

# THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION IN THE CITY OF ELBASAN.

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## Abstract

Elbasan is a city with ancient historical cultural values and it is recognized by scholars as the cradle of knowledge. The problems of environment pollution began with the construction of the Metallurgical Combine. But these problems grew with the increasing of urban remains and also the increasing of the consumer power notably in the period after '90 years compared to the previous period. Later, social and cultural development and the growth of remittances of expatriates living and working abroad increased the number of vehicles in use to citizens. This brought another problematic element for Elbasan that of pollution from car fumes. On the other hand waste area of the city is extremely outdated (since 1986) and close to water sources (from which the city is supplied) green areas in the city are destroyed constantly, the streets are not cleaned regularly at all axis. At the suburban part of the city many of the roads are unpaved or bumpy. All these factors raise pollution more and more in the city. There have been many cases of children born with many problems since the dictatorship years so the environment constitutes a social problem. This paper analyzes a mathematical relation that exists between the increasing number of businesses and construction in the city and the increased volume of urban remains. The results show that if the cleaning taxes were collected in the proper time, in the target amount and if they went to the proper destination, the city would have the opportunity to be cleaner, and the opportunity to have new jobs, lower consumption of raw materials by recycling, better coordination of different sectors etc. Also, these problems damage some other important sectors such as tourism, water supply, a greater consumption in clothing, cleaning, medication etc. by the population. Finally, the paper gives some conclusions and recommendations for a better management of the environmental situation in the city.

**Key words:** pollution, Elbasan city, environment, local, clean, area.

## 1. Introduction. Historic and Cultural values of Elbasan City

Elbasan is a city in Albania and also the center of the prefecture and district with the same name, is located in central Albania. It lies in the right side of the middle of the river flow Shkumbin climatic features of this area are: mild winters and rainy summers hot and dry. Elbasan is one of the largest cities of the country with a population of about 120.000 thousand people. (Wiki, 2010). Number of students in this city comes increasing. From about 5000 to early 2000 this figure is already more than double. The city considered the "cradle" of education and culture with first normality. Number of branches and diplomas in university has increased. The industry has been developed at the time of Bird's and then took a development after 1974. Here began the deterioration of environmental situation. After 1991 years began to decrease pollution by reducing employment but today in Elbasan Metallurgical Combine still has problems with the environment and are adding more and the urban waste.

Elbasan has many historical and cultural values, different natural beauty that can be offered more visitors to look closely to them. Our problem remains but not available their infrastructure. Our goal is to time that they will have to go to different countries with values, be as short and comfortable and this carries a liaison transportation system developed infrastructure as normal.

Another important factor is to be taken into consideration is the socio-cultural level of our population in general and particularly in Elbasan. It is this factor that will give a boost to the many visitors to come and to return and to feel better. (Shqau, march 2008)

Natural conditions and other demographic characteristics have contributed to different levels of socio-cultural. With regard to our city, regarded as friendly, quiet people and communicable, with culture and desire for development. On the available capacity in the city as outside it, is regrettable that the level of local management and local environmental problems have been without a full solution fast and stable.

Political influence is regarded as one of the inhibitory factors.

## 2. General pollution situation in Elbasan city

Elbasan is located in the central part of Albania. The climatic characteristic is a dry summer and hot with temperatures ranging up to 40 ° C and a not very hard winter, but with rain and a wind feature. Season the fall and spring are considered the most beautiful where Elbasan pick up a really attractive image. What interested us is that as the environment that surrounds us in this city actually occurs. This city is considered one of the most ordered and regulated, with an ancient history and culture but the environmental aspect let to be desired. From observations made recently for some important environmental problems resulting problems in different aspects.

It was to draw attention at the outset and that any visitor especially that of the foreigner who comes is the existence of urban waste in the city.

The urban wastes from the studies have a tendency to grow and this as a result of the growth of the population and the increase of the business number. Most recently the pace of development of tourism in our country have a sensitive and this progress by surveys and studies related to many factors such as: economic and political stability, concern for our country and the increases as the private investment by government.

Already it is obvious that Elbasan is one of the most polluted cities of Albania. The chemical pollution elements are SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, Pb etc. The subjects that damage more the environment are (the garbage field, Kurum, E.C.F Elbasan Cement Factory, Ferrochrome etc). A few years ago Elbasan was at the first place in a Republic rank concerning to the pollution atmosphere. According to the published facts about this problem the figures were alarming. As no other place in the world, the dust quantity measured by different resources never result under 240 mg/m<sup>3</sup> air and often those figures goes to 440mg/m<sup>3</sup> air. (Kila, 2008).

What does this mean? Five times more than the permitted norms (80mg/m<sup>3</sup> air), but ten times higher than the BE norms (40mg/m<sup>3</sup> air). In Europe and all over the World the overwritten norms, so 40 mg/m<sup>3</sup> air are allowed for the maximum 30 cases of breakings per year. We may say that the environment has an evidently improvement compared with the periods before '90th. Last years we have had an improvement of the pollution figures because of the precautions taken by the three production companies installing the filters. (Vyshka,2009)

At the other side the last ten years the urban pollution are increasing constantly. This is the reason that the garbage field it's a problematic area for the environment pollution and it's the first classified of all the actual pollutions. There are some problems too with the Shkumbin River that runs near our city. Other risks for the water pollution are the sewage which runs in different places, inert materials and the garbage field that is near the river. From the interviews and the materials taken by the local administration there are some serious worries about the garbage's burning. Because of this reason there is a polluted environment.

Elbasan is an emergent area of pollution. The west areas as Bradashesh, Paperr, Cerrik, Shirgjan are the most risky. At the other side this risk pass through Peqin. This means that the agriculture production of this areas is harmful. The people of these areas are the most touchable by the professional diseases. There has been even abnormal births to the humans and animals too. It's hard to accept that these environment problems has been a disturbance for us and we will suffer the consequences for so many years in the future. It's ironic to be said that many sensitive and well oriented consumers of the market avoid buying different grocery of these zones. This means that the most preferred zones are Labinot, Gjinar, and up to Librazhd. In this point o view the olive and the olive oil has the tendencies to be abandoned by those consumers.

So in few words and no comment the situation seems chaotic. This means that if we take a look to the situation it needs a regulation. Another problem is that this area is saturated and there are about 20 years that is operating. The garbage that are burning there often disturbed not only the people in this area but all the city. The European standards give us another image and another management of the situation. Abrasion tax cover about 80% of the cleaning and the other 20% is municipal financing. After all we must say that we have to do a lot of work and we have to accrue the motivation of the environment actors to arrive the pertinent standards. Often that is no support from the government. In other cases there are no the pertinent securities (Vyshka, 2009)

Tutorial and construction of the corresponding places costs a lot that means that exist an uncertainty improvement in such securities as 250.000€ for tutorial & 20.000.000€ for the implement of the land fill project. There is disagreement between locative units for the landfill location. If we will think better today's consumer tendency is the diversity and first class product. So we must think to be prudent for the urban remains. Momentary is not thinking to recycle the garbage refuses too. Many developed cities give a great

importance to the recycle process. It has been possible that by recycle process the profit electrical energy and raw material that is used for constructions

Even thought it would be sad that the mean leadership in the progress of the environment it is in the posses of the government. The environments nongovernmental associations between the different projects try to maintain the environment. Often they are conscientiousness and to sensible to the public opinion. This topic in the end has a reaction only when it has a direct reaction in the problem. The citizen conscientiousness it is consider in the low level. According to the plan in the Council Unification exams different problems but the result of the following of tardy problem it wasn't been in the right level. (Preci, 2006).

After the decentralization the environment situation it considers most favorable. More competences begun to pass at the localities power. The government has the figures of the environment pollution. The locality power is focused mainly on the urban remain. Private (produce/ dirtiness) is obligated to respect the standards set by the state, and to make notice once in 3 months the office of the environment. We should think that the today tendencies are the diversities of the products and the lower consume of the society. This tendency point even more about the caution that we should have for the urban remain. It hasn't been thinking about the reproduce of this remains that it may turn useful. So much develop country has turn they attention to the reproduce. It has been arrived that from the garbage to have energy and contribution material for laying the road.

### **3. Impact of environment pollution on Tourism and economical benefits from it's management in Elbasan city**

Elbasan as the most important cities of Albania estimates an incoming tourists in about 300.000-400.000 a year.<sup>544</sup> The favorable period of this city is that of the spring season also called 'The Summer day ". In reality, here the afflux of tourists and day visitors is too big and goes about 300.000 people who come from different cities of Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia and less from others countries. (Gogo, 2008) .Those countries are invited and accompanied by citizens of Elbasan. During this period, daily and monthly income increased significantly suffer, but what we care to mention is what impact has this holiday environment as part of tourism and tourism stable in general.

More specifically as a result of bureaucracies and negligence, to some specific interest groups in regard to tenders of works, main square and an important road in connection with the palace of sport where big fair is organized traditional summer day remain without completed. Road constructions or maintenances in unplanned and inappropriate road bring pollution to environment, disorient citizens, lack of desire to visit these

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<sup>544</sup> *Albania tourism management -the future path to sustainable development .*

places as well as due to increase of powder in environment which derives in critical the health situation of residents and visitors. (Dujisin, 2007)

But we should not forget that although we are not the first in Republic regarding environmental pollution from old cars or the number of cars in general (Tirana considered high index) we should say that the number of cars passed this around the 25000-th and when you think that not more than 15% their European standards are allowed for circulation, the situation becomes really disturbing.

Many people wonder why urban waste must be burned, why they come out and fall collection containers in the street and why they are not recycled as in all developed countries? According to studies recycling is related to production .Developed countries and more industrialized and assess recycling and on this basis have preserved and maintain more their environment. It has also those who have improved their GDP. (De Oliviera,2002). In Elbasan it began to work only a small business that just made it easier the problem of waste urban. As the result of the bureaucracy of city hall and the disputes of this co green light which lasted only 3-4 months were closed .Anyway "spring does not come with a flower."<sup>545</sup>

Until now we took out some important environmental problems and can not say that there are no more problems. I think that there are still problems but they are not very visible and are considered unimportant but they really have a great importance. Adding buildings in the city means that one side is more positive for the development and embellishment, but on the other hand, when these buildings do not respect environmental standards related to construction, road paving, maintenance and etc., such of more environment damage. (Ascolani Laura, 2006). In connection with this logic in Elbasan there are many mansions construction, home, schools, buildings in general, which we most often have their siege of the objects observed and building materials. (WTO,1998). These materials can then pollute the roads but especially spread thus increasing air pollution there and adding the risk of infectious diseases, respiratory etc.. (Hunter& Green, 1995) In these conditions citizens are violated directly in parallel with the tourism (UNEP, 2001). It is the building police responsibility and other segments in the municipality which must frequently intervene in order to stabilize and keep the situation under control. The bureaucracy and delays, corruption and not putting the right people in right places leads to the problems mentioned above. Often takes we to pass on the main road and have just washed car and it is made to be washed again! What happens? Roads are unwashed or washed rarely. In these conditions anyone who would come as a visitor or tourist will face with water ponds, blocked pits or mud flows formed by powder car tire.

In this context it is damaged not only the environment tourism but also the health of visitors and citizens. It is precisely this idea that environment plays an important role in the development of sustainable tourism. If we will keep in mind that the unpaved roads, with dust, with clay, not only damage cars, people who suck the air surrounding but

enable them also to the accumulation of vegetation and flora that surround us. Many green trees are tarnished by our eyes and often worn by "the fog dust" . (Brown,2004).

There are many citizens who have cars that complain about their rapidly pollution not having much time they have been washed. How would it be better for we citizens with cars (it regulates the environment in Elbasan or tourism) to pay an average of 500 lek / week or to pay taxes to the state and municipal so they will arrange us, maintenance and clean the cars. If we would make an approximate calculation that in Elbasan are currently about 25000th cars on which to say with an optimistic calculations require an average of 400-500 lek / week for washing them, then we will have about  $25,000 * 500 = 12.500.000$  per week and per month would be 4 times more, that will be accounted for over 50.000.000 lek or approximately 50.000\$.

A mindful and educated consumer, being aware of the importance of the cleaning tax payment will be a very alleviating factor for the recycle process. On the other hand it is claimed that this tax to be managed better in the way to cover first not only 58% of the population according to the actual statistics but not even 80% according the predictions. The accumulation of this tax is an organized and leadership duty, which can be solved in many ways. The little volition and leadership is a key factor in this course. ( Shqau, 2009)

***Why this tax from one side is not considered financially problematic but from the other side a very important one?***

Although according to the official information the unemployed number is around 16337 or 37,6% of the population, this number cannot justify the cleaning tax that is 700 leke/year or  $(700/365=2$  leke/day for a family with 4 persons). If this tax with an approximate account cover around 58% then let's say that 1400 leke/year or 4 leke/day for a family will cover the entire city's population, this is unimaginable citizen cost.**Error! Reference source not found.**<sup>546</sup> On the other hand the individual, familiar, social, citizen, national's profit, will be keeping clean the environment and being healthy. This also means less medicaments that costs more than 4 leke/day for about 4 persons. (Shqau, 2009)

We will have more advantage to hold less wash, to use automatic machines and to have roads many times cleaner only reducing one part of the pollution. **The recycle** is a key component of the modern remains management. It is the third component of the "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" or of the recycle hierarchy. (Adam,S et al 1999)

Elbasan city calculates on the average of about 28.000 ton urban remains in a year or around 77 ton urban remains in a day. Knowing that the number of the population in this civil centre (Elbasan) is about 125.000 people it results that the amount of the urban remains for a person is around 224 kilo in a year or 0,224 ton/people in a year. From the accounts with the augmentation of the number of the population and also the businesses that operate in this city

<sup>545</sup> Request for investment funds for the landfill construction. -Ing .Vjollca Vyshka

<sup>546</sup> ``Literature from municipal bulletin.``

and which are considered as the most important factors in urban remains it results that their amount is predicted to increase around 30.000 ton/year. The equation taken from a study in another article<sup>547</sup> shows that this connection has the form:

$$b_0=363 \quad b_1=0,2 \quad \text{and} \quad b_2=1,8 \quad \text{also} \quad Y=b_0+0,2x_1 + 1,8x_2$$

$x_1$  – is considered the development of the number of the population, whereas  $x_2$  – is considered the augmentation or the number of the businesses in the city. Having this actual and predicted situation, the insertion in efficient of the urban remains has an important both instant as well as for the future. (Shqau, 2008) For those products which they consider less recycled in conditions of market economy where the diversity of brands and items is extensive, a good crop can make them conscious of the damage that would cause this product to the environment after consumption. In connection with this is the Government task of and its rules and laws to establish, maintain and strengthen the process of recycling, in all the possible links that can be accomplished it. Currently, studies have shown that in Elbasan recycling process is at a very low percentage (and almost not calculating) by about 58-60% of waste opportunities and about 70-75% which is the standard of developed countries.

You can say that genuine recycling of landfill not exist because it takes to start recycling or to begin the process of waste disposal to the equipment or machinery that help product recycling.

Techniques used in recycling are different and different countries use different technologies and combined to achieve a certain mission. Within this mission there by the objectives of differences and the different areas that fail to eliminate substantial parts of urban waste. From the surveys that had been made on about 150 people some reasons result for not recycling as:

1. Have forgotten the 6%
2. Are not convinced 16%
3. I do not know how the 4%
4. There are recycling programs or are poor 16%
5. Other reasons 17%
6. Lack of interest 18%
7. Do not have time 14%
8. Lack bins 3%
9. No need for recycling 6%

Besides the different energy saving and protect the environment and recycling process creates numerous job sites. On a per-ton basis, sorting and processing recyclables alone sustain 10 times more jobs than land filling or incineration. However, making new products from the old offers the largest economic pay-off in the recycling loop. New recycling-based manufacturers employ even more people and at higher wages than does sorting recyclables. Some recycling-based paper mills and plastic product manufacturers, for instance, employ on a per-ton basis 60 times more workers than do landfills.

A survey of ten north eastern states of USA found that they employ 103.413 people in recycling. By re-use of

computers for about 10,000 tons a year are estimated to about 296 new jobs. By recycling of the same quantity of glass products accounted for 26 jobs, while the composting 4 and land fill 1 job. (Washington. DC, 1997). Lack of will, desire greater professionalism and political interventions preventing proper placement of people under the characteristics of jobs, are some of the main reasons, that these standards that are important world today, do not apply to minimum levels of recycling in the city.

#### 4. Conclusions and recommendations

Elbasan city, although with high historical value crop and above all education, continues to remain a problematic city pollution. First among the first 90 years, air pollution today he has a problem with urban waste and a landfill which is extremely overused. Bureaucracy, lack of will and disabilities with the intervention of local officials and policy has left many environmental problems with partial solutions. Various environmental problems threatening the health of many citizens, tourism, but also the flora, fauna, drinking water, agriculture etc.. Lack of recycling prevents the creation of new jobs and greater consumption of natural resources. There is a right connection between the increase of number of businesses and number of the population with the level of urban waste.

Given this situation and experience of other cities and abroad, recommended a greater involvement of local government and relevant structures etc. on environmental issues. Setting up of professionals with proper desire and motivation would be a very important factor for improving the situation. Should grow more humane feelings about the work and its ethics, fighting corruption, so even that is more environment rests. With a little more care and professionalism urban waste can be reused and recycled by the city settled the better and opened several new jobs. Also the elimination of impurities on the road or various wastes would bring more dimensional benefits citizen. Central Government support and collaboration with local government is another important recommendation.

<sup>547</sup> “The management of the urban recycles problems”  
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