

The Motives of People in Utilizing the Freedom of Movement within the EU: The Case of Kosovo and Visa Liberalization with the EU

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Abstract: *This study intends to identify the main motives for travel of citizens from Kosovo to the EU Member States once the visa liberalization takes place. The authors of this paper take into account demographic information from the surveys handed out to citizens of Kosovo, and try to correlate them with their motives for travel to the EU Member states. The study argues that visa liberalization for Kosovo is of imperative importance in preparing Kosovo for EU membership. The study also argues that citizens of Kosovo benefit substantially by creating networks with professionals in the areas of research, technology, and education. These networks could potentially lead to local businesses gaining from outsourcing, which would overtime increase economic development of the country. However, the study's focal point is the analysis of the survey of Kosovars on how they would utilize the EU visa liberalization regime, using descriptive, correlation, and regression analysis. The descriptive statistics and simple correlation analysis show a strong negative correlation between employment status, and work and study as a reason for visiting the EU member states after visa liberalization, while there is strong positive correlation between employment status and business, tourism and research as reasons for visiting the EU. Similarly, strong correlations have been found between education level of the respondents and their age group as demographics in one side, and work, study, tourism, doing business, and conducting research as reasons for visiting EU after the visa liberalization regime is granted to Kosovo. By conducting such analysis, the authors of this study expect to give an overview of the current situation in terms of economic and socio-political implications regarding the visa liberalization, and the motives of Kosovars in utilizing the visa liberalization regime based on the responses received from the questionnaires.*

Keywords: *Demographics, Visa Liberalization, Mobility, Networking, people-to-people contact, Motives for travel, Correlation analysis, reforms*