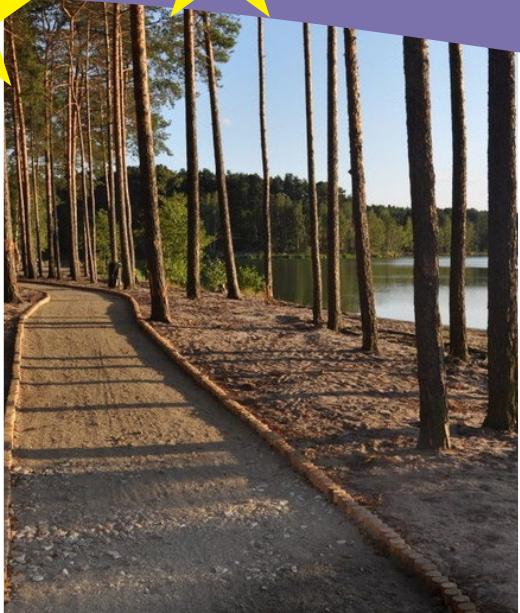


Our European Countryside

Bulletin of National Rural Network of Wielkopolska Region

2/2018

ISSN 2545-1332



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”.

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

Foreword	3
New roads put into use	4
The LEADER Programme develops countryside	6
From knowledge to action	II
They will activate local communities	I2
Wielkopolska is sharing its experience	I4

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.dprox.umww.pl

Texts:

Adrian Kapuściński

**Graphic design
and printing:**

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

FOREWORD



Krzysztof Grabowski

Deputy Marshal of Wielkopolska Region

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 implemented by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region is gradually moving into a stage of implementing investments and projects for which aid agreements have been signed. This can be excellently seen on an example of local roads being constructed or modernised which have been co-financed under the RDP. Most of the planned projects have already been implemented. A growing number of tangible results of implementing the programme are also seen in the case of implementing the community-led local development strategy. Thanks to the EU funds distributed through local action groups, rural residents start up or develop their economic activity. Communes, districts, foundations and associations build community rooms, playgrounds, sports fields and many other facilities responding to the needs of local communities. In the current "Our EuroPROWincja" bulletin, we summarise this subject. We also publish a map of the Wielkopolska Region, divided into areas of functioning of 29 local action groups implementing development strategies in our region. The map has been enriched with the necessary information to

facilitate contact with the LAG. I encourage you to visit the websites of the Wielkopolska groups and to follow the calls they announce on an ongoing basis.

In June 2018, I had a pleasure to sign agreements with the partners of the National Rural Network from the Wielkopolska Region. From the article dedicated to this event, you will find out what tasks the resources available under the NRN are allocated for and who can use them. We also present a report of the delegation visits from the Kharkiv Oblast in Ukraine and the Romanian region of Sibiu, which has become our partner region recently. When reading our bulletin, you can also find the information about other activities for the Wielkopolska countryside carried out by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region using its own budget resources. Knowledge in this field was acquired by the members of the National Women's Forum Association, Branch in Wielkopolska, who visited the Marshal Office in Poznań on 18 June 2018.

I warmly invite you to read our bulletin.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP

New roads put into use

The Wielkopolska beneficiaries of the RDP 2014-2020 implemented 99 of 148 financed investments consisting in the construction or modernisation of local roads. Aid agreements in this regard were signed in 2016. The total value of the payment applications submitted so far is PLN 60 million.



Source: Communal Office of Rawicz

In May 2018, the reconstructed road at ul. Wrocławska in Dębno Polskie in the commune of Rawicz was opened. The investment received co-financing under the RDP 2014-2020. From the left: Zofia Adamska – village mayor of Dębno Polskie, Izabela Mroczek, director of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office, Zofia Szalcyk – President of the Sejmik of the Region, Adam Sperzyński – starost of Rawicz and Grzegorz Kubik – mayor of Rawicz.

— Two-thirds of the projects, for which we contracted support from the EU funds in August 2016, have already been implemented. Currently, after carrying out the majority of tendering procedures, the total amount of co-financing for the beneficiaries is PLN 106 million. New sections of roads serve the residents of the Wielkopolska countryside, making their daily transport easier — says Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski.

The communes and districts submitted 102 payment applications to the Marshal Office in Poznań, of which 99 relate to the settlement of the entire investment, while the other three cover the intermediate stage. 46 payment applications have already been positively verified and the money has been transferred to the beneficiaries' accounts. The funds of PLN 20.8 million have been paid out.

Co-financing includes operations consisting in the construction or modernisation of roads in localities of up to

5,000 residents. The communes, districts and their associations could apply for obtaining financial resources to implement the tasks. Taking into account the categories of public roads, work is carried out within communal and district roads. In addition to replacing the road surface, investments often consist in the construction of auxiliary infrastructure, i.e. sewage system and pavements.



Source: Communal Office of Budzyń

Thanks to the resources from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020, a 2.5 kilometre section of the road has been reconstructed in the village of Sokolowo Budzyńskie, commune of Budzyń.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP



Reconstructed Paruszka – Podróżna district road in the Złotowski District.

Source: District Starosty in Złotów

Aid for operations such as the construction or modernisation of local roads is granted in the amount of 63.63% of the eligible costs. The maximum amount of co-financing per one beneficiary in the current programme perspective is PLN 3 million. The investments covered by co-financing must be completed before the lapse of 36 months after the date of signing the agreement, which means that the implementation of the last investments should take place in mid-2019, so-so. The European funds from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 will contribute to the construction or modernisation of about 268 kilometres of local roads in Wielkopolska..



Reconstructed road connecting Golejewko, Ostrobudki and Baranowo – part of the village of Góreczki Wielkie, commune of Pakosław in the Rawicki District.

Source: Communal Office of Pakosław



Formal opening of the road between Babia and Zarzew in the commune of Rzgów was attended by, inter alia, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski.

Source: Communal Office of Rzgów

The LEADER Programme develops countryside

So far, the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region has contracted PLN 88 million to support projects submitted to local action groups and implemented in accordance with community-led local development strategies. The funds come from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 co-financed by the European Union funds under the so-called LEADER initiative.

— On behalf of the self-government of the region, I have signed framework agreements with representatives of 29 local action groups in Wielkopolska. The agreements apply to implementing the local development strategies developed by the LAG. By the end of 2023, the beneficiaries of the RDP in Wielkopolska will receive aid for a total amount of PLN 320 million. The funds are allocated for, inter alia, taking up and developing the economic activity, construction or reconstruction of publicly available and non-commercial infrastructure, preservation of local heritage and construction or reconstruction of public roads — says Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski.

The beneficiaries from the Wielkopolska region have so far signed 711 agreements for implementing projects within community-led local development strategies and received support amounting to PLN 87.8 million. Thanks to financial assistance from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020, the rural residents of our region take up the economic activity. The business was opened by 253 entrepreneurs, who received PLN 16.2 million in total. The funds are also addressed to companies wishing to expand their activity. To date, financial support in this regards has been effectively applied for by 184 entities: individuals engaged in economic activity, commercial law companies and cooperatives. As a result of agreements concluded, the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region has allocated PLN 29.7 million for this purpose.

The EU funds are also allocated for the implementation of non-commercial tasks. They are used by the communes, districts, cultural institutions, churches, as well as foundations and associations. The representatives of the Wielkopolska communes signed 216 agreements assuming financial support from the European Union for a total amount of PLN 30.8 million. The financial resources for the investments were also obtained by seven districts: Czarnkowsko-Trzcianecki, Kępiński, Nowotomyski, Szamotulski, Leszczyński, Ostrzeszowski and Piłski and by intermunicipal association operating in the Gostyński District. Communal and communal and municipal cultural institutions have signed so far 7 agreements worth PLN 1 million. The funds from the RDP 2014-2020 were also allocated for supporting 22 pro-

jects of associations, 6 projects of Volunteer Fire Services, 5 projects of parishes and three initiatives undertaken by foundations. These institutions were granted co-financing for a total amount of PLN 5.1 million.

In addition, the Local Action Groups themselves obtain funds for implementing grant projects allowing to finance more small projects. By mid-June 2018, the LAG from Wielkopolska signed 20 grant agreements. The Noteć Valley Association functioning in the Chodzieski District received PLN 594,677 to develop and publish publications promoting the LAG area, organise promotional events, as well as construct and modernise tourist and recreational facilities. The "Piast Tract" Local Action Group (Gnieźnieński District) received PLN 124,873 to organise cultural, sports and recreational activities. The Salt Valley Association from the Kolski District received PLN 502,234 for implementing two grant projects. They apply to the construction and modernisation of recreational and tourist infrastructure, activities to activate and integrate the residents, educational activities improving the local identity and environmental awareness, as well as renovation of a historic building and publishing publications promoting the LAG area.



Thanks to the EU funds under the RDP 2014-2020, a playground and an outdoor gym have been constructed in Rzadkowo, commune of Kaczory.

Source: Communal Office of Kaczory

IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP

The amount of PLN 73,921 was granted to the "Solidary in Partnership" Association functioning in the Koniński District. The purpose of the grant project is to develop tourist and recreational facilities and promote the value of the area. The KOLD Association from the Nowotomyski District signed three agreements on the activation and integration of the society, development of tourist or recreational infrastructure and the promotion of the area. The "Ostrzeszowska Local Action Group" Association implemented in 2017 a grant project consisting in the construction or reconstruction of non-commercial infrastructure, receiving PLN 194,146 for this purpose. The "Warta River Union" Association from the Słupecki District obtained, in turn, PLN 194,012 to shape and develop the local identity of the residents. Two agreements were signed by the Turkowska Development Union – T.U.R. The amount of PLN 439,962 the LAG allocates for activating non-governmental organisations and the offer of services for social inclusion of dependents. The six-stage grant project is implemented by the "Together for the Future" Association from the Pleszewski District. The project takes into account the construction or reconstruction of publicly available and non-commercial tourist, recreational or cultural infrastructure.

Financial assistance for implementing the tasks in rural areas can be applied for through the Local Action Group, competent for the place of residence of a person, the seat of a company or institution applying for co-financing. The LAG announce calls for applications in accordance with the schedules published on their websites. The schedules shall take into account the scope of support to which the call applies and the limits of funds under the call. To receive a grant, you must submit an application for an operation consistent with the local development strategy adopted for being implemented with the given LAG. In the Wielkopolska Region, there are 29 Local Action Groups which have been granted the funds to implement their strategies and carry out calls for applications. The up-to-date information about the calls can be found on the LAG websites.

The funds for taking up the economic activity can be applied for adult natural persons living in rural areas that are not insured in KRUS. The prerequisite to receive support is to maintain the activity for at least two years. Aid is granted in a form of a lump-sum bonus, which means that the beneficiary shall obtain funds before incurring costs related to starting the activity.

The EU funds for developing the economic activity are addressed to micro- and small firms that have pursued their activity for at least 365 days over a period of three years before submitting the application. The financial resources can

be obtained, *inter alia*, for construction works, purchase of machinery and equipment, covering the costs of computer software, rental or lease of equipment, machinery and real estate. Obtaining co-financing to develop enterprise involves a need to employ at least one employee and to maintain the level of employment for at least three years. Support shall be granted in a form of a refund of up to 70% of the eligible costs.



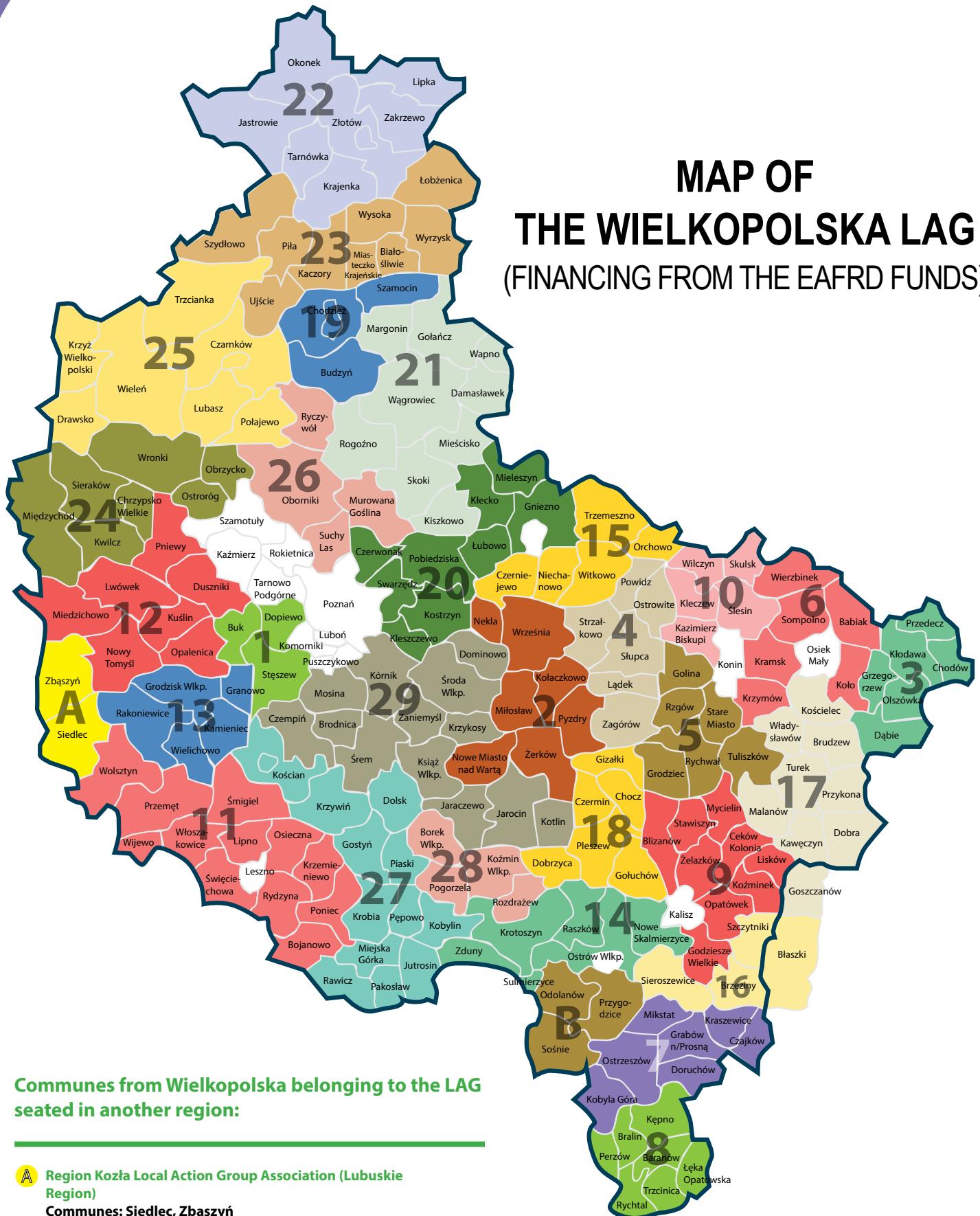
Source: Communal Office of Godziesze Wielkie

Reconstructed and modernised VFS building in Godziesze Wielkie. The investment has been implemented thanks to co-financing from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020.

— *The amount of financial support depends on the limits established in the LDS. For taking up the economic activity, it is possible to obtain up to PLN 100 thousand, while for developing the activity – up to PLN 300 thousand* — says Izabela Mroczek, director of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office..

Local government units, foundations and associations, in turn, obtain the funds for implementing mainly such tasks as the construction or reconstruction of publicly available tourist, recreational or cultural infrastructure, thus, *inter alia*, playgrounds, sports fields, skateparks, bike paths, rural community rooms and recreation shelters. The funds coming from EU co-financing as part of implementing local development strategies are also allocated for the renovation of monuments and the implementation of grant projects.

MAP OF THE WIELKOPOLSKA LAG (FINANCING FROM THE EAFRD FUNDS)



Communes from Wielkopolska belonging to the LAG seated in another region:

A Region Kozła Local Action Group Association (Lubuskie Region)
Communes: Siedlec, Zbąszyń

B Partnership for the Barycz River Valley Association (Dolnośląskie Region)
Communes: Odolanów, Przygodzice, Sośnie

1 Association – “Source” Local Action Group

Communes forming the LAG: **Buk, Dopiewo, Stęszew**
Office address: ul. Ratuszowa 1, II floor, room 39, 64-320 Buk
Phone: 61 888 44 56 or 735 043 432
E-mail: lgdzrodlo@o2.pl; **website:** <http://lgdzrodlo.pl/>



2 „We Make it Work” Local Action Group

Communes forming the LAG: **Kołaczkowo, Miłosław, Nekla, Nowe Miasto upon Warta, Pyzdry, Września, Żerków**
Office address: ul. Dzieci Wrzesińskich 9, 62-300 Września
Phone: 61 438 50 18
E-mail: info@znamiwarto.pl; **website:** <http://znamiwarto.pl/>



3 „Salt Valley” Association

Communes forming the LAG: **Chodów, Dąbie, Grzegorzew, Kłodawa, Olszówka, Przedecz**
Office address: ul. Kościelna 5, 62-615 Kłodawa
Phone: 603 994 142
E-mail: solnadolina@wp.pl; **website:** <http://solnadolina.eu/>



4 „Warta River Union” Association

Communes forming the LAG: **Lądek, Ostrowite, Powidz, Słupca, Strzałkowo, Zagórow**
Office address: ul. Plac Szkoły 16a, 62-400 Słupca
Phone: 63 241 00 73 or 512 962 200
E-mail: biuro@unianadwarcianska.pl;
website: <http://unianadwarcianska.pl/>



5 „Solidary in Partnership” Association

Communes forming the LAG: **Golina, Grodziec, Rychwał, Rzgów, Stare Miasto, Tuliszków**
Office address: ul. Główna 3, 62-571 Stare Miasto
Phone: 665 550 131
E-mail: lgd@stare-miasto.pl; **website:** <http://sswp.com.pl/>



6 „Eastern Wielkopolska” Association

Communes forming the LAG: **Babiak, Koło, Kramsk, Krzymów, Sompolno, Wierzbinek**
Office address: ul. Kurpińskiego 6, 62-511 Kramsk
Phone: 63 245 18 58
E-mail: wielkopolska.wschodnia@wp.pl;
website: <http://wielkopolskawschodnia.pl/>



7 „Ostrzeszowska Local Action Group” Association

Communes forming the LAG: **Czajków, Doruchów, Grabów upon Prośna, Kobyla Góra, Kraszewice, Mikstat, Ostrzeszów**
Office address: ul. Przemysłowa 27, room 20, 63-500 Ostrzeszów
Phone: 62 586 03 20 or 667 777 024
E-mail: olgd@olgd.org.pl; **website:** <http://olgd.org.pl/>



8 Wielkopolska Gateway Association

Communes forming the LAG: **Baranów, Bralin, Łęka Opatowska, Kępno, Perzów, Rychtal, Trzcinica**
Office address: ul. Jana Pawła II 2, 63-604 Baranów
Phone: 737 486 540
E-mail: biuro@wrota.info.pl; **website:** <http://wrota.info.pl/>



9 „LAG-7 The Land of Nights and Days” Association

Communes forming the LAG: **Blizanów, Ceków Kolonia, Godziesze Wielkie, Koźminek, Mycielin, Opatówek, Stawiszyn, Lisków, Żelazków**
Office address: ul. T. Kościuszki 7, 62-840 Koźminek
Phone: 62 763 70 68 or 609 860 000
E-mail: lgd7@wp.pl; **website:** <http://lgd7krainanocyidni.pl/>



10 „Between People and Lakes”

Communes forming the LAG: **Kazimierz Biskupi, Kleczew, Skulsk, Ślesin, Wilczyn**
Office address: ul. Plac Wolności 2, 62-530 Kazimierz Biskupi
Phone: 63 240 26 03
E-mail: leader@ludziejeziora.pl;
website: <http://ludziejeziora.pl/>



11 Wielkopolska Local Action Group The Land of Forests and Lakes

Communes forming the LAG: **Bojanowo, Krzemieniewo, Lipno, Osieczna, Poniec, Przemęt, Rydzyna, Śmigiel, Święciechowa, Wijewo, Włoszakowice, Wolsztyn**
Office address: ul. Plac Kościuszki 4, room 229, 64-100 Leszno
Phone: 65 529 61 03
E-mail: biuro@wlgd.org.pl; **website:** <http://wlgd.org.pl/>



12 KOLD Local Action Group

Communes forming the LAG: **Duszniki, Kuślin, Lwówek, Miedzichowo, Nowy Tomyśl, Opatenica, Pniewy**
Office address: Rynek 33/1, 64-310 Lwówek
Phone: 61 44 24 160
E-mail: biuro@kold.pl; **website:** <http://kold.pl/>



13 Leader Grodziska Land Association

Communes forming the LAG: **Granowo, Grodzisk Wielkopolski, Kamieniec, Rakoniewice, Wielichowo**
Office address: ul. Powstańców Chocieszyńskich 23 F, 62-065 Grodzisk Wielkopolski
Phone: 61 227 12 16
E-mail: m.burzynski@szgleader.pl;
website: <http://szgleader.pl/>



14 „Window of Southern Wielkopolska” Local Action Group

Communes forming the LAG: **Krotoszyn, Nowe Skalmierzyce, Ostrów Wielkopolski, Raszków, Sulmierzyce, Zduny**
Office address: ul. Zduńska 12, 63-700 Krotoszyn
Phone: 530 709 099
E-mail: lgd.opw@gmail.com; **website:** <http://slgdopw.pl/>



15 Świątowid Association

Communes forming the LAG: **Czerniejewo, Niechanowo, Orchowo, Trzemeszno, Witkowo**
Office address: Małachowo-Szemborowice 12, 62-230 Witkowo
Phone: 510 209 487
E-mail: biuro@stowarzyszenieswiatowid.pl;
website: <http://stowarzyszenieswiatowid.pl/>



16 Royal Fern Association

Communes forming the LAG: Brzeziny, Sieroszewice, Szczytniki, Błaszki (**Łódzkie Region**)
Office address: ul. 1000-lecia 10, 62-874 Brzeziny
Phone: 62 769 82 22
E-mail: biuro@dlugoszkrolewski.org.pl;
website: <http://dlugoszkrolewski.org.pl/>



17 Turkowska Development Union T. U. R.

Communes forming the LAG: Brudzew, Dobra, Kawęczyn, Kościelec, Malanów, Przykona, Turek, Władysławów, Goszczanów (**Łódzkie Region**)
Office address: Kolska Szosa 3, 62-700 Turek
Phone: 63 289 36 57 or 601 614 609
E-mail: biuro@lgd-tur.org.pl; **website:** <http://lgd-tur.org.pl/>



18 „Together for the Future” Association

Communes forming the LAG: Chocz, Czermin, Dobrzyca, Gizałki, Gołuchów, Pleszew
Office address: Czermin 47, 63-304 Czermin
Phone: 62 741 68 91
E-mail: swdrp@pleszew.pl; **website:** <http://lgd.pleszew.pl/>



19 „Noteć Valley” Association

Communes forming the LAG: Budzyń, City of Chodzież, Commune of Chodzież, Szamocin
Office address: ul. Sienkiewicza 2, 64-800 Chodzież
Phone: 693 933 246
E-mail: biuro@dolinanoteci.com.pl;
website: <http://dolinanoteci.com.pl/>



20 „Piast Tract” Local Action Group

Communes forming the LAG: Czerwonak, Gniezno, Łubowo, Kleszczewo, Kłecko, Kostrzyn, Mieleszyn, Pobiedziska, Swarzędz
Office address: Łubowo 1, 62-260 Łubowo
Phone: 614 275 950
E-mail: biuro@lgdtraktpiastow.pl;
website: <http://lgdtraktpiastow.pl/>



21 „Wełna Valley” Association

Communes forming the LAG: Damasławek, Gołańc, Kiszkowo, Margonin, Mieścisko, Skoki, Wapno, Wągrowiec, Rogoźno
Office address: ul. Kolejowa 24, 62-100 Wągrowiec
Phone: 67 255 24 89
E-mail: biuro_dolinawelny@o2.pl;
website: <http://dolinawelny.eu/>



22 Krajna Złotowska Local Action Group Association

Communes forming the LAG: Jastrowie, Krajenka, Lipka, Okonek, Tarnówka, Zakrzewo, City of Złotów, Commune of Złotów
Office address: Aleja Piasta 32, 77-400 Złotów
Phone: 67 263 33 98
E-mail: biuro@krajnazlotowska.pl;
website: <http://krajnazlotowska.pl/>



23 „Krajna upon Noteć” Local Action Group Association

Communes forming the LAG: Białośliwie, Kaczory, Łobżenica, Miasteczko Krajeńskie, Piła, Szydłowo, Ujście, Wysoka, Wyrzysk
Office address: Pobórka Wielka 25, 89-340 Białośliwie
Phone: 666 957 513
E-mail: biuro@lgdkrajna.pl; **website:** <http://lgdkrajna.pl/>



24 „Noteć Primeval Forest” Association

Communes forming the LAG: Chrzypsko Wielkie, Kwiłcz, Międzychód, City of Obrzycko, Commune of Obrzycko, Ostroróg, Sieraków, Wronki
Office address: ul. Dworcowa 18, 64-400 Międzychód
Phone: 506 087 607
E-mail: biuro@puszczanotecka.org;
website: <http://puszczanotecka.org/>



25 Czarnkowsko-Trzcianecka Local Action Group

Communes forming the LAG: City of Czarnków, Commune of Czarnków, Drawsko, Krzyż Wielkopolski, Lubasz, Polajewo, Wieleń, Trzciianka
Office address: ul. Kościuszki 88, room 37, 64-700 Czarnków
Phone: 67 344 16 53 lub 603 074 945
E-mail: lgd.czarnkow@wp.pl;
website: <http://czarnkowsko-trzcianecka-lgd.pl/>



26 Land of Three Rivers Local Action Group Association

Communes forming the LAG: Murowana Goślina, Oborniki, Ryczywół, Suchy Las
Office address: ul. Marszałka J. Piłsudskiego 76, room 30, 64-600 Oborniki
Phone: 535 978 545 or 791 222 764
E-mail: biuro@kraina3rzek.pl; **website:** <http://kraina3rzek.pl/>



27 „Hospitable Wielkopolska” Local Action Group Association in Pępowo

Communes forming the LAG: Dolsk, Gostyń, Jutrosin, Kobylin, Kościan, Krobia, Krzywiń, Miejska Góra, Pakosław, Pępowo, Piaski, Rawicz
Office address: ul. Powstańców Wielkopolskich 43, 63-830 Pępowo
Phone: 65 573 63 00 or 607 879 665
E-mail: biuro@wielkopolskagoscinna.pl;
website: <http://goscinnawielkopolska.pl>



LGD Gościnna Wielkopolska

28 „Wielkopolska with Imagination” Association

Communes forming the LAG: Borek Wielkopolski, Koźmin Wielkopolski, Pogorzela, Rozdrażew
Office address: ul. Borecka 23, 63-720 Koźmin Wielkopolski
Phone: 782 368 222 lub 782 384 222
E-mail: stow@wielkopolskazwyobraznia.pl;
website: <http://wielkopolskazwyobraznia.pl>



29 Green Wielkopolska Leader

Communes forming the LAG: Brodnica, Czempiń, Dominowo, Jaraczewo, Mosina, Jarocin, Kotlin, Krzykosy, Kórnik, Książ Wielkopolski, Śrem, Środa Wielkopolska, Zaniemyśl
Office address: ul. Libelta 2, 63-000 Środa Wielkopolska
Phone: 61 285 24 70 lub 500 162 975
E-mail: biuro@liderzielonejwielkopolski.pl;
website: <http://liderzielonejwielkopolski.pl>



From knowledge to action

On 18 June 2018, a group of nearly 100 members of the members of the National Women's Forum Association, Branch in Wielkopolska took part in an information meeting organised at the Marshal Office in Poznań. The subject of the meeting concerned a possibility of obtaining funds for implementing projects in rural areas. The concept of training arose on the initiative by the Councillor of the regional Sejmik, Mirosława Katarzyna Kaźmierczak.



Participants in the training course together with Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, Councillor of the Sejmik Mirosław Katarzyna Kaźmierczak and speakers: Izabela Mroczek – Director of the RDP Department, Rafał Gil – Deputy Director of the Estate Management Department and Dominik Bekasiak – head of the Village Renewal Division at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

— Knowledge of how to obtain the European funds is very important today. Also living in the countryside, we can have access to them. We have, *inter alia*, the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 and calls for applications announced by the local action groups. There is the self-government Wielkopolska Village Renewal programme addressed to villages and non-governmental organisations. Recently, the self-government has allocated PLN 1.6 million to finance the purchase of seedlings of melliferous trees by the communes and districts — said Councillor Mirosława Katarzyna Kaźmierczak, who for 15 years has also been the president of the National Women's Forum Association, Branch in Wielkopolska.

The training programme included the information about the activities implemented by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region within the RDP 2014-2020. It was discussed by Izabela Mroczek, director of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office. She presented, *inter alia*, a map of the region, indicating the areas of functioning of the individual local action groups to which we may submit applications to implement the tasks matching the community-led local development strategies. There was also information about the National Rural Network and a possibility of applying for funds under competitions announced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Dominik Bekasiak, head of the Village Renewal Division at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, made the participants familiar with the rules of the competition "Wielkopolska countryside grows beautiful", for

which the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region allocated PLN 3.25 million this year. In April 2018, the Government of the Wielkopolska Region published a ranking list containing 252 projects submitted to the competition and recommended to the Sejmik to grant subsidies for 128 projects being the first in the list. On 4 June, the councillors accepted this proposal unanimously.

In turn, Rafał Gil, Deputy Director of the Estate Management Department, spoke about good practices of self-government activities in the area of sustainable rural development. The Wielkopolska communes may apply for financial support from the self-government of the region for the construction or reconstruction of access roads to agricultural land and the construction and renovation of small retention reservoirs. Since November 2017, the self-government units or self-government organisational units can also obtain money for the purchase of seedlings of melliferous trees to be planted along a road belt or in agricultural areas. Co-financing is up to PLN 20,000 and covers up to 90% of the total costs incurred. Support for the purchase of seedlings was received by 111 self-government units. As a result, 24.5 thousand melliferous trees will be planted.

The June training course was organised thanks to co-financing from the RDP 2014-2020 technical assistance funds as part of implementing the National Rural Network's Operational Plan for 2018-2019.

NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK PARTNERS

They will activate local communities

In 2018, the Wielkopolska partners of the National Rural Network received PLN 522 thousand for implementing the tasks. Agreements in this matter were signed with the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region, represented by Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, on 7 June 2018 at the Marshal Office in Poznań. Later this year, it is planned to announce a competition for the NRN Partners regarding the projects implemented in 2019.



Photo by Adrian Kapuściński

Family photo of the NRN partners representatives who, on 7 June 2018, signed agreements for co-financing their tasks. 22 projects covered by financial support under the National Rural Network will be implemented.

The National Rural Network (NRN) is a formula known throughout the European Union. It brings together entities involved in rural development, at both the national and local levels. The network's task is to, *inter alia*, increase the quality of implementing the Rural Development Programme, informing the society about possibilities for financing the projects, activating the residents and promoting innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas. The participants in this project, i.e. NRN partners, may obtain funds for implementing training, integration or research initiatives. The range of available forms of action also includes organising study trips, aimed at acquiring and exchanging experience, developing publications and various activities to support cooperation among farmers, shortening the food supply chain, promoting local products and the widely understood promotion of the countryside as an attractive place to live. The NRN partners may apply for a refund of up to 100% of the eligible costs of the tasks they implement.

— In 2018, the allocation of the funds accepted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for co-financing the NRN Partners' operations in our region was PLN 785 thousand. 29 applications have been submitted to the competition. 22 projects met the formal requirements. The distributed funds will be used by local communities, which, thanks to support from the European Union within the framework of the National Rural Network, will participate in workshops, training courses, conferences, fairs, study trips and outdoor events — says Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

The completion of all projects which received co-financing was scheduled for 31 October 2018. Some of them have already been or are being implemented. On 27 May in Wielichowo in the Grodziski District a conference entitled "Champignons – from production to the table" was organised by the Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture. Under the event, there was also a competition for the most delicious champignon dish which was attended by the members of the Farmers' Wives Association from Western Wielkopolska.

NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK PARTNERS

The project was aimed at integrating the community of champignon producers and processors and promoting the local product.

A week later, farmers cultivating asparagus and enthusiasts of that vegetable met in Mochy near Przemęt (Wolsztyński District) – thanks to the attractions prepared by the Commune of Przemęt together with the Communal Cultural Centre in Przemęt. The organisers, encouraged by the enthusiastic reception of last year's feast of asparagus, decided to consistently build the brand of their local product, by inviting all interested entities to participate in a conference involving, *inter alia*, President of the Polish Association of Asparagus Growers Marian Jakobsze and Prof. dr hab. Mikołaj Knaflowski. At the conference, they addressed the issue of registration of Przemęt asparagus and a possibility of obtaining available certificates. The feast included culinary shows, tastings of dishes, a competition for the best asparagus dish, presentation of agricultural machinery used in the cultivation of asparagus, and a show of sorting and treating asparagus. In addition, for four consecutive Saturdays, starting from May 19, the asparagus breeders opened their farms for visitors.



Representatives of the Wielkopolska LAG Network, President Małgorzata Blok and Vice-President Ireneusz Witkowski signed the agreement for co-financing the project entitled "LAG activities for creating a network of contacts and strengthening cooperation".

The implementation of a research project, developed by the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, has also been started. The project is called "Town planning and planning rural development – the rules of proper shaping of the space of the Wielkopolska countryside". It involves a visit of the scientists from the university in ten Wielkopolska villages. The visits will include conducting research which will allow to answer the question of how to shape the rural space properly. The research conclusions will help the local authorities further plan the actions financed from the RDP 2014-2020 funds, as well as from the funds of the Wielkopolska Region under the Wielkopolska Villa-



Source: Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture

Under the project entitled "Champignons – from production to the table", the Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture organised, *inter alia*, a competition for the most delicious champignon dish addressed to the local farmers' wives association.

ge Renewal programme. The results of the project will be presented at the conference and published in a form of a publication.

Another NRN partner – the commune and city of Stawiszyn focuses on the promotion of cultural heritage. On 19 August 2018, a parade of the Holy Sepulchre Guard will be held in the sports fields of GLZS Korona Pogoń Stawiszyn. The event will be participated in by at least 10 fire service groups which will present themselves in the multicoloured costumes. The participants in the parade will be able to admire the muster parades and changing of the guard, as well as a spectacular tradition of "prostrating oneself before Christ". The event will be accompanied by artistic and literary competitions for children and adolescents from the Community Centre "Island" in Stawiszyn.

The National Rural Network is open. Participants in the network may be all entities involved in rural development, including natural persons and companies. To become the National Rural Network partner, you must register with the online database at www.ksow.pl. Later this year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is planning to announce a competition regarding the NRN partner operations, to be implemented in 2019. The current information will be published on the www.wielkopolskie.ksow.pl website. You can also find there a list of all projects that received co-financing this year.

FOREIGN COOPERATION

Wielkopolska is sharing its experience

In May and June 2018, the Wielkopolska Region hosted a delegation from the partner region of Sibiu in Romania and the Kharkiv Oblast in Ukraine. The visit programme was related to, inter alia, the exchange of experience in rural development and support for agriculture. The visitors from Romania became familiar with the specificities of the functioning of the self-government administration on an example of the Marshal Office in Poznań, while our eastern neighbours, in addition to acquiring substantive knowledge, had an opportunity to participate in study trips.



From 22 May 2018, Wielkopolska and Sibiu have been the partner regions. The agreement on this issue was signed by Daniela Cimpean – President of the district of Sibiu and Marek Woźniak – Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.

The traineeship programme for two trainees from the Romanian district of Sibiu has been organised as part of the Wielkopolska Academy of Self-Government and related to the implementation and pursuit of the regional policy. On 16 May, the trainees attended a meeting organised in the Department of Rural Development Programmes. Robert Krysztofiak, head of the Implementation and Technical Assistance Division, made the trainees familiar with the issues of activities implemented by the self-government under the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 and the Fisheries and Sea Operational Programme. He also showed them the distribution of competence between the national and regional administrations. The visitors from Romania learned how Wielkopolska implemented the community-led local development strategies developed and implemented by 29 local action groups. The special interest of the trainees was aroused by the issue of infrastructure projects, especially the construction and

modernisation of local roads. During the meeting, attention was drawn to the analogies resulting from the implementation of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 in both countries. The pool of funds allocated for the implementation of the programme by the European Union to Poland and Romania is nearly EUR 8.7 billion and EUR 8.1 billion, respectively.

Cooperation between Wielkopolska and the district of Sibiu started in 2016. Back then, the councillors of the region visited Romania, and in April 2017 the Romanian delegation chaired by Daniela Cimpean visited Poznań. At that time, our guests, in the presence of Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, met with representatives of the "Together for the Future" Local Action Group functioning in the Pleszewski District, visited the farms in the Kaliski District, and were welcomed by Mayor of Kalisz, Grzegorz Sapiński. In September 2017, the Sibiu representatives presented the culinary heritage of their region during the Tastes of the Regions fair held in Poznań. The mutual, frequent meetings resulted in signing a partnership agreement between Wielkopolska and the district of Sibiu. On 22 May 2018, the document was signed by Marshal of the Wielkopolskie Region Marek Woźniak and President of the district of Sibiu Daniela Cimpean. On that day, the "Romanian Day" was held in Poznań. The Marshal Office presented Romanian culture, organised a tasting of Romanian cuisine, as well as workshops of braiding Martisor – a traditional Romanian bracelet.

From 11 to 15 June 2018, Wielkopolska was visited by the delegation of 14 persons from the Ukrainian Kharkiv Oblast. The visit is a result of the initiative taken by the European Committee of the Regions within the ECR-Ukraine Working Group with the support of the "U-LEAD with Europe" programme. "U-LEAD" is an acronym derived from Ukraine Local Empowerment, Accountability and Development Programme. This programme is implemented by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), with the involvement of Poland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Estonia. The programme budget is EUR 30 million and assumes, inter alia, a series of bilateral meetings at the

FOREIGN COOPERATION

regional level aimed at sharing the experience of the European Union countries with the representatives of Ukrainian administration.



Photo by Igor Ksenicz

In Tłokinia Kościelna, commune of Opatówek, the members of the Ukrainian delegation met with Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Krzysztof Grabowski.

As part of this assumption as one of the pairs, the European Committee of the Regions selected Wielkopolska and Kharkiv Oblast. The visitors from Ukraine declared their particular interest in the creation of local development institutions, as well as mechanisms of cooperation among the regional self-government, business and investors. In addition, the trainees were also interested in implementing regional rural development programmes, using the participatory budget in communes and in the Wielkopolska experience as regards the preservation and development of cultural and historical heritage. The visit programme therefore focused mainly on the agricultural and rural development issues.

The trainees from the Kharkiv Oblast visited the office of the ARMA regional office in Poznań, where they became familiar with the functioning of producer groups. At the Marshal Office in Poznań, they obtained the information about the Wielkopolska Village Renewal 2013-2020 programme, which brings together nearly 2,000 villages and allows to implement a number of initiatives at the local level. They also learned what activities were implemented by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region within the framework of the RDP 2014-2020 and the Fisheries and Sea Operational Programme. Also, the institutions supporting agriculture and rural develop-

ment were presented: Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture and the Wielkopolska Agricultural Advisory Centre. The trainees had an opportunity to visit the Amazis Producer Group seated in Trzek, commune of Kostrzyn. The group, having 16 members, mainly focuses on producers of carrots, strawberries and horseradish. The forms of support for enterprise in rural areas were shown on an example of the commune of Stare Miasto in the Koniński District, where the trainees were welcomed by the commune head, Ryszard Nawrocki. In Stare Miasto, there was a workshop on preparing investment offers, conducted by the Association of Wielkopolska Communes and Districts.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at the Marshal Office organised for the trainees a visit to the seat of the Chencze and Janas Vegetable Producer Group in Łaszków, commune of Blizanów. The group brings together six highly specialised horticultural farms dealing mainly with the organic cultivation of greenhouse tomatoes and napa cabbage. The trainees also visited the farm of Romana Frączak in Dojutrów, commune of Blizanów, the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year 2011, one of the leading producers of milk in the Kaliski District. In Tłokinia Kościelna, commune of Opatówek, they met with Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Krzysztof Grabowski, and in Lisków with the firefighters from the local VFS and the members of the Farmers'Wives Association. The visitors from Ukraine devoted the last day of their stay to becoming familiar with the activity of the "Wielkopolska with Imagination" Local Action Group whose seat is located in Koźmin Wielkopolski. President of the LAG Sławomir Szyszka presented investments made in the area of the functioning of the group within the RDP 2007-2013 and RDP 2014-2020. The trainees were also shown a modern, automated cowshed in the farm of Mateusz Seraszek in Głuchów, commune of Pogorzała, as well as a thematic village in Rozdrażew, where the leading theme is the egg.



Photo by Paweł Kinal

President of the "Wielkopolska with Imagination" Association Sławomir Szyszka showed the members of the Ukrainian delegation, inter alia, a thematic village in Rozdrażew.

**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



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.