



## **The Environmental Impacts of Power Plants in Kosovo and Sustainable Development**

Ibrahim Ramadani\*, Florim Isufi, Shpejtim Bulliqi, Gani Gashi, Arsim Ejupi, Valbon Bytyqi

*Faculty of Mathematical-Natural Science, University of Prishtina, 10000 Pristine – Kosovo*

*Received April 28, 2011; July 22, 2011*

**Abstract:** Coal represents a strategic importance for energy production and economic development of Kosovo; however, environmental effects are evident during its use. Currently, coal is the main source for electricity production in Kosovo. The uses of lignite from open mines and ash dumps have created a new landscape (degraded) in considerable area. During the processes of energy production from emission of gases, ash, toxic metals, there is seriously threatened a considerable part of territory where lives about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Kosovo's population. Environment degradation in Kosovo is the result of power plant location and electricity production for about half century in the nearness of Pristine (Kosovo). Power plant location in relation to the extension of settlements and the environmental degradation caused by Kosovo Energy Corporation presents a serious problem and requires special treatment. During the analyses of the problem there will be emphasize the necessity of using coal for further social and economic development, by taking into consideration the use of modern technology with lower pollutants emission, in accordance with EU standards, while these measures will have less impacts on climate change. In addition, regulation of degraded areas, such as greenery and use it for different needs will be expressed positively in the ecological balance and sustainable development.

**Keywords:** *power plants, mining, environment, degradation, re-cultivation, sustainable development.*

---

\*Corresponding: E-mail: [ibrahimramadani@yahoo.com](mailto:ibrahimramadani@yahoo.com); Tel: +377 44 139 730; Fax: ++381 38 549 872