

*Labour migration from Poland –  
status and challenges*

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## Situation before Accession

- **Fears of „old” member states** – massive migration flow from „new” member states, which will disturb labour markets
- **Fear of „new” member states**– outflow of well qualified workers, particularly health-care personal / „brain drain”

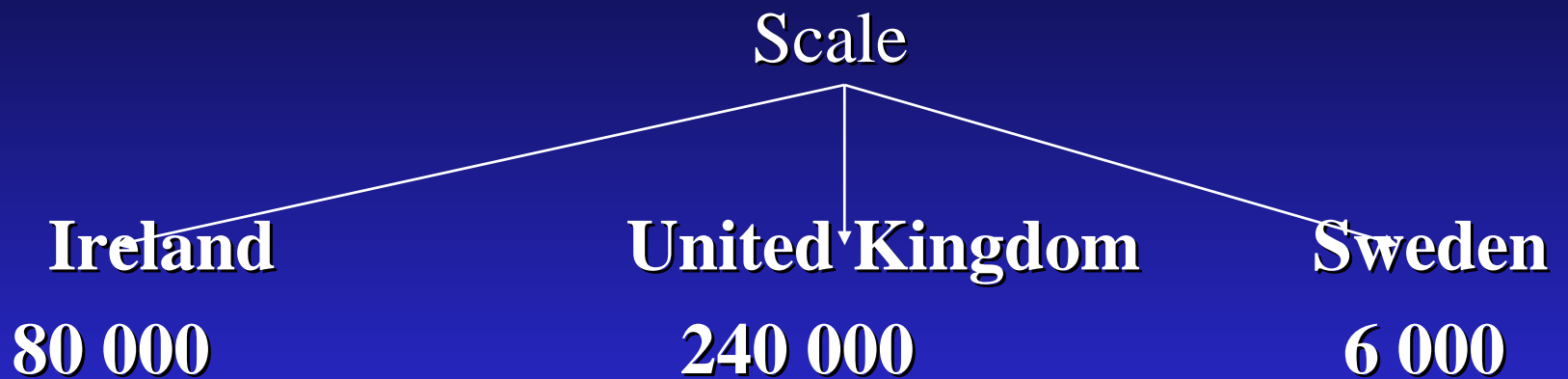


## Different models of labour market opening

- United Kingdom, Sweden and Ireland
- Denmark – Norway
- Italy
- Netherlands



## Scale of migration



Question – How many of them are new emigration workers?



## Norway

- In 2005 - 23,831 Polish citizens received permits to stay and work in Norway
- Poles made up 65% of the total group of applicants from the New Member States.
- In the same period, approximately 200 Norwegian citizens were given permits to work in Poland



## Social tourism

- European Commission's and FAFO's reports don't confirm fears of „social tourism”



## Brain drain ?

- The first two years following the accession have not confirmed a significant outflow of specialists
- Cases of emigration of Polish health-care workers



## Scale of emigration of Polish health-care workers

- The total number of professionally active medical doctors in Poland amounts to almost **119,000**
- **3.5 %** of Polish medical doctors in various specializations were interested in undertaking employment in other EU member states after 1st May 2004





## Scale of emigration of Polish health-care workers - largest number

- **Anaesthesiologists and intensive care experts** – 545 persons (13.95 % of all active professions),
- **Chest surgeons** – 26 persons (12.04 %.),
- **Plastic surgeons** – 19 persons (13.38 %.),
- **Vascular surgeons** – 18 persons (7.96 %.),
- **Experts in life-saving medicine** – 35 persons (8.22 %)
- **Orthopaedists** – 133 (6.08 %.).



## Scale of emigration of Polish health-care workers - smallest number

- **neonatologists (0.17 %),**
- **clinical oncologists (0.27 %.)**
- **child neurologists (0.28 %.).**



## Conclusions of current situation

- the scale of migration from new to old member states has been moderate
- no direct link between restrictions in access and scale of migration
- migration flows depend largely on supply and demand on destination labor markets



## Conclusions of current situation

- the opening of labour markets done by some countries turned out to be beneficial for their economies
- workers from new member do not “steal” the jobs of locals but fill the existing gaps in the regional labour markets
- No „brain drain”
- welfare systems have not been put under strain by the migrant workers from New Member States



## Social dumping or wages dumping?

- all member states must observe minimum social standards that are laid down in the EU directives
- in the case of free movement of workers we do not encounter any situations which might be an element of „social dumping” !



## Free movement of services

- Differences in wages between Members States
- Main Question - How much lower wages of posted workers from other Member States are?
- Protectionism versus competition
- Directive 96/71 on posted workers



## Free movement of services

- Recent enlargement has not resulted in the emergence of any abuses in the area of cross-border provision of services
- Opening of the labour market as a measure to avoid abuses in free movement of services
- Draft directive on services on internal market



## Forecasts for future

- Poland doesn't expect massive emigration to another MS
- How many cheap flights will be established in the context of movement of workers?
- Demographic trends and changes of situation on labor market
- Poland becomes slowly a typical emigration-immigration country





## Future of Discussion

- In near future the issue of migration within European Economic Area will stop to arouse controversies
- Immigration from third countries: needs versus fears
- We don't have a model for integration of foreigners

Office of the Committee for European Integration

Department of Analyses and Strategies



Thank you very much  
for your attention