

# Towards 2020:

## New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkan Region

WBC-INCO.NET Final Conference & Brokerage Event

Tech Gate Vienna / Donau-City-Straße 1 / 1220 Vienna / Austria

Parallel session 4 - Human resources and  
brain drain

# Brain Gain Strategies in Kosovo

**Dukagjin Pupovci**  
**Kosova Education Center (KEC)**



# Kosova Education Center (KEC)

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- ▶ NGO founded in year 2000
- ▶ Main focus areas
  - ▶ Human Resource Development
  - ▶ School Improvement
  - ▶ Education Policy & Analysis
  - ▶ Education Research
  - ▶ Transparency and Equity in Education
- ▶ Staff members: 20

# National Research Program 2010-2015

## OBJECTIVES

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1. Development of human capacity for research activities
2. Development of research infrastructure
3. Internationalization of scientific research activity
4. Strengthening the links between science and society and economy for enhancing economic and social development
5. Excellence in research and scientific activity



# National Research Program

## HRD related targets

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- ▶ Promoting development of doctoral programs in higher education institutions
- ▶ By 2015 at least 50 candidates will receive support to pursue post-doctoral studies through joint programs with full or partial financing from the Kosovo Budget
- ▶ By 2015 at least 100 candidates from Kosovo will pursue PhD studies in top 500 world universities with full or partial financing from the Kosovo Budget.
- ▶ 100 short-term mobility grants for active researchers
- ▶ Improved cooperation with Kosovan researchers in Diaspora

# University of Prishtina Research Strategy

## HRD related targets

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- ▶ Development of at least 5 new doctoral programs in the period 2012-2015
- ▶ Development of at least one inter-disciplinary doctoral program
- ▶ Enrolment of at least 80 students in new doctoral programs
- ▶ Support for incoming mobility of researchers from Diaspora

# DIASPORA

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- ▶ National Strategy
  - ▶ Improved cooperation with Kosovan researchers in Diaspora
- ▶ University of Prishtina
  - ▶ Support for incoming mobility of researchers from Diaspora
- ▶ We were not able to quantify these targets because we know very little about highly-skilled experts in our Diaspora

# So, what we know about our Diaspora?

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Emigration wave	Percentage of emigrants
I. Pre-1989	8.8%
II. 1989-1997	25.0%
III. 1998-1999	12.6%
IV. Post 1999	53.6%
Total	100%

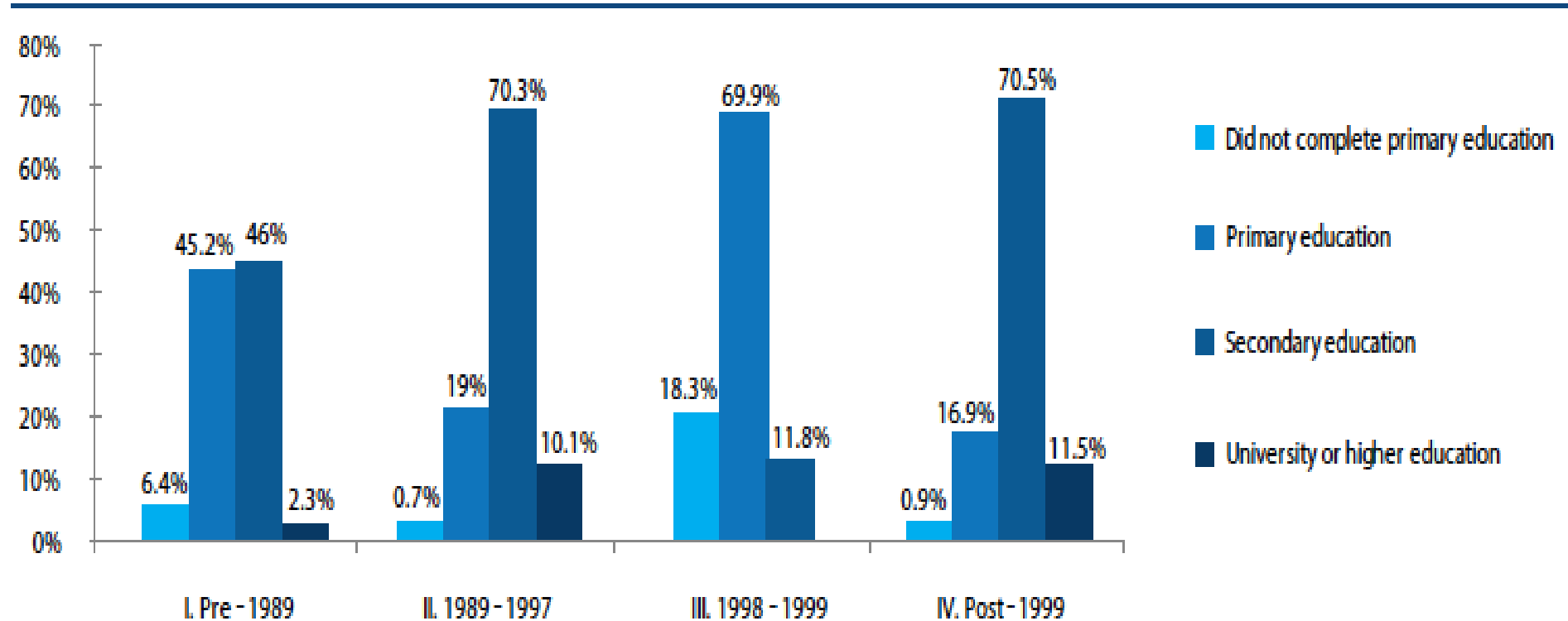
# Numbers

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- ▶ Estimated (and disputed) figure: 800,000
  - ▶ Germany: 31.3%
  - ▶ Switzerland: 27.9%
  - ▶ Italy: 7.1%
  - ▶ Austria: 6.8%
- ▶ According to LSMS study, every third household in Kosovo has at least one family member living abroad.
- ▶ UNFPA study from 2003 showed that over 56 percent of the absent population was between the ages of 20 and 40, and only 5 percent was aged 50 or over.



# Emigrants' education level across emigration waves



# Kosovo Brain Gain Grant (BGG)

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- ▶ The objective of the Kosovo Brain Gain Grant is to attract the best Kosovar researchers living abroad to enable them professional scientific careers in Kosovo.
- ▶ The grant may cover the following:
  - ▶ Short-term visits and conferences (travel and accommodation costs)
  - ▶ A subsidy for the migration costs and (double household) living costs
  - ▶ Salary or fellowship for the applicant
  - ▶ Costs for external expertise and consultancy
  - ▶ The grant may cover the following:
- ▶ **Still, there were no applications**

# Forms of involvement of highly-skilled experts from Diaspora

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- ▶ Short-term teaching assignments in higher education institutions
- ▶ Participation in conferences
- ▶ Development of joint academic programs
- ▶ Development of joint research projects
- ▶ Contributing in personal capacity
- ▶ Helping to establish cooperation between their home institutions and Kosovo-based institutions

## Future steps

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- ▶ Ministry of Diaspora is carrying out voluntary census of the Kosovo Diaspora
- ▶ Annual conferences with experts from Diaspora
- ▶ Survey of highly skilled experts planned
- ▶ Earmark funds to support incoming mobility of experts from Diaspora

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# Thank You For Your Attention!

**Dukagjin Pupovci, Kosova Education Center**  
**[dpupovci@kec-ks.org](mailto:dpupovci@kec-ks.org)**