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"Magic of medicine in magic Montenegro"

When God just started to create our planet, it was only a blue endless ocean. He decided to decorate the Earth. Taking with him a knapsack which was full of majestic mountains, rivers, forests, lakes and sea, he went off on a journey. Strolling about the world, God was spilling his gifts in different places. But as soon as he entered upon the land of Montenegro, the knapsack was torn, endowing this small piece of the Balkans with the unique wealth and beauty... This parable was told to us by a good-natured taxi-driver on the way from the airport. So, in August 2014, my acquaintance with Montenegro began.

In the fourth year of my study at the university, I finally decided to take part in an international exchange program. This is possible thanks to the IFMSA. I wanted to get acquainted with a new country, to meet new people, to look at foreign medicine, to gain some experience, isn't it a really amazing plan for summer?

I did my practical work in Podgorica. It is a largest city of country. I was pleasantly surprised to see a little piece of my motherland. This is a monument to a Russian poet and composer Vladimir Vysotsky. Heavenly beauty of this place won over him. Also beautiful Montenegro, namely Montenegrins, their courage, boldness and independence was praised by the great writer Alexander Pushkin. Montenegro and Russia have a long common history and that's why we are similar. Perhaps, for this reason, 23 people of the 28 exchange students were from Russia.

In the largest clinics of the country we were greeted by friendly tutors. The choice of department was really difficult, but I fixed upon the emergency medicine. There were many interesting cases, for example rupture of the diaphragm as a result of a fall from a mountain, burn the esophagus and so on. I have only the warmest memories about the patients. Every patient tried to tell us everything about their disease. A lot of things I saw for the first time, for example the removal of a brain tumor. During almost five hours neurosurgeons, bending over the patient were recovering a tumor which had the size of a tennis ball. Open heart surgery also left really lasting impressions. Mastery of the cardiologist, his finest work amazed us. At the time of recovery of heartbeat I could not breathe because of the coverage of delight and excitement.

After a busy day of work we needed some rest. It was great that our organizers took care of entertainment! They prepared an interesting and exciting social program, thanks to that we not only became friends, but also travelled almost the entire territory of Montenegro.

That practice work gave me an unforgettable and incredible experience, not only in medicine but also in communication. If you still haven't tried it, just do it. Open yourselves to new impressions!