



NO EXPLOITATION ON PUBLIC MONEY!

In the Copernicus Science Center, some people are forced to work on trash contracts and earn well below the minimum wage. The Center uses the Ekotrade agency, which is famous for not paying its workers on time and paying less than the minimum wage. It has happened that there is not even any information about the wages on the contracts. People doing the exact same work at the exact same place can also have different wages. When the wage is not written in the employees' contract, sometimes they sign another fictitious contract for a lump sum.

Many municipal and state institutions – public administration, ministries, cultural institutions, etc. - try to avoid responsibility for the people working there, hiring them through outside agencies. The working conditions of such people are very precarious, they do not fulfill legal norms and do not even guarantee the minimum wage. In some situations, people working in public institutions earned only 3.5 zloties per hour (80 euro cents) ... and some of them didn't even receive their miserable wages! The idea that public institutions are saving money in this way is an illusion. If they save anything at all, it is a negligible sum because the intermediaries take a high margin, offering the workers nothing in return. We all as a society have to pay for the consequences of such practices because it is not possible to live on the subminimum wage.

The Union of Syndicalists considers the existence of the subminimum wage to be a scandal. It is unacceptable that public institutions use agencies that don't pay people on time or at all. We demand that public institutions hire directly or use only firms that pay at least the minimum wage and use normal work contracts.

NO TO EKOTRADE!

Problems with Ekotrade

The workers from the Ekotrade agency have different problems and irregularities at work. First, it happens that there is not even any information about their wages in the contracts. Workers in the same place can get different rates for exactly the same work.

Sometimes, instead of putting the wages in the contract, they make a fictitious contract for different work (for example for handing out flyers) for a sum of around 230 zloties. It is from this smaller figure that they pay social security.

Ekotrade sometimes also takes out fines from the salaries that have not been agreed to in the contract.

It is notoriously late with payments. If workers resign, sometimes they don't get their last salary.

Despite the fact that the agency doesn't pay very much, it is very demanding. If a worker is ill for over a week, the agency fires them.

DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EVERYONE IN COPERNICUS SCIENCE CENTER!

Union of Syndicalists - International Workers' Association

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