



Dear Reader,

the next issue of our bulletin is a summary of the activities that the Association has undertaken over the years. This year, 2023, is the 15th anniversary of our local action group. Also, the EU 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework (MFF) is coming to a close. We have, therefore, prepared a summary of the key projects that our association has been involved in.

The upcoming end of the year, together with the closing of the 2014-2020 MFF, is a time to reflect and wrap up the year and to plan for the future. As the 2014-2020 MFF is close to completion, the door is being opened for a new financial programming framework and a new supply of funds. We hope that we will open the door wide together with you in



2024, as we undertake new projects and activities to help our small communities grow stronger.

Wishing you a nice read!

Ziemia Pszczyńska Local Action Group Association

The 20th day October in 2008 is an important date in the history of our local action group (LAG). It was then that the association was officially registered with the National Court Register. It was then that the Ziemia Pszczyńska Local Action Group Association (Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG) started out with projects and activities and has been working continuously since then.



This year will see the 15th anniversary of its existence. For us, it has been a time of hard work, challenges and numerous opportunities that have paved

the way to money from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) for our area.

The association originally covered six municipalities in the district of Pszczyzna only. The Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG implemented its first local development strategy (LDS) in that area as part of the EU 2007-2013 multiannual financial framework (MFF).

In subsequent years, the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG decided to expand its coverage to include a number of neighbouring municipalities. Therefore, in 2015, we began the expansion process by inviting new members, namely Bojszowy, Wry, Orzesze, Bieruń, and Ornontowice. During the implementation of the Polish 2014-2020 Programme for Rural Development, the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG followed its community-led local development strategy over the areas of 11 municipalities, which made us one of the largest local action groups in the province of Silesia.

During that time, we worked hard to build relations with the local governments. It was a time of learning about one another and developing cooperation





mechanisms, which we think were established in a relatively short time. By expanding the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG's geographical coverage, which also meant a larger population covered by our activities, our potential and impact within the 2014-2020 MFF increased considerably, without detriment to the territorial coherence of the area and, very importantly, its historical coherence.

The Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG is approaching its third programming framework, the 2021-2027 MFF. The new framework carries many opportunities. The Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG's local development strategy will be funded directly by the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG with money from two European structural and investment funds (ESIFs), namely the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+). In addition, the public members of the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG will have access to money from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).



The new challenges facing the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG, which is in the process of implementing its multi-fund strategy, are opening a new chapter in our association's story, which began 15 years ago. We have worked over the years to make the best possible use of EU funds for the development of our area and, most importantly, for its communities.

Summary of activities

The Ziemia Pszczyńska Local Action Group Association's budget for the LEADER measure within the 2014-2020 MFF amounted to **nearly PLN 30,000,000**. This amount included support for activities to strengthen social capital, to develop the spirit of enterprise through support with starting up and expanding businesses, to support cooperation between businesses, to preserve local heritage and to develop publicly available and non-commercial facilities for tourism, leisure and cultural activities.

Individual competitions

Through individual competitions for business start-ups, **70 new businesses** were started up in the area covered by the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG's LDS. Financial support was also supplied to existing businesses, with **50 agreements signed for the provision of such support**. This money helped business operators go ahead with their investment projects, creating approx. **170 new jobs**. The total value of business support agreements amounted to **nearly PLN 13,000,000**. A large number of these projects were highly innovative or were a major part of the range of services offered in our area, particularly community services. The beneficiaries, which included mainly local governments, carried



out also non-commercial projects that involved the construction of public access facilities. A total of **50 such projects** were completed, and the total value exceeded **PLN 6,000,000**. Nongovernmental organisations focused their efforts on social capital building projects. These included art glass workshops, IT classes, social campaigns for the environment, or horticultural therapy workshops. Activities were also carried out to protect and promote local heritage.



Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG's own projects

During the 2014-2020 MFF, the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG independently conducted its key operations to deliver on the objectives of its local development strategy (LDS). The value of the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG's own projects was **PLN 406,853.68**. We carried out two own projects.

As part of the first one, we have so far delivered five editions of the annual *POLEKU slow life po naszymu* festival. Each of these annual festivals was held in early summer. The venue of the first such festival was the water sports centre in the village of Łąka near Pszczyna. The next one was hosted by the Open-Air Museum of Pszczyna Farmhouses. Each event began with breakfast or lunch. This was followed by a variety of workshops for participants. Topics included ecology and the environment, herbs, handicrafts, floral arrangements, and cosmetics. Each festival



also offered more than ten workshop and activity zones for families, both children and adults. A number of field / outdoor games related to the area of the LDS were available during each POLEKU festival, as was a food service zone. Each festival closed with a music concert. The performers represented a variety of music styles, but all of them created a coherent atmosphere that matched the setting and nature of the event. However, none of the festivals would have been held if it had not been for the participants, whose numbers grow year by year. We are very happy about this. This year's festival on the premises of the Open-Air Museum of Pszczyna Farmhouses attracted approx. 1,500 visitors.

Our other own project was designed to develop and implement a set of standards and objectives for a local brand. This project created the Pszczyna Land Academy. The idea behind the Academy project was to provide children blooming intellectually and searching for interests with an array of ways in which they could develop themselves as well as their skills and passions. The Academy aimed to encourage activity among young people through a variety of after-school classes designed to help them improve and develop their skills and to instil open mindsets in them. The work of the Academy is guided by Hodding Carter's words: "Two of the greatest gifts we can give our children are roots and wings".

The pilot project of the Pszczyna Land Academy offered an inauguration lecture and classes in three categories consistent with the Academy's educational objectives:

1. GINGERBREAD MAKING in the REGIONALISM AND IDENTITY BUILDING category,
2. CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS TOPICS in the NATURAL SCIENCE category, and
3. WASTE: OUR FRIEND OR FOE? in the ECOLOGY & THE ENVIRONMENT category.

The 2nd edition of this project was delivered in February-October 2020 (with a break caused by the Covid-19 pandemic). A total of 72 hours (72 x 60 min) of classes were provided as part of this edition, focused around three thematic areas: enterprise, psychology, and health promotion, including meetings with a dietitian and a bee-keeper, as well as mindfulness, concentration and sports-for-a-healthy-life activities.

The classes in the 2nd edition were wrapped up with three Academy Days events. They were held in the towns of Ornontowice, Pszczyna, and Bojszowy. Each of the events was a special time for children and their parents. The children took part in additional workshops with musical and architecture-focused activities. Their parents attended a special psychological panel discussion.

In the following year, the 3rd edition of the Pszczyna Land Academy was delivered in the summer. Nearly 50 participants spent three weeks delving into three areas of knowledge. The thematic areas in the 3rd edition were chemistry and physics, diet, enterprise, psychology, and logical puzzles. We wanted not only to engage children and teenagers in various activities, but also to encourage them to develop their social skills, which are vital for them to cope with

home isolation and other barriers to social interaction. We believe that some of the skills or attitudes that our young residents acquired during the classes will germinate one day and help them develop and acquire new skills and abilities.



The project ended with a sum-up meeting on 1 September. That event was divided into a few panel discussions. The first discussion began with a speech delivered by our special guest, Anna Maria Wesołowska. The meeting was open to anyone and attracted head teachers, other teachers and educational personnel. Local government representatives were also present. Anna Maria Wesołowska gave a speech about *the role of the school and the family in creating a safe environment for children and teenagers faced with contemporary threats*. Knowledgeable, charismatic and eager to educate the public are the three expressions that best describe our special guest, who grabbed the attention of the audience with her breathtaking speech.

The 4th edition of the project was delivered in 2022 (meetings with teachers were held in March and April). Classes for children (35 in total) were delivered during the summer school holidays. The thematic areas were psychology, enterprise, and critical thinking. At the same time, panel discussions focused on critical thinking for parents were delivered. Depending on the audience, topics ranged from self-study strategies and open-minded thinking, to strengthening and improving parent-children relations based Jasper Juul's approach, as well as modern methods used to support student learning. As the previous Pszczyna Land Academy project showed, meetings with not only children, but also their parents and teachers can deliver notable benefits. This project was extended to include panel discussions for teachers to allow particular objectives of the project to be delivered comprehensively, along the child-parent-teacher lines.



Grant projects

The Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG regularly carries out grant projects as well. These are collective projects where the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG, as a beneficiary, offers grants to other, non-commercial entities selected by the LAG in competitions for projects that serve to achieve the purpose and performance indicators of the collective project. The average value of each project was approx. PLN 160 thousand. Grants were delivered to **66 entities, and the total value of the grants amounted to PLN 809,941.80**. This includes 54 projects that have already been settled (PLN 653,811.80), with 12 grant recipients doing their work now. The activities carried out as part of the grant projects included:

- various workshops and short courses for children and adults, concerts, exhibitions, outdoor activities, sports competitions, trips, family picnics, fairs, regional culture evenings, folk song performances, and CD recording events;
- provision of equipment for leisure and active recreation to the entities and the organisation of various activities for children and adults, such as tournaments, outdoor activities, sports competitions, and family picnics;
- organisation of various events (such as workshops and talks or lectures) with the aim of strengthening social bonds and encouraging citizens' dialogue and local partnerships;
- provision of products and equipment to the entities to enable them to undertake activities promoting local heritage (this included regional folk costumes, kitchen appliances and equipment for rural housewives' clubs), provision of resources needed by a local hall of memory and a local museum, renovation of sculptures, provision of clip-on microphones for local theatres, and the provision of equipment for a local choir;
- promotion and protection of local customs and traditions to help preserve the local heritage of the area covered by the LDS.



Cooperation projects

The Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG is involved in cooperation projects, including internationally. Three such projects have already been completed and closed financially (PLN 1,508,330.05). The fourth project, called CHILD, is underway (PLN 728,326.00). The total value of this measure is **PLN 2,236,656.05**.

1. Bee Friends International Cooperation Project (Poland and Croatia)

This project grouped together four local action groups: the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG, the Żywiecki Raj LAG (province: *śląskie*, Poland), LGD 5 and Mo-slavina LGD (Croatia).

The main theme of the project was the promotion of activities related to beekeeping and biodiversity. The project involved three study visits, including one to Poland and two to Croatia, and the purchase of vending machines for selling honey and other ap-inary products. Bee Friends was born out of the need to undertake projects related to ecology, including beekeeping. The areas of the Pszczyzna Land and the Żywiecki Raj LAG have been home to beekeepers and apiaries for generations, and this tradition continues today. All honey aficionados are encouraged to check our **honey vending machines**. They are available in the Pszczyzna District Government building (3 Maja street, building 10), on the premises of the European Bison Show Farm (Żorska street) and at the offices of the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG.



2. Stacja Regeneracja National Cooperation Project: Żywiecki Raj LAG and Ziemia Bielska LAG. This project involved three local action groups based in the *śląskie* (Silesia) province, namely the Żywiecki Raj LAG, the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG, and the Ziemia Bielska LAG. The purpose of this project was to install outdoor facilities in the areas of the participating LAGs. There were two options:

- 1) a bike repair station with a set of outdoor games,
- 2) a bike repair station with a solar bench.

The bike repair station provides free-of-charge basic bike repairs. It is a self-service facility that allows bikers to do basic repairs and make basic adjustments to their bikes. It is designed with a special bike hanging grip, a set of tools attached to ropes, and a bicycle hand pump. All this is contained in a characteristic orange housing with the project logo on it.

The solar bench has two USB ports for eco-friendly recharging of mobile devices on a 24h-basis, as the capacity of the bench battery is up to 70 charging hours. Solar benches are friendly to the environment and, as they supply energy from the sun, they do not produce carbon dioxide. Each solar bench is also equipped with a bike grip.

The set of outdoor games includes a chess table, a table-tennis table and a foosball table. Such facilities were installed in 34 locations scattered across the areas of the participating LAGs. The project was carried out from June 2019 to October 2020.



3. Edu Park National Cooperation Project: Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG and Ziemia Bielska LAG. This project involved two local action groups based in the śląskie (Silesia) province, namely the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG, and the Ziemia Bielska LAG. A total of 10 sensory playgrounds and an outdoor cinema were installed in the areas covered by these two LAGs. Incidentally, in this year's edition of the Best Public Space in the Silesia Province competition, which recognises the best projects completed in the

province of Silesia in the previous calendar year, the outdoor cinema in the town of Suszec, which was created as part of the Edu Park project, won the first prize.

As part of this project, children received exercise books, ecological wooden memory games, Peter Pan playing card packs (with local features), and workshops for children were delivered. The project lasted from September 2021 to September 2022.



CHILDREN | HEALTH | IMMUNITY | LEISURE | DIET (CHILD), an international cooperation project



The CHILD project is focused around activities that support the broadly defined development of children and teenagers and that deliver support to organisations working with children. This project involves study visits to Finland and Italy (Sardinia), a study visit by our partners to Poland, online meetings and workshops, and activities in Poland, including workshops for children and teenagers, an outdoor sports event for children (Runmagedon Kids), a competition for schools, and a conference to sum up all the work as part of the project. A number of interesting tasks have already been completed so far.

A study visit to Italy (Sardinia)

The first study visit in the project, to the area of our Italian partner, took place in early May. The destination was Cagliari, the capital of Sardinia, where our delegates were introduced to the secrets of the Mediterranean diet. They visited places such as Mercato San Benedetto, one of Europe's largest and oldest markets with locally grown produce, where delegates bought some of the products needed for Mediterranean diet workshops, especially ingredients essential for the healthy growth of children and teenagers. Other places included the Dolianova

vineyard and winery, which is a large and well-organised wine production cooperative in Sardinia. This cooperative was established in the town of Dolianova, in the south of the island, in 1949. It has more than three hundred members growing vines over more than 1,200 hectares of land. This study visit also included meetings with representatives of GAL Campidano, our partner in the project, and of local authorities. Delegates also visited Giardino di Poppi, a botanical garden, where they made Sardinian lavender sachets and tasted the local product called *mirto*. Another place they visited was an olive farm in Serrenti.



During a Mediterranean diet workshop, children could learn to make malloreddus, which is a local, Sardinian pasta dish. It was an interesting and important part of the visit to the island. It is worth noting that Sardinia is one of five "blue zones". What does this mean? Blue zones are parts of the world with the largest numbers of centenarians and where the average life expectancy is exceptionally high.



The study visit to Italy was a busy but inspiring time spent with nice people in a beautiful place with exotic scenery.

A study visit to Finland

On 22-25 May 2023, a group of 20 delegates travelled to Finland on a study visit to the area of our partner, EMO ry LAG. The plan of the visit was packed with activities and included mainly visits to schools and institutions working to support children and teenagers. Delegates visited Monikko School in Nurmijarvi, a school for children in years 1-6. The head teacher of the school introduced the visitors to how the school was run and how education was organised in that community. Delegates also learned about the stages in delivering support to children. They were taken on a tour of the school.



Delegates learned about the work of the Monikko Community Center as well. This centre provides career support to young people. The visit to the centre featured a meeting with a representative of the community's youth council. Such councils are established by law in each Finnish town or city. This shows the significant role of young people in the life of local communities.

Later, delegates visited the Save Children Association, which works to protect children online; the Nurmijarvi Parish, which works with children through activities on the premises of the parish; and the Rinnekoti Centre, which works to help children with disabilities, homeless people or individuals addicted to drugs. The centre has a large area of charming grounds with facilities for social inclusion of disabled children. These are some of the advantages of the centre's *homes on a hillside*. A very interesting part of the visit was a video conference meeting with a person who once benefited from support provided by Vamos, an organisation that supports children and teenagers affected by social exclusion for various reasons. By discussing different topics openly, we were able to revise our ideas about school management and the issues that schools and students in Finland are faced with every day.



The study visit to the Finland also included a visit to Krannin tila Oy, an organic farm. This farm covers over 200 hectares of land where corn is grown and later used to make flour, cereal and other products certified to be marked with the EU organic logo. The farm is also the venue for workshops and group meetings, so it serves as a kind of an educational farm.

Juvanpuisto in the town of Espoo is another school visited by delegates. The school's teachers and students told delegates how the school was run, showed them the school's facilities and answered lots of questions. One thing surprised us once we entered the school building. What was it? The students wear only socks and no footwear on the school's premises. The school has 570 students divided into years from 1 to 9. It offers interesting and well-equipped

classrooms, plenty of space for leisure, attractive architectural features, and displays of students' visual art work on the walls on the school's corridors. This is certainly what attracts students to this school.

Nature schools are also common in Finland. Delegates had an opportunity to visit such schools, too. One example is Villa Elfvik. The school uses a historic building. It is open to teachers and their students for field education. They can use an educational trail around the building for nature observations, such as watching the birds that live in that part of Finland.



The plan for the last day of the visit to the area of the EMO ry LAG was also a busy time of meetings with discussions about child education defined broadly. On that day, delegates visited the Hyrylan Torppa facility in town of Tuusula. Hyrylan Torppa is a community centre where various organisations deliver activities to the local community. The centre was built with financial support from the EMO ry LAG. At the centre, delegates were introduced to the work of two organisations:

- ICEHEARTS and
- 4H (head, heart, hands, health).

ICEHEARTS uses the medium of sporting activities to encourage children and teenagers from difficult backgrounds to engage in group activities as a way to help them regain their trust in the world and their peers, to integrate into groups, and to build their self-esteem. The many years of work delivering support to young people have given their fruits: the idea developed by ICEHEARTS has come to be recognised and caught up in other countries. It has also been appreciated by other organisations and institutions, including the European Commission.

The other organisation, called 4H, works to help young people develop their entrepreneurial attitudes. It provides them with training support and assistance with starting up a business. In Finland, young people may legally work from the age of 15. They can turn to 4H to help them make their first steps in business through activities such as hand-crafting, babysitting or cleaning. Unless they earn not more than 8,000 euros annually, they are exempt from taxes and other levies.

The last item in the plan of the visit was a meeting at a nature school in Vantaa. Nature schools are an integral part of Finland's educational landscape. They are open to students for what is known as "living classrooms" about the environment. These are facilities scattered across a particular area, offering regular meetings, workshops, school trips and educational tours. Through play and real-life encounters with nature, children learn about the natural world. The visit to Vantaa was the end of our four-day study visit to Finland.

With their heads packed with knowledge, inspired and realising that the educational systems of the partner countries are similar on many levels and are faced with similar problems, the delegates returned to Poland. Such visits provide opportunities for both thinking and gathering ideas that can be used as a basis for adjustments and improvements, and for exchanging experience and working together.

Partners' visit to Poland

On 17-21 September, the project progressed to its next stage, which was a visit by our project partners to the area of the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG.

The plan of the visit was packed with meetings and other activities related to the topics of the project: children, health, immunity, recreation and diet. Our partners visited a number of both state-managed and private schools in our area.

On the first day of the visit, we took our partners to the Kampus school in Pszczyna and Karola Miarka Primary School in Pielgrzymowice. Although these two institutions are managed differently (the first one is a private school), both have strong teaching base. Our guests were not only taken on a tour of each school, but they had an opportunity to see teachers and students at work in the classroom.

From there, the guests went to meet Justyna Dulemba, the owner of Justart, a glass business. The guests watched the owner using Tiffany's technique to make stained glass. There was also an opportunity to see the practical application of modern tools in horseback riding therapy. Justyna Dulemba, who

lives in the village of Radostowice near Pszczyna, is a beneficiary of the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG.



We wrapped up the day with a Sadness Eater making workshop. Sadness Eaters are fleece monster-looking toys filled with silicone balls. Each is a small cushion and is made to become a toy friend that will make you feel better in times of sadness that all people sometimes experience. Our guests were taken to the world of these little fluffy creatures by Marta Florkiewicz-Borkowska and her former students. The Sadness Eaters project, which originated at the primary school in Pielgrzymowice, has successfully caught up at schools throughout Poland.

The second day of the visit was dedicated to Polish cuisine. Our guests were invited to a cooking workshop at Jolanta Kleser's Pracownia Smaku (literally translated as the "taste laboratory") in Katowice. Jolanta's professional working space and the watchful eye of Marlena Starzec, a cooking aficionado and contestant in the 10th edition of the Master Chef TV competition, created a great opportunity for our guests to learn about Polish cuisine. During the visit to Katowice, our guests went on a tour of the capital city of Silesia.



This culinary experience was followed by an afternoon visit to the Educational, Therapeutic and Rehabilitation Centre for Children and Teenagers (Polish Association of the Blind) in the village of Rudolowice. This important institution, which plays a major

role in delivering care to children and teenagers, is situated in an outstandingly beautiful palace surrounded by park grounds. It was a very emotional meeting. The centre caters for severely disabled young people. Some of them interact with others only by making individual sounds or through facial expressions. This meeting taught us that smiling is a form of communication that breaks all barriers, including health and language ones.

We wrapped up the day with a meeting at Karczma Wiejska, a country-style restaurant in Jankowice (near Pszczyna). The meeting was attended not only by our partners, but also invited guests, including mayors, members of the governing bodies of LAGs, and previous study visit participants. The meeting was made even more pleasant with music performed by young people from a district centre after-school activities in Pszczyna. During the meeting, the director of this centre, Marcin Bienioszek, talked about the work of this community, where young people can develop their passions and interests such as performing arts, languages, sports and recreation. This was followed by Anna Haka-Otręba's presentation of a project called Immersed in Plants, which promotes family trips to woodlands, encounters with nature, mindfulness training, and exploration of the world of herbs and plants growing in forests. Although he was not present physically in Poland, the manager of GAL Campidano, Sandro Atzori, joined us via an online connection. The meeting was an opportunity to strengthen our cooperation, including relations with businesses based in the area of our LAG.

The next day was packed with field visits and outdoor meetings. In the morning, we took our partners on a tour of modern facilities in our district which offer practical vocational training in trades such as cooks, confectioners and hairdressers. We took our guests to see the premises of two local schools, namely District School Group No. 2 and Józef Bem District School Group No. 1 in Pszczyna. The large number of questions about vocational education that were asked during the meetings prove that this is a subject of significance for the education of young people in all the partner countries.



These meetings were followed by a trip to the spa town of Goczałkowice-Zdrój for a visit to the Non-Public Centre of Educational Institutions. This centre stands out with its wide range of activities in its nursery and primary school.

The visit to Goczałkowice-Zdrój would not have been complete without tours of the nearby Kapias Show Gardens, Goczałkowice-Zdrój Spa Town and the Spa Park. Our guests enjoyed the beautiful scenery of these places, which further accentuated the natural landscape of the area of the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG.

We took our guests to one more interesting place, namely a horticultural enterprise run by the Dzida family in Goczałkowice-Zdrój. This impressive place is a complex of greenhouses with different varieties of roses grown by the family. These flowers are shipped to retailers throughout Poland and beyond.



The next place on our itinerary was the town of Bieruń and a meeting with people that receive assistance from a local daycare support centre. Nadzieja (translated as "hope"), as this centre is called, is located on the premises of the town's Adrenalina sports centre, next to a modern indoor wall climbing centre. The history of the sports centre, including alterations to it, was presented by Sebastian Macioł, a deputy mayor of Bieruń. It was also an opportunity to see children spending their free time in such a children-friendly setting. The bravest of our guests could try wall climbing, which was quite an experience for them.

The last place on this busy day was, again, Goczałkowice-Zdrój for a tour of Łukasz Piszczek BVB Football Academy. This impressively large sports facility was truly vibrant on that day. It was a day of practice sessions followed by a football match. Our guests were invited for a tour of the entire premises and to a presentation of projects carried out by the BVB Football Academy. More than 4,000 children have benefited from the activities offered by this centre since it was established. The BVB Football Academy not only helps young people to develop their football skills, but also encourages them to live an active lifestyle by engaging them in various forms of physical activity.

Thursday was the last day of the visit of our guests to the area of the Ziemia Pszczyńska LAG. In the morning, we started the day with a visit to Stanisław Hadyna Primary School in Frydek, a village near Pszczyna, where our guests were taken on a tour of this beautifully-refurbished building. The school stands out with its folk traditions preserved for the last 50 years by the school's Frydkowianie Vocal and Dance Group. This group has tens of members and promotes the local heritage of the Pszczyna Land. The visit to the school featured a wonderful performance by the Frydkowianie group. Such groups do not only sing and dance. They also reinforce their members' sense of cultural and historical identity and provide them with opportunities for an enjoyable time together.

The visit to the village of Frydek was followed by a tour of the SHOWteam facility in the village of Poręba near Pszczyna. That sports and leisure venue was the last place visited by our guests. The beautiful weather on that day permitted us to enjoy our time on Lake Łąka. We are so glad that we were able to show also this natural and recreational side of our area to our guests.

We look forward to further activities as part of the Child project, including a visit to Sardinia in October and to Finland in March 2024. The project will be summed up at a conference in May 2024.



