

# European Countryside

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Gorzycko Stare (commune of Międzychód)  
photo: Tadeusz Andrzejewski



„European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas”.

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**Krzysztof Grabowski**

*Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region*

To whom it may concern,

Time flies inexorably and we are approaching the end of 2021, in which, after a long period of epidemic restrictions, we managed to organize postponed events, extremely important for our region. One of such celebrations was the final gala of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition, which took place on October 2, 2021 at the MTP Earth Hall in Poznań. At that time, I had the pleasure to personally congratulate the farmers, winners and nominees in the last two editions of this plebiscite. The gala was organized during the Tastes of Regions Fair, which was held at the same time. We present a report on both events in the "Nasza euroPROWincja" newsletter.

At the turn of September and October 2021, we hosted local government officials from the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region in Wielkopolska. The purpose of this visit was, above all, to learn about good practices in the implementation of the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020 in our region.

This issue of the journal also contains good information for the beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020. In October and November 2021,

28 local action groups from Wielkopolska received a total of EUR 17 m in additional funds for the implementation of the community-led local development strategy and for the financing of running and activation costs. The granted funds give the groups the opportunity to announce new calls for applications, which is related to the extension of the RDP 2014–2020 implementation period by two years.

Thanks to the funds allocated to the implementation of the tasks of the National Network of Rural Areas, the Local Government of the Wielkopolska Region organized two competitions: photo competitions addressed to the inhabitants of the region and for rural housewives' clubs. At the end of November 2021, we got to know the winners and distinguished in both plebiscites, about which you can read in the newsletter.

On the occasion of the upcoming Christmas and the upcoming New 2022, I wish you good health, pleasant moments spent with your family and faith in a successful future.

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## New funds for local development

**Wielkopolska LAGs received an additional EUR 17 m for the implementation of the community-led local development strategy and the financing of running costs and activation costs. Due to the extension of the implementation of the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020 by a two-year transition period, the increased budget will enable the announcement of further calls for applications.**



Photo: Adrian Kapuściński

Budget of the „Krajna upon Notec” Local Action Group Association, operating in the Pila district, increased by more than half a million euros. From the left: Izabela Mroczek, director of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office, Krzysztof Grabowski - Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Jan Mrotek and Ryszard Wolny - Vice Presidents of the board of the association.

The Local government of the Wielkopolska Region, implementing the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020, is implementing the LEADER initiative. Its main assumption is the active participation of local communities in making decisions related to the distribution of European funds in small homelands. In 2015, their inhabitants had a real influence on the creation of a community-led local development strategy. These documents identify the most important needs to be met in a given area. On their basis, local action groups (LAGs) announce calls for proposals.

— LEADER measures, aimed at the implementation of grass-roots initiatives in rural areas, are a very important financial benefit for our region. The effects of the projects implemented in 2016–2021 are impressive. Thanks to these funds, 730 new companies have been established in rural areas in Wielkopolska so far, 397 enterprises have developed their activities, beneficiaries built or rebuilt 436 infrastructure fa-

cilities intended for tourist, recreational or cultural purposes, and 122 implemented projects were related to the preservation of local heritage — emphasizes the Vice-Marshall of the Region Krzysztof Grabowski.

The initial limit of funds earmarked for CLLD implementation was EUR 74 m, but this pool has increased due to the bonuses given to the groups. In 2021, LAGs could apply for a budget increase under the third bonus. This time, such a right was granted to all 28 groups based in the Wielkopolska Region. Local Action Groups have also received more funding to finance running costs and community activation. The pool of additional funds is as much as EUR 17 m, which, with today's high exchange rate of this currency, is the equivalent of approximately PLN 80 m.

Due to the extension of the implementation of the Rural Development Program for 2014–2020 by 24 months, the

increased budget will allow local action groups to announce further calls for applications. The scope of support was expanded to include bottom-up local development concepts, known as „smart village concepts“, covering areas inhabited by no more than 20 k inhabitants. The purpose of developing such concepts is to find effective and non-standard methods of solving local problems thanks to an innovative approach based on the use of modern digital and telecommunications technologies. The concepts are to show the local community its benefits in terms of improving the quality of life, increasing the quality of local services, safety, respect for the environment and climate, solving problems related to underinvestment, aging society, rural depopulation or insufficient number of jobs. Financial aid for the development of such concepts will be awarded in the form of grants with a minimum value of PLN 20 k, and the maximum amount to support the development of a single concept will be PLN 4 k. Various local entities will participate in the process of creating the concept of smart villages on the basis of partnerships.

We asked the presidents of Wielkopolska local action groups to comment on the implementation of the local development strategy in the context of additional funds received for this purpose.



### **Grzegorz Grzunka**

*President of the Board of the Association The Gate of Wielkopolska*

The Gate of Wielkopolska Association has successfully applied for an increase in the amount of funds under the Rural Development Programme, sub-measure 19.2 Support for the implementation of operations under the community-led local development strategy and sub-measure 19.4 Support for running costs and activation. Thanks to obtaining additional funds, the budget for the implementation of the Local Development Strategy increased by EUR 508 k, of which EUR 177,800 we intend to allocate to activities related to starting a business, which will support 16 future entrepreneurs. In turn, the remaining EUR 330,200 will be allocated to the construction of cultural, sports and recreational infrastructure, which will enable co-financing of another 8 projects. Funds for starting a business are very popular with us due to the highly developed entrepreneurship among the inhabitants of the region, and additional funds in the field of infrastructure construction will increase the attractiveness and quality of life in the district of Kępno.



### **Franciszek Marszałek**

*Mayor of Krotoszyn  
President of the Board of the Association Local Action Group „Window of Southern Wielkopolska“*

The LAG „Okno Południowej Wielkopolski“ can boast of an effective implementation of LDS for the years 2016–2024, as evidenced by bonuses already obtained three times, increasing the pool of funds for this purpose. Thanks to the implemented projects, it was possible to improve the base of non-commercial infrastructure, create new jobs and economic activities, develop existing companies and activate local communities and organizations to strengthen social capital and promote the area. The existing and new measures allow for a wide implementation of the assumptions of the strategy, including the development of the area, using the economic and human potential, with a view to environmental protection, counteracting climate change and innovation. As part of subsequent calls for proposals, the LAG plans to further support, in particular, the development of non-commercial tourist, recreational or cultural infrastructure and the undertaking of new economic activities.



### **Maria Siwińska**

*President of the Board „Between People and Lakes“*

Due to the additional funds received by the LAG „Between People and Lakes“, the Association will continue to implement its assumed goals of the strategy.

We will allocate financial support mainly to the task entitled “Taking up a business”, which is very popular in our local action group. Thanks to these funds, many new companies are created and this is a development opportunity for young people. We plan to allocate the remaining funds to the reconstruction of non-commercial tourist and recreational infrastructure. We observe that such activities contribute to the improvement of the tourist attractiveness of our region, and thus create places more accessible to tourists and inhabitants.

## EVENTS

# Farmers from Wielkopolska are the best farmers in the world

**During the final gala of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition, we got to know the nominees and winners of the last two editions of this plebiscite. The ceremony took place on October 2, 2021 in the Earth Hall of the Poznań International Fair. The Sower's statuettes were presented by Vice Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski and the chairman of the competition jury, prof. dr hab. Grzegorz Skrzypczak. The organization of the gala was co-financed by the National Network of Rural Areas.**



Photo: Artur Boński

The photo shows representatives of 10 farms, awarded with the Sower's statuette for 2020.

This year's finals summed up the 19th and 20th jubilee editions of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition. The organization of last year's gala was prevented by the coronavirus pandemic, but according to the adage „what has been delayed won't run away”, on October 2, 2021, the Local government of the Wielkopolska Region organized a ceremony attended by nearly a thousand people associated with agriculture and the Wielkopolska countryside. The host of the gala was Krzysztof Grabowski, the region vice marshal, who, together with the chairman of the competition jury, prof. dr. hab. Grzegorz Skrzypczak from the University of Life Sciences in Poznań, handed the awards and the Sower statuettes to the best farmers in 2019 and 2020. The distinguished farmers were also congratulated by the president of the Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture, Piotr Walkowski

— *Wielkopolska is a modern, innovative region with well-developed agriculture. Farmers from Wielkopolska have a signifi-*

*cant share in the domestic production of pigs, beef, milk, and the production of various agricultural products. Agriculture in Wielkopolska uses modern technologies, develops thanks to EU funds, uses modern and ecological production methods to reach a wide recipients, and to ensure that what goes to our tables is of the highest quality. It is in Wielkopolska that farmers produce the largest global agricultural production and can be considered the best in the world, said Krzysztof Grabowski, Vice-Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.*

Over two decades, over 1,300 farmers have entered the competition. The Sower's statuette and the financial award, currently amounting to PLN 10 k, were won by a total of 195 farmers from Wielkopolska. The farms awarded in the competition are a showcase of Wielkopolska agriculture and represent a wide range of directions of agricultural production. They are mainly characterized by a high level of agricultural production, the use of modern technologies, as well as good work organization and farm aesthetics.

**Winners of the 19th edition of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition (2019)**

Dagmara and Daniel Skonieczny	Przybyłów	commune of Koło	district of Koło
Monika and Michał Cholewicki	Siąszyce Trzecie	commune of Rychwał	district of Konin
Magdalena Najdek	Mnichy	commune of Międzychód	district of Międzychód
Grażyna and Paweł Leński	Strzyżew	commune of Sieroszewice	district of Ostrów Wielkopolski
Anna and Marek Golanowski	Kraszewice	commune of Kraszewice	district of Ostrzeszów
Teresa and Krzysztof Bardecki	Moraczewo	commune of Rydzyna	district of Leszno
Aleksandra and Krzysztof Grzech	Zawady	commune of Ryczywół	district of Oborniki
Anna and Tomasz Szwarc	Poświętno	commune of Przemęt	district of Wolsztyn
Dorota and Roman Długi	Gniewkowo	commune of Kiskowo	district of Gniezno
Krzysztof Kaszkowiak	Gorzyce Stare	commune of Międzychód	district of Międzychód



The winners of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition are selected from among 20 nominees. All nominees receive congratulations and a gift certificate during the final gala.

Photo: Adrian Kapuściński

**Winners of the 20th edition of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition (2020)**

Grażyna and Jan Noskowski	Brzezie	commune of Pleszew	district of Pleszew
Urszula and Krzysztof Słowiński	Ląd	commune of Lądek	district of Słupca
Adam Warnke	Gajewo	commune of Czarnków	district of Czarnków and Trzcianka
Remigiusz and Katarzyna Ostrowicz	Bukownica	commune of Grabów nad Prosną	district of Ostrzeszów
Sławomir Dobrowolski, Leszek Dobrowolski	Mochy	commune of Przemęt	district of Wolsztyn
Piotr Lis	Ociąż	commune of Nowe Skalmierzyce	district of Ostrów Wielkopolski
Grzegorz and Katarzyna Naparty	Parcholewo	commune of Oborniki	district of Oborniki
Joanna and Mirosław Szymczak	Sulęcín	commune of Pleszew	district of Pleszew
Maria and Sławomir Rudnicki	Baby	commune of Odolanów	district of Ostrów Wielkopolski
Jan and Wioletta Szmidt	Biskupie	commune of Ślesin	district of Konin

# COOPERATION

## We are happy to share our experience

**A group of 20 local government officials from the Warminsko Mazurskie Region, at the turn of September and October 2021, visited Wielkopolska to see examples of projects implemented under the Rural Development Program for 2014–2020 in the southern part of our region. The guests also spent time in Poznań, participating in the Tastes of Regions Fair and the jubilee gala of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year.**



Photo: Adrian Kapuściński

In the Radziwiłł Palace in Antonin, a delegation from the Warminsko Mazurskie Region met with Vice Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski and region councilor Joanna Król-Trąbka.

The National Network of Rural Areas facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experience related to the development of rural areas in Poland. This is evidenced by the cooperation between regions, which takes the form of, inter alia, mutual study visits. The purpose of these meetings is, above all, to learn about examples of well-implemented tasks in individual regions, with the support of EU funds under the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020.

— *In autumn 2019, a group of local government officials from the Wielkopolska Region had the opportunity to learn about the good practices of the Programme in the Warminsko Mazurskie Region. Then I invited the hosts to visit our region as part of a return visit and to compare the effects of the implemented measures in rural communes of the Wielkopolska Region with the effects that they can observe in their area* — says Krzysztof Grabowski, Vice-Marshall of the Region.

The pandemic period made it impossible to organize such a trip in 2020, but the opportunity for this appeared at the turn of September and October 2021. The date of the visit, proposed by the Wielkopolska Region, was not a coincidence, because the program, apart from the topics related to the implementation of RDP 2014-2020, included the presence of a delegation at the Tastes of Regions Fair and the jubilee gala of the Wielkopolska Farmer of the Year competition.

Two days earlier, a group of twenty local government officials from Warmia and Mazury, headed by Sylwia Jaskulska, a region council member, visited the southern part of our region. In cooperation with municipal governments, local action groups and manufacturers associated in the Wielkopolska Culinary Heritage Network, the Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznań prepared an attractive program for a study visit. The guests learned about the history of the TeSO Izabela Płonka juice press plant in Kolonia Kokanin in the Żelazków commune, where they could also taste freshly pressed juices. They learned about the effects of RDP 2014-2020 implementation in the communes of Lisków, Dobra, Przygodzice and Mikstat. The visit to Mikstat was also an opportunity to present the traditions associated with Saint Roche, the patron saint of the city, and the indulgence in his honor on August 16, during which the ordination of animals is celebrated.

In Parzynów, in the Kobyla Góra commune, the participants of the study visit saw the astronomical observatory, which is one of the places co-financed under the LEADER initiative, implemented with the participation of the Ostrzeszów Local Action Group. The visit program also included places

that Wielkopolska can be proud of in the context of caring for its historical heritage. The delegation from Warmia and Mazury visited the Castle in Gołuchów, belonging to the National Museum in Poznań. In one of the halls there was a presentation prepared by the Association „Together for the Future” - a local action group operating in the Pleszew district. Guests could also admire the beautifully restored Hunting Palace of the Princes Radziwiłł in Antonin in the commune of Przygodzice. The facility is famous, among others from the fact that Fryderyk Chopin stayed there at the invitation of Prince Antoni Radziwiłł. In memory of this event, the composer's monument was located in front of the palace. After its heyday, the building fell into almost complete ruin, but in the second half of the 1970s, thanks to the efforts of Jerzy Waldorff, it was renovated. Currently, the palace is owned by the Center for Culture and Art in Kalisz, an institution belonging to the Local government of the Wielkopolska Region. Every year, in September, it hosts piano concerts as part of the International Festival „Chopin in the Colors of Autumn”.

The study visit provided an opportunity to discuss reflections and experiences from the implementation of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 in both regions. The meetings with representatives of the Warmińsko Mazurskie Region were attended, among others, by Krzysztof Grabowski, Regions Vice Marshal, Joanna Król-Trąbka, Regions Councilor, Izabela Mroczek, Director of the Rural Development Programs Department of the Marshal's Office, and local government officials from southern Wielkopolska.



Photo: Adrian Kapuściński

The visit to the astronomical observatory in Parzynów aroused great interest of local government officials from the Warmińsko Mazurskie Region.



Photo: Adrian Kapuściński

The study visit program included a presentation of the activities of the members of the Wielkopolska Culinary Heritage Network. The guests visited the „TeSO” Izabela Płonka Fruit Juice Press in Kolonia Kokanin in commune of Żelazków.

## EVENTS

# The flavors of the Regions filled the halls of the Poznań International Fair

**From 2 to 4 October 2021, fans of traditional Polish cuisine could try dishes and products typical of different parts of our country. 190 exhibitors from all over Poland: producers of meat, cold cuts, cheese, bread, sweet pastries, juices, liqueurs, honey and other preserves, came to Poznań. The best were awarded the Medal of the Tastes of Regions Fair. During the event, the nationwide final of the „Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of the Regions” competition was also held.**



Photo: Bartosz Zalas

The stand of Wielkopolska was very eagerly visited by trade fair guests who could see the offer of 29 members of the Wielkopolska Culinary Heritage Network.

Culinary art is one of the inherent elements of the national identity that has been shaped over the centuries. The first mentions of the dishes served on Old Polish tables can be found in the 14th-century chronicles of Gallus Anonymus. The complex fate of our country, which has been under the occupation of three powers for 123 years, has a significant impact on the variety of dishes served on the tables in individual regions of Poland. The history of Polish gastronomy is worth disseminating, it is also worth identifying flavors and discovering almost forgotten dishes. This attitude is in line with the care for the culinary heritage, to which the Local government of the Wielkopolska Region pays great attention, as for many years it has been co-creating one of the largest culinary events in the country and actively participating in it. The Tastes of Regions Fair, because we are talking right about it, is held in the first days of autumn at the Poznań International Fair.

This year's edition, which lasted from 2 to 4 October, featured 190 exhibitors - producers of traditional and organic

food, made according to old recipes. Visitors could taste and buy juices, liqueurs, meats, cheeses, honey, various preserves, fish and culinary specialties that are difficult to find in shops on a daily basis.

— *The Tastes of Regions Fair is becoming more and more recognizable and popular. This year, 29 local producers, processors and restaurateurs belonging to the Wielkopolska Culinary Heritage Network presented their products at the stand of Wielkopolska* — says Krzysztof Grabowski, Vice-Marshal of the Region.

The event was accompanied by many attractions. One of them was a culinary show prepared by a special guest, Łukasz Konik - a chef specializing in molecular cuisine, widely known as the juror of the MasterChef Junior TV program. Visitors to the fair could also take advantage of the rich offer of culinary workshops, as well as games and activities devoted to ecology and the topic of healthy eating.

As every year, a competition for the Medal of the Tastes of Regions Fair was organized, to which as many as 88 products were submitted. The winners included exhibitors from Wielkopolska. Medale otrzymali: Dairy Cooperative Września for Września Gzik a cottage cheese with chive, Browar Gzub from Annapole in the commune of Środa Wielkopolska for filtered, unpasteurized craft beer and the company SemCo from Śmiłów in the commune of Szamotuły for Pumpkin Oil.

Parallel to the Tastes of Regions Fair, the Pearls 2021 ceremony was held - awards in the „Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of the Regions” competition, organized by the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products, in partnership with the Union of the Regions of the Republic of Poland. Pearls were distributed, among others to producers, rural housewives’ clubs and restaurateurs from the Wielkopolska region. This honorable distinction was awarded to Dairy Cooperative Września for hand-made cream cheese, SemCo for Evening Primrose Oil, Grupa dla Rybno Wielkie for Lard with oven-baked meat, Allium Farmers Cooperative Group of Pickled Vegetables Producers with headquarters in Śliwniki in Nowe Skalmierzyce commune, for Asparagus, Barbara Wawrzyniak Żółty Parasol from Ruszków First in the Kościelec commune for Multiflower Honey, Family Manufacture Jakub Buszko from Stanisławów in the commune of Września for the „Krzyca” bread from Żółwieniec, Rural Housewives’s Club in Kurnatowice in the commune of Kwilcz for Pyrowianka and Duck stuffed with dumplings and the Tradition i Regionality Association, Piotr Klejna from Skrzatusz in the commune of Szydłów for the restoration and promotion of capon in dishes Polish broth with rice on capons à la Stanisław Leszczyński and capon baked sweet in saffron (traditional recipe from 1683).

The national jury of the competition also selected the winners of the „The key to the Polish Pantry” award - a prize awarded to people of particular merit in the region in supporting the culinary heritage, promoting and building the market for regional, local and traditional products. In 2021, the award was granted to the region councilor Zofia Szalczyk and the owner of the Agritourism Farm „Karczma Kaliska” Janusz Nowak. However, this is not the end of awards and decorations. Krzysztof Grabowski, Vice-Marshall of the Regions, together with councilor Zofia Szalczyk, presented the honorary badges „For merits for the Wielkopolska Region” to the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products, to the president of the board of Izabella Byszewska, the vice-president of the board Jan Zwoliński and the representative of the board of Grażyna Kurpińska.

At the end of the fair, a ceremony of admitting nine new members to the Wielkopolska Culinary Heritage Network took place. The network was expanded to include the Wiesław Wojtczak Agricultural Farm from Psary in the Sieroszewice commune, the Łagowski Dawid Łagowski Manufacture from Luboń, which deals with the processing of vegetables and fruit, the Edison Vineyard from Przeźmierowo in the Tarnowo Podgórne commune, the Vera Vineyard from Skulsko, the NATURINI oil press plant, Izabela Lesiak-Skorupska, with its headquarters in Poznań and a production plant in Kościan, the District Dairy Cooperative Jarocin, the Kromka bakery by Joanna Heler from Swarzędz, the company MIODY SUSZKA INSPIRACJE from Mospina near Poznań, as well as the Palace in Wąsów in the Kuślin commune. Certificates of membership in the Network were presented by Vice Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, European coordinator of the Network of Regional Culinary Heritage Niclas Fjellström and director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Marshal’s Office Damian Nowak.



During the Tastes of Regions Fair, the Vice-Marshall of the Region, Krzysztof Grabowski, and the European Coordinator of the Network of Regional Culinary Heritage, Niclas Fjellström, handed out certificates to new members of the Network of Culinary Heritage in Wielkopolska. Nine companies representing the food and catering industries joined the Network.

# COMPETITIONS

## Active rural housewives' clubs in Wielkopolska

**On November 27, 2021, in Kołaczków in the Września district, the final of the competition organized by the Local government of the Wielkopolska Region took place. Cash awards, granted to 10 laureates and 10 distinguished - rural housewives' clubs, were funded by the National Network of Rural Areas.**



Photo: Monika Zdziennicka

20 Rural Housewives' Clubs presented themselves during the final of the competition in Kołaczków.

For nearly 150 years, women living in rural areas have been integrating in voluntary, self-governing and independent organizations, known as rural housewives' clubs. They make sure that traditions, rituals, folk art and other elements of folklore, as well as old recipes passed down from generation to generation, are not forgotten. It is difficult to imagine harvest festivities, commune days celebrations, country fairs and festivals without the presence of clubs that prepare local delicacies and traditional handicrafts for these occasions.

— *The local government of the Wielkopolska Region, organizing outdoor events, as well as participating in domestic and foreign fairs and exhibitions, regularly invites representatives of Rural Housewives' Clubs [KGW] to cooperate. The clubs also take part in competitions, mainly those on culinary topics, such as „Our Culinary Heritage - Tastes of the Regions”, the national finals of which are organized annually in the hall of the Poznań International Fair* — says Vice Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

This year, the Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznań took the initiative to organize a competition entitled "Active rural housewives' clubs in Wielkopolska" Its purpose was primarily to distinguish and support activities undertaken by KGW in the region, but also to promote cultural and culinary heritage. The competition was divided into two stages. The first one, to which 60 KGW applied, was to present the club in a descriptive form, incl. in the field of activity, accessibility in social media, special achievements and success in obtaining external funds. The competition jury selected 20 clubs with the highest number of points which qualified for the second stage. This group included: „Dziarskie Babki” from Dzierżążenka in the commune of Złotów, KGW from Ruska in the commune of Jaraczewo, „Kołaczkowianki” from Kołaczkow, KGW from Grabów Królewski in the commune of Kołaczkowo, KGW from Chojęcin in the commune of Bralin, KGW from

Imielno in the commune of Zagórów, „Aktywne Brodniczanki” from Brodnica, KGW from Rudzica in the commune of Kramsk, „Marianki” from Marianów in the commune of Kawęczyn, „Włościanki” from Białośliwie, KGW from Dębówek Stary in the commune of Białośliwa, KGW from Szczepida in the commune of Krzymów, KGW from Rośle and Rzuchów in the commune of Dąbie, KGW from Nowa Wieś Ujska in the commune of Ujście, KGW from Brodziejew in the commune of Szamotuły, Association for the Development of Housewives' Association Wiejskich and Sołectwa Tokary in the Ślesin commune, KGW from Kurnatowice in the Kwilcz commune, KGW from Cicha Góra in the Nowy Tomyśl commune and KGW from Porwit in the Opatówek commune. The final task, faced by the selected rural housewives clubs, was to prepare a sweet or salty baking in a form referring to the logo of the Wielkopolska Culinary Heritage Network. On this basis, the jury selected 10 winner and 10 distinguished clubs, who were granted financial awards in the amount of PLN 2,500. The awards were funded by the National Network of Rural Areas.

## We know the winners of the photo competition

**On November 25, 2021, the Board of the Wielkopolska Region adopted a resolution approving the results of the competition „RDP in le4ns - second edition”, organized once again by the Regional Unit of the National Rural Network in the Wielkopolska Region. The awards in the competition are vouchers for a photo shop.**



The winning photo in the „Infrastructure co-financed by the Rural Development Program” category, by Piotr Tomasz Mańczak, was taken in Dębe in the Lubasz commune in the Czarnków-Trzcianka district. The facility in the photo has been revitalized thanks to the funds of the Rural Development Programme for 2007–2013 as part of the „Village Renewal and Development” action.

The aim of the competition was primarily to promote the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020, but also the program implemented in 2007–2013, by showing the effects of the tasks co-financed from these programs. Additionally, they wanted to emphasize the role of cultural, culinary heritage and rural tourism in the development of our region. The competition was organized in five thematic categories: „Infrastructure co-financed from the RDP”, „Wielkopolska from a bird’s eye view”, „How do Wielkopolanie care for tradition?”, „Tourism in rural areas” and „Wielkopolska on a plate”. As many as 196 works were submitted to this year’s edition, 172 of which met the requirements of the regulations.

— *Comparing the two editions of the „RDP in the lens” competition, we notice a growing interest in participation among the inhabitants of the Wielkopolska Region. The submitted works are also distinguished by increasing aesthetics and attention to the fact that the frame of the photo attracts attention* — says Izabela Mroczek, chairman of the jury of the competition, the director of the RDP Department of the Marshal’s Office of the Marshal’s Office.

In the „Nasza euroPROWincja” newsletter, we will publish information about the winning photos in individual thematic categories and their authors. In this issue, we present the results in the category „Infrastructure Co-financed by the Rural Development Programme”. The first place was won by the work by Piotr Tomasz Mańczak entitled „The windstorm hill”, made in the village of Dębę in the Lubasz commune (Czarnków-Trzcianecki district), the second place went to Małgorzata Waleńska, the author of the photo entitled „Franciszek”, showing the windmill in Pępowo in the Gostyń district, renovated thanks to funds from the RDP 2014–2020. The author of the photo, which won the third place, is Dawid Sucharski. The work submitted by him entitled „Centrum Żelazków” presents the fountain in Żelazków in the Kalisz district, built as part of a project supported by EU funds under the RDP 2014–2020. Damian Michałek received a distinction in this category for his photograph of the Olandia holiday facility, where a project co-financed under the RDP 2007–2013 was carried out.

## St. Martin's Croissant

**Traditionally baked on the occasion of Saint Martin's Day on November 11, it is one of the showpieces of Poznań. It is made of semi-French dough, filled with white poppy seeds, almond flavor and dried fruits. Since November 19, 2008, it has had the label of a product with a Protected Designation of Origin in the European Union. The real St. Martin's croissant can therefore be produced only in Poznań and in designated districts of Wielkopolska. The list of confectioneries with a certificate authorizing them to bake these croissants currently includes 94 items.**

### To prepare the dough:

- 2–2.5 cups of flour,
- 1 egg,
- 15 g of yeast,
- 2 tablespoons of sugar,
- ½ cup of warm milk,
- 2 tablespoons of oil,
- 1 level teaspoon of salt,
- about 120 g of margarine for interleaving.

### To prepare the mass:

- ½ cup of white poppy seeds,
- ½ cup of biscuit crumbs,
- ½ cup of sugar,
- 60 g of walnuts,
- 60 g of raisins,
- 80 g of margarine,
- 1 egg,
- almond flavor.

The indicated ingredients are for 6-7 croissants.

To prepare the dough, first sift the flour. Then add yeast, a little sugar, salt and flour to the warm milk. Leave it for a few minutes, then combine with the rest of the flour, topping up with beaten egg. Mix everything until a uniform, thick mass is formed, to which oil must be added. Now knead the dough and leave it in the refrigerator for a few hours. After this time, roll out the dough, spread it with margarine, fold it into three parts, glue the edges together and roll it out again. Do this a few more times to get about 12-16 layers and put the dough back in the fridge, preferably overnight.

To prepare the mass, first rinse the poppy seeds with water, then brew it and let it stand for an hour. Grind

the drained poppy seeds twice, add sugar, finely chopped nuts, raisins, melted margarine and beaten egg. Mix everything thoroughly, enriching it with almond aroma.

At the last stage, roll out the dough thinly and cut it into elongated triangles. Using a confectionery bag, put the poppy seed mass, wrap the widest end once, cut it and wrap the croissant in such a way that the slit extends to the sides. Roll it towards the top, and twist the ends towards the center. Place the prepared croissants on a baking tray and spread on them a beaten egg and water. Bake for 30–35 minutes at 180–190°C. After baking, leave the croissants to cool. Then coat and sprinkle with walnuts.



Photo by Arkadiusz Macios, distinguished in the „RDP through the lens - second edition”.



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