

# **Knowledge and information to the public: which instruments?**

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## Why?

Environmental data and information seek to make concrete the objective of the Aarhus Convention (UNECE Convention).

The aim of the Convention is to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being.

Moreover, attention to environmental data and information it is necessary also in accordance to Italian noise legislation – the Noise framework legislation 26/10/95, n. 447 and the D.Lgs 19 August 2005, n.194 acted in accordance with the Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and the Council, of June 2002.

The Directive asks for:

- the assessment and management of environmental noise, in order to achieve a common understanding of the noise problems;
- the establishment of collection and reporting of noise environmental in order to have a wide spread of information to the public.

## Each actor shall guarantee:

The rights of access to the information;

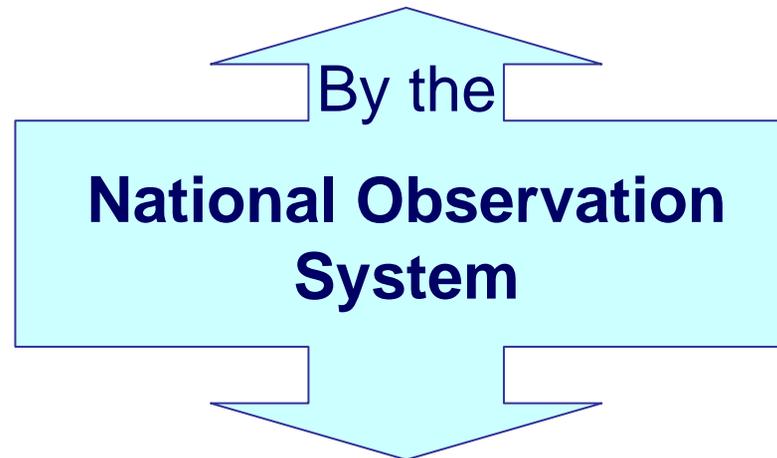
Public participation in decision making;

Access to justice in environmental matters.

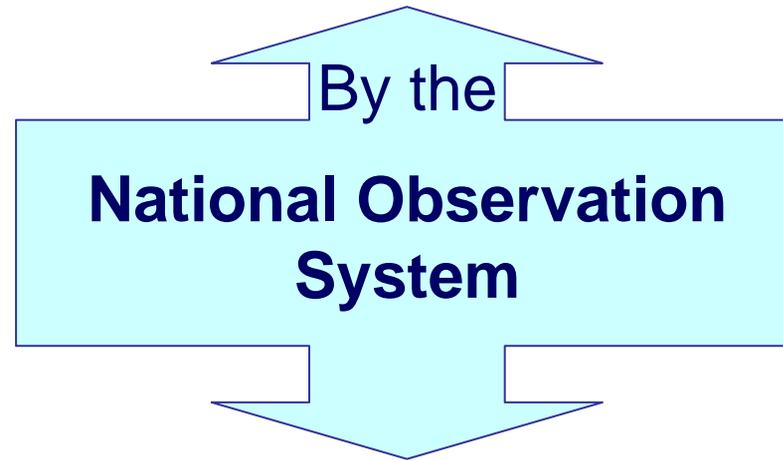
## How performing environmental communication?

According to the Directive 2002/49/EC it is necessary a **right standardization and the accuracy management** of the environmental data, able to provide a comprehensible, clear and exhaustive information to the public, giving effective opportunities to participate in noise policy processes, in accordance with national legislation and able to support local competent authorities in the development of noise policy that is one of the main environmental priorities.

## How do it in practice in Italy?



It is an APAT and ARPA/APPA network

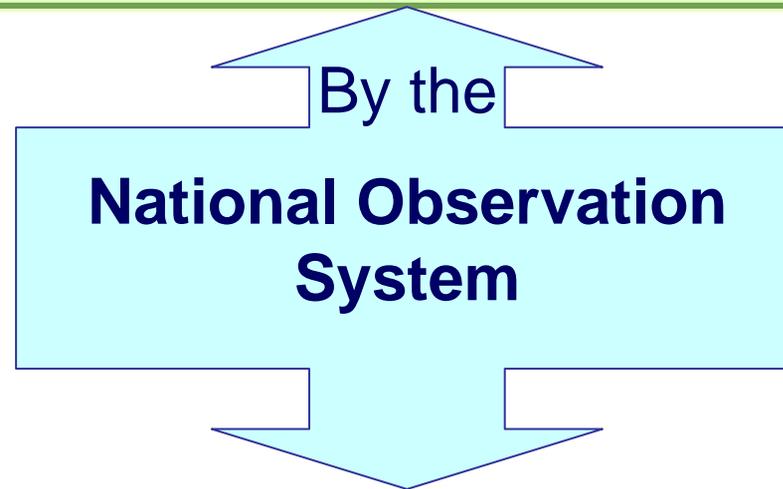


It is developed as data bank with a structure including:

- environmental national noise data;
- information related noise issues;
- noise indicators.

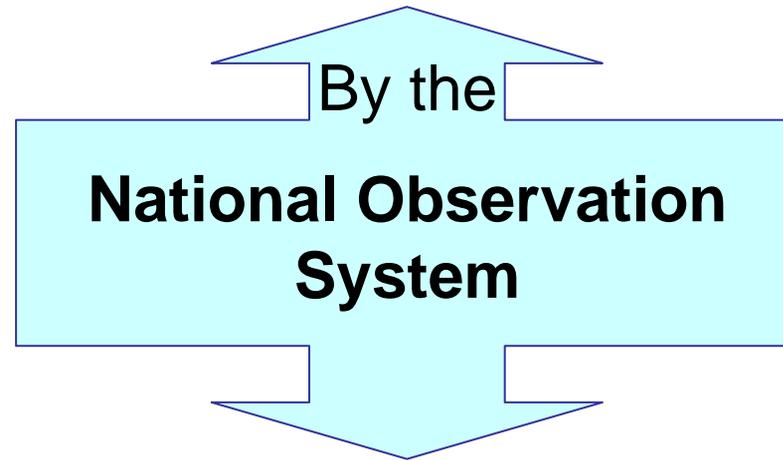


They allow the analysis of the national situation about noise topics.



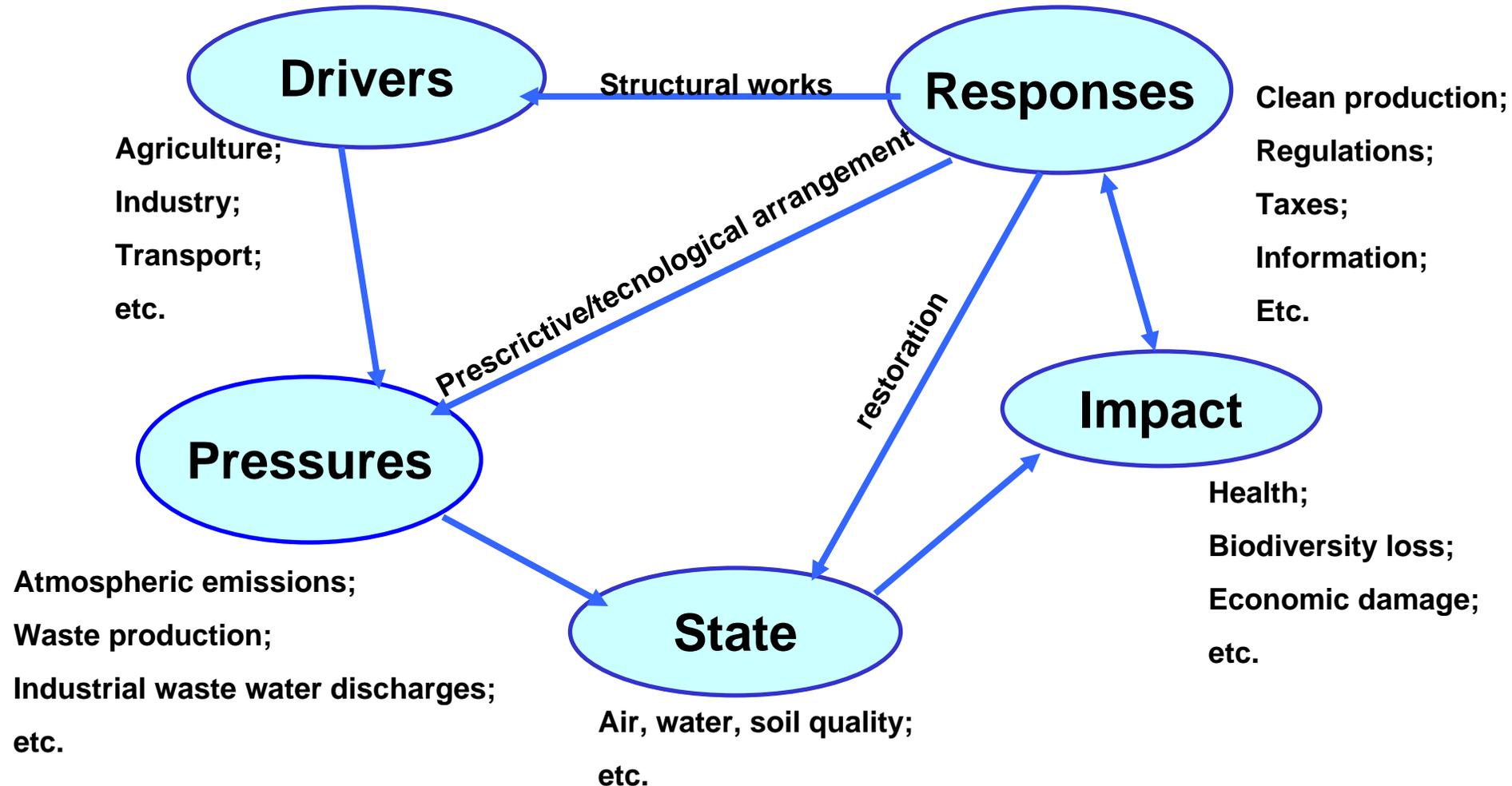
Moreover it is possible to acquire:

- information related to the impacts due to the major noise sources;
- the state of the art of the legislation;
- the activities of monitoring and control carried out by ARPA/APPA system, in respect of a protocol shared by APAT and ARPA/APPA network;
- the adopted noise abatement plans.



According to the european and national legislation, once completed, it will be available to public, on web

## The DPSIR framework



## From data collection to indicators

A right and simple way to communicate is by indicators!

Communication demands simplicity: indicators always simplify a complex reality and their main function is communication!

Environmental indicators communicate those aspects regarded critical or typical for the complex interrelation (DPSIR model) between natural species and abiotic components of the environmental system.



1. Data base allows to the staff of the Environmental Local Agencies the data updating and processing of each district. The referents verify the data collection;
2. The APAT manages the service at national level, guarantees the availability, the organization, the relevance and accuracy of the information, the accessibility and sharing of information, proposes and realizes implementation of the project, provides the production of reports.

It's expected in a few time the availability of the **National Observation System** to a generic customer, creating a framework based on the main features of DPSIR model, in order to allows the noise data easy to understand and make available the environmental information also to an inexperienced public.

## National Observation System structure

1. Activities section;
2. Infrastructure section;
3. Law section;
4. Equipment section;
5. Acoustical planning section.

## About activities section and infrastructure section

Describe characteristics of the environmental state, using the activities of monitoring and control conducted by ARPA/APPA Units and the overcoming of the threshold of the limit values according to decree law for the transport infrastructures. The yearly data, organized on district level, are related to the major noise sources typologies (activities: industry, service, trade, temporary; infrastructure: road, rail, airports, ports). The controls carried out by citizen's complaints may offer information about the source that the citizens perceive like more annoying.

## About law section

It contains national law, decree law, law made under delegate powers, advices issued by Agencies; the section is useful to identify the Response - using DPSIR model - of the policies adopted.

## Equipment section

The section dedicated to equipment describes the staff working in Environmental Agencies System and the measuring instruments and used software.

## Acoustical planning section

The section is dedicated to acoustical planning and contains information about the implementation of the various acts according to national and local law regarding the land-use planning:

- 1.The acoustical classification of the municipality territory;
- 2.the noise abatement plans;
- 3.the noise reports elaborated by administrations.

## Conclusion

It can be possible to think about the Noise Observation System as a platform of knowledge, information and comparison, a point of reference for the acquisition and availability of the data, and a good way to the consequent possibilities to share the actions. In the future will be emphasized the data availability to the community, creating more awareness about environmental topics.