



# A Pole in the UK

**Roman Mazur.** Not only specialist in crisis management and new markets development in financial sector but also "Best in Corporate Social Responsibility" in BPC 2009 Annual Awards.

## ■What was your motivation for moving to the UK?

One of main reasons was achieving of youthful dreams. An important challenge for the mankind, in my opinion, ought to be teaching people how to achieve, step by step, their reasonable dreams. I am repeating it, because I was born into a common Polish family in a quite small town. So, it took me a bit of time to create fundamentals of change of my "genetic future". Wasn't easy to study Philosophy and MBA as well as to gather professional experience in consulting. But I did it with my own success. Since three years I have been living and working in London - the centre of almost everything today.

## ■What are the main cultural differences you've experienced since moving abroad?

I do always live and work as a citizen of the world, so all cultural differences do I take for granted and find them as the good killers of everyday monotony. Can you, for instance, imagine how embarrassed I was while thinking over the choice during shopping in Regent Street and some obliging assistant asks me for the first time: "Are You all right?" I did not know it's standard enquiry in

UK's shops and caught it without context. Hearing my words starting with "WHY", he was even more embarrassed than me :)

## ■Where's your favourite spot in the UK?

London is my favourite spot in the UK. I am amateur photographer so I try to keep discovering this city appearances each weekend. Some beginning of this never ending story is located in my after-hours private gallery: [www.mazurroman.com/after-hours.html](http://www.mazurroman.com/after-hours.html) - e.g. "Greenford's Autumn" do I like most.

## ■What do you miss most about Poland?

I do remember what I owe to the society of my mother country. But there is nothing I deeply miss about. I paid off my inner debt of honour with MBA thesis on "EuroPolski" virtual telecom-bank... and I spread wings in the UK. On the other hand, I never gave up to keep up to date with Polish reality. Family is in Poland and a few projects are being developed over there. So, I am outside but inside.

## ■What advice would you give to other Poles moving to the UK?

There are individual cases, no universal rules (like in consulting). "Die hard!" is the only one for all. ■

## To be an expat



By Wioletta Rodak-Slabuszezwska, BPC

We live in world in which everything changes dynamically. One day a person can be born in one city, the next day the same person can be educated in another place, and on the third day he or she can work somewhere - completely new place. And this trend repeats itself over and over again.

Today we take a look at working abroad and living in a new country. The BPC is continuing a series of interviews amongst our members to show what it is like to be a foreigner both in Poland and the UK.