

Location

The Living Lab East is located in Brasov County, Romania

Forest Characteristics

A mix of forest types, from lowland forests, oak and beech mixed forests, to high-altitude spruce and alpine juniper forests in Carpathian Mountains. Coniferous species covering 34.6% and deciduous species covering 65.4%.



Forest Situation

• Current State

Small forest owners in Brasov County struggle with fragmented properties, insufficient knowledge, complex bureaucracy, and inconsistent compensation systems. These issues, coupled with economic pressures such as low timber prices and high initial investment costs, hinder sustainable forest management.

• Desired State

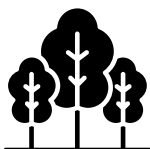
Forming associations among small owners, simplifying bureaucracy, providing training on sustainable practices, implementing fair compensation systems, and offering technical support. These changes aim to facilitate efficient and sustainable forest management, ensuring long-term conservation and resource protection.

Forest Owner Characteristics



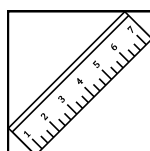
Number of forest owners

5 000



% of private forest

90%



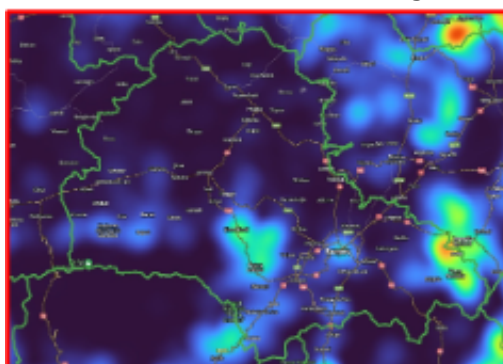
Average ha
Small & fragmented



Forest Types
Highly diverse in topography, species, and age

Upscaling Potential

The LL East is representative for the Eastern European socio-economic conditions. With its high percentage of small forest owners, the Living Lab East allows to study the implications of ownership fragmentation and the management strategies to address the market and climate change disruptions.



Place

Sanpetru Village Forest, Brasov Area, Romania

Participants

24 Participants representing small forest landowners, members of commons, state forest administration local office in Brasov, local community forest administration, communes, Transilvania University of Brasov, Forest Design, Association of forest landowners, RNP-ROMSILVA

Topics

- Introduction of Small4Good objectives and LL aims in Romania
- Overview of the forest management planning and implementation for private forest ownership in Romania (tightly regulated by state)
- Discussion on defining a “small forest owner” in Romania
- Discussion on challenges from the owner and from forest manager point of view
- Forest Design partner explained the model to be developed during S4G for small owners

Key Points

Forestland in Romania, regardless of size and ownership is subject of strict state regulations (e.g. management is the attribute of specialized entities not of owners). The workshop brought together small forest owners and their forest managers. The main focus was on challenges for small ownership to meet multifunctional goals in the current context. Besides the climate challenges, the “one-type-fits-all” management system, functional at large scale has many drawbacks on small areas. Therefore, incentives for ecosystem services or more flexibility in forestry rules were highlighted as needed in the future to ensure multiple purpose forest management on small ownership. Improving awareness and knowledge on rights and responsibilities is also needed.

