

Polish Migrant Workers Leave Britain in Droves

– VOA News, Claudia Blume

Grzegorz Mrozek is talking to an employment advisor at a London charity. The Polish construction worker is desperate.

"I lost the job...I think maybe lost the house. I'm homeless, it's very difficult. Maybe next month I'm going to Poland."

The charity offers free meals to unemployed migrants like Grzegorz Mrozek. More and more Polish workers have lost their jobs since Britain started to slide into a recession. New ones are hard to find. Janie Kidston manages the employment project 'UR4Jobs'.

"It's much, much harder now, it's much, much harder, particularly in construction, particularly in manufacturing and particularly in things like cleaning which were the main areas of work where we were sending people."

When the British economy was booming it was easy to find jobs, for example as construction workers or painters. Hundreds of thousands of Poles moved to the UK when Poland joined the European Union in 2004. Polish businesses, restaurants and shops are now a common sight throughout the country. But the boom times are over and many Poles are returning home.