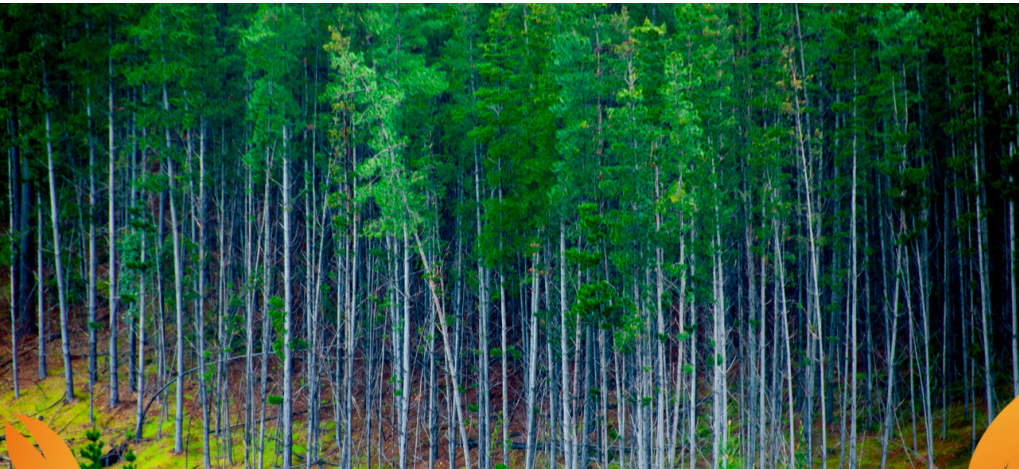




CASE STUDY N°25



The Bârsești Living Lab, located in Romania, focuses on addressing the impacts of climate change on artificial pine plantations established approximately 70 years ago on degraded lands. Covering a 41-hectare public forest area dominated by *Pinus nigra* and *Pinus sylvestris*, the site is currently experiencing significant ecological stress, including drought-related decline, increased vulnerability to pests, and wildfire risks. Rising temperatures over the past two decades have intensified these pressures, exposing the limitations of monoculture systems under changing climatic conditions.

The Living Lab aims to support the transition from vulnerable pine monocultures to more resilient, biodiverse native forest ecosystems through adaptive management and nature-based solutions. By continuously monitoring forest health, implementing natural regeneration strategies using native species such as beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and oaks (*Quercus* spp.), and reviewing regulatory frameworks—particularly the Romanian Forestry Code—the initiative seeks to enable an ecological transition that maintains soil protection functions while enhancing long-term resilience.

Implemented at municipal level, the Living Lab integrates science, governance, and community engagement to generate transferable knowledge applicable to other municipalities facing similar degradation challenges. Its broader ambition is to contribute to Romania's sustainable bioeconomic transition and to serve as a reference model for forest adaptation in Central Europe.



Organisation: “Marin Drăcea” National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry (INCDS), Focșani (Romania), in collaboration with Cesefor Foundation (Spain)

Sector: Forestry


Location: Bârsești, Romania



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