**Air Pollution**

On 2nd February 2020 (Sunday) at 9 pm Skopje was ranked sixth in the list of cities with the most polluted air. The pollution index was 170, and at the top of the list was Hanoi, Vietnam.

On the website AirVisual (<https://www.airvisual.com/>), a specialized online air monitoring station, the rankings are based on data collection from measuring stations set up in world cities facing poor air quality.

The capital's measuring stations measured PM10 particles at 700 micrograms per cubic meter. In *Novo Lisiche* on 03.02.2020, the measuring station at 19 pm showed 218 micrograms/m3. Meanwhile, in *Crniche* the measuring station showed 49 micrograms/ m3, while in *Karposh* 99 micrograms/ m3.

Failure to take action on such a serious problem should not be tolerated, especially as there are experts in the country with relevant proposals in this area. At the same time, Macedonia is not the first country in the world to face air pollution and should use the good practices of other countries to solve this problem.

The air in Macedonia is alarmingly polluted. This is indicated by measuring stations that almost daily record pollution that is higher than allowed. The World Bank analysis shows that highly industrialized centers such as Skopje, Bitola (energy), Kavadarci (metallurgy) and Miladinovci (crude oil refining) contribute significantly to poor air quality.

The authorities of the City of Skopje are proposing measures that would contribute to reducing pollution, and we, the people need to be more aware in order to reduce the air pollution. Some of the measures to reduce pollution are:

* Air filters on factory chimneys
* Reducing the use of firewood for heating
* Using public city transport and
* Planting as much greenery in the urban environment.

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Photos: Internet

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