

# Our European Countryside

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**Krzysztof Grabowski**

*Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region*

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

in 2019, the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region grants substantial support to beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020, investing in infrastructure of villages in Wielkopolska. In spring this year, I signed agreements with the value of PLN 12 million, pertaining to investments in objects performing cultural functions and engaged in shaping the public space. In May 2019, the second call for applications took place in the current EU budgetary perspective within the scope of construction or modernization of local roads. We allocate PLN 30 million for this purpose. 29 municipalities and 3 districts will benefit from the support and agreements in this matter shall be signed by me already in October. From 11 to 25 October 2019 we conduct the second call for applications regarding water and sewage management. The pool of resources for this purpose comes to PLN 41 million. Thus, we will engage more than PLN 80 million in total for the said tasks. I am convinced that these resources will be utilized properly and will help to satisfy needs of local communities.

In this issue of the bulletin "Our European Countryside" we write about bonuses obtained by 12 local action groups, functioning in our Region. Additional PLN 9.5 million, granted in connection with high contracting of resources for beneficiaries, shall be allocated for co-financing operations

related to development of entrepreneurship i.e. starting up or developing an economic activity, creation or development of local processing incubators, support of cooperation between entities carrying out an economic activity and development of markets of local products or services.

Turn of the summer is the time when we thank farmers for hardship of their farm work and harvest. We had an opportunity to do this within rural, municipal, district, regional and national events. We present accounts from the Archdiocese and Regional Harvest Festival of Wielkopolska held on 25 August 2019 in Siedlec and the President Harvest Festival in Spała, organized from 14 to 15 September 2019.

I also encourage you to become familiarized with the text presenting how partners of the National Rural Network raise competences of residents by organizing study trips oriented towards exchange of knowledge and experiences. In the bulletin, we also summarize the 9th edition of the competition "Wielkopolska Village Grows Beautiful", addressed to village council offices and the 19th final of the regional competition organized in Powiedz "Our Culinary Heritage - Flavours of Regions" attended, among others, by Country Housewives' Clubs.

I warmly invite you to read our bulletin.

# Progress thanks to EU funds

We talk with Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski about the progress in execution of infrastructural investments co-financed from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.



Zródło: Grodziec Municipality Office

Solemn opening of the reconstructed open-air market in Grodziec in Konin District. The investment has been co-financed in the amount of PLN 900 thousand from resources of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

**In May 2019, municipalities and districts from Wielkopolska applied for funds for “Construction or modernization of local roads” within the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. What was the interest in the second call for applications for this type of investments?**

— Pursuant to expectations, the interest among applicants was very high. The Self-Government of the Region

received 124 applications with the total value of over PLN 111 million. This is nearly three times more than the available limit of funds. In this year's call, we allocate PLN 30 million for improvement of the condition of local roads in Wielkopolska. Funds for this purpose come from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020, within the Measure “Basic services and renewal of villages on rural

areas". Municipalities, districts or their unions will obtain the money.

In June 2019, the Board of the Wielkopolska Region adopted a resolution on announcement of the list informing about the sequence in which the aid is vested in particular applicants. We have already finalized works connected with an assessment of applications. Agreements on the award of the aid shall be signed by me with beneficiaries in October 2019. Just like in the past, these documents that are extremely important to Wielkopolska village shall be signed by us in registered offices of self-governments which will obtain the financial support. This will allow residents who use sections of built or reconstructed roads on a daily basis to be present.

### **Can beneficiaries count on other calls for applications connected with infrastructural tasks this year?**

— In the second half of September 2019, the Board of the Wielkopolska Region announced the second call for applications for the award of aid for operations of the water and sewage management type. From 11 to 25 October 2019, municipalities and companies whose sole shareholders are territorial self-government units can apply for co-financing for tasks related to water supply or sewage discharge and treatment. The pool of resources for this purpose comes to almost PLN 41 million. Announcement of another call for applications was possible thanks to increasing the limit of resources by PLN 27 million, allocated for water and sewage management for the Wielkopolska Region. This pool was increased by savings arisen from execution of investments by beneficiaries that obtained resources within the first call. At present, also consultations with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development are pending within the scope of next shifts of the resources. Thus, there is a chance that we will obtain additional PLN 15 million for this purpose. Thus, substantial funds will be at disposal, which will certainly delight local self-governments which express very large interest in execution of investments in water and sewage management.

### **How does the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 contribute to improvement of living conditions in villages in the context of big investment tasks?**

— Its role for the sustainable development of our region is considerable. It is sufficient to mention that we have signed

so far agreements with the value of PLN 257 million for tasks connected with construction or modernization of local roads or open-air markets, water and sewage management, investments in objects of cultural nature and similar initiatives. These resources enable implementation of hundreds of important investment projects. Based on an example of the investments in municipal management one can indicate material effects of the co-financed tasks. Thanks to the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020, already 113.5 km of water pipe networks were built or reconstructed in Wielkopolska, 77 km of sanitary sewage system networks and also 806 onsite wastewater treatment systems. Also 23 new water treatment stations were created, 9 water intakes and 9 sewage treatment plants of considerable range.

While benefiting from EU funds, we try to support direct trade in agricultural products. Open-air markets created in our region or modernized serve this purpose. In this perspective, there were engaged resources which enable execution of investments in 15 localities.

A considerable pool of resources have been handed over by us to beneficiaries investing in rural common rooms, rural community centres, protection of historic monuments and shaping of the public space in localities. The granted funds will enable construction of 17 common rooms and community centres, reconstruction of 40 objects of this type and equipping of 13 buildings as well as renewal or improvement of the condition of 16 historic building objects in our Region.

### **Beneficiaries also benefit from support allocated for local development within the so-called LEADER approach. Does this programme provide for co-financing of infrastructural projects?**

— It depends on the scope of support determined by the local action group in the local development strategy conducted by society. The vast majority of the strategy makes it possible to apply for funds for infrastructural purposes. Inter alia, municipalities, districts, foundations, associations and parishes benefit from the funds allocated for this purpose and the hitherto prevailing support of the Self-Government of the Region amounts to as much as PLN 42 million. This money is allocated e.g. for development of recreational, tourist and cultural infrastructure i.e. for construction and development of playgrounds, external body-building gyms, multi-functional pitches or pedestrian and bicycle paths.

## Bonuses for active Local Action Groups

**12 Local Action Groups which function in the Wielkopolska Region have received additional resources for implementation of the local development strategy, conducted by society within the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020. The Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region handed over PLN 9 million 550 thousand in total for this purpose, intended for development of entrepreneurship on rural areas.**



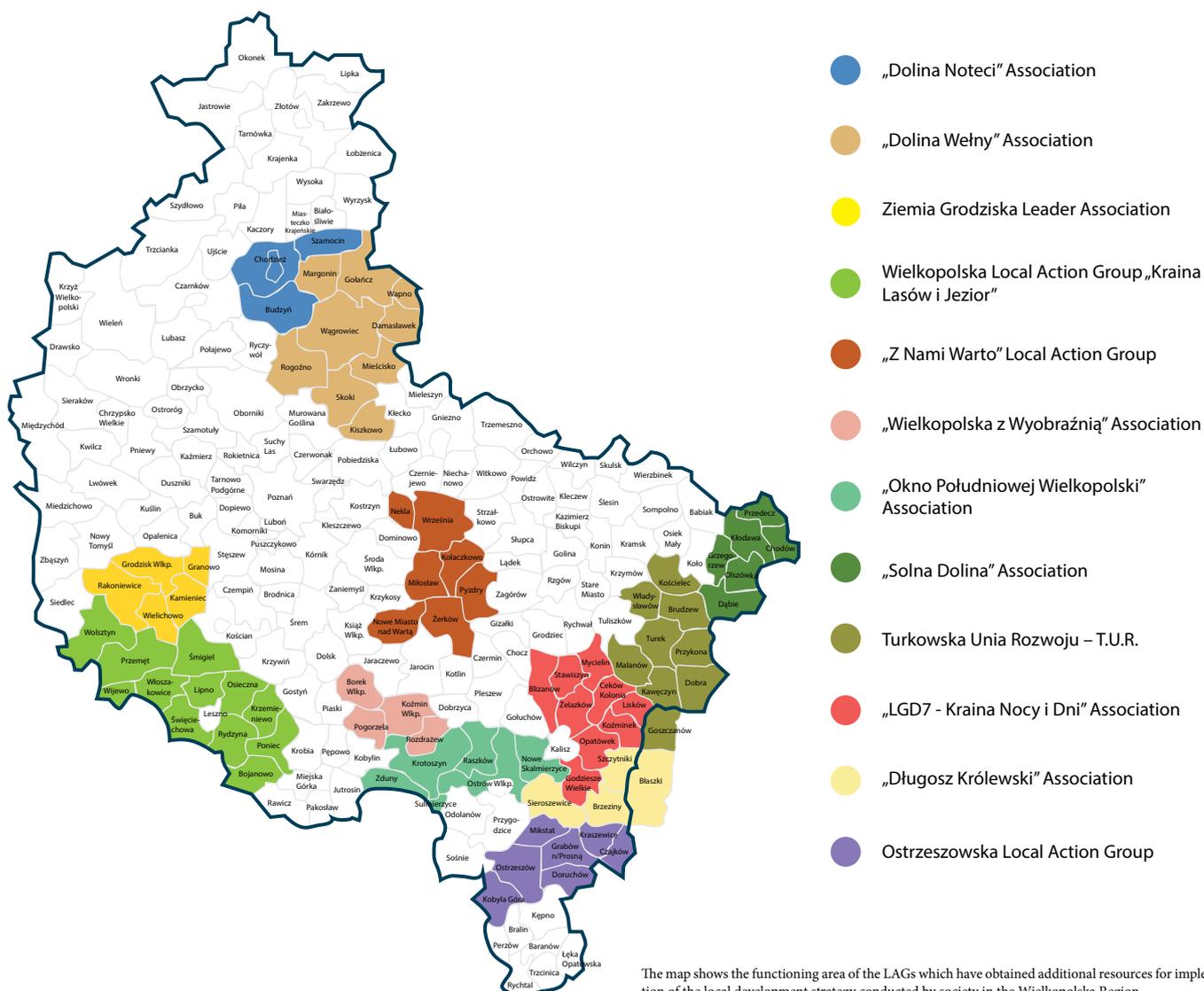
Photo: Marta Jachimowska

The "Dolina Welny" Association, which functions in the territory of the Wągrowiec District and Municipalities of Margonin (Chodzież District), Rogoźno (Oborniki District) and Kiszkowo (Gniezno District), received additional PLN 990 thousand for implementation of the local development strategy conducted by society. On the left: Izabela Mroczek - Director of the Rural Development Programme Department of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski, President of the "Dolina Welny" Association Janusz Woźniak and Treasurer of the Association Danuta Gomulec.

Within the long-term strategies, local action groups announce and settle calls for applications of diverse subject matter. Applicants can apply for resources for setting up an enterprise or for its development but also for execution of investments of non-commercial nature e.g. construction of common rooms, pitches, playgrounds and external body-building gyms. By the end of 2018, the Local Action Groups were obliged to achieve the so-called first milestone i.e. to realize particular indicators. These were measured by, inter alia, the value of contracted resources within agreements signed with beneficiaries that have filed their applications in LAG offices or by effectiveness of consulting services conducted. Also quantitative indicators were taken into consideration such as the number of created jobs or constructed infrastructure. The conducted analyses show that thanks to the funds coming from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020, 800 new jobs have been created so far in Wielkopolska. This arises from PLN 24 million

granted to beneficiaries for commencement of economic activities. Thanks to engagement of the EU funds, the existing employment rate in companies could be maintained too i.e. companies which have acquired money for development of their activities.

A decision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the possibility of applying for additional resources for implementation of the strategy by the LAGs which realized the envisaged indicators to the greatest extent was a significant effect of the summary of the "first milestone". 12 groups from Wielkopolska could benefit from such an opportunity and all of them applied for increasing the budget for their beneficiaries. In June 2019, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski signed annexes to framework agreements with local action groups from the territory of the Wielkopolska Region on the increase in the pool of resources allocated for implementation of the local development strategy conducted by society.



The increased budget was received by the following local action groups: "Długosz Królewski" Association with its registered office in Brzeziny in the Kalisz District; "Dolina Noteci" Association with its registered office in Chodzież, "Dolina Wełny" Association with its registered office in Wągrowiec, Wielkopolska Local Action Group "Kraina Lasów i Jezior" with its registered office in Leszno, "LGD7 – Kraina Nocy i Dni" Association with its registered office in Opatówek in the Kalisz District, "Okno Południowej Wielkopolski" Association with its registered office in Krotoszyn, Ostrzeszów Local Action Group with its registered office in Ostrzeszów, "Solna Dolina" Association with its registered office in Kłodawa in the Koło District, Turkowska Unia Rozwoju – T.U.R. with its registered office in Krwony in the Turek District, "Wielkopolska z Wyobraźnią" Association with its registered office in Koźmin Wielkopolski, "Z Nami Warto" Local Action Group with its registered office in Września and Ziemia Grodziska Leader Association with its registered office in Grodzisk Wielkopolski.

Pursuant to recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the LAGs will allocate the additionally granted resources for co-financing operations connected with development of entrepreneurship i.e. starting up or development of an economic activity, creation or development of local processing incubators, support of cooperation between entities carrying out economic activities and development of markets of local products or services.

So far the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region has contracted the aid in the amount of PLN 109 million for activities connected with implementation of the local development strategy conducted by society.

The local action groups inform about the planned calls for applications on an ongoing basis at their websites which indicate time limits of the calls, regulations of contests as well as budget allocated for beneficiaries.

# Partners of National Rural Network exchange experiences

**A study trip is one of the forms of implementation of projects most willingly chosen by partners of the National Rural Network in 2019. In this issue of the bulletin, we look closer at initiatives of four partners of the National Rural Network which through the study trip tried to increase competences of residents of villages, create a possibility of exchanging experiences and inspire participants to more resilient action in their small homelands.**



Source: The Town and Municipality of Stawiszyn

Residents of the Wisła Municipality from the Śląsk Region visited the Stawiszyn Municipality (Kalisz District) to jointly talk about promotion of the local product. The photograph shows the participants of the visit in front of the Community Centre building in Zbiersk.

It has always been known that knowledge is gained most effectively in such a form which at the same time is attractive, diverse and engages a lot of senses to work. It is certainly an argument supporting effectiveness of the study trip as a means for achievement of the objectives envisaged by partners of the National Rural Network. Participants of such trips can, within short time, see inspiring places, hear stories of people full of passion, feel and taste unknown so far or forgotten smells and flavours, closed in local products. Participation in this type of projects also gives rise to the added value in the form of social integration which is often a condition but also a driving force of grassroots initiatives, having an influence on improvement of life of residents from rural areas. Thus, it is no wonder that in fact this form of execution of operations gradually becomes increasingly important

within contests for partners of the National Rural Network, announced every year by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. We present selected projects, showing thematic diversity of the study trips organized by partners of the National Rural Network in 2019.

From 2 to 3 July 2019, representatives of the “Wielkopolska z Wyobraźnią” Association took part in the Folk Art Fair and the All Poland Festival of Folk Bands and Singers in Kazimierz Dolny. Among others, members of the Country Housewives’ Clubs from Budy, Nowa Wieś and Trzemeszno in the Rozdrażew Municipality were invited to participation in the study trip.

— *Through the study trip we wanted to promote folklore and handicraft which are a flagship of the Gostyń and Krotoszyn Districts. While recruiting the participants, we observed that*

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recently the number of folk artists has increased considerably, specializing in one of the types of folk embroidery, so-called *snutka golińska*. This type of embroidery, originated in the mid 19th century in the territory of the whole Wielkopolska, is distinguished by characteristic openwork motives, formed by cutting out a redundant material after completion of embroidery - says Sławomir Szyszka, President of the "Wielkopolska z Wyobraźnią" Local Action Group.

The event was multi-dimensional. The "Kalina" folkloric band from Nowa Wieś presented its artistic skills on the stage. In turn, thanks to the prepared exhibition stand, the participants could get to know traditional handicraft of Wielkopolska, including products made of blotting paper, straw and embroideries. The programme of the Fair also allowed to exchange experiences of the people of Wielkopolska with folk authors and artists from whole Poland.

The "Między Ludźmi i Jeziorami" Local Action Group, with its registered office in Kazimierz Biskupi in the Konin District, within the operation referred to as the "Actions of the LAG's for creation of contact networks and for strengthening cooperation", organized a study trip to the Nowy Tomyśl District. Another LAG from Wielkopolska functions in this territory - KOLD. One of the attractions prepared for 45 participants of the visit was the so-called quest with Richard von Hardt, organized in Wąsowo Folwark. The quest i.e. terrain game made it possible to present in an intere-

sting way to the group how, by means of modern means, to encourage potential tourists to visit places connected with local tradition and culture. President of the KOLD LAG Ireneusz Witkowski showed guests round the Polish and German route with a linden alley in Wąsowo. The participants visited the Museum of Wickerworking in Nowy Tomyśl where they took part in wickerworking workshops. In turn, in Lwówek they could see the "Traffic School", lookout tower, Route of Emilia Szczeniecka and fairytale route i.e. places where projects from the Rural Development Programme and the Wielkopolska Renewal of Village were completed. One of the most important points of the trip was a training titled "Quality of ecological food". The participants became familiarized with such issues as an ecological management system, values of ecological food, changes in nutrition rules, consumer attitudes. They also got to know the secret of skillful selection of a product.

The study trip held at the beginning of June 2019 is an effect of cooperation of two other local action groups functioning in our region. Representatives of the "Dolina Noteci" Association from Chodzież visited the Leszno and Wolsztyn Districts upon an invitation of the Wielkopolska Local Action Group "Kraina Lasów i Jezior". Apart from staff members of the LAG, the trip was attended by members of two associations from Chodzież: The Association of People after Endoprosthesoplasty of the Hip "Bioderko" and the "Młodość i Doświadczenie" Association.



The Museum of Wickerworking in Nowy Tomyśl was on the route of the study visit, organized by the "Między Ludźmi i Jeziorami" Association. The Association carries out its activities in the territory of four municipalities of the Konin District: Kleczew, Kazimierz Biskupi, Skulsk and Wilczyn.

Source: "Między Ludźmi i Jeziorami" Association

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The programme of the visit mainly included a presentation of good practices within implementation of the LEADER approach within the Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 in the territory of the Leszno and Wolsztyn Districts. Guests from the north of Wielkopolska could see "Pieskolandia" in Henrykowo in the Świąciechowa Municipality - a company set up thanks to co-financing from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020, dealing with training and taming of dogs, a technological line for production of ice-cream in Przemęt, purchased from European funds, a pitch on a beach in Boszkowo in the Włoszakowice Municipality and a sports field and a seat of the club in Włoszakowice where the "Sokół" Gymnastic Association successfully applied for EU funds. Visiting the Museum of Milling and Agriculture in Osieczna, Regional Chamber in Bukówiec Górny as well as the historic brewery in Bojanowo was also among the attractions of the trip, which is worth mentioning, combined with telling the history of the object and process of making beer.

the Stawiszyn Municipality and, afterwards, the re-visit of the representatives of Stawiszyn in Wisła held on 20-22 September 2019 were to make this task easier.

— *During the study visit, the guests from Wisła had an opportunity to get to know attractions of our municipality, among them for example: narrow-gauge railway, mural - related to this theme - on a wall of the Community Centre in Zbiersk and "Zakątek rekreacji" recreational terrain, a place in which we try to conduct ecological education - said Justyna Urbaniak, Mayor of Stawiszyn.*

The delegation from the Śląsk Region participated in celebration of the municipality and parish harvest festival in Zbiersk, met the "Stawiszynianki" Singing Group as well as took part in the Stawiszyn Open-Air Market in the territory of the newly modernized open-air market - an investment co-financed from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020.



Source: "Dolina Noteci" Association

In the seat of the Sokół sports club in Włoszakowice, the guests representing the "Dolina Noteci" Local Action Group, including the Municipalities of Budzyń, Chodzież and Szamocin, had an opportunity to become convinced how EU funds are used within the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 on the functioning area of the Wielkopolska Local Action Group "Kraina Lasów i Jezior", with its registered office in Leszno.

— *The participants came back from the study trip very satisfied, richer in new experiences and ideas and mainly motivated to further work in local communities. The observed projects, completed by beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme, are inspiring examples which we would like to use for instance in our consulting activities - sums up Jacek Gursz, President of the "Dolina Noteci" LAG.*

How to create and, afterwards, effectively promote a local product? Jointly the Stawiszyn Municipality in the Kalisz District and the Wisła Municipality located in the Śląsk Region were looking for an answer to this question. The visit, in August, of representatives of the Wisła Municipality in

A month later, representatives of the Stawiszyn Municipality and Town visited the terrains of Beskid Śląski where they got to know local artists and talked about effective promotion of products offered by them. The programme of the visit included such places as the Beskid Museum, Adam Małysz Ski Jump in Wisła Malinka, Enclave of the Traditional Building Industry and JanosikArt garden. Both municipalities stake on promotion of folklore and cultural heritage, about which the people of Stawiszyn could become convinced while listening to a performance of the "Wisła" Regional Band. Both study trips were commemorated in a film the leitmotif of which includes good forms and methods of promotion of a local product.

## The Region supports and promotes village council offices

**The Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region distributed PLN 3 million 250 thousand within the 9th edition of the contest: “The Wielkopolska Village Grows Beautiful”, organized in 2019. The co-financing enables implementation of 125 projects in village council offices of our region.**



Source: The Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

Thanks to the contest: “The Wielkopolska Village Grows Beautiful”, Petryki and Piątek Wielki will be transformed in the Stawiszyn Municipality. On the left: Krzysztof Grabowski - Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Justyna Urbaniak - Mayor of the Town and Municipality of Stawiszyn and Anna Manikowska - Treasurer of the Municipality.

The contest: “The Wielkopolska Village Grows Beautiful” is organized within the programme: “Wielkopolska Renewal of Village”, financed from own resources of the Wielkopolska Region. It is aimed at activating residents from rural areas at the level of village council offices, towards their involvement for the benefit of development of own locality. It also serves to support of small projects, consisting in development of public space in a village, reconstruction of cultural heritage and natural heritage as well as cultivation of traditions of local societies.

— *The programme: “Wielkopolska Renewal of Village” has considerably evolved recently. At present, it is already attended by 2041 village council offices from 187 municipalities. Each and every municipality has the right to lodge maximum three applications to the contest: “The Wielkopolska Village Grows Beautiful” and the amount of the grant is from 10 to 30 thousand zlotys. Year by year, we try to increase the pool of resources for distri-*

*bution. We know how important the support is for local communities, offered in grant contests - says Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.*

Municipalities lodged as many as 283 projects to this year’s edition of the contest: “The Wielkopolska Village Grows Beautiful”. At the stage of the formal and substantive assessment, in May 2019, the Board of the Wielkopolska Region announced a ranking list, indicating projects which are recommended for co-financing. 125 initiatives were covered by the support such as renovations of rural common rooms, creation of green spaces, development of playgrounds, external body-building gyms or organization of local events and other events commemorating the history.

Within the “Wielkopolska Renewal of Village”, the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region also organizes an open competition of offers, addressed to non-governmental organizations, referred to as: “Our village is our common matter”. In 2019, it allocated PLN 350 thousand for supporting public tasks in the field of activity which supports development of rural areas. On 22 August 2019, this year’s contest was settled, as a result of which execution of 38 tasks was commissioned with the value not exceeding PLN 10 thousand. Non-governmental organizations have time from 1 September to 15 November 2019 to complete the tasks.

For three years, the most active participants of the programme: “The Wielkopolska Renewal of Village” have also been awarded. Village council offices which resolutely operate for the benefit of development of villages, through the intermediary of their municipalities, can apply for the title of the “Active Village of Wielkopolska” as well as for the financial prize and commemorative diploma.

## Time of thanksgiving for yield

**This year's Archdiocese and Regional Harvest Festival was held on 25 August 2019 in Siedlec in the Wolsztyn District. As every year, it was accompanied by an agricultural exhibition. It offered an information point within the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 prepared by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region. In mid September 2019, in cooperation with the Czarnków and Trzcianka Local Action Group, we promoted, in turn, our region during the President Harvest Festival in Spała.**

The climate which changes in our country is not conducive to crops. The long-lasting drought, after which there is often a period of intense rainfalls, considerably reduces the yield, making farmers feel worried. However, they bravely face these uneasy conditions and take care so that our tables will not be short of bread. The organized harvest festival ceremonies, crowning the time of harvest, remind about hardship of farm work and are an expression of thanksgiving for the efforts made by farmers.

The 21st Archdiocese and Regional Harvest Festival of Wielkopolska was held on 25 August 2019 in Siedlec in the Wolsztyn District. Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Marek Woźniak, together with co-hosts of the ceremonies - Poznań Metropolitan Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki, Staroste of the Wolsztyn District Jacek Skrobisz, Municipality Head of Siedlec Jacek Kolesiński as well as other invited guests and farmers from the western Wielkopolska, thanked for this year's harvest.

— *Harvest festival, a ceremony introduced to Polish culture ages ago, is a form of cheerful thanksgiving to the God for crops and to people for hardship of their work. We meet on the Siedlec land in the Wolsztyn District the residents of which have a beautiful card of fighting for independence of the Homeland in the Wielkopolska Uprising and, today, they are an example of the Wielkopolska success in agricultural economy as well as agriculture and food processing sector - said Marshal Marek Woźniak.*

The holy thanksgiving mass was celebrated by priest archbishop Stanisław Gądecki and, soon after it, a traditional harvest festival ceremony took place, performed by the "Łany" Band of Song and Dance from the Poznań University of Life Sciences. Participants of the ceremony shared bread with each other, baked from this year's flour which was presented to the Marshal of the Region by Starostes of the harvest festival - Emilia Szała from Stary Widzim in the Wolsztyn Municipality and Ryszard Buda from Wojciechowo in the Siedlec Municipality.

The marshal contest for the most beautiful harvest festival wreath is a tradition of the regional feast of crops, in which the first prize went to the Kolo District. The celebration was accompanied by an agricultural exhibition at which country



Marek Woźniak, Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, as a co-host of the Archdiocese and Regional Harvest Festival, presented bread baked of flour from this year's yield, which was served to participants of the ceremonies.

Source: The Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

housewives' clubs, agricultural and agro-tourist farms as well as companies and institutions which support agricultural activity presented themselves. Among them, there was an information stand of EU funds, prepared by the Rural Development Programme Department in the Marshal Office in Poznań. Visitors of the agricultural exhibition had an opportunity to become familiarized with effects of implementation of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 and the Fisheries and Sea Operational Programme in our region as well as to find out about the possibility of acquiring resources for execution of tasks on rural areas.

The President Harvest Festival was held in Spała on 14-15 September 2019. Spała is not an accidental place since already in 1927 the then President of Poland Ignacy Mościcki patronized the celebrations organized in this place. Thanks to this, the feast gained a national dimension and was celebrated until 1938. Outbreak of the World War II made it impossible to continue the tradition. Reactivation took place not earlier than in 2000 during the presidency of Aleksander Kwaśniewski. Since then, leaving out the period from 2006 to 2008 when the harvest festival in Spała had a regional na-

ture, the traditional all Poland President Harvest Festival has become a permanent part of the calendar.

The two-day festivities were accompanied by a number of attractions, including, inter alia: The "Contest for the most beautiful harvest festival wreath for the prize of the President of the Republic of Poland", performance of folk bands as well as fairs, games for children and as every year the Small Town of Regions for which all Regions have prepared their expositions. Obviously Wielkopolska was among the regions which promoted themselves. The Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region invited the Czarnków and Trzcianka Local Action Group to cooperation. A trip of the LAG's representatives enabled broad presentation of the cultural heritage and culinary heritage of our region. The stand included handicraft products and local delicacies - smoked sausages, preserves, jams, craft beer and bread made of natural sourdough, cakes, liqueurs and delicious cheeses, prepared by women from the Country Housewives' Club from Kamionka in the Lubasz Municipality. The Presidential Couple, visiting the Small Town of Regions, tasted the products from Wielkopolska. The Couple was welcomed at the stand by Grażyna Organowska, Deputy Director of the Rural Development Programme Department of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region. Szymon Wdowczyk, Deputy Director of the Agriculture and Rural Development Department of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region and Agnieszka Kulesza, President of the Czarnków and Trzcianka Local Action Group.

Thanks to Roman Juszczyk from Kuźnica in the Kramsk Municipality, our stand had an excellent decoration which

referred to apiculture motives by using the wealth of field plants. Adrian Hałuszka from Trzcianka told the guests about his love to apiculture, presenting small honey jars to the visitors and reed for one of the species of bees existing in Poland - *osmia bicornis*. Another resident of Trzcianka, Marta Tyll, exhibited her unique handicraft products. At the same time, she tried to infect participants of the President Harvest Festival with the passion to crocheting.

The visit of the representatives of the Czarnków and Trzcianka Local Action Group gave rise to the possibility of meeting with the "Kraina Sanu" LAG Association from the Podkarpackie Region. While entertaining president Stanisław Wielgos at the stand, the people of Wielkopolska had an opportunity to talk about implementation of the LEADER initiative within the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020, including, about the possibilities of executing common interregional projects.

The 3rd prize in the contest for the most beautiful harvest festival wreath was a nice accent connected with participation of the Wielkopolska Region in Spała. This year's wreath, promoting our region, was prepared by folk artist Piotr Barańczak together with wife Maria and family. Mr and Mrs Barańczak live in the Trzemeszno village in the Rozdrażew Municipality in the Krotoszyn District. The Wreath Group of the Wielkopolska Region was created by the "Głogowianie" Folk Dance Group from the Głogowa village in the Raszków Municipality in the Ostrów District. The "Głogowianie" group was accompanied by the "Tursko" band from the Gołuchów Municipality.



Photo: Paweł Kinał

Caption of the photograph: At the stand of the Wielkopolska Region, the Presidential Couple was welcomed, among others, by: Deputy Director of the Rural Development Programme Department of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region Grażyna Organowska, Deputy Director of the Agriculture and Rural Development Department of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region Szymon Wdowczyk and President of the Czarnków and Trzcianka Local Action Group Agnieszka Kulesza.

# Flavours of Wielkopolska promoted in Powidz

The “Feast with vendace of Powidz” was organized on 10 August 2019 on the premises of the Sport and Recreation Centre in Powidz, within which the regional final of the 19th edition of the contest “Our Culinary Heritage - Flavours of Regions” took place.



Photo: Paweł Figiel

Participants of the 19th edition of the competition “Our Culinary Heritage - Flavours of Regions” were awarded for quality of presented regional products and flavour values of local dishes.

The Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, in cooperation with the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products was an organizer of the contest at the regional level.

— *The culinary heritage is a great asset of our region. We try to promote food products and dishes by including country housewives' clubs in these actions* - said Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

The competition “Our Culinary Heritage - Flavours of Regions” took place in two categories: for the best regional product and the best dish. Both were attended, among others, by country housewives' clubs from Wielkopolska and restaurants associated in the Wielkopolska Culinary Heritage Network. As many as 28 specialties, assessed in several categories, took part in the contest for the best product. Blood sausage with pearl burley “Kiszka” won in the category of “meat products and preserves” and Lard with meat (formerly “smażonka”) from an oven, prepared by members of the Group for Rybno Wielkie. Among milk products, Cream cheese manually made from the Dairy Cooperative in Września turned out to be the best, in turn, Multi-flower honey made by Barbara Wawrzyniak from “Żółty Parasol” agricultural farm was considered to be the tastiest honey. Green pickled asparagus from the Group of Producers of Vegetables - “Allium” Cooperative of Farmers won in the category of vegetable preserves. Two first places were awarded in the category of cereal products: for Żółwieniec Healthy Bread “Krzyca” - primeval rye from the Family Manufacture Jakub Buszko and Rye Bread made of Sourdough from Małgorzata Wawrzyniak from “Żółty Parasol”. Among confectioneries, the

jury granted awards to Carrot cupcakes, prepared by Ranata Witoń from the Torzeniec Country Housewives' Club, in the category of non-alcoholic drinks - the peasant refreshing drink made by Małgorzata Lempka from the Morakowo Country Housewives' Club won, whereas in the category of alcoholic drinks - the Porterówka Liqueur from Urszula Otuszevska from the Group for Rybno Wielkie. The first prize in the category of “other regional products” was received by Krystyna Just from SemCo company for Oil made of oenothera seeds.

In parallel with presentation of the local products, the competition for the best regional dish was held. Participants presented the way of preparing and serving a traditional dinner, consisting of two dishes i.e. main course and soup or starter. The competition jury, chaired by Izabela Byszewska - President of the Management Board of the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products, granted the first prize for preparation of the best dish to the Country Housewives' Club in Powidz, which prepared a fish soup of Powidz and zander in cream.

Authors of the best products and dishes obtained nominations to the prestigious culinary prize “Pearl 2019”. Laureates of these awards will be selected during the all Poland final to be held on 29 September 2019 during the “Flavours of Regions” Fair in Poznań.

Organization of the regional final of the 19th edition of the contest “Our Culinary Heritage - Flavours of Regions” has been co-financed from resources of the National Rural Network as part of the Technical Aid of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

# Fish soup of Powidz and zander in cream

We hereby present a recipe for a two-dish dinner made by the Country Housewives' Club in Powidz which was considered on 10 August 2019 to be the best regional dish during the regional final of the 19th edition of the competition "Our Culinary Heritage - Flavours of Regions".

## Fish soup of Powidz

### Ingredients:

- vegetables (carrot, celery, parsley, leek),
- raisins, lemon,
- poppy,
- spices: bay leaf, all-spice, marjoram, pepper, salt,
- fishes: eel, carp, pike.

### Preparation:

Prepare a vegetable stock. Pour water into a pot, put the vegetables, all-spice, bay leaves, salt and cook everything for approx. 1 hour on a low heat. After this time, add the fishes and cook for 30 minutes. Next, pick up the fishes, strain the stock, add the carrot, raisins and flavour with pepper. Fish bones must be removed from the picked up fishes, cut into pieces and add to the soup. Sweeten slightly by enriching the flavour with plasters of the lemon and the marjoram. Decorate with a leaf of parsley

and a cream blot. All must be completed with poppy too.

## Zander in cream

### Ingredients:

- zander,
- spices: pepper, salt, hot pepper,
- 30% cream,
- vegetables: potatoes, cauliflower, broccoli.

### Preparation:

Spice the zander with salt, pepper and hot pepper. Roll in flour. Pour the cream on a pan and add the hot pepper. Put the zander which must be stewed slightly to condense the cream. Add the salt if necessary. Serve with purée and steamed vegetables.



Source: The Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region

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