

## **Martina Marei Viti in Bucharest**



**Name of trainee:** Martina Marei Viti

**Home university, department of trainee:** Alma mater studiorum – University of Bologna, Department of Biological, Environmental, Geological Sciences.

**Studies of trainee (Bachelor/Master):** Master in Global Change Ecology and Sustainable Development Goals

**Internship period:** September – November 2021

**Topic of the internship:** Monitoring of green infrastructure features – major threats, human-nature interactions, ecosystem services.

**Supervisor of the SURE:** Ioan–Cristian Iojă

**Local supervisor during the internship:** Ioan–Cristian Iojă

**Institution of the internship:** University of Bucharest

**Content of the internship:** Monitoring of green and blue infrastructure features of Bucharest. Assessment of challenges and opportunities in Romanian protected areas.

My experience at SURE has been a great occasion for me to have a deeper understanding of what doing research in urban ecology means. Thanks to my supervisor and his research group I have been actively involved in different activities that allowed me to get to know the local situation in terms of environmental and ecological challenges, and to have a glimpse of the solutions and tools that are implemented to both monitor and solve problems.

In the context of the city of Bucharest, I have taken part to urban dry trees mapping, urban lakes water analysis and air temperature measurements. In addition, I have learned how to customize a survey app in order to collect data, and which tools to use to measure green and blue infrastructure features and parameters.

Furthermore, I have had the chance to learn about regional challenges, like invasive species in protected areas. This, together with visits to important Romanian protected areas, has given me the understanding of which are the ecosystem services that they provide and the threats that global change challenges pose to both nature conservation and human subsistence. Moreover, it has been inspiring to get to know the actions that nature protected areas managers are implementing to ensure nature dynamics and processes, and ecosystem services flows.

The internship has had also an international side, as documentation of urban protected areas around the world was part of the daily schedule.

Last but not least, I have appreciated a lot being involved in few scientific events – National Conference Constantin Bratescu in Constanta, monthly meeting of the University of Bucharest Environmental Science group, national workshop on invasive species.

To conclude, the internship at SURE and specifically at the Centre for Environmental Research and Impact Studies of the University of Bucharest, has been a formative experience that certainly inspired me and motivated my interests to find solutions to help urban environments to undertake the ecological transition. I feel that the local instances, the research methods and solutions I came to know are now part of my knowledge and will be useful for my future career, as well as my personal development.