

CASE STUDY

Kronstadt forest

*"We want to enhance the cultural ecosystem
services of the forests surrounding Brasov"*

Mihai Zup, Financial Manager at Kronstadt forest



PROFILE SNAPSHOT

Website	bit.ly/Kronstadt-forest
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Contact us through Alliance	Mihai Zup (mishuzup@yahoo.com)
Country	Romania
Main sector	Public
Uforest thematic discipline	Socio-economy
Stage of development	Implementation



By engaging the community to collaboratively develop culturally rich urban green infrastructures.



By protecting biodiversity and supporting sustainable development.





START-UP

In 2019, the **RPLP Kronstadt** (Regia Publică Locală a Pădurilor Kronstadt R.A.) and the **INCDS Marin Drăcea** (Institutul Național de Cercetare - Dezvoltare în Silvicultură „Marin Drăcea”) started to develop the **research project** Monitorizarea stării ecosistemelor forestiere și valorificarea potențialului recreativ, cultural și istoric al pădurilor urbane și periurbane administrate de RPLP Kronstadt (Monitoring the state of forest ecosystems and harnessing the recreational, cultural and historical potential of urban and peri-urban forests managed by RPLP Kronstadt). This initiative aims at learning how to improve the social impact of urban and peri-urban forests in Brasov (Kronstadt, in German).

KRONSTADT FOREST'S GOALS:

This project sets annual goals related to:

- Assessing the recreational, cultural and historical functions of Brasov's 14-hectare public urban and peri-urban forests.
- Implementing an integrated forest monitoring system, and gather climate and biodiversity data.
- Evaluating different infrastructure development scenarios for the enhancement of the recreational, cultural and historical potential of studied forests.



INITIATIVE MODEL

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

What does Kronstadt Forest do?

Within urban and peri-urban forests managed by RPLP Kronstadt, the project:

- Carries out sociological analysis to quantify forests with significant social impact.
- Evaluates forest-related leisure and cultural values, social services, infrastructures and facilities, and economic sustainability.
- Builds a forest database using GIS.
- Measures forest biometrics to monitor their health.
- Analyses physical and chemical soil properties.
- Establishes a network of 20,500 m² experimental areas to evaluate climate and vegetation features in the long term, and describes topo climates.
- Assesses and monitors biodiversity.

BENEFICIARIES:

Who benefits from Kronstadt Forest's activities?

1. **Brasov's local residents and tourists** enjoy leisure and cultural and educational activities and sports in healthy and enriching forests.
2. **Travel agencies** promote ecotourism, sylvo-turism and hunting tourism.
3. **Local social, history and cultural associations** offer consultation services to help identify areas of special social interest.
4. **Local forestry, hunting, sports associations, environmental NGOs, research institutions** offer consultation services to help identify areas of special environmental, cinegetic or sporting interest.

PROMOTION:

What is Kronstadt Forest's promotion strategy?

Kronstadt Forest's communication strategy and channels:

- Websites: RPLP Kronstadt and INCDS Marin.
- Media.
- Social media.
- E-mail.
- Telephone.
- Meetings with stakeholder representatives.

GOVERNANCE:

How does Kronstadt Forest implement its activities?

The **RPLP Kronstadt**, affiliated to the Municipality of Brasov, and the **INCDS Marin Drăcea**, a national research institution, co-lead and implement the research and the co-creative sessions through a multidisciplinary team of experts in:

- Forest ecology, forest measurement, genetics.
- Nature conservation and ecological restoration.
- Water, wild game and fish management.
- Economics.
- Legal council.
- Cadastral services.

FINANCES:

What are Kronstadt Forest's main resources?

The estimated costs of the project are 257,116.98 €, which are **publicly funded** through:

- the Competitiveness Operational Programme - A1 of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (87%).
- RPLP Kronstadt (13%).

POLICY AND STANDARDS LEADING THE INITIATIVE:

Due to their high conservation value, a small percentage of Brasov forests are Natura 2000 protected sites and therefore upheld to this network's standards.



UNIQUENESS

What makes Kronstadt Forest a one-of-a-kind project?

- The **co-creative** process that involved **15 categories of stakeholders** - from public administrations to forestry associations, research organisation, ecotourism travel agencies, and more - to identify special interest areas related to the cultural values of Brasov (stories, myths, traditional meeting spots, etc.), and to identify social development needs.
- A **comprehensive evaluation and database of forest ecosystems** in Brasov (social services and infrastructures, soils, biodiversity, climate).



EXPECTATION

By **2025**, the aim is to establish three methodologies that could be replicated in other forest-adjacent urban areas.

What does Kronstadt Forest need to be successful?

- Citizen participation.
- Long-term maintenance of experimental sites and infrastructures.

What are today's main challenges?

- Assessing the extent to which leisure infrastructures are used.
- Limited funding to replicate the project.

Promoted by:



In partnership with:

