

# Our European Countryside

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**Krzysztof Grabowski**

*Deputy Marshal of Wielkopolska Region*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region has participated in the implementation of the Rural Development Programme for the years 2014-2020 for three years now. We have managed to contract for an approximate amount of PLN 365 million so far, which we have spent to enhance the comfort and quality of life of citizens in rural areas of the Wielkopolska Region. The EU aid reflects in new road sections, improved water and waste water management in the region, improved access to facilities of public utility, inter alia: market places where products are offered directly by farmers. The Programme also supports entrepreneurs operating in rural areas by providing them with real aid in starting or developing their activities. The European funds support the construction of non-commercial tourist and recreation infrastructure, stimulate citizens and bring them together in a number of joint initiatives. In August 2018, the Marshal Office in Poznań hosted a conference to summarize the current effects of the implementation of the RDP 2014-2020 in the Wielkopolska Region. I would like to use this edition of the bulletin to discuss what we have managed to do for our region during the last three years.

Investments in waste and waste water management are gradually progressing, for the financing of which I signed contracts with beneficiaries of the Programme in 2017. The amount of PLN 66.7 million which we had contracted for municipalities and public-utility enterprises allowed us to launch 55 tasks. Many of them have already been completed successfully, while citizens can use the newly constructed infrastructure. I encourage you to read an article on this topic.

In the current edition of the bulletin „Nasza euroPROWin-cja” (“Our euroPROVince”), we would like to present the new market place in Jaraczewo. This is the first ever facility of its kind in the Wielkopolska Region, financed from the RDP 2014-2020. Having read the magazine, you will also learn about the aid granted to the Poviats of Czarnków and Trzcianka for merging plots of land.

The Wielkopolska Region gets engaged in events which are aimed at promoting culture and culinary heritage of our region. In early August 2018, I participated in the Mountain Song Festival in Romania together with a delegation of the Region. This extraordinary feast of folk music was hosted by the District of Sibiu which we have been bound by an official partnership agreement since 22 May 2018. Folk customs of the Wielkopolska Region were presented by the Song and Dance Ensemble “Wielkopolanie” during the Festival. That year also marked the 10th anniversary of the Network of Culinary Heritage of the Wielkopolska Region. The pan-European project has allowed us to promote traditional cuisine of the region for a decade now, while supporting producers of healthy food manufactured from local ingredients. We also provide our patronage over events organized by Partners of the National Network of Rural Areas. The bulletin gives a report of the Parade of the Holy Sepulchre Guard in Stawiszyn and of the Festival of Milk of the Wielkopolska Region and of the Poviats of Kolsk, held in August of the current year.

I strongly encourage you to read our bulletin!

# IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP

## What has been achieved thanks to the RDP?

**Mr. Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, discusses the summary conference on the effects of the implementation of the Programme.**



**The Marshal Office hosted a conference to summarize the former implementation of the projects implemented by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region under the Rural Development Programme for the years 2014-2020. What are the most important conclusions from this meeting?**

— We have summarized what we have managed to do with the use of the European funds so far. The amount of PLN 365 million has already been granted to beneficiaries of the RDP 2014-2020 based on the contracts signed. This financial aid is of no small importance in the context of rural development in our Region. It is obvious that needs exceed available pools of funds many times, but I can say that this fact mobilizes applicants to implement well-thought and rational projects. The quality of the submitted applications is gradually improving as beneficiaries gather new experiences from the former programming perspective.

**Which calls for applications have been decided on so far and how much has been granted to beneficiaries under the implemented actions so far?**

— I am satisfied that a high amount of funds has been contracted from the RDP 2014-2020. The first contracts with beneficiaries were signed in 2016. We have contracted 67% of the funds available for our Region within a period of 2.5 years. This indicator will increase soon as in the name of the Self-Government of the Region I am going to sign contracts with those beneficiaries which have applied for financing investments in cultural facilities, investments including the shaping of public space, and the protection of monuments and traditional construction. We have approximately PLN 35 million to finance these projects.

Considering the co-financing of infrastructural projects, the call for applications for the construction or modernization of local roads was the first one to be decided on. Municipalities and poviats of the Wielkopolska Region have signed contracts for the approximate financing of PLN 106 million. These funds will allow us to build approximately 268 km new roads in smaller cities within our region. In total, 148 investments have been co-financed. Over two thirds have already been completed, with new roads having been put into use.

Beneficiaries of the RDP 2014-2020 in the Wielkopolska Region also perform 55 tasks related to water and waste water management. The value of the European co-financing for these tasks amounts to PLN 68 million. In November 2017, we contracted PLN 10.5 million for investments in market places and buildings for promoting local products. Respective contracts were signed by 15 municipalities of the Wielkopolska Region. On the other hand, the Poviats of Pleszew and the Poviats of Czarnków and Trzcianka implement projects concerning the merging of plots of land.

**It was emphasized several times during the conference that local action groups pay a vital role in the distribution of the European funds under the RDP 2014-2020. How can these groups be described?**

— The local action groups are an important link of the Rural Development Programme for the years 2014-2020. They form associations the operation of which is based on a partnership of three sectors. They link the public sector, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in several or even more than ten neighbouring municipalities. During the second half of 2015, their cooperation resulted in the preparation of strategies for community-led local development. These documents establish basic areas to be supported on the local level. In May

# IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP

2016, the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region transferred funds in the amount of PLN 320 million to 29 local action groups. The funds are distributed through calls for applications announced by the LAGs. The best projects are submitted for evaluation by the Marshal Office in Poznań and contracts are also signed there. A total of 1968 applications have been submitted and 788 contracts with the value of PLN 115 million have been signed so far. Beneficiaries comprise municipalities, associations, foundations, voluntary fire brigades and entrepreneurs. In addition to the implementation of the LAG strategies, they also implement cooperation and grant projects and own actions.

## **Will it be still possible to apply for funds from the Rural Development Programme for the years 2014-2020?**

— Calls for applications, conducted directly by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region, have already been completed. However, it is still possible to apply for funding through the local action groups which conduct calls for applications according to the schedules adopted in the strategy for community-led local development. They are available on the Internet portals of the groups. Their addresses are available, inter alia, on the Internet website: [www.dprow.umww.pl](http://www.dprow.umww.pl), folder: Local Action Groups. I strongly encourage to use the support offered by the LAGs. This is a convenient form for financing bottom-up initiatives which are so necessary and integrating small rural communities.

## **The topic of the National Network of Rural Areas has been raised in the summary presentation concerning the current implementation of the Programme. What benefits does the Self-Government of the Region derive from its involvement in the activities of the Network?**

— One of the tasks for the National Network of Rural Areas is to support the implementation of the RDP 2014-2020. That involves, inter alia, activities to inform the society about forms

of support under the Programme and effects of its implementation. The actions we carry out in the Regional Unit of the National Network of Rural Areas in the Wielkopolska Region involve, eg trainings for potential beneficiaries before the announced calls for applications. We also train employees of the local action groups so that they can acquire a more updated and specialist knowledge about the implementation of the strategy for community-led local development.

We use the National Network of Rural Areas to identify and disseminate best practices which may inspire future applications. This is supported, inter alia, by organizing study visits or publishing publications. In a broader context, the National Network of Rural Areas activates residents of rural areas, encourages farmers to cooperate, and contributes to the promotion of agricultural tourism and culinary heritage.

Over recent years, we have successfully promoted our region during national and international fairs and cultural affairs with the use of the European funds for supporting the Network. It is worth mentioning at least the Green Week Fair in Berlin, the Agrotourism Fair in Kielce, the Tastes of Regions and the Tour Salon in Poznań, the International Tourism Fair in Wrocław, or the Day of the Saint Martin in Brussels.

Every year, we also allocate funds to support the so called Partners of the National Network of Rural Areas. Each entity which would like to implement projects for residents of rural areas may become a partner of the National Network of Rural Areas. The granted co-financing is spent for organizing such actions as trainings, workshops, conferences, study visits, open-air events, competitions and publications. I invite you to visit the Internet website: [www.wielkopolskie.ksow.pl](http://www.wielkopolskie.ksow.pl), where you can find more details about the National Network of Rural Areas in the Wielkopolska Region.



Photo by Adrian Kapuściński

Lecturers during the summary conference concerning the current effects of the implementation of the RDP 2014-2020 and the Operational Programme Fisheries and Maritime Affairs in the Wielkopolska Region. From the left: Tomasz Szweluk - Director of the Department for Delegated Actions of the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture in Warszawa, Tomasz Tereszkiwicz - Director of the Department for Supporting Fisheries of the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture in Warszawa, Szymon Marciniak - Manager of the Unit for Local Development Strategies of the Department for Fisheries of the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation, Izabela Mroczek - Director of the Department for Rural Development Programme of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznań, Krzysztof Grabowski - Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Mariusz Chojnacki - Mayor of the Municipality of Ceków Kolonia, Przemysław Majchrzak - Mayor of the Municipality of Wągorzowiec, and Małgorzata Blok - President of the Association LAG Network of the Wielkopolska Region.

# IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP

## Beneficiaries of the RDP invest in public utilities

The amount of PLN 66.7 million represents the amount granted by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region to municipalities and public-utility enterprises for tasks related to water and waste water management from the RDP 2014-2020 in June 2017. Fifty-five investments of this kind are implemented in the territory of the Region. Beneficiaries have submitted 43 payment requests so far, whereby part of them refer to the settlement of the whole project. The above means that many facilities have already been put into use and are used by residents.



Source: Municipality Office of Brudzew

The festive opening of the reconstructed and extended waste treatment plant in Dąbrowa in the Municipality of Brudzew was attended, inter alia, by Mrs. Anna Majda, Member of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region. The investment has been implemented from the RDP 2014-2020.

Considering the improvement of living conditions in rural areas, one of the fundamental tasks to be considered involves the provision of residential buildings with running water and disposal of waste. The Rural Development Programme for the years 2014–2020 makes this task easier for municipalities and public-utility enterprises. Financial support is granted for investments carried out in localities outside of agglomerations defined in the National Programme for Urban Waste Water Treatment. That refers to small localities with no more than 5000 residents. Under the current programming perspective, facilitated access to co-financing was available to those applicants which had applied for co-financing tasks in localities where the no European funds from the RDP 2007-2013 had been used. That was aimed at reducing development disparities within our region and at directing public aid to the most disadvantaged localities in terms of water and waste water management.



Source: Municipality Office of Kolo

Construction works on the premises of the hydrophore plant in Stellutyszki in the Municipality of Kolo.

The funds contracted under sub-measure titled "Investments related to the creation, improvement or extension of all types of small infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy and energy saving" are for implementing both line projects, i.e. the construction of the network of

# IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP



Source: Municipality Office of Wierzbinek

Residents of Sadlno in the Municipality of Wierzbinek, Powiat of Konin, together with Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski and Mayor Paweł Szczepankiewicz during the festive putting into use of a section of the network of sanitary sewage system, constructed from the RDP 2014-2020.



Source: City Office of Wolsztyn

Home waste water treatment plants must not distort the aesthetics of the surrounding area. The photograph pictures the waste water treatment plant in the Municipality of Wolsztyn.

sanitary sewage system and of the water supply networks, and point-type actions. The latter type involves any types of works related to the construction, reconstruction or extension of water treatment plants, water intakes, and to the construction of waste water treatment plants, including the home plants. General costs, directly related to the preparation and implementation of the projects, are also refundable.

— *The Rural Development Programme for the years 2014-2020 makes it possible to construct or reconstruct 113.5 km of water supply networks, 77 km of the network of sanitary sewage system, 806 home waste water treatment plants, 23 water treatment plants, 9 water intakes and 9 waste water treatment plants in the Wielkopolska Region* - says Mr. Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.

Nearly two thirds of eligible costs of the tasks performed by beneficiaries of the Programme are financed from the EU funds under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The amount of financial aid amounts up to PLN 2 million per beneficiary during the implementation period of the Programme, whereby the eligible costs of one project must not exceed the amount of EUR 1 million.

The valid provisions state that the tasks must be completed within a period of 24 months from the date the beneficiary signs the contract with the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region. Therefore, it is planned to complete the last of the 55 co-financed investments by the middle of the following year.



Source: Municipality Office of Tarnówek

Mr. Jacek Mościcki, Mayor of the Municipality of Tarnówek, controls the construction of home waste water treatment plants in Tarnówek.



Source: Municipality Office of Brzeziny

The new water treatment plant in Piegonsko Wieś in the Municipality of Brzeziny has been constructed from the funds of the RDP 2014-2020.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP

# The market place should be a lively place

**In Jaraczewo, Poviát of Jarocin, a new municipal market place has been put into use, co-financed from the Rural Development Programme for the years 2014–2020. This is the first investment of its kind in the Wielkopolska Region under the current budget perspective. The festive opening of the facility took place on 8 August 2018.**



Source: City and Municipality Office of Jaraczewo

Mr. Dariusz Strugała, Mayor of Jaraczewo invited, inter alia: Mr. Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, and Mr. Andrzej Grzyb, Member of the European Parliament, to participate in the festive opening of the market.

— *The European funds from the RDP 2014–2020 are spent effectively. The market place put into use in Jaraczewo, constructed from the granted co-financing, is a modern facility which may become a symbol of the locality. However, it will contribute above all to the promotion of local products, while allowing farmers to sell them directly in a convenient way* — says Mrs. Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.

— *The new market place is open from 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays and from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. on Saturdays. I cordially invite both sellers and buyers. I am convinced that this will be a lively place* – adds Mr. Dariusz Strugała, Mayor of Jaraczewo.

In November 2017, 15 contracts on investments in market places and buildings for the promotion of local products were signed in the seat of the Marshal Office in Poznań. The amount of PLN 10.5 million from the Rural Development Programme for the years 2014-2020 were distri-

buted between municipalities of our Region. The municipalities comprise: Zakrzewo, Łobżenica, Białośliwie, Wieleń, Wągrowiec, Chrzypsko Wielkie, Szamotuły, Oborniki, Zbąszyń, Pызdry, Dąbie, Jaraczewo, Grodziec, Stawiszyn, and Dobra.

One of the preconditions which must be fulfilled to receive the co-financing was to guarantee that not less than 30% of the retail space of the market place would be dedicated to farmers selling agri-food products. Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that the market places constructed from the funds of the RDP 2014-2020 should be hardened, lighted, connected to the water supply and sanitary sewage and electricity networks. Not less than a half of the retail space should be covered, be equipped with parking spaces and sanitary and hygiene equipment and operate under the business name "My Market Place". In short, they must fulfil the highest standards.

## In the Municipality of Połajewo, plots of land will be merged

**On 30 August 2018, the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region signed a contract with the Poviats of Czarnków and Trzcianka. The contract covers the co-financing of PLN 5.8 million from the Rural Development Programme for the years 2014-2020 for the poviats to merge plots of land in Przybychowo, Municipality of Połajewo. This investment is aimed at improving the surface structure of agricultural holdings, including the adjustment of the borders of the premises to the system of roads and drainage devices. Merging works are to be completed by 2023.**



Photo by Adrian Kapusiński

From the left: Mr. Jacek Klimaszewski, Mayor of the Poviats of Czarnków and Trzcianka, Mr. Bogdan Tomaszewski, Chairman of the Poviats Council, Mr. Tadeusz Teterus, Mayor of the Poviats, Mr. Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Region, Mrs. Ewa Dymek, Treasurer of the Poviats, and Mrs. Izabela Mroczek, Director of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region.

The ceremony of signing the contract took place in the Poviats Mayor Office in Czarnków. Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski signed the contract in the name of the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region, while the beneficiary of the European funds was represented by Mr. Tadeusz Teterus, Mayor of the Poviats of Czarnków and Trzcianka, Mr. Jacek Klimaszewski, Vice-Mayor of the Poviats, and Mrs. Ewa Dymek, Treasurer of the Poviats. The ceremony of signing the document was also attended by Mr. Bogdan Tomaszewski, Chairman of the Poviats Council, Mr. Stanisław Pochyluk, Mayor of Połajewo, Mr. Ryszard Ratajczak, Mayor of Przybychowo, and Mrs. Izabela Mroczek, Director of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office in Poznań.

— *The co-financing for rural development from the budget of the European Union has increased farmers' interest in merging works. I am satisfied that we have signed a contract which will create new space conditions to make the operation of agricultural holdings easier for residents – said Mr. Tadeusz Teterus, Mayor of the Poviats of Czarnków and Trzcianka.*

The conducted procedure of merging plots of land brings real benefits for farmers. The merging procedure is fully financed

from public funds. The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development provides 63.63% of the amount allocated to the task, with the remaining part financed from the state budget. The investment will establish new borders of the plots of land, the number of which will decrease and the surface of which will increase. Once merged, the plots of land will be connected to public roads, and it will also become possible to construct or reconstruct access roads to agricultural and forest plots of land. The surface to be merged amounts to 886.4 ha. The land is owned by 52 agricultural holdings.

— *The Wielkopolska Region does not face such great difficulties related to the fragmentation of agricultural land as, eg the Western regions of the country. However, there are places which really require action. Under the former programming perspective, the merging procedure was successfully completed by the Poviats of Pleszew and by the Poviats of Kalisz. Under the RDP 2014-2020, the first contract for this task was signed again by the Poviats of Pleszew, while the Poviats of Czarnków and Trzcianka successfully completed the application procedure for funding under the second call for applications announced by the Board of the Wielkopolska Region - said Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.*

## FOREIGN COOPERATION

# We are strengthening our partnership cooperation with the Romanian City of Sibiu

**From 2 until 6 August 2018, a delegation of the Wielkopolska Region participated in the International Mountain Song Festival. The annual event is organized by the Romanian District of Sibiu, which became a partnership region of the Wielkopolska Region in May 2018. The trip to Romania was an opportunity to present the cultural heritage of our region, its traditional cuisine, and to exchange knowledge and experiences between the local action groups.**



Source: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

During the "Evening of the Wielkopolska Region" in Romania, the Song and Dance Ensemble "Wielkopolanie" presented its rich repertoire. The photograph pictures members of the ensemble accompanied by, inter alia: Mrs. Daniela Cimpean, Chairman of the District of Sibiu, Mr. Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, and Mr. Mikołaj Grzyb, Chairman of the Commission for Regional Development Strategy and International Cooperation of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region.

When Mr. Marek Woźniak, Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, signed an agreement on partnership cooperation between the Wielkopolska Region and the District of Sibiu in Romania on 22 May 2018, both parties expressed their willingness to initiate an intensive cooperation. Visible effects of the intent did not take long to develop. Having been invited by Mrs. Daniela Cimpean, Chairman of the District of Sibiu, the Wielkopolska Region participated in one of the most important folk festivals in Romania called "CÂNTECELE MUNTILOR" ("Mountain Song Festival") as early as the beginning of August. The official delegation was headed by Mr. Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Region. The delegation was also joined by Mr. Mikołaj Grzyb, Chairman of the Commission for Regional Development Strategy and International Cooperation of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region, Mrs. Justyna Urbaniak, Mayor of Stawiszyn, Mr. Kazimierz Chudy, Mayor of Pakosław, members of the Network of Culinary Heritage of the Wielkopolska Region

and members of the Local Action Group "Gate to Wielkopolska", for whom the trip was an excellent opportunity to build cooperation with their Romanian counterparts.

During the Festival, the Song and Dance Ensemble "Wielkopolanie" presented a rich and diverse repertoire. Artists participated in, inter alia: the parade of ensembles, dance workshops and the gala concert at the main stage, and won hearts of the public by singing the Romanian song titled "Hora de munte". The event was international in nature, not only due to the presence of the Ensemble "Wielkopolan". Apart from our representatives, the Festival attracted music ensembles from the United States, Japan or Serbia.

The Festival was closed by the "Evening of Wielkopolska", prepared by the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznań in cooperation with the Folk Ensemble "Wielkopolanie", the Local Action Group "Gate to Wielkopolska" and members of the Network of the Culinary Heritage of the

# FOREIGN COOPERATION



Source: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

The Ensemble "Wielkopolanie" performed, inter alia, on the main market square of the City of Sibiu and were greatly applauded by the public. The photograph pictures members of the ensemble accompanied by Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, Mr. Mikołaj Grzyb, Chairman of the Commission for Regional Development Strategy and International Cooperation of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region, Mrs. Justyna Urbaniak, Mayor of Stawiszyn, and Mr. Kazimierz Chudy, Mayor of the Municipality of Pakosław.

Wielkopolska Region: the Agricultural Holding of Marek Grądzki from the Municipality of Lwówek, Powiat of Nowy Tomyśl, the Restaurant "P jak Pysznie" represented by Chief Cook Paweł Powroźnik during the trip to Romania, and the Agricultural and Vegetable Holding of Szymon Bednarek from Nowe Obrzyska, Municipality of Kościan.

— *The evening was organized in a wedding-type formula as Wielkopolska and Sibiu were still during their honeymoon period. On 22 May, we signed an agreement on partnership cooperation and we hope that we will have a long and good future ahead of us, which will bring benefits for both regions. I am convinced that the partnership with Sibiu will allow us to make the Poles more aware of your beautiful country and to encourage the Romanian to visit the Wielkopolska Region* — said, Mr. Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, during the ceremony in Romania.

As the old-Polish tradition requires, guests were invited with bread and salt during the event. The group of nearly 200 participants in the Evening comprised the authorities of the District of Sibiu, headed by Chairman Daniela Cimpian, which had attended the delegation of the Wielkopolska Region during the major part of their stay in Romania despite numerous duties. The event was also attended by the authorities of the City of Sibiu and of other cities and municipalities of our partnership region, authorities of the Festival, Members of the Romanian Parliament, local producers and representatives of the social and political community. Foreign guests comprised the mentioned groups from the United States, Japan or Serbia.

For all guests, the Ensemble "Wielkopolanie" prepared an exhibition of traditional folk instruments of the Wielkopolska Region, eg mazanki, sierszenki, bagpipes and wedding

bagpipes, which could be listened to, and the characteristic sounds of which entertained guests during the Evening. The guests could also learn dances and plays of the Wielkopolska Region, eg "Chusteczkowe", "Ceglorz", "Szmyt", or "Brzuchaty". The artistic part was accompanied by the tasting of traditional dishes of the Wielkopolska Region, prepared by Chief Cook Paweł Powroźnik of the Restaurant "P jak Pysznie". To promote local products, the Association "Gate to Wielkopolska" and representatives of the Network of Culinary Heritage prepared a table of traditional sliced meat, gherkins, sour cabbage, lard, pickled cornelian cherries, cheeses, pickled mushrooms, bread and cakes. Local liqueurs, beer and cider and natural juices were also on offer.

Irrespective of the highly successful and spectacular promotional value, the visit comprised several specialist meetings. The delegation of the Wielkopolska Region held a meeting, inter alia, with representatives of the municipalities of the District of Sibiu to discuss further opportunities for partnership cooperation. Representatives of the Wielkopolska Region also visited local agricultural holdings and agri-food processing plants. The group of the Romanian Local Action Groups put forward first ideas to implement international cooperation projects between the LAGs in order to mutually exchange experiences and activate local communities.

The trip to Romania was financed from the European funds under the National Network of Rural Areas. The project corresponds to the implementation of the Operational Programme National Network of Rural Areas for the years 2018-2019 in the Wielkopolska Region in 2018.



Photo by K. Kumicka

The trip to Romania was an opportunity to discuss potential forms of cooperation between the Local Action Groups of the District of Sibiu and of the Wielkopolska Region.

## CULINARY HERITAGE

# The Network of Culinary Heritage of the Wielkopolska Region celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday



In 2008, the Wielkopolska Region joined the European Network of Culinary Heritage. The project brings together 45 regions of 13 countries. The Network of the Wielkopolska Region has 130 members now. The anniversary was celebrated on 17 August 2018 at the Centre of Forest Culture in Gołuchowo, during the festive gala of the 18th edition of the Competition "Our culinary heritage - Tastes of Regions". Mr. Niclas Fjellström, European Network Coordinator, attended the event as special guest.



Photo by Adrian Kapuściński

The festive ceremony of awarding certificates of the Network of Culinary Heritage in the "Delicja" Restaurant in Poznań in July 2017.

— The Network of Culinary Heritage brings material benefits for our Region. Exquisite cuisine and natural products, offered by our manufacturers, enable us to stand out and develop the potential of regional tourism. We have been recognizing that for 10 years now. This period has brought numerous events enabling us to promote our producers and restaurants. In 2017, the Wielkopolska Region hosted the European Forum of the Network of Culinary Heritage, which is the best confirmation that we act decisively, and our actions are noticed in Europe – says Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

The overriding objective of the European Network of Culinary Heritage is to promote regional food, based on local and traditional products. – Our idea to promote the culinary

heritage comes down to a common logo (a white cook cap on the blue background), the participation criteria for enterprises, common marketing and joint actions on the regional and European level – said Mr. Niclas Fjellström, European Network Coordinator. The project is to make it easier for consumers and tourists to find places where regional and traditional food is produced and sold. That brings benefits above all for members of the Network. Being engaged in a joint project, they may count on that their brand will become more recognizable and their products will become more in demand. The membership brings benefits in terms of, inter alia, promotional actions coordinated on the regional and European region, the scope of which clearly exceeds individual marketing capacities of individual members of the Network.

## CULINARY HERITAGE

In a broader context, the role of the Network comes down to the promotion of a healthy life style and traditional tastes, hidden in regional specialities. The essence of the food produced based on regional traditions is the fact that no artificial food colourings and preservatives are used in the production process. The whole production process is green and environmentally friendly. Project coordinators pursue the objective of disseminating correct food patterns by publishing recipes based on old and well-established prescriptions of members of the Network of Culinary Heritage on the Internet website: <http://culinary-heritage.com>.

In addition to the right to use a common logo, each enterprise being a member of the Network may count on promotional actions taken by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region. One of the promotion forms is to add an enterprise to the list of members of the Network of Culinary Heritage of the Wielkopolska Region, made available on the Internet website: <http://sdk-wlkp.pl>, and to add it to the Internet database of members of the European Network of Culinary Heritage on the Internet website: <http://culinary-heritage.com>. It can be concluded that this is a window to the world for small companies. Their offer becomes available for a wide group of recipients across the whole Europe.

Events organized by the Self-Government of the Region and attracting representatives of the regional authorities play an important role in the promotion of companies being members of the Network. The promotion of the regional culinary heritage is supported by several agricultural events or those related to rural areas both in Poland and in foreign countries. During the 10-year long history of the Network of Culinary Heritage of the Wielkopolska Region, its members have participated in such events as the Green Week Fair in Berlin, the Natura Food Fair in Łódź, the Slow Food Fair in Stuttgart, the Tuttofood Fair in Milan, the Tastes of Regions in Poznań, presidential and regional harvest festivals, etc. Furthermore, the Marshal Office in Poznań issues a publication presenting all members of the Network on a yearly basis.

— *Recently, we have taken intensive actions to place products offered by members of the Network of Culinary Heritage in large retail chains. Our intent is to ensure that they will be shown in a way which will attract attention of customers searching for healthy and traditional tastes* – says Mr. Mateusz Sieradzki, Coordinator of the Network of the Wielkopolska Region.

The ceremony of the 10th anniversary of the Network of Culinary Heritage of the Wielkopolska Region was organized by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region at the Centre of Forest Culture in Gołuchowo. During the event, laureates of the regional stage of the Competition “Our culinary heritage – Tastes of Regions” were awarded prizes. The all-Poland final stage of the Competition takes

place during the “Tastes of Regions” Fair in Poznań, which is planned to take place during the last weekend of September of the current year. Winners of the first prizes during the gala in Gołuchowo comprise: the Group for Rybno Wielkie for “Lard with baked meat”, Katarzyna Kaptur for “Fish balls with apple vinegar”, the Cooperative Union of Groups of Agricultural Producers “LAZUR” for “Blue Lazur” cheese, Noteckie Miody for “Acacia honey”, Grażyna Szłapka for “Maciek” cheese, Dorota Kozak for “Spring honey”, the Group of Agricultural Producers “Chrobry” for potato crême soup “Blind Fish”, the company Semco for “Primrose oil”, the Association “Bee Farm” for “Honey pound cake from Katarzynowo”, Martyna Szelağ and Agnieszka Wiśniewska for “Juices of Grandpa Franek”, Szczepan Banasiak for pear liqueur, and the Association of Rural Housewives Lutogniew for cabbage with meat and rice.

The ceremony was accompanied by the presentation of regional and traditional products under the logo of the Network of Culinary Heritage of the Wielkopolska Region. More than ten members of the Network prepared their products for tasting, including cheeses, honey and sliced meat. Participants in the meeting could also learn the handicrafts exhibited by the Local Action Groups. The meeting was closed by the performance of the Ensemble “Stawiszynianki” and of the Cabaret Ensemble “EWG” at the gala stage.



The Network of Culinary Heritage of the Wielkopolska Region promotes regional food among the youngest. On 26 July 2018, at the Pascha Centre in Przedborów, Municipality of Mikstat, children prepared stained-glass windows with the logo of the Network and baked bread and rolls.

Source: Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

# NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK PARTNERS

## Stawiszyn cares about the tradition

**On 19 August 2018, Stawiszyn, Poviát of Kalisz, hosted the Parade of the Holy Sepulchre Guard in Stawiszyn. This unusual ceremony, organized by the City and Municipality of Stawiszyn, Partner of the National Network of Rural Areas, attracted five guard units from: Dobrzec, Iwanowice, Chocz, Wielowieś and Stawiszyn. This event was organized to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of the region. The parade was accompanied by competitions in arts and literature for children and school pupils.**



Participants in the Parade of the Holy Sepulchre Guard in Stawiszyn.

— *I am aware of how important it is to maintain traditions; therefore, my intent is to support any related initiatives. Last year, the Turks of Stawiszyn received new dresses, which made their participation in the all-Poland parade in the Sub-Carpathian Region more attractive. This is the place where the idea to organize the Parade of the Holy Sepulchre Guard in Stawiszyn was born. The support of the National Network of Rural Areas made it possible to implement this idea already this year - said Mrs. Justyna Urbaniak, Mayor of Stawiszyn.*

Although the tradition to keep guard over the Holy Sepulchre is known across the whole country, there are not many places where guard is kept by the so called Turks. These are volunteer guards, but they are dressed in multi-coloured uniforms and are armed with swords or halberds. The origin of their name may be explained in multiple ways, however the version prevailing in the Wielkopolska Region says that the history of the Turks goes back to the times of the Battle of Vienna. Troops headed by John III Sobieski gathered a lot of loot, including uniforms and flags. On their way back home, they are said to have entered a church on Good Friday. Having noticed that there was nobody keeping guard over the Holy Sepulchre, they put on Turkish uniforms and kept guard.

Nowadays, the Turks keep guard over the Holy Sepulchre from after the evening service on Good Friday until the Easter resurrection. They change every half an hour. They keep guard until Sunday morning. This is the time when the most spectacular part of their service takes place: when the

priest announces good news about the Resurrection, and the Turks, as if struck by a thunderbolt, fall onto the floor at a time. This marks the beginning of the festive procession.

— *Groups of the Turks are rare nowadays. Therefore, the idea of the organizers of the parade in Stawiszyn is all the more significant to make the local community familiar with this extraordinary tradition and to promote guards which take up such activity. For many years, similar parades have been organized in the Sub-Carpathian Region successfully, while we have been able to admire them in our Region for several years - said Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, who provided honourable patronage over the event.*

The Parade of the Holy Sepulchre Guard in Stawiszyn was attended by groups from Dobrzec in the vicinity of Kalisz, Iwanowice, Municipality of Szczytniki in the Poviát of Kalisz, Chocz (Poviát of Pleszew), Wielowieś in the Municipality of Sieroszewice, Poviát of Strowiec, and by a group of the hosting Stawiszyn.

The ceremony was also an opportunity to decide on the artistic competition "The Holy Sepulchre Guard in my eyes" and on the literature competition "The Holy Sepulchre Guard – a tradition which is still alive", for which pupils of local schools had submitted their works. Authors of the best works received diplomas and material prizes. The project called "The Parade of the Holy Sepulchre Guard – a way to promote cultural heritage of Stawiszyn" received co-financing from the National Network of Rural Areas under competition No. 2/2018 for Partners of the National Network of Rural Areas for 2018.

# The dairy industry in the Wielkopolska Region is in good shape

**During the Festival of Milk of the Wielkopolska Region and of the Poviats of Kolsk and Kalisz which took place on 25 August 2018 in Koło, dairies operating in our region showed off their products. The event co-financed from the National Network of Rural Areas was organized by Partners of the National Network of Rural Areas: the District Cooperative Dairy in Koło and the Poviats of Kolsk and Kalisz. During the festival, participants could learn more about the possibilities to receive funds for projects implemented in rural areas. The open-air event was organized in parallel to a conference on the perspectives of the dairy industry in the Wielkopolska Region.**

The exhibitors which presented their product offer comprised seven enterprises of the dairy industry: the District Cooperative Dairy in Śrem, the Cooperative Dairy in Września, the District Cooperative Dairy in Jarocin, the Cooperative Dairy of Members in Strzałków, the Dairy TOP TOMYŚL in Nowy Tomyśl, the Cooperative Union of Groups of Agricultural Producers "LAZUR" and the District Cooperative Dairy in Koło. Guests visiting fair stands could taste milk products and take part in games, competitions and plays and watch the traditional manufacturing process of butter.

— *The current situation on the world markets exercises a favourable impact on the situation of the whole dairy industry. Persisting high milk product prices allow to generate such profits which stabilize the economic situation and provide funds to launch further modernization projects. In 2019, the District Cooperative Dairy in Koło will take over the plant "Mona" in Konin. The decision to merge the dairy of Konin with our company is of crucial importance for the development of our plant* – said Mr. Czesław Cieślak, President of the District Cooperative Dairy in Koło and Chairman of the Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region.

During the event, promotional stands were also prepared by representatives of multiple institutions operating in the Poviats of Kolsk and Kalisz, including the Guard, the Police, medical service, the Labour Office, educational institutions and authorities of the forest district. Residents of the poviats could learn the development of agriculture and rural development in our region, including the possibilities to receive funds for the implementation of projects under the Rural Development Programme for the years 2014-2020. During this year's edition of the Energy Days of the Wielkopolska Region, the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region promoted environmentally friendly attitudes under the slogan "Renewable energy sources and other ways to reduce low emissions".

The open-air part of the ceremony was preceded by a conference devoted to the dairy industry in the Wielkopolska Region and perspectives for its further development. The conference was attended by, inter alia, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, Mrs. Anna Majda, Member of the Parliament of the Region, Mr. Waldemar Broś, President of the National Union of Cooperative Dairies, and Mr. Czesław Cieślak, host of the meeting and President of the District Cooperative Dairy in Koło.

The Festival of Milk of the Wielkopolska Region and of the Poviats of Kolsk and Kalisz was co-financed from the National Network of Rural Areas under competition No. 2/2018 for Partners of the National Network of Rural Areas. This task is part of the Operational Programme of the National Network of Rural Areas for the years 2018-2019 in the Wielkopolska Region in 2018.

We encourage you to register in the database of Partners of the National Network of Rural Areas.

The application form is available on the Internet website: [www.ksow.pl](http://www.ksow.pl).

Any entity engaged in rural development, including natural persons, is invited to become Partner of the National Network of Rural Areas.

By registering in the database, you will be able to, inter alia, apply for co-financing tasks under competitions for Partners of the National Network of Rural Areas, to be announced by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The call for applications for 2019 will be announced soon.

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