

# PROJECT SUMMARY

## RurAll: Rural Alliance for Greater Democratic Participation

The **RurAll** project, co-funded by the **CERV Program of the European Commission**, brings together 13 partners from across Europe – **Bulgaria, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain**. United by a shared commitment to revitalizing rural communities, the project focuses on **democratic participation, cultural and economic development, and civic engagement**.

Rural areas often face **geographic isolation, limited access to resources, and a disconnect from broader political and economic landscapes**. To address these challenges, **RurAll** seeks to strengthen democratic legitimacy, promote civic participation, and foster European values in rural territories.

Over the course of the project, **six international meetings** will take place in different European countries. These gatherings will provide a platform for participants to **exchange knowledge, share best practices, and develop innovative solutions** tailored to the needs of rural communities. Through discussions, workshops, and cultural experiences, the project will enhance understanding, build networks, and empower citizens to take an active role in shaping their communities.

The initiative also aims to **combat misinformation, bridge the gap between urban and rural political engagement, and encourage youth participation**. By working closely with local authorities, civil society organizations, and grassroots initiatives, **RurAll** will help build more **inclusive, resilient, and participatory rural communities**.

As a key outcome, **handbooks will be created based on contributions from project partners, addressing the different challenges discussed at each meeting**. These handbooks will serve as a collection of **best practices and practical solutions** to promote a **rural for all (RurAll)**, ensuring that lessons learned and successful strategies can be shared and implemented across European rural territories.

The project's long-term vision includes **empowering local leaders, creating sustainable materials, and developing strategies for continuous community engagement beyond the funding period**. This ambitious initiative contributes to **EU integration, intercultural dialogue, and democratic engagement**, reinforcing the essential role of rural areas in the future of Europe.

## GREETINGS



Dear Guests,

It is my great honor to welcome you to Trzebnica – a place where rich heritage and bold vision for the future meet. Since 2006, I have had the privilege of serving as the Mayor of our dynamically growing

municipality. Together with the community, we have been implementing ambitious projects that combine tradition with innovation.

Trzebnica is a modern town proud of its deep roots. From revitalized parks and historic landmarks to cultural centers, modern sports infrastructure and new investments – our development reflects the slogan: "Trzebnica. The wealth of history, the potential of the future."

Our town is not only a great destination to visit, but also an ideal place to live, work, and invest. With its strategic location near Wrocław and excellent transport links, Trzebnica offers families, seniors, and businesses access to high-quality services, a rich cultural life, and a vibrant local economy. The Special Economic Zone in Trzebnica spans over 150 hectares and welcomes all forward-thinking investors.

We invite you to discover our community – explore the green areas, enjoy the local cuisine, and feel the welcoming spirit of Trzebnica. Let us build bridges rooted in shared values and common goals.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's shape the future together!

Wishing you a productive and inspiring event!

**Marek Długozima**  
Mayor of Trzebnica



Dear participants,

It is my great honor to welcome you to the second European meeting of the RurAll project here in Kocie Gory. I deeply appreciate your commitment to advancing democratic participation in rural areas and

fostering sustainable development across Europe. Your presence here is a testament to our shared vision for thriving rural communities.

Poland has a rich history of connecting people through its rural heritage, and Trzebnica embodies the beauty, resilience, and potential of these territories. For centuries, rural areas have been at the core of our culture, preserving traditions, nurturing families, and building strong communities. Here, we celebrate this heritage while embracing innovation and collaboration to address the challenges faced by rural regions today.

The RurAll project represents a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and develop creative solutions to strengthen our communities. By learning from one another, we can turn rural areas into hubs of opportunity, inclusion, and sustainability, where each citizen has a voice and a future.

I encourage you to fully engage in this experience, to listen, to share, and to build lasting partnerships. As Europeans, we have the privilege of working together to create a better tomorrow—one that honors our past while embracing progress and solidarity.

On behalf of the citizens of the entity that I lead, I wish you a productive and inspiring event. We are thrilled to have you here and hope you enjoy our landscapes, traditions, and hospitality. Together, let us lay the foundations for a prosperous and vibrant future for rural Europe.

Sincerely,

**Mateusz Staniz**  
Director of Grupa Działania Kocie Gory

# PROGRAM



## SUNDAY, 25 MAY

- Arrival of the participants
- Check in at the hotel

21:00 Welcome dinner

## MONDAY, 26 MAY

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 Departure to Kocie Gory by bus

10:30 Welcome words:

**Lucyna Sobczak** - Director of Primary School N°2

**Carlos Oliveira** - Mayor of Vouzela

**Mateusz Staniz** - Director of Kocie Gory

10:45 Work session facilitated by students from Primary School N°. 2 in Trzebnica - Cultural and Arts Center

**TOPIC:** "Importance of Volunteering for Community Development: Senior volunteering, Youth volunteering, Green volunteering, Humanitarian volunteering"

Demonstration of the traditional dance Polonez

11:30 Coffee break in ArtCafe

12:30 Discovering the beauties of Ko Monastery of the Sisters of Mercy in Trzebnica

14:00 Lunch at Trzebnica

15:30 Visit to rural area:  
Rural factory (Tarczyński S.A. - One of the largest companies in the meat processing industry in Europe )

16:30 Back to Hotel & free time

18:30 Departure to Trzebnica by bus

19:15 Meeting at the City Hall of Trzebnica with the Youth City Council

**TOPIC:** Young people and the European Union, mobility programs, Schengen Area, Maastricht Treaty - "Europe in the Classroom: Programs about the EU".

# PROGRAM



20:00 Dinner on the Island in Trzebnica featuring local dishes, live music and the opportunity to dance

22:00 Return to the hotel by bus

## TUESDAY, 27 MAY

08:00 Breakfast

09:30 Departure from the hotel

10:30 Reception at the Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship

Welcome speeches by:

**Paweł Gancarz** – Marshal of Lower Silesia

**Marek Długozima** – Mayor of Trzebnica

**Topic:** Civil Society – The Power of Rural Areas – significant impact of partnerships between public sectors and NGOs in addressing geographical, economic, social, and democratic challenges in rural communities

11:00 Guided tour of the palace

11:50 Group photo

12:00 Coffee break

13:00 Walking through the Old Town of Wrocław

14:30 Lunch

16:00 Free time in the city centre of Wrocław

18:00 Evaluation and certificate presentation ceremony

20:00 Dinner

## WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY

- Breakfast
- Check out
- Departure of the participants

# TRZEBNICA



Trzebnica is a town with a rich history dating back to the 5th century CE. First mentioned in 1138, it became an important religious center after Duke Henry the Bearded and Saint Hedwig founded the first Cistercian convent in Poland and a Romanesque church in 1202. It received town rights in 1250.

Over the centuries, Trzebnica came under Czech, Habsburg, and Prussian rule. In the 17th–18th centuries, Polish abbesses enriched the town's architecture, and notable artists worked here. In 1703, Maria Karolina Leszczyńska, future Queen of France, was born in Trzebnica.

After the secularization of the convent in 1810, the town developed as a health resort. Since 1861, the Sisters of Mercy of St. Borromeo have been active in the town. Despite World War II, the historic basilica and convent were saved in 1945.

Post-war, Trzebnica was rebuilt and expanded. In 1974, it became home to the Limb Replantation and Microsurgery Center. Since 1999, it has served as a county capital and is now experiencing dynamic growth in infrastructure, transport, education, and tourism, making it an attractive place to live and visit.

Trzebnica is located in the northern part of Lower Silesia, in the range of the Trzebnica Hills. A short distance from the capital of Lower Silesia, Wrocław, as well as natural, tourist, and historic assets,



account for an interesting alternative to spend free time away from metropolitan bustle. Rich history, interesting places for hiking and recreation, as well as modern objects for practicing activity recreation, show enormous cultural and scenic potential of Trzebnica. The charm of the place is emphasized additionally by picturesque hills surrounding the city, vast orchards, and the Beech Forest (Las Bukowy), as well as the nearby ponds of Trzebnica, the terrains of the pre-war health resort. An unforgettable place of activity recreation for whole families is the modern Commune Water Park TRZEBNICA-ZDRÓJ. The heart of the city is the charming modernized central market square of Trzebnica. The positive image of the city is created also by numerous municipal parks with renovated fountains, strolling lanes, children's playgrounds, or bicycle paths.

