Introduction

The purpose of this research is to evaluate the effectiveness of the current methods of awareness of air quality/pollution observed by the researcher in Pristina, Kosovo. Continually, the researcher investigated a new system of installing air quality monitors throughout Pristina. The research questions identified are: “What are the current methods of air quality awareness utilized in Pristina?” and “How can installing a network of air quality monitors in Pristina be beneficial to increase awareness and further goals of becoming a member of the European Union?” Currently, Kosovo has two power plants, Kosovo A and B with plans to build a new power plant, Kosova e Re, and to rehabilitate current plants (Baliu & Prebeza, 2017). As of now, Kosovo is labeled as a “potential candidate” for their application into the European Union (EU). In order to be more desirable, Kosovo has to follow the EU’s long-term strategic plan for energy, including becoming a “prosperous, modern, competitive, and climate neutral economy” (European Commission, 2018, November 28).

Methodology

The methods used for this study included an interview, collection of artifacts, and a literary review.

Interview

One individual, the director of summer programs, at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RITK) campus, the NEWBORN sign, and stickers around light switches at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RITK) campus. The researcher conducted an interview with the director of summer programs at RITK, finding that the stickers were part of an operations and processes class. The letters in the Newborn sign have different meanings, including “E” for energy and “O” for oxygen. The air quality monitor records publicly available data every hour. Furthermore, China implemented a nationwide system of air quality monitors that allows citizens to have access to real time air quality data that may be beneficial in Kosovo. The cumulative observations, interview, and media analysis shed light on the current methods and a new method of air quality awareness, but further research is needed to evaluate the benefits of this method for Kosovo.

Artifacts

Observations of various aspects used to create awareness of air pollution were collected. These included stickers at the RITK campus, the NEWBORN sign, and the air quality monitor at the U.S. Embassy.

Literary Review

A review of online sources to corroborate observations and investigate aspects of the new monitor system were conducted to further analyze the system. These included determining the amount of cellphones used in Kosovo and a Public Pulse survey evaluating citizens' perception on paramount issues.

Discussion and Conclusion

In 2016, the Embassy added an air quality monitor to the side of the building that allowed citizens to get real time data of the air quality in Pristina. Once this data was available to the public, the citizens put pressure on Kosovo’s institutions.

Acknowledgments

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References


Results

RITK Stickers
- Throughout the main education building there were stickers placed around light switches with small scenes of energy processes, see Figure 2.
- The stickers “were part of a class project with Professor David Wetzel on his course about Operation and Processes.”

NEWBORN Sign
- The Newborn sign is in the center of Pristina and is a hub of professional and cultural events including events by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and beer and wine festivals.

Air Quality Monitor at the U.S. Embassy
- In 2016, the Embassy added an air quality monitor to the side of the building that allowed citizens to get real time data of the air quality in Pristina.

Discussion and Conclusion

Some of the limitations that the researcher faced included language barriers, cultural biases, and political biases.
- The researcher’s original thought was that the stickers show different ways that energy can come from and to emphasize alternative energy options rather than the coal power plants that Pristina currently runs on.
- The sign is a constant reminder of the environmental issues, ways to combat pollution, and emphasize the environment in every way.
- The air quality monitor on the U.S. Embassy is the most effective method of awareness and encouraging change. As stated, there were protests the first winter the monitor was active and many since then.
- Only 2.5 percent of people surveyed considered air pollution a paramount issue with slightly more for environmental pollution at 3 percent (United Nations Development Programme, 2019).
- The researcher suggests implementing a network of air quality monitors that are linked to an application on smartphones that citizens can download to learn about current AQI levels and become more educated on the effects of air pollution.
- The more the citizens are aware of the issues their country is facing, the more likely they are to initiate change and make them more desirable for acceptance in the EU.