

**ATINER's Conference Paper Proceedings Series**

DEM2018-0084

Athens, 11 September 2018

**Demographic Window of Opportunity/Kosovo**

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Athens, 11 September 2018

ISSN: 2529-167X

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**ABSTRACT**

In Kosovo, the birth rate continued to decline and fertility rate shows that in 1980 from 4.2 it has fallen to 1.9 in 2016. In 1981, children under the age five (U5) were close to 18% and in Census 2011, children under the age five were only 11%. Also, the younger generation (10-24) has declined from 69 (1981) to 25% (2016). The large number of "baby boom" births in the 1970s and 1990s remained stable, with 50-55% of the total population working age. Today, Kosovo has reached WINDOWS OPURTINITY (less than 50% of total population is dependent population), 10-20 years later than other states in the region. The 1981 census shows that only 2.8% were more than 65 years old while, in Census 2011 were 5.8% and in 2016 the population estimates indicate that were 8.1% old people. Kosovo is aging faster than any other country in region, do to rapid natural decrease and mechanic changes (emigration) in population structure. Based on the "Population Projections of Kosovo 2011-2061 ", the older generation (more than 65) in 2030 will reach 18% of the total population, while fertility will fall from 1.9 as it is now to 1.6 in 2030. Difficulties in aging populations have given their impact since 2015, when the government after two years of discussion has not managed to increase pensions and the social support offered to persons over 65 years because of the growing so rapidly the number of elderly people. Kosovo is recognized as an emigration country where only over five (5) years have emigrated from Kosovo more than 9% of the total resident population. The effect of emigration has been felt in the workforce, fertility and economy in these last 2-3 years.

Keywords:

Acknowledgment:

### **Basic Information**

*Region:* Southern Europe

*Latitude:* 41 ° 51 '21 and 43 ° 16' *Longitude:* 19 ° 59 'and 21 ° 47'

*Official name:* Republic of Kosovo

*Capital:* Pristina

*Length of boundaries(4):* Republic of Albania in the south-west 113,551 km, Republic of North Macedonia in south 170,772 km, Republic of Montenegro in north-west 79,165 km, Republic of Serbia in north-east 380,068 km. The border of the Republic of Kosovo with neighbouring countries mainly passes through mountains and has a natural character<sup>1</sup>.

*Surface:* 10,908 km<sup>2</sup>

*Total border length:* 743.556 km

*Population:* 1.798.506 (2017 estimated)

*Population Density:* 165 inhabitants per 1km<sup>2</sup>

*Ethnic Groups:* Albanians 91.1%; others 9.9% (2015)

*Form of government:* Parliamentary Republic

*Currency:* Euro (EUR)

*Independence Day:* February 17, 2008

The Republic of Kosovo is a state of parliamentary democracy based on the principle of separation of powers and balancing control between them. The Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo has legislative power. The President of the Republic of Kosovo represents the unity of the people. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo is responsible for the implementation of state laws and policies and is subject to parliamentary control. Judicial power is unique, independent and exercised by the courts.

### **Brief History**

Social, economic and political factors had a significant impact on the frequent changes in Kosovo's population.

The region where Kosovo is located nowadays, has been under the reign of the Ottoman Empire, starting from 1380 and fully occupied from 1455-1912 (around 500 years). In the table below is introduced the position of Kosovo during the years 1455-2018.

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<sup>1</sup> NATIONAL STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO ON CRIME PREVENTION AND ACTION PLAN; <https://mpb.rks-gov.net/StrategicDocuments.aspx>

**Table 1.** *Political position of Kosovo in the period of time 1445-2015*

1455-1912	Ottoman Empire
1913-1939	Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes
1940-1989	Yugoslavia (Autonomous province of Kosovo)
1989	Serbian parliament reasserting Serbian control over Kosovo
1990	Kosovo parliament declared independence (Albania has recognized it)
1990-99	Kosovo has own parallel institution
1989-99	Kosovo war
1999-2008	Kosovo was under UN- <a href="#">United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo-UNMIK</a>
2008	Kosovo declares independence
2018	Republic of Kosovo is 10 years old (February 2018) and is recognized by 116 out of 193 United Nations (UN) members

Source: Extract data from main historical periods of Kosovo/Kosovo archive

In ex-Yugoslavia, Kosovo was as one of the least developed countries or region. In 1977, the GSP<sup>2</sup> per capita in Kosovo was reported to be only 30 per cent of the Yugoslav average<sup>3</sup>. Also, the consequences of the war (1998-99) contributed to be one of the lastest develop country in region where 40% of houses was destroyed<sup>4</sup> without including public facilities, industrial and infrastructure where is estimated to have been destroyed by 60% after the war in 1999.

### Population Changes over the Years

First Census in Kosovo, after Second World War was conducted in 1948 where Kosovo has 733.034 residents<sup>5</sup>. Over 3 year Kosovo has increased for 46.970 people or 2% by years. In period of time 1951 till 1961 has increased by 2.4% (the largest one-year increase in population, 3.11%, was recorded in 1958) where in 1961-9171 about 3% yearly. This was the period when Kosovo had the largest population growth.

From 1971-1981 yearly increase was drop to 2.7% yearly and in 1991 about 2.3%.

In 1991 Kosovo has reached the maximum number of population close to 2 million (residents). From middle of 90s Kosovo population has start to decrease do to large scale of emigration.

In period of time 1991-2001 Kosovo has reduce 0.5% yearly when in period 2001-2011 has reached decrease 0.7% yearly. Kosovo still continue to decrease between 0.2-0.5% yearly due to reduced natural growth and negative net

<sup>2</sup>Gross social product

<sup>3</sup><https://www.historytoday.com/robert-bideleux/kosovos-conflict>

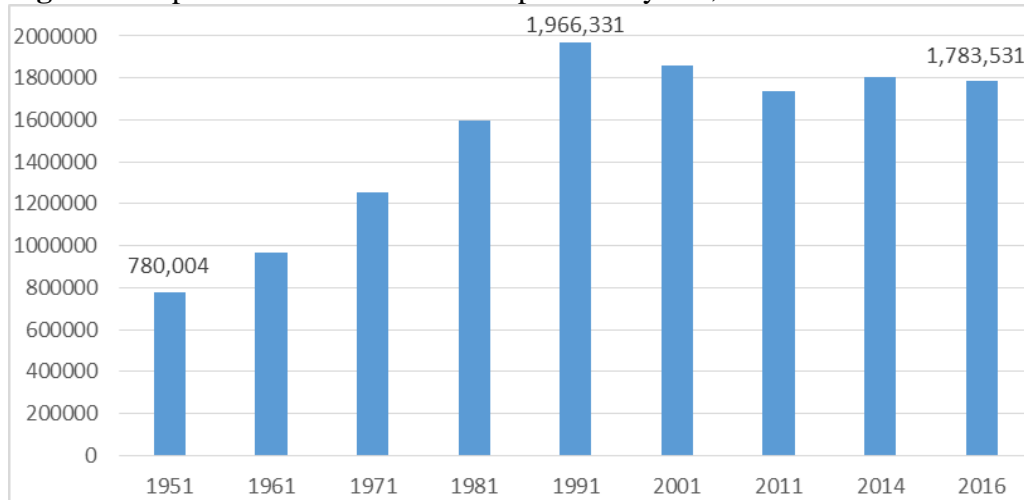
<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/albanian/kosovo2001/summary.pdf>

<sup>5</sup><http://ask.rks-gov.net/media/1835/demographic-changes-of-the-kosovo-population-1948-2006.pdf> Table 1

migration.

For last 25 year (1991-2016) Kosovo population has reduces more than 10%. Figure below it shows the number the population by the years.

**Figure 1.** Population in Kosovo for the period of years, 1951-2016



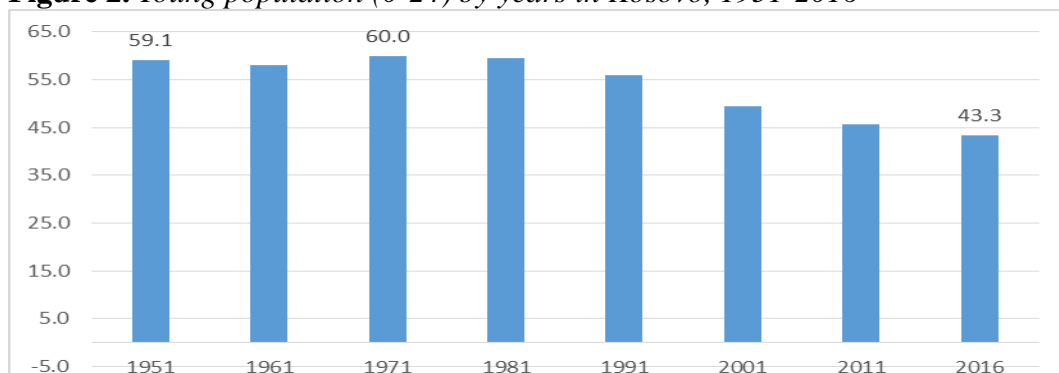
Source: Source: Vital statistics data and censuses: Kosovo Statistical Agency

### Decrease the Number of Children and Youth

After second war, Kosovo continue to grow so fast, where the young population aged 0-24 was in 1951 was close to 60% where in 1970 has reached 60% of total population (see figure 2). From 1981 the number of children and youth start to decrease and have continued until now (2018).

For 35 years, the population under age 24 has reduced for 17% from 60% (1981) of total population in 43% (2016). Also, population aged 0-14 years in 1971 has reached more than 40% of the total population. Do to ‘‘Baby boom’’ in 70-80s generation, the age group 15-24 in 1991 was over 21% of total population.

**Figure 2.** Young population (0-24) by years in Kosovo, 1951-2016



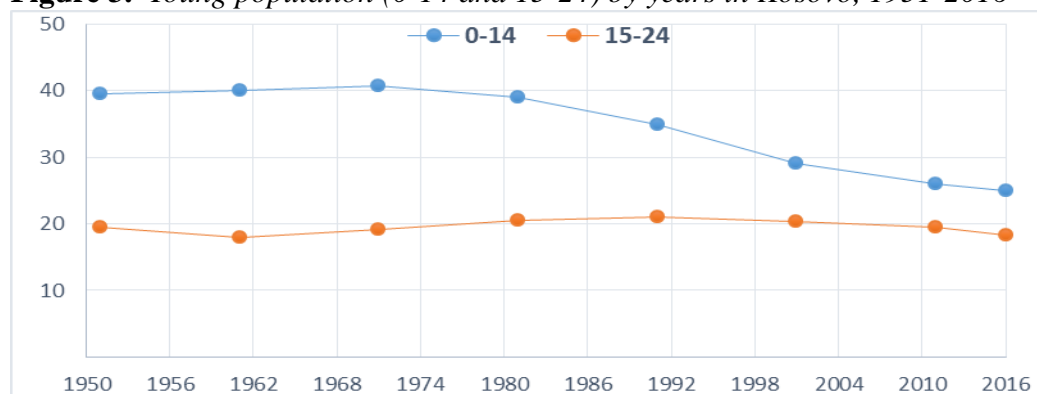
Source: Vital statistics data and censuses: Kosovo Statistical Agency

Until the late 1990s, Kosovo's population continued to grow between 1.5-2%

within a year. Do to large scale of emigration, Kosovo has faced with stagnation or going to fall. In period of time 2011 was estimated to have 1,798,645 residents and in 2017 has 1,783,531 or 0.8% lees.

Kosovo still has one of the youngest populations in Europe where median edge is 31 years<sup>6</sup>.

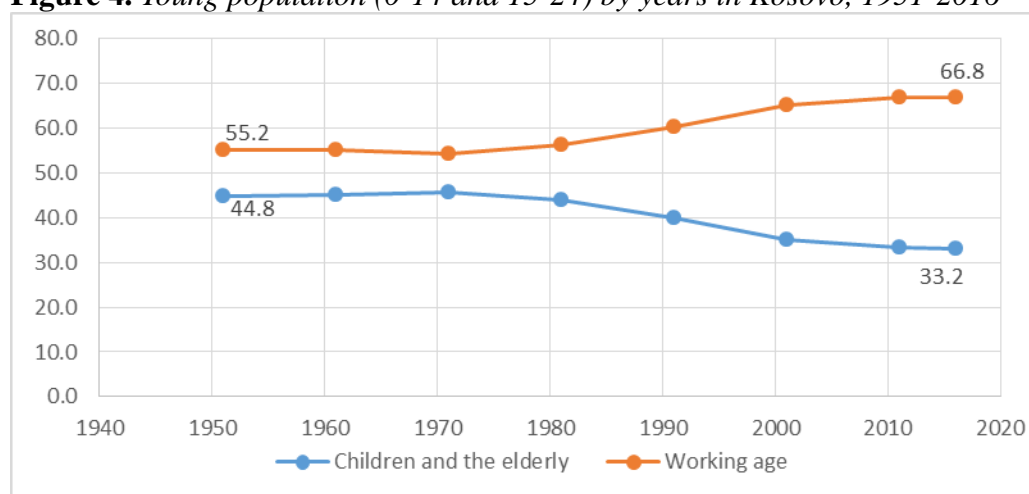
**Figure 3.** Young population (0-14 and 15-24) by years in Kosovo, 1951-2016



Source: Vital statistics data and censuses: Kosovo Statistical Agency

Dependent population take part about 33%: children aged 0 to 14 take part in over 25% and population aged over 65 is only 8.1% of total population (2016).

**Figure 4.** Young population (0-14 and 15-24) by years in Kosovo, 1951-2016



Source: Population censuses and Vital statistics data: Kosovo Statistical Agency

After the Second World War until beginning of 70s -60s the number of births rate has riches more than 45 children in 1.000 population<sup>7</sup>.

Due to difficult socio-economic conditions, the mortality rate also was high

<sup>6</sup> Results of the Population Prediction in Kosovo, 2017-2061: Kosovo Statistical Agency: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/en/kosovo-agency-of-statistics/social/population-projections>

<sup>7</sup> Number of live birth in 1954 have been highest in Kosovo, with 46.4 children per 1.000 population.

especially among children (1 years) until the late 1960s. In period of time 1951-1955 children mortality rate have been more than 15 promiles (1.000). This high mortality rate of children has continue until 70s when has been reduced below 10 promiles or 100 per 1.000 population.

**Table 2.** *Young population (0-14 and 15-24) by years in Kosovo, 1951-2016*

	Mortality rate	Children mortality
1951-1955	18.2	155.6
1956-1960	14.9	145.1
1961-1956	12.4	132.4
1966-1970	9.7	105.7
1971-1975	8.1	84.1
1976-1980	6.5	72.8
1981-1985	6.2	64.2
1986-1990	5.3	52.1
1991-1995	3.9	29.2
1986-2000	3.8	17.2
2016	4.9	2.3

*Source:* Vital statistics data and censuses: Kosovo Statistical Agency

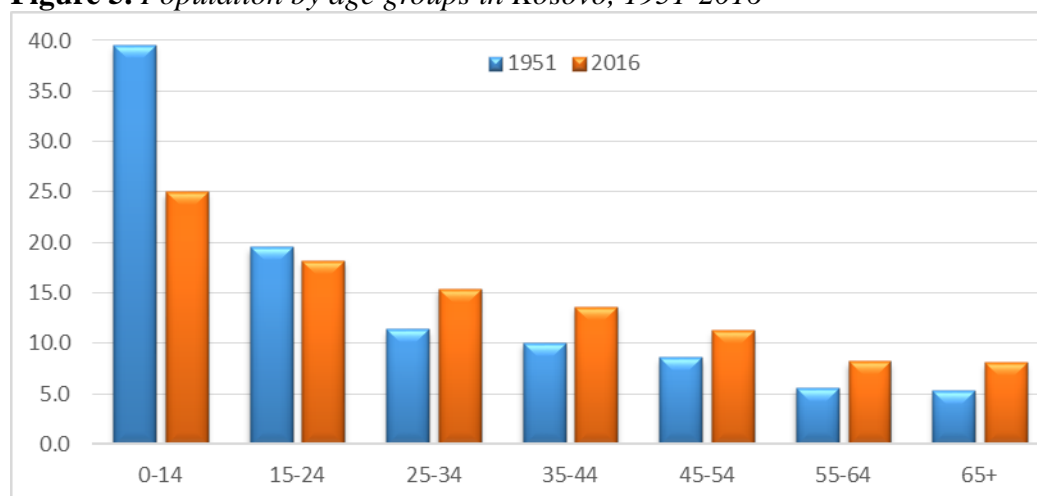
In the demographic aspect, things had changed after 2000 in Kosovo. The age of marriages was postponed where in 1981 the average age of married was 22.3 years and in 2016 where average was 29.8 years or has been postponed for 7.2 years (*The average age of married was 29,8 years. Of them the average age for males was 31,6 years while average age for females was 28,1 years*)<sup>8</sup>. A part of the adult population did not enter into marriages, crude birth rate has decreased and fertility rate drop from 4.2 (1981) into 1.9 in 2016.

Figure below show changes in age group for the period 1951-2016 where the most changes are in age group 0-14 when has fall from 39.5 of total population (1951) in 25% (2016) or 14.%.

Do to large scale of births in 70s even that age group has large scale of emigration are 3.7% more than in 1951.

<sup>8</sup> Marriage Statistics 2016: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/media/3498/stat-divorces-2016.pdf>

**Figure 5. Population by age groups in Kosovo, 1951-2016**

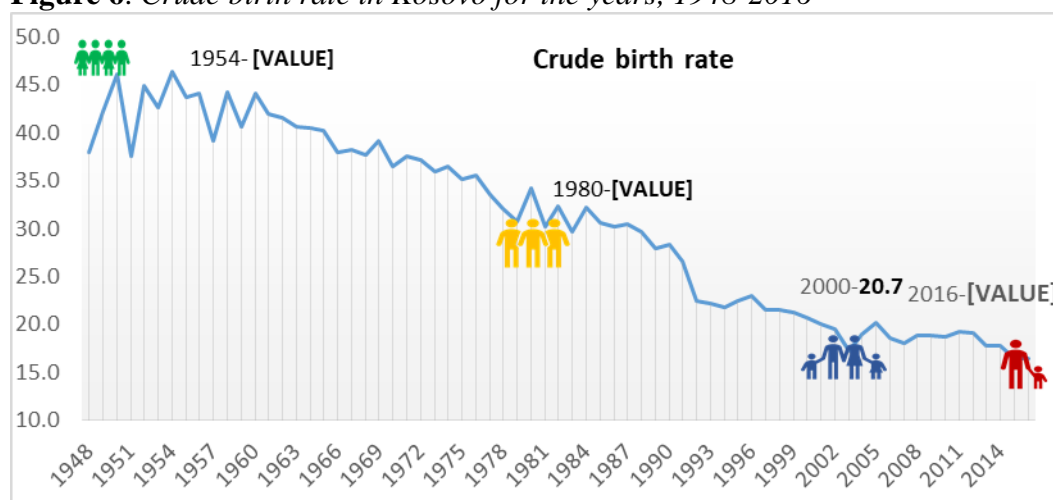


Source: Vital statistics data and censuses: Kosovo Statistical Agency

After 2000, the population of Kosovo was reduced more influenced by the migration factor than the natural increase.

The crude birth rate continued to decline rapidly. In 1950-1960s CBR were more than 45 children in 1000 residents. From middle of 60s CBR has fall gradually until 1990 when has rich less than 30. Starting from 1990s CBR was under 25 and in 2016 has come 16.5.

**Figure 6. Crude birth rate in Kosovo for the years, 1948-2016**



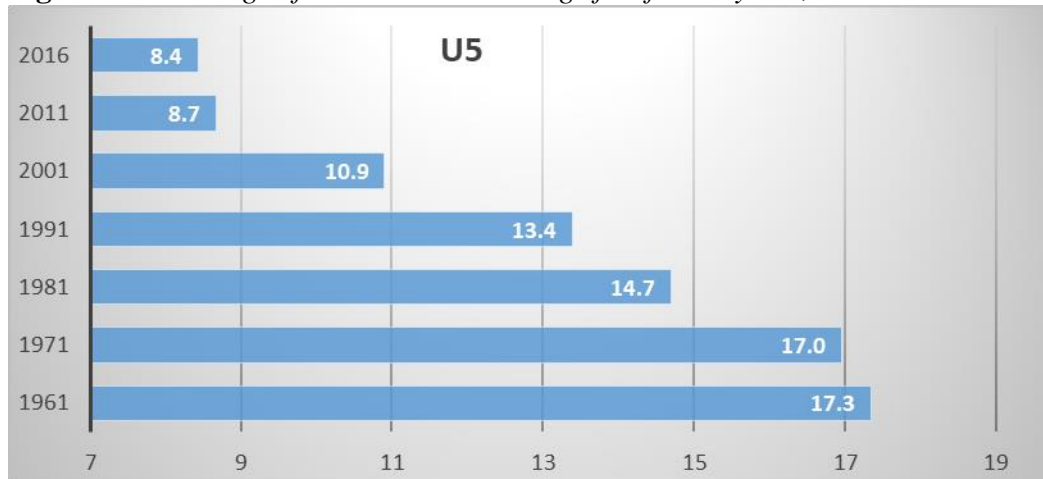
Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, vital bulletins

Children under the age five (U5) were more than 17% in 1961 and in Census 2011 only 8.4%. These data showed the slightest decline in the natural increase where, children of this age group for 50 years had fallen by more than 50% or 10% by each decades.

Also, the youth generation (10-24) has declined from 35.5 (1981) to 26.5% (2016).



**Figure 7.** Percentage of children under the age five for the years, 1961-2016

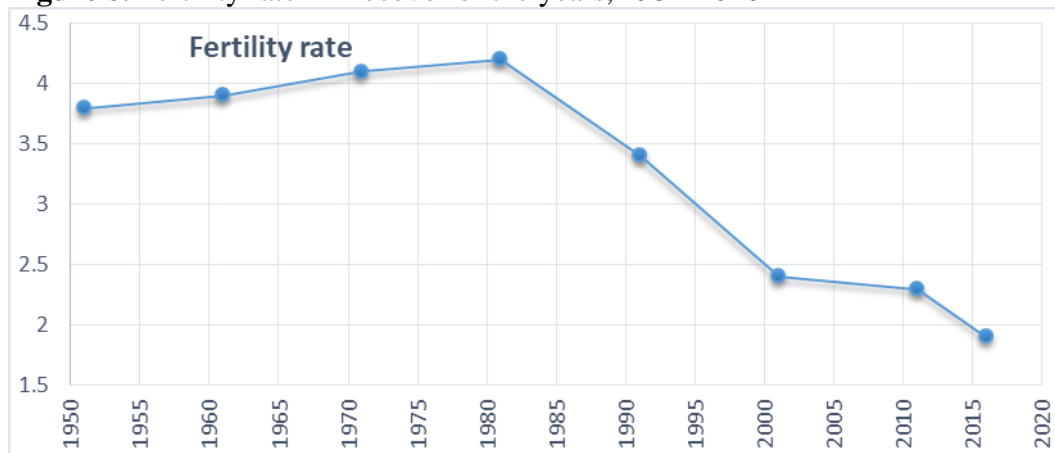


Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics: Vital bulletins and population estimation for 2016

Considering education and labour productivity, for most countries the desirable long-term total fertility rate is well below replacement level<sup>9</sup>.

Fertility rate shows that from 4.2 in 1980 has fallen to 1.9 in 2016 in Kosovo.

**Figure 8.** Fertility rate in Kosovo for the years, 1951-2016



Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, vital bulletins

These rapid changes in 30 years have come do to: moving from traditional family to the planning family, education of females, female labor participation, contraception, low level of gender equality, partner reluctance to having children and postponing marriages.

By the late 1960s and early 1970s the decline of the two natural components began. Such movements of natural components were a consequence of the low level of economic development, socio-cultural development, low levels of education of the population, and especially females, low health system

<sup>9</sup> Demographic Strengthening of European Identity, by Erich Stressing and **Wolfgang Lutz**, June 2016

development, including the several political situation, especially the pressure to emigrate to Turkey.

It is noteworthy that in the mid-1960s the population of Kosovo was mainly engaged in intensive agriculture (about 80% of the population) that required great workforce.

From the beginning of the 1970s, mortality began to decline, as well as a slow decline in fertility, but still with a high natural increase until the 1980s and especially after the 1990s, when a large number of youth emigrated abroad.

With the intensive emigration of the young population from Kosovo in the 1990s and the economic and political crisis, the natural growth rate began to fall rapidly, which fell below 20 ‰ after the 2000s.

### **Population by Sex (Sex Ratio)**

The “sex ratio” is conventionally defined by the number of males per 1,000 females in a defined population. More males than females are born each year, but the additional number of males than females at birth is reduced by the higher mortality rates for males to an age-point when the number of females catches up and exceeds the number of males<sup>10</sup>.

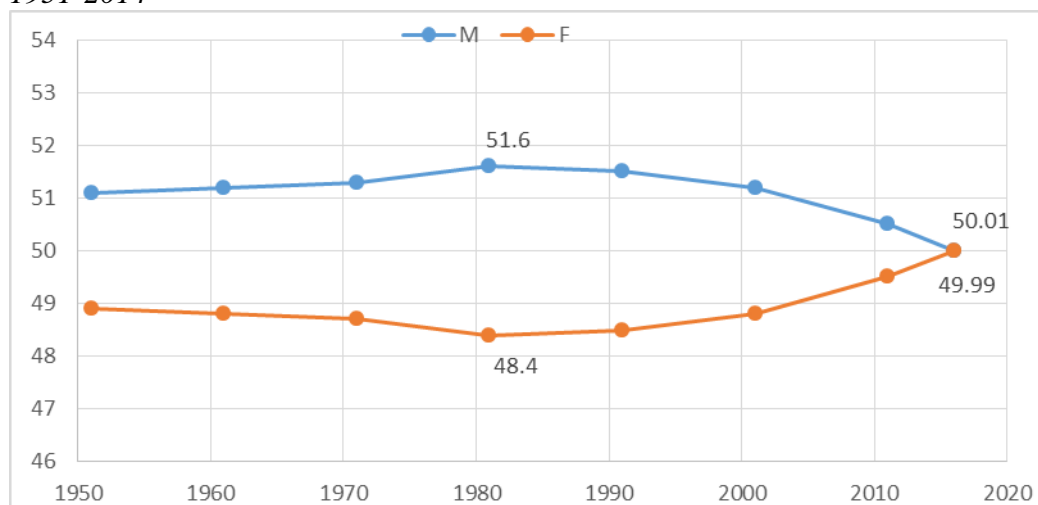
Sex numbers are usually reported by the Census Offices of respective countries with annual estimations. The average ration of males/females worldwide is 1.01, i.e., 1.01 males are born each year for every female. The largest difference between males and females in the total Kosovo population was recorded in 1981 when over 51.6% of the population was male.

Kosovo’s male and female population was approximately equal in 2016: 50.01 male and 49.99 females. This changes come do to large scale of male emigrants.

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<sup>10</sup> GORDON MARSHALL. "sex-ratio." A Dictionary of Sociology. 1998. Encyclopedia.com. 9 May. 2016 <http://www.encyclopedia.com>

**Figure 10.** Report of males and females in the total population for the years, 1951-2014



Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, vital bulletins and censuses

### Population Growth

Kosovo based on population projection population will be reduced.

Based on their data<sup>11</sup> population in 2050 will be reduced by 8%. Also, age group 0-14 will be reduced to 15% in 2051 from 25% in 2017 till age group 65+ will increase to 22% of total [population from 8% which was in the year 2017].

**Table 3.** Kosovo population according to age group and year (medium variant)

2017-2051	0-14	15-64	65+
2017	25	67	8
2021	24	67	9
2031	20	67	13
2041	17	65	18
2051	15	63	22

Source: Kosovo population projection 2017 – 2061, page 21, table 6

Two factors have impact on reducing the population in countries: Natural increase and migration.

If we follow the natural increase, all the countries in the region will be a decrease in the following years according to their population projections.

Also others country in Southern Europe will be reduced based on their projection.

Albania: highest in 1990 at 3.3 million. Currently are 2.9 million (2017). By 2050 will be around 2.7 million.

<sup>11</sup><http://ask.rks-gov.net/en/kosovo-agency-of-statistics/add-news/results-of-the-population-prediction-in-kosovo-2017-2061>

Bosnia and Herzegovina: highest in 1989 at 4.6 million. Currently B&H have 3.5 million. By 2050 projection are for 3.1 million.

Croatia: highest in 1990 at 4.8 million. Currently Croatia has about 4.2 million. By 2050 by their projection will be around 3.6 million.

Greece: highest in 2009 at 11.2 million. Currently are 11.1 million. By 2050 will be around 9.7 million.

Montenegro: highest in 2017 at 628 thousand. Currently Montenegro has 627 thousand. By 2050 will be around 577 thousand.

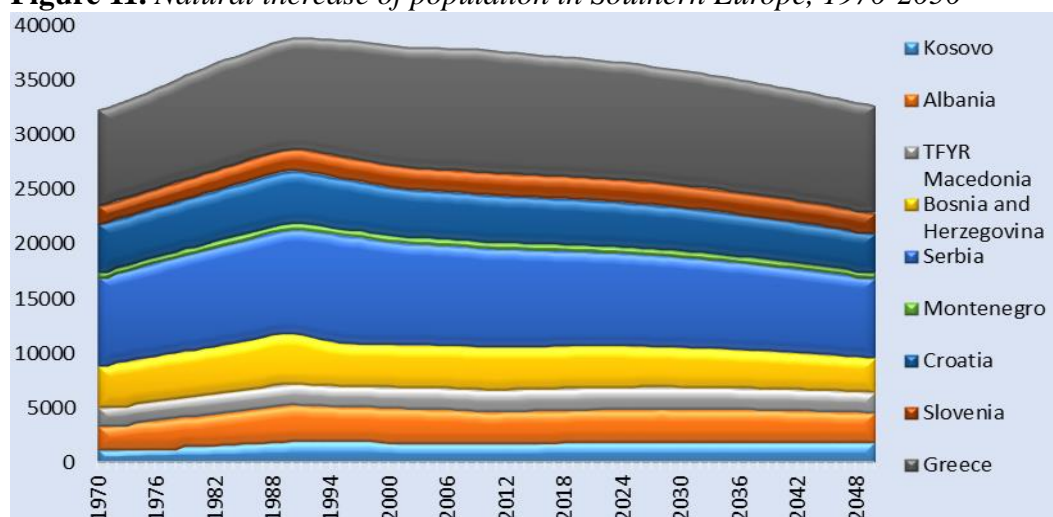
Serbia: highest in 1995 at 9.9 million. Currently Serbia has 8.7 million. By 2050 will 7.3 million.

Slovenia: highest in 2020 at 2.1 million. Currently Slovenia has 2.1 million. By 2050 will be around 1.9 million residents.

North Macedonia: highest in 2021 at 2.1 million. Currently in North Macedonia are 2.1 million residents and by 2050, based on projection will be around 1.9 million.

Kosovo: highest population on total in 1991, at approximately 2 million. At present it stands at around 1.8 million, and by 2050 in medium projection variant will have approximately close to same population as in 2015.

**Figure 11.** *Natural increase of population in Southern Europe, 1970-2050*



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, data have been used via website.

## Windows Opportunity

The large number of "baby boom" (births) in the 1960-1980 has given large scale of working force. In 2016 working force has rich 66.8% of total population. From 1971 working force has growth faster till 2011 when working force is stable to compare with 2016 (just 0.1% has increased).

**Table 3.** *Population in working group in Kosovo, 1951-2016*

Years	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2016
15-64	55.2	55.0	54.3	56.2	60.2	64.9	66.7	66.8

Source: Censuses in Kosovo and for 2016 population estimation by Kosovo Statistical Agency

Countries in demographic windows of opportunity should orient their resources to invest in youth health and education, which is in line with labor market requirements and represents a friendly climate of business that favors investments and creation of jobs of work. For those countries where DWO<sup>12</sup> has closed or is about to close they should focus on the productive potential of the elderly.

The demographic dividend is the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older)<sup>13</sup>.

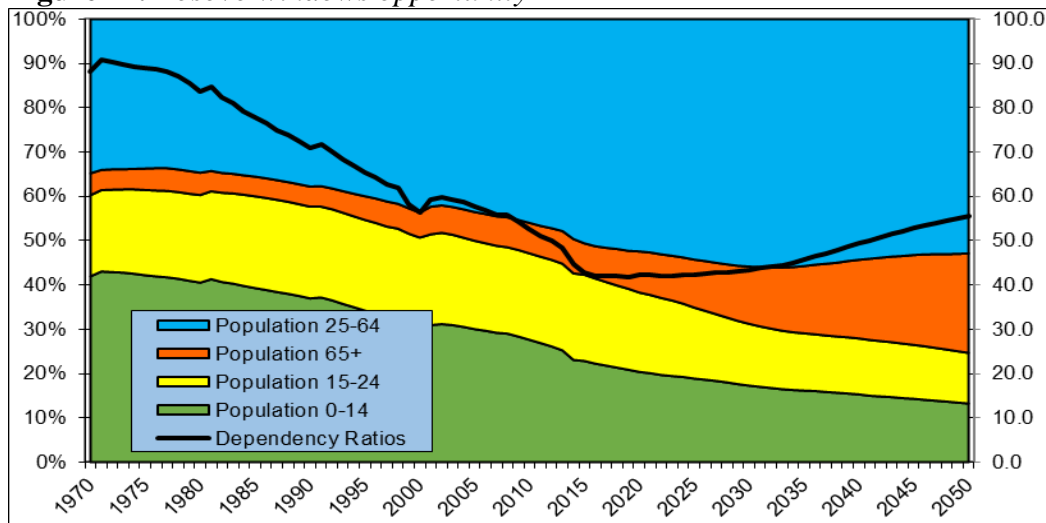
Kosovo has reached Windows opportunity in 2016 (less than 45% of total population is dependent population)<sup>14</sup> where other states in the region had reached 10-30 years ago.

<sup>12</sup> Demographic windows opportunity

<sup>13</sup> UNFPA: <https://www.unfpa.org/demographic-dividend>

<sup>14</sup> The UN Population Department has defined it as period when the proportion of children and youth under 15 years falls below 30 per cent and the proportion of people 65 years and older is still below 15 per cent.

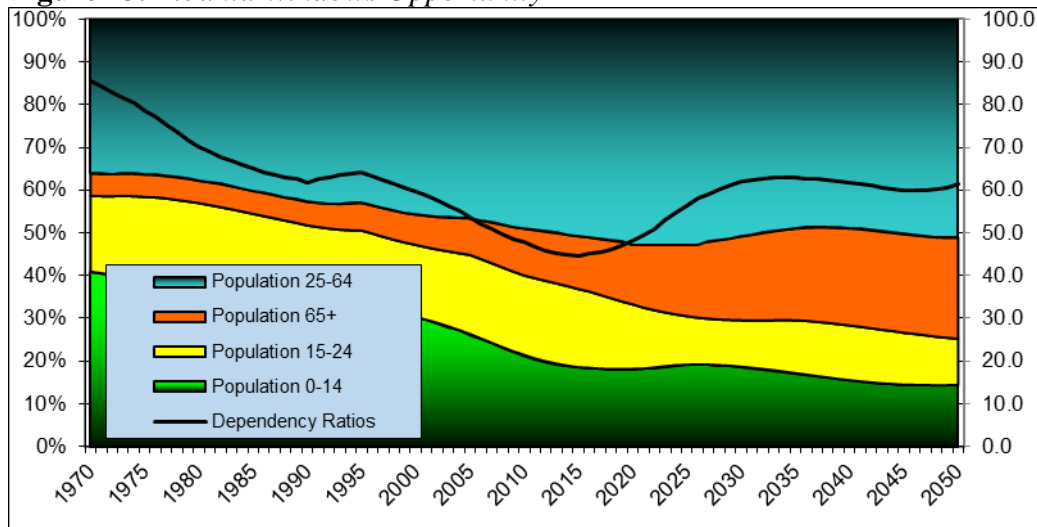
**Figure 12. Kosovo windows opportunity**



Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, population censuses and vital data from various years (prepare by Author)

In Albania a modest demographic window of opportunity exists from 2008 to 2022.

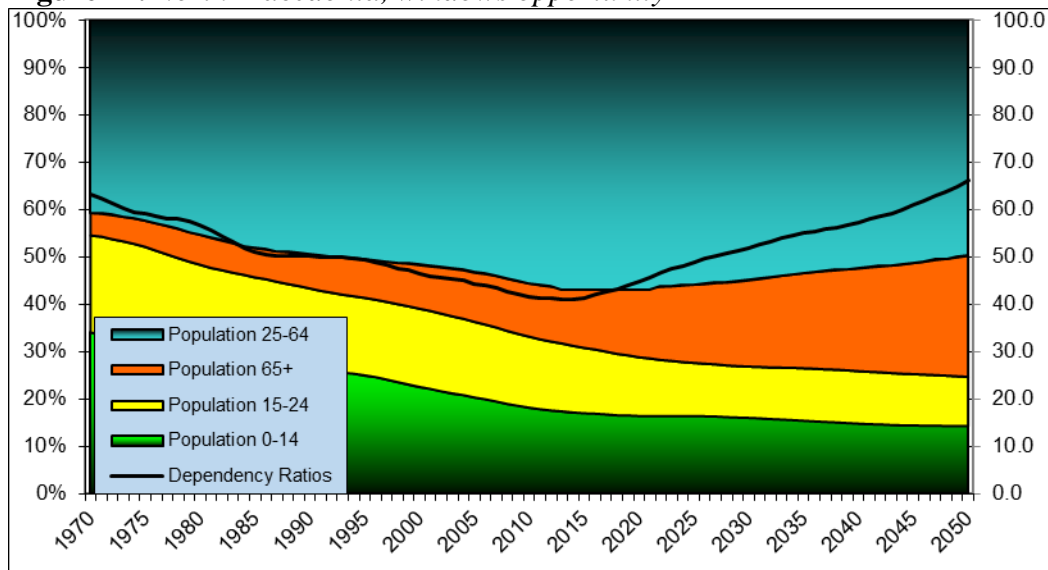
**Figure 13. Albania Windows Opportunity**



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, data have been used via website.

In North Macedonia a significant demographic window of opportunity exists from 1994 thru 2027.

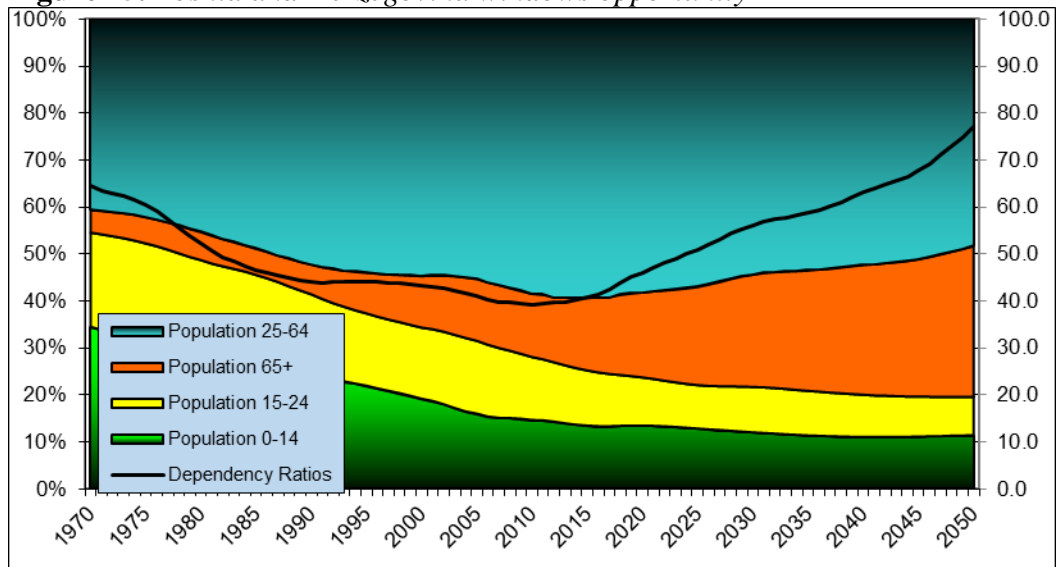
**Figure 14.** *North Macedonia, windows opportunity*



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, data have been used via website.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina demographic window of opportunity exists from 1982 thru 2024

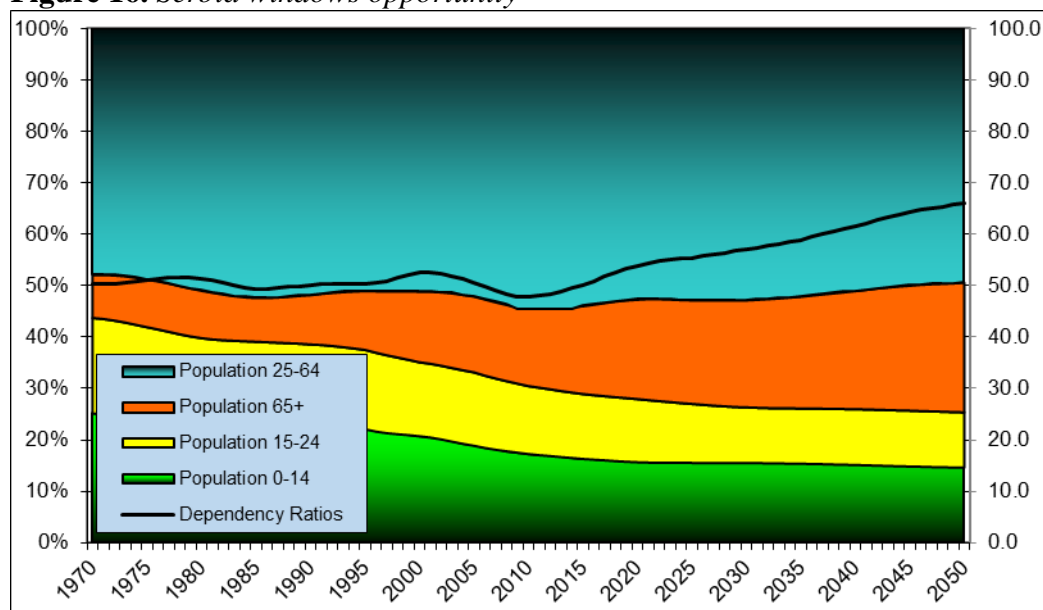
**Figure 15.** *Bosnia and Herzegovina windows opportunity*



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, data have been used via website.

Serbia has minor demographic window of opportunity in 1995 and closes in 2015

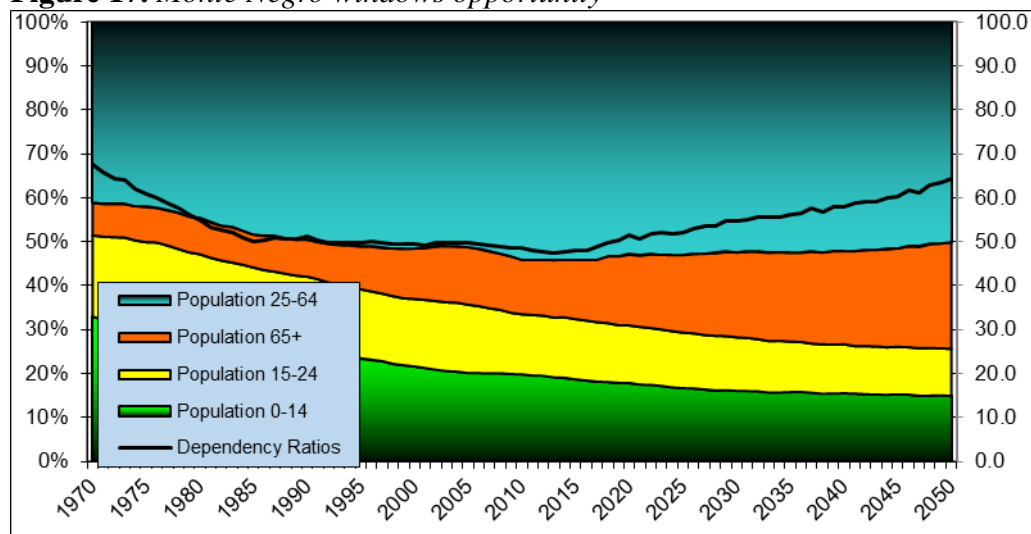
**Figure 16. Serbia windows opportunity**



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, data have been used via website.

In Monte Negro, a minor demographic window of opportunity exists from 1992 thru 2018.

**Figure 17. Monte Negro windows opportunity**

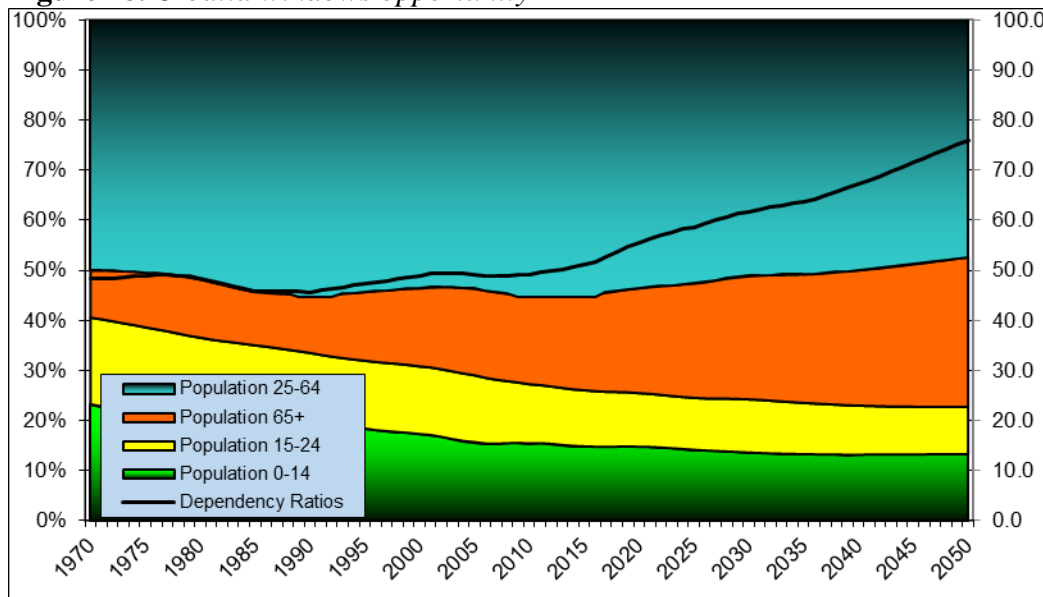


Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, data have been used via website.

Demographic window of opportunity in Croatia was closed in 2012.



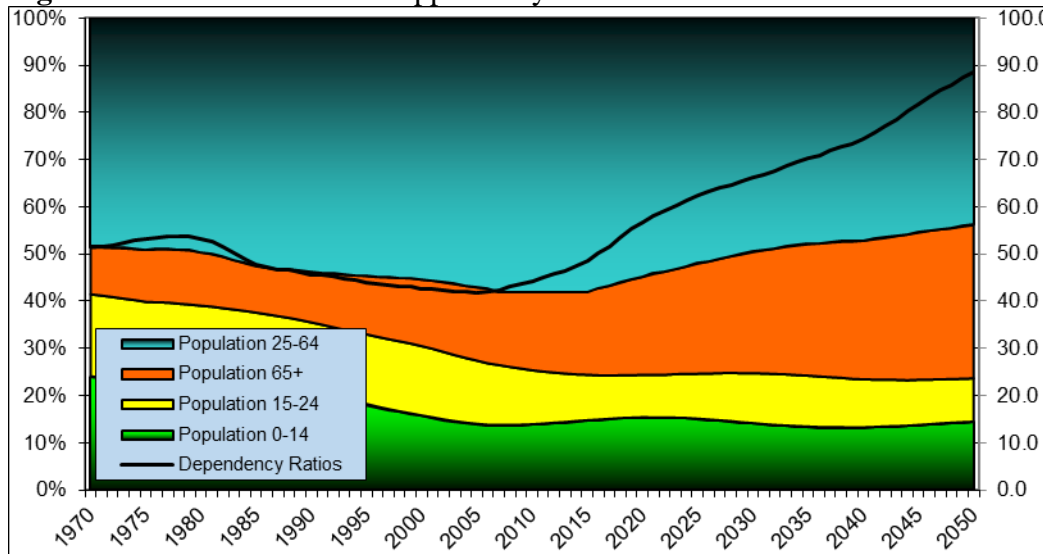
**Figure 18.** Croatia windows opportunity



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, data have been used via website.

In Slovenia, demographic window of opportunity exists from 1984 thru 2016.

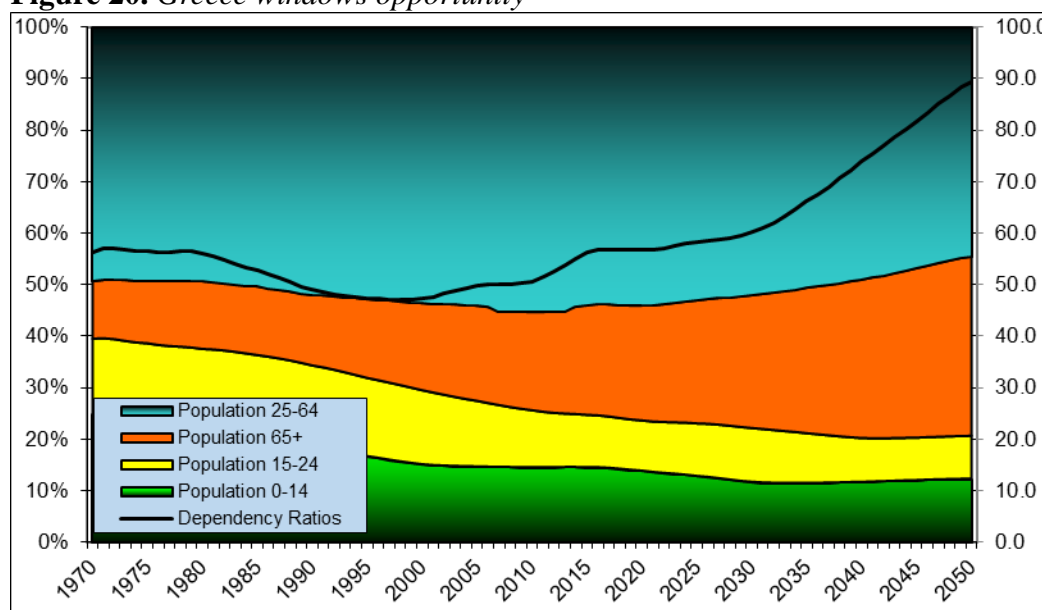
**Figure 19.** Slovenia windows opportunity



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, data have been used via website.

Demographic window of opportunity in Greece was closed in 2006.

**Figure 20.** *Greece windows opportunity*

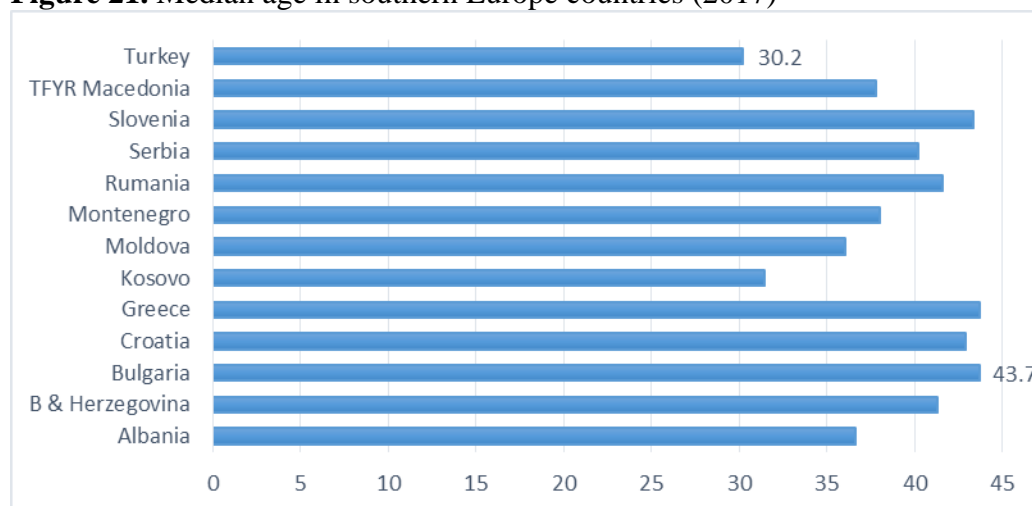


Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, data have been used via website.

### Median Age in Southern Europe

The youngest population in Southern Europe based on United Nations estimates data<sup>15</sup> has Turkey where median age 30.2 followed by Kosovo (31.3) and Moldova (36). The oldest population in Europe had Bulgaria and Greece with an average age of 43.7 years followed by Slovenia with 43.3.

**Figure 21.** Median age in southern Europe countries (2017)



Source: National Statistical Offices of the countries

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population>

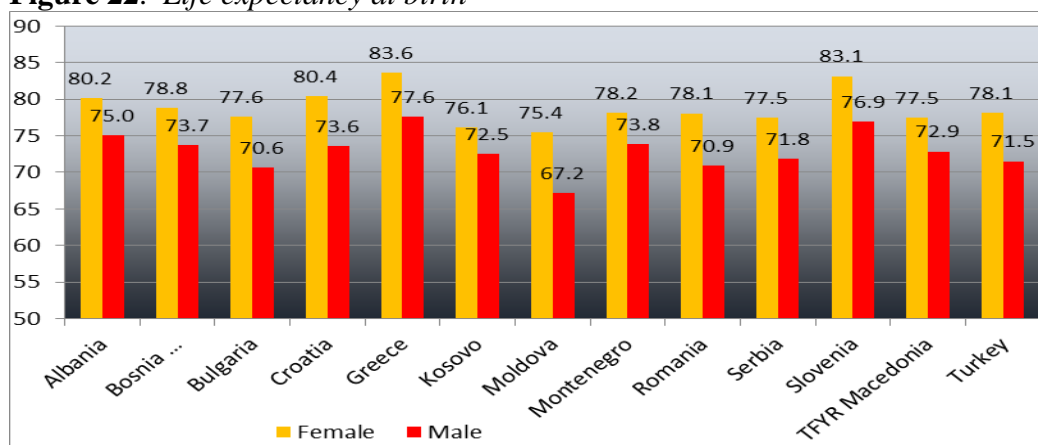
## Life Expectancy at Birth by Sex

The statistic “Life expectancy at birth” actually refers to the average number of years a newborn is expected to live *if mortality patterns at the time of its birth remain constant in the future*. In other words, it’s looking at the number of people of different ages dying that year, and provides a snapshot of these overall “mortality characteristics” that year for the population<sup>16</sup>.

Life expectancy at birth is one of the most frequently used health status indicators. Gains in life expectancy at birth can be attributed to a number of factors, including rising living standards, improved lifestyle and better education, as well as greater access to quality health services<sup>17</sup>.

If we look at life expectancy data in Southern European countries (13 countries), Kosovo has one of the lowest life expectancy at birth. The average life expectancy in Kosovo for 2015 is estimated at 74.3 years. Only Moldova has a lower life expectancy than Kosovo in this group of countries. The longest life expectancy in the countries of Southern Europe is Greece with an average of 80.6 years.

**Figure 22.** *Life expectancy at birth*



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects.

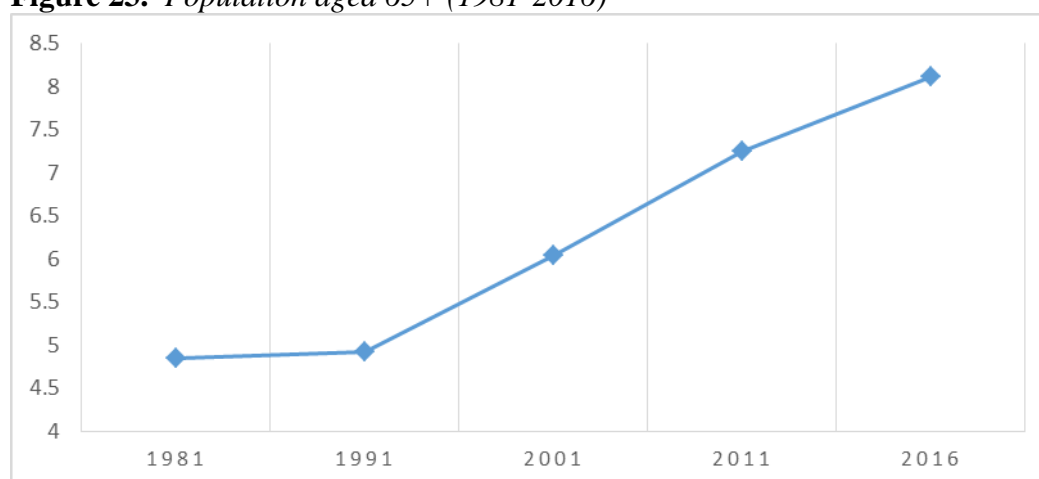
## Growth of Older Generations and Reduction of Children

The 1981 census shows that only 4.8% of total population in Kosovo were more than 65 years old while, in Census 2011 were 7.1% and in 2016 “the population estimates” indicate that were 8.1% old people. Kosovo is aging faster than any other country in region, do to rapid natural decrease and mechanic changes (emigration) in population structure.

<sup>16</sup> <http://worldbank.org/opendata/what-does-life-expectancy-birth-really-mean>

<sup>17</sup> <https://data.oecd.org/healthstat/life-expectancy-at-birth>

**Figure 23.** *Population aged 65+ (1981-2016)*



Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, vital bulletins and censuses

Based on the "Population Projections of Kosovo 2017-2061", the older generation (more than 65) in 2031 will reach 13.2 tills in 2061 more 27% of the total population, while fertility will fall from 1.9 as it is now in 1.4 in 2061.

**Table 4.** *Aged population in Kosovo 2017-2061*

Groups	2016	2021	2031	2041	2051
65+	8.1	9.4	13.2	18.3	22.3
Fertility rate	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4

Source: Kosovo population projection 2017 – 2061, page 21, table 6

### The Challenge of Aging

Difficulties in aging populations have given their impact since 2015, when the government after two years of discussion has not managed to increase pensions and the social support offered to persons over 65+ (all Kosovars aged 65+ have supports from government) because of the growing rapidly the number of elderly people and not have enough budget in mid-term planning. As it in Population projection in Kosovo 2017-2061<sup>18</sup> the elderly population after 2021 will increase every decade close to 4% where working force will reduce every decade close to 3%.

This will be challenge for our country in the coming years where number of children (0-14) will be fall close to 10% where working force will fall for 3-5% and elder generation will be double for next 20 years. Economic condition and living standards in Kosovo do not favour immigration and Kosovo will face unpredictable challenges for replacing its population.

Countries with large scale of elder they should keep older persons in economic activity by adjusting age at retirement to growing healthy life expectancy; Educate younger cohorts so as to maintain their economic

<sup>18</sup> <http://ask.rks-gov.net/en/kosovo-agency-of-statistics/social/population-projections>

productivity at older ages.

### Emigration Challenges

Kosovo is recognized as an emigration country where only over five (5) years have emigrated from Kosovo more than 9% of the total resident population. The effect of emigration has been felt in the workforce, fertility and economy in these last 2-3 years.

Kosovo is one of the countries with the largest scale of emigrants in Europe. It was estimated that by the end of 2015 more than 39.6% of Kosovo population was living abroad. If the emigrants with the origin from Kosovo would have been included, then it turns out that around 50% of its total population is living abroad.

**Table 5.** *Number of emigrant from Kosovo and with the origin from Kosovo in percentage*

Years	Total emigrants born in Kosovo	Total emigrants with Kosovan origin (born abroad)	Total emigrant born in Kosovo and with Kosovo origin
2011 <sup>19</sup>	31	8	39
2012	31	9	40
2013	32	9	41
2014	35	10	45
2015 <sup>20</sup>	40	10	50

*Source:* Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Civil Register, MIA and Eurostat database

Economic and political situation over the years contributed to the large scale of emigrants. In ex-Yugoslavia, Kosovo was as one of the least developed countries or regions. In 1977, the GSP<sup>21</sup> per capita in Kosovo was reported to be only 30 per cent of the Yugoslav average<sup>22</sup>. Also, the consequences of the war (1998-99) contributed to the high number of out migration.

### Emigration by periods of time

Various researchers have divided the new migration period of Kosovo into three main phases:

- Migration from late 1969-s until 1989-s
- Migration from 1990-1999
- Migration from 2000-2015

<sup>19</sup> Kosovo Agency of Statistics Report "KOSOVAN MIGRATION" - CHAPTER IV, Tab. 4.1: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/eng/publikimet>

<sup>20</sup> Provisional data

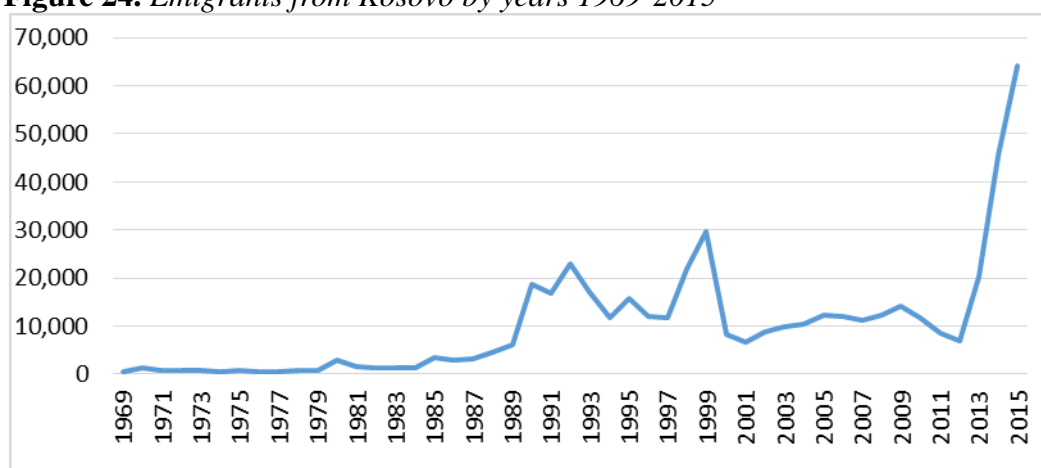
<sup>21</sup> Gross social product

<sup>22</sup> [www.historytoday.com/robert-bideleux/kosovos-conflict](http://www.historytoday.com/robert-bideleux/kosovos-conflict)

Population Census 2011 was the main data source on emigrants. During this exercise Kosovo has applied separate questioners for emigrants. Also, data produced before and after the Census show the same figure (emigrants by period, age, sex and country destination).

In the figure below is shown that the largest number of emigrants was recorded in 1998-99 and 2014-15.

**Figure 24.** *Emigrants from Kosovo by years 1969-2015*



Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, and report "KOSOVAN MIGRATION"

### Emigration by Years and Reason

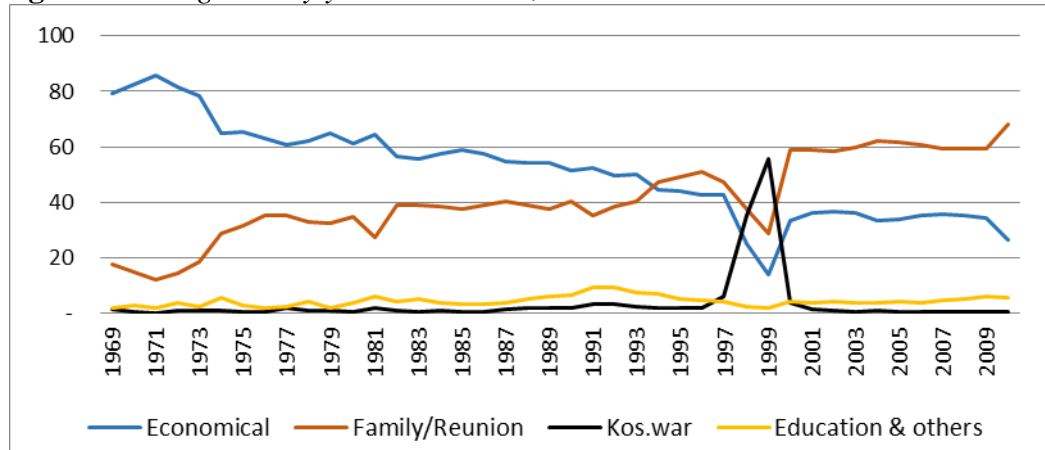
First phase of emigrants in Western Europe and other countries (late 1969 until 1990) was characterized by economic emigrant and in '80-s by political migrants.

Second phase of emigration (1990-1999) - the migrants mainly migrated for family reunion and political reasons.

Third phase of emigration (2000-2015) -the migrants mainly migrated for family reunion and economic reasons (majority of emigrants from 2010-2015 emigrated due to economic reason).

In the Census questioners were included questions on six main reasons for emigration. Family and economic reasons represented more than 80% of the total reasons of emigration.

**Figure 25.** *Emigrants by year and reason, 1969-2011*



Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Report “KOSOVAN MIGRATION”

**Table 6.** *Main reason for emigration from Kosovo, 1969-2011*

Reason of emigration	%
Family	46
Economical/ employment	35
Kosovo war 1998-‘99	8
Education & training purposes	1
Other reason	4
Unknown	6

Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Report “KOSOVAN MIGRATION”

### Main Destination of Emigrants

Over 35% of total Kosovo’s population migrated to Germany, followed by Switzerland with around 23%, and Italy over 7%. Other countries, including USA, Canada and Australia, comprise over 10% of the Kosovan migrant population<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>23</sup> Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Report “KOSOVAN MIGRATION” - 2.1.3 International migration by country of residence: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/eng/publikimet>

**Table 7. International emigration by country (10 leading countries)**

10 leading countries	%
Germany	35.25
Switzerland	22.94
Italy	7.26
Austria	5.61
Sweden	5.14
USA	3.53
France	3.25
England	2.79
Belgium	2.07
Slovenia	1.78
Other	10.38

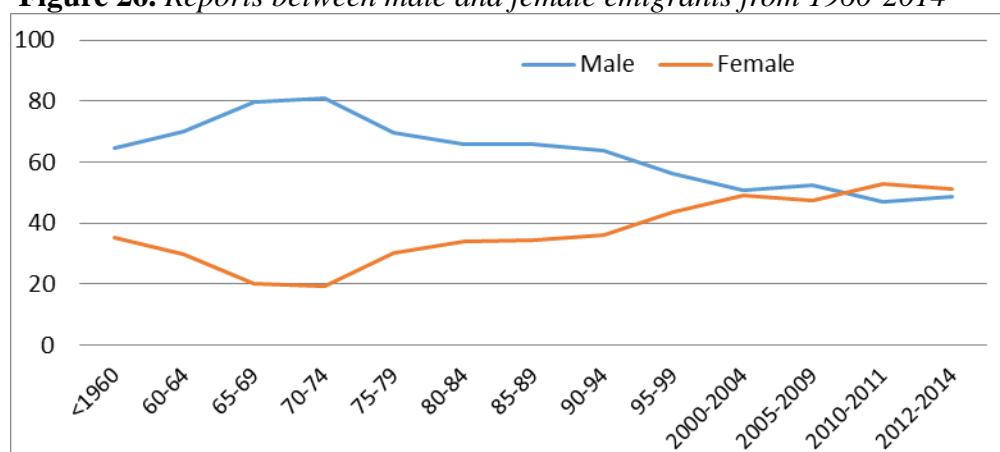
Source: Kosovo Statistical Agency, Census 2011

### Emigration by Sex

Early migration was dominated by males, since in the past migration was more a result of the export of labour force.

While, in the recent years emigration is characterized predominantly by females. This trend is shown by the fact that the migration sex ratio was roughly equal in 2000-2004, while in recent years females dominated the emigration: 52.94% female and 47.06% male (marriages also had an impact on the latter stage)<sup>24</sup>.

**Figure 26. Reports between male and female emigrants from 1960-2014**



Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Report "KOSOVAN MIGRATION"

<sup>24</sup> Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Report "KOSOVAN MIGRATION" - 2.1.5 Emigration by sex: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/eng/publikimet>



### Emigration by Age

A significant number of the migrant population was aged 0-14 years, 16.9%, which indicates that they moved abroad in the recent years (family migration remains significant). The age group 25-44 years comprised 47.2% of the migrant population (main reproductive age in terms of fertility and labour force), while the age group 30-34 years was predominant with 12.7%.

Persons over the working age (retired) comprised a small number of Kosovan migration population: around 1.30%. This small number of Kosovan migrants proved that migrant population over this age, after retirement, returns to live in Kosovo.

**Table 8.** Dependent/active population by residents and age groups

Resident domicile	Population by age-groups expressed in percentage	
	Dependent population (0-14 and 65+)	Active population (15-64 years)
Outside Kosovo	19.4	80.6
Kosovo	34.7	65.3

Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Report ‘‘KOSOVAN MIGRATION’’

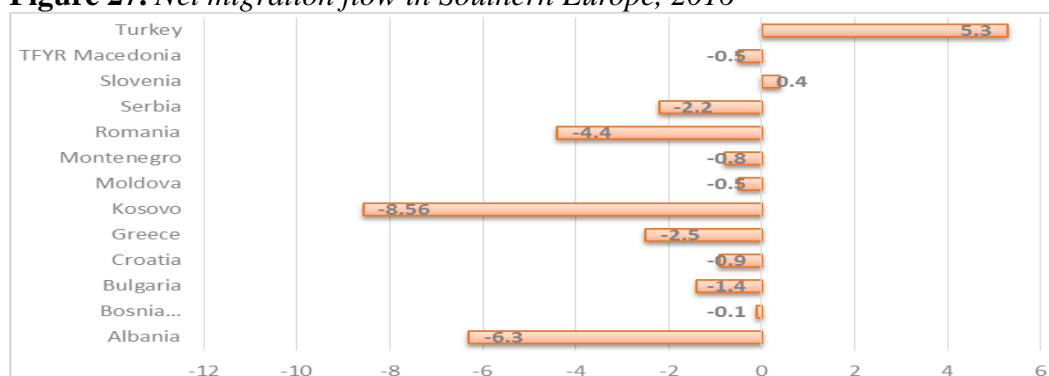
### Emigration impact on fertility

In late '80-s Kosovo reached the highest recorded number of births (baby boom).

Due to the large scale of emigrants, starting from the 90-s young emigrant's number of births in Kosovo began to fall sharply. In the beginning of 2000, Kosovo reached the demographic transition<sup>25</sup>.

Is not just Kosovo in Southern Europe experiencing loss population due to (international) migration. Only Slovenia and Turkey populations are gaining in numbers due to migration (2011-2016).

**Figure 27.** Net migration flow in Southern Europe, 2016



Source: National Statistical Offices of the countries, based on their reports for migration, 2016

<sup>25</sup> Birth rates gradually decreased, usually because of improved economic conditions, an increase in women's status, and access to contraception. Population growth continues, but at a lower rate.

## Conclusion

Do to the changes in lasts decades in socio-economic development, health system level of education special female education, employment of female, culture, political situation and others factors Kosovo has reached replacement level after 2010. Do to large scale of young population, natural growth still will be positive but large emigration will stop population growth.

Kosovo now just has pass stage 3 of transition demographic model<sup>26</sup>.

There are four stages to the classical demographic transition model:

### *Stage 1: Pre-transition*

Characterised by high birth rates, and high fluctuating death rates. Population growth was kept low by Malthusian "preventative" (late age at marriage) and "positive" (famine, war, pestilence) checks.

### *Stage 2: Early transition*

During the early stages of the transition, the death rate begins to fall. As birth rates remain high, the population starts to grow rapidly.

### *Stage 3: Late transition*

Birth rates start to decline.  
The rate of population growth decelerates.

### *Stage 4: Post-transition*

Post-transitional societies are characterised by low birth and low death rates. Population growth is negligible, or even enters a decline.

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<sup>26</sup> The term was first coined by the American demographer Frank W. Notestein in the mid-twentieth century, but it has since been elaborated and expanded upon by many others.

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