

## Poland labor market open to Russians

*by UPI*

WARSAW, Poland -- Poland has opened its labor market to migrant workers from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine to make up for thousands of Poles that left to work in Western Europe. Deputy Labor Minister Kazimierz Kuberski said workers from the three eastern European countries do not pose any threat as Poland is experiencing a shortage of at least several hundred thousand workers in a number of economic sectors, Polish Radio reported Friday. Poland joined the European Union in 2004. Kuberski said the labor shortage was created after many Poles, mainly highly skilled, left the country in search for better pay in other EU countries such as Britain and Ireland. Poland also is seeking workers for big construction projects to be completed for the European Soccer Championships to be jointly hosted by Poland and Ukraine in 2012, he said. Under regulations worked out by the Labor Ministry, citizens of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine may obtain three-month work permit visas provided they have contracts with Polish employers.

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