

## **Living in Dublin: the city of unemployment and emigration**

About how the immigrant people live the Irish economic crisis.

Marta Alemany

Pilar left on Thursday from Dublin. The Spanish woman is one of those Spaniards who had come to Ireland to learn the language while the Spanish economic crisis continued. However, she was unlucky working as an aupair. After living with two Irish families, she decided to find a job, but had no luck so she finally went back home. We said goodbye to Piero, an Italian guy from Venice, last Monday. He had been working in an Italian restaurant until the Christmas holidays. But when he went back to Dublin, he found the restaurant had closed and its owner and its salary were gone. Then there are the Irish people... whose situation is not much better.

According to a survey published in the Irish Independent last Wednesday, the number of unemployed people has risen to more than 5,700 people, which means a total of 442.667 unemployed people -the 13.4% of the population-. But this is only one part of the economical crisis: According to another survey published by the Small Firms Association (SFA), an association of small and medium businesses, more than 1.000 jobs were destroyed every week during 2010. There is lots of news talking about the destruction of jobs in different counties which Irish people are denouncing in so many different ways, like the demonstrations which occurred last Tuesday when the trade unions denounced the bad situation from which hundreds of Irish families are suffering. On a local level, job internet sites like Gumtree or Jobs.ie reflect this situation. The reply they send to the possible candidate is a short message: "We will only contact the final candidates due to the amount of people who are interested in this position". For that reason, loads of Irish people are leaving for Australia or New Zealand, according to the government, the situation will not change until 2020.

Mathile, a friend from the South of France has passed the first round of interviews for a job in Touax Rail, in Clonee county. Other foreigners have found jobs in bars or restaurants despite only working one day per week. Mary, a self-employed Irish woman, is receiving more students in her Spanish classes and a hopeful "don't worry, I will get a job for you" is often said between friends. Besides bad news, there are other ones which cheer them up. According to the mentioned survey, the number of unemployed people is the lowest to be registered in the past three years and according to the SFA director,

Avin McNally, in declaration to the Irish Independent, “the unemployment is going to be stable because the small and medium business will be the first ones to absorb all these people”.

Also the international companies are contributing to stabilize the situation: a few days ago, Accenture announced the creation of 300 new jobs over the next three years. PopCap Games said it is going to create 110 new jobs in less than three years and Valeo a further 100 new jobs. The motor, manufacturing and food export companies are receiving benefits too. According to another survey published by the NBC Purchasing Managers’ Index, the exportation of the manufacturing sector has risen spectacularly to 55.8% from 52.2% which they were in.

I arrived in Dublin the first week of September. A few months later, the country collapsed not only in a political crisis but economical as well. Despite that, according to experts, the worst thing to matter nowadays is the disaffection to the Irish politicians. Will the calm arrive with the new Taoiseach or will the Irish Republic continue in the midst of chaos?