

Our European Countryside

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

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Krzysztof Grabowski

Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

the second quarter of 2019 is an intense time for the beneficiaries of the aid offered by the Rural Development Programme for 2014 – 2020 implemented by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region. In this financial perspective, as part of the second call for applications for the operations such as “Construction or modernisation of local roads” potential beneficiaries have filed 124 applications for over PLN 111 million. Communes and district self-governments mainly benefit from the EU funds. EU funds already allocated from RDP have contributed to the creation or modernisation of almost 270 kilometres of local roads within the Wielkopolska Region, and the total amount of the aid paid is PLN 106 million. In this year’s edition, we have PLN 30 million at our disposal.

In April, May and June 2019, I signed agreements for the implementation of tasks as part of the call for applications completed in 2018 regarding investments in cultural facilities and shaping public space. Savings in the amount of PLN 10 million shifted from other activities enabled funding 26 projects which in autumn 2018 were outside the then limit of funds. Thanks to the agreements concluded, new community centres will be built, some space will be used for building new car parks, new combined pedestrian and bicycle paths as well as new places for recreation and relax will be constructed.

The active beneficiaries of RDP 2014–2020 are, of course, Local Action Groups which implement, among others, grant projects. In this perspective, tasks worth over PLN 10 million were successfully completed. In spring 2019, subsequent agreement were signed in which the funding covers undertakings such as, among others: construction

and re-construction of playgrounds, pedestrian and bicycle paths, outdoor gyms, car parks and squares, as well as publication of materials promoting the area of a local action group.

This year, 30 projects of partners of the National Rural Network from the Wielkopolska Region obtained funding in the competition announced by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. The amount of the grant is over PLN 660 thousand. We describe briefly the projects of partners of the National Rural Network in the current issue of “Our European Countryside” (“Nasza euroPROWincja”).

In this issue, we also deal with the subject of culinary heritage of our region. Not only residents of Wielkopolska Region appreciate the characteristics of our traditional, regional dishes and their tastes. We observed that when participating in the 15th edition of the Picnic by the Odra River in Szczecin. For the biggest tourist event in the West Pomerania, Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region prepared an exhibition at which as many as 10 companies associated in the Wielkopolska Region Culinary Heritage Network presented its products.

When promoting the cuisine, we do not forget about the problem of food waste. Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region, facing the increasing problem, actively joined the EcoWaste4Food project co-financed with the European Funds as part of the Interreg Europe Programme. In the bulletin, we present objectives of the project and announce first pioneering initiatives which will educate and effectively counteract food waste.

I warmly invite you to read our bulletin.

RDP beneficiaries invest in cultural facilities and public space

Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region allocated additional PLN 11 million for supporting beneficiaries that will implement investments in cultural facilities and shaping public space. Next 26 communes and cultural institutions which, in 2018, submitted applications for financial support for their initiatives from the European Funds benefit from the funding. Agreements for the purpose were signed in the second quarter of 2019.



Source: Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region

Kraszewice commune obtained PLN 259,760 from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020. The funds will be used for renovation works carried out in the building of voluntary fire brigade (OSP) in Kraszewice. It is the very place where Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski signed an agreement with Konrad Kuświk, village mayor of Kraszewice.

By the end of June, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski signed 26 agreements with representatives of communes and cultural institutions. The aid awarded will be used mainly for the construction, extension or modernisation of village community centres and development of public space in towns up to 5,000 residents. Co-financing covers up to 63.63% of project eligible costs, and the limit of funds per one town is PLN 500,000 and is determined together for investments in cultural facilities, shaping public space and protection of monuments and traditional construction as part of RDP 2014-2020. A number of agreements with beneficiaries were signed in the places where the investments planned for realisation would be implemented thanks to the EU funds.

– *The financing awarded is often the result of efforts of many residents, local leaders, who see the needs of their communities and effectively seek external funds for the completion of tasks. A good example of the activities are village community centres which thanks to the funding from the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 are built from scratch or modernised and additionally equipped. Wishing to personally thank the residents of the villages where the investments will be implemented, we decided that agreements should be signed in the very villages, if possible. It is a great opportunity to promote the EU funds and present their direct impact – says Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, Krzysztof Grabowski.*

New village community centres will be built

As part of the call for applications for investments in the cultural facilities which took place in spring 2018, 37 agreements were signed last year. The limit of funds available then allowed only for this much to be done. Thanks to the shifts of funding between the Programme activities, there appeared a possibility to finance the remaining tasks which were listed on the updated ranking list approved by the Board of Directors of the Wielkopolska Region. The total amount of support awarded so far to the RDP 2014–2020 beneficiaries from the Wielkopolska Region for investments related to the community centres and village cultural centres is PLN 26 million.

Among the beneficiaries are, among others, Malanów commune from the Turecki District, which will build a village community centre in Celestyny. In Tuliszków located nearby,

a building of former railway stations will be extended and used as a library, and the Brudzew commune will invest in reconstruction of a community centre in Tarnowa. In three villages of the Kościelec commune, in Kolski District, works related to the investments in cultural facilities will be carried out. Village community centres in Dobrów, Ruszków Pierwszy and Tury will be reconstructed and equipped. Grzegorzew commune will build community centres and develop an area in Grodna. Among the RDP beneficiaries there are also Golina and Wilczyn communes from the Koniński District. The former will reconstruct and equip the Cultural Centre in Golina for the purposes of conduction cultural education, and the latter will reconstruct and equip GOK building in Wilczyn along with development of surrounding areas.

EU funds were provided also to the communes of southern Wielkopolska Region. In the Ostrzeszowski District, the funds were obtained by Kobyla Góra commune for the extension



Source: Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region

In the building of voluntary fire brigade (OSP) Trzebień, in the Łęka Opatowska commune, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski signed an agreement with village mayor Adam Kopsis for financing the extension of the facility from the funds of the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020. Łęka Opatowska commune obtained for this purpose PLN 500,000.



Source: Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region

Thanks to the EU funds from RDP 2014–2020, in the village community centre in Granowiec, in Sośnie commune, works related to the reconstruction and extension of the facility will be continued. The agreement on financing in the amount of PLN 500,000 was signed in the community centre by Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski and Sośnie commune mayor, Stanisław Budzik.

RDP IMPLEMENTATION



and reconstruction of a village community centre in Mostki village, Kraszewice commune for modernisation of OSP building in Kraszewice, and the city and commune of Grabów nad Prosną will reconstruct a village community centre in Książenice along with land development. Sośnice commune from the Ostrowski District received funding for the reconstruction and extension of a community centre in Granowiec, and, in turn, Łęka Opatowska commune from Kępiński District for the extension with reconstruction of OSP building in Trzebień. The beneficiary of EU funds is also Czermin commune in Pleszewski District which will provide additional equipment to the Cultural Centre in Żegocin.

New cultural facilities will be built in the western part of our region: in the Wolsztyn commune, in Ziemin from the Wielichowo commune, in Żemsko and Strzępiń from the Granowo commune (Grodziski District), in Dąbrowa and Gostkowo villages located in the Miejska Górka commune (Rawicki District), as well as in Gronówko from the Lipno commune (Leszczyński District).



Source: Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region

On 14 June 2019, at the premises of UMWW in Poznań, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski signed an agreement for the implementation of the project called "Construction of a village meeting hall in Śmiardowo Złotowskie." On behalf of the Zakrzewo commune, the agreement was signed by: village mayor Marek Bulawa and Czesława Wilk, treasurer. Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region Jarosław Maciejewski (first on the left) was present during the signing of the agreement.

Communes from the northern part of the Wielkopolska Region were beneficiaries of RDP 2014–2020, as well. Zakrzewo commune from the Złotowski District will construct a village meeting hall in Śmiardowo Złotowskie, and Szydłowo commune from Pilski District, a village community centre in Jaraczewo. The National Museum of Agriculture and Agri-food Industry in Szreniawa also received funding which it would use for the extension of exhibition on inland fishing and reconstruction of entrances to the Miller's House (Dom Młynarza).

Significant public space

In May 2019, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski signed six agreements with beneficiaries of the Rural Development Programme. The agreements concern funding awarded for the completion of investments related to the shaping of public space.

EU funds will be used, among others, by the city and commune of Krajenka in Złotowski District, which plans to implement the project called: "Construction of a passageway with lighting along the Głomia River in Krajenka." Kraszewice commune in Ostreszewski District obtained funds for the creation of a green recreation zone by the building of Primary School in Jelenie. The objective of the project is to create a recreation zone that is health and environmentally-friendly and development of integration of village community with particular attention to the disabled. Thanks to the EU funds, a new combined pedestrian and bicycle path will be built in Chachalnia, in the Zduny commune (Krotoszyński District). The first stage of works, for which Zduny commune obtained funds from RDP 2014–2020, includes the construction of a section of the path from the Gościniec Świątętko restaurant up to the fire station.



Source: Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region

Lisków Commune will benefit from the EU funding for shaping public space as part of the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020. The amount of aid awarded is PLN 376,202. From the left: Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, Lisków village mayor Maria Krawiec and Aneta Frydzińska, treasurer.

Another two beneficiaries are local self-governments from Kaliski District. A wide scope of works will be carried out by Lisków commune which obtained funds for the construction of street lighting in Lisków, Budy Lisowskie, Trzebienie, Wygoda, Koźlątków, Zakrzyn-Kolonia and for the construction of a pavement, road, green land development along with hardening of a yard for the purposes of Communal Cultural Centre in Lisków. The centre of Piotrów village in Blizanów commune will be given a new look thanks to the financing which the commune obtained for the land development in the village. Dąbie commune in Kolski District, in turn, will implement activities consisting in shaping the public space in Kupinin, Domanin, and Chełmno. The total value of the six projects is PLN 2.6 million.

Let us remind that in 2018, money for investments related to shaping public space were awarded also to Jarocin, Czerwonak, Chrzypsko Wielkie, Łobżenica, Ceków-Kolonia, Czempień, Kobyla Góra, Wągrowiec, as well as Jaraczewo.

The funds will be paid to the beneficiaries after the completion of operations, based on a correctly filled in application for payment and correctly documenting the investment costs incurred. Maximum of 24 months from the moment of signing the agreement is given for the completion of the tasks.

Strong interest in the tender for the construction or modernisation of local roads

PLN 30 million is the amount of support from the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020 allocated for self-governments from the Wielkopolska Region for the implementation of tasks such as “Construction or modernisation of local roads.” In the call for applications completed on 20 May 2019, the second call within this financial perspective, potential beneficiaries filed as many as 124 applications for the total value of PLN 111 million.



Reconstructed district road on the Łekno-Rabczyn section. The investment was subsidised with the funds of the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020.

Source: Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region

Within the period 6–20 May 2019, communes, districts and intercommunal inter-district unions could file their applications. The investments to which a financial support from the European Union are allocated concern mainly construction and reconstruction of roads, but they may also be used for the construction of the accompanying infrastructure, that is, sanitary sewage system and pavements. Taking into account the categories of public roads, the works will be conducted within the communal and district roads.

– *Already for the second time, we have allocated a specific sum of funds from the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020 for the development of road infrastructure in smaller towns of our region. This time, it is PLN 30 million. The previous call took place in 2016 and allowed for financing 148 projects for the amount of PLN 106 million. This enabled the construction or modernisation of around 270 km of communal and district roads in the Wielkopolska Region* – said Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region.

The assessment of applications takes place in two stages. First, points are awarded to the applications filed on the basis of criteria specified in the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. The following, among others, are taken into consideration: income of the territorial self-government unit, the level of unemployment, the density of population, and linking the tasks implemented with investments referring to the creation of passive broadband

infrastructure. Additional points are awarded in a situation when a section of the road covered by the operation will ensure a direct access to a property on which a public utility building is located. The projects which consist in the construction or reconstruction of a road connecting a road of a higher category have a greater chance for obtaining financial aid, as well.

A part of criteria is specified separately for each of 16 regions. In the Wielkopolska Region, points are awarded for including in the project a replacement of road surface from a dirt road to an asphalt road, as well as when the road concerned by the operation connects a settlement, hamlet, colony or a part of a locality with a village or two, territorially separate villages.

After the assessment, a ranking list is created which specifies which projects are within the amount of 150% of the available funding limit. Then, the applications are verified in terms of completeness and correctness of the documentation required. The anticipated date of signing agreements with beneficiaries is autumn 2019.

Aid for operations such as “Construction or modernisation of local roads” is awarded in the amount of up to 63.63% of eligible costs. The maximum costs of financing for one beneficiary in the present financial perspective amount to PLN 3 million. Operations may be implemented in no more than in two stages, within the period of max. 36 months of the date of conclusion of the agreement.

New market in Stawiszyn

On 18 May 2019, an official opening of the modernised marketplace at ul. Szkolna in Stawiszyn, Kaliski District, took place. The investment was subsidised with the funds of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020.



Source: Municipality of Stawiszyn

In the official opening of the modern market in Stawiszyn participated, among others, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament of the Wielkopolska Region Jarosław Maciejewski, Starost of the Kaliski District Krzyszto Nosal, and Mayor of Stawiszyn – Justyna Urbaniak.

– *Stawiszyn is another place in the Wielkopolska Region where works related to the investments in the marketplace or buildings intended for the purposes of promoting local products are successfully completed. The commune obtained for this purpose PLN 990,000 as part of RDP for 2014–2020. Thanks to the EU funding, one of the largest and most modern facilities of this type was created in the southern part of the Wielkopolska Region* – emphasises Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, who took part in the opening of the market.

In the project of the marketplace it had to be guaranteed that at least 30% of its surface would be dedicated to farmers for the sale of agri-food products. Moreover, the marketplaces built as a result of the financed from the funds of RDP for 2014–2020 must meet the highest standards, that is: they have to be hardened, provided with lighting, half-roofed, connected to the water supply, sewage and power supply networks. They should also be equipped with parking spaces, sanitary equipment and marked with the name “Mój Rynek” (My Marketplace).

– *Innovativeness of our investment consists in the fact that apart from the modernisation of the marketplace and constructing a building for the purposes of sale and promotion of local products, we built a facility intended for veterinary service of the marketplace equipped, among others, with disinfectant mats* – says Justyna Urbaniak, Mayor of Stawiszyn.

The Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region allocated PLN 10.5 million for the financial support of investments marketplaces or buildings intended for the purposes of promoting local products as part of RDP for 2014–2020. The funds awarded in November 2017 were allocated for the completion of 15 projects. The aid was provided to Zakrzewo, Łobżenica, Białośliwie, Wieleń, Wągrowiec, Chrzypsko Wielkie, Szamotuły, Oborniki, Zbąszyń, Pyzdry, Dąbie, Jaraczewo, Grodziec, Stawiszyn, and Dobra communes.

The opening of the marketplace in Stawiszyn took place as part of the Wielkopolska Region European Countryside Forum, organised on the occasion of 15th anniversary of Poland’s accession to the European Union. The event was organised under the auspices of the European Committee – Representative Office in Poland, and its organisers were: Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region, city and commune of Stawiszyn, Kaliski District and “Nowy Świat” Association of Social Initiatives. The Forum agenda included debates – self-government and economic ones, during which the participants discussed, among others, the changes in agriculture from the past 15 years, the influence of EU funds on the improvement of life in the countryside, and the development of agri-food industry. Important questions related to the future of agriculture were also asked. The event was accompanied by a European picnic with various attractions for adults and children. Similar anniversary meetings took place all over the Wielkopolska Region.

LAG implement grant projects

Local Action Groups from the Wielkopolska Region obtain funds from the Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 for financing tasks worth from a few to a few dozen thousand zlotys which have a common theme. The grantees may be, among others, non-governmental organizations and territorial self-government units. In spring 2019, subsequent agreements on the implementation of grant projects were concluded between LAG and the Self-government of the Wielkopolska Region. The projects effectively engage local community in undertaking interesting initiatives.



Salix wicker fairs in Wierzbinek is an event organised since 1998. On 9 June 2019, the 22nd edition of fairs took place. The event was co-financed from the funds of RDP 2014–2020 as part of the grant project implemented by the Eastern Wielkopolska Association.

Source: Municipality of Wierzbinek

For example, initiatives related to the grant project concerning the promotion of the area of the Eastern Wielkopolska Association with its head office in Kramsk. The funding awarded in spring 2019 for the amount of PLN 179,540 is allocated for financing organisation of events of regional nature, such as: "Sompoleńskie Święto Sądów" (Sompolno Orchard Day), Kramskie Wybijanie Żuru, "Feta z Banią", and Targi Wierzby i Wikliny Salix („SALIX" Willow and Wicker Fair) in Wierzbinek. The funds awarded will be used also to organise cultural and sports events: integration picnic and Summer Welcome with EnduroSao. Moreover, as part of the grants, it was planned to issue publications promoting local cultural heritage.

On 24 May in Kalisz, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski signed an agreement with Józef Podłużny, CEO of "LGD7- Kraina Dni i Nocy" Association in Opátówek for the implementation of a task titled: "Razem można więcej". The project co-financed in the amount of PLN 198,743 covers eight tasks: brass band competition, an event related to the reconstruction of activities from the period of the World War II, the issue of a publication on the local heritage and purchase of historic costumes, as well as making available to the residents more functional facilities of non-commercial public

infrastructure adjusted to their needs. That is, a village community centre, outdoor gym, hall of memory, and a Jewish community memorial place. Non-governmental organizations from the LAG area and territorial self-government units were invited to the implementation of particular tasks.

Grants are also awarded for minor investments, the purpose of which may be an increase or improvement of condition of recreation facilities within the areas of LAG. These types of undertakings were planned by the „Kraina Trzech Rzek" Local Action Group Association with head office in Oborniki. The grant project for the amount of PLN 115,529 includes, among others, purchase and construction of recreation pavilions along with integration events in the Gorzewo village, at OSP Skrzetusz and in Oborniki, construction of lighting and power supply for the village playground and a sport field in Pławno, as well as hardening the area under the pavilion of Dom Osiedlowy in Biedrusko. Funding for the implementation of grants will be allocated also for the purchase of elements for an outdoor gym, playfield fencing and creating a small playground in Marszewiec village, as well as for the purchase of rickshaws and bicycles adjusted for the needs of disabled people in Oborniki commune.

Network of Wielkopolska Region Culinary Heritage at the Picnic by the Odra River

On 11–12 May, on the Chrobry Embankment in Szczecin, the 15th edition of Picnic by the Odra River took place. Manufacturers associated in the Wielkopolska Region Culinary Heritage Network took also part in the largest tourist event in the West Pomerania, who encouraged tourists and residents of Szczecin to try regional products.



Source: www.pikniknadodra.pl

Picnic by the Odra River is an annual celebration organised on the second weekend of May during which the tourist and culinary offer of exhibitors from all over the country is presented. Members of the Wielkopolska Region Culinary Heritage Network took part in the event, as well.

This year, the tourist and culinary event was visited by almost 100 thousand participants for whom 244 exhibitors from Poland and abroad prepared offers. The Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region prepared an exhibition at which as many as 10 companies associated in the Wielkopolska Region Culinary Heritage Network presented its products. The stands of our exhibitors were dominated by dairy products, including ripening cheese made of cow's milk and goat's milk, fried cheese, natural yoghurt, buttermilk and butter. The following presented their offer: Okręgowa Spółdzielnia Mleczarska Top-Tomyśl, Spółdzielnia Mleczarska Udziałowców in Strzałkowo, Spółdzielnia Mleczarska Września, Sery Grądzkie, Serowarnia CAPRI from Chodzież as well as Yusuf Suleyman Drewbor from Bobrowniki in Grabów nad Prosną commune. Gospodarstwo Ekologiczne NATURPLON Rafała Dendka from Anielin in Okonek commune also prepared an exhibition stand, presenting in Szczecin a wide range of vegetable and fruit products with EU organic farming certificate. There were also regional products by SEMCO from Śmiłowo, in Szamotuły commune, the offer of which includes various oils, including camelina oil with an indication referring to organic farming as well as EU mark "Guaranteed Traditional Specialty". Meat products in jars by SMAK TRADYCJI – Irena Olejniczak from Włoszakowice in Leszczyński District aroused great interest, including lard after pig-slaughtering tasted with delicious bread from Aga Bagietka company from Poznań.

Apart from a rich offer from our region, the visitors could learn about products from other regions: Łódź Region, Zachodniopomorskie Region, Małopolskie Region as well as offers from abroad, including, among others, from Brandenburg – partner region of Wielkopolska.

– *The European Network of Regional Culinary Heritage was established in order to make it easier for consumers and tourists to find and try local and regional food in Europe. Activities undertaken as part of the Network are carried out under the common logo, determined criteria for participation for companies, common marketing and activities at the regional and European level. We invite to the Wielkopolska Region Culinary Heritage Network farms, agro-tourist undertakings, food-processing plants, shops and restaurants, which, under the brand of Wielkopolska Region Culinary Heritage offer high-quality products and dishes* – says Mateusz Sieradzki, coordinator of the Wielkopolska Region Network.

At the official website of the European Network of Regional Culinary Heritage: www.culinary-heritage.com you can find information on partner regions and entrepreneurs associated in the Network, as well as about the Network itself and its activity. There is a list of members of the Wielkopolska Region Culinary Heritage Network available, as well.

What action to undertake in order to limit food waste?

Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region, in order to actively join the fight against food waste, at the beginning of 2017, as the first one in Poland, joined the EcoWaste4Food project co-financed with the European Funds as part of the Interreg Europe Programme. Already in autumn, the first pioneering initiatives will launch which will educate and effectively counteract food waste.



Source: www.pafotolia.com

Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region plans to allocate PLN 430,000 for limiting food waste, among others, through educational activities.

As shown by statistical data, food waste is a commonly known problem, but it still remains in the niche of issues against which no action is taken. Europeans waste 88 million ton of food every year, that is, 173 kg per person. Poland, among European Union countries is ranked 5th, in terms of the number of inhabitants, it is estimated that the amount of food wasted is even 7–9 million ton per year, that is, approx. 238 kg per person. In western countries, the scale of food waste is larger among consumers, and in Poland, the main source of food waste is the food industry.

Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region, facing the increasing problem, actively joined the EcoWaste4Food project co-financed with the European Funds as part of the Interreg Europe Programme. The first stage of the project was experience sharing between partners from European regions in the scope of counteracting food waste, promotion of innovative eco-friendly solutions limiting the phenomenon on a given area, or establishing a regional group of stakeholders participating in the choice of good practices which will be adopted in the Wielkopolska Region, as part of the Action Plan developed.

On 28 November 2018, the Board of Directors of the Wielkopolska Region adopted a resolution on the adoption of the "Action Plan as part of the EcoWaste4Food project concerning the policy instrument 1, that is, Wielkopolska Regional Operational Programme for 2014-2020." The document, being the result of the

exchange of good practices between the project partners and regional stakeholders, covers three actions: Wielkopolska Week of Food Wasting Prevention, development of innovativeness and entrepreneurship in the scope of limiting food waste and increasing awareness of residents of the Wielkopolska Region in the scope of problems of food waste in the Wielkopolska Region – with the use of instruments of regional policy.

– Implementation of the Action Plan, which will start in autumn this year, will be based on, among others, organisation of culinary workshops and trainings concerning the re-use of food leftovers and organising Open Days in the Food Bank for schools where young people will have a chance to learn about the social needs and the scale of the problem of food waste. The Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region, as a pioneer in the fight against the phenomenon, intends to allocate PLN 430,000 for the implementation of the Action Plan – said Krzysztof Grabowski, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region, during the conference held on 13 February in the head office of the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region.

Moreover, educational campaigns were planned thanks to which food consumers, manufacturers and salesmen could find out what action they can undertake in order to limit food waste. Entrepreneurs from the Wielkopolska Region will be able to receive financial support in the form of vouchers for innovations, which they can use primarily for the implementation of improvements or new products or technologies and solutions limiting food waste in their companies.

Specialist classes for students of universities from Wielkopolska are also planned – they are intended to develop test products that use by-products of the food industry. The activities include also support for local non-government organisations the main activity of which is distribution of food for those in need (the so-called last link in the distribution network).

We will keep you informed of all of the activities, and now, we encourage you to engage in the food waste prevention activities. It is best to start an effective education from ourselves.

The Natural Rural Network for the rural areas and their inhabitants

30 projects of partners of the National Rural Network from the Wielkopolska Region obtained funding in the competition announced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The value of the operations which will be implemented until the end of October 2019 is over PLN 600,000. Money will be used for non-investment tasks, contributing to the increase of knowledge and activity of village residents in our region.



Source: www.muzeum-szreniawa.pl

On 9 June 2019, in the National Museum of Agriculture and Agri-Food Industry in Szreniawa, Pentecost Festival took place. The idea of this year's celebration is to refer to the old Polish traditions related to the farewell to spring and welcoming summer. The event is co-financed with the funds of the National Rural Network as part of the competition no. 3/2019 for NRN partners.

Within the call for applications for partners of the National Rural Network for the choice of operations which will be implemented in 2019, conducted by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region, 48 projects worth in total more than PLN 1 million were submitted. 45 of them were positively evaluated in terms of formal

and substantive content. The limit of funds available allowed, however, for financing 30 tasks worth PLN 639,000.

The financial envelope was divided into eight NRN actions, as part of which partners submitted their projects. Not all of them were equally popular, therefore, the savings were shifted as part of particular actions. This allowed

for the implementation of five additional projects, the financing of which would be impossible if the limits determined earlier remained unchanged.

Among the projects selected for completion, there were ones that are intended to organise study visits, outdoor events, trainings, workshops, fairs and exhibitions, as well as competitions and publications.

On 6 May, in the head office of the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region, Deputy Marshal Krzysztof Grabowski, signed an agreement with NRN partners on co-financing the undertakings.

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Good practices – in practice

Some of the tasks planned by the partners for this year has already been completed successfully. On 14 April, in Grabów nad Prosną, a meeting of persons engaged in development of rural areas in Wielkopolska was organised as part of the project titled: “Non-governmental organisations for Wielkopolska countryside.” The originator and organiser of the meeting was Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture.



Source: Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region

The meeting of rural communities in Grabów nad Prosną as part of the project called “Non-governmental organisations for Wielkopolska countryside” implemented in 2019 by the Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture.

The meeting was participated by around 1,000 people, representing organisations supporting initiatives and activities undertaken in rural areas. The program includes, among others, presentation of good practices, artistic performances, promotion of handicraft and tasting of regional dishes.

At the end of May 2019, in Wielichowo, in Grodziski District, Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture organised an event promoting culinary use of champignon. When implementing the project called “Champignon from top to bottom”, organisers prepared a themed information stand, as well as a culinary competition under the slogan: “Champignon in a hundred versions” which enabled Farmers’ Wives Associations to present various champignon delicacies. The event was accompanied by artistic performances of children and a champignon parade.

Thanks to the EU funds, as part of the National Rural Network, Przemęt commune has been engaged in the promotion of another vegetable as its flagship export product for three years. On 9 June, in Mochy, a conference, culinary competition and an outdoor event devoted to asparagus were held. The events were accompanied by Open Days in the farms of growers of this very healthy vegetable in Przemęt.

In turn, on 9 June, in the National Museum of Agriculture and Agri-Food Industry in Szreniawa, Pentecost Festival took place. The idea of this year’s celebration is to refer to the old Polish traditions related to the farewell to spring and welcoming summer. The program of the event included,

among others, folk artistic performances, animal sleds parade, sheep shearing show, or blacksmith’s work show. Organisers prepared interactive stands for children, wicker and floral workshops with making flower coronets. A firefighting show was also presented by a reconstruction group from voluntary fire brigade in Żabno and Śrem.



Source: Municipality of Przemęt

Representatives of Farmers’ Wives Associations from Kluczewo in Przemęt commune participated in a culinary competition for the best champignon dish. The competition was organised as part of the project of the NRN partner called: “Szparagi – złoto z ziemi – Naturalny Smak Zdrowia” (“Asparagus – gold from the earth – Natural Taste of Health.”).

The city and commune Grabów nad Prosną from Ostrzeszowski District received financial support from NRN for the implementation of two projects addressed to the local community. “10th Tournament of Villages integrates, tastes, and promotes” and “Autumn Feast of active seniors” – these are undertakings which are aimed at integrating the residents of the commune. The first of the events was held on 30 June in Bobrowniki. In the tournament, village teams competed with each other in the contest checking their knowledge of the regional history and competitions requiring physical fitness and creativity. For the folklore lovers, a cultural part was prepared: presentations of local artistic groups, animations for children and a joint feast. The event was accompanied by exhibition fair promoting local producers, including stands with natural products such as cheese or honey. Culinary specialities of the southern part of Wielkopolska prepared by members of the Farmers’ Wives’ Associations as well as a museum exhibition presenting old devices used in farming and households are worth mentioning.

– Thanks to the financing from the EU funds, we could give the tenth, jubilee edition of the Village Tournament in our commune a special status. Participants competed for attractive prizes – says Maksymilian Ptak, Mayor of the city and commune of Grabów nad Prosną – The event contributed to the integration of residents and was an opportunity to cultivate tradition and customs which should not be forgotten. We also wanted to make residents of our commune feel proud of the place they live in.

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Source: Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region

Holidays in the Kolski area is summarised by "Wielkopolska Milk and Kolski District Day." Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region Krzysztof Grabowski signed an agreement for co-financing the event in the head office of UMWW with the President of OSM Koło, Czesław Cieślak (second on the left) and Vice-President Tadeusz Malczyk. On the left: Izabela Mroczek – Head of RDP Department.

Lisków commune focused on organisation of fairs. "3rd Fairs in Lisków Commune – work and culture in the countryside" took place on 16 June at the sports hall in Lisków. The purpose of the event was, among others, to get residents interested in information from the scope of agriculture, exchange of professional experiences, establishing business contacts and promoting rural culture and cultural heritage of the commune.

– *By organising the fairs we want to enable local entrepreneurs, mainly from the agricultural industry, access to information on innovations, assistance in obtaining specialist knowledge necessary to develop companies, as well as make it easier to access institutions supporting agriculture* – said Maria Krawiec, village mayor of Lisków.

Polish Weavers and Wickerwork-makers Association, with its head office in Wielkopolska, plans to organise workshops titled "Wyplatać każdy może" ("Anyone can weave") which will take place as part of 4th World Festival of Wicker and Wickerwork in Nowy Tomyśl on 22–25 August 2019.

– *Transfer of knowledge and practical skills in the widely understood weaving is nowadays very difficult. Public education does not offer courses for young people in the profession of basket-maker/weaver, and weaving traditions are fading away in some regions together with the last weavers. Workshop is a form of education which focuses mainly on the practical side, training and active participation* – the organisers of workshops convince.

The event offer is addressed to people in all age groups, from children aged 6 and more, teenagers, adults, to seniors,

including the disabled. Organisers anticipate that at least 400 participants will benefit from the weaving workshops in the scope of weaving wicker, straw, rattan, "paper wicker" and macrame.

As every year, holidays in the Kolski area is concluded by "Wielkopolska Milk and Kolski District Day." This year, we celebrate 9th edition of the largest event in this region which promotes dairying, farming, ecology, local, healthy products, as well as institutions operating in the Kolski district.

– *Our event became a cyclic celebration which attracts crowds of participants every year. It is a great opportunity to present the achievements of Wielkopolska dairy and integrate the milk-processing community – farmers and milk manufacturers. At the same time, we promote cooperatives as a form of organisation of food producers* – says Czesław Cieślak, President of Okręgowa Spółdzielnia Mleczarska (OSM) in Koło.

Organisers of the milk day, as every year, prepare a wide range of attractions for all participants of the event – from trade and culinary stands, through entertainment for the youngest, to artistic performance of popular celebrities. It is worth mentioning the presentation of equipment and traditional method of making butter combined with tasting.

– *Partners of National Rural Network will complete the remaining projects in October 2019. We kindly invite you all to take part in the events, get inspired and undertake actions which will make Wielkopolska countryside an even more beautiful place, not only to live, but also to work* – summarises Izabela Mroczek, Head of Rural Development Programme Department, UMWW.

Champignon in a hundred versions

10 Farmers' Wives' Associations competed in the contest under the slogan: "Champignon in a hundred versions" preparing dishes with champignon playing the main role. The competition was a part of Champignon Day which was held on Sunday, 26th May in Wielichowo, in the Grodziski District. Each year, the event draws crowds of interested participants, including producers and processors of this popular vegetable. One of the organisers of the event is Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture which, as a partner of the National Rural Network implements in 2019 a project titled "Piecarka od A do Z" ("Champignon from top to bottom"). Apart from the themed information stand, where champignon producers and processors could establish cooperation, culinary experiences were shared. Culinary talents were presented by ladies from Farmers' Wives' Associations proving that champignon may take many forms. As a proof, we present a recipe for one of the competition dishes prepared by the Farmers' Wives' Association in Zielęcín.

Pork roulade with champignon, sauce and *pyzy* à la champignon

Ingredients:

Stuffing:

- Pork loin 1kg
- Champignon 0.5 kg
- Onion 2-3 pcs.
- Pickled cucumber 2-3 pcs.
- Salt
- Pepper

Pyzy:

- Yeast
- Flour 60 dag
- Eggs 2 pcs.
- Milk 300 ml
- Salt
- Frying oil

Preparation:

Tenderise the pork loin slices, sprinkle with seasoning, then put on the stuffing. Roll up carefully and fry until golden brown and soft.

Use flour, milk, eggs and yeast to make yeast dough. When risen, form *pyzy*, then steam them for about 7 minutes.



Source: Wielkopolska Chamber of Agriculture

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