



Soil Pollution and Monitoring from Past Operations Lead Smelters in Mitrovica - Kosova

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Abstract: The study area is located in northern Kosovo and centered on the town of Mitrovica. It represents one of the main industrial areas of the former Yugoslavia as well as one of the most important mining districts of Europe. The town of Mitrovica counts about 140.000 inhabitants. The economy was relied on mining and smelting industry since the beginning of XX^o century (mines of the Trepça mining field, Zveçan smelting plant, Trepça battery factory). From a relatively stable production of about 75 000 tons/year in the early 80's the production of crude lead had a maximum of 95 000 tons in 1986, but after two more years with production above 80 000 tons/year the production declined to only about 6 000 tons/year during 1993-4. Thereafter it rose again to 40 000 tons in 1996, but declined again until the production was finally stopped in August 2000. In imposing industrial area with numerous plants grew around the mining activity of the Trepça district. The most important plant was the Trepça battery factory. Crude ore extracted from the Trepça mines was mainly transported to the Zveçan smelter. The Zveçan plant worked continuously since 1939 and the higher (306 m) of the two smokestacks was built in 1972. *The ore treatment and smelting created huge quantities of mine wastes accumulated in time in imposing dumps close to the Zveçan plant.*

Keywords: *Air and soil pollution, particulate matter and heavy metal.*

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