



## HUSH PROJECT (Harmonization of Urban noise reduction Strategies for Homogeneous action plans)

### Target

The general goal of the HUSH project, co-financed by the European Commission on the LIFE+2008 Program, is harmonizing national noise management standards with Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49/EC to obtain homogeneous noise Action Plans, contributing to the more general need of transposing, implementing and enforcing a common or harmonized environmental legislation between EU countries.

Specific objectives of the project are:

- to point out unsolved conflicts among current standards at Regional, National and European level, and to define common methods for designing strategic and specific solutions;
- to define a new development system (procedures and database) for action planning by testing it in the pilot case of the city of Florence;
- to design guidelines in order to build a system for action plan applications, to support Regional, National and European Law reviews;
- to propose a law review at Regional/National/EU level when the conflicts are not solvable by using technical procedures.

### The END requirements

The Directive 2002/49/EC, referring to Action Plans into the agglomeration, defines (art. 8):

*1. Member States shall ensure that no later than 18 July 2008 the competent authorities have drawn up action plans designed to manage, within their territories, noise issues and effects, including noise reduction if necessary for:*

*(a) ...omissis*

*(b) agglomerations with more than 250.000 inhabitants. Such plans shall also aim to protect quiet areas against an increase in noise.*

*The measures within the plans are at the discretion of the competent authorities, but should notably address priorities which may be identified by the exceeding of any relevant limit value or by other criteria chosen by the Member States and apply in particular to the most important areas as established by strategic noise mapping.*

*2. Member States shall ensure that, no later than 18 July 2013, the competent authorities have drawn up action plans notably to address priorities which may be identified by the exceeding of any relevant limit value or by other criteria chosen by the Member States for the agglomerations and for the major roads as well as the major railways within their territories.*

*where 'agglomeration' shall mean part of a territory, delimited by the Member State, having a population in excess of 100.000 persons and a population density such that the Member State considers it to be an urbanised area.*

### Main issues

Harmonization of noise action planning methods is needed, not only in Italy but also in all the European countries where a former Legislation about noise planning was present at the moment of END adoption. In many countries pre-existent National legislations cannot be simply replaced by the END. For example, in Italy there are three legislation disposals concerning environmental noise action planning: L. 447/1995 requires Local Action Plans derived by Acoustical Classification of territory; D.M. 29-11-2000 requires Transportation and Infrastructure companies to provide their Noise Reduction Plans; finally D.Lgs. 194/2005 implements END in the National legislation.

### **The HUSH proposal**

The structure of the project, aimed to obtain homogeneous noise action plan, may be distinct into the following steps:

- analysis of the conflicts identified among current standards at Regional, National and European levels and proposal of methodological solutions;
- definition of a new development system (procedures and database) for an integrated action planning;
- test of the procedures identified in pilot cases in Florence, representative of different problems found in urban areas, at different scale of operation;
- proposal of a methodology, able to be applied in different contexts and editing of guidelines to support government, competent authorities and policymakers

### **Networking**

NADIA: Noise Abatement Demonstrative and Innovative Actions and information to the public (LIFE09 ENV/IT/102) <http://www.nadia-noise.eu/>

QUADMAP: QUIet Areas Definition and Management in Action Plans (LIFE10 ENV/IT/407) <http://www.quadmap.eu/>

QSIDE (LIFE09 ENV/NL/423) <http://www.qside.eu/>

Other important references for the evaluation of the state of the art derive from the following EU projects: HARMONOISE, IMAGINE, CALM, QCITY, SILENCE, CNOSSOS-EU

Useful references deriving also from the European Network EUROCITIES and, in particular, from the Working Group Noise.

### **Reports of the specific HUSH project actions**

Documents available on the project website: <http://www.hush-project.eu/en/documenti/>