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Authors should submit their articles electronically to *SEEU Review* in Microsoft Word format, and all manuscripts must be spell-checked and proofread from an English native speaker prior to submission. All submissions must follow APA (American Psychological Association) style for format and references (footnotes and endnotes are not permitted). Manuscripts should not exceed 8,000 words, including the abstract (which should be 200 to 300 words), references, and other elements.

The entire manuscript, including the abstract, the reference list, and any tables, should be presented as A4 size paper with single-spaced typescript in 12-point Times New Roman. It should begin with a cover page, giving the title of the paper, the name(s) of the author(s), institutional affiliation(s) and correspondence address(es), e-mail address(es), a suggested shorter title for running heads, and three to five keywords. On the next page, put the article title and the abstract, then continue with the body of the article. All pages must be numbered.

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## Foreword

Dear readers,

We have the honor to present to you the new issue of the scientific journal SEEU Review, Vol. 8 number 1 which is also available on the following link <http://www.seeu.edu.mk/en/research/seeu-review>.

In this issue of SEEU Review, researchers from the University and region, present their work in the following fields: Law, Business and Economics, Contemporary Sciences and Technologies, Teaching and Languages and Environmental sciences.

As usual, different readers of these papers may draw different conclusions regarding the specific topics addressed. The goal in presenting these research efforts is to draw attention to important issues and encourage conversation on them, always with the objective of adding to the understanding we have of the complex and changing world in which we live. We continue to encourage other current and former undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff of SEEU University and other undergraduate institutions to submit their own work for future editions.

The Editorial Board has made the selection based on work, that has scientific significance and that address current issues.

Finally, we wish to thank our staff for their commitment, dedication and professional work in publishing this issue. The Editorial Board thanks the authors and reviewers for their patience, good will and cooperation at every stage of the review process of the *SEEU Review*.

*Prof. Dr. Blerim Reka*

*Editor-in-Chief*



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# Open Candidate Lists as an Opportunity to Personalize the Will of the Voters in the Republic of Macedonia

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## Abstract

This article introduces and presents a concrete and comparative analysis of electoral system of the Republic of Macedonia and the need of incorporation of the open candidate lists in parliamentary and local elections. In this direction, the article notes that the atmosphere in our country is positive, regardless of the fact that open lists would be a challenge for the domination of the leaders of political parties in the nomination process so far, and the evident political party rule of the state in our society as a pathological phenomenon of our political system, because this type of voting lists implies respected professionals, or in other words, individuals who will develop professional team, intellectual and logistic infrastructure for efficient and democratic functioning of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia and municipal councils. In this article, the author points out that open candidate lists would contribute to a greater satisfaction of voters, because they offer greater choice and create a closer relationship between citizens and their representatives. In real life, open candidate lists will contribute to greater accountability of MP's to voters, as well as better understanding of the needs of voters and their interests and will improve the adequate representation of municipalities and City of Skopje on the legislative power, strengthening the geographical link between voters and MP's.

**Key words:** personalization of the vote, preferential voting, open and closed candidate lists, proportional and majority electoral models.

## Abstrakt

Ky punim paraqet një analizë konkrete dhe të krahasuar të sistemit zgjedhor të Republikës së Maqedonisë si dhe të nevojës për inkorporimin e listave të hapura kandiduese në zgjedhjet parlamentare dhe lokale. Në këtë drejtim, punimi thekson se atmosfera në vendin tonë është pozitive, pavarësisht nga fakti se listat e hapura do të jenë një sfidë për dominimin e deritanishëm të liderëve të partive politike në procesin e kandidimit si dhe partikracinë në shoqërinë tonë si një dukuri patologjike të sistemit tonë politik, meqenëse ky lloj i votimit do të nxjerrë profesionistë të respektuar, përkatësisht individë që do të zhvillojnë ekipe profesionale, intelektuale si dhe një infrastrukturë logjistike për funksionimin efikas dhe demokratik të Kuvendit të RM-së si dhe të këshillave komunalë. Në këtë punim, autori vë në dukje se listat e hapura kandiduese do të sjellin një kënaqësi më të madhe të zgjedhësve, sepse ofrojnë një përzgjedhje më të madhe, duke krijuar një raport më të ngushtë midis qytetarëve dhe përfaqësuesve të tyre. Në jetën reale, listat e hapura kandiduese do të kontribuojnë në llogaridhënien më të madhe të deputetëve ndaj zgjedhësve si dhe të kuptuarit më të mirë të nevojave dhe interesave të zgjedhësve, duke përmirësuar përfaqësimin adekuat të komunave dhe të Qytetit të Shkupit në pushtetin ligjvënës si dhe fuqizimin e lidhjes gjeografike midis zgjedhësve dhe të zgjedhurve.

*Fjalët kyçe:* personalizimi i votës, votimi preferencial, listat kandiduese të hapura dhe të mbyllura, modelet zgjedhore proporcionale dhe të shumicës

## Апстракт

Трудот претставува конкретна и споредбена анализа на изборниот систем на Република Македонија како и на потребата од воведување на отворените кандидатски листи во парламентарните и локалните избори. Во оваа насока, трудот потенцира дека атмосферата во нашата земја е позитивна, без оглед на фактот што отворените листи ќе бидат предизвик за досегашната доминација на лидерите на политичките партии во процесот на кандидирање како и за партикрацијата како патолошка појава во нашиот политички систем, бидејќи ваквиот начин на гласање ќе произведува почитувани професионалци, односно поединци кои ќе развиваат професионални и интелектуални

екипи, како и логистичка инфраструктура за ефикасното и демократското функционирање на Собранието на РМ и на советите на општините. Во овој труд, авторот става до знаење дека отворените кандидатски листи ќе донесат поголемо задоволство кај избирачите бидејќи ќе обезбедат поголем избор, создавајќи поблизок однос меѓу граѓаните и нивните претставници. Во реалниот живот, отворените кандидатски листи ќе придонесат за поголемата одговорност на пратениците и подобро разбирање на потребите и интересите на избирачите како и подобрување на адекватната застапеност на општините и Градот Скопје во законодавната власт како и зајакнување на географската врска помеѓу избирачите и избирачите.

**Клучни зборови:** персонализација на гласот, преференцијално гласање, отворените и затворените кандидатски листи, пропорционални и мнозински изборни модели

## I. Introduction

The majority and the proportional electoral system, as the two main electoral models, are not “ideal” electoral models, since their advantages and disadvantages are emphasized both by the electoral theory and practice. Considering both the advantages and disadvantages of these models, and the fact that eventually, the genuine voters' will might not be fully expressed in a quality or quantity manner, it can be concluded that neither of these models can be regarded as absolutely a more democratic model, due to the fact that each model is backed by a quantities form of expressing the various interests of the citizens and the political subjects in a society. Such statement does not mean that the comments on the theoretical and practical advantages and disadvantages of both the majority and proportional electoral model will exist as long as the elections are the essential elements of the Representative Democracy. This occurs due to the existence of at least one legitimate political value in both models, that is, on one side, as a legitimate political value of the majority electoral model stands the establishment of stabile government through stabile parliamentary majority, and on the other side, the real manifestation of the political will of the electoral body can be pointed out as a legitimate value of the proportional model. Therefore, the practice of the European democracies itself, shows that the EU Member States choose one of the electoral models, taking into consideration their political and social needs, without excluding the combination of the two models in a unique model, i.e. Combined electoral model (Germany). The reason for this is the fact that neither of the before mentioned models has the capacity to meet all social requests, because the fulfilment of one request is related to the ignoring of the other one. Therefore, when designing a certain electoral model, each country should consider several factors, such as: historical and social tendencies, ethnical, political and social structure of the citizens, political culture and their tradition, as well as the established system of social and cultural values.

In this article I support the open candidate lists ?r preferential voting, where the voters' will comes before the will of the party leaders and those lists will preserve existing advantages of the proportional model dealing with fair representation of different ethnic and cultural groups, and from the other hand, will benefit from the advantages of the majority electoral model dealing with personalization of the will of the voters. Through the open lists, the voters will have the possibility to elect their own candidate, regardless of the order of the

candidates determined by the party leaders. I believe that this voting method will, on one hand, increase the elected candidate's responsibility towards the electoral body, and thus, the candidates will rely more upon the voters' support, rather than their party leaders, and on the other hand, the political parties themselves will nominate already proven candidates of great authority, which will contribute to the increased level of professionalism and responsibility both of the future member of the Parliament of RM and the municipal councils of local self-government. In the Republic of Macedonia, the nomination process is highly centralized and depends solely on the top leadership, thus greatly excluding the membership and party followers, which affects the self-promotion and creation of the party elites. Candidates on the party list are not elected, but they are proposed or nominated by the party leadership (usually just before the expiry of the deadline determined for submitting the party candidate lists). Although formally, the selection process begins at the base, and an improvement in this direction is expected by incorporating the open lists in the parliamentary and local elections.

In the Republic of Macedonia there is one very important factor which, in my opinion, goes to the advantage of the open candidate lists, respectively the expression of voters' will in the last local and presidential elections in 2009, where the voters manifested so-called "cross-voting", voting according their preferences. This means that the political awareness of the electorate is mature for open candidate lists, because they voted in accordance with their preferences on three, or four ballots in the City of Skopje, where they cross-voted for the President of the state, Mayor of the City of Skopje, City and municipal counsellors.

On the other hand, the democratic tradition and past experience from the parliamentary elections in the RM (where all models have been tried), i.e. the majority model in the first pluralist elections in 1990 and 1994, the combined election model in 1998, as well as the proportional model in 2002, 2006, and during the early elections in 2008 and 2011, point out the fact that the RM needs continuous public debates concerning the issue of the most advantageous election model which would best fit our background, as well as the political, ethnical, social culture and the normative values of our state system that the citizens have been trying to build.

In the case of closed candidate lists elections, as they are so far, it should be noted that a large number of the members of the Parliament feel thankful to the party leadership, and not to those who elected them. During the early years of the pluralistic democracy this meant strengthening the party discipline and respecting the hierarchy within the party (which could be justified), but, nowadays it started

developing negative trends (tendencies), such as: lack of accountability and faded relationship between the MP's and the voters; political parties become demotivated to respond to citizens' needs; inability to perform reforms inside the party; blind loyalty of the MP's to the party leadership; disproportionate representation of the municipalities and the City of Skopje in the legislative power, thus weakening the geographical connection between the elect and voters (there are cases of favoring candidates from the Capital and larger municipalities, or cases when a person living in one electoral district is nominated in a different electoral district); serious lack of democratic decisions within the frames of the main political parties, and cases when a leader of a party modifies or complements the entire nomination process within the party bodies are well-known; voters alienate from the election model because they cannot identify themselves with it, which means that voters do not feel as the "owners" of the election model, but the real "owners" are the party leaders. Therefore, the inauguration of the open candidate lists is expected to mitigate these negative trends of the existing closed lists, and in particular, the main flaw of the proportional electoral model in the RM should be eliminated, which is voting for political parties, and not for the person on the candidate lists.

## **Specific and Comparative Analysis of Preferential Voting Options**

In general, what Donald Horowitz said claiming that the proportional electoral model usually puts great power into the hands of the party leaders when deciding which candidates can have better position on the party lists, and consequently, better chances of being elected, can also apply to closed lists. Such power of the party leaders violates voter's sovereignty to elect a candidate, and not only choose among the candidates. Therefore, according to Horowitz, the best electoral model is the one which directly and precisely reflects the voters' will (Horowitz, D., 2003).

On the other hand, it should be noted that the political parties as nominating subjects have the dominant role, or as Maurice Duverger points out, the political parties choose the Members of the Parliament, and voters should only confirm this selection. It is the most noticeable in one-party systems, but the situation is also similar in multi-party systems, it is only less visible (Duverger, M., 1976).

Both in theory and in practice, apart from the issue of calculating the votes in mandates, it is very important whether the voter votes for list of candidates or

individual candidates. Voting for individual candidates is a characteristic of the majority model (systems where single representative is elected in one electoral district–uninominal systems), and on the other hand, voting for candidates party list is characteristic of the proportional model (systems where several representatives are elected in an electoral district–multi nominal systems). The key question is raised here: how to mitigate this flaw of the proportional model where the voting is for party lists, and how to personalize the electorate's votes, that is, how the proportional model can “borrow” the element of voting for the person, as a component and priority of the majority model. I believe the best way to achieve this is to open the party candidate lists, in accordance with the European and world trends. Giovanni Sartori argues that in the theory and practice of the elections, the phrase “Caligula's horse” (the Roman Emperor Caligula made his horse Incitatus a senator) shows that anybody, even the horse, can be elected, but it is more difficult to elect the “horse” when voting for an individual person than when voting for a party lists (Sartori, G., 2008). Today the term “Caligula's horse” is used to express the phenomenon of appointing of incompetent people at specific functions.

Open candidate lists are implemented in a substantial number of states, such as: Australia, Holland, Sweden, Japan, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Latvia, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Sri Lanka, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Ireland, Nepal, Pakistan, Nauru Kiribati, Estonia, Brazil, Fiji, Slovakia, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Columbia, etc., and in the other hand, the closed candidate lists are implemented in: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, South Africa, Bulgaria, Russia, Spain, Turkey, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Serbia, Portugal, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Salvador, Honduras, Hong Kong, Nicaragua, Israel, Namibia, Indonesia, Iceland, Burkina Faso, Guyana, Mozambique, etc.

As seen, in the region, open candidate lists apply to: Kosovo, Slovenia, Greece, Cyprus and Bosnia and Herzegovina, however, more rigid form of closed candidate list has Serbia, where candidates do not win seats in the order listed, but the party leadership after the election, schedules who of them will be MP, even the political party is the “owner” of the parliamentary mandate, because according to the Serbian constitution, mandate of the MP is not a representative but partisan imperative mandate, namely the Constitution of Serbia states that, “under the terms stipulated by the Law, a deputy shall be free to irrevocably put his/her term of office at disposal to the political party upon which proposal he or she has been elected a deputy” (Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, Article 102, paragraph 2).

If we compare American, European, Asian and Australian literature about preferential voting we can see that there are different approaches and methods, which means that it is impossible to incorporate all the possible meanings of preferential voting because there are as many meanings as there are researchers working in this field. Therefore, generally the preferential electoral system is understood as any method or approach which offers voters the opportunity to express their preferences.

So for example, the main characteristic of the electoral model in Luxembourg consists of unlimited freedom for the voters to circle any of the alphabetically ordered candidates on the party list they prefer. Thus, the political parties are not allowed to rank their candidates, and the voters can vote in several ways: they can circle the entire list (meaning they vote for all candidates) or they can distribute their votes among the candidates in different lists. Then, based on the Hagen Bach-Bischoff quota, the number of votes on each list is divided per the number of seats plus one, and the list with higher electoral quotient is given the mandate. This procedure is repeated until there are free mandates. The originality of this model renders the Luxembourg electoral model great amount of immediate democracy, and it is unique not only in Europe, but in worldwide (Marinkovic, Tanasije, 2002).

On the other hand, the preferential voting model is emphasized with the Single Transferable Vote model, which is a variant of combined electoral model. It is called Single Transferable Vote because it is based on the principle of the elector voting for his/her most preferred candidate, but if this candidate does not win the sufficient number of votes, the vote is transferred to the next candidate, and so on. This model is applied in multi-candidate districts, where voters rank the candidates on the ballot paper according to their preferences, very similar to the alternative model. In many cases, writing down the preferences is optional and the voters are not requested to rank all candidates, but they can decide how many candidates to rank. The counting concerning the quota for the election of one candidate starts after the total first preferential votes have been counted. The voters are entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are on the ballot paper, but they are also entitled to vote for other candidates on party lists. Then, they order their preferences by 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. The candidate needs to win the minimum quota in order to be elected. If after the first count none of the candidates succeeded in winning the minimum number of votes, then the candidate with fewer votes is eliminated and these votes are transferred to the next candidate, and the process repeats until all seats are filled (Reynolds, Andrew; Reilly, Ben and Ellis, Andrew, 2005).

Ireland is the only EU state implementing the Single Transferable Vote system. The Irish Parliament is bicameral consisting of: Lower House (elected by citizens) and the Upper House (Senate with advisory role). Elections for the Lower House are held on the basis of a very special technique allowing the voters to cast their vote in various ways, that is, only to one candidate, to several candidates or to all candidates (known as alternative voting). According to the Irish electoral model, the candidates are alphabetically ranked, and the elector votes by placing a number in front of the preferred candidate. However, this electoral model has yet another characteristic, and that is the possibility to transfer the votes from the first to the second preference, and that is why it is also known as the Single Transferable Vote.

Both in theory and in practice, several advantages of this model can be pointed out: voters have the possibility to vote for different parties and for different candidates on the same party list, which means that this model personalizes the selection; and the level of democracy during the electoral process is increased, because candidates present their abilities, but are very cautious when they emphasize the inabilities of the other candidates if they want to win greater number of second preferential votes. This model is more advanced than the other ones in relation to the elimination of power of party elites to decide which of their candidates shall win. Also, apart from the fight among the candidates from different parties, this model initiates a fight among the candidates of the same party, and it increases the level of candidate's responsibility towards voters, and in this manner the voters can really influence their representatives. Flaws of this model are following: it provokes instability inside the party, increasing the number of fractions; voters consider it to be very complicated; instability inside the party is reflected on the instability of the government, and the fact that this model is applied in few countries implies that there are many unanswered questions raising from this model and waiting to be solved (Reynolds, Andrew; Reilly, Ben and Ellis, Andrew, 2005).

Preferential voting is applied in the US primary elections, where the candidate to be elected in the Senate or House of the Representatives should win both the party elections and majority of votes in general elections. This means that the key mechanism of the American electoral system is related to the primary elections where the party nominates its potential candidate for the elections for the Congress and the Senate. Primary elections are a type of elections where one of many candidates is elected for party nomination, and this mechanism is unique for the USA. The goal of such elections is to limit the private interests of the party machinery by limiting the party leadership power to decide on the candidates.

American electoral practice recognizes two types of primary elections: closed and open primary elections. Closed primaries (used in 43 federal states) imply participation only of those voters which are registered members of the political party, while open primaries (used in 7 federal states) does not require voters to be affiliated with a political party and he/she can vote for any candidate regardless of its political party, but this right is limited to voting for only one candidate from a political party. In both types of elections, the candidate with more votes is the winner. However, primaries do not satisfy the interests of the electoral system due to following reasons: large number of voters do not vote (the turnout of voters in primaries is 20%); these elections double the costs; voters are burdened with frequent elections, so, in the recent years there has been an initiative to reform the existing primary elections (Deren-Antoljak, Štefica, 1993).

New 2006 electoral model in Japan raises interest, according to which, 300 of the total number of 480 members of the House of Representatives were elected by majority electoral model in uninominal electoral districts, and 180 were elected by proportional electoral model by the Don't formula which allows double nomination in both models. 96 of the total of 242 members of the House of Counselors were elected by the proportional model with open party lists, where the voter marks the name of the preferred candidate or political party, and the winner is the candidate with the highest number of party list votes.

Finland also uses the proportional method of 15 electoral districts based on the Don't method. This model uses preferential voting where voters cast their vote for only one candidate, and not for the list, which means that Finnish voters circle the number in front of the candidate, but it also counts as a vote for the entire list of the circled candidate. The importance of such preferential voting can be seen when votes are turned into parliamentary mandates. This process goes through two phases: in the course of the first phase, despite voting for the preferred candidate, it is primarily determined how many votes won each list, and during the second phase, the mandates are allocated to the candidates of the same list according to the principle who won more votes is in lead. (Marinkovic, Tanasije, 2002).

The preferential voting is used in the alternative voting model (subtype of the absolute majority model) practiced in Australia and Fiji.

One of the characteristics of this model is that it offers more options (preferences) and hence the name, preferential voting, because voters, rather than circling one candidate, rank the candidates, marking the most preferred candidate with "1", "2" for their second preferred candidate, "3" for the third preferred candidate, etc. Thus, this model allows voters to vote for more than one candidate.

In case none of the candidates wins the majority of votes, then the candidate with fewer votes is eliminated from the count, and his/her ballot paper goes to the second preferential votes, and it proceeds until one of the candidates wins the absolute majority of the votes, and then this candidate is elected. Therefore, this model is a part of the absolute majority electoral models and the candidate should win the absolute majority, not only the majority to be elected.

Both in theory and in practice, several advantages of this model can be pointed out: geographic aspect which enables deeper relationship between the elected candidates and the electoral districts; positive effect on the establishment of the parliamentary majority; security that voters gain due to the fact that the candidates are elected by absolute majority; greater citizens influence on the electoral process. However, there are certain weaknesses, as well: this voting model assumes that every voter knows how to read and write and they know the basic mathematical operations; this model does not function well if applied in a larger electoral district and there is danger of a large number of void ballot papers (Reynolds, Andrew and Reilly, Ben, 2000).

The preferential voting can also be found in Belgium, which has a bicameral parliament: Council of Representatives (where 150 members are elected on direct elections) and the Senate (consisting of 71 senators, 40 of which are elected on direct elections, 21 are elected from the councils of the communities, and 10 of them are elected from the previous two categories). There are 20 electoral districts in Belgium, where the voters are entitled to their own personal vote they cast for the party list or the candidate. In case of tie result, the oldest member wins the seat.

Open list electoral system in Brazil is very competitive and that is why it is very difficult to maintain the seat of a Member of a Parliament for a long time. The connection between the MP and his/her electoral district changes, so we cannot talk about a successful strategy for successful candidacy. The area where the Brazilian model encourages the clientilism and individualism inside the Parliament is an issue worth discussing. Fragmentation of the Brazilian Parliament was not considered to be only a consequence of the open list electoral model, but a consequence of individual tendencies of the federalism, incorporated in the Constitution of 1988 (Reynolds, Andrew; Reilly, Ben and Ellis, Andrew, 2005).

In this regard, it should be noted the fact that the Constitution of Republic of Kosovo of 15 June 2008 is one of the few constitutions in the world that by adjusting the structure of Kosovo Parliament determines that the MP's are elected by secret ballot based on open lists, which speaks about the importance that the

Kosovar Constitution-Maker gives to the open candidate lists (Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, Article 64).

As we noted, the preferential voting is used in Kosovo, where there is one electoral district with many candidates. The name of the political party and their candidates are written in their original form, as they come on the both certificate. The voter is given instructions on how to indicate his/her preferences most clearly. Names of candidates are written under the name of the party. Each certified political subject applies for open list elections, and voters are able to select up to five of their preferred candidates from a list of up to 110 of their party of choice. In the previous election model, voters casted their vote for one political party and for only one candidate. If voter circled more than one candidate, then only the vote for the political party was valid. The casted vote for the party is considered to be a vote for the first candidate of the same party candidate list. The received votes of open list candidates are counted separately. The candidate list is ranked on the basis of the received votes for each candidate. Seats given to the political subjects are allocated to the candidates on the ranked list, starting with the candidates with most votes, and so on until there are no more seats to allocate. If the updated list does not contain at least 30% representatives of the less represented gender, then, the last candidate of the dominant gender is replaced by a candidate of the less represented gender.

The following will present some basic issues of preferential voting by Jurij Toplak. According to him, when discussing preferential voting systems, it is important to consider the fact that depending on whether voters are forced to express their preference or not, we talk about obligatory preferential voting and optional preferential voting. In cases of obligatory voting, the voter is obligated to vote for the party list, and the preferred candidate, as well, as in Finland and Poland, and on the other hand, in cases of optional preferential voting, the voters are requested to vote only for the political party and the ballot paper is valid, while voting for the candidate is optional, as in Brazil and Austria, where the voters themselves determine whether to express their preferences regarding the candidates or not (Toplak, J., 2003).

Preferential systems allow negative voting, as well, as in Lithuania, where voters can write an x beside the names of candidates they do not prefer. Also, in Russia voters for Duma elections can vote negatively by circling the option: none of the aforementioned and 11% of the Russian voters uses this option (Toplak, J., 2003). The example of Holland should also be mentioned, where voters, although they have a possibility to vote for any candidate, about 90% of them vote for the

candidates on the top of the party lists, so preferential voting rarely affects the change of the order of the candidates on the list (Kasapovic, Mirjana, 2001).

It is worth mentioning the difference that brings Jurij Toplak between the systems allowing only one preference vote, and those systems allowing two or more such votes, as many as the number of candidates on the list (Luxembourg). On the other hand, the preferential voting systems differ depending on the fact whether there is two or only one ballot paper. Systems with two ballot papers, one for the political party and one for the candidates on the list are characteristic for the obligatory preferential voting, when voters have to vote both for the political party and the candidates. Preferential systems with only one ballot paper are characteristic of optional systems; where the voter first cast his/her vote for a political party, and then he/she can vote for the candidates on the party list (Toplak, J., 2003).

The power of the preferential voting to rank the candidates on the list according to Jurij Toplak is also a very significant issue. Namely, the political parties rank their candidates based on their preferences, although there are exceptions, for example Greece, where candidates are ranked alphabetically. In some systems, preferential voting is the sole factor that decides on the winners, and candidates with the highest number of preferential votes are elected. In other systems, candidates on the lower half of the list require relatively many preferential votes in order to affect the list order as ranked by the political party. For example, if the lower threshold is 10%, then at least 10% of the voters of a political party should vote to take into consideration their preferences. If this number is below 10%, then the primary party-ranked list remains unchanged. In this direction, on the local elections 1994 and 1998 in Slovenia, the candidate was supposed to win more than 50% of the preferential votes casted for his/her party list, and the voters were supposed to write the candidate's name on an empty ballot paper, which resulted in thousands of candidates not passing the threshold of over 50%. In other words, the candidate should have won 501 preferential votes of 1000 votes won for the party list, so the threshold was lowered to 10% of the total number of votes (Toplak, J., 2003).

The preferential voting threshold is regulated in various manners in different countries. By examples that brings Jurij Toplak, in certain countries, the threshold is not applied at all, because the candidates with most votes are elected, as is the case in: Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Finland, but in Greece, party leaders are favored. In certain countries, such as Sweden, Belgium, Holland, Slovenia, the threshold for the candidate list is the same as for the political party. The list

threshold is the minimum number of casted votes for it, so that the preferential voting can be noticed. However, the candidate threshold is the minimum votes the candidate must win in order to be in front of the other candidates ranked higher on the party list. Candidate threshold usually depends on the magnitude (the number of candidates elected in a electoral district), for example, in Sweden where the candidate threshold in an electoral district of 5 representatives was 1/6 of the total number of casted votes for the list. In electoral districts of 10 representatives, the threshold was 1/11 of the total number of votes, but today in Sweden the threshold of 8% is applied, regardless of the size of the electoral district (Toplak, J., 2003).

## **Concluding Remarks**

Having in mind the level of development of the electoral democracy, social context and the political culture in the Republic of Macedonia, I believe that the best place to start would be open list elections with one preferential vote in parliamentary and local elections for municipality councils, as well as the application of the optional preferential system (applied in Austria and Brazil) which means one ballot paper for both: political party and the preferred candidate. I do not share the opinion that a minimum threshold (quota) should be introduced either for the party list or the candidates, but those candidates who win the most preferential votes should be elected, as in: Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Finland, Ireland, Japan and other. Names of candidates should be listed immediately under the name of the political party. Each list bearer should be on the open list where the voters cast their votes for one list bearer, and they can also vote for a candidate of the candidate list of the same political subject. If voter circled more than one candidate on the ballot paper, then only the vote for the political party is valid.

Considering the fact that almost always, party leaders are nominated on the first position of the list, I believe that, in order to prevent a manipulation of the preferential voting in the electoral districts where leaders of the political parties will be nominated, the previous transit Kosovo's solution for this issue should be incorporated, namely, the vote casted for the political subject should be considered as a vote for the first candidate on that political party candidate list, and the State Electoral Commission should define the ballot paper so that it does not allow the voter to vote both for the political party and for the first candidate on the candidate list. On the other hand, all won votes of the open candidate list of the political subject should be counted separately, thus, the candidate lists would be ordered

according to the number of votes each individual candidate has won. Furthermore, for the purpose of equal representation of women in the Parliament (as a possible negative effect of the open candidate lists), a solution needs to be found providing (such as Kosovo solution) for an appropriate representation (for example: 30%), and if after the allocation of mandates, there are no at least 30% women mandates, then the last man candidate should be replaced with the next in line woman-candidate, until the total number of women mandates is 30%, because this solution will maintain current gender representation in Parliament, respectively according to results of recent parliamentary elections of 5 June 2011, out of 123 MP's, 38 of them are women's or 30.9%.

In this regard, it is interesting that the best example in the world of women's representation in Parliament is Rwanda, with 56.3% women MP's in Parliament (by reserving the certain seats for women only), while in second place in the world is Andorra 50% women MP's, in the third place is Cuba with 45.2%, in the fourth place is Sweden with 44.7% women MP's in Parliament (where in candidate lists stand alongside the man and women-50%-50%) and in the fifth place is Seychelles with 43.8% women MP's in Parliament (The data compiled by Inter-Parliamentary Union. Based on this ranking RM is ranked in 26th place out of 190 countries).

On the other hand, open lists is expected to change the quality of parliamentary debate, which currently is "monologues mess" where each MP's decides not by conviction itself but, according to the conviction of party leader, even though according to our Constitution, Member of Parliament represents the citizens and decide according to his conviction. Otherwise, the Parliament is turning into a "private company" of the party leaders who play a role of the "board of directors" of the Parliament, and the MP's have become "administrators or buttons" of this board, and the legislature has remained without necessary parliamentarianism which plays the role of "oxygen" for Representative Democracy in our country.

This paper shows that a lot can be learned from the electoral experience of different countries, but the most important thing is to make our electoral model simple and comprehensible both for the politicians and for the voters, as Douglas Amy says, you don't have to understand how all the electronic components in your car radio works in order to use it to find the kind of music you like (Douglas Amy, 2000).

We should keep in mind that RM is in prolonged transition, so we still cannot discuss the final establishment of a permanent electoral model that will increase the maximum influence of voters in the electoral process, but it should be taken into

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consideration that voters' maximum impact on the list order, or ballot paper, can realistically result in a fragmented parliamentary body that might lead to various political crisis, so maximum attention should be paid to adequately balance these two tendencies in the future electoral model.

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# Parents in prison in Albania

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## Abstract

This article aims to contribute in increased interest and consideration for the effects of parental imprisonment on children by addressing new issues for social work practice with this social group. The purpose of the research was to address the lack of information that exists about the parents in prison in Albania and to provide an initial profile of their needs. The article presents a study that the author has conducted with 10 parents in prison, 5 men and 5 women parents in the Institution of the Execution of Criminal Decisions 325 in Tirana, Albania. The method has been that of qualitative research, based on semi-structured interviews. The article has reached in some findings and conclusions. The responses of participants indicate that having children may impact on the ways that many prisoners view their sentence. Many of the participants expressed concern about the effect that being in prison had on their relationship with their children. The lack of child-friendly visiting facilities in the men's prison was repeatedly highlighted as an obstacle to maintaining contact with children. Other concerns included the changes that had taken place in children's behaviour since the start of the sentence. These issues suggests positive sentence management programmes for parents in prison that aims to focus on issues relating to their children

**Keywords:** parents in prison, children, children with parents in prison, social work, social policy

## Abstrakt

Ky artikull synon të kontribuojë në rritjen e interesit dhe të konsideratës për efektet e dënimit të prindit/ërve tek fëmijët duke adresuar çështje të reja të praktikës së punës sociale dhe me këtë grup shoqëror. Qëllimi i këtij artikulli është

të adresojë mungesën e informacionit që ekziston rreth prindërve në burgje në Shqipëri dhe të mundësojë një profil të nevojave të tyre. Në artikull do të paraqitet një studim që kërkuesja ka realizuar me 10 prindër të dënuar, 5 burra dhe 5 gra ne Institucionin e ekzekutimeve të vendimeve penale 325 në Tiranë. Metoda kërkimore ka qenë ajo cilësore, e bazuar në intervistat e thelluara gjysmë të strukturuar. Ky artikull ka arritur dhe në disa gjetje dhe konkluzione. Përgjigjet e pjesëmarrësve tregojnë se të pasurit fëmijë ndikon në mënyrën se si shumë të burgosur e perceptojnë dënimin e tyre. Shumë nga pjesëmarrësit shprehën shqetësimin e tyre rreth efekteve që burgimi sjell në marrëdhënien me fëmijët e tyre. Mungesa e lehtësirave të vizitave të bazuara në mjediset miqësore të fëmijëve në burgjet e burrave u parashtua si një vështirësi që ndikon në mbajtjen e kontakteve me fëmijët. Një tjetër shqetësim përfshinte ndryshimet që viheshin re tek sjelljet e fëmijëve që me fillimin e vuajtjes së dënimit. Këto çështje sugjerojnë programe pozitive të menaxhimit të dënimit për prindërit në burgje me qëllim fokusimin në marrëdhëniet me fëmijët e tyre.

**Fjalet kyçe:** prindër në burgje, fëmijë, fëmijë me prindër në burgje, punë sociale, politika sociale

## Апстракт

Оваа статија има за цел да придонесе во зголемување на интересот и грижата за ефектите од издржувањето на затворска казна на родителите врз нивните деца со решавање на проблемите со оваа социјална група. Целта на истражувањето е да го истражи недостатокот на информации што постои за родителите во затвор во Албанија и да обезбеди профил на нивните потреби. Статијата претставува студија која авторот ја реализирал со 10 родители во затвор, 5 мажи и 5 жени родители во оваа институција на извршување на кривичната одлука 325 во Тирана, Албанија. Методот е квалитативно истражување, врз основа на полу-структурирани интервјуа. Статијата обезбеди некои наоди и заклучоци. Одговорите на учесниците укажуваат на тоа дека децата можат да влијаат на начините на кои многу затвореници ја согледуваат нивната казна. Многу од учесниците изразија загриженост за ефектот што затворот го има врз нивниот однос со децата. Недостатокот на капацитети за посета на децата во затворите беше постојано потенциран како пречка за одржување на контакт со децата. Други проблеми кои произлегуваат се промените кои се случуваат во однесувањето на децата уште од почетокот на издржувањето на затворската казна. Овие проблеми

укажуваат на потреба за подготвување позитивни програми за управување со родителите кои ги издржуваат казните во затвор со цел да се фокусираат на прашањата кои се однесуваат на нивните деца.

*Клучни зборови:* родители во затвор, деца, деца со родители во затвор, социјална работа, социјална политика

## I. INTRODUCTION

The rising incarceration rates of women and men means there is an increasing group of young children who are vulnerable and at risk (Reed and Reed, 1997). Imprisonment has a more immediate and wide reaching impact on affected families. Hagan (2000) states that the incarceration of parents can seriously diminish the economic and social capital on which families and communities depend to successfully raise children. The disintegration of the family that often results from imprisonment means that children can experience prolonged and intensified periods of instability and uncertainty. He suggests that parental imprisonment may have the following negative effects: the strains of economic deprivation; the loss of parental socialization through role modelling, support and supervision; and the stigma and shame of being labelled by society.

Children of parents who are in prison, or have been imprisoned, are a uniquely vulnerable group of children, yet little is known about what happens to these children while their parent is in prison, where they live and how they are cared for. In many studies refers to the children of prisoners as “the forgotten victims of crime”, who are not afforded the priority their situation warrants in terms of public policy and health and welfare resource allocation. The lack of information gathered by the prison system about the parental status of prisoners and the fate of their dependent children is confirmed by several studies. Children of incarcerated parents are among the most vulnerable populations of children, at high risk for neglect, abuse, behavioural health problems, delinquency and substance abuse. The problems of children, whose parents are incarcerated, if unattended, can produce intergenerational patterns of crime and violence. Historic changes in family structure, substance abuse rates, criminal sentencing policies and related increases in the number of incarcerated parents have exerted a profound negative impact on the well being of children of incarcerated parents.

Children can be affected in different ways, depending on the role that was played by the parent who is imprisoned. One significant issue that arises is the

provision of alternative care in cases where women who were the primary caregivers are incarcerated. Women are more likely than men to be primary caregivers prior to incarceration, which means that the children of female inmates are likely to experience greater disruption to care-giving arrangements (Healy et. al, 2000). Extended family networks often become involved, with grandparents, aunts and uncles taking over the role of carer. If such support is not available, foster care becomes an option (Howard, 2000). On the other hand, the imprisonment of fathers can sometimes remove the main earner from the family structure, which increases the likelihood of financial hardship. Remaining single parents may therefore have less money and less time for their children, which can affect their overall development.

Both mothers and fathers play very important roles in their children's development of a sense of identity, security, and belonging which will affect them throughout their lives. The major concerns for most parents who are incarcerated are:

- 1) Dealing with the emotions of being separated from their children,
- 2) Making decisions regarding the placement and care of their children,
- 3) Maintaining contact with their children during their incarceration, and
- 4) Reuniting with their children once they are released from prison.

Children with parents in prison have multiple and immediate needs. They need a safe place to live and people to care for them in the absence of their parent/s, as well as for everything else that a parent should provide for his/her children: affection, food, clothing, medical care, etc.. Studies have shown that this category of children experience a range of feelings such as fear, anger, guilt, experience anxiety, feel abandoned and alone (Block & Potthast, 1998). Some children exhibit problematic and aggressive behaviour in school, home and community, while others were closed in it-self and were fall in depression (Hunter, 1980). Previous researches (not in Albania) show that many of these young people are more at risk to continue the cycle of incarceration ranging from their fathers (Mumola, 2000). Their needs are undoubtedly numerous.

The number of children in Albania who have a parent in prison is unknown. The number of parents in prison also is unknown. This study the first one in Albania brings to the attention of researchers, the perception of parents in prison

about their relationships with their children. This aims is to open a new field of study that requires the attention of social work professionals, and not only.

The purpose of the research was to address the lack of information that exists about the parents in prison in Albania and to provide an initial profile of their needs.

- The research questions of this study were:
- What are the needs of parents in prison?
- What can be said about the relationships with their children?
- How can social worker help?

## **1.1 Methodology**

This study has used the qualitative research method. Results of this study cannot be generalized to a wider population, but the purpose of this study is to understand in detail, how parents in prison perceive their relationships with children.

### **a) Development of research**

In this study, is used as tool the semi-structured interview. This method permits to collect the necessary information in limited time and in depth way. The interviews were tape recorded and fully transcribed. The format of interview was reviewed by a group of researchers from Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Tirana. Following these consultations, several small revisions were made before the final version was completed.

### **a) Data collection**

The interviews with parents were organised through the staff of the Institution of the Execution of Criminal Decisions (IECD) 325 in Tirana, Albania. The nature and objectives of the study were explained to potential respondents. Five women and five men agreed to participate in the study. All respondents gave their consent

to having the interviews recorded. Interviews with parents in prison (n=10) took place on March 28th, 29th and 30th.

## **b) Ethical and procedural issues**

This study has pay significant attention to these ethical principles:

- Informed consent according to Terre Blanche and Durrheim (1999) and Strydom (2002) is the process of seeking explicit permission subject to being participants in the study, based on his understanding of the full interview procedures and its purpose. For example, all participants in this study have been made known the purpose of the interview and the fact of recording the interview. They are allowed to read the notes at any time of the interview.
- Confidentiality involves an agreement by the applicant to protect the anonymity of study participants (Stydom, 2002). Very few people would like to share with others details of their private life, s opinions and emotions. For this reason confidentiality is an essential requirement for reliable research (Oka and Shaw, 2000).
- Reporting of results: Results of the study will be published showing much care about the rights of participants. At no point the information should be misunderstand (Stydom, 2002). In this study, the results rely entirely on data obtained from participants.

## **II. Results and discussion**

### **a) Background**

The sample of parents interviewed for the study was not representative of the general prison population in terms of numbers. As a result of the fact that no statistical records are kept about the parental status of prisoners, no sampling frame was available. The respondents included five women (8.6% of the total number of women prisoners in Albania). On the day that the interviews took place; there were 86 women in the IECD323, Tirana. Five parents from the men's prison (0.125% of the total number of men prisoners in Albania) also agreed to participate. The total

number of prisoners in the men's prisons on the days on which the interviews took place ranged between 3678 and 4000.

**Table 3.1: Age group of parents in prison**

Age	Frequency	Percent
18 – 24	1	10
25 – 34	3	30
35 – 44	5	50
45 +	1	10
Total	10	100

Most of the respondents (70%) were aged less than 44 years, with the majority aged between 35 and 44 years. Three respondents were aged between 25 and 34, only one was aged 18 and 24, and only one was aged over 45.

#### **NUMBER OF CHILDREN:**

The majority of parents (90%) had between one and three children. None of the respondents had more than four children.

**Table 3.2: Age group of prisoners' children**

Age	Frequency
0 – 3	4
4 – 6	1
7 – 9	1
10 – 12	2
13+	9
Total	17

The 10 respondents had a total of 17 children between them. Of these children, 6 were aged less than 9 years. Two of children were aged between 10 and 12 years, while the remaining nine were aged over 13 years.

## **MARITAL STATUS:**

When asked about their marital status, 1 respondent (10%) stated that he was cohabiting with his partner prior to his admission into prison. Eight (80%) were married, and one (10%) was separated.

## **LENGTH OF SENTENCE:**

Eight of the respondents (80 %) were serving sentences of between one and three years, while two (20%) were serving sentences of three years or more. None of the prisoners were on remand. The respondents were not asked why they were in prison, as it was felt that such a question would have a negative effect on the recruitment of respondents for the study.

## **PREVIOUS SENTENCES:**

Only one of the respondents (10%) stated that he had served other sentences in the past, while the remaining 9 (90%) were serving their first sentences.

### **b) Contact with children**

Eight of the respondents stated that they lived with their children prior to their admission into prison. Two respondents (one woman and one man) had lived with at least one child. The reason given by the respondents as to why they did not live with their children prior to incarceration was divorce. After their divorce the children lived in one case with the other parent (mother) and in the other case the children lived with the parents of the mother. The parents who had not lived with their children prior to their imprisonment had had some type of contact with them on a regular basis. The man respondents had met their children on a daily or almost daily basis; the woman respondent had had contact at least once a month.

## **ALTERNATIVE CARE ARRANGEMENTS:**

The respondents were asked if they had been given time to organize alternative care arrangements for their children after they were sentenced. The

question was not applicable to the two parents who did not live with their children prior to the start of the sentence. Of the remainder, one stated that they had had time to make arrangements for their children's care. In most of these cases, however, the children had been living with both parents prior to the sentence and the other parent had become the sole caregiver. One mother stated that she did not get a chance to make alternate arrangement for her child and that her mother was forced to take over her role, to prevent the child from going into foster care. One father said that his mother had initially looked after his child, but that he became sick and his mother had to take over the role of caregiver.

### **LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AFTER THE SENTENCE:**

Of the total 17 children whose parents took part in the interviews, 9 were living with their other parent since the start of the sentence. A further 6 were living with one or both of their grandparents and two were in foster care.

The responses indicate that the gender of the parent who is imprisoned can have a great effect on whose care they enter into post-sentence. None of the children of the five mothers who participated in the study were living in the full-time care of their fathers since the start of the sentence. Two of the mothers said that one or all of their children were in foster care; one stated that her child was in the care of both the father and another relative; and the remaining two stated that their children were being looked after by their grandparents. The situation was quite different for the children of male prisoners, the majority of whom were now being looked after by their mothers.

The findings concur with previous studies (Healy et. al, 2000), which indicate that the imprisonment of a mother tends to place a greater strain on extended family networks, with grandparents and siblings taking over the role of caregiver. In addition to causing greater upheaval and change in children's lives, the imprisonment of a parent may force a grandparent back into the role of primary caregiver, which she or he may find difficult to resume.

### **Contact with children**

All the respondents stated that they have phone contact with their children on a daily or almost daily basis. Several of the parents who had been in prison for more than two years said that being allowed daily phone contact had had a very

positive impact on their relationship with their children. Increasing the amount of time allowed for telephone calls would enable prisoners to spend more time talking to both their children and their partners/families, thereby facilitating the maintenance of contact between the two groups.

The respondents tended to use cards and letters less than phone calls as a means of keeping in contact with their children.

### **c) Visiting Arrangements**

The common opinion of interviewer was that the visiting areas were suitable for family visits. Prisoners are allowed to have a maximum of three adult visitors at a time. Several respondents stressed the fact that their children often became bored during the visits and started to run around. Several parents referred to the lack of privacy in the visiting area as a problem:

*You have an officer sitting at one end and another at the other, and then with all the people crowded in, you've no privacy at all. You just want your family to be private, you know,*

The feelings of many prisoners' interviewers about the visiting facilities were summed up by one father, who stated that:

*It's designed to break up families rather than hold them together...*

### **d) Children's awareness of the prison sentence**

A majority of parents stated that their children were not aware that they are in prison. Among the explanations for their absence that their children had been given were aboard and work. One mother stated that he initially told his children she was aboard. Some of the reasons mentions by the parents were:

- Worried child might get upset
- Child is too young to understand
- Child might think it's o.k. to go to prison
- Worried what other people might think

Several of the children had been informed about their parents' sentence by people from outside their immediate family group, before the parents or caregivers had explained the situation.

### **A. Effects of the sentence on parent/children relationships**

Parents stated that they found it difficult or very difficult to keep up a relationship with their children. Among the reasons given for the difficulties were the length of the visiting times, the conditions in the visiting areas, and their loss of authority because of their absence from home.

A father stated that he found it very difficult to keep up a relationship with his son. One of the mothers said that she found it very difficult to keep up a relationship with her young daughter, saying "*she doesn't really know me.*"

The levels of satisfaction that parents had about their level of participation in their children's lives appeared to vary according to the type of relationship they had with their children's caregiver. None of the respondents were very satisfied with their participation in making decisions about their children's lives. One father stated that he was happy with his participation, because he and his partner discussed the children and made most decisions about them together.

### **B. Effects of the sentence on children's financial situations**

The parents believed that their children's financial situation had got a lot worse since their sentence began.

### **C. Changes in children's behaviour since the start of the sentence**

The participants were asked about any changes that had taken place in their children's behaviour since their sentences had started, either that they had noticed or that the children's caregivers had pointed out. Some of them stated that their children's behaviour had changed in noticeable ways, the most common of which included hyperactivity, becoming more withdrawn, and "acting up" with their

caregivers. Many of the parents said they felt that their absence from the home or from their children's routine was the main cause of these changes.

One father expressed his concerns about the effects of his absence on his children's behaviour. He stated that when he was at home, he usually disciplined the children. In his absence, their mother finds it difficult to take over the role: *They've got out of hand.*

#### **D. Changes in children's behaviour with parents**

The parents in prison were asked if they had noticed any changes in the way that their children behaved with them since the beginning of their sentence. One mother said that being away from her young daughter had had a big effect on their relationship. She stated that it had taken her daughter a long time to settle with her caregivers when her sentence started, but since she had settled in, her behaviour with her mother had changed a lot:

*When she comes up here, she just doesn't want to do anything. She's different. When I phone, like, I can hear her in the background. She can talk and all, but she won't say anything when she comes up here.*

One of the fathers had also noticed changes of this nature in his children's behaviour:

*He comes to visit me, but the mind is not there. He does not speak with me as he did it before ... I feel that he is sad and angry with me.*

#### **E. Attitudes towards being a parent in prison**

The participants were asked to discuss how they felt about being a parent in prison. Some expressed feelings of powerlessness because they were away from their children and were not able to look after them or ensure that they were alright. One of the male parents stated:

*A parent has to be a bit more responsible. You do notice the difference between people who have kids and people who don't.*

Another concern that was highlighted by some parents was their worries about being away from their children when they were ill, especially if they had to go into

hospital. The participants stated that they felt very powerless to do anything to help their children during times of sickness.

Several parents mentioned the fact that being a parent had provided them with a motivation for getting out of jail and not returning. One mother stated that she had come to realise that she couldn't "*mess up again*" because she would lose her children for good if she did.

One father stated that he had been in prison before when he had no children, but the birth of his son had had a big impact on how he viewed his sentence: *It's not for me anymore... I am making a go of it, that's all I want.*

All of them felt that the prison system should make allowances for parents who were serving long sentences and do as much as possible to encourage them to keep up contact with their families.

It is necessary that parents in prison feel the support of others. During the sentence the social workers and other professionals should inform and train the parents to be prepared for the period of release. Only in this way they can maintain and develop relationships with their children during this time. With the support offered will be aimed the improvement of relationship between parent and their children. A guide from different organizations in this issue is given below:

*Supports for Incarcerated Parents*

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Practice Principle</b>
<b>Listen to families and prisoners</b> after visits, providing respectful counselling during this stressful time.	1. Staff and families work together in relationships based on equality and respect.
<b>Build parent-child bonds</b> by providing transportation to visits, subsidies for phone calls, and family visiting rooms with toys and play areas	2. Staff enhance families' capacity to support the growth and development of all family members—adults, youth, and children.
<b>Recognize strengths.</b> Use standardized measures to acknowledge all family members' strengths as well as to assess risks.	3. Families are resources to their own members, to other families, to programs, and to communities.
<b>Understand the role of race</b> by researching whether certain groups in your community are over-represented in prison.	4. Programs affirm and strengthen families' cultural, racial, and linguistic identities and enhance their ability to function in a multicultural society.

<p><b>Make it consistent.</b> Make sure the goals and methods of prison-based parenting education, counselling, etc., don't conflict with those of services provided in the community.</p>	<p>5. Programs are embedded in their communities and contribute to the community-building process.</p>
<p><b>Promote policies</b> That place prisoners near their families, provide phone service at-cost, and facilitate child visits.</p>	<p>6. Programs advocate with families for services and systems that are fair, responsive, and accountable to the families served.</p>
<p><b>Prepare families for prison visits</b> (for example, by giving them the prison's visiting regulations).</p>	<p>7. Practitioners work with families to mobilize formal and informal resources to support family development.</p>
<p><b>Build children's resilience</b> through: strong bonds with parents / mentors, activities to build competence and confidence, and spirituality / community of faith.</p>	<p>8. Programs are flexible and continually responsive to emerging family and community issues.</p>
<p><b>Provide child &amp; family development Training</b> to correctional officers.</p>	<p>9. Principles of family support are modelled in all program activities, including planning, governance, and administration.</p>

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# The Role of Peer Feedback in Developing Better Writing Skills

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## **Abstract**

This study examines the role of peer feedback in improving writing skills. It observes students' reactions and attitudes towards giving and receiving peer and teacher feedback. The data were gathered via qualitative and quantitative approaches. The instruments used for the research purpose were: teacher questionnaire, student questionnaire, written samples of teacher feedback and written samples of peer feedback. The participants involved in this study were 45 Albanian and Macedonian students studying at the South East European University in Tetovo. There were also ten teacher participants, employees at the South East European University. The findings indicate that even though students rank teacher feedback as the most important kind of feedback they find peer feedback very beneficial. The results of the study imply that peer feedback is more helpful for higher proficiency students. Students with better writing skills gave more effective feedback and, in turn, applied the feedback received more successfully. From the results of the research, it is recommended that teachers should first teach students how to give peer feedback and then allow them to practice it more frequently. It is concluded that students respond to both teacher and peer feedback equally. The results prove that giving and receiving peer feedback enhances the students' writing quality, especially as regards content and organization and it also improves critical thinking and establishes a better rapport between the students.

**Keywords:** peer feedback, content, organization, students, teachers

## Abstrakt

Ky studim ka për qëllim ta shqyrtojë rolin e informacionit kthyes të dhënë nga ana e kolegëve/studentëve, lidhur me përmirësimin e aftësive të të shkruarit. Studimi në fjalë ekzaminon reagimet dhe qëndrimet e studentëve ndaj dhënies dhe pranimit të komenteve rreth të shkruarit, si nga ana e kolegëve ashtu edhe nga mësimdhënësit. Të dhënat janë mbledhur me anë të metodave cilësore dhe sasore. Instrumentet e përdorura për qëllime kërkimore janë: pyetësi i mësimdhënësve dhe studentëve dhe mostrat e shkruara me kritikën ose komentet e mësimdhënësve dhe të kolegëve. Pjesëmarrësit e përfshirë në studim janë 45 studentë shqiptarë dhe maqedonas, të Universitetit të Evropës Juglindore. Pos studentëve kanë qenë edhe dhjetë mësimdhënës pjesëmarrës në hulumtim, të punësuar në Universitetin e Evropës Juglindore. Prurjet tregojnë se edhe pse studentët i ranguan komentet e marra rreth shkrimeve të tyre nga mësimdhënësit, si lloji më i rëndësishëm i informacionit kthyes, ata përsëri e konsiderojnë informacionin kthyes të ofruar nga kolegët e tyre si shumë të dobishëm. Rezultatet gjithashtu tregojnë se informacioni kthyes i dhënë nga ana e kolegëve ishte më efikas për studentët që zotëronin aftësi më të mira të të shkruarit. Këta studentë me më shumë shkathhtësi në të shkruarit, dhanë komente më efektive, duke qenë të tillë edhe gjatë zbatimit të komenteve në shkrimet e tyre. Bazuar në rezultatet e hulumtimit është e rekomandueshme që mësimdhënësit së pari t'i ushtrojnë studentët sesi të japin informacione kthyes rreth punimeve të kolegëve të tyre dhe më pas të lejojnë që ata ta praktikojnë të njëjtën gjë sa më shpesh. Është konstatuar se studentët reagojnë njësoj në të dy rastet, edhe kur pranojnë informacion kthyes (kritikë, reagime apo sugjerime) nga kolegët e tyre dhe nga mësimdhënësit. Rezultatet dëshmojnë se dhënia dhe marrja e informacionit kthyes rreth shkrimeve të studentëve e rrit dukshëm cilësinë e të shkruarit tek studentët, veçanërisht sa i përket përmbajtjes dhe organizimit, po ashtu përmirëson të menduarit kritik dhe krijon raporte më të mira ndërmjet studentëve.

**Fjalët kyçe:** Informacioni kthyes nga kolegët (peer feedback), përmbajtja, studentët, mësimdhënësit.

## Апстракт

Оваа студија ја испитува улогата на повратната информација дадена од колегите во подобрување на вештините на пишување и ги бележи реакциите

и ставовите на студентите при добивање на повратна информација од страна на колегите и наставникот. Податоците за ова студија беа собрани преку квалитативни и квантитативни методи. Инструментите кои што беа употребени за ова цел беа следниве: прашалник за наставниците, прашалник за студентите, примероци од повратната информација од студентите и наставниците во пишувана форма. Учесниците во ова студија беа 45 студенти од албанска и македонска националност при Универзитетот на Југоисточна Европа во Тетово. Беа вклучени и 10 наставници како учесници, вработени во Универзитетот на Југоисточна Европа. Наодите покажуваат дека иако студентите ја сметаат повратната информација од наставникот како најважна, исто така мислат и дека повратната информација од колегите е многу корисна. Резултатите од студијата покажуваат дека повратната информација од колегите е покорисна за напредните студенти. Студентите со подобри вештини на пишување беа во состојба да дадат и да примат поефективна повратна информација. Од резултатите на студијата, на наставниците може да им се препорача да ги подготват студентите како да даваат повратна информација и да им дозволат да вежбаат почесто. Може да се заклучи дека најголем број на студентите реагираат исто на повратната информација дадена од наставникот и од колегите. Резултатите докажуваат дека давање и примање на повратна информација го подобрува квалитетот на пишувањето, особено во полето на содржина и организација и исто така го подобрува критичкото размислување и воспоставува подобри односи помеѓу студентите.

**Клучни зборови:** повратна информација, содржина, организација, студент, наставник.

## Introduction

According to Hyland (2005, 198), peer feedback in writing means having writers comment on what other writers have written. In this study the term *peer feedback* is used to refer to students' responses to their peers' paragraphs or essays. The need for good writing skills makes it worthwhile to investigate the issue of peer feedback further. Lack of teacher or peer feedback and not using the process approach to writing has made writing even more complex. Therefore, applying new ways of teaching writing are crucial if we want to obtain better results and improve students' writing skills. This paper focuses on teaching writing by making classes

more student-centred. Peer feedback is rarely practiced at our university and it is an area of classroom activity which requires further research. Thus, the purpose of this research is to investigate the effects of peer feedback on improving students' writing skills

This study was conducted at the English Department and Language Centre at the South East European University (SEEU). It was undertaken to investigate the effectiveness of applying peer feedback in teaching writing and to provide practical grounding of the significance of applying peer feedback in teaching writing.

## **Literature Review**

Many researchers have investigated the effectiveness of peer feedback for improving writing skills; yet, while some teachers and researchers perceive peer feedback as helpful, others do not consider peer feedback as a beneficial learning technique. The literature review looks at peer feedback with particular emphasis on the attitudes of students and teachers towards this form of response, as well as some opinions that support peer feedback and others that question its effectiveness for teaching writing skills.

### **Students' Attitudes Towards and Teachers' Perceptions of Peer Feedback**

Regarding students' responses to peer feedback activities Mangelsdorf (1992, 274) states that students find peer feedback very helpful in improving the content and organization of their writing. Fei (2006) states that the results of many studies reveal very positive reactions to peer reviews (quoted in Jiajing Gao, 2007). Fei then adds that the students who were uncertain about the accuracy of their peer suggestions did not apply the received comments and had a very negative opinion about peer feedback. Therefore, Fei suggests that teaching students how to practise peer feedback is crucial. Williams (2005, 97) also claims that peer feedback has a positive influence, if students know how to give feedback, that is, if they have previously been adequately trained by a teacher.

Saito and Fujita note (quoted in Grami, Grami Mohammad Ali, 38) that EFL students who are used to a teacher-centred classroom, will find it difficult to get accustomed to using peer feedback and to realize that this can be a useful

technique. They also mention another obstacle – the students' belief that their teachers are those who are qualified to provide them with feedback. Moreover, Zhang (1995, 213) states that teacher feedback is considered more credible and agreeable compared to peer feedback. Miao, Badger and Zhen (2006) confirm that teacher feedback is more appreciated than peer feedback; however, the importance of peer feedback is not ignored by the students.

### **Previous Studies on the Benefits and Advantages of Peer Feedback**

Students can benefit from both receiving and giving peer feedback. Liu, Lin, Chiu and Yuan (2001, 248) suggest that, when applying peer feedback, students achieve results beyond the cognitive processes which are necessary for the writing task because they are more engaged.

Topping (2000) states that peer feedback increases students' motivation, makes them more responsible and improves their self-confidence. As Topping notes (cited in Kurt and Atay 2007):

In peer feedback sessions students ... adopt the role of interested readers and commentators, and help each other in the elaboration of better texts. This collaboration increases a range of social and communication skills ... verbal communication skills, giving and accepting criticism, justifying one's position and assessing suggestions objectively. (p.15)

### **Studies on the Difficulties and Challenges of Peer Feedback**

Although peer feedback proves to be very effective and important for the learning process, there are some challenges and pitfalls associated with it. Lee (2009, 137) claims that peer feedback may not be successful, if students' experience with peer review and language skills are inadequate. This conforms with Guenette's (2007, 41) conclusion, who adds that higher proficiency students respond positively to teacher feedback and at the same time benefit from it, whereas, lower proficiency students do not respond constructively and need to be guided to understand the teacher's comments. According to Palloff and Pratt (1999, 123), "the ability to give meaningful feedback, which helps others think about the work they have produced, is not a naturally acquired skill".

## The Study

A few researchers (Topping 2007, Fei 2006, Williams 2005) have stated that peer feedback not only helps students improve their writing skills, but it also enhances their critical thinking and reading and at the same time motivates them to write. Other researchers (Lee 2009, Guenette 2007) have instead concluded and suggested that peer feedback is ineffective with lower proficiency students and affects the writing process negatively. Hence, this study elaborates the role of peer feedback and emphasizes its importance for improving students' writing skills as well as enhancing students' critical reading and critical thinking skills.

For this study were used both quantitative and qualitative tools. Teacher and student questionnaires, written samples of teacher and peer feedback, and also teacher-student conferences were evaluated. The study was conducted at South East European University, in Tetovo, the Faculty of Languages, Cultures and Communications (LCC)-English Department and the Language Centre (LC), during the summer semester 2011. The data collection took place throughout the semester, more precisely ninety minutes each week.

In order to investigate the role and effectiveness of peer feedback the following questions were addressed:

1. What is the impact of peer feedback on advanced and intermediate EFL learners' writing performance?
2. How do teachers perceive peer feedback and what is the teachers' attitude towards peer feedback?
3. What are the advanced and intermediate students' attitudes towards peer feedback?

The subjects of this study were a group of twenty-four high proficiency students from the English Department, of whom five were males and nineteen were females as well as a group of twenty-one students attending the Basic English Skills course at the Language Centre and of whom ten were females and eleven were males. These were intermediate level students, from different faculties. The student participants were Albanian and Macedonian students ranking in age from eighteen to twenty-one years old.

Ten teachers participated in this research, all of them teachers at the SEEU. Eight were from the English Department and two from the Language Centre. The

methods applied for this research include samples of students' paragraphs and essays (first and second drafts), student questionnaires and teacher questionnaires.

The first experiment was a pre-peer feedback session. Data were collected in the form of 'for and against' essays. Students had to write well-organized essays of approximately 400 words in length. They wrote them at home and, after they submitted them, there were teacher-student writing conferences where students were provided with feedback, comments and suggestions. The aim of this experiment was to familiarize the students with the procedures of providing feedback and, most important, to help them improve the first drafts of their papers by applying the teacher feedback received.

The second experiment was a collaborative task designed to give students the chance to read, analyze, compare and give feedback on four given samples of texts. Students were asked to work together in groups of four. Feedback giving was not a technique introduced to the students for the first time. Therefore, during this experiment they had to demonstrate their skills in giving feedback about the paragraphs.

The task of writing descriptive paragraphs provided the third instrument for data collection. The students had already been introduced to and taught how to write descriptive paragraphs in previous classes. They were first asked to write well-organized descriptive paragraphs. After they had finished writing their texts, the teacher/researcher, gave each student a different paper to read and then asked them to provide feedback to their peers. The students were also given copies of peer response criteria to help them provide effective feedback. The teacher gave the students necessary clarifications from time to time. After the students had given their feedback (identified problems, suggested solutions and even praised their peers), the papers were given back to the students who wrote them. The students then read the feedback provided carefully and implemented it in their second drafts. The teacher collected the papers with the feedback received and analysed both the comments and the revised versions of their texts.

The student questionnaire provided the fourth instrument for data collection. The questionnaire consisted of fifteen items related to peer feedback. It was adopted from the study "Do Secondary L2 Writers Benefit from Peer Comments?" by Amy B.M. Tsui and Maria NG (2000).<sup>\*</sup> The questionnaire was written in English. Therefore, the teacher translated where necessary and assisted those students who had difficulties in understanding the questions.

The teacher questionnaire consisting of ten items was the last instrument for the data collection. Nine of the items were *yes* or *no* questions, whereas the last one was an open-ended question.

## Research Findings and Results

The group of advanced students reacted more positively and valued peer feedback as very helpful. Only a few students said that they preferred teacher feedback to peer feedback. The students said that peer feedback apart from being very helpful was an interesting way of practicing writing. The students also claimed that when applying peer feedback in writing they learned from each other's mistakes. They improved the organization and the content of their work; they checked their spelling and grammar mistakes. What's more, the students not only improved their writing skills but they also enhanced their critical thinking skills.

The group of intermediate students were more doubtful about giving and receiving feedback. Some of them believed that they might receive ineffective comments from their peers and there was even a case where a student said that using peer feedback with a group of lower proficiency students was a waste of time. However, the comments confirmed that peer feedback was useful and that it helped with the organization of their writing tasks and the adequate use of grammar and vocabulary. To sum up, even though peer feedback was useful the results also proved that lower proficiency students felt that they could not completely rely on peer feedback and therefore prefer teacher feedback.

The teachers' comments on the last questionnaire item: *to what extent does peer feedback affect students' writing ability and what is your attitude towards peer feedback?* were generally positive, as they felt that peer feedback considering was a very important technique for teaching writing. They claimed that through peer feedback students took more responsibility; they interacted with each other and learnt from each other. The teachers perceived peer feedback as very productive in improving writing skills, especially with regard to content and grammar. One of them stated: "Without guidelines our students do not take it very seriously, hence teachers need to spend some time to teach them first the importance of peer feedback and then implement it." On the other hand, one of the teachers answered that she had tried peer feedback with her students, but it had never worked because her students didn't take it seriously.

The second questionnaire item: *to what extent does peer feedback affect students' writing ability?* received very positive answers; only eight out of forty-five students were more critical saying that: "peer feedback affects students'

writing ability only if it is constructive and objective, if it is negative most of the students will not accept it”, eight students said that peer feedback is not as effective as teacher’s feedback, whereas, thirty-seven students stated their positive attitude towards feedback saying that:

- It has a great impact on improving students’ writing, students gain more ideas
- Encourages students to try more and write better drafts of their papers
- Students pay more attention to their writing
- Students practice how to become good teachers
- It is an interesting teaching technique
- When you know that one of your friends will check your paragraph, you tend to write better
- We can improve our critical thinking and get more ideas from our fellow students

All the student participants said that peer comments and teacher comments facilitated revision. Item number four: do teacher comments facilitate revision more than peer comments? was ranked as the most useful, reliable and objective. The students replied that:

- Teachers give more appropriate explanations based on students needs
- The teacher is the person who knows better and has more experience
- Teachers pay attention to every mistake
- Teachers encourage students to write

Two answered with “I am not sure” and six students said that both teacher and peer feedback were useful because they both facilitated the revision process. Surprisingly, only three students stated that “peer comments facilitate more revision and you can learn from your fellow students”. Twenty-three out of twenty-four higher proficiency students agreed that reading their classmates’ compositions helped them to improve the organization of their own compositions; and fourteen out of twenty-one intermediate level students agreed with the same.

	<b>Total 24 Advanced Students</b>	<b>Total 21 Intermediate Students</b>
Considered the feedback productive	16	3
Noticed characteristics of descriptive paragraphs (such as sensory language, details, adjectives, figurative language)	14	7
Provided content feedback	9	7
Marked the errors	5	7
Gave clues for correction	3	1
Provided examples	4	1
Gave suggestions	12	3
Gave negative criticism	0	0
Praised their peers (gave positive feedback)	18	4

**Table 1: Results for the first survey question.**

<b>Advanced students (LCC) 24</b>		
	My classmates' comments in peer response session helped me to improve the organization of my composition	Reading my classmates' composition helped me to improve the organization of my composition.
<b>YES</b>	21	23
<b>NO</b>	3	1

**Table 2: Results for the advanced students.**

<b>Intermediate students (LC) 21</b>		
	My classmates' comments in peer response session helped me to improve the organization of the composition	Reading my classmates' composition helped me to improve the organization of my composition
<b>YES</b>	14	14
<b>NO</b>	7	7

**Table 3: Results for the intermediate students.**

My classmates' comments in peer response helped me to enrich the content of my compositions		
	Advanced students	Intermediate students
<b>YES</b>	24	14
<b>NO</b>	0	7

**Table 4: Results for advanced and intermediate students.**

### **Analysis and Discussion**

Table1 illustrates clearly that the advanced students were more productive in providing feedback and at the same time considered peer feedback as very fruitful. Fourteen out of twenty-one advanced students noticed and mentioned the elements of descriptive paragraphs when providing feedback; on the other hand, only seven out of twenty-one intermediate students noticed the characteristics of descriptive writing. Advanced students were more likely to comment on the content rather than to mark errors. Seven out of twenty-one intermediate students also commented on the content of the composition. Giving clues for correction and providing examples proved to be difficult for both groups of students. The results show that giving clues on how to correct a specific text passage was applied only by three advanced students and one intermediate student. Advanced students preferred making suggestions on the changes to be made. Twelve out of twenty-four advanced students made suggestions to their peers compared to intermediate students where

only three out of twenty-one made suggestions and provided some useful ideas. Interestingly none of the students used criticism or offensive language while providing feedback; instead, they praised each other. The majority of the advanced students praised each other most of the time.

Table 2 shows that twenty-one out of twenty-four students stated that reading their classmates' comments in peer response sessions helped them to improve the organization of their texts. All except one, said that reading their classmates' texts helped them to improve the organization of their own texts. Hence, it can be concluded that peer feedback has proved to be very helpful; moreover, it was considered helpful not only by the student who receives feedback, but also by the student who provided it.

As regards the results for the intermediate students Table 3 shows that fourteen out of twenty-one students stated that reading their classmates' comments in peer response sessions helped them to improve the organization of their writing. The same number of intermediate students mentioned that reading their classmates' paragraphs and essays helped them to improve the organization of their compositions.

Table 4 shows that all advanced students and fourteen of the intermediate student group feel that they had benefited from reading their classmates' comments.

## **Conclusions**

From the students' revised paragraphs and essays it can be concluded that both groups of students had more improved papers after they practiced peer feedback. By applying the feedback received, both advanced and intermediate students wrote better versions of their written work. Their written samples show that peer feedback helped them to enrich the content of their paragraphs/essays as well.

From the students' comments and answers it can be concluded that peer feedback not only helped with improving writing skills, but that it also improved their critical reading and thinking skills. Peer feedback gave the students the opportunity to recognise their strengths and weaknesses and to develop confidence and competence in writing.

The higher proficiency students were very enthusiastic about the process of providing and receiving peer feedback in comparison with the intermediate students who were worried and uncertain about the feedback received.

Surprisingly, none of the students used criticism when providing feedback; however, there were cases of intermediate students who were negative about the peer feedback process saying that peer feedback should be used with advanced English students.

Without doubt, the results of the study confirmed that peer feedback was more productive with the higher proficiency students. What is more, through peer feedback students were given the opportunity to help each other, to share ideas with each other, to become autonomous learners and most important to create a learning community.

### **Limitations**

Despite its value, this study has some limitations as well. First of all, it is not a longitudinal study. Second, the survey only covered a small number of students; a much larger number of teacher and student participants are required to substantiate the findings outlined above. Third, the survey only involved two writing genres.

### **Recommendations**

The results of this study suggest that based on the reactions of the respondents to the survey the introduction of peer feedback should be considered by the teachers, they should emphasize peer feedback in respect of students' writing and apply it more frequently with their students. Students should be taught how to use and understand peer feedback. So, first they should learn how to give feedback and then apply it.

Further research on peer feedback is required. It is important to investigate the impact which checklists, rubrics/forms have in the peer sessions, whether checklists or rubrics should be used when checking writing or not. A more elaborate comparison between the effectiveness of teacher and peer feedback could also be an important focus of further research.

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## Appendix A

### Student questionnaire

**First item: What is your perception of peer written feedback?**

#### Advanced students' comments:

**Student 1:** I think it's useful because the students are more or less on the same level and they can give elaborated comments. But, sometimes it might not be effective because students have different writing styles and they might not be objective.

**Student 2:** It is good to see what others think about your piece of work. It's important, but I prefer teacher feedback.

**Student 3:** I have a positive attitude and I think it's helpful.

**Student 4:** I think peer written feedback is a very useful technique. It can help you improve many things in your writing or make you even more confident to continue using the style you have.

**Student 5:** It is difficult. You have to analyze the paper carefully; actually it's so good and interesting.

**Student 6:** Positive. I can see what my errors are, my strengths and weaknesses.

**Student 7:** I think it's very useful and important because students understand their mistakes and improve them for their next draft.

**Student 8:** It is a useful way of improving your writing and it helps you to have a critical statement towards your paper.

**Student 9:** It is good and effective to be evaluated by your peers because you can see how they like your text. Also, when you give feedback you express your opinion regarding someone else's writing. In this way you learn from others' mistakes.

**Student 10:** Peer feedback helps students improve their writing skills as well as critical thinking. It is a way of evaluating someone's work.

**Student 11:** Peer feedback helps a lot and it is the best tool.

**Student 12:** I think it is useful because we improve our writing.

- Student 13:** It is a good idea to have such an assessment because as a future teacher you learn many things by analyzing the papers and get an image of how you can provide feedback to your students.
- Student 14:** We improve our skills, critical thinking, etc.
- Student 15:** You give your comments about what you read, telling them their mistakes, so in the future they improve their skills.
- Student 16:** Peer feedback helps students change something in their writing.
- Student 17:** Peer written feedback is good because not only we check what the student have written on the paper but also we can check ourselves-how much we know, whether we can find others' mistakes or not. Also, we can learn from other students.
- Student 18:** Writing peer feedback is very useful for us because with that we can check our knowledge, whether we can notice the mistakes that others' make while writing or not.
- Student 19:** I was happy to hear that the reader had the same impression as me while reading my paper; he/she stated his/her enjoyment. I love this feeling of being imaginative; moreover, I like when my imagination is shared with my peers.
- Student 20:** I think it is very useful for all of us to have peer written feedback. It can helps us in improving our writing, but unless it is objective.
- Student 21:** I found it helpful because I had used a lot of adjectives to describe a particular moment and my peers suggested me some changes.
- Student 22:** Peer feedback has its strengths and weaknesses. It is good because you can see how your colleagues like and appreciate your work. Also, after giving and sharing opinions it helps in better communication between peers.
- Student 23:** Peer written feedback is useful sometimes, we can see what our colleagues think about our writing.

## Appendix B

### Intermediate level students' comments:

#### First item: What is your perception of peer written feedback?

**Student 1:** Peer feedback is a good way of improving your writing skills.

**Student 2:** I think that it's important because in this way we share our ideas with friends and while reading their papers we can find different thinking styles. But in one way it's not good because our friends may give different comments which are not effective for us.

**Student 3:** The first paper that I received to check was clear and had few spelling errors. The second one had several errors in spelling and grammar.

**Student 4:** Peer feedback was useful because the other classmates gave me advice and told me what I had forgotten to write and showed me the mistakes that I had.

**Student 5:** Peer feedback was useful because my classmates gave me advice about the organization and they helped me to improve the grammar and the vocabulary.

**Student 6:** I think it helps with organization.

**Student 7:** It wasn't useful for me. I think this kind of method should be used in advanced English groups, because I don't think that any of my classmates can improve my English. And with this group I think it's a waste of time.

**Student 8:** It's good to work in this way. We waste time but we can see what the opinion of the other colleagues is, we can compare it and we can write it better. It's difficult with the mistakes. I'm not sure if something is right or wrong. Teacher feedback is better, because it makes me sure on everything.

**Student 9:** It is important because you can get many ideas from your friend's paper, so if you are not good at writing actually it helps you, but it is hard to correct the mistakes.

**Student 10:** It's very good because we can see our mistakes.

**Student 11:** Peer written feedback is important. We share ideas with other students, and it makes us see how it is to be a teacher.

**Student 12:** I think that peer written feedback is very good. It tells you what mistakes you made and then you can write a better paragraph compared to the first one.

## Appendix C

### **Teachers' comments on the last questionnaire item: To what extent does peer feedback affect students' writing ability and what's your attitude towards peer feedback?**

**Teacher 1:** I have tried it but it never worked; students do not take it seriously.

**Teacher 2:** Very important and useful part of class not only for writing but also presentations.

**Teacher 3:** It does help them in compiling their ideas in a better and well organized way.

**Teacher 4:** If it is done appropriately, peer feedback helps students a lot to improve their writing. I try to do it whenever the possibility is given because through this students take more responsibility; they interact with each other, learn from each other and feel more free when their friends check their writing.

**Teacher 5:** Peer feedback improves students' writing skills in terms of generating comments regarding the content and even grammar. Moreover, it develops critical thinking and interaction in class. I think peer feedback has to be explained to students its point and value) and after that students can provide proper feedback. Each draft should be given peer feedback (the teacher should give suggestions to students while providing feedback) and then the teacher can give her/his own feedback.

**Teacher 6:** Peer feedback can be effective when one of the students has more developed skills and teaches the other one whose skills are less developed. Peer feedback can make students aware of their gaps and encourage learning. From experience, even though peer feedback has

a number of advantages, peer feedback can fail to happen or provide good results due to lack of motivation, mobility to interact or deal with correction or criticism.

**Teacher 7:** Peer feedback can help students improve their writing ability enormously only if the students are trained how to give feedback to their peers. Without guidelines our students don't take it very seriously, hence teachers need to spend some time to teach them first the importance of peer feedback and then implement it.

**Teacher 8:** Varies significantly at different levels. One has to make sure that the task is focused on one or two errors that the students have a level of confidence in.

**Teacher 9:** Peer feedback is useful. It even helps students establish a better rapport between each other.

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# Miss Edith Durham and Albanians on the eve and during the first world war

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## **Abstract**

Mary Edith Durham was a British traveler, writer and artist who became known for her historical, anthropological and ethnographical writings dedicated to Albania. Her dedication to Albanian question on the eve and during the First World War influenced British diplomatic officials, international humanitarian organizations, prestigious press and influential personalities of the British public opinion. A great contribution was also her membership in the Anglo-Albanian Society, which appointed her an honorary secretary.

She reflected the suffer of Albanian population, which she personally witnessed, in her correspondences and articles published in magazines and newspapers such as: “The Manchester Guardian”, “Near East”, “The Nations”, “Times”, “New Times and Ethiopia News”, “The Adriatic Review”, etc.

During the First World War the support from Western Europe was more than necessary for Albania therefore the contribution of Mary Edith Durham for Albanians was viewed with admiration by her collaborators, historians, anthropologists and ethnographs. Although she went in Albania for the last time in 1921, she worked for Albanian question for the rest of her life. In Albania she was called “Mbretëresha e Malësorëve” and was awarded the prize during the period of King Zog I and during the period of democracy of nowadays Albania.

Key words: Edith Durham, Great Britain, Albania during the First World War

## **Abstrakt**

Mary Edith Durham, ishte një udhëpërshkruese, shkrimtare dhe artiste britanike, që u bë e famshme për shkrimet e saj historike, antropologjike,

etnografike kushtuar Shqipërisë së fillimeve të shekullit XX. Duke qenë njohëse dhe mbrojtëse e denjë e çështjes shqiptare, ajo nëpërmes letrave e memorandumëve arriti të sensibilizonte qarqet qeveritare të Britanisë së Madhe, organizatat ndërkombëtare e humanitare, redaksitë prestigjioze të shtypit si dhe personat më ndikim në opinionin publik, për gjendjen e vështirë të shqiptarëve në prag dhe gjatë Luftës së parë botërore. Vuajtjet e këtij populli që ajo i kishte parë nga afër i shkroi në korrespondenca dhe artikuj të disa gazetave periodike të kohës, si: “The Manchester Guardian”, “The Near East”, “The Nations”, “The Times”, “New Times and Ethiopia News”, “The Adriatic Review”, etj . Një kontribut të madh paraqiste edhe anëtarësimi i saj në Shoqatën Anglo-Shqiptare, shoqatë kjo e cila e shpalli edhe për sekretare të nderit.

Shqipëria në kohën kur vepronte Mary Edith Durham kishte nevojë imediate për përkrahës të çështjes shqiptare nga Evropa perëndimore. Që këtej, për përkushtimin e Mary Edith Durham është shkruar me admirim edhe nga bashkëpunëtorët e bashkudhëtarët e saj, ashtu edhe nga historianë, antropologë e etnografë. Edhe pse për herë të fundit ishte në Shqipëri më 1921, ajo u mor me çështjen shqiptare me devotshmëri deri në fund të jetës. Jo rastësisht Mary Edith Durham u quajt, “Mbretëresha e Malësorëve” të Shqipërisë dhe mori shumë dekorata e mirënjohje, si në kohën e Zogut I-rë, mbretit të shqiptarëve, ashtu edhe në kohën e demokratizimit të Shqipërisë së sotme.

***Fjalët kyçe:*** Edith Durham, Britania e Madhe, Shqipëria gjatë Luftës së parë botërore

## **Апстракт**

Мари Едит Дурхам била патописец, писателка и британска актерка, која стана позната по своите историски, антрополошки и етнографски статии посветени на Албанија од почетокот на XX век. Бидејќи била познавач и достоин бранител на албанското прашање, таа преку писма и меморандуми успеала да влијае врз владините кругови на Велика Британија, врз меѓународните хуманитарни организации, врз престижните редакции на печатот, како и врз влијателните личности за тешката состојба на Албанците пред и за време на Првата светска војна. Голем придонес претставуваало и нејзиното членство во англо-албанската асоцијација во која била назначена за почесен секретар.

Страдањата на овој народ, на кои таа била сведок, ги пренесувала преку кореспонденциите и статиите објавени во неколку периодични весници од тоа време, како што се: „*The Manchester Guardian*“, „*The Near East*“, „*The Nations*“, „*The Times*“, „*New Times and Ethiopia News*“, „*The Adriatic Review*“ и др.

Албанија во времето кога дејствувала Мари Едит Дурхам имала потреба за поддршка на албанското прашање од Западна Европа. Оттука, за посветеноста на Мари Едит Дурхам е пишувано со восхит како од нејзините соработници, така и од историчарите, антрополозите и етнографите. Иако за последен пат била во Албанија, во 1921 година, таа работела на албанското прашање до крајот на животот. Мари Едит Дурхам во Албанија беше наречена „Кралица на планинците“ на Албанија и добила многу награди како во времето на кралот Зогу I, така и во времето на демократизацијата на денешна Албанија.

**Клучни зборови:** Едит Дурхам, Велика Британија, Албанија во текот на Првата светска војна

Miss Edith Durham, 1863-1944, started her first journey in the Balkans, respectively in Montenegro, in 1900 at the age of 37 and since then for the next twenty years she continued her journey, full of courage, through the Balkans alone, learning the cultures and languages and living in primitive life conditions threatened constantly by diseases and violence due to the outbreak of the First World War (Shaqiri, 1981a). During her journey she conducted historical, anthropological and ethnographical researches, with the results of which she wrote 7 books: *Through the Lands of the Serb* (1904), a description of her journey through Serbia and Montenegro, *The burden of the Balkans* (1905), a book which reveals ethnological and historical informations which were written by her unique style, *Upper Albania* (1909), a description of Albania and Kosova's traditions, social structure and religions, *Struggle for Scutary* (1914), a personal diary of Miss Durham on the struggle for Scutary, *Twenty yeas of Balkan Tangle* (1920), a description of the situation in the Balkans in the begining of the twentieth century, *The Sarajevo Crime* (1925), a description of the murder of Archduke Franc Ferdinand and his wife on 28th of June 1914, what preceded this act and its consequences; *Some Tribal Origins, Laws and Customs of the Balkans* (1928), a concise presentation of Balkan religions and rituals. All these books present an interweaving of antropology, history thus at the same time calling for the intervention of Great Powers for the self-determination of some Balkan people (Durham, 1998; Shaqiri, 1981b).

In the beginning of her journey, they were Slavs who drew her attention. Her first acquaintance with Albanians occured in Macedonia in 1903 during one of her cherity works. From that moment on, Miss Edith Durham will become a great contributor to the Albanian question even in the very decisive period of its history.

Although on the eve of the First World War Great Britain did not have any particular interest in the Western Balkans, in the decision making process with other Great Powers the opinion of its representatives was of a great importance. This is the reason why it was so necessary for Albanians to have a supporter of a British nationality such as Miss Durham who would support this nation to diplomacy officials and public opinion. British diplomats, being aware of her profound knowledge about Balkans, very often asked for her opinion or advices about different issues in the Balkans (Allcock & Young, 2000). In addition she often represented Great Britain as a non-official agent and her information were constantly published in daily British newspapers (Hayne, 1987).

On the eve and during the First World War Miss Edith Durham informed Great Britain officials and public opinion about the miserable situation of Albanians through letters sent to institutions, British Government, humanitarian organisations, prestigious press, and personalities with influence on public opinion. In all these letters she insisted on recognition of the historical and ethnical independence of Albanian nation. The suffer of Albanians which she personally witnessed, Miss Durham described in her correspondences and articles in certain newspapers: "The Manchester Guardian", "The Near East", "The Nations", "The Times", "New Times and Ethiopia News", "The Adriatic Review", etc (Frasheri, 2004). A great contribution was also her membership in the Anglo-Albanian Association, where she was appointed an honorary secretary. According to the historian J. Swire it was the contribution of this association, lead by Aubrey Herbert, which influenced the League of Nations to recognize the Albanian state (as cited in Allcock & Young, 2000, p.26).

The situation of Albania on the eve of the First World War was critical. After months of arguments, Great Powers chose Prince Wied the prince of Albanians. The feelings of Albanians were not considered at all. Edward Grey clearly emphasized that the crucial aim was not to deteriorate the relations between the Great Powers (Durham, 2001b). Albania would be governed by this Prince and would be given neutrality under the common supervision of six Great Powers that would be represented in the International Control Commission. Miss Durham considered the Prince as a short minded person with lack of sufficient knowledge about Balkans. The fact that he was the nephew of the Rumanian queen, was his only attribute he was chosen a Prince of Albania (Durham, 2001b). After the appointment of the Prince, the Great Powers represented in the International Commission of Control informed Greece to retreat from the territories already set to Albania. They comprehended the tricks that the Greek agents were using to deceive about the structure of population in Southern Albania respectively in the territories they aspired to gain. According to territorial arrangement of Great Powers Albania got less than she was hoping for but more than Greeks were expecting. After the order of Great Powers, the regular Greek army retreated from the occupied Albanian territories, but it left in Korqa a hospital full of wounded soldiers "not able to move" who were linked with telephone with the Greek border. Another part of Greek Army also remained in Southern Albania, concealing any of their identification signs. Korqa was officially delivered to Officers of Dutch Gendarmeri on March 1st 1914. This was the situation in Albania when the Prince Wied arrived in Durres on March 7th (Durham, 2001b). In The Near East on 13th March 1914, Miss Edith Durham wrote: "Yesterday was certainly an historic day for

Albania. No event could be more important than the arrival of a Sovereign in a country where he is so earnestly desired by the people and so urgently required by the political situation” (Durham, 2001a). In addition in this article she reflected the activity in Durres to wellcome the Prince whereas the other places were being prepared to send their representers to expect the Prince. Three days before the arrival of him the representers of Albanian colonies of Kalabria , Sicilia, America, Rumania, Bulgaria etc. already had arrived (Durham, 2001a). Commissioners of International Control delivered the power to the Prince who appointed Esat Pasha a War Minister, thus leaving all the armament on his possession. Very soon Korça was attacked by Greek troops who arrived with intentions to help “the sick ones” but they were defeated and returning home burned once more the Albanian villages. Not all the required munition delivered from Durres was sent to Albanians at Korça (Durham, 2001b). It was obvious that the delivery was stopped by Esat Pasha who was involved in Serbo-Greek intrigues . Prince, suspecting that the collected armament was dedicated to an insurrection against him, ordered the imprisonment of Esat Pasha. All these intrigues were in details described by Miss Durham. Esat Pasha, as an agent of the countries against Austria and Germany, including here Italy which would rather devide Albania between Serbia and Greece than allowing Austria to take the power there, was sent to Rome ( Durham, 2001b). It was said to the peasants that the Prince meant to get rid of the Islmaic religion from the country and support the incestuous marriages therefore he should be expelled from Albania. Among these people were the refugees from Dibra and Gostivari who were told that if the Prince Wied was expelled from Albania than Serbs would return the territories they had conquered. This is the path towards the insurrection and consequently the Prince’s departure from Albania. According to Durham (2001b): “we may criticize Wied for incompetence but only a person with an incredible charachter and a profound knowledge about the country would triumph over the Great Powers united against him” (p.281). On 11th of July 1914 a letter was sent to Miss Durham from the city of Berat which informs her that after two days of fight, Korqa fell in possession of the enemy. The letter was calling for help since the Greek troops were spreading further, killing Albanians and burning their territories ( Durham, 2001b).

It was obvious that the insurrection was initiated by the enemies of Albania so that they could leave an open door for the entrance of Greeks. Only when Greeks started the destruction of Muslim villages, the latter ones understood the reality.

Immediately after the addmission of the letter Edith Durham went personally to Vlora to see the miserable situation of the refugees (Durham, 2001b).

The news for the declaration of war to Serbia by Austro-Hungary was welcome in Albania. Albanians in general believed that new circumstances would help them overcome the miserable situation they were in. For nationalistic leaders Great Britain was the Power which supported them without any interest, a fact that was proved in 1913, Middle Albania was in a total anarchy whereas the population of Upper Albania, although on the Austro-Hungarian sphere of interest, being so thankful to Miss Durham, Mr. Herbert, Colonel Philips etc., started believing in Great Britain (Swire, 2005).

On the August 28th 1914 Miss Durham, as a correspondent from Albania wrote for the daily British newspaper *The Near East*: “Albania seems to have been entirely forgotten by the big world during the past two weeks. Since the outbreak of the general war no one has had time to give a thought to this country” (Durham, 2001a, p.62). These were the sentences she started her article titled “Albanian Letter”, where she explained the miserable situation of Albanian state whose central part was involved in insurrections while only the city of Durrës and Vlora were under the Government’s control. The situation was even harder because of the lack of armed forces in Albania. Regarding the insurgents Miss Durham had the impression that they were in fact urged by Serbian, Greek and Young Turks agents. From two optional actions which were the offensive against the insurgents or the defensive attitude, Durrës chose the latter one. On the other hand the population of Vlora and South Albania in general, according to Durham, is more faithful to the Prince and the parts which were under occupation of insurgents were not willing to be in such a situation (Durham, 2001a). The situation in Albania grew even worse when the Albanian refugees from Korça, Permeti, Tepelena and Kurveleshi, numbering at least 100 000 escaping from Greek atrocities spread through other districts of Albania. Regarding the Great Powers’ attitude towards Albania, Miss Durham believed that Albanians were not only abandoned but also totally forgotten. Austria, which had been interested on the Albanian question, was engaged in the World War whereas Italy was trying hard to take advantage of Albania’s difficult situation (Durham, 2001a).

Another very impressive article of Miss Durham dedicated to the departure of Prince from Albania was published on September 18th 1914 in the *Near East*: “I would not wish any nation – even an enemy nation – to have to witness the departure of its sovereign”, she wrote (Durham, 2001a, p.64). In this article she expressed her surprise about the departure of the Prince Wied. It was true that during the last three months insurgents were spread almost all over the country. Miss Durham still thought that even if they concentrated their forces against

Durres, it would be impossible to enter the city thanks to the fidelity of its garrison and the defensive forces that came mainly from Kosova and South Albania. In such a situation the insurgents would withdraw whereas the Prince would remain safe in the city. Even in this article Edith Durham emphasized the financial difficulties of Albania (Durham, 2001a). In addition she writes about the proclamation issued by the Prince before he left the country where he had declared the reasons he was forced to leave the country. The author could not predict in this article if the Prince would ever return in Albania or not (Durham, 2001a).

On September 23rd she wrote from Durrës about an anarchy that Albania was situated in after the departure of the Prince. The Commission of Control was not accomplishing the duties it had because of the disagreements of its members. On the other hand many foreign representatives left Durrës because of the situation created after the insurrections (Durham, 2001a).

Miss Durham in lack of further humanitarian sources returned to London as well and the first thing she did was to return the prize she was given by the King Peter I. It was attached by a letter where she wrote that the previous year she heard Serbian people talk about the attack against Austria and she blamed him and his population for the greatest crime that humanity have witnessed (Durham, 2001b). In *Contemporary Review* she wrote in details about such Serbian conversations: “We, the Serb people are now a danger to Europe. We have beaten the Turk. We shall fight Austria next... We have the all of the Russian Army with us. We shall take what we please. We shall begin in Bosnia” (Durham, 2001a, p.116).

In April 1915 the Great Powers who ones guaranteed the independence of Albania signed the Secret Treaty of London with Italy. According to the article 6 of this treaty Italy will receive the property of Vlora, the islands of Sasseno and as much territory that is required to secure their military safety. According to Article 7 Italy would receive also territories with Italian population which had previously been part of Austro-Hungary. As compensation Italy would agree to divide the northern and southern parts of Albania among Serbia, Montenegro and Greece. In the Middle Albania would be created “a small autonomous and neutralized state” under the Italian protectorate (Puto, 2009). In her book *Twenty Years of Balkan Tangle* Edith Durham analyses the consequences of this treaty. The first tragedy of it is the fact that the Great Powers, who entered the war because of the breach of Treaty of Belgium, now breached their own treaty according to which they guaranteed the independence of Albania. Another consequence was noticed very soon after the treaty was signed. During the period when Entente Powers were trying hard to convince Bulgaria to enter the war on their side by promising the

Macedonian territories, Serbia was against because it understood about the Secret Treaty of London. Prince Alexander told one friend of Miss Durham: "If we lost territories in West we will not loose anything in the East" (Durham, 2001b, p.299). In the autumn of 1915 Edith Durham received a letter from Sir Edward Grey who asked her to go to Northern Albania with other personalities who were familiarized with the country. The aim of this journey would be to recruit Albanians of North Albania . Unfortunately this plan was never realized since before recruiting Albanians Great Powers would have to guarantee their independence and nor Russia neither France were willing to do so (Durham, 2001b).

All through the First World War the situation in Albania was deteriorating. Bulgarian and Austrian troops entered in Northern and Middle Albania whereas Greek troops in the southern parts of Albania until Italian and French troops arrived there. French troops took Korça, which had been controlled by Albanians. The French Government declared the Republic of Korça on December 11th 1916. Very soon there was organized a government and a great numbers of schools were opened. According to Miss Durham the development of this Republic lasted until the entrance of Greece in war on the side of Entente Powers. Then the conflict started since Greece wanted Korça as an award for her entrance in the World War. To satisfy her many Greek schools were reopened (Durham, 2001b).

When the World War I ended Albania was in a very critical situation. The lost of Central Powers especially the desintegration of Austro-Hungarian Empire got rid of one of greatest supporters of Albania in international affairs. Three traditional predators of Albanian territories – Serbia, Greece and Montenegro – were on the side of winners. Albanians called for the realisation of Wilson's principle for self-determination. President Wilson even appointed a meeting between his envoy and Miss Durham. She immediately found out that the support of United States of America was the only salvation for Albania. Anyway the principle of self-determination was realised selectively, only in parts with strategic interests for Great Britain and France. If it was realised, according to Miss Durham than Albanian state would also include Kosova and Western Macedonia. Regarding the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes which was created, she thought it was an artificial formation which will never fulfill the conditions she should operate with (Durham, 2001a).

Miss Edith Durham wrote in different newspapers and magazines not only as a correspondent but often as an analyst and scholar. We should emphasize her articles in *The Near East*, *The Saturday Review*, *The Contemporary Review*, *Journal of the Central Asian Society*, etc, where she reflected her views on Albanian population

and its history. Of a great interest were also her lectures on the Albanian issue. The Near East published a lecture of hers held on December 14th 1916 in the society called Central Asian Society. She informed the members of society about the miserable situation in Albania. She also emphasized the data of an American missionary according to whom only from the beginning of the World War I approximately 150 000 Albanians, mostly women and children, were dead as a result of famine and misery (Durham, 2001a).

Then, Miss Durham would continue with the history of Albanians from Illyria on. According to Miss Durham the source of the hatred between Serbs and Albanians is found back to the occupation of Albania by Stefan Dushan who ordered the population to abandon the Roman Catholic Church and accept the Greek one. All those who refused to obey were condemned to death (Durham, 2001a).

A direct call for justice toward Albania Miss Durham made in her article "Albania and the Albanians" published in "The Saturday Review". She also offers a short history of Albanians to show to the public opinion that despite occupations and injustices through the history Albanians never lost the hope for justice. The Great Powers, according to the article, paid this hope and trust by sending to Albania an "incompetent" Prince. As all the other people of Balkans had the support of any Great Power to establish their independence, Albania should have a protector state and not be left on the administration of the International Commission of Control where each member would seek to benefit. She considered Italy to be the future protector of Albania because of Italian vital interests there (Durham, 2001a).

Journal of the Central Asian Society , vol. IV, 1917, published the study of Miss Durham titled "Albania Past and Present" and her lecture on the same issue in Central Asian Society. One Albanian was present there and talked with admiration about the contribution of Miss Durham for the Albanian question. Her work and dedication made Albanian people call her "Mbretëresha e Shqipërisë". The great respect Albanians dedicated to her was a subject of the famous journalist H. W. Nevinon's speech as well. He explained that he was so welcome everywhere in Albania only if he mentioned the name of Edith Durham. He had the chance to meet in Thesalonici a group of British nurses who went there from Serbia through Albania. They were accepted with enthusiasm everywhere in Albania only that they were of the same nationality as Edith Durham (Durham, 2001a).

Mr. Nevinon wrote in his autobiography about Miss Durham's contribution for Albanian question (John, 2006). The courage and determination of Edith

Durham to help Albanians is apparent in a letter she delivered on August 31st 1917 to the editor of *The Near East*. Aiming to disprove the statements of the Greek Government of spring and summer period of 1914 according to which they did not have any intention to occupy Southern Albania, she personally went on mountains near Tepelena to spy the Greek troops. Finding the Greek Military Forces there she immediately went to Vlora to alarm the Great Powers about the situation but it was too late. The World War had started and Great Britain has already declared the war. Even when she arrived in London it was impossible to draw the attention of public opinion about the miseries in South Albania (Durham, 2001a).

Miss Durham addressed another letter to the editor of the *The Near East* with a request to publish the resolution which was passed at a meeting held by the Anglo-Albanian Society on November 12th 1918. According to the resolution: "That inasmuch as the right of self-determination for the smaller nations of Europe has been solemnly agreed to by the United Kingdom and the United States, this meeting of the Anglo-Albanian Society trusts that those Governments and the Governments of the Allied Powers will secure the integrity of Albanian territory and will assure to the Albanian people the right to choose their own form of Government. It hopes that by these means the independence of Albania, accorded by Treaty in 1913, shall be firmly established" (Durham, 2001a).

During the period she was in London, Edith Durham constantly corresponded with Albanian famous personalities thus informing them about the policy of Great Powers toward Albania. In February 1914 she addressed a letter to Kol Baqi of Scutary, to inform him about her activity against Serbian and Montenigan atrocities toward Albanians and against the policy of Great Powers toward Albania (Frasheri, 2004). She addressed to Kol Balqi another letter informing that Hoti and Gruda were threatened by Montenegro (Frashëri, 2004). On June 14th 1916 Miss Durham wrote a letter to Mithat Frasheri regarding her initiative for the improvement of relations between Serbs and Albanians (Frashëri, 2004).

The letters and articles written by Miss Durham during the World War I prove that she supported an Italian protectorate over Albania. This attitude of her was clearly expressed in a letter she wrote to Kristo Dako. Then in a letter she sent to Sevasti Qiriazhi Dako she had encouraged the Albanians to be united and supported by a Power such as Italy (Frashëri, 2004). At the end of the war she started to favour the American supervision over Albanian population. She expressed these views in her article "Albania and Powers" published in *Contemporary Review*, in July 1919. Among other reason why Italy should not be the Albanian protector

according to Edith Durham was the fact that Italy would very soon fight with the Kingdom of Slavs and in such a situation Albania would be a battlefield between belligerents (Durham, 2001a).

Miss Durham went in Albania after the First World War, in 1921 and this was her last time there although she continued to work with devotion for the Albanian question until she passed away. She was named “Mbreteresha e Malesoreve” and was awarded a prize during the period of King Zog I and the period of democracy in nowadays Albania (Frashëri, 2004).

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# Mutual compositions in even-dimensional affinely connected space without a torsion

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## Abstract

Consider an affinely connected space without a torsion  $A_{2n}$ . [6] introduces pairs of mutual compositions  $X_n \times X_n$  and  $Y_n \times Y_n$ , defined by the affinors  $a_\alpha$  and  $b_\alpha$ . This paper considers two new compositions given by the affinors  $a = \sqrt{2} (a_\alpha + b_\alpha)$  and  $b = \sqrt{2} (a_\alpha - b_\alpha)$ . We show that these compositions define integrable structures in  $A_{2n}$ .

Keywords: affinely connected spaces, special compositions, affinors of compositions.

Subject Classification Index: 53B05

## Abstrakt

Ky punim shkencor ka të bëj me prodhimet e ndërsjellta (të kundërta) me afinorët e lidhur në hapsirën pa tenzorë në  $A_{2n}$  [6], ku paraqet prodhimet reciproke  $X_n \times \overline{X_n}$  dhe  $Y_n \times \overline{Y_n}$  të definuar nga afinorët  $a_\alpha^\beta$  dhe  $b_\alpha^\beta$  bëhet fjalë për prodhimet: Karteziane-Kartiziane (K-K), Çobishevit-Çobishevit (Ç-Ç) dhe Gjeodezi-Gjeodezike (Gj-GJ).

Afinorët  $a_\alpha^\beta$  dhe  $b_\alpha^\beta$ :  $a_\alpha^\beta = V_1^\beta V_\alpha^1 + V_2^\beta V_\alpha^2 - V_3^\beta V_\alpha^3 - V_4^\beta V_\alpha^4$

$$b_{\alpha}^{\beta} = V_1^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^3 + V_3^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^1 - V_2^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^4 - V_2^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^4 .$$

Këtu fitohen dy prodhime të reja nga afinorët  $d_{\alpha}^{\beta} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(a_{\alpha}^{\beta} + b_{\alpha}^{\beta})$  dhe

$c_{\alpha}^{\beta} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(a_{\alpha}^{\beta} - b_{\alpha}^{\beta})$ . Ne tregojmë se këto prodhime  $c_{\alpha}^{\beta}$  dhe  $d_{\alpha}^{\beta}$  definojnë strukturat e integruara  $A_n$

## Апстракт

Овој научен труд се однесува на билатералните производи (спротивни) со афини поврзани во просторот без сензор во  $A_{2n}$ [6], каде што се појавуваат реципрочните продукти  $X_n \times \overline{X}_n$  dhe  $Y_n \times \overline{Y}_n$  дефинирани од афините  $a_{\alpha}^{\beta}$  и  $b_{\alpha}^{\beta}$  и станува збор за производите: Картизиане-Картизиане (К-К), Чобишеви-Чобишеви (С-С) и Геодедетски-Геодетски (Г-Г).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Афините } a_{\alpha}^{\beta} \text{ и } b_{\alpha}^{\beta}: \quad a_{\alpha}^{\beta} &= V_1^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^1 + V_2^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^2 - V_3^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^3 - V_4^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^3 \\ b_{\alpha}^{\beta} &= V_1^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^3 + V_3^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^1 - V_2^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^4 - V_2^{\beta} V_{\alpha}^4 . \end{aligned}$$

Тука се добиваат две нови производи од афините  $d_{\alpha}^{\beta} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(a_{\alpha}^{\beta} + b_{\alpha}^{\beta})$  и  $c_{\alpha}^{\beta} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(a_{\alpha}^{\beta} - b_{\alpha}^{\beta})$ .

Ние покажуваме дека овие производи  $c_{\alpha}^{\beta}$  и  $d_{\alpha}^{\beta}$  ги дефинираат интегрираните структури  $A_n$ .

# 1 Preliminary

Consider affinely connected space without a torsion  $A_N$  and denote with  $r$  its coefficients of connectedness. In  $A_N$ , let  $X \times X_m (n + m = N)$  be a composition of two differential manifolds  $X$  and  $X_m$ . Along any point in the space of compositions  $A_N (X \times X_m)$  there are two positions of the base manifolds, denoted by  $P(X)$  and  $P(X_m)$  [2]. Observe that defining a composition in  $A_N$  is equivalent to defining a field of the affiner  $a$  for which [1,2]:

$$a \cdot a = 6 \tag{1}$$

Here  $a$  is called the affiner of the composition [2]. According to [2] and [4], the condition for integrability of the structure is:

$$a \cdot a^v - a \cdot a^v = 0 \tag{2}$$

The projective  $\frac{a}{m}$  affiners  $a$  and  $a^m$ , defined by  $a = \frac{1}{m}(6 + a)$  and  $a^m = \frac{1}{m}(6 - a)$ , satisfy the conditions  $a + a^m = 6$  and  $a - a^m = a$  [2,3]. For any vector  $v \in A_N (X \times X_m)$  we have  $v = V + V^m$ , where  $V = a \cdot v \in P(X)$ ,  $V^m = \frac{a}{m} \cdot v \in P(X_m)$ .

The properties of the following special following special compositions are studied in [2]:

The composition  $(C - C)$  for which the positions  $P(X)$  and  $P(X_m)$  are translated parallelly along every line in  $A_N$ , is characterized by

$$a = 0 \tag{3}$$

The composition  $(Ch - Ch)$  for which the positions  $P(X)$  and  $P(X_m)$  are translated parallelly along the lines of  $X_m$  and  $X$ , is characterized by

$$a = 1 \tag{4}$$

The composition  $(G - G)$  for which the positions  $P(X)$  and  $P(X_m)$  are translated parallelly along the lines  $X$  and  $X_m$ , is characterized by

$$a \cdot a^v + a \cdot a^v = 0 \tag{5}$$

Consider an even-dimensional space without a torsion  $A$ . Let  $v$  ( $a = 1 \dots 2n$ ) are independent vectors. Define the covectors  $v$  with

$$v \cdot v = 6 \Leftrightarrow v \cdot \check{v} = 6^v \tag{6}$$

Suppose that the indices take the following values:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{ij} &= \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & 2n \\ 1 & 2 & \dots & n \end{matrix} \\ , & \\ , & = \begin{matrix} n+1 & n+2 & \dots & 2n \end{matrix} \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Following [5] and [6] consider the affinator

$$a = v_i^i - v_i^i \tag{8}$$

From (6) it follows that  $a \circ a = 6$  i.e. the affinator (6) defines the composition  $X \times X$  in  $A$ . Denote with  $P(X)$  and  $P(X)$  the positions of this composition.

Consider the vectors [6]

$$\begin{aligned} w_1 &= v_1 + v_{+1} & w_+ &= v_+ + v_+ & w_+ &= v_+ + v_+ \\ w_{+1} &= v_1 - v_{+1} & w_+ &= v_+ - v_+ & w_+ &= v_+ - v_+ \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

Define the covectors  $w$  from the following equalities

$$w \circ w = 6 \quad \{ \dots \} \quad w \circ w^v = 6^v \tag{10}$$

Consider the affinator [6]

$$b = w_i^i - w_i^i \tag{11}$$

From (10) and (11) we obtain  $b \circ b = 6$ . It follows that the affinator  $b$  defines a composition in  $A$ , which we denote with  $Y \times Y$ . Let  $P(Y)$  and  $P(Y)$  be the positions of this composition.

According to [6] the compositions  $X \times X$  and  $Y \times Y$  are mutual.

## 2 Compositions defined by the affiners of two mutual compositions

Consider the mutual compositions  $X \times X$  and  $Y \times Y$ . Consider the affiners

1

$$= \int_Z (a + b) C = \int_Z (a - b) \tag{12}$$

From  $a b = -b a$  [6] and 12 we have  $\int_Z a = 6$  and  $\int_Z C = 6$ . It therefore follows that the affnors 12 define compositions in A

Proposition 1 tto compositions deened bb the affnors  $a b C$  are either  $(C - C)$  or  $(C h - C h)$  compositions then the other tto compositions are either  $(C - C)$  or  $(C h - C h)$  compositions

Proof. From 12 it follows that  $\int_Z (a + b) C = \int_Z (a - b) C = \int_Z (a + b) C = \int_Z (a - b) C$  from where taking into account 3 and 4 the statement of the theorem follows.

Theorem 1 The compositions given bb the affnors and C s deene integrable structures in the space A

Proof. Set the net  $(v_1 v \dots v_n)$ , defined by the independent vectors  $v_i$ , as a coordinate one. Then we have:

$$(13) \int_Z (v_1 \dots v_n) v_i = \int_Z (v_1 \dots v_n) v_i \tag{13}$$

From 13 the matrices of the affnors  $a$  and  $b$  in the chosen coordinate net are

$$(a) = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{ij} & & \\ & \dots & \\ & & -\delta_{ij} \end{pmatrix} \quad (b) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & \dots & \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{14}$$

From 2 the condition for integrability of the stucture defined by is

$$v_i \dots v_j = \dots \tag{15}$$

Taking into account 12 the above is equivalent to

$$(a + b)(a^v + b^v) - (a + b)(a^v + b^v) - 16$$

$$+(a + b)(a^v + b^v) + (a + b)(a^v + b^v) =$$

In the coordinate net the left hand side has of 16 takes the form

$$G^v = (a + b)(r_p^v(a^p + b^p) - r_p^v(a^p + b^p) +$$

$$+(a + b)(-r_p^v(a^p + b^p) + r_p^v(a^p + b^p))$$

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Finally from 17, taking into account that  $r = r$  and  $a^v = 6^v, b^v =$

$6^v, a^v = -b^v, a^v$ , it follows that  $G^v =$  i.e. the composition given by the affiner defines integrable structure in  $A$ . That the structure given by  $C$  is integrable follows similarly.

Theorem 2 three of the compositions given by the affiners  $a, b, c$  and are

$(G - G)$  compositions then the fourth is  $(G - G)$  composition as well

Proof. From 12 it follows that

$$v + v = \frac{1}{2}(a + a^v + a + a^v) +$$

$$+\frac{1}{2}(b + b^v + b + b^v) + \frac{1}{2}G^v$$

18

$$c + c^v + c + c^v = \frac{1}{2}(a + a^v + a + a^v) +$$

$$+\frac{1}{2}(b + b^v + b + b^v) - \frac{1}{2}G^v$$

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where  $G^v = a + b^v + a + b^v + b + a^v + b + a^v$  From 18 we have

$$v + v + c + c^v + c + c^v = a + a^v + a + a^v + b + b^v + b + b^v$$

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from where, taking into account 5, the statement follows.

Proposition 2 For vectors in  $P(X)$ ,  $P(X)$ ,  $P(Y)$  and  $P(Y)$  the following hold respectively

1. For any  $v \in P(X)$  we have that  $v \in P(Y)$  and  $Cv \in P(Y)$ ;
2. For any  $v \in P(X)$  we have that  $v \in P(Y)$  and  $Cv \in P(Y)$ ;
3. For any  $v \in P(Y)$  we have that  $v \in P(X)$  and  $Cv \in P(X)$ ;
4. For any  $v \in P(Y)$  we have that  $v \in P(X)$  and  $Cv \in P(X)$

Proof. From 8, 9, 10 and 11 it follows that

$$b = \sum_1^{+1} v^1 + v_{+1} v^1 + v v^1 + v_{+} v + v v + v v \tag{21}$$

For  $v \in P(X)$  we have  $a = \sum_1^j v^j, a^m = \sum_i^j v^j$ . From (6), (8), (9), (10) and (11) we find that

$$v = \sum_2^1 (v_i + v_{+i}) \quad Cv = \sum_2^1 (v_i - v_{+i}) \tag{+i}$$

so that  $v \in P(Y)$  and  $Cv \in P(Y)$ , which establishes part 1. The remaining parts follow similarly.

Let  $a, a^m$ , and  $b, b^m$  are the projective affiners of the compositions  $X \times X$  and  $Y \times Y$  respectively. From (8) and (21)  $a = \sum_1^j v^j, a^m = \sum_i^j v^j$  we have

$$b = \frac{1}{2}(6 + \sum_{+i}^i v^i + \sum_i^{+i} v^i)$$

$$b^m = \frac{1}{2}(6 - \sum_{+i}^i v^i - \sum_i^{+i} v^i)$$

Corollary 1 For the affiners  $a, a^m, b$  and  $C$  the following equalities hold

$$b^m a_v = b a_v^m$$

$$a^m b_v = a b_v^m$$

$$b C a_v = b C a_v^m$$

$$a C b_v = a C b_v^m$$

**Proof.** Consider an arbitrary vector  $v^v$ . Then  $a_v v^v \in P(X)$ . From Proposition we have  $a_v v^v \in P(Y)$  so that  $b^m a_v v^v =$ . Since  $v^v$  is an arbitrary vector, it follows that the first line of 22 holds. The rest follow similarly.

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# **Albanian accounting trends in accordance with EU standards.**

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## **Abstract**

A lot of work has gone to standardize the financial accounts of insurance and requirements of reimbursement ability. These projects are made by various international organizations. This will alter the way the insurance companies keep their accounts and how they design strategies. All this work in accounting is being done to increase transparency and provide the most realistic accounts of insurance. This is an indirect form to protect the policyholders. Even the regulation on repayment ability is a method of protecting policyholders.

Accounting is the process of collecting and reporting financial information about entity or about a group of units. Accounting practices are developed over time and they reflect the traditional national accounts. With the development of EU and increased activity of insurance companies or other companies outside the national borders, finding of a common way to present financial data of companies is becoming more critical. In connection with commercial enterprises, accounting information users include managers, investors, potential investors, lenders, investment analysts, regulators and consumers.

The accounting changes outlined here, will be mandatory for insurance companies listed on stock exchange. However it is expected that other companies will adopt these rules as they aim to clearly present the true situation of the company, critical for managing a company.

Key words : Accounting, standard ,insurance industry, supervision, regulation, solvency, risk. insurance products, directive, information, financial reporting, etc.

## Abstrakt

Shumë punë është bërë për të standardizuar llogaritë financiare të kompanive të sigurimit dhe për kërkesat e rimbursimit. Këto projekte janë bërë nga institucione të ndryshme ndërkombëtare. Kjo do të ndryshojë mënyrën se si kompanitë e sigurimeve mbajnë kontabilitetin dhe si të modelojnë strategjitë e tyre. E gjithë kjo punë në kontabilitet bëhet për të rritur transparencën dhe për të siguruar një kontabilitet sa më real të kompanive të sigurimeve. Kjo është një formë e tërthortë për të mbrojtur të siguarit. Edhe rregullorja për aftësinë e ripagimit është një metodë e mbrojtjes së të siguarit.

Kontabiliteti është një proces i mbledhjes dhe raportimit të të dhënave financiare të një entiteti apo një grupi njësisish. Praktikrat e kontabilitetit janë zhvilluar me kalimin e kohës dhe pasqyrojnë kontabilitetet tradicionale kombëtare. Me rritjen e kredibilitetit të BE-së dhe rritja e aktivitetit të kompanive të sigurimeve ose kompanive të tjera jashtë kufijve kombëtarë, ka dalë në pah gjetja e një mënyre të përbashkët për të prezantuar të dhënat financiare e kompanive, e cila po bëhet gjithnjë e më kritike. Në lidhje me kompanitë tregtare, përdoruesit e informacionit kontabël përfshijnë menaxherët, investitorët, investitorët potencialë, huadhënësit, analistët e investimeve, rregullatorët dhe konsumatorët.

Ndryshimet e kontabilitetit të përshkruara në këtë punim, do të jenë të detyrueshme për kompanitë e sigurimeve të listuara në bursë. Por, pritet që edhe kompanitë e tjera t'i miratojnë këto rregulla pasi ato synojnë të paraqesin në mënyrë të qartë situatën e vërtetë të kompanisë, në mënyrë kritike për menaxhimin e një kompanie. Në përgjithësi, zgjidhja e kontabilitetit IAD pasqyron gjerësisht nevojën për monitorim. Shtetet e zhvilluara kanë mësuar të menaxhojnë përdorimin e opsioneve. Kjo alternativë do të ishte një mënyrë pragmatiste në drejtim të sqarimit të opsioneve të ndryshme ndërmjet Shteteve anëtare për shumë çështje të kontabilitetit ligjor. Megjithatë, me mundësitë aktuale, IAD nuk mund të sigurojë krahasueshmërinë dhe harmonizimin e përmirësuar, gjë të cilën jemi duke e kërkuar për ta reflektuar aftësinë e ripagimit II.

***Fjalët kyçe:** kontabilitet, standard, industri sigurimesh, mbikëqyrje, rregullore, likuiditet, rrezik, produktet e sigurimit, direktivë, informacion, raportim financiar, etj*

## Апстракт

Многу работа е вложено за стандардизирање на финансиските сметки на осигурувањето и барањата за способност за надоместок. Проекти од ваков вид се реализирани од разни меѓународни организации. Ова ќе го смени начинот на кој осигурителните компании го водаат сметководството и ги дизајнираат стратегиите. Сета оваа работа во сметководството е направена за да се зголеми транспарентноста и да се обезбедат најреални сметки на осигурување. Ова е индиректна форма за заштита на осигурениците. Дури и прописите за можност за отплата се метод за заштита на осигурениците.

Сметководството е процес на собирање и известување на финансиските информации за субјект или за група на субјекти. Сметководствените практики се развиени со текот на времето и тие се одраз на традиционалните национални сметководства. Со развојот на ЕУ и зголемената активност на друштвата за осигурување или други компании надвор од националните граници, изнаоѓањето на заеднички начин да се претстават финансиските податоци на компаниите станува се покритично. Во соработка со трговските претпријатија, сметководствените информации ги користат менаџери, инвеститори, потенцијални инвеститори, работодавачи, инвестициски аналитичари, регулатори и потрошувачи.

Сметководствените промени наведени во овој труд, ќе бидат задолжителни за осигурителните компании кои котираат на берзата. Сепак се очекува дека и другите компании ќе ги применат овие правила бидејќи тие имаат за цел јасно да се претстави вистинската состојба на компанијата, која е од суштинско значење за управувањето со компанијата.

**Клучни зборови:** *Сметководство, стандард, индустрија на осигурување, надзор, правилник, ликвидност, ризик, осигурителни производи, директива, информации, финансиско известување, итн.*

## **1.1 Why are accounting standards important? Who uses this information?**

- a. First of all, information's are important for companies, as they demonstrate the state of the company and should serve as a basis for strategic decisions.
- b. Accounting information's are of great importance to the insurance supervisors. Insurance commissioners are charged with reviewing the financial condition of insurance companies, doing business in their jurisdiction and they get meaningful financial information, statistical and operating for insurance companies. This information is used for a meticulous financial analysis of insurance companies. That financial supervision is designed to help policyholders and to fully compensation from insurance policies sold to victims. Often timed these products have been sold years or decades prior to the claimed profits. Regularly its regulatory perspectives vary significantly with the perspectives of other users of insurers accounting information. In support of this particular concern and responsibility, statutory accounting principles rooted in statute, regulation, and practice.
- c. Although most of commercial enterprise financial costumers do not have any direct financial interest in the company, mostly they are just concerned on the price placed on the product or the service they are purchasing, they can use accounting information to determine the goal with which they are entering in financial transactions. This is especially critical for the purchase of insurance products, as insurance contracts include a promise for payment that may extend over many years. Insurance products can offer higher profits than the premium price. Current profits are almost always greater than the premium paid and can only be assessed at the time the product is purchased (the police).
- d. Information is also used by competitors or by the rating agencies; therefore the information quality and the clarity of its presentation are critical. In many countries there is a difference between financial accounting offered by the company and the report provided to the supervisory authority.

## **1.2 The relationship between accounting and solvency.**

A joint effort in the calculation of minimum required capital, for insurers to is to enforce the predetermined factors used to measure risk exposure, taken by the insurer's accounting framework. So, different demands on the repayment are often closely related to the insurer's accounting system. There are various systems in accounting. Different requirements over the surplus will be determined by different systems. As a result of the way that different accounting systems define the values of assets and liabilities, they may create hidden surplus or deficit. Capital requirements arising from these systems, means that one must know exactly the hidden values.

A correct determination of the true financial strength of an insurer will require an assessment of its balance sheet under a system based on true values and that does not generate hidden surplus. IASB is currently developing a system like this. It's important to remember that the traditional accounting systems are based on the notion that they will exist in the future. However, in determining capital requirements to protect the repayment ability - this does not necessary mean the same thing keeping the continuity of the organization. Repayment ability standards can be defined in terms of liquidation. In this case the object would be to ensure that the insurer has sufficient funds on hands, to pay claims and the nonprofit premiums in order to satisfy other creditors. This standard would be appropriate for the types of small insurances in the insurance business.

Run-off is based on the second attempt of repayment ability. In this effort, a main goal is the continuity of all long term insurance coverage. Accounting identifies financial progress from one period to the other it gives great importance to the statement of income and losses and then makes careful regulatory changes. A positive financial progress is a good sign for the future repayment ability, careful monitoring focuses on the balance, for example; the capacity of providers to meet their obligations towards present and future claims of the policyholders. It would be better to define the requirements in terms of total balance; for example- for the required amount for liabilities and capital (repayment ability). Using the total balance requirements, calculations allow it to be independent of the accounting system. Capital requirements can be accessed as a difference between the total required the balance the demands total liabilities determined on the basis of the accounting system.

Currently, on monitoring and calculating the repayment ability, some vigilant supervisors have adapted other requirements beside those imposed by the Third Life Directive. This can cause difficulties in determining the relative financial strength of insurance companies in the EU, and between different providers within the same group. Increasing global financial groups may provide an advantage in harmonizing the efforts of careful supervision. Using the regulations in accordance with IAS while choosing among different options, could be a strong tool for achieving this.

The use of IAS within repayment ability framework would imply that most financial assets would be included with real value (although some still use amortized cost for certain portfolios of bonds). Use of subjects specific (insurers contract) or the methodology for determining the real value of technical reserves is designed to mirror the evaluation of other financial instruments as much as possible. Compliance with IAS-in will enable to clarify the discrepancies between assets and liabilities. This would be beneficial to insurance companies when examining their problems and liquidity needs.

### **1.3 Differences in accounting purposes.**

Differences between financial accounts and supervisory returns, can be summarized as follows:

- a. Accounting question's how much capital a company has? (What are its assets and liabilities?)
- b. Supervisors and managers question: how much money a company must have? (What assets and liabilities should the company contain in order to protect the policyholders interest?)

### **1.4 The links between accounting purposes.**

Which are the relations between financial reports and the reports received by the surveillance agency? What are the links between solvency repayment calculations and other analytical tools used by supervisors? This issue is critical for the repayment ability II project of the EU, since it raises the issues of supervisors needs for accounting information, or to identify possible alternatives on where to find such information.

## 1.5 Supervisors need for accounting information.

### a. Use of accounting information from supervisors.

Supervisors' need for accounting information reflect their responsibility to protect the interests of policyholders. They use accounting information for a variety of reasons, including:

- Supervisors' financial analysis (the repayment ability monitoring, early warning systems, the calculation of ratios for the intervention of supervisors, etc.)
  - Repayment ability adequate statutory capital and calculation.
  - Input for other surveillance systems and statistics.
- b. The respective goals of financial reports, and the returns of supervisors.

Often, supervisors' needs for accounting information are different compared to other users. Supervisors are required to be able to assess an insurer's ability to meet its obligations at all times, while other users (especially in financial markets) want to measure a company's revenue from one period to the next. When it comes to repayment ability requests for supervisory authorities, typically arise when insurance companies have security problems. Rules are formulated as a result of emerging problems. This is a proactive response towards the financial reporting rules.

Repayment ability II shows important changes of both international and EU level in the supervision of issues that are related to accounting information. Choosing a general reporting framework ; is a very controversial issue in the EU and beyond. There are two main efforts in this direction. The driven model and the unionized one, attempts to match revenues and cost for the respective periods, and the effort on the assets and liabilities puts emphasis on determining the current values of assets and liabilities on the balance sheet. This election is very important, since it would be followed by other findings of these large elections (i.e. use of deductions, the principles of assessment, equalization of reserves and deferred acquisition costs.)

## **1.6 Financial reporting.**

What is the foundation of a company's accounts? The starting point of producing accounting information on the accounting system is the holding company's account. This information is presented later in accordance with certain rules and conventions of accounting in order to form part of an accounting report. Companies in regulated sectors, such as banks and insurance, produce an annual report and are also required to implement the so called prudential reporting requirements, as i.e.:

- Returns from supervisions, supervisory statements, regulatory statements, statements carefully for insurance supervisory authorities.
- A separate statement for taxes.

The strong interrelationship between financial reporting and monitoring returns in many Member States should be considered in the other elections, for a future sustainable repayment ability of the EU. Currents developments in EU and international accounting, should be also analyzed in the perspective repayment ability; in order to see whether the financial statements can be used as the basis for the monitoring returns.

## **2. International accounting standards for insurance companies.**

It's important that an insurance IAS, to meet the following requirements:

- It should reflect and take into consideration accurately, the characteristic elements of the insurance business (i.e. risks accumulation, diversification of risks, long-term nature of the business, changes in the production cycle). Normally, it is not the last goal of the insurance company to sell its portfolio (as assets covering technical reserves and technical reserves), but to keep technical reserves or assets attached to maturity. In many countries, should be taken an approval of the regulatory after transferring a portfolio of risks.
- To not charge more than needed, the insurance companies, which previously must meet additional information to other interested parties (i.e. policyholders, financial analysts, regulators).

- Other providers of financial services, such as banks and securities firms; as well as firms in other sectors should be treated equally in accordance with the accounting methods used. In contrast, the ultimate goal of enabling investors to compare the annual accounts of insurance companies, with commercial and industrial companies, can not be realized.
- The following standards must be constant enough, to provide the presentation of reliable information, verifiable and essential. In controversy, the objectives of transparency and comparability would not be met.

The main idea behind the changes in accounting practices is to increase transparency. The work is done in two phases. The first phase includes the following items and the second phase will further develop a number of other issues.

- a. New standards would apply at the insurance contracts (and all the risks that they entail) and not to the insurance companies. Have to make the difference between insurance contracts (which are contracts where we have a transfer of risk associated with a specific future event) and other contracts (i.e. many European savings contracts ) to be defined as financial instruments.
- b. The IAS will become mandatory for companies listed on the account that is showed in 2005 or later. As currently they are formulated actually, the new standards that are proposed, ensure that all assets and liabilities are valued at current market value. All changes in value are reflected in the income statement. Insurance derivatives contracts (such as interest warrants) in different circumstances should be shared and evaluated separately under IAS 39. All this effort will increase the complexity of insurance accounts. Results will also be predictable.
- c. The new standard will apply an attempt to measure assets and liabilities in contrast to the traditional efforts of delay and compliance. Items such as deferred costs will be disappeared.
- d. Assets and liabilities will be measured based on the perspective, measuring the present value of all cash flows, arising from the closed book of insurance contracts at the reporting date. Measurement of insurance liabilities should reflect the risks and uncertainties, either through cash flows or through the discount rate. Variations on the present value of liabilities and assets, are included in the income

statement, in which they arise. As a result, there will be higher volatility of liabilities and expenses.

- e. The non-profit reserves for premiums and reserves for catastrophes or draws, will also not be permitted. This means that the results would vary more from one year to another.
- f. Insurance liabilities will be evaluated independently of the investment strategy of the individual insurance company.

### **3. EU harmonized rules for financial reporting and from oversight.**

Financial reporting rules for the following companies are included in Directive IV and VII. For financial institutions and insurance companies there are special guidelines for the accounting sector (Directive on banking accounts-BAD-and insurance accounts directive-IAD). IAD has been implemented in 1991. The Directive harmonizes accounting of insurance companies in the EU, but there are still many national alternatives. An important option is concerned with the possibility that Member States allow or require the evaluation of investment at historical cost and current value (values dealing with unresolved options should still be included in the notes). Another important option allows Member States to require or allow the reduction of technical reserves for non-life insurance, under certain conditions. Prudential directives emphasize that each Member State shall require every insurance company based in its territory, to provide an annual report, covering all types of operations, its financial situation, the repayment ability.... There is no general requirement that the annual group accounts must be established in accordance with IAD-in. In specific areas, such as evaluation of non-life technical reserves, prudential guidelines make a special reference to the rules of the IAD.

### **4. The situation in Member States.**

Member States have used the financial reporting requirements and reporting of supervisors to achieve a situation where the same accounting rules are used for both purposes. Consequently, many Member States use most of AID's regulations

also for supervising accounts, and all Member States appear to use the specifications to assess the prudential guidelines for financial statements.

#### **4.1 Current and future developments. Developments in the EU financial reporting .**

Rules on the use of international accounting standards, the Commission has proposed that all EU listed companies, must submit the accounts under IAS since 2005. For unlisted companies will continue to apply the accounting directives. Member States may add to the requirements of IAS also for other types of companies. International standards should be sanctioned, before they become mandatory in the EU.

#### **4.2 Modernization of IV and VII Directives on the Law on Companies and the Insurance Accounts.**

Commission intends to streamline certain accounting guidelines in order to align them with current accounting practices and to avoid current and future differences with IAS-in. The Commission will propose certain amendments to the Insurance Accounts Directive. A general review of insurance accounts directive will be needed when you know the outcome of international discussions of accounting and when the repayment ability II project have progressed more. The guideline for banks accounts has improved in order to allow a fair assessment of IAS 39 limited.

#### **4.3 International financial reporting developments.**

There are a number of committees and professional organizations involved in work on the revision of accounting standards. Among these organizations are active organizations of actuaries.

#### **4.4 International developments of repayment ability, in Member States and in several other jurisdictions.**

- a. **Developments in the sub - Committee of the IAIS repayment ability Sub – Committee.** The IAIS reimbursement ability, together with the sub - Committee of the IAIS Accounting are preparing a paper on insurance technical reserves.
- b. **Developments in Regulatory Committee of IAIS.** One of the main tasks of the regulatory committee of IAIS is to cooperate on the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) on the related issues to regulation and supervision of insurance companies, and also work with accounting standards committee of the IAA , in connection with exchanges between accounting standards and supervisory requirements for insurance companies. Recently has been prepared a discussion of the regulatory committee of the IAA's repayment ability issues.
- c. **Developments in Great Britain (UK).** The Financial Services Authority is presenting a new manual. "Measure the source" will be implemented in 2004. It will include international developments such as project accounting fair value of the IAIS and the repayment ability II of the EU, regarding the revision of capital requirements for insurance firms.
- d. **Developments in Denmark.** Denmark has introduced new accounting rules for life insurance companies to build real values or market values. From the 2002 the bonds will be valued at market value (it exists for the shares),and since 2003 also for the liabilities of life insurance companies. The rules have to be applied as for financial accounts and statutory accounts.

#### **4.5 Contents of Project II repayment ability.**

The EU Commission is proposing the strengthening of protection of the amendment policyholders required repayment solvency margins. Proposals for life insurance and non-life, aim to strengthen the solvency margins required repayment ability insurance companies in order to serve as a protective policy holders interests.

These proposals are key measures of the action plan of financial services that the Council of Europe in Lisbon said that should be implemented in 2005. The action plan has three strategic objectives: to create a single market for wholesale financial services, to ensure that retail markets are entered safely and easily, and offer modern prudential rules and supervision.

There are two proposals: one covering life insurance, and the other covering non-life insurance. The two proposals have many common elements. The two proposals represent a package of measures that should be respected by all insurance companies qualified under the guidelines of the EU insurance for a single passport to sell policies across the EU, based on a common recognition surveillance of a host country company. Taken as a whole, the proposals will reinforce and significantly improve the current rules dating respectively since 1973 (non-life) and 1979 (life). With the new proposals:

- The Member States would be free to impose tougher rules than the harmonized rules on the reports of the repayment capacity set by the Directives, so that they can take into account local risks faced by companies they supervise;
- Rules on the absolute minimum amount of capital required (the so-called minimum guarantee fund) will be indexed in line with inflation, what threshold of premiums and claims for the following categories, which required a greater safety margin. For non-life insurance, the number of different funding guarantee will be reduced from four to two and the rules will be simplified. The new minimum will be moving three million € (two million € for certain categories of non-insurance - life). There should be generous transition rules for implementing the new minimum levels. With the accession of new EU countries, one of the most critical aspects of the negotiations will be a transitional period.
- Supervisors will have an increased power to intervene earlier, to take remedial action when policy holders interests are threatened, i.e. in situations where an insurance company currently meets the requirements but its financial position is worsening rapidly ;

The request for a higher margin of repayment ability, will be decided for certain categories of non-life insurance, subject to large movements of the results (navy, aviation and responsibilities). Besides reinforcing the required solvency repayment, goal is better coordination between regulatory capital and risk company

profile. Those real proposals aim to clarify, simplify and improve the rules MDI minimum amount of capital that insurance companies should hold.

## 5. The main proposals.

- A required margin of repayment solvency of 50% higher grade applied to 11 (charge of aviation), 12 (responsibility of the Navy) and 13 (overall responsibility) non-life business that have a risk profile very unstable.
- Reduce the required solvency margin for reinsurance repayment is based on an average three-year (unlike that one year) to report reimbursement damages incurred. More significantly, supervisors have the power to reduce the margin required when the nature of the reinsurance program, or when its quality is impaired, or when there is no risk to be transferred.
- Calculation of required margin of solvency current repayment non-life insurance may not provide satisfactory results when the volume of business falls drastically. Reduction of margin required can not be reduced proportionally more than the technical reserves.
- To reserve assets to cover the required margin of safety have occurred. Generally assets are treated in accordance with their relative financial strength. Powerful assets received without any limit, others with some restrictions, and the lowest accepted only with the approval of supervisors.
- Levels of minimum guarantee fund (the absolute amount of capital required minimally) increased and indexed in line with inflation, such as thresholds for the degree of separation rates for premiums and claims. For non-life insurance, simplified regulations reduce the potential number of minimum funding guarantee two (of four); point of departure to a new level of guarantee was put € 2 million or 3 million € will be entitled to any of the classes the following: 10 (motor liability), 11 (responsibility of aviation), 12 (responsibility for marine resources), 13 (overall response), 14 (credits) and 15 (relationship of warranty) non-life business. For life insurance point of departure was put 3 million €.

- For companies common continues to have 25% reduction.
- The required margin of solvency must be maintained repayment all the time (not just the balance sheet date to be filled).
- Member States are free to impose more stringent rules for companies that are authorized by their own rules than the required margin set in the Directive.
- There will be transitional periods to give companies time to enhance the ability repayment margins.
- Small joint claim not to receive the benefits of a single passport (for the whole EU), are not subject to the Directive and thus can be monitored less rigorist. Annual contribution threshold is increased to 5 million € (of 100 000 that was).

How changes will cause the implementation of these proposals? Since many companies currently working with margins that are much higher than the actual margins required, they expect not to be affected by these changes in the required margin.

Perhaps most importantly is the right of supervisors to impose higher margins when threatened policyholders' risk capital, to assess the need for a higher margin required and ensure their implementation by each insurance company.

### **5.1 Deadlines.**

In accordance with the action plan of financial services, the proposed Directive was implemented in 2002-n. The Commission has proposed to implement a Directive by Member States within 18 months from putting into use.

### **5.2 Further developments.**

Repayment ability is only one aspect of the financial position of the insurance company. The Commission now intends to launch a large-scale testing of the overall financial position of insurance companies to see if it needed any further improvement.

### **5.3 Possible solutions to insurance accounting in IAS-in current and future.**

Currently there are around 40 international accounting standards. Most of them also apply to insurance companies. Some standards are particularly interesting for certain insurance companies. IAS 37 excludes claims arising from insurance companies to enter into contracts with policy holder. IAS 39 excludes the rights and responsibilities of insurance contracts from their goal, but the standard covered the most important assets of insurance. IAS 39 was amended in 2002, and an important new element is that further assessment of the assets and liabilities of the companies could become possible. The exact contents of a future international standard of insurance accounting are not known yet. Based on available information, a future standard may have the following key elements:

- The target should be the measurement of assets and liabilities arising from insurance contracts (an attempt to measure assets and liabilities), rather than defer costs and revenues so that they unite with each other (an effort extension and unification).
- Measurement of insurance liabilities should not be influenced by the type of assets held or returns from those assets.
- Assets and liabilities arising from insurance contracts should be measured with specific value in the contract.
- Insurance liabilities (both general insurance and life insurance) should be deducted.
- Reserves for disasters and dead-heats are not liabilities under the IASB's framework. Necessary can be seen on the specific findings of low frequency, high risks of severe.
- Acquisition costs should be deferred as an asset.
- All changes to the assessment of insurance liabilities should be accounted for as soon emerge. To decide which components of these changes will be presented or displayed separately, the IASB has to monitor developments on performance reporting projects and further developments on financial instruments accounting.

## **5.4 In what direction should be conducted on the accounts of insurance Directive?**

Today, insurance accounts Directive provides rules for insurance accounting harmonization in the EU. Significant developments in EU financial reporting may vary directive role. Regulation on the use of IAS by listed companies of the EU, is seen as a reduction of its importance for these companies, as well as makes the changes necessary to keep in line with international accounting standards.

So the future of the Directive is linked to general decisions on accounting for non-listed companies on the stock exchange, as well as the extension to which each Member State chooses to apply IAS accounts for all the institutions have financial. Would have some possible developments for IAD-in. More reasonable might be a possibility that could also amend Directive IV and VII to provide financial reporting rules for companies not listed. At that moment will not be directly relevant for listed companies. However a review of IAD's future will be aimed at reducing the differences between this Directive and the IAS. This review will be almost vital.

## **5.5 Extraction of several possible options for the ability repayment II.**

At least 6 of the possible alternatives to the project's ability repayment II, grouped in three classes can be formulated thus:

1. Solutions "with a group of accounts" (with additional requirements for surveillance revelations)
  - 1.1-IAS's accounts
  - 1.2-IAD's accounts
2. Amendment of financial reports for the use of monitors
  - 2.1-accounts of the amended IAS
  - The revised 2.2-IAD for financial reporting purposes of Supervisors amended
3. Develop a reporting system monitors specific
  - 3.1 wording of statutory accounting principles of the EU
  - 3.2-IAD-keeping of accounting rules as surveillance

These run the range between three alternatives: virtually any amendment to IAS standards supervisors and a group of totally different accounting rules. The first two alternatives will benefit from the fact that IAS has to be an internationally defined framework. Although not all supervisors can agree with all the details of the IAS framework, there will be a common starting point. Based on this common point additions and amendments can be made transparent. The goal will be finding a common group and add amendments. Although it would not be possible, it would be necessary to develop two independent alternatives (i.e. one for Member States to prefer a framework of real value to others based on a classical accounting framework). This question will be raised on the use of the capability options repayment II package, which seems to be going beyond the goals of this document.

If the number of amendments that are needed for surveillance purposes is great, than we can use the third option. Different viewpoints among EU states on the principles of accounting oversight and the nature of the amendments can be a barrier to such choices. In light of the IAS Regulation on the use of 2005-s, normally the next reporting rules of supervision will not be built on the current-IAD. There are several reasons for this:

- a. Seems more desirable amendments or supplements to develop new surveillance, clear and consistent on EU level.
- b. Relates to the issue of applicability of the surveillance reporting system for small companies and medium. Most of these companies can not prepare IAS accounts and so will continue to do reporting in accordance with the amended IAD-in for financial reporting purposes. Generally, an IAD future will probably evolve in the direction of the IAS, perhaps with certain amendments to SME' s.
- c. This would make it easier for insurance companies seeking to be listed in the future. A similar pattern can also be used for surveillance purposes of reporting.
- d. It is also necessary to differentiate between companies that prepare IAS financial statements and other companies. Some Member States have shown that certain intended to require all companies to file financial sector's IAS accounts. Others think that it would not be practical or appropriate.

## 5.6 Possible options for project accounting capability repayment II.

### a. Solutions, "a set of accounts".

It is practical and efficient to use financial reports for both supervisory purposes. This reduces the administrative burden on companies. This model is used in a number of Member States. But do not claim that all supervisors needs to be provided by a set of accounts to reflect mainly the capital market needs.

### b. IAS accounts (with the additional requirements of supervision acceptable) will be required from all EU listed companies from 2005, including insurance companies listed. So it is logical to require or at least allowed the IAS accounts for surveillance purposes.

Using the IAS may lead to a convergence of various traditional accounts in the EU, financial reporting, as in the surveillance report. IAS has not primarily takes into account the problems of surveillance. Some of the proposed accounting treatment would not be acceptable for certain oversight. It may not be sufficient to require additional admissions requirements watchers. Not seen as possible that the EU can deliver a system with "a set of accounts" on the basis of the IAD. IAD's role will probably change in the future. IAD has contains more options and does not lead to increased harmonization of the project provided the ability repayment.

## Conclusions

These are pragmatic solutions appear as they use financial reporting rules and potential limits amend only items that are not acceptable to the supervisor. Such solutions are widely used in the present days. However days if these amendments are not kept to an absolute minimum, companies will be subject to a double job.

A revised IAD for financial reporting can be amended for the purposes of surveillance. This option would provide a practical solution for companies not listed. A revised IAD for financial reporting purposes will focus on accounts of insurance companies to small and medium enterprises. This may not be a useful basis for reporting, surveillance, or at least not for the insurance companies listed. A set of rules collected for surveillance needs can be met. Quality of reporting of surveillance will be increased significantly. Such solutions would require a great job at EU level. It is not clear whether the consensus necessary for detailed accounting solutions.

- Formulation of Statutory Accounting Principles of the EU. EU level harmonization statutory reporting would increase too. It can also have positive effects on financial analysis of surveillance. Statutory Declarations must be audited.
- A future IAS would necessitate a large number of amendments to the surveillance and reporting in this way must be done consistently and comprehensively.
- There is no agreement among Member States on key issues of accounting oversight. It would require enormous resources and an increasing number of specialized staff at EU level.
- Keeping the IAD for surveillance purposes.

In general, IAD accounting solutions broadly reflect the needs for monitoring. There is significant experience in implementing the directives and the Member States have learned to manage the use of options. This alternative would be a pragmatic way toward clarifying the different opinions between Member States on many issues of statutory accounting. However, with current options, IAD did not may provide improved comparability and harmonization that we are seeking to project the repayment ability II.

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# Impact of global economic crisis on the economies of Western Balkan (Macedonian economy)

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## Abstract

The paper intends to analyze the impact of global economic crisis on the economies of Western Balkan (Macedonian economy). The purpose of the paper is not to analyze the global crisis impact on specific sectors of the economies of the Western Balkan Countries, indeed, it focuses mainly on the macroeconomic level, identifying and analyzing fluctuations of major macroeconomic indicators of the economies of this Region. In this regard the paper analyzes the trends of macroeconomics indicators that reflect the development and macroeconomic balances of those economies, such as GDP, the level of employment, inflation, budget deficit, trade relation, etc, in two periods of time: before the crisis, and during the years of crisis. Highlighting the deterioration of these indicators, the paper tries to identify factors that have contributed to these results, for example the level of opening of the economies of these countries, foreign direct investment, remittances, etc.

This paper basically discuss the financial crisis and impact of financial crisis in Balkan. There is a fear that his economic crisis will take hold of Europe if it is not controlled. Europe is one of the biggest economies of the world so almost all the countries over the globe are also having a threat of facing the financial crisis. The world financial crisis emerged from a property bubble and a credit boom. Bad debts soared and banking sector in the developed economies became insolvent. The implication of the crisis to the western Balkans has been not of a sort of financial crisis, but an economic turbulence which has occurred as a result of lack of demand in the world markets to the Western Balkan products and falling sources of finance.

Investments, remittances, industrial production, foreign exchange reserves and employment rates have fallen

## Abstrakt

Nëpërmjet këtij punimi synohet një analizë e ndikimit të krizës ekonomike globale mbi ekonominë e Ballkanit Perëndimor me theks të veçantë në ekonominë e Maqedonisë. Qëllimi i punimit nuk është të analizojë ndikimin e krizës botërore në sektorë të veçantë në ekonominë të vendeve të Ballkanit Perëndimor, por fokusohet kryesisht në nivel makroekonomik, në identifikimin dhe analizën e luhatjeve të treguesve kryesorë makroekonomikë të ekonomive të këtij rajoni. Në këtë punim analizohen trendet e treguesve makroekonomikë që reflektojnë në ekuilibrat makroekonomikë dhe të zhvillimeve ekonomike, siç janë: PBB-së, niveli i punësimit, inflacioni, deficitit buxhetor, marrëdhëniet tregtare, etj. në dy periudha kohore: para krizës dhe gjatë viteve të krizës.

Duke theksuar përkeqësimin e këtyre indikatorëve nëpërmjet punimit bëhet përpjekje të identifikohen disa faktorë që kanë kontribuar në këto rezultate, për shembull niveli i hapjes së ekonomive të këtyre vendeve, investimet e huaja të drejtpërdrejta, dërgesat etj.

Ky punim gjithashtu flet edhe për krizën financiare dhe ndikimin e saj në Ballkan. Ekziston frika se kriza ekonomike do të marrë kahe të ndikimit në shumë vende të Evropës, nëse nuk kontrollohet me kujdes. Si në të gjitha vendet e globit, edhe ekonomia evropiane nuk mundë të anashkalohe nga kriza financiare. Kjo krizë që u shfaq nga një flluskë e pasurisë dhe një bum krediti, pati si rrjedhojë borxhet e këqija, të cilat u rritën dhe ndikuan keq në sektorin bankar të ekonomive të zhvilluara. Kështu u humb aftësia për t'i paguar ato. Implikimi i krizës në Ballkanin Perëndimor nuk ka qenë i një lloji të krizës financiare, por çrregullimi ekonomik që ka ndodhur është si pasojë e mungesës së kërkesës në tregjet botërore të produkteve të Ballkanit perëndimor dhe e rënies së burimeve financiare, investimeve, dërgesave të prodhimit industrial, rezervave valutore e, gjithashtu, edhe e normave të punësimit të cilat kanë pësuar një rënie të dukshme.

## Апстракт

Во овој труд се анализира влијанието на глобалната економска криза врз економиите на земјите од Западен Балкан со посебен акцент врз македонската економија. Целта на трудот не е анализата на влијанието на кризата во посебните сектори туку се фокусира во главно врз влијанието на кризата на макроекономско ниво, во економите на земјите од регионот. Се анализираат макроекономските индикатори кои се рефлектираат врз развојот и макроекономскиот баланс на тие економии, како што се БДП, стапката на вработување, инфлацијата, буџетскиот дефицит, трговските односи, во два периоди: пред и за време на кризата.

Нагласувајќи го влошувањето на овие индикатори преку трудот се обидувам да ги идентификувам факторите кои придонесоа за овие резултати, на пример нивото на отвореност на економиите на овие земји, странските директни инвестиции, дознаките од странство итн.

Во овој труд, исто така, се дискутира за финансиската криза и влијанието на финансиската криза на Балканот. Постојат стравувања дека доколку не се контролира кризата ќе има влијание во многу земји на Европа. Европа е една од најголемите економии во светот и исто како и на сите земји на светот постои закана да се соочи со финансиската криза. Глобалната финансиска криза се појави од шпекулации со недвижности и кредитен бум. Лошите долгови се зголемуваа и банките не беа способни за да ги наплатат долговите. Импликациите на кризата во земјите од Западен Балкан не е вид на финансиска криза, но економско безредие кое се случи поради недостаток на побарувачката на светските пазари за производите од Западен Балкан и пад на инвестициите, индустриското производство, стапката на вработеност и девизните резерви кои исто така претрпеа значителен пад.

## **Introduction**

Towards the middle of 2008th, when the global financial crisis was hanging with all its strength, the Macedonian Government thought that Macedonia will not feel the effects of the global financial crisis. It even stated in certain occasions that the Macedonian economy will make profit out of the crises. This statement has been supported with the fact that The Macedonian Financial and Banking Sector wasn't integrated enough in the global one, and its liquidity was based on stable sources (deposits of the citizens and cooperative sector), so significant disrupt in the Macedonian economy couldn't occur. One year after this "Don't worry" policy, Macedonia has already strongly felt the effects of the global financial and economic crisis, and the country has entered the recession. According to the official preliminary data from the State Statistical Office, Macedonia's GDP in the first two quarters notes decreases of 0,9 % and 1,4 %. Macedonia is small country and its economy is based on liberal external trade; on the annual level it reaches about 100% and more of the annual GDP of the country. The economy depends on the import of goods, which is nearly twice bigger than the export of the country. As a result of that, Macedonian trade deficit reached the level of over 25% of the GDP in 2009 with absolute value of over 2, 5 million dollars. Traditionally, in significant part, the high trade deficit has been financed from the money transfers of Macedonian workers abroad. The global crisis has affected these transfers despite the fact that the growth of the trade deficit has remained on the same level. These disadvantages have created huge deficit on the current account, of 14% of the GDP in 2009. Thus, Macedonia has entered the state of economic recession, followed by a strong decline of the situation in the external sector.

## **Financial crisis in the world, economic crisis in the Balkans**

What started as a global financial crisis has become an economic crisis. The world financial crisis emerged from a property bubble and a credit boom. Bad debts soared and banking sector in the developed economies became insolvent. The implication of the crisis to the western Balkans has been not of a sort of financial crisis, but an economic turbulence which has occurred as a result of lack of demand in the world markets to the western Balkan products and falling sources of finance. Investments, remittances, industrial production, foreign exchange reserves and employment rates have fallen. As a result, growth has slowed down. Expansionary

fiscal policies on top of external trade deficits growing at record levels, calls into question the ability of the western Balkan economies to finance the needs, that in turn increases their vulnerability and that may lead to a possible financial crisis in future if the global financial crisis continues to sustain until 2010. The governments of the region of the western Balkans, when the crisis hit in September 2009, argued that they were immune to the crisis. However, as their export-oriented economies began to slump in the autumn of 2009 due to the slid in the world commodity prices, which resulted in tens of thousands of citizens of western Balkan countries loosing their jobs, the governments of the region became more open about the difficulties of their economic situation, although continuing to argue that the effects of the financial crisis are least to be felt in western Balkans in comparison with other regional economies of Europe such as that felt in Iceland, Baltic states or Ukraine. The culprit many of the governments have now settled on is the world out of Balkans. Even wider publics took comfort of this argument due to relatively low exposure of the local economies to the world financial markets. Although the governments continue to predict that the economies would show growth and small contraction in 2009, the economic indicators show that the economies are in some degree of trouble at the moment with industrial output, foreign investment and remittances fall and unemployment rising.\* Growth forecasts are down across the region from 5 to 3%, investors are slowing projects and governments are drawing up rescue plans.† Independent economists think that 3% growth of GDP for 2009 is wildly optimistic. Depending on the world manufacturing and commodity prices, they could show growth by 2 or even 1% of GDP. For the small economies of a scale of western Balkans that have boomed for the past seven-eight years, following the end of conflicts in the region in 2001 - that last one being the conflict of Macedonia in 2001 - with annual average GDP growth reaching 5%, economic slowdown and contraction in GDP that has started to be seen starting from the autumn of 2009 is a particularly harsh blow to western Balkans. The whole region, except Serbia and Croatia, has escaped the global financial crisis however it has run into economic crisis due to the recession in its export markets, including EU. As small open economies the western Balkan countries are uncomfortably exposed to the world crisis and particularly to EU as their trade with the EU member states comprises their largest trade volume. Since the global financial crisis hit in September 2009 growth has turned to contraction and unemployment is mounting in the region. Also, any lingering hopes that the western Balkans might escape relatively unscathed from the global financial storms

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\* The Economist, "The Balkans: A year in the life of Kosovo", 14 February 2009, p. 14.

† The Economist, "The western Balkans: A stuck region", 14 February 2009, p. 36.

were dashed when managers of the foreign banks in the region, mainly those of Austria and Greece, sought support from the international finance institutions. This shows that, although the economies are small and relatively well protected, they are exposed to the global financial crisis that has been replicated in the region in the form of economic crisis.

The falling manufacturing and commodity prices in the world markets are causing problems. Depended on steel and metal exports, the region has been hit hard by the global slump in commodity prices and by the expensive imported electricity, sending metal prices into a tailspin. The price of the metals has fallen by almost two-thirds since mid-2009 leading to slowdown in the region's economies. More than a fifth of economic output and employment are based on exports, making them particularly vulnerable to a fall in global growth and trade. Manufacturing and exporting economies are grinding to a halt, as demand across the world melts away. The western Balkan economies contracted further in last quarter of 2009, as a dispute between Russia and Ukraine over gas prices reduced energy supply to the region and forced the countries' heavy industries to go slow, cutting production or even halting assembly lines. For example, Silmak, a significant producer of ferro-nickel in Jegunovce, in the western part of Macedonia, has cut production and has laid 700 workers due to the drastic fall of the ferro-nickel's price in the world markets.‡ The nearby brick factory Kiro Kucuk in Veles, in the central part of Macedonia, also exemplifies the gravity of the setback. On 1 March 2009 the employees turned up for their final day's work. The factory will not reopen until the economy recovers.§ A similar story could be told in many countries of the region. Macedonia is not alone depended on exporting metallurgical industries. Serbia has suffered far more as global demand for the goods in which its industry specialises has evaporated. For example, US Steel, one of Serbia's leading exporters, closed one plant.\*\* These examples are reflection of the data released for January 2009 that industrial production, which accounts for a fifth of total value added in Macedonia and Serbia has plummeted by 17%, its steepest fall in years.†† The Macedonian State Statistics Office reported that the local companies have been operating by using 50% of their capacities in the course of January 2009 and their situation has deteriorated on a monthly basis, which has

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\* Dnevnik, "Silmak prekina so rabota", 2 Mart 2009, p. 7.

§ Utrinski, "Rabotnicite od Kucuk izvisija", 3 Mart 2009.

\*\* European Commission, DG ECFIN, EU Candidate and Pre-Accession Countries Economic Quarterly, 9 January 2009, p. 30.

†† Utrinski, "Pad na proizvodstvoto za 16.7%", 27 February 2009.

led to a drop in employment rate as well as a large fall in production due to the reduced foreign demand for Macedonian products, insufficient domestic demand, uncertain economic situation and the financial problems. These are hotbeds that might be transferred to other economic sectors, such as the textile and leather industry and to the construction sector, which comprise large share in the country's GDP. The gloom reflects growing worries about underlying weaknesses that make the countries specially vulnerable to recession happening in the EU and other economies to which Balkan economies are depended. So companies have announced big lay-offs as demand has fallen and factories have closed.†† The official unemployment figure of Macedonia already stands at 33% (unofficially it is probably 35% or more) and is set to rise as the new basic salary estimates will only count employed those who pay social security benefits. Unemployment rate in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo are more than 40%. The unofficial unemployment rate is, however, much higher and many who say that they have jobs are in fact on indefinite unpaid leave. The economists forecast that unemployment

region-wide will rise. Most of that rise will be the result of fall in trade (many exporting companies have laid off workers), and due to declining investments. Coffee streets from Knjez Mihajlova in Belgrade to Kej Vardar in Skopje to Bash Charshija in Sarajevo are busy during sunlight as young people, forming more than 50% of the unemployed force in the region, sip their coffees. Unemployment rates are soaring and offices of the Employment Agencies in whole region are full with people looking for work.

The stock markets have plunged as well. The Zagreb stock exchange index lost 42% during the last quarter of 2009 and others such as Sarajevo Stock Exchange, dropped by 19% during the same quarter, leading to an annual decrease of 67% in 2009. The Belgrade Stock Exchange tumbled and its index lost 75% during 2009.§§ An important sector that waits to be affected is the real estate market as the credits have gone down and the borrowers are unable to pay back their monthly loans. The scale of the bubble in the region is as big as in troubling EU cities. House prices rose further in Belgrade than they did in Tirana. So did commercial-property prices. As a result, demand for new homes has dried up

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†† International Monetary Fund, "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Staff Report for the 2009 Article IV Consultation", Prepared by Staff Representatives for the 2009 Consultation with Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 11 November 2009, p. 11.

§§ European Commission, DG ECFIN, p. 23.

although prices have remained stable and over inflated, with Belgrade topping the prices where average residential square meter is sold at 2000 euros. The housing boom in the region is among the extreme, measured by real price increases and resulting overvaluations. This is a bubble which is waiting to burst. Another bubble which is waiting to burst is commercial property where office blocks and shops are overvalued. Both these booms have been fuelled by debt, another reason why the region looks particularly vulnerable now. There is much to suggest that the pain is felt most by small enterprises, labelled as small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) that are the backbone of the western Balkan economies. SMEs seem especially vulnerable to the downturn. Many specialise in textile and these are also the products whose orders are the first to be cancelled when economies slow and companies trim investment. These firms are finding themselves chronically short of orders and capital.

The governments in the region have launched actions to stimulate their economies. Montenegrin government launched a plan with significant capital expenditures and other stimulus to businesses at some 10% of the projected GDP for 2009.\*\*\* In November 2009, the Macedonian government unveiled measures worth 5-6% of GDP.††† Other governments as well have unveiled packages that include extra billions to finance investment, infrastructure projects, extra benefits for poorer and tax cuts. The central banks as well have joined in tightening monetary policies and increasing controls of the credit markets. These measures mean the economy may suffer only a mild downturn. Tightening of control by the central banks has encouraged banks to drastically decrease the amount of lending. When there are no loans for companies and consumers, the consumption of domestic and foreign products decreases, leading towards economic stagnation. So officials are also trying to inject cash and confidence into the banking system, avoiding confidence crisis that in October 2009 hit Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia where the lack of confidence led to a withdrawal of deposits by population.

They have done this in various ways. Croatian central bank has abolished reserve requirements. The Bank of Albania has limited Banks' exposure towards their foreign parent companies. The National Bank of Serbia has eliminated the tax on savings income to help boost foreign exchange liquidity. The Bosnian central bank has increased the level of guaranteed savings deposits from 3500 to 10.000

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\*\*\* Ibid, p. 31.

††† Ibid, p. 31.

euros and the Montenegrin government has given full guarantee to deposits. The Montenegrin government has also given capital boost to ailing Prva Banka to allow it to expand lending, especially for small businesses.

Recovery is possible only through strong demand in the rest of the world (which is to lack for some time), that would lead exports to soar, allowing quick recovery. However, today demand is falling rapidly across the globe and most big developed economies buying Balkans products face simultaneous banking crises. With demand weak everywhere, the familiar route to recovery is blocked. For the largest trading partners of western Balkan economies, the EU countries, figures that came out in February 2009, showed that Euro-area GDP shrank at an annualised rate of around 5% in the fourth quarter of 2009. The IMF has forecasted that Euro-area GDP will decline by 2% in 2009 and barely recover in 2010. Countries with huge current-account deficits are most exposed in a credit drought. So the hope had been that weaker economies of Balkans would be offset by faster economic recovery in EU economies and support by the local banks mother banks' in EU. Unfortunately, the EU economies are facing recession and mother banks and mother countries have asked them to lend first to domestic businesses and households and not to transfer money to their subsidiaries in Balkans. The Greeks publicly advised banks to be more prudent about transferring bail-out funds to Balkan subsidiaries.

The western Balkan countries face a current account deficit this year in average of around 14%. Nevertheless, the crisis for example has not stopped the Macedonian and Kosovar governments from doling out billions of euros' worth of cultural projects. Financial crisis is also having effect on remittances, a large share in GDP of the economies of Balkans. Foreign workers have been first to be laid off in the western economies. Remittances make up more than a tenth of the GDP of Balkan economies. Although they are likely to fall as a result of the slumping world economy, as it has been the case with Albania, where remittances' inflows have declined from 13% of GDP in 2007 to 11% of GDP in the last quarter of 2009, they may be less affected by the world economy. It is expected that people keep the cross border payments going even when their incomes fall. Migration from western Balkans to EU countries is expected to rise as the borders are getting opened through visa facilitation and liberalisation programmes. However, this rise will be balanced with the recession in the EU economies where it means fewer jobs for migrants.

In surveys, the economy has leapt to the top of voters' concerns. Overall the public is scared and uncertain. So far, the Balkans has escaped the civic unrest seen

in the Baltic States, Iceland, or elsewhere. There are not yet signs of discontent, except concerns expressed by politicians and economists. Thousands taking to the streets to protest against crises in Baltic States and Ukraine have not resembled in Balkans. However, pundits predict unrest in towns that rely entirely on one ailing factory or industry. But so far the signs are limited.

The middle class in the whole region is under a great threat. The middle class flourished during communist times. As economy goes into reverse they may well be hit harder than the rich or poor. They work in export industries so their jobs are unsafe. The other part of the middle class, who are employed in the state administration, and whose jobs are relatively safe, they have started to borrow, so are hurt by the credit crunch.

## **The impact of the world crisis on the Macedonian economy**

Towards the middle of 2008th, when the global financial crisis was hanging with all its strength, the Macedonian Government thought that Macedonia will not feel the effects of the global financial crisis. It even stated in certain occasions that the Macedonian economy will make profit out of the crises. This statement has been supported with the fact that The Macedonian Financial and Banking Sector wasn't integrated enough in the global one, and its liquidity was based on stable sources (deposits of the citizens and cooperative sector), so significant disrupt in the Macedonian economy couldn't occur. One year after this "Don't worry" policy, Macedonia has already strongly felt the effects of the global financial and economic crisis, and the country has entered the recession. According to the official preliminary data from the State Statistical Office, Macedonia's GDP in the first two quarters notes decreases of 0,9 % and 1,4 %. Macedonia is small country and its economy is based on liberal external trade; on the annual level it reaches about 100% and more of the annual GDP of the country. The economy depends on the import of goods, which is nearly twice bigger than the export of the country. As a result of that, Macedonian trade deficit reached the level of over 25% of the GDP in 2009 with absolute value of over 2, 5 million dollars. Traditionally, in significant part, the high trade deficit has been financed from the money transfers of Macedonian workers abroad. The global crisis has affected these transfers despite the fact that the growth of the trade deficit has remained on the same level. These disadvantages have created huge deficit on the current account, of 14% of the GDP

in 2009. Thus, Macedonia has entered the state of economic recession, followed by a strong decline of the situation in the external sector.

**Tabel: Foreign direct investments (FDI) in Macedonia 2007-2011**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 (jan-june)
trade deficit	-1,063	-1,284	-1,630	-2,552	-1,030
Private transfers	987	1,163	1,352	1,376	492
current account	-158	-56	-597	-1,210	-569

*Source: NBM, data for FDI 2007-2011*

This tendency has continued in the first half of 2009 with the same intensity. Mostly affected by the crisis were the general export sectors of the Macedonian economy: metallurgy, textile industry and the export of agricultural products. These sectors, that take two-thirds of the total export, have decreased their export due to the decreased demand for their production and due to the successive fall of their prices on the global market. At the same time, big part of the employees in these industries, have remained without job; have used forced vacation or minimum paid absence. The Government didn't undertake any measures to help them, but only used to give populist statements as "we expect from the owners and managers of the endangered companies not to fire the employees but instead to spend their "high profits in this period of crisis earned in times when the metal prices on the world stockexchange were high and when the level of accomplished export was acceptable".

## Conclusion

The global financial crisis has serious impact on the worsened economic situation in Macedonia. The worsened situation is being felt generally and over two-thirds of the citizens are seriously concerned about the consequences of the financial crisis on the Macedonian economy. The concerns of the further worsening of the economic situation in Macedonia come at a time when almost 4 / 5 of the population, the general situation in the Macedonian economy is assessed as poor or very poor. This situation is not only a result of the crisis but also of the Macedonia's economic situation for a long time. In this sense, for example, every second citizen of Macedonia, the Macedonia's economic situation, compared with the last 12 months (or before the beginning of the global financial crisis) has evaluated as the same (39%) or at least somewhat improved (12%). Big part of the citizens (every fourth) considers that the worsened economic situation in Macedonia is only a result of the global financial crisis and the Government does not have any responsibility. More than every third considers that the worsening in terms of the global financial crisis is a result of the weakness of the domestic policy (38%) and even 36% considers that the worsened situation in the Macedonian economy this year is a result only of the weakness of the domestic policy. Regarding of the expectations for getting out of the crisis, citizens do not share the optimism of the Government, which suggests that at the end of this year can be expected getting out from recession and GDP growth. Almost two in three citizens (61%) consider that it could be expected that the Macedonian economy will start to grow even after 2010 or later. The expectations regarding the Macedonian economy in a year from now, 44% considers that it would be the same as the current and 16% considers that it would be at least somewhat worse than the present. These findings indicate that the impact of the global financial crisis on Macedonia is perceived as serious and damaging, and the optimism for a soon recovery from the crisis is not big, because of the general awareness in the public for the weaknesses of the domestic political and economical factors for dealing with the crisis and the long existing weakness of the Macedonian economy. Regarding to general evaluation there is no statistically significant differences between the different ethnicities in Macedonia, and for the distribution of the population by regions. More negative assessments of the situation, gives the respondents with higher education and members of the economically better situated families, but optimism for getting out of crisis is lower among the less educated respondents, unemployed and economically weaker situated families. Although

most of the people in Macedonia, don't see opportunities for getting out quickly from the economic crisis, 38% of population expects that the financial situation of their household would be at least somewhat improved already after 12 months. This attitude of the Macedonian people is probably a result of the promises of the Government that Macedonia will get out of a recession at the end of this year and the information that most countries have already come out of recession. More optimistic are households of a young people from 18-29 years (44%), employees of the private sector (41%) and households with monthly income of 25 – 40 000 den. i.e. 400-650 Euros) (47%).

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# Race with time “name dispute” between Macedonia and Greece

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## **Abstract**

When shall we see the beginning of the end of the twenty years ‘name dispute’ between Macedonia and Greece, which left Macedonia in front of the NATO and EU doors, and which threatens to disintegrate the state along ethnic lines? When does the moment come when a chance may at least appear that “the nationalism of the powerless” will be considered reasonable when their goals are within reach? If international politics still functions on the principle expounded by the realists – that the strong do what they want while the weak do what they must, and having in mind the name dispute between Macedonia and Greece, the question arises: how much time it takes for the nationalism of those who believe that they are powerful enough to get what they want (saying: “these are our rights and they are nonnegotiable”) to break down the nationalism of the “powerless”?

The main thesis in this article is that whatever was achieved so far as a result of the pressure on Macedonia to change its constitutional name in these twenty years comes down to the following: the Macedonian nationalism increased and strengthened, the antagonism between the Macedonian and the Albanian political parties deepened, and the democratic process in the country was undermined. However, the results of the early elections in 2010, indicate that the Macedonian society slowly consolidates, under the so called ‘fatigue’ of protracted conflict’ and prepares for a compromise.

**Key words:** Nationalism, national identity, ethnic sensitivity, ‘name issue’, international relations

## Abstrakti

Kur do ta shohim fillimin e mbarimit të konfliktit njëzetvjeçar në mes Maqedonisë dhe Greqisë, i cili la Maqedoninë para dyerve të NATO-s dhe EU-s, dhe i cili konflikt kërcënon, destabilizon shtetin dhe marrëdhëniet ndëretnike? Kur do të vijë momenti në të cilin së paku do të shfaqet një shans që “nacionalizmi i tyre i pafuqishëm” do të konsiderohet si i arsyeshëm, kur qëllimet e tyre do te jenë të arritshme? Nëse politika internacionale ende vazhdon me parimin e shpjeguar nga realistët – që të fuqishmit bëjnë çfarë të duan përderisa të pafuqishmit bëjnë atë që është e domosdoshme. Duke pasur parasysh konfliktin e emrit mes Maqedonisë dhe Greqisë, lind pyetja: sa kohë kërkon nacionalizmi i atyre të cilët besojnë se janë mjaft të fuqishëm ta arrijnë qëllimin e tyre (duke thënë: “ Këto janë të drejtat tona dhe janë të panegociueshme”) për ta neutralizuar nacionalizmin e të “pafuqishmeve”?

Tema kryesore e këtij artikullit është që pa marrë parasysh çka është arritur deri tash, si rezultat i presioneve ndaj Maqedonisë për të ndryshuar emrin e vet kushtetues në këto njëzet vite, vijmë në përfundim se nacionalizmi maqedonas është ngritur dhe forcuar, antagonizmi në mes Maqedonisë dhe politikanëve shqiptarë është thelluar edhe më shumë dhe procesi demokratik në këtë shtet është minuar. Sidoqoftë, rezultatet e zgjedhjeve të hershme në vitin 2010, treguan se populli maqedonas po konsolidohet ngadalë pas të ashtuquajturës “lodhje” nga konflikti i gjatë dhe përgatitet për një kompromis.

## Апстракт

Кога ќе го видиме почетокот на крајот на дваесетгодишниот спор за името меѓу Македонија и Грција, спор што ја остави Македонија пред вратите на НАТО И ЕУ и кој се заканува да ја дезинтегрира земјата по должина на етничките линии? Кога доаѓа моментот национализмот на слабите(Македонија)е да се покаже разумен кога му се на дофат на раце целите кои ги посакува, како влез во НАТО И ЕУ?

Доколку меѓународната политика сеуште функционира врз принципот кој го воспоставија реалистите, дека силните го прават тоа што сакаат додека слабите, тоа што мораат, а имајќи го на ум спорот со името меѓу Македонија и Грција, тогаш се поставува прашањето: колу време им е потребно на оние

што се силни или посилни држави да го постигнат тоа што го сакаат, (велејќи: ова се нашите права и ние за нив не преговараме), односно да го скршат национализмот на послабите држави?

Основната теза на овој текст е дека, притисокот врз Македонија овие дваесетина години, да го смени своето уставно име, може да се сведе на следното: македонскиот национализам зајакна, антагонизмот помеѓу македонските и албанските политички партии се продлабочи а демократскиот процес во земјата е поткопан. Како и да е, резултатот на предвремените избори во 2010 во земјата, укажуваат дека македонското општество полека се консолидира, под влијание на т.нар. продолжен фактот на замор и полека се подготвува за компромис, иако конкретното решение е сеуште далеку.

## **1. Demonstration of power in international politics**

If international politics still functions on the principle expounded by the founder of realistic school (Tukidid, 2000)– that the strong do what they want while the weak do what they must, and having in mind the name dispute between Macedonia and Greece, the question arises: how much time it takes for the nationalism of those who believe that they are powerful enough to get what they want to break down the nationalism of the “powerless”? Their main ‘argument’ is: “These are our rights and they are nonnegotiable”.

To make myself clearer, when shall we see the beginning of the end of this name dispute, which left Macedonia in front of the NATO and EU doors, and which threatens to disintegrate this multiethnic state along ethnic lines? When does the moment come when a chance may at least appear that “the nationalism of the powerless” will be considered reasonable when their goals are within reach?

In about twenty years, I would say. (When an internal armed conflict takes place that jeopardizes the security of the whole region, that timeline is much shorter).(Zartman 1995; Gurr, 1993)

*My thesis is that whatever was achieved so far as a result of the pressure on Macedonia to change its constitutional name in these twenty years comes down to the following: the Macedonian nationalism increased and strengthened, the antagonism between the Macedonian and the Albanian political parties deepened, and the democratic process in the country was undermined. However, the results of the early elections in 2010, indicate that the Macedonian society slowly consolidates under the so called ‘fatigue of protracted name-issue conflict’ and prepares for a compromise.*

## **2. Increasing and strengthening of the politics of nationalism (authoritarian style)**

Here are several indicators in context of this thesis. The early elections in 2008 were provoked by the political crisis that Greece’s strong pressure on Macedonia caused by insisting that country changes its name, erga omnes, as a precondition for its membership in NATO and EU. The Bucharest Summit in 2008, when Greece put a veto on Macedonia’s entrance in NATO, was only the peak of this demonstration of power. The signals that prime minister Gruevski’s

government agrees with the reference 'Skopje' in brackets, next to the name of the country, if that is accepted by the citizens on a referendum, wasn't sincere enough. The veto directly affected the political stability of the country. The opposition accused that the government destroys the European future of the country. The government accused the opposition of treason. The fierce mutual accusations led the whole society in a paranoid atmosphere of searching for culprits, so that the epilogue was organizing early elections. The opposition party, leftist SDSM\*, which was more flexible in regard to resolving the dispute with Greece, assumed the position that the referendum means avoiding responsibility on the part of the government and, mainly because of that, it was defeated at these elections.

The citizens of Macedonia responded to the Bucharest veto by giving massive support of the rightist-centrist party VMRO-DPMNE† and its leader Nikola Gruevski. Although proportional electoral model in Macedonia disperses the political power, Gruevski won 63 of 120 Parliament seats on the early elections in 2008. Together with its coalition partner, Ali Ahmeti's Albanian party DUI‡, he controlled two thirds of the MPs, which is enough to change the constitution of the country. If to this success we add the victory that Gruevski's coalition achieved at the local elections, then it is understandable that the policy of not yielding to Greece, which VMRO-DPMNE has been a proponent of for twenty years, won full legitimacy. He addressed the voters with a simple, and understandable request: 'I want a stable government, I want a majority with which no one, at home or abroad, will be able to blackmail me!'

The indisputable rule of Gruevski between 2008 and 2011 brought something good for the country, but it also caused the following political instability, parliamentary crisis, and new early elections in 2010. After the elections, the government concentrated on what the poverty stricken citizens of a country in transition, mostly understand and approve of: fight against corruption, establishing law and order, although sometimes with excessive force and strict sentences. The tax discipline has been increased, which filled the budget with money and enabled the government to spend more for public goods. The unemployment rate of over 30% has not decreased, but it has not increased either as a result of the world economic crisis. Nevertheless, the proposed economic and investment boom has

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\* Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia (SDSM)

† Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation-Democratic party of Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE)

‡ Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) is a political party of ethnic Albanians in Macedonia, led by Ali Ahmeti, former leader of Albanian gerilla, so called Liberation National Army (ONA) from 2001.

not happened because the country is seen abroad as insecure. The average salary remained on a level of 300 EUR a month, the inflation augmented, the external debt rose, while the poor became even poorer. Although it promised to deal only with economy, Gruevski's government spent a lot of time, energy and money to strengthen the Macedonian national identity, choosing the road of a symbolic confrontation with Greece. The younger generation of politicians of VMRO-DPMNE, ostensibly pragmatic but in fact inexperienced nationalists in international politics, played on the card of the Macedonian national sentiments. They did not invent the Macedonian nationalism, nor it is an exclusive property of this party, but they aroused and misused it, as a response to the Greek provocative nationalism. The national passion was already here, as is the case with other young nations: I shall quote Huntington that in similar situations "the politics becomes a means not only for achieving certain interests but also for defining the identity. We know who we are only if we know who we are not and frequently, only if we know who we are against."<sup>§</sup> (Huntington:1996)The dispute with Greece became more complex to resolve because it expanded.

Macedonia, and perhaps the wider region, is not a favorable milieu for the principle of the majority Westminster democracy: "the winner takes it all".(Lijphart:1977) The political power has affected the winners. VMRO-DPMNE and especially Gruevski, since 2008 until these elections acted as an "anti-party": that is, having a majority in the Parliament, they attempted to humiliate and marginalize the opposition in every way possible. The parliamentary discussion was evaded and replaced allegedly with direct communication with the leader and the people. This is not only lack of sense for the place and role of the opposition in the parliamentary systems, but it is also underestimation of the democratic process in the name of achieving party goals. The opposition was faced with the greatest blow when, in the name of the fight against corruption, an accusation was raised against some of its most significant leaders, and armed and masked police officers and civil servants from the tax bureau stormed into the premises of the popular oppositional television, A1. I do not mean to imply that the opposition has no fault in this. The freedom in our country does not always go hand in hand with responsible behaviors of the opposition or the journalists, for example, but still the final impression is that for the democratic process in Macedonia it is more favorable to have a better balanced and controlled authority.

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<sup>§</sup> Samjuel F.Huntington. 1996. *Sudiroi na civilizaciji I preoblikovanjeto na svetskiot poredok*. Evro-Balkan Press. Str. 23

### 3. Misusing ethnic sensitivity

When the cold war ended and Yugoslavia disintegrated, the euphoria for creating a nation-state overtook Macedonia as well. The strengthening of the national cohesion and identity was a way to survive, but in a country in which 25% Albanians and other nationalities live, it was done on their expense. However, the anti-Albanian sentiment is due to the nationalistic ideology of VMRO-DPMNE which at the time was led by its former leader, Ljubco Georgievski. This ideology was defeated with the end of the armed conflict in 2001, and the signing of the Ohrid Agreement. The party revised its program becoming more pragmatic, changed its leader and got back to power at the elections in 2006. The reason for the election success of this party was due to the great dissatisfaction of the ethnic Macedonians from the solutions of the Ohrid Agreement, which were considered unjust and imposed by force. Just as reminder, this agreement gave the Albanian community in Macedonia, which statistically is 25% of the population, rights that are very similar to the cultural autonomy in Belgium and a high degree of constitutionally guaranteed local autonomy. Power-sharing or a certain altered consociational form would also be a good description of the post-conflict resolution for Macedonia. The state is not unitary, and it is not a territorial federation either, but stabilized the country in the last ten years.

The international community would not have been able to help end the conflict and establish peace if it did not encounter the support of all relevant parliamentary parties in the the country. First of all SDSM, the biggest opposition party in the Parliament in 2001. This party played a crucial role in forming the broad coalition during the war conflict in 2001. The peace could not have happened if the ‘international community’ hadn’t persuade four main political parties in the parliament (two Macedonian and two Albanian parties) to form broad coalition for the impose political solution with the Albanian guerilla and to impose peace in the country. In august 2001 the peace agreement so called Ohrid Framework Agreement was signed and the election in which took part the former guerilla transformed in political party DUI took part. SDSM won the election and formed a government in coalition with DIU. But the decisions it made in its four-year mandate were difficult decisions: forming a government together with the recent enemies, the just disarmed guerilla fighters, changing of the constitutional system as an obligation of the peace agreement, handing over to its Albanian partner, DUI, some municipalities in Western Macedonia, such as Struga, which were traditionally under the authority of the ethnic Macedonians, etc. The award

that followed by the American administration, the recognition of the name of the country, was a great success of the SDSM and DUI coalition government, but obviously insufficient. The party(SDSM) that set off to undertake unpopular solutions in the name of peace and stability of the country lost the elections in 2006.

*This short analysis shows that continually the most successful political position is patriotism and nationalism. Those politicians who make unpopular compromises lose the elections. This rule proves even truer when a nation, such as the Macedonian, is concerned, which, justified or not, feels threatened both by the Greek and the Albanian nationalism.*

#### **4. 'Playnig' on the cart of national feelings**

When at the early elections in 2008 after Bucharest, Gruevski asked the citizens to enable him to get absolute majority so that no one can blackmail him, he did not only have the Greeks in mind or the international factor. First and foremost he meant on the opposition as well as the Albanian partners in the government, who exert pressure, among other demands, for the name dispute with Greece to be resolved sooner. If there is something that unites the Macedonians and Albanians in Macedonia it is the perspective for accession to NATO and EU. If something divides them, that is the conditions under which this integration is to be achieved, i.e. a compromise on the name. While the Macedonian majority rejects the possibility of accessing EU and NATO if the price is change of the name of the country, the Albanians favor urgent membership in NATO and EU hoping that their economic situation will be better. Of course there are some political drims among nationalists that the Albanians will united in a great Albania.

Gaining absolute majority in the Parliament, Gurevski could lead a policy that was not much concerned about the interests and needs of his coalition partner. Milions of resources from the budget were dedicated to the strengthening of the Macedonian ancient and modern identity. It is a controversial phenomenon which, unless he or she is a Macedonian citizen, is interesting for analysis. All the more important facilities were named after Philip or Alexander of Macedonia. A huge monument of Alexander the Great on the city square is raising above the monuments of local heroes as Goce Delcev, Dame Gruev and the atentators from Veles. Metodija

Andonov-Cento is also here, who was imprisoned by Communists as a supporter of the ideas for Greater Macedonian, in order to emphasize the anti-communism of the party in power. The museum of VMRO-DPMNE in classical style is being erected with a very quick pace, where one can find all the so far exiled activists of the rightist option of the old VMRO – Todor Aleksandrov, Vanco Mihajlov and others. In short, the politics directly and conspicuously redefined the previous Macedonian Slavic national identity sending a message that the Macedonians are direct descendants of Philip and Alexander the Great. The Gruevski government outlined the new macedonian defending nationalism: rightist and antidemocratically oriented.

## **5. Closer to the solution?**

In June 2011, the Prime Minister Gruevski, with his stable 2/3 majority did not have to respond to the political crisis with early elections. He was led not by reason but by passion: to show everyone that he is right, in reference to the dispute with Greece and to eliminate the political opponent. The expectations were not fulfilled however, and I see in election results a beginning of the consolidation of society and maybe a preparation for compromise with Greece, which will help Macedonia go on. At these early elections, Gruevski lost the absolute majority and won 56 MP seats out of 123, with three new MPs from the Diaspora. SDSM won 15 MP seats more than it previously had. The number of MPs from this party is 42. The winner among the Albanian parties is DUI of Ali Ahmeti, which won 15 mandates, while the other two Albanian parties, DPA of Menduh Tachi and NDP of the economy professor from SEEU, Rufe Osmani, won 10 mandates. According to the already established custom, when composing the coalition government, Gruevski first addressed Ali Ahmeti. Now the relations between the former coalition partners will be different. Ahmeti, as he announced and received more important ministerial positions, equality between the Macedonians and Albanians in the decision-making and more favorable allocation of resources from the budget because, as he said, Albanians are 'autochthonous people and did not shed blood for minor political interest'. And, of course, he promised that the dispute with Greece will soon be resolved. SDSM also learned a lesson from its election defeats and approximated its position to the position of VMRO-DPMNE in regard to the name dispute: that a reasonable solution should be found, which will be acceptable to the people at

referendum. *For the first time in twenty years the political position of those two biggest parliamentary parties, one on power, the other in opposition, come closer. Both parties at this stage stand up for compromise with Greece about the 'name-issue', which will be confirmed on the popular referendum.* Is this means that the country is closer to the solution and thus to the NATO and EU ? From one side, the answer is positive. It seems that the politics of the prime minister Gruevski and its party VMRO-DPMNE, which last twenty years articulated most openly macedonian nationalism, political authoritarianism and not yielding to Greece, is in difficult situation. Society slowly and painfully consolidates around the idea that the compromise with Greece is necessary if the country should keep its fragile stability and improves toward its EU and NATO integration in one piece. On the other side popular referendum introduces uncertainty in this political puzzles. Still far from the solution...

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# The Roma Situation in Republic of Croatia and Comparative Analysis with Republic of Macedonia

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## **Abstract**

The article summarizes the situation of the Roma in the Republic of Croatia, before and after the adoption of the Decade for inclusion of the Roma 2005-2015. As well are listed the taken activities and measures for improvement of the situation of the Roma in the areas of education, health, housing and employment. The article contains a comparative analysis of the realized activities in Republic of Croatia and Republic of Macedonia.

## **Abstrakt**

Artikulli përmbledh situatën e romëve në Republikën e Kroacisë, para dhe pas miratimit të Dekadës për përfshirjen e romëve 2005-2015. Gjithashtu, liston aktivitetet e ndërmarra dhe masat për përmirësimin e situatës së Romëve në fushat e arsimit, shëndetësisë, banimit dhe punësimit. Artikulli përmban një analizë krahasuese të aktiviteteve të realizuara në Republikën e Kroacisë dhe në Republikën e Maqedonisë.

## **Апстракт**

Овој труд дава преглед на состојбата на Ромите во Република Хрватска пред и по усвојувањето на Декадата за вклучување на Ромите 2005-2015. Воедно ги наведува превземените активности и мерки за подобрување на состојбата на Ромите во областите на образование, здравство, домување и

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вработување. Трудот содржи и компаративна анализа на превземените активности во Република Хрватска и Република Македонија.

## The Roma Situation in Republic of Croatia before adoption of the Decade for Roma Inclusion

According to the Census in 2001, in Republic of Croatia there are total 9,462 (0,2%) registered Roma. But, according to the estimates of the Roma non-governmental organizations and the Government of the Republic of Croatia, in the country there are 30,000-40,000 Roma, and they make 1% of the total population. The biggest Roma communities are located in the northern part of Croatia, in Medzimirje live 30% of the total Roma population. Also, Roma live in the town Zagreb and in many counties\*. Generally, in about 25 neighbours in Republic of Croatia, there is Roma population†.

The Roma in Croatia are divided in two lingual communities, Romany community who is speaking the Roma language and Roma who are speaking Bajashi (language that is similar to the old Romanian language). Roma are different also by their religious beliefs, 45,5% are Muslims, 31,1% Catholics, 16,9% Orthodox and 6,8% are atheists‡.

The Roma in Croatia, like the Roma in the region states are facing a difficult and multilayer social marginalization, which affect their economic condition, access to a quality education and housing, participation in public policies and access to opportunities for improving.

The Roma represent 13,56% from all the beneficiaries of social health care, more then 50% of the Roma are using social health care. According to the Former Croatian Office for Family, Motherhood and Youth, 89% of the Romany households do not have one member with steady finance income, while only 6% are full time employed. Estimates are showing that only 10% from the Romany children are finishing elementary school, and that the illiteracy rates are between 15,6% and 38,52%. Approximately, about 10% of the Roma that are living in the Republic of Croatia are not Croatian citizens, from which 3% do not poses even

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\* County Osijek-Baranja, Rijeka (Primorje-Gorski kotar), Pula (Istra), Bjelovar (Bjelovar-Bilogorje), Sisak (Sisak-Moslavina), Karlovac (Karlovac), Pitomaca (Virovitica-Podravina), Slavonski Brod (Slavonski Brod-Posavina), Vukovar (Vukovar-Srijem), Perusic (Lika-Senj), Durdevac (Virovitica-Podravina), Novska and Kitina (Sisak-Moslavina).

one personal document<sup>§</sup>. In Republic of Croatia, only 7% from the registered Roma are persons with age over 50.

In 1998, a project for integration of Romany children in the Croatian education system is started. The measures provided with this program are focused on preschool education, also on conditions that have to be fore field so Romany children will attend school. Budget funding is allocated for: courses for professional trainings, seminars for assistants of teachers in elementary schools, seminars for Roma mediators in the health care system. A source for drinking water is financed in Loncharevo and Metekovac, electricity is set and neighbourhoods are urbanized in Chapraska poljana and Palanka, and living conditions are improved in the neighbours in Zagreb.

The Ombudsman is facing the problems that are connected with the Roma in Croatia with a great attention, several times has intervene to protect their rights, especially in the cases of discrimination and segregation of the students Roma, when the Roma student are told to use the special entrances in the school meant for them and learning in classes that are made of only Roma students.

Overall, the Roma are still facing with societal discrimination and official inaction in filling a complaint<sup>\*\*</sup>. An improvement is made in the field of education and public awareness through implementation of a study for Roma education, funding initiatives for education of Roma children, training of teachers who are working with Roma, and public forums for the difficulties that Roma are facing. Authorities are encouraged to provide more support, taking into account the recommendation of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance for abolition of racism and intolerance against Roma. Authorities are also encouraged to pay special attention with the citizenship problem of the Romany community.

Data record number of unknown Roma who ran away form East Slavonia to Federal Republic of Yugoslavia due to violent actions toward Roma<sup>††</sup>. In several Romany villages there are no basic conditions like water and electricity. In other areas, children are infected by various diseases due to the presence of rats and the absence of hygienic conditions and drinking water<sup>‡‡</sup>. The education of the Romany

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<sup>\*\*</sup> Europska Komisija protiv rasizma i netolerancije (1999), Analiza stanja ECRI-ja u pojedinim zemljama: Izvecse o Hrvatskoj, Strasbourg, page. 16.

<sup>††</sup> Europska Komisija protiv rasizma i netolerancije (2001), Drugo izvecse o Hrvatskoj, Strasbourg, page.12.

<sup>‡‡</sup> Europska Komisija protiv rasizma i netolerancije (2001), page.13.

children in Republic of Croatia presents a serious problem, a great number of children do not go to school or they have dropped out. Data are showing that there are places in which, not a single Roma child is attending school<sup>§§</sup>.

In 2002, based on the Constitution of Republic of Croatia a constitutional law for the rights of national minorities was brought, providing high criteria for protection of minority rights, based on three key pillars: 1-right to representation in Parliament; 2-right to proportional representation in the Local Government in areas where minorities are more than 15% of the population; and 3-right to self governance.

In 2003, a National Program for Roma is brought and its purpose is resolving the difficulties which Roma are facing every day. The Program is brought due to Roma are most marginalized in the social and public activities, live in worse living conditions than other communities. The National Program for Roma aims to abolish all kinds of discrimination, violence, stereotypes and prejudice toward Roma but at the same time to insurance that there will be no lost of identity, culture and tradition.

In 2004, a Commission is founded, composed of representatives of the Government, Roma and NGO's, which will monitor the implementation of the Program and will create activities for the ministries. The National Program is not implemented and the non-governmental organizations are criticizing the findings for the implementation. Even do, the Program is not abolishing the prejudice and stereotypes of the Roma, however is considered as positive<sup>\*\*\*</sup>. In the schools in Medzimirje there is segregation of the Roma children in special classes due to the fact that parents of children non-Roma signed petitions so that the Roma children will get separated from their children<sup>†††</sup>.

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance is worried that the racist attacks are still occurring and according to the claims of NGO's, the police is not taking any measures against them. Such actions are noticed the most in areas which covered the war, where there are cases of multiethnic violence and racist remarks in the media<sup>†††</sup>. For the last racist attack from the skinheads toward

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§§ Europska Komisija protiv rasizma i netolerancije (2001), Drugo izveće o Hrvatskoj, Strasbourg, page.15.

\*\*\* Europska Komisija protiv rasizma i netolerancije (2005), Treće izveće o Hrvatskoj, Strasbourg, page.31.

††† Europska Komisija protiv rasizma i netolerancije (2005), page.32.

††† Europska Komisija protiv rasizma i netolerancije (2005), page.30.

Roma, there is still no judgement, and the racist graffiti have not been removed yet. There are still cases in which the media is being prejudice and spreads stereotypes toward the minorities as Roma and Serbs, refugees and asylum seekers. The fact that the school books are displaying a negative image for the Roma and Serbs is concerning.

In Republic of Croatia there are about 30,000 NGO's from which a small number is working on the human rights, minority rights, education and social services. When it comes to Roma non-governmental organizations, in Croatia there are registered 71 Romany NGO's, from which 20 are evaluated as active with good organised internal capacities, while 5-7 are separated as especially good organised and visible to the public.

## **Activities and recommendations for improving the Roma rights in Republic of Croatia**

The Government of Republic of Croatia adopted the National Roma Program in October 2003. In 2005, Croatia joined the others European countries and participates in the Decade for Inclusion of the Roma 2005-2015, in order to coordinate the efforts for the biggest minority in Europe, with focusing mainly on education, health care, employment, housing and improvement of the living conditions. The support of this policy in Croatia comes from the highest level, because the Prime minister is the president of the Commission for implementing the National Roma Program and also he is the National coordinator of the Roma Decade.

Even do the Prime minister is National coordinator of the Decade for Inclusion of the Roma, the full coordination of the Decade is a responsibility of the Office for National minorities, which represents governmental expert administrative body, composed of 6 employees, from which one Roma with function of external associate. The Office is responsible for everyday coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Roma Decade and the National Roma Program.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia, recommended by the Office for National minorities, forms the Commission for monitoring the implementation of the National Roma Program in January 2003. The Prime minister is the chairman of the Commission for monitoring and is composed of 23 members:

- Representatives of the ministries responsible for the implementation of the National Roma Program;
- Representatives of the governmental offices, including the representative from the Office for National minorities;
- Representative of Medzimirje and City Zagreb (places with the biggest Roma population);
- Representative of the NGO sector, from the human rights area, with Roma nationality;
- Seven representatives of the Roma councils, on local and regional level, and the Roma organizations.

8 from total 23 members of the Commission for monitoring are representatives of the Roma national minority. The Commission is divided in 5 working groups, who are focused on different areas covered in the National Roma Program:

- Inclusion of the Roma in the cultural and social life and implementation of the international documents;
- Discrimination and status problems;
- Education, science and sports;
- Social and health care protection, employment; and
- Housing and planning.

The Commission for monitoring holds regular meetings, in average one in every two months, so it can discuss for the problems associated with implementation of the National Roma Program and the action plans. At the forth meeting it is recommended that every next meeting is hold in different areas with a greater number of Roma population, so that the members of the Commission will get better involved with the actual situation of the Roma<sup>§§§</sup>.

In 2004, the Commission for monitoring approved the proposed action plan for the Decade for Inclusion of the Roma 2005-2015 in Republic of Croatia. Recommended from the Office for National minorities a working group for monitoring of the implementation of the Action plans of the Decade is being formed. The group is being chaired from the Head of the Office for National

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<sup>§§§</sup> Povjerenstvo za praćanje provedbe Nacionalnog programa za Rome (2008), Izvješće o provodenju Nacionalnog programa za Rome za 2004, 2005 i 2006 godinu, pages: 136-141.

minorities and it is composed of representatives of the line ministries and bodies who are responsible for the implementation of the Action plans of the Decade:

- Ministry of science, education and sports-responsible for the educational component of the Decade;
- Ministry of health and social protection-responsible for health;
- Ministry of education, labour and entrepreneurship; Employment Agency of Republic of Croatia-responsible for employment;
- Ministry of environment, planning and construction; Ministry of sea, transport and infrastructure-responsible for housing; and
- Four representatives of Roma organizations.

The working group is obliged to create and submits reports to the Commission for monitoring on their request. According to the data from the Decade Watch Croatia, the working group is composed of people with high authority for decision making, with in the governmental structure.

On national level, the members of the minority groups in Croatia have pre-reserved number of minimum 5 to maximum 8 representatives in the Parliament, from who 3 are reserved for the Serbs, 1 for the Italians and 1 for the Hungary. Because of Roma represent a small number in comparison with the Croatian population, they choose 1 representative in the Parliament with 11 more minorities, with a small number of votes. From January 11 2008, Nazif Memedi is elected for first Roma Member of Parliament (MP), representing 12 national minorities<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>. Negative consequence from this approach is that through participation in this voting system, Roma and other minorities have to choose if they will vote as minority or as equal citizens of Republic of Croatia, in which loss of political identity occurs. In the ministries of Republic of Croatia there are no Roma employed.

Roma are represented at local and regional level with specific representative bodies of minorities through Councils of the Roma national minority, at all levels in the self-government where they have over 1,5% of total population, with 10 members of minorities on municipal level, 15 members on city level and 25 members on district level. Councillors are elected on local elections every 4 years and the candidates are proposed from Roma organizations. Councils serve as

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\*\*\*\* Represents the interests of Austrians, Bulgarians, Germans, Jews, Polands, Roma, Romanians, Russians, Russins, Ukraines, Turks and Vlachs in Republic of Croatia.

advisory bodies of local and regional authorities. Authorities cover the operative expenses for the Councils (administrative and business expenses), while program expenses from the area of culture and employment are covered by the National Council for National Minorities.

In reality, Councils are facing with serious functional problems, due to the lack of system support for basic expenses. Ivan Rumbak, the President of the Council for Roma National Minorities of the City Zagreb, considers that the recommendations are not considered seriously by the local authorities, also points out the lack of coordination and cooperation between the Councils in Republic of Croatia as a serious problem who is blocking the transparency and contribution<sup>††††</sup>.

Since 16.06.2010, all 22 national minorities (including Roma) are constitutionally recognized and listed in the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia.

Members of the Roma minorities are participating in the decision-making process on parliament and local level. The Parliament of Croatia is composed of one Roma member, three Roma are elected in the representative bodies on local level in Medzimirje, while in the 17 councils there are 9 Roma representatives, which allows the Roma to participate in the decision-making process on local and regional level.

The Roma are members of the Commission for monitoring the National Roma Program and all five working groups of the Commission. Also, Roma have representatives in the working group for monitoring of the Action plan of the Decade. Still, there are a small number of examples for successful cooperation of the Roma local councils with the local authorities and other institutions. The capacity of the Roma NGO's remains limited, while networking with non-Roma NGO's remains poor. In 2010, in Republic of Croatia are registered 114 Roma organizations, a small number of them are capable for implementing complex projects. The governmental office for human rights co-financed two projects for raising the awareness of Roma woman, with funds of 5,500 euros.

In 2010 there were few projects directed towards the Roma minority, implemented with cross-border cooperation, especially with Hungary and Slovenia. With in the project, in municipality Orehovica and Chesnovci were promoted products from Roma culture meant for tourists, with total value of 160,000 euros. A project will be implemented till 2011 with a total value of 480,000 euros, in which participation will take local Roma NGO's, health authorities in Medzimirje

and other relevant institutions, to develop innovative access in building a capacities and inclusion of the Roma minority, raising awareness in the health area and building the capacities of the health workers.

The implementation of a Hungarian project is in progress, which deals with the employment of the Roma community and has a total value of 200,600 euros. Significant financial amounts are used to create a cultural autonomy of the Roma national minority and protecting the Roma tradition and culture. In Croatia, the Roma organizations are financed through different sources, including the Council for National Minorities, state authorities, and EU Funds. The Council for National Minorities anticipated 177,600 euros for the Roma organization for the year 2010. In the report for 2010, the Council notice frequent problems by the organizations with reporting about the use of the funds.

The Office for National Minorities, each year finance activities for traditional Roma culture and for these needs were given 24,000 euros for the year 2010. The Ministry for culture has provided 9,500 euros for international cultural cooperation, publishing, and international symposium on Roma language.

## **Taken activities and actions for improving the situation of Roma in the education and health sector**

In 2005, in the pre-school education, there are recorded 350 Roma children, while in the school year 2009/2010 there were 734 children in pre-school education. Recent data show that in the school year 2010/2011, 799 Roma children are involved in the pre-school program. The Ministry of science, education and sports, continue to stimulate the Roma children to enter the pre-school education, through inclusion of mobile groups, mediators and Roma assistants of teachers.

Total amount of the Ministry of science, education and sports, designed for pre-school education for Roma children in the year 2010 is about 128,000 euros of which 21,820 euros are provided by the Roma Education Fond (REF).

The data in the elementary schools show more obvious improvement, and there is quadruple increase of Roma students, in 2005/2006 there were 1,103, in 2009/2010 were 4,186, while in 2010/2011 there were 4,435 Roma students in the elementary school system. The data also shows increasing in the secondary school, at the end of school year 2009/2010 there were 290 Roma students, while at the beginning of 2010/2011 there were 314 Roma students. The Ministry of science,

education and sports, provides scholarships for every high school student Roma, monthly with 68 euros. In the school year 2009/2010 there were 323 high school scholarships. In the same school year there were 26 students at universities and at the moment there are 31. The scholarship for the Roma students at universities is 136 euros monthly.

In 2009, the Government brought a decision for covering a part of the expenses for pre-school education. Since 2010/2011 an action is activated for inclusion of all children in pre-school program in the municipality Medzimirje. The action, includes transport and food in the period between 15 September 2010 and 15 June 2011, and will cover all Roma children, who will enter the elementary school in the school year 2011/2012. The Office for National minorities, through the Commission for monitoring and implementation of the National Roma Program, awarded 20,550 euros in September 2010 in municipality Medzimirje for covering a part of the expenses for the program.

In Republic of Croatia, there are no schools that are composed only of Roma students. Still, in 2008 there were 52 classes composed only by Roma children, in 2009 the number of segregated classes is reduced to 39, while in 2010 the segregation of Roma students is increased and there are 44 classes where all the students are Roma.

In the health sector, systematic efforts are made for improvement of the health situation of the Roma. Programs for health education are implemented in several municipalities, also efforts are made for improvement of the hygiene level in the Roma houses. Various measures are used for rising of health awareness of Roma parents, preventive and curative health measures are implemented for health protection.

Systematic efforts are made for increase of vaccination coverage of Roma children and according to the reports from the Ministry of health and social care, the improvement is visible. According to a poll in the region Primorsko-Goranski, 75,8% of the Roma children are involved in the vaccination program, while 6,41% are partially vaccinated. The primary health care doctors in Medzimirje are informing the Regional Institute of Public Health and then field visits and other different activities for rising of public awareness are implemented.

In 2010 there were 12 Roma high school students in the medical high schools in Croatia and only 2 university students at the medical faculties. The same year, Roma reported 5 criminal acts and it is considered that there are committed because of their ethnic and racial ethnicity. Large number of the Croatian Roma are

staying and working legally in the EU states, while small number of them are living illegally and in cases when they have to be deported, there are accepted in accordance with legal provisions, identical for all citizens of Republic of Croatia. The system of free legal aid is improved and in 2010 from the Budget are separated 514,000 euros for providing free legal aid.

## **Taken activities and actions for improving the situation of Roma in the field of employment and housing**

According that the Croatian Employment Service is not following the unemployed by their ethnicity, the number of unemployed Roma is estimated by the place of housing and the knowledge of the Romany language. According to these estimates, in 2009 there were 4,731 unemployed Roma while in 2010 the number is reduced to 4,553 unemployed Roma. The Agency for Employment implemented a project from 30.12.2009-29.12.2010, which promoted equality in the labour market, with a total value of 149,835 euros.

The Agency for Employment is responsible for implementation of the policies targeted for improvement of the opportunities in the labour market for the vulnerable groups, and a special set of measures for improvement of the situation of the Roma according to the action plan of the Decade. The Agency provided 671,100 euros for the following programs:

- Education programs of 243 adults and programs for first occupation of 7 persons, total value of the two programs are 70,700 euros;
- Workshops for employment and trainings of 8,112 people, from which 3,909 were woman;
- Informing the Roma about the opportunities for employment, services and subvention in the health area and employment, 1,103 people were involved in these activities, from which 568 were woman;
- Assistance in defining profiles and defining of individual working plans for 6,440 people;
- Trainings for job search skill for 265 people;
- Co-finance for employment of 272 people, financing for education of 32 people, Co-finance for employment of 4 people for a period of 24 months, public affairs-268 people;

- Co-finance of education for 32 people, 493 people are involved in professional counselling, from which 107 people are over 45 years of age;
- Implementing a positive climate between the employers for employment of the Roma, 1,511 visits of employers are realized;
- Meetings with the local markets for improvement of the opportunities for employment of the Roma, 79 meeting were held with employers, unions and associations and 226 people are employed; and
- 24 self employment are realized;

13 from a total 14 municipalities with a bigger number of Roma population have programs for improving the housing situation of the Roma. Special efforts are invested in solving the spatial plans in one municipality (Primorsko-Goranska), which is the only municipality where there is no program for housing improvement made for the Roma. The activities continue for legalization of the illegally built houses. New 6 local urban plans in 2010 were made, which filled the legalization of houses in 15 locations in 14 different municipalities.

The positive working in the area of infrastructure continues, with a reconstruction in Medzimirje with the usage of the EU Funds. With in the PHARE 2006 project, a reconstruction of the infrastructure in three Roma settlements in Medzimirje, with a total value of 3,771,429 euros was made. The best example for inclusion of the local councils with Roma members is the financing of the Government for reconstruction of the village Darda, with a value of 510,000 euros.

The report of the Government of Republic of Croatia for the improvement of the Roma Decade, states that there is no statistic yet for the number of social apartments meant for the Romany community in the Republic of Croatia.

## Comparative analysis of realized activities in Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Croatia

 Realized activities in Republic of Macedonia	 Realized activities in Republic of Croatia
<p>-19 apartments are assigned to Romany families in 2009.</p>	<p>-Co-finance of 2 projects for raising the awareness of the woman Roma for human rights, with a grant from 5,500 € from the Office for National Minorities.</p>
<p>-52 Roma are employed in the Secretariat for Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement in 2010.</p>	<p>-International project in cooperation with Hungary and Slovenia for promotion of Romany culture products-160,000 €.</p>
<p>-Free transportation for students in elementary and secondary schools; -Free books for socially disadvantaged families.</p>	<p>-The Council for National Minorities anticipated 177,660 € for Romany associations for 2010.</p>
<p>-Free stay in student homes for Roma who are studying in Skopje and live in other cities in the country.</p>	<p>-The Office for National Minorities granted 24,000 € to Romany associations for project with traditional Romany culture.</p>
<p>-Roma are exempt from school fee in the Secondary schools.</p>	<p>-An international symposium on Roma language for international cultural cooperation and publishing is held, and 9,500 € are provided from the Ministry</p>

<p>-From 2009, Roma who are studying at faculties at the University Goce Delchev-Shtip are exempt from the university fee.</p>	<p>of culture.</p>
<p>-27,647 € are granted from the Budget and 30,826 € from the Roma Education Fond for the project Inclusion of Roma children in preschool education for 2009.</p> <p>-138,540 € are granted for the period 2009-2011 for continuing the project.</p>	<p>-106,180 € are granted from the Ministry of science, education and sports for preschool education for Roma children in 2010.</p>
<p>-185,714 € are granted for scholarships of high school Roma students for the school year 2008/2009.</p>	<p>-197,676 € are granted for scholarships of high school Roma students for the school year 2009/2010.</p>
<p>-146,250 € are granted for scholarships of high school Roma students for the school year 2009/2010.</p>	<p>-192,168 € are granted for scholarships of high school Roma students for the school year 2010/2011.</p>
<p>-Existence of positive discrimination toward the Roma, on entry into the secondary schools and faculties.</p>	<p>-31,824 € are granted for scholarships for university students Roma for the school year 2009/2010.</p>
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Realized activities in R. Macedonia</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Realized activities in Republic of Croatia</p>
<p>-Elective course Romany language and culture is introduced in 5 elementary schools in Kumanovo.</p>	<p>-37,944 € are granted for scholarships for university students Roma for the school year 2010/2011.</p>

<p>-A manual is made for discrimination in the educational system in Republic of Macedonia in 2010.</p>	<p>The Office for National Minorities granted 20,550 € for covering the expenses for inclusion of all children in preschool education in the municipality Medzimirje.</p>
<p>-294,851 € are granted (2008-2010) for construction of water works, sewage, public toilet, construction of water supply and sewerage network.</p>	<p>-The Agency for Employment provided 671,100 € for projects, trainings, self education, etc.</p>
<p>-23,414 € granted from the Agency for Employment in 2008 for trainings of 60 Roma;  -8,195€ for trainings of 21 Roma in 2009.</p>	<p>-The Government financed the reconstruction of the infrastructure in the village Darda, in value of 510,000 €.</p>
<p>-25,081 € are granted to the Romany Info Centres for 2009.</p>	<p>-Within the PHARE 2006 project, a recon structure of three Roma settlements in made in Medzimirje, in amount of 3,771,429 €.</p>
<p>-Since 1991 the Parliament has a Roma member.</p>	<p>- Since 2008 the Parliament has a Roma member.</p>
<p>-The Republic of Macedonia in the Parliament for 2011 has two members Roma.  -At local level, there is one mayor Roma in municipality Shuto Otizari.  The Government of Macedonia appointed the following officials:</p>	<p>-The Republic of Croatia in the Parliament for 2011 has one member Roma.  -At local level, there are no mayors Roma.  - The Government of Croatia do not appointed officials Roma.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Minister without portfolio;</li><li>-Depute minister for labour and social work;</li><li>-Depute national coordinator for integrated border management;</li><li>-Director of city shopping centre;</li><li>-Director of the centre for crises management; and</li><li>-Director of the administration for advancement of education in minority languages.</li></ul>	<p>-There is no employment in the public administration for Roma with high school and university degrees.</p>
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## **Conclusion**

- The only progress with the Roma in Croatia is the one associated with education;
- There is still discrimination in the areas of education, health, employment, housing, gender equality, and political participation;
- There is segregation in schools on requests of the non-Roma parents;
- There are no appointed officials Roma by the Croatian Government;
- There are no employed Roma in the public administration in Croatia;
- In the Republic of Macedonia, the Roma are mentioned in the Preamble of the Constitution since 1991 and have more rights than in Republic of Croatia.

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# “Transformation of the concept of global security after the end of the cold war“

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## **Abstract**

After the fall of communist system in Eastern Europe, international relations have undergone a process of major changes as a result of two main processes: a) the disintegration of former Soviet Union and Former Yugoslavia, and b) the process of integration of former communist countries to EU and NATO. In view of the new situation, countries of former communist bloc are defining the tendencies of future development in order to outline recommendation on the policies of adjustment to the new models of regional and global security. Early challenges of global security, during four decades of the Cold War, were the defense of the sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of threat of the Soviet army. Geopolitical and geostrategic changes that swept Eastern Europe after the fall of communism were accompanied by interethnic tensions and conflict. By now, the concept of security is broader and includes the defense of fundamental values and principles of democratic systems.

The end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought about sweeping geopolitical and geostrategic changes. Firstly, the start of the integrative process of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe within the structures of NATO and EU demanded that these countries met the economic and political standards required to join these organizations. Secondly, the disintegration of Soviet Union and Former Yugoslavia brought about new problems with regards to borders, minorities and ultranationalist ideologies, problems that went hand in hand with interethnic conflict, threatening the regional stability. These processes of wide-ranging changes brought to attention the concept of “social security” that focused not only on the countries affected by

the process of disintegration of nation-state, but also on the embryonic creation of a global society.\*

## Abstrakt

Pas rënies së komunizmit, marrëdhëniet globale janë përfshirë në një dinamikë të vrullshme ndryshimesh si pasojë e proceseve dezintegruese në Evropën Lindore (Shpërbërja e BRSS-së, RFJ-së) dhe më pas atyre integruese të këtyre vendeve në strukturat e BE-së dhe NATO-s. Ato përballe kësaj problematike konkrete përcaktojnë tendencat e zhvillimeve të ardhshme për rekomandimin e politikave të përshtatjes dhe ristrukturimit ndaj modeleve të sjelljes së sigurisë rajonale dhe globale. Sfida e hershme e sigurisë globale, për gati 5 dekadat e Luftës së ftohtë, ka qenë çështja e ruajtjes së sovranitetit dhe integritetit territorial nën presionin dhe kërcënimin e armatës sovjetike. Ndryshimet e mëdha gjeopolitike dhe gjeostrategjike që përfshinë Lindjen pas shembjes së komunizmit u shoqëruan me tensione dhe konflikte ndëretnike. Tashmë, koncepti i sigurisë është më i gjerë duke përfshirë dhe mbrojtjen e vlerave dhe parimeve themelore të sistemeve demokratike.

Fundi i shekullit të XX-të solli ndryshime të thella gjeopolitike dhe gjeostrategjike. Së pari, nisja e një procesi të vrullshëm integrues të vendeve të Evropës Qendrore e Lindore në strukturat e NATO-s e BE-s kërkonte për këto vende plotësimin e shpejtë në nivel makro të standardeve politike dhe ekonomike. Së dyti, shpërbërja e BS-së dhe Jugosllavisë sollën probleme të reja me kufijtë, minoritetet dhe me ideologjitë ultranacionaliste të shoqëruara me tensione ndëretnike, duke rrezikuar kështu stabilitetin rajonal. Këto procese ndryshimesh të thella që shoqëruan botën e pas-Luftës së ftohtë, rritën vëmendjen mbi konceptin e “sigurisë shoqërore” .

## Апстракт

По падот на комунистичкиот систем во Источна Европа, меѓународните односи беа во процес на големи промени како резултат на два главни процеси: распадот на поранешниот Советски Сојуз и поранешна Југославија

и на процесот на интеграција на поранешните комунистички земји во ЕУ и во НАТО. Со оглед на новата ситуација, земјите од поранешниот комунистички блок ги дефинираат тенденциите на идниот развој со цел да ги претстават препораките за политиката за приспособување на новите модели на регионалната и глобалната безбедност. Почетокот на предизвиците на глобалната безбедност, во текот на четирите децении од Студената војна, беа одбраната на суверенитетот и територијалниот интегритет соочувајќи се со заканата од Советската армија. Геополитичките и геостратешките промени кои ја зафатија Источна Европа по падот на комунизмот беа проследени со меѓуетнички тензии и конфликт. До сега, концептот на безбедност е поширок и ги вклучува одбраната на основните вредности и начела на демократските системи.

Крајот на 20 век донесе убедливи геополитички и геостратешки промени. Прво, на почетокот на интегративниот процес на земјите од Централна и Источна Европа во рамките на структурите на НАТО и ЕУ од овие земји се побара да ги исполнат економските и политичките стандарди потребни за да се приклучат на овие организации. Второ, распаѓот на Советскиот Сојуз и поранешна Југославија донесе нови проблеми во однос на границите, малцинствата и ултранационалистичките идеологии, проблемите проследени со меѓуетничките конфликти, се закануваа на регионалната стабилност. Овие процеси на големи промени го насочија вниманието кон концептот на „социјална сигурност“ кој беше фокусиран не само на земјите погодени од процесот на дезинтеграција на државата, но исто така и на ембрионско создавање на глобално општество.

## **1. Transformation of the Concept of Security**

World and the new security environment have undergone radical changes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Scholars of international relations, supporters of realistic and idealistic approaches, have had a hundred-year debate regarding the concept of global security. After the end of the World War I, the idealistic approach spread as a result of their support in creating the League of Nations which aroused great expectations in creating a new order and international security. Before the World War II, global security was thought in relation to issues of war, peace and armed conflict. National security included protection of the nation and its territory from

attack from outside or internal turmoil<sup>†</sup>. Whereas, after World War II, during the 45 years of the Cold War, gained pace the realist school of thought which would be based on the theory of balance of power between the U.S. and the Soviet Union as a method for managing power and uncertainty. Under the realistic approach, if one party was trying to increase its military strength, the other party must respond with the same coin, while maintaining some relative equilibrium during the Cold War.

*But will the theory of the efficient balance of power be a method to control security during periods of major changes that followed the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc defensive alliance, the Warsaw Pact?*

The end of ideological, political, and military confrontation, between the East and the West sparked a new vision for global peace and security. According to Fukuyama, the end of the Cold War was not only a rebirth, but a victory of international liberalism as a consequence of universalism of liberal democracy as the best form of human government<sup>‡</sup>. According to this optimistic vision, interstate war and violence were already relics of a past that will gradually be replaced by a new era of cooperation between non-state actors and state in ensuring global security.

For more scholars, security is a contested concept and that's why they agree on the idea that security is the emergence of the threat to basic individual and collective values, while disagreeing on the level of its treatment, if security is individual, national or international. In the context of the Cold War, security was treated mainly as "national security" in strengthening the state in terms of military power in order to maintain the balance of power in the bipolar system. Nowadays, this concept of security has been criticized as too ethnocentric and limited. Contemporary scholars argue that the expanding of the concept of national security by including the environmental, economic, social and political dimensions as factors that affect the improvement of peace and stability in the global and local context. Buzan argues for a vision of security that includes the terms of political, economic, social, environmental and military as well, which should become part of the agenda of global security policies<sup>§</sup>. According to this vision, national security has to be resized to fit the dynamics of changes of the early 90s.

The end of the twentieth century brought profound geopolitical and geostrategic changes. Firstly, the process of rapid integration of the countries of

Central and Eastern Europe into NATO and EU's structures needs the rapid completion at the macro level to political and economic standards for these countries. Secondly, the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia brought new problems with boundaries, minorities and ultranationalist ideologies associated with ethnic tensions threatening regional stability. These profound changes that accompanied the post-Cold War, increased attention on the concept of "social security" focused not only for societies affected by the process of dismantling the state-nation, but also on creating an embryonic global society\*\*.

The globalization process has been accompanied by new risks to global security. Risks arising out of control at the state level such as the international monetary system crises, global warming, international terrorism, disasters from nuclear accidents etc. So in the new century the debate has focused on global and international security as a result of dramatic changes in world politics under the influence of the globalization process. There is a general opinion that, to cope with this dynamic change, need re-conceptualisation of a common agenda on global security between state and non-state actors.

This necessity is due to the transformation of the concept of national security under the influence of positive and negative effects of globalization process. The positive effect of this process makes the necessary cooperation among states in the context of a globalized economy, interdependence in environmental issues, war, threat of international terrorism, defence against cyber crime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, etc.. Laeler argues that the rise of multilateralism caused by globalization helps to facilitate dialogue at national level of decision-making elites in setting common goals for global security<sup>††</sup>. Second, the negative effects of globalization affects national security as a result of rapid changes in social structure, increasing economic inequality, challenges to "shock" cultural phenomena that produce conflicts between states. This mutual process means that as far as the states do not have the required capacity to cope with these challenges on their own, it becomes necessary to find multilateral solutions to create common agendas for cooperative regional and global security.

## **2. Global security agenda in a multi-polar international order**

The world has changed greatly since the creation of the Western alliance just before the end of World War II. The end of the bipolar order of the Cold War, the collapse of communism as a political system, economic and social change in the geopolitical map of the eastern block (the disintegration of USSR and Yugoslavia), 9/11 and the global fight against terrorism, the rise of China and India as global power and process of globalization, combined together to produce a kind of global system uncertainty<sup>††</sup>. The old division concept, East-West, North-South, NATO-Warsaw Treaty, now no longer helps the perception of changes and challenges of a new international environment.

The complex nature of these challenges calls for coordinated international action, because no country - not even the United States, with its power - can successfully cope with their treatment only. However, the necessity for a common approach on global security is one thing, but practicing it into a sustainable action is quite another. The Cold War was the only period in which the Western alliance, in general, remained united for almost half a century as a result of a common external threat. The United States also played a key role in the completion of the cold war by creating a common Western approach to management of democratic transitions in Eastern Europe, the reunification of Germany, and the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The end of the Cold War not only brought to an end the old bipolar order, but as well to the role that the United States had played for nearly half a century in world affairs. Common perspectives for the security of the Western Allies gave way to new divergences and frictions. Common approaches found difficulties due to the concern of Europe's focus on domestic issues, the growing sense of exclusion and victimization of Russia and the failure to include as participants with full rights in the growing global powers like China and India. In the 1990s, the leitmotifs of US in relation to the main global changes were "Europe united and free," "new world order", "democratic enlargement process in view of NATO membership for countries of the former Pact Warsaw "etc. However, the idea of a "new world order" was quickly eclipsed as a result of failure of the international community to resolve tensions arising from the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

This idea would eventually change the events that occurred after terrorists' attacks of 9/11. Because these attacks were run directly on US soil, the US reacted to the terrorist challenge using the functional logic of the Cold War declaring "global war on terror". The document of National Security Strategy of 2002, confirmed the US doctrine of "prevention" which was granted the right to overthrow regimes that represented a potential threat or perceived security of US, highlighting a unilateral approach that US remain a power unattainable and more influential in world.

But in the long term perspective, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, along with the global fight against terrorism, failed to yield the desired expectations regarding peace and stability in the region and beyond. Therefore, Obama's doctrine is focused towards a more multilateral approach focusing more on issues of international peace and security instead of democratization through radical changes of regimes, in more respect for other cultures instead of implementing of successful American model as the only universally applicable model. Basically, the big change came as a result of new priorities in changing landscape of global security and to face new challenges, such as global financial crisis, threats to the world trade system and issues of energy and environmental security etc. It is natural that national approach concerning to external threats to state security became larger than the states themselves. In this case, is needed a new international agenda for global security and world prosperity, including:

#### **a. Rebuilding of international financial architecture after the 2008 crisis**

Today the international financial and economic crisis, which spread rapidly, highlights the large scale of global financial interdependence as well as the inadequacy of existing mechanisms to develop a joint response against the dangerous spirals created by it. International action, in short term, was based on injecting new capital into the global economy, while in long term to reform the international financial system.

However, the consensus on global challenges will not necessarily increase world security. The dilemma between competition and cooperation in the international sphere is more acute because the actors are not only states but also non-state actors which appear even stronger in sectors that have traditionally been state functions. While today's security problems can not be solved by a single state

or a group of states, paradoxically, they remain keen to provide solutions to problems in a world that they do not control.

For the first time the International Monetary Fund, since its creation in Bretton Woods conference of 1944 didn't play a role in this huge financial crisis. This was why the Europeans, led by British Prime Minister Brown, called for a summit of Group of 20 (G20) world economic powers to consider the creating a "Bretton Woods II", bypassing not only the IMF but the G7/G8 group. The G20 summit, which was held in Washington, highlighted a growing awareness that the old frame of G7/G8 and international financial institutions do not reflect the current distribution on economic powers and their influence worldwide. The importance of this in relation to safety was confirmed in the debate of the General Assembly of the UN in July 2009 that was focused specifically on the extent to which peace and stability are threatened by poverty reduction and insufficient resources, environmental changes and weak capacity of the state.

#### **b. Strengthening energy security, developing a sustainable environmental policy and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime.**

Global energy demands are projected to be double over the next two decades, driven largely by the increasing demand of China, India and other developing global economic powers. These development trends pose risks to energy security, due to interruptions of supply, competition for resources and control of severe climate impacts arising from rapid growth of greenhouse effects.

Global challenges are different: from the promotion of efficient energy markets, diversification of energy supply alternatives, development of mechanisms to moderate the pace of supply and demand in order to offset the shocks from price fluctuations, promoting finance global considerably, to promote energy efficiency and energy of renewable technologies, etc. Similarly, the International Energy Agency can play an important role for legal commitments embodied in the ECT procedure. To get these functions, IEA has needed to expand its membership beyond the members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), including other large consumers like China and India. Besides this, China and India are not only big consumers but also are becoming big energy pollutants of planetary environment. Thus, the major international challenge will be to bring these countries together with developed Western economies, in a workable regime of the global climate change.

Regarding the non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons, although for a very long time major military powers have regarded nuclear weapons as a symbol of state authority, today is visible on their self awareness concerning devastating effects due to the principle of self-defense. At the summit of the UN Security Council's, which took place in September 2009 on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, Barack Obama recalled former President Reagan's statement that: "a nuclear war can not be won and should never be fought".

The old paradigm of security, as a result of the impasse created by a bipolar military order for nearly five decades of the Cold War, is no longer valid. New challenges of the 21st century that affect global security and prosperity arise from insufficient resources and nationalist trends, impacts of climate change including massive migrations that can produce new intercultural conflicts and management of humanitarian emergencies which exceed local capacity etc. Therefore, is needed a new paradigm of security in symbiotic with remodelling of institutions and interstate relations. Cooperation and consensus become indispensable for achieving the goal of global security. As Kofi Annan said, in 2004,: "The war in Iraq, terrorist attacks against U.S. and other events of recent years have succeeded in splitting of consensus and on what we must consider today as threats to global peace".

### **3. New threats to global security**

Immediately after the fall of the Berlin Wall, it became quite clear that collective security can not be defined simply as the continued lack of international armed conflict, as it had been considered during the Cold War. UN Security Council, in the decades of 90s, will describe the humanitarian crises and the massive displacement of population, as threats to regional and global security. In parallel, the international dimensions of security such as: AIDS, arms and drug trafficking, international terrorism and environmental disasters, have been discussed by experts and representatives of national governments, sparking a trend that has been described by critics as a national and global challenges security.

National security doctrines have a clear tendency to support the principles of sovereignty and national interests, but already threats to national security can be converted quickly to threats to global security. It is clear that more powerful states today share the concerns in their respective areas, which indicates that security still has a traditional geo-strategic dimension. It is also clear that the list of problems,

that are common to these global players, is expanded significantly to include and so-called non-traditional or asymmetric threats. Such threats are common threats to global players in a global context. Below are listed three categories that represent a large-scale the modern threats:

1. Geographical dimension of security, give support to the creation of stable and developed regions which can increase their security by trying to avoid the consequences of problems at their borders. Given that a conflict of global proportions is not inevitable, the conflicts - either internal or regional – mainly belong in the category of geographical threats. For example, perception of safety in South Africa is closely linked with security in the region and Africa in general. Armed conflict in August 2008 between Georgia and Russia, also demonstrated the ideological divisions within the EU and exposing clearly the need to be groomed interests of Russia, EU and NATO in areas of their common neighborhood.

However, there is dissimilarity between consolidated powers and new powers. Internal threats tend to be analyzed in the same framework as external threats. Poverty, food, water, energy security and unemployment are also considered as internal threats, but also as regional ones. This report illustrates the close proximity of the acute problems within regions, especially when they are problems of human security. As in the case of human displacement situations can generate a mass exodus which presents immediate problems for neighboring countries, as well as human traffic and smuggling structures can have a lasting impact beyond the borders of the region. In any case, only regional solutions can fight the spread of the impact of human emergencies.

2. In contrast, the new catalog of threats - those that actually should be called more than contemporary, non-traditional - is not closely related to the geographic dimension. Transnational crime networks operating from different locations simultaneously and can affect the national interests of overseas trade; cyber attacks initiated by a simply computer from a remote location can paralyze a country, as well as and infectious diseases can spread today, traveling across the globe with the same speed with planes and trains. These new challenges are created mostly by non-state actors who possess the means and opportunities offered by globalization. For threats in this category is significant that terrorism, today, is not in the top list of security agenda for the most important global actors. U.S. President Obama

has erased from the official lexicon the phrase, "war on terror", as well the reducing as the core priority of the anti-terrorist challenge set by the Bush administration. Qualitative difference is that U.S. policy now seems to be mainly carried out within the framework of international law.

3. A third category, which includes both contemporary and traditional threats, includes those threats that potentially affect the existence of humanity, such as nuclear proliferation and climate change. However, the level of international solidarity that is needed to avoid and eliminate such threats is particularly high, especially in the absence of a central authority with sufficient resources. However, today the priority for all global actors is, to rescue the global economy without losing the competition, which leaves little room for policies of redistribution and global solidarity.

According to some recent reports, the realization of the UN Millennium Development Goals is at stake, and contributions and international commitments are deferred while poverty is speeded in the regions of the globe which are now in a status of extreme poverty. Global actors seem to be concerned mainly in domestic economic growth as an internal dimension to their safety, and usually try to link economic success with leadership in addressing current challenges and threats common. In the context of "green revolution", Brazil is trying to promote the production and export of clean energy, while China seems to be particularly interested in achieving financial autonomy and even it is becoming challenging of the dollar as reserve currency. In this and in other contexts, new actors feel the need for representation of their weight in international institutions, so that negotiation and compromise can transform the register of threats of the potential conflicts in a register of common challenges.

## Conclusion

The fact that more and more new global actors are engaged in global issues, presents a unique opportunity for an effective multilaterals approach. Also, the solution of financial and economic crisis can be turned into an opportunity to rectify abuses of dominant economic system, starting with the norms that should keep internationally under the responsibility private actors whose their decisions have global consequences. Perhaps it is time to strengthen the law and international architecture in regional level, including the guarantees that fundamental human rights would not be violated again in the name of democracy, it is time for negotiation and compromise through a vigorous diplomatic action based on values and principles.

Also, both a critical and urgent task is to find concrete solutions for a sustainable development that could prevent dangerous climate change and the beginning of a real nuclear disarmament. Some of these processes have started or have recently resumed where new actors have shown their willingness to help the global consensus on the most pressing challenges. All global players are aware of the urgency in taking drastic measures to try to prevent climate change. Despite these positive steps, the dilemma is whether powerful states are willing to provide necessary contributions that could pave the way to effective engagement to establish appropriate mechanisms to face of with new realities. The most notable feature of the international order is difference between, identifying acute threats and sustained challenges and the availability of resources to meet these challenges. Mechanisms of action are scarcer and global actors, despite the broad consensus that the use of force can not stop terrorism, yet increase their defense budgets to justify the need to combat terrorism.

Sovereignty, today, can not be the foundation on which states face of the threats, based on the traditional model under which the state is the guarantor of security of citizens, including protection against threats "external". In parallel, the fragmentation of the world makes even more difficult the forum to find solutions to challenges that are more deeply connected. Perhaps the time has come for a major global agreement which legitimate interests of states based on solidarity and international cooperation.

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# Water treatment for reducing risks in Albanian conditions

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## **Abstract**

The ultimate goal of the Health sector is to maximize the population's health, reforming health services must be part of broader package that recognize the impact of the wider social, physical and economic environment on Health status and vice versa. Public Policy in health is successful if it leads from one side to the main health challenges facing today including income distribution, employment education, transportation and agriculture and from the other side the ability to assess health care needs and to identify, develop and implement appropriate services in response to them.

As we mention above the characteristics of health system are the results of a mix of economical, social, political and historical factors outside and the system itself .One important factor that have a great impact on health care reform is the involvement of the state in overall policy that includes levels of decentralization of a public health infrastructure as well as the presence of a public health input at decision making level. Sanitation presents even more problems than drinking water. Sanitation coverage in urban areas is almost the same as drinking water coverage. Urban areas have mostly combined sewage and storm water collection networks that discharge into near bay surface water-bodies.

About 40% of the urban population has a sewer connection. In rural areas, only a small portion of the areas with piped water supply is equipped with sewer networks. Most rural areas have individual household wastewater collection systems, principally simple pit-latrines with no drainage pipes. Upgrading of sewer networks hasn't kept pace with the general development of infrastructure, and the materials and technology used haven't been improved. Presently, there's no treatment of wastewater in Albania; its discharge in water bodies, especially in

coastal tourist areas and delicate ecosystems, is a major environmental concern for the government/business/community/wide public.

## **Abstrakt**

Qëllimi dhe roli i sektorit të shërbimit shëndetësor është për të maksimizuar shëndetin e popullatës, në reformimin e shërbimeve shëndetësore, i cili duhet të jetë pjesë e paketës së shërbimeve të ofruara. Në kontekst më të gjerë në njohjen e ndikimit të mjedisit shëndetësor në kuptimin dhe vendin që zë ai në mjediset shoqërore, fizike dhe ekonomike për statusin shëndetësor dhe anasjelltas. Politika publike në shëndetësi është e suksesshme nëse ajo ve në plan të parë, nga njëra anë reformimet për shëndetin dhe zhvillon sfidat me të cilat ballafaqohet sot, duke përfshirë shpërndarjen e të ardhurave, arsimimit, punësimit, transportit dhe bujqësisë dhe nga ana tjetër aftësia për të vlerësuar nevojat e kujdesit shëndetësor dhe për të identifikuar, zhvillimin dhe zbatimin e shërbimeve të duhura në dobi të popullatës.

Siç kemi përmendur më lart karakteristikat e sistemit shëndetësor janë rezultate të një gërshetimi të faktorëve ekonomikë, socialë, politike dhe historike në vlerat komplekse të tyre. Një faktor i rëndësishëm që ka një ndikim të madh në reformën e kujdesit shëndetësor është përfshirja e shtetit në përgjithësi dhe qeverisjes lokale në veçanti për reformimin e këtij sistemi. Politika gjithëpërfshirëse përfshin nivelet e decentralizimit të një infrastrukture të shëndetit publik, si dhe prania e një vendimmarrje efektive.

Sanitariteti (ujë i kontrolluar nga pikëpamja sanitare), paraqet problem, i cili është më i dallueshëm në ujin e pijshëm. Zonat urbane janë identifikuar më së shumti me përzjerje të ujërave të zeza. Rreth 40% e popullsisë urbane kanë probleme në lidhje me kanalizimet. Në zonat rurale, vetëm një pjesë e vogël e zonave me furnizimin me ujë të pijshëm është e pajisur me rrjetet e filtrave ose pompave ujë-filtruese. Në zonat rurale, disa familje kanë sisteme individuale të mbledhjes së ujërave të zeza, kryesisht thjeshtë gropë WC me tuba pa kulluese. Azhurnimi i rrjeteve të kanalizimeve nuk ka mbajtur ritëm të njëjtë me zhvillimin e përgjithshëm të infrastrukturës, si dhe materialet dhe teknologjia e përdorur nuk kanë investime dhe nivele të përmirësuara. Aktualisht, nuk ka trajtim të ujërave të zeza në Shqipëri; shkarkimi i tyre në organizmat ujore, sidomos në zonat turistike bregdetare dhe ekosistemet delikate, është një shqetësim i madh mjedisor për qeverinë / biznesit /komunitetin / publikun e gjerë.

## Апстракт

Крајната цел на здравствениот сектор е да се зголеми здравјето на населението. Реформите на здравствените услуги мора да бидат дел од поширокиот пакет на понуди со кој ќе се препознае влијанието на пошироката општествена, физичка и економска средина на здравствениот статус и обратно. Јавната политика во здравството може да биде успешна доколку во прв план ги вклучи реформите во здравството и се соочи со тековните предизвици, вклучително на распределбата на приходите, вработувањето образованието, транспортот и земјоделството и во втор план способноста за проценка на потребите за здравствена грижа и идентификување, развој и имплементирање на соодветните услуги во корист на населението. Според наведеното карактеристиките на здравствениот систем се резулта на испреплетување на економските, социјалните, политичките и историските фактори со нивните комплексни вредности.

Важен фактор кој има големо влијание врз реформите во здравствената грижа е вмешаноста на државата а посебно локалната власт за реформирање на овој систем. Севкупната политика ги вклучува нивоата на децентрализација на јавната здравствена инфраструктура, како и ефективното донесување одлуки.

Санитаријата (санитетски контролирана вода) претставува проблем кој се воочува повеќе кај водата за пиење. Урбаните области се идентификувани како области на кои најмногу има мешање на водата за пиење со отпадните води. Околу 40% од урбаното население имаат проблеми со канализацијата. Во руралните средини, само мал дел од населените места се опремени со систем за филтрирање на водата за пиење- пумпи за филтрирање на водата. Во овие места, некои семејства поседуваат сопствени системи за собирање на отпадните води, во главно едноставни септички јами или клозети кои немаат дренажни цевки. Надградбата на канализациските мрежи не е во согласност со општиот развој на инфраструктурата и нема подобрување во употребените материјалите и технологијата. Тековно, во Албанија отпадните води не се третираат, а нивното празнење во чистите води, особено во крајбрежните туристички места и деликатните екосистеми претставува еден од главните еколошки проблеми за владата / бизнисот / заедницата / и пошироката јавност.

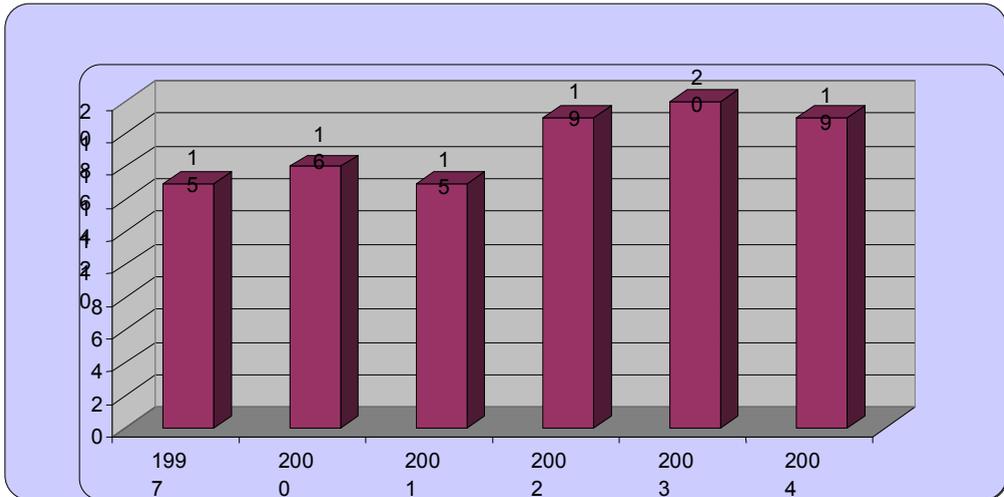
## **Introduction**

Albania faces a water distribution problem, not a water production problem. Studies indicate that available sources of supply could provide more than enough to satisfy the country's overall water demand. In many cities, water availability at the source is about 500-700 litres per capita per day, but leaks and waste mean that only a small fraction of water produced is consumed. Almost everywhere problems of water scarcity can be considerably mitigated through metering, leakage detection and reduction, network improvements, disconnection of illegal connections, and optimization of storage and supply patterns. The distribution problem also has a seasonal aspect: much more water is needed during the summer growing season; when rainfall is scarce, rural drinking water is often misused for irrigation; and the tourist resort areas use large amounts of water.

### **1.1 Albanian water distribution problem**

The main issues handled out in this presentation are: strengthening local government leadership and initiative; partnership between municipalities and NGOs; concluding all of these in the community-based approaches to infrastructure services and neighbourhood revitalization. Almost everywhere problems of water scarcity can be considerably mitigated through metering, leakage detection and reduction, network improvements, disconnection of illegal connections, and optimization of storage and supply patterns. The distribution problem in Albania also has a seasonal aspect: much more water is needed during the summer growing season; when rainfall is scarce, rural drinking water is often misused for irrigation; and the tourist resort areas use large amounts of water.

On average, water is available only 3-4 hours per day, with certain areas receiving water only once in three days.



**Tab 1. Albania: Municipal Water and Sanitation Project – Agricultural ministry project 2004**

### **1. Drinking water treatment for emergencies and remote location**

Blue future Filters introduces our latest offering slow sand and roughing filters: our patented SSF/x drinking water treatment technology in a flexible, shippable, storable tank. The SSF/x has been reliably treating surface water to portability worldwide for many years. This new version of the tried and tested technology makes clean water for small communities available literally out of a box. The filters come in a carton, weigh 39 lbs. They can be stocked for ready deployment without taking valuable storage space. They can be transported in numbers by truck, mule, on the back of a motorcycle or even a backpack. Once on site, they are loaded with 30 cubic feet of local sand and water from any surface source, immediately eliminating common pathogens. Water gravity feeds into the filter and can produce up to 1800l/h, enough for a small village. Multiple units in parallel can accommodate hundreds of people within days or hours.

## 2. Climate change and world view

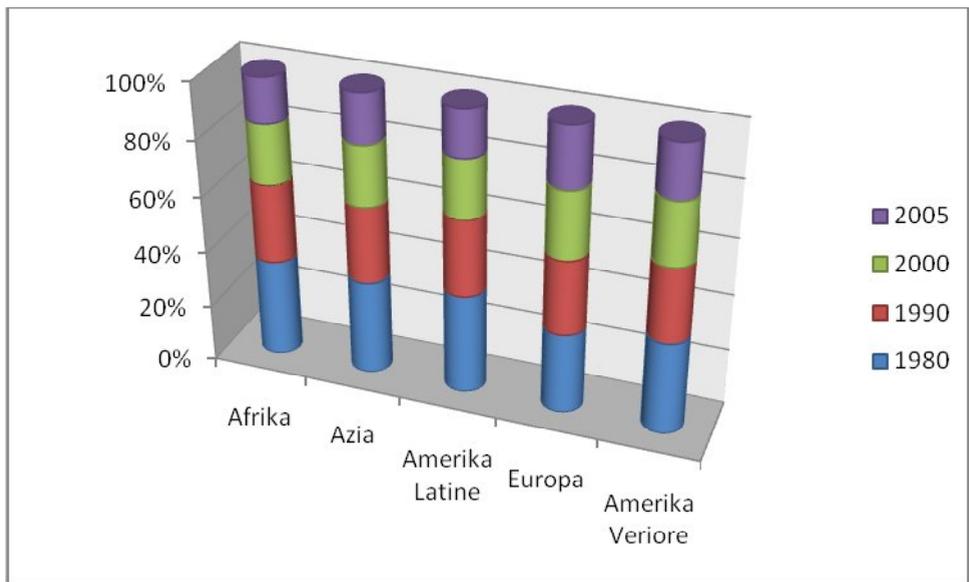
The Earth's climate is changing and its atmosphere is warming. What might this mean for freshwater resources?

- *Rising water demands.* Hotter summers mean thirstier people and plants. Temperature increases will likely contribute to higher water demands. In addition, more evaporation from reservoirs and irrigated farmland will lead to faster depletion of water supplies;
- *Increased drought.* Scientific evidence suggests that rising temperatures in the south-western United States will reduce river flows and contribute to an increased severity, frequency, and duration of droughts;
- *Seasonal supply reductions.* Many utilities depend on winter snowpack to store water and then gradually release it through snowmelt during spring and summer. Warmer temperatures will accelerate snowmelt, causing the bulk of the runoff to occur earlier—before crops can use the water—and potentially increasing water storage needs in these areas;
- *Long-term water supply reductions.* Many communities depend on seasonal water runoff from glaciers. Although shrinking glaciers create higher runoff (and thus more water) in the short term, the longer-term disappearance of glaciers threatens this important water resource.

Thinking about your local reservoir may conjure visions of water sports, fishing, or picnicking, but reservoirs serve a much more vital purpose. Reservoirs, or man-made lakes, are typically created by building dams across rivers (some also occur naturally). Reservoirs even out the fluctuations in a water supply by storing water when it is abundant and releasing it later, especially when the water supply diminishes during drought. Identify advances in detection, monitoring and modelling, analytical methods, information needs and technologies, research and development opportunities, and communication strategies that will enable the water

supply industry and other stakeholders to further reduce risks associated with public water supply distribution systems.

Water towers, a familiar sight along nearly every highway in America, help to make sure that water deliveries remain relatively constant even during peak water use times. Their main purpose, is to elevate the water level high enough to supply adequate water pressure throughout a distribution system.



Tab 2. Long-term water supply reductions

- *Water quality problems and issues are both local and regional as evidenced by a variety of reports included in, (Hydric Management, London 1989, 2005 ,2010).*

Water quality assessments are in charge of the Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), and testimony received by the committee. Some of these water quality problems are associated primarily with urbanization vicinity; some are associated with activity in the Allegheny River basins; still others are common to the predominantly rural counties.

Large differences exist among the sources of problems, their potential effects on Albanian public health and environmental quality, and their likely solutions. Further, resolution of water quality issues is affected by other regional issues such as transportation, land use, and governance of the metropolitan area. Small hydro is gaining ground across the Balkans. The small (municipal) Albanian investor is looking for medium-size hydro and dam companies who know how to tap special funds. This has been traditionally the arena of big players such as Siemens or Alstom with specific staff to handle the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the EBRD. The Balkans show small funding is happening. Brussels and USAID also have small technical funds in the agricultural sector which can mesh nicely with reservoir building for irrigation and domestic water projects. American banks are also very active in Albania.

The extensive use of reservoirs for fish production as part of food security is expanding exponentially. There is a market for expertise on protecting big volumes of fish at the turbines, as well as fish ladders and other bypass schemes. Reservoir stocks for the market attract EU funding and may be worth tens of millions of Euros. Food ministers want clean river basin waters reaching the sea which will not damage high value shellfish beds and fish breeding grounds.

*The significance of this is reflected in tensions between Italy, Croatia, Slovenia and Albania over their coastal stocks. One side of the Adriatic is only about 148km from the other, so the potential for pollution from the land is very high. In 1993 fertiliser land runoff coated 600km of the Yugoslav to Italian coastline with toxic algae. This cost several billion Euros in today's money through lost fish and collapsed tourism.*

The existing pattern of water supply and water quality services in the region is highly fragmented, with more than 1,000 providers operating in the multicounty region area, like many other metro areas in the United States, large-special purpose authorities such as the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) can achieve substantial economies of scale through joint management agencies. Although private organizations may not have direct voting power in what mix of organizations is chosen to implement the plan, they could very well influence how the public and its elected and appointed representatives make these choices. Decentralization has given local governments the discretion and scope they need to take a lead role in responding to the challenges of economic down-turn, degradation of the urban environment, and social hardship.

They institute bold initiatives and innovative practices. Western European nations have put in place sophisticated frameworks to provide local governments with technical and financial assistance. The European Union supplements these national programs with coordinated assistance aimed at promoting economic development, assisting distressed localities and fostering social inclusion. Infrastructure is an important component of these programs.

In strong local government leadership and active community participation were key to implementing an integrated plan involving urban planning, infrastructure, and economic development. Despite its location in an industrialized province Jerez's economy relies on wine production which, in recent years has been declining. Weak community participation, inadequate infrastructure, poor accessibility to regional resources and an unskilled labour force compounded the effects of massive job cuts in the wine industry. To address these problems, Jerez launched a new strategy for economic recovery in 1993, shifting the emphasis from seeking to attract investments from sources outside the municipality to fostering local integrated development.

There are seven key factors:

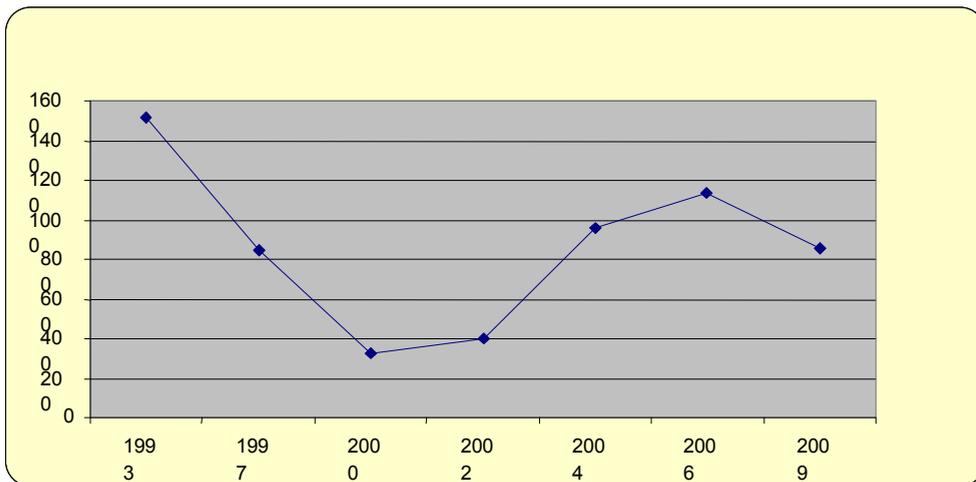
- A dynamic local government leadership
- A coherent strategy acted upon with determination
- A healthy climate of cooperation with business
- Local government's investment initiatives to jumpstart the stagnant economy
- Creative use EU funds to implement local policy
- Efficient municipal administration
- Coherent links among urban planning, infrastructure and economic development

### **3. THE MUNICIPALITIES AND NGOs PARTNERSHIP**

Albania, one of the smallest and poorest countries in Eastern Europe, has experienced a transition marked by sharp economic swings and periods of civil strife. The early phases of decentralization witnessed the transfer of political autonomy and limited administrative and fiscal authority, to local governments,

inadequate legislation outlining central/local responsibilities, scarce financial resources and deficient infrastructure strained the capacity of local governments to manage urban services. In January 2000, the government promulgated a national Strategy for Decentralization and Local Autonomy which includes laws to strengthen the autonomy of local governments and increase their capacity to manage local infrastructure and services.

In the absence of fiscal resources to improve infrastructure in urban and rural areas, the government, with donor assistance, initiated community-driven development strategies to provide infrastructure services based on a cost sharing formula and to set up participatory management structures. In Tirana sustained population growth since 1991-1999 led to rapid expansion of the urbanized area, resulting in the proliferation of informal settlements. With an estimated population of 575.000 in 1997, 6.500 families were seeking new housing each year. Local government, even with central transfers, could accommodate only five percent of the demand for new infrastructure.



Tab 3 Water Users Association Survey Report for 2009, Irrigation Season.

Supported by donor assistance and international and local NGO's the city initiated a community-based development strategy in the informal development. The program brought together local government teams, NGO's and residents to formulate a development plan for the neighborhood define priorities for

improvements and determine equitable cost-sharing formulas to finance infrastructure. This partnership led to the upgrading of roads and electrical networks, the construction of community buildings and schools, improved public spaces and programs for youth. Clarifying the legal status of residential land and formalizing an urban plan resulted in the sufficient leveraging of community and household resources to provide infrastructure and build new housing.

*In 1990-2005 the experience was expanded to a citywide effort and was subsequently funded by the World Bank. As the local government teams and NGO's gain experience and residents begin to trust the local government, Tirana Land management Program is scaling up and expanding to other formal and informal residential zones in Tirana.*

#### **a. The Government role in development**

The Government accepts binding international arbitration on investment disputes and has over 40 internationally accredited arbiters on the country arbitration list. The arbitrators will use the appropriate law based on issues determined by the parties. If the parties cannot agree on the issues involved in the case, the arbitrators will make the appropriate assessment. The judicial system continues to suffer from corruption and unreliability. The GOA has established the High Council of Justice to investigate claims of judicial misconduct, but the results are still lacking. Although the situation is improving, investors cannot yet fully rely on the enforceability of contracts. Foreign firms and institutions have also been subject to nuisance lawsuits aimed at receiving cash settlements. Recent investment disputes have focused on the ownership of land considered ideal for tourism, mostly along the southern coast.

The Albanian Government has established a Credit Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises with the assistance of the Italian Government. The \$3.5 million Fund is used as collateral for companies applying for commercial loans. ALB-Invest, the business promotion agency, has also established an annual fund of \$300,000 to assist exporting companies. Similar community-based initiatives were structured in rural areas. As part of an IDA funded Irrigation Rehabilitation Project, 250 Water Users Associations (WUAs) were created to manage irrigation and drainage systems. In 1997, the government permitted the transfer of primary system management responsibilities to WUAs and allowing them to set irrigation

charges restored trust in partnering with government. Finally, the engagement of senior government officials in the dissemination of project information secured commitment among communities and farmers. However, the inability to generate local revenue has undermined the effectiveness of local govern, it has adopted a “Two –Point Strategy”, incorporated in the community infrastructure program:

- To work closely with Community- Based organizations so as to enhance their capacity to participate in development programs and strengthen the City Council’s capacity to respond to requests from communities
- To adopt a new approach to Environmental Planning and Management based on capacity building.

**b. The law applies to a wide range of sectors, including:**

Transport (railway system, rail transport, ports, airports, roads, tunnels, bridges, parking facilities, public transport); Production and distribution of water, treatment, collection distribution and administration of waste water, irrigation, drainage, cleaning of canals, dams;1. Generation and distribution of electricity and heating; 2 Collection, transfer, processing and administration of solid waste; 3.Telecommunication; Education and sport; Health; Tourism and culture; Prison infrastructure; 4.Recycling - projects, rehabilitation of land and forests.

**c. Management contract or provision of public services.**

In order to promote investments in priority sectors for the economic development of the country, in line with the government’s strategic objectives, the GOA may offer concessions to local or international investors for the symbolic price of one euro. The GOA, with the approval of the Minister of Economy, authorizes concessions in other sectors besides the ones listed above. The law does not apply to grant licenses where needed, except to the extent that a license is issued within the framework of a concession contract.

#### **4. COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO INFRASTRUCTURE-SERVICES AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION Albania and Kosovo**

After decades of being the natural, but politically closed door to the Balkans, the economic emergence of Albania combines with its key geographical location and electricity-producing role.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has been active in simplifying clearance for, and funding of small hydro in the region, including in Kosovo. Kosovo's recent moves for autonomy have increased day-to-day collaboration with Albania. In July 2008, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) reported on the water difficulties facing Kosovo.

Democratic local governance is a prerequisite to the meaningful decentralization of infrastructure management. When people participate in defining visions for sustainable development for their communities, in formulating strategies for equitable access to services and resources and in setting priorities for action, they have endorsed. Participation also sharpens their awareness of the interrelations between economic, social and environmental issues.

This is a highly significant feature of infrastructure programs and carries important implications for local development. The main objective was to build a new working relationship between residents and city officials, based on a shared vision of the future and "a lasting trust".

Because the districts were designated as urban renewal sites, residents in the older zones could not upgrade their infrastructure and households in the un-serviced extensions could not connect to existing networks. Repairs to buildings are also prohibited, except in the case of roof leaks. This state of affairs lasted over 30 years resulting in resentment and distrust of municipal authorities.

In 1992- 1999, the city's Urban Planning unit decided to initiate participatory process to rehabilitate and revitalize the districts. The process required an extensive outreach effort, involving consultations with every household. Regularly scheduled public meetings were held and gradually residents became aware of the role they could play in shaping the future. In December 1993 the city council adopted a new strategy to stimulate local investment in infrastructure and buildings based on partnership between the city and the residents.

The act for support of local investment committed the municipality to cover 50 percent of the cost of water, sewerage and power lines, 70 percent of the cost of roadbeds and sidewalks and 100 percent of the cost of drainage and street paving. The cost sharing formula can be modulated to take into consideration issues of equity and cost burden. As an incentive to private rehabilitations of buildings, investors are granted a three year exemption from property taxes.

During the years 1994 – 2010 in Albania, the partnership between the municipality and the residents was institutionalized through the Local Initiatives Program to ensure its continuity as a citywide development strategy. The key features of the program are:

5. Introducing participatory planning and community-based development processes through neighborhood development committees and street representatives working in partnership with the city
6. Creating an enabling environment for private investment
7. Empowering citizens to pursue their own self improvement
8. promoting privatization of the housing a stock and fostering the development of micro- enterprises
9. Ensuring the sustainability of activities initiated
10. Promoting the reliability of successful initiatives.

This process allowed the canton to build consensus, prepare a development plan, allocate municipal funds equitably leverage additional resources and improve infrastructure and living conditions. The participatory municipal management improve infrastructure and living conditions.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

In reality, the law on the bankruptcy has never been implemented in Albania and according to statistics there have been no bankruptcy procedures so far. The recent amendments aim to facilitate the implementation of the law. The main amendments include reducing the time frame of a business reporting loss to two years, are insolvent since two years and have a passive status in the NRC. Also the courts will act more promptly in dealing with bankruptcy cases as they will have to consider the case within 30 days.

### Performance Requirements and Incentives

Albanian law generally does not establish performance requirements or detailed incentives for foreign investors. Legal incentives include:

Equal treatment of foreign and domestic investors

Full profit and dividend repatriation (after taxation)

Funds from the liquidation of a company may be repatriated

Bilateral agreements on the promotion and protection of reciprocal investment.

One important exception concerning performance requirements is the investment requirement relating to the purchase of commercial property by foreigners. Such a purchase can be made only if the investor plans to improve the value of the property by three times the purchase price. Some foreign firms operating in Albania have also complained that capital goods and raw materials, on occasion, have been subjected to the same taxes as consumer goods. Although no single unit of Albanian government has all the necessary power to implement the Three Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Assessment and Response Plan (CWARP) recommended and discussed in, (Studies & Center of Economic CESS, 2001; 2009) it is desirable to have some mechanism to facilitate continued oversight of regional progress (or lack thereof) toward clean water and its relationships to other regional goals and activities, and to help realize the benefits of cooperation.

This process allowed the canton to build consensus, prepare a development plan, allocate municipal funds equitably leverage additional resources and improve infrastructure and living conditions. The participatory municipal management improve infrastructure and living conditions The participatory municipal management process was institutionalizes ensuring representation of women and marginalizes groups.

These conclusions are present in this paper research:

1. Introducing participatory planning and community-based development processes through neighborhood development committees and street representatives working in partnership with the city
2. Creating an enabling environment for private investment
3. Empowering citizens to pursue their own self improvement
4. promoting privatization of the housing a stock and fostering the development of micro- enterprises
5. Ensuring the sustainability of activities initiated
6. Promoting the reliability of successful initiatives.

Albanian government will be reality these points:

- A dynamic local government leadership
- A coherent strategy acted upon with determination
- A healthy climate of cooperation with business
- Local government's investment initiatives to jumpstart the stagnant economy
- Creative use EU funds to implement local policy
- Efficient municipal administration

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# Air Pollution in Kolkata: An Analysis of Current Status and Interrelation between Different Factors

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## Abstract

Kolkata, one of the fastest growing metropolises in India has been suffering from air pollution for many decades. The rapid urbanization coupled with ineffective government control has been fuelling this problem. The study aims to portray the current air pollution situation in this megacity as it analyses the present level of different air pollutants like Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM), NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>. The result of the analysis shows the critical level of air pollutants specially the SPM and NO<sub>2</sub> in different parts of city. By zoning the city into residential, commercial and industrial areas, the result shows the difference between the levels of pollution in each area. The second part of the study explored the seasonal variation of air pollution and it has been found all of the pollutants reach its highest concentration during winter. Extending the study, the paper also tries to establish the relationship between the air pollutants and metrological factors by using the Spearman's Rank Correlation. The results show an inverse relation between the concentration of pollutants and the metrological factors such as precipitation, wind, temperature and relative humidity. Finally, a calculation of the change in pollution level during the two festive seasons is carried out and an increase in SPM concentration has been found during the celebrations of Kali Puja and Diwali.

**Key Words:** Air Pollution, Seasonal variation, Metrological factors, megacity

## Abstrakt

Kalkuta, një nga metropolet me rritje më të shpejtë në Indi, vuan nga ndotja e ajrit për shumë dekada. Urbanizimi i shpejtë, bashkë me kontrollin joefektiv të qeverisë, ka nxitur këtë problem. Studimi ka për qëllim të paraqesë situatën aktuale të ndotjes së ajrit në këtë megaqytet duke analizuar nivelin e tanishëm të ndotësve të ndryshëm të ajrit, si: grimcat (Suspended Particulate Matter-SPM), NO<sub>2</sub> dhe SO<sub>2</sub>. Rezultatet e analizës tregojnë nivelin kritik të ndotësve të ajrit, posaçërisht SPM dhe NO<sub>2</sub> në pjesë të ndryshme të qytetit. Me ndarjen e qytetit në zona: të banimit, ato komerciale dhe industriale, rezultatet tregojnë dallimin në mes të niveleve të ndotjes në çdo zonë. Pjesa e dytë e studimit, hulumton variacionin sezonal të ndotjes së ajrit. Këtu është konstatuar se përqendrimi i të gjithë ndotësve është gjatë dimrit, kur, si rrjedhojë, është më i lartë. Me shtrirjen e studimit, ky punim, gjithashtu, përpiket të krijojë marrëdhënie ndërmjet ndotësve të ajrit dhe faktorëve meteorologjikë duke përdorur Korrelacionin e ranguar të Spearman-it. Në bazë të rezultateve del se ka një lidhje të anasjelltë midis përqendrimit të ndotësve dhe faktorëve meteorologjikë siç janë: era, reshjet, temperatura dhe lagështia relative. Së fundi, është kryer një llogaritje e ndryshimit të nivelit të ndotjes në dy sezonet festive dhe një rritje e përqendrimit të SPM. Me këtë rast është konstatuar se gjatë festimeve të Kali Puja dhe Diwali përqendrimi është më i madh.

## Апстракт

Калкута, една од најбрзо растечките метрополи во Индија веќе неколку децении има проблеми со загадувањето на воздухот. Брзата урбанизација заедно со неефикасната контрола на владата дополнително го разгорува овој проблем. Студијата има за цел да го прикаже на тековната ситуација со загадувањето на воздухот во овој мега град преку анализирање на сегашното ниво на различни загадувачки материи во воздухот како суспендирани честички, NO<sub>2</sub> и SO<sub>2</sub>. Резултатот на анализата покажува критично ниво на загадувачите на воздухот посебно за суспендираните честички и NO<sub>2</sub> во различни делови на градот. Преку одредување зони на градот во станбени, комерцијални и индустриски области, резултатот ја покажува разликата

помеѓу нивоата на загадување во секоја област. Во вториот дел од студијата се истражува сезонска варијација на загадувањето на воздухот која доведе до резултат кој укажува дека сите загадувачи ја достигнуваат својата најголема концентрација во текот на зимата. Понатаму преку студијата, исто така, се воспоставува врска помеѓу загадувачите на воздухот и метеоролошките фактори со користење на Спирмановиот коефициент на ранг корелација. Резултатите покажуваат инверзен однос помеѓу концентрацијата на загадувачите и метеоролошките фактори како што се врнежи, ветер, температура и релативна влажност. На крајот се пресметува промената на нивото на загаденост на текот на двата празника при што се воочува зголемување на концентрацијата на суспендирани честички за време на прославата на Кали пуја и Дивали.

## 1. Introduction:

In general, cities in developing countries can well be compared to islands in a sea of deprivation and poverty. Kolkata is not an exception! The former capital of the British India is experiencing “growing up” pains as it endeavours to reclaim its lost glory. As the city grows physically to keep up with its economic growth, it counters several environmental degradations. Air pollution is one of them. A report published by world health organization in 2002 shows around 4.6 million people die each year because of direct impact of air pollution (WHO 2002). Rapid and unplanned urbanization making this problem more acute in many megacities in developing countries (UNEP 1999). Kolkata being one of the fastest growing metropolis in India, is experiencing this problem lately. The influx of large population from the rural areas putting immense pressure in the city’s infrastructure and it is getting difficult to manage it properly (Ghose *et al* 2004; Agrawal *et al* 2003). As a result, the level of pollution in the city is growing at an alarming rate over the past several years.

Several factors results the air pollution level in Kolkata. One of the main factor is transportation (Mondal *et al* 2000). Abundance of poorly maintained vehicles, use of petrol fuel (although government is in a process to phase out these vehicles) and poor controlling is making transportation the major air-polluting sector (Mukherjee and Mukherjee 1998; Kazimuddin and Banerjee 2000). Besides, there are three thermal power plants in and around Kolkata, which also affects the air quality (Ghose 2009). Along with these two major factors, some small industries operating in the city contribute to the air pollution. The study also identifies the contribution of generators used during power cuts to pollute the air of the city to some extent.

In this study, we tried to analyze the air pollution level of Kolkata from different viewpoints. The study starts with some general aspects about the geography and climate of Kolkata, which influences the pollution levels immensely as discussed later in the study, followed by some startling reports about the effects of air pollution in Kolkata. After that the air pollution situation in Kolkata is analyzed from different perspectives. We have tried to maintain a fine balance between our mathematical and graphical analysis, backing it up with established reports wherever possible, and even stumbling upon a contradiction with some previous studies on air pollution in the city. It is to mention here that in some cases the analysis is being limited due to the availability of relevant data, which stopped

us from making a more comprehensive study. Finally, we discuss some of the policies, actions and the inactions of the government in the last few years and the visible effects, if any.

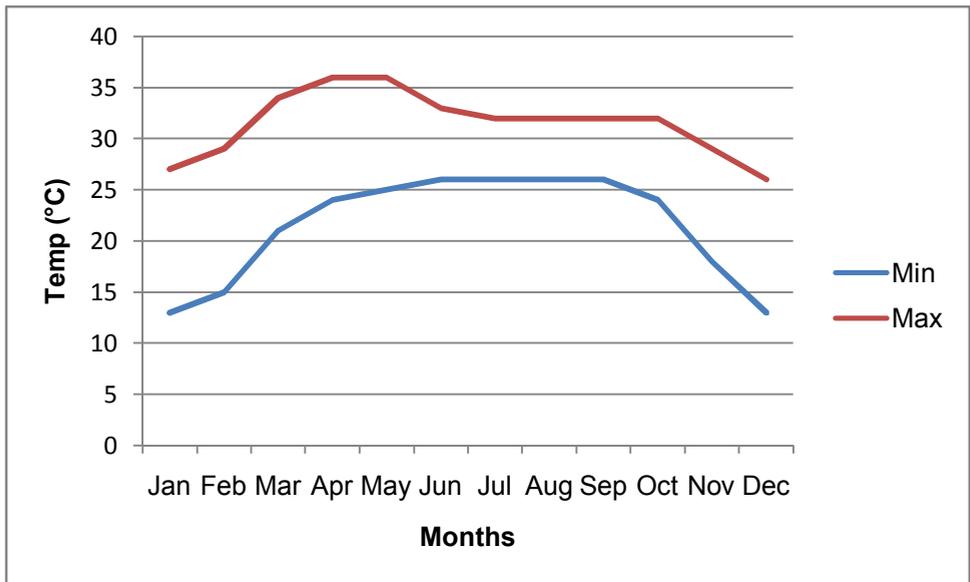
## **2. Geography and Climate Characteristics of Kolkata:**

Kolkata is located in India's eastern part at 22°82'N latitude and 88°20'E longitude. It stretches along the Hooghly River and at points is elevated between 1.5 and 9 metres. Originally, Kolkata was a vast lowland while now is one of the most populated and most polluted cities of the world with high level of Particulate Matters in the atmosphere, creating a major health hazard. (Kolkata Online 2010)

According to the 2001 census report, Kolkata has a population density of 24,760 persons/km<sup>2</sup> and is the second most populous city after Mumbai. It covers an area of 1480 sq.km (Census of India 2001). The Sundarbans delta located 154 km south of Kolkata separates the city from the Bay of Bengal. Kolkata is divided in different topographical regions. There are five geographical units: east, west, north, south and central Kolkata. The joined regions include Howrah, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and Nadia. (Census of India 2001)

Not many cities in the world are located near forests. Kolkata is an exception because there is a dense forest which covers Sundarbans and which is a world heritage site. The Sunderbans is home to large numbers of flora and fauna, as well as a place for touristic visits. It offers a source of income to the rural population, as well to the government for its importance in tourism (Kolkata online 2010).

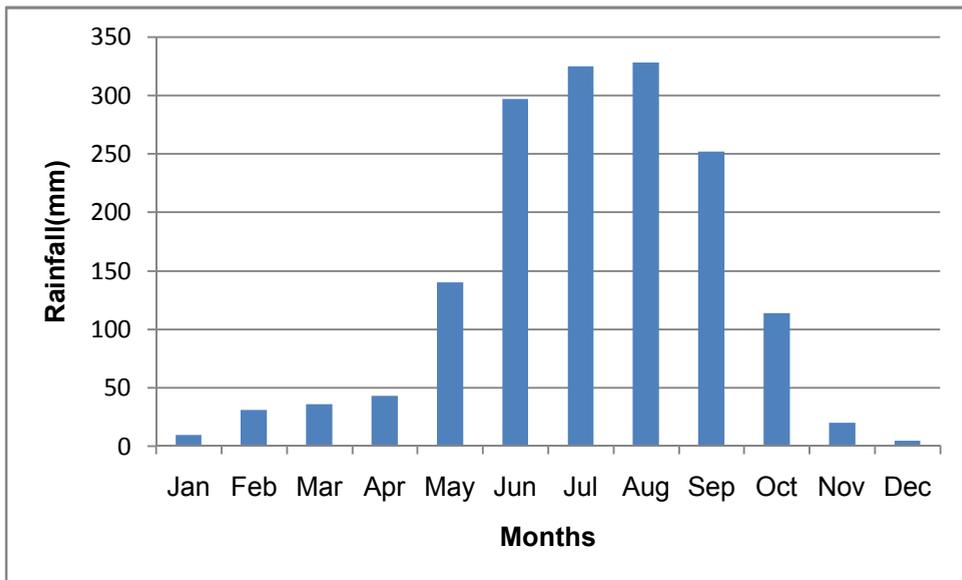
In terms of climate, Kolkata is in the tropic zone i.e. the climate is tropical. During the summer season the climate is very hot and humid. The annual mean temperature during this period is 26.8 °C and the monthly mean temperature ranges from 19 °C to 30 °C. The maximum temperature in Kolkata during the summer (from April to June) exceeds 40°C and the minimum during winter (from December to January) is 12°C. The highest recorded temperature is 43°C and the lowest is 5°C (Kolkata online 2010). Figure-1 shows the average monthly temperature of Kolkata.



**Figure-1: Average Monthly Temperature of Kolkata (Source: BBC 2010)**

Between July and October, the city is exposed to the southern monsoon during which heavy rains occur and this is the season when the city gets most of the annual rainfall. Monsoon is an annual weather cycle. In Indian context, it is a seasonally reversing of wind system characterized by wet summers and dry winters. The winds travelling over the Indian ocean towards the north to the subcontinent during the summer monsoon are associated with large scale cyclonic activity and causes wide spread rain for about four months. The monsoon onset starts from middle of June and stays until middle of September (Guha and Biswas 2008). The highest rainfall happens in August (328 mm) to about 114 mm in October when the monsoon retreats (Figure-2). Winter rainfall is very rare and January is the coldest month (11 C). In general, the weather in Kolkata is hot and the city gets flooded during the rainy season (BBC 2010).

The city has a tropical savannah climate with a distinct monsoon season. The average relative humidity is 66% in winter and 69% in summer. The season before and during monsoon are marked by strong south-westerly winds with very high probability of air ventilation (UNEP/WHO, 1992). Being located in a coastal area and influenced by strong sea-based disturbances, Kolkata experiences an average wind speed of 7 km/h throughout the year. The wind direction is mainly southeast and southwest (Gupta et al 2008). The average value of solar radiation recorded is 1428 W/m<sup>2</sup> (Gupta et al 2006.).



**Figure-2: Average Monthly Rainfall of Kolkata (Data Source: BBC 2010)**

### 3. Affects of Air Pollution:

The impact of atmospheric particles has been known since 1980 and they range from mild respiratory infections, through asthma, pneumonia and cardiovascular conditions to death (Gupta et al.2006). The effects can be long-term or short-term. Not all individuals experience polluted air the same way. However, the end result depends on the duration of the exposure, as well as on the dose received. Short-term cases may include, but are not limited to nose and eye itching, nose and throat irritation, headaches, allergic reactions, nausea and some milder upper respiratory infections. The long-term ones are the more serious ones such as lung cancer, heart disease, also brain damage, especially in children, kidney and liver damage, especially in elderly people and the air pollution may further complicate an already existing medical condition (LBNL 2010, Dockery and Pope 1994, Koken et al 2003)

Air pollution is a major problem in urban areas. In many densely populated areas in India the annual concentration of NO<sub>x</sub> is almost double the maximum allowed concentration of 60 micrograms per cubic meter, with special emphasis during the winter months when elderly people are more severely affected and officials admit this (Bhattacharjee 2010). NO<sub>2</sub> is created from automobile exhaust

and industrial activity which causes allergic asthmatics by augmenting allergic responses (Steinberg *et al* 1991). Similarly SO<sub>2</sub> affects Pulmonary function and cause inflammation of bronchial mucous (Giuseppe and Francesco, 1993).

Kolkata is placed among the most air polluted cities in the world with respect to SPM. In the analysis of the air pollution data of city, we also found that the concentration of SPM is much higher than the other pollutants. Much of the pollution, which was discussed in the earlier sections, is due to the economic and industrial development of the city and the appearance of versatile industries, such as the paper and pulp, organic and inorganic chemical industry, plastic, rubber, iron and textile industries, power plants. The basic reason for such bad air conditions is the high level of SPM of which around 50% originates from transport and about 48% from industries. The main source of industry - originated air pollution is the cluster of industries that use coal combustion to operate (Chakraborty and Bhattacharya 2001). A study conducted by Karar *et al* (2006) during November 2008 to 2009 in two different locations in Kolkata also shows the high concentration of SPM like Lead, Cadmium, Manganese and Iron especially in winter season. These particles can result on severe health threat for the local people (Karen and Michak, 1991; Karar *et al* 2006)

Ghose's study (2009) on health effects due to chronic exposure to air pollution in Kolkata showed a strong link between air pollution and pulmonary, hematologic, immune system, and genotoxic changes that can lead to a number of diseases, such as respiratory illness, cardiovascular problems, and cancer (Ghose 2009). Another study done in Kolkata between 1996 and 2001 which proved that the lung condition of an average citizen of Kolkata is about 7 times more troubled than of the ones living in rural areas due to air pollution. About 47% of the population of Kolkata suffers from lower respiratory tract infections. Some studies show that in the 1990s in Kolkata more than 10,000 deaths occurred due to SPM. SPM with a diameter of less than 10 micrometers (PM10) is too small to be filtered by the natural protective mechanisms of the human respiratory system (Ghose 2009). These pollutants can cause allergic reactions in the respiratory system upon inhalation, such as allergic rhinitis, topic dermises and asthma (Fernandes 1995; Arruda *et al* 1992).

Apart from health implications, they also affect visibility and damage infrastructure and recent studies show that suspended particulate matter severely affects human health (Bosco *et al* 2005).

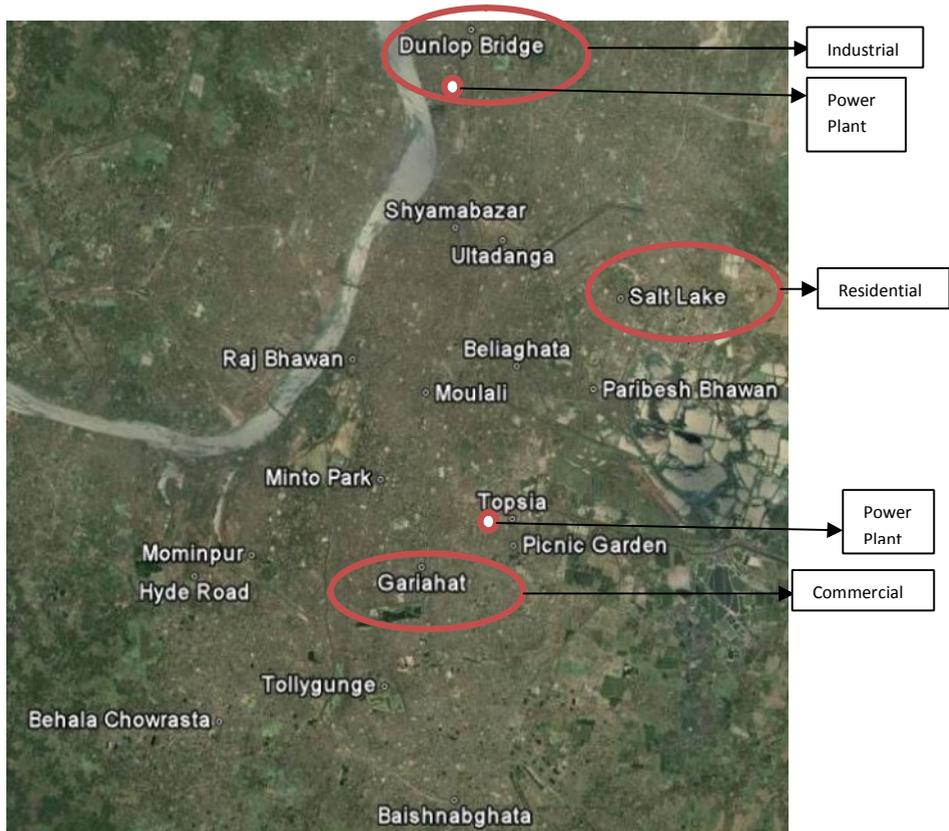
## **4. Analysis of the Air pollution data:**

The following sections will put a light on the air pollution of the city of Kolkata from different perspective. As mentioned the main pollutant considered for this analysis are SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and SPM. Several studies showed that these are the main pollutants in the city and for this; we considered these pollutants for detailed analysis.

### **4.4 Level of pollution in different areas:**

Kolkata is a large city and its sheer size makes it an interesting study to analyse the air pollution levels at the various parts of the city. In this section, we will show the difference in pollution level at three different parts, namely, the residential, commercial and the partly industrial part of the city. Out of the 17 stations available to us, we have limited our study to only one station for each of the three mentioned areas. This is because only these three stations can be the best representative of the three areas in concern. For this analysis, we are working with the data for the fiscal year 2004-05 (Apr 04-Mar 05), obtained from a statistical database site on India (India Stat 2010).

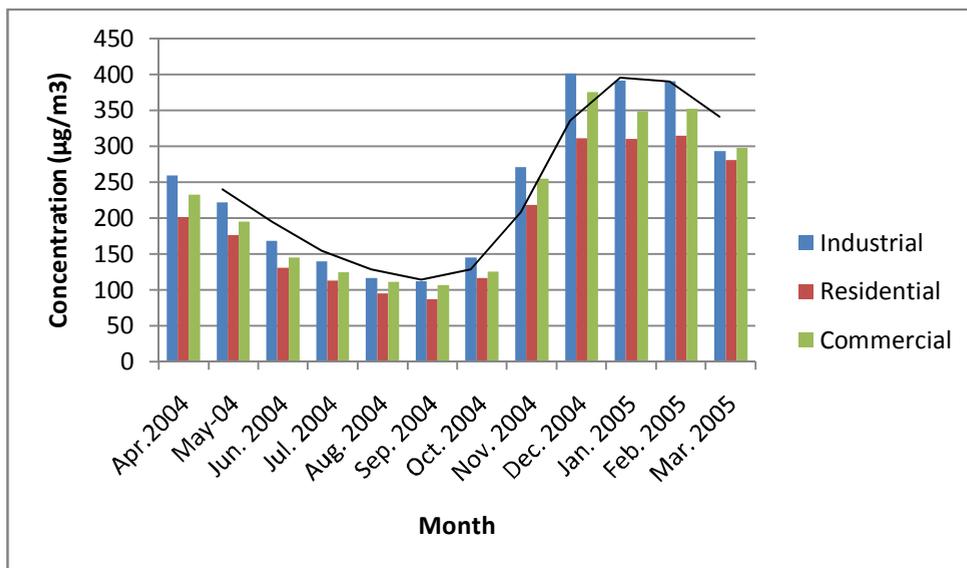
We choose the relatively newly developed residential area –Salt Lake, an old and vibrant commercial area –Gariahat and a partly industrial area on the outskirts of the city –Dunlop Bridge. Dunlop Bridge was particularly selected because of its close proximity to one of the three thermal power plants of the city, located at Cossipore. Map-1 below displays the areas we have selected along with location of the two power plants in the city.



**Map-1: Location of Selected Area for Study (Created Using Google Earth)**

The following figure-3 shows the level of SPM at the three areas in question. Kolkata is most affected by suspended particulate matter (SPM), as expected in a mega city, which pose a serious threat to its citizens (Bosco et al 2005).

The figure shows us two distinct trends. First of all, as expected the level of SPM at the residential area is the minimum while that of the industrial area is the highest, the only exception being March 2005, when the level at the commercial area exceeds that of the industrial area. Secondly, the level of the pollutant follows a cyclic pattern across a year, which will be further discussed in details in the following sections.

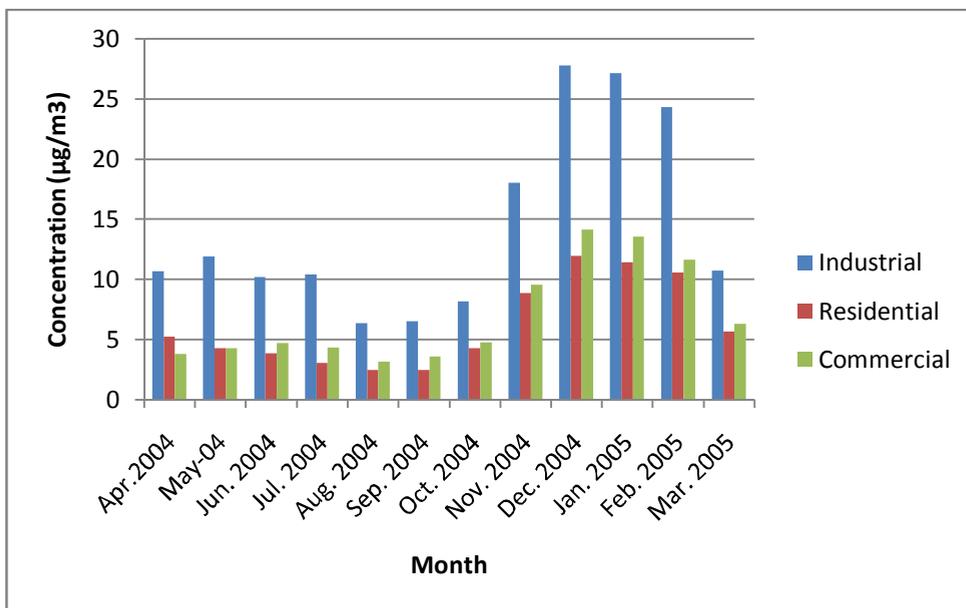


**Figure-3: Level of SPM in Different Areas (Data Source: India Stat 2010)**

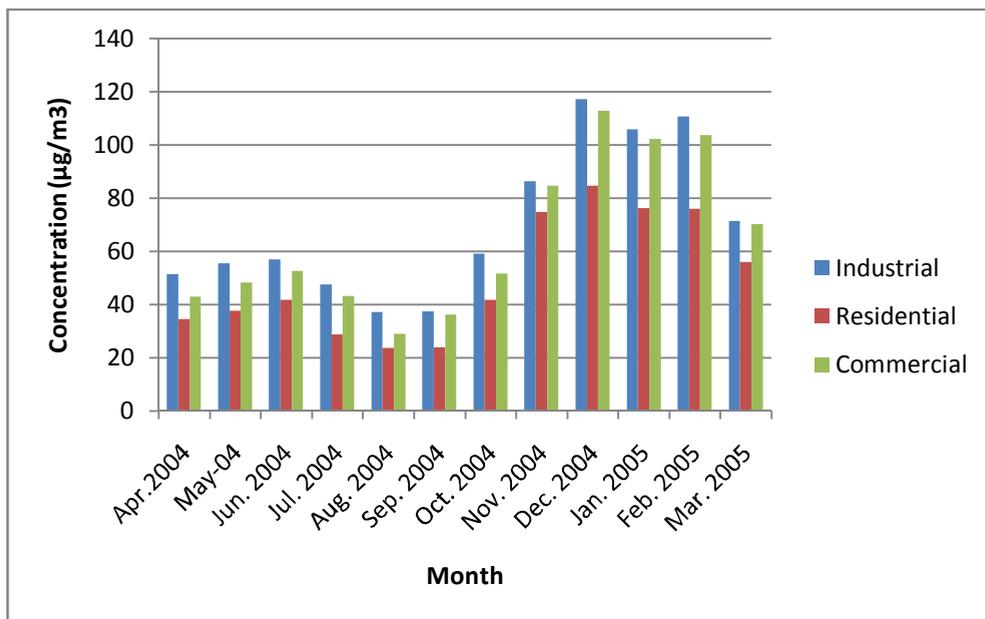
According to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of India, the PM<sub>10</sub> concentration is 200microgram/m<sup>3</sup>. In our analysis, we found the monthly average at the three places to exceed that standard in six of the twelve months that we have taken into account, with the levels reaching alarming heights during Nov-Feb. The high level of SPM is due to re-suspension of road dust, soil dust, constructional activities, vehicular traffic, and industrial emissions in the industrial areas. Apart from anthropogenic sources, sources roughness and meteorological conditions also play a part. High relative humidity in Kolkata affects the SPM concentration as it favours gas-to-particle conversion processes (Gupta *et al* 2008). (Karar *et al* 2006) suggests that apart from local emission sources, trans-boundary sources, presumably the nearby power plants, are also responsible for the high SPM level in the city.

The following figure-4 and figure-5 show the level of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> for the three areas. It can be clearly observed that the concentration of SO<sub>2</sub> is much lower relative to NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. We must note that the level of SO<sub>2</sub> is well within the NAAQS standard of 80 microgram/m<sup>3</sup>, unlike the level of NO<sub>2</sub>, which also has a standard of 80 microgram/m<sup>3</sup>. The main sources of NO<sub>2</sub> in Kolkata is automobile exhausts and different industrial pollutants (Samanta *et al* 1998). According to Anon (1996) around 4500 new vehicles added in the city traffic each month and it

is increasing every year. As, the amount road space is constricted and due to unplanned traffic management normal vehicular movement is restricted, it increases the fuel consumption and exhaust emission which lead to NO<sub>2</sub> concentration. (Wijetleke and Krunatune 1995). Aneja *et al* (2001) also concluded that the high level of NO<sub>2</sub> concentration in Kolkata can be attributed to the heavy vehicular traffic in the city. (Mondal et al 2000) conducted a study at 19 traffic intersection points in Kolkata and observed similar results, along with significant seasonal variations. Other sources of NO<sub>2</sub> include industrial emissions and burning of fossil fuels. On the other hand, point sources such as power plants and industries have relatively high SO<sub>2</sub> concentration (Aneja *et al* 2001).



**Figure-4: Level of SO<sub>2</sub> in Different Areas (Source: India Stat 2010)**



**Figure-5: Level of NO<sub>2</sub> in Different Areas (Source: India Stat 2010)**

We find similar trends, like those of the SPM levels, when we observe the graphs for these pollutants. What is striking though is the proportion of SO<sub>2</sub> at the industrial area, when compared to the other pollutants. The table-1 below shows the proportions of the annual average SPM, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> when compared to that of the levels found in the residential area.

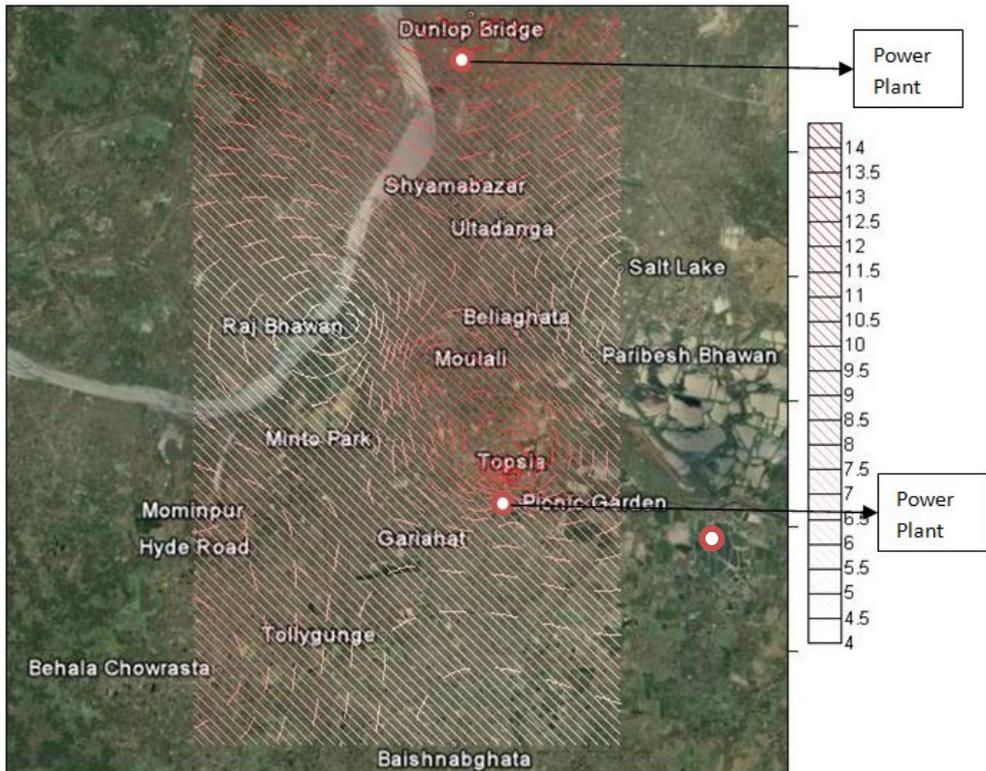
**Table-1: Proportion of Pollutants Compare to the Residential Area**

	SPM	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>
Residential Area	1	1	1
Commercial Area	1.132238	1.129734	1.297115
Industrial Area	1.234968	2.314128	1.395329

The level of SO<sub>2</sub> at the industrial site is twice that of the residential site. This is because of emissions from power plants, industrial boilers, and heating and cooking sources (Gupta et al 2008).

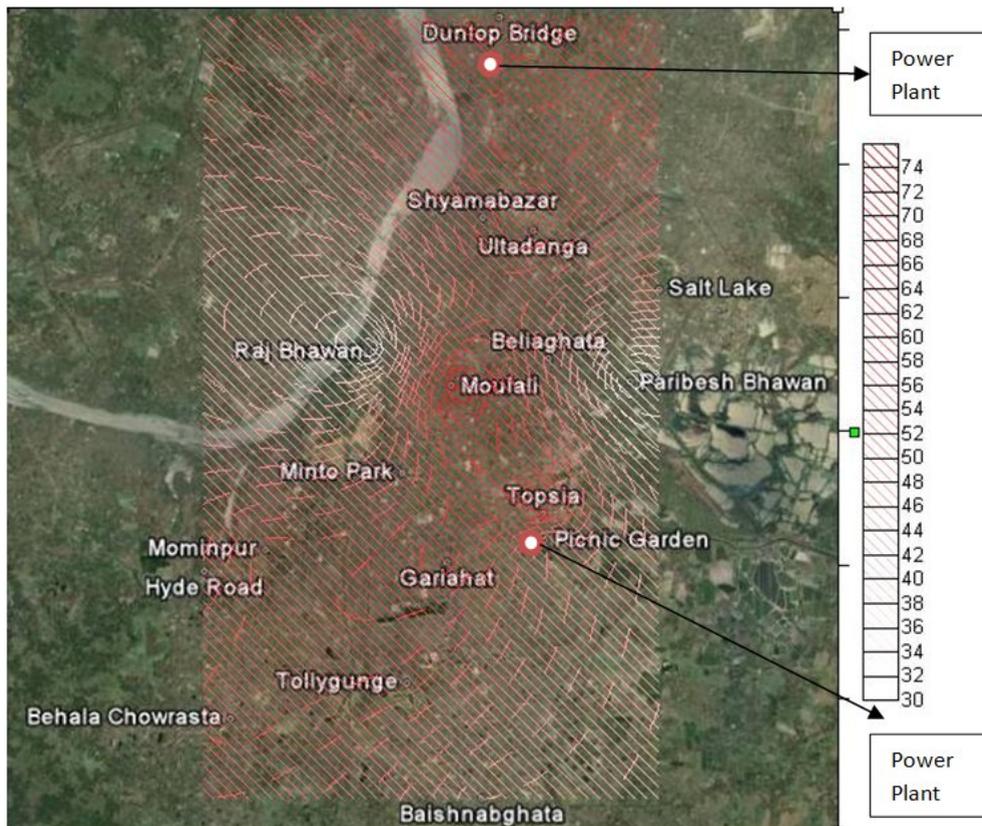
In order to show the level of pollution in different location more visually a contour map is created for different pollutant which are shown in Map 2 to 4. For this the data of all the 17 available station is taken and contour map is created for SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and SPM.

Map-2 shows the SO<sub>2</sub> concentration around Kolkata. It can be observed that the level of SO<sub>2</sub> is not as high compare to the other pollutants. As mentioned earlier it is below the NAAQS standard in all the areas. However, the around the two thermal power plants the concentration is a bit high compare to the other locations.



(Data Source: India Stat 2010)

**Map-2: Level of SO<sub>2</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) in Different Location in Kolkata**

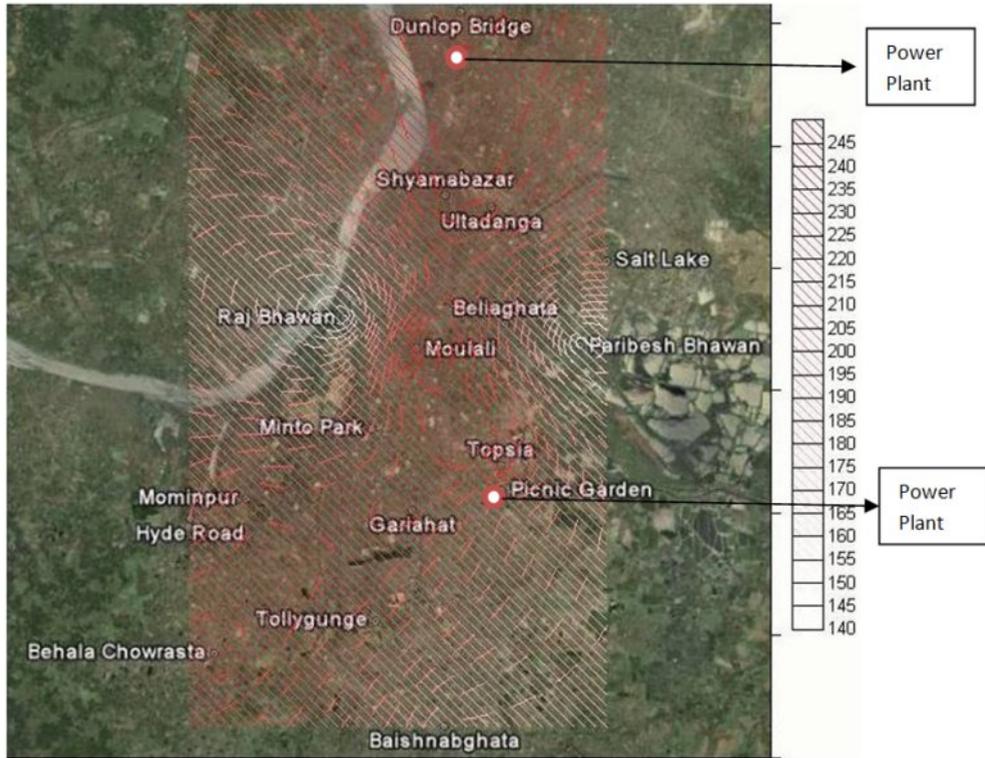


(Data Source: India Stat 2010)

**Map-3: Level of NO2 (µg/m3) in Different Location in Kolkata**

Map-3 shows the NO2 concentration in Kolkata. As seen, the concentration is quite low in the residential area close to Raj Bhawan, Paribesh Bawan and Salt Lake. But if we look at the main commercial areas like Gariahat, Topsia, Moulali and Dunlop Bridge the level goes up. This can be attributed to the heavy traffic in those areas, throughout the week, which often results in endless traffic jams thereby increasing the concentration in those areas.

Similar trend can be followed for the level of SPM concentration (Map-4). The residential areas mentioned still in a good shape but in the commercial and industrial zones the level of SPM going over the NAAQS standard.



(Data Source: India Stat 2010)

**Map-4: Level of SPM ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) in Different Location in Kolkata**

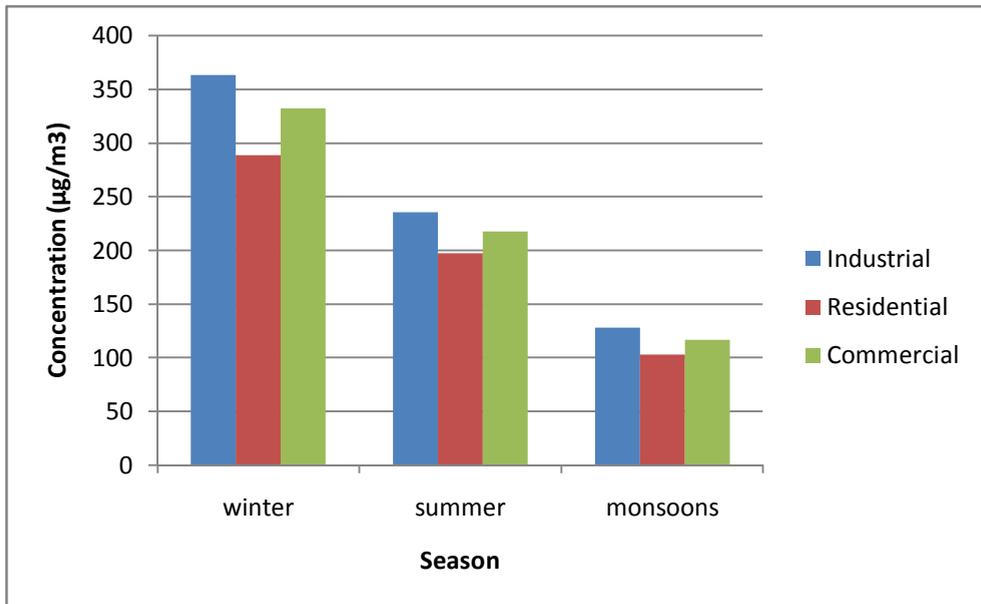
#### 4.2 Seasonal Variation of Pollutants:

The seasonal variation in the climate has a significant relation with the level of pollutants in a city. In this section, we will do a detailed analysis of the cyclic pattern of the levels of the gaseous pollutants, which we observed in the previous section.

Kolkata has three distinct seasons –winter, summer and monsoons. Winter is from Nov to Feb, summer from March to June and finally monsoons from July till October. Studies conducted on the meteorological conditions of Kolkata suggest that during winter the air mass is more stagnant compared to other seasons, as there is less atmospheric circulation and an increase in atmospheric stability. (Gupta *et al* 2008). On the other hand, during summer, there is an increased circulation of air in the troposphere. Also, (Gupta *et al* 2006.) shows that the season before the

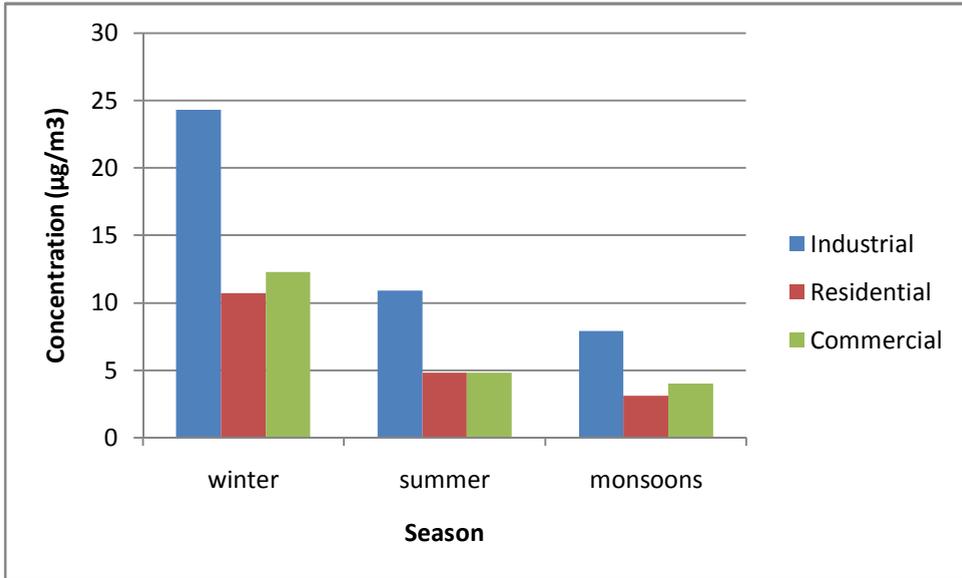
monsoon, as well as the monsoon season are dominated by strong winds with greatest potential for air ventilation.

The following figures 6 to 8 show the concentration of the pollutants in the three different seasons.

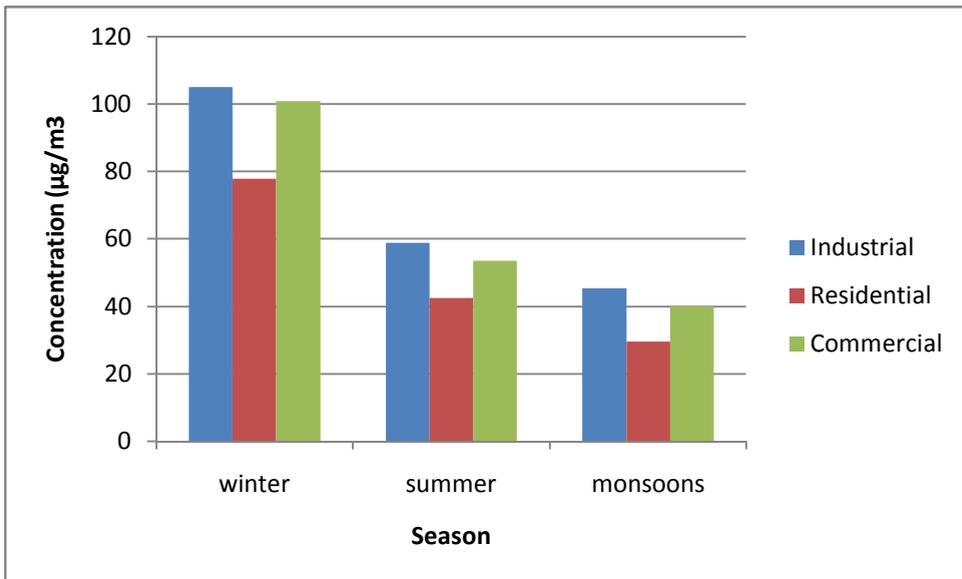


**Figure-6: Seasonal Variations of SPM (Data Source: India Stat 2010)**

From the figure 6 to 8, we can clearly see that the concentration of the gaseous pollutants are a minimum during the monsoon seasons. Apart from the wind conditions and temperature, the amount of precipitation also plays a vital role to determine the concentration of gaseous pollutants in the atmosphere, due to the cleansing mechanisms associated with it. From figure 2, it must be noted that during winter, Kolkata experiences little or no rainfall. The table below shows the proportions of the pollutants in the different seasons when compares to the monsoon season.  $SO_2$



**Figure-7: Seasonal Variations of SO<sub>2</sub> (Data Source: India Stat 2010)**



**Figure-8: Seasonal Variations of NO<sub>2</sub> (Data Source: India Stat 2010)**

It is interesting to observe that the average amount of SO<sub>2</sub> in Kolkata during winter is three times that of monsoons. Apart from the meteorological factors, this can also be attributed to the use of enormous amounts of heating fuels in Kolkata during winter (Lee et al., 1999).

**Table-2 Proportion of Pollutants Compare to the Monsoon Season**

Seasons	SPM	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>
Winter	2.833922	3.155734	2.475531
Summer	1.871038	1.367384	1.348889
Monsoons	1	1	1

#### **4.3 Relation between the pollutants and Meteorological Factors:**

Proper measurement of meteorological parameters is always being a major requirement to understand the type and nature of the atmosphere (Seaman 2003). The chemical properties of the pollutants in the atmosphere depend upon temperature, wind direction, rainfall and relative humidity of a particular location (Elminir 2005).

From the previous sections, the seasonal variation in the level of the pollutants has been well established. We have also noted that this is mainly due to meteorological factors. In this section, we will further establish the relationship between the two. Temperature, wind speed, precipitation and relative humidity are the main meteorological conditions affecting the level of the pollutants in Kolkata.

In order to prove the hypothesis, we decided to conduct the Spearman's Rank Correlation between the average monthly temperature, wind speed, precipitation and relative humidity with the average monthly level of SPM, NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>, for the city of Kolkata. Please note that the exact data for temperature, wind speed and precipitation for the period Dec 2004-March 2005 was not available, and hence, for those four months we used the data for Dec 2003-March 2004, as a substitute. We believe that this will not change our results significantly in our endeavour to establish the trend. The table 3 below show the data that we have used, followed by table 4 that shows the ranking of the data, which is a requisite to conduct the

Spearman’s Rank Correlation. The relationship between wind speed, rainfall, temperature and relative humidity and the air pollutants is calculated using SPSS package (SPSS 2003).

The results from the Spearman’s rank correlation (table-5) make the entire picture very clear. As we can see, the relationship between precipitation and the various air pollutants reveal a strong inverse correlation. The relationship between the other meteorological factors and pollutants, although not as strong, does reveal a significant inverse correlation. The following table shows some other studies that conducted similar analysis and the results they obtained. Our conclusions are more or less in agreement with their results.

**Table-3 Data for Spearman Rank Correlation**

<i>Month</i>	<i>Pollutants (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</i>			<i>Month</i>	<i>Meteorological Factors</i>			
	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	SPM		Wind Speed (km/h)	Rainfall (mm)	Temperature (°C)	Relative Humidity (%)
Apr-04	5.12	39.53	209.65	Apr-04	4.7	60	32.9	78.5
May-04	4.97	42.29	182.93	May-04	4.8	10	39.1	75
Jun-04	4.79	45.22	133.79	Jun-04	4.3	178	32.4	81.5
Jul-04	4.66	38.72	119.83	Jul-04	4.7	301	28.8	87
Aug-04	3.41	29.74	104.59	Aug-04	1.8	392	27.4	94
Sep-04	3.32	29.92	98.62	Sep-04	3.6	342	29	82
Oct-04	5.35	45.20	127.26	Oct-04	2.8	363	26.7	82
Nov-04	11.73	73.62	246.22	Nov-04	1.3	0	24.9	79
Dec-04	18.65	95.02	356.32	Dec-03	1.8	10	19.9	79.3
Jan-05	16.10	88.71	329.64	Jan-04	2.1	0	17.2	76
Feb-05	14.76	88.56	328.38	Feb-04	1.8	0	24.2	68.3
Mar-05	6.93	58.17	267.76	Mar-04	3.1	28	27.5	70.8

(Data Source: India Stat 2010 and Gupta et al 2008)

**Table-4: Ranking of Pollutants and Meteorological Factors**

Month	Pollutants ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )			Month	Meteorological Factors			
	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	SPM		Wind Speed (km/h)	Rainfall (mm)	Temperature (°C)	Relative Humidity (%)
Apr-04	7	9	6	Apr-04	6	2	2	8
May-04	8	8	7	May-04	8	1	1	10
Jun-04	9	6	8	Jun-04	5	4	3	5
Jul-04	10	10	10	Jul-04	4	2	5	2
Aug-04	11	12	11	Aug-04	1	9	7	1
Sep-04	12	11	12	Sep-04	3	5	4	3
Oct-04	6	7	9	Oct-04	2	7	8	4
Nov-04	4	4	5	Nov-04	10	12	9	7
Dec-04	1	1	1	Dec-03	8	9	11	6
Jan-05	2	2	2	Jan-04	10	8	12	9
Feb-05	3	3	3	Feb-04	10	9	10	12
Mar-05	5	5	4	Mar-04	7	6	6	11

(Data Source: India Stat 2010 and Gupta *et al* 2008)

The literature review from Gupta *et al* (2008), Seaman (2003) and Elminir (2005) on the relationship between meteorological conditions and concentration of pollutants in the city of Kolkata suggests the following:

- The increase in temperature results in an increase in the average mixing height thereby, increasing the volume of air circulation and reducing the concentration of pollutants.

**Table-5 Spearman Rank Correlation Results**

Pollutant	Meteorological Factors			
	Total Rainfall (mm)	Wind Speed (km/h)	Temperature	Relative Humidity
SO <sub>2</sub>	-0.78*	-0.53***	-0.73*	-0.64**
NO <sub>2</sub>	-0.80*	-0.49***	-0.69**	-0.62**
SPM	-0.85*	-0.39	-0.58**	-0.75*

\*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

\*\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.1 level (2-tailed).

- The increase in wind circulation, due to the nearby Bay of Bengal, reduces the concentration of the gaseous pollutants, with the aid of strong convection currents and increased sea breeze ventilation.
- An increase in the amount of precipitation results in the wash out of the pollutants from the atmosphere, in the form of wet deposition.

An increase in the amount of precipitation results in the wash out of the pollutants from the atmosphere, in the form of wet deposition.

#### **4.4 Differences in Weekdays and Weekends:**

Several studies conducted in the USA, (Jo and Park, 2005; Chinkin et al., 2003; Pun and Seigneur, 2003) shows that there is a significant difference in the level of pollutants between weekdays and weekends. All these studies, show that the level of emissions on weekdays is significantly higher than that of weekends. A study conducted in 2005 on this aspect in Kolkata itself, verified that the level of air pollutants is much lower on weekends as opposed to weekdays (Gupta *et al* 2008). In all these studies, this observation could be well-explained as the general perception is that the less industrial activity, along with lower vehicular traffic, ensures lower anthropogenic emissions on weekends.

We decided to conduct a similar study to further verify this phenomenon for Kolkata. However, the results turned out to be significantly different!

For this purpose, we worked with latest available data. We downloaded the daily average level of concentration of SPM, NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> from the official website of the Pollution Control Board (known as West Bengal Pollution Control Board) for the city of Kolkata, for the period of Feb 2009 to Jan 2010. Then we calculated the average level of gaseous pollutants on the weekdays as well as the weekends. (the results are shown in table-6) Our result is in contrary to the previous studies and also the established perception.

**Table-6: Average Pollutants in Weekdays and Weekends**

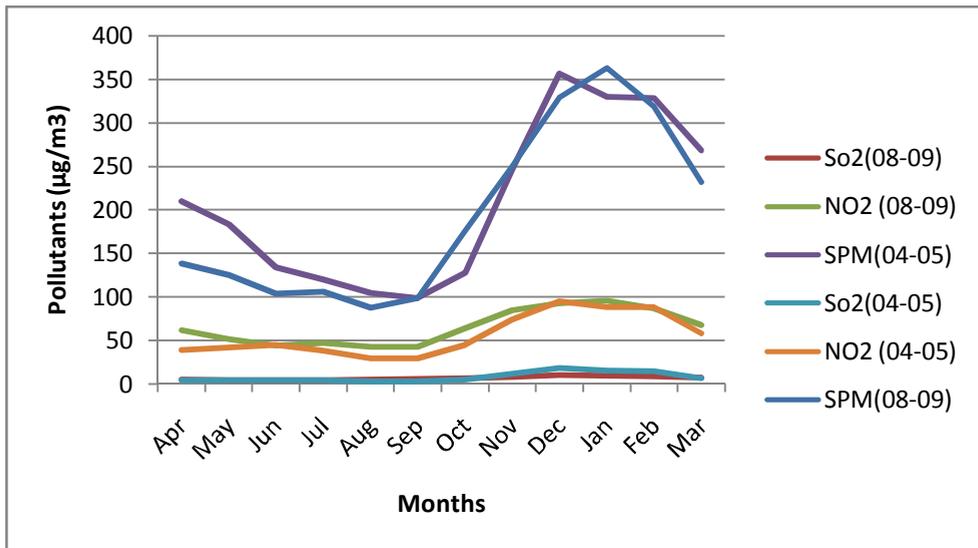
<i>Day</i>	<i>Pollutants (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</i>		
	<b>SPM</b>	<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>NO<sub>2</sub></b>
weekdays	185.62	7.20	61.65
Weekends	197.90	7.30	62.81

(Data Source: West Bengal Pollution Control Board 2010)

We feel this is an interesting result and has much scope for further research. A variety of socio-economic conditions could be responsible for this phenomenon. A research could throw some light on the changing lifestyle behaviour of the urban residents of Kolkata in particular, and rising urban middle-class Indians in general.

#### **4.5 Change in Pollution Level**

In this section, we wanted to show how the level of pollutants in Kolkata has changed over a period of five years in Kolkata. For this analysis, we took data across two time periods –Fiscal years 2004-05 and 2008-09. As can be seen from figure-9, there is little or no change between the air pollution levels in Kolkata over a span of four years!



**Figure-9: Change in Pollution Level (Data Source: West Bengal Pollution Control Board 2010 and India Stat 2010)**

#### 4.6 Air pollution during the festivals:

Durga Puja and Kali Puja (Diwali) are major, very popular and eagerly awaited annual festivals in India, also known as “Festival of Lights. They take place when the season approaches to winter and the climate changes from hot, wet, humid, and windy to colder weather with less wind (October/November). The air pollutants in Kolkata are in their highest concentration during the wintertime. During these festivals, in addition to the traditional lamps lighting, a lot of fireworks, sparkles and crackers are being used. Fireworks are mainly used in urban areas and they mainly contain chemicals such as arsenic, sulfur, manganese, sodium oxalate, aluminum and iron dust powder, potassium. They also release pollutants, like sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), suspended particles (including particles below 10 µm in diameter, i.e. PM10) (Badarinath *et al* 2009.).

There are many studies done on air pollution during these festivals. A study done in 2005 to measure the air pollution caused by these conscious activities of using fireworks and crackers showed that the air pollution has increased especially in the near proximity of those that were using them. Another study showed that the levels of NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> were much higher than the other days and the total

permissible level of SMP and was higher than the allowed limit (West Bengal Pollution Control Board WBPCB 2004).

In order to check the phenomena we also took the data of different pollutants during the eve of Kali Puja and Diwali in different year there we can see the level of pollutants at those times.

**Table-7 Comparison of Air Quality during Kali Puja**

<b>Pollutant (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</b>	<b>Kolkata Average</b>		<b>Residential Standard</b>	
	2003	2004	2009	
SPM	246	243	406	200
SO <sub>2</sub>	15	19	10	80
NO <sub>2</sub>	50	77	81	80

Data Source: (WBPCB 2004 and 2010)

**Table-8: Comparison of Air Quality during Diwali**

<b>Pollutant (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</b>	<b>Kolkata Average</b>		<b>Residential Standard</b>	
	2003	2004	2009	
SPM	144	233	261	200
SO <sub>2</sub>	11	16	9	80
NO <sub>2</sub>	46	74	75	80

Data Source: (WBPCB 2004 and 2010)

The Above table 7 and 8 clearly shows high concentration of SPM during these two festivals and it is much higher than the NAAQS for residential areas. The level of NO<sub>2</sub> is also high but it is still below the tolerance level. The level SPM pollution during these occasions also increasing over the years.

## **5. Policy and Actions for Air Pollution Control:**

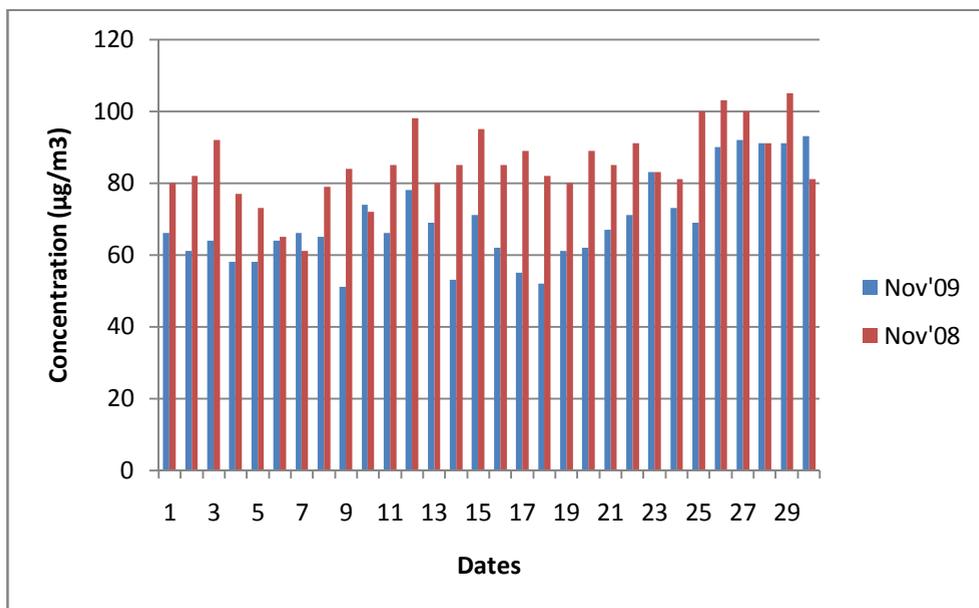
Kolkata is making serious efforts to improve air quality. Some of the challenges that faces on the road towards successful policy-making are human migration, coal burning industries, diesel driven vehicles, legislation harmonization and harmonization of databases, standards, researches and methodologies. The management is done on two levels, central (the Ministry of Environment, the WBPCB, the Ministry of Transport and Highways, etc.) and local (Department of Environment and local bodies and authorities). In recent years a number of legal interventions have taken place regarding vehicle emissions, fuel quality, introduction of cleaner fuels and reducing old vehicles which has greatly influenced the overall efforts to improve the air quality in Kolkata (Gairola and Sharma 2005).

There were various awareness campaigns raised, among which was the one when the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) gave publicity to the Supreme Court's decision regarding the use of fireworks only between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. through a request made to mobile phone network companies to send messages to their users with specific text on raising awareness. Also, in 2004 the WBPCB carried out a large number of inspections at firework manufacturing facilities during October and November (just before the festival season) and seized a large number of prohibited ones. The same happened during the actual festival season. The WBPCB also established a monitoring network for ambient air quality measures of main air pollutants such as SPM, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and Pb (Chakraborty and Bhattacharya 2004)

Another action to improve the air quality in Kolkata was the conversion of coal-fired boilers to oil fired under the India Canada Environment Facility (ICEF) project where the industries, WBPCB and ICEF were partners. It was introduced as a strict regulation, but the industries were reimbursed 50% of the total costs involved in the needed conversion. The situation in 2004 showed that more than 70% of the industries had undergone this conversion. The overall success of this

action has been estimated to about 90% reduction in total PM emitted from all boilers used in industries (Chakraborty and Bhattacharya 2004).

In 2008 a major decision was taken to improve the air quality in Kolkata. In July 2008 high court ordered to phase out the 2-stroke autos and old commercial vehicles from the street of Kolkata by December 2008. Due to lot of political pressure, the government was forced to push the deadline to July 2009. In another policy, the decision was taken to replace the old vehicles with new CNG (Concentrated Natural Gas) vehicles. So, the implementation took place or started to take place from the beginning of August 2009. To get a picture of the change in the pollution level we decided to take a snapshot of NO<sub>2</sub> concentration (NO<sub>2</sub> is taken because it is one of the main pollutant from these 2-stroke vehicles) of November 2009 and compare it to that of 2008, to see the effects of the ban and it was shown in the following figure-10.



**Figure-10: Comparison of NO<sub>2</sub> concentration Between Nov'09 and Nov'08 (Data Source: West Bengal Pollution Control Board 2010)**

The figure shows that there is a change in the NO<sub>2</sub> level in Kolkata, with significant reductions during most of the days observed. The policy is now implemented quite well and soon the difference is expected to be much higher.

Overall, Kolkata, alongside with the other major cities of the country has identified many issues that contribute to air pollution and is trying to address all of them. This great challenge should incorporate promoting public transportation, traffic planning and management. However, one has to bear in mind that it is crucial to raise the public awareness so that whatever legislation is introduced is successful (Gairola and Sharma 2005).

**Conclusion:**

This study aspires to be an introduction to the air pollution situation in Kolkata, marking the various roles of the emission sources, geographical and meteorological features of the city and their interactions. As mentioned before, the availability of data restricts our analysis, but not to a great extent. Effective use of statistical tools and mapping software established the results more prominently, especially the influence of meteorological factors. This study also tries to compare the difference or none between two periods, bringing to light the inefficiency of the various state and non-state actors. A major hindrance for effective implementation of any transport policy in Kolkata is the powerful trade unions, a direct spin-off of the three-decade long communist party rule in the state. These trade unions are politically influential and major vote banks, hence, any policy, like the ban of polluting two-stroke three wheelers, which are detrimental to their interests, will bring them in direct conflict with the implementing body resulting in political dramas. The recent clashes in Kolkata between the police forces and the transport unions bear testimony to this fact. Fortunately, the situation is changing and even though delayed, the ban is being implemented in a phased manner. Our last section tries to capture the results of this policy, in terms of the level of NO<sub>2</sub> for a particular period.

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