kronospan
foundation

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

kronospanfoundation.org





THE WORK OF THE KRONOSPAN FOUNDATION IS IMBUED WITH OUR CORE VALUES OF

RESPECT, EXCELLENCE & INTEGRITY

The Kronospan Foundation was founded in 2011 by the global wood-based panel manufacturer Kronospan. Our mission, vision and values are rooted in the core principles of the company, focusing on reinvesting resources into local communities and promoting sustainable development.

2016

Content

04. LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

06. EDUCATION
06. KRONOSPAN SCHOLARSHIP
06. About the Project
07. Application Cycles - The road to becoming a Konospan Scholar
10. Claudia Ogrezeanu - How the Kronospan Scholarship changed my life
14. All our Scholars
16. Anna Saltykova - Our 6th Kronospan Scholar

18. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
20. Vocational education in Slovakia
22. Vocational education in Romania

24. ENVIRONMENT
24. Think Green for Our Future – International Environmental Protection Contest
26. 2% Campaign – Always Green - Let's plant the future together!

27. OUR SPONSORS

Letter from our President

MARCH, 2017



2016 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF DEVELOPMENT, SUCCESS AND NEW BEGINNINGS AT THE KRONOSPAN FOUNDATION

With each donation received, we have managed to touch people's lives and make a difference in our continuous journey of promoting what we consider moral foundations of society – the protection and preservation of our environment as well as providing our children with the necessary educational opportunities they need to be successful in life.

On the following pages I would like to invite you to celebrate with us a year of giving back and read about the people, communities and organizations that have benefitted from the Kronospan Foundation and its kind donors.



Claudia, the first Kronospan Scholar to graduate from Babson College tells her story and shares how this opportunity has changed her life. Anna, our latest addition to the Kronospan Scholars, lets us participate in her joy and excitement about receiving the opportunity to study at a world-renown university. Vocational schools in Slovakia and Romania show what a difference donations can make; not only in teaching quality but also in the facilities and machines that are used so the students can be taught at the highest standards.

And finally, our youngest students show how, with a little creativity, they envision a sustainable world, starting from a school project that they get to build and implement themselves.

I look back at this year and what we have achieved at the Kronospan Foundation with pride. All of the achieved is only possible due to the continuous support of our donors, sponsors and partners, so I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of you for your commitment and belief in our mission.

Let's continue to work towards a society we can all be proud of, an environment that is healthy and most importantly, children that receive the opportunities they deserve!

DR. OANA BODEA
President of the Kronospan Foundation

ALL OF THE ACHIEVED IS ONLY POSSIBLE DUE TO THE CONTINUOUS SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS, SPONSORS AND PARTNERS.

EDUCATION
KRONOSPAN SCHOLARSHIP

About the Project

The Kronospan Scholarship provides the opportunity for talented young people from disadvantaged families in Central and Eastern Europe to gain a Bachelor's degree, fully funded by the Kronospan Foundation, at the top-ranking entrepreneurial university, Babson College, U.S.A.

Throughout their time at Babson, the Kronospan Scholars are not only taught to think entrepreneurially and how to put their thoughts into action, but are also able to apply their knowledge during internships throughout the Kronospan world. After four years, the scholars receive a BSc degree in Business Administration with a concentration of their choosing.

Located near Boston, Massachusetts, Babson College has been acknowledged for the past 20 years as the provider of one of the world's best economic studies programs. Being a private institution, the admission is based on highly rigorous criteria, whereas the students belong to the world's most talented ones.



In order to train future leaders, the Kronospan Foundation sponsors one student per year with a full four-year BSc scholarship in the U.S.A.

Application Cycles – The road to becoming a Kronospan Scholar



In an effort to promote the scholarship opportunity across Central and Eastern Europe and bring it close to as many people as possible, every year the Kronospan Foundation picks countries to focus their marketing efforts on, while adding to this list every year. In previous years focus countries have included Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine. However, through the tireless efforts of Kronospan's local HR teams, we have managed to spread the word about the scholarship in every country in CEE (and even further).

Each year and each application cycle sees us receiving hundreds of applications. The rigorous application process takes up to one year, from the moment the students are informed about the scholarship either by their teachers, the Foundation's presentations in local schools or by means of other marketing measures, until the time when students decide to take the step and apply. After completing a successful application, applicants are evaluated on a variety of aspects including their school grades, recommendations from teachers and mentors and previous work as well as extracurricular experiences. Only few students pass on the next step, usually around 20-30, where they are invited to join in a Microlab.



The Microlab is usually held in a focus country or in a location easy to reach for the participating candidates. During the Microlab students get to learn more about Kronospan, the Foundation and of course, Babson College. The day includes personal interviews as well as numerous exercises for group work activity. Candidates do not only get to know each other throughout this experience, but this day also give Kronospan Foundation and Babson representatives the opportunity to evaluate them, their goals and their motivations for the future more closely.

After the Microlab applicants to the Kronospan Scholarship are prepared for SAT and TOEFL testing. These are two necessary tests to be able to study and complete a higher degree in the United States and the costs are fully covered by the Kronospan Foundation. After about two months of studying and preparing, students who successfully completed the testing stage are supported in sending in their applications directly to Babson College.

In January of the following year only a handful of the most outstanding students are selected for final interviews. These are held with the Dean of Admissions of Babson College as well as Kronospan Foundation representatives. Babson College goes into a decision panel in March, where they finally decide each year who will be the lucky candidate to become the next Kronospan Scholar.




Color
Contempo
Trends






Multi Fashion
Multi Moods
Multitool




everyone's favourite flooring
Krono Original
everyone's favourite flooring
Krono Original

Claudia Ogrezeanu

2012

HOW THE KRONOSPAN SCHOLARSHIP CHANGED MY LIFE



My name is Claudia and I come from a small town in Southern Romania. Throughout my childhood I was always very much a driven person. Early on I realized that succeeding at my studies would be the key to my future success.

I always focused on gaining as much knowledge as possible when the opportunity was given to me. I was curious about each topic and had a desire to excel at school. Choosing a fitting high school, with what I was going to pursue as a degree in mind, was the first point where I had to make a choice that would count towards my future career. As I always had an inclination for numbers, but at the same time liked the humanistic side, I chose a Mathematics-IT-foreign languages profile.

At that point, I felt that the range of courses taken would provide me with the knowledge necessary to follow multiple career paths. In the end, I made the decision to study economics around 10th grade, but at that time I did not yet know which university I would go to.

The international reputation and quality of education caught my eye.



I came across the opportunity of the Kronospan Scholarship at Babson in my senior year of high school. Immediately I started research about Babson. The first thing that caught my eye when I saw Babson's webpage was the international reputation and the quality of education, as well as the multitude of course options and extracurricular activities. In high school, I used to take part in as many contests as I could and I even got to the national level for some of them. The idea of continuing this in university was exciting, especially because of the variety of ideas due to multicultural exchange at Babson.

My parents are both engineers and they definitely had high expectations of me, without putting pressure on my choices. My mother is my biggest mentor, always being there to support me. It was hard to choose what I was going to study in high school, but I was the one who selected my area of interest. Based on my high school studies, I decided in 11th grade that my university degree would be focused on statistics and international relations. I also was the one that decided a US education would be more beneficial than a university in Europe.

I applied for the Kronospan Scholarship at Babson in December 2011 and found out that I was accepted in March, 5 months before heading to what I can call the most enriching experience in my life up till now.

When I first came to Babson in August of 2012, I felt overwhelmed but also immediately realized through the people, professors and mentors I met that the education I was going to receive there was going to be of highest quality. I started orientation the same day I arrived, having a whole week of activities dedicated to meeting classmates and getting to know what would be my home for the next four years. It took me some time to adjust to life in the United States, but with the help of my peers and Babson representatives I eased into it after a few months. Coursework was challenging in the beginning; not only was the curriculum demanding, but I also had to master it speaking English as a second language.



Life on Babson campus of course meant spending a lot of time in the library studying towards exams or working on different projects in teams. My days were filled with classes, meetings and study time. However, at Babson opportunities are just "around the corner". Besides coursework, there is something for everyone to choose from to spend their free time. If you like sports, then there are 22 varsity organizations that you could choose from; if you have an inclination for volunteering, then you could join some of the clubs, Habitat for Humanity as for example, dedicated to charity work. Other student clubs were focused on education regarding diversity and multiculturalism - my year having around 30% international students.



Academically, the blend between liberal arts and business subjects appealed to me a lot – besides taking the required courses, I also took French and started learning Spanish in the classroom, as well as during a trip to Peru in order to practice it in a natural environment during one of my breaks. In my senior year, I participated in a Spanish Business Case Language Competition in Utah, where my team and I received the first place award.

For the first two years at Babson, every student had to take more or less the same courses, in whichever order he/she wanted. Those courses were designed not only to give us an insight into general business, but also to serve as the basis for our further electives and concentration goals. Examples include Quantitative Methods, Statistics, MIS, Rhetoric, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Accounting, Organizational Behavior, Finance, Marketing, Foundations of Management and Entrepreneurship and some more. After taking these basis courses, at the beginning of my third year I decided that I want to concentrate on International Business and Data Analytics. Also, it was then that I decided I wanted to take part in the Babson San Francisco Study Away Program, a semester-long experience dedicated to the discovery of the Silicon Valley technology start-ups in the region. During my last year at Babson, I wanted to take advanced courses towards my concentrations and decided I wanted to participate in a course abroad in Malaysia and Singapore for 10 days during the winter break. I also became a student advisor for everyone who wanted to go abroad in order to facilitate the cultural accommodation process.





My whole college experience was a very rewarding chapter of my life

Additionally Kronospan enabled me to take part in an internship program almost every break, which took me across countries such as the UK, Austria, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Poland and others. One summer break I even managed to do two internships: one for Kronospan in Salzburg and one for PwC in Bucharest, which I found using Babson's global recruiting platform.

Claudia is currently working at Kronospan SAS (France) as a Sales Office Manager.

All these internships gave me an idea of how actual work is done, aside from what we studied in our classroom environment.

Throughout my internships I have met many inspiring people, people that put a lot of passion into what they do and who I can truly call role models. In addition, interning in different areas, ranging from sales to human resources, to marketing and even internal audit, helped me decide what I am most interested in. Most of the internship experiences have been positive, and I had a chance to learn something new from each of them, something that I can apply both to my professional and personal life. I found it very useful to have the chance to work, even if just for a few weeks, in such a diverse array of departments.

Overall, my whole college experience was a very rewarding chapter of my life (I graduated cum laude), making me more ready for my job and preparing me for whatever challenges I may encounter. I am the person I am today because of attending such a high-profile university. This would not have been possible without the Kronospan Scholarship and all of the donors that contribute towards it. For that I feel thankful and am very honored to be the first scholar to graduate from Babson. The time spent there enriched my life experience tremendously and I would not be where I am today without it.



Kamil Altintaşoğlu









Home Country:
Romania and Turkey
Graduating from Babson in May 2017

kaltintasoglu1@babson.edu

2013



2014

Lizaveta (Lisa) Litvinava

Home Country:
Belarus
Grade at Babson September 2017:
Senior
Area of Interest:
Business Management

llitvinava1@babson.edu

Hai Péter Pham

Home Country:
Hungary
Grade at Babson September 2017:
Junior
Area of Interest:
Operations and Economics

hpham2@babson.edu





2015



2016

Daniel Gasperowicz

Home Country:
Poland
Grade at Babson September 2017:
Sophomore
Area of Interest:
Math and Analytics

dgasperowicz1@babson.edu

Anna Saltykova

2017



OUR 6th KRONOSPAN SCHOLAR

My name is Anna and I was born and raised in Ukraine. Education has always been my biggest dream and passion. I always tried to work as hard as I can to reach my goals and bring value to this world. From the time I was a child I always envisioned my life path, and one of the steps there was college.

I've never had enough of what my usual school was giving, therefore I have always tried to expand my horizons and try out many hobbies. Among them were musical school (saxophone, bandura, piano), Key Club, volleyball, musicals and plays, singing, dancing, and volunteering. I have also taken other classes besides my school curriculum. In that way, I got an opportunity to learn 5 languages at different levels and get a lot of information about entrepreneurship and business. I was thirsty for knowledge and fortunately, it took me far...

One year ago I got a scholarship from the U.S. Department of State that allowed me to be an exchange student in a usual American high school. I gladly shared with people what life in Ukraine feels like, how or why is it different. I was like a teenage ambassador of my country and was absolutely proud of it. This experience made me realize that international education is crucial to manage the constant change in our modern world. It helped me to be a more out-going person, who embraces challenges and perceives them. Moreover, in America, I was able to take economics as one of my classes. It helped me to realize in what direction I should go in the future and what career I should choose.

As I started to think about my future educational career, I understood that the knowledge and skills I want to get are unfortunately not taught at any traditional university in Ukraine. I did research about any educational opportunities available, and at one point the Kronospan Scholarship popped up. I was absolutely thrilled by the possibility of my dream coming true of studying in the United States, so I did not hesitate with my application.

The application process was very demanding, but that is what you kind of expect when such golden chances are coming your way. I knew from the beginning that I will put my best in every aspect of it. As part of the selection process the travels to Riga and Prague for the first time were very exciting for me, but I was even more delighted to meet other participants from all over Europe. We had a blast exploring the factory in Riga, as well as sharing our own cultures and views.

Mere words can barely describe my feelings when I got the news about the final decision. I literally cried tears of joy and felt extremely happy to be set off to this unbelievable journey of pursuing my dream career. I will be forever grateful to Kronospan Foundation, its sponsors, Babson College, and everyone else who made this possible. I sincerely believe that Babson College is s tremendous place for me to reach my potential, to grow and learn over the next four years, as well as a place I could contribute to my passion, leadership, and hard work. I will take the most out of this chance and prove that I indeed deserve to be a Kronospan Scholar!



I will be forever grateful to Kronospan Foundation, its sponsors, Babson College, and everyone else who made this possible.

CEE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



Vocational education is an important part of any educational system. It provides young individuals with the opportunity to specialize in a field where they see that they have natural potential and gives them the tools to develop, practice and perfect their skills to learn a specific trade. More than ever, today there is a great demand in the labor market for practical specialists, providing a variety of job opportunities upon successful completion of a vocational education.

The Kronospan Foundation is keen to support various vocational schools across Central and Eastern Europe and has this year continued its support in Slovakia as well as Romania.



SLOVAKIA

Vocational education in

The Kronospan Foundation supports vocational education in Zvolen with over 120.000 EUR to cover the full costs of a 4-year education for 2 classes.

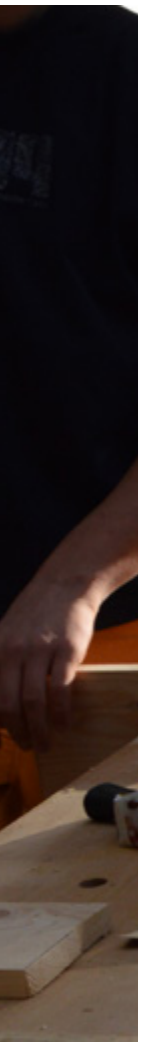
The Secondary Vocational School of Wood Processing was established in Zvolen in 1962. It continues the tradition of its predecessor in Liptovsky Hradok (which existence is dated from 1922). Relocation of the school to Zvolen has brought the secondary technical school closer to new centers of the wood processing industry, in order to educate specialists for cutting and wood working factories, within the whole Slovakian territory at first and then later within the central Slovakian region.

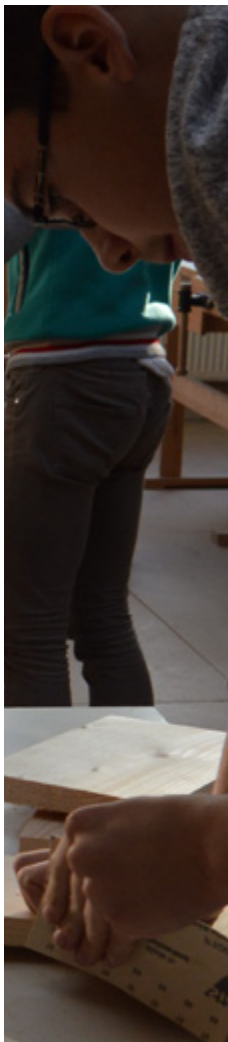
Education in the current school premises began in 1968. The school offers special classrooms and work-rooms for practical education and development of skills when preparing students for their future job. The premises include, among others, a boarding home, a canteen and a gym. There is also a school auditorium where all professional and social events are organized.

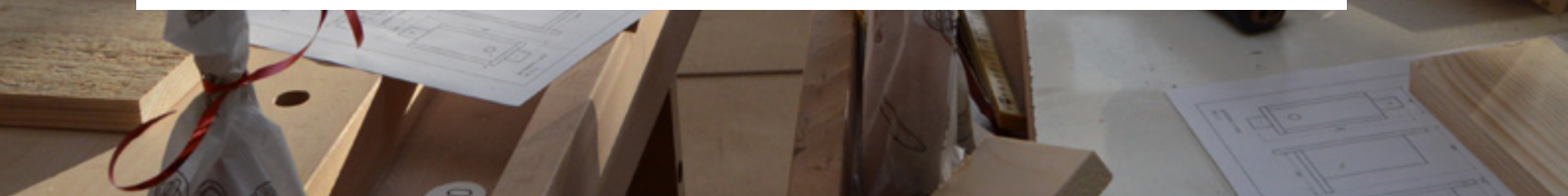
The Secondary school of wood processing in Zvolen has been ranked in the top schools of Slovakia and took 2nd place within the region and 14th place within Slovakia in the ranking of quality of secondary schools in 2015 from the perspective of employers within the project of the Government of SR „Vocational education and preparation for the employment market".



One of the most important annual events within the school is a cultural and social event called Javor, which also serves as a house open day and promotes crafts and traditions. In individual classrooms samples of students' works are shown and all attendees can gain important information about study and training fields in form of presentations provided.







In 2016, the Kronospan Foundation has committed to develop vocational education in Zvolen by offering financial support to cover the full costs of a 4-year education for an entire class (2016 - 2020). Considering the success of the first year and the great interest of the students, the project will continue with a new generation of 4-year education supported by the Kronospan Foundation (2017 - 2021). Costs covered include accommodation and full board for the students as well as free English or German classes. Students with exemplary grades will additionally receive cash rewards.

Due to the proximity of Kronospan Bucina DDD to the school, free practical classes and opportunities for internships will be offered to all students at the school.





In the current school year 2016/17 the Kronospan Foundation supports the studies of 17 students for study field 3336 M Wood processing and furniture manufacturing. By studying the chosen field, students are gaining practical experience in the production plant, becoming familiar with a real working environment and in addition developing their language skills in an exceptional way (3 lessons per week – English or German in the Kronovision Training Centre). Students from more distant regions use the services of the school boarding home and the costs for accommodation and meals are covered by the Foundation for their whole period of study.







As graduates of SOŠ wood processing in Zvolen, students have the best opportunity to become highly qualified experts with a solid knowledge base and practical experience in their field. In the end they have the possibility to continue their studies at university or become successful in the job market.









Vocational education in ROMANIA

The Kronospan Foundation supports vocational education in Sebeș with over 70.000 EUR for the refurbishing and fitting of the Workshops of the Technological High School

In 2015, under the umbrella of the "Open Your Heart!" Charity Gala the Kronospan Foundation started a fundraising campaign for the refurbishing, modernization and fitting of the workshops of the Technological High School Sebeș. Under the motto "Trades are trendy", the campaign set out to bring a fresh, modern and attractive vision on vocational education in Romania.

The cause which was proposed by Kronospan Foundation and was supported by all the guests of the event had a double significance: to provide a future for tomorrow's professionals, but also to make a contribution to the improvement of the educational conditions for the school's students. According to the educational institution, the Technological High School Sebeș hosted during the school year 2015/2016 more than 1.220 students; 874 of them attended the higher and vocational classes and were distributed into 33 individual classes. Depending on their chosen specialization, the students have access to a wide educational offer, which requires a theoretical and practical specialization in fields such as electromechanics, manufacturing of wood-based products, industrial chemistry, textile industry and leatherwork, among others.

During the 2015 event, an amount of 35.500 EUR was raised for the Technological High School Sebeș. The funds were used to replace doors and windows with PVC carpentry and insulation glass.

In order for the young students to have the possibility to train for their future professions within a proper environment, the 2016 edition of the "Open Your Heart!" Charity Gala was once again hosted in Sebeș, continuing the fundraising campaign which had been started in 2015.

The funds gathered will not only be used for the fitting of the workshops with new machinery and for the renovation of the building facade, but also for the purchase of a school bus for the transportation of the students.

The community in Sebeș and the partners of the Kronospan Foundation answered the call to continue this special project and made a donation of 38.500 EUR for the Technological High School possible.



Sebeș Technological High School and students workshops













Think Green
for Our Future

ENVIRONMENT

THINK GREEN FOR OUR FUTURE 2016 – INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CONTEST

The Chance for a School to Realize their 2.000 EUR Project

In 2016 the contest "Think Green for Our Future" was addressed to elementary and middle schools from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Ukraine which were offered the opportunity to win 2.000 EUR to implement a project.

The purpose of the contest was to raise awareness of young people concerning the environmental impact of unsustainable consumption and the effects of such consumption on climate change. Moreover, the contest encouraged proper behavior of young people which should contribute to environmental protection and the promotion of eco-civic spirit.

The participants had to identify the problems faced by the environment due to unsustainable consumption and the effects of such consumption on climate change and they had to show in a creative way how grown-ups can take actions which should protect the earth for future generations.

PRIMARY SCHOOL "GEO MILEV",

PROJECT "I AND NATURE"

Creation of a system of composting bio mass by building a platform with appropriate containers for this purpose. Instead of being thrown onto the scrap heap, garbage will be composted and used. This process will be visible and included in the students' teaching. The bio mass will be cleaned through Red Californian worms and used as an ecological fertilizer for a bio garden of herbs and spices.

BULGARIA

LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL IN TUROWO,

PROJECT "ENLIGHTING ECOLOGICALLY TEENAGERS"

The project consists of several activities aimed at making people, particulary young generations, understand the importance of protecting the environment for the benefit of both nature and humans. Activities of the project include: paper collection, planting trees and decorative plants, creating different objects from recycled materials, preparing an art exhibition and a stage performance "Judge over a man", under the theme of sustainable consumption, in a cinema.

POLAND

PANAIT CERNA BRAILA THEORETIC HIGHSCHOOL,

PROJECT "GREEN TEAM. WE CARE! WE ACT!"

Improving the quality of life of students and teachers through the architectural design of a park in the school yard, meant not only for rest and recreation, but also for efficient use during educational activities in order to form and foster students' ecological awareness and eco-friendly behavior.

ROMANIA

THE SECONDARY SCHOOL NO.17

PROJECT "THE ECOLOGICAL PATH"

The project aims to create an evergreen island on the school territory – a mini park with coniferous species, because coniferous trees and shrubs are able not only to clean the air of the dust and enrich air with oxygen, but also to disinfect air through their phytoncide properties.

UKRAINE

2% Campaign

Always Green Let's plant the future together!

The 2% Campaign has been a success since it has been established in Romania in 2012. When filling out their tax statements, Romanians get the chance to decide to donate 2% of their payable income tax towards a charitable project.

After supporting various causes throughout the years, the Kronospan Foundation established the "Always Green – Let's Plant the Future Together!" project in 2016. With this long-term project, funds will be used for environmental cleaning activities, countrywide afforestation as well as maintenance of existing planted areas. Moreover, another target of the project is to raise the awareness of local communities towards sustainable behavior in view of keeping the environment clean.

To reward the willingness of people to work towards a good cause, the Kronospan Foundation will each year double the amount raised in order to make an impact in Romania and support forest maintenance and afforestation activities in the country.



OUR MAJOR DONORS OF 2016

We are very grateful to all our donors and sponsors who have made gifts to support our causes. We are honored to acknowledge our major donors of 2016 of the **Oak Sponsorship category** (over €10.000).

From €1 to €10.000 – we are deeply thankful for the willingness of all our donors to support the activities of the Kronospan Foundation in 2016.

ADI & MARIUS TOP SRL
ALBACO EXIM SRL
ALVIONA SRL
AMF BRUNS GMBH
ASCENDUM MACHINERY SRL
AVANTI SRL
BACILA ADRIAN PFA
BAJENARU MIHAI-ADRIAN
BANDI BOTOND
BERTSCH ENERGY GMBH CO KG
BODEA OANA
CAMED INSTAL MONT SEBES SRL
CARD DESIGN SRL
CIUCHEANU SERVICE
COMA CONSTRUCT SRL
DADI TEAM SRL
DIAFAN SRL
DORA SRL
EEE SA
EURO EDUCATIONAL SRL
EUROGROUP SPA
EUROPA EXPRESS SRL
EUROPASPED SRL
EXIMTUR SRL
FIORIN IMPIANTI SRL
GOOD FOOD HOSTING SRL
H&E REINERT SRL
HOMESCU CLAUDIU ALIN
INDUSTRIAL MECANO IMPORT EXPORT SRL
IZOREF CONSTRUCTII
KRONOPLUS TECHNICAL AG
LACUL CODRILOR SRL
LEITZ GMBH
LEONHARDT GMBH
LIMOROM SRL
LINCOLN PLUS SRL
LUCA MARIA
MSVM SRL
NEW PAV SRL
OFICINA SERV SRL
ORGANIZATIA IA ATITUDINE
PPHU "AGRO-BAZA" Waldemar Misiak
RECOM SID SA
RHS GROUP SRL
RICHARD KABLITZ & MITTHOF GMBH
SCANDIC POLIKRAFT SRL
SERADI SRL
SOLID STATE BAU KFT
SULTAN VICWOOD K.T. CHONG MBE JP
TOTAL COMISIONARY SERVICES SRL
TRANS IVINIS & CO SRL
TRASMEC S.R.L.
VASI DUOKER NEMZETKOZI KERESKEDELMI
VILLKASZ KFT
VITS TECHNOLOGY GMBH
ZEIDEN CLEANER SRL

please support us.

EVERY DONATION COUNTS.



Kronospan Foundation
Str. Strunga Mieilor, nr. 1
Brasov, Romania
500482

kronospanfoundation.org
office@kronospanfoundation.org

CIF 29167440
Register of Foundations and Associations 85/2011

EUR account
RO84 BACX 0000 0006 3679 1001

USD account
RO30 BACX 0000 0006 3679 1003

RON account
RO57 BACX 0000 0006 3679 1002

Bank: Unicredit Bank
SWIFT: BACXROBU
BIC: BACX