

PILOT ENVIRONMENTAL ZONE IN MARIBOR

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ABSTRACT

Air quality, especially pollution by particulate matter (PM) is a serious problem in cities. Road traffic is its significant source. There are several approaches to cope with this issue. The most effective are access restriction schemes, but they cause a lot of resistance by residents and local economy. Pilot emission zones (PEZ) are well known measure, yet they have never been realized in Slovenia. In the year 2012 PEZ was implemented in the city of Maribor as a pilot project, causing some resistance, but also gaining support on the other hand. There are three major weaknesses of this approach: i) access restrictions affect only certain group of travellers and might be therefore recognized as discriminatory ii) relatively small impact on the general air quality, iii) impact on the city economy in the initial phases.

The article shows the process of introduction of PEZ and problems during the implementation of the pilot. The evaluation shows negligible impact of pilot PEZ on traffic volumes. On the other hand a lot of useful information was gathered to help possible followers.

