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Special Session:

News in Environmental Noise and Soundscapes

Title:

Reliability of In-Situ Measurements of Acoustics Environments

Author:

André Fiebig

Abstract:

Beyond doubt, soundscape studies must be carried out in the original context. As a valuable measurement instrument, soundwalks are frequently proposed for exploring urban areas by minds of local experts. Usually, acoustical measurements are performed to complete the data collection and to determine the link between acoustics and the responses of the soundwalk participants. A frequently discussed issue concerns the measurement interval required to collect significant data, which represent the investigated location reasonably well. In principle, the duration of the measurement should be sufficiently long to obtain a representative picture of the investigated soundscape with its important and typical sound sources (such as signals, soundmarks or keynote sounds).

To investigate the reliability of acoustical as well as of perceptual data gained by in-situ measurements, consecutive measurement campaigns were performed and analyzed. Due to the performance of repeated measurements information about the level of constancy of soundscapes in terms of acoustical quantities and assessments as well as about the needed measurement interval is gathered. The paper will focus on the perception process of the acoustic environments in context investigated by means of in-situ measurements and will discuss required measurement conditions to collect reliable data.

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HEAD acoustics GmbH
Ebertstraße 30a
52134 Herzogenrath, Germany