

Identifying motivations behind sound-related measures in six urban development plans: Copenhagen, Helsinki, Stockholm, Budapest, Vienna, and Warsaw

Abstract

In this study, six European urban development plans have been studied in terms of the quantity and quality with which they address sound-related urban issues. Three urban plans of capitals from Northern Europe (Copenhagen, Helsinki, and Stockholm) and three from Central Europe (Budapest's, Vienna's, and Warsaw's) have been selected for the study. Three search terms, *soundscape*, *sound*, and *noise* were examined in their immediate and broader contexts in the urban plans. A strong link has been found between *noise* and *air pollution* based on the immediate context. The broader context analysis revealed three main motivations behind sound-related measures: environmental protection, health, and restorative quietness. To further define these, a conceptual framework of *motivators* has been proposed. The identified motivators have then been critically reflected on in the context of soundscape research. The aims of this study have been to provide information for soundscape researchers about the current tendencies and narratives of sound-related urban planning practice, and vice versa, to offer new perspectives on the urban soundscape for professionals of the built environment.

Keywords: soundscape, urban plans, urban planning, noise, noise pollution