

OUR

# EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE

ISSN 2545- 1332

1/2023

BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK OF THE WIELKOPOLSKA REGION

Photo: Tomasz Baran

Łęgi Nadwarciańskie in the vicinity of Rogalin



WIELKOPOLSKA  
REGION



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

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

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**Krzysztof Grabowski**  
*Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region*

Dear Sir or Madam,

Implementation of the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, extended by two years, is in progress. Agreements regarding support for investments in water and sewage management are successively being signed under the third call for proposals in this regard. Value of the concluded contracts financed by the European Instrument for Reconstruction amounts to PLN 139.5 million.

Assessment also includes applications submitted by communes and poviats to support operations such as "Construction or modernization of local roads". The amount of EUR 27 million, i.e. about PLN 127 million, is at the disposal of the Wielkopolska Region. Aid agreements will be signed in the first half of 2023.

European funds from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 are still used by beneficiaries who applied for support

to local action groups. Aid is granted, among other things, for starting and developing economic activity, creating local processing incubators, strengthening social capital, preserving local heritage, developing public and non-commercial tourist, recreational or cultural infrastructure, or developing the concept of smart villages.

You are cordially invited to read the first issue of the Bulletin "Our European Countryside" this year, it raises issues that are extremely important for our region, related to, among others, the selection of multi-fund development strategies implemented by Local Action Groups and investments undertaken by the Beneficiaries of RDP 2014-2020. You are also encouraged to read the account of the VII Pilgrimage of Village Leaders to the Sanctuary of St. Joseph in Kalisz.

**Publisher:**

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

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**Graphic design:**

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[www.grafikadlafirm.pl](http://www.grafikadlafirm.pl)

**Printing:**

„SIL-VEG-DRUK” s.c.  
J. Pawelak, D. Pełka, D. Śmich

# Competition for the selection of multi-fund strategies

**The Board of the Wielkopolska Region announced a competition for the selection of a community-led local development strategy. Local Action Groups based in the Wielkopolska Region can submit their strategies. The call for applications in this regard will last from April 11 to June 7, 2023.**

Local Action Groups (LAGs) are a kind of territorial partnership, established as a bottom-up initiative, associating representatives of local organizations from the public, private and non-governmental sectors as well as residents working for the benefit of the local community. They have been operating for nearly twenty years as associations. The budget financed by the European Union is the basis for their operation. In July 2022, 29 LAGs in Wielkopolska received funds for the so-called preparatory support related to the preparation of new community-led local development strategies.

All new strategies will be multi-funded. In addition to funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, LAGs will have access to money from the European Social Fund+ and the European Regional Development Fund, they have been allocated under the European Funds for the Wielkopolska 2021-2027 programme. It is planned that the strategies will be able to be implemented by 30 Local Action Groups. This will be more than in the current financial perspective. The area covered by local development strategies will also be larger, even though the strategies will cover only rural areas, including cities with up to 20,000 inhabitants.

The new strategies also mean new scopes of support. Unlike the current ones, they will be strongly focused on specific areas, such as the development of entrepreneurship, including the development of bioeconomy or green economy, development of non-agricultural functions of farms, development of cooperation within short food chains, improvement of access to services for local communities, improving access to small public infrastructure, shaping the awareness of

the importance of sustainable agriculture, agri-food economy, green economy, bioeconomy and protection of the cultural and natural heritage of the Polish countryside, or social inclusion of disadvantaged people. The above-mentioned ranges result from the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027. Under the European Regional Development Fund, funds will be allocated for culture, tourism, air protection, social activation and information society. A wide range of support also applies to the European Social Fund+. This source can help with, among others, renewal of villages, digitization of enterprises and public institutions, improvement of the accessibility and quality of pre-school education, strengthening vocational education, support for psychological and pedagogical counseling centers or support for universities of the third age.

Local Action Groups apply not only for funds for the implementation of community-led local development strategies, but also for funds for managing the strategy and animating the local community. The developed strategies will be assessed by a committee consisting of representatives of the Wielkopolska Region Board and independent experts. We should know the result of the call by the end of 2023. As a result, framework agreements will be signed between the local government and local action groups. Thanks to them, new calls for proposals will be announced since 2024. Importantly, applying for funds will be done using dedicated IT software, which is intended to streamline the information exchange process.



Photo: A. Kapuściński

5th meeting of the Working Team for the implementation of the CLLD instrument in the Wielkopolska Region.

## New strategies – a new chance for the region

You are invited you to read the following interview with Mrs. Małgorzata Blok - president of the Wielkopolska Network of LAGs, in which issues extremely important from the point of view of rural community development, related to the development of new community-led local development strategies were discussed.



Małgorzata Blok - President of the Wielkopolska LAG Network.

**In the European Funds programme for Wielkopolska 2021-2027, two priority axes dedicated to community-led local development were distinguished. Support of EUR 50 million will be allocated for the purpose. How did Local Action Groups accept the possibility of implementing the strategy with the use of the funds?**

Local Action Groups awaited this information. We know that such a formula is a challenge, but above all, much more opportunities to support local communities. More funds mean more instruments and potential responses to the problems and needs diagnosed in the area. We are of course happy with the opportunities that have opened up for us and we would like to thank all those who were involved in the full formula of CLLD in the Wielkopolska Region. Special thanks are due to Marshal, Krzysztof Grabowski.

**Do Local Action Groups feel well prepared to develop new community-led local development strategies?**

We realize that CLLD is a challenge, but we are not waiting idly and trying to get ready as well as we can. As the Wielkopolska Network of LAGs, we have been initiating activities that help LAG employees substantively prepare for the task. As part of the NRN funds, we visited LAGs in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region, where CLLD was being implemented in its full formula in the current programming period. We are also in contact with LAGs from the Podlaskie Region - at our meeting we hosted Mrs. Agnieszka Wojtkowska from LAG Tygiel Doliny Bugu, she told us about her experiences. We meet weekly on-line to discuss current topics and exchange knowledge and experiences that will help us get ready as well as we can for the development of new LDS. We cooperate with the Polish LAG Network. I am also a member of the Thematic Group for Leader, all necessary information is provided to LAGs in Wielkopolska on an ongoing basis. We also cooperate with the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, in particular with the RDP Department. I must admit, however, that we

hope for more thematic training, so that, above all, we can provide consulting services to our potential applicants in the best possible way in the future.

**LEADER is an extremely important instrument of territorial development for our region. In your opinion, what is the greatest benefit of the implementation in the Wielkopolska Region? What projects can you indicate as examples of good practices of LEADER activities?**

Leader is above all about grassroots. I often use the expression that Local Action Groups are ambassadors of European funds in rural communities. We work with people and organizations that may not have the experience or ability to reach for external funds. They come to our offices with a question or an idea and often then have the courage to formulate a project out of it.

Networking is another important principle in Leader. We invite people and entities from the entire area, from various communes and environments to cooperate. Thanks to us, new partnerships, contacts and initiatives that have not been established so far can be established. Our members are representatives of many environments and by acting within Leader they increase their competences, then used for the benefit of the local community.

While talking within the framework of the Wielkopolska Network of LAGs, we pointed out that many interesting ideas and passions turned into business thanks to the action "Starting business activity". Sole proprietorships were established in response to the needs of the local market, being the realization of dreams. The created jobs helped to reconcile professional work with family life, which always made us happy, because it really improved the quality of life in the countryside.

Within the framework of grant projects implemented by us, we also managed to support the most local initiatives: either as part of infrastructural projects or soft projects relating to local culture and identity.

Cooperation projects implemented between domestic and foreign LAGs also play a significant part in our activities. We tried to jointly respond to the problems and challenges diagnosed in the area, as well as to use the existing resources.

## CLLD IN WIELKOPOLSKA

Like any cooperation, it often required compromises and was developing. In the new perspective, we will encourage our residents to use this form of applying for funds.

In 2021, the ELARD conference was held in Halmstad, Sweden, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of LEADER. One of the postulates of this conference was to promote the rationalization of resources for the development of rural areas. Cooperation and optimization of funds materialize in the form of LAGs that approach development on a territorial rather than sectoral basis.

**In the new perspective of the EU budget, Wielkopolska decided to take a bold step regarding the multi-fund implementation of the community-led local development strategy. What are the benefits, apart from financial considerations, from the possibility of implementing this instrument in a multi-fund formula?**

Thanks to multi-funding, it will be possible to respond to bottom-up needs even more effectively. The scope of intervention will also be increased. I think that the quality of the strategy will also improve, because synergy and complementarity between undertakings is desirable, so they will complement each other, covering a wide scope. We will have the opportunity to reach groups that we have not been able to support so far.

According to the data of the National Population and Housing Census of 2021, the number of city dwellers is decreasing and

the number of inhabitants of rural areas is increasing. Villagers, however, are moving away from traditional farming. It is therefore necessary to redefine what kind of support rural residents need. I am convinced that CLLD is the answer to the changes – it covers all residents.

**In the LAGs' opinion, what systemic changes could improve implementation of local development strategies in the new programming period?**

Significant simplification of procedures, especially in grant projects. In my opinion, LAGs should primarily focus on animating communities, networking, supporting beneficiaries, and implementing innovative solutions at the local level. I think that it is necessary to look at the procedures related to Leader through the prism of social trust, as well as the amount of funds at the disposal of Local Action Groups. Greater flexibility is needed. Excessive bureaucracy in Leader has been discussed for a long time, we still hope that it will cause specific actions of central authorities. As regards implementation of CLLD in the direct formula, we will only gain experience, including in cooperation with various departments of the Marshal Office. We are definitely optimistic that the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region sees openness to dialogue and cooperation with Local Action Groups, and we treat the formula of multi-fund CLLD as a common challenge.



Photo: LM.pl

Thanks to the funds from the RDP 2014-2020, a traffic town was created in Władysławowo in the Turek powiat, which lets us educate the youngest.

## Interregional cooperation of Local Action Groups

**At the headquarters of the Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznan, an agreement on granting aid for the implementation of a cooperation project under the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 was signed. The subsidized project consists in creating ecopoints with air quality sensors and conducting workshops related to ecology.**

The task is carried out jointly by two Local Action Groups from the Wielkopolska Region: LAG Krajna and Notecią and the "Dolina Wełny" Association, as well as a LAG based in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region – Czarnoziem na Soli. The amount of aid granted is PLN 539,543. Dariusz Kurzawa, MP of the Republic of Poland for the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region, participated in the ceremonial signing of the agreement, invited by the Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

*- I am glad that we can sign an agreement for the implementation of a project assuming cooperation between Local Action Groups from the Wielkopolska and Kujawsko-Pomorskie regions in the presence of the Deputy. EKO LAG, because this is the title of the project, is an initiative that will certainly increase the awareness of the inhabitants of both regions on environmental protection and counteracting climate change - said Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.*

*- I would like to congratulate Local Action Groups on obtaining funds for the implementation of the cooperation project. I am convinced that it will bring much benefit to the communities of both regions. For many years, as the deputy marshal of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region, I had the pleasure of cooperating with Local Action Groups, said MP Dariusz Kurzawa.*

The Local Action Group Krajna nad Notecią, covering the Piła powiat, has also signed agreements for the implementation

of two tasks resulting from the community-led local development strategy. As part of the project "Country traditions for an active society", co-financed in the amount of PLN 99,916, there will be a study trip, an activity day in the Wyrzysk District Railway and the Festival of Social Activity. Thanks to the support of PLN 67,309, obtained by the LAG for the implementation of the project entitled "Meeting tradition in Krajno – training for residents, edition III", it will include macramé, herbal, culinary, tissue paper, sewing, painting, floristic and cheese-making workshops.

In January 2023, the project of this LAG entitled "Active Krajna thanks to the leaders" was settled. The action involved organizing a variety of activities for women activists who, by participating in the workshops, gained the opportunity to increase their self-esteem and mobilize them to act for the benefit of their local community. As part of the project, a soft skills test was held. Participants could discuss results individually. Image-building workshops, "How to deal with stress?" public speaking workshops, a meeting with an accountant, an educational meeting "Teamwork" and sensory and herbal classes were also organised. The project received funding from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 in the amount of PLN 49,500.



Photo: A. Kapuściński

Two Wielkopolska and one Kujawsko-Pomorskie LAGs will jointly implement a pro-ecological cooperation project.

# Wielkopolska villages are changing - we present projects implemented with co-financing from RDP 2014-2020

**The LEADER initiative implemented under the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 creates the opportunity to obtain funds for the implementation of many projects that change the face of Wielkopolska villages. The funds are allocated, among others, for the construction or reconstruction of generally accessible cultural, tourist or sports infrastructure. Thanks to it, places are created in the region that not only pleases the eye, but also lets inhabitants of rural areas actively participate in meetings and events.**

One of the towns where the EU funds have been used under RDP 2014-2020 is Zakrzyn in the commune of Lisków in the Kalisz powiat. The local unit of the Volunteer Fire Brigade applied for funds for the investment. Project "Our common square - creating a place for recreation and common rest in the village of Zakrzyn" received funding in the amount of PLN 104,538. The scope of works performed included the laying of paving stones, construction of a gazebo and barbecue, installation of a bicycle station and bicycle racks, purchase of equipment in the form of benches, tables and a barbecue grill, as well as planting trees.

*- I hope that the new site of recreation in Zakrzyn will serve not only the inhabitants of the town, but also the guests coming to it - says Maria Krawiec, head of the Lisków commune.*

In Brenna, located in the Wijewo commune in the Leszno powiat, thanks to the support from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, the Village House of

Culture was rebuilt. As part of the works carried out, ventilation of the main hall of this facility was modernized, plaster and gypsum finishing coats on walls and ceilings were applied, together with painting, a stretch ceiling was installed, radiator casings were made, new windows and doors were installed, and wall lamps were installed. The task was co-financed in the amount of PLN 101,727.18.

*- The Wijewo commune willingly uses funds from the RDP 2014-2020. Thanks to the EU funds, our little homelands gain infrastructure worthy of the 21st century, admits Mieczysław Drożdżyński, the commune head.*

Another important project implemented with co-financing from the RDP 2014-2020 at the level of nearly PLN 110,000. PLN was an investment related to shaping pro-ecological attitudes of the inhabitants of the Swarzędz Commune. Thanks to the European funds, the construction of a new ecological educational facility - the Rain Garden in Rabowice in the Swarzędz commune - was financed.



Photo: Commune Office in Lisków.

A new recreation site in Zakrzyn in the commune of Lisków was created thanks to funds from the RDP 2014-2020.



## GOOD PRACTICES OF RDP 2014-2020

The socio-economic development of Swarzędz, the dynamization of migration to the suburban areas of the Poznan agglomeration result in the settlement of areas rich in nature. Therefore, it becomes necessary to take innovative actions related to preventing the destruction of the natural environment, including, among others, education and raising pro-ecological and pro-environmental awareness not only of the inhabitants of the commune, but also of the entire metropolitan area and the "Trakt Piastów" LAG.

The official opening of the playground was performed by the youngest inhabitants of Rabowice, Tomasz Zwoliński, the second deputy mayor, Katarzyna Szaferska, the mayor of Rabowice, and Eleonora Niechciałowska, a representative of the village council. The action was carried out under sub-measure 19.2 "Support for the implementation of operations under the community-led local development strategy" as part of the "Support for local development under the LEADER initiative" under the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020.

The rain garden is an interesting and inspiring place that supports the development of pro-environmental attitudes among the youngest inhabitants of the commune. The subject of the co-financed project was the development of a plot at Bukowa in Rabowice in terms of the development of innovative green infrastructure in shaping pro-ecological attitudes of the inhabitants of the Swarzędz Commune. The facility is located in the vicinity of the village club building and has been equipped with, among others, educational boards, a mud kitchen, a meteorological trail, a sensory path made



Photo: Village House of Culture in Wijewo.

In Brenna, in the commune of Wijewo, co-financing from the Program enabled the reconstruction of the Village House of Culture.

of natural materials and a relaxation set with a seat made of stumps and a wooden table. The revitalized area also serves as an educational, non-commercial public playground for children of all ages. The area of the square is about 200 m<sup>2</sup>, half of which is occupied by educational elements, and the remaining part is intended for a recreational area with a sensory path, a flower meadow and natural elements. Educational classes and workshops on topics related to the water cycle in nature and water retention will be organized in the newly created square.



Photo: Swarzędz Town and Commune Office.

The playground in Rabowice is a place created not only for fun, but also with an educational function.

## RDP IMPLEMENTATION

# RDP beneficiaries implement water and sewage investments

**Development of rural infrastructure and renewal of villages, including improved living conditions and the promotion of economic activity, they are important priority tasks carried out by the local government of the Wielkopolska Region. In the issue of the Bulletin, we are presenting to you a photo report from the signing of aid agreements with Beneficiaries for operations such as "Water and sewage management" under the sub-measure "Support for investments related to the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy and in saving energy. We are also presenting completed investments.**

Implementation of the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, extended by two years, is in progress. The beneficiaries of the Program invest, among others, in water and sewage management. A completed investment in this area is the project of the Chodów commune in the Koło powiat. The commune implemented the task called "Restoration of the proper technical condition of the sewage network with side drains in Chodów through building a new sewage network with side drains in Chodów (stage II); Restoration of the water supply network with connections to the proper technical condition through the construction of a new water supply network in Dzierzbice (stage I); Retrofitting the water treatment plant in Rdułów", co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development amounted to PLN 441,167.77. *The new sewage network in Chodów was constructed in place of the sanitary sewage system made of vitrified clay pipes in the 1950s, it was prone to blockages and obstructions. The pipes were also leaky, which adversely affected land management. The investment made it possible to replace the old technical infrastructure related to the supply of water to the inhabitants in Dzierzbice, and to connect water supply networks, thus enabling a continuous supply of water. The water treatment plant in Rdułów was equipped with a power generator to ensure continuity of electricity supply, and thus also continuity of water supplies for the residents - says Marek Kowalewski, the head of the Chodów commune.*

In the commune of Grodziec, located in the Konin powiat, a project entitled "Design and construction of a sanitary sewage system in Grodziec, Wiejska street" was completed. Thanks to the EU funds, the Grodziec Commune has so far implemented many projects that we could not afford before. One of them was the long-awaited construction of a sanitary sewage system at Wiejska in Grodziec, finalizing the sewerage for the entire housing estate of approx. 100 households. Thanks to the funds received in July 2020, it was possible to cover both the costs of the project and the physical construction of the sewage system. The investment made it possible to provide sewerage for 13 properties on a section of 257 running meters and construct a sewage pumping station with a discharge

pipeline with a length of 144 m. As part of the task, two lines of the water supply system to the properties not yet developed were also constructed. The total value of the task was more than PLN 430,000 PLN, of which over PLN 218,000 was a co-financing under the RDP 2014-2020 - indicates Mariusz Woźniak, the head of the Grodziec commune.

Thanks to the co-financing of the above-mentioned investments from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the number of recipients using the improved water supply and sewage infrastructure has increased, the volume of treated wastewater has increased and the number of connections to the constructed and reconstructed water supply and water networks has increased.



Photo: Grodziec Commune.

The Grodziec commune received funds from the RDP 2014-2020 for the implementation of an investment related to water and sewage management.

# RDP IMPLEMENTATION



Photo: Marshal Office

Signing agreements to support investments in water and sewage management with the beneficiaries of the RDP 2014-2020 from the Włoszakowice and Wijewo communes.



Photo: Marshal Office

Signing agreements to support investments in water and sewage management with the beneficiaries of the RDP 2014-2020 from the Konin district.



Photo: Marshal Office

Funds from the RDP 2014-2020 for co-financing water and sewage investments went, among others, to the commune of Wągrowiec. In the photo from the left: Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, Director of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, Izabela Mroczek, Mayor of the Wągrowiec commune, Przemysław Majchrzak, Treasurer of the commune Dorota Knopczyńska and Vice-President of the Regional Assembly, Jarosław Maciejewski.



Photo: Marshal Office

The Lwówek commune is one of the beneficiaries of the RDP 2014-2020, they obtained funds for the water and sewage investment.

## EVENTS

# VII Pilgrimage of village leaders to the Sanctuary of Saint Joseph in Kalisz

For the seventh time, several hundred village leaders from all over Wielkopolska took part in the Pilgrimage of village Leaders to the Sanctuary of Saint Joseph in Kalisz. The event, co-financed by the RDP 2014-2020, was organized by Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Damian Bryl, Bishop of Kalisz, Jarosław Maciejewski, President of the Association of Village Leaders of the Wielkopolska Region, and Grzegorz Kaczmarek, Mayor of Stawiszyn.



Photo: B. Zalas.

On Saturday, March 11, the VII Pilgrimage of Village Leaders to the Sanctuary of Saint Joseph in Kalisz took place. The most active and outstandingly committed village leaders received honorary badges for their services to the Wielkopolska Region.

The Village Leader's Day, celebrated on March 11, is a holiday that draws the public's attention to the role that village leaders play in the life of local communities. The event is an excellent opportunity to gather village leaders from all over Wielkopolska and the Diocese of Kalisz and thank them for their work and commitment to villages and the inhabitants who live there.

Celebrations began at noon with a holy mass at the Sanctuary of Saint Joseph, presided over by Damian Bryl, Bishop of Kalisz. After the mass, participants laid flowers at the monument of John Paul II. Then the guests went to the Sports and Entertainment Hall at the Primary School in Stawiszyn, the rest of the ceremony took place there. During the event, the most active village leaders were honored with the badge "For merits for the Wielkopolska Region" and the regional stage of the competition "Commune Fund - the best initiative" orga-

nized by the Local Government of the Wielkopolska Region and the National Association of Village Leaders was settled.

In the speech opening the second part of the ceremony, Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, emphasized that village leaders are the first link in the integration and development of many rural communities. *In our region, this honorable function, endowed with social trust, is performed by more than 4,000 people. people, so on the special Village Leader's Day, they deserve special thanks. The work of village leaders is not limited to fulfilling formal duties, their work continues 24 hours a day, supporting the residents with their energy, commitment and ideas in their everyday matters.*

Honorary Badges "For merits for the Wielkopolska Region" were awarded to the most active and outstanding village leaders for exemplary and effective civic activity and the im-

plementation of tasks for the social, cultural and economic development of the Wielkopolska Region. The awards were given to 53 village leaders from Wielkopolska, they were presented on behalf of the Local Government of the Wielkopolska Region by Krzysztof Grabowski and Jarosław Maciejewski.

– *The competition "Village Leader Fund - the best initiative" is an opportunity to present joint ventures of residents of villages, they benefit the entire local community. The Village Leader Fund implemented in many Wielkopolska communes makes it possible to make many places in rural areas more attractive. Implementation of projects under the Village Leader Fund often becomes a showcase of a given town, and residents can proudly present how their "little homeland" is developing. As part of the second edition of the competition, Wielkopolska village councils sent dozens of applications that took part in the competition - says Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.*

As part of the regional stage of the competition, village councils from the area of Wielkopolska sent 62 competition applications for projects implemented in 2010-2022. On behalf of the organizers, prizes were presented by Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Jarosław Maciejewski, President of the Association of Village Leaders of the Wielkopolska Region, and Robert Gałęba, President of the Association of Village Leaders.

– *The Village Leader Fund has been changing the face of rural areas in many villages in Wielkopolska for years. As part of the fund, residents actively use their own resources and jointly perform tasks that serve the entire local community. The idea of the*

*"Village Leader Fund – the best initiative" competition is an excellent opportunity to promote joint effort, integration and taking responsibility for changes in the villages that serve all residents and can be the pride of the local community – says Jarosław Maciejewski, President of the Association of Village Leaders of the Wielkopolska Region.*

The competition was won by the village council of Klonówiec, from the commune of Lipno, in the Leszno powiat, with the project "Land development of the sports and recreation complex in Klonówiec" and received a financial prize of PLN 7,000. The winner of the regional stage also advanced to the national stage of the competition. The second place was taken by the village of Krzyszkowo, in the commune of Rokietnica in the Poznan powiat for the project "Creating a recreation area around the pond in Krzyszkowo", the village council received a financial award of PLN 5,000. The third place was taken by the village council of Huta Szklana, from the commune of Krzyż Wielkopolski in the powiat of Czarnków-Trzcianka, for the project "Renovation of bus stops in Huta Szklana". The village council was awarded a financial prize of PLN 3,000.

Honourary awards were also presented to seven village councils. Commemorative statuettes went to: Wiktorówko village council in the Łobżenica commune, Jankowo Dolne village council in the Gniezno commune, Olszówka village council in the Olszówka commune, Solec village council in the Przemęt commune, Jaroszewice Rychwalskie village council in the Rychwał commune, Smardze village council in the Trzcianica commune and Kołatajew village council in the Ostrów Wielkopolski commune.



Photo: B. Zalas.

On March 11, 2023, a meeting of Wielkopolska village leaders was held in Stawiszyn, co-financed by the National Rural Network

# Ham rolls with asparagus in jelly

We are presenting a recipe for a delicious and easy to prepare spring dish - ham rolls with asparagus in jelly.



### INGREDIENTS:

- 5-6 slices of ham
- 1 jar of pickled asparagus
- 150 grams of natural cheese
- 2 teaspoons of grated horseradish
- Salt, pepper
- **Jelly:**
  - 0,5 liters of vegetable
  - broth 3 teaspoons of gelatin

### PREPARATION:

Mix gelatin with a little water, leave for a few minutes to swell. Boil the broth, remove from heat, add the swollen gelatine, stir until the gelatine dissolves, leave to cool. Add horseradish to cheese, season to taste with salt and pepper. Drain the asparagus from the brine. Spread each slice of ham with cream cheese and horseradish, take out three pieces of asparagus, roll it and put it on a platter. Put the remaining cheese with horseradish to a pastry bag and decorate the rolls by squeezing small rosettes. Pour the solidifying jelly over the rolls on a platter, put in the fridge and leave until completely set.

PHOTO CORNER



Photo: G. Mroziak

Historic viaduct, Zabrodzie, commune of Szydłowo in the Pila district.



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WIELKOPOLSKA  
REGION



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

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