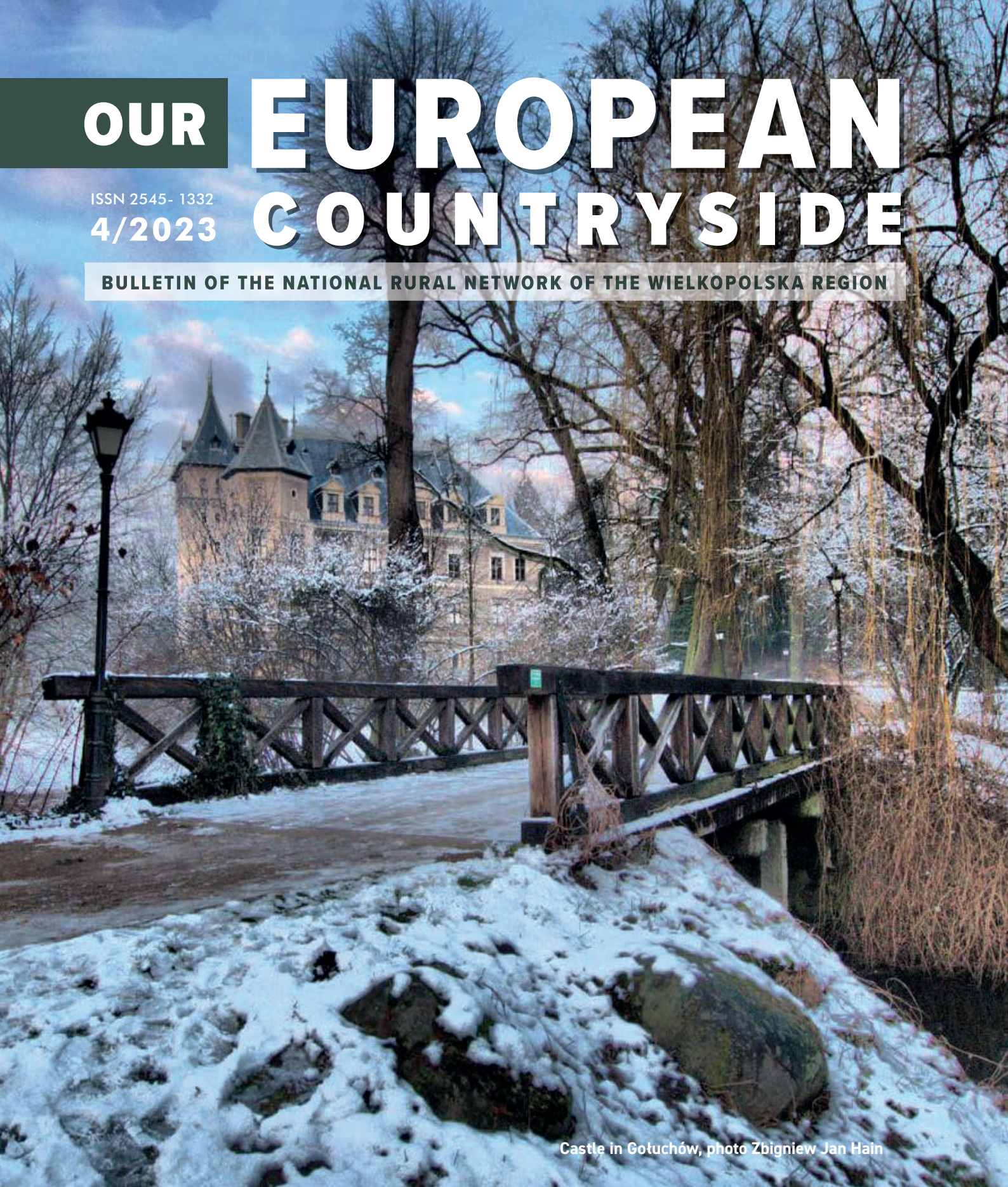


**OUR**

# EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE

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**BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK OF THE WIELKOPOLSKA REGION**



Castle in Gołuchów, photo Zbigniew Jan Hain



EUROPEAN UNION



Polish National  
Rural Network



WIELKOPOLSKA  
REGION



Rural  
Development  
Programme  
for 2014-2020

„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,

It was a very busy year taking into account the implementation of the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 and the activities undertaken to implement the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027. At the same time, an assessment of applications under the currently ending financial perspective and an assessment of community-led local development strategies prepared by 30 local action groups in the Wielkopolska Region is being carried out. We will inform you about the results of the LGD competition in the first issue of the bulletin in 2024, in this issue we will focus mainly on what has been achieved under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 and on current events in the calendar of related events with the development of rural areas.

You are encouraged to become familiar with the new water and sewage investments, they were co-financed in October 2023 thanks to the increased limit of funds provided for the Wielkopolska Region. We are also presenting information on the last call for applications announced by the Wielkopolska Region Management Board in the current financial perspective. We are talking about support for municipal investments such as "Water resources management". In October 2023, I

also had the pleasure of signing an agreement to delegate the tasks of the Paying Agency to the Local Government of the Wielkopolska Region. It is a document that authorizes the Wielkopolska Region local government to implement the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027 and to have a budget of approximately EUR 90 million.

In this year's fourth edition of the "Our European Countryside" bulletin, you will also find examples of interesting projects co-financed from the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 that have recently been settled, as well as reports from study trips organized for children with disabilities and the Tastes of Regions 2023 Fair.

On the occasion of the upcoming Christmas and New Year 2024, I wish you a lot of energy to fulfil your plans and intentions as well as all initiatives that contribute to the dynamic development of the Wielkopolska countryside.

I wish you pleasant reading!

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## RDP IMPLEMENTATION

# Additional funds for water and sewage management

In September 2023, the regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development entered into force, under which the limit of funds for beneficiaries of the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 investing in water and sewage management was increased. It is good news for eight municipal governments, which, thanks to the European funds, will implement projects long awaited by local communities.



Photo: Nekla Commune Office

Two communes from the Września powiat signed agreements in October 2023 to co-finance water and sewage investments. The funds were transferred to Kołaczkowo and Nekla communes.

- *The Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 has a real impact on improving the quality of life of the inhabitants of Wielkopolska Region's villages. A large part of the funds was allocated to support investments in water and sewage management. I am glad that additional funds were allocated for the purpose, they enabled eight new tasks to be co-financed. A total of PLN 312.5 million was allocated for water and sewage projects in communes and municipal utilities, says Krzysztof Grabowski, deputy marshal of the region.*

PLN 4,256,996 is the amount of support granted to the Town and Commune of Grabów nad Prosną (Ostrzeszów Powiat). Thanks to the European funds, the only sewage treatment plant in the commune, located in the town of Grabów Wójtostwo, will be expanded, and the water supply network in Chlewo will also be modernized. The sewage treatment plant was established in 1996, and in 2009 the facility was expanded. After 14 years, this place requires more work and further expansion.

The EU funds in the amount of PLN 853,589 went to the Kołaczkowo commune (Września Powiat). They will be allocated to the construction of a sanitary sewage system with a pump-

ing station at Krakowska in Kołaczkowo and retrofitting the hydrophore plant with a power generator in Gorzódów.

The Olszówka commune (Koło Powiat) obtained PLN 3,567,800 for the modernization of the sewage treatment plant in Olszówka, it is located in the southern part of the town at the Olszówka - Umień asphalt road. The treatment plant was established in 1998 using the Lemna technology, a technology that uses aquatic plants to purify sewage. The scope of work to be performed after 25 years of operation of the facility, apart from the necessary modernization of the sewage treatment plant, includes the installation of a photovoltaic installation.

European funds worth PLN 3,068,447 were received by the Gołuchów commune in the Pleszew Powiat. Thanks to it, the investment of building a sanitary sewage system in Czechel, modernizing the water treatment plant in Kucharki and designing and constructing an underground retention tank with a rainwater drainage system in Tursko will be implemented.

The Kobylin commune in the Krotoszyn Powiat was granted the EU funds in the amount of PLN 3,515,522 for the expansion of the water and sewage system in the commune. The project

Photo: Olszówka Commune Office



The Olszówka commune is one of the beneficiaries of the Rural Development Program 2014-2020, they invest in water and sewage management.

includes the reconstruction of the water supply network and the construction of a sanitary sewage system in Łagiewniki, as well as the purchase of a UV lamp for water disinfection for the water treatment plant in Długołęka.

In the Pępowo commune in the Gostyń Powiat, the task of expanding the water and sewage system will also be carried out. Support in the amount of PLN 3,381,755 was allocated for the purpose. The money will be used to reconstruct the water supply network and build a sanitary sewage system in the town of Skoraszewice and to purchase an ultrafiltration system for purifying water from filter rinsing at the water treatment plant in Krzyżanki.

Another beneficiary of the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 from the Gostyń Powiat is the Pogorzela commune, it obtained PLN 4,967,075 for the reconstruction of the water supply network and the construction of a sanitary sewage

system in the town of Gumienice. Works related to sewerage include, among others: construction of three sewage pumping stations. The treatment plant in Małgowo will also be equipped with a UV lamp for water disinfection.

European funds from the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 will also go to the Nekla commune in the Września Powiat. The scope of work to be performed is wide and concerns the construction of a sanitary sewage system along Jana Woźniaka in Starczanów, construction of a sanitary sewage system in Nekla along Gnieźnieńska, Sosnowa, Modrzewiowa, Jodłowa, Jaśminowa and Akacjowa. There will also be construction of a water supply network in Stępczin and reconstruction of the water supply network along Polna and Średzka in Targowa Górka. The commune will also purchase units for water treatment plants in Podstolice, Targowa Górka and Stroszki.

All subsidized investments must be completed by mid-2025.

Photo: Pępowo Commune Office



The list of co-financed projects related to water and sewage management includes the Pogorzela commune in the Gostyń Powiat.

## RDP IMPLEMENTATION

# Last call for applications under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020

Since December 8 to 22, 2023, municipalities will be able to apply for funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development for the implementation of such investments as “Water resources management”. The tasks may concern the construction or reconstruction of open retention reservoirs used to collect rainwater or meltwater, groundwater or flowing water.

On October 25, 2023, the Management Board of the Wielkopolska Region adopted a resolution on announcing a call for applications for Wielkopolska communes, they will be able to apply for aid for the implementation of investments such as “Water resources management”. Applications will be accepted at the Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznan from December 8 to 22, 2023. The limit of funds provided for supporting this type of projects in the Wielkopolska Region is EUR 7,047,168, or approximately PLN 32 million. Aid will be granted in the amount of up to 100% of the eligible costs of a task, but not more than PLN 500,000. Investments

can only be implemented in towns with up to 5,000 inhabitants. Co-financed tasks must concern the construction or reconstruction of open retention reservoirs with an area not exceeding 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> and a depth not exceeding 3 m, or the construction or reconstruction of such reservoirs together with the construction or reconstruction of the accompanying infrastructure necessary for the operation of such reservoirs. Implementation of the material scope of the operation, including the beneficiary's incurring eligible costs of the operation and submitting an application for final payment should take place no later than June 30, 2025.



Photo: Paweł Władysław Płócienniczak.

The photo shows the Długogołęka reservoir in the Kobylin commune (Krotoszyn Poviát).

## EUR 90 million for the Wielkopolska Region countryside

On October 19, 2023, Vice-Marshals of the Wielkopolska Region, Krzysztof Grabowski and Wojciech Jankowiak, signed an agreement on delegating tasks to the Paying Agency. The agreement concerns the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027.



Photo: A. Kapuściński.

Signature: On October 19, 2023, Vice-Marshals of the Wielkopolska Region, Krzysztof Grabowski and Wojciech Jankowiak, signed an agreement on delegating tasks. Thanks to it, the Wielkopolska local government will participate in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027.

The local government of the Wielkopolska Region is completing the implementation of the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020. At the same time, work is underway to mobilize funds from the new financial perspective. We are talking about approximately EUR 90 million under the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for 2023-2027. The funds will be used for land consolidation and post-consolidation development, support for infrastructure in rural areas, implementation of the smart village concept and the already well-known LEADER initiative. The last area of support will be implemented with the participation of 30 local action groups. The groups have developed their strategies, they are financed from several different funds, thanks to which the pool of funds available will be correspondingly higher.

The implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 through the local government of the Wielkopolska Region is possible thanks to the agreement on delegating tasks to the Paying Agency. In short, it concerns the transfer of powers

to the local government by the Agency for Restructuring and Modernization of Agriculture to announce recruitment, evaluate applications, sign contracts and settle projects in the new financial perspective. The document was signed on October 19, 2023 by Deputy Marshals Krzysztof Grabowski and Wojciech Jankowiak.

*- The first recruitment processes under the new allocation of the EU funds should take place in 2024. Funds of EUR 90 million have been allocated for the further development of the Wielkopolska countryside. The money comes from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Let us not forget, however, that the beneficiaries will also have EUR 50 million from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund Plus at their disposal - emphasizes Krzysztof Grabowski, deputy marshal of the region, responsible for supervising the correct implementation of Rural Development Program 2014-2020 and CAP 2023-2027 in the Wielkopolska Region.*

## GOOD PRACTICE

# A new skate park in Bolewice in the Miedzichowo commune

**Thanks to funds from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, a modern facility was constructed in Bolewice (Miedzichowo commune, Nowy Tomyśl Poviati), residents can pursue their sports passions there.**

Bolewice is a town with less than two thousand inhabitants, located in the western part of the Wielkopolska Region, famous for its local variety of pine, the so-called Bolewicka pine. Recently, this town has also become associated with sports and recreation. This is due to the skate park built with the support of the European Union. The Smile of Generations Association is the originator of the project, it submitted an appropriate application to the headquarters of the KOLD Local Action Group. The skate park is located on the sports field and consists of the following devices enabling very spectacular stunts: a ramp bank, a fun box with a disaster box and a rail, a quarter pipe, a wave grid box, two additional grindboxes and a straight rail. Grass was sown around it and small architectural elements were installed, such as benches, waste bins and regulations were provided. The ceremonial opening of the skate park took place on July 16, 2023. It was accompanied by skateboarding demonstrations and sweet refreshments. All attractions were completely free.

*- We now have a real place to relax and have fun! We are very happy about it and we are very pleased that the association and the office authorities think about our town. Bolewice is formed by an increasingly larger local community, more and more people from the city come here, and thanks to such activities, our young people have a new place to spend their free time - as admits one of the residents of Bolewice.*

With the support of the EU funds under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020, 13 skate parks have already been created in the Wielkopolska Region, including: in the town of Rychtal in the Kępno Poviati, in Zacharzyn in the Chodzież commune, or in Koziegłowy in the Czerwonak commune (Poznan Poviati).



Photo: Dominika Kapałka.

During the opening of the skate park in Bolewice, skateboard evolution shows took place.



## “Jabłona” restaurant - an interesting place on the culinary map of the Wielkopolska Region

**The owner of the facility obtained funding from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020. He used the funds provided to support entrepreneurs in the development of their business activities. The funds were transferred as part of the implementation of the LEADER initiative in the area of operation of the “Unia Nadwarciańska” Association LAG.**

The story of the “Jabłona” Restaurant located on the shores of Lake Powidzki dates back to the beginning of the 20th century. The restaurant building was constructed as part of a large and ambitious project, the so-called Powidz Spa. This is an undertaking on a scale that can only be compared to the largest spa places in Poland at that time. The name of the restaurant does not come from an apple tree, which cannot be found among the numerous trees surrounding the building. It's also a tradition. This restaurant had various official names, but it was always “Jabłona” or “Dolek”. “Jabłona” from the name of the pre-war owner of the spa restaurant and café, W. Jabłoński. “Dolek” due to the topography of the surrounding area. The owner of the restaurant runs traditional Polish cuisine, serving mainly regional dishes. Special attention is paid to fish dishes, which create exquisite flavour compositions. The restaurant provides comprehensive services for weddings, special events, business meetings and banquets.

The restaurant building has recently undergone expansion. It is thanks to the EU funds under the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 intended for the implementation of community-led local development strategies. Funding in the amount of PLN 226,539 made it possible to create a winter garden with a view of the lake. The implementation of the investment was guided by, among others, creating new jobs for people from two disadvantaged groups (over 50 years of age and between 16 and 34 years of age). The garden was implemented in the Flandria Aluminium Residence variant - flat roofs with an aluminium frame. The space between the structure profiles enabled hiding electrical cables, heating, air conditioning or lighting. The facility has an electrometric installation and ventilation with air conditioning.



Source: Beneficiary's archive.

Thanks to funding from the Rural Development Program 2014-2020, the “Jabłona” restaurant in Powidz gained a beautiful winter garden

## EVENTS

# The provincial government supports people with disabilities

Study trips took place on October 3 and 5, 2023, students of the Special Educational and Educational Centre No. 2 named after the Deaf and Mute Platoon of the Home Army in Kalisz. The trips included photography workshops and classes on the production of natural cosmetics.



Photo: A. Kapuściński.

One of the tasks for the participants of the photography workshops was to create a story from eight selected works from a prison photo session.

Community-led local development strategies implemented under the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 assume social inclusion of people from the so-called disadvantaged groups. Most often, they are long-term unemployed people and people with low qualifications, but to a large extent the problem of social exclusion also affects people with disabilities. The European Funds are an opportunity to improve the situation of such people, they enable the implementation of projects activating people from disadvantaged groups.

- While implementing the entire spectrum of initiatives serving rural areas of the Wielkopolska Region, we do not forget about those who require special support. We are talking about people with disabilities. The local government of the Wielkopolska Region, as part of the tasks of the Regional Unit of the National Rural Network, has prepared study trips for children and youth

from the Special Educational and Educational Centre No. 2 named after the Deaf and Mute Platoon of the Home Army in Kalisz. We tried to create an attractive offer, best suited to the needs of the school's students, says the originator of the project, Vice-Marshall Krzysztof Grabowski.

The youth of the Kalisz school include people suffering from hearing impairments, but also people on the autism spectrum. They require a special curriculum that takes into account their specific needs. The centre's students participating in study trips are trained in photography and multimedia techniques. Therefore, the topics of the trips were largely based on issues related to photography. The youth took part in photography workshops under the supervision of Waldemar Stube, a photographer from Gniezno, his charisma allowed the participants to open up to new knowledge and look at

the art of photography with curiosity. Students talked about their passions and interests, which, apart from photography, focused on music, film and literature.

*- In the profession of a photographer, it is very important to develop one's horizons, be interested in broadly understood art, draw inspiration from film images or literary scenes -* said Waldemar Stube to the workshop participants.

The students' task was to analyse a photo session taken by a photographer in prison, select the best photos and arrange them into one coherent story. They could also see the works of the world's best photography artists awarded in the World Press Photo competition and share their impressions. Then, each participant received a card with a slogan that was to be the leitmotif of the photo to be taken in the surroundings of the picturesquely located Wigwam in Russocice (Władysławów Commune). The second photo that the youth were supposed to take was a portrait or self-portrait. The works were assessed by a demanding jury, i.e. the workshop participants themselves, they selected the best photos unanimously. Each student received a commemorative certificate confirming participation in the workshops.

The trip participants then went to Krwony in the Brudzew commune, the headquarters of the Turkowska Unia Rozwoju

T.U.R. is located there, one of the 28 Wielkopolska local action groups implementing community-led local development strategies under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020. There is a Local Processing Incubator at the LGD headquarters, classes on the production of natural cosmetics were held there. The president of the association, Magdalena Ciołek, talked about its activities and the building that previously housed a primary school and is now a space supporting local residents' activities. Under the supervision of LGD employees, the youth were transported to the fragrant world of cosmetics and made moisturizing soap, a bath bomb and various body lotions with their own hands. Each participant took home the products they made, but also new skills.

*- The project is co-financed by the National Rural Network under the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 and was aimed at activating people with disabilities, making it easier for them to enter the labour market. This is the first in a series of initiatives addressed to people with disabilities. Further tasks of this type are planned for 2024 and 2025 -* says Izabela Mroczek, Director of the Department of Rural Development Programs of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznan.



Photo: A. Kapuściński

Workshops on the production of natural cosmetics at the Local Processing Incubator in Krwony.

## EVENTS

# Local and traditional, which means tasty

The next edition of the Tastes of Regions fair was held at the turn of September and October 2023. This is one of the largest exhibition events in the country, focusing on delicacies from various parts of Poland. There were plenty of attractions for people of all ages. The event was also an opportunity to award the best products and dishes with Tastes of Regions Fair Medals and Culinary Pearls.



Photo: A. Kapuściński

The Tastes of Regions Fair in 2023 was visited by almost 31,000 people.

In connection with the fair, producers of the most delicious culinary products in the country, representing almost all regions, come to the capital of Wielkopolska every year. The composition of the products is characterized by the highest quality, attachment to tradition and local origin of ingredients. At the Tastes of Regions fair, you can taste meat and cold cuts, cheese, honey, processed fruit and vegetables, fish, dairy products, bread, confectionery, as well as beer, wine and liqueurs. This year, hundreds of exhibitors were waiting for visitors, offering tastings and the opportunity to purchase various specialities. The culinary stage was an important point of the event, where, among others, cooking shows were held there. Laurentiu "Lorek" Zediu, the winner of the MasterChef Poland, was the special guest of the fair. The chef presented many recipes that could not only inspire participants to create something delicious, but also showed how to cook and not waste food. Additionally, Lorek revealed to his viewers culinary tricks that make it easier to process and extract the best flavour from products. On September 29, 2023, Chef Lorek created culinary shows for students of catering schools from all over the Wielkopolska Region - Piła, Rawicz, Brzostów (Miasteczko Krajeńskie commune), Krotoszyn, Ostrzeszów, Kępno, Kalisz, Lisków, Września, Nietązkowo (Śmigiel

commune) and Poznan. On that day, Tastes of Regions was visited by over 600 students and their guardians. During the show, Laurentiu "Lorek" Zediu presented dishes including: using food at risk of being wasted. The Battle of Small Mobile Workshop Kitchens took place for the first time, in which food banks from the Wielkopolska Region presented cooking that promoted not wasting food. The culinary competition was participated by: Wielkopolska Food Bank from Poznan, Food Bank in Konin and Food Bank in Piła.

- Culinary shows and food bank competitions were the result of the implementation of the "Program for reducing food waste and losses in the Wielkopolska Region for 2021-2025" by the Government of the Wielkopolska Region. So far, nearly PLN 3 million has been allocated from the budget of the Wielkopolska Region Local Government to fight against food waste - emphasizes Deputy Marshal, Krzysztof Grabowski, responsible for the implementing the program. The youngest participants of the event could try their hand at culinary workshops. Children played the role of little bakers and personally checked how bread is made. "Polish Flavours" workshops were held in the Polish Ecology zone. Thanks to a small press, fair participants could see how juice is made and take part in interactive ga-



Photo: A. Kapuściński.

Marshal Marek Woźniak during the opening of the Tastes of Regions 2023 fair.

mes using fruit and vegetables.

On Saturday, September 30, 2023, the Tastes of Regions Fair Medals took place on the main stage. The awards were presented by Marek Woźniak - Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Filip Bittner - vice-president of the management board of Grupa MTP and Izabella Byszewska - president of the management board of the Polish Chamber of Regional and Lo-

cal Product. The winners included Spółdzielnia Mleczarska Września, which received a medal for Września butter, and Zakład Produkcji Spożywczej i Handlu Frąckowiak Sp. z o. o. for Wielkopolska fried cheese. The Wielkopolska Region products also won two awards: Cold-pressed rapeseed oil produced by Oleje Trawińscy Sp. z o. o. sp. k. and Miód linowy od Miody Suszka by Adrian Suszka.

During the Tastes of Regions Fair, the finalists of the nationwide competition "Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of the Regions" organized by the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products in cooperation with regional governments were honoured. The highest awards in the form of Pearls for a local product and a regional dish were awarded to, among others, exhibitors from the Wielkopolska Region. The awarded products included Baked goose by the "Smak Tradycji" company, Irena Olejniczak, Natural cream cheese from Buk by the "Levant Foods" Dairy Plant in Buk, Extra butter produced by the District Dairy Cooperative in Jarocin, Whole canned asparagus from the Food Production Company "Frykas" Sp. z o. o., Auflauf - omelette with sugar and fruit baked in the oven from KGW in Orpiszewo (Krotoszyn Commune), Elderflower syrup - Hyćka produced by Blus Marcin Sadowski of the Hyćka Restaurant. The pearl for the culinary dish went to KGW "Grupa dla Rybna Wielki" (Kiszkowo) for Pyrczanka with smoked meat.



Source: Września Milk Cooperative

This year, the Tastes of Regions Fair medal went, among others, to Września Milk Cooperative, which received an award for Wrześcińskie Butter.

## CULINARY CORNER

# Mushroom patties in shortcrust pastry

The Christmas Eve table is dominated by dishes based on fish and mushrooms. This time, you are encouraged to use the recipe by Zofia Zawistowska from her book "Christmas Eve Dishes" published in the 1970s. Crispy mushroom patties are suitable both as a snack and as a tasty addition to soups, e.g. borscht.



Source: beszamel.se.pl

### INGREDIENTS:

- 30 dag of flour
- 15 dag of butter
- 1 yolk
- 2-3 tablespoons of thick cream
- 10 dag of dried mushrooms
- 15 dag of onion
- 4 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 tablespoon of breadcrumbs
- 2 hard-boiled eggs
- 1 raw egg yolk
- salt, pepper

### PREPARATION:

Wash the mushrooms, pour cool boiled water over them, leave for a few hours, then cook them in the same water in which they were soaked. Drain the cooked mushrooms and cut into small cubes. Peel the onion, rinse, cut into small cubes, salt, add to a dry pan and heat while stirring. When the onion softens and begins to turn yellow, add fat and brown lightly. Add the mushrooms to the browned onion, mix, simmer for a while, pour in the mushroom broth, add the breadcrumbs, simmer for a few minutes, set aside, mix with the raw yolk, add hard-boiled eggs beaten with a fork, season with salt and pepper. Cool. Sift the flour, add butter and sprinkle with

salt. Carefully chop with a knife to create the smallest possible lumps of butter surrounded by flour. Then add the yolk and cream, knead the dough with a knife and quickly knead it with your hand. Place the prepared dough in a bowl, cover and place in the fridge or cool pantry for about half an hour. Roll out the dough thinly and cut into squares of about 5 cm. Place the mushroom filling on the squares and seal the sides. Place the formed dumplings (or any other shape) on a greased baking tray. Place the filled baking tray in an oven preheated to 180 degrees and bake until golden brown. Serve with borscht or fish broth.





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