

Our European Countryside

ISSN 2545-1332
1/2019



Bulletin of National Rural Network of 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	3
More funds for development of Wielkopolska village	4
They rescue, integrate, teach and build	6
Village administration - here progress is born	9
The National Rural Network promotes life in a village	12
Culinary heritage - treasure of our region	14
Sausage sour soup	15

Published by:

Self-Government
of the Wielkopolska Region
al. Niepodległości 34
61-714 Poznań



Developed by:

Regional Unit of the National Rural Network
Department of Rural Development Programmes
Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region
al. Niepodległości 34, 61-714 Poznań
Tel. No. 61 626 60 00, fax 61 626 60 04
e-mail: ksow@umww.pl
www.wielkopolskie.ksow.pl, www.dprow.umww.pl

Texts:

Adrian Kapuściński

Graphic design:

S-print s.c.
www.s-print.com.pl

Printing:

ZAPOL Sobczyk sp.j.



Krzysztof Grabowski

Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The beginning of 2019 involves good information for potential beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 in the Wielkopolska Region. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has granted additional funds for our Region to implement investments in water and sewage management. It means that a call for applications will be launched in the second half of this year. Municipalities, inter-municipal associations and companies whose sole shareholders are territorial self-government units will be able to apply for money. An additional call is also envisaged within the scope of construction or modernization of local roads. This will be possible thanks to funds arising from savings within road investments completed so far. I would like to encourage you to read the magazine to find out what amount of funds is allocated by us to co-finance these tasks as well as how local action groups cope with implementation of the local development strategy conducted by the community.

On 11 March, we celebrated the Day of Village Administrator. In the current issue of "Nasza euroPROWincja" ["Our EuroPROVince"] bulletin, we write about possibilities of financing village initiatives and about distinctions granted to village administrations and village administrators in the first quarter of this year. This issue also refers to the role of the Voluntary Fire Brigades in development of rural areas and activation of their residents. The Voluntary Fire Brigades have completed and implement a number of tasks fi-

nanced from the Rural Development Programme. I would like to encourage you to familiarize yourselves with material concerning this matter.

In February, a call for applications of partners of the National Rural Network came to an end for tasks planned to be implemented in 2019. This year, interest in funds from this source was record-breaking. What are funds within competitions for partners of the National Rural Network allocated for: How can you become a partner of the National Rural Network? Answers, inter alia, to these questions are available in "Nasza euroPROWincja" bulletin.

For many years, the Self-government of the Wielkopolska Region has been operating continuously for the benefit of promotion of cultural heritage of our region. We do this, among others, within national and foreign fairs and exhibitions concerning agriculture. Thanks to funds from the National Rural Network, the Wielkopolska Region was present at this year's International Grüne Woche Fair in Berlin, about which we write in our bulletin. We also present a recipe for Old Polish "żur na kielbasie" ["sausage sour soup"] which, since 2009, has been on the list of traditional products of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the category of ready meals and dishes in the Wielkopolska Region.

On the occasion of the forthcoming Easter, I wish you a lot of joy, nice meetings with families, rest from daily duties and excellent spring weather, bringing the nature to life.



More funds for development of Wielkopolska village



Potential beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 from the Wielkopolska Region may commence planning further investments. Soon, they will stand a chance to obtain co-financing for water and sewage management as well as for construction or modernization of local roads. A prognosis of additional funds for Wielkopolska Local Action Groups for implementation of the local development strategy conducted by the community has also occurred. In "Nasza euroPROWincja" bulletin, we talk about this with Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski.



Source: Resources of PGKiM Sp. z o.o. Krotoszyn, <http://www.pgkikrotoszyn.pl/inwestycja/uroczyste-otwarcie-stacji-uzdatniania-wody-w-chwaliszewie/>

On 30 January 2019, a water treatment station was solemnly opened in Chwaliszew (Krotoszyn municipality). The facility was set up thanks to co-financing from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020. In the photograph, the ribbon is being cut by Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski who is accompanied by a chairperson of the committee in charge of regional development strategy and international cooperation Joanna Król-Trąbka and a deputy chairperson of the parliament of the Region Jarosław Maciejewski.

On 29 January 2019, a meeting with you was held in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development referring to hitherto prevailing implementation of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 by self-governments of Regions. How does Wielkopolska compare with other regions?

— The Wielkopolska Region is a leader in Poland in terms of the sum of funds paid out by the end of 2018 within the RDP 2014-2020. In 2018, through the intermediary of the Agency for Restructuring and Modernization of Agriculture we paid out PLN 106.5 million to our beneficiaries. With regard to forecasts for 2019, we are in the lead too. The Self-Govern-

ment of the Wielkopolska Region has signed more than 1300 contracts with beneficiaries so far. Projects implemented within construction or modernization of local roads, water and sewage management, construction or modernization of open-air markets, common rooms, protection of historic buildings or shaping of public space are the consequence of these contracts. Considerable funds are transferred, through the intermediary of local action groups, for supporting entrepreneurship on rural areas. We co-finance projects including commencement of business activities and their development. A number of useful actions on a smaller scale are implemented thanks to grants from the Local Action Groups.

RDP IMPLEMENTATION

We mean payout of funds within already concluded contracts. However, is the road to obtain co-financing still open and can we expect further calls for applications?

— We have returned from the meeting in the Ministry with good information for Wielkopolska self-governments.

It was announced that the limit of funds envisaged for our Region to support investments in water and sewage management will increase by nearly EUR 8 million. An additional pool of funds will allow conducting a call for applications which we plan to announce as soon as possible. Now, we are limited by a shortage of Regulation determining the amount of allocation for particular Regions, in which the said additional funds are to be taken into consideration.

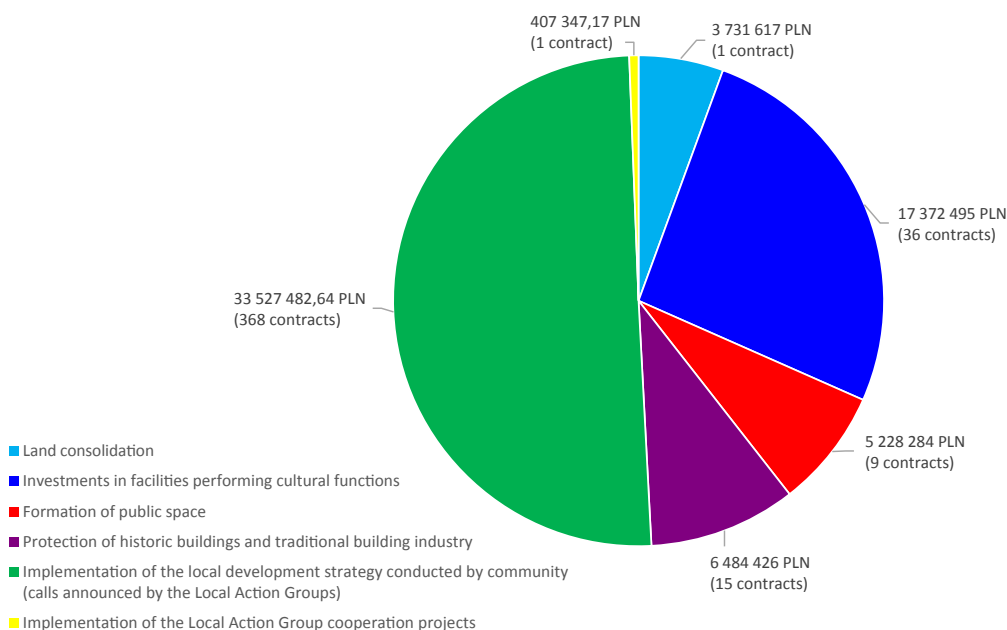
Apart from a call for water and sewage management, an additional call for construction or modernization of local roads will be carried out before the end of this year. Such a possibility has occurred due to post-tender savings which arose within implementation of 150 contracts signed in August 2016. We will allocate PLN 30 million for this purpose.

Last year, we announced outcome of a competition within the scope of co-financing of facilities performing cultural functions. 56 projects are on the list of operations which fulfilled the criteria entitling to obtain a financial aid but funds available last year allowed for conclusion of only 36 contracts. We take steps to make use of reserves arisen within other actions and to grant support also to those 20 projects awaiting implementation. I

think that in the coming months we will bring about signing all contracts within this scope.

By the end of 2018, the local action groups should have achieved the so-called “milestones”. What is hidden under this term and what role do the Local Action Groups play in distribution of funds from the RDP 2014-2020 on rural areas?

— The “milestones” are relevant indexes which should be achieved by the local action groups within a particular time limit. The first “milestones” were to be achieved by the end of 2018, next ones are envisaged for the end of 2021. They are measured by value of contracted funds within contracts signed with beneficiaries who/which have filed their applications in offices of the Local Action Groups as well as by quantitative indexes such as the number of created jobs or the extent of constructed infrastructure. In Wielkopolska, we have 29 local action groups implementing the local development strategies with the support of funds from the RDP 2014-2020. Almost all of them have achieved the “milestones” - 12 of which in a high degree. In this term, we are in the lead in Poland. Consequently, we expect that the Wielkopolska Region will receive additional money for the Local Action Groups for allocation within calls announced by them. For the time being, we wait for guidelines of the Ministry with regard to the amount of increased allocation and terms and conditions for the Local Action Groups to apply for additional aid funds to implement the strategies.



Contracts concluded between the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region and beneficiaries of the RDP 2014-2020 in 2018 (total value of contracts: PLN 66 751 651.81). The amounts refer to co-financing from European Union funds. Own elaboration of the Regional Unit of the National Rural Network in the Wielkopolska Region.

RDP BENEFICIARIES

They rescue, integrate, teach and build

In “Nasza euroPROWincja” bulletin we look at the role of the Voluntary Fire Brigades on rural areas of our region. Apart from helping in situations dangerous to human health and life or in case of a risk of loss of property, voluntary fire-fighters engage in social issues and actively apply for EU funds within the Rural Development Programme. They do not forget about cultural activities either.



Source: Website of the TUR Local Action Group (www.ligt-tur.org.pl)

Voluntary fire-fighters from the Turek district join development of medical rescue services. Funds acquired for execution of grants within the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 help in this.

The Voluntary Fire Brigades function in Poland as associations i.e. voluntary, self-governmental and durable unions with non-gainful purposes. However, what makes them different from other associations is a more complex legal situation. Functioning of the Voluntary Fire Brigades is not only based on the Law on associations but mainly on the Act on the fire protection. This, in turn, has an influence on sources of their financing which within the scope of rescue and extinguishing function mainly come from resources of the State budget, municipality resources as well as resources of the self-government of the Region.

— *The Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region supports voluntary fire-fighters implementing the Development Pro-*

gramme for the Voluntary Fire Brigades in Wielkopolska for 2012-2020. Within this programme, the Voluntary Fire Brigades are additionally fitted with necessary equipment, among others, light rescue and extinguishing cars, moto-pumps, sets of technical rescue services and personal protection sets. By the end of 2018, the Wielkopolska Region financed the purchase of equipment for the Voluntary Fire Brigades with the value of over PLN 35 million — says Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, Vice-President of the Management Board of the Regional Branch of the Association of the Voluntary Fire Brigades of the Republic of Poland in Poznań.

Even greater financial support was successfully granted to the Voluntary Fire Brigades from the Regional Operational

Programme implemented by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region for 2007-2013 and 2014-2020. PLN 59 million is an amount of EU funds allocated from this programme for the Wielkopolska Voluntary Fire Brigades. The co-financing allowed, inter alia, for financing the purchase of 87 modern medium and heavy fire vehicles for the units.

Fire-fighters develop the Wielkopolska village thanks to the RDP

Apart from the support envisaged for maintaining combat readiness of the units, the Voluntary Fire Brigades as associations may apply for all other funds envisaged within the law for the non-governmental sector and, as the example of Wielkopolska shows, they do this with large success.

Approximately PLN 7 million, such funds from the Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013 the voluntary fire brigades have acquired in the Wielkopolska Region. This money has been allocated for implementation of 351 projects which formed a part of the local development strategies executed by the local action groups. Thanks to this money, at the turn of the first and second decade of the 21st century, thanks to attempts of the Voluntary Fire Brigades, a number of public utility facilities were created in our region. Constructed playgrounds have been used by children so far, a bit older persons may strengthen their physical fitness using the created body-building gyms outdoor. Shelters and garden sheds are used as places for meetings of rural communities and make it easier to organize different events and on football pitches the first steps are taken probably by future representatives of our coun-

try. One should not forget about investments related to construction or reconstruction of common rooms which are always on the list of the most urgent investment needs in rural and urban and rural municipalities.

The current EU fiscal outlook also allows the Voluntary Fire Brigades to actively participate in development of rural areas with the involvement of resources from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020. Fire-fighters may apply for co-financing of tasks from the LEADER measure directly as beneficiaries of the RDP 2014-2020. 7 contracts have been signed in this programming perspective between the Wielkopolska Region and units of the Voluntary Fire Brigades. EU funds are used by Żelazków Voluntary Fire Brigade which has acquired PLN 299 288 for implementation of the project "Construction of Żelazków Centre along with a playground to make non-commercial, generally-available social and cultural infrastructure accessible". The Voluntary Fire Brigade in Godziesze Wielkie, thanks to co-financing in the amount of PLN 235 957, has reconstructed and carried out thermal modernization of the Voluntary Fire Brigade building. PLN 96 475 has been granted to the Voluntary Fire Brigade in Młynkowo for reconstruction of a recreational yard in Młynkowo. In November 2018, the Cultural and Recreational Centre in Tarnówko in Połajewo municipality was solemnly opened. Co-financing in the amount of PLN 299 385 was obtained for this purpose by the Voluntary Fire Brigade in Tarnówko. Two units from Gizałki municipality also successfully applied for funds from the RDP 2014-2020. The Voluntary Fire Brigade in Wronów has received PLN 170 022 for reconstruction and extension of a building of the Rural room in Wronów and the Voluntary Fire Brigade in Ruda Wieczyńska - PLN 80 000



The Recreational and Cultural Centre in Tarnówko in Połajewo municipality has been established thanks to efforts of the local Voluntary Fire Brigade which obtained EU funds for this purpose from the RDP 2014-2020.

Source: <http://www.pca24.pl/wiadomosci/otwarcie-centrum-kulturalno-%E2%80%93-rekreacyjnego-w-tarnowku/13992/78942>

RDP BENEFICIARIES



for creation of a recreational area at the Room of the Ruda Wieczyńska Voluntary Fire Brigade. The Brdów Voluntary Fire Brigade from Babiak municipality, in June 2018, signed a contract for co-financing of the project consisting in extension of the Voluntary Fire Brigade building in the amount of PLN 289 415.

However, grant projects are more popular. Within them, the Voluntary Fire Brigades, as grantees, may apply to the local action groups for funds to execute tasks with the value which does not exceed PLN 50 thousand. So far 58 Voluntary Fire Brigades have benefitted from this form of financing of tasks, and the sum of their grants comes to nearly one and a half million PLN. The scope of tasks executed by the Voluntary Fire Brigades is extremely wide. Fire-fighters, within grant projects financed from the RDP 2014-2020, apply, inter alia, for the purchase of musical instruments for bands operating at the Voluntary Fire Brigades, organize historical exhibitions, workshops of folk music, handicraft workshops, educate in ecology and pre-medical first aid. Thanks to their involvement, also recreational and relaxation sites for residents are established as well, such as: playgrounds, outdoor body-building gyms and shelters.

Thus, voluntary fire-fighters actively engage in actions which aim at bringing benefits for local communities and

make efforts to acquire, for this purpose, funds available within EU programmes.

... and after hours they make music

Fire stations of the Wielkopolska Voluntary Fire Brigades also carry out cultural activities. 70 brass bands function at the Voluntary Fire Brigades which comprise over 1900 musicians, 30 artistic groups and 20 dance groups. The bands and artistic groups add splendour to local ceremonial occasions and participate in regional and nation-wide events.

In the earlier mentioned Development Programme for the Voluntary Fire Brigades in Wielkopolska in 2012-2020, the Self-government of the Wielkopolska Region declared support for the Voluntary Fire Brigades within the scope of their cultural activities. The Region focuses on development of bands and artistic groups by granting substantive aid, including, by organizing trainings and workshops for bandmasters, managers and cultural animators, by organizing reviews, festivals and concerts. This is exemplified, among others, by organization of the Regional review of brass bands of the Voluntary Fire Brigades in Kalisz. This year, the review will be held on 23 June, on Sunday. It will already be the fourth edition of this event.

Source: <https://www.calisia.pl/articles/iii-wojewodzki-przeglad-orkiestr-detoch-osp-ponad-400-muzykow-na-glownym-rynku-i-pod-basza-dorotka-duzo-zdjec>



The Regional Review of Voluntary Fire Brigade Brass Bands in Kalisz in 2017. The photograph shows the Rychwał Voluntary Fire Brigade Band - a winner of the last edition of the event.

Village administration - here progress is born

On 1 February 2019, in Nadarzyn near Warsaw, a final gala of the all-Polish competition “Village administration fund - the best initiative” was held. The Wielkopolska Region represented the Siedlec village administration from Siedlec municipality in Wolsztyn district which proved to be the best at the regional stage of the competition organized thanks to co-financing from resources of the National Rural Network. Admittedly, the village administration’s project was not in the inner circle of laureates but it was distinguished with an award of the Self-government of the Wielkopolska Region. During the final gala, the award was presented by Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski. On 9 March 2019, within the 3rd Pilgrimage of Village Administrators to St. Joseph Sanctuary in Kalisz, 10 active village heads from our region obtained Honorary Badges “For Merits for the Wielkopolska Region”.



Implementation of the project referred to as “Construction of an educational path “Bee Alley” in Siedlec village administration which was distinguished with an award of the Self-government of the Wielkopolska Region during this year’s final gala of the all-Polish competition “Village administration fund - the best initiative”.

Source: <https://www.wow.umw.w.pl/konkursy/budowa-szczki-edukacyjnej-pszczela-aleja-w-solcwie-siedlec/>

In Poland, there are nearly 41 thousand village administrations. More or less, two-thirds of them belong to rural municipalities and one-third to urban and rural municipalities. Within the border-lines of Wielkopolska, there are 4 348 villages. The municipality which comprises the largest number of villages (as many as 68) is Wierzbinek municipality in Konin district, in turn at least (6) is located in the territory of Zduny municipality in Krotoszyn district.

Taking account of the spatial structure, a village administration may encompass the area of one locality, part of a locality (so-called hamlet) or several villages. Its resolution-making body is a village meeting, whereas an execu-

tive body - a village administrator. Pursuant to the Act on municipality self-government, the scope of works of the rural meeting includes, inter alia, taking up of social and economic initiatives presented to bodies of a municipality. Municipalities may allocate funds for implementation of village administration tasks within the so-called village administration fund. Its separation in a municipality budget is not obligatory but year-on-year this form of financing projects is increasingly popular. However, frequently funds guaranteed by a municipality are insufficient and then it is worth searching for possibilities of financing from outside. And there are quite a lot of them.

EVENTS



Village administrations, through the intermediary of a municipality to which they belong, may apply for funds within the LEADER programme covered by the RDP for 2014-2020. EU funds for execution of non-investment tasks can be acquired, in turn, within competitions organized by the National Rural Network. The Self-government of the Wielkopolska Region supports rural bottom-up initiatives allocating, year-on-year, an increasingly large part of its budget to finance the Wielkopolska Village Renewal programme which aims at helping village administrations in fact.

— *Already 1997 village administrations from the Wielkopolska Region participate in the Wielkopolska Village Renewal. Municipalities may acquire funds for their village administrations within two subsidy competitions financed from own resources of the Wielkopolska Region. The first of them, "Wielkopolska Village Grows Beautiful", allows for co-financing projects pertaining to management of public space. In 2019, we allocate as much as PLN 3 million for this purpose. The second one, "Renewal of village as an opportunity for active village administrations", helps to equip, among others, common rooms and rural rooms. The third competition, "Our village - our common matter", is addressed to non-governmental organizations - says Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski.*

One can become convinced of the fact that village administrations endeavour to improve living conditions of their residents and implement a number of interesting projects

at meetings closing competitions concerning these issues. For seven years, the National Association of Village Administrators has been organizing, in the Wielkopolska Region, a competition referred to as "Village administration fund - the best initiative". Two years ago, this idea was also transferred to the nation-wide level. This year's final gala was held on 1 February in Nadarzyn (the Mazowsze Region) within the Central Agricultural Fair PTAK EXPO, organized at this time, and the conference "Rural Poland. The Future of Common Agricultural Policy" accompanying it.

A project of Wojciechów village administration from Oleśno municipality in Opole Region referred to as the Recreational and sports site "Chalet under birches" has been considered as the most interesting village administration initiative of recent years. Within the project, a wooden shelter with tables and benches, a grill and a utility and amenity building as well as a playground, outdoor body-building gym, volleyball and football pitches with ball catchers were made. Zamarski village administration from Hażlach municipality in Śląsk Region won the second place for the project titled: Arrangement of a resting place for residents of Zamarski village administration, in turn Wierzchowisko village administration from Wolbrom municipality in Małopolska Region was last on the podium, which revitalized municipality plots located upon Szreniawa river.

Wielkopolska proposed a winner of the regional edition from 2018 to the all-Polish competition i.e. Siedlec village



Source: Resources of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

Nearly 600 representatives of village administrations from whole Wielkopolska have taken part in the 3rd Pilgrimage of Village Administrators to St. Joseph Sanctuary in Kalisz. The photograph shows participants of the solemn meeting in the Sports and Exhibition Hall in Stawiszyn which was held within this event.

administration from Wolsztyn district and its project referred to as: Construction of an educational path "Bee Alley". Although for our representatives there was no place on the podium, they did not return home with empty hands. Siedlec village administration received a distinction and award in the amount of PLN 1000 founded by the Self-government of the Wielkopolska Region. A commemorative diploma and a cheque from hands of Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski and President of the National Association of Village Administrators Ireneusz Niewiarowski were collected by a delegation of residents of the awarded village administration: councillor of the Siedlec Municipality Council Damian Wita and members of the Village Administration Council, Tadeusz Czerniak and Robert Saganiak.

— *One must remember that activities contributing to development of Wielkopolska already start at the level of village administrations and civilization progress which we have witnessed in recent years depends on them too. Numerous projects with the participation of European Union funds were successfully completed thanks to mobilization and huge involvement of rural communities. For this reason, bottom-up initiatives inspired by residents of Wielkopolska villages always deserve to be appreciated* - says Jarosław Maciejewski, President of the Association of Village Administrators of the Wielkopolska Region and Deputy President of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region.

On 9 March 2019, the day before the Day of Village Administrator in St. Joseph Sanctuary in Kalisz, the 3rd Pilgrimage of Village Administrators was held, which was attended by nearly 600 representatives of village administrations from whole Wielkopolska. On this occasion, there were presented Honorary Badges "For merits for the Wielkopolska

Region". Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski and Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region and at the same time a President of the Association of Village Administrators of the Wielkopolska Region Jarosław Maciejewski presented awards to 10 village administrators. The badges were granted for the totality of professional and social activities, contribution to numerous actions for the benefit of agriculture and engagement in development of social and cultural life of Wielkopolska villages. The Honorary Badges "For merits for the Wielkopolska Region" were received by:

- Bernadeta Biała – village administrator of Strzyżew (Sieroszewice municipality)
- Alicja Bulawa – village administrator of Zalesie (Złotów municipality)
- Wiesław Janoś – village administrator of Zacharzew (Ostrów Wielkopolski municipality)
- Grażyna Jaszczyk – village administrator of Palaty (Grabów nad Prosną municipality)
- Sławomir Kwaśniewski – village administrator of Długa Wieś Pierwsza (Stawiszyn municipality)
- Halina Macniak – village administrator of Zbiersk-Kolonia (Stawiszyn municipality)
- Elżbieta Magda – village administrator of Samborsko (Jastrowie municipality)
- Ryszard Ryfa – village administrator of Wtórek (Ostrów Wielkopolski municipality)
- Leonard Sobieski - former village administrator of Ptaszkowo (Grodzisk Wielkopolski municipality)
- Michał Wojciechowski – village administrator of Budy Liskowskie II (Lisków municipality).



On 9 March 2019, in Stawiszyn ten village administrators from the Wielkopolska Region received the Honorary Badges "For merits for the Wielkopolska Region". The badges were presented by Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski and Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region Jarosław Maciejewski.

Source: Resources of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

PARTNERS OF THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK

The National Rural Network promotes life in a village

Until 18 February, partners of the National Rural Network (KSOW) could petition for funds to implement non-investment tasks in 2019. The pool of funds envisaged for the Wielkopolska Region comes to PLN 663 thousand. Interest of Wielkopolska partners of the National Rural Network in participation in this year's competition is record-breaking. 48 applications have been lodged. Nearly two times more than last year. Contracts for execution of the best operations shall be signed in May.



Source: Resources of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

In 2018, the Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture as a partner of the National Rural Network prepared a conference and a culinary competition concerning, among others, popularization of the use of champignon in Wielkopolska cuisine. Participants of the project could also become familiarized with the champignon growing technique.

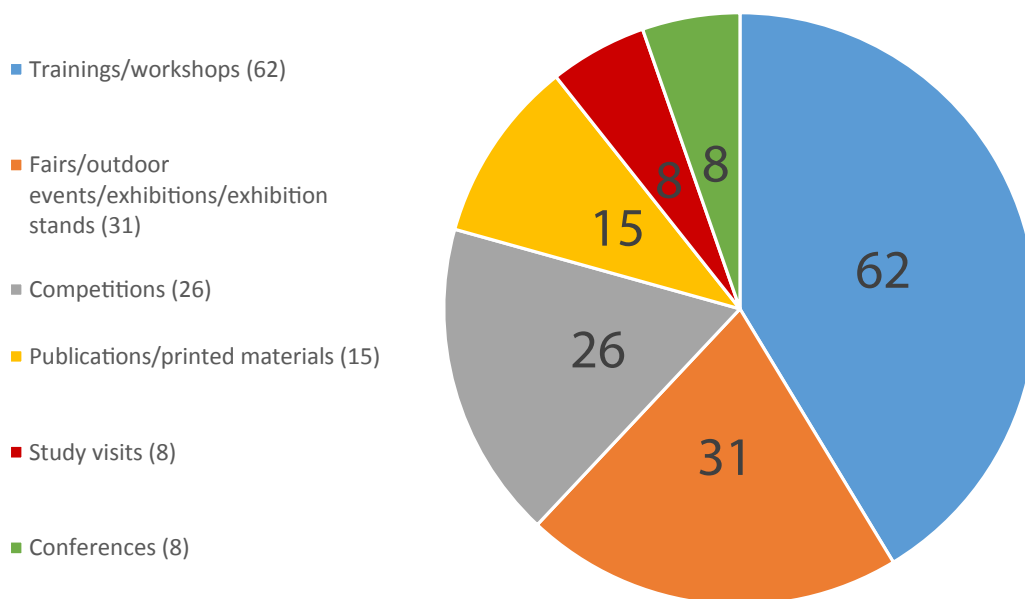
The National Rural Network (KSOW) operates in each country of the European Union. The Network's role consists in promotion of the Rural Development Programme and support of its implementation. The Network organizes a number of events which emphasize an influence of European funds on the picture of today's village and improvement of living conditions of its residents as well as promote a village as a place convenient for living. It is also aimed at making it easier to exchange knowledge and enter into cooperation between institutions and persons involved in development of rural areas. The objective of the Network is activation of residents, promotion of entrepreneurial attitudes and social inclusion of excluded persons, e.g. the disabled or representatives of national minorities. Within the National Rural Network, there are

organized meetings and trainings on how to obtain co-financing from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020.

The National Rural Network's nature is open. Everyone who registers themselves in the base of partners of the National Rural Network available at the website: www.ksow.pl can accede to it. It opens up, among others, a route to apply for financial aid within competitions announced every year by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. At the regional level, a call for applications is carried out in Marshal Offices of Regions and agricultural consultancy centres.

— *Partners of the National Rural Network from the Wielkopolska Region lodged 48 applications in a call for applications ended in February this year with the total value exceeding al-*

PARTNERS OF THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK



Forms of execution of operations selected by partners of the National Rural Network in competitions No 1/2017 and No 2/2018. Own elaboration of the Regional Unit of the National Rural Network in the Wielkopolska Region.

most two times the available limit of funds i.e. PLN 663 thousand. Such a high interest in the possibility of acquiring additional funds shows that there is no shortage of ideas and initiatives supporting development of rural areas of our region. Next years, we will petition for increasing the pool of funds allocated for financing tasks of partners of the National Rural Network - claims Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, performing also the function of a Chairperson of the Regional Working Group in charge of the National Rural Network.

Obtainment of co-financing within this year's competition is dependent on fulfilment of particular conditions. Mainly, the target group of the task under implementation must be residents of rural areas, whereas the task itself should form a part of relevant subject-matter and at least one of five objectives of the National Rural Network. Projects may result in increasing involvement of participants in initiatives contributing to development of rural areas, enhancing quality of implementation of the RDP 2014-2020 or informing the society about possibilities of obtaining financial support from the European Union. Executed tasks may also be connected with promotion of innovations in agriculture, for example in production of food or with activation of residents of villages, including, with creation of new jobs on rural areas. Partners of the National Rural Network may apply for refunding up to 100% of eligible costs of tasks executed by them.

— Signing of contracts with partners of the National Rural Network whose operations will be chosen for co-financing is planned by us in the first half of May this year. The competition envisages finalization of execution of all projects at the

latest until 31 October 2019, whereas refunding of resources incurred by partners within executed tasks shall take place by the end of this year - says Izabela Mroczek, a director of the RDP Department in the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznań.

This year's edition is already the third one of the competition announced by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. In two previous competitions, partners of the National Rural Network from the Wielkopolska Region obtained more than PLN 800 thousand in total. This money allowed financing 41 projects. Many of them deserve to be considered as good practices and may constitute a source of inspiration to take up similar initiatives.

Applications submitted by partners of the National Rural Network within the competition No 3/2019

National Rural Network Measure No	Number of submitted applications	Limit of funds within the Measure	Total value of submitted applications within the Measure
3	1	PLN 30 000,00	PLN 8 000,00
4	4	PLN 50 000,00	PLN 68 112,51
6	17	PLN 288 000,00	PLN 544 480,05
9	3	PLN 80 000,00	PLN 62 304,64
10	4	PLN 50 000,00	PLN 87 374,13
11	8	PLN 70 000,00	PLN 135 867,33
12	1	PLN 30 000,00	PLN 15 931,38
13	10	PLN 75 000,00	PLN 151 229,83
Total	48	PLN 663 000,00	PLN 1 073 299,87

CULINARY HERITAGE

Culinary heritage - treasure of our region

The Self-government of the Wielkopolska Region consistently focuses on promotion of healthy and traditional food manufactured based on local products. This aim is achieved, inter alia, through the Wielkopolska Culinary Heritage Network which, since 2008, has been uniting manufacturers and restaurateurs under the joint banner of a white chef's hat in the blue background. Thanks to European Union funds envisaged for supporting the National Rural Network, manufacturers which belong to the Network may promote their products during the largest sector-specific fairs in Poland and abroad.



Source: Resources of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

During this year's Grüne Woche Fair in Berlin, at a stand of Wielkopolska, one could taste delicious cheeses originating from a farm of Marek Grądzki from Obiekt Rolny Linie in Lwówek municipality. In the photograph from the left: cheese-maker Marek Grądzki, Krzysztof Grabowski - Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Dobromiła Tenerowicz-Grądzka - wife of Marek, Czesław Cieślak - Chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Development Commission in the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region and, at the same time, a President of the Regional Dairy Cooperative Kolo and Rafał Gil - Deputy Director of the Property Management Department in the Marshal Office.

From 18 to 27 January 2019, the Wielkopolska Region participated in the International Food Economy, Agriculture and Horticulture Fair Grüne Woche in Berlin.

— *Our region was represented by five enterprises. Pomes Catering company served dumplings and natural ice creams to visitors, made of high quality products, Obiekt Rolny Linie treated excellent goat cheeses and Tradycyjne Jadło company presented natural smoked sausage products. The Fair was also attended by two flagship dairies from Wielkopolska: the Regional Dairy Cooperative Kolo and Dairy Cooperative of Shareholders in Strzałkowo - says Deputy Marshal of the Region Krzysztof Grabowski.*

A stand of Wielkopolska at the „Grüne Woche” Fair in Berlin was also a place of meetings. Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski officially opened a meeting for farmers from Wielkopolska united in groups

of agricultural producers with representatives of German organizations supporting cooperation between farmers. The meeting aimed at exchanging experience and at discussing the challenges for agriculture in both countries. The stand of Wielkopolska was also visited by Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania Petre Daea and Minister of Rural Development, the Environment and Agriculture of our partner region in Germany - Brandenburg, Jörg Vogelsänger.

In 2019, thanks to the National Rural Network, the culinary heritage of our region will also be presented during the President Harvest Festival in September in Spała, Natural Food Fair in October in Łódź and within the Day of St. Martin, traditionally organized at the end of year in a seat of the Information Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Brussels.

Sausage sour soup

Easter is the time when mainly the most popular traditional dishes reign on Polish tables such as: sour soup, white sausage, beetroot with horseradish, eggs, baked meat, smoked sausages, sugar coated Easter pound cakes or Easter cakes. However, it does not mean that the Easter menu in particular regions of Poland looks exactly the same since each of us has his/her delicacies and spices which give unique form to Easter.

In Wielkopolska, sour soup is invariably most popular i.e. an Old Polish soup based on sourdough. Currently, it is considered as an exquisite soup for gourmets, in the past, it used to be a synonym of Lent. In November 2009, this product was entered onto the list of traditional products in the category of ready meals and dishes in the Wielkopolska Region, kept by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Only in summer, lard or sausage stock was added to the sour soup, whereas, in winter, milk served as the additive. The soup was cooked based on sourdough of rye flour, soured for a few days with water in a stone pot. There is a custom of scalding this pot with boiling water on Tuesday before Ash Wednesday to remove fat residue. Whereas, on the first day of Easter the pot was solemnly broken.

The sour soup which was the main food in Lent was mainly eaten with potatoes or herring. This also entails a certain custom i.e. when Easter Saturday came, manor youths organized a symbolic funeral of the sour soup and herring. At that time, the herring suspended on a branch was carried, sentencing it in this way to hanging since for seven weeks one could not eat anything else. Behind the herring, a new person in the group, who did not know this custom, carried an old pot on his/her head filled with the sour soup. This person was followed by a person with a spade, pre-

Sources: *Kuchnia wielkopolska wczoraj i dziś*, Poznań 1992; Zygmunt Gloger, *Encyklopedia staropolska ilustrowana*, 1905 (reprint Warszawa 1985).

tending to be a gravedigger. When the procession entered the yard, the gravedigger hit the pot with the spade, breaking it and pouring the sour soup on the novice to the satisfaction of the crowd.

Sausage sour soup recipe

Ingredients:

- 500 ml of sour soup of rye flour (sourdough)
- 200 g of sausage
- 250 g (1 bunch) of soup-greens
- Salt
- Garlic
- Green parsley

Sourdough: mix the flour with boiled and cooled water (1.5 l), pour into a stone pot or jar, earlier scalded, cover with gauze and leave at room temperature. After about 5 days, when the sour soup turns sour, pour it into a saucepan and boil. Cook stock of sausage and rinsed and cleaned soup-greens. Mix the sour soup with the drained stock and boil. Dice the sausage, put to the soup and, afterwards, add the garlic pulped with salt and green parsley.



Sources: [https://www.inspirander.pl/sites/default/files/images/3\(2\).jpg](https://www.inspirander.pl/sites/default/files/images/3(2).jpg)

**Regional Unit of the National Rural Network
Department of Rural Development Programmes
Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region**

al. Niepodległości 34, 61-714 Poznań
Tel. No. 61 626 60 00, fax 61 626 60 04
e-mail: ksow@umww.pl

www.wielkopolskie.ksow.pl | www.dprow.umww.pl

Free copy



„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.