



14th IC BEN Congress on Noise as a Public Health Problem



Stakeholders' views about the environmental noise impact on children's and adolescents' health and cognitive development

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ABSTRACT

In the EU Horizon 2020 project Equal-Life (Early Environmental quality and life-course mental health effects) the impact of exposomes including physical, social, and internal (biomarkers) exposure on children's and adolescents' cognitive development and well-being is studied. Since the project's beginning, stakeholders from related work fields have been involved. Among others, qualitative interviews with 61 stakeholders from the domains of policy making, health and (social) care, environment and land-use planning, from governmental institutions and municipalities, profit and non-profit organizations were carried out. The sample consists of stakeholders from 15 different European countries. In this contribution, we present and discuss stakeholders' views about the role of environmental noise for children's and adolescents' well-being and development, separately for different stakeholder groups.

Keywords (3-6): Noise, physical and social exposome, children, health, stakeholder interviews

INTRODUCTION

The EU Horizon 2020 project Equal-Life (Early Environmental quality and life-course mental health effects) is a multi- and interdisciplinary project studying the impact of physical, social, and internal exposomes on children's and adolescents' cognitive development and well-being. As a holistic approach is needed to address these different exposomes, stakeholder interviews were conducted first to get an overview regarding practices and guidelines within Europe as well as experts' knowledge about different exposures and potential gaps that need further consideration.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Interview Guideline and Analysis

An interview guideline was developed covering the following topics:

- Mental health and cognitive development in children and adolescents: stakeholders' professional involvement in activities or policy making with respect to children's and adolescents mental health and cognitive development, physical and social exposures as well as combinations of these two, harmful settings
- National mental health plans for children and adolescents: knowledge of national mental health plan, consideration of national mental health plan in daily work, gaps in national mental health plan
- Collaboration with other stakeholders: potential collaborations with other stakeholders involved in the topic of children's or adolescents' mental health and cognitive development, how does this collaboration look like, is there a need for more collaborations

The interviews were audio-recorded with the permission of the participants. Transcripts were made of each recording and the interviews were analysed according to Mayring's qualitative content analysis¹.

RESULTS

In total, 61 interviews are analysed. Table 1 shows the number of participants per country, type and level of organization, role of stakeholder, and the work field.

Table 1: Sample description

Variables		Number of participants
Country	Austria	9
	Belgium	2
	Croatia	1
	Germany	12
	Greece	1
	Italy	5
	Macedonia	2
	North Ireland	1
	The Netherlands	10
	Scotland	1
	Serbia	1
	Slovakia	1
	Slovenia	6

	Sweden	6
	Switzerland	3
Type of organization	Governmental institution	19
	Municipality	9
	Non-profit organisation	23
	Private sector	2
	Profit organisation	2
	Research institution	6
Role of stakeholder	Manager	9
	Policy adviser	4
	Policy maker	11
	Policy adviser + policy maker	1
	Promoter	10
	Researcher	7
	Researcher + policy adviser	1
	Specialist	18
Level of organisation	Local	20
	Regional	7
	National	34
Work field	Educational	9
	Environmental safety	5
	Mental health	8
	Physical health	4
	Public health	18
	Social	12
	Urban planning	5

The interviews are currently being analysed and results will be presented at the conference.

Acknowledgements

This study is part of the EU project Equal-Life (Early Environmental quality and life-course mental health effects). Equal-Life has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 874724.

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