



## Cooperation strategies between Poland and the UK to support inclusion of homeless EU citizens

Paris, 2015

# European Migration

- The scale and intensity of polish migration due to the EU enlargement in 2004 translates not only into economical but also social consequences, including social exclusion and homelessness – currently 2,2 millions
- Polish migrants, especially in large cities experience reluctance within different communities in the "host" country caused by the sense of threat of the cheap labor force

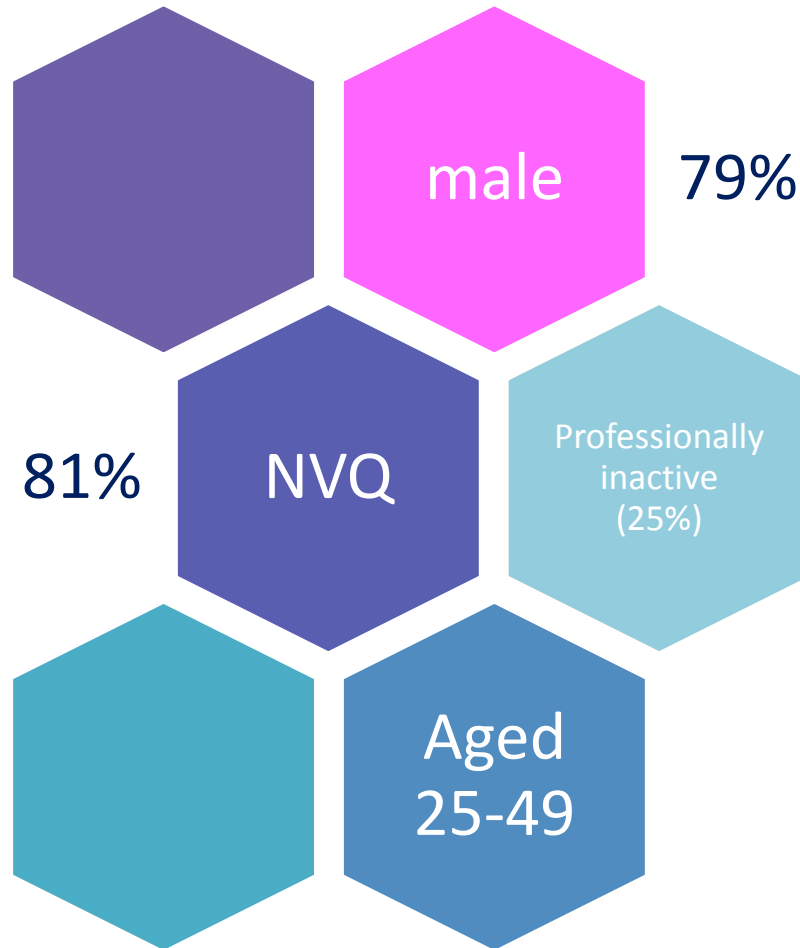
# European Migration continued

There are three potential groups of migrants that can be indentified:

- highly skilled professionals
- young university graduates with no experience on the polish labor market (qualified with good language skills)
- poorly educated migrants, often with long history of unemployment, from economically disadvantaged areas of the country.

*(Source: Barbara Goryńska- Bittner, 2011, "Diagnoza skali i charakteru zjawiska bezdomności Polaków (poza granicami Polski) w Europie, w: Problem bezdomności w Polsce, wyd. Pomorskie Centrum na Rzecz Wychodzenia z Bezdomności)*

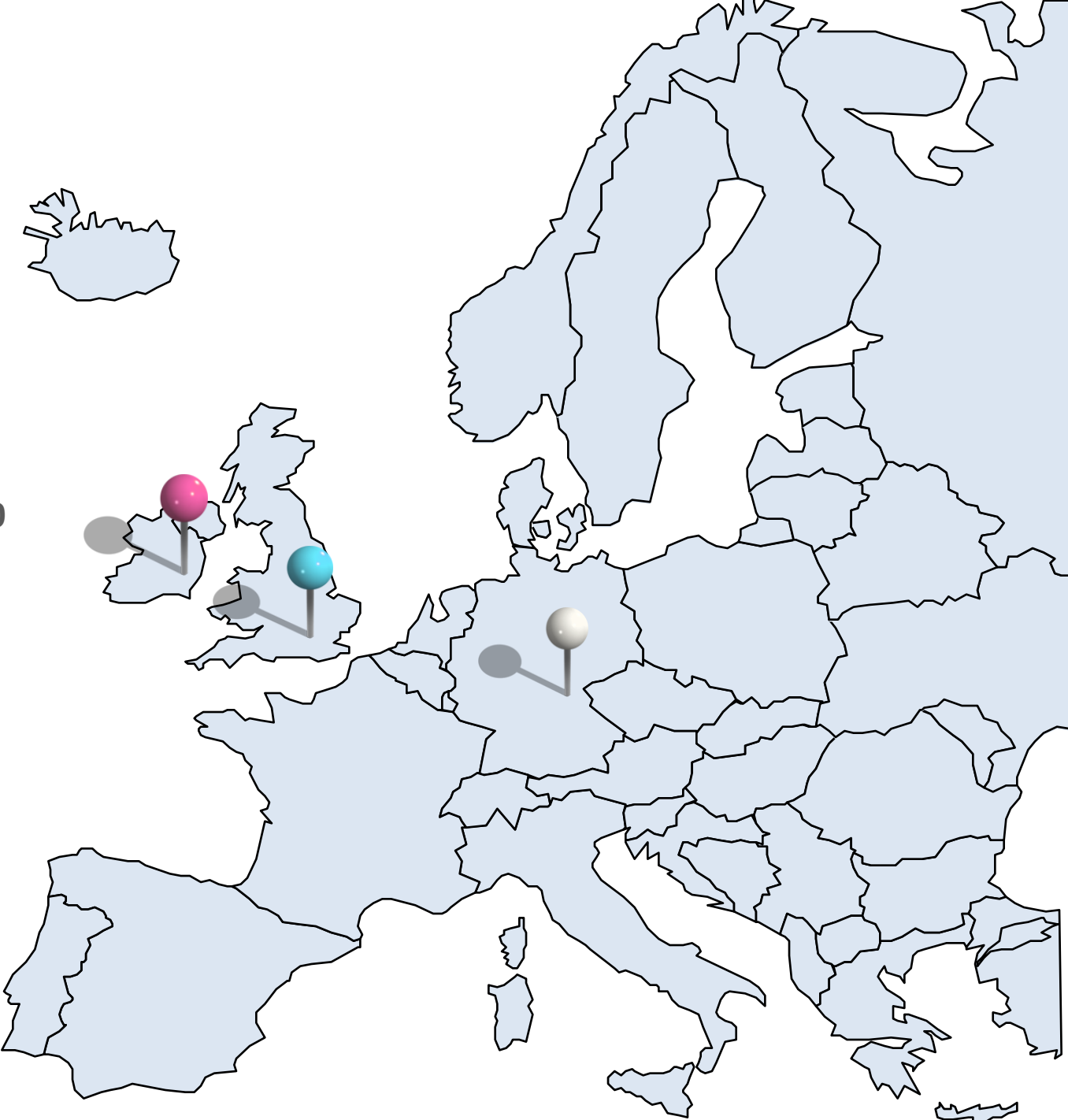
# Polish migrant



**UK - 30% - 650, 000**

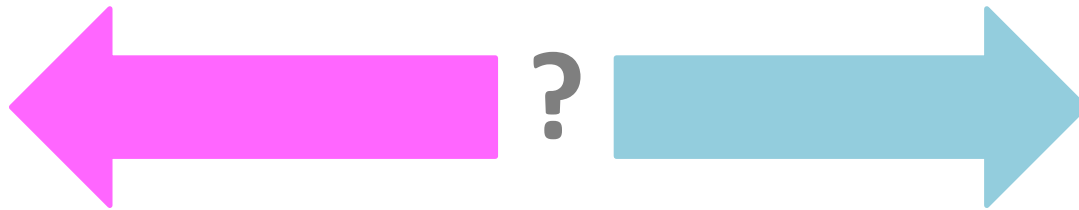
**Germany – 22% - 560, 000**

**Ireland – 6,4% - 115, 000**



# Reasons

- 73 % - in search of a better life /work
- 21 % - no job opportunities available
- 3 % - in search of better career opportunities



# Monar Association

MONAR – is an integrated, professional, contemporary and multi-layer system of assistance designed to tackle not only homelessness but also addiction and social exclusion

**Monar currently serves around 20000 people every year through more than 130 different projects**

47 residential centers for socially excluded people (approx. 3,000 permanent places), including:

- 4 low-threshold night shelters

- 32 assistance centers (different profiles)

- 11 Homes for Single Mothers

# Monar – homeless support system

- Emergency – night shelters, special winter season assistance points, outreach/street-work
- Recovery – residential centers, hostels, single mother houses
- Specialized residential centers for the elderly and the disabled
- Low-threshold centers



# EU 10 Capacity Building Project

Numbers of EU10 nationals rough sleeping in London (CHAIN Street to Home annual reports)

Country	2008/9		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Slovakia	43	1	55	2	58	2	72
Poland	<b>244</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>574</b>
Romania	70	2	93	3	210	6	329
Czech Republic	44	1	76	2	73	2	78
Latvia	29	1	43	1	54	1	121
Lithuania	74	3	122	4	121	3	188
Hungary	26	1	29	1	45	1	95
Estonia	9	0	9	0	15	0	13
Bulgaria	2	0	14	0	34	1	53
Slovenia	4	0	6	0	2	0	3
All	545	18	845	26	1016	28	1526

# EU10 Capacity Building Project

- **Participants** – Thames Reach UK/Providence Row, Monar Association, Caritas Romania
- **Objective** – to fully understand the options available to homeless customers in their country of origin and the implementation of this knowledge in the UK, based on the practice of workers in these countries
- **Weaknesses**
  - Limited understanding by employees in the UK of social security benefits in the EU-10 - which may have an impact on their ability to provide information about returning home
  - Language and cultural barriers, which cause difficulties in understanding customers and establishing good relations
  - Difficulty in determining whether customers are entitled to receive services (permanent residence, the right to social security, social benefits, etc.). This may limit options and lead to delays in providing an effective response

# Objectives

For the organizations:

- Improve practice in working with people from EU countries through better understanding of cultural issues and the provision of services in the EU-10 countries
- Strengthen network of partner agencies in the EU-10 by job shadowing and study visit

For customers:

- Increasing the successful returns to the country of origin for people from the EU10 countries by providing a credible offer and working on closer relationships and protocols with agencies in the EU10.

# ThamesReach Reconnection Project

The logo for ThamesReach, featuring the word "ThamesReach" in a dark blue font and "howe" in a lighter blue font below it.

Helped **2,800** Central and Eastern European rough sleepers with high support needs and living destitute on London's streets to return home to their families or into social services in their homelands so they can get their life back on track.

# Benefits for project partners

## The benefits of this project for British partners

- Help from people directly involved, that will allow UK employees to overcome the language barrier and cultural differences.
- Improve sustainable reconections for this group of customers, which will lead to a reduction in homelessness on the streets
- Better understanding of the impact and benefits of returning to their country of origin, based on research and tracking of such cases with partner agencies.
- Development of a new approach which can then be replicated in London and beyond, if the project will be potentially successful.

## Benefits for Partners EU10

- Excellent career development opportunity for employees
- Cost neutral
- Provides the opportunity to learn first-hand what kind of problems the citizens can experience in a foreign country, if they remain destitute in the UK. This may give them an important role in shaping policies in their own countries.
- Demonstrates Innovation - which is good for their CV.
- Closer joint work and cooperation with the UK, increasing contribution to positive outcomes for customers

# Homeless migrants in the UK



Photo: Piotr Harwat

<http://www.thamesreach.org.uk/>

<http://www.providencerow.org.uk/>

<http://www.monar.org/>

Film [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPOdTS\\_ud9M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPOdTS_ud9M)