

## SLOVAKIA

### Agri-food chain integration and quality

#### Location

Pezinok

#### Programming period

2014 – 2020

#### Priority

P3 – Food chain and risk  
management

#### Measure

M04 – Investments in  
physical assets

#### Funding (EUR)

Total budget 1 998 990.63  
EAFRD 423 786.01  
National/Region. 375 810.24  
Private 1 199 394.38

#### Project duration

2016 – 2017

#### Project promoter

Zamocke vinarstvo, s.r.o.

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A historic Chateau was restored to its initial state and turned into one of the most modern wine-producing facilities in Slovakia.

### Summary

The Pezinok region has an important viniculture history and is home to one of the most famous Slovak wine regions. It is also home to the Pezinok Chateau that was built in the 14th Century. The chateau was neglected during the communist era and required a major renovation before production of wine could begin again.



RDP support helped to revive the chateau and project activities included the reconstruction of the premises of the formerly state-owned winery and the procurement of modern equipment for the grape processing and wine production.

### Results

The Pezinok Chateau was fully reconstructed and apart from producing wine it also serves as an events venue and a place of relaxation. In the near future, a hotel and a restaurant will be added along with a shop, a local viniculture museum and an art gallery.

The chateau is currently the only winery in Slovakia that uses a grape-friendly vibrating grape feeding hopper.

A production volume of up to 200 000 litres per year has been achieved.

Good economic parameters of production and revenue growth.

One job was created.

The project supports the development of local wine tourism.

### Lessons & Recommendations

- Before starting such a project it is essential to ensure sufficient co-funding is available.
- The beneficiary should be familiar with the relevant legislation as it directly influences the whole project implementation (public procurement, hiring people, hiring contractors, etc.).
- Attention must be given to human resources. The implementation of such projects is a difficult process and it is very important to have a highly skilled project manager.

## Context

When new owners of the Pezinok Chateau decided to establish the wine producing company Zamocke vinarstvo together with one of the best Slovak winemakers Roman Janousek, they knew that they wanted to do something extraordinary. They decided to make wine the way it should be made – from grapes cultivated in their own vineyards (an area of 74ha in the south of Slovakia), from the traditional varieties cultivated in Slovakia, especially their own cellars.

The Pezinok Chateau was greatly neglected during the communist era, and the ruined chateau needed a major renovation. The large medieval cellars could not be used as large-capacity reinforced concrete tanks had been constructed in them. The only way to revive wine making in this historical place was to completely reconstruct the building and acquire the necessary new equipment for wine making.

## Objectives

The project aimed to create suitable conditions for quality wine production by:

- Reconstructing the chateau cellars and creating a suitable space for wine production; and
- Purchasing new equipment for grape processing and wine production.

## Activities

The project preparation needed to pay sufficient attention to the historical value of the building. Preserving this value and any possible archaeological findings during demolition works was guaranteed through close cooperation with the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic. Professionals were also hired to help with the funding application and management of all administration procedures during the project. They also ensured that the public procurement procedure was carried out correctly and that the building company would be able to realize the construction part of the project.

The project itself started with sanitation and demolition works. It was necessary to pull down different building extensions that were built after 1948, and demolish the concrete tanks in the cellars. Then extensive construction works were carried out to restore the chateau and its cellars to their original state.

After finishing the construction works new technology and equipment were purchased and set up in order to re-start wine production in the reconstructed cellars. The new equipment included modern rotary wine-making machines, sediment separators, filters, computer-controlled stainless steel tanks capable of preserving the temperature that the wine-makers require, bottle filling line, etc. Altogether 33 new items were bought and installed.

## Main results

- The Pezinok Chateau was fully reconstructed allowing wine to be produced and serving as an events venue and a place of relaxation. In the near future, the site will also offer hotel and restaurant services, a shop, a local viticulture museum and an art gallery.
- Increased efficiency of wine producing was achieved thanks to the use of the latest technology and equipment. Currently the Chateau is the only winery in Slovakia that uses a grape-friendly vibrating grape feeding hopper.
- A production volume of up to 200 000 litres per year was achieved.
- Good economic parameters of production and revenue growth were achieved.
- The investment contributed to the Slovak wine production industry, the local economy and employment in a small rural region as a new job was created.
- The project supported the development of local wine tourism.

## Key lessons

Before implementing such a project the following factors should be taken into consideration:

- Ensure sufficient co-funding is available;
- Be familiar with the relevant legislation as it directly influences the whole project implementation (public procurement, hiring people, hiring contractors, etc.) and
- Pay careful attention to human resources. Implementing such a project is difficult, and even hired professionals can make mistakes at any step of the process. Someone must be aware of it and be able to correct those mistakes in order to avoid more serious problems. It is very important to have a highly skilled project manager.

## Additional sources of information

n/a