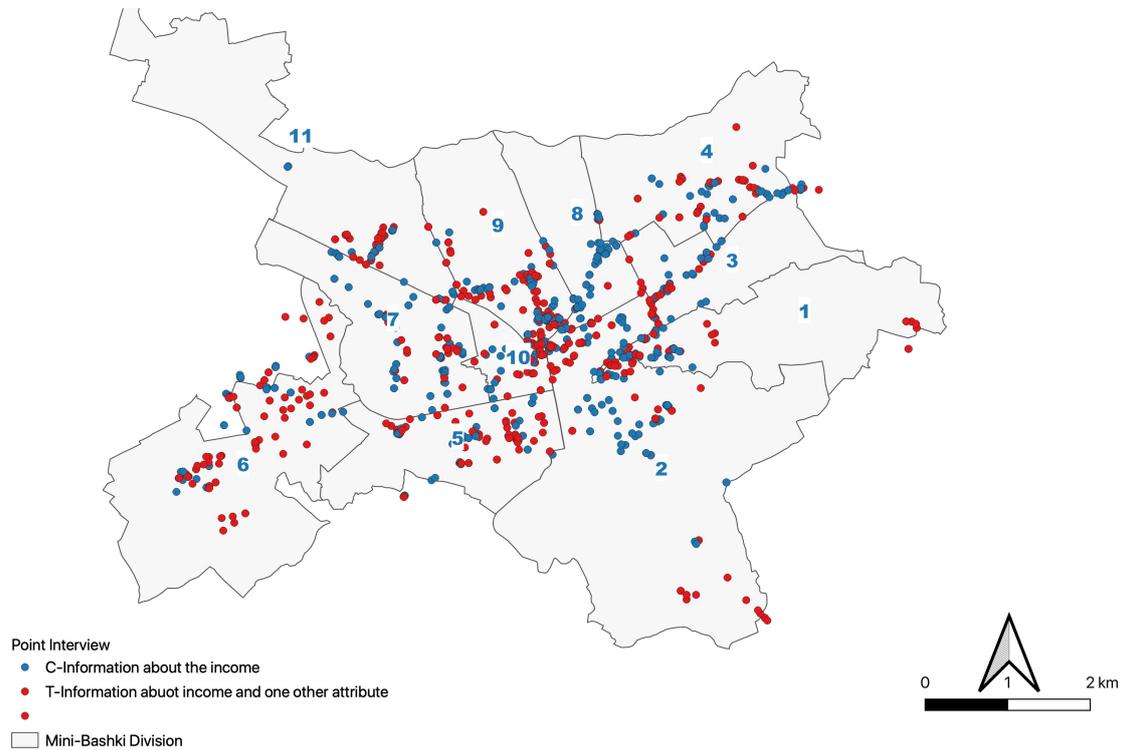
	Treatment group		
	Observations	Frequency	Cumulative
Control	756.00	50.33	50.33
Treat	746.00	49.67	100.00
Total	1502.00	100.00	

Notes: Baseline Sample 2019

<sup>15</sup>See Section 4 for a more detailed explanation for the attributes information.

<sup>16</sup>There is slightly a higher percentage (0.33) of control group with respect to the treatment group as the randomization occurred through the application at the beginning and included also the non-valid questionnaires, questionnaires which are not counted as valid.

Figure 1: Distribution of the interviews by the type of questionnaire for each Area



### 3 Descriptive Statistics

The field study was designed to collect information about the migration intentions of the Albanian population and in particular, the population of Tirana<sup>17</sup> The final sample includes 1502 subjects with no missing information.<sup>18</sup>

Table (3) provides descriptive statistics of the baseline sample regarding the main socio-demographic characteristics of the subjects participating in the survey. We have by construction a sample with 50% males and the average age is around 33 years old, value that very close to the official average age of the entire population of Albania (Census 2011).<sup>19</sup>

Our sample shows that Albanians have less than one child) (0.79 from our versus

<sup>17</sup>The sample was created based on a randomization of the different divisions of the area of the city Tirana. The main reason of sampling Tirana is that the population of the capital is around 1/3 of the entire country, and second, international migration occurs mainly from a big urban area of a developing country.

<sup>18</sup>A total of 2374 people was randomly intercepted. For 3 subjects, the number of years of education are missing.

<sup>19</sup>[www.instat.gov.al](http://www.instat.gov.al)

Table 2: Distribution of the interviews per "Mini-Bashki"

	Area		
	Observations	Frequency	Cumulative
1	148.00	9.88	9.88
2	161.00	10.75	20.63
3	144.00	9.61	30.24
4	114.00	7.48	37.72
5	134.00	8.95	46.66
6	150.00	10.01	56.68
7	142.00	9.48	66.15
8	125.00	8.34	74.50
9	138.00	9.21	83.71
10	129.00	8.48	92.19
11	117.00	7.81	100.00
Total	1502.00	100.00	

Notes: Baseline Sample 2019

0.80 census<sup>20</sup> and that on average they live in a house with 4 people<sup>21</sup>. Regarding the education years, they declared to have spent on average 14,1 (versus 15,2 at census level)<sup>22</sup> and that 81% are employed.<sup>23</sup> At last, 64% of our sample declared to be an owner of a house or a land versus 74% at population level<sup>24</sup>, whereas the average individual monthly income is 28.382 LEK (equal to 250 Euros)<sup>25</sup>.

Table (4), instead shows the difference in average values between the two groups of our experiment relative to the information given about the destinations. In average terms<sup>26</sup>, the table evidences that there is not significant differences between the two groups with except the employment status. This results assures that the randomization protocol has performed well.

Tables 5, 6, 7 instead shows the summary statistics of some categorical variables by comparing these values with the values retrieved from the last Census in Albania (2011). With respect to the distribution of the education level, our sample gives a very

<sup>20</sup><https://www.statista.com/statistics/443999/fertility-rate-in-albania>

<sup>21</sup><https://invest-in-albania.org/this-is-the-average-household-size-in-tirana>

<sup>22</sup>[http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/ALB.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/ALB.pdf)

<sup>23</sup>[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@europe/@ro-geneva/@sro-budapest/documents/publication/wcms\\_167170.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@europe/@ro-geneva/@sro-budapest/documents/publication/wcms_167170.pdf). If we account for informal employment, the employment level should be 88%.

<sup>24</sup><http://www.instat.gov.al/al/temat/censet/censusi-i-popullsis%C3%AB-dhe-banesave>

<sup>25</sup><http://www.instat.gov.al/en/themes/labour-market-and-education/wages/>. The official average monthly income in Albania is higher but include those employed. The average monthly income in Albania is 51,870, which is equal to 415 euros per month

<sup>26</sup>we perform a t-test for checking the difference between the two groups

high rate of the individuals completing a University degree or a Master, values that are very different comparing them with the census level. This discrepancy may have occurred for two main reasons; (i) last census 2011 do not reflect the rise in education participation in Albania at all levels, since 2010 there was a huge increase of new private Universities,<sup>27</sup> (ii) the second reason may derive from the fact that the population of the capital is different in terms of education distribution and attainment as in Tirana are most of the Universities and other high education Institutions. With respect to the other three dimensions marital status, religion and employment type, we find that our sample shows values very near to the one reported by the Census. Marital status with respect to married and singles the values are very near to those of the population, apart the divorce rate that has been growing very fast the recent year and in particular in urban areas of Albania.<sup>28</sup> At last with respect to the distribution of different religions that are now in Albania our sample seems to be very near the population values. All these information highly evidence that the values of the key variables of the data collected for our sample are reflecting the population values, thus affirming a good scale of representativeness of our data.<sup>29</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup><https://www.ascal.al/sq/>

<sup>28</sup><http://www.instat.gov.al/al/temat/treguesit-demografik\unhbox\voidb@x\bgroup\accent127e\penalty\M\hskip\z@skip\egroup-dhe-social\unhbox\voidb@x\bgroup\accent127e\penalty\M\hskip\z@skip\egroup/lindjet-vdekjet-dhe-martesat/>

<sup>29</sup>All the information relative to the Census was retrieved from: <http://www.instat.gov.al/al/temat/censet/censusi-i-popullsis\unhbox\voidb@x\bgroup\accent127e\penalty\M\hskip\z@skip\egroup-dhe-banesave/>

Table 3: Baseline Summary Statistics

	Mean	s.d.	min	p.50	max	Observations	Population data(mean)
Male	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	1.00	1502	0.51
Age	32.91	13.09	17.00	28.00	78.00	1502	34.50
Number of children	0.79	1.16	0.00	0.00	7.00	1502	0.80
Number of people living in the same household	3.80	1.39	0.00	4.00	12.00	1502	3.00
Years spent in education	14.10	2.66	0.00	15.00	25.00	1499	15.20
Employment Status	0.81	0.39	0.00	1.00	1.00	1502	0.88
Owens a house or a land	0.64	0.48	0.00	1.00	1.00	1502	0.74
Individual income	28382.19	27818.83	0.00	28000.00	180000.00	1502	2782.00
Has ever migrated in his life	1.21	0.41	1.00	1.00	2.00	1502	n.a
Friends or relative ever migrated	0.98	0.15	0.00	1.00	1.00	1502	n.a

Notes: All variables are from 2019 Baseline survey - (Tirana)Albania

Table 4: Mean test across groups for Individual Characteristics

	Gender	Age	Number of Childrens	Household Size	Years of Education	Employed	Owner House	Income	Marital Status
(1)									
Control Group									
Mean	0.50	33.07	0.78	3.86	14.13	0.78	0.63	29237.10	3.29
s.d	0.50	13.24	1.11	1.35	2.66	0.41	0.48	29249.74	1.95
Treat Group									
Mean	0.50	32.75	0.80	3.74	14.07	0.84	0.64	27515.82	3.27
s.d	0.50	12.95	1.21	1.43	2.66	0.36	0.48	26280.73	1.95
t-test (p-value for the difference)	0.958	0.636	0.690	0.113	0.633	0.001	0.692	0.230	0.851
Observations	1502								

Notes: All variables are from 2019 Baseline Survey

Table 5: Education Status

	Highest education level completed		
	Observations	Percentage (sample)	Percentage (Population)
No education	4.00	0.27	0.10
Primary level	18.00	1.21	1.60
Low secondary level	138.00	9.29	41.75
Upper secondary level	532.00	35.80	29.50
University	550.00	37.01	10.96
Master	244.00	16.42	0.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1486.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

Notes: Baseline Sample 2019

Table 6: Marital Status

	Marital Status		
	Observations	Percentage (sample)	Percentage (Population)
Married	622.00	41.41	51.88
Widowed	9.00	0.60	0.72
Divorced or Separated	35.00	2.33	4.86
Single	836.00	55.66	42.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>1502.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

Notes: Baseline Sample 2019

Table 7: Religion

	Main religion		
	Observations	Percentage (sample)	Percentage (Population)
Muslim	986.00	65.65	58.70
Christian Orthodox	163.00	10.85	6.75
Christian Catholic	166.00	11.05	10.03
Protestant	12.00	0.80	0.21
None	146.00	9.72	13.75
Other	29.00	1.93	5.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>1502.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

Notes: Baseline Sample 2019

## 4 Migration Intentions

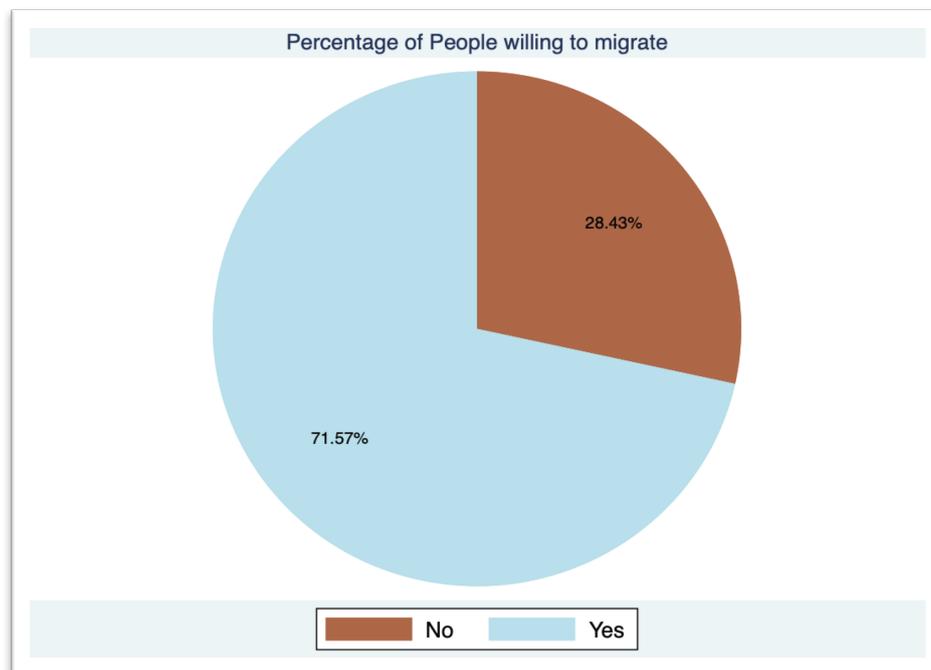
The section relative to migration history and future plans was performed soon after the end of the first module. We asked past history migration and future plans as well as ranking of countries the participants will indicate in case of a future migration.

Key question that captured the intended migration plans was as follows:

*Q1: Are you planning to migrate in the future?*

The answer to that question captures the intention to migrate using a 0-1 binary outcome. It is closely related to the Gallup key question mentioned earlier. Figure 4 shows that nearly 72% of our sample declared to have the desire to migrate in the future, value that is very similar to the one as reported in the Gallup data.<sup>30</sup> Table 8 gives a division of this rate by gender, clearly showing that there is no difference in this rate between female and males. The yes/no distribution remains also constant among this gender dimension. We asked also for potential network information such as the country where most of their relatives and friends lives, table 9 ranks the first Italy and second Greece, countries which actually are also the top receiving countries of Albanian migrants<sup>31</sup>

Figure 2: Percentage of Individuals declaring intended migration



<sup>30</sup>Data from Gallup World Poll surveys reveal that over the 2015-2017 period, Albania was ranked fourth in the World in terms of intended emigration rate with a value reaching 60%. It is reported that this rate still increased during the last 3 years.

<sup>31</sup><https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/wphc/Albania/04-analysis.pdf>

Table 8: Willing to migrate by gender

	Observations	Percentage
<b>Female</b>		
No	225.00	14.98
Yes	527.00	35.09
Total	752.00	50.07
<b>Male</b>		
No	202.00	13.45
Yes	548.00	36.48
Total	750.00	49.93
<b>Total</b>		
No	427.00	28.43
Yes	1075.00	71.57
Total	1502.00	100.00

Notes: Baseline Sample 2019

Furthermore, different to the Gallup pool that ask potential migrants only one country as a preferred destination, we included instead the two following questions to capture also the ranking of preferred countries:

*Q2: Imagine that you will have the opportunity to migrate only to one of the European countries (where you can work and live). In case you want to leave Albania, rate the first 4 countries that you would prefer to visit. Please rank them from the most preferred to the least one.*

*Q3: Now, imagine that you now you will have the opportunity to migrate to all the countries of the World (where you can work and live). Please rate the first 5 countries that you would prefer to go and rank them from the most preferred to the least one.* The responses to these two questions are recorded through a nominal scale. The main difference between the first and the second question concerns the change in the set of possible options.

Tables 4 and 11 show respectively the ranking of European and World countries choose as the first destination on the ranking for both options. At European level, nearly 44% of the sample pointed Germany as their first top destination. In a World setting the first country is USA (42%), whereas Germany shifts on the second place.

The second aim of the study is to evaluate how the pre-migration information will change the migration intentions and the ranking of the preferred destinations. In order to do so, we introduce in the survey some country attributes (for a review see Baláž *et al.* (2016)) considered to be essential in the decision to migrate. Most of the literature on migration considers “expected income” in explaining the movements of people

Table 9: Country Network

	country where most of the relatives lives		
	b	pct	cumpct
Italy	477.00	31.78	31.78
Greece	347.00	23.12	54.90
Germany	192.00	12.79	67.69
United States	192.00	12.79	80.48
United Kingdom	139.00	9.26	89.74
None	36.00	2.40	92.14
Canada	27.00	1.80	93.94
France	25.00	1.67	95.60
Switzerland	20.00	1.33	96.94
Belgium	10.00	0.67	97.60
Sweden	10.00	0.67	98.27
Austria	5.00	0.33	98.60
Netherlands	3.00	0.20	98.80
Spain	3.00	0.20	99.00
Hungary	2.00	0.13	99.13
Luxembourg	2.00	0.13	99.27
Australia	1.00	0.07	99.33
Finland	1.00	0.07	99.40
Ireland	1.00	0.07	99.47
Japan	1.00	0.07	99.53
Norway	1.00	0.07	99.60
Poland	1.00	0.07	99.67
Qatar	1.00	0.07	99.73
Romania	1.00	0.07	99.80
Russia	1.00	0.07	99.87
Turkey	1.00	0.07	99.93
United Arab Emirates	1.00	0.07	100.00
Total	1501.00	100.00	

Notes: Baseline Sample 2019

Grogger & Hanson (2011). Recent research shows that additional non-monetary factors also play a fundamental role (see Beine & Parsons (2015)).

In order to test also for the effect of these attributes, we will include in the survey 7 characteristics (attributes) of a country (monetary and non-monetary pull factors).<sup>32</sup>

We first, give to the participants the possibility to rank these attributes and subsequently display (through a vignette) the attributes of their chosen destinations.<sup>33</sup> The two questions were as following ones:

<sup>32</sup>We created a database for all the countries where information with these 8 attributes was collected. This database than was used by the application for the the vignette information to be given at the moment of the interview.

<sup>33</sup>The order of the attributes was randomized in order to avoid framing effects.

Table 10: Europe Raking

	First Most Preferred European Country		
	b	pct	cumpct
Germany	476.00	44.28	44.28
Great Britain	137.00	12.74	57.02
Italy	113.00	10.51	67.53
Switzerland	70.00	6.51	74.05
France	62.00	5.77	79.81
Sweden	47.00	4.37	84.19
Austria	28.00	2.60	86.79
Norway	27.00	2.51	89.30
Belgium	24.00	2.23	91.53
Netherlands	23.00	2.14	93.67
Spain	21.00	1.95	95.63
Greece	15.00	1.40	97.02
Denmark	13.00	1.21	98.23
Luxembourg	5.00	0.47	98.70
Romania	4.00	0.37	99.07
Finland	3.00	0.28	99.35
Other	7	0.9	100
Total	1075.00	100.00	

Notes: Baseline Sample 2019

*Q3: Imagine that someone will give you the opportunity to migrate. Check these lists and rank these attributes (from the most important to the less important) for you to know:*

1. Monthly Net Wage in PPP
2. Cost of living in PPP
3. Unemployment rate
4. Crime rate
5. Poverty Rate
6. Freedom and democracy indicator
7. Albanian community percentage

Tables (12) and (13), gives the ranking of the the first and the second attribute to be mentioned as the most important when deciding to migrate. Nearly 57% of the sample choose monthly earnings as the first most important attribute of the destination country. It is followed by the cost of living (15%) and freedom (10%).

Table 11: World Ranking

	First Most Preferred World Country		
	Observation	Percentage	Cumulative
USA	453.00	42.14	42.14
Germany	153.00	14.23	56.37
Canada	133.00	12.37	68.74
Great Britain	88.00	8.19	76.93
Australia	55.00	5.12	82.05
Italy	25.00	2.33	84.37
Switzerland	17.00	1.58	85.95
France	16.00	1.49	87.44
Turkey	15.00	1.40	88.84
Sweden	14.00	1.30	90.14
Norway	13.00	1.21	91.35
Austria	11.00	1.02	92.37
Japan	10.00	0.93	93.30
Netherlands	9.00	0.84	94.14
Spain	7.00	0.65	94.79
New Zeland	7.00	0.65	95.44
Belgium	6.00	0.56	96.00
Arab United	5.00	0.47	96.47
Denmark	5.00	0.47	96.93
Cina	4.00	0.37	97.30
Greece	4.00	0.37	97.67
Luxembourg	4.00	0.37	98.05
Brazil	2.00	0.19	98.23
Portugal	2.00	0.19	98.42
Russia	2.00	0.19	98.60
South Africa	2.00	0.19	98.79
Other	13	0.9	100
Total	1075.00	100.00	

Notes: Baseline Sample 2019

Instead, table (13) gives the rank of the second attribute, 37% of our sample choose the cost of living, followed by monthly earnings and unemployment.

Table 12: Attribute Ranked as First Choice

	First Attribute for the destination country		
	b	pct	cumpct
Monthly Earnings	862.00	57.39	57.39
Cost of Living	223.00	14.85	72.24
Freedom	151.00	10.05	82.29
Unemployment Rate	100.00	6.66	88.95
Climate	78.00	5.19	94.14
Crime Rate	41.00	2.73	96.87
Poverty Rate	32.00	2.13	99.00
Size of Albanian Community	15.00	1.00	100.00
Total	1502.00	100.00	

Notes: Baseline Sample 2019

Table 13: Attribute Ranked as Second Choice

	Second Attribute for the destination country		
	b	pct	cumpct
Cost of Living	554.00	36.88	36.88
Monthly Earnings	317.00	21.11	57.99
Unemployment Rate	257.00	17.11	75.10
Freedom	120.00	7.99	83.09
Climate	84.00	5.59	88.68
Poverty Rate	81.00	5.39	94.07
Crime Rate	76.00	5.06	99.13
Size of Albanian Community	13.00	0.87	100.00
Total	1502.00	100.00	

Notes: Baseline Sample 2019

## 5 Conclusion

We design, run and collected 1500 valid interviews from a field work with Albanian population from the urban areas of the capital Tirana. Our field work started on 31 of August 2019 and ended on 31 December 2020. We showed that our sample shows a high level of representativeness of the population of Albania for most of the characteristics as collected by our baseline survey. We collect also intention to migrate along with stated ranking preferences for 5 destination countries. We find that 72% of Albanians expressed their desire to migrate in the future.

## References

- Baláž, Vladimír, Williams, Allan M., & Fifeková, Elena. 2016. Migration Decision Making as Complex Choice: Eliciting Decision Weights Under Conditions of Imperfect and Complex Information Through Experimental Methods. *Population, Space and Place*, **22**(1), 36–53.
- Beine, Michel, & Parsons, Christopher. 2015. Climatic Factors as Determinants of International Migration. *The Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, **117**(2), 723–767.
- Beine, Michel, Bourgeon, Pauline, & Bricongne, Jean-Charles. 2013. *Aggregate Fluctuations and International Migration*. Tech. rept.
- Beine, Michel, Coulombe, Serge, & Vermeulen, Wessel N. 2015. Dutch Disease and the Mitigation Effect of Migration: Evidence from Canadian Provinces. *The Economic Journal*, **125**(589), 1574–1615.
- Beine, Michel, Bertoli, Simone, & Fernández-Huertas Moraga, Jesús. 2016. A Practitioners' Guide to Gravity Models of International Migration. *The World Economy*, **39**(4), 496–512.
- Beine, Michel, Machado, Joël, & Ruysen, Ilse. 2019. Do potential migrants internalise migrant rights in OECD host societies?
- Bertoli, Simone, & Ruysen, Ilse. 2018. Networks and migrants' intended destination. *Journal of Economic Geography*, **18**(4), 705–728.
- Clark, William A.V., & Davies Withers, Suzanne. 2007. Family migration and mobility sequences in the United States: Spatial mobility in the context of the life course. *Demographic Research*, **S6**(20), 591–622.
- Collier, Paul, & Hoeffler, Anke. 2018. Migration, Diasporas and Culture: An Empirical Investigation. *Kyklos*, **71**(1), 86–109.
- Docquier, Frédéric, & Rapoport, Hillel. 2012. Globalization, Brain Drain, and Development. *Journal of Economic Literature*, **50**(3), 681–730.
- Docquier, Frédéric, Peri, Giovanni, & Ruysen, Ilse. 2014. The Cross-country Determinants of Potential and Actual Migration. *International Migration Review*, **48**(s1), S37–S99.
- Dupuy, Arnaud. 2018. *Migration in China: to Work or to Wed?* Tech. rept.
- Dustmann, Christian, & Okatenko, Anna. 2014. Out-migration, wealth constraints, and the quality of local amenities. *Journal of Development Economics*, **110**(C), 52–

63.

- Feng, Shuaizhang, Oppenheimer, Michael, & Schlenker, Wolfram. 2012. Climate Change, Crop Yields, and Internal Migration in the United States.
- Grogger, Jeffrey, & Hanson, Gordon H. 2011. Income maximization and the selection and sorting of international migrants. *Journal of Development Economics*, **95**(1), 42–57.
- Jaeger, David, Dohmen, Thomas, Falk, Armin, Huffman, David, Sunde, Uwe, & Bonin, Holger. 2010. Direct Evidence on Risk Attitudes and Migration. *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, **92**(3), 684–689.
- Lundquist, Jennifer H., & Massey, Douglas S. 2005. Politics or Economics? International Migration during the Nicaraguan Contra War. *Journal of Latin American Studies*, **37**(1), 29–53.
- Naudé, Wim. 2010. The Determinants of Migration from Sub-Saharan African Countries†. *Journal of African Economies*, **19**(3), 330–356.
- Stark, Oded, & Taylor, J. Edward. 1989. Relative Deprivation and International Migration. *Demography*, **26**(1), 1–14.
- World Bank. 2017. *Europe and Central Asia Economic Update, October 2017 : Migration and Mobility*. Working Papers. World Bank Group.