

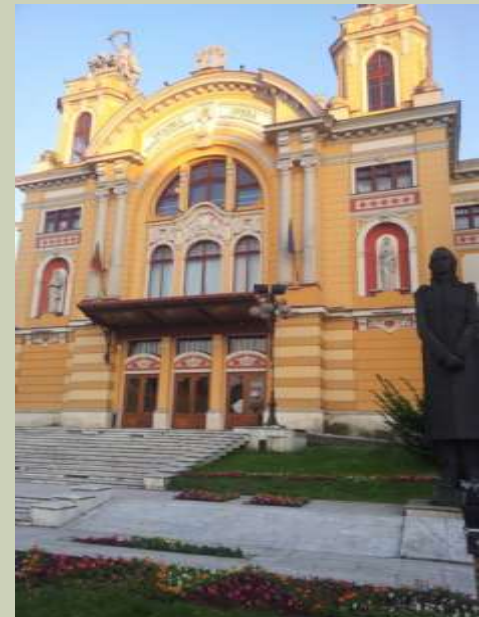
MPH INTERNSHIP IN ROMANIA SUMMER 2015

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CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA

- Second largest city in Romania
- Located in the northwestern part of the country – Transylvania
- Important cultural and academic center
- Many universities, parks and museums



CITY CENTER – PIATA UNIRII

- Historical center
- Some of the first moments in the Romanian Revolution happened in Piata Unirii (Union Square)



THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER (EHC)

- The EHC is a private environmental health research center in Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Involved in environmental and occupational health research projects
- Ranging from monitoring air quality , assessing drinking water quality and investigating occupational exposures
- Many international programs



FIELD WORK

- Had the opportunity to go into the field with my mentor and other EHC employees
- Went to many rural villages to collect water samples and to see how the water distribution system is functioning
- Went to farms and pig farms to collect air samples



MY PROJECT

- Cross-sectional study assessing exposure to phthalates from drinking water and other sources in a rural village
- Phthalates are endocrine disruptors that are found in plastic products, personal care products and building materials
- Previous studies show that exposure to phthalates is ubiquitous



MY PROJECT

- Main goal was to determine if drinking water is an important source of phthalate exposure
- Designed a questionnaire regarding possible exposures from other sources
- Went into the village to conduct interviews, collect urine samples and water samples



DATA ANALYSIS

- Urine samples were analyzed for phthalate metabolites in the EHC lab using gas chromatography
- Created a database of all information from the questionnaires and phthalate metabolite results
- Calculated daily intakes
- In the process of completing data analysis and will publish results in the near future



LIFE IN CLUJ AND ROMANIA

- Cluj is full of restaurants, museums, bars and other students
- Romania is a beautiful country with many castles, fortresses, caves and much more
- Had the opportunity to travel throughout Romania almost every weekend and to Germany and Hungary



Corvin Castle



Transfăgărășan

WHAT I LEARNED

Living abroad:

- Culture shock is very real and can be frustrating
- Living in a different country will change your perspective about many things
- Being flexible and opened minded are key to enjoying your experience

Public health wise:

- Learned how to design and carry out my own study
- Different ways to analyze and interpret data
- How to work with people from different cultures

SIGHTS IN ROMANIA



Peleş Castle



Făgăraş Castle

SIGHTS IN ROMANIA

