There are three aspects that have marked me after the two days visit we made into the Chernobyl exclusion zone.

The first aspect was the speed at which nature takes over the human habitat. There are 30 years since 50,000 people were evacuated from Prypiat – the now abandoned city, located just few kilometres North of the nuclear power plant. All that urban environment we live in is so easy taken over by nature in just few decades. Once abandoned by humans, all those buildings – apartments, schools, hospitals, which we assume are build for centuries, fall into decay and begin to collapse.

The second one was briefly summarised by our colleague Philip Brown from Ohio State University: history matters. In other words, if you visit Chernobyl exclusion zone and you don't have any idea about what happened 30 years ago there, you wont be able to understand the scale of that nuclear catastrophe. I realise that while walking on the streets of Prypiat. A quite depressing landscape, decayed buildings, but looking, I suppose, as any other industrial city abandoned by its inhabitants. There are no clues about the reasons for which there are no human beings living here. Therefore, the need to explore, know and better understand our history is crucial. Or, following Marx's quote, we will see history repeating itself. But I’m not sure if in this particular example the second one will be a farce, or a bigger tragedy.
Finally, but equal important is the narrative. Behind each such tragedy there is the narrative that society produces to accommodate the reality. In the case of Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the narrative seems to be incomplete. While the efforts, sacrifices and pain suffered by all people involved are indisputable – as a matter fact I suspect the consequences are grossly underestimated, there is no discussion about the human failures that led to this catastrophe. There were other humans behind this tragedy, it was system that failed to protect against such tragedies. It was probably, a long chain of errors, wrong decisions and failures that led finally to this. As long as these errors are not incorporated in the narrative, its role will not be completely fulfilled.