



Hunting the stars to protect dark sky

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The students from High School Orde Chopela from Prilep continuously for 11 years in succession under my supervision perform activity within the international educational project "Globe at Night" (GaN). With this project we have opportunity to get to know light pollution and the relatively simple way of measuring it. GaN is part of the GLOBE project which is a worldwide scientific and educational project, which coordinates the work of students, teachers and scientists to study and understand the global environment. The students estimate light pollution by measuring the magnitude of the stars from the constellations Orion, Leo or some other constellations and additionally using the SQM to map a city light pollution at different locations to identify dark sky oases and even measure changes over time.

Through history people looked at the stars trying to understand the events around them, but today it is a real privilege to see the Milky Way.

The light pollution is wrongly directed or abused light which is generally a result of the inappropriate use of the external lighting. The light pollution is an ecological, energetic, economical, astronomical problem... With "hunting the stars" and measuring light pollution we want to turn attention to this problem, which at first glance does not seem so, but in fact is a very serious problem. The struggle with the problem of light pollution includes different types of experts and researchers, but they emphasize that a global solution is necessary as well as help from many people. The light pollution destroys the sky view which the man has enjoyed ever since the beginning of his existence. We are obligated to leave the night sky as a cultural heritage to the next generations. The world-famous scientists who research this problem use the results of our measurements.

Some countries already have laws on the protection of the night sky. Unfortunately our country is not among them. On the sky there aren't limits. We are all citizens of the world and deserve a dignified place to live and healthy environment.

We were the first school from Macedonia which took part in GaN, it is very useful for us because we have used materials for science competitions (we have great results), the students find it a very interesting activity, it brings them closer to the science and as a result they became citizen-scientists. Definitely, this activity increases the level of conscience, IT skills, language skills of our students, they learn actively, make connections between their learning with real life problems, raises their critical thinking etc.