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Session: Soundscape and Sound Quality – Measurement and Lexicon

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Title: Soundscape – Standardization of Measurement Procedures

Abstract:

A wide range of measurement systems, questioning techniques and analysis methods were already applied in previous soundscape studies over the last decades, but a common consent about meaningful procedures and required measurement systems is missing so far.

However, a standardization of measurements procedures with respect to an uniform investigation, documentation and description of soundscapes is required to allow for the valid comparison and analysis of different studies. Up to now, the diversity of used measurement procedures and technologies hinders the in depth derivation of cross-cultural similarities and dissimilarities in the “physics” of soundscapes and in the perception and assessment of soundscapes.

In the paper an overview of applied measurement technologies and procedures will be given as well as advantages and disadvantages discussed concerning the main questions: (1) how, (2) where, (3) when and (4) how long must be measured.

An initial step in the direction of a common basis of measurement procedures available for soundscape researchers was taken on the occasion of the workshop in Salt Lake City, 2007. This process must be continued. It will promote new ideas in the field of environmental noise research and enhance the acceptance of soundscape concepts in noise policy.