

What was the Pomeranian Provincial Council for Social Dialogue meeting in May this year about?

During the videoconference plenary session of the Pomeranian Provincial Council for Social Dialogue, the most important points of the discussion were: the impact of the coronavirus epidemic on the socio-economic situation of the Pomeranian Voivodeship and information on the functioning of health care in the region during the pandemic.

Information on the situation in the field of education was presented to the Council by Małgorzata Bielang – Pomeranian Education Superintendent. She informed, among other things, that from the day of the resumption of the work of kindergartens after the break related to the epidemic (May 7) to May 18, less than half of the self-government kindergartens, primary schools with pre-school departments and institutions providing other forms of pre-school education (48.49 percent)

On the other hand, Tomasz Augustyniak – Pomeranian State Provincial Sanitary Inspector, director of the Provincial Sanitary and Epidemiological Station in Gdańsk presented the picture of the epidemic in the region. Out of 493 confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 infections in the Pomeranian Voivodeship (until May 15 this year), 166 cases (34%) are cases in SCC, 64 cases (13%) are cases of disease in a hospital or clinic, and 1 case concerns an illness in the Nursing and Treatment Institute. This is why, the director explained, the medical and care personnel (24 percent of all confirmed infections in the voivodeship) were a clear determinant of infection transmission.

The Provincial Sanitary Inspector also informed about the network of diagnostic points enabling mobile, non-hospital collection of swabs for tests from residents of the Pomeranian Voivodeship, qualified for testing due to epidemiological or clinical criteria as part of the qualification carried out by the appropriate call center.

The information provided at this Provincial Council for Social Dialogue meeting included data on the situation in the economy of the region. The revenues of municipalities from taxes will significantly decrease compared to 2019.

Moreover, the Council got acquainted with the results of a survey conducted by the National Chamber of Maritime Economy among its members: 43 percent companies recorded a decrease in turnover compared to February 2020, and 75 percent. compared to March last year The decline in turnover in the second quarter is predicted by 86%. companies (mainly the shipbuilding industry), and the employment reduction is announced (or has already done so) by 43 percent.

Pomeranian Provincial Council for Social Dialogue also received information on the functioning of health care in the Pomeranian Voivodeship during the pandemic. It shows, among others, that the provincial government allocates significant funds from the European

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Union under the Regional Operational Program for the Pomeranian Province for 2014-2020 to support hospitals, including district, municipal, departmental and marshal's hospitals in the fight against the effects of the epidemic. The document also lists the problems signaled by health care workers, the most important of which are: media announcements of the initiation of investigations and bringing charges against the staff and managers of medical entities in cases of infections in hospitals, difficulties in making decisions with rapidly changing procedures, the lack of regular and generally applicable screening tests (tests) for medical personnel of hospitals.

Source: Dialog w centrum i w Regionach nr 5/2020 (83) , Ministerstwo Rodziny, Pracy i Polityki Społecznej