

OUR EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE

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Photo by Adam Andrzejewski taken in the village of Charbin in the Powidz commune (Stupca district)

EUROPEAN CONGRESS
IN POZNAN

RDP
SUMMARY

WIELKOPOLSKA
FARMER OF THE YEAR

RURAL HOUSEWIVES'
ASSOCIATIONS

PHOTO
CONTEST

CULINARY
CORNER



European Union



WIELKOPOLSKA
REGION



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

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Krzysztof Grabowski
Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region

Dear All,

From 8 to 10 May 2025, Poznań hosted a three-day European Congress on Renewal and Rural Development. The event, organised in connection with the Polish presidency of the Council of the European Union by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Wielkopolska Regional Government, was attended by several thousand people, including many foreign guests. The main theme of the congress was the role of the countryside in modern Europe, a summary of the changes that have taken place in recent decades in the rural areas of the Community's countries, and a debate on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy in the European Union. The programme of the event was full of valuable and constructive discussions, with the countryside and its issues at the centre of attention.

The event was graced by the presence of the EU Commissioner for Agriculture Christophe Hansen, ministers of the Polish government, ministers of agriculture from EU countries, members of parliament, former presidents of Poland, local government officials, as well as representatives of the scientific community and the media. I encourage you to read our coverage of the congress, which can be found in this bulletin.

In 2025, we have contracted the last funds under the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020. The ten-year im-

plementation period of this Programme is slowly passing into history and, in my opinion, the history will record it as an opportunity that was used well by our region. This is evidenced by statistical data, examples of completed investments and projects, as well as the widespread opinion among beneficiaries that, thanks to support from this instrument, rural areas in the Wielkopolska Region have not only experienced significant civilisational progress, but have also become a place where the inhabitants can co-determine what needs should primarily be met with the European Funds.

At the end of 2024 and in April 2025, we organised two conferences to summarise the effects of the Programme implementation in the Wielkopolska Region.

On 30 March 2025, the 24th final gala of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition took place, during which I had the pleasure of presenting the Sower statuette to 10 outstanding farmers entered in the 2024 competition. In this issue of the bulletin, you can find out the names of all the winners and nominees. I would also like to invite you to read the articles that confirm what an important role Rural Housewives' Associations play in their local communities.

Enjoy your reading.

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EVENTS

Poznań at the centre of debate on the future of European villages

From 8 to 10 May 2025, the largest event of the Polish presidency of the Council of the European Union took place on the site of the Poznań International Fair. The European Congress on Renewal and Rural Development in Poznań brought together leading European politicians responsible for rural development and representatives of the scientific community and the media. The congress was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Wielkopolska Regional Government.



Photo: A. Kapuściński.

Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in cooperation with the Wielkopolska Province Government, the Congress gathered over 4,500 participants from all over Europe.

The agenda of the three-day event was divided in such a way that each day dealt with a different issue important for the rural population. On 8 May, during the Day of Wielkopolska, Local Development and Youth, the congress was officially opened by Deputy Minister of Agriculture Adam Nowak and Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, representing the Wielkopolska Regional Government on that day.

Example of the Partner Regions of the Wielkopolska Region". The event emphasised the importance of women and their



Photo: A. Kapuściński.

The ceremonial opening of the "Europe Day" was performed by Marek Woźniak - Marshal of the Wielkopolska Voivodeship.

"The congress has specific objectives – we have come here to jointly develop plans for the future of rural areas in Europe, Poland, and our region. The countryside is changing fundamentally; we can see this very clearly. In the Wielkopolska Region, we are implementing many programmes related to rural development; we also notice that city dwellers are moving out to the countryside and want to live in dignified conditions. We are always working to make their lives even better," said Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.

The host of the first day of the congress also spoke about the Wielkopolska Village Renewal Phenomenon and moderated a discussion on "Renewal and Development of Villages on the

influence on the development of rural areas in Poland. In the main hall, in the "Women in leading roles" block hosted by Radio Poznań journalist Anna Skoczek, Wielkopolska-born Deputy Minister for European Union Affairs Magdalena Sobkowiak-Czarnecka and the author of the bestselling book "Chłopki" held a discussion. As part of the events accompanying the congress, a panel entitled "The role of women in rural development – how to motivate and inspire women!" was held, moderated by Irena Wojciechowska – a specialist in promotion and mobilisation as well as long-standing vice-president of the local action group "LAG Stowarzyszenie Puszcza Notecka". In her speech, she drew attention to the growing activity of rural housewives, who are the mainstay and driving force of progress in the countryside. The floor was also given to young people, who debated in a block entitled "A vision of rural development, educational and cultural challenges in Europe from the perspective of young people".

On 9 May, Europe Day, the future of European agriculture and rural areas was discussed. Numerous guests at the event were welcomed by the Minister of Agriculture Czesław Siekierski and the Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Marek Woźniak.

"Rural development is one of the topics that is often raised in the European Union, as it is of concern to politicians and local government officials. We recognise that the challenges for the European budget will centre around securing security stability and maintaining peace. The new European budget will be the subject of serious debate," said Marek Woźniak, Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, at the opening of the second day of the Congress.



Photo: A. Kapuściński.

What changes await rural development policy after 2027? During the congress, this was discussed by, among others, Czesław Siekierski - Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and Krzysztof Hetman, Member of the European Parliament.

On that day, Poznań welcomed Christophe Hansen, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, who presented the European Union's vision of the measures it intends to take to sustainably develop rural areas on the Old Continent. Seven Ministers of Agriculture (Italy, Cyprus, Lithuania, Moldova, Ireland, Spain and Poland) were invited to further discuss this topic. The promoted changes in rural development policy after 2027 were discussed on stage by the Minister of Agriculture in the Polish government Czesław Siekierski, the Marshal of the Zachodniopomorskie Region and President of the Board of the Union of Polish Regions Olgierd Geblewicz, as well as MEP and Member of the European Parliament Committee on



Photo: A. Kapuściński.

During the European Congress of Village Renewal and Development, Krzysztof Grabowski, Vice-Marshall of the Wielkopolska Voivodeship, presented the Wielkopolska Phenomenon of Village Development.

EVENTS

Photo: A. Kapuściński.



Day three of the European Congress of Renewal and Development was devoted to Poland. Adam Nowak - Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development moderated the panel on "Assessment of the condition of villages from the perspective of regions".

Agriculture and Rural Development Krzysztof Hetman. Much attention was paid to good practices in rural development, including in French Brittany, Spanish Castile and German Thuringia. At the end of the day, in the block entitled "Outside the big cities", former Polish President Bronisław Komorowski, current Minister of Agriculture Czesław Siekierski and former Minister of Agriculture – Wielkopolska-born Stanisław Kalemba, Rector of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), prof. dr hab. Michał Zasada, and Chief Hunter and former Deputy Marshal of the Polish Sejm Eugeniusz Grzeszczak exchanged their observations and experiences.

The last day of the congress was called Poland Day and the main focus was on the history of our country's accession to the European Union, the transformation of Polish agriculture and the future directions of change in rural areas of Poland. Former Polish President Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Minister of Economic Development and Technology Krzysztof Paszyk, Minister Czesław Siekierski, MEP Andrzej Grzyb, Director of the National Institute for Local Self-Government prof. dr hab. Paweł Swaniewicz and President of the National Council of Agricultural Chambers Wiktor Szmulewicz were asked to assess the results of "20 years of the Polish countryside in the European Union". This was followed by a debate on the state of the Polish countryside from a regional perspective. Speakers included the Marshals of the Mazowieckie Region – Adam Struzik and the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region – Piotr Całbecki, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, President of the Agriculture Restructurisation and Modernisation Agency Wojciech Legawiec, President of the National Association of Village Leaders Ireneusz Niewiarowski and President of the Union of Rural Municipalities Stanisław Jastrzębski.

Substantive panel discussions and speeches were complemented by additional attractions prepared by the organisers. One of the halls of the Poznań International Fair created an exhibition space for all Polish regions to present themselves. There was no shortage of musical and culinary elements. The Wielkopolska Regional Government also prepared its own stand in cooperation with producers of healthy regional food. Participants were able to obtain up-to-date information at information points prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, the Department of Rural Development Programmes and the Wielkopolska Regional Government Centre for Rural Development in Sielinko. Beekeeping workshops were held at the stand for three days.



Photo: A. Kapuściński.

Christophe Hansen - EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food participated together with European Agriculture Ministers in a panel dedicated to the future of agriculture and rural development.

Wielkopolska supports and promotes Rural Housewives' Associations

The Wielkopolska Regional Government organises cooking competitions attracting the participation of members of Rural Housewives' Associations (KGW). Two such initiatives took place in the run-up to Easter 2025.

"Rural Housewives' Associations play a very important role in local communities. Through a range of events, they integrate and activate local people and ensure that regional traditions, rituals and customs are cultivated. They also engage in social activities, sharing their valuable knowledge and experience with the local population. The Wielkopolska Regional Government is allocating more and more funds each year to initiatives promoting KGWs and encouraging the establishment of new associations," emphasised Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

On 22 March, the second edition of the "Easter Egg Dish and Palm Competition" took place in Piła. As many as 130 KGWs from various parts of our region took part in this extremely colourful event. In the jury's opinion, the best palm was prepared by the KGW in Kuźnica Trzcińska from the Trzcinica commune, second place was awarded to KGW "Podróżnianski" in Podróżna from the Krajenka commune, and third place went to KGW "Równi Sobie" in Zębów from the Lwówek commune.

In the category of sweet dishes, the winner was "Surprise egg" prepared by KGW from Pobórka Wielka, beating "Queen on egg grazing" by KGW Szetlew "Makowianki" from the Zagórów commune and "Sweet chickens on green grass" by KGW Starkowo from the Gostyń commune. Representatives of three other districts were awarded in the savoury dish category; first place went to KGW "Kownatki" in Kownaty from the Wilczyn commune for the dish "Goose with egg and stuffed apples", second place went to KGW "Cekowianki Swojaki" in Ceków from the commune of Ceków-Kolonia for "Meatloaf with eggs and prażoki", and third place to KGW in Podlesie Wielkopolskie from the Oborniki commune for "Galart – Aspic – Meat



Photo: B. Zalas.

In Piła, rural housewives' associations from all over Wielkopolska competed in a competition for the best egg dish.

Jelly". A total of 30 associations were awarded and honoured with cash prizes.

The final of the third edition of the "Horseradish Grating Competition in Chrzan – Easter Traditions of the Wielkopolska Region" took place on 5 April in the village of Chrzan, located in the Żerków commune. It was attended by 110 KGWs. The versatile skills of the KGW in Kuźnica Trzcińska, showing off with a result of 2.3 kg of horseradish grated by hand in three minutes.

KGW Twardów (Kotlin commune) came second with 2.132 kg of horseradish, and KGW Leśnictwo (Kawęczyn commune) came third with 2.106 kg. The competition jury awarded first place to the "Horseradish euphoria", i.e. bacon rolls under a horseradish cloud by KGW Kolonia Obory. Second place was awarded to the "Horseradish soup with croutons", which was presented by the KGW "Kwilecka Wiaruchna" in Kwilcz. Third place, in turn, went to the ladies from KGW Murzynowo Leśne for their "Sourdough soup with horseradish, dried mushrooms and white sausage". A total of 46 KGWs received cash prizes in the competition. The prizes were funded by the National Rural Network under the RDP 2014–2020.



Photo: P. Chudziak.



Photo: P. Chudziak.

Over 100 Rural Women's Circles registered to take part in the Easter culinary competition in grating horseradish, which traditionally took place in Chrzan.

RDP IMPLEMENTATION

Billion in support for rural areas

The Wielkopolska Regional Government organised two conferences summing up the 10-year implementation period of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014–2020. In December 2024, a meeting was held with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Stefan Krajewski on the effects of the LEADER initiative, while on 1 April 2025, in a wide group of beneficiaries and representatives of institutions responsible for the implementation of the RDP, the remaining measures financed with the help of the regional government were summed up.



Photo: A. Kapuściński.

The summary of the 10-year implementation period of the Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 was attended by nearly 200 people. The invitation to participate was addressed to representatives of municipal and district governments that had the opportunity to benefit from EU financial support.

The Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 is the largest aid instrument aimed at the rural population, local governments, NGOs, and small and medium-sized enterprises operating in rural areas. The sources of funding for this programme are EU funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Recovery and Resilience Facility, introduced in the wake of the COVID pandemic, which has enabled wider implementation of investments in water and wastewater management. The implementation of the RDP 2014–2020, extended by two years as a result of the COVID pandemic, is coming to an end.

In April 2025, the last funds from this programme were contracted to support tasks in the field of water and wastewater management. This makes it possible to summarise the entire financial perspective, under which rural areas in the Wielkopolska Region have received financial support worth over PLN 1 billion. This is the result of more than 3,270 agreements concluded with beneficiaries. More than two-thirds of the funds granted went to support basic services and village renewal in rural areas, which benefited local governments.

"Modernised and safe roads, extremely costly investments in water and wastewater management, renovated and extended village community centres, markets enabling convenient trade in agri-

cultural products straight from the field, and historic buildings saved from destruction are the most important results of projects that have been successfully implemented in the Wielkopolska Region thanks to funds from the RDP 2014–2020. Thanks to the implementation of grassroots community-led local initiatives, more than 2,000 new jobs have been created in the region," notes the host of both conferences, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

With EU support, more than 400 km of local roads have been built or rebuilt, and more than 500 km of water supply and sewage systems have been constructed or modernised in Wielkopolska. There were 69 projects including investments in facilities with cultural functions and the shaping of public spaces, 16 monuments were saved from destruction, and 14 marketplaces were successfully modernised or built. A total of 205 communes and 21 districts of the Wielkopolska Region took advantage of the financial support opportunities under the RDP 2014–2020. Thanks to the implementation of projects co-financed from the RDP 2014–2020, the Wielkopolska countryside has become not only more beautiful, but also a modern, safe and attractive place to live and do business.

Marshal Grabowski, who directly supervises the implementation of the RDP on behalf of the Board of the Wielkopolska

Photo: A. Kapuściński.



On 11 December 2024, a summary of the implementation of the LEADER initiative under RDP 2014–2020 was held in the Session Hall of the Marshal Office in Poznań. Stefan Krajewski, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, was the guest of the event.

Region, congratulated the Programme beneficiaries on their effectiveness in obtaining funds and emphasised that the distribution of EU funds has enabled the even development of Wielkopolska's rural areas, from north to south and from west to east.

The conferences were an opportunity to present and discuss all the measures to which financial support was allocated in the last EU budget framework. Experiences from the perspective of the whole country were shared by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Agriculture Restructurisation and Modernisation Agency, while summaries at regional level were presented by Izabela Mroczek – Director of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region and Anna Jakubowska, her deputy.

"A lot has been happening in rural areas in recent years thanks to the involvement of local communities, rural housewives' associations, volunteer fire brigades and NGOs. This great human potential contributes to the effective and sustainable development of rural areas. The LEADER approach shows that regional funding of ideas that emerge from local communities is often more effective than assistance provided centrally. I am very pleased that the Wielkopolska Region, as one of ten regions in the country, has decided on multi-fund support for community-led local development," stressed Deputy Minister of Agriculture Stefan Krajewski during the December conference.

The summary of the RDP 2014–2020 among the beneficiaries of this programme, which took place on 1 April 2025, was crowned with a ceremonial presentation of distinctions to the local governments most actively seeking EU funds. This honourable group included the Czarnków–Trzcianka district, as well as the communes of Ceków-Kolonia, Czempin, Grodziec, Lwówek, Przygodzice, Wągrowiec and Wolsztyn. Commemorative plaques were presented by Łukasz Tomczak, Director of the Department of Delegated Actions, representing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, and Director Izabela Mroczek.

"Effective support for rural areas, facilitating their sustainable development while taking into account the specificities and differences found in different parts of our country, is the challenge faced by the regional governments when implementing the Rural Development Programme 2014–2020. In retrospect, it can be said that they have fulfilled this task very well, which is evidenced not only by statistics, but also by specific examples of implemented tasks. The Wielkopolska Region is the best proof of this. Spending every penny economically and according to the needs is your domain," said director Łukasz Tomczak

Photo: A. Kapuściński.



The Grodziec commune was among the distinguished beneficiaries of RDP 2014–2020. Pictured from left to right: Łukasz Tomczak – Director of the Common Agricultural Policy Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Rafał Gil – Commune Secretary; Izabela Mroczek – Director of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region; Mariusz Woźniak – Commune Head; and Krzysztof Grabowski – Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.

Best farmers in Wielkopolska

The Wielkopolska Regional Government has announced the results of the 24th edition of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition. On 31 March 2025, during the final gala, the Sower statuettes for 2024 were awarded to the owners of 10 farms. The awardees stand out in terms of efficiency, innovation, and ecology.



Photo: A. Kapuściński.

The Sower statuettes were presented to 10 farmers from the Wielkopolska Region.

Nearly two thousand people gathered on Sunday afternoon at the Earth Hall of the Poznań International Fair in Poznań to applaud the farmers who are the top representatives of Wielkopolska's agriculture. For the 24th time, the jury of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition awarded the Sower statuettes and financial prizes to ten winners. In its 24-year history, almost 1.5 thousand farmers have entered the competition.

In 2024, 51 farms from almost all districts of the region took part in it. The evaluation of candidates involves not only reviewing applications, but also visiting farms. This ensures that the jury makes the right choice and awards nominations, and then selects 10 winners from among the nominees. The level of this year's competition was so high that the jury decided to award as many as 22 nominations.

"The idea of rewarding farmers in such a solemn manner, as is the case in Wielkopolska, is unique in Poland. We are proud of the competition's over twenty-year history, which attracts interest not only from the residents of our region. Every year, we host representatives from other regions at the gala and hear their flattering opinions about the event. The title of Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year is prestigious. This elite group includes farms and farmers who are the pride of our region," says Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, the host of the March ceremony.

"In addition to the technical assessment, the jury pays attention to the social involvement of the farmers and their families. Household members are often active as volunteer firefighters or are involved in rural housewives' associations and other local initiatives. Another important aspect is care and respect for the natural environment, which is inextricably linked to agriculture. As a result, the final outcome is determined by the smallest details," says prof. Grzegorz Skrzypczak, Head of the Competition Jury – adds prof. Grzegorz Skrzypczak, Head of the Competition Jury.

An additional prize awaited the winners of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition this year, funded by MEP Krzysztof Hetman. The winners of the competition received an invitation to Brussels to visit the headquarters of the European Union authorities. The European context of the gala was highlighted by a film promoting the effects of the implementation of the EU Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 in the Wielkopolska Region. The material was funded by the National Rural Network. The ceremony was also accompanied by musical attractions: a performance by the finalist of the 15th Edition of "The Voice of Poland" a resident of the Stare Miasto commune, Mikołaj Przybylski, and a concert by the band Enej.

Nominees and winners* of the 24th edition of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition

	First and last name	Type of production	Town/village	Commune	District
1.	Michał Jęskowiak	Crop and/or animal production	Wijewo	Wijewo	leszczyński
2.	Łukasz Waliński	Other farming activities	Ryczywół	Ryczywół	obornicki
3.	Beata i Marcin Majnert	Crop and/or animal production	Kruczyn	Nowe Miasto nad Wartą	średzki
4.	Agnieszka i Karol Kasprzak	Crop and/or animal production	Moskurnia	Koźminek	kaliski
5.	Weronika i Hubert Grzelka	Crop and/or animal production	Gorzyczki	Czempiń	kościański
6.	Krzystian Jeżewski	Crop and/or animal production	Chlewo	Grabów nad Prosną	ostrzeszowski
7.	Agnieszka i Leszek Piętka	Crop and/or animal production	Błonice	Rzgów	koniński
8.	Jan Jerczyński	Crop and/or animal production	Trzebień	Łęka Opatowska	kępiński
9.	Aneta i Błażej Szczeciński	Other farming activities	Królików Czwarty	Grodziec	koniński
10.	Agnieszka i Tomasz Pradelscy	Crop and/or animal production	Sierniczki Małe	Ostrowite	śłupecki
11.	Sławomir Studziński	Other farming activities	Jarocin	Jarocin	jarociński
12.	Mirosław Wilczyk	Crop and/or animal production	Sroczewo	Książ Wielkopolski	śremski
13.	Dariusz Gąszczak	Crop and/or animal production	Łęka Opatowska	Łęka Opatowska	kępiński
14.	Grzegorz Sękowski	Horticultural production	Biskupice Wielkopolskie	Pobiedziska	poznański
15.	Marcin Wojciechowski	Crop and/or animal production	Szczepankowo	Ostroróg	szamotulski
16.	Edyta i Piotr Król	Horticultural production	Tłokinia Kościelna	Opatówek	kaliski
17.	Jarosław Łukasz Nowak	Crop and/or animal production	Zalesie Wielkie	Kobylin	krotoszyński
18.	Jarosław Niedziela	Crop and/or animal production	Rokutów	Pleszew	pleszewski
19.	Artur Molski	Crop and/or animal production	Dobrzyca	Dobrzyca	pleszewski
20.	Hanna i Grzegorz Szyler	Crop and/or animal production	Tarnówko	Połajewo	czarnkowski-trzaniecki
21.	Anna Karbowa i Michał Karbowy	Crop and/or animal production	Smulsko	Przykona	turecki
22.	Tadeusz Jokiel	Crop and/or animal production	Wroniawy	Wolsztyn	wolsztyński

*- winners are highlighted in bold in the table

RURAL HOUSEWIVES' ASSOCIATIONS

Easter customs and traditions

In cooperation with the Rural Housewives' Associations and the Wielkopolska Regional Government Centre for Rural Development in Sielinko, the Regional Unit of the National Rural Network in the Wielkopolska Region organised a series of handicraft and cooking workshops for people living in rural areas. The meetings were held in five villages at the end of March and the beginning of April.

Source: Archives of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region



Workshops in Krzykosy in the Środa Wielkopolska district.

Easter is not only a time of rich spiritual experiences, but also a period for nurturing traditions, customs, and rituals passed down from generation to generation. Residents of villages, especially rural housewives' associations, play a special role and deserve special credit for this, as they undertake a number of activities to promote and pass on knowledge and values to younger villagers.

For this reason, in the period leading up to the Resurrection Sunday, the Wielkopolska Regional Government held a series of workshops in five towns in our region, aimed at local communities. Meetings organised in cooperation with the Rural Housewives' Association in Sobótka (Ostrów Wielkopolski district), Krzykosach (Środa Wielkopolska district), Huta (Czarnków-Trzcianka district) Szkaradowo (Rawicz district) and Żychlin (Konin district) enabled entire families to exchange knowledge and learn hands-on how to make decorations, palm branches, Easter eggs and traditional Easter dishes. The Wielkopolska Regional Government Centre for Rural Development (WSCRW) in Sielinko actively participated in the preparation of the workshops.

involvement of the residents – especially children and young people – which shows that the traditions of our ancestors are still alive and will be passed on," says the Deputy Marshal of the Region, Krzysztof Grabowski.

The series of meetings began on 22 March 2025. The workshop organised by the Rural Housewives' Association of Krzykosy



Source: WSCRW in Sielinko.

Workshops in Huta in the Czarnków commune.

"The meetings before Easter were not only an opportunity to pass on knowledge of Easter customs, but also to create decorations, make dishes, and share interests. I am delighted by the huge

RURAL HOUSEWIVES' ASSOCIATIONS

Source: WSCRW in Sielinko.



Workshops in Szkaradowo in the Rawicz district.

took place in the building of the Volunteer Fire Brigade in Krzykosy.

Participants, under the guidance of folk artist Jadwiga Anioły, had the opportunity to make their own traditional Easter ornaments and decorations – including striking straw "spiders" and colourful goose eggs. Another workshop was addressed to the residents of Sobótka in the Ostrów Wielkopolski commune. On 3 April 2025, the local village hall attracted nearly 70 people who wanted to prepare themselves for the upcoming holidays in a spring atmosphere and in creative and interesting ways, by making their own decorations, such as colourful Easter wreaths, delicate ribbons, creative centrepieces, bunnies made of natural materials, and decorative eggs made using the decoupage technique.

On the first weekend of April, the village hall in Huta in the commune of Czarńków was transformed into a centre for Easter creativity. A two-day themed workshop was held there on the initiative of the "HutaWianki" Rural Housewives' Association, attracting both cooking lovers and handicraft enthusiasts. On Saturday, 5 April 2025, participants learned the secrets of preparing traditional Mazurek cakes – crumbly, colourful pastries that have adorned Easter tables for years. The day after, it was time for creative play with decorations – participants created colourful palms, Easter wreaths and eggs decorated with the decoupage technique under the watchful eye of the ladies of the Rural Housewives' Association.

The workshop also reached south-western Wielkopolska Region. On 6, 7 and 9 April, in the village hall in Szkaradowo, ladies from the local Rural Housewives' Association organised meetings during which the participants made natural Easter wreaths, palms and learned how to decorate porcelain with the traditional Hazak pattern.

On 9 April, within the walls of the John Paul II Primary School in Żychlin, the final meeting took place, crowning the entire project co-financed by European Union funds as part of the National Rural Network. The event brought together children of all ages – both kindergarteners and older pupils. Each participant created their own Easter decorations with great commitment. The activities were divided into three thematic groups, depending on age and level of difficulty. The youngest children enjoyed sewing adorable Easter bunnies out of socks, while learning simple manual techniques. Older children prepared unique Christmas decorations – some created classic compositions with spring accents, others made ornaments from Easter eggs placed on wooden stands.

A total of more than 450 people took part in all workshops. The organisers made sure that no one left the meetings hungry and funded refreshments inspired by dishes characteristic of Easter.



Source: WSCRW in Sielinko.

Workshops in Żychlin in the Konin district.

Asparagus on chicken breast in béchamel sauce

The Przemęt commune is famous in the region for its asparagus crops. On 15 June 2025, Przemęt will be awarded the title of Asparagus Capital of Poland during a ceremony in Mochy co-financed by the Wielkopolska Regional Government. We invite all lovers of this healthy vegetable to visit the Przemęt land, and if you cannot participate in this year's Asparagus Festival, we recommend preparing a dish of your own, based on a recipe provided by the Rural Housewives' Association in Przemęt.



Ingredients for one portion of the dish:

- approx. 300 g of chicken breast fillet
- 500 g of white asparagus
- 3 potatoes
- 1 carrot
- 3 slices of smoked bacon
- a piece of mozzarella cheese

Ingredients for the sauce:

- a spoonful of butter
- a spoonful of flour
- 10 g of mozzarella cheese
- salt
- sugar
- pepper
- lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons of cream (30% fat)

PREPARATION:

Boil the peeled asparagus in salted water with a little sugar. In a second pot, boil the peeled carrots with the potatoes (once they are cooked, purée them). Wash and dry the chicken breast fillet, then season it with salt, pepper, and paprika. Fry the meat in a grill pan or on the grill. In the oven, roast the bacon for crisps. Prepare the béchamel sauce. Brown a tablespoon of butter, add a tablespoon of flour and make a

roux, add 10g of mozzarella cheese, season with salt, sugar, pepper, and lemon to taste. Add three tablespoons of 30% cream and stir until velvety. Place the warm puree on a plate, top with the grilled meat, the cooked asparagus and pour the béchamel sauce over all. Add the mozzarella cheese and finally garnish with bacon crisps.



"The Shoemaker always goes barefoot" – a photograph by Małgorzata Kołasa taken in the village of Dziekanowice in the Łubowo commune in the Gniezno district), which won first place in the category "How do the people of Wielkopolska preserve tradition?".



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