

European Experiences for the Czech Countryside

Field trips Abroad Organised by the Czech
National Rural Network in 2023-2025

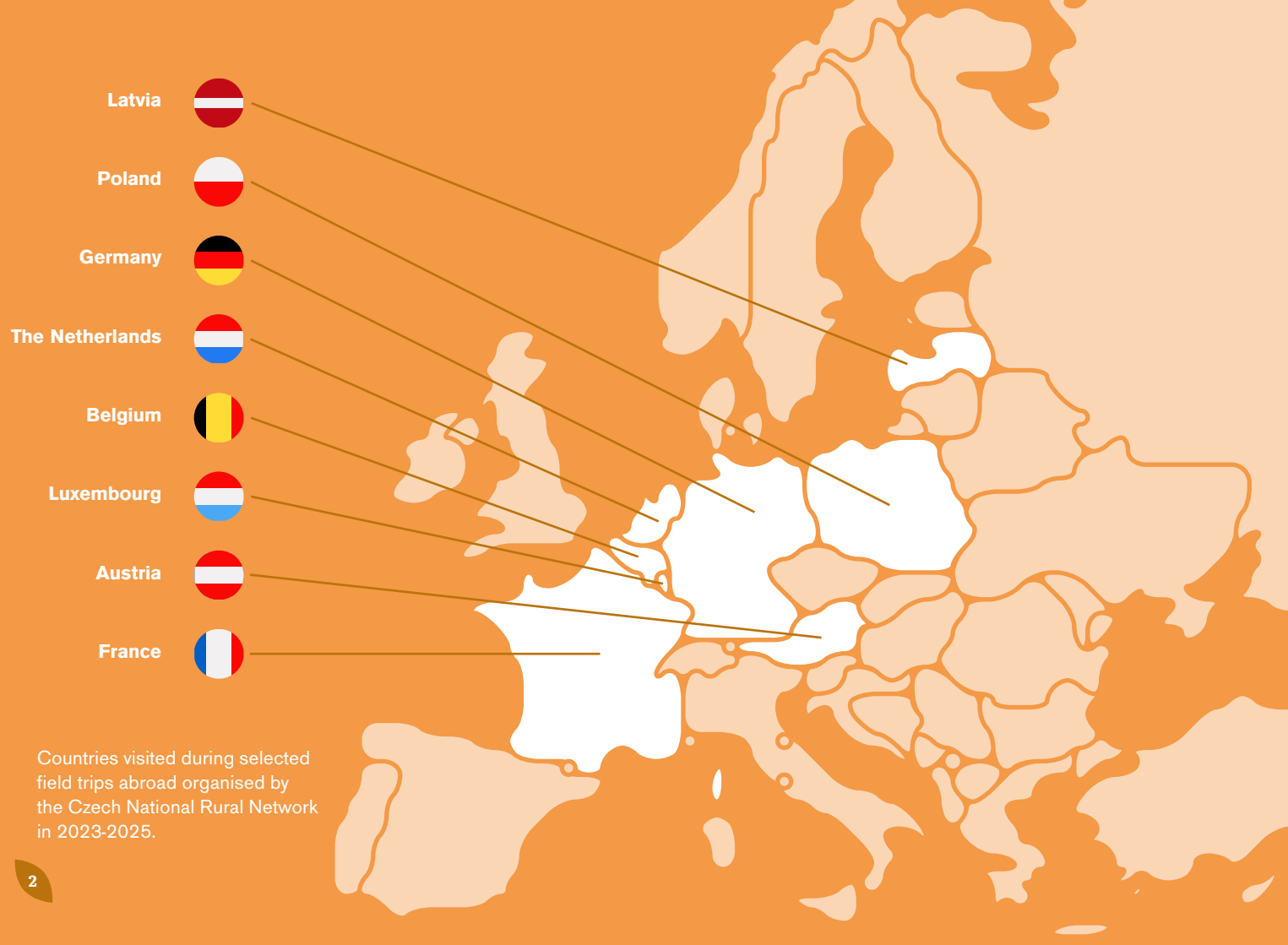


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Ministry of Agriculture
of the Czech Republic

CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 



Countries visited during selected field trips abroad organised by the Czech National Rural Network in 2023-2025.

Dear partners, we have prepared this brochure to highlight professional field trips abroad organised by the Czech National Rural Network. These field trips are among the most effective ways to bring fresh inspiration, hand-on experience and best practice back to Czech rural communities. Representatives of municipalities, farmers, local action groups and other stakeholders gain firsthand insight into how rural development, community initiatives and landscape management are implemented in other European countries.

The insights gained go far beyond what can be captured in participants' notebooks. Feedback from evaluation surveys consistently shows what participants value most: **“targeted ideas that can be applied directly in their own communities,” “the opportunity to establish direct contacts with partners abroad,”** and **“a deeper understanding of sustainable rural development in context.”** As a result, ideas from the field trips are transformed into tangible projects, ranging from cooperation with regional brands and organic farming initiatives to community energy schemes and modern approaches to community planning.

In recent years, the added value of strong crossborder connections has become increasingly evident—not only in terms of individual projects, but also through lasting partnerships, friendships and the exchange of knowhow. Many ideas gained during field trips abroad are now successfully implemented in our country, demonstrating that Europe's countryside shares a common language: one of innovation, tradition and cooperation.

This brochure presents only a small selection of the many professional field trips organised by the Czech National Rural Network. I hope and believe that it will inspire you and encourage you to become involved in our activities.



Ing. Miloš Jirovský

Director, Regional Policy
Management Section
The State Agricultural
Intervention Fund

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Fruit,

collections of old varieties
and the importance of genetic
resources for breeding



agriculture fruit growing education & innovation
rural business historical legacy

On the study trip through Luxembourg,

During the study trip to Belgium and France, participants visited the renowned **INRAE** research institute, which specialises in innovative cultivation techniques, natural resource protection and biodiversity restoration. Its breeding programme focuses on developing commercially successful varieties—a process that can take up to 25 years. Strong interest was also shown in the visit to **DALIVAL**, a leading European producer of nursery stock for pome and stone fruit as well as rootstocks. DALIVAL produces five million plants and an equal number of rootstocks annually on 32 hectares of mother plantations, with all material rigorously tested for pathogens and certified virusfree. Among the many inspiring visits, the organic walnut orchard of Belgium's **NOK La Noix Bio** stood out. The enterprise demonstrated a fully mechanised system for harvesting, sorting and processing walnuts, ranging from whole inshell nuts to cracked kernels supplied to chocolate manufacturers and bakeries.

The French part of the programme offered inspiration through organic apple and pear orchards focused on the production of cider, juices, vinegars and spirits, often matured in oak barrels. Growers benefit from expert advisory services and investment support, including grants covering up to 40% of the cost of new equipment.

The field trip itinerary



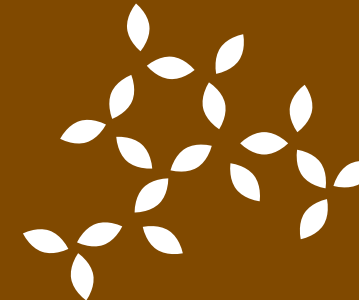
presented up to date knowledge and innovative approaches to fruit production in the context of climate change, the spread of emerging diseases and invasive pests. The knowledge gained is directly applicable in practice and is also valuable for breeding programmes at the Research and Breeding Institute of Pomology in Holovousy.

Within the Czech Republic, similar initiatives may be supported under the CAP Strategic Plan, for example through interventions 33.73 – Investments in agricultural holdings, 34.73 – Investments in the processing of agricultural products, and 51.77 – Innovation in the processing of agricultural products.



Did you know that...

Belgium's **Walloon Agricultural Research Centre**, a leading agricultural research institute, provides growers with disease and pestresistant varieties and passes these varieties directly on to nurseries and final growers free of charge, without licence fees or usage restrictions. The centre is also involved in major international research projects. Participants also visited a collection of heritage fruittree varieties cultivated without chemical treatments for more than 40 years. These genetic resources are of great importance for the future of fruit breeding.



The participants visited the above-mentioned projects as part of the field trip Rural Development and Innovation in the FruitGrowing Sector in Luxembourg, Belgium and France.



Additional photos and information in Czech:



B

Bavarian

inspiration for Czech farmers



agriculture hop growing livestock production
rural business generational renewal
public engagement

The Schreyerhof farm

The Schreyerhof farm in Lower Bavaria is an example of how a small family business can thrive by combining crop production with direct sales, onsite processing and agritourism. Farming nearly 100 hectares, the Schreyer family cultivates cereals, sugar beets, potatoes and more than 100 varieties of pumpkins. All products are sold directly on the farm, together with the farm's own processed goods and refreshments.

The focal point of the operation is a converted barn that now serves as a **bistro and farm shop**, employing five people. The farm also operates a selfservice sales stand, further strengthening direct contact with customers.

Did you know that...

agriculture ranks as **Bavaria's third largest economic sector**, following the automotive industry and mechanical engineering? It is also of key importance for foreign trade, particularly in commodities such as milk and meat.

Czech farmers inspired by the Blomoser family's hop garden

The **Blomoser family** cultivates hops on **35 hectares** in the **Hallertau region**, the world's largest hopgrowing area, covering approximately 17,000 hectares.

The family has been engaged in hop production for three generations. They operate their **own drying facility** and employ up to **18 seasonal workers** during the harvest period. With the support of a **subsidy from the Rural Development Programme**, they were able to construct a modern trellis system using concrete poles and wire structures. Thanks to a high level of mechanisation and longterm experience, the farm achieves yields of around **two tonnes per hectare**. The farmers place strong emphasis on **minimising the use of chemicals**, applying cover crops and biological plant protection methods. Processing takes place directly on the farm, after which the hops are supplied to German traders. The example of the Blomoser farm demonstrates that even in specialised hop production, it is possible to strike a balance between **tradition, innovation and sustainability**.



Combining livestock production with rural hospitality as a path to sustainability

The Hienle family farm has been operating in the municipality of Bad Wörishofen since 1994. They have chosen to focus on modernisation at a time when dairy farms in the region are in decline. With the **support** of the Rural Development Programme, they built a new loosehousing barn for 40 dairy cows and decided to continue investing in the future of the farm. Although the farm covers only **36 hectares**, it produces all of its own feed. Milk, with an average yield of approximately 9,500 litres per cow, is supplied to a local dairy. The operation is further complemented by a **weekend farm pub**, run by Mrs Hienle, which serves homemade pizza and strengthens the farm's direct contact with the public. Like many family farms, the Hienle farm faces typical challenges, including **pressure on land availability**, high rental costs and **uncertainty regarding generational succession**. Nevertheless, it demonstrates that combining traditional agriculture with direct engagement with the public can help keep rural farming viable and attractive, even under demanding conditions.

Within the Czech Republic, similar projects may be supported under the CAP Strategic Plan, for example through interventions 33.73 – Investments in agricultural holdings, 34.73 – Investments in the processing of agricultural products, 51.77 – Innovation in the processing of agricultural products, 52.77 – LEADER, and 45.73 – Investments in nonagricultural activities.

The field trip

The field trip confirmed that **cooperation, direct sales and diversification are key pathways to sustainability and rural development**.

Participants also particularly appreciated the efficient use of shared machinery and the strong support provided by the Bavarian government for regional products. The insights gained offer substantial inspiration for Czech farmers.

The participants visited these projects as part of the **Farms in Germany** field trip.



More information in Czech:





\$ Successful

regional projects supported not only by the Rural Development Programme in Austria



agriculture LEADER education & innovation
organic farming rural business supply chains

Local action groups in Austria

Local action groups are intensively engaged not only in the implementation of LEADER projects, but also in activities related to energy selfsufficiency and environmental education. Since 2010, they have been able to obtain financial resources from the Energy and Climate Fund. Municipalities may prepare a strategy every three years and apply for funding of renewable energy actions, that are 75% co-funded by European funds. Supported measures include the replacement of public lighting, transition to biomass heating, promotion of cycling, sustainable school catering, and projects focused on soil protection and biodiversity conservation. Participants were able to observe the practical impact of these programmes, for example in the municipality of **Tragwein**, which operates a **farm shop** offering products from suppliers located within a 30kilometre radius. Further inspiration was provided by the **Pankrazhofer organic farm**, which combines organic farming with circular economy principles, its own processing facilities and a strong educational component. Another project that made a strong impression involved **mobile trailers equipped with dishwashing facilities and reusable tableware**, enabling municipalities and associations to replace disposable dishes at cultural and community events.

The model of the **Wilhelmsburger Hoflieferanten family dairy farm** was also inspiring. It relies on a fully automated cowshed alongside on-farm dairy processing and bread baking. The farm runs an environmentally friendly school milk delivery service and a self-service sales system, demonstrating a comprehensive and diversified approach to rural entrepreneurship.

The unmanned shop in the municipality of Kilb,

with products supplied directly by local farmers and shelves monitored by camera systems, represents another effective way of ensuring the availability of local food in rural areas.

Did you know that...

unmanned rural shops help to ensure the availability of food even in locations where a traditional shop would not be economically sustainable? As self-service outlets, they reduce operating costs, support local farmers and enable people to shop at any time, including evenings and weekends. They also help build trust and strengthen good neighbourly relations within the local community.

The field trip

The field trip demonstrated the wide range of opportunities for implementing meaningful rural development projects with the support of European funding and strong local partnerships. High levels of civic engagement, close cooperation between municipalities and businesses, and a clear focus on climate sustainability represent key pillars that can be successfully transferred to the Czech context within the CAP Strategic Plan 2023–2027.

Among the community-based initiatives, participants showed particular interest in the **community herb garden in Weinburg**, which, thanks to targeted funding, provides facilities for workshops, the production of herbal products and the sale of surplus produce from local farmers. Last but not least, the digital promotion of the **Via Sacra pilgrimage trail** served as a strong example of effective cooperation. The route is jointly managed by four local action groups through a shared mobile guide and a unified branding concept.



Within the Czech Republic, similar projects may be supported under the CAP Strategic Plan, for example through intervention 52.77 – LEADER.



More information in Czech:

The participants visited these projects as part of the Successful Regional Projects field trip supported not only by the Rural Development Programme in Austria.



F From farm

to fork or the importance of communication between farmers and customers



agriculture farm to fork education & innovation
organic farming rural business
supply chains

In Latvia, participants gained inspiration in the areas of short supply chains, on-farm processing and closer links between agriculture and local communities—in other words, the practical implementation of the “farm to fork” principle. During the field trip, they visited more than ten diverse enterprises in the **Zemgale and Vidzeme regions**.

The large **Tūjas muiža** dairy farm in Dunte, Limbaži district, manages 550 hectares of land and keeps 220 head of dairy cattle. The average annual milk yield reaches up to 12,000 litres per cow. Thanks to its extensive arable land, the farm produces sufficient grain to remain selfsufficient in animal feed. It is a member of an international marketing cooperative, giving it access to both domestic and foreign markets.

The farm employs a total of 11 local staff members and plays an important role in community life through the organisation of summer festivals and other events for local residents. Local people may purchase products directly from the farm each week at discounted prices. A volunteer fire brigade staffed by farm employees is also of significant importance to the local community. In addition, the farm diversifies its activities by providing transport services and servicing vehicles and agricultural machinery.

For its development, the farm has made use of EAFRD support, through which it has renovated a barn, installed a wastewater treatment and recirculation system, acquired a sprayer and purchased livestock

to strengthen the herd’s genetic base. Under the LEADER programme, equipment for the volunteer fire brigade was modernised through the local action group.

Participants were also inspired by a visit to the Kiploku pasaule family farm in the Olaine district, which focuses primarily on garlic cultivation and processing. The farm consistently produces 1–2 tonnes of garlic from one hectare of land. Products are sold both unprocessed and as a wide range of traditional and innovative value-added products. While the farm initially relied on established family recipes, its current assortment also includes specialities such as seabuckthorn or raspberry jam with garlic, garlic vodka and pickled garlic shoots. The farm also brews its own beer, in which garlic naturally plays a role.

This farm is another successful example of a functioning short supply chain, with customers consisting mainly of local residents and tourists who visit the farm for guided tours combined with product tastings.

For its development, the farm used EAFRD support, for example to acquire a 2,500litre kettle for processing its own produce.

Within the Czech Republic, similar projects may be supported under the CAP Strategic Plan, for example through the following interventions:

33.73 – Investments in agricultural holdings, 34.73 – Investments in the processing of agricultural products, 51.77 – Innovation in the processing of agricultural products, 52.77 – LEADER, 23.70 – Organic farming, 28.70 – Animal welfare, and 45.73 – Investments in nonagricultural activities.



The field trip

to Latvia gave participants fresh inspiration, practical ideas and new contacts with the potential to lead to international cooperation. Above all, however, it confirmed that the modern countryside can be viable, diverse and selfsufficient—provided it is built on local resources, tradition and innovation.

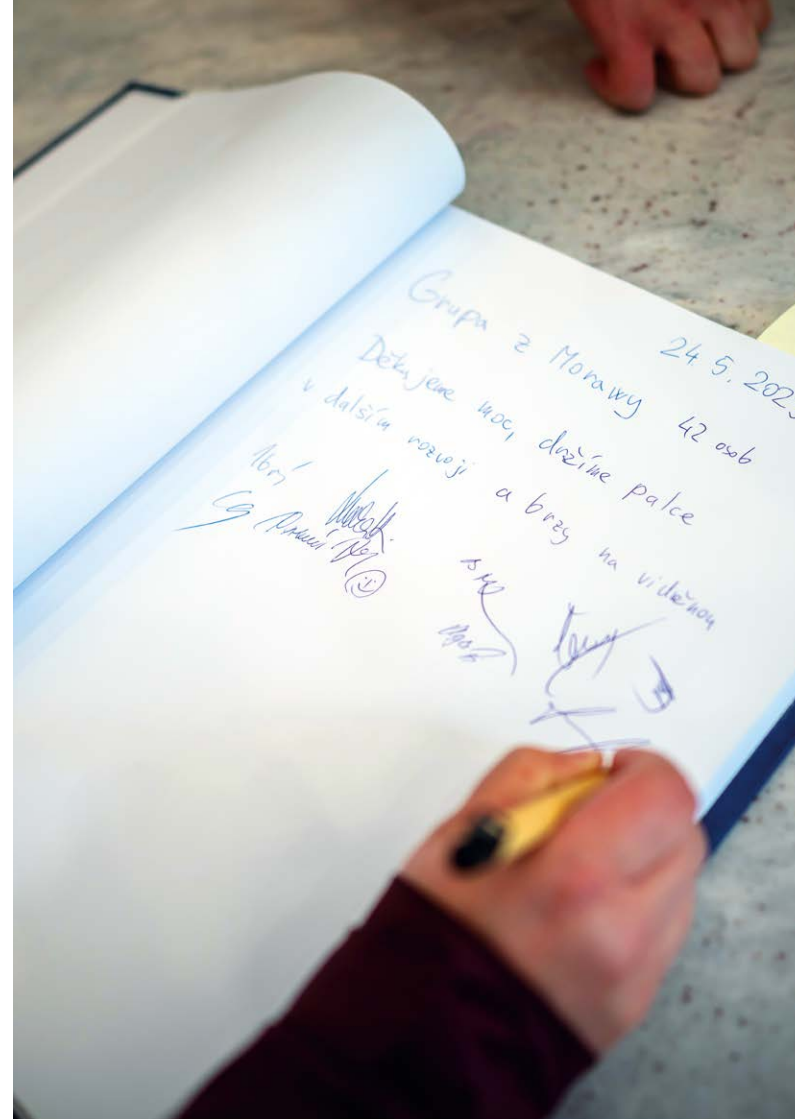
Did you know that...

the **Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre** in Ozolnieki, Jelgava district, serves as a comprehensive support hub for agricultural entrepreneurs and other rural development stakeholders? The centre employs more than 400 people, operates 26 regional branches across Latvia, and coordinates the activities of the National Rural Network. **In addition to providing advice on funding opportunities, the centre supports farmers and rural businesses in areas such as accounting and marketing.** It offers practical guidance ranging from business startups to longterm sustainable business development. The centre is currently developing a platform designed to facilitate communication between farmers and customers. The platform aims to improve transparency regarding supply and demand in agricultural production, thereby contributing to more informed decision-making on public support for the agricultural sector.



More information in Czech:

The participants visited the above-mentioned projects as part of the **Farm to Fork** field trip, which took place in Latvia at the invitation of the host organisations.



R Rural

development with
an A-star rating



- agriculture
- education & innovation
- rural business
- community development
- regional products
- tourism

The programme included a range of specific projects focused on tourism, sustainability, community development, entrepreneurship and local products. Participants visited twelve projects in person and learned about a further four through presentations.

Visit to the Local Products Centre (Centrum Produktu Lokalnego) in Nysa

Participants learned about the work of the local action group and the operation of the **Produkt Lokalny** quality label. Particular interest was shown in the system of labelling and marketing regional products, as well as in the differences between Czechia and Poland. While quality labels in Czechia are managed at the national level, in Poland they are administered independently by local action groups.

Participants could also see food and nonfood products awarded the Produkt Lokalny label and learned about the certification process and cooperation with local farmers. Special attention was paid to the annual fair—comparable to Czech farmers’ markets—where certified producers present and sell their products.

The programme also included a visit to a modernised kitchen built with project support, as well as the

exchange of positive experiences related to crossborder cooperation.

Participants visited **Jurapark**, located on the site of a former kaolin quarry where significant numbers of Mesozoic fossils were discovered in sedimentary layers and mining overburden. After mining activities ended, the local community faced the challenge of redeveloping a large unused area. Inspired by the fossil discoveries, they created a dinosaur-themed park, which has since become the region’s leading tourist attraction, drawing visitors from Poland, Czechia and Slovakia.

Another visit took place at the **Museum of Metallurgy**, housed in a formerly abandoned metal-processing facility. Several restoration projects were combined at this site. Participants were introduced to the project “Remont i modernizacja w budynku Muzeum Hutnictwa w Ozimku” (Reconstruction and modernisation of the Museum of Metallurgy building in Ozimek), which focused on upgrading interior spaces and establishing permanent exhibition rooms dedicated to metallurgy. A notable feature of the museum is a functioning metal cannon at the entrance, which is fired ceremonially each year to commemorate the anniversary of the museum’s reconstruction. The project also included the construction of visitor facilities, such as restrooms.

Within the Czech Republic, similar projects may be supported under the CAP Strategic Plan, for example through intervention 52.77 – LEADER.



Did you know that...

the Rural Development Programme plays a key role in modernising agriculture and supporting rural development in Poland? It places strong emphasis on supporting young farmers, diversifying rural household incomes, organic farming and short supply chains. Significant support is also provided for LEADER community led programmes, helping small municipalities strengthen both local identity and the local economy.

“Poland successfully blends tradition, local pride and modern approaches. It is a great source of inspiration for our local action groups and municipalities.”

— Mayor, Olomouc Region

“Concrete projects supporting cycle tourism and direct community cooperation were particularly impressive.”

— LAG representative, Zlín Region

“We saw how even seemingly simple ideas, such as public toilets or a gazebo by a pond, can make a real difference.”

— Participant from a small municipality in the Olomouc Region

The event

The field trip confirmed that sharing crossborder experience has strong potential to stimulate new projects, partnerships and the effective use of the Rural Development Programme. The varied programme demonstrated that rural development can be dynamic, innovative and socially beneficial when tradition, community involvement and the smart use of available support come together.



More information in Czech:

The participants visited these projects as part of the Field trip to Rural Development Programme Projects in Poland.



F From Polish

fields and farms:
Stories of agriculture that inspire



agriculture education & innovation
rural business sustainable farming
regional products tourism

The Agriculture on Farms in Poland field trip provided participants with a unique insight into current trends in Polish agriculture, environmental approaches and the use of European funding. The programme focused on visits to inspiring farms and businesses that successfully combine tradition with innovation and demonstrate good practice in sustainable farming.

Ecology, regeneration and the courage to start from scratch

The Jakiel family farm proved to be a particular source of inspiration, having been established entirely on a greenfield site. Its approach, based on regenerative agriculture, Angus cattle breeding, poultry farming and direct sales, illustrates that with determination and an environmentally responsible approach, successful farming is possible even without prior experience.

Expert institutions and sustainable winemaking

The Lubusz Advisory Centre in Kalsko offered insight into the functioning of the state-supported advisory system, including support for organic farming, innovation and farm economics. Discussions also touched on legislative differences related to poppy cultivation. At the Miłosz organic winery, participants observed how grape varieties such as Traminer and Zweigelt are

cultivated organically, while the winery continues to expand with support covering up to 50% of eligible costs under the Rural Development Programme. The example demonstrates how winemaking can combine sustainable agricultural practices with export potential and contribute to strengthening regional identity.

Traditional production and a regional product

The Oleje Mycielin farm produces cold-pressed linseed oil certified as a traditional Polish product. This family-run business exemplifies how tradition, sustainability and active promotion of regional food products—supported by the Lubusz Regional Product Centre—can be successfully combined.

The diversity of the countryside – from sheep to wine

The Smaki Przylasek farm integrates sheep breeding, beekeeping and healthy nutrition, while Sad Solniki focuses on organic fruit production and the manufacture of 100% fruit juices. The visit to the openair museum in Zielona Góra–Ochla complemented these examples by showcasing traditional rural architecture and providing detailed documentation of historical rural life.

Horses, wine and rural tourism

The Cwielong-Olszewski winery impressed participants with its modernised production facilities and export ambitions supported by the Rural Development Programme. At the Borycz equestrian centre, participants gained insight into agritourism and the close link between horse breeding and rural development.

Technology and efficiency

The Agroland farm in Krapkowice showcased modern agricultural practices supported by European funding for innovation and technological development. The Opolagra agricultural trade fair proved equally inspiring, providing opportunities to establish new contacts and presenting the latest technologies for small and medium-sized farms.

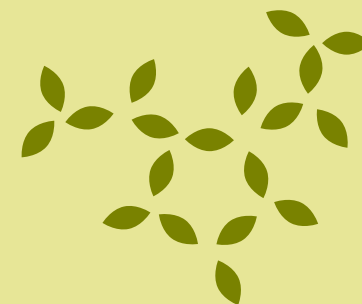
Within the Czech Republic, similar projects may be supported under the CAP Strategic Plan, for example through the following interventions:

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52.77 – LEADER, Organic farming, Animal welfare, 33.73 – Investments in agricultural holdings, 34.73 – Investments in the processing of agricultural products, 51.77 – Innovation in the processing of agricultural products, and 45.73 – Investments in nonagricultural activities.

The field trip

The field trip offered a comprehensive view of Polish agriculture, where tradition meets modern trends with a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability, regional products and international cooperation. Participants encountered inspiring examples of how funding can be used effectively to strengthen local economies while simultaneously protecting the environment. Experiences from Polish farms and institutions provide valuable inspiration for Czech rural areas, demonstrating that innovation, determination and cooperation can lead to longterm sustainability and competitiveness in European agriculture.





Did you know that...

traditional Polish agriculture, rooted in family farming and respect for the land, often finds renewed strength today through modern innovation? Many Polish farms preserve knowledge passed down through generations, traditional production methods and regional varieties, while at the same time successfully drawing on European funding for technological development, environmental measures and direct sales. This integrated approach not only helps keep rural areas vibrant but also strengthens self-sufficiency and improves production quality.



The participants visited these projects as part of the Agriculture on Farms in Poland field trip.

More information in Czech:





R

Rural

inspiration for Czech regions



agriculture

education & innovation

rural business

historical legacy

community life

tourism

Inspiring projects funded by European resources in rural development, agriculture and community development

The professional field trip “Examples of Good Practice from EU-funded Projects in Austria” offered five days filled with study visits, expert discussions and opportunities to explore local initiatives. It provided numerous ideas on how European funding can be used effectively to support rural development and strengthen local communities.

History as a driver of rural tourism

The programme began in **Pfarrwerfen** at the **Museum of Seven Mills**, where historical heritage serves as a driver of rural tourism. Visitors follow an educational trail along a stream, passing reconstructed mills and exhibits illustrating traditional grain processing. The project demonstrates how cultural heritage can be effectively used to revitalise rural economies.

Innovation and education for the future of the countryside

The **MINT Region Pongau** project promotes education in mathematics, information technology, science and technology. Participants visited modern classrooms equipped with 3D printers and robotics, designed to motivate young people to remain in the region and contribute to the development of rural technologies. An example of inclusive leisure accessible to all age groups is the barrier-free **JO Adventure Mini Golf** course.

Support for local producers and organic farming

A functioning short supply chain provided further inspiration. Participants visited a shop selling regional products in **Sankt Johann im Pongau**, before following the **Milk Trail** to the **BioBauernhof Hirschleiten organic farm**. The farm produces a range of organic products, including cheese, and operates a selfservice shop based on customer trust.

Stories of history and nature

The **Tolerance Educational Trail in Filzmoos** commemorates the 18th century Protestant exodus. The professional field trip also included a cablecar journey to the summit of **Hoferegg**, offering access to nature trails and peatbog walks.

Czech traces in an Austrian valley

The Gastein Valley showcases sustainable landmanagement projects in mountain areas, comparable to conditions found in regions such as the Šumava National Park. A stop in **Böckstein** also highlighted the Czech noble heritage of the Černín family, further underlining historical links between the regions.

Within the Czech Republic, similar projects may be supported under the CAP Strategic Plan, for example through the following interventions: 33.73 – Investments in agricultural holdings, 34.73 – Investments in the processing of agricultural products, 52.77 – LEADER, Organic farming, Animal welfare.

The field trip

provided participants with direct inspiration as well as valuable insights into community cooperation, environmentally sustainable farming, business support and the preservation of cultural heritage. All the projects visited demonstrated how targeted European funding can deliver lasting improvements in rural quality of life.

Did you know that...

history and local traditions can serve as powerful drivers of modern rural community development? Revitalising traditional crafts, crops and rural festivals strengthens local identity, supports tourism and creates new entrepreneurial and social opportunities. In this way, the past becomes the foundation for a vibrant and sustainable future.



More information in Czech:

The participants visited these projects as part of the field trip Examples of Good Practice from EU-funded Projects in Austria.





L LEADER

project field trips: new ideas
and key contacts



agriculture education & innovation
rural business historical legacy
community life tourism LEADER

Local food, self-service shops and environmental awareness

The **Weinviertel Manhartsberg** region presented the modern **Ois Guade** selfservice shop offering regional food products, as well as the **Regionen Shop** regional centre, which combines a shop, bistro and marketing platform for local producers. The municipality of **Röschitz** highlighted projects that build on local natural assets, adult education initiatives and the development of a natural swimming area with outdoor fitness facilities. Further points of interest included the **Too Good To Go** application, which helps reduce food waste, and a direct distribution system linking producers and consumers without the need for permanent staff.

Wine cellar lanes as cultural and tourism centres

One of the region's distinctive features is the preservation and renewed use of traditional wine cellar lanes. Participants visited a wide range of examples, including accommodation in renovated wine cellars in **Alberndorf**; community projects and local markets in **Hadres**; interdisciplinary cooperation between students from Prague and Vienna on restoring the

oldest wine cellar; the municipality of **Mailberg** and the **Regionalshop** project supporting local product sales; and the town of **Retz**, home to the **Generationenpark Poisgasse**, a park designed for all generations.

Within the Czech Republic, similar projects may be supported under the CAP Strategic Plan, through LEADER – intervention 52.77.

Did you know that...

Too Good To Go is a mobile application launched in Denmark in 2015 that connects restaurants, bakeries and shops with customers by offering surplus food at a reduced price—typically around one third of its original value? The app operates worldwide and has already helped save more than 400 million meals, corresponding to a reduction of approximately 1.1 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

For agriculture and rural areas, Too Good To Go brings several benefits: it supports short supply chains between local producers and consumers, reduces food waste and contributes to sustainability and climate protection. At the same time, it enables farmers and small producers to generate additional income from surplus products that would otherwise go to waste.



Celtic

Winemaking, educational outreach for schools, a strong message about the importance of agriculture and an example of dedicated family entrepreneurship were all part of the visit to the **organic farm in Roseldorf**. Here, the Zöchmann family presented **Keltenwinzer**, a project linking six winemakers under a single brand inspired by Celtic history. The initiative is complemented by educational programmes for schools, including “My Food Comes from the Farm” and “The Farmer’s Wife”.

Kathrin Zöchmann impressed participants with her passion for food origins, agriculture and a healthy relationship with the land. Her interactive approach actively engages visitors of all ages and strengthens understanding of farming and food production.



More information in Czech:

The participants visited these projects as part of the LEADER Projects field trip in Austria.





\$

Social

farming in practice: Inspiration
from Germany and the
Netherlands



agriculture social farming rural business
historical legacy community development
tourism LEADER

The international study visit focused on **social farming** provided direct insight into social farms and rural projects that support social inclusion, labour market integration, community life and intergenerational solidarity. It presented functioning models that combine agricultural production with social services, community care, therapeutic activities and environmental sustainability.

Wurzelwerke e. V., Jena (Germany)

This initiative combines community supported agriculture with social and therapeutic support for people living with mental illness. On the one hectare farm, participants are involved in vegetable growing and harvesting as well as environmental care activities. The social component is financed through public funding, while the agricultural operation functions on a subscription basis with approximately 100 members.

Hephata Diakonie – Gut Richerode (Germany)

Gut Richerode is a large organic farm where nearly 90 people with disabilities live and work. The farm focuses on cattle, pig and poultry production, together with the cultivation of potatoes and cereals. Participants are employed in sheltered workplaces, and the farm forms part of the broader Diakonie integration model, supported by **CAP funding** and national public resources.

Die Fleckenbühler, Colbe (Germany)

Die Fleckenbühler is a therapeutic community for people recovering from addiction, combining intensive work therapy with psychological support. The 270hectare farm includes organic livestock and crop production, a bakery, a dairy and a café. Funding from the Rural Development Programme and **LEADER** has supported infrastructure development, agritourism activities and inclusive public events.

Erve Knippert, Haaksbergen (Netherlands)

Founded in 2001, Erve Knippert is the Netherlands' first social farm, specialising in work with older people living with dementia. This small, nine hectare farm offers a safe environment for meaningful activities, light agricultural work and daily social interaction. The operation is financed primarily through public care and healthcare systems.

Hoeve Klein Mariëndael, Arnhem (Netherlands)

Hoeve Klein Mariëndael is an urban social farm that links community supported agriculture with social services for people with mental or physical disabilities. In addition to producing vegetables for around 100 members, the farm focuses on intergenerational activities, animal care, inclusive gardens and work with people living with dementia. Cooperation with the municipality and local schools plays a particularly important role.

Münzinghof, Velden (Germany)

Münzinghof is a model village based on shared living between people with and without disabilities. Social farming forms the core of community life: the farm, market garden, dairy, creamery and craft workshops are all operated collaboratively by the residents.

The social component is financed through sheltered workshop status, while the agricultural activities are self-sustaining and certified under the Demeter label. As demonstrated during the field trip, social farming represents a powerful tool for strengthening social cohesion, integrating disadvantaged groups, renewing intergenerational ties and revitalising community life in rural areas.

the following interventions:

- 33.73 – Investments in agricultural holdings,
- 34.73 – Investments in the processing of agricultural products,
- 45.73 – Investments in nonagricultural activities, and
- 52.77 – LEADER.

All

the projects visited showed that farmbased activities contribute positively to both mental and physical health, that services can be financed through a combination of agricultural and social funding sources—including the Rural Development Programme, LEADER, healthcare systems and municipal support—and that social farms can represent a stable component of the local economy while providing meaningful employment or daily programmes for people who might otherwise be at risk of social exclusion.

Experience

gained from Germany and the Netherlands can serve as valuable inspiration for developing similar projects in the Czech Republic, whether through future CAP calls, community-led local development strategies or closer cooperation between municipalities and farmers.



Did you know that...

social farming combines care for people with care for the land? Across Europe, social farms engage seniors, people with disabilities, those with mental illness and individuals recovering from addiction – farming helps them rebuild their confidence, daily structure and sense of purpose.



More information in Czech:

Participants visited these projects as part of the field trip Inspiration and Practical Examples in Social Farming – Germany and the Netherlands.



F

From Roman

legions to street art



rural business

historical legacy

community life

tourism

LEADER

Burgundy—a French region known for wine, tradition and deep history—impresses not only with its atmosphere, but above all with the way it connects the past and the future. The field trip to **Bourgogne-Franche-Comté** demonstrated to representatives of Central Bohemian municipalities and local action groups that the LEADER programme can serve as a powerful driver of cultural transformation.

MuséoParc Alésia is a modern complex dedicated to the famous **Battle of Alesia in 52 BC**, in which Julius Caesar defeated the Gallic tribes. The interactive exhibition not only educates visitors, but immerses them fully in history through film reconstructions, replicas of siege engines and targeted educational programmes for schools. Here, LEADER support contributed to the equipment of interior spaces, clearly demonstrating that European funding can also play an important role in modernising cultural education.

The former **La Karrière** quarry has been transformed into a thriving centre for art and music through a local initiative. In a place where stone was once quarried, exhibitions, concerts, street art and community workshops now attract tens of thousands of visitors each year. Developed with support from European funding and private patronage, the project shows that creativity has a strong and sustainable place in rural regions.

The **Princesses of Vix Trail** brings to life the legendary discovery of the tomb of a Celtic princess from

the 5th century BC. Winding through agricultural landscapes, the route is enriched with interactive stops, augmented reality elements and a geolocation-based game. The combination of archaeology and modern technology offers valuable inspiration for Czech local action groups—both in terms of its format and its focus on sustainability and digital innovation.

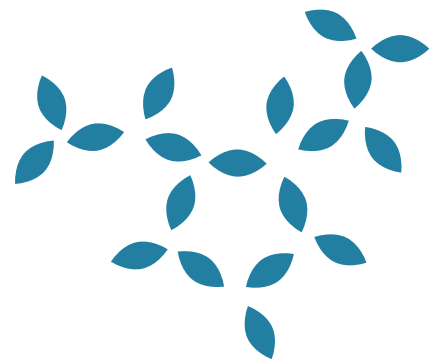
Winemaking as science, experience and enjoyment

The elegant and futuristic **Cité des Climats et Vins de Bourgogne** in Beaune celebrates Burgundy's rich winemaking tradition. Its exhibitions combine education, cultural experiences and tourism, guiding visitors through the region's wine areas, terroirs and traditions that shape the character of each wine. The centre also offers workshops and guided tastings. Here, winemaking is presented not merely as an economic activity, but as a core element of regional identity—communicated to the public with exceptional effectiveness.

Within the Czech Republic, similar projects may be supported under the CAP Strategic Plan, for example through intervention 52.77 – LEADER.

The participants

returned home—to the southern edge of Central Bohemia—with fresh inspiration for concrete projects and a renewed perspective on cooperation. Rather than competition and isolation, the approach observed here is based on trust and openness. Where there is the courage to rethink rural areas in this way, LEADER becomes a genuine development strategy rather than merely a funding instrument.



Did you know that...

French agriculture is deeply rooted in history and cultural heritage? Many farms have been operating for generations on historic estates, including former monastic lands and noble residences. Local farmers often preserve traditional production methods and regional varieties recognised as national heritage. This respect for history supports rural tourism and strengthens consumer trust in the quality and origin of food. In France, tradition and modern rural development go hand in hand.



More information in Czech:

The participants visited these projects as part of the To the Roots of LEADER field trip.





G

Grooming

cross-country trails to nature-based learning games



rural business

historical legacy

community life

tourism

LEADER

Over the course of three days, the field trip introduced participants to specific projects funded by European resources—particularly LEADER—and supported the exchange of good practice between Czech and German partners. It also provided inspiration for future projects within the CAP programming period 2023–2027. In the municipality of **Grünbach**, LEADER support was used to construct a **garage for a snow groomer**, improving the maintenance of cross-country ski trails and boosting local tourism. In **Muldenhammer/Tannenbergsthal**, participants visited a diverse range of projects, including the revitalisation of premises for a **bakery, café and bistro**; the **marking of tourist trails**; an **entertaining cone throwing installation**; and an interactive educational **Memory game** focused on natural heritage. The **Vogtland GeoEnvironmental Park** at the **Tannenberg** visitor mine further illustrated how nature conservation, education and tourism can be effectively combined.

Recycling, artisan farm production and a pirate ship

The municipalities of Neustadt and Schönau attracted particular interest through their **environmentally focused and entrepreneurial projects**. These

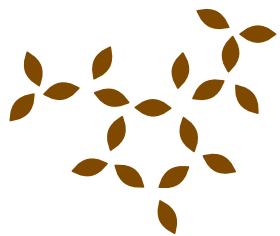
included the **recycling of winter gritting material using a specialised washing system**; the conversion of a former stable into a **small scale meat and sausage processing facility**; the **renovation of a pavilion and the construction of a pirate ship at a natural swimming area**; improvements to community facilities through a new visitor kitchen; and the conversion of a historic building into an animal shelter.

Cultural heritage and infrastructure development

In the municipalities of **Bergen, Werda and Kottengrün**, participants explored projects such as:

- the conversion of a historic railway station into guest accommodation
- improvements to a school courtyard and restoration of a church tower
- modernisation of a children's playground and sanitary facilities at a swimming pool
- and the restoration of traditional timber raftworkers' houses that preserve local heritage and support cultural tourism.

Within the Czech Republic, similar projects may be supported under the CAP Strategic Plan, for example through intervention 52.77 – LEADER.



The international field trip showed

that highquality rural projects can address a wide range of needs—from tourism infrastructure and business support to nature conservation. **Participants took home concrete examples of how LEADER funding and other support instruments can be used effectively, along with strong motivation to initiate similar projects in Czech regions.**

The exchange of experience between Czech and German local action groups also underlined the importance of international cooperation for community development and rural policy.

Did you know that...

crossborder cooperation between rural areas in different countries plays an important role in regional development? It connects people, traditions, innovation and markets, stimulating joint projects in tourism, environmental protection, agriculture and education. Such cooperation facilitates the exchange of good practice while strengthening cultural understanding and promoting sustainable rural development on both sides of the border.



More information in Czech:

The participants visited these projects as part of the field trip Transfer of Experience from Germany to the Karlovy Vary Region and back.



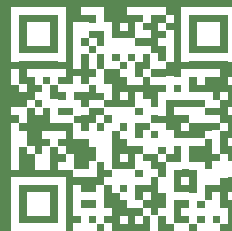
Experience from around the world for the Czech countryside, a small brochure with a big message

The National Rural Network (NRN), as the communication platform of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023–2027, exists to support rural development not only by sharing information, but above all by connecting people, ideas and inspiration. That is exactly the purpose of the professional field trips abroad organised every year. Their aim is to bring proven international examples to Czech regions, whether in agricultural innovation, community projects, landscape management, and effective local partnerships.

Capturing all that these field trips have delivered in a relatively small space is challenging. Instead of exhaustive detail, we have created this inspirational brochure featuring select projects from foreign field trips. **More than just a travelogue, it shows what works in Czech conditions and how international experience can spark new projects, partnerships and community development.**

Additional photos and information in Czech:

Website:



Instagram:



Facebook:



Youtube:



Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023–2027



What the Czech National Rural Network offers

Anyone interested can find inspiration for rural development through diverse activities and resources. Here is an overview of the key resources provided by the NRN and its partners:

Field trips abroad

- Personal visits to successful projects in other countries
- Direct contacts with international partners
- Inspiration in community energy, organic farming, rural tourism and social enterprise

Regional and national conferences, workshops and seminars

- Expert meetings on topics such as landscape management, municipal development, climate measures and LEADER
- Exchange of experience between municipalities, local action groups, farmers and other stakeholders
- Presentations of successfully implemented EU-funded projects

Síťoviny - the NRN newsletter

- Reports, invitations and photo galleries from events
- Interesting projects from different regions and abroad

NRN website

- Event reports
- Event invitations
- Calendar of events, methodological materials and a good practice gallery

NRN partner network

- Become a partner and gain access to information about upcoming events
- Cooperation with other active organisations nationwide

Local action group (LAG) projects

- Practical inspiration: from community centres and regional brands to the renewal of public spaces

The Czech National Rural Network as a hub of ideas, experience and cooperation

Whether you're a mayor, farmer, representative of a non-profit organisation or simply someone who cares about the countryside - inspiration is within reach! All you need to do is join.

Would you like to participate next time? Become our partner.

Network partners receive:

Priority and regular updates on upcoming field trips and events, early registration opportunity, access to a network of contacts and shared experience across regions.

Together, we are shaping a countryside that learns, grows and connects – in Czechia and beyond.

Write to us - we are interested in hearing your opinions and questions: csv.cr@szif.gov.cz.

You can also use this email address to subscribe to the NRN newsletter Síťoviny.

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