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Holzindustrie Schweighofer increases its involvement in planting actions

- **About 14,000 seedlings planted by the company to mark its commitments to sustainability**

As a sign of its commitment to a sustainable forestry and timber industry in Romania, Holzindustrie Schweighofer continues to take responsibilities beyond its sphere of activities, such as the enhanced security architecture and the GPS monitoring system for log deliveries, Timflow, and now has increased its involvement in planting actions. To mark the Tree Planting Month this year, the company has planted about 14,000 seedlings, in the areas where it operates its mills and factories.

In the town of Slanic Moldova (Bacau County) Holzindustrie Schweighofer has donated the seedlings and the expenses necessary for the afforestation of the banks of a local torrent prone to flooding. About 1.5 ha of rocky terrain, increasingly unstable year after year, which has never been covered with trees, will be planted with 7,000 spruce and wild cherry. “The Bejan stream has always been causing troubles, but in recent years it’s been threatening downstream households. It has flooded in 2004, 2010 and 2014, the hillside is starting to give way, the people are getting worried. But the community owners have limited resources and couldn’t deal with it so far. It’s a very good thing the company stepped up to help us. The new trees will keep it from causing landslides,” Irinel Antohi, Slanic Moldova SVSU [Firefighters] coordinator, has declared.

On April 8, a team of volunteers from the factory operated in nearby Comanesti, Holzindustrie Schweighofer Baco, helped with the planting of the first batch of about 1,000 spruce seedlings. Despite the bad weather and the difficult slope, enthusiasm was contagious and the volunteers and their friends were happy to spend their day in the open air. “It is not the first time we help with a planting action, we have been doing it for several years now. We live by the wood and we know that we have to do our part, both individually and as a team effort. It is a great feeling and I’m proud to be a part of the team,” Viorel Tamba, HS Baco volunteer, has declared.

Similar actions were carried out in the other regions where the company operates. During late March and early April, teams from the Holzindustrie Schweighofer Reci, Radauti and Sebes sawmills helped plant almost 7,000 seedlings on similarly degraded and difficult terrains in the Red Ravine area (Sebes), on steep slopes, exposed to the elements, in the Ciucas Mountains and in Piatra Craiului.

Dan Banacu, general manager, Holzindustrie Schweighofer: “Although we do not harvest any trees, we have taken upon us not only to help with everything we can in the fight against illegal logging, but also to expand and further develop the plan of actions we are already implementing for a more sustainable forest and timber industry in Romania.”

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 but also in dissolving pulp production, forest management, bioenergy production and real estate. The industry division of the Schweighofer Group operates three sawmills and two wooden panel productions in Romania, one saw mill in Germany and a dissolving pulp production in Austria. It takes a leading role in the European timber-processing industry, currently employing around 3,700 employees. Holzindustrie Schweighofer exports products to over 70 countries worldwide



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