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Developing acoustical policies around in EU countries

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According to research, noise levels in hospitals worldwide have increased. At the same time, the awareness of the negative effects of noise on patients and healthcare staff has grown. To manage or eliminate noise in hospitals, standards and policies are a great help.

An overview of international standards will be presented, showing various parameters and differences in values and angles of approach, e.g based on activity or room type. To further optimize the content, and stimulate the use of the standards, some countries have even defined healthcare specific standards. These can support the planning and the evaluation of the sound environment in those premises.

New insights from research and case studies, as well as emerging laws, provide opportunities or even force us to extend the existing content of standards to meet future demands. Suggestions for that include extension of the amount of parameters, such as decrease of sound pressure level (Δ SPL) and parameters addressing privacy (PI, AC). Finally, revision of standards provides opportunities for end users to increase their understanding and interest in acoustic and to supply possibilities to define the desired quality of the sound environment.

Keywords: standards, policies, healthcare

Technical area: Architectural Acoustics (AA)

PACS #1: 43.50.Rq Environmental noise, measurement, analysis, statistical characteristics

PACS #2:

PACS #3: