

German students visited the Rădăuți sawmill: “Overwhelmed, but in a positive way”

Radauti 19 May 2016. A group of four students in the sixth semester of their forestry engineering bachelor’s at the University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, Freising/Germany, chose Romania for an 18 weeks internship. It was carried out under the Erasmus+ program in partnership with the Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Timișoara.

"Our goal was to see how forests are managed in Romania, to learn new things and to compare them with the German system. Back home we learn only about our procedures, about how we manage the forests. We all agree that it is extremely important to learn more than the faculty can teach us. As none of us was familiar with the Romanian approach of forest management, we wanted to find out their practices in terms of sustainable forest management. We found that in many cases, this is done as we learned in Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, which confirms that the global forestry is on the right track", said Joschija Späth, one of the students.

In mid-May, the group also visited Holzindustrie Schweighofer’s sawmill in Rădăuți. There the future forestry specialists explored one of the most modern woodworking facilities in Europe. The students showed particular interest in the aspects on how wood is used and its processing technology.

"Holzindustrie Schweighofer’s saw mill in Rădăuți appeared to be well organized and managed. It is the biggest I have ever seen. The size seemed somehow overwhelming, but in a positive way. We were surprised that the company was so open to receive use and took time for us ‘simple’ German students. It was an interesting experience to see how the timber is well managed and processed by a capable and reliable company, delivering timber produced in a sustainable manner”, Späth explains.

Holzindustrie Schweighofer is open to transparent dialogue. It takes an active role in discussions with people interested in sustainable and responsible wood processing. This includes students, environmental organizations, the civil society, journalists, experts as well as industry representatives.

Welcoming the German students to a mill tour is part of Holzindustrie Schweighofer’s broad support of future professionals in the forest sector. Of course, the company also engages in education and training of professionals in Romania.

About Holzindustrie Schweighofer

Holzindustrie Schweighofer Romania is member of the Austrian Schweighofer Group. The roots of family owned wood processing company date back over 400 years.

Holzindustrie Schweighofer launched its first sawmill in Romania (Sebeş) 2003. Two more sawmills, in Rădăuți and Reci, a wood panels mill in Siret and a blockboards production Comănești, followed. Today, the company counts about 3,000 employees and generates business for 10,000 indirect jobs in the related industries. Since October 2015 member of the Schweighofer Group is also a sawmill in Germany. The company also produces viscose as well as bio-energy and is active owns forest land and real estate.