



Informative Bulletin of association LAG „Ziemia Pszczyńska”

A new Management Board

December 9, 2010. The General Meeting of the Association of the Local Action Group "Ziemia Pszczyńska" voted for new Management Board composed of:

- Sylwia Pająk-Figula – Chairperson
- Renata Dyrda – Vice-President
- Bernadeta Lampart – Treasurer
- Michał Pudełko – Secretary
- Aleksandra Zachraj, Andrzej Nelec, Paweł Repeta – Ordinary Members



An election of new members of the Council of the Association was also conducted and it consists of:

- Grzegorz Mola- Chairman of the Council
- Dorota Zywert – first Vice-President of the Council
- Eugeniusz Lubański – second Vice-President of the Council
- Gabriela Placha, Marian Waliczek, Sławomir Staszak, Łukasz Majorowski, Waldemar Szendera, Magdalena Przybyła, Mariusz Owczarek, Katarzyna Hasik, Łucja Krutak, Roman Szromczyk – Ordinary Members

It is also worth mentioning that the Office has a new employees hired for the position of Specialist of the Project, who are **Ms. Anna Harazin** and **Monika Berzowska**.



in bulletin:

- Interview with a new chairman.....2
- Calls' results.....2
- A debate on volunteer work.....3
- Kreator project.....3
- Trips to Pszczew.....3
- Silesian Leader Network Meeting of Local Action Groups.....4
- RADP News.....4

Pearls of Pszczyna

In June 2010 the first phase of the Cultural Project "Pearls of Pszczyna" was held, which promotes people from the rural district of Pszczyna, who deserve special mention because of original interest, activity, or unusual collections. Out of all the entries, fifty "Pearls" were selected, among which artists, folk sculptors, graphic artists, musicians, authors of books, founders of museums and associations, regional costumes and old cars collectors, and even the breeder of African catfish. The next step will be a publication describing the profiles of those people. Promotion of the book will be held on 27 December, 2010 and its free copy will be available after December 27 in the office of the Association.



Brochure's cover „Pearls of Pszczyna”- Marcelina Wróbel

Important information for Beneficiaries

Visualization of the RDP 2007-2013

Beneficiaries who are implementing projects under the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, are required to use specific publicity activities. And so, when the project is financed from the RDP 2007-2013 and its total cost exceeds EUR 50,000, the beneficiary is obliged to include a corresponding bulletin board, and when the investment cost exceeds EUR 500,000- billboard. Promotional materials should be used with the following markings: -left side of the EU logo with the inscription below the flag: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development -the logo of LEADER in the middle and the logo of the beneficiary - on the right side logo of the RDP 2007-2013. Beneficiaries may also insert information about co-financing of projects on equipment purchased under the program. And then they should apply the guidelines, as in the case of information boards. All guidelines along with the book of visualization mark the Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013 can be found at the bookmark Promotion <http://prow.slaskie.pl> RDP.



Silesian Leader Network Meeting of Local Action Groups

On 28-29 October. In the LAG "Zielony Wirzchołek Śląska" in Zawada Regional Meeting was held on the Local Action Groups within the network "SILESIA LEADER NETWORK", which discussed issues such as promotional activities and updating the Local Development Strategy. In addition, participants had the opportunity to listen to the lecture of Mr. Marcin Swierczewski - LAG office manager "Zielony Wirzchołek Śląska" - devoted to the following theme "Methods of presentation and promotion of local historical heritage. Subsequently, representatives of the Local Action Groups met with Mr. Bartosz Góra-Head of the Department of Implementation of the Rural Development Programme in Katowice, which moves the key issues relating to the amendment of the Regulation laying down rules for the functioning of local action groups.



The participants visited the nearby towns - Krzepice and Kłobuck. It is also worth noting that in such meetings early September, representatives of the Local Action Groups from Silesia and Lower Silesia also hosted in Pszczyna. After hearing a presentation regarding the activities of our Association delivered by the head office - Aleksandra Jeleń, participants had the opportunity to explore our surroundings, including Pszczyński Park and Bison Farm.

“RADP News”

We would like to encourage you to reach for the magazine "RADP News" published by the Department for Rural Areas Development by Ministry of Agriculture and Country Development. In the magazine one can find the most important and the latest information regarding the Rural Areas Development Programme 2007-2013. Many good practises are usually presented there, the latest regulations as well as valuable advice for beneficiaries implementing projects within this Programme.

The electronic version of the magazine can be downloaded from: www.minrol.gov.pl bookmark PROW 2007-2013, however below we are presenting the most important issues:

Support for farmer victims of the flood

In 2010 120 thousand farms have been affected by severe floods with damage estimated at 1.5 billion zł. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, under the Regulation of 7 September 2010, have taken some measures to support farmers affected by floods: - Implementation of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 for project "Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention actions" - increase funding to 80% of repayable costs of project for people who submitted an application for funding under the measure "Diversification into non-agricultural activities" this year and which suffered damage due to flooding - to exempt beneficiaries implementing projects with from the fulfillment of certain obligations or deadlines for redeployment

Source: PROWiesci - September 2010

A change for young farmers

New regulation act published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Country Development dated 13 July 2010 on detailed conditions and procedures of granting financial help for the action "Supporting the start of young farmers" within the Rural Areas Development Programme 2007-2013 introduced the following changes:

- have increased the one-off bonus from 50 000 pln to 75 000 pln,
- have decreased from 25% to 15% reimbursed costs for inconclusive providing of documents,
- have enabled to offer financial help to people who are the owners of farmlands whose surface is not smaller than the national average of farm ground (it regards the voievodship, where the average farm ground is bigger than the national average)
- for people, who have inherited a homestead and who within 12 months from opening of the bequest lease the homestead, the day of starting the agricultural activity is the day of dissolving of lease agreement or the day of contract extinction.

Source: RADP News – September 2010



The task performed by the LAG "Ziemia Pszczyńska" under Action 4.31 The functioning of the LAG, acquiring RDP 2007-2013 and financed from National Funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development under the RDP 2007-2013. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Europe investing in rural areas.

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Proposed collaboration with France



Our Association LAG “Ziemia Pszczyńska” has received a proposal for cooperation in the context of project 4.21. The object of the project carried out jointly by three partners from France, Finland and Poland would be development of tourism and protection of forests. Within the project, which lasted from May 2011 to August 2012, several ventures were planned, for example conducting fair and opening an ecological center in Finland, and the organization of the festival in France. Implementation of the project would help to support the tourism sector, create a network of partners among entrepreneurs, students or handicraft makers, and to increase environmental awareness among the public. We look forward to further developments...

Interview with a new chairman

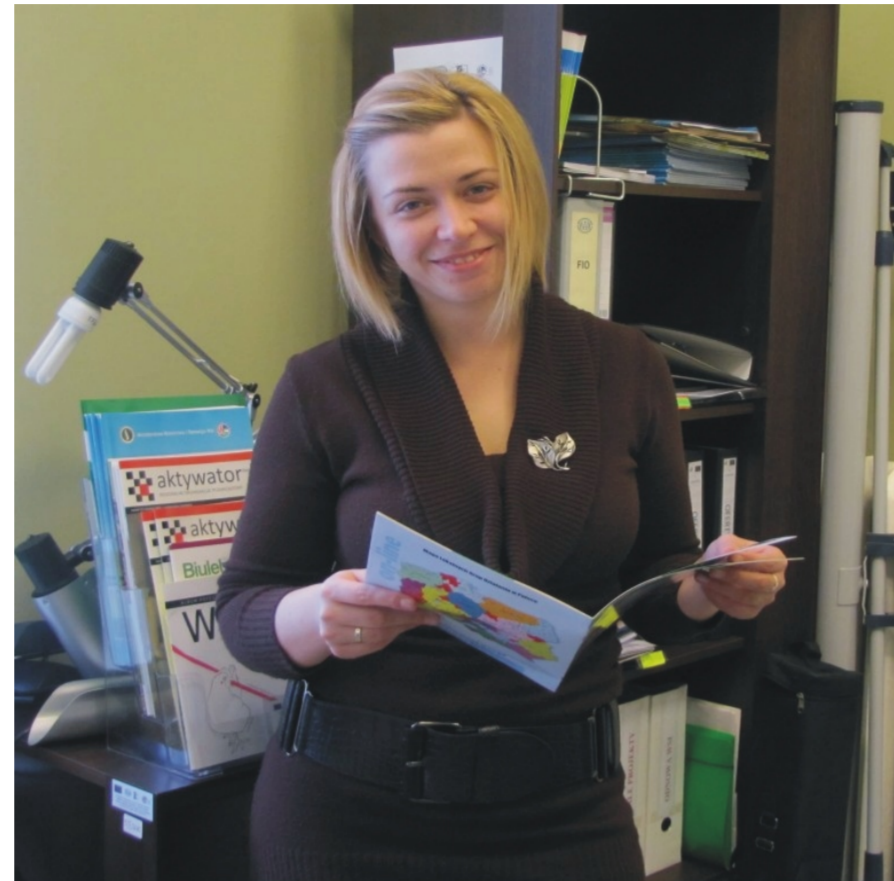
Perspective of Association's Development in the eyes of the new Chairperson of the Association of the Local Action Group Ziemia Pszczyńska – Sylwia Pająk-Figula

As the Chairperson, what vision of the Association do you have?

For me, development of the Association means new ideas and projects using both EU funds and other external sources of funding. I hope that together we can raise funds, among others from the European Social Fund. At the same time - as the new Chairperson of the Association – I would like to continue what has already been developed by the previous management, which put extreme effort in the creation of the Association as well as create many interesting projects that will certainly proceed.

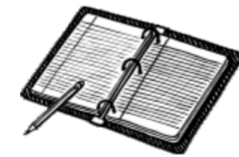
What is the biggest challenge for you as Chairperson of the Association?

The aim of our Association should be primarily the integration of the community. I will encourage the new Board to carry out projects aimed at better integration of the local community and non-governmental organizations operating in the county. A new experience for our Association may also be the implementation of international cooperation projects, involving local schools and youth organizations.



Thank you and wish success to the new Board!

Thanking Calls' results



Dear Sirs,
On behalf of the leaving Management, I wish to thank for cooperation and confidence that you placed in us in the past term 2008-2010. As the members of the Management we had a chance to participate in the project which proved to be an interesting challenge and important experience. We created the office of the Association together, organized trainings, conducted competitions as well as implemented various activities within the Local Development Strategy for 2009-2015 and developed cooperation with other organizations and associations.

We are glad that we could take part in a venture favouring development of the entire Pszczyna county. We also had an opportunity to learn a lot and meet new, kind people. Development of the Local Action Group “Ziemia Pszczyńska” and its stable situation would not have been possible without the involvement and support of many amiable people among others our members, office workers, department and local authorities representatives.

Thanking for help and support once again, I would like to congratulate to the newly elected Management. I wish determination and patience in pursuing set aims to all its members.

There were four different calls announced by Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG in 2010. They were calls within the Rural Areas Development Programme (RADP)- LEADER. There were „Small Projects” in the second quarter of the year, „Starting and development of micro-enterprises” together with „Renovation and Development of the Country” in the third quarter of the year as well as „Diversification towards non-agricultural activity” in the fourth quarter of the year (unfortunately within this action no applications were submitted).

Applications submitted in the first three calls were assessed by the LAG Committee. The Committee basing on the assigned points created a corresponding ranking list and this way recommended the projects to be supported financially. At the moment the beneficiaries are waiting for the comments regarding the formal side of the application. The comments are supposed to be presented by the Marshall Office or the Agency of Modernisation and Restructuring of Agriculture. The beneficiaries, whose projects are verified in the formal aspect sign a financial agreement. After signing the agreement the beneficiary is supervised and reports to one of above mentioned institutions.

Within call „Renovation and Development of the Country” eight applications were turned in. Mainly there were submitted by Communities of Pszczyna District. The aims of the projects were different and embodied: building so-called „Heart of the village”, renovation of the building or building of the skate park.

Projects presented within the call „Starting and development of micro-enterprises” aimed at renovation of beauty saloon, redecoration of a restaurant room, purchase of a caterpillar as well as assembling a heating system.

Among „Small Projects” one can find various cultural initiatives such as: Festival of Silesian Culture, craft exhibition, promotion of Pszczyna traditional outfit, singing workshops, horse riding competition.

Agency or Marshall Office after verifying the application the beneficiaries are required to present additional documents or clarifications.

This year the Committee recommended application which the total sum amounted to 3 435 740, 62 pln.

KREATOR project

Means K-Kreatywnie/Creatively Razem/Together Ekspozujemy/Exhibit Ambitnie/Ambitously Oryginalne/Original Rękodzieła/Crafts.

The aim of the project is to identify and to present the enormous potential hidden in the local craft

LAG Ziemia Pszczyńska started the implementation of the cooperation project together with neighbouring LAGs „Morawskie Wrota” and LYSKOR. Together we are trying to find and show local craft but also promote unusual passions and interests of our inhabitants.

Further we would like to support them in keeping their originality.

All the three LAGs engaged in the KREATOR project recruited interviewers. They were contacting people appointed by the LAGs, mostly craftsmen from the area covered by our Local Development Strategy. On 9th November the training of interviewers took place. After the training our interviewers were ready to meet people and fill in special surveys.

What is actually original or unique craft? One can understand it widely. It can be traditional but also artistic craft. Here, on Pszczyna Land, the most popular crafts are: embroidery, crochet, painting, stained-glass window art or even paper art or cooking. Most and most popular is becoming decoupage, patchwork and artistic photography.

How can we help our local artists? We have sometimes hardly no clue about wonderful artists living in our communities. They often live next to us or on the other side of the street. Our association can provide them an opportunity to exchange opportunities by organising community meetings, picnics and workshops. One of our aims is also to promote a local product characteristic for Ziemia Pszczyńska.

Most of the craftsmen treat their work as passion, which give them the chance to escape from the reality. However, they feel the great need to show their work to other people. Our project should provide the space for exhibition of the craft but also to raise the quality of the products.

This year we dedicated to the first phase-deepening our knowledge and getting contacts enabling the creating of the database of local craftsmen. Conducting of the research resulted in creating a report. The reports show that 80% of the craftsmen are women and 50% are people between forty and sixty years old. They hardly ever sell their products and if they do, it is mainly to the friends and family. Moreover 85% of interviewed craftsmen are motivated to start cooperation with our LAG. Basing on the results, further phase of the project has been drafted.

The next phase will focus on development of the craft art so it could become an additional source of income. The activities will embody actions which aim at supporting entrepreneurship as well as promotion of the products.

A debate on volunteer work

Pszczyna Non-governmental organisation Centre was started by LAG “Ziemia Pszczyńska”. Within this framework we initiated an interesting debate. The target group was young people and representatives of NGO sector. It took place in September 28th. The title of the debate was: “Volunteer work-work experience, a genuine need to help or.....?”



The debate was open by a representative of LAG- Michał Pudelko and the office director – Aleksandra Jeleń.

During the debate we could get the insights of both experience of volunteers on one hand and NGOs cooperating with volunteers on the other. To enrich the debate representatives of Grodzki Theatre Artistic Association from Bielsko were invited. They also run a Volunteer Centre. The discussion focused on issues regarding engagement of young people in the voluntary work and the way volunteer work is understood.

The most interesting part of the debate was a discussion started by invited guests who very actively involved young people of Pszczyna high schools. It was revealed that many young people work volunteers but often didn't realise that.

One of the conclusions was indication of mutual benefits for volunteers and organisations from their cooperation. Help they offer to other people couldn't have been more appreciated and additionally volunteer work is a great opportunity to gain work experience necessary in the professional life.

It was also very interesting to learn the perspective of professionals who lead and manage the work of non-profit organisations. They warmly welcome every new volunteer and use any kind of offered help. However, as it was stressed by the participants nothing could compare to the great satisfaction which was brought by supporting and helping other people as well as contributing to achieving a meaningful aim.

Trips to Pszczew



On 15-16 October 2010, there was a second training trip organized by the Local Action Group “Ziemia Pszczyńska”, this time to Pszczew, (Lubuskie). The training was conducted by Mr. Waldemar Szendera - PhD in life sciences. The theme of training was the creation of protected areas and identification of priorities for development in the region covered by the LSR. On the first day, participants visited the Nature Education Centre, as well as acquainted with the activities of the Local Action Group “Działaj z nami”, one of the most dynamically active one in our country.

Subsequently, workshops were held during which participants sought to identify priorities for development in our region. During the second day of departure, a group consisted of 40 participants from Pszczyna county had the opportunity to admire enchanting views along Lake Chłop and also visit many interesting places, such as: Miedzyrzeczki Fortified Region and the Museum of Beekeeping. Apart from knowledge gained during the workshop and the possibility to visit many interesting places, the training has enabled it also - and perhaps above all - to integrate the county's residents and inhabitants from Pszczyna, and to exchange valuable experiences.