

# Review of: "Probabilistic Assessment of the Heavy Metal Pollution in Debrecen's Topsoil"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The Article is a good write-up, and the authors are commended for their good work.

There are a few things that need attention:

1. Figure 1 is missing from the manuscript.
2. The introduction needs to give a background of other similar studies in Hungary and outside worldwide as benchmarks for referencing.
3. The soil sampling procedure is not well documented; neither is the analytical procedure employed. The use of a handheld XRF machine should have utilized fused glass beads for better homogeneity, knowing how the instrument functions as "a point analyser."
4. The standards used for analytical results obtained were not given. It is a requirement for such work to use a batch of standards to help with the calibration and comparison of results with other studies.
5. Mathematical equations referred to were not all reproduced in the manuscript that I reviewed. I suggest a PDF as well as a Word document be made available to reviewers.
6. Mining as a source of heavy elements was mentioned in the results. However, mining or the type of deposits mined where such contamination could come from is not given. This must be presented in the introduction to give readers a heads up about the possible sources of the heavy metals studied.
7. Section 3.1 must be re-looked at, as most of the statements presented here bear no reference nor scientific substantiation or proof of being true.