

OUR EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE

1/2025
ISSN 2545-1332



Photo by Damian Jakubasz, taken in Skęszew in the Dobra commune (Turek district)

POLISH PRESIDENCY
OF THE EU COUNCIL

THE VILLAGE
ADMINISTRATOR'S DAY

GRÜNE
WOCHE

INVESTMENTS

LEADER

PHOTO
COMPETITION

CULINARY
COLUMN



European Union



WIELKOPOLSKA
REGION



„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.

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Krzysztof Grabowski
Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region

Dear Sir or Madam,

From 1 January to 30 June 2025, Poland is currently holding, for the second time in history, the presidency of the Council of the European Union. This is an exceptional time also for the Wielkopolska Region, a chance to promote its achievements and agricultural potential, as well as the value of human capital in rural areas. An opportunity to do so will be the European Congress on Rural Renewal and Development to be held between 8 and 10 May 2025 in Poznań. As the host and partner of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the main organiser of the event, the Wielkopolska Regional Government is actively participating in the preparations for this celebration. You can find out more about this in the first issue of this year's "Our European Countryside" bulletin.

Our quarterly summarises the Regional stage of the "Village Administrator's Fund - Best Initiative" competition, the results of which were announced on 15 March 2025 in Stawiszyn during a meeting organised on the occasion of the Village Administrator's Day which is celebrated in March. A little earlier, in January of the same year, I had the pleasure of participating

in the Grüne Woche trade fair in Berlin together with Wielkopolska agri-food producers and restaurateurs. Participation

in this event provided an opportunity for important discussions with representatives of national and international institutions on food promotion and food waste prevention. I also recommend that you have a look at the articles devoted to the completion of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, including the efforts of the Wielkopolska Regional Government to best promote the good projects implemented under this Programme. Starting from the second half of February 2025, Wielkopolska Local Action Groups began announcing calls for proposals for the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027. I encourage you to follow the groups' websites and use the opportunity to receive financial support.

Until 30 April 2025 the residents of Wielkopolska can submit their works to the photo competition "RDP through the lens – sixth edition". You will find instructions on how to do this at the end of this issue of the magazine.

Enjoy your reading.

Publisher:

Self-government of the Wielkopolska
Region Niepodległości 34
61-714 Poznań

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Graphic design:

EGD Design
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Printing:

ZAPOL Sobczyk
Limited Partnership

EVENTS

All eyes in Europe are on Wielkopolska

1 January 2025 marked the beginning of the six-month period of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. On this occasion, the Wielkopolska Regional Government is planning a number of informational and promotional activities, as well as the organisation of events which will be important and attractive to residents. One such event will be the European Congress on Renewal and Rural Development, to be held between 8 and 10 May 2025 at the Poznań International Fair grounds.



Source: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region archives.

In Brussels, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski emphasised the most important challenges for agriculture in Wielkopolska: progressive steppe formation, drying up of lakes, African Swine Fever and counteracting food waste. He also highlighted farmers' concerns over the Mercosur agreement and the liberalisation of trade with Ukraine.

The Council of the European Union is one of the main decision-making bodies of the European Union. The Council is made up of government ministers from all countries of the European Community, who meet periodically in Brussels and Luxembourg to discuss, amend and adopt legislation and coordinate policy at EU level. Ministers are empowered to commit on behalf of their governments to actions agreed at these meetings. In the current geopolitical situation, one of the core competences of this body is of particular importance, namely defining the EU's foreign and security policy orientations based on guidance from the European Council. Meetings on this issue are chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who, since December 2024, is the Estonian Kaja Kallas. Regarding all other issues, sessions are chaired by the minister of the country holding the rotating presidency of the EU. Po-

land holds this presidency in the first half of 2025. This is the second such situation in the history of our country; Poland's previous presidency took place in the second half of 2011.

This special and historic time for the country on the banks of the Vistula River is also an excellent opportunity to promote its regions within the European Union. Thanks to the good cooperation of the Wielkopolska Region Board with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the active attitude of Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, Poznań will host the European Congress on Renewal and Rural Development, which will take place between 8 and 10 May 2025. The main organiser of the congress is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, while the Wielkopolska Regional Government acts as the event partner.



The European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, Christophe Hansen, will take part in the European Congress on Renewal and Rural Development in Poznań at the invitation of Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

The Congress aims to showcase ideas, innovative solutions, best practices, as well as actors and support systems with a distinguished track record in working for the countryside and rural areas, in the context of global challenges and threats, especially the need to build the resilience of rural communities and solutions to strengthen their security.

The European Congress on Renewal and Rural Development will highlight key values essential for preserving the unique character and vitality of rural areas. It will recognise grassroots initiatives, the use of local resources, and, above all, the driving force of local communities in responding to increasing uncertainty and challenges. Approximately 1500 people are expected to attend the event, including representatives of the ministries responsible for rural development of the EU27, institutions working for the development of villages and rural areas, representatives of local governments, non-governmental organisations, academics, leaders of rural communities, with a particular focus on key communities: women, youth and sport. The three-day programme will consist of Wielkopolska Day (8 May), European Day (9 May) and Polish Day (10 May).

The Congress will be attended, among others, by Christophe Hansen, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, who responded positively to the invitation received on 6 March 2025 in Brussels from Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski. The occasion for the Commissioner's invitation was

the political meeting of the Coalition of European AgriRegions taking place that day.

"Agriculture is a strategic sector. It is the backbone of our independence and sustainable development," says Commissioner Hansen, announcing the administrative simplification in the field of agriculture that the European Commission is working on. The Commissioner also referred to the discussion on the future multi-annual EU budget. He drew attention to the role of strategic dialogue and the need for an adequate budget for food security.

At the March meeting of the AgriRegions coalition, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski was accompanied by Izabela Mroczek, Director of the Department of Rural Development Programmes, Paweł Zbierajewski, Director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Justyna Winiarska, Director of the Wielkopolska Agricultural Advisory Centre, and Sebastian Ławniczak, Director of the Wielkopolska Regional Government Centre for Rural Development in Sielinek. The Coalition of AgriRegions represents 19 regions from 7 Member States and is a platform for exchanging views on the future of European agriculture. The visit to Brussels was also an opportunity to meet MEP Krzysztof Hetman and discuss the matters of Common Agricultural Policy and defence.

EVENTS

Villages actively involved in rural development

On 11 March, the Village Administrator's Day, the Wielkopolska Regional Government organised a ceremonial meeting in Stawiszyn, Kalisz district, accompanying a pilgrimage of village administrators to St. Joseph's Shrine in Kalisz. The event took place on 15 March 2025 and was attended by more than 800 people. An important part of the ceremony was the awarding of badges of honour "For services to the Wielkopolska Region" and the announcement of results of the regional edition of the "Village Administrator's Fund – Best Initiative" competition.



The meeting in Stawiszyn was an opportunity to present 49 village heads with honorary badges "For services to the Wielkopolska Region". The badges were presented by Deputy Marshal of Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski and Voivodeship Councilor Andrzej Pichet.

The Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 created many opportunities for the co-financing of various tasks carried out in smaller and larger villages in Wielkopolska. EU funds have made a lasting contribution to improving the quality of life in rural areas – from the development of basic services in rural areas, through the implementation of local development strategies, to non-investment projects supported by the National Rural Network. However, sustainable development is not only the result of activities supported by European funds. Communes are keen to take advantage of the support available from the Wielkopolska Region's budget for the implementation of the "Village renewal in Wielkopolska" programme.

"In addition to implementing EU instruments, the Wielkopolska Regional Government has for many years earmarked large funds from the Region's budget to support rural initiatives. 2,192 villages from 186 communes in Wielkopolska participate in the "Village renewal in Wielkopolska" programme, with the option of taking advantage of several grant competitions. It is important that the effects of actions taken using different financial sources complement each other in a synergetic way," emphasises Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

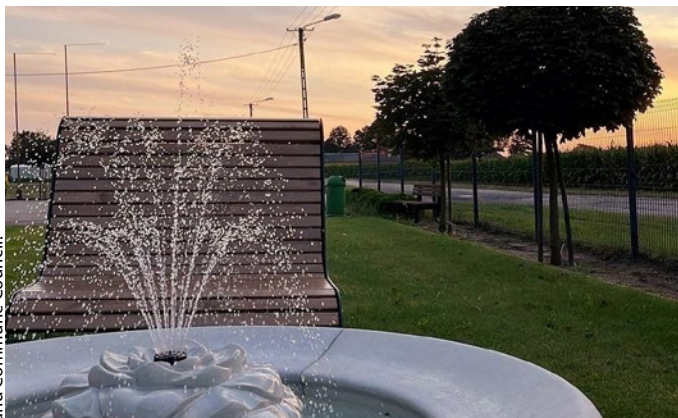
However, many valuable ideas are also realised on the initiative of entire villages, village administrators and village councils using the resources of the village fund which is part of the commune's budget. The importance of the role of the villages

is highlighted by representatives of the Wielkopolska village administrators' institutions.

"Village administrators are natural local leaders. Their position in the rural community is special and is linked to a tradition that is over six hundred years old. Village administrators have a real influence on development of the Wielkopolska countryside. A good example to support this thesis is the village fund – a tool that allows the implementation of tasks tailored to local needs. These are funds set aside in the commune's budget and guaranteed to the villages for carrying out tasks aimed at improving the living conditions of their inhabitants. This gives rise to many valuable and interesting initiatives, which we can then recognise as the jury of the "Village Fund – Best Initiative" competition," says Robert Gałęba, President of the Association of Village Administrators of the Wielkopolska Region.

"It is worth noting the role of the village administrator and village councils when assessing the civilisation progress in rural areas. Grassroots initiatives are often the most effective, as they are born from the real needs and aspirations of rural communities. I can say this on the basis of my many years' experience as a village administrator, but also as a moderator of the Wielkopolska Region's villages' renewal who participated in the creation of village development strategies. It was the preparation of this document by village renewal groups that served as a guarantee of the purposefulness of the undertaking and the implementation

Source: Archives of the Grabów nad Prosną Town and Commune Council.



The area around the community centre in Książenice in the Grabów nad Prosną commune, revitalised using the funds from the village fund and thanks to the residents' own work.

of the projects indicated in it, thus demonstrating the value for the local community in the implementation of the CLLD instrument development," states Jarosław Maciejewski, president of the Association of Village Leaders of the Wielkopolska Region.

The annual pilgrimage of village administrators to St. Joseph's Shrine in Kalisz, to participate in which village administrators from all over Wielkopolska were invited, took place on 15 March 2025. This event was accompanied by a meeting organised in the sports hall in Stawiszyn on the initiative of Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski. It was attended by approximately 700 representatives of villages in the Wielkopolska Region. During the ceremony, nearly 50 village administrators received the highest distinction awarded by the Regional Government, namely the "For services to the Wielkopolska Region" badges. It was also an opportunity to sum up yet another edition of the "Village Fund – Best Initiative" competition, which has been organised for the past several years by the Board of the Wielkopolska Region. The competition was addressed to all the villages in the Wielkopolska Region which between 2010 and 2024 implemented projects financed from funds set aside as part of the village fund, or in which the village fund constituted own contribution. The total share of the village fund and the village's own contribution in the overall cost of a given project had to be no less than 40%.

First place in this year's edition of the competition was awarded to the village of Książenice in the Grabów nad Prosną commune for the project titled "Common relaxation zone in Książenice". The project created a comfortable family recreation area, serving above all as a place for integration of local residents. Together they created a spot which is up to modern standards, where they can meet and cultivate local traditions. The newly developed space will serve the residents for many years to come.

Second place went to Wojnówko in the Murowana Goślina commune, where the project titled "Let's buy us a road, be-

Source: Murowana Goślina Town and Commune Council.



"Let's buy us a road, because life is no fairy tale" is not only the name of the project, but also the motto which guided the people of Wojnówko in the Murowana Goślina commune during its implementation.

cause life is no fairy tale" was implemented. As part of the works, the main road, which also leads to the public beach, was paved, which contributed to increasing the tourist attractiveness of Wojnówko. The success of the project was greatly aided by the commitment of the residents who, through their determination, hard work and ingenuity, obtained additional funds to purchase large road slabs and took charge of buying and laying them themselves. Many hours of hard physical work resulted in a new road that is the pride of the people of Wojnówko.

"Gronówko park – development of a sports and recreation area" is the title of the initiative which landed the village of Gronówko, Lipno commune, third place in the competition. The results of the project are interesting, original and innovative above all due to the variety of options the park in Gronówko has to offer to different age groups. There is a volleyball court for people of all ages, a place for children to play hopscotch and a bicycle repair station for residents and cyclists passing through Gronówko.

Source: Lipno Commune Council.



The Gronówko park in the Lipno commune is a modern and multifunctional place that meets the needs of residents for recreation and leisure.

CULINARY HERITAGE

Important talks at the Berlin trade fair

Between 17 and 26 January, representatives of the food industry and restaurateurs from the Wielkopolska Region were able to promote their products at the Grüne Woche trade fair held in the German capital. This opportunity was created for them by the Wielkopolska Regional Government, ensuring our region's participation in the event and providing space for exhibitors to present their offers. The official delegation, headed by Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, participated in a number of meetings during the event, including with the Polish Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture and the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Environment and Consumer Protection of the State of Brandenburg.



Source: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region archives.

The Wielkopolska Region's stand in Berlin was visited by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Pictured from left: Paweł Zbierajewski – Director of the Department of Agriculture at the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, Marcin Sadowski – owner of the Hyčka restaurant in Poznań, Krzysztof Grabowski – Deputy Marshal, Czesław Siekierski – Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Justyna Winiarska – Director of the Wielkopolska Agricultural Advisory Centre, and Sebastian Ławniczak – Director of the Wielkopolska Regional Government Centre for Rural Development in Sielinek.

The "International Green Week" trade fair (better known under its German name "Internationale Grüne Woche") in Berlin occupies an important place in the calendar of international trade fairs taking place at the end of January. The event, which dates back to 1926, is one of the world's largest food, agricultural and horticultural exhibitions.

"For many years now, the Wielkopolska Region has been present at the Berlin trade fair to promote the highest quality food. It is also an opportunity to hold meetings and discussions within a broad group of institutions supporting the care

of the culinary heritage of European regions. I am delighted that our presence is noticeable and brings tangible benefits, as demonstrated, for example, by the companies participating in the event," says Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Region.

During the event, a meeting was held between the partner regions of the Wielkopolska, Lubuskie, Dolnośląskie and Zachodniopomorskie Regions and the Brandenburg Minister for Agriculture and Food, Environment and Consumer Protection, Ms. Hanka Mittelstädt. The main topics of the meeting were cooperation between the regions, the EU's common agri-

cultural policy, food security and the European Congress on Renewal and Rural Development. The Wielkopolska Region's stand at the fair was visited by Czesław Siekierski, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Stefan Krajewski, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

"It is difficult to imagine the Berlin trade fair without Wielkopolska, our leading agricultural region. I believe that the opportunity to see and taste food products is the best and most effective form of promoting them," stresses Minister Czesław Siekierski.

"The fact that Poland has been a member of the European Union for more than 20 years demonstrates that the Polish countryside and farmers are able to take advantage of the support offered by the Common Agricultural Policy. However, we must not stop there and look for further opportunities, further measures to develop our beautiful regions, and the regional governments know best how to do this," adds Deputy Minister Stefan Krajewski.

Wielkopolska was represented by eight exhibitors at this year's edition of the Berlin trade fair. Here are their brief descriptions.

Hyćka is the folk name for *Sambucus nigra*, also known as elderberry. The word comes from the Poznań dialect, but is becoming more widely known throughout the country. The word can reach a wider range of consumers thanks to the Hyćka restaurant, which has been operating in Poznań's neighbourhood of Śródka since 2014. Boiled jacket potato with spiced cottage cheese, duck blood soup, duck with yeast dumplings, and noodles made of grated raw potatoes with sauerkraut are just a few of the traditional Wielkopolska dishes that can be ordered in this establishment. The restaurant's owner, Marcin Sadowski, personally convinced visitors to the Berlin trade fair of the culinary richness of our region presented on the menu.

Since 2012, the Familijna restaurant has been operating in Żerków, in the Jarocin district, originally starting as a pizzeria that also offered traditional Polish dinners. The venue hosted Magda Gessler and her well-known TV series, "Kitchen Revolutions" in 2020. The range of dishes and food served currently was significantly influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many other establishments, the restaurant had to adapt its operations by offering takeaway meals. When visiting the Familijna website nowadays, you can order dozens of dishes, including roast turkey, stuffed cabbage rolls in tomato sauce, red borscht, homemade pierogi, tartare, and salads. Some of the soups and meat preserves can also be ordered with delivery. The restaurant also offers a wide selection of cakes.

MicroFood S.A. is a family-run business founded in 2011 in Ostrzeszów, which dries products, mainly fruit and vegetables, but for some time also cheese. It is distinguished by its

technologically advanced production line that enables vacuum drying. This preserves the nutritional values in the products, as well as the original shape, flavour and aroma. The company owns the ever-growing Puffins brand. Its product range includes over a dozen types of dried fruit and vegetables and three types of cheese (cheddar, Gouda with herbs and Gouda with chilli).

Naturini from Kościan is a producer of cold-pressed oils. As the owner, Izabela Losiak-Skorupska, admits, this business is the result of motherhood. Becoming a mother of two daughters, she began to pay attention to what children eat and what products surround them. For over a year now, the company has been able to boast a fully organic method of product packaging.

Another exhibitor who had the opportunity to promote itself in Berlin is Paweł Sosnowski's farm, also known as "Pasieka Sosenska". The farm is located in Konarskie Huby in the Kórnik commune near Poznań. It sells honeys from organic plants, including rapeseed, phacelia, buckwheat, hornbeam, acacia, linden, raspberry, goldenrod, and honeydew. On Fridays and Saturdays, honey from Pasieka Sosenska can be purchased at the Jeżyce Market and the Łazarz Market in Poznań.

Pierozak is the first pierogi restaurant in Poznań where pierogi are prepared in front of the guests. They are made based on many years of experience. Pierogi from Pierozak can be tasted in one of the four spots in the capital of Wielkopolska, at ul. Półwiejska 10, Wrocławska 23, Ratajczaka 25 and in the catering zone of the Posnania gallery.

Irena Olejniczak's company, Smak Tradycji, is an award-winning producer of meat products from veal, venison, goose meat, pork, beef and poultry. The company's products hold the "Jakość Tradycja" and "Doceń polskie" certificates.



Source: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region archives.

The Wielkopolska stand was also visited by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Stefan Krajewski.

RDP 2014-2020 IMPLEMENTATION

Wielkopolska continues to support water and sewage management in the region

At the beginning of 2025, the Wielkopolska Regional Government contracted the last funds from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 for water and sewage projects. Later that year, however, a call for tasks for onsite sewage treatment plants will be launched as part of the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027.



Photo: A. Kapuściński

The project implemented by the Granowo commune involves the construction of a sanitary sewage system in Niemierzyce, the reconstruction of the water supply system in Zemsko, Januszewice and Bielawy, as well as the reconstruction and expansion of the water and sewage infrastructure in Januszewice. Pictured from left: Anna Jakubowska – Deputy Director of the RDP Department at the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, Krzysztof Grabowski – Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Zbigniew Kaczmarek – Head of Granowo Commune, Agnieszka Chojnacka – Commune Treasurer, and Tomasz Pocztowy – Chairman of the Commune Council.

The number of water and sewage management projects covered by the RDP 2014-2020 funding has increased to 182. At the beginning of January 2025, the Region's Deputy Marshal, Krzysztof Grabowski, signed contracts with four beneficiaries of the Programme. The contracts provide for a total support of more than PLN 16 million.

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development in the amount of PLN 144 million for the implementation of 126 other projects, which, when both funding sources are put together, gives an amount of aid in the entire programme perspective exceeding PLN 328 million.

From 2 January to 3 February, communes, inter-communal associations and companies where communes are the sole shareholders could apply for assistance for water and sewage projects under the National Recovery Plan. Interest in the funding, as in the case of calls under RDP 2014-2020, was very high. As many as 135 applications amounting to PLN 488.5 million were submitted in the Wielkopolska Region. The evaluation of applications will end at the latest at the beginning of April 2025.

However, this is not the last chance for communes to obtain support for sewage management projects. This is because a call for proposals under the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027 is planned for September, which will allow co-financing tasks involving the construction of on-site sewage treatment plants. A pool of approximately PLN 45 million will be allocated for this purpose.

The period of execution and settlement of the subsidised projects must be closed by 30 September 2025. As a reminder, the funding for this comes from the European Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), launched to mitigate the effects of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. A total of 56 projects were co-financed from this source and the support granted amounts to nearly PLN 184 million. In addition, the Wielkopolska Regional Government has so far granted support using the

Local action groups announce calls for proposals

From February 2025 it is possible to apply for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development funds distributed by the Wielkopolska Regional Government with the participation of local action groups. The calls for proposals announced to date concern small-size public infrastructure and the development of entrepreneurship.



Source: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region archives.

Calls for proposals under the multi-fund strategies for community-led local development were the subject of information meetings organised by the Wielkopolska Regional Government in five sub-regions. Photo from the meeting in Konin.

The EU budget for 2021-2027 provides for the continuation of funding for initiatives under the LEADER approach, which is already well-known in Europe. In short, it is about projects which fit locally identified needs. In the Wielkopolska Region, 30 local action groups are involved in the implementation of LEADER, which are associations whose area of operation covers between several and several dozen neighbouring communes. The map of the Wielkopolska Region in the current programme perspective is almost 100% covered by communes that participate in the implementation of community-led local development.

Since 2024, the Wielkopolska Region, as one of ten parts of the country, has been implementing the LEADER approach in a multi-fund formula. Beneficiaries can use the funding from three sources: European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund Plus and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. This brings the total budget allocated to support projects to as much as EUR 128.5 million, which is significantly higher compared to previous programme periods when projects were supported solely from the agricultural fund.

The possibilities for obtaining funding were extensively discussed at the turn of February and March 2025 during informational meetings organised at the initiative of Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski in the five largest cities of the region: Poznań, Kalisz, Konin, Piła, and Leszno.

The calls for applications under the regional and social funds were launched back in 2024, while those from the agricultural fund started on 17 February 2025. Under the latter fund, applicants can seek financial assistance via the ARMA's Electronic Services Platform. The application assessment process will be conducted entirely electronically, in the Central Beneficiary Service System..

"The Wielkopolska Region is divided into 31 districts (excluding towns with district rights which do not participate in the implementation of the LEADER initiative), so it is easy to guess that the scope of activities of individual local action groups does not have to coincide with the line of administrative division into districts. This is important as potential applicants should know to which local action group they should submit their applications for financing, which calls for proposals they can use and what the deadlines for these calls are," emphasises Izabela Mroczek, Director of the Department of Rural Development Programmes at the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznań.

RDP 2014-2020 IMPLEMENTATION

Promoting good projects

Beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 have been obtaining EU funds for 10 years, changing the face of the Wielkopolska countryside. Among thousands of settled projects, there are some that deserve special mention. The projects in question are interesting and innovative, and can be described as good practices in the implementation of the Programme..

Dobre praktyki PROW 2014-2020

Prezentujemy przykłady dobrych praktyk realizacji projektów w ramach Programu Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich na lata 2014-2020 w województwie wielkopolskim

Rozwój firmy PIANO STUDIO PIOTR KOSTERA o zakład renowacji fortepianów w celu utworzenia innowacyjnej bazy dla działalności rzemieślniczej

Rozwój restauracji Jabłona w Powidzu poprzez rozbudowę w postaci budowy ogrodu zimowego

Remont elewacji pałacu w Buczu wraz z zagospodarowaniem terenu wokół budynku

Zachowanie dziedzictwa przyrodniczego poprzez podjęcie działalności gospodarczej popularyzującej idee tradycyjnych łąk kwiatowych

Descriptions of all good practices of RDP 2014-2020 made available to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development can be found at <https://dprow.umww.pl/obszary-wiejskie> in the "Good practices" tab.

"In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, we periodically collect information on the most interesting implemented projects co-financed from the RDP in the Wielkopolska Region. Descriptions of good practices together with photos are published on the National Rural Network website. This way we can give recognition to our beneficiaries and promote valuable projects," says Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.

The good practice database available at <https://dprow.umww.pl> contains construction projects and examples of interesting

business ideas which were implemented thanks to the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The information is collected in clear forms detailing each of the implemented projects. In them, we can read about the context and objectives of the project, the related activities carried out, the results of the operation and the lessons learned. The text is complemented by financial information indicating all sources of project funding. The results of each project are illustrated with photographic material. Selected initiatives are also published at <https://ksow.pl> under the "Database" tab -> "2014-2020 Projects"

Win attractive prizes in the photo competition

The Board of the Wielkopolska Region has approved the rules of the sixth edition of the "RDP through the lens" competition. Works can be submitted for the competition until 30 April 2025. Attractive prizes await! Participants can win photo shop vouchers funded by the European Union as part of the National Rural Network. The prize pool is PLN 40,000.

Thematic categories of the sixth edition of the "RDP through the lens" competition		
No.	Category name	What types photos can be submitted?
1.	Infrastructure co-financed by the Rural Development Programme	photos of buildings built with the support of the European Union under RDP 2014-2020 or RDP 2007-2013
2.	Rural Wielkopolska from a bird's eye view	photos showing the rural landscape from a bird's eye view
3.	How do the people of Wielkopolska care about tradition?	photographs taken during events promoting the cultural heritage of the region
4.	Rural tourism	pictures of buildings, tourist attractions, interesting places worth visiting
5.	Wielkopolska on a plate	pictures presenting traditional Wielkopolska dishes
6.	Renewable energy sources in rural areas	photos depicting the use of RES in the Wielkopolska countryside
7.	Endangered professions	photos depicting traditional professions in rural areas, such as blacksmith, baker, or potter
8.	The Wielkopolska countryside up close	macro photographs of the flora and fauna of the Wielkopolska Region

Each year, interest in the competition promoting rural areas in the Wielkopolska Region and the implementation of the Rural Development Programme in this part of the country continues to grow. The fifth edition, held in 2024, attracted 120 participants who submitted a total of 532 works.

"I would like to encourage you to submit your works to the "RDP through the lens – sixth edition" competition. I am convinced that the submitted photographs will highlight the beauty of rural parts of the Wielkopolska Region which we would like to boast about not only in Poland, but also in the European Union. In 2025, we will also allow minors over the age of 13 to participate in the competition," says Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

The formula for the competition, just as last year, is for one participant to submit a maximum of two entries for each of the eight thematic categories. According to the rules, the competition will conclude by the end of May 2025. Three main prizes and distinctions will be awarded in each category. The prizes are photo shop vouchers worth PLN 2000, PLN 1500, PLN 1000 and PLN 500 respectively.

All persons living in the Wielkopolska Region are encouraged to submit their works by e-mail to: ksow@umww.pl. The photo, the name of which should correspond to the requirements of the rules, should be accompanied by a completed entry form and the participant's declaration. All the documents are available at <https://wielkopolskie.ksow.pl> and by scanning the QR code attached to this article..



scan and see

Pierogi with wild boar meat in horseradish sauce

We present the recipe for a dish made by the ladies of the Rural Women's Association in Augustynów in the Zagórow commune (Słupca district) that won first place in the "Horseradish Grating in Chrzan - Wielkopolska Easter Traditions" competition organised by the Wielkopolska Regional Government on 24 March 2024 in Chrzan in the Żerków commune (Jarocin district). The finals of this year's edition of the competition co-financed from the KSOW funds will take place on 5 April, of course once again in Chrzan.



INGREDIENTS:

Pierogi dough:

- 3 cups wheat flour
- 1.5 cups hot water
- 1 egg
- a pinch of salt

Filling:

- 1 kg wild boar shoulder
- ½ block of butter

- 1 onion
- Salt, pepper, marjoram

Horseradish sauce:

- 250 g horseradish
- 2 onions
- Spoonful of butter
- 250 ml dry white wine
- Salt, white pepper

PREPARATION:

Cook the wild boar meat until tender, mince and add the onion finely chopped and glazed in butter. Season with salt, pepper and marjoram. Make the pierogi dough out of the listed ingredients and divide into four parts. Roll out and cut out

circles. Stuff with filling and knead the edges. Cook in salted water for 10 minutes. Fry the onion in butter, add the finely grated horseradish and pour in the wine. When the alcohol has evaporated, season with salt and white pepper.



"Gold from Wielkopolska meadows", photo by Zofia Koralewska taken in Piaski in Gostyń County, distinguished in the category "Wielkopolska on a plate".



"Prząśniczka", a photo by Małgorzata Kolasa taken in the village of Dziekanowice in the commune of Łubowo in the Gniezno district, awarded 1st place in the category "Endangered professions".



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European Union



**WIELKOPOLSKA
REGION**



„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.