



11th of November 2017

Over 21,000 trees planted at Poieni-Solca on a degraded forest area

- **The first planting of the "Tomorrow's Forest" project covered 4.7 ha of degraded forest with 21,210 newly-planted seedlings in Poieni-Solca, Suceava County**
- **More than 100 volunteers from the Technological Highschool from Rădăuți, the University of Suceava, from the local community and from Holzindustrie Schweighofer mills from Rădăuți și Siret**
- **The seedlings will be cared for during 7 years to ensure proper development of the forest**

The "Tomorrow's Forest" project was launched on 29th of September 2017 by the Association of Forest Administrators (AAP) and the "Ștefan cel Mare" University of Suceava, with the support of Holzindustrie Schweighofer, to help private and community forest owners to regenerate degraded forest surfaces all over Romania in the next 7 years. Today, 11th of November 2017, the first planting event took place in Poieni-Solca, Suceava County. The area of 4,7 hectares, on which planting was made, is administered by the Solca Forestry District. The forest was cut in the 1990s and, following the restitution process, the property fragmentation (the high number of owners in the affected area) did not allow the forest to be properly managed. The forest did not naturally recover and the owners did not have the necessary funds for reforestation.

Today, over 21,000 seedlings of fir, spruce, ash, maple, and alder have been planted, according to the reforestation project developed by Solca Forestry District and verified by biodiversity specialists from the University of Suceava. Solca Forestry District will carry out completion and maintenance operations until 2023 to ensure complete restoration of the forest.

The "Tomorrow's Forest" project thus supports small owners and provides seedlings, planting material, logistics, volunteers, and specialists. The planting action under the "Tomorrow's Forest" project takes place with the support of Holzindustrie Schweighofer. The company will invest 1 Million euro to plant 1 Million trees during the following 7 years of the project.

"As part of the Tomorrow's Forest project, we have already received applications for ten eligible areas. They are being analyzed and we are preparing the selection of the projects for the spring plantations. I'm glad we could start the project on the field this autumn and that we could support the Poieni-Solca degraded forest owners. On this surface it was practically impossible for the forest vegetation to recover naturally," said Ionut Apostol, project manager of Tomorrow's Forest.

About Tomorrow's Forest project

"Tomorrow's Forest" – A multiannual project developed by the Association of Forest Administrators (AFA) and the "Ștefan cel Mare" University of Suceava with the support of Holzindustrie Schweighofer. The project responds to an urgent need for reforestation on private or local administrations' properties. Forest lands were restituted in several stages and various situations have led to forest degradation in some cases. Subsidies are in place for afforestation of degraded agricultural land but not for replanting on such areas.



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The replanting project is open to any private forest owner and village/city hall. Proposals can be submitted via www.padureademaine.ro, a platform where potential applicants and any stakeholders can find detailed information, the methodology and progress.

During the "Tomorrow's Forest" project, 1 million seedlings will be planted in order to:

- Support forest owners who cannot afford the financial efforts to regenerate degraded forest land
- Create a strong positive impact to local communities, which will be actively involved in the project
- Contribute substantially to preserving forest resources, preventing erosion, landslides and floods in those area.

AAP background information

AAP is a non-governmental, apolitical, non-profit organization, the professional association of the forest administrators. The association was established in 2004 and it was granted public utility status in 2015. The members of the association are 104 private forest management units. The forest districts in the Association manage 1.5 million hectares of forest fund, property of local administrations (64%), legal persons (30%) and individuals (6%).

The "Stefan cel Mare" University of Suceava background information

The Forestry Faculty at the Stefan cel Mare University of Suceava has forestry science and research as its main fields of activity. The institution prepares forestry engineers for forest management, wood exploitation and transportation, primary industrialization and wood harvesting. The Forestry Faculty in Suceava is very active in scientific research and it develops numerous research projects on a national and European level, acting as a founding member of the European Forest Institute's Regional Center for Central and Eastern Europe

Holzindustrie Schweighofer background information

The Schweighofer Group has its roots in a traditional Austrian family company with over 400 years of experience in wood processing. Today, the Group is primarily active in the wood processing industry, forest management, energy production from biomass and real estate. The industry division of the Schweighofer Group operates three sawmills and two wooden panel productions in Romania and a saw mill in Germany. It takes a leading role in the European timber-processing industry, currently employing around 3,500 employees. Holzindustrie Schweighofer exports products to over 70 countries worldwide.

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