

# OUR EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE

ISSN 2083-4063  
1/2022

Photo: Małgorzata Ciesielska

A. Mickiewicz Park in Poznań

**BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK OF THE 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.





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

Dear Sir or Madam,

2022 has been a year of intense work for all of us. The abolished sanitary restrictions made it possible to return to organizing events in which inhabitants of rural areas of our region actively participate. One of them was the pilgrimage of village leaders to the Sanctuary of St. Joseph in Kalisz and the solemn celebration of Village Leader's Day in Stawiszyn, where I had the pleasure to personally honour distinguished representatives of the rural community. We present a report on this event in the "Our European Countryside" newsletter.

The self-government of the Wielkopolska Region carries out activities related to the preparation for the new programming period, in which the territorial development instrument, which is community-led local development, will be particularly exposed. A working team has been appointed, which will work out optimal solutions during regular meetings, enabling its efficient and effective implementation in our region.

In this issue of the newsletter, we have information for the beneficiaries of the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020. In March, two calls for proposals for aid were announced for areas that enable local governments to invest in the development of the necessary infrastructure in rural areas - for water management - sewage and land consolidation with co-financing up to one hundred percent of eligible costs. Our region received additional funds for this purpose in connection with the extension of the Program implementation period by two years. Unfortunately, this is one of the last calls in this perspective.

We are also presenting a report from the March Wine and Vineyard Fair in Poznan - the second edition of the event was entirely devoted to native winemaking.

I wish you pleasant reading.

**Publisher:**

Self-government of Wielkopolska Region  
Al. Niepodległości 34  
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**Text and development:**

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**Graphic design:**

EGD Design  
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www.grafikadlafirm.pl

**Printing:**

ZAPOL Sobczyk sp.j.

## EVENTS

# VI Pilgrimage of village leaders to the Sanctuary of St. Joseph in Kalisz and the celebration of Village Leader's Day

**On the occasion of the Village Leader' Day on March 11, the VI Pilgrimage of village leaders from Wielkopolska and the Kalisz diocese was organised to the Sanctuary of St. Joseph. A solemn mass was presided over by the Bishop of Kalisz, Damian Bryl. Then the gathered guests went to the sports and entertainment hall in Stawiszyn for the official celebration of this event. It was also remembered to commemorate one of the initiators of the Village Leader's Day celebrations, the long-standing mayor of Stawiszyn, the late Justyna Urbaniak.**

"A good village leader can gather local community around them, activate it and jointly pursue goals that bring benefits to residents. It is worth remembering, however, that being a village leader is not only a distinction, but also a significant obligation"- these were the words that began the celebration of the Village Leader's Day at the Sports and Entertainment Hall in Stawiszyn.

The gathered participants were welcomed by: Krzysztof Grabowski - Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Jarosław Maciejewski - President of the Association of Village Leaders of the Wielkopolska Region, Grzegorz Kaczmarek - Mayor of Stawiszyn, Andrzej Grzyb - Member of the Polish Parliament, Ireneusz Niewiarowski - president of the National Association of Village Leaders.

Honouring people of merit for the Wielkopolska Region was an important moment of the ceremony. The Honorary Badge "For merits for the Wielkopolska Region" is the highest honorary regional distinction. This is an extremely important decoration awarded to people who, through their entire professional and social activity, as well as the implementation of their tasks for the Wielkopolska Region, have significantly contributed to the economic, cultural, and social development of the Region. The awarded are: Wiesław Czaja - leader of the village of Sławsk, commune Rzgów, Anna Felisiak - leader of the villa-

ge of Zbiersk, commune Stawiszyn, Andrzej Gierlach, leader of the village of Latowice, commune Sieroszewice, Tadeusz Gruszczyński - leader of the village of Piątek Wielki, commune Stawiszyn, Antoni Gryczyński - former leader of the village of Borów, commune Opatówek, Zdzisław Heresztyn - leader of the village of Małgów, commune Lisków, Bogdan Kaczmarek - leader of the village of Dziedzice, commune Łądek, Dariusz Kałmucki - leader of the village of Marianów, commune Zagórów, Jan Kaniewski - leader of the village of Przysieczyn, commune Wągrowiec, Tomasz Kufel - leader of the village of Grylewo, commune Wągrowiec, Marek Latosiński - leader of the village of Stara Kaźmierka, commune Chocz, Józef Miklas - leader of the village of Ciepielew, commune Lisków, Michał Nogalski - leader of the village of Łaziska, commune Wągrowiec, Tadeusz Osada - leader of the village of Lipie, commune Łęka Opatowska, Andrzej Pawlicki - leader of the village of Modła, commune Rzgów, Aleksander Pietrzak - leader of the village of Topola Wielka, commune Przygodzice, Grzegorz Praselski - leader of the village of Przyranie, commune Mycielin, Józef Pukacki - leader of the village of Brenno, commune Wijewo, Wiesław Smolarz - former leader of the village of Rozalin, commune Rychwał, Elżbieta Sowa - leader of the village of Chełmce, commune Opatówek, Piotr Stodolski - leader of the village of Zmysłona Słupska, commune Łęka Opatowska, Stefan Strychalski - leader of the village of Bukowiec, commune Wągrowiec.



Photo: SP Kalisz

Winners of the 6th edition of the regional stage of the „Village Region Fund - the best initiative” competition



Photo: SP Kalisz

Solemn celebration of the Village Leader's Day at the sports and entertainment hall in Stawiszyn

The next part of the ceremony was the outcome of the regional stage of the competition - "Village Region Fund - the best initiative", organized by the Board of the Wielkopolska Region, in cooperation with the National Association of Village Leaders. The competition was addressed to all villages from the Wielkopolska Region which in 2010-2021 implemented projects financed from funds allocated under the village council fund, or where the village fund was their own contribution. The competition jury selected 3 villages - Łagiewniki Kościelne in commune Kiszkowo, Racot in commune Kościan and Słowikowo in commune Orchowo, they received financial awards in the amount of PLN 7, 5 and 3 thousand. There were also 7 villages distinguished: Lubiń in commune Trzemeszno, Dębówko Stare in commune Białośliwa, Gulczewo - Gulczewko in commune Września, Chełmno in commune Dąbie, Biarłogi in commune Rzgów, Wierzbno in commune Odolanów and Przygodzice in commune Przygodzice.

We ask village leaders of Wielkopolska about the role and significance of their function nowadays, the greatest successes and challenges, as well as the impact of European funds on the development of rural areas.



**Łukasz Musiał**  
Village Region Petryki,  
commune Stawiszyn

The main task of a village leader is to take care of the collective needs of the inhabitants of the villages Petryki, Łyczyn and Stary Kiączyn in my case. I try to be support and help the residents in every matter, the task of a village leader is to be close to people.

I have to be a socially active person and I must admit that being a village leader is a demanding and responsible role. You must be a liaison between the commune and its inhabitants, an organizer of cultural and economic life, and motivate people to act. I try to respond to the needs of my village on an ongoing basis. "Village leadership" makes me feel needed and fulfilled, and I hope that inhabitants of Petryki, Łyczyn and Stary Kiączyn are satisfied with my work.



**Ryszard Ryfa**  
Village Region Wtórek,  
commune Ostrów Wielkopolski

A village leader is an authority with one of the longest traditions in Polish history. From the very beginning, they played an important role in the life of local communities, being leaders and links between citizens and the commune authorities. As a village

leader, I have been managing the village region's fund for three terms, i.e., funds separated from the municipal budget for the most important goals of the village. Investments that we have made thanks to the funds of the village region include, among others, purchase of lockers for children from the School - Kindergarten Complex in Wtórek, organization of Senior's Day, Village Holiday, Children's Day, equipment for the village hall in Wtórek and many more. My priority task is to integrate residents and stimulate them to cooperate for the common good, but also to help residents of the village region. The ingenuity and entrepreneurship of village leaders help to solve many difficult issues. Residents know that they can count on me in any situation.

## EVENTS



### **Zbigniew Wołczyk**

*Village Region Łagiewniki Kościelne,  
commune Kiszkowo*

I am very proud of the initiative that we took up in 2016 and completed after 3 years, it was appreciated by the jury of the "Village Region Fund - the best initiative" competition.

Thanks to our project "We are recreating "Kipa" - an ice island on a pond in Łagiewniki Kościelne", a one-of-a-kind place was reconstructed, which has become a showcase of the Kiszkowo commune. It is a brick icehouse on an artificial island with a traditional room with household appliances from the previous epoch. There is an educational path around the pond, along which old machines were placed, which were donated by the inhabitants of Łagiewniki Kościelne. It should be emphasized that without the involvement of the residents of the village, who supported the project at every stage with their own work, equipment or materials, the project implementation would not have been successful.



### **Jarosław Donaj**

*Village Region Racot,  
commune Kościan*

The Racot village region, which I represent, stands out in the Kościan commune by numerous initiatives. Inhabitants' merit is that the place is getting more beautiful and new ideas keep coming that are then put

into practice. The result of the implementation of our Village Region Development Strategy is a project consisting in the development of the area of the municipal pond called "Przystań Oaza Racot - a place for the integration of residents", which took second position in the regional edition of the competition "Village Region Fund - the best initiative". Having completed the investment, we obtained a place to organize recreational and integration events, picnics, rallies and conferences. It quickly became an example of good practices of joint activities for the integration of residents and land development. We still receive positive signals from the outside about this place, which strengthens our belief in the rightness of joint actions.



### **Anna Kopaczewska**

*Village Region  
Jaroszewice Rychwalskie,  
commune Rychwał*

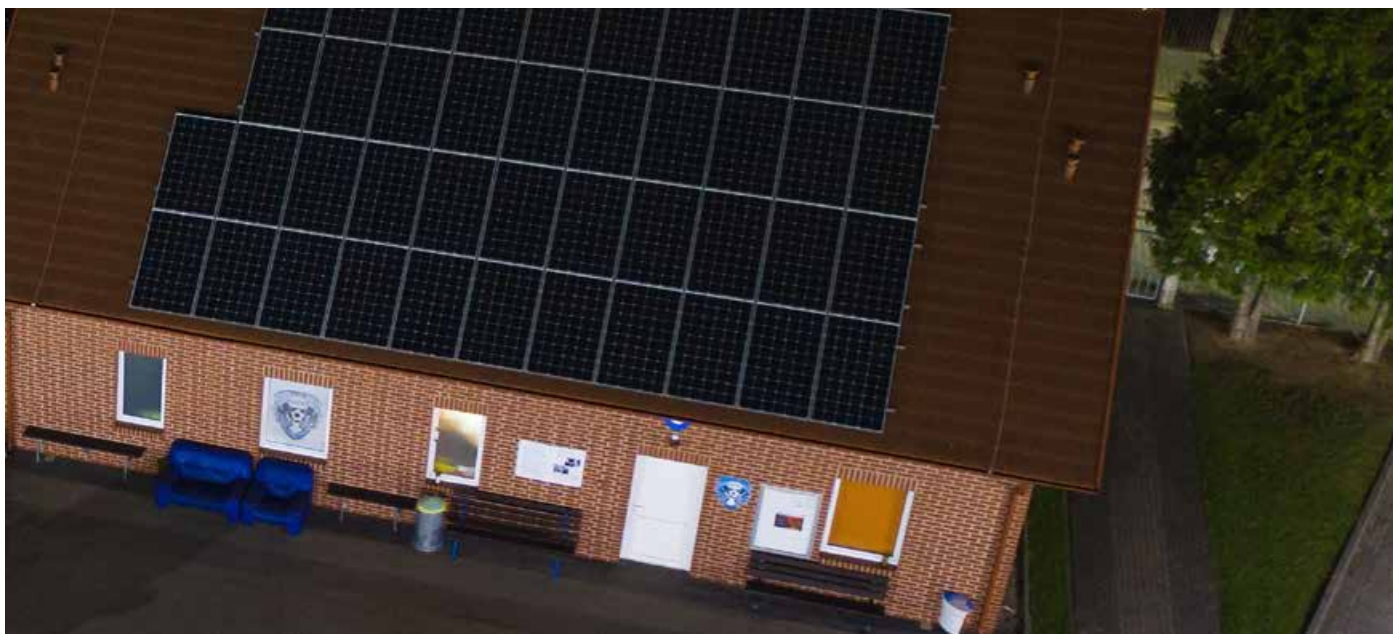
European funds have undoubtedly contributed to the improvement of the image of rural areas. However, insufficient water and sewage infrastructure can still be observed, which

negatively affects the development of entrepreneurship and the standard of living of inhabitants, therefore I am very glad that in Jaroszewice Rychwalskie, thanks to support from the Rural Development Program, we managed to improve the condition of the infrastructure. Investment needs in rural areas are still very high and I hope that in the years to come local governments will still be able to reach for funds for this purpose.



Photo: UG Kiszkowo

"Kipa" - an ice island on a pond in Łagiewniki Kościelne



Photovoltaic installation at the village common room in Widziszewo and the cloakroom at the ORLIK 2012 sports field complex in Racot, co-financed by the RDP 2014-2020



**Andrzej Pawlicki**  
Village Region Modła,  
commune Rzgów

The Modła village region is among the smaller in the Rzgów commune. Inhabitants mainly practice agriculture for the living. An undoubted advantage of the village region is its location in the Nadwarciański Landscape Park. It is very important for the inhabitants of Modła that the Rzgów commune actively and effectively participates in obtaining funds from the Rural Development Program. The commune membership in the local group of activities, the "Solidarni w Partnerstwie" Association, is a real opportunity for our inhabitants to subsidize projects in the field of starting and developing business activities, as well as the development of generally accessible infrastructure. It is also possible to emphasize the natural values of the village.



**Jadwiga Nowak**  
Village Region Osłonin,  
commune Przemęt

Thanks to funds from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, the village of Osłonin managed to build 760 meters of a pedestrian and bicycle path along the shore of Lake Wieleńskie. A 3-metre-wide path with a surface of concrete and granite cubes serves not only the inhabitants of our village, but also more and more tourists visiting it. Along the modernized path, among others, park

benches, litter bins and bicycle stands were installed. As a result, another attractive place for rest and recreation has been created in the Przemęt commune.



**Małgorzata Wojciuch**  
Village Region Kołaczkowo,  
commune Kołaczkowo

Support from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 made it possible to carry out hardening and managing the commune square in Kołaczkowo. This place is in the very centre of Kołaczkowo by provincial road 442 Września-Kalisz. In its immediate vicinity there is the historic palace of the Nobel Prize winner Władysław Stanisław Reymont with a park surrounding it.

The investment has expanded the recreational infrastructure of the Kołaczkowo commune. Thanks to its location, this place made it possible to organize, among others, open air events in the form of festivals, harvest festivals or other events. The square also adjoins the parish church, which is why parish festivities are held there. It facilitates the reception of pilgrims going to Częstochowa, and also serves as a car park. The entire square was illuminated with solar lamps, trees were planted around, litter bins were placed, and benches were installed so that residents could spend their free time in a friendly and peaceful environment. Thanks to the investment, there is a place in Kołaczkowo that will serve the residents and guests visiting our small community for many years.

### How to create and support local development

**Community-Led Local Development is an extremely important instrument of territorial development for our region. Since the beginning of Poland's membership in the European Union, local action groups have successfully implemented their local development strategies, thanks to which local governments, non-governmental organizations and inhabitants of rural areas can obtain funds for the implementation of bottom-up initiatives changing the face of the Wielkopolska countryside. In the 2014-2020 perspective, CLLD was implemented in the Wielkopolska Region with the participation of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.**

Positive experiences in the implementation of the strategy, willingness to maintain the potential of local action groups, in combination with the projected lower allocation of funds for the implementation of LEADER at the level of the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for the years 2023-2027 developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development made the Board of the Wielkopolska Region decide on the implementation of this territorial development instrument in the multi-fund formula in the new programming period. In the European Funds for Wielkopolska 2021-2027 program, two priority axes dedicated to CLLD have been distinguished, with a total allocation of EUR 50 million, which includes the European Social Fund+ component of EUR 30 million and the European Regional Development Fund of EUR 20 million. Implementing multi-fund strategies will not be an easy task, therefore, to ensure a constant exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of local development, on November 25, 2021, the Management Board of the Wielkopolska Region appointed a Working Team for the implementation of the Community-Led Local Development instrument. It brings together 26 people representing the regional self-government, scientific circles, local action groups, the Association of Communes and Poviats of the Wielkopolska Region and the Wielkopolska Agricultural Advisory Centre. Meetings are chaired by the Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski. Tasks of the team will include: knowledge exchange and facilitating cooperation between the Self-government of the Wielkopolska Region and local action groups, monitoring progress in implementing the strategy, developing proposed solutions to improve the implementation of CLLD in the Wielkopolska Region, promoting achievements of local action groups, initiating new projects in the field of community-led local development and cooperation in other region development initiatives in line with the Wielkopolska Region Development Strategy until 2030.

On March 31, 2022, the inaugural team meeting was held, during which assumptions of the future financial perspective were discussed. The date was not accidental. The meeting was held on the eve of the call for applications for LAGs in the field of preparatory support, to be started on 1 April 2022. The funds that will be distributed as a result, will help groups develop new strategies.



*- Wielkopolska has decided to take the courageous step of a multi-funded implementation of the community-led local development strategy in a new perspective of the EU budget. This is a great opportunity for the rural areas of our region, but also a challenge that requires a well-thought-through and contemplated model of operation. The source of financing for the strategy so far, i.e., the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development has been sup-*

*plemented by funds from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund+. Each fund has its own rules, we have to find solutions that are compatible with all of them, and at the same time will best contribute to local development - says the region councillor Zofia Szalczyk, who represents the Regional Development and International Cooperation Strategy Committee at the Assembly of the Wielkopolska Region in the appointed team.*



*- A member of the team representing the University of Economics in Poznan is Professor Associate Anna Matuszczak, PhD, Head of the Department of Macroeconomics and Food Economy: I am very glad that a representative of the scientific community of the University of Economics in Poznan was invited to work in the team. Didactic activities of the university have for years been associated with the functioning of the agricultural sector and the food eco-*

*nomy, as well as the broadly understood development of rural areas, with particular emphasis on Poland and the European Union countries. Exchange of experiences and cooperation with invited institutions in the field of implementing the CLLD instrument in the Wielkopolska Region will bring added value in the form of knowledge that we will be able to pass on to students of our university, educating future generations of specialists in the field being so important to regional development.*



## CLLD IN WIELKOPOLSKA

The significant role of the CLLD instrument in the development of Wielkopolska is also emphasized by Jacek Gursz, President of the Association of Communes and Poviats in Wielkopolska:



- The funds obtained through the local action group changed the images of villages in Wielkopolska. There is no more effective development instrument aimed directly at rural areas development, providing such a wide spectrum of support: from the creation of generally accessible infrastructure, through the development of entrepreneurship, to initiatives activating local community. As the president of a local action group, the Association "Dolina Noteci" and the village leader of Chodzież, the beneficiary of the funds, I believe that the Board of the Wielkopolska Region made a very good decision by transferring additional funds from a regional program to CLLD. Thanks to them, we will enrich the offer addressed to the inhabitants of even the smallest places. In the years 2014-2020 in the area

*I manage, with the support of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, we managed to start more than 40 new enterprises, invest in the creation of 20 public infrastructure facilities, support operating micro and small enterprises, and also set up a local processing incubator. I am pleased with the trust placed in local action groups - the process of implementing the strategy is not easy, and the inclusion of financing from as many as three funds will require even greater commitment, but it is worth taking up this challenge. Thanks to our joint efforts, we make the rural areas of Wielkopolska a good place to live in and conduct business.*

The team will meet at least once a quarter, and there are many issues to discuss - at the end of this year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is planning to announce a competition to select a community-led local development strategy. The coming months will therefore be a time of intensive work on creating new strategies and giving opinions on the competition documentation.



Photo: UMWW

The inaugural meeting of the provincial working team for the implementation of the CLLD instrument took place on March 31 in Poznan

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RDP

## PLN 145 million for water and sewage management

**From April 1 to April 15, 2022, applications for granting aid for "Water and sewage management" operations under the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020 were submitted.**

As previously stated, the Management Board of the Wielkopolska Region announced a call for applications for activities in the field of construction, reconstruction, or equipment of construction facilities for water supply, sewage disposal and treatment, or collection of rainwater and meltwater. EU funds will also allow for the purchase and assembly of equipment and sewage or water supply installations. This opportunity can be used by municipalities, companies in which the only shareholders are local government units, as well as inter-municipal associations. The funds come from the Rural Development Program for 2014-2020, extended by two years, under the new European Reconstruction Instrument. Money from this fund is intended to mitigate effects of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Demand for water and sewage investments in rural areas in the Wielkopolska Region is still very high. This is regularly signalled by authorities of communes, whose voice we are trying to support by appealing to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Deve-*

*lopment for additional funds. This year, we managed to find a new pool of as much as PLN 145 million. Importantly, applicants can apply for co-financing up to 100% of eligible costs of their projects – emphasizes Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Region.*

The aid is provided for tasks planned to be implemented in locations with a population of up to 5,000. A change in relation to the two previous calls for proposals carried out in the current program perspective is extended scope of support to include the possibility of building or reconstructing underground storage reservoirs with a total capacity of at least 100 m<sup>3</sup>. The creation of such reservoirs can also be considered as part of a project involving the construction or reconstruction of a rainwater drainage system. The limit of funds has also changed, it previously amounted to PLN 2 million per beneficiary. Currently, it is PLN 5 million for the area of the commune where the co-financed investments are carried out.



Photo: UMWW

ZUK Dopiewo "Construction of the Konarzewo-Dopiewiec water main and sanitary sewage system in Konarzewo in the Dopiewo commune"



Photo: UG Dopiewo

Construction of the Konarzewo-Dopiewiec water main and sanitary sewage system in Konarzewo in the Dopiewo commune

The order in which support is awarded will be determined by the total points awarded as based on criteria that result from the ministerial regulation and are made public. They consider the commune's basic tax income, compared to the regional average per capita. The next criteria refer to the municipal water supply or sewage system indicator, which determines how many percent of the inhabitants have access to this type of service. Additional points are awarded to operations carried out in the poviats where the unemployment rate in the last 12 months was higher than or equal to the regional average. Two points are also awarded for tasks planned in a commune where a body of surface water is at risk of failing to achieve the environmental objectives indicated in the river basin management plans. It should be added that the weight of this criterion has decreased, as compared to the previous call, when its fulfilment was awarded with 5 points. On the other hand, significance of the criterion of preference for the actions that consider total costs of water and sewage management (from 1.5 to 2.5 points), was increased. Actions related to the construction of underground storage reservoirs will be highly scored. If the cubature exceeds 1000 m<sup>3</sup>, as many as 8 points are awarded, above 500 m<sup>3</sup> - 4 points, and in the case of tanks with a capacity exceeding 200 m<sup>3</sup> -- 2 points. Actions carried out in connection with the creation of broadband Internet infrastructure.

The criteria considering the specificity of a given region are also considered. In Wielkopolska, it will be easier for those applicants whose planned action will apply solutions consisting in collecting and using the collected rainwater or snowmelt for purposes other than agriculture. Projects involving the allocation of a significant part of eligible costs for the construction of household sewage treatment plants will also be rewarded. Extra points will be awarded to actions considering reconstructions of the water supply networks or sewage systems built before 2000, or the construction, reconstruction or equipment for technical buildings serving a water supply network or sewage network.

Implementation of actions covered by co-financing must be completed by June 30, 2025. Let us remind you that the value of aid granted so far from the European Union funds to the beneficiaries of RDP 2014-2020 for water and sewage investments amounts to nearly PLN 151 million. Ultimately, funds in the order of nearly PLN 300 million will be allocated to support this type of tasks in the current programming perspective. Results of the completed call are planned for the second half of 2022.

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RDP

## New measures for land reparcelling

The Management Board of the Wielkopolska Region announced another call for applications for aid for operations of "Land reparcelling" under sub-measure "Support for investments related to the development, modernization and adaptation of agriculture and forestry" covered by the Rural Development Program for 2014–2020.

**Applications could be submitted from April 25 to May 9, 2022.** Village leaders may apply for funds for this purpose as bodies conducting and executing reparcelling proceedings and post-reparcelling management.

Benefits of land consolidation include not only reducing the number of small, scattered plots of land making up farms and improved layout of farms, but also creating a functional network of access roads to agricultural and forest land and improved regulation of water relations in the area subject to reparcelling. After a completed reparcelling procedure, owners of agricultural land will farm on a compact, easily accessible area.

In Wielkopolska, in the financial perspective 2014-2020, two land consolidation projects were co-financed from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. One of them concerns the Kwileń registry precinct in the Chocz commune, Pleszew poviat. The agreement between the Self-government of the Wielkopolska Region and the Pleszew poviat was concluded on March 29, 2017. The purpose of the investment is to improve the area structure of farms by reparcelling land in Kwileń. The procedure within the registration area of Kwileń was completed by the decision of the Wielkopolska Voivode in December 2021. Currently, documentation is being prepared for post-reparcelling development. By the end of this year, a procedure will have been carried out by the Village Leader of Pleszew in order to select a contractor for a technical documentation of roads and ditches. The total area covered by the reparcelling procedure is more than 378 ha, including more than 279 ha of agricultural land and more than 38 ha of forest land. This land belongs to 78 farms.

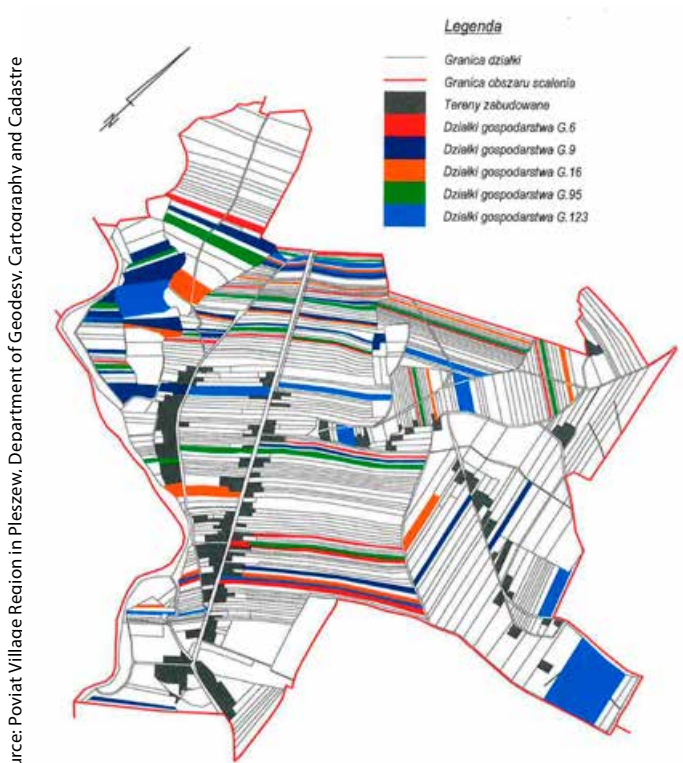
The second project is implemented by the Czarnków-Trzcianka poviat and concerns the Przybychowo facility in the Połajewo commune. The aim of the action is to improve the economic performance of all farms and to facilitate farm restructuring and modernization, with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification. The total area covered by the reparcelling procedure is more than 886 ha, including more than 642 ha of arable land and more than 170 ha of forest land. This land belongs to 52 farms.

The reparcelling procedure within the registration area of Przybychowo has been completed and the decision at the end of January 2022 became final. According to Stanisław

Pochyluk, the head of the Połajewo commune, benefits of land reparcelling in Przybychowo include, first, ordering the size and quantity of agricultural real estates in the village of Przybychowo, liquidation of unnecessary roads, and marking the plots with new border points (stones). Moreover, the obtained funds will contribute to the improvement of the functionality of water and drainage facilities and the surface of all important communal roads in the village of Przybychowo. Preparations are currently underway to start the post-reparcelling management process.

Aid granted to poviats takes the form of reimbursement of as much as 100% of the eligible costs incurred. They are important and necessary investments in our region. They contribute to the improvement of the area structure of farms, providing their owners with better conditions for growing plants.

The completion of all projects to be co-financed must take place in the first half of 2025 at the latest. Effects of reparcelling and post-reparcelling management will serve many generations of farmers in Wielkopolska.



Fragmentation of plots of selected farms in Kwileń, Chocz commune

## Fair of Polish Wines and Vineyards WINE, halls of the Poznan International Fair full

From 17 to 19 March 2022, guests of the WINO fair had the opportunity to see the rich offer of the domestic wine industry. Several dozen exhibitors from various parts of Poland presented their products in halls at the Poznan International Fair. In addition to wine tasting, visitors could taste numerous fruit liquors, honeys, beers and cheeses, as well as learn about typical wine accessories and technologies.

This year's Wine Fair began with a ceremony during which guests were welcomed, among others, by Deputy Marshals of the Wielkopolska Region: Wojciech Jankowiak and Krzysztof Grabowski, and the President of the Poznan International Fair, Tomasz Kobierski. The inauguration was accompanied by awarding the finalists of the WINOPL competition organized with Polish wine producers in mind. Among this year's winners there are 3 wineries from Wielkopolska. In the white wine category: silver and bronze medals were awarded to the vineyards "Vera" and "Katarzyna", while in the red wine category, the silver medal was awarded to the "Lipka Wielka" vineyard.

*In the latest decade, the Polish wine industry has recorded a dynamic growth, regional wines are becoming more and more recognizable and popular in the country and in the world. This year, as many as 9 wine and cheese producers presented their products at the Wielkopolska stand - says Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal.*

More than several dozen exhibitors from all over the country came to Poznan to celebrate the wine festival together. The regions that could boast of the greatest representation were Małopolska, Wielkopolska and Lubuskie. The self-government

of the Wielkopolska Region, actively participating in the promotion of regional producers, organized the participation of Wielkopolska winemakers in the fair for the second time. At the stand prepared by the office, you could taste products from the following vineyards: Lipka Wielka (Lwówek commune), Vera (Skulsk commune), Edison (Tarnowo Podgórne commune), Katarzyna (Grodzisk Wielkopolski commune), Morena (Puszczykowo commune), Enosfera (Kwilcz commune) and Jaworowo (Słupca commune). Visitors to the stand were also greeted with Grądzkie cheeses, entered on the list of the Culinary Heritage of Wielkopolska, and various cheese products prepared by the Mera Vallis cheese dairies.

The three-day exhibition of the fair was complemented by numerous events promoting Polish winemaking. Interesting lectures, presentations of individual vineyards, tastings commented by professional sommeliers and workshops were organized for participants. Not only wine producers presented themselves during the event. Exhibitors also included producers of cheese, naturally produced juices, wine corks and jewellery. Stands of individual regions became also meeting places and the sharing of good practices by representatives of the best Polish wineries, they spoke with pleasure about their passion for the production of alcoholic beverages.



Photo: www.targiwino.pl

The Wielkopolska stand at the Fair of Polish Wines and Vineyards WINO

## CULINARY ZONE

### Hyczka (elderberry flower) drink

This drink was entered on the list of traditional products in the category "Drinks in the Wielkopolska Region". Elderberry blooms in May and June, forming clusters of white, tiny flowers. The preparation of elderberry syrup is one of the traditional methods of preserving fruit juices. This method was very popular before the production of "cold" pressed juices. The resulting drink is characterized by a pleasant taste and an exotic aroma, reminiscent of tropical fruits. The plant has countless uses in natural medicine. Commonly, infusions of elderberry flowers are made and drunk with coughs, asthma, and colds.

#### Ingredients:

- 30 elderberry flower umbels
- 1.5 kg of sugar
- 3 lemons
- 30-50 g of citric acid
- 1 litre of water

#### How to prepare:

First, about 30 freshly harvested, blooming elderberry umbels should be thoroughly rinsed in a sieve and well drained of water, and then flowers should be plucked from stalks. When we have it ready, wash lemons and dice them together with peels. In a large jar, mix the plucked flakes with sugar, lemon and citric acid, cover and leave for 48 hours in a cool and dark place. After that, add 1 litre of boiled water, mix thoroughly, and then strain so that the syrup is clear. Pour the drink into small bottles or jars. Pasteurize for 15 minutes in almost boiling water or store in a refrigerator.



Source: [www.pyrymagaz.blogspot.com](http://www.pyrymagaz.blogspot.com)





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**FREE PUBLICATION**



„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.