



A SUMMARY AND A REFLECTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOUND (IYS2020+) IN SPAIN

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ABSTRACT

The IYS2020+ International Year of Sound was a global initiative to raise awareness of the importance of sound in everyone's lives. This initiative, promoted by the International Commission for Acoustics (ICA), sought to celebrate commemorative activities in all parts of the world and commissioned national acoustic societies to promote the event in their respective countries. In addition to the activities held locally in each country, the ICA organized global activities such as a grand opening ceremony and also an international student competition to spread the message of this commemoration among children.

The Spanish Acoustic Society was in charge of the dissemination and coordination of the IYS2020+ activities in Spain. This communication chronicles the main activities carried out in Spain and reflects on the importance of this type of initiative to raise awareness in society regarding the power of sound as an element of cohesion between people and cultures and concerning the importance of living in a healthy sound environment.

Keywords: *Sound, noise awareness, international collaboration.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Sound is a very important aspect of people's lives.

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First, sound, through the sense of hearing, constitutes a source of information about the physical environment in which we operate. In addition, sound, through speech, is our natural way of communication. These two aspects, that of the perception of the environment and that of spoken communication, are fundamental factors in the relationship of people with each other and with the world that surrounds them. That is why it is essential to promote the importance of protecting hearing, especially in the workplace and in recreational activities, and to collaborate in improving the integration of people with hearing or speech disabilities into society.

On the other hand, unwanted sound, that is, noise, can have harmful effects on our health, so it is important to live a sound environment that is appropriate to the activities that people carry out, both in the public and private spheres.

Finally, sound is a fundamental element in the cultural identity of peoples. Not only in music and sound art, but also in all cultural and social manifestations, sound is a key piece and constitutes an intangible heritage that must be known and preserved.

Aware of this, the International Commission for Acoustics (ICA) decided to launch in 2020 a global initiative called International Year of Sound (IYS 2020) to highlight the importance of sound and related sciences and technologies for all in society. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, it was decided to extend the activities during the year 2021.

The Spanish Acoustical Society (SEA) echoed this initiative and coordinated the activities that took place in Spain.

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2. DIFFUSION AND INVOLVEMENT

The Spanish Acoustical Society enthusiastically welcomed this initiative from the outset, as it was aligned with one of its main objectives, which is the promotion of acoustics in all areas and raising awareness in society regarding environmental noise.

The dissemination of the IYS 2020 among its associates and their contacts was carried out in various ways. On the one hand, various emails were sent informing about the news and scheduled activities. On the other hand, information on this initiative was included on the SEA website and disseminated in InfoSEA, which is the association's monthly electronic bulletin. In addition, various interviews were conducted in the media that managed to spread the IYS 2020 message to a wider audience.

3. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

From the first moment a great interest arose in the initiative and activities of all kinds began to be programmed. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the activities that were being planned had to be aborted. However, given the circumstances, we are very satisfied with what has been carried out. A total of 15 activities were carried out in Spain, which represents almost 10% of the

scheduled activities worldwide. Table 1 shows the activities finally carried out in Spain, which consisted of congresses, conferences, webinars, workshops, and various activities, both face-to-face and online.

Due to its great media coverage, we would like to highlight the contribution of the National Archaeological Museum. This museum made, in commemoration of IYS2020, a temporary exhibition called “Vitrina CERO. Archeology of soundscapes”, which has been exhibited from October 6, 2020 to January 10, 2021.

Associated with this exhibition, the National Archaeological Museum organized the congress “Archeology of Soundscapes” (registered on the IYS2020 website), in which the opening lecture was given by the president of the Spanish Acoustical Society on the theme “International Year of the Sound”.

4. STUDENT COMPETITION

As a global event, the International Commission for Acoustics organized an International Competition for students of Primary, Middle and Secondary Schools from all over the world. The competition was structured in two categories. The first, for students of Primary and Middle Schools, in which students are asked to produce hand-made drawings, pictures, patchworks, collages and similar, related

Table 1. Activities scheduled in Spain accessible from the IYS2020 website [1].

Date	Name	Location	Type
March 2020	Sound Week Madrid.	Madrid	Congress
March 2020	T3chFest	Madrid	Workshop
October 2020	Acusti.cat – 3rd Acoustics Congress of Catalonia	Online	Congress
November 2020	Contaminación acústica y Coronavirus	Online	Webinar
November 2020	Arqueología de los paisajes sonoros	Online	Congress
November 2020	Ambisonics	Online	Webinar
December 2020	Art and new technologies workshop: interactive sound	Madrid	Workshop
February 2021	Cathedral acoustics	Online	Webinar
March 2021	Presentación del Informe Mundial de la Audición	Online	Webinar
March 2021	Poetry and interactive sound: Project Conjuntos UC3M	Madrid	Various
March 2021	Artsoundscapes project seminar — David Robinson	Online	Webinar
April 2021	Professional meetings, Acoustics	Online	Webinar
April - May 2021	WEEK WITHOUT NOISE (SSS21)	Barcelona	Workshop
April 2021	SoundWalk Sant Gervasi	Barcelona	Workshop
July 2021	Web Audio Conference 2021	Barcelona	Congress

to their world of sounds, inspired by the motto of IYS2020 “Importance of Sound for Society and the World”. The second, for students of Secondary Schools, in which students had to write a stanza inspired by the melody and the refrain of the song “The Sound Of The World”.

To involve as many schoolchildren as possible in the international competition, the Spanish acoustic society carried out various promotional activities. First, a postal mailing has been made to our database of schools, which consists of more than 2,500 entries. Simultaneously, the information about the contest has been sent to the regional education authorities for posting on their websites. Finally, the information was distributed among the main associations of parents of students so that they could transfer it to their respective schools.

This initiative was very well received in Spanish schools and, given the health circumstances that prevented students from regularly attending classes, the participation results were highly satisfactory. For the first category, 379 entries were received from 20 schools from all over Spain and for the second category, a total of 16 stanzas were received, from 8 different schools.

We have also received an impressive contribution, consisting of a video clip made by students from a special education school. This video shows the reactions of students, with intellectual disabilities, when listening to the music of the song “My world of Sounds”. Although this item does not comply with the contest regulations, it perfectly represents the ideals of the International Year of Sound.

The winners of the national competition competed in the international contest, where students from two Spanish schools, Institut Escola Salvador Vilarrasa and I.E.S. La Merced, received first and third place in category II, respectively.

5. CONCLUSIONS Y FINAL THOUGHTS

The International Year of Sound 2020 has been a memorable initiative, uniting people from all over the world with the aim of highlighting the importance of sound in all aspects of life on earth and leading towards an understanding of sound-related issues at the national and international level.

This initiative has been very well received in Spain, where numerous activities of a varied nature have been organized and where a large number of schools have participated in the international student competition.

In the feedback that the Spanish Acoustic Society has received, all the participants have highlighted their satisfaction at contributing to this cause and their willingness to participate in similar initiatives in the future.

For this reason, at the SEA we believe that the spirit that has moved us to celebrate the IYS 2020 should not die in this commemoration, but that we must continue with the task of raising awareness about the importance of sound and related sciences and technologies for all in society and about the need for the control of noise in nature, in the built environment, and in the workplace.



Figure 1. Category I National First Prize. CPI Ramón y Cajal de Ayerbe

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Spanish Acoustic Society would like to thank all the people, companies, schools and institutions that have collaborated in spreading the International Year of Sound 2020 and that have organized or hosted the activities associated with this initiative.

7. REFERENCES

- [1] International Year of Sound 2020-2021 (n.d.). *Full Event Listing*. Retrieved November 24, 2023, from <https://www.sound2020.org/event/>