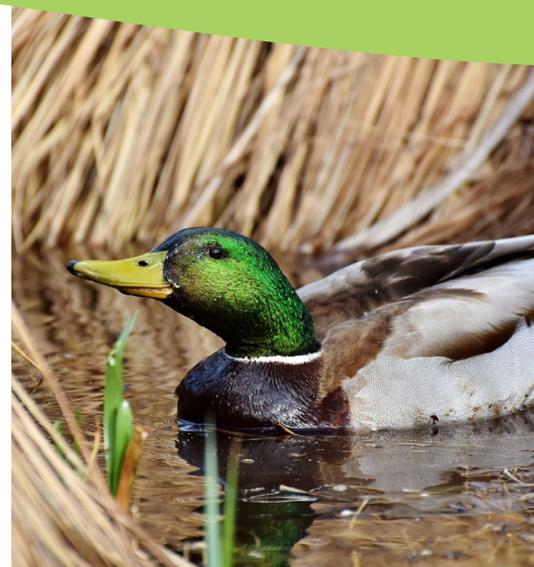


Our European Countryside

Bulletin of National Rural Network of Wielkopolska Region

1/2018

ISSN 2083-4063



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

The publication prepared by Department of Rural Development Programmes in the Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region in Poznań. The publication co-financed from the European Union funds under the National Rural Network of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020. The Managing Authority of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 - the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	3
PLN 22 million for village renewal	4
Discussing Producer Groups in Berlin	8
Europe at the Wielkopolska Easter table	9
LAGs focus on cooperation	II
Funds for villages	I4
Pickled asparagus – tradition straight from Wielkopolska	I5

Published by:

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



Developed by:

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

Texts:

Adrian Kapuściński

Graphic design and printing:

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



Krzysztof Grabowski

Deputy Marshal of Wielkopolska Region

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We started another year of implementing the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 in the Wielkopolska Region. In the first half of 2018, we announced as many as three calls for applications regarding investment projects to improve the image of rural areas in our region. In total, we will allocate more than PLN 22 million from the European Union funds for this purpose. In the article published in this year's first edition of the "Our European Countryside" bulletin, you will read what operations can be co-financed, who can receive EU funds and what criteria will be taken into account in assessing applications.

Once again, Wielkopolska participated in the Grüne Woche - international fair of food, agriculture and horticulture in Berlin. Participation in the event allowed not only to present the culinary heritage of our region, but also made it possible to talk with the representatives of German organisations promoting agriculture and rural development. The subject of the meeting was the promotion of coopera-

tion among farmers, e.g. in the context of establishing producer groups and implementing joint ventures.

Just before Easter, thanks to cooperation of the Regional Local Government with MEP Andrzej Grzyb, the achievements and activities of Wielkopolska local action groups were presented in Brussels. I invite you to read the article on this topic, from which you will get to know, inter alia, what we discussed during the conference held at the European Parliament with participation of the representatives of EU institutions.

This edition of the "Our European Countryside" bulletin also presents the information about district meetings with village administrators, which were held on my initiative in the first months of 2018. We also raise the issue of cooperation projects implemented by local action groups in the current financial perspective.

I warmly invite you to read our bulletin.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP

PLN 22 million for village renewal

In 2018, the Government of the Wielkopolska Region announced three calls for applications for co-financing projects under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Financial support will cover the following operations: "Investing in cultural facilities", "Shaping public space" and "Protection of monuments and traditional buildings". The total limit of funds available for these tasks for the Wielkopolska Region is EUR 5.3 million.



Source: Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region

Refurnishing works at the village culture house in Bierzwienna Długa in Klodawa municipality. The operation was realised in the framework of RDP 2007-2013.

- Between 16 and 30 March 2018, we conducted a call for applications for co-financing the tasks consisting in building, rebuilding or equipping community halls and community centres under the RDP 2014-2020. Applications could be submitted by municipalities and cultural institutions for which the organiser is a local government unit. Another call, this time only addressed to municipalities, was conducted in the second half of April and concerned shaping public space in rural areas. In turn, between 16 and 30 May 2018 we will be accepting applications concerning the protection of monuments and traditional buildings – says Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Krzysztof Grabowski.

The investment projects, whose co-financing is applied for by potential beneficiaries, may be implemented only in villages of up to 5,000 residents. Aid shall be granted in an amount of up to PLN 500,000 per village, with this limit applying to all three scopes in total. The funds will go to the beneficiaries in a form of a refund paid after the investment project has been completed. EU support covers up to 63.63% of eligible costs of operations.

The score obtained on a basis of the national and regional criteria determines the order of granting support. The criteria have been specified separately for each of the three types of operations.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP

In the case of operations such as “Investing in cultural facilities”, the high score of as many as four points can be received by those applicants who will ensure that once the operation is completed, a facility will for at least nine months per year carry out activities related to art, language learning, care and education or other periodical initiatives. The primary tax revenue of the municipality, referred to the national average, is also taken into account and it may give three points. The next three points will be awarded to operations which take into account the use of innovative solutions on the regional scale, providing the conditions for creating a high-quality cultural offer available to diverse groups of recipients. For projects involving equipping a facility with a microinstallation ensuring that at least 50% of the energy requirement of this facility will be covered, or where such facility is already equipped with such an installation, three points are also envisaged. Additional points will also be awarded if the implementation of the operation contributes to creating and maintaining new jobs for the period of validity.

It is easier to receive co-financing in the case of those municipalities which are characterised by the population density of at least 60 people/km², the level of unemployment equal to or higher than the national average level of unemployment and the presence of one form of nature conservation, as defined in the Act on nature conservation. In addition, three regional criteria will be taken into account in the Wielkopolska Region. These, in turn, reward the villages where few or no similar projects were implemented under the RDP 2007-2013. One point will be awarded to these operations under which the applicants will plan to manage the surroundings of a facility. One additional point is awarded in a situation where for at least nine months per year a facility covered by the operation will carry out periodical activities or initiatives addressed to persons below 30 as well as meetings for persons over 50. A very important regional criterion, determining the choice of operations, is the number of people living in the village where the operation will be carried out. For the villages of up to 1,000 residents, the criterion provides for as many as 5 points.

Eight national criteria and four regional criteria have been defined for the operations “Shaping public space”. The national criteria reward the operations which complement other publicly financed investment projects, implemented or being in progress at the date of announcing the call for applications. In the case of shaping public space, of importance will also be the tourist traffic recorded in the district in which the investment project is implemented. Three points may be received if per 1,000 people living in the given district there are at least

100 night stays provided to tourists. The next three points will be awarded to innovative projects at least on the regional scale. The same number of points is envisaged where the operation takes into account equipping a facility with a microinstallation ensuring that at least 50% of the energy requirement of this facility will be covered, or where such facility is already equipped with such an installation.



Building an outdoor gym at the MCC (Municipal Cultural Center) building for the inhabitants of Strzałków as an example of shaping public space. The investment project has been implemented through the funds from the Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013.

Source: Warta River Union LAG

Additional points may be obtained if the development of an architectural or urban planning concept of the investment project has been selected as a result of a competition announced by the applicant for aid and where the urban or rural planning system, to which the operation relates, is entered in the register of monuments or regional register of monuments. Moreover, the national criteria take into account the population density and the presence in the municipality of forms of nature conservation under the Act on nature conservation. The regional criteria in the Wielkopolska Region give priority to receiving co-financing for those villages where no similar projects were implemented under the RDP 2007-2013. On the other hand, as many as four points will be awarded to those applicants whose operation provides for building or rebuilding a street lighting system powered exclusively by energy from renewable energy sources. The additional points can be received if the investment projects involve building or rebuilding sidewalks or transport routes for pedestrians and bikers, as well as creating, developing or regenerating squares or green areas.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP

The applicants seeking co-financing for the operations "Protection of monuments and traditional buildings" will be classified in the list based on the score awarded according to six national criteria and four regional criteria. In this respect, the highest number of points has been envisaged where the entity applying for aid attaches an opinion on the poor technical status of the monument and a necessity to take intervention work immediately. The intended use of a facility may also prove relevant in terms of possibilities of receiving co-financing. If the applicant declares that more than 50% of the previously used area of the facility is to be used for educational, cultural or promotional purposes of the region concerned, the application will be awarded four points.

On a similar basis, as in the case of shaping public space, the points shall be awarded for the criterion taking into account the tourist traffic in the district where the municipality or cultural institution submitting the application is established. If a facility, being the subject of the operation,



Water reservoir "Kąpielka" in Raszków.

Source: Window of Southern Wielkopolska LAG



Source: Municipal Office of Stare Miasto

Building a rural playground along with sports and recreation infrastructure in the village of Żychlin.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP



Source: Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region

Revitalised touristic and recreation area at an artificial lake in Przykona in Zimotki (Przykona municipality).

is entered in the register of monuments, then this application will be awarded additional four points, while the fact of having been entered in the regional register of monuments guarantees receiving two points. The national criteria also take into account the innovativeness of projects and the presence of at least one form of nature conservation in the municipality.

In turn, the regional criteria for the Wielkopolska Region take into account the number of residents in the village where the investment project will be implemented. For this criterion, it is possible to receive 1-5 points, assuming that the smaller is the number of residents, the higher is the number of points. The applicants applying for aid to implement the tasks in the villages where no operations regarding renovation or improvement of the state of monuments in the previous financial perspective took place will have a greater chance to receive funds. The additional points will be awarded to applications regarding investment projects providing for managing the surroundings of a historical building and installing a monitoring system to protect the building.

On 6 March 2018, at the seat of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region, a training course was conducted for the potential beneficiaries interested in participating in the calls for applications. During the training course, the operation selection criteria, forms of aid applications and the contract form were discussed in detail. The representatives of the Wielkopolska municipalities also gained knowledge of the proper conduct of public procurement procedures and competition procedures.

- The information on the announced calls, as well as all the forms necessary for submitting the application are available on the website of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznań: www.dprow.umwww.pl. The first contracts with the beneficiaries should be signed as early as in the second half of this year. This is important, as since then it is possible to start implementing the operation – concludes Izabela Mroczek, Director of the RDP Department of the Marshal Office.

Discussing producer groups in Berlin

Farmers from the Wielkopolska Region took part in a study trip to Germany. The visit organised in cooperation between the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region and the Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture aimed at sharing experiences with representatives of German agriculture organisations about the creation and activity of producer groups. The meeting with foreign partners took place on 22 January 2018 during the Grüne Woche – food, agriculture and horticulture fair in Berlin. This is the largest agri-food exhibition event worldwide. The presence of representatives of the Wielkopolska Region in the capital of Germany was also an opportunity to present the traditional cuisine and products of our region.

- There are over 500 producer groups registered in Wielkopolska. Their activity aims at, among other things, joint introduction/launching of products onto the market, joint adapting of agriculture products and production processes to the requirements of the market. It is of utmost importance that opportunities are created for farmers to exchange their experiences with representatives of similar organisations in other member states of the European Union. This year's study trip to Berlin created such a good opportunity and representatives of producer groups from Wielkopolska participated in it – explained Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

Members of three producer groups from Wielkopolska took part in the study trip to Germany: Vegetables Producer Group CHROBRY (Grupa Producentów Warzyw CHROBRY), Group TOP GAJÓR (producers of geese) and Group TOP-HODOWLA (producers of pigs). The representatives of producer groups discussed the main aspects of their activity and pointed particularly to the benefits arising from this form of cooperation. Examples of associations bringing together groups were also presented, among other things: Association „Wielkopolska Groups” (Stowarzyszenie „Grupy Wielkopolskie”) and Association of Country Agricultural Producer Groups - Chamber of Commerce (Krajowy Związek Grup Producentów Rolnych Izba Gospodarcza). Representatives of the Wielkopolska Region shared also their knowledge about the development of the Wielkopolska Culinary Heritage Network, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.

The guests present during the meeting: Joachim Diesner – Representative of the Hessian Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in the government of Hesse, Wilhelm Böck – Vice President of the German Horticultural Association and Dr Katia Bögermann – representative of the German Association of Farmers stressed that all forms of association among farmers would usually mean added value for the entire sector, by increasing its competitiveness and efficiency of its activities.

Participation in international events is a good opportunity for producers of traditional and healthy food, brought together

within the Wielkopolska Network, to present their offer. This year, six exhibitors made use of that opportunity. The Palace Popowo Stare from the municipality of Przemęt treated visitors to excellent home-made cold meats, genuine bigos and no-flour cheesecake. The dairy industry was represented by the Dairy Cooperative of Shareholders from Strzałków, winner of multiple awards for wholesome and delicious butter and curd cheese. At the stand, there were also traditional Polish pierogi, prepared on the spot by the cooks from the Maciej Pomes Catering from Wronki. Right next to them, we could taste natural ice cream in a dozen or so flavours from the Miś Ice Creamery in Poznań. Beata Peksa, who together with her husband manages a fruit growing and agricultural farm in Przyborów near Szamotuły, took part in the event to present excellent jams and fruit preserves. Marek Grądzki from the municipality of Lwówek invited the visitors to taste traditional Grądzki cheese. The enthusiasts of meat delicacies could also check a rich offer of the Tradycyjne Jądro company from Środa Wielkopolska, which for many years has been associated in Berlin with the highest quality.

This year's visit of the representatives of the Wielkopolska Region would not be possible without financial support from the National Rural Network within the framework of the RDP 2014-2020. The meeting of farmers from Wielkopolska with representatives from foreign institutions was coorganised by the Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture.



Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski and President of the Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture Piotr Walkowski with guests visiting the stand of the Wielkopolska Region during Grüne Woche.

Pic. Mateusz Sieradzki

Europe at the Wielkopolska Easter table

The Wielkopolska local action groups presented their potential and achievements at the European Parliament in Brussels. The event organised in cooperation between the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region and MEP Andrzej Grzyb was held on 27 March 2018. The trip participants presented their native culture and regional cuisine associated with the Easter period. They also took part in a conference on the future of the EU policy focused on the local rural development.



Pic. Szymon Wdowczyk

The conference „LAG, community-led local development in the policies of the EU and Member States – Wielkopolska experiences and conclusions for the next EU financial perspectives”. In the picture you can see the following speakers: Josefine Loritz-Hoffman, Czesław Siekierski, Krzysztof Hetman, Andrzej Grzyb, Krzysztof Grabowski, Małgorzata Blok and Krzysztof Wójcik.

In the last few days of March, a group of the Wielkopolska residents, composed of the representatives of the local action groups and the Self-Government of the region, paid a visit to Brussels. At the European Parliament, they presented the cultural and culinary heritage of our region. The leading topic of the event was Easter and related traditions and customs. The trip also made it possible for the local action groups to boast of their achievements and special values of their small homelands.

On 27 March, the European Parliament hosted a conference entitled “LAGs, community-led local development in the policies of the EU and Member States – Wielkopolska experiences and conclusions for the next EU financial perspectives”. The discussion was attended by, inter alia, MEP Andrzej Grzyb, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski, Chair of the Wielkopolska Network of LAGs Małgorzata Blok, as well as the representatives of the EU institutions: Czesław Siekierski (Member of the European Parliament, President of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development), Josefine

Loritz-Hoffmann (representative of the European Commission, Director of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development), Krzysztof Hetman (Member of the European Parliament, member of the Parliamentary Committee on Regional Development), Krzysztof Wójcik (representative of the European Commission and Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy), as well as the presidents and employees of the local action groups operating in Wielkopolska. The meeting was an opportunity to talk about the European Union policy in the context of planning the RDP financial perspective 2021-2027.

– There is no good local development without local action groups. This is noticed by the European Union and increasingly reflected in its policies – said MEP Andrzej Grzyb.

During the conference, the participants shared their experiences and conclusions on implementing the current strategies, by pointing to the challenges faced jointly by the local action groups and the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region. In particular, the point here is the gre-

FOREIGN STUDY VISITS

ater complexity of the operation selection and evaluation procedures, complicated legislative system and extensive range of control activities. However, the meeting also stressed the success resulting from the previous activities, i.e., including the local communities in the process of deciding on the directions of development of the areas covered by the strategy, building the recognisability of the LAGs as a promoter of the local community and, most importantly, distributing effectively the funds according to local needs.



Source: Office of MEP Andrzej Grzyb

Culinary and cultural heritage associated with Easter has been presented by 26 Local Action Groups from the Wielkopolska Region.

A continuation of the conference was a formal meeting, organised in the Yehudi Menuhin Hall at the European Parliament, during which the local action groups prepared their stands to promote the cultural and culinary heritage of our region. The event was attended by, *inter alia*, the MEPs and employees of the EU administration, whose day-to-day activities include the issue of agriculture and rural development.

- *The meeting at the Wielkopolska Easter table is an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the culture, including the Easter ceremonies, but also with the traditional cuisine of our region. Wielkopolska has a lot to boast of. In 2017, the European Commission entered the fourth product originating in our region in the register of the Protected Designations of Origin*

and Protected Geographical Indications. The Rogal świętomarciński (St. Martin crescent cake), Wielkopolski ser smażony (Wielkopolska fried cheese) and Andruty kaliskie (sweet layered wafers from Kalisz) were joined by Kielbasa biała parzona wielkopolska (Wielkopolska blanched white sausage) which you can taste during today's ceremony – said Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

The exhibition stands organised the tastings of regional products, handicraft shows and workshops and the representatives of local action groups invited the visitors to participate in those activities. The participants in the evening ceremony could enjoy delicious cold meats and egg dishes. There was also white sausage (holding the EU certificate of "Kielbasa biała parzona wielkopolska"), hams, pâtés, black puddings, bread with lard and a butter lamb characteristic of Wielkopolska. On the tables, we could also find rye soup, meatloaf with eggs, pork loin stuffed with white sausage and roasted knuckle. The visitors tasted local juices squeezed, *inter alia*, from apples, elderberry and tomatoes. There was an opportunity to take part in a workshop of making traditional Easter palms, decorating eggs and Easter cards.

The organisers of the event also took care to present Wielkopolska folk culture on this occasion. The School Regional Band from Bukówiec Górny in the Leszczyński district prepared an attractive artistic programme, including not only characteristic dances and singing, but also a presentation of the local dialect. The visitors could also listen to music known in eastern Wielkopolska. This was possible thanks to the performance given by Kramaska Kapela Podwórkowa, which presented its rich repertoire.

The trip of the Wielkopolska residents to Brussels was possible, *inter alia*, through financial support of the European Union under the National Rural Network of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.



Source: Office of MEP Andrzej Grzyb

Traditional decorations and regional Easter products were present on the tables in the European Parliament.

LAGs focus on cooperation

The Wielkopolska local action groups are implementing joint ventures, financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. So far, seven agreements for financing the operations have been signed at the Marshal Office in Poznań between the Wielkopolska Region and the authorities of the associations acting as project partners. Three of them relate to cooperation with foreign partners, while one is implemented in partnership with the local action groups from the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region. The next three projects are based on cooperation between the LAGs operating in our region.

The LEADER approach under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 provides for a possibility of implementing joint ventures among the local action groups. The sub-measure "Preparing and implementing activities in the field of cooperation with a local action group" is intended to support projects for strengthening social capital, including improving the knowledge of the local community on the environmental protection and climate change, development of outlet markets and local services. The subject of the operation may also be preserving the local heritage, building or rebuilding public and non-commercial tourist, recreational or cultural infrastructure, as well as promoting the area covered by the local development strategy and creating the conditions for the enterprise development in the LDS area.

One of the already implemented projects is a joint initiative of the Noteć Valley Association and the Leader of Green Wielkopolska LAG, entitled "Centre for Education and Local Enterprise". The operation, co-financed by the European funds amounting to PLN 114.5 thousand, assumed organising, in June and July 2017, the Regional Enterprise and Education Fair in Chodzież and Środa Wielkopolska. During the event, the local employers presented themselves to the local communities. Educational establishments and pre-school facilities also presented their offer. In addition, as part of the project a video was shot on the issues of enterprise, education and promotion of the area covered by the strategies of both local action groups. The operation partners conducted a training course to raise the participants' skills in using social media as a tool helpful in searching for employment and building a marketing strategy. There were also two study trips for people living in the municipalities where the LAGs, participating in the project, operate.



As part of the cooperation project, the KOLD Local Action Group organised a workshop of preparing traditional Polish pierogi for the guests from the German Fläming-Havel LAG. The meeting was held at the Municipal Culture Centre in Kuślin.

In turn, the KOLD Local Action Group established cooperation with the German partner Lokale Aktionsgruppe Fläming-Havel e. V., which operates in the federal state of Brandenburg. As part of the project entitled "Region in the movie and on the plate – cooperation for regional development", in September 2017 Wielkopolska hosted a 15-person group of restaurateurs and owners of catering facilities from the LAG Fläming-Havel. The guests visited, inter alia, the Iral restaurant and the Museum of Wickerwork in Nowy Tomyśl, Folwark Wąsowo organic farm, Lwowianka restaurant in Lwówek, Piramida in Paproć near Nowy Tomyśl, as well as the Municipal Cultural Centre in Kuślin. They also participated in a workshop on preparing regional dishes. A demonstration of preparing Poznań dumplings was presented by the cooks from the Lwowianka restaurant, while the MCC (Municipal Cultural Center) in Kuślin organised a workshop on preparing traditional Polish pierogi. As part of the meeting, a cooking competition was organised, during which the Polish teams prepared German dishes,

IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP

while the German partners dealt with Polish dishes. This year, the Wielkopolska residents are to pay a return visit to the country of our western neighbours. The project was granted EAFRD aid of more than PLN 81 thousand.

A large project, resulting in the development of bicycle tourism in our region, is the cooperation project entitled "Wielkopolska in the Eyes of the Cyclist", implemented by five local action groups: Warta River Union, Between People and Lakes, Solidary in Partnership, Salt Valley and Eastern Wielkopolska. The project assumes building 44 stop and bike shelters, together with necessary infrastructure, in 30 municipalities. The shelters will be equipped with tables and seats. In addition, it is planned to install information boards with maps, showing the nearby mo-

numents, accommodation places and cycling trails. Thanks to this operation, tourists will gain easier access to the places which they have not visited so far due to the absence of the appropriate marking. On 30 March 2018, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski signed an agreement with the project partners. The local action groups will receive support of nearly PLN 600 thousand for this purpose.

"Four Seasons in Krajna" is the project involving two local action groups from the Wielkopolska Region (Krajna Złotowska and Krajna upon Noteć) and two from the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region (Partnership for Krajna and Pałuki and Our Krajna). Its objective is to widely promote the values and historical and natural potential of this region. The project assumes, inter alia, the creation of a lexicon and



Source: Leader of Green Wielkopolska LAG

Cooperation project "Centre for Education and Local Enterprise" assumed, inter alia, a visit to the fishing ponds in Oleśnica (municipality of Chodzież). The project partners were the Noteć Valley LAG and the Leader of Green Wielkopolska LAG.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RDP

mobile app dedicated to Krajna, carrying out educational cooking activities and workshops preparing for catering activities, as well as organising promotional events and a summary conference. The opening of the project took place on 16 December 2017 year in Sępólno Krajeńskie, where the District Exhibition of Krajno Christmas Tables was held, while on 25 March 2018 in the Open-Air Museum in Osiek upon Noteć the project partners organised an event entitled "Easter in Krajna". The operation "Four Seasons in Krajna" was co-financed with an amount of PLN 133.5 thousand.

In February 2018, a cooperation project was launched entitled "Get to know our neighbour". Its implementation involves three local action groups, functioning in the central-western part of our region: LEADER Grodziska Land Association, KOLD LAG and Source LAG. The first stage of the project was the "Interdistrict culinary heritage" cooking competition. In Kamieniec in the Grodziski district, competed the representatives of 14 municipalities from the area of the cooperating LAGs. The project also assumes preparing a map of the area of the participating LAGs, organising a bike rally "Get to know our region", seminar "Do you know your region" and event entitled "Back to the source", during which it will be possible to participate in the forgotten games of Wielkopolska. The operation received co-financing of more than PLN 60 thousand.

Meanwhile, the "Piastract" Local Action Group received financial resources both for preparing and implementing an international cooperation project with the Finnish Riekska-LEADER LAG. In April 2017, as a result of the agreement signed with the Wielkopolska Region, the Association received a grant allowing to arrange a foreign meeting, during which a concept of implementing this Polish-Finnish project was developed. Both parties are interested in preparing an event promoting the social and economic activity, in particular, of women. This gave rise to an idea to organise the Women's Congress LAG as part of the project. The initiative is also to contribute to lear-



Pottery show implemented as part of the event "Easter in Krajna" in the village of Osiek upon Noteć (municipality of Wyrzysk, Piłski district).

Source: Krajna Złotowska LAG

ning and promoting rich natural resources of the areas, e.g. through a joint herbal workshop. The agreement for co-financing the implementation of the cooperation project "Activity – nature and enterprise" was signed on 8 December 2017. As a consequence, the "Piastract" LAG received co-financing of more than PLN 135 thousand.

OFF-SITE MEETINGS

Funds for villages

In the first quarter of 2018, district meetings with the participation of village administrators were held. The talks concerned a possibility of acquiring funds in rural areas. First of all, they discussed the opportunities for the availability of EU funds under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

- So far, the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region has allocated more than PLN 330 million from the EU funds for implementing the tasks in rural areas in our region. The funds come from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. For many years, we have also supported the villages from the region's own funds. The Wielkopolska Village Renewal programme already brings together 1,956 villages from 185 municipalities from the Wielkopolska region – said Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski.

a total amount of more than PLN 22 million, will be addressed to municipalities and their organisational units. EU support is allocated for "Investing in cultural facilities", "Shaping public space" and "Protecting monuments and traditional buildings". The calls were conducted in March, April and May 2018 – explained Izabela Mroczek, Director of the RDP Department at the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region.

The talks with participation of village administrators also applied to other activities carried out by the Local Government of the Region, but from own funds. A great interest enjoys the regional Wielkopolska Village Renewal programme, which assumed support for bottom-up village initiatives.

- Until 15 February 2018, we received applications as part of the 8th edition of the competition "Wielkopolska countryside grows beautiful". Each municipality could apply for co-financing for up to three village projects. Their thematic scope had to concern the development of public space to improve the aesthetics of the village or the preservation, reproduction and promotion of the cultural, natural or landscape heritage and traditions of the local community. The amount of the subsidies is between PLN 10 and 30 thousand. In the regional budget for 2018, an amount of PLN 3.25 million has been provided for implementing the competition – said Dominik Bekasiak, Head of the Village Renewal Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region.



Source: Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region

Forum of Village Administrators of the Turecki District Municipalities in Brudzewo was attended by (from the right) Village Mayor of Brudzewo Cezary Krasowski, Starost of the Turecki district Mariusz Senko, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski, Councillor of the Wielkopolska Region Anna Majda and Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Dariusz Mlynarczyk.

The participants in the meetings became familiar with the detailed information on the competitions announced by the Local Action Groups (LAGs) under the so-called LEADER approach. The LAGs have developed community-led local development strategies, achieving more than PLN 320 million for their implementation. This amount is gradually distributed as a result of the calls for applications conducted by the LAGs in accordance with the schedules available on their websites. The competitions planned until 2020 make it possible to acquire the funds, inter alia, for taking up and developing economic activity, building and rebuilding of public and non-commercial tourist or recreational infrastructure, preserving the local heritage or grant projects.

- This year, the Wielkopolska Region is conducting three calls for applications under the 2014-2020 RDP. The financed aid, for



Meeting in Wysock Wielki, Ostrowski district.

Source: Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region

Pickled asparagus – tradition straight from Wielkopolska

Once the warm, spring days come, the shop shelves are gradually filled with asparagus. Owing to its health values, delicate taste and beautiful appearance, this vegetable gains an increasing number of followers. In the “Our European Countryside” bulletin, we present Pickled Asparagus from Pakosław, included in the List of Traditional Products kept by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The cultivation of asparagus in Wielkopolska, in the area of Pakosław, dates back to the period of the Prussian Partition (nineteenth century), when it was brought there by German settlers. Polish farmers adopted the cultivation of that plant from them and since they wanted to eat asparagus also beyond the harvesting season, they started pickling it like cucumbers.

Asparagus is an exquisite vegetable requiring a lot of work. The soil for its cultivation should be well fertilised with manure, mechanically weeded and then properly tilled, irrigated and watered. The collection of young stalks takes place only in the third year from starting the cultivation. The pickling process also enhances the “aristocratic” properties of asparagus, complemented by the ingredients such as dill, horseradish, blackcurrant leaves, oak leaves and garlic cloves. Everything is put into jars and poured with brine. Asparagus contains much vitamin C, B1, B2, mineral salts and a lot of asparagine. After pickling, it retains its white color, firmness and crispness. In the past, pickled asparagus was stored by immersing barrels or jars in a well, now it is kept in a cool and dark room.

The production of pickled asparagus is a showcase of the agri-tourism farm “Wojciechówka” owned by Beata and Wojciech Walkowiak from Pakosław. The activity of Mrs and Mr Walkowiak has largely contributed to popularising this unique product. Pickled asparagus has been awarded many times during culinary competitions, both regional and national. In 2009, it was placed first in the regional competition “Our culinary heritage – tastes of the regions”. One year later, it was included in the list of Traditional Products kept by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and in 2011 the owners of the farm received for their pickled asparagus the “Pearl” prize awarded by the Polish Chamber of Regional and Local Products during the Poznań fair “Tastes of the Regions”. “Wojciechówka” also belongs to the Wielkopolska Culinary Heritage Network, which brings together catering facilities and producers of traditional food of the highest quality.

Pickled asparagus recipe

- Bunch of white asparagus
- 1 tablespoon of salt
- ½ teaspoon of mustard seeds
- Piece of horseradish root
- Sprig of fresh dill
- 3 – 4 garlic cloves
- 4 – 5 blackcurrant leaves

Peel the asparagus and remove the woody tips. Prepare the brine: boil the water and then dissolve a tablespoon of salt in it. Place the asparagus in a jar, interleaving the stalks with the blackcurrant leaves and dill, add the peeled garlic and horseradish cut into sticks. Pour the hot brine in, twist the jar. Place the jar upside down until cool. Asparagus is pickled after about 5 days. The longer it stays in the jar, the more sour it is.



Source: <http://www.kuchmianaszpolska.pl/2014/05/kiszony-szparagi.html> (picture and text)

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

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

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

Free copy



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

The publication prepared by Department of Rural Development Programmes in the Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region in Poznań. The publication co-financed from the European Union funds under the National Rural Network of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020. The Managing Authority of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 - the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.