



## COMMITMENT TO THE RURAL PACT for public authorities

The **Opolskie Voivodeship**, represented by **Mr Szymon Oglaza**, Marshal of the Opolskie Voivodeship and **Mr Robert Węgrzyn** – Member of the Board of the Opolskie Voivodeship, commits to the Rural Pact to support the 10 shared goals of the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas. These objectives summarise the common aspirations of EU rural communities and stakeholders in rural areas by 2040.

The Opolskie Voivodeship thus formally commits to the Rural Pact by engaging to work towards:

- implement the goals of the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas through its own initiative, Opolska Odnowa Wsi 2.0, as well as other activities for rural areas adopted for implementation under national programmes or those financed by the European Union, and selected objectives of the Rural Pact, striving to achieve the goals of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient rural development.

For over a quarter of a century, the Opolskie Voivodeship has been a pioneer in supporting rural development in Poland, as well as a promoter of European standards in this field. It was in our region that the Opole Rural Renewal Programme was launched in 1997, based on the principles of self-organisation, partnership, local identity, and intergenerational solidarity. Thanks to this initiative, residents of hundreds of villages became active participants in local development processes, and the model was later adopted by other Polish regions.

The voivodeship actively participates in an international network for rural development cooperation, particularly through its membership in the European Working Community for Rural Development and Village Renewal (ARGE – Arbeitsgemeinschaft Landentwicklung und Dorferneuerung), which brings together regions and countries from 21 European States. As a result, Opolskie not only benefits from the best European practices but also contributes to shaping them.

A continuation and enhancement of these efforts is the "Opolska Odnowa Wsi 2.0" ("Opole Rural Renewal 2.0") initiative, launched in 2025. It constitutes a comprehensive framework for rural development in the Opolskie Voivodeship, combining 25 years of local community achievements with new challenges. Embedded in the "Opolskie 2030" Regional Development Strategy, the initiative is aimed at:

1. Strengthening local and regional identity,
2. Preserving cultural, natural, and culinary heritage, including both tangible and intangible rural heritage,





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3. Creating high-quality places, facilities, and public spaces,
  4. Fostering broad civic engagement of rural residents in social and developmental activities,
  5. Strengthening rural leadership and enhancing the competencies of community leaders and organisations,
  6. Guiding visions of change and supporting the creation and implementation of village renewal and development plans, including through digital tools,
  7. Promoting exemplary solutions and social attitudes,
  8. Consolidating social participation and cooperation among village councils (sołectwa),
  9. Ensuring the transfer of ideas and knowledge on local development mechanisms, as well as information on available development support, particularly that provided by the regional self-government.

The principles of the "Opolska Odnowa Wsi 2.0" initiative align with the objectives of the EU's Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas and the Rural Pact, including:

- Objective III – ensuring food security and the development of local economies based on high-quality products,
- Objective IV – supporting dynamic and integrated rural communities,
- Objective V – promoting good governance, partnership, and co-decision-making,
- Objective X – harnessing the diversity and unique resources of rural areas as a driver of development.



**Mr Szymon Ogłaza**

Marshal of the Opolskie Voivodeship

05 November 2025 (Brussels, Belgium)

This document is hereby issued on 05 November 2025, recognising the commitment of the Opolskie Voivodeship to the Rural Pact and its objectives.

