

OUR EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE

ISSN 2545-1332

3/2022

Photo: Karina Hips

Rogalin

BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK OF THE WIELKOPOLSKA REGION



EUROPEAN UNION



Polish National
Rural Network



WIELKOPOLSKA
REGION



Rural
Development
Programme
for 2014-2020

„European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas”.

The publication prepared by Department of Rural Development Programmes in the Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region in Poznań. The publication co-financed from the European Union funds under the National Rural Network of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020. The Managing Authority of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 - the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.



Krzysztof Grabowski
Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region

Dear Sir or Madam,

The end of summer and the beginning of autumn is a good time for active recreation in the bosom of nature. In this year's third edition of the "Our European Countryside" you will find offers for spending your free time on the Prosna River. Two local action groups from the Wielkopolska Region implemented a cooperation project, as part of which infrastructure was created to facilitate canoeing trips down this picturesque river.

On August 7 in Kalisz, we celebrated the Wielkopolska Bee Day. It was a great opportunity to show how important the role of bees is in our ecosystem. The self-government of the Wielkopolska Region has been actively supporting beekeepers in the Wielkopolska Region for many years by donating funds for the purchase of bee wax and bee food. We have already allocated PLN 15 million to direct support for the beekeeping sector.

In the current perspective of the EU budget, thanks to the extension of the RDP 2014-2020 implementation by two years, new funds have appeared to be distributed among beneficiaries planning to implement land consolidation investments. Funds for the purpose have been successfully applied for by the starost of the Czarnków-Trzcianka powiat. In August, at the seat of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, an agreement was signed on granting aid for this task in the amount of over PLN 14 million.

Holidays are not only a time of rest and summer recreation, but also an intense period for NRN Partners who carry out their operations. On the pages of this issue we are presenting reports from the Wielkopolska Akademia Sołtysa realized by the Municipality Culture Centre named after Wł. Reymont in Kołaczków and the Eco Wieś III workshop, organized by the Zielona Kropka Association of Local Initiatives from Wielkopolska. Both projects are an important source of knowledge and inspiration for inhabitants of rural areas.

RDP 2014-2020 is to serve, above all, inhabitants of the Wielkopolska countryside, increase the comfort of their everyday life and create opportunities for professional development. On the pages of the newsletter we are presenting reports on the signing of the contract for the task called "Renovation of a historic windmill - koźlak - in Świąciechowo." Thanks to co-financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, a number of conservation works will be carried out in order to save the valuable monument.

Finally, we are presenting a beautiful moment captured in the frame of one of the winners of the second edition of the RDP photo competition through the lens and a recipe for a delicious dish of the Wielkopolska Region cuisine.

Publisher:

Self-government of Wielkopolska Region
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61-714 Poznan



Text and development:

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Graphic design:

EGD Design
Andrzej Tokarski
www.grafikadlafirm.pl
Printing:
ZAPOL Sobczyk sp.j.

LEADER

Go down the river, open up to attractions

Active recreation surrounded by fauna and flora is an increasingly common way of spending free time. Recognizing the needs of residents and tourists in terms of improving tourist infrastructure, as well as appreciating the natural values of the areas located in the Kalisz and Pleszew poviats, a unique cooperation project was implemented, which resulted in the creation of tourist infrastructure along the Prosna River.

Two local action groups from the Wielkopolska Region implemented a joint task called "PROSNA – Go down the river, open up to attractions". The "Together for the future" Association (Pleszew powiat) and the Local Action Group7 - Land of the Night and Days (Kalisz powiat) operating in the southern Wielkopolska region, thanks to European funds allocated to support cooperation projects between LAGs, equipped the areas directly adjacent to the Prosna River with objects of small tourist architecture. The investment made it possible to create an offer addressed to canoeists and people relaxing by the picturesque river.

-Implementation of the project of cooperation with the neighboring Local Action Group7 - Land of the Night and Days was a natural response to the need for using local natural values reported by residents. The built infrastructure for residents and tourists is very popular, for example during canoeing trips or festivals. The competition for the logo of the cooperation project addressed to the inhabitants of our areas was a great idea. Despite the rising prices of materials, we managed to find contractors for construction works and jointly work out an interesting initiative - says Sławomir Spychaj, President of the Local Action Group of the "Together for the future" Association.



Photo: Local Action Group of the "It's worth it with us" Association

Canoeing trips are gaining in popularity. The cooperation project carried out by two LAGs from the Wielkopolska Region improves the quality of the tourist offer in this area.



The newly created infrastructure contributes to the growth of tourist traffic in the area of two LAGs which implemented the cooperation project.

The possibility of actively spending free time surrounded by the fauna and flora of the Pleszew and Kalisz poviats contributes to increased numbers of tourists from the LAG areas, as well as from the outside. As part of the project, marinas equipped with garden gazebos, benches and picnic tables were provided. There are also places for a bonfire, baskets, bicycle stands, outdoor games, ecological lighting and information boards. On the premises of the "Together for the Future" Association, such places were created in the following locations:

1. Chocz – Chocz Municipality
2. Nowa Wieś – Gizaki Municipality
3. Łęg – Czermin Municipality

In the Local Action Group7 - Land of the Night and Days, infrastructure has been built in the communes of Blizanów, Godziesze Wielkie, Koźminek, Ceków-Kolonia, Opatówek, Stawiszyn and Żelazków. In the member communes of the Local Action Group7 - Land of the Night and Days, the following transfer points were created:

1. Żydów – Godziesze Wielkie Municipality
2. Janków – Blizanów Municipality

3. Kamień – Ceków-Kolonia Municipality
4. Moskurnia – Koźminek Municipality
5. Szale – Opatówek Municipality
6. Stary Kiączyn – Stawiszyn Municipality and Town
7. Dębe – Żelazków Municipality

The choice of places to build marinas was not accidental. Efforts were made to locate them where you can see the natural beauty of the region, especially the Prosna River, as well as valuable architectural monuments, nature reserves and other unique places, often shrouded in mysteries and legends. The most important of the places are marked on the tourist map published as part of the project, leading through the areas of operation of both Local Action Groups. Project partners carried out a promotional campaign in the area of LAG operations. A map was also created to promote canoeing and cycling tourism. The local community was additionally involved in the project implementation through a competition for the logo of the cooperation project. Residents from the areas of both LAGs could participate in the competition. The winner received a photo camera award. The total cost of the task was PLN 240,000.

EVENTS

Wielkopolska cares for bees

On August 7, 2022, ceremonial celebrations took place in the Archaeological Reserve in Kalisz-Zawodzie on the "Wielkopolska Bee Day". For the second time, inhabitants of Wielkopolska and the guests who came to the event had the opportunity to find out how important a role bees play in human life and what steps are taken by the Self-government of the Wielkopolska Region to improve the situation of beekeeping in the region.

The celebration of the Wielkopolska Bee Day began by welcoming the visitors and invited guests by the Vice-Marshall of the Wielkopolska Region, Krzysztof Grabowski - the Wielkopolska Region Self-Government has been providing tangible support to beekeepers in our region for 5 years. Each year, we donate PLN 2 million from the regional budget for this purpose. In the first three years, there were funds allocated to the purchase of bee wax, and for two years we have been assisting in the purchase of bee dough.

The event was graced by the presence of the Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Grzyb, Chairman of the Committee on Regional Development Strategy

and International Cooperation of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region, Kazimierz Chudy, Chairman of the Family and Social Policy Committee of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region, Andrzej Plichta, Vice-Chairman of the Statutory Committee of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region, Andrzej Pichet, the Kalisz Starost, Krzysztof Nosal, Member of the Board of the Kalisz Powiat and Chairman of the County Council of the Wielkopolska Agricultural Chamber in Kalisz Mieczysław Łuczak.

A number of attractions awaited all participants of that day, including a beekeeping fair, beekeeping shows, educational apiary, weaving show the so-called kószki i.e. straw hives and



Photo: A. Kapuściński

Demonstration apiaries will be built in the Wielkopolska Region. The photo shows the apiary at the Beekeeping Museum named after prof. R. Kostecki in Swarzędz.



Photo: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Krzysztof Grabowski, Member of the Polish Parliament, Andrzej Grzyb, regional councilor, Andrzej Plichta and Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, Szymon Wdowczyk at the stand of the Rural Housewives' Association in Kwiatków.

many others. Honey spinning shows and medieval stagings showing how honey and wax were obtained and used were very popular.

The Self-government, as the main organizer of this event, did not forget about the youngest guests, for whom numerous workshops, educational games and a bouncy castle were provided. Visitors could also admire stands with beekeeping products and try honey delicacies prepared, among others, by Rural Housewives' Associations or Local Action Groups.

Deputy Marshal, Krzysztof Grabowski, appreciated commitment and annual cooperation during the preparation of the Wielkopolska Bee Day and gave a solemn thank you to the President of the Regional Association of Southern Wielkopolska Beekeepers named after Prof. Teofil Ciesielski in Kalisz, Kazimierz Zaleski, President of the Regional Association of Beekeepers based in Konin, Roman Kowalak, Secretary of the District Association of Beekeepers in Leszno, Jerzy Ptak, Secretary of the Regional Association of Beekeepers in Poznan, Henryk Rogoziński and President of the Regional Association

of Beekeepers of Northern Wielkopolska in Chodzież, Marek Komasiński.

As part of the Wielkopolska Bee Day, a competition was held for the most beautiful stand. All participants of the competition were awarded in-kind or financial prizes. The awards were presented by the Deputy Marshal, Krzysztof Grabowski, the region councilor, Andrzej Pichet and Szymon Wdowczyk - deputy director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Marshal Office in Poznan, chairman of the competition committee. Thanks were also given to each exhibitor.

During the ceremony, it was emphasized that Wielkopolska was one of the first regions in the country to offer beekeepers specific financial support. In 2017-2018, the Management Board of the Wielkopolska Region prepared a comprehensive program to improve the phytosanitary conditions of bee colonies (first by co-financing the purchase of bee wax, and then also food for insects). In 2018-2020, PLN 6 million was spent from the regional budget for the purchase of bee

EVENTS

wax. As part of the activities, nearly 130 tons of wax were distributed among beekeepers in the Wielkopolska Region.

Bee wax foundation is special, embossed with the shapes of honeycomb cells, placed in frames in hives. On it, bees build their honeycomb. Thanks to its use, insects create regular slices of a specific shape and size.

Thanks to the support of the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region, in the last three years, it was possible to replace 100 percent of bee wax foundations in apiaries. However, since 2021, the support formula has changed and the purchase of bee food is co-financed, e.g. dough enriched with minerals and vitamins for feeding bee colonies. In the years 2021-2022, PLN 4 million was allocated from the budget of the Wielkopolska Region for this purpose. More than 4.5 thousand beekeepers from the Wielkopolska Region benefited from the support provided with more than 140 thousand bee families belonging to them.

- In addition to direct support, we have also been running a program of co-financing the purchase of seedlings of honey

trees for 5 years, thanks to which several thousand honey trees have been planted in Wielkopolska. We can find out how important a role bees play because honey is used in many products, as many as 84% of plants are pollinated by insects, especially bees. It is estimated that humanity can survive for about 4 years from the extinction of bees. It is said that when the last bee dies, humanity will also die, so the role that bees play is really great - said Krzysztof Grabowski - Vice Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.

The activities of the regional self-government include not only financial aid for beekeepers from Wielkopolska. They are also projects aimed at promoting knowledge about bees and their extraordinary role in human life. Hence, we have other ideas on how to help the industry. Demonstration apiaries are to be built in the region, they will educate the public and make us aware of the benefits of the hard-working insects.

The extraordinary interest that the event enjoys lets us believe that the Wielkopolska Bee Festival will be a permanent element in the calendar of events of the Wielkopolska self-government.



Photo: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

Stand of the Porwity Rural Housewives' Association during the Wielkopolska Bee Day in Kalisz Zawodzie.

Land for consolidation

Authorities of the Czarnków-Trzcianka powiat obtained funds from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 for the implementation of a project involving land consolidation in the town of Krosin in the Połajewo commune. The agreement on granting aid for this task was signed on August 9, 2022 at the seat of the Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznan. The powiat received PLN 14,422,760.51 for the purpose.



Photo: A. Kapuściński

Authorities of the Czarnków-Trzcianka powiat obtained funds from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 for the implementation of a project involving land consolidation in the town of Krosin in the Połajewo commune. In the photo from the left: Jarosław Maciejewski - Deputy Chairman of the Assembly of the Wielkopolska Region, Feliks Łaszcz - the Czarnków-Trzcianka Starost, Ewa Dymek - County Treasurer and Sławomir Kryger - the Czarnków-Trzcianka Vice Starost.

Land consolidation consists in separating new registration plots, with a different shape, as compared to the original ones. This type of work is carried out with the aim of reducing the number of small, scattered plots of land making up the farms and increasing their average size. It is assumed to result in an improvement in the profitability of farms covered by the consolidation process. According to the RDP for 2014-2020, consolidation is to facilitate agricultural production and reduce the costs incurred on farms. It is also supposed to open the way to the introduction of modern technologies. This, in turn, helps in the rational use of farmland resources by adapting the land layout and existing infrastructure to the needs of farms.

In the current perspective of the EU budget, thanks to the extension of the implementation of RDP 2014-2020 by two years, new funds have appeared to be distributed among the beneficiaries planning the implementation of consolidation

investments. Funds for this purpose have been successfully applied for by the Czarnków-Trzcianka powiat. Land consolidation will improve the spatial structure of farms in the village of Krosin. Participants of the consolidation will get new boundaries of the property marked out (for registration plots) and permanent stabilization of border points will be executed. A functional road network will be marked out and arranged, including access roads to agricultural and forest land and access roads to farm buildings. Due to the great interest of residents and the fact that the consolidation procedure is financed in 100% from public funds, without incurring costs by the participants of the consolidation, it is the second operation of this type carried out in the Czarnków-Trzcianka powiat in the Połajewo commune - says Feliks Łaszcz, the Czarnków-Trzcianka starost.

PARTNERS OF NNRA

A tailor-made statute

The Municipal Cultural Center in Kołaczków, as a partner of the National Network of Rural Areas, is implementing a project entitled "Wielkopolska Akademia Sołtysa". Its main goal is to create a model statute for each village council in a commune. The co-financed project assumes conducting a series of one-day trainings and the organization of a study trip for 25 participants, village leaders and village administrators, members of the village councils, rural leaders and officials from the Kołaczkowo commune and neighboring communes.

The whole task is aimed at extending competences of village leaders and members of village councils. During the trainings, participants improve their soft skills related to leadership, as well as appropriate response to stressful situations and criticism. Workshops on hard competences related to the knowledge of the legal conditions in which the village councils and the people managing them operate will be important from the point of view of the project concept. The final effect of the entire operation is to develop a village council statute created by the village administrators and village leaders during a special study visit combined with classes on the statutes.

Then, the statutes will be subject to legal assessment and forwarded for consultation to be finally adopted by the Kołaczkowo Commune Council. We hope very much that thanks to this, the village council statutes will not only be documents without meaning, but will be testimonies tailored to the reality of village leaders, showing the awareness of rural leaders, also conducive to social inclusion - says Mariusz Gomulski, Director of the Municipal Cultural Center in Kołaczkowo.

The workshops will be attended by a group of 25 people, most of them will be village leaders and members of village councils from the Kołaczkowo Commune, but also village leaders from Września, Nekla, Miłosław and Pyzdry Communes, adjacent to the Kołaczkowo Commune. It is the participation of people managing village councils that will enable success of the entire undertaking in the form of a "tailor-made statute".

One of the greatest values that the village leaders and village administrators pay attention to is the opportunity to exchange opinions and experiences, group problem solving related to case studies or broadly understood integration of the environment. As emphasized by Mariusz Gomulski, Director of the Commune Culture Center in Kołaczkowo, project participants in the summaries of the first training sessions indicated that there was no such activity at the time when village leaders started their adventure with social work. Next, meetings will be related to legal and organizational topics related to village councils, which often arouse misunderstandings or ambiguities, i.e. a village meeting, a village fund or obtaining external funds.

Photo: Commune Culture Center in Kołaczkowo



Practical side of the workshops organized as part of Wielkopolska Akademia Sołtysa.

Eco Countryside III - Workshops smelling of tradition

For the third time, the Wielkopolska Association of Local Initiatives "Zielona Kropka" in partnership with the Association of the National Women's Forum, Wielkopolska Branch, organized away culinary workshops entitled Eco Countryside III. The great interest enjoyed by the two previous editions resulted in another part of the project.

The main objective of the operation carried out by the Wielkopolska Association of Local Initiatives "Zielona Kropka" was to train workshop participants technical improvements in the production of food products such as: sausage, butter and confectionery. Workshops attended by nearly 250 people living in the areas of Środa Wielkopolska, Ostrzeszów, Grodzisk and Września poviats were held throughout August at the National Museum of Agriculture and Food Industry in Szreniawa. The workshops were divided into three thematic parts: cold cuts - sausage production, dairy industry - butter and cheese production, pastry - making fudge.

As emphasized by the President of the Wielkopolska Association of Local Initiatives "Zielona Kropka" Monika Mazur: The awareness of the inhabitants of rural and urban areas about the financial opportunities and benefits offered by a regional product, despite a lot of information appearing in the press and the Internet, is still negligible. By participating in the operation "Eco Countryside III", we want the participants to use their opportunities and gain sufficient knowledge abo-

ut the alternative method of earning money offered by the products we manufacture.

During the meetings, the problem of wastage of food and ecological products, which is very important nowadays, was discussed. The lectures that enriched the content of the workshops were aimed at reducing this problem and presenting various methods of using food, not only in a commonly known way, e.g. milk that is sour can be made into buttermilk. Integration of young people with the elderly was an additional advantage of the operation, as well as the exchange of experiences between various local groups, e.g. rural housewives' associations.

Thanks to the organization of workshops at the National Museum of Agriculture and Food Industry in Szreniawa, participants could see museum objects that used to produce traditional products and could make the products with their own hands using modern equipment, while learning about the entire technological process, "from raw material to a finished product".



Photo: Wielkopolska Association of Local Initiatives "Zielona Kropka"

Participants of the Eco Countryside III workshop actively participated in the production of traditional products.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RDP

New life of a windmill - koźlak

On July 19, 2022, at the Self-Government Cultural Center in Świąciechowa, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski signed a contract with the mayor of the Świąciechowa commune, Marek Lorych, for the task entitled "Renovation of the historic windmill - koźlak in Świąciechowa". The project is part of the implementation of the Local Development Strategy of the Wielkopolska Local Action Group "Land of Forests and Lakes". The amount of co-financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development is more than PLN 85,000.

The windmill is located in Świąciechowa, in the immediate vicinity of the Self-Government Cultural Center. It was built in 1878 as evidenced by the inscription on a flour beam. Considering the fundamental importance of the development of milling to the history of technology, the windmill is an important monument documenting this history. In 1997, the Song and Dance Ensemble "Marynia", taking care to preserve the heritage of our ancestors, asked the director of the Culture Center in Świąciechowa to make the windmill premises available for the creation of a Regional Chamber. In September, 1998, the Regional Chamber was officially opened, historic everyday objects were gathered there. The Chamber's collections include, among others, such exhibits as: handheld irons a basis of which is a metal container that can be filled hot coals, reels, butter churns, pots, coffee grinders, washboards, ladles, newspapers and souvenir photos. The most important exhibit, however, is the building of the 19th-century windmill itself. The windmill is an attraction not only for the inhabitants of the commune, but also for all visitors to the area of Świąciechowa. It is a place often visited by children from kindergartens or schools, who directly learn about the interesting history of milling. Every year, as part of the Museum Night, a feast for all residents takes place at the windmill. During this event, you can visit the Regional Chamber and find out what housework was like in the past, and taste "home-made food".

A number of conservation works will be carried out in the historic windmill - koźlak in order to protect it and make it available to the inhabitants of the commune. The scope of works will mainly concern the replacement of the roof, including dismantling the covering, replacing structural elements, filling losses, securing wooden elements, impregnation, roof covering, as well as renovation of the soundproofing system, consisting in replacing the lightning protection system supports, replacing the earthing and lightning protection system conductors and gas disinfection.

The windmill modernization is necessary because the current condition does not let it be safely used by residents and tourists. Moreover, the restoration of the utility part of the windmill will significantly improve its attractiveness and aesthetics. The planned completion date is June 30, 2024.



Photo: Commune Office in Świąciechowa

Thanks to funds from RDP 2014-2020, the windmill-koźlak in Świąciechowa will be revitalized.

Beauty of the countryside through the eyes of its inhabitants

Until the end of September 2022, photography enthusiasts could submit their works to the third edition of the "RDP in the lens" competition. We regularly publish photos awarded in the two previous editions on the pages of the newsletter.



Photo: Małgorzata Kolasa

Photo awarded in 2021 in the "Tourism in rural areas" category. The author is Małgorzata Kolasa.

CULINARY ZONE

Złotnickie cheeks

Pork cheeks in wine are a perfect proposition for an exquisite dinner. Once popular in Old Polish cuisine, they have been forgotten for many years. Today, despite the very demanding and hard-to-reach opinions, they are returning to favor again and more and more often at the tables in the Wielkopolska Region. As it is commonly known, cheeks should come from old, native breeds of pigs to fully show the richness of taste and delicacy. The recipe we are presenting is based on the meat of Złotnicka pig, and the wine and vegetables used for the sauce and puree come from local producers. Enjoy your meal!

Recipe:

- 1 kg of pork cheeks,
- 1/2 kg of parsnips,
- 1/2 kg Scorzonera hispanica,
- 1 small carrot,
- 1 parsley,
- 1/2 celery head,
- 1/2 kg of beetroot,
- 0.5 kg of peas,
- 150 ml dry red wine,
- 3 shallots,
- Butter,
- Cream 18%,
- Kale,
- Rapeseed oil,
- Spices: salt, thyme, rosemary, ginger, linden honey, orange juice.

Instructions:

Stew cheeks in red wine and root vegetables. When the meat has softened, sieve the sauce and pour it with butter. Bake parsnips (unpeeled) in foil with thyme and rosemary until soft. Then peel the parsnips, add butter and cream, and blend them into a uniform puree. Peel the carrots and fry them in butter, add ginger, linden honey, squeeze the orange juice and cook until soft. Then blend to a uniform mass. Cut the scorzonera into thin slices and fry in oil until crispy. Remove the kale from stalks, season with salt and rapeseed oil and bake in the oven until crispy. Bake the beets in foil in the oven with the herbs until tender, then cut them into small cubes and fry them in butter.



Photo: P. Ludek

The dish won the first place in the 21st edition of the OUR CULINARY HERITAGE - TASTES OF REGIONS competition organized by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region for the best regional dish - "Złotnickie Cheeks", by Paweł Ludek, chef in Olandia.



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FREE PUBLICATION



WIELKOPOLSKA
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