



Noise

Overview

There has been partial progress in the field of noise protection. The new Law on Environmental Noise Protection was adopted in October 2021. EU directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise has been largely transposed into Law. Full harmonization with EU legislation is expected after the adoption of regulations, which will be drafted in accordance with Directive 2015/996 (CNOSSOS-EU), within one year of the adoption of the Law. A total of seven regulations are planned by the new Law. By the end of March 2022, the competent ministry had only adopted the Rulebook on the conditions for establishing the competency of municipal police officers to measure noise coming from hospitality establishments.

The city of Belgrade has adopted the Decision on determining acoustic zones on the territory of the city of Belgrade and the Decision on the method for controlling noise levels from hospitality establishments on the territory of the city of Belgrade. The Study on the conditions that must be met by hospitality establishments for noise protection has been finalized. A GIS of environmental factors with maps of Belgrade's acoustic zones has been published.

The City of Novi Sad conducted a public procurement procedure for the service of creating strategic noise maps with the development of a smart system for noise monitoring. The City Council of the City of Novi Sad adopted the Program for monitoring environmental noise levels on the territory of Novi Sad for 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Other agglomerations only carry out regular environmental noise monitoring activities.

Strategic and Legislative Framework

The new Law on Environmental Noise Protection¹⁴⁰ was adopted in October 2021. EU 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise has been largely transposed into the Law. Full compliance with EU legislation is expected after the adoption of regulations, which will be drafted in accordance with Directive 2015/996 (CNOSSOS-EU), within one year of the adoption of the Law. A total of seven regulations are planned by the new Law. By the end of March 2022, only the Rulebook on the conditions for establishing the competency of municipal police officers to measure noise coming from hospitality establishments was adopted¹⁴¹, despite the negotiating position for Chapter 27 envisaging the full implementation of Directive 2002/49/EC by the end of 2020.¹⁴² Until new by-laws are adopted, those adopted in accordance with the previous Law on Environmental Noise Protection will remain in force.¹⁴³

The competence of the Ministry of Environmental Protection has been expanded to include approval of noise protection action plans. The competence of the Environmental Protection Agency has also been reduced, so that the Agency is now only responsible for maintaining and updating the noise monitoring database, collecting and updating data from strategic noise maps and action plans, and ensuring their availability to the public. The Agency is also responsible for submitting data from strategic maps and action plans to the European Commission.

140 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2021/96/5/reg/>

141 https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/sites/default/files/2022-04/pravilnik_o_uslovima_koje_treba_da_ispunjava_komunalni_milicionar_da_bi_mogao_da_vrsi_poslove_merenja_buke_poreklom_iz_ugostiteljskih_objekata_-_sluzbeni_glasnik_rs_broj_132-21.pdf

142 Government of the Republic of Serbia (2019): Negotiating position of the Republic of Serbia for the Intergovernmental Conference on the Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union for Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change, available at: https://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/pristupni_pregovori/pregovaracke_pozicije/pg_pozicija_27.pdf

143 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2009/36/10/reg/>

An important change in the new Law is that responsibility for creating strategic noise maps for agglomerations, as well as for main roads, main railways and main airports, has been transferred from the Environmental Protection Agency to local self-government units, i.e. to the legal entities that manage those infrastructures, which means that local self-government units will now be obliged to finance the production of these maps.

The Law prescribes a deadline for preparing strategic noise maps until June 30, 2024, and for action plans one year after the adoption of the maps. However, it should be noted that prior to the creation of strategic noise maps, local self-government units must perform acoustic zoning. After the adoption of by-laws, the Law provides for a deadline of one year for acoustic zoning. This means that acoustic zoning should be completed by the end of 2023, and that agglomerations will have little more than six months to prepare and adopt strategic noise maps.

The "Individual sources of noise" section of the Law on Environmental Noise Protection defines the specific obligations of hospitality establishments where music is played or an entertainment program is performed. They now have the obligation to ensure prescribed conditions and sound protection measures. Noise levels will be controlled by communal police officers, using noise measuring devices. Local self-governments are obliged to determine the method of noise control in a separate regulation.

A deadline of at least 20 days has been defined for organizers of public gatherings to submit Requests for defining noise protection measures to local self-government units.

The Law clearly defines the obligation of entities protecting the environment from noise (the Republic of Serbia, autonomous provinces and municipalities, cities – including the City of Belgrade) to provide access to information and data from strategic environmental noise maps and action plans.

The Implementation of Regulations

From January 2021 to the end of March 2022, based on the available data, partial progress in the implementation of regulations was observed. The City of Belgrade, at the last session of the City Assembly held in 2021, adopted the Decision on determining acoustic zones on the territory of the city of Belgrade¹⁴⁴, which entered into force in January 2022. Additionally, in January 2022, the City adopted the Decision on the method of controlling noise levels from hospitality establishments on the territory of the City of Belgrade¹⁴⁵, which created the conditions for the communal police to control noise from hospitality establishments. The Study on the conditions that must be met by hospitality facilities for noise protection was finalized.¹⁴⁶ In 2021, the City of Belgrade performed noise measurements at 35 measuring stations during the spring¹⁴⁷ and autumn¹⁴⁸ measurement cycles. A GIS¹⁴⁹ of environmental factors with maps of Belgrade's acoustic zones has been published.¹⁵⁰

The City of Novi Sad has measured the level of environmental noise on the territory of the City at eight measuring stations.¹⁵¹ The City conducted a public procurement procedure for the service of creating strategic noise maps with the development of a smart system for noise monitoring.¹⁵² At the time of writing of this report, information on the status of the development of strategic

144 <http://www.sllistbeograd.rs/pdf/2022/02-2022.pdf#view=Fit&page=1>

145 <https://www.sllistbeograd.rs/pdf/2022/04-2022.pdf>

146 https://www.beograd.rs/images/file/de07e4fa78d319bbd029e4877b7b2cdd_2287313610.doc

147 https://www.beograd.rs/images/file/a2ee682814cf3678d110d976106b9a7b_3176678212.rar

148 https://www.beograd.rs/images/file/ba9e3b89ce369a53af4498014b6fd702_4132397538.rar

149 GIS – Geographical information system

150 <https://www.beograd.rs/cir/gradska-vlast/1792006-gis-cinilaca-zivotne-sredine-sa-kartama-akusticnih-zona-beograda/>

151 <https://envirovisad.rs/buka>

152 <https://www.nabavke.com/javne-nabavke-tenderi-srbija/izrada-strateskih-karata-buke-sa-razvojem-smart-sistema-za-monitoring-buke/gradska-uprava-za-zastitu-zivotne-sredine-grada-novog-sada/novi-sad/2244458>

noise maps is not publicly available. The City Council of the City of Novi Sad has adopted the Program for monitoring environmental noise levels on the territory of Novi Sad for 2022, 2023 and 2024.¹⁵³

Other agglomerations only conducted noise measurement activities

Based on the old and new Laws on environmental noise protection, local self-government units are obliged to submit noise monitoring reports to the Environmental Protection Agency. However, in practice, a large number of local self-governments fail to do this. It is therefore impossible to calculate the overall noise levels to which Serbian residents are exposed. The law does not provide for sanctions for responsible persons at local self-governments that fail to submit these reports to the Agency.

According to the available data, for the year 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency received data from four agglomerations, while only 16 local self-government units submitted valid data.¹⁵⁴

153 <https://environovisad.rs/laravel-filemanager/files/shares/%D0%94%D0%BE%D0%BA%D1%83%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%B8/Program%20pracenja%20nivoa%20buke%2022,23,24.pdf>

154 Ministry of Environmental Protection, Environmental Protection Agency (2021): Report on the State of the Environment in the Republic of Serbia for 2020, available at: http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/izvestaj_2020.pdf

Financing

In the Program for the use of budget funds for environmental protection of the City of Belgrade for the year 2021¹⁵⁵, funds amounting to RSD 23,933,000 have been allocated for the following projects: Implementation of the Environmental Noise Level Measurement Program on the territory of Belgrade (RSD 470,000), Acoustic zoning of Belgrade (RSD 16,200,000), Research on methods of indicative measurement of environmental noise levels in Belgrade (RSD 4,875,000) and Preparing a study on the conditions that must be met by hospitality establishments for noise protection on the territory of the City of Belgrade (RSD 2,388,000).

In the Program for the use of budget funds for environmental protection of the City of Novi Sad for the year 2021¹⁵⁶, funds amounting to RSD 28,000,000 have been allocated for the following projects: Monitoring environmental noise levels on the territory of the City of Novi Sad (RSD 500,000) and the creation of strategic noise maps with the development of a smart system for noise monitoring (RSD 27,500,000).

Other agglomerations have only chosen the means for noise monitoring (Niš¹⁵⁷, Subotica¹⁵⁸ and Kragujevac¹⁵⁹).

155 <http://www.sllistbeograd.rs/pdf/2021/02-2021.pdf#view=Fit&page=1>

156 http://demo.paragraf.rs/demo/combined/Old/t/t2021_02/NS_003_2021_002.htm

157 http://www.gu.ni.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021_59-18.pdf

158 http://www.subotica.rs/documents/pages/13855_3.pdf

159 <https://www.kragujevac.rs/pruzmi/obrazlozenje-odluke-o-rebalansu-za-2021-godinu/?wpdmdl=25619&refesh=625fc5bd9847b1650443709>

Recommendations



Strategic and Legislative Framework

1. Adopt all by-laws necessary to harmonize the legislative framework with Directive 2002/49/EC.
2. Adopt all by-laws necessary to harmonize the legislative framework with Directive 2015/996 (CNOSSOS-EU).



The Implementation of Regulations

3. Implement acoustic zoning in all local self-government's units.
4. Introduce 24-hour continuous noise monitoring and make data available through a unified presentation of automatic noise monitoring.
5. Begin developing strategic noise maps for the four remaining agglomerations (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac and Subotica), as well as for the "Nikola Tesla" Airport, and develop action plans for all agglomerations.
6. Local self-governments should adopt decisions to allow communal police officers to carry out noise measurements from hospitality establishments.
7. Work on noise training (especially at a local level).
8. Introduce local self-government control over the implementation of noise monitoring and submission of noise monitoring results to the Environmental Protection Agency.
9. Assess the harmful effects of noise on human health and the environment.

- 10.** Verify that organizers of public gatherings, entertainment and sports events and other outdoor and indoor activities have submitted data on noise protection measures in their applications for holding public gatherings and activities, if the use of sound and other devices may exceed the prescribed limit values.



Financing

- 11.** Provide funds for the implementation of plans (and obligations) in the area of noise protection.



NOISE

In 2020, **ONLY 20* OF 174 LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS** submitted valid data on noise monitoring to the Environmental Protection Agency.

* 4 agglomerations and 16 local self-governments



* Source: http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/Izvestaj_2020.pdf