

OUR EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE

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Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Nicholas in Łąd nad Wartą



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 Sir or Madam,

We are handing over to you the last this year issue of the "Our European Countryside" bulletin, remembering the many important meetings and events that were successfully held this year. The year 2024 has passed in an atmosphere of celebrating the 20th anniversary of our country's accession to the European Community. This important moment was an opportunity to sum up what has been achieved for the Wielkopolska countryside with the support of the European Union over the last two decades. In each of the 31 poviats of the Wielkopolska Region, we organized forums entitled "Wielkopolska European Countryside". You will find a summary of the meetings in this issue of the publication.

In November 2024, applications for future beneficiaries of the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027 will be accepted. In our region, there are 30 local action groups that have announced calls for various projects resulting from the implementation of the local development strategy. To make it easier to apply for funds, we are providing

a map of the region with a division into the area of operation of individual LAGs.

The culinary heritage of our region was once again exposed, this time during the Tour Salon fair in Poznan, our region was represented by two local action groups and exhibitors invited to cooperate with them. On December 7, please be invited to Brudzew for the Christmas Fair, during which results of the "Wielkopolska Christmas Flavors" competition organized by the local government of our region with the support of funds from the National Rural Network will be announced.

November and December are times every year when our thoughts are close to those who gave their lives for our freedom. For this reason, it is worth reading about projects aimed at preserving the memory of the heroes of the Wielkopolska Region, as were implemented with the support of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

I wish you pleasant reading.

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Wielkopolska European Countryside

In the second half of 2024, in each of the 31 poviats of the Wielkopolska Region, upon the initiative of Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, forums were organized to summarize 20 years of the Wielkopolska countryside in the European Union. The meetings were an opportunity to present a number of projects implemented with co-financing from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The total amount of aid granted to beneficiaries of the two Rural Development Programs (implemented in 2007-2013 and 2014-2020) exceeds PLN 2 billion.



Photo: E. Jarecka.

Forum in Cienin Zaborny in the Słupca commune.

The forums organized by the Wielkopolska Region Local Government Center for Rural Development in Sielinko were held under the slogan "Wielkopolska European Countryside". The beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme and communities benefiting from the effects of co-financed projects were invited to participate in the meetings, including local government officials, representatives of local action groups, village heads, members of the Rural Housewives' Association, members of non-governmental organizations and local entrepreneurs.

- Poland's 20-year membership in the European Union has brought a number of changes that have a real impact on improving our living conditions by increasing safety and access to basic public infrastructure, as well as developing entrepreneurship in rural areas. The series of meetings "Wielkopolska European Countryside" is an opportunity to present the achievements of which our region can be proud. Residents of the Wielkopolska Region can look with pride at what has been achieved thanks to the EU funds. We mean thousands of completed projects of infrastructural, economic and cultural importance. Meetings held in each district of the province also serve to inspire participants

to implement new initiatives - says the Deputy Marshal of the region Krzysztof Grabowski.

The inaugural meetings held in July 2024 in Rychwał and Liśków were attended by Krzysztof Hetman, an MEP.

- European funds have strengthened Poland's position, not only in terms of investments. Polish agriculture has made significant progress. The EU's influence on the so-called return to the roots, i.e. promoting folk culture, traditions of individual member states, strengthening Rural Housewives' Associations, etc. is also often overlooked. Recently, much attention has been paid to security issues. In September 2024, we appointed a team led by Marshal Grabowski to support MEPs in creating a new budget that will be in force after 2027. The idea is to enable the flow of information in both directions, i.e. from society to MEPs and vice versa – emphasizes Krzysztof Hetman, an MEP.

During the forums, the most important effects of the implementation of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 and Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 in each of the 31 districts of the Wielkopolska Region were discussed. Stati-

Photo: A. Kapuściński.



Wielkopolska European Village Forum in Lisków. In the photo, first row from the left: Krzysztof Grabowski – Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Maria Krawiec – Mayor of the Lisków Commune, Krzysztof Hetman – Member of the European Parliament, Anna Augustyniak – Deputy Mayor of the City of Lublin, Izabela Mroczek – Director of the Rural Development Department of the Marshal Office in Poznań, Sebastian Ławniczak – Director of the Wielkopolska Region Local Government Centre for Rural Development in Sielonek.

istical data summarizing the value of funds transferred from the EU funds to beneficiaries in a given district was presented, but participants of the meetings also had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with examples of the most interesting projects financed from the funds.

- *Experience from the implementation of two full financial perspectives of the EU budget allows us to state that the Wielkopolska countryside has benefited greatly from Poland's accession to the European Union. This is evidenced by both the amounts of support provided to Rural Development Programme beneficiaries, but also the opinions we receive from them confirming how important financial assistance from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development has been* - says Izabela Mroczek, the Director of the Rural Development Programme Department of the Wielkopolska Region.

All local action groups operating in the Wielkopolska Region were involved in helping to prepare the meetings, and their representatives shared their knowledge and experience from implementing thousands of EU projects. It is worth referring to several examples presented during the forums, they show how diverse projects have been implemented in our region.

The Association for the Development and Cooperation of the Villages of Moszczanka and Skrzebowa is the beneficiary of the Rural Development Program, both in 2007-2013 and in 2014-2020. The history of the non-governmental organization, operating in the Raszków commune in Ostrów Powiat, dates back to 2005. The association brings together representatives of all social organizations operating in two villages - Moszczanka and Skrzebowa, i.e. village councils, agricultural associations, parishes, Rural Housewives' Associations, Volunteer Fire Departments and Folk Sports Teams. The task of the organization is to work together for the development of the

village and the implementation of joint projects. Both towns have always cooperated, as they are neighbours and have common public facilities (a fireman's house, church, cemetery, etc.). The Association has implemented a total of 11 projects co-financed by the Rural Development Programme for a total amount of approximately PLN 170,000.

- *Thanks to the EU funds, we have the opportunity to promote and perpetuate local traditions and rituals, and support folklore. We focus primarily on educating young people and children, but we also do not forget about seniors. The topics of the projects implemented focused on our cultural heritage, folk dance, singing, and instrumental music. We managed to purchase traditional folk instruments: Wielkopolska bagpipes, sierszanki and Kalisz basses, which we teach young local artists to play. We also acquired several dozen folk costumes characteristic of various*



Photo: P. Grzelak.

The forum in Wysocko Wielkie in the Ostrów Wielkopolski commune was attended by Krzysztof Hetman - a Member of the European Parliament

RDP IMPLEMENTATION

Photo: M. Pilarczyk.



Participants of the forum in Grodzisk Wielkopolski.

parts of our country. We organised cultural events, workshops and study trips, and published a brochure presenting the activities of the "Swojacy" Folk Dance Ensemble - clarifies Karol Marszał, president of the Association.

Support under the LEADER initiative enabled the financing of a number of investments in public and non-commercial tourist infrastructure, but also improved the availability and quality of the offer of private companies providing recreational and tourist services. In the Wielkopolska Region, you can actively spend time enjoying the benefits of water sports. "Water tourism in the Noteć Valley" is a project implemented by Piotr Repczyński's Production, Trade and Service Company "TOP", operating in Ujście in the Piła Poviát. The aim of the project was to develop the existing business activity by increasing

the range of available water equipment rental services. The company enables interested parties to go kayaking on the following rivers: Gwda, Noteć, Piława, Rurzyca, Drawa, Dobrzyca and Płynica. Thanks to the EU funds, lovers of water recreation can also rent an electrically powered solar boat powered by photovoltaic panels, two boats powered by oars, the so-called "pychówki" and two water bikes.

- Please be invited to travel by boat along the Wielkopolska Region waterways. Charming areas, closeness to nature and actively spent time outdoors will accompany you the entire way. The equipment can be rented at the Binduga Keja 105 marina in Ujście, which, referring to the name, is located at the 105th kilometer of the Noteć River - recommends Piotr Repczyński.

Photo: M. Chwiałkowski



Wielkopolska European Village Forum in Kaczory in Piła Poviát. In the photo, first row from the left: Michał Jędrzejak – Deputy Mayor of Białośliwie Commune, Jan Mrotek – President of the Board of Krajna nad Notecią LAG Association, Brunon Wolski – Mayor of Kaczory City and Commune, Krzysztof Grabowski – Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Stefan Kowal – Deputy Starost of Piła and Artur Kłysz – Mayor of Wysoka Commune.



Photo: L. Rajewicz.

The forum in Bobrowniki in Ostrzeszów Poviát.

A significant part of the EU funds as part of the implementation of the LEADER initiative in 2014-2020 was directed towards the development of entrepreneurship in rural areas. A wide range of service industries was supported. New hairdressing and beauty salons, physiotherapy offices, car repair shops, construction companies, custom-made furniture companies, companies operating in the event industry, marketing agencies, language schools, confectioneries and many other local businesses were established. During the Wielkopolska European Countryside forum, which took place in October 2024 in Piekary in the Gniezno district, examples of companies dealing with greenery management that were granted funding from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 were presented. Tomasz Hernacki, who runs a company called

Gardenia and is the president of the management board of Przedsiębiorstwo Handlowo-Usługowe Fraxinus from Janków Dolny in the commune of Gniezno, talked about how the support received from European funds influenced the expansion and improvement of services provided on the local market.

- We provide comprehensive services in the field of development and maintenance of green areas. Our offer is addressed mainly to companies, offices and private investors - we deal with the design, implementation and care of the surroundings of commercial facilities, office buildings and parks. The funds obtained from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 allowed us to invest in a modern machine park and employ new employees - informs Tomasz Hernacki.



Source: Beneficiary's archive.

The Production, Trade and Service Company "TOP" of Piotr Repczyński expanded its activities thanks to a subsidy from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. The company offers the possibility of renting water equipment. The photo shows participants of a kayaking trip for participants of the Occupational Therapy Workshop at the Parish of St. Nicholas in Ujście

They promoted rural tourism and culinary arts

On October 4-6, 2024, another edition of the Tour Salon Trade Fair of Regions and Tourist Products took place at the Poznan International Fair. The Wielkopolska Region stand was created as part of a action co-financed by the National Rural Network. This time, the Wielkopolska Regional Government invited two local action groups to cooperate: the Puszcza Notecka Association and the Solidarni w Partnerstwie Association.



The Wielkopolska Region stand enjoyed great interest from visitors.

One of the most famous trade fair events in our country is the Tour Salon trade fair, which has been organized for 35 years. The event brings together representatives of the world of tourism, in particular: national and regional tourist organizations, representatives of business tourism, travel agencies and tour operators, Polish and foreign regions, the hotel industry, carriers, internet portals and industry publications.

- The presence of the Wielkopolska Region at the Tour Salon fair is an excellent opportunity to present the charms of rural areas of our region. People visiting the fairs are looking for an attractive tourist offer, they want to find new destinations for both holidays and weekends. In 2024, in cooperation with a Local Action Group, we recommended relaxation in the Wielkopolska countryside - says Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

Participants of the fair at the stand organized by the Wielkopolska Regional Local Government could familiarize themselves with the tourist offer in the area of operation of the Puszcza Notecka Association (the communes of Międzychód, Kwilcz, Sieraków, Chrzypsko Wielkie, Ostroróg, Wronki and Obrzycko), as well as the "Solidarni w Partnerstwie" Association (the communes of Golina, Grodziec, Rychwał, Rzgów, Stare Miasto and Tuliszków). The issue of promoting rural tourism is inextricably linked with the culinary heritage of the

region. Travelling for the purpose of tasting various dishes is becoming increasingly popular. Wielkopolska cuisine has a lot to offer in this respect. Fair participants could see it for themselves by tasting Golina fudges, fruit preserves from the "Owocowy Raj" Fruit Farm in Modła Królewska (Stare Miasto commune), or farm cheeses (including Dutch and Swiss-type ripening cheeses, fromage) from the Kuchary Cheese Farm (Rychwał commune). The charms and flavours of the Puszcza Notecka were presented by the Olandia Restaurant from Prusim in the Kwilcz commune.

The Wielkopolska Region stand also encouraged visitors due to the interesting offer of workshops prepared by the people serving the exhibition. Damian Ciesielski representing the Golina Cultural Centre prepared a basketry workshop. Under his supervision, fair guests learned to create wicker baskets step by step. Thanks to the involvement of employees of the Kwilcz Commune Office, as well as the Kwilcz Cultural and Education Centre and the Kwilcz Public Library, lovers of handicrafts could create personalised jars for raspberry jam fried at the stand by the chef of the Olandia restaurant Paweł Ludek. The Wronki Cultural Centre organised workshops named "May the heather bring you to Wronki". Art classes were an opportunity not only to acquire new skills, but also to spend time in a creative and friendly atmosphere.

Applications for the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027 are now open

Since 2025, it will be possible to apply through local action groups for funds earmarked for the implementation of projects under the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027. The application recruitment and assessment process will be carried out exclusively in an IT system.

Let us recall that at the beginning of 2024, 30 local action groups based in the Wielkopolska Region signed framework agreements with the Wielkopolska Region Local Government for the new programming period. As a result, LAGs received funds from three sources for the implementation of the community-led local development strategy. Recruitment of beneficiaries under the agricultural fund in our region is planned for 2025.

- The new programming period brings two fundamental changes for potential beneficiaries applying for aid through local action groups. Firstly, they have a wider choice of initiatives for which funds can be obtained. There are three funds available: agricultural, regional development and social. In addition, the entire application handling process will be carried out in the IT system. As part of the agricultural fund, applicants will use the ARiMR Electronic Services Platform and the application assessment process will be conducted in the Central Beneficiary Service System prepared by the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture - explains Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.

Computerisation of the application submission and handling process is primarily intended to streamline the distribution of funds, facilitate and speed up procedures related to deciding on applications. Moving away from the paper form is also an important step towards environmental protection.

In the case of LEADER interventions, financial support under the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027 may be applied for by individuals (including those conducting business activity), legal entities (non-governmental organizations, public finance sector entities, micro- and small enterprises or local action groups as beneficiaries of grant projects or own operations). The group of potential beneficiaries is supplemented by organizational units without legal personality, which are granted legal capacity by law (e.g. a general partnership). Aid will be granted in two forms: a flat-rate subsidy or reimbursement of eligible costs incurred. The first type of aid is available in the case of undertaking non-agricultural business activities by individuals, the creation of agritourism farms, educational farms and care farms, as well

as operations related to the creation of short food chains and the preparation of partnership projects. All other types of projects will be settled in the form of a refund of funds.

In comparison with the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, funds granted from the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027 will be even more strongly focused on supporting specific topics and industries. In the case of support for entrepreneurs, the issues of developing the bioeconomy and the green economy have been emphasized. The development of non-agricultural functions of farms is a new and important direction of support offered under the LEADER initiative in the period 2023-2027. It includes the creation or development of agritourism farms, educational farms and care farms. Another scope of support concerns the development of cooperation through the creation or development of short food chains. Funding under the implementation of the local development strategy can also be obtained for initiatives aimed at improving local communities' access to services, preparing the concept of a smart village, or tasks contributing to improving access to small public infrastructure

Implementation of local community-led development strategies under the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027

| Scope of support | Form | Limit for one operation |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Undertaking non-agricultural business activities by individuals | flat-rate subsidy | PLN 150.000 |
| Creation of agritourism farms, educational farms and care farms | flat-rate subsidy | PLN 150.000 |
| Creation of short food chains | flat-rate subsidy | PLN 350.000 |
| Preparation of partnership projects (domestic) | flat-rate subsidy | PLN 50.000 |
| Preparation of partnership projects (international) | flat-rate subsidy | PLN 150.000 |
| Other types of operations | reimbursement of costs | PLN 500.000 |

MAP OF LOCAL ACTION GROUPS IN THE WIELKOPOLSKA



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1.</p>  <p>Krajna Złotowska LAG Association Aleja Piasta 32, 77-400 Złotów Phone number: (67) 263 33 98, E-mail: biuro@krajnazlotowska.pl</p> | <p>2.</p>  <p>Krajna nad Notecią LAG Association Pobórka Wielka 25, 89-340 Białosłowie Phone number: 666 957 513, E-mail: biuro@lgdkrajna.pl</p> | <p>3.</p>  <p>Czarnkowsko-Trzcianecka LAG Association ul. Kościuszki 88/37, 64-700 Czarnków, Phone number: (67) 344 16 53, E-mail: biuro@czarnkowsko-trzcianiec-lgd.pl</p> |
|--|--|---|

REGION IN THE 2023-2027 PERSPECTIVE

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|--|-----|---|
| 4. |  | 13. |  | 22. |  |
| | Dolina Noteci Association ul. Sienkiewicza 2, 64-800 Chodzież Phone number: 693 933 246, E-mail: biuro@dolinanoteci.com.pl | | Z Nami Warto Local Action Group ul. Generała Sikorskiego 38, 62-300 Września Phone number: (61) 438 50 18, E-mail: info@znamiwarto.pl | | Gościnną Wielkopolską Local Action Group, Association ul. Powstańców Wlkp. 43, 63-830 Pępowo Phone number: (65) 573 63 00, E-mail: biuro@wielkopolskagoscinna.pl |
| 5. |  | 14. |  | 23. |  |
| | Dolina Węlny Association ul. Wachowiaka 9, 64-100 Wągrowiec Phone number: 508 568 051, E-mail: biuro@dolinawelnymy@o2.pl | | Unia Nadwarciańska Association ul. Plac Szkolny 16a, 62-400 Sępca Phone number: (63) 241 00 73, E-mail: biuro@unianadwarcianska.pl | | Wielkopolska z Wyobraźnią Association ul. Klasztorna 29, 63-720 Koźmin Wielkopolski Phone number: 782 386 222, E-mail: stow@wielkopolskazywyobraznia.pl |
| 6. |  | 15. |  | 24. |  |
| | Puszcza Notecka Association ul. Dworcowa 18, 64-400 Międzyzchód Phone number: 506 087 607, E-mail: biuro@puszczanoteczka.org | | „Między Ludźmi i Jeziorami” ul. Plac Wolności 2, 62-530 Kazimierz Biskupi Phone number: (63) 240 26 03, E-mail: leader@ludziejeziora.pl | | Wspólne dla Przyszłości Local Action Group, Association Czermin 47, 63-304 Czermin Phone number: (62) 74 16 891, E-mail: swdp@pleszew.pl |
| 7. |  | 16. |  | 25. |  |
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| 8. |  | 17. |  | 26. |  |
| | Trakt Piastów LAG Association Lubowo 1, 62-260 Lubowo Phone number: (61) 427 59 50, E-mail: biuro@lgdraktpiastow.pl | | Solna Dolina Association ul. Kościelna 5/15, 62-650 Kłodawa Phone number: 603 994 142, E-mail: solnadolina@wp.pl | | Okno Południowej Wielkopolski Local Action Group, Association ul. Zdunowska 12, 63-700 Krotoszyn Phone number: 530 709 099, E-mail: lgd.opw@gmail.com |
| 9. |  | 18. |  | 27. |  |
| | Dolina Samy LAG Association ul. Szamotulska 7, 62-090 Cerekwica Phone number: 690 434 424, E-mail: biuro@dolinasamy.pl | | Ziemi Grodzkiej Leader Association ul. Powstańców Chocieszyńskich 23 F, 62-065 Grodzisk Wielkopolski, Phone number: (61) 227 12 16, E-mail: m.salomon@szgleader.pl | | Długosz Królewski Association ul. 1000-lecia 10, 62-874 Brzeziny Phone number: (62) 769 82 22, E-mail: biuro@dlugoszkrolewski.org.pl |
| 10. |  | 19. |  | 28. |  |
| | KOLD LAG Association Rynek 33/1, 64-310 Lwówek Telefon: (61) 44 24 160, E-mail: biuro@kold.pl | | Solidarni w Partnerstwie Association ul. Główna 3, 62-571 Stare Miasto Phone number: 665 550 131, E-mail: lgd@stare-miasto.pl | | Wielkopolskie Partnerstwo Dla Doliny Baryczy Local Action Group, Association Partnerstwo Dla Doliny Baryczy ul. PTR 1, 63-421 Przygodzice Phone number: 501 611 923, 509 203 385, E-mail: wielkopolska@nasza.barycz.pl |
| 11. |  | 20. |  | 29. |  |
| | Źródło Association – Local Action Group ul. Raruszowa 1, 64-320 Buk Phone number: (61) 888 44 56, E-mail: lgdźródło@o2.pl | | Turkowska Unia Rozwoju - T.U.R. Krwony 32, 62-720 Brudzew Phone number: 63 289 36 57, E-mail: biuro@lgd-tur.org.pl | | Ostrzeszewska Local Action Group, Association ul. Przemysłowa 27 (pokój 20), 63-500 Ostrzeszów Phone number: (62) 586 03 20, E-mail: olgd@olgd.org.pl |
| 12. |  | 21. |  | 30. |  |
| | Lider Zielonej Wielkopolski Association ul. Libelta 2 (parter), 63-000 Środa Wlkp. Phone number: 731 911 666, E-mail: biuro@liderzielonejwielkopolski.pl | | Wielkopolska Local Action Group Kraina Lasów i Jezior Plac Kościuszki 4 lok. 229, 64-100 Leszno Phone number: (65) 529 61 03, E-mail: biuro@wlgd.org.pl | | Wrota Wielkopolski Association Jana Pawła II 2, 63-604 Baranów Phone number: 737 486 540, E-mail: biuro@wrota.info.pl |

The communes of Zbąszyń and Siedlec belong to the Local Action Group Regionu Kozła Association, whose headquarters is located in the town of Kargowa in the Lubuskie Region.

Historical heritage in rural areas

Funds from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 made it possible to finance many projects contributing to maintaining the memory of heroes of past eras and to increasing the awareness of residents of the local historical heritage. Thanks to funds from the European Union, memorial chambers and other places commemorating important events for local communities were created in the region.



Source: w.grodzisk.wlkp.pl

Official opening of the memorial site in Młyniewo in the commune of Grodzisk Wielkopolski.

The Moveable Remembrance Chamber of the Wieleń Land is a project implemented in the Czarnkowsko-Trzcianecki powiat in the commune of Wieleń by the Association of the Wieleń Land. The amount of support obtained from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development was PLN 38,523. As part of the project, mobile exhibition cabinets were purchased, to be used to organize thematic exhibitions carried out in the commune of Wieleń during outdoor events. The Mobile Room of Remembrance of the Wieleń Region is an innovative project that combines education, culture and local historical heritage.

Supporting tourist traffic in the Grodzisk Wielkopolski commune by building a pedestrian and bicycle path and creating a memorial site in Młyniewo are initiatives referring to historical traditions in the Grodzisk powiat. The task involved the construction of a 430 m long section of a pedestrian and bicycle path made of concrete paving stones and the creation of a memorial site in Młyniewo, where in 1939 the Germans established a camp for Poles and Jews resettled from the

Wielkopolska Region, and in 1940 they transformed it into a POW camp. The operation financed the renovation of the monument, the installation of a watchtower with a fence, the installation of a wooden shelter, the construction of pedestrian routes and the installation of small architecture (benches, bicycle racks, information boards). The project received funding from the European Union in the amount of almost PLN 213 thousand.

In Southern Wielkopolska, in the Doruchów commune, funding in the amount of almost PLN 60,000 enabled the reconstruction of the communication route and parking lot at the monument commemorating the outbreak of the Wielkopolska Uprising. The works included the reconstruction of the pavement and parking lot at the monument. An information board was also installed presenting places worth visiting in Doruchów. The place, revitalized thanks to the EU funds, is very important for residents, because it is at the monument commemorating the outbreak of the Wielkopolska Uprising that residents gather during the celebration of national holidays.

In the Konin powiat, the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Stanislaus the Bishop and Martyr in Kramsk obtained funding in the amount of PLN 50,000 for the performance of conservation and restoration works on historic monuments. The renovation of the historic gravestone complex at the Parish Cemetery in Kramsk included the renovation of the gravestone monument of Franciszek Sempołowski dated back to 1835 and the gravestone monument of Fr. Ludwik Potrzobowski. The works focused on cleaning, strengthening and desalting the surface of the gravestones, making the letters legible, filling in the gaps, as well as repairing the foundations and isolating the grave field. What is more, the metal cross from the gravestone of Fr. Ludwik Potrzobowski was dismantled and replaced with a sandstone cross. The aim of the works was to restore the aesthetic values and protect the gravestones from destruction, as well as to take care of and respect the memory of distinguished people.

In the village of Zdziechowa in the commune of Gniezno, the Wielkopolska Uprising Memorial Room was established. Located in the building of the Primary School in Zdziechowa, the room is intended to draw the attention of children, young people, and the entire local community to the value of the preserved cultural heritage and to promote proper attitudes towards independence. Numerous memorabilia, photographs, documents, uniforms, and equipment of the Wielkopolska insurgents are exhibited there. The multidimensionality of the exhibition enables the preservation of local history and culture, as well as building historical awareness of the local community.

Small museums related to local memory and exhibits important for groups of enthusiasts were also created in the Kalisz powiat. The modernization of the Tradition Chamber of the 25th Infantry Division of the Kalisz Land in Ceków-Kolonia and the modernization of the Regional Remembrance Chamber of the Lisków Commune 'Heritage of the Lisków Land' in Lisków is another project showing how important the memory of our ancestors is. As a result of the work commissioned by the Association of People of Good Will of the Kalisz Land, two facilities were modernized to maintain knowledge of the local historical heritage. The facilities required modernization, thanks to which they can be a showcase of both towns. Both rooms are publicly available to residents, thanks to which they enable conducting cultural activities in them.

The memory of national heroes was also commemorated in the Wysoka commune in the Piła powiat, where the Wysoka Town and Commune Memorial Room was established. The funding of over PLN 60,000 obtained from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 allowed the Chamber to be equipped with the necessary equipment and enabled purchasing, among others, the Polish Coat of Arms, exhibits

and portraits commemorating local history. An interesting element of the organised exhibition is the opportunity to watch multimedia presentations and listen to patriotic songs during the tour.

The Manor Complex with the Żółtowski Palace in Nekla, constructed in 1870, was saved from destruction thanks to funds from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 intended for the protection of monuments and traditional architecture. The funding of half a million PLN enabled the reconstruction of some of the rooms of the former palace with a change of use to a memorial room, the reconstruction of the tower, the terrace at the back of the building, the construction of a viewing terrace on part of the roof and the performance of construction works related to the development of the area at the back of the building. The implementation of the project contributed to raising awareness and knowledge of residents about the local historical heritage.



Restored monument at the Parish Cemetery in Kramsk.

Source: Beneficiary's archive

Helcia's Christmas pike accompanied by horseradish sauce

Be presented with a recipe by the ladies from the Rural Housewives' Association in Rokutów for a dish that won the first place in the "Wielkopolska Christmas Flavors" competition organized by the Wielkopolska Region Local Government on December 16, 2023 in Chocz in the Pleszew Poviast. The results of this year's edition of the competition (this year with funding from the National Support Network) will be announced on December 7 during the Christmas Fair in Brudzew in the Turek Poviast.



Photo: P. Chudziak

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pike (large),
- 1 onion,
- ½ cup of breadcrumbs,
- 1 roll soaked in milk,
- 5 egg yolks,
- 7 eggs,
- 1 stick of butter,
- vegetable broth,
- salt, pepper, sugar, nutmeg, horseradish, 18% cream, lemon juice

PREPARATION:

Salt the cleaned pike (except for the head) and leave for an hour. Avoiding the lower fins, use a sharp knife to pry the meat out and remove the skin, being careful not to damage it. Fillet the removed meat, mince it with the addition of onion fried in butter, add breadcrumbs soaked in milk and egg yolks, then season to taste. Stuff the pike skin with the prepared stuffing and sew it up. Heat the vegetable broth and in the meantime wrap the stuffed pike in cheesecloth, spread thinly with butter and then pour the strained broth

over it. Cook for 1 hour on low heat. Cool, cut and decorate on a platter as desired. To prepare the horseradish sauce, cut the hard-boiled eggs, cut in half, separate the whites from the yolks. Finely chop the whites. Rub the yolks through a sieve and add them to the cream and chopped egg whites, and add the grated horseradish. Finally, season the resulting sauce with lemon juice to taste.

PHOTO ZONE

"Powidz in winter", author: Adam Andrzejewski, photo taken in Powidz, Słupca Powiat, awarded 3rd place in the category "A bird's eye view of a village in the Wielkopolska Region".



Photo by Jerzy Kościjanczuk, taken in Miedzichowo in the Nowy Tomysl Powiat, awarded 2nd place in the category "How do the people of the Wielkopolska Region care about tradition?"





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