

STATUS OF AIR QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK IN KOSOVO

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Abstract

Air pollution has become one of the serious environmental concerns in urban areas, especially in view of the adverse health effects that have been associated with ambient fine particles. The 6 pollutants that account for the large majority of air pollution worldwide and for which standards are usually specified include carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O₃), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), lead (Pb) and suspended particulate matter (SPM). The purpose of our work was the study of air pollution in Kosovo and the need for improvement of the air quality monitoring system, in compliance with Directive 2008/50/ EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe. The air pollution in Kosovo due to traffic and industry is abundant especially in areas where human population is concentrated. The fast rate in economic growth is bringing more sources of air pollution, in this context the air quality monitoring system will ensure a sustainable development of the urban and industrial area, minimizing and preventing the air pollution impact on human health. The first fully automatic air quality monitoring stations were installed in Prishtina on January 2009. The stations NIPH 1 and 2 belong to the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) and they measure sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and total suspended particulates (TSP). In Kosovo ambient air quality is very poor in developed urban areas, especially in the vicinity of industrial sites. The biggest impact to air quality at Prishtina area is caused by the thermal power plants KEK (TCA and TCB) with an installed capacity of 1513 MW. The Mitrovica area with industrial waste left over from the Trepca complex is counted as one of the major sources of pollution in that area. Monitoring of all pollutants defined by the Air Law does not exist at the moment and therefore the air quality data are very limited. Therefore it is very problematic to evaluate actual level of air pollution and assess possible negative impacts on human health and environment.

Keywords: *air pollution, monitoring system, network, Kosovo*