

An Evaluation of Urban Environmental Noise Pollution in Durres Municipality

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Abstract: - Durres is the second most populous place on the Republic of Albania. This paper was focused in the evaluation of noise level at different areas of Durres Municipality which were categorized based on their activities like industrial, commercial and residential.

The main purpose of environmental noise monitoring was to assess the situation in Durres Municipality, to value the degree of impact on citizens and to create a database to better address the problems, in order to build an effective action plan to improve the situation in problem areas.

Monitoring has two basic objectives, such as: to protect us from noise that hinders and disrupts our daily activity and to protect us in the future from increasing noise levels that would bring concerns to people and quality of the environment.

To realize this study was used TESTO 816-1 supply that measures noise intensity level of a certain area. Measurements were carried out in different conditions of humidity and wind velocity, during morning and night time, from February 2019 to December 2020. Duration of each measurement was 15 min.

The results of this study revealed that the average equivalent noise level was: i) in the commercial area (during morning time 51.92 dB, during night time 46.8 dB), in the industrial area (during morning time 57.69 dB, during night time 45.31 dB) and in the residential area (during morning time 53.59 dB, during night time 44.46 dB).

As a conclusion it was evidenced that the noise levels for all the areas were over the permissible levels of 50 dB (during morning) and for commercial and industrial area were over 45 dB (during night). Also it was concluded that the consequences of these high levels cause moderate and serious annoyance for residents during the day and sleep disturbances (if windows are open) during the night.

This paper suggests some improvements to decrease side effects of noise pollution.

Key-Words: - Noise pollution, Average equivalent noise level (L_{eq}), Maximum permissible noise level, Durres Municipality

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1 Introduction

In the main cities of Albania, noise continues to be a very disturbing phenomenon and with significant impacts on the health of residents of the most populated areas, including Durres.

For more than five years, the relevant state institutions have not measured noise parameters in any part of Durres Municipality. This has avoided facing the reality and further completely neglecting the noise pollution created. As a consequence this has led to a lack of coercive measures to improve the situation and protect the health of citizens

The World Health Organization (WHO) ranks noise pollution of the living environment as the second most hazardous factor impacting human health in

cities, after air pollution by PM10 and PM_{2.5} atmospheric aerosol particles [1, 2].

Noise pollution is a major problem in cities around the world [3]. Noise, an unwanted and irritating sound, is a form of environmental pollution and a source of stress. It can also be understood as a complex sound, a mixture of many different frequencies or notes not harmonically related [4].

It is more severe and widespread than ever before, and it will continue to increase in magnitude and severity because of population growth, urbanization, and the associated growth in the use of increasingly powerful, varied, and highly mobile sources of noise. It will also continue to grow because of sustained growth in highway, rail, and air traffic, which remain major sources of environmental noise [3, 5].

To be able to effectively deal with the problem of noise, there is a need to first identify the sources of noise. According to [6] the major sources of noise can be broadly divided into two: external and internal sources. However, [7] identified three categories of noise sources including:

- a. Sources associated with activities and office equipment;
- b. Sources associated with operation of building services;
- c. Sources of environmental sound from outside the building.

Continuous high level of noise can cause serious stress on the auditory and non-auditory, and nervous system of the city dwellers [8, 9]. It is also leading cause of great annoyance for exposed population due to the poor conditions of engine, exhaust etc. [10].

There is a general agreement that exposure to sound levels less than 70 dB does not produce hearing damage, regardless of the duration of exposure. There is also general agreement that exposure for more than 8 hours to sound levels in excess of 85 dB is potentially hazardous; to place this in context, 85 dB is roughly equivalent to the noise of heavy truck traffic on a busy road. With sound levels above 85 dB, damage is related to sound pressure (measured in dB) and to time of exposure [3].

Various methodologies have been followed from the studies to monitor and analyze noise pollution. Among them we can mention the case of mobile measurement systems that are fully automated and consist of a transport vehicle and measurement station. The systems are also equipped with software [11].

Another way used to monitor noise are acoustic monitoring systems with the possibility of measurements without an operator. This system contains:

- One or several stations of monitoring – sound level meter, system of power supply, router etc.;
- Central module (device for analysis and storage of data);
- Channel of data transmission (GPRS/ADSL and Internet) [12].

2 Materials and Methods

In the framework of noise monitoring and the “Green lung” project, was undertaken this study to measure the noise level in Durres Municipality.

Environmental noise was monitored in full compliance with BE directive (2002/49/ EC directive) [13] on noise management in the environment. Data sets were measured using the sound level meter (TESTO 816-1) which is ideal for measuring noise intensity level in workplace, industrial environment, manufactures, public places etc. (fig 1).



Fig. 1: Testo 816-1 supply

This device with which the measurements were performed can be classified in base of the characteristics such as:

- precise noise level measurements according to IEC 61672-1 Class 2 and ANSI S1.4 Type 2;
- ideal for health and safety inspections and emission control;
- PC software for data analysis and USB cable for data transfer.

The testo 816-1 is a sound level meter that can be used according to its instruction manual [14]. Here are some technical data:

Accuracy ±1 digit	±1.4 dB (under reference conditions: 94 dB, 1 kHz)
Measuring range	30 to 130 dB
Frequency range	20 Hz to 8 kHz
Resolution	0.1 dB
Frequency weighting	A / C
Microphone	½ inch
Measuring rate	0.5 s
Dynamic range	100 dB
Data storage	approx. 31000 measurements

Operating temperature	0 to +40 °C
Storage temperature	-10 to +60 °C
Battery type	4 x Type AA batteries
Weight	390 g
Dimensions	272 x 83 x 42 mm
Time weighting	FAST 125 ms / SLOW 1 sec
AC/DC output	AC: 1 V RMS at full scale / DC: 10 mV/dB

Noise level measurements were registered in dB (A) scale for 15 minutes in each place selected.

Data registration were performed as follows:

- the date, time, place and duration of the monitoring were recorded;
- weather conditions were recorded including wind speed, cloud cover and humidity;
- The parameters monitored were L_{eq} , L_{max} , L_{min} .

The noise monitoring level was realized during morning time (6:00 am to 10:00 am) and night time (10:00 pm to 6:00 am) from February 2019 to December 2020.

A total of three areas were selected for this study. The areas were chosen taking into consideration traffic load, industrial and commercial activities, nearby institutions like hospital, judiciary, schools etc.

The monitoring areas as it is observed on the map 1 were:

- the commercial area (A)
- the industrial area (B)
- the residential area (C)

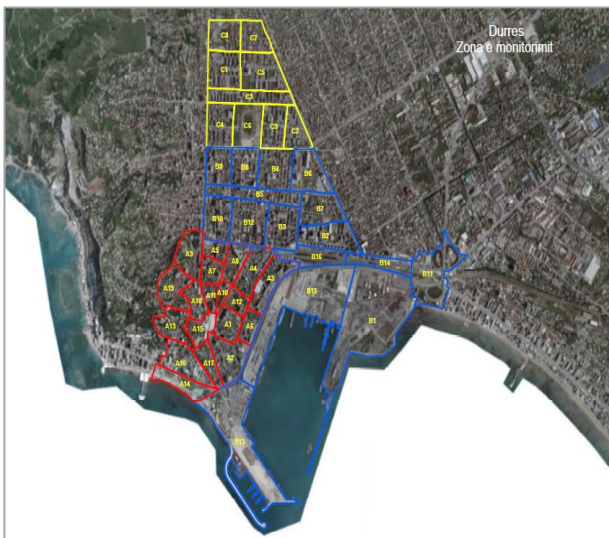


Fig. 1: Monitoring areas of Durres Municipality

2.1 Study Area

Durrës is located on a flat plain between the river mouths of Erzen and Ishëm on the southeastern corner of the Adriatic Sea within the Mediterranean Sea.

The transport connections, concentration of economic institutions and industrial tradition underlie Durres' leading economic position in Albania. It is served by Durres port, one of the largest on the Adriatic Sea, which connects the city to other neighboring countries.

Its climate is considerably influenced by its proximity to the Adriatic Sea in the Mediterranean Sea and the mountains in the Western Lowlands in the hinterlands. The summers are predominantly hot and dry, the winters relatively mild, and falls and springs mainly stable, in terms of precipitation and temperatures.

According to the 2011 census, Durres Municipality had an estimated population of 113,249 of whom 56,511 were men and 56,738 women [15].

3 Results and Discussion

From the field measurements performed in the three monitored areas the following results were obtained (tab 1, tab 2, tab 3).

Table 1. L_{eq} values for the commercial area (A)

19-Feb-19		
Sunny day / 84 % humidity		
Number of monitori	Leq (dB) during morning	Leq (dB) during night
A17-1	42.70	42.00
A17-2	51.55	45.40
A17-3	52.50	46.40
A17-4	53.90	47.40
A2-2	53.90	48.10
A17-5	53.90	48.10
A2-4	53.90	48.80
22-Feb-19		
Sunny day / 77% humidity		
A15-1	48.10	43.10
A15-2	47.90	45.10
A15-3	47.90	50.70
A1-1	47.90	63.50
A1-5	47.90	52.70
A2-5	54.80	48.10
A2-3	54.80	52.20
A2-6	53.50	51.00
A6-3	57.50	51.00
A1-2	57.30	44.30

17-May-19		
Sunny day / 72% humidity / wind velocity 0 km/h		
A4-1	50.70	41.90
A4-2	51.20	42.80
A4-3	50.50	45.40
A12-3	44.10	40.60
A10-1	46.20	48.60
A11-1	51.10	46.40
A10-2	46.50	39.60
18-May-19		
Sunny day / 72% humidity / wind velocity 0 km/h		
A3-1	51.70	49.90
A3-2	59.20	53.10
A3-3	59.20	55.80
A3-4	53.00	50.00
A6-2	52.50	49.70
A6-1	55.00	49.70
23-Mar-19		
Sunny day / 55% humidity / wind velocity 0 km/h		
A5-4	50.20	52.90
A5-1	50.40	48.40
A5-3	49.20	40.70
A5-2	49.30	47.40
A5-5	49.20	49.40
26-Mar-19		
Sunny day / 72% humidity / wind velocity 0 km/h		
A8-1	47.50	45.40
A8-2	51.70	47.50
A8-3	50.10	47.90
20-Sep-19		
Sunny day / 68% humidity / wind velocity < 3 km/h		
A14-1	45.55	40.70
A14-2	50.50	43.60
A14-3	53.30	46.40
A16-2	51.00	43.60
A16-3	53.30	47.50
A16-4	56.90	48.90
A13-1	47.40	41.30
A13-2	54.20	46.60
A13-3	50.06	43.80
21-Sep-19		
Sunny day / 63% humidity / wind velocity < 2.8 km/h		
A19-1	50.70	41.80
A18-1	51.90	42.10
A18-2	49.80	39.80
A18-3	55.90	45.30

Table 2. L_{eq} values for the commercial area (B)

31-Jul-20		
Sunny day/ 62 % humidity / wind velocity < 3 km/h		
Number of monitoring station	L_{eq} (dB) during morning	L_{eq} (dB) during night
B1-1	57.40	41.60
B1-2	63.80	48.80
B2-1	55.30	41.30
B2-2	60.20	48.40
B2-3	49.20	40.60
7-Aug-20		
Sunny day/ 67 % humidity / wind velocity < 3 km/h		
B3-1	44.90	41.10
B3-2	63.20	52.10
B4-1	51.80	42.50
B4-2	46.50	38.10
B6-1	57.20	49.40
B6-2	55.00	43.10
B6-3	48.00	41.80
17-Aug-20		
Sunny day / 61 % humidity / wind velocity < 3 km/h		
B5-1	49.20	39.30
B5-2	49.70	40.70
B5-3	48.20	43.80
B5-4	46.80	41.90
B5-5	52.50	46.90
B7-1	50.00	40.10
B7-2	53.60	48.70
B7-3	54.30	45.90
18-Aug-20		
Sunny day / 62 % humidity / wind velocity < 3 km/h		
B8-1	53.50	43.50
B8-2	49.30	39.20
B9-1	57.70	51.70
B9-2	52.60	42.40
B9-3	47.10	40.10
19-Aug-20		
Sunny day / 69 % humidity / wind velocity < 3 km/h		
B10-1	52.80	49.60
B10-2	45.30	43.20
B10-3	55.60	48.50
B12-1	48.80	41.70
B12-2	63.10	58.10
24-Aug-20		
Sunny day/ 63 % humidity / wind velocity < 3 km/h		
B11-1	56.80	46.90
B11-2	54.50	44.50
B11-3	56.20	47.55
B11-4	57.10	50.00
B13-1	56.00	47.20
B13-2	52.00	42.60
B13-3	54.30	40.20
B13-4	54.80	41.40
B13-5	58.00	49.00
B14-1	59.20	45.30
B14-2	53.30	42.50
11-Sep-20		
Sunny day / 68 % humidity / wind velocity < 3 km/h		
B15-1	61.20	49.70
B15-2	61.70	47.30
B16-1	55.50	45.20

Table 3. L_{eq} values for the commercial area (C)

9-Oct-20		
Sunny day / 58 % humidity / velocity wind < 4 km/h		
Number of monitoring station	Leq (dB) during morning	Leq (dB) during night
C1-1	57.60	48.00
C1-2	53.30	44.30
14-Oct-20		
Sunny day / 60 % humidity / velocity wind < 3.2 km/h		
C2-1	58.80	48.90
C2-2	57.40	45.90
C2-3	51.00	41.10
19-Nov-20		
Sunny day/ 62 % humidity / velocity wind < 3 km/h		
C3-1	57.50	45.20
C3-2	52.80	42.20
C3-3	54.70	48.20
24-Nov-20		
Sunny day/ 66 % humidity / velocity wind < 3 km/h		
C4-1	59.60	46.40
C4-2	52.60	42.20
C4-3	53.80	40.10
C4-4	56.50	44.60
C4-5	50.70	39.40
23-Nov-20		
Sunny day/ 67 % humidity / velocity wind < 3.5 km/h		
C5-1	56.90	43.90
C5-2	49.90	39.70
6-Dec-20		
Sunny day/ 62 % humidity / velocity wind < 3.1 km/h		
C6-1	58.60	47.80
C6-2	52.80	45.10
C6-3	50.40	41.70
16-Dec-20		
Sunny day/ 67 % humidity / velocity wind < 3 km/h		
C7-1	59.70	50.70
C7-2	52.10	41.60
17-Dec-20		
Sunny day/ 62 % humidity / velocity wind < 3 km/h		
C8-1	55.50	43.90
C8-2	52.60	40.70
C8-3	50.40	44.30
18-Dec-20		
Sunny day/ 63 % humidity / velocity wind < 3 km/h		
C9-1	56.80	46.40
C9-2	49.30	39.70

In table 4 and table 5 are respectively shown the average equivalent noise levels and the maximum permissible values [16, 17].

Table 4. $\langle L_{eq} \rangle$ for the three study areas

Area	$\langle L_{eq} \rangle$ (dB)	
	During morning	During night
Commercial	51.92	46.8
Industrial	57.69	45.31
Residential	53.59	44.46

Table 5. The maximum permissible levels of L_{eq}

L_{eq} for outdoor living area (dB)	Critical health effect	L_{eq} for outside bedrooms (dB)	Critical health effect
50	Moderate annoyance daytime and evening	45	Sleep disturbance, (windows open)
55	Serious annoyance daytime and evening		

Referring to the results in table 4 and standards in table 5 :

- in the commercial area during morning time the average equivalent noise level was 51.92 dB. This can cause moderate annoyance in everyday people activities;
- in the commercial area during night time the average equivalent noise level was 46.8 dB. This can cause sleep disturbance (if windows are open) for residents in that zone;
- in the industrial area during morning time the average equivalent noise level was 57.69 dB and this can cause serious annoyance in everyday people activities;
- in the industrial area during night time the average equivalent noise level was 45.31 dB. This can cause sleep disturbance (if windows are open) for residents near this area;
- in the residential area during morning time the average equivalent noise level was 53.59 dB and this can cause moderate annoyance for

residents and in everyday people activities in that area;

- in the residential area during night time the average equivalent noise level was 44.46 dB and there isn't any annoyance for residents.

Measurements performed for each area were used to plot also the following graphs (Fig.2).

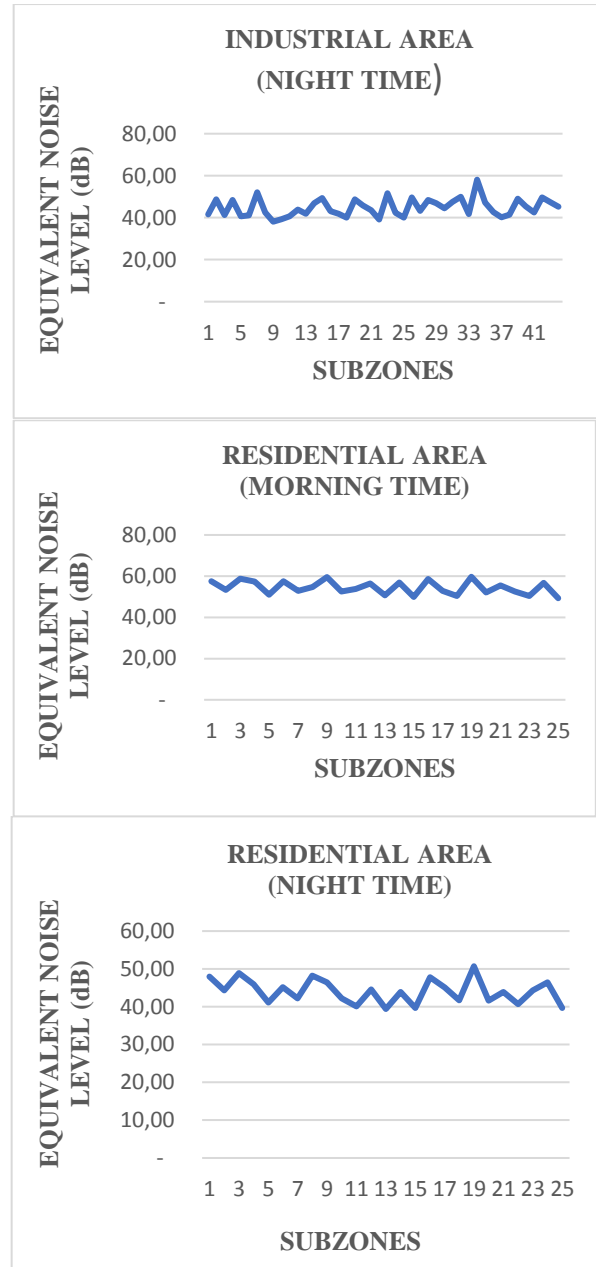
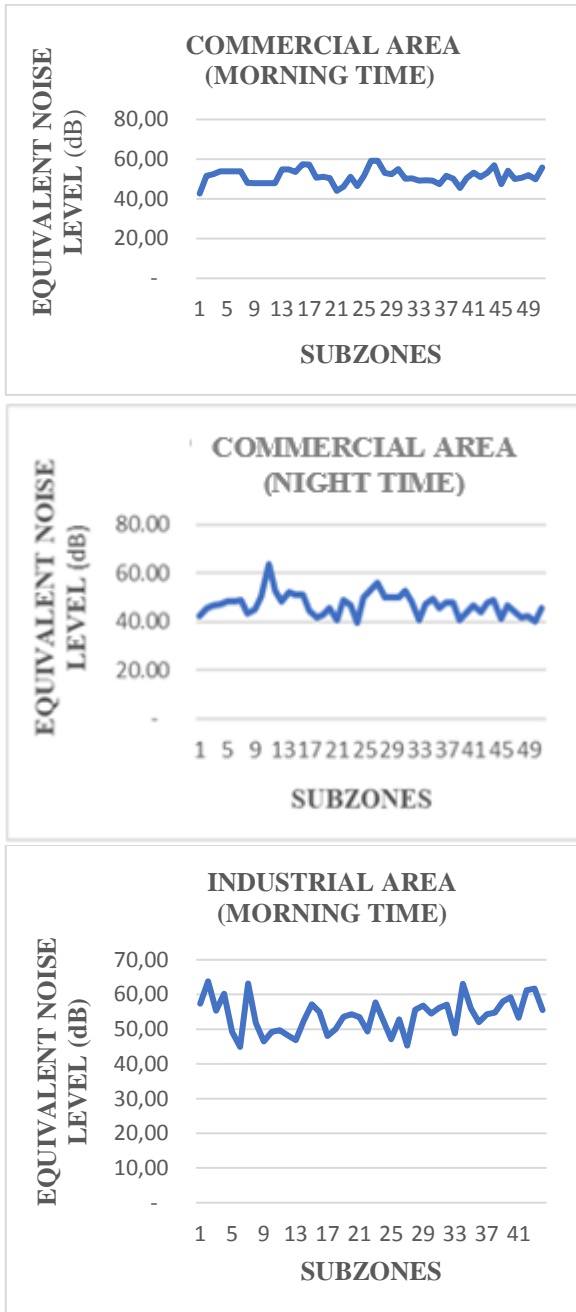


Fig. 2: Equivalent noise levels during morning and night time for different subzones in industrial, commercial and residential areas of Durres Municipality

From the presentation of the graphs and the tabular data it was noticed that the areas with the most problems with the noise level were:

- in the commercial subzones: A3-2 and A3-3 (near Durres port) with the highest value 59.2 dB (during the morning) and A1-1 (in the city center) with the highest value 63.5 dB (during the night);
- in the industrial subzones: B1-2 (inside Durres Port) with the highest value 63.8 dB (during the morning) and B12-2 (sports palace "Ramazan Njala") with the highest value 58.1 dB (during the night);

- in the residential subzone C7-1 (between Dardania street and King Pirro street) with the highest values 59.7 dB (during the morning) and 50.7 dB (during the night).
- As a result of these findings, we can say that the highest level of noise during the morning is in the subzone B1-2 (inside Durres port) with 63.8 dB and during the night in the subzone A1-1 (in the city center) with 63.5 dB

3 Conclusions

This study shows an important information for the noise exposure to Durres Municipality residents.

As we can see from the graphic results, the highest values of noise were located in areas such as Durres port or near it, in the city center or suburban streets with traffic and more businesses nearby.

The highest value of noise during the morning was identified in Durres port with 63.8 dB. This was due to the daily activity of working with containers, discharges, transport of goods, work of cranes, etc. The highest value of noise during the night was identified around city center with 63.5 dB. This was due to the great mobility that this area had both from cars and the activity of bars concentrated there.

It was identified that the average equivalent noise levels in the monitoring areas can cause sleep disturbance, moderate and serious annoyance to people living near commercial, industrial and residential sites.

From what was mentioned above we can say that sources of noise pollution in Durres Municipality in general are:

- traffic of vehicles, rail, sea;
- poor condition of vehicles;
- poor condition of roads in urban areas;
- lack of secondary roads which can make possible to reduce traffic;
- construction industry;
- overcrowding from tourism;

The novelty that this paper brings is that:

- there is no study so far to monitor the noise level in Durres Municipality;
- this paper provides information on the noise level in most of the areas of Durres Municipality and addresses the hottest points and the highest level of pollution;
- The data extracted from this study will serve the relevant institutions to correctly manage the noise levels in the environment

In conclusion we can say that :

- it should be raised population awareness of changing habits to use alternative transport;
- competent structures have to take action and implement plans in order to ensure the health and safety of the inhabitants of Durres Municipality

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Contribution of Individual Authors to the Creation of a Scientific Article (Ghostwriting Policy)

Migena Nako, Elvis Cela, Abdulla Diku have collected data in the field and have done processing and construction of data

Osman Metalla, Marsida Klemo, Azem Hysa have interpreted and evaluated the data

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