



More Forest for More Life : EPSA2011077

Submitted by County Council Arad, Romania



Strengths of the project (I)



- The most **innovative** aspect of this process is that the students gained a practical knowledge by scheduling training during the planting season.
- This is a project with minimum cost that has had a great impact with **limited resources**. It can be seen as a creative contribution to fulfilling public services based on voluntary commitment while at the same time increasing so-called **social capital**.
- The ongoing degradation of forests is a pressing problem in the EU and in Romania. Forest management directly contributes to ameliorate air quality, safeguard biodiversity, guarantee green areas, sink CO2 emissions, produce and store water, help adapting to climate change etc. This project, therefore, tries to **solve a real problem for local people**.



Strengths of the project (II)



- Training of volunteers will provide them with lifelong knowledge, and capacity, as well as, a durable respect for nature, making reforestation **sustainable** well after the project end date.
- The **impact** achieved, although it is relatively local, is well quantified. In total so far, 157.000 trees were planted and 88% reached vegetation. The Arad County is therefore a leading county in Romania with respect to reforestation. Furthermore, there have been 1500 volunteers involved, 1250 students and 200 other citizens.
- The **learning effect** is high, in particular because of its tangible impact: the local authorities experienced the value of working with communities, the volunteers felt involved and actively and meaningfully contributing to enhancing the quality of the environment - and by that the quality of life - in the county. Forest degradation is a common problem within the EU and the construction of this project can be easily **transferred** to other regions in need.

