

Italian National Noise Observation System: a data bank for the assessment and management of noise environmental information

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APAT, Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services and the network ARPA/APPA developed the *National Noise Observation System*, a data bank as a structure including environmental national noise data, information related to the noise issues and to the noise indicators, which allows the analysis of the national situation about noise topics.





Presentation

The Noise Observation System is a management instrument that can be used like a valid operating support, dedicated to various users, both politicians and citizens. The environmental noise observation system, available to public on web, allows to acquire information related to the impacts due to the main noise sources, the statement of the legislation, the monitoring and control activities carried out by ARPA/APPA system, the adopted "acoustical planning" plans. The Observation System offers relative information about the verification of the legislative prescriptions, about the definition of the impacts caused by the main noise sources, about the requested and carried out monitoring activities, about the realization of the foreseen instruments of acoustic planning. The data in the different sections will be able to carry out a main analysis of the thematic about acoustic pollution on national level, elaborating data on regional level, comparing the various territorial situations, regarding actions on environmental noise, the state of the rules and the modalities of their application and the state of adoption of the instruments of acoustic planning.

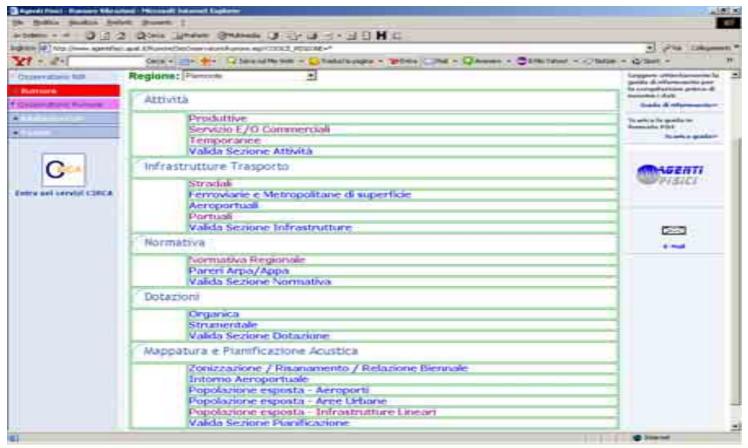


This information is necessary for the definition of strategic planning actions about the prevention and the control of the acoustic pollution. Through this data bank the referents of the ARPA/APPA can insert and update the information on the noise regarding the own region. Moreover the regional referents verify that the inserted data are correct and observe the respect of a protocol agreed between APAT and the ARPA/APPA; during the operation of verification of the information, other controls are carried out automatically by the system on the reliability and the validity of the data. APAT manages the service on national level and guarantees the correct operation, proposes and realizes the new implementations, the updating and the elaboration of periodic reports.



Database architecture

This Database introduces an architecture based on the model of environmental indicators DPSIR, (Main causes - Pressures - State -Impacts - Actions), introduced from European Environmental Agency and Eurostat.





Sections

The information is organized on regional level and comes from the analysis, control and monitoring activities carried out by the ARPA/APPA. The Database is structured in several sections on the basis of the contained data typology:

- I. SECTION : ACTIVITIES
- II. SECTION : INFRASTRUCTURES
- III. SCTION : RULES
- IV. SECTION : INSTRUMENTAL EQUIPMENT
- V. SECTION : ACOUSTIC PLANNING



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The first two sections have the aim to describe the state of the environment using the indication that can be obtained knowing the number of checked sources and the number of controls executed by ARPA/APPA and, together, the cases in which overcoming of the limits fixed by the enforced rules occurred.



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The following two sections annually update information on regional level, subdivided into several typologies of sources (activities or infrastructures).

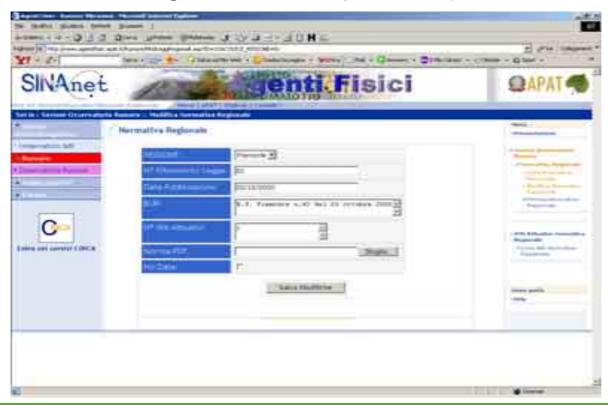
Moreover sources checked for statements of the citizens (directly and/or through the Administrations) are pointed out; this information is very important because it points out which is the most annoyance source perceived by citizens.

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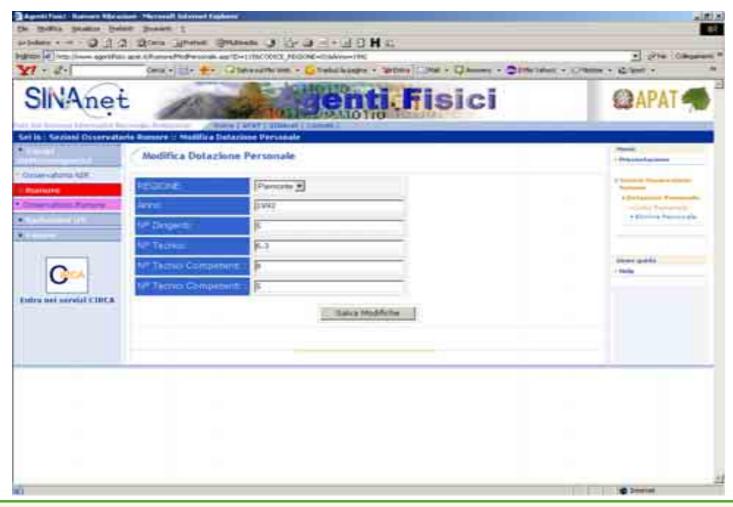


The section about the Rules is useful as an indicator of the actions puts by the Administrations in order to face the problem of the acoustic pollution. The section does not contain a simple directory of regional rules but also a short analysis of the main contents of each one. It also presents the activity that is carried out by ARPA/APPA at regional level in matter of passing of technical opinions to estimate the validity of the content of the documentation requested by the rules in order to authorizative processes (es. zonings, passive acoustic requirements of the buildings, acoustic impact, etc.).





The section about the Equipment has the aim to realize a national picture about the human resources and the availability of instruments in the ARPA/APPA system in order to carry out all the activities that the national and/or regional rules request to them.





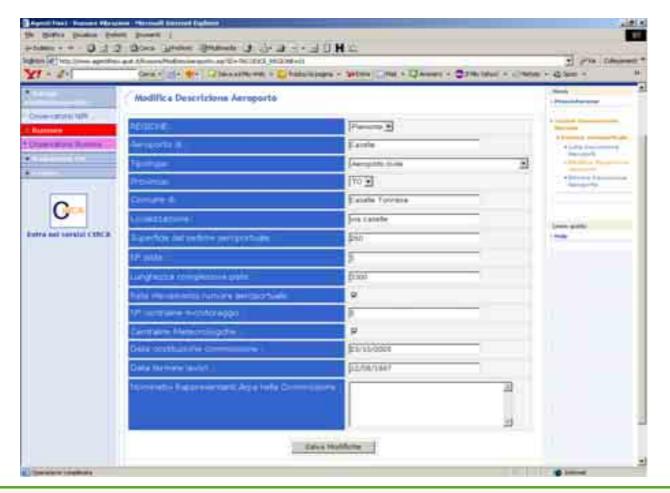
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The section Acoustic Planning collects information about the state of performance of the acoustic zonings, the plans of urban reorganization and the biannual report on the acoustic state at municipality level. This information presents another action that the Administrations put into effect in order to the prevention and control of the problems connected to the acoustic pollution.

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This last section collects also information about the implementations foreseen by Italian Decree 194/2005, which has put in force the European Directive 2002/49/CE, with a particular care to the noise exposure of the population



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Finally, the below information regards the studies carried out in some municipality in order to estimate the noise exposure produced in urban areas, around transport infrastructures. In relationship to these main sources the number of exposed population is evaluated with reference to intervals of values related to the acoustic indicators fixed by the Directive 2002/49/CE (Lden and Lnight).

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