



## THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOUND AND THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE OF INAD 2020-2021 “LET’S LISTEN TO THE SOUNDS”

Sara Delle Macchie<sup>1\*</sup>

Rossella Natale<sup>1</sup>

Chiara Bartalucci<sup>2</sup>

Paola Pulella<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> INAD Italia – Acoustical Society of Italy (AIA), Via del Fosso del Cavaliere 100, 00133 Roma, Italy

<sup>2</sup> Vie en.ro.se. Ingegneria S.r.l., Viale Belfiore 36, 50144 Florence, Italy

### ABSTRACT

In the frame of the International Year of Sound, in Italy activities have been coordinated by the Acoustical Society of Italy (AIA). The INAD Italia working group joined the initiative in several ways by coordinating the competition, organizing educational lessons and distributing dissemination material. The international competition was included in the Italian program, which was celebrated on 28 April 2021 with the theme “Let’s listen to the sound”. The competition was structured in two categories following the approach of the international competition: one for primary and middle schools (from 5 to 12 years old) and the other for secondary schools (from 13 to 18 years old). Students were asked to produce drawings or to write a stanza of 4 verses inspired by the motto of IYS “Importance of Sound for Society and the World” and by melody and refrain of the song “We are the sounds of our world”. In Italy about 320 students were involved. In the frame of the IYS the “Noisella Short Stories” were produced by Vie en.ro.se. Ingegneria sponsored by HEAD-Genuit-Foundation: two cartoon series entitled “Noisella teaches acoustics” and “Hearing sounds with Noisella” have been published on the dedicated YouTube channel “The Noisella’s Adventures”.

**Keywords:** IYS, inad italia, students, awareness

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The International Year of Sound (IYS 2020-2021) is an international initiative to emphasize how the acoustic environment is a key component in the balance and comfort of the daily lives of all human beings, in their relationship with each other and with the world, in economic, environmental, social, medical, industrial and cultural dimensions. The IYS 2020-2021 is organized by the International Commission of Acoustics (ICA) and implements the directions of the UNESCO Charter of Sound on the importance of sound in today's world (ref. Resolution 39 C/59, Sept. 25, 2017) [1]. In September 2017, the UNESCO Resolution 39 C/49 on “The Importance of Sound in Today’s World: Promotion of best practices” was approved and published [2].

Several activities have been organized as part of IYS 2020-2021, including the International Student Competition on the theme “My world of sounds” [see Fig. 1]. The contest is closely related to the motto “The importance of sound for the society and the World,” the melody “The sound of the world” and its refrain, the musical basis of which has been made available in the section of the IYS 2020-2021 website dedicated to the Contest [3]. Due to the delicate health situation imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the International Year of Sound, which began in 2020, was extended to 2021.

The Acoustical Society of Italy has accepted the IYS initiatives promoting a national student competition with the theme “Let’s listen to the sound” and organizing several events at regional and national levels planned for 2020.

\*Corresponding author: [inad.italia@gmail.com](mailto:inad.italia@gmail.com)

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**Figure 1.** Poster of the International Student Competition "My world of sounds".

## 2. LET'S LISTEN TO THE SOUNDS

The international competition was included in the Italian program, which was celebrated on 28 April 2021 with the theme "Let's listen to the sound" [see Fig. 2]. This edition aims to highlight the importance of sound in society and the world, considering aspects of landscape, noise control in nature, the built environment, and workplaces [4].

The competition was structured in two categories following the approach of the international competition:

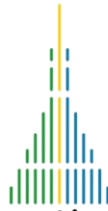
- Competition for students of primary and middle schools (from 5 to 12 years old) who are asked to produce a graphic work (drawing, painting, collage, computer art, comic strip, etc.....) related to their sound world, inspired by the motto of IYS "Importance of Sound for Society and the World" and by melody and refrain of the song "We are the sounds of our world".
- Competition for students of secondary schools (from 13 to 18 years old) who are asked to write a stanza of 4 verses (in mother language or in English language) inspired by the motto of IYS "Importance of Sound for Society and the World" and by melody and refrain of the song "We are the sounds of our world".

All Italian contributions, including videos made by secondary school students to the notes of their verse and refrain, along with those from other schools around the world, were edited into a documentary published on YouTube and various social networks, promoting the initiative globally [5].



**Figure 2.** Poster of the Italian Student Competition "Let's listen to the sound".

Participation in the initiative was lower than in previous years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which created difficulties especially regarding the educational lesson given by technical experts in acoustics, soundscapes and listening quality. About 320 Italian students participated in the initiative, with nine schools from seven different regions. Seven schools participated in the competition. The first prize for the category "graphic work" was given to School I.C. "Anna Rita Sidoti Gioiosa Marea" for the drawing "The sound of the marine world". The kindergarten "M.L. Niccolini" in Ponsacco received the second prize for the category "graphic work" with the project "The House of Sounds and Noises". The kindergarten "I.C. Ardigò" in Padova received the third prize for the category "graphic work" [see Fig. 3].



forum acusticum 2023



**Figure 3.** Drawings making by Italian schools awarded for the category “graphic work”.

The I.C. "K Wojtyla" Secondary School in Siracusa received a special mention for the graphic entry "What noise does the pandemic make," awarded by the jury of acoustics experts for its sensitivity in understanding the influence of the pandemic on the soundscapes of our lives.

For the second category, in which the writing of a verse of the song "The sound of the world" was required, first prize was awarded to Puccini Secondary School in Florence, second prize to "Istituto Salesiano dell'Immacolata" Secondary School in Florence, and third prize to High School " B. Telesio" in Cosenza.

The works of the three winners for the two categories of the national competition have been sent to the Competition Coordinating Office and will represent Italy at the international competition.

For category 2, IC "Puccini," Florence-Italy [see Fig. 4] and Institut Escola Salvador Vilarrasa, Besalú-Spain were tied for first place in the international competition "My world of sounds".

### THE SOUND OF THE WORLD

Wherever, wonderful sound

Storm and rain, waves and falls

the sound of the world

Footsteps on the brown leaves

chirping birds, river and woods ...

the sound of the world

**Singing! Sound of the world are so swinging!**

**Singing! Making the bells of love ringing!**

**We are the sound, we are the sound of our world! (2 times)**

Remember, all magic sounds,

you had heard and loved these

the sounds of the world.

Oh listen! My heart beating

you can find in your mind

the sound of the world.

**Singing! Sound of the world are so swinging!**

**Singing! Making the bells of love ringing!**

**We are the sound, we are the sound of our world! (2 times)**



**Figure 4.** First prize stanzas and frames - I.C. "Puccini" Secondary School, Florence.

### 3. NOISELLA SHORT STORIES

In the same context as the initiatives organized for the International Year of Sound, "Noisella Short Stories" were produced, two cartoon series titled "Noisella teaches acoustics" and "Hearing sounds with Noisella"[see Fig. 5].





**Figure 5.** “The Noisella’s Adventures” cartoon.

The "Noisella Short Stories" feature Noisella, who has been the mascot of INAD Italy for many years. In the various episodes of the series, Noisella, together with her cat Marisa and her friends, illustrates some basic concepts concerning acoustics.

The material produced is aimed at raising awareness among children and young people on the following topics: the concept of sound, acoustic propagation in indoor and outdoor spaces, the difference between sound and noise, the effects of noise on health, the concept of prevention, the "quiet diet," the meaning of soundscapes (urban and nonurban), and the role of the acoustic designer.

The project was produced by Vie en.ro. se. Ingegneria with the support of the Head Genuit Foundation and is distributed on the dedicated YouTube channel "The Noisella's Adventures" [6].

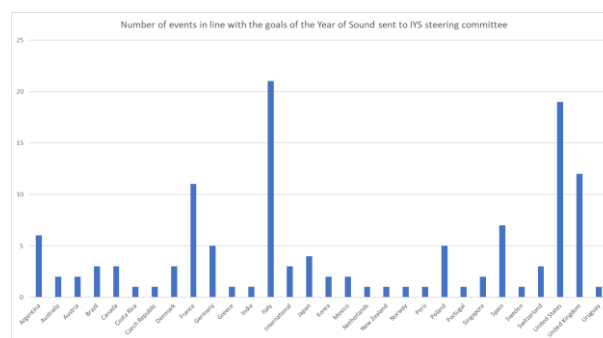
As part of INAD Italy 2022 activities, AIA has subtitled in Italian language of the two cartoon series.

The videos are used as dissemination/information material during INAD's educational lessons.

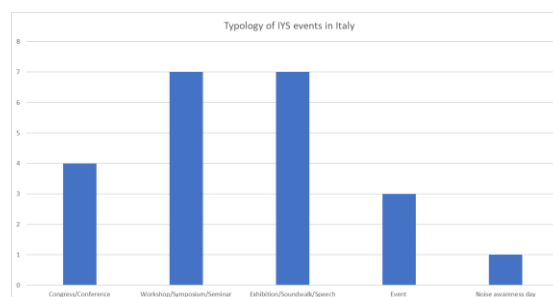
#### 4. ITALIAN INITIATIVES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF IYS 2020-2021

Among the several initiatives foreseen for the celebration of the IYS 2020-21, several events organised at regional, national, and international levels were planned, thanks to the efficient and worldwide coordinated communication campaign foreseen by the ICA. All events had in common the feature of presenting an acoustical outreach component in line with the goals of the IYS focusing on the valorisation of positive sounds and soundscapes [7].

Italy, France, United Kingdom, United States, Spain and Poland are the most active in organising events [see Fig. 6]. In Italy 22 events were organised: 4 congresses or conferences, 7 workshop or seminars, 7 Exhibitions or Soundwalks, 3 other events, 1 noise awareness day [see Fig. 7].



**Figure 6.** Number of IYS events planned by each Country (data updated to December 2020).



**Figure 7.** Typologies of IYS events in Italy (data updated to December 2020).

#### 5. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES IN 2023 AND FUTURE COLLABORATIONS

After the great success of the International Year of Sound 2020-21, within the framework of the 28<sup>th</sup> International Noise Awareness Day INAD 2023, the Acoustical Societies of Turkey (TAKDER), Italy (AIA) and Spain (SEA) have organized the international symposium “Keep your hearing, keep your health: Educational facilities”.

The event was dedicated to students, teachers, acoustics technicians and people interested in acoustics.

The event was held on Wednesday 26 April 2023 in digital mode [see Fig. 8].

The program is structured in two main sessions: the first one in the morning had an educational approach while the second one in the afternoon included the presentation of experiences, works and projects aimed at mitigating noise in schools and raising awareness by educational tools.



**Figure 8.** “Sound that unite us” poster of the international event on 26 April 2023

The event registered the active participation of Italian, Spanish and Turkish schools, and acoustics technicians. The initiative was followed live by about 60 people and will be available on the websites and social channels of AIA, TAKDER and SEA societies [8]. INAD's working group from Spain, Italy and Turkey will work in the coming months to implement shared initiatives in the coming year as well.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Sound plays a fundamental role in all human activities including education and it is also an essential part of communication between humans, as well as a useful resource to enjoy landscapes around us.

The International Year of Sound is promoted by the International Commission for Acoustics, aiming to valorize the positive and beautiful sounds and to make people concentrate also on the pleasantness of the soundscapes that characterize their everyday life. Among the several initiatives foreseen in the frame of the IYS, there was a world-wide competition for students of Primary, Middle, and Secondary Schools and the organization of several events focusing on the valorization of positive sounds and soundscapes. Among the various initiatives planned as part of the IYS, a worldwide competition for students of Primary, Middle, and Secondary Schools and the organization of several events focused on the promotion of positive sounds and soundscapes were held.

Italy is one of the most active countries in the organization of initiatives in the frame of the IYS 2020-21, thanks to the enthusiasm shown by the Acoustical Society of Italy and its members.

## 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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