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author: Piotr Gołębiak, photo taken in Wronki (Szamotulny powiat)

“Recreational path along the Warta River”



WIELKOPOLSKA
REGION



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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	3
Funds for local action groups.....	4-5
We need bees	6-7
Harvest Festival closer to the people	8-9
National Rural Network helps young people in the region.....	10-11
Wielkopolska is rich in culinary delights	12-13
Culinary corner	14
Photo corner	15



Krzysztof Grabowski
Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region

Dear Sir or Madam,

The second half of summer and the beginning of autumn are a time of many important events organized in rural areas. I mean above all the custom of thanksgiving for the harvest during harvest festivals, celebrated for generations. This year, instead of one central regional celebration, the local government of our region financially supported the organization of four events in different parts of the region, they took place under the patronage of the Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region. The events were organized in Łądek in the Słupca powiat, Doruchów in the Ostrzeszów powiat, Stara Łubianka in the Piła powiat and Racot in the Kościan powiat. Participants in these events could visit stands prepared by the Marshal Office in Poznań. The information point of the Rural Development Program distributed, among other things, the bulletin "Our European Countryside".

In the issue of the quarterly, we are also presenting you with information on the funds granted to 30 local action groups from the Wielkopolska Region. These are funds allocated for the operation of offices and the animation of local commu-

nities. The groups will soon announce calls for applications under the new financial perspective for 2023-2027.

The National Rural Network creates the possibility of co-financing many projects aimed at the broadly understood development of rural areas. Funds from the source made it possible to organize the celebration of the Great Bee Day in Kalisz-Zawodzie in August, and in September to prepare a record-breaking exhibition area for the Wielkopolska Region producers during the Tastes of the Region fair. While supporting the agri-food industry, we do not forget about the needs of our residents, especially those struggling with the problem of disability. For the reason, for the second year in a row we have successfully organized study trips for young people from one of the Wielkopolska schools, the aim of which was to show young people the prospects and opportunities offered by professional activity in the countryside.

I wish you pleasant reading.

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LEADER

Funds for local action groups

30 Wielkopolska LAGs implementing the Community-Led Local Development intervention under the CAP Strategic Plan received a total of over PLN 60 million to manage the processes of submitting applications to beneficiaries.



Source: Beneficiary's Archive

The LEADER program helps to activate different age groups of residents of the Wielkopolska countryside. The photo shows a dance group from the area where the "Solna Dolina" Association operates.

- This is a very important stage for the local action groups which will implement the strategies they have developed in a multi-fund formula. Thanks to the allocated funds for management, they can first of all take care of the appropriate staff dealing with application calls and consulting. They also have the opportunity to finance a number of informational and promotional activities, i.e. training, meetings or information campaigns, they are to prepare the local community well to apply for the EU funds from the new financial perspective - says Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

Let us recall that in January 2024, representatives of local action groups signed framework agreements providing support mainly for the implementation of the local development strategy led by the community, but also for the "Local Development Strategy Management" component. The total amount at stake is EUR 128.5 million, which is more than PLN 550 million at the current exchange rate of the European currency. Almost two thirds of the budget is covered by funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, while the rest comes from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund Plus.

The support granted to local action groups will let them focus on the efficient preparation of the process of implementing local strategies. The process will be carried out entirely in the ICT system, it is an additional challenge for the groups, but

will contribute to reducing the consumption of materials used in previous financial perspectives and improving the service of applicants and beneficiaries.

Considering the planned distribution of funds from the agricultural fund, it is worth noting that the scope of support will correspond even more than before to local, identified needs, especially in the context of entrepreneurship, in the case of which support will go to pre-defined industries.

Significant funds for the development of entrepreneurship have already been distributed as part of the ending financial perspective, in which the regional government implemented the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020. Thanks to the program, 1,178 new enterprises were established in the Wielkopolska Region, 438 enterprises expanded their activities, it contributed to the creation of 2,061 jobs.

One of the interesting initiatives implemented by beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 is the project "Equine Physiotherapy - innovative support for veterinary services for the local community". It is an example of a business idea that was created in the town of Osiniec in the Gniezno commune, and therefore in the area of operation of the Local Action Group "Trakt Piastów". Services related to horse rehabilitation are becoming more and more common.

Source: Beneficiary's Archive



Promotion of local heritage is an important aspect of support under the LEADER initiative. Revitalization of the Planty area in Lwówek significantly increased the tourist attractiveness of the region and the promotion of the area of operation of the KOLD LAG

Year by year, there is also an increased demand for the purchase of horses for sports purposes. Equestrianism is a huge burden on the horse's body. All kinds of injuries or contusions that occur, among others, during training require rehabilitation using modern methods and devices, they include laser therapy, water treadmills, spas, horse pools and solariums. Thanks to support from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, specialist equipment was purchased that allows for the provision of innovative veterinary services for the local community.

In the area of operation of the LAG Gościnną Wielkopolska in the town of Naclaw in the Kościan commune, a resident of the Wielkopolska Region started a business called "Local Natural - sale of local food products". The innovativeness of the idea consists in launching a new sales channel for traditional food products in the form of gift baskets. The baskets are filled with local products and prepared thematically, e.g. "Products entered on the list of traditional products", with the distinction "Quality Tradition", "Pearl of the Region", with the "Our Culinary Heritage" mark. All products come from the area of the LAG Gościnną Wielkopolska and are offered to residents at the marketplace in Kościan.

Another example of an implemented initiative comes from the town of Bierzwienna Długa in the Kłodawa commune in the Koło powiat, where the "Solna Dolina" Association operates. One of the residents of eastern Wielkopolska started a business in the scope of a Dance and Fitness School. A new place for meetings, recreation, exercise, relaxation and rest has been created. The originality of the co-financed operation is that mothers, children, grandmothers and grandchildren can participate in classes at the same time. The range of services offered is very wide and lets you find your favourite physical

activity, it shall not only improve motor coordination, but also develop many talents. The support obtained under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 allowed for the purchase of comprehensive equipment for training rooms.

Interesting projects concern not only entrepreneurship, but also the development of non-commercial public infrastructure. The "Development of the Planty area in Lwówek" project implemented by the Gymnastics Association "Sokół in Lwówek" can exemplify a successfully completed investment task of this type. The operation assumed the performance of a number of cleaning and demolition works, levelling the area, creating pedestrian routes and developing the Planty area with greenery. Investments were also made in small architectural elements, it significantly improved the quality of public space in the area of operation of the KOLD LAG.

Source: Beneficiary's Archive



Love for horses and the desire to provide them with professional help is the motto of the project co-financed from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 entitled "Equine physiotherapy - innovative support for veterinary services for the local community"

EVENTS

We need bees

On August 11, in Kalisz-Zawodzie, the Wielkopolska Regional Government organized an event to celebrate the Great Bee Day. The event was organized with the support of European Union funds as part of the National Rural Network.



Photo: Tomasz Potemkowski

A wide range of bee products: from aromatic wax candles to delicious honeys of various types.

The idea of the bee festival celebrated on August 8 is to educate society about the particularly important role of the insects for the ecosystem and for humans, in the face of the extremely important problem of bee extinction. It is worth remembering that the merits of the insects cannot be overestimated, thanks to them we have honey, fruit and vegetables. Bees as pollinators are of great economic importance for agriculture

and climate. Unfortunately, numerous weather changes and human activity negatively affect their lives. The event, the main theme of which is bees and beekeeping, showed how exceptionally important the presence and breeding of bees is in the economic, natural and cultural aspects.

Upon the initiative of the Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Mr. Krzysztof Grabowski, to celebrate the day and disseminate knowledge about the functioning of the beekeeping sector in Poland, together with the District Museum of the Kalisz Region in Kalisz, the Wielkopolska Regional Government organized the celebration of the Wielkopolska Bee Day. The event took place on August 11, 2024 in the Archaeological Reserve in Kalisz-Zawodzie.

- This is the fourth time we are meeting in Kalisz to educate residents about the benefits of bees and their role in the safe future of our planet. The Wielkopolska Regional Government has been allocating specific funds to support the beekeeping sector on a staggered basis. The first funds for the purpose were allocated in 2018. Since then, we have provided beekeepers in the Wielkopolska Region with a total of PLN 14 million for the purchase of beeswax and bee food - emphasizes the Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.



Photo: Tomasz Potemkowski

Participants of the event received symbolic portions of honey from the Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.



Photo: Tomasz Potemkowski

The Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, the Region Councillor Anna Majda and the Director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Szymon Wdowczyk visited all the stands prepared as part of the event and presented thanks for the effort put into their preparation.

What are the effects of the co-financed tasks related to beekeeping? As part of the aid, it has already been possible to purchase more than 170 tons of beeswax and 900 tons of bee cake. Every year, nearly 5,000 beekeepers benefit from the support. What is more, PLN 8.5 million was allocated for the purchase of honey tree seedlings, thanks to which municipal and district governments carry out the planting. More than 70,000 honey trees have been planted in the Wielkopolska Region over the past 7 years. Since 2023, the creation of educational apiaries has also been co-financed. So far, six institutions have received support in the area. On September 21, 2024, one of such apiaries was opened in Radlin in the Jarocin commune. In 2024, the Association of the Bartenders Society in Śmigiel (Kościan powiat) also received funding for the purpose. Last year, the first 4 co-financed apiaries were established: in Kopaszewo (Krzywiń commune, Kościan powiat), Stobno (Trzcianka commune, Czarnków-Trzcianka powiat), Przygodzice (Ostrów powiat) and Trąbczyn Dworski (Zagórz commune, Słupca powiat).

The outdoor event on the occasion of Bee Day gathered crowds of residents of our region, it consisted of a beekeeping fair with a rich offer of the effects of bees' work presented by beekeepers from the Wielkopolska Region, educational shows on the life of bees and numerous attractions for children, youth and adults with honey as the main actor, but not only. The participants were awaited by an archery stand, a blacksmith's demonstration of blackening metal using beeswax, a reconstruction of the Cistercian nuns from Ołobok

(Sieroszewice commune, Ostrów powiat) on honey and bee products in medieval monastic medicine, and a presentation of the profession of a birdcatcher. As part of the Wielkopolska Bee Day, a competition was organized for the most interesting stand of the event. This year, nearly 50 stands were prepared as part of the event. The winner was the stand prepared by the Rural Housewives' Association Piątek Mały from the Commune of Stawiszyn. The 2nd position was taken by the stand of the Maja and Gucio apiary from the Jarocin Commune, and the 3rd position on the podium was taken by the Stand of the Rural Housewives' Association from Blizanówek.



Photo: Tomasz Potemkowski

During the event in Kalisz, there was no shortage of attractions for families with children. The ceremony was accompanied by excellent weather.

EVENTS

Harvest Festival closer to the people

In August and September 2024, four harvest festivals were held, co-organized by the Wielkopolska Region Local Government under the patronage of the Marshal of the Region, Marek Woźniak. The hosts of the Harvest Festival in the new formula were Łądek in the Słupca powiat, Doruchów in the Ostrzeszów powiat, Stara Łubianka in the Piła powiat and Racot in the Kościan powiat.

Source: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, Archive.



The Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Marek Woźniak accompanied by the hosts of the harvest festival in Łądek - the starost of Słupca Marek Dąbrowski and the mayor of the Łądek commune Artur Miętkiewicz.

- The harvest festival is primarily for farmers. For those who are involved in agricultural production on a daily basis and live in a rural environment. The formula of one event in such a large region as the Wielkopolska Region means that mainly harvest festival delegations, wreath-giving delegations and a group of VIPs, who are the main characters of the event, take part in it. That is why we want the harvest festival to be closer to people, and the effect can only be achieved by organizing the event at the local, district and communal level. Hence the idea for the provincial government to become a partner supporting the events, additionally guaranteeing the patronage of the marshal - said Marshal Marek Woźniak at the conference preceding the harvest festival celebrations.

On Saturday, August 24, 2024, the first of the events co-financed from the budget of the Wielkopolska Region took place in Łądek. After the traditional service in the Church of St. Nicholas the Bishop in Łądek, a colourful harvest festival procession set off from in front of the church and reached the Municipal Stadium in Łądek, the main place of celebration. The starosts of the harvest festival were presented there. These roles were played by Małgorzata Rogalińska-Wierzbińska from the Orchowo commune and Marek Baczyński from the Łądek commune.

The passing on of bread and sharing it is an important harvest festival ritual. The element was not lacking in Łądek, the Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Marek Woźniak, the Starost of Słupca Marek Dąbrowski, the Mayor of the Łądek Commune Artur Miętkiewicz and members of the honorary committee of the event and the starosts of the harvest festival shared bread with participants of the event. Harvest wreaths were also presented, including a wreath prepared for the Wielkopolska Region by a folk artist Piotr Barańczak with his wife Maria, family and neighbours from the village of Trzemeszno near Rozdrażewo in Krotoszyn Powiat.

A day later, on 25 August 2024, the host of the Powiat-Community-Parish Harvest Festival was Doruchów. The celebrations began with a solemn mass in the parish church of St. Stanisław Kostka in Doruchów, and then the events moved to the Sports Stadium in Doruchów, where the traditional harvest festival ceremony was led by the Doruchowianie Folk Group. The harvest festival starosts were also presented: Agnieszka Błoch from Wrzosy in the Doruchów commune and Mirosława Mieszkała from Kuźnica Grabowska in the Grabów nad Prosną commune.

- The Harvest Festival is a special time to thank farmers for their work so that there is bread on every table. The hard work of a



Source: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, Archive.

A preparation and presentation of spectacular harvest wreaths during the ceremony is also a tradition of the harvest festival.



Source: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, Archive.

The passing on of bread and sharing it is an important harvest festival ritual. In the picture from the left: Marzena Wodzińska - Region Councillor, Ireneusz Powaga - Parish Priest in Doruchów, Krzysztof Grabowski - Deputy Marshall of the Wielkopolska Region, Dariusz Świtoń - the Starost of Ostrzeszów and Urszula Kowalińska - the Mayor of the Doruchów Commune

farmer is an expression of a strong attachment to national traditions and values passed down from generation to generation. Working on a farm is also a courageous and conscious confrontation of the many adversities that farms have to face. Despite many challenges, you do not give up and are very persistent - therefore you deserve social recognition! The Wielkopolska countryside is also a place of numerous changes that, thanks to Poland's membership in the European Union, have been achieved over 20 years and have significantly improved the quality of life of rural residents. As part of the Rural Development Programme in 2007-2013 and 2014-2020, the beneficiaries obtained more than PLN 2 billion, it enabled the implementation of many investments and tasks supporting the development of our society and the Region - said Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, he represented the Wielkopolska Region Local Government that day.

Numerous attractions awaited the participants of the harvest festival in Doruchów. There were stands of the Rural Housewives' Associations from the commune, animations and workshops for children, and handicraft shows. The event was full of artistic performances. The stage was graced by, among others, the EWG Cabaret, the Children's Folk Group from Doruchów, soloists: Lech Owczarek and Julia Kędzia, Anna Żebrowska, and the Poligrodzianie Folk Dance Group.

The other two harvest festival events took place on September 7 and 8, 2024, in Stara Łubianka and Racot, respectively. Residents from the northern and southern Wielkopolska Region gathered to cultivate the multi-generational tradition of thanksgiving for the hard work of farmers, for the harvested crops of grain, herbs, and flowers. The celebrations were full of many attractions and performances by local artists. The harvest festival rituals performed by the "Rożanie" and "Żeńcy

Wielkopolscy" groups were sublime and full of folk character. Both of the celebrations were attended by the Deputy Marshal of the region Krzysztof Grabowski, he received bread baked from this year's flour from the starosts of the harvest festival. In Stara Łubianka, the starosts of the harvest festival were Marlena Cioch and Paweł Ciepluch, they live in the town, while in Racot there were Ewa Małyszek from Katarzynin and Szymon Nejranowski from Wław in the Kościan commune.

During each of the four harvest festival celebrations, the Wielkopolska Region Local Government prepared information points where participants could learn about the initiatives undertaken for agriculture and rural areas by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department of Rural Development Programmes and the Wielkopolska Regional Government Centre for Rural Development in Sielinko.



Source: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, Archive.

The harvest festival is a centuries-old custom of giving thanks for the harvest. It is also an event that aims at presenting the charm of rural areas.

OPERATIONAL PLAN OF THE NRN

National Rural Network helps young people in the region

For the second time, the regional government has organised study trips for students affected by disabilities. The aim of the project financed by the European Union is to counteract the marginalisation of people with disabilities and reduce barriers in their access to knowledge about initiatives undertaken in rural areas in the context of prospects on the labour market.



Photo: K. Bekas.

A visit to the sensory garden in Krwony.

On September 24 and 26, 2024, thanks to support from the European Union funds, two study trips were held, attended by students of the Special Educational and Upbringing Centre No. 2 named after the Home Army Deaf-Mute Platoon in Kalisz at the initiative of Vice-Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski. This is a facility that cares for the needs of people affected by disabilities. It is the only one in the Kalisz region that offers a full range of education and rehabilitation for hard of hearing and deaf children. Technical school students are trained as photography and multimedia technicians.

- We are aware of the difficulties that disabled children and their parents have to face every day. Thinking about the future of the young people, we want to take initiatives that will make it easier for them to start professional activity in the future. As part of the National Rural Network, in 2023 we organized pilot study trips combined with workshops for two groups of young people. The involvement of participants in the undertaking and the many favourable opinions from their guardians about such an active form of support showed that it is worth continuing this type of activity. In 2024, the program of trips was expanded to show a wider range of opportunities that young people have. The beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 were involved in organizing the event - emphasizes the Deputy Marshal of the region, Krzysztof Grabowski.

A 15-person group of students from the Kalisz school visited the headquarters of the Turkowska Development Union T.U.R. in Krwony in the Brudzew commune in the Turek powiat. The started began with a visit to the sensory garden and graduation tower. It is a unique place that allows for close contact with nature, engaging not only sight and smell, but also hearing, touch and even taste. The garden is home to not only decorative flowers, but also herbs and edible flowers that you can taste. A special sensory path consists of different types of surfaces, which you should walk barefoot on to fully experience them. Hearing in the sensory garden is affected not only by the sound of the wind, birdsong or insect buzzing, but also by specially installed bells, used in relaxation and meditation practices. As part of the visit, a multimedia exhibition was held devoted to biodiversity, climate change and its possible effects, as well as solutions that will let us avoid the most catastrophic scenarios for our planet. Visual and sound effects, and even noticeable gusts of wind, create an immersive atmosphere that helps better understand ecological issues. The exhibition was created using films and photographs by local nature lovers, which additionally promotes the Wielkopolska Region. After the multimedia show, participants had the opportunity to discuss the impact of human activity on the environment. The discussion was led by the president of the Turkowska Development Union T.U.R., Magdalena Cio-

OPERATIONAL PLAN OF THE NRN



Photo: K. Rekas.

A visit to the sensory garden in Krwony.

łek shared her extensive knowledge of ecology and living in harmony with nature with the students.

Young people could try their hand at culinary workshops organized under the slogan "Herbs in the main role" and then taste dishes prepared by themselves. The students' task was to prepare a cream soup of tomatoes and pears with thyme, Imeritian khachapuri with herbs and a dessert in the form of a cocktail based on herbs or caramelized pear with blue cheese with herbs. The workshops were supervised by ladies from the Social Cooperative "Powróćisz Tu", it benefited from financial support under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. The next item on the agenda were herbal workshops. Participants familiarized themselves with the technique of producing natural incense and perfumes based on essential oils. At the end, there was a meeting with a falconer Mateusz Moszczyński, he presented the students with the secrets of the interesting but demanding profession.

The second day of the study trip was entirely devoted to photography techniques, they are the main focus of interest for students at the Kalisz school. It is with this profession that young people associate their greatest chances of employment in the future. The classes were held at the Russocice Wigwam in the Władysławów commune in the Turek powiat. They were led by a talented photographer with extensive teaching experience, Waldemar Stube, he introduced the participants to the subject of analogue photography and pointed out the most important differences in relation to digital photography. The students were divided into two groups, one of which first used an analogue camera, the other a digital camera, and then the other way around. In this way, they could see for themselves the differences they had heard about in the theoretical part of the meeting. After a delicious lunch prepared by the owners of the Russocice Wigwam,

an additional attraction awaited the students in the form of the opportunity to develop photos from a film themselves, and then review and discuss the effects of the whole day's work. At the end, each of the workshop participants received a commemorative certificate and a set of gifts.

- The trips organized by the Marshal Office in Poznan turned out to be exceptionally successful and provided the young people with many unforgettable experiences. It was a fantastic escape from the everyday school routine. The classes were extremely interesting and valuable, and the opportunity to learn in such an inspiring environment is something that will stay in our memories for a long time. The workshops not only enriched the participants with new skills, but also integrated the group, building greater self-confidence and a passion for learning through practical experiences among the students - sums up Katarzyna Hybś, the director of the Special Educational and Upbringing Center No. 2 named after the Home Army Deaf-Mute Platoon in Kalisz.



Photo: K. Rekas.

Magdalena Ciołek, the president of the Turkowska Development Union T.U.R. was involved in the culinary workshops

CULINARY HERITAGE

Wielkopolska is culinary rich

On a record-breaking area of 390 m², 34 exhibitors from the Wielkopolska Region and its foreign partner regions presented themselves during the Tastes of the Regions 2024 fair. The event took place on the last weekend of September in the hall of the Poznan International Fair. It attracted thousands of enthusiasts of tasty and healthy regional cuisine.



Photo: B. Zalas.

The Tastes of the Regions fair has been enjoying growing popularity year by year, not only among the residents of Poznan, but also among lovers of traditional regional cuisine, they visit Poznan at the last weekend of September.

Everyone tries to take care of their health, everyone also misses the tastes of youth and childhood. The proverbial dinners at grandma's, where the tastes of many dishes were exceptional and unique. Producers of such food are trying to return to the old recipes - emphasizes Marek Woźniak, Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, he took the honorary patronage of the fair.

During this year's edition of the fair, connoisseurs looking for exceptional flavours could try, among others: meats and cold cuts, cheeses – fried, goat or matured, dairy products, honey, bakery and confectionery products, fruit and vegetable preserves from organic farms and cold-pressed oils.

- As many as 34 exhibitors promoting their excellent products presented themselves at the stand prepared by the Wielkopolska Region Local Government. This year, the invitation to co-create the stand was accepted by representatives of three partner regions of the Wielkopolska Region: Chungcheongnam-do from South Korea, Vukovar-Srijem County from Croatia and Kharkiv Oblast from Ukraine. I am convinced that everyone who visited our joint stand did not feel disappointed and was able to stock up on the highest quality products - says Krzysztof Grabowski, the Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region and chairman of the food committee of the Union of the Polish Regions.



Photo: B. Zalas.

The fair events were accompanied by various attractions, including the Battle of Small Mobile Workshop Kitchens, in which food banks from the Wielkopolska Region competed.

Every year, the Poznan fair becomes an opportunity to distinguish the best food producers in the country. On Saturday, September 28, the ceremony of awarding the Medals of the Tastes of the Regions Fair took place. The gold medal was awarded to 20 companies, including 3 from the Wielkopolska Region, by the president of the MTP board, Tomasz Kobierski, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, chairwoman of the provincial assembly Tatiana Sokołowska and the president of the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products Izabella Byszewska. The awarded products included "Wrześniński cream cheese" from the Września Dairy Cooperative, "Cold-pressed rapeseed oil with dried garlic and rosemary" from Oleje Trawińscy Sp. z o.o. Sp. k. and "Asparagus puree" from the Food Production Company "FRYKAS" Sp. z o.o. What is more, a distinction was awarded to "Fried cheese with onion" from the Food Production and Trade Plant Frąckowiak Sp. z o.o.



Photo: B. Zalas.

Announcement of the results of the "Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of the Regions" competition with the participation of Stefan Krajewski - Secretary of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The announcement of the results of the nationwide competition "Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of the Regions" is an important point of the program accompanying the fair exhibitions, the initiator and main organizer of it is the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products. The highest distinction in the competition is the Pearl awarded in two categories: local product and regional dish. This year, the 23rd edition of the competition took place and the winners from the Wielkopolska Region were:

- RRTM Sp. z o. o. "Olandia" for Miętos Warciański on sczonera puere with parsnip,
- KGW in Wijewo for Duck soup and roasted duck legs with steamed buns and fried beetroots (the recipe for the dish can be found in issue 2/2024 of the Our European Countryside bulletin)
- PPHU Familijna Żerków for lard baked with onion,
- SM Września for semi-fat cottage cheese from Września,
- OSM Jarocin for cream cheese,
- Cheese factory Mera Vallis Grażyna Szłapka for Rokpol – OrdoBlue,
- KGW in Skrzyńki for marmalade with rhubarb and hyc-ka,
- Oleje Trawińscy Sp. z o.o Sp. k. for cold-pressed rapeseed oil
- KGW in Błazejewo for lemon cake,
- Yellow Farmer Umbrella Retail Barbara Wawrzyniak for fruit tea.

On the one hand, the organizers of the Tastes of the Regions fair promote traditional food of the best quality, and on the other hand, they make efforts to inform about the effects of the "Programme for reducing food waste and losses in the Wielkopolska Region for 2021-2025" implemented by the Wielkopolska Region Local Government. So far, nearly PLN

4 million has been allocated from the regional budget to combat food waste. Observers of the Battle of Small Mobile Workshop Kitchens could see for themselves that food at risk of waste can be the basis for many excellent dishes. Wielkopolska food banks from Poznan, Konin, Piła and Leszno entered the competition.

There was also no shortage of culinary stars well-known from television screens. The special guest of the ceremony was chef Laurentiu Zediu, widely known as Chef Lorek. His specialty is Moldavian and Romanian cuisine.

- *The Tastes of Regions Fair is an important event that has had a permanent position in the calendar of trade fairs organized by the MTP company since 2010. The idea comes from the well-known Polagra fair, also organized in September. Since 2000, awards have been given during Polagra in the competition "Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of the Regions". Awareness of the growing importance of traditional and regional cuisine has resulted in the creation of a separate pavilion where the event called Tastes of the Regions takes place* - explains Tomasz Kobierski, the President of the Management Board of Poznan International Fair.



Photo: B. Zalas.

The special guest of this year's edition of the Tastes of the Regions fair was the charismatic chef Laurentiu Zediu.

CULINARY ZONE

Szagówki with wild mushroom sauce

Szagówki are the Wielkopolska version of potato dumplings. The name comes from the way dumplings are cut diagonally. This time, due to the ongoing autumn and the abundance of mushrooms in the Wielkopolska Region forests, we suggest you serve them with a mushroom sauce.



Source: <https://smakosze.pl/banalnie-prosty-przepis-na-kopytka-w-sosie-grzybowym>

INGREDIENTS:

- 1,5 kg potatoes,
- 5 tablespoons wheat flour,
- 2 eggs,
- Salt and pepper,
- 400 g fresh wild mushrooms
- 30 g butter,
- 1 tablespoon oil,
- 2 onions,
- 1 cloves of garlic
- 125 ml of water or vegetable or mushroom broth,
- approx. 100 ml of 30-36% cream.
- Parsley

PREPARATION:

Boil the potatoes in their skins, peel them and grind them in a meat grinder. Add flour, eggs and salt. Knead the dough. Form a roll. Cut into diagonal four-centimetre pieces. Throw them into salted boiling water in batches. Cook until they float to the surface.

Clean and slice the mushrooms. Peel and dice the onion. Heat the butter and oil in a frying pan. Add the onion and fry over

medium heat until translucent, then add the chopped garlic and fry for a while longer. Throw in the sliced mushrooms and fry over high heat for about 5 minutes. Pour water or broth into the pan, reduce the heat and simmer covered for about 10 minutes. Finally, add the cream and season the sauce with salt, pepper and parsley.

PHOTO ZONE



"Sunflower Field with Cloud Border in the Sky", author: Piotr Gołębnik, photo taken in the village of Mrowino, Rokietnica commune, Poznan poviat, awarded 1st place in the category "Wielkopolska countryside from a bird's eye view".

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