

Problems related to return of Polish workers from UK

Dr Maciej Duszczyk
Centre of Migration Research
Institute of Social Policy
University of Warsaw

Context – migration scale and structure

Estimates of the Central Statistical Office

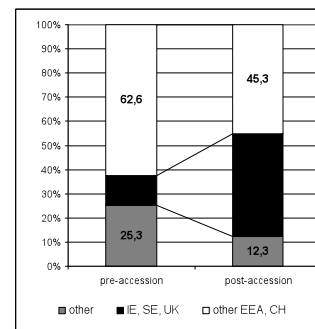
- Poland's population: 38.2 mio. (as of 1st January 2007)
- The highest emmigration level was recorded in 2007 - 2270 thousand
- in 2008 a slight decline in the number of emigrants from Poland was observed.
- In 2009 the number of persons leaving abroad decreased further, accompanied by increase in return migrations.
- It is estimated that as of the end of 2009 the number of Polish residents temporarily staying outside Poland amounted to approximately 1870 thousand, i.e. 340 thousand less than in 2008 (approximately 2210 thousand), with 1635 thousand persons staying in Europe (approximately 1887 thousand in 2008).
- The largest number of persons stayed in the United Kingdom (555 thousand), Germany (415 thousand), Ireland (140 thousand).
- 80-90% of all cases are typical employment migrations.

2

Who left most frequently?

- Women and men aged 20-44, coming from villages and small towns (< 100 thousand residents), with elementary occupational or secondary occupational education.
- Women and men aged 25-44, coming from big cities (over 100 thousand residents), with Master degree higher education/ equivalent or higher.

Polish pre- and post-accession migrants, by group of destination countries, in %



Source: Filhel and Kaczmarczyk 2008

The education structure of Polish pre- and post-accession migrants by sex, in percent

Level of education	Pre-accession*			Post-accession**		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
University degree***	14.7	12.0	18.3	19.8	15.6	27.0
Secondary	14.0	7.1	23.1	14.2	8.8	23.8
Secondary vocational	26.1	26.0	26.3	28.1	29.8	25.1
Vocational	34.8	45.4	20.9	30.9	39.2	16.2
Primary	9.9	9.3	10.9	7.0	6.6	7.8
Unfinished	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes:

*Aged 15 and over who have been abroad for at least 2 months in the period 1999-2003; **Aged 15 and over who have been abroad for at least 2 months in the period may 1st 2004-31st December 2006; ***Including bachelor, master and Ph.D. degree.

Source: CMR Migrants' Database, based on the Polish LFS

Return migrations

- The conomic situation in the countries reached by Poles is deteriorating – competition in the labour market is rising, many sectors (e.g. construction) is threatened with recession, the risk of job loss is increasing
- The economic situation in Poland remains relatively stable and enjoys better prospects than most EU economies
- Polish market offers better opportunities for both investors and as regards pursuance of professional carrier path.

6

Returns – respect

- The number of returns of Poles from abroad is increasing – mainly from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany and the United States.
- However, some persons have not returned to Poland but moved to other countries – Norway, Australia
- It is estimated that approximately 3/4 of temporary emigrants from Poland (approximately 1400 thousand) stay abroad for at least 12 months.

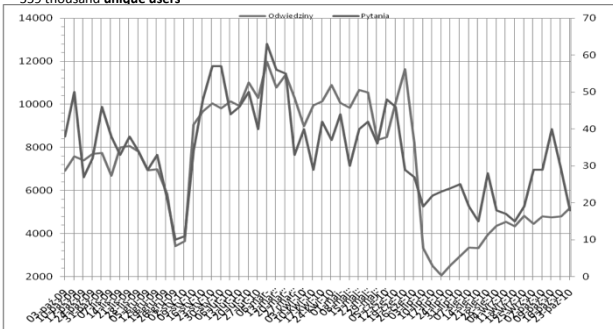
Government programme

- The idea: a comprehensive system of support to persons returning to Poland
- The fundamental barrier: access to reliable, full information
- The first phase ◊ information campaign:
- *A Returner – Navigation for returning migrants* – a compendium of information about how to cope with administrative problems
- www.powroty.gov.pl – a legible website, containing a **system of support** for Poles returning from abroad
- An element of a larger entirety, which comes down to thinking about Poles abroad and care for their interest – tax abolition, legal facilitations, support in finding their place in the labour market, new consular units.

8

Traffic volume on the website www.powroty.gov.pl

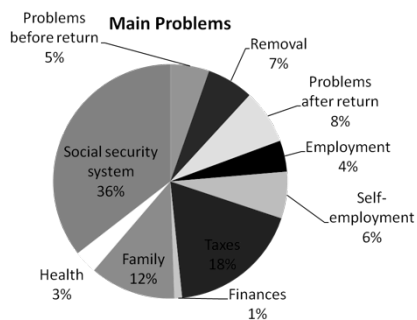
Since portal's launch on 24th November 2008 until 23rd October 2010, the total of the following were recorded:
2752 thousand portal hits,
740 thousand portal visits,
559 thousand unique users



Location of users

Country/Territory	Visits	Visits	Visits
Poland	3,446	66.27%	
United Kingdom	770	14.81%	
Ireland	265	5.10%	
United States	168	3.23%	
Germany	105	2.02%	
Norway	41	0.79%	
France	41	0.79%	
Netherlands	39	0.75%	
Canada	39	0.75%	
Italy	27	0.52%	

Main problems



Examples of specific problems

- No documents confirming insurance.
- Lack of awareness of benefits transfer
- Fear of income tax
- Problems with the level of education for children
- Legalisation of stay after a longer absence
- Property transfer – cars from the United Kingdom
- Imports of animals

Non-bureaucratic problems

- Does the stay abroad improve chances for employment after return?
- Is return to Poland treated as a failure?
- How can the saved money be spent?
- Is repeated leave inevitable?
- Is length of stay a central issue?
- Do modern communication networks (SKYPE) decrease or increase the consequences of the separation with the family?



CMR

**Centre of Migration Research
University of Warsaw**

Banacha 2B
02-097 Warsaw
Poland

Phone.: (+48 22) 659 74 11
Fax: (+48 22) 822 74 05

WWW: migracje.uw.edu.pl
E-mail: migration.cmr@uw.edu.pl