



IT'S TIME TO CARE!

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ERASMUS+ 2018-2020

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Experiment carried by the team of Olaines 1.vidusskola on the topic Sustainable Cities. Air pollution.

Bio-indicators

Lichens are widely used as environmental indicators or bio-indicators. If air is very badly polluted with sulphur dioxide there may be no lichens present, just green algae may be found. If the air is clean, shrubby, hairy and leafy lichens become abundant. A few lichen species can tolerate quite high levels of pollution and are commonly found on pavements, walls and tree bark in urban areas. The most sensitive lichens are shrubby and leafy while the most tolerant lichens are all crusty in appearance. Since industrialisation many of the shrubby and leafy lichens such as Ramalina, Usnea and Lobaria species have very limited ranges.

Procedure:

1. Observations are made according to the description of the observation method. There are no other special requirements needed for observation.
2. Any inhabited place can be a place of observation.
3. It is not advisable to carry out observations in strong winds, as old branches can break and fall on people.