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COMPAS Research Project:
“Changing status, changing lives? The socio-economic impact of
EU accession on low wage migrant labour in the UK”

AU PAIRS’ IN-DEPTH RE-INTERVIEW

(November 2004)

**This interview is confidential.
No details of individual respondents will be revealed.**

Please confirm the following information that you provided in your last interview (before May 1st):

(EXPLAIN TO INTERVIEWEE THAT THIS IS NECESSARY FOR COMPAS RESEARCHERS TO MATCH AND COMPARE THE ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WITH THOSE GIVEN BY THE INTERVIEWEE BEFORE MAY 1st)

Password: _____ confirmed

E-mail address: _____ confirmed
updated _____

Phone-number: _____ confirmed
updated _____

Name of wave1 interviewer: _____ confirmed

Date of wave1 interview: _____ confirmed

1 BACKGROUND

1. What is your citizenship?

- 1 Czech Republic
- 2 Lithuania
- 3 Poland
- 4 Slovakia
- 5 Bulgaria
- 6 Ukraine

2. What is your date of birth?

_____ dd/mm/yy

3. Gender

- 1 male
- 2 female

4. Have you obtained any further qualification (academic, vocational or language) since we last interviewed you?

- 1 yes (CONTINUE WITH XP5.)
- 2 no (SKIP TO XP6.)

5. Please specify the qualifications you obtained since we last interviewed you:

6. Have you had any of your existing qualifications recognised in the UK since May 1st?

- 1 yes (CONTINUE WITH XP7.)
- 2 no (SKIP TO XP8.)

7. Please specify the qualifications you have had recognised since May 1st:

8. Please describe any changes to your ability to speak, read and write English since we last interviewed you:

a. Speaking		b. Reading		c. Writing	
1	improved	1	improved	1	improved
2	stayed the same	2	stayed the same	2	stayed the same
3	deteriorated	3	deteriorated	3	deteriorated
4	don't know, cannot say	4	don't know, cannot say	4	don't know, cannot say

9. For how many years in total have you worked in your home country?
(WRITE "O" FOR "NEVER")

_____years and _____months

10. When did you first enter the UK as an au pair?

Date (month and year): _____

EMPLOYMENT

2. Have you changed host family since we last interviewed you? Are you still an au pair?

Objective:

a) For A8 nationals: to explore whether change in immigration status enabled migrants to change jobs – or resulted in employers requiring A8 nationals to leave;

b) For non-A8 nationals: to explore the degree of freedom they experience changing host families. Has this been affected by enlargement?

- Why did you change host family/jobs – was it your decision, or your host family's/agency's?
- Why have you stayed as an au pair, is it because you want to or because you feel you have no option?
- Do you think that EU enlargement has affected how easy it is for you to find work?
- What would your perfect job in the UK be? Have you, or will you ever find that job?

2a. FOR THOSE WHO ARE NO LONGER AU PAIRS

What is the difference between being an au pair and being an employee or a worker? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each and why?

**3. Can you tell me about the jobs/families you've had since May 1st?
How do you find new jobs/families?**

Objective: to continue their employment history with a particular focus on access to work

- changes of occupation, sector and employer
- why did they change?
- how did they find new employment? Personal networks? Agencies? Job Centres etc

4. Can you describe the work you are doing now?

NB: this question was asked in the previous interview. We are interested in change – even if they are working in the same job, have employment conditions changed since May 1st?

For those who are no longer au pairs

- How many jobs (pros and cons of this)
- type of work performed
- hours, days, shifts, variations wages
- supervision style (incl. nationality)
- do they have a written contract?
- do they work direct for an employer, or for an employment agency/labour provider? What are the pros and cons of working for an agency/labour provider?
- Do you enjoy your job(s)? What is good and bad about it/them
-

For those who are still au pairs

- type of jobs done in the house performed
- hours, days, babysittings and money arrangements
- relations with the host family
- casual work (***non au pair prompts may be useful***)
- Do you enjoy your job(s)? What is good and bad about it/them

5. What do you think about registration? (ONLY ASK THIS OF A8 NATIONALS)

Objective: to understand what migrants' experiences, knowledge and opinions on the registration scheme are.

- Have you registered? If not, why not?
- If you have registered, could you tell us about your experience of registration, how long it took, was there any reluctance on the part of employers? Did you feel reluctant or worried?
- What do you think the purpose of registration is?
- Do you think it's a good idea?

6. Who holds your passport?

- If it is anyone other than you, who holds it and how did this happen?
- Has it ever been a problem in a previous job?
- Have you ever tried to get a passport back?
- do you feel this is a problem for you?

7. Has there been any change since May 1st in your pocket money or how you are paid?

Objective:

a) *For A8 nationals to monitor changes in wages and means of payment and see if these are related to Enlargement*

b) *For non-A8 nationals, to monitor the impact of Enlargement and the new regulations on illegal working*

For those who are no longer au pairs:

- Are you paid a piece rate?
- Are there deductions from your salary for travel, recruitment costs, loans, payment to employment agents, uniforms, accommodation etc? Was it clear from the outset that these deductions would be made? Do you know how much they are worth?
- Are you paid overtime? How many hours do you have to work before you get paid overtime? What rates of overtime are you paid?
- What non-wage benefits do you get that you know of e.g. accommodation, food, bills, insurance, health-care
- Do you feel you get a fair deal?
- Do you think that any of the changes you have experienced since May 1st are a result of Enlargement?

For those who are still au pairs:

- Has there been any change in the amount you receive since May 1st?
- Are you paid as an au pair or as a mother's help?
- Does your family pay your national insurance contributions?
- Are you paid overtime?
- What non-wage benefits do you get that you know of e.g. accommodation, food, bills, insurance, health-care

8. Have you noticed any changes in immigration/employment practice or law, other than EU enlargement that you think will have a direct effect on you?

- Regulations on illegal working?
- Gangmaster Act?
- Sector based scheme/SAWS reductions in numbers?
- Policing of workplaces
- Checking of documents
- Other

9. Have you moved since we last interviewed you? Why? Can you describe your current accommodation?

- how is it rented and paid for? Has this changed since May 1st?
- How many people in how many bedrooms, kitchen and toilets
- Does it have heating and hot water?
- How far is it from your current place of employment and how do you travel to work?
- Do you share with fellow nationals?
- Is it in a neighbourhood that you like (services, people)
- How did you find your accommodation?
- Are you happy with your accommodation?

10. Do you feel more or less “at home” in the UK since we last interviewed you? How much of this is as a result of time spent in the UK, and how much other factors, including immigration status?

Objective:

a) for A8 nationals to explore other impacts of Enlargement

b) for Non-A8 nationals to explore impacts of Enlargement and regulations on illegal working

- Would you like to stay permanently?
- Have you ever experienced discrimination? Could you tell us about this?
- Are you a member of any institutions or associations?
- Who do you relax with? Do you have British friends?
- Do you go on any employer provided cultural activities or (shopping) trips?
- Use of local leisure facilities?
- Public service
 - Health
 - Education
 - English classes
 - Police

11. Have you encouraged any family or friends to come to the UK?

Objective: to understand growth of migrant and employer networks.

- Why did you/didn't you encourage them?
- Has your host family or their friends asked you to find more au pairs from your country?
- What sort of information do you think it would be useful for them to have when they first arrive? Or for yourself now? And how would such information best be disseminated?
- If you have encouraged them, how would/have you helped them adjust to life in the UK? Finding work? Finding housing? Other?

12. What changes to your life has accession brought? Has it resulted in the benefits or disadvantages that you anticipated?

13 What do you think of Britain as a place to live? What would make you feel more at home?