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Using the Soundscape approach to develop a public space in Berlin - Perception and Evaluation

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In Berlin the Soundscape Project "Nauener Platz" is carried out to rebuild a difficult public space into a space which is dominated by social freedom. A designed space related procedure is developed following the Soundscape approach, which will provide acoustical indicators and parameters describing urban and other outdoor living areas with respect to physical conditions and their relevance for life. The measurement of outdoor sound quality will take into consideration not only the sound pressure but also the characteristics of the sounds which lead to specific human reactions, both positive and negative: calmness, inspiration, annoyance, discontentment, anxiety, etc. and the pathogenic effects. Qualitative evaluations through soundwalks and open interviews have been conducted introducing the new experts. Framework and procedure will be discussed. The Soundscape Project is a module of the Project "Nauener Platz - Remodelling for Young and Old"in the framework of the research program "Experimental Housing and Urban Development (ExWoSt)" of the "Federal Ministry of Transport, Building, and Urban Affairs (BMVBS)"by the "Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR)". It is related to the fields of research (ExWoSt) concerned with "Innovation of Urban Neighbourhoods for Families and the Elderly". The project executing organization is the Regional Office Berlin-Mitte.