

13 April 2019

Tomorrow's Forest continues with the planting of 50,000 seedlings in Dumbravita, Brasov

- **The second planting session this year, part of the *Tomorrow's Forest* project, took place on 13 April, 2019, in Dumbravita, Brasov county**
- **50,000 seedlings of sessile oak, ash and maple have been planted**
- **Over 100 volunteers offered their help**

The *Tomorrow's Forest* project rallied over 100 volunteers on 13 April, in a planting session which helped the reforestation of ten more hectares in Dumbravita, Brasov. Students at the Forestry Faculty in Brasov, members of the local community and authorities, volunteers from the Brasov area, forestry personnel, gendarmes and Holzindustrie Schweighofer employees at the Reci sawmill, helped plant 50,000 seedlings of sessile oak, ash and maple. The project was launched in September 2017 as a partnership between the Association of Forests Administrators, the Stefan cel Mare University in Suceava and Holzindustrie Schweighofer, in a move to help private owners and local administrations with the reforestation of degraded forest areas.

The planting area in Dumbravita was deforested in 1950-1960 in a move to expand pastures and was reintroduced in the forestry fund at the beginning of the 2000 decade. Between 2016 and 2017, the local administration has planted 16 hectares with sessile oak and ash. As part of the *Tomorrow's Forest* project, we have planted ten hectares with sessile oak, ash and maple in 2018, and we continue with ten more hectares this year.

The Local Public Forest Administration Maierus RA manages this forest fund area and will oversee the planting activities, as well as the completion and maintenance works of the plantation, which are done by a specialised reforestation company, during the 2019-2024 timeframe.

"I am glad to be back with the Tomorrow's Forest project for the second time in the county of Brasov," said Tomorrow's Forest project manager Ionut Apostol. "The first planting session took place in the spring of 2018, also in Dumbravita, when we planted 50,000 seedlings. I hope that in a few years we succeed in renewing a forest over 100 hectares. The area in Dumbravita on which we planted today is one of the 13 areas selected for this year as part of the Tomorrow's Forest project. This year we are reforesting 50 hectares of degraded forest areas, with a total of 204,000 seedlings of spruce, beech, maple, ash, fir and oak."

Since the project was launched in the autumn of 2017, over 160,000 seedlings have been planted on a total area of 40 hectares. Until now, *Tomorrow's Forest* has rallied over 1,000 volunteers in its actions carried out in eight counties nationwide. The project addresses private forest areas owners in Romania, who can register their property on www.padureademaine.ro

About Tomorrow's Forest

Tomorrow's Forest is a multiannual, national project, developed by the Association of Forest Administrators and the Stefan cel Mare University in Suceava, with the support of Holzindustrie Schweighofer. The project answers an urgent need to

reforest private lands. The forest lands have been restituted in several stages and certain situations have led – in some cases – to forest degradation. There are subsidies for afforestation (forests planted on non-forest land), but not for reforestation in such areas. The project aims to plant one million seedlings over five years. Maintenance and monitoring works will continue for three years, to assure the reaching of the objective, respectively the successful installation of forest vegetation. More details on www.padureademaine.ro

About AAP

AAP is a non-governmental organisation, apolitical, non-profit, the professional association of forest administrators. The association was set up in 2004 and has the status of a public utility since 2015. Its members are 109 private Forest Management Units, which manage 1.5 million hectares of forest land owned by the territorial administrative units (64%), legal entities (30%) and individuals (6%).

About the Ștefan cel Mare University in Suceava

The main components of the Forestry Faculty within the Ștefan cel Mare University in Suceava are education and scientific research in the forestry field. The institution trains forestry engineers for the activities of forest cultivation, harvesting and transporting wood and primary wood processing. The Forestry Faculty in Suceava is very active in the field of scientific research, as it runs several research projects at a national and European level and is a founding member of EFI CEEC – The Regional Centre for Central and Eastern Europe of the European Forestry Institute (EFI).

About the Schweighofer Group

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, bioenergy production and real estate. The industry division of the Schweighofer Group operates three sawmills and two wooden panel production units in Romania and one sawmill in Germany. It takes a leading role in the European wood-processing industry, currently employing around 3,100 people. Holzindustrie Schweighofer exports products to over 70 countries worldwide.

For further information, please contact

Ionuț Apostol
Project Manager
M: +40 729 440 999
contact@padureademaine.ro