

FIVE Poles left in Spain without their IDs.

The regional Job Centre in Torun in the North of Poland has examined work and living conditions of Poles from the region, employed in Spanish fruit and vegetable companies. The situation looks good but we have also found one black sheep-say the Job Centre officers.

The Job Centre examination crew have looked into Huelva (Spanish province) strawberries and berries plantations where Polish workers from the Torun region are employed. They have examined work and living conditions in various agriculture companies: Dittmeyer Agricola y Cia del Marquesado, Alfonseca, Narciso Rodrigues Domingues and Ribera del Tinto.

It has been revealed that the latter tried to force 5 of its Polish employees to work without break. When they decided to quit the job the company kept their IDs and passports. "The case has been examined and solved out but we have decided, together with our Spanish partner Freshuelva –the Association of Spanish Farm Employers, that the cooperation with Ribera del Tinto will not be continued in the coming year. All the other companies have turned out to be ok"- said Ms Anita Boniek from the Torun Job Centre

Dittmeyer Agricola has proved to provide the best working and living conditions. They employ 25 Poles from Torun region. The employees live in camping houses by the Atlantic Ocean. They have 3-6 bed dormitories and swimming pools at their disposal. The transport to the plantation is provided by the employer.

Some of Alfonseca and Narciso Rodrigues Domingues employees have similar living conditions. Others live in pavilions on the strawberries plantations where they work. But even there all the houses have toilets and bathrooms, hot water and electricity.

"If we are to tighten our cooperation we need to check on each other, therefore the examinations and controls are going to be continued", says Boniek.

The Torun Job Centre has sent 600 people to seasonal work in Spain. The last group of 20 people left on the 3rd of May and are due to return AT the end of June.