

## 2<sup>nd</sup> National Networks Meeting – Leszno, Poland

### Factsheet: Field visit 3

#### Programme of the visit

- › 8:45 Departure
- › 9:45 – 13:15 Organic farm in Grzybów – Mrs Ewa Smuk-Stratenwerth and Mr Peter Stratenwerth will give the participants the tour of the farm. The visit will include a workshop on farm's activity, Apidae and education about organic farming. In addition, there will be a visit to the shop selling local products located within the farm area.
- › 13:15 – 14:15 Lunch in the Social Cooperative in Grzybów

#### Organic farm in Grzybów

***The organic farm of Ewa and Peter Stratenwerth in Grzybów is engaged in growing cereals, legumes, vegetables and buckwheat, and raising cows and goats. There are two processing plants there: a cheese dairy and a bakery. The owners teach courses in organic farming within the framework of the Ecological Folk High School and run an organisation for the development of organic farming and community education and development.***

#### Description

Peter is a Swiss national who moved to Poland in 1989 and started running a farm. From the beginning he has been using organic methods of farming. While still in Switzerland, he completed a school of biodynamic farming. Ewa, on the other hand, was born and raised in Warsaw and is a biologist-anthropologist by training. She moved to the countryside in 1993. Ewa and Peter's farm has held an Organic Farming certificate since 1991. In total, they carry out their business on 20 hectares, of which 16 hectares are their own property and the remaining four are leased. More than half of the acreage (about 12 hectares) are meadows and pastures, which provide the basis for feeding the animals on the farm: 22 goats, 1 horse, 4 cows. Both cows and goats are kept for milk production. On the remaining area (8 ha) cereals, legumes, pumpkins and fodder beet, potatoes, Kamchatka berry, grapevine and buckwheat are grown. Great importance is attached to biodiversity on the farm, by planting and maintaining hedgerows and mid-field plantings. The farm also has an educational garden used for workshops. The farm has a fleet of machinery, including a tractor, plough, rotovator, seed drill, shelling machine and pre-sowing unit.

#### Objective



The objective of the farm is to further reduce the value chain of high quality organic products by expanding direct distribution channels, as well as activities aimed at the restoration of local biodiversity, and undertaking educational initiatives in this regard.

## Activities

The owners run two processing plants: a cheese dairy, where they produce maturing cheese, and a bakery, now transferred to the Foundation they set up, 'Ecological Folk High School'. In total, they produce around 20 kg of cheese every week. The bakery, meanwhile, bakes around 700 loaves of Hruby Bread every week. There is also a mill on the farm, where grains are ground into flour, which is used to bake bread, and a wood-fired bread oven. The products made on the farm (mainly breads and cheeses) are sold in dozens of organic food shops in Warsaw and Płock, as well as in an online shop at: [www.sklep-hruby.pl](http://www.sklep-hruby.pl). Moreover, the owner sells his products at the BioBazar in Warsaw.

Ewa, in turn, is also engaged in non-governmental and educational activities as part of the 'Ziarno' (Seed) Ecological and Cultural Association and the 'Ecological Folk High School' Foundation. In addition, the farm often receives volunteers and apprentices, including foreign ones.

Since 1992, the farm has served as a place of education for both children coming to educational workshops and students learning about farming and processing methods complying with organic principles.

In 2015, thanks to the Velux Foundation, it was possible to establish the Ecological Folk High School [Ekologiczny Uniwersytet Ludowy – EUL], where courses in organic farming are provided. Every year, 'Ziarno' and the EUL are also the initiators of the nationwide organic farmers' convention 'Good Harvest', which takes place near Grzybów. The association is a member of the Living Earth Coalition, IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements).

The owners run workshops on the development of organic farming as well as community education and development. They cooperate with other organic farms and with agricultural schools in the framework of the Ecological Folk High School. There is an on-site shop with local products – organic and local food and handicrafts (Sannicka culture). The farm also runs the social cooperative 'Cor Et Manus. Tastes from Grzybów', which, among other things, prepares meals for participants in courses and workshops.

## Financing details

The farm benefited from funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Under the RDP 2007-2013 the construction of a farm-based cheese dairy was financed from Measure 312. Micro-enterprises at the level of EUR 24 000. The total investment is around EUR 75 000.



In addition, under the RDP 2007-2013, the following was financed from the LEADER axis 'small projects' (through the LAG 'Aktywni Razem' (The United Active)):

- › adaptation of the Borgward truck into a chamber for ecological and cultural education. Value of the project EUR 7 918;
- › development of the public space at the building of the Ecological Folk High School in Grzybów. Project value EUR 25 000;
- › expansion of the educational and recreational offer for children and young people. Value of the project EUR 14 604.

The energy supply system of the low-emission building of the Ecological Folk High School was modified using RDP 2014-2020 funds, measure M19. LEADER (through the LAG 'Aktywni Razem'), in the framework of the call for proposals for the development of non-commercial activities. The value of the project is EUR 22 226.

In addition, the Ecological and Cultural Association 'Ziarno' received grants from Measure M19. LEADER for educational and training activities, i.e.:

- › Healthy, low-cost, climate protecting – community supported agriculture. Value of the project EUR 1 325;
- › Social economy idea – creating support networks for the disabled. Study tour to the 'Bury Miś' (Brown Teddy Bear) Community. Value of the project EUR 1 325.

#### More information:

- › Organic farm of Ewa and Peter Stratenwerth in the village of Grzybów
- › Poland, Mazowieckie voivodship, Płocki powiat, Grzybów
- › Website: [www.grzybow.pl](http://www.grzybow.pl)

#### *How the Polish Rural Network supports LEADER*

*The Polish Rural Network regularly supports the implementation of the LEADER approach in Poland – it manages the LEADER thematic group, runs training for LAG representatives (most recently on the topics of Smart Villages and in drafting Local Development Strategies), provides occasional support to the Polish LAG Network association, running the LAG database on the Network's website, as well as helping find partners for transnational projects and study visits.*



