

# Assessment of air pollution sources and implications for human health

Afrim SYLA, PhD Environment and Public health  
University of Prishtina- Republic of Kosova  
Tel. +377(0)44147473 ; E-mail: [afrimsyla2002@yahoo.com](mailto:afrimsyla2002@yahoo.com)

The present environmental situation in Mitrovica, put as in front of the responsibility to act more rationally towards nature and to be more responsible towards the protection of the environment for future generations. The protection lack of environment during the last ten years, as well as the conflict in Kosova as the origin of huge problems regarding present environmental situation in Mitrovica (Kosova). The city of Mitrovica, approximately 40 km north of Prishtina, was the site of one the largest lead smelters in Europe, known as the Mitrovica Industrial Park.

Three potential sites have been identified by Environmental Department, with the favoured site on the north bank of the Ibar at Bosniak Mahalla. However, a pilot soil survey (using portable XRF) by University of Prishtina at this site revealed very high metal levels (especially Pb) in the soils, and questions were therefore raised about the suitability of this site. Following discussions between Ministry of Environment, University in Prishtina and Municipality, a series of objectives were identified relating to the three proposed development sites:

1. What are concentrations of Pb and other metals/metalloids in surface and sub-surface soils?
2. Are the Pb concentrations typical or atypical of soil Pb concentrations found elsewhere in Mitrovica city?
3. What is the bioaccessibility of soil Pb to the residents of Mitrovicë/a?
4. What is the source of the lead, and is the source still „active“?