



Erasmus+ KA2

Work in progress – Students managing public relations projects

Our project in Germany

“How to make our cities more breathable” (debating)

1. Is air pollution in towns in your country an issue / a matter of public concern?
2. What are the reasons for air pollution in your towns?
3. What are the consequences of air pollution in your towns? What are the consequences for the public and for you as an individual?
4. What is generally done and what could be done to tackle air pollution in your towns?
5. What can you do to minimise air pollution in your towns?
6. What do you think of introducing driving bans in city centres?

Here are the students' answers to the questions:

The Particulate Matter in Stuttgart.

The Particulate Matter consists of a complex mixture of solid and liquid particles and is divided into different fractions depending on their size. So it is an issue because the air is getting unhealthy due the cars. Furthermore they are loud, there are lots of traffic and it costs a lot of time . The reason for the air pollution , is that Stuttgart lies in a valley and the polluted air cannot get out. The consequences out of this are

air heating, Ozone pollution, allergies, you can get sick or it could be deadly.

What can you do to minimise the air pollution?

There are Local measures for road Traffic, Local measures for other sources of pollution, European and international actions, environmental zones and so on.

I think, at least a shor-term driving ban would be appropriate, to protect the air for a short time so that it can recover.

Air pollution in Stuttgart

In the small town of Ostfildern where I live air pollution isn't an issue at all. But just a few kilometers away in the city of Stuttgart air pollution is an often discussed problem.

One of the biggest car intersections there is an eu-particulate matter-measuring station which is frequently recording way to high results.

The major reason for the pollution is the car traffic. This makes the situation a little complicated because in Stuttgart as a city with the automobile industry as the key part of the economic it's a hard to limit the use of cars.

So the administration of Stuttgart tried a lot of things to outmaneuver a restriction of individual traffic. For example the „particulate matter alarm“ which gives the city the possibility to lower ticket prizes for public transportation to encourage the people to leave their car at home.

But in the end none of their efforts really paid off and Stuttgart still is one of the cities with the most polluted air in Germany.

I personally wouldn't approve complete bans of car traffic in the city centers but less drastic options like a city toll could help

“How to make our cities more breathable”

With problems of air pollution in cities like Stuttgart increasing, we have to ask ourselves how we can prevent the massive destruction of our atmosphere especially in those regions. But despite the horrifying amount of cars on the roads, the air inside Stuttgart does not seem dirty or hard to breathe. Nevertheless it would be foolish not to listen to the many scientists warning about the critical situation. The city is fortunately already taking several measures, for example making underground and bus tickets less expensive during times of extraordinarily much air pollution, mostly in winter. In those time periods the public is also requested to leave their car at home and to keep things like an unnecessary fireplace off use. Also, they are making plans for banning gasoline and diesel cars which don't fulfil a certain exhaustion limit.

Although people find themselves in long jams every day, public transportation isn't an option for most of them due to its disorganization and lack of competence when it comes to solving acute problems. We must improve that system to make more people use it.

Another alternative to driving a car in the city is to go by bike. For that, we need more and better biking trails and we have to make using the bike as safe as we can.

An alternate possibility for car owners are electronic cars. Some already have one but they are very expensive and there are not enough charging stations for them. To make it affordable for more people the costs have to be reduced and there have to be more charging stations.

Personally, we think that a driving ban would be one right step to keep the highly polluted areas clean. Also, it will hopefully be more enjoyable to spend time in the city centre and contribute the things named above. But the ban should exclude people who are living in said city centres.

“How to make our cities more breathable“

Our town Stuttgart has a problem with the air pollution.

In 2016 limit values were exceeded 63 times, that is much more than the allowed 35 days per year. Stuttgart's special topography leads to problems, because it is a location in a basin, the certain weather conditions leads to relatively little airflow in the city.

The air pollution also known as fine dust is a nitrogen oxide and causes serious health effects.

For Example:

- Inflammation of the airways
- Asthmatic children have increased symptoms of bronchitis
- Reduced lung function
- Cardiac cycle diseases

The air in Stuttgart has already become noticeably better, thanks to various efforts made.

With the fine dust warning, the city and the state of Baden-Württemberg are appealing all people in Stuttgart to use their cars as little as possible and to give up using comfort fireplaces (= fireplaces not used as the primary supply of energy)

The alarm will be triggered when the German Meteorological Service forecasts particular limitations in atmospheric airflow on two consecutive days.

Switching to rail traffic during the fine dust warning is both straightforward and appealing. Everyone can use the local transport system or can drive by bike/ go by feet.

I think an introduction of total driving bans in Stuttgart is impossible. But only in the centre of the state it could be a good chance to reduce the fine dust. We really have to minimize the air pollution, instead of active children and adults with respiratory diseases are compelled to avoid prolonged outdoor exertions and have to stay at home. “Together for cleaner air.“

Air pollution in Stuttgart:

-Stuttgart is the German city where the concentration of fine particulate matter in the air exceeds the legal limit on more days per year than any other German city. In 2014, that amounted to 64 days.

-On Monday (18.01.2016) issued Germany's first-ever air pollution alert because the danger of human health.

-Concentrations higher than 40 micrograms per cubic meter are harmful to human health. Authorities measured 89 micrograms per cubic meter in Stuttgart.

-Stuttgart's mayor urged residents to use public transport or electric taxis, or to form carpools.

-Some 500,000 car journeys are made each day in Stuttgart.

-the city council also asked employers to let staff work flexible hours or even from home. It advised against using wood-burning stoves which could increase pollution levels.

-Stuttgart is placed in a valley which is also known as "Stuttgart Cauldron" and poses the problem of an intensifying factor for the air pollution.