

# WOMEN MIGRANTS COPING WITH THE CRISIS

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## Abstract

Migration from Albania flowed with the dramatic events of 1991. The transition from a centrally planned to market economy has been very hard for Albanians. Although Albanian migration started off as a typical male –led phenomenon, men migrated first and then women followed. The aim of this paper is to sketch a brief picture of how Albanian women immigrants in Greece cope with the crises. Following mainly a descriptive approach we will try to draw a specific hypothesis on which further research may be conducted. Different stories of perceiving the crises in one place, of the same community. In this paper, it will be highlighted some aspects concerning the different perceptions and strategies toward the crisis related to specific life histories of Albanian women migrants. This paper is mainly based on a field work, carried out in a short period of time (4 –8 August 2012), in Greek-Albanian border town, Konitsa, during a summer school in Anthropology, Ethnography and Comparative Folklore of the Balkans. The main information comes mainly from interviews conducted with Albanian women immigrants from different backgrounds in the form of open dialogues based on their life histories. Tape records and cameras were used while the interviews were conducted in Albanian language. Other sources of information were observation and open discussion with informants such as Albanian male immigrants living in Konitsa.

**Key words:** *migration, women, crises, perceptions, strategies.*