

**The Signpost to Polish Success 2014/2015**

**Eastern European**

**Communities in**

**Nottingham**

**Report 2014-2015**

**Damian Law**

**Eastern European Outreach Worker**

**Editing - Peter Brown**

**The Signpost to Polish Success**

**CONTENTS:**

<b>1. Executive Summary</b>	<b>p. 4</b>
<b>2. Introduction to countries researched</b>	<b>p. 5</b>
<b>3. Historical background of researched countries</b>	<b>p. 6</b>
<b>4. Organisations contacted regarding information about Eastern Europeans (EE)</b>	<b>p. 7</b>
<b>5. Groups established</b>	<b>p. 8</b>
<b>6. Places of congregation</b>	<b>p. 9</b>
<b>7. Eastern European minorities in Nottingham</b>	<b>p. 10-12</b>
<b>8. Work</b>	<b>p. 13</b>
<b>9. Education</b>	<b>p. 14</b>
<b>10. Interviews with local Eastern European leaders</b>	<b>p. 15</b>
<b>11. Work completed/in progress for/with Eastern European communities</b>	<b>p. 16-18</b>
<b>12. Eastern European Migrant Survey</b>	<b>p. 19-24</b>
<b>13. Discussion</b>	<b>p. 25-26</b>
<b>14. Conclusions</b>	<b>p. 27</b>

**LIST OF APPENDIXES:**

<b>1) List of SPS service provision</b>	<b>p. 27</b>
<b>2) Interview script</b>	<b>p. 28</b>
<b>3) Interview with Adam Andrasz, Roma leader</b>	<b>p. 29-32</b>
<b>4) Interview with Ioan Panaite, Romanian businessman</b>	<b>p. 33-35</b>
<b>5) List of organisations and individuals contacted</b>	<b>p. 36</b>
<b>6) Eastern European Migrant Survey blank copy</b>	<b>p. 37-38</b>

**7) Eastern European Outreach Worker job description p. 39**

**ABBREVIATIONS**

EEOW	Eastern European Outreach Worker
EE	Eastern Europeans
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
EU	European Union
NCVS	Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service
NDO	Neighbourhood Development Officer
NI	National Insurance
NPS	Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant
SPS	Signpost to Polish Success

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides findings from a research project that focused on Eastern European migrants in Nottingham, conducted by an Eastern European Outreach Worker. Initially the project focused on researching and establishing the needs of the Eastern European migrants, excluding Polish. However with time it was realized that Polish migrants constitute such a large group that they cannot be ignored. Additionally, it is difficult to distinguish between Polish and polish Roma. The research methods used were talking to and survey sampling individuals, contacting local organisations and services, participating in activities, reading articles, enquiries to embassies and interviewing community leaders. The complete interviews can be found in the appendices. These resulted in a wide presentation of migrants' background and historical context; a clear description of their needs and challenges; insight into work, education and ideas presented by Romanian and Roma leaders.

The report shows that migrants are mostly interested in learning or improving their English and gaining employment. There also has to be a greater effort made to educate people about others, because cultural differences make the community cohesion process almost impossible without a greater degree of understanding. It is recommended that more effort and resources are allocated to the teaching of English and encouraging people to learn about others.

The report is limited by the simple fact that most people were not willing to talk to a stranger about their life, so only superficial information was acquired from them. Some simply focus on work and family which makes this group difficult to talk to. To gather more information it would be necessary to allocate more people to the challenging and rewarding task of researching the lives of Eastern European migrants.

### **Report Recommendations:**

- More resources should be allocated to English language provision for the people already settled here; the inability to speak, write and understand English is the number one bar to people finding employment, making a greater contribution to and having a better understanding of life in the UK, leading on to the development of a greater degree of cohesion with the wider community.
- To have a Romanian speaking adviser employed in the city, ideally situated in the Berridge Ward as this is where the largest population of Romanian Roma are located.

## 2. INTRODUCTION TO COUNTRIES RESEARCHED

A10 countries that joined the EU in and after 2004:

**2004** - The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. These countries were given free movement rights by the British government immediately after accession, with very few cosmetic restrictions regarding welfare rights and the obligation to register with the Home Office over the period of next seven years. Most other EU-15 countries (all members of EU before 2004) imposed temporary limitations. However, even though mass migration took place, it contributed to the economic development of the UK prior to the financial crisis in 2008.

**2007** - Romania and Bulgaria – these two countries were subject to a transition period of seven years, which ended on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014. This restriction was in place because of concerns about the predicted numbers of migrants that could arrive. During that period Romanians and Bulgarians were given the right to free movement but not full employment and had to apply for work permits in order to find employment in the UK or to work as self-employed (in order to make their living here). Thousands of Romanians came here during that period but many more along with Bulgarians started coming to Nottingham during 2014.

Other countries for inclusion:

Ukraine, Russia – EEOW detected no change in migrant numbers from these two countries. Ukrainians were already well-established in Nottingham after the Second World War and there were few Russians already living and working here.

Countries that joined the EU in and after 2004 excluded from EEOW's research:

Malta, Cyprus and Croatia

### 3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF RESEARCHED COUNTRIES

It is important to remember that the A10 countries featured in this report were under the Soviet sphere of influence after the Second World War, this changed in 1989 when the Soviet Union began to collapse. During the period known as the Cold War, Europe was divided into two basic parts, Western free market democracies and the communist state controlled command economies in the East. While the Western economies developed, the East experienced stagnation under communism. This disparity was clearly seen when West and East Germany were reunited and significant resources were allocated to the former East Germany so it could achieve a degree of parity. Even though the Iron Curtain disappeared and EU expansion was possible, the Western countries decided to postpone this eventuality. Willingness to join the EU and talks regarding its terms by several countries like Poland, Czechoslovakia were started as early as 1990.

There were three major criteria for candidates stated in the ‘Excerpt from the Copenhagen Presidency conclusions’:

- Guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, respect for and protection of minorities.
- The existence of a functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union.
- Membership presupposes the candidate's ability to take on the obligations of membership including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

To date Germany remains unofficially divided into the rich West and poor East. Other countries that had to rebuild from a low base had to be able, as stated above, to cope with the competitive pressure of markets within the EU. Sudden transition from communism to free market democracy came without a period of protected economic growth. This was one reason why these countries were not financially robust, and after privatization their nationalized industries were often sold for a fraction of their true value. After EU expansion in 2004 many people from the new member countries were looking for a better life and migrated to the more affluent member states of the Union, including the United Kingdom.

#### 4. ORGANISATIONS CONTACTED REGARDING INFORMATION ABOUT EASTERN EUROPEANS LIVING IN NOTTINGHAM

– for the whole list including individuals please refer to Appendix number 4

Nottingham City Council – Neighbourhood Development Officers and Community Relations and Resilience Team, Partnership Council, Nottingham Law Centre, Hyson Green Youth Club, Framework, Groundwork, Sneinton Hermitage Community Centre, Community Organisers, AWAAZ, Metropolitan, Meadows Partnership Trust, Refugee Forum, Nottingham Libraries, all embassies of the countries researched, Nottinghamshire Police, Lenton Abbey Residents Association, Wollaton Park Residents Association, Small Steps Big Changes, The SEND Project, the University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University.

## 5. GROUPS ESTABLISHED

Post World War II – Polish Club, Polish Church, Ukrainian Social Club, Ukrainian Cultural Centre.

After 2004 – The Signpost to Polish Success on Forest Road West, Romanian Protestant Church meeting privately, Polish Roma Church meeting at the Sneinton Hermitage Community Centre, Romanian Society East Midlands, Balkan Bulgarians and various associations at both The University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University.

### **The Signpost to Polish Success**

SPS was established in 2005 to support the New Arrivals from Eastern Europe - mainly Polish migrants - after the EU enlargement in 2004. SPS was initially a community group but became a charity in November 2008. SPS' services work towards the integration of Eastern Europeans in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands. SPS is here to support migrants in the process of their settling in, easing their integration, representing their interests and speaking on their behalf, also enabling other local organisations and institutions to access this hard to reach community<sup>1</sup>.

### **Romanian Society East Midlands**

Established in August 2014 as a community group, meeting at the International Centre on Mansfield Road, they have their own web page. They have delivered 3 sets of English courses for beginners, each one consisting of 10 sessions. They have organised a number of events, like the collection of donations from their own community for helping the most disadvantaged people in their community and community celebration event. Planning for Martial Arts session for children. The Romanian Society East Midlands were awarded 3 small grants to fund the venue hire, run a help and advice project for building capacity in their community. They have 152 registered members (in August 2015).

### **Balkan Bulgarians in Nottingham**

This is a community group. Their opening day was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2015 in the Bridge Centre, with a talk delivered by a guest speaker about personal safety, how to keep safe, what to do in case of abuse and how the English system works. This event will be followed by a set of 6 sessions of English classes delivered by a Bulgarian teacher and a set of 6 IT sessions<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>For the list of SPS service provision see the appendix number 1 p.28.

<sup>2</sup>Information about the Romanian and Bulgarian community groups was provided by Minerva Hartley.

## 6. PLACES OF CONGREGATION

- Youth centres like the Hyson Green Youth Club or Greenway Centre in Sneinton – mainly young Roma gather there.
- Football pitch next to Greenway Centre – young people from various backgrounds meet there to play football, including Polish and Roma.
- Forest Fields Recreation Ground – there are people present from various Eastern European countries playing football, enjoying a family day out or socializing.
- Churches: Polish Church on 2 Sherwood Rise; Church of St Stephen's in Sneinton - Ukrainians.
- Sneinton Hermitage Community Centre – Polish Roma Church group.
- Private houses – meeting at restaurants or pubs is not as popular as it is in English culture,
- Libraries in Nottingham mostly Central, Meadows and St Ann's – Eastern Europeans joining activities like Conversation Groups, Language Cafes, Book Clubs.
- The Vine Community Centre – used to be the place that the Romanian church met, now there are plans to use this space as a venue where the Roma community can meet
- Playgrounds for children – Kirkstead St. Playground, Bridlington St. Playground, ASDA Hyson Green Playground, St Ann's Adventure Playground
- Shops with Eastern European food, mostly selling Polish products but they also frequently stock Lithuanian or Romanian goods too – large concentration on Radford Rd., a couple of shops are sited on Colwick Rd.

## 7. EASTERN EUROPEAN MINORITIES IN NOTTINGHAM

**Bulgarian** – there were not many Bulgarians before 2014 but after the period of restrictions ended their numbers have grown, especially in Hyson Green.

**Czech and Slovakian** – it is important to remember that people coming from these two countries have a similar background due to the Czech Republic and Slovakia being one country, Czechoslovakia, between 1918-1993. The two languages are very similar and they tend to congregate together.

**Estonian** – there are very few individuals from this small Baltic country living in Nottingham.

**Hungarian** – there are many living in various parts of the city, working mainly in warehouses like Findel Education. There is a large number located outside of the city, in Beeston, because of the proximity to Boots, where many of them work.

**Latvian** – very few present in Nottingham. There is a florist shop owner trading on Mansfield Rd. However, there is a high concentration of Latvians living in and around Mansfield.

**Lithuanian** – there are many Lithuanians in Nottingham considering the small population of Lithuania. This community is not well established and they work mainly in warehouses, food factories and restaurants.

**Polish** – they are the largest Eastern European minority in Nottingham and in general across the UK. People work in various sectors, but in the main they are unskilled workers employed in warehouses and food factories across and around the city.

**Romanian** – they are the second largest Eastern European minority in Nottingham at present. Their numbers grew rapidly in 2014. However, many of them came here after accession in 2007 working as self-employed or applying for the European Blue Card (an approved EU-wide work permit for skilled workers).

**Slovenian** – Slovenia is a small country and one of the wealthiest that joined the EU after 2004. In Nottingham there are very few Slovenians; mainly students or graduates .

**Roma** – this ethnic group historically came from India migrating to various parts of Europe mainly Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. It is important to note that their assimilation levels vary, this is closely interconnected with the value they place on preserving their traditions. There are high numbers of them living in Sneinton, Leen Valley, St Ann's and Hyson Green. It is difficult to ascertain exact numbers.

Below are statistics taken from the 2011 Census and EU Accession Note. These are not a reliable measure when estimating EE numbers in Nottingham for a variety of reasons including: some EE ignored the Census, people move to other places where they can find work, students don't need NI numbers. However, the total of NI numbers issued are a good indication of general migration trends. There are clearly more Bulgarians, Hungarians and Romanians coming to Nottingham recently compared to previous years. While the migration from other Eastern European countries remains relatively stable.

## 2011 Census: Country of birth (detailed), local authorities in England and Wales

Area name	EU Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011: Total	EU Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011: Lithuania	EU Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011: Poland	EU Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011: Romania	EU Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011: Other EU accession countries
	Number of People	Number of People	Number of People	Number of People	Number of People
<b>Nottingham</b>	<b>9 826</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>6 800</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>2 165</b>

**Table 1 National Insurance registrations by non-UK nationals in Nottingham City by country of origin (Source EU Accession Note (May 2014))**

	2005 /06	2006 /07	2007 /08	2008 /09	2009 /10	2010 /11	2011 /12	2012 /13	2013 /14
Poland	1660	2360	2060	1310	950	1220	1230	1436	1747
Czech Rep	80	90	160	130	100	60	70	109	48
Slovak Rep	110	190	270	120	80	40	50	63	91
Hungary	50	70	70	70	70	90	80	152	192
Rep of Slovenia	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	7
Latvia	30	50	20	30	80	100	90	50	49
Lithuania	70	70	60	50	110	210	210	163	120
Estonia	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	9	5
Malta	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	6	0
Cyprus	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	15	28
Bulgaria	20	10	30	30	20	20	40	34	80
Romania	10	10	20	60	80	100	70	83	323

## 8. WORK

Work is an important aspect of a migrants' life in the UK. People come to this country in the main for economic reasons, described below are areas of the labour market where EE migrants can be found:

### Areas of employment with examples:

Unskilled – industrial, food factories, agriculture.

Skilled – builders, drivers, technicians, IT, lecturers, mechanics, physicians.

### Places of employment around Nottingham that have high concentrations of Eastern Europeans include:

- Boots Beeston Site – Polish, Slovak, Hungarian
- Seven Dentist on Radford Rd. – Polish and Romanian staff including dentists and nurses
- Work agencies' like Turner Stubbs, Adecco, Blue Arrow – Polish, Lithuanian
- Sports Direct, mainly warehouses in Shirebrook– migrants from all countries working there. An easy starting point for newcomers as this company needs to employ a large workforce
- Findel Education in Colwick Industrial Park– Polish, Hungarian
- Pizza Factory, Pork Farms and Riverside Bakery, Riverside Industrial Park in Nottingham – people from various countries, mainly Poles
- Hammond Produce Ltd on Mansfield Rd. – Poles
- Cheese factories like Cropwell Bishop Creamery Ltd. or Long Clawson Dairy – Poles, Lithuanians
- Farming and vegetable businesses like Strawson Ltd. based in Bilsthorpe – Poles, Lithuanians, Slovak
- Cleaning industry, hospitality – local hotels
- The University of Nottingham, Trent University – staff come from a variety of Eastern European countries
- They also commute to places like: Melton Mowbray – cheese and pork pie manufacturing, East Midlands Airport
- Hyson Green, shops along Radford Rd. selling Eastern European food – Polish and Romanian staff

### Self-employment, which include mainly:

Photography; child minding; manicure; pedicure; builders; interpreters/translators; barbers and hairdressers – (for ex. Evolution, Studio Euphoria Polski Fryzjerski u Damiana all on Radford Rd.)

### Businesses

Painting and decorating – Master Services 4 All Limited (Romanian); marketing/printing; restaurants – Ania Polish Restaurant on Mansfield Rd., The Knife and Fork Bistro, formerly Karczma Pod Zbójem (Polish) on Radford Rd.; shops – Brother's Food Store (Polish Roma) and Rodak (Polish) on Colwick Rd. , Delikatesy u Bigosa (Polish) on Radford Rd., Victoria Eastern European Food (Latvian) on Mansfield Rd., Magazin Alimentar Florentina (Romanian) on Alfreton Rd.; tanning studio – Sun Body (Polish) on Radford Rd.; transport; construction

## 9. EDUCATION

**Higher education** – England is an attractive destination for ambitious students to come and study. Eastern Europeans are not an exception and there are a number of them studying at both the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University. There are three categories of people: those who came to this country to study, those who came here to work and decided to study, and children that simply continue education at this level.

**Migrants' children attending schools** – there are large numbers of children attending English schools, especially in areas where the migrant population is high, namely Sneinton, Hyson Green, St Ann's, the Meadows and in smaller numbers in other parts of the city.

**ESOL for adults** – important for people who would like to be self-sustaining, have a better quality of work or participate more in the host society. It is currently more difficult to find free English classes and most people that are in employment have to pay for them. Access to something as basic as English should be much easier for anyone who is willing to improve their ability to speak, listen, write and read in English.

## 10. INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL EASTERN EUROPEAN LEADERS

This part of the report explores what two leaders from two different groups have to say about living in Nottingham. There will be a short introduction but it is recommended that the full interviews in the appendixes are read.

- Adam Andrasz (Polish Roma leader, **Appendix number 3**) – has been working for 50 years for the Roma Association. He has been the President of the Roma Association in Malopolska Voivodeship, Poland since 1985. He established, and is currently the director of the Roma Community Centre in Tarnow, Poland; he is the creator of the Roma Culture Centre in Tarnow; he is a co-founder and member of the Roma Council. He worked as the Roma Rights Spokesman in Europe – Roma National Congress. He says that “members of the Roma community don’t aim too high in this country or environment. It is important for them to have equal rights, not to be discriminated against. Conditions and options are open.” He thinks that the elders should know basic English but most of them don’t speak the language because it’s hard for them to learn and they rely on their children to help or use paid services. If there was an established Roma centre, people could help each other and some of them could maybe work there.
- Ioan Panaite (Romanian business owner, **Appendix number 4**) – 38 years old, from the west part of Romania. Self-employed owner of a small construction company. Came to the UK 6 years ago. He has two children who are 10 and 8 years old. “The first year was the hardest” he says, because even though he spoke English before he came here he still found it hard to understand how everything worked including: rent, work, meeting new people. “Usually, Romanians have good education. They manage in terms of English” he states. There is a Romanian Orthodox Church. The young generation lost the desire to go to church but people want to go there to meet other Romanians, to speak with others in Romanian. In terms of jobs it is easy to find a job while you are still in Romania.

## 11. WORK COMPLETED/IN PROGRESS FOR/WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

### Work similar to EEOW's research:

Assessing the needs of Romanian Roma in Nottingham, project led by Community Relations Team from Nottingham City Council in partnership with Nottingham Trent University, April 2015 (contact Minerva Hartley, Community Cohesion Officer, Community Relations Team). It provides insight into the lives of recent arrivals to this country.

Based on interviews conducted as a part of the NCC's project:

People's main concern is employment as stated in the following paragraph - "Regarding employment - people do not know the system, do not understand how it works, they are told to go to an employment agency which gives them zero hours contract and they keep waiting and waiting, days and days, waking up at 5 and waiting on streets to be collected by the buses taking people to work. Most of the time they are not taken; all Polish are taken but not Roma Romanians".

Employment or a source of income is the first and biggest concern. However, it is not a surprise that the well-established Poles or Polish Roma find it easier to obtain employment.

The difficulties experienced by people working for agencies are well-documented. This situation is totally different from the migrant experience in the years from 2004-2008. Interviewees say: "We do not find jobs, if we have no work we can't pay for our children, the house, bills and food. You go to an agency they will give you a form to fill in then you wait for months to be accepted for work" or "Being lazy can spoil your future chances. But this wouldn't motivate them because they'll only get zero-hour contracts anyway"

The language barrier and the need to learn English is important mainly because this is necessary in order to find a job and take care of daily problems - "Nobody helps or give us advice. Not knowing the language is a big problem, too." In other parts of the project people express their belief that learning the language will lead to a better future "We came here to work, for our families to have a better future, they do not accept us to work, we send our children to school to learn English to have a future..."

There is currently no Romanian adviser working in the city, something that one of the interviewees mentioned - "I think we should have a Romanian place/office/staff helping people to find work, telling people where to go and what to do to find work because I think everyone wants to find work, if you find them work they will all work, they will not refuse. " There are large numbers of Romanians in Nottingham and this could be addressed with an adviser in post.

### Work and projects that have ended:

Co-operation of Sneinton's Community Organisers including Steve Smith working for Localities and Sneinton Alchemy with the local Roma community. It ended because the funding ran out, resulting in mistrust among the Roma community due to a lack of continuity.

Sneinton European Migrant Team - was created by Nottingham City Council and Metropolitan Support Trust to help migrants. They translated a lot of information, like environmental safety, into several languages including Polish, Czech and Slovak in order to create welcome packs.

ESOL and other free English courses which were popular before the financial crisis in 2008, though not necessarily aimed at Eastern Europeans, but definitely needed.

As part of the Roma Project that was initiated to build trust and a dialogue with the Roma community. It mainly consists of: Beth Hanna – NDO in Berridge Ward, Mandy Pride and Minerva Hartley – Community Cohesion Officers working for Nottingham City Council; Moby Farrands working for the Partnership Council Group Support as Neighbourhood Projects Officer and Welfare Rights advisor Diana Bagci working for the Nottingham Law Centre. They have delivered:

- Free Roma community awareness training on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – This event was organised by a Roma working group to raise awareness, knowledge and understanding of Roma Communities to improve the level of engagement, work and dialogue with members of these communities.
- Roma Community family event on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014 to identify any issues, concerns and needs and build stronger relationships with local services. Many young Roma people access the Hyson Green Youth Centre and this event was an endeavour at building relationships with their families and beyond. EEOW provided translation, interpretation and guidance on the day.
- Meetings with service representatives and Roma leaders. EEOW managed to make contact with Mr Andrasz who was often present representing the Roma community and presenting their point of view. EEOW worked as a mediator and interpreter on many occasions.
- Visit to Derby on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 to liaise with services working with Roma Communities. EEOW was able to make contact with Roma leaders leading to two of them being present on the day.

### **Work currently in progress**

SPS works mainly with Poles but also with Czech and Slovak Roma. Dorota Radzikowska was the Information and Advice Project Worker for SPS and Agnieszka Kloc currently holds that position, both of whom state their views below:

“One of the community groups visiting our office are Slovak Roma. The majority of them arrived in the UK with the intention of obtaining work and improving their financial situation. My observation is that the Slovak Roma are resourceful and determined in their efforts to achieve positive solutions to their own affairs (benefits, tax credits, schools).

Some of our clients participated in the meeting with the Schools Admissions Appeal panel at Nottingham City Council, trying to persuade members of the panel to offer a school placement to a child at a preferred school (none were successful).

The main issue is the need for support when applying for tax credits, child benefit, housing benefit and Jobseeker’s Allowance. We also assist with applications for school places, registering with GPs, translating letters from different British agencies, writing replies, contacting employers or potential employers (recruitment agencies) etc.

Recently, a large number are facing financial difficulties, how to pay bills, rent or being unable to quickly acknowledge changes in housing benefit. This often leads to accumulating debt which is hard for them to manage. People ask for help with budget loans to meet current expenses. There sometimes seems to be a basic lack of understanding how the system works or thinking about long term implications”.

Comparing Slovak to Polish Roma: “The Slovak Roma command of English tends to be on a higher level, they can for example, answer security questions over the telephone or at least one member of the household can. But there are some Polish Roma that can generally deal with most circumstances, unless specific knowledge is required. Generally, Roma families are rather traditional – 2 to 5 children with a mother looking after them and father working. Families tend to support one another. They never ask for Food Bank vouchers or face homelessness.

Despite all the problems they encounter (lack of work, low income, not being able to find a school place for their children), they seem to be positive. Possibly, this is due to their personality, or maybe they simply feel comfortable and safe here”.

Community Relations Team, Nottingham City Council project – Leen Valley Roma Community 2014/2015 (list provided by Minerva Hartley):

- English Classes for Romanian Roma – pre-entry level – From 29<sup>th</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in the Vine Community Centre – funding from Community Relations team and Cllr Glyn Jenkins and Cllr Mohammed Saghir. Grant applied for by Minerva Hartley
- A new set of English classes to start on 7<sup>th</sup> May till 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015 in the Vine Centre – funding from COI grant from Voluntary Community Sector Grants Team managed by the Refugee Forum. Grant applied for by Minerva Hartley.
- Employability sessions for Roma. From 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in the Vine Community Centre – one to one support writing CVs, application forms, online job applications, self-employment advice, interview skills, tracking outcomes – funding from Community protection – Katrina Curnow – grant applied for by Minerva Hartley.
- Volunteer project – help, advice and employment for speakers of the Romanian language – 30<sup>th</sup> March – on going in NG7 – a Romanian volunteer will go through the training package offered by NG7 Training, Employment and Advice; they will then offer sessions in Romanian one day per week.
- Roma Social Club – still in the planning stage, funding secured from COI grant (Refugee Forum) by Minerva Hartley.
- Roma Social Club for teens and adults in the Vine Community centre, where Roma can socialize, offer peer support and be a starting point for engagement and raising awareness for a variety of needs and issues existing in this community.
- Survey and interviews with Romanian Roma to identify priorities and needs – July to September 2014.

St Ann’s Advice Centre – Czech and Polish speaking advisers. They sometimes provide advice sessions in Sneinton. These two advice options are heavily used by Slovak and Czech Roma.

EEOW, Minerva Hartley and Richard Bacon are working towards creating a Roma organisation in Nottingham. There were several meetings held at the Mary Potter centre and NCVS at which details of what was needed were explained.

Cohesion Team including Minerva Hartley together with Richard Bacon from NCVS to establish groups across the City.

Nottingham Law Centre in Hyson Green – it doesn’t employ anyone speaking languages other than English. However, those who can manage are willingly helped. In some cases volunteers assist with communication and translation.

## 12. EASTERN EUROPEAN MIGRANT SURVEY

The general idea behind this survey was to discover Eastern Europeans' needs and challenges. There are several clear trends present, which will be explained in more detail below. EEOW was aware of trends through talking to people but it required data to support the survey findings.

Initially, the objective was to only assess the needs of A10 countries, not including the Poles, but later it was decided that they should be included because they are the largest minority and it is hard to distinguish between the answers given by Polish Roma and the responses of Poles. Later it became clear that statistical data like gender, age, home situation, language abilities and peoples general feeling about living in the UK should be included.

There were two methods used to capture data: a printed survey and an online version on [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com). The latter proved to be unreliable as people would not respond to emails as willingly as they did when completing the printed version when asked to do so. EEOW translated the survey into Polish, Minerva Hartley translated it to Romanian, and Eva translated it into Slovak, which covered the most common languages. Various approaches were explored to find people who would complete the survey: ESOL teacher Anna Drzystek-Szostak asked her students, Minerva asked Romanians she was working with, Ioan asked his friends and family, EEOW asked people personally, Diana Bagci from the Nottingham Law Centre in Hyson Green, SPS's staff asked clients.

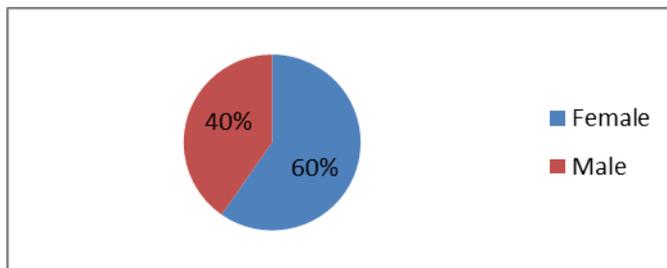
The sample survey is presented in **Appendix number 5**

The sample consists of 67 who completed the survey.

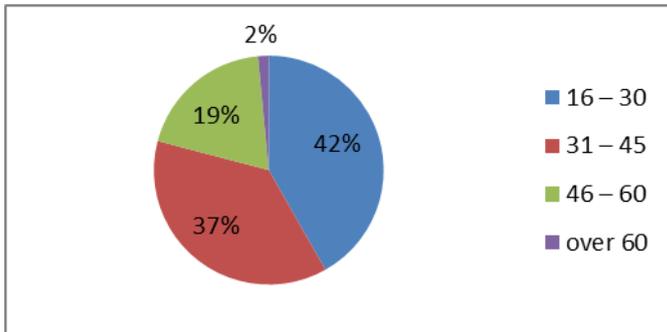
### Q1. What is your post code?

This question does not provide any conclusive information. It was used as a means to discover whether someone really was from Nottingham.

### Q2. What is your gender?

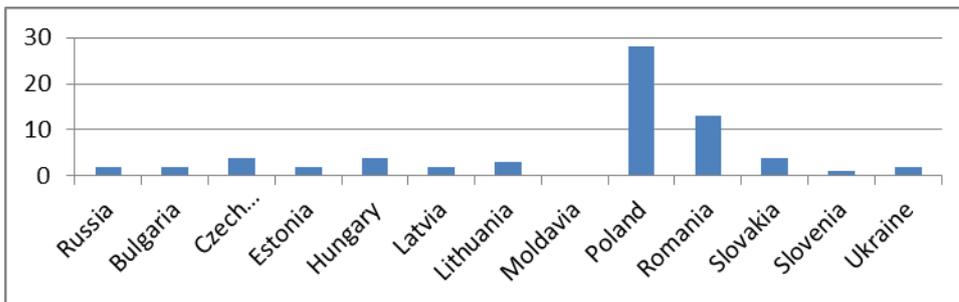


**Q3. Age group**



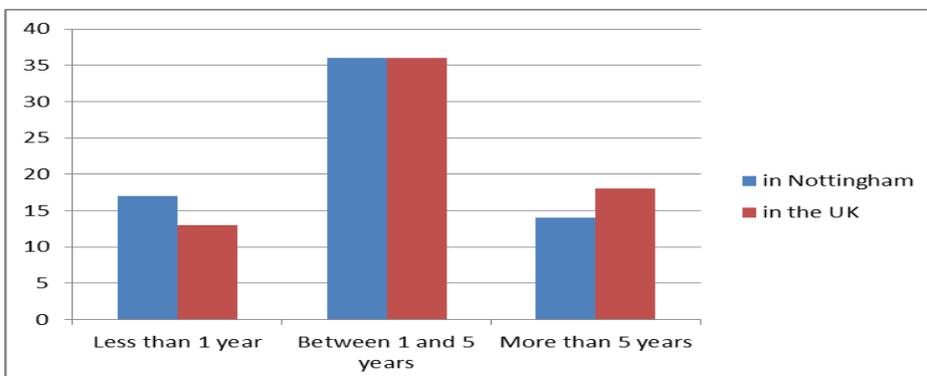
As expected most people were relatively young, in the 16-45 age range – 79%.

**Q4. Which country are you from and what is your first (main) language?**



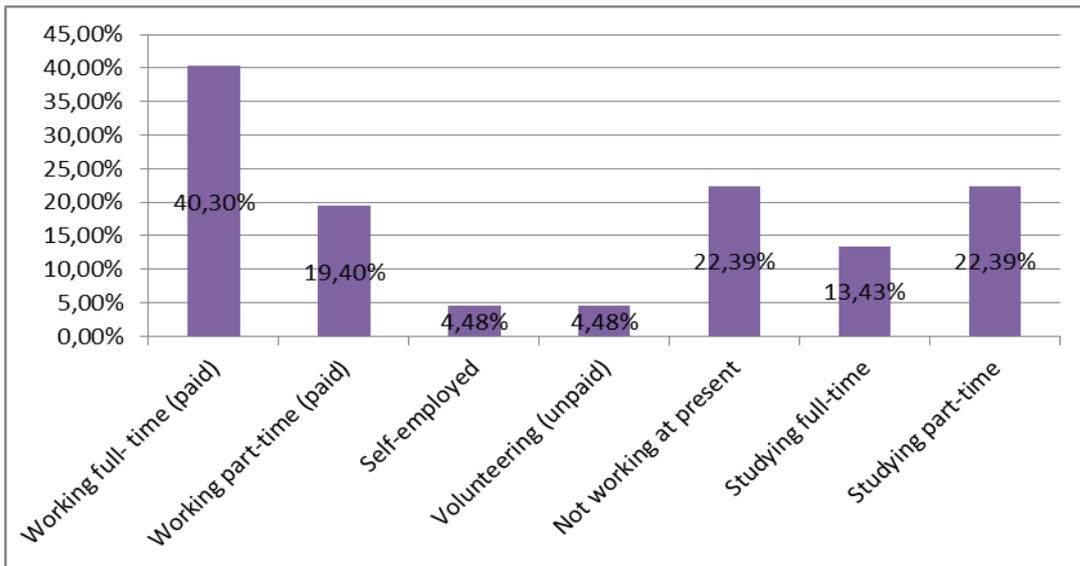
The majority of people who completed the survey came from either Poland or Romania. However, there are some Roma amongst them. There was no convenient way to distinguish this ethnic minority because they tend to list the host language as their main one, not Romani, which is the main language they speak at home.

**Q5. How long have you lived...**



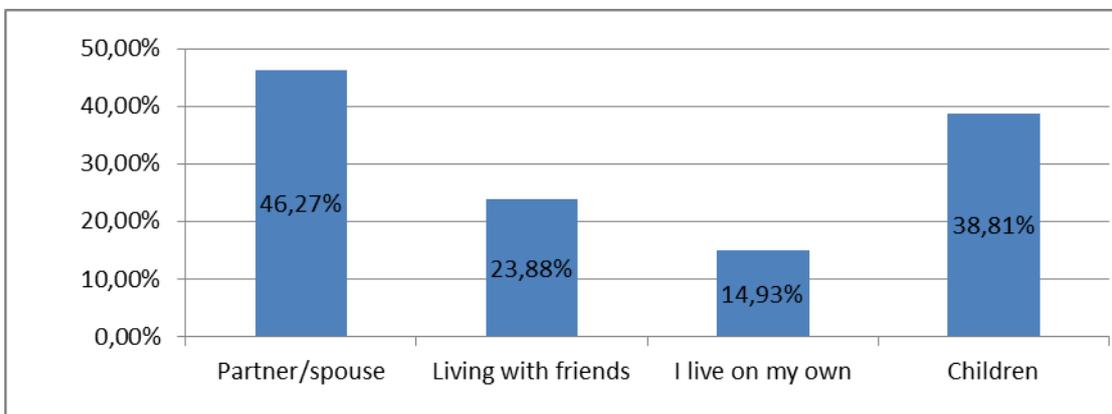
The aim of this question was to find out how long people have lived here and whether they moved to Nottingham from somewhere else in the UK. As EEW discovered, its construction lead to confusion and people would often answer just one part of the question. Whichever they thought was more in line with their history.

**Q6. Which of the following best describes your situation (tick as many boxes as apply)?**

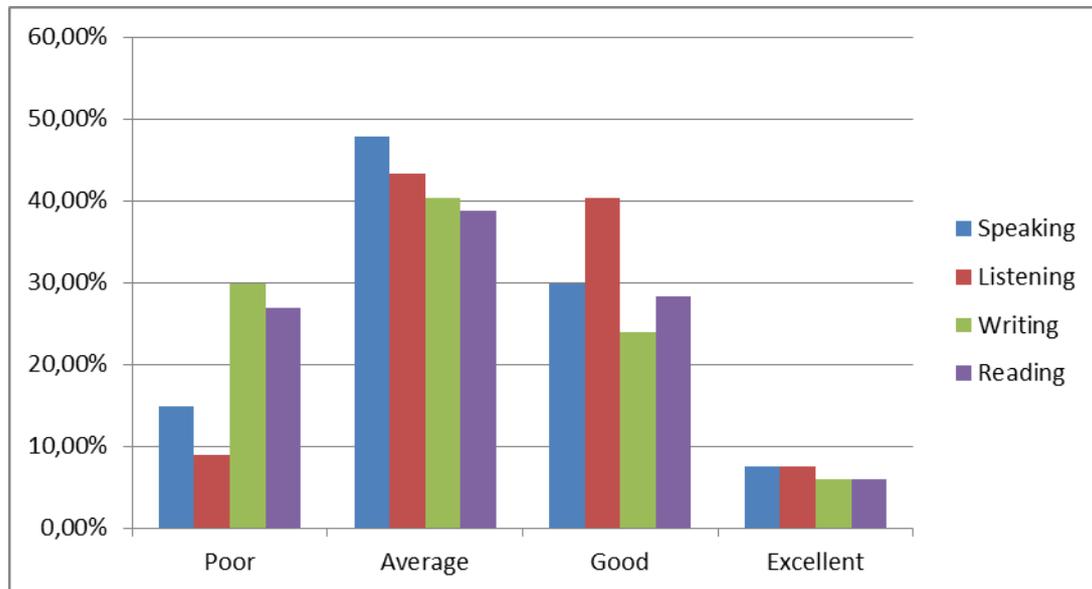


Most of the respondents work full-time, over 40%. 65% have paid employment. People that are not employed at the moment are most likely studying. Representation of the self-employed seems low because this group would be less likely to spend time away from their business.

**Q7. Who do you live with? (Please tick as many boxes as apply)**

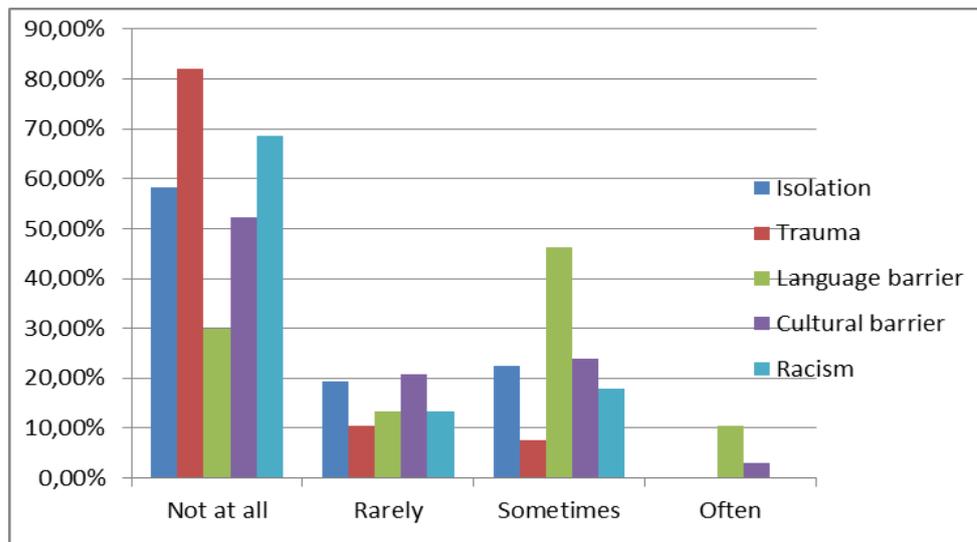


**Q8. How would you describe your English?**



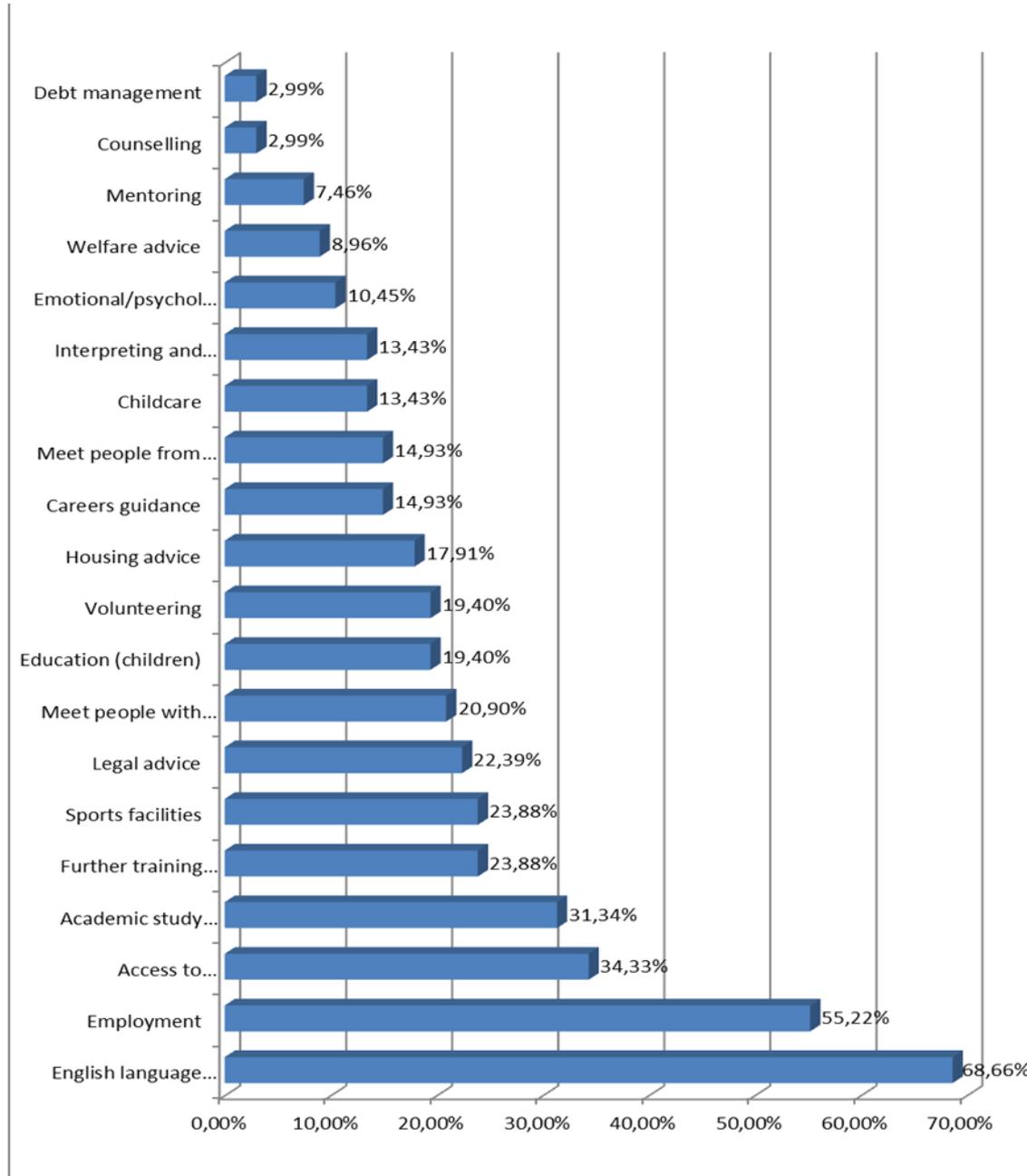
Firstly, only 9% of respondents believe that their “Listening” is “Poor” which means that at the basic level people find it much harder to talk than listen. Another fact is that only about 6% would judge their all-round English as excellent. With 65-85% occupying the middle ground, marking their English as average-good.

**Q9. Do you feel you (or any other member of your family) have experienced each of the following while living in Nottingham?**



Trauma caused by racism scored very low. People tend to perceive locals as being nice and polite. The biggest problem for newcomers is the language barrier, over 46% experience it sometimes, while 10% often do so. Next is the cultural barrier. This is experienced less frequently than the language barrier, but a significant number of people still cite it as being an obstacle. This could be due to a lack of clear signs what local customs expect of people. Isolation was declared by 40% to happen rarely or sometimes. However, it is more of a problem for the people who are hard to access.

**Q10. Which of the following describe your needs or those of your family? (Tick as many boxes as apply)**



This question was the main reason that the survey was conducted. The two most frequently given answers are the English language and Employment. This order is most likely to be accurate if people questioned are established in the UK to a degree. Newcomers see employment as being the most important. Romanians and Bulgarians fall into this category. Access to healthcare is third, indicating that people care about their well-being and that most likely the countries they came from have a different type of care system. In Eastern Europe it is still common to have a direct/easier link to specialists. In the UK everything goes through your GP which may be slower. Places 4-6 are occupied by academic study opportunities, future training and training facilities indicating that people are actively interested in self-development, whether mental or physical. Meeting people from the same background – 20%, from the host community is 15%.

### 13. DISCUSSION

Regardless of the method used to gather data, the English language and Employment were the two areas which were considered by Eastern Europeans as being the most important. When talking to people they constantly state that mastering the language is or was the problem. Often this would be related to work. In both interviews it is expressed clearly. Ioan says that even when speaking a reasonable standard of English he had a hard time learning about life in the UK, implying that without this limited ability the problem could be even more restrictive. Mr Andrasz wishes he could speak English well enough to express himself and take care of his problems himself. When they both talk about their community they are glad that the Romanian community either speaks English or they recognise the need to overcome this barrier.

This is supported by the survey results, when people consider their primary needs as learning or improving English in 68% of cases and employment in over 55%. The language barrier is considered the most stressful factor with 46% of respondents experiencing it sometimes and 10% often. Work becomes the primary, often the only focus for newcomers. This is made clear in the work studies conducted in a project lead by the Community Relations Team from Nottingham City Council, in partnership with Nottingham Trent University. According to these studies employment is a primary concern of the Romanian Roma community.

There is a pattern as to where people choose to live across Nottingham. Sneinton and Hyson Green are often the areas where newcomers look for accommodation because of property availability and price. Another factor might be the fact that their community is already settling there. This is expressed both in interviews and when talking to people. Smaller communities like Romanians tend to have a wider spread across the city, whilst larger populations, for example Poles or Polish Roma tend to be more concentrated. When talking to Minerva Hartley and Diana Bagci it became clear that the community most restricted by the language barrier is the Romanian Roma. Other major populations have advisers or centers – Poles at SPS, Czechs at the St Ann's Advice Centre. It would be beneficial to have a professional speaking Romanian employed as a translator and interpreter by an advice centre in an area of high Romanian Roma population, like Hyson Green or Leen Valley. This need was expressed by the Romanian Roma. On the other hand Mr Andrasz perceives them as the group that would most like to go back to Romania. Romanians tend to speak decent English and have a higher educational standard according to Ioan.

The Roma community seems to be the one that organisations working in Nottingham focus upon and a lot of effort is put into working for and with the Roma community. However, this is not an easy task because of the nature, history, customs and diversity among the Roma community. There are many successful aspects to this work, like English classes and events for the community or diversity training for local organisations. This is a positive beginning but the journey has only just begun.

There aren't many EE groups established in Nottingham. There is a couple of post WWII Polish and Ukrainian social clubs, churches and the SPS. But people use other facilities like the Forest Recreation Ground to play football or have a day out, the Hyson Green Youth Centre, children's playgrounds, the Greenway Centre football pitch and music courses for young people. Some people attend activities at local libraries like the Central Library or the Meadows Library. However, there is one positive development, the creation of a Romanian charity organisation, the Romanian Society East Midlands, established with help from Minerva Hartley.

There is a positive and unexpected outcome to the survey, probably determined by the more established populations. They position their physical and mental health needs high on the scale with 34% wanting better access to healthcare and 31% looking for opportunities to study, 24% expressing interest in further training and 19% in childrens education. Also 24% are interested in access to sports facilities, either for their children or themselves. This is an indication that, over time, wellbeing and a better life becomes more important once people have secured employment and developed their English language skills.

Two recommendations stem from this report:

- More resources should be allocated to English language provision for the people already settled here; the inability to speak, write and understand English is the number one bar to people finding employment, making a greater contribution to and having a better understanding of life in the UK, leading on to the development of a greater degree of cohesion with the wider community.
- To have a Romanian speaking adviser employed in the city, ideally situated in the Berridge Ward as this is where the largest population of Romanian Roma are located.

## 14. CONCLUSIONS

Eastern Europeans living in Nottingham and throughout the UK have two main needs. Firstly, employment is the main pull factor bringing people to this country. The process of getting a job is not as straightforward as some may have expected which leads to financial hardships. Secondly, knowing the language is even more important. It is the means to acquire a job and achieve a better standard of living, enjoy life here and provide for their family. Next in importance are wellbeing related needs including education, gaining new skills, studying and access to healthcare. Those who are willing to learn the language should have easy access to English classes. Migrants contribute to the economy with their skills and dedication.

This research was limited by several factors. The people most in need of assistance often live their lives separated from the host society, depressed and unable to speak English. It is next to impossible to talk with them. Also the EEOW could not speak all the EE languages so communication was often impaired by this fact. Thanks to the assistance of others, surveys were translated to Czech-Slovak and Romanian, which proved to be of great assistance when people couldn't answer questions in English.

The subject of the study is diverse and complex. As a next step it would be beneficial to find a way for everyone to get to know and understand English culture, in conjunction with their own culture. It is important to try to bring people together, develop mutual understanding so skills, experiences, values and ambitions can be shared then synergised for the benefit of everyone.

## APPENDIX NUMBER 1: LIST OF SPS SERVICE PROVISION

### SPS service provision consists of:

English language courses on Monday evenings.

Every Tuesday evening a Polish/English Language Cafe is held at SPS offices.

1-2-1 information/signposting sessions – our support includes:

- completing and understanding official forms and documents,
- registering with schools and GPs
- support in cases of discrimination or hate crime,
- translating letters from schools,
- helping with bills, council tax,

There is a large demand for these sessions, delivered 4 days per week, therefore we employed a second advisor. Last year we delivered approx. 1850 sessions.

Publication of “East Midlands po Polsku” (The East Midlands in Polish), a free monthly Polish newspaper, containing information about local life and events. We inform our readership about issues relevant to the Polish community across the East Midlands. Our readership exceeds 15 000. We have published EMpP since 2007.

Administration of [www.empp.co.uk](http://www.empp.co.uk). Our website receives 50,000 hits a year.

Facebook – EmpP Facebook profile is followed by more than 2,000 people.

SPS recruits volunteers and offers a number of volunteering opportunities.

Organising meetings, social gatherings and events like workshops, presentations, developing a sense of a community and working towards community cohesion, which have helped the newcomers develop a better understanding of the host society as well as nourishing friendships amongst the new arrivals and a more positive attitude towards the society in which they now live.

In August 2009 SPS organised FestiWal 2009 – A Community Festival With A Polish Flavour, [www.festival.empp.co.uk](http://www.festival.empp.co.uk), this was the first free festival celebrating Polish and other cultures in Nottingham. 3000 plus people came to enjoy our event, celebrating diverse Nottingham.

In 2011 SPS organised The Polish Art Show and a wider Festival of Polish Culture. It was the first exhibition in Nottingham reflecting the complex cultural presence of Polish migrants who arrived in the UK post World War II.

In 2013-14, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, SPS worked on the Polish Heritage in the East Midlands project which aimed to gather the memories of Polish people who have settled in the UK. In April/May 2014 we organised Our History – Our Story exhibition in the Central Library in Nottingham which was attended by approx. 1500 people.

In 2014 SPS ran an Eastern European outreach project that aimed to work with all the Eastern European communities living in Nottingham.

### Contact:

The Signpost to Polish Success (SPS), Tennyson, Unit B, Forest Road West, Nottingham NG7 4EP

Email: [info.sps@empp.co.uk](mailto:info.sps@empp.co.uk)

Website: [www.empp.co.uk](http://www.empp.co.uk)

Facebook: East Midlands po Polsku

## APPENDIX NUMBER 2: INTERVIEW SCRIPT

## Interview script

1. Can you introduce yourself?
2. Tell me about your country and its situation.
3. What do you like about living in the UK?
4. What don't you like?
5. How has your life changed since you came to the UK?
6. What do you think about migrants in the UK?
7. What do you think/feel about the British government's current policy towards migrants?
8. Questions about the community living in Nottingham:
  - a) How many people from a similar background are living here?
  - b) Their needs and challenges
  - c) English language ability levels
  - d) Are there groups/societies/congregations established here?
  - e) What do they do/ what kind of occupations do they have?
  - f) Where do they live?
  - g) Do people want to stay or return to their country of origin?
  - h) Do children maintain or lose their language?
  - i) Do people participate in local activities?
  - j) Do people access the media in their own language; in English, or both?
  - k) Financial situation - incomes
9. Additional comments.

## APPENDIX NUMBER 3: INTERVIEW WITH ADAM ANDRASZ, ROMA LEADER

**Introduction**

Adam Andrasz – has worked for the Roma Association for 50 years. He has been the president of the Roma Association in Malopolska Voivodeship, Poland since 1985. He is the director of the Roma Community Centre in Tarnow, Poland (which he established), he founded the Roma Culture Centre in Tarnow, he is a member of the Roma Council (the highest Roma council in Poland) and is its co-founder. He has worked: as the Roma Rights Spokesman in Europe – Roma National Congress, he was the Roma expert in the European Consilium in Strasbourg; in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration in Poland. He founded many programs for the Roma community in Poland and Europe. Mr Andrasz was active in representing the Roma population and other members of his local community. He stood for election to parliament – won and resigned because he didn't like the way it worked. Then he ran for the position of a local councillor. He is a musician, composer, choreographer, and vocalist. Mr Andrasz was a student at the Specialist Navy School in Ustka, Poland, where he proudly represented his unit and garrison. His parents were dedicated people who liked to help others. His father was an original founder of the Roma Association in Poland. His brother is a colonel in the army and a pulmonology (lungs) specialist. Most of his family belongs to the Roma intellectual elite. He said that his son is a university lecturer. His daughter is a teacher and art school graduate.

**Country of origin**

Poland – he was born in Walbrzych. In 1963 caravan travelling was banned and the Roma community had to settle down. They couldn't freely move anymore. „My family stayed in Tarnow” he says. People, that lived there were positively surprised about the fact that the Roma wanted to work, were interested in education and wanted to establish an association that would protect their interests. The Tarnow Roma population wanted to integrate with the wider community and play an active part in the local cultural and political life. The Krakowskie Voivodeship authorities decided to give them a chance. They mainly worked in their coppersmith workshop making items for use in the food industry.” It paid well” he says. The Roma were given accommodation for a period of time. The authorities wanted to see how they would adapt and whether the community would accept them. Everyone was attending school: elders, parents and children. There were evening classes for adults. “Other Roma treated us like outcasts; they looked upon us as being hired hands. Unfortunately, it was like that for a long time because in other places people were not as friendly towards the Roma community. There was also a group of musicians who represented the Roma in national and international gatherings. Later we were given new houses because the people could see the positive values of our community. It was shown in the media. During communism they felt special to be present there” he states. In 1975 it was possible to go to some other communist countries with just a stamp in your ID. People would go to Eastern Germany and then move to the West. The process of migration continues. It increased after Poland joined the EU.

**Things that he likes about the UK**

Mr Andrasz came to England in 2010 to compile a report about Roma living in the UK. While he was travelling to interview Roma and officials he began to think about his own situation and decided to stay in Nottingham. He rarely heard negative comments about life here in the UK. Even though there are language barriers, no awareness of British law or the ability to use the services available. Roma have the comfort of always having someone to count on, for instance: social workers, doctors and teachers. Conditions are good, nothing to complain about. “Why wander around?” he asks. Most people decided to stay here because they have a stable situation.

Mr Andrasz says that he was unable to see out of his left eye because of diabetes. “In Poland people said that it cannot be cured unless done privately” he says. This was a common practice regardless of background. When he came to Nottingham he had surgery. Thanks to doctors from Nottingham he is able to see with both eyes now.

“Here it is positive that you can see all the races, smiling people and that in offices there are working people from diverse backgrounds and when there is a big event for people everyone enjoys himself.” he adds.

### **Things that he doesn't like**

His dislikes are: the weather, the greyness, architecture and dirty streets.

### **How his life changed since he came to the UK and what he hopes to happen in the future**

“I am learning all the time, this English mentality” he says. Mr Andrasz seems to be positively dreaming about a better future rather than talking about what has happened. He wants to learn English so he can express himself or get things done and write a book. Mr Andrasz would be delighted if an international Roma conference could take place in Nottingham. He is waiting for a new council house, because he can't walk up stairs, in which he could have his own room to work. He wants to have a place where all the Roma could gather, learn English – especially the older ones and also to help and promote the young. He wants a place where people can meet each other – a second home.

### **What he thinks about migrants in the UK**

Everyone who goes to another country often leaves his family and his “I” just to gain a better life. Some of them live in hard, tragic situations. There is something that should unite all migrants. Everyone is treated the same and most start from scratch. That's what unites the people. It is obvious when you observe workplaces where people from different countries integrate with each other. It is very positive. Everyone who comes here to work has to deal with range of problems. He says that “I always sincerely wish everyone success and good luck so they can achieve what they want”.

### **What he thinks about the Government's policies towards migrants**

“The current situation for migrants in the UK is not good. Cameron and parties supporting him hold political positions towards migrants that are offensive” Mr Andrasz says. He is afraid that this situation may get worse if the UK leaves the EU. It may lose access to international agreements and resources. He would like to discuss this at an international forum. He wants to be treated like everyone is, not as a migrant. The laws of a country should be respected by agencies and their employees regardless of background.

### **The following sub points describe the Roma community in Nottingham in the opinion of Mr Andrasz**

#### **How many Roma are living here?**

Some Roma have been living here for 2-3 generations and are still speaking the language from their country of origin. In Nottingham there is approximately a thousand Polish Roma, from the Czech Republic and Slovakia 700-800. They came here because of the bad situation in their countries of origin. “Romanian Roma move here because of the high income levels in the UK. They build houses in Romania. The Romanian Roma are perceived badly everywhere they go. People from the Czech Republic and Slovakia have had really tough lives” he states. Mr Andrasz went there with Polish television, TV Polonia to document the situation. “In every Roma group there is a different dialect. The two that are the most different are those spoken by Slovakian and Romanian Roma; they are often unable to understand one another” he adds.

#### **Their needs and challenges**

They don't set the bar high in this country or environment. It is important to them that they have equal rights, not suffer discrimination. Conditions and options are open; criticism can be directed towards individual teachers who create an atmosphere in which pupils discriminate against Roma children. Mr Andrasz thinks that everyone has to be informed about the customs of others, their behaviour, culture; they ought to learn about others, this encourages integration. "If children are not being taught this then they receive inaccurate information from parents and the failure of teacher's to counter this causes deeper misunderstanding. There should be education in this regard at various levels.

### **English language ability levels**

He says that "elders should know basic English but most of them don't speak the language because it's hard for them to learn, so they rely on their children to help or use people or bureaus that charge for their services". If there was a permanent place – a Roma centre where people could help each other and maybe provide employment for some of them. Education of the older generation – they are more likely to come to their own centre because they wouldn't be ashamed. Everyone feels different in the presence of people from other backgrounds. He wants to organise English classes, he wanted to organise help for Roma children. At home children speak Roma most of the time. They usually speak English at school. Children often have daily chores to do and parents forget that they need time to learn. Roma children have to respect their elders, help them, they can't cuss or swear.

### **Groups, congregations and societies he is aware of**

All events or situations requiring joint decisions lead to people congregating in one place. There are large groups around the church, like in Sneinton, or gathering in someone's house. The basis lies in the faith. There is a lack of a place where everyone can gather.

### **What do they do/what kind of occupations do they have?**

They do different jobs. Some work, others are retired or on sick leave. They are most likely to do physical work. It is important to Mr Andrasz that young people go on to higher education. There are many musicians, artists that can be used. They just need a place in which to learn and practice. People are keen to work. The kind of work that is culturally acceptable depends on caste. Some castes can do any job while others have certain kinds of work forbidden to them.

### **Where do they live in the city?**

Hyson Green – mostly Polish Roma living here, less Czech or Slovak

Sneinton – more Slovak Roma

There are instances of Roma moving out of the city or to other areas.

They live mainly in Hyson Green and Sneinton because it is easier to find a house there.

### **Do people want to stay or return to their country of origin?**

Most Roma want to stay here, Romanian Roma are an exception – they want to go back because they think about building houses back home.

### **Do children maintain or lose their language?**

"Roma children were always bilingual. Some may even speak as many as 5 languages" he says.

### **Do people participate in local activities?**

They don't have the opportunity to participate in wider community activities, they are willing to but there has to be someone who could coordinate that.

**Do people access the media in their own language, in English or both?**

There are Roma webpages, they get information from the country of origin and the younger generation has no problem following the English media. Most Roma watch Czech, Polish or Romanian television.

**Financial situation – incomes**

Financially speaking everyone is more or less the same it depends how many children they have. Some save money, others spend. In Poland people saved while here it is changing. "People here care more about living a normal life" he says.

## APPENDIX NUMBER 4: INTERVIEW WITH IOAN PANAITI, ROMANIAN BUSINESSMAN

### Introduction

Ioan Panaite – 38 years old, from the west part of Romania. Self-employed, he owns a small construction company. He came to the UK 6 years ago. He has two children, they are 10 and 8 years old. “The first year was the hardest” he says, because even though he spoke English before he came here he still found it hard to understand how everything worked including: rent, work, meeting new people. Mr Panaite said that “if someone has a family it is best to come here alone first, then, once someone is confident, bring your family”. There are too many things for everyone at the beginning. He has seen people struggling when the whole family arrived together.

### Country of origin and its situation

Mr Panaite was born in a city in Romania. Regarding people moving over to the UK he says that “It might be harder to live in a city for those born in a village”. Often they move to a city which gives them more opportunity to find employment. When he came here there was an economic recession in Romania and that was the reason why he went abroad. “Romania is a beautiful country, we still miss the mountains” he says nostalgically. He wants to clarify that there is a difference between Roma and Romanians. Roma are often associated with the country of origin, Romania, but it is not true. “Some Romanians got to the point that they are afraid to say that they are from Romania because that is associated with Roma/Gypsy” he adds. The media contributed a lot to this confusion. If you want to know about true Romania there is a documentary called “Discover Romania – Wild Carpathia”. Our health minister Raed Arafat was Palestinian. Current president Klaus Iohannis is German. This shows that Romania is a tolerant country. Romania has a long tradition of people from different nationalities living together. A great example would be Transylvania which has Hungarians, Germans, Serbians and Ukrainians living there for a long time.

### Things that he likes about the UK

When asked what he likes about living in the UK, he replies “Economic considerations are the only thing”. After some time he says “the culture and diversity is interesting but people are still divided. It’s green and this is good compared to some parts of Spain where it is very dry, almost moonlike. People here are quite polite and tolerant. There is a freedom of education for children. In some countries you have to follow the public education system, like in Germany or Sweden. This freedom helps you to personalize the education for your children. “

### Things that he doesn’t like

Firstly, “here you don’t have a proper summer”. Accommodation is too expensive in some parts of England. “In Romania LGBT promotion is not embraced as much as it is in England.” He feels that here there are too many broken families, too many single and/or young mums. “It is different in Romania” he says. “People are encouraged to come to the UK to get benefits. In Romania there are benefits but you only receive them when you have really serious problems. When people sit at home while they are able to work it is dangerous. People don’t express their true feelings. Political correctness exists just because the law says so but in reality you feel that you are not welcome. You get to know that people really feel differently – not all, but most of them. You just feel like cheap labour. There is no real desire to give you opportunities. Because of those attitudes your possible growth has limits. Probably the only choice is to grow within your own community. Life can be stressful here and families can suffer and be destroyed” he states.

### How his life has changed since he came to the UK

“All the challenges you face help you to have more courage to improve your skills, to be successful” he states. Personally, it was very important to him to be very independent and know how to survive in these new

circumstances. After six months his family came here. For his children it is different, they are able to develop an understanding of the cultural and racial diversity. In terms of his trade – painting and decorating he says that people expect different things from him here than they did in Romania so he has had to adapt to local needs and trends.

### **What he thinks about migrants in the UK**

Businesses and the government need migrants to cover gaps in the labour market, where local people don't want to do certain jobs, so the migrants are welcomed by business. But locals do not welcome them because they feel threatened in terms of economic and work safety. Healthy migrants should not be allowed to receive benefits because it will fuel conflict with local people who may feel that migrants came here just to get benefits and not to work. There is segregation because of the language barrier. Some programmes to help migrants to speak English would help to integrate people into the wider community. Everyone should have the level of English necessary for the job they want to do.

### **What he thinks about the Government's migrants policies**

He thinks that the government is moving in the right direction by cutting benefits. He would suggest being tougher and what is saved by this approach should be used to improve peoples' skills. "Probably the government should have more influence over the media and correct many views, to provide balanced information". Like when a bad example representing 1% of the community is presented as being representative of the whole. "They should have meetings with community representatives. They should react to what the media say" – he adds.

### **Questions about the community in Nottingham that Ioan belongs to:**

There is a big Roma community which shouldn't be confused with the Romanian community. I mentioned those differences before. Romanians are usually employed, work hard and many of them are buying properties here so they don't send much money back home. Many of them feel OK living here, they are established.

#### **How many people are there?**

He finds it difficult to be accurate, probably hundreds, the Roma community is more visible and this has created confusion

#### **Their needs and challenges**

"Usually, Romanians have a better level of education. They manage in terms of English" he states. We have a Romanian Orthodox Church. The young generation have lost the need to go to church but people want to go there to meet other Romanians, to speak with others in Romanian. In terms of jobs it is easier to find a job in Romania. The English government should help the Roma to gain skills. They should be encouraged to grow. People shouldn't be given the opportunity to get free money. They should at least do community work.

#### **English level**

The younger generation speaks better English because they learn it at school or from the media. There should be English classes and courses available for people who don't speak the language. Many Romanians are already established in Italy or Spain where the language is closer to their own. More recently they go to Germany because many people have relatives and friends there (mainly from Transylvania).

#### **Groups, congregations and societies he is aware of**

Greek Orthodox Church – the main religion in Romania  
 Pentecostal Churches – mainly Roma people attending  
 Small Adventist Romanian group  
 Romanian shops in Hyson Green

#### **What do they do/what kind of occupations do they have?**

Studies – young people are coming to study

Work – many nurses and physicians, builders, IT specialists coming from Romania, people also work in warehouses too

**Where do they live in the city?**

Hyson Green – Romanian Roma

Beeston, Bulwell, Top Valley – Romanians

Romanians are spread across the city because they want to integrate and become a part of the local society. Romanian Roma are more compacted. When people stay in compact communities they don't want to integrate, it is a clear sign of that

**Do people want to stay or go back?**

Many Romanians want to stay. This is indicated by people applying for mortgages. Some people are staying and watching the situation in Romania. They want to see improvements in their own country. Not too many definitely want to go back

**Is their language still practised by their children?**

We don't have Romanian classes, we learn Romanian at home. Children learn English at school but they speak Romanian at home to preserve the language

**What is the level of involvement in local activities?**

The number of Romanians is low in Nottingham. The biggest community is in London. The small numbers living here and their focus on work leads to a restricted level of involvement. However, people like to travel to and visit nice places but they tend not to get involved in anything else

**Do they follow the media in their own language, in English or both?**

It depends on their educational level. Most people follow both the English and Romanian media. Those who struggle with English follow just the Romanian

**Financial situation - incomes**

There are good wages paid in the IT and health sector

The Roma rely on benefits, that's their income.

£ 2000 per month is a decent income for a family. Because life is so expensive here and if you don't want to live on benefits, both the husband and his wife will have to work

**Additional comments**

“The British government could try to encourage some TV channels to present programmes about the countries that migrants come from, filmed and presented from a migrants perspective.” He thinks that this could really facilitate understanding. Communication is the key. The voice of the community. They should use people from the community, people who know, community representatives.

## APPENDIX NUMBER 5: LIST OF ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED

- Roma Awareness Project, actively represented by members of the local authorities and organisations such as NDOs, Partnership Council, Nottingham Law Centre, Hyson Green Youth Club
- Framework, Groundwork, Partnership Council
- Fab Fridays in Sneinton's Hermitage Community Centre lead by local Community Organisers David Jones and Simmone Miller
- Community Cohesion Officer Minerva Hartley
- Steven Caswell working for `AWAAZ, Asian Mental Health Resource Unit
- Farouk Aslam, a Community Organiser in Hyson Green
- Abdoulie Jah, a local resident organising the Hyson Green Cultural Festival
- Several Eastern European music groups, shops and restaurants including: Lithuanian-Latvian-Polish Victoria Eastern European Food shop owned by a Lithuanian certified interpreter; Ania Polish restaurant; Knife and Fork Bistro; shops in Hyson Green and Sneinton
- Ewa Van De Schootbrugge, a Lithuanian working for Metropolitan Housing
- Guy Jones working for Meadows Partnership Trust
- Mojatu –Frank and Maciek
- Chris Kozlowski, a Polish poet
- Stuart Brown working for Refugee Forum
- Language Cafe/Conversation Groups which are a part of Nottingham Libraries
- All embassies of researched countries present in the UK
- All Neighbourhood Development Officers (NDOs) working in Nottingham including Gursharan Nijran, Pauline Dorrey, Greg Foister, Beth Hanna
- Lenton Abbey Residents Association
- Wollaton Park Residents Association
- Sneinton NPS Richard Hunter
- Roma pastor Thomas in Sneinton
- Mangospice, an Interpreting and Translating agency
- Ask Libraries, who provide information
- Central Localities
- Adam Andrasz, a Polish Roma leader
- Ioan Panaite, a Romanian pastor
- Moon Chester, the SEND project manager working with Czech Roma
- Job Centre regarding recent flow of migrants
- Renata Seredyńska Abou-Eid a PhD student at the University of Nottingham who is conducting research about Polish migrants (including Roma) in the UK
- Local residents while door knocking in various areas of Nottingham such as Sneinton, Hyson Green, Lenton Abbey
- Mahtab, a photographer documenting migrants in Hyson Green, including Eastern Europeans

## APPENDIX NUMBER 6:

**EASTERN EUROPEAN MIGRANT SURVEY**

1. What is your postcode? (it is optional)

2. Gender (please tick) male

female

3. Age group (please tick):

16 – 30

31 – 45

46 – 60

over 60

4. Which country are you from?

5. What is your first (main) language?

6. Who do you live with? (please tick as many boxes as apply)

Partner/spouse

Children

Living with friends

I live on my own

Other family member(s)  please specify \_\_\_\_\_

7. How long have you lived .....

(a) in Nottingham?

Less than 1 year

Between 1 and 5 years

More than 5 years

(b) in the UK?

Less than 1 year

Between 1 and 5 years

More than 5 years

8. Which of the following best describes your situation (tick as many boxes as apply)?

Working full- time (paid)

Working part-time (paid)

Volunteering (unpaid)

Self-employed

Not working at present

Studying full-time

Studying part-time

9. Which of the following best describes your SPOKEN English?

Poor                       Average                       Good                       Excellent

10. Which of the following best describes your WRITTEN English?

Poor                       Average                       Good                       Excellent

11. Do you feel you (or any other member of your family) have experienced any of the following whilst living in Nottingham?

	Not at all	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Isolation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trauma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Language barrier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural barrier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Racism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Which of the following describe your needs or those of your family? (tick as many boxes as apply)

- Academic study opportunities       Access to healthcare
- Careers guidance       Childcare       Counselling
- Debt management       Education (children)       Emotional/psychological
- Employment       English language classes       Further training opportunities
- Housing advice       Interpreting and translation       Legal advice
- Meet people from 'host' community       Meet people with similar cultural background
- Mentoring       Sports facilities       Volunteering       Welfare advice

Thank you for completing our survey! If you have any comments please leave them below.

Eastern European Outreach Worker Damian Law started work on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 on a part-time basis contracted for one year. It was decided that the role of EEOW would be to assist and research Central and Eastern European migrants that came to the UK from the A10 countries listed in the Introduction to Countries Researched, an exception being Polish migrants, because The Signpost to Polish Success works mostly with the Polish migrants and their needs are already being assessed. It was a very challenging role as a similar post has not existed before. However, he was provided with training, support, guidance, supervision and many opportunities to discuss the research by his manager Beata Polanowska, colleagues, friends and other associates. He quickly realized that other organisations in Nottingham dedicated most of their time, effort and money to the Roma community and this became the main focus of the EEOW's work and research. Another group that was of interest to the EEOW were the Romanians, the most recent arrivals.