

Places and Technologies 2015

KEEPING UP WITH TECHNOLOGIES TO MAKE HEALTHY PLACES

Nova Gorica, Slovenia, 18.–19.6.2015

PT2015

BOOK OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

A healthy city is one that is continually creating and improving those physical and social environments and expanding those community resources which enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and developing to their maximum potential.
Health Promotion Glossary (1998)

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**KEEPING UP WITH
TECHNOLOGIES TO MAKE HEALTHY PLACES**

BOOK OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Editors:

Alenka Fikfak, Eva Vaništa Lazarević,
Nataša Fikfak, Milena Vukmirović, Peter Gabrijelčič

Nova Gorica, Slovenia



Contents

INTRODUCTION	10
HEALTHY CITY - TECHNOLOGY AND URBAN RESILIENCE EVA VANIŠTA LAZAREVIĆ	11
A PLACE FOR PLACES: LIVE AND STAY NATAŠA FIKFAK	13
NOVA GORICA MATEJ ARČON	14
HEALTHY CITY - TECHNOLOGY AND URBAN RESILIENCE RUŽICA BOŽOVIĆ STAMENOVIĆ	17
INNOVATING AT LISBON'S WATERFRONT PLACE, THE "TAGUS PLATFORM" PROJECT PEDRO RESSANO GARCIA	19
TOPIC I: Architecture and Health	19
HEALTHY BUILDINGS: THE ICF CLASSIFICATION AS A DESIGNING TOOL ALBERTO ARENGHI, DANIELE MALGRATI, MICHELE SCARAZZATO	20
THE HEALTH ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE KOSARA KUJUNDŽIĆ	26
UNIVERSITY AND DWELLERS' ASSOCIATIONS TOGETHER FOR CREATING SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY URBAN ENVIRONMENTS LUCIA MARTINCIGH, FRANCESCO BIANCHI, CECILIA DE MARINIS, MARINA DI GUIDA, GIOVANNI PERRUCCI	32
"VERTICAL" CITY DAMJANA LOJANIČIĆ	39
HEALTHY WORKPLACE: UTOPIA OR REALITY OF MODERN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TIJANA VUJIČIĆ, TANJA TRKULJA	45
SUSTAINABLE DESIGN FOR IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENT ALEKSANDAR PETROVSKI, OGNEN MARINA, GEORGI DIMKOV, DIMITAR PAPASTEREVSKI	52
HEALTHCARE DESIGN REVISITED – NEW APPROACHES TO USER – CENTRIC, EFFICIENT AN EFFECTIVE DESIGN EVA VANIŠTA LAZAREVIĆ, JELENA MARIĆ, MILENA VUKMIROVIĆ, GORAN RADOVIĆ	59
BUILDING MATERIALS AND HUMAN HEALTH: DESIGNERS' PERSPECTIVE SAJA KOSANOVIĆ, ALENKA FIKFAK, MIRKO GRBIĆ	74



TOWARDS A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF HEALTHY PLACE SAJA KOSANOVIĆ, EVA VANIŠTA LAZAREVIĆ, SLADAN TIMOTIJEVIĆ	80
ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES OF BUILDING MATERIALS OF TRADITIONAL OHRID HOUSE AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO ITS HUMAN DESIGN RADMILA TOMOVSKA, ANA RADIVOJEVIĆ	86
HEALTHY ARCHITECTURE AS A RESULT OF BALANCED INTEGRATION OF ARTIFICIAL AND NATURAL RULES DŽENANA BIJEDIĆ, RADA ČAHTAREVIĆ, SENAJDA HALILOVIĆ	93
HEALTHY ARCHITECTURE FOR CHILDREN JULIJA ALEKSIĆ	101
MEDICINE AND ARCHITECTURE IN THE CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY ILKA ČERPES	107
MARGINALISATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES ALONG THE STRAIT OF SINGAPORE MAGNUS NICKL, VERENA STECHER	115
THE SCALE OF ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS IN SERBIA - THE NEED FOR RETHINKING MARKO MATEJIĆ	121
ARCHITECTURE AND HEALTHY LIVING SPACE GORAN RADOVIĆ	127
TOPIC II: Physical Planning and Quality of Place	140
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTIONS OF URBAN STRUCTURE THROUGH REGISTRATION OF CHANGES OF SEGMENTS OF URBAN COMPLEX VELIMIR STOJANOVIĆ	141
THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SQUARE CARICA MILICA IN NOVI SAD (SERBIA) IVANA SENTIĆ, KSENIJA HIEL	147
VARESE LIGURE: AN ITALIAN RURAL MUNICIPALITY WHICH HAS IMPLEMENTED AN EXEMPLARY MODEL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GIOVANNI SERGI, CARLO BERIO, GIULIA CANTON, GIACOMO CROVO	154
CYBERPARKS CHALLENGES - NEW DIGITAL MEDIA FOR ATTRACTIVE URBAN OPEN SPACES INA ŠUKLJE ERJAVEC, CARLOS SMANIOTTO COSTA	163
MEDIA ARCHITECTURE AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT JASNA ČIKIĆ-TOVAROVIĆ, JELENA IVANOVIĆ-ŠEKULARAC, NENAD ŠEKULARAC	171



IMPLEMENTATION OF NORWEGIAN EXPERIENCE TO SLOVENIAN HOSPITAL SECTOR	179
ALENKA TEMELJOTOV-SALAJ, SVEIN BJOERBERG, SIMON VRHUNEC, ANDREJ BARIČIČ	
TOWARDS OPEN, THERMODYNAMIC CITY P&T 2015	186
MARIJA BOJOVIĆ, IRENA RAJKOVIĆ, SANJA PAUNOVIĆ ŽARIĆ	
INTERWEAVING OF BANJALUKA'S URBAN AND RURAL LANDSCAPES	194
DIJANA SIMONOVIC	
AN APPLICATION OF THE "ENVIRONMENTAL ISLAND": A PRESCRIPTIVE TOOL TO CREATE HEALTHIER URBAN ENVIRONMENTS	201
LUCIA MARTINCIGH, CECILIA DE MARINIS, JANET HETMAN	
DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC SQUARES IN NORTH WESTERN EUROPEAN CITY CENTRES	209
BOB GIDDINGS, JAMES CHARLTON	
MUSIC AND SOUND AS A TOOL INTO DESIGNING HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT	216
ANJA KOSTANJŠAK, MORANA PAP, TENA LAZAREVIĆ	
DESIGNING PARKING STRUCTURES IN SERVICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH	225
TANJA TRKULJA, TIJANA VUJIČIĆ	
DESIGNING THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT WHEN PLANNING BUSINESS ZONES	232
GREGOR ČOK	
FOUR PARADIGMS FOR THE VENETO REGION'S CENTRAL AREA	240
ENRICO ANGUILLARI	
MUNICIPALITY POLICY AS KEY FACTOR FOR THE ROLE OF ARCHITECTURE AND TECHNOLOGY IN PUBLIC HEALTH	248
DEJAN VASOVIĆ, NATAŠA ČUKOVIĆ IGNJATOVIĆ, DUŠAN IGNJATOVIĆ	
INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE IN ALBANIA AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGENERATION AND ADAPTIVE RE-USE	255
FLORIAN NEPRAVISHTA	
THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE APPLICATION OF THE CONCEPT OF HEALTHY CITY IN ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS IN SERBIA	266
BRANISLAV ANTONIĆ, BISERKA MITROVIĆ	
URBAN REGENERATION AS A TOOL FOR POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENT	272
FILIP PETROVIĆ	
URBANIZATION OF METROPOLITAN AREAS – THE IMPORTANCE OF NEW SPATIAL DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS	281
HANNA OBRACHT-PRONDZYNSKA	



AQUAPONICS BASED ARTIFICIAL BIOSPHERE INCLUDED IN ARCHITECTURE: FROM
MITIGATION OF NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO POSITIVE ADDED VALUES OF URBAN
SPATIAL STRUCTURES ON LOCAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SCALE 288

PIOTR MAREK SMOLNICKI

INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES IN THE URBAN PLANNING
WATER SENSITIVE PLACES 297

VIŠNJA SRETOVIĆ BRKOVIĆ, MATIJA BRKOVIĆ

TOPIC III: Lifetime Communities and Participation 308

COHOUSING FOR BUILDING REUSE 309

ADOLFO BARATTA, FABRIZIO FINUCCI, ANNALISA METTA, LUCA MONTUORI

HOW TO DESIGN HEALTHY BUILDING FOR HEALTHY LIVING? 315

ANJA JUTRAŽ, SANJA ŠTIMAC

PARTICIPATORY URBAN PLANNING AND PUBLIC POLICY 326

VIŠNJA KUKOČ

TOPIC IV: Cultural Patterns and Sensitivity 332

SENSE OF PLACE IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN:
TOWARDS HEALTHY PLACES P&T 2015 333

EGLÉ NAVICKIENÉ

HOLIDAY HOMES IN THE VICINITY OF SPLIT, CROATIA, DESIGNED
BY FRANO GOTOVAC – CONTINUITY OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE 341

VESNA PERKOVIĆ JOVIĆ

ARCHITECTURE AND ITS AFTERLIFE; GREEN URBANITY 347

GABRIELLA MEDVEGY, GÁBOR VERES

INVESTIGATION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURE
OF THE INHABITANTS AND QUALITY OF HOUSING 353

ANA ŠPIRIĆ, SANJA TRIVIĆ

UTOPIAN PROJECTS DRAWINGS AS INDICATORS
OF MODERN SOCIETY NEEDS 361

VLADIMIR KOVAČ

YOUTH AND THE FEELING OF SAFETY IN PUBLIC SPACES 368

SVETLANA STANAREVIĆ, STEVAN TATALOVIĆ



TOPIC V: Health Intensive Care **375**

OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY - GUIDED PRIMARY PERCUTANEOUS CORONARY INTERVENTION IN ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION	375
IGOR KRANJEC	
FRACTAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE CORONARY ARTERY TREE	386
MATJAŽ KLEMENC	
HUMANIZATION OF DIALYSIS: GREEN AND COZY	392
JADRANKA BUTUROVIĆ-PONIKVAR	
CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND AN ACTIVE APPROACH TO OVERCOME THEM	397
MARKO VUDRAG	
ANALYSIS AND CONTEMPORARY APPROACH OF SPACE DESIGN OF INTENSIVE PSYCHIATRIC CARE UNIT	406
NEVENA DUTINA, ALEKSANDRA DUTINA	

TOPIC VI: Inclusive and Accessible Environment **413**

TOWARDS INCLUSIVE FIRE SAFETY DESIGN	414
VALERIA TATANO, ELISABETTA CARATTIN	
INCLUSIVE AND THERAPEUTIC URBAN ENVIRONMENT: INVOLVING USERS IN THE DESIGN PROCESS	422
ILARIA GAROFOLO, BARBARA CHIARELLI	
DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE SOCIAL HOUSING TO FOSTER INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES	429
SILVIA GRION, PAOLA COLONI	
URBAN PUBLIC SPACES ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL: A CASE STUDY IN A HISTORICAL DISTRICT OF ROME	436
LUCIA MARTINCIGH, CECILIA DE MARINIS	
ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE, PHYTODEPURATION AND MANMADE WETLANDS IN MAGOK LAKE PARK, SEOUL	445
CRISTIAN SUAU, CARMELO ZAPPULLA	
ADVANCED SYSTEMS FOR IMPROVING COMMON HEALTH	458
URŠKA KALČIČ, JANEZ PETER GROM	
INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE	466
SANKALP SHUKLA, APOORVA GANGRADE, ANSHULA GUMBER	
FACTS4STOPS – USER NEEDS REGARDING PUBLIC TRANSPORT STATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT	472
CHRISTINE CHALOUPKA-RISSER, DANIEL BELL	



TOPIC VII: Environmentally Friendly Transport 478

SHIFTING TO MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY MODES IN LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORT	479
ALEKSANDRA NEŠIĆ, IVANA ČAVKA, OLJA ČOKORILO	
ASSESSING PUBLIC TRANSPORT EFFICIENCY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	485
EVGENIA YOSIFOVA	
THE ROLE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY	492
DINO ŠOJAT, DAVOR BRČIĆ, MARKO SLAVUJ	
APPLICATION OF PV MODULES ON NOISE BARRIERS	498
BUDIMIR SUDIMAC, ANDJELA DUBLJEVIĆ	
PLANNING OF ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION IN THE KRŠKO REGION	505
ANA TIVADAR, STANKO MANOJLOVIĆ, SIMON PODKORITNIK	
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS FOR SMART CITIES	511
BIA MANDŽUKA, LJUPKO ŠIMUNOVIĆ, MARIO ĆOSIĆ	

TOPIC VIII: Building Technologies 518

RETROFITTING OF MULTI-FAMILY BUILDINGS TOWARDS HEALTHIER SETTLEMENTS	519
ALEKSANDRA KRSTIĆ-FURUNDŽIĆ, ALEKSANDRA ĐUKIĆ	
FERROCEMENT ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURES FROM THE ASPECT OF SOCIAL WELL-BEING	526
ALEKSANDRA NENADOVIĆ	
DAYLIGHT ANALYSES OF "READY-MADE" FAÇADES WITH MODULAR OPENINGS - CASE STUDY LOCATION IN PODGORICA	532
SANJA PAUNOVIĆ ŽARIĆ, IRENA RAJKOVIĆ, MARIJA BOJOVIĆ	
ACTIVE SOLAR SYSTEMS – STUDY OF POTENTIAL FOR APPLICATION IN THE MATERIALIZATION OF TOURIST FACILITIES IN MONTENEGRO	539
IRENA RAJKOVIĆ, SANJA PAUNOVIĆ ŽARIĆ, MARIJA BOJOVIĆ	
PREFABRICATED PASSIVE HOUSE VENTILATED FAÇADE PANEL SYSTEM WITH RECYCLED CONCRETE	548
LJUBOMIR MIŠČEVIĆ, IVANA BANJAD PEČUR, BOJAN MILOVANOVIĆ	
POTENTIAL ANALYSIS OF DYNAMIC, THERMAL BUILDING SIMULATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF MEASUREMENT AIDED SIMULATION TECHNIQUE	556
ISTVÁN KISTELEGDI, BÁLINT BARANYAI, BÁLINT BACHMANN	



TOPIC IX: Adaptive Reuse and Urban Renewal 561

COMPARISON OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OF DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES
FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF REINFORCED CONCRETE SLABS 562

TANYA CHARDAKOVA, MARINA TRAYKOVA

SYSTEMS FOR THE REQUALIFICATION OF NON-LISTED ARCHITECTURE:
THE "ADAPTIVE EXOSKELETON" 569

FRANCESCA GUIDOLIN

RECONSTRUCTION AND REVITALIZATION OF THE COMPLEX SENARA, WITHIN
THE MONASTERY HILANDAR, IN ORDER TO ADAPT TO MODERN TRENDS AND
SOCIAL CHANGES 575

JELENA IVANOVIĆ-ŠEKULARAC, JASNA ČIKIĆ-TOVAROVIĆ, NENAD ŠEKULARAC

RENEWAL OF JUGOMONT PREFABRICATED RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS JU-61 582

IVAN MLINAR, LEA PETROVIĆ KRAJNIK, TAMARA MARIĆ

BROWNFIELDS AS PLACES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS
AS TECHNOLOGIES: POTENTIALS AND RISKS IN CASE OF SERBIA 588

ANITA STOILKOV-KONESKI, ZORAN KONESKI

LANDFILL JAKUŠEVEC IN ZAGREB – POTENTIAL FOR NEW SPACE
IDENTITY AND ENHANCEMENT OF QUALITY OF LIFE 595

LEA PETROVIĆ KRAJNIK, DAMIR KRAJNIK, IVAN MLINAR

TOPIC X: Active Living and Health 601

OPEN PUBLIC SPACES FOR HEALTHIER CITIES 602

ALEKSANDRA STUPAR, ALEKSANDRA ĐUKIĆ

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE EMPLOYEES' HEALTH UNAVOIDABLE
IN THE CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE DESIGN OF OFFICE SPACES 610

NIKOLA Z. FURUNDŽIĆ, DIJANA P. FURUNDŽIĆ, ALEKSANDRA KRSTIĆ- FURUNDŽIĆ

HEALTHY PLACES, ACTIVE PEOPLE 617

KATARINA ANA LESTAN, IVAN ERŽEN, MOJCA GOLOBIČ

THE IMPACT OF QUALITY OF PEDESTRIAN SPACES ON
WALKING AS A MODERATE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY 623

MILENA VUKMIROVIĆ, EVA VANIŠTA LAZAREVIĆ

TOPIC XI: Health Promotion, Protection and Prevention 638

OUTDOOR GYMS: "NO MORE EXCUSES FOR PEOPLE WHO CANNOT
AFFORD MEMBERSHIPS. GET OUT AND GET IN SHAPE!" 639

ANNE-KATHRIN WILL



STUDENT PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR HEALTHY LIFESTYLE ALEŠ GOJJA	646
KEY POINTS OF HUMAN AWARENESS AND EMERGENCY PLANNING. SCHOOLS AS A CASE STUDY MADDALENA COCCAGNA	655
ANOTHER SIDE OF THE COMFORT OF LIVING – ELECTROMAGNETIC POLLUTION NEBOJŠA ARSIĆ, JORDAN RADOSAVLJEVIĆ, NATAŠA FIKFAK, SAŠA ŠTATKIĆ	661
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN OF OUTDOOR LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL AREAS LARA SLIVNIK	667
TOPIC XII: Social Networks and Human Basic Needs	673
VISUAL REPRESENTATION AND EXPERIENCE OF PLACE: CASE STUDY ALHAMBRA IN GRANADA ISIDORA KARAN, VEDRANA IKALOVIĆ	674
BEYOND THE QUANTIFIED SELF: A LOOK AT THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF HEALTH SVEA HEINEMANN	680
SKYSCRAPER'S PUBLIC AREAS: THE IMPACT ON SPACE AND SOCIAL LIFE ALICJA STEFAŃSKA	686
THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL NETWORKS USE ON REDUCTION OF DEPRESSION IN CANCER PATIENTS LEILA HABIBI, HAMID REZA FARPOUR	691



APPLICATION OF PV MODULES ON NOISE BARRIERS

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to consider possibilities for improving the street lighting on the E75 highway, which passes through Serbia, using renewable sources of energy. In this paper, we analyzed the possibilities for installing sound barriers along the highway and integrating photovoltaic (PV) modules, which would generate electrical energy to power the lighting on the section of the highway running through Belgrade. Sound barriers are necessary along the highway running through populated areas, and they are identified as elements on which PV modules for power generation can be installed. The illumination of the highway powered by conventional sources of electricity is very expensive and has negative environmental impact, which is the reason why this paper investigates the connection between sound barriers and electricity generation from renewable energy sources. The paper seeks to show the hybridity of using sustainable technologies in solving environmental issues. This structure solves the problem of noise in populated areas and provides the electricity from renewable source.

Keywords: noise, PV modules, solar energy, sound barriers.

INTRODUCTION

This paper presents the possibilities of using solar energy for illuminating the highway running through Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. Serbia has 267 sunny days per year, and each square meter of the earth's surface receives 1000 hours of solar energy. In Serbia there is a potential to generate electricity using solar power because the insolation is 20-30 per cent more than the European average. There is an average of 2096 hours of sunlight per year (which accounts for 45.48 per cent of potential/possible insolation). The highest insolation of about 10 hours per day is in July and August, while December and January are the cloudiest, with insolation of 2 to 2.3 hours per day (Fig. 1). The mean annual number of cloudy

¹ Corresponding author



days is 103.8, most of them during winters. The mean number of clear days per year is 67. The application of photovoltaic (PV) modules for generating the electricity into sound barriers provides the electricity to illuminate the section of the highway using alternative sources. At the same time, the noise level is reduced in a populated area, as well as the level of CO₂ in the air. The calculations and computer simulations of PV system for all variants of integrating modules into sound barriers were made in the software PVSYST version 4.37. Standard modules with mono-crystalline cells were used for the calculations.

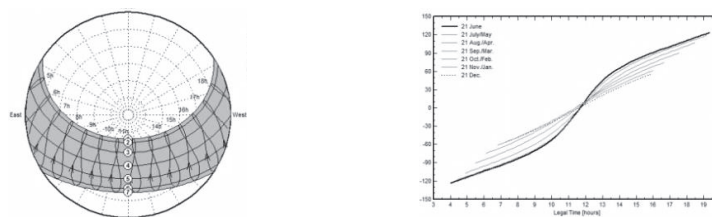


Figure 1: Annual Solar paths diagram and Sun's azimuth at Belgrade (44.4°N, 20.4°E).

Methods

The analysis presented in this paper is hypothetical and it aims to demonstrate the architectural and energy possibilities of using active solar systems by integrating PV modules on noise abatement elements on the section of the highway which runs through Belgrade. The results obtained were comparatively analyzed. Energy efficiency is treated through the consumption of electricity for powering the lighting on the highway using standard light sources – high pressure sodium and new technologies using LED technology.

NOISE BARRIERS

Reducing the negative impact of traffic noise on the environment can be successfully solved by installing appropriate barriers, structures that prevent direct noise transmission. Noise barriers interrupt the original straight line path of sound waves, thus reducing the noise level (Fig. 2a). The effect of noise reduction is reflected in creating an acoustic shadow behind the barrier and it reduces the sound level coming to the receiver. Traffic noise barriers are solid obstacles installed along the road to absorb, transmit or reflect sound. Barriers reduce the level of noise by 5 to 10 dB, thus reducing the level of traffic noise by as much as half. To effectively reduce the noise coming around the ends of the barrier, it should be 8 times as long as the distance between the receiver and the barrier itself. It is desirable to locate a noise barrier four times its height from settlements and provide landscaping near the barrier to avoid visual dominance. A barrier can achieve a 5dB noise level reduction when the line-of-sight is broken from the highway. After the line-of-sight is broken, the barrier may reduce the noise level by an additional 1.5dB for each one meter of barrier height (Fig. 2b). The level of noise generated



by traffic on the highway through Belgrade is 70-90db. According to the law in Serbia, the maximum allowed noise level in residential areas is 55dB during the day, and 45dB during the night. In Belgrade, there are no noise barriers which meet the standard. The vicinity of the highway and the noise produced is a serious environmental issue for the analyzed area in Belgrade.

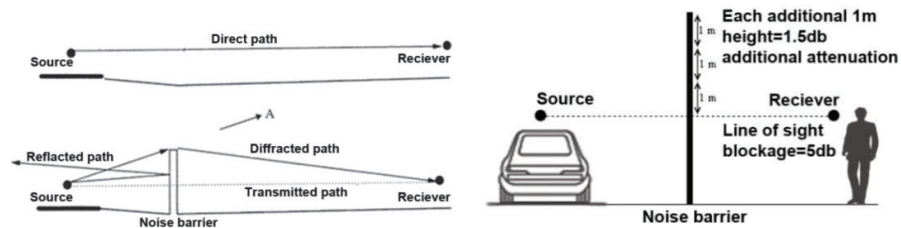


Figure 2: a) Path of sound waves without and with noise barrier b) High of noise barrier.

Illumination of the e75 highway

The E75 highway is the longest international route; class A, running north-south from Norway to Greece. The total length of this highway is 5639 km, and the section running through Serbia spans 239km and it is a part of the Pan-European corridor X. The lighting is provided using high-pressure sodium light sources, of 400W, featured by high luminous efficiency and limited spectrum of radiation peaking in the yellow-orange. The length of the highway running through Belgrade is 25km, and a section, 8.5km long, 2x12m wide, was chosen for detail analysis. This section of the highway is illuminated by 420 light sources mounted on 210 metal poles, each 12m high. The poles are arranged centrally, at the distance between each other of 40m and a slope of 5°.

ANALYSIS OF POWER CONSUMPTION FOR ILLUMINATING

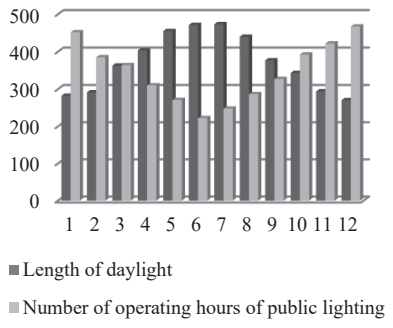
According to the valid calendar for switching public lighting on and off for the city of Belgrade (updated 16 October 2011), the total number of operating hours of public lighting in Belgrade is 4148.23 hours per year.

Table 1: Length of daylight for Belgrade and operating hours of public lighting of highway.

Month	Length of daylight for Belgrade	Operating hours of public lighting	Month	Length of daylight for Belgrade	Operating hours of public lighting
1	282.32	452.00	7	473.42	248.00
2	291.44	385.15	8	439.93	286.45
3	362.99	364.15	9	376.96	327.00
4	403.52	310.13	10	343.14	392.45
5	455.08	271.15	11	294.07	422.00
6	471.40	222.30	12	270.56	467.45



Total	4464.8	4148.23
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The shortest number of operating hours of lighting is in June - 222.30 hours, and the highest is in December and it is 467.45 hours. Total length of daylight for Belgrade and total number of operating hours of public lighting of highway by month are shown in Table 1. The existing sodium lamps have 400W installed power/each. The number of lamps on the analyzed section of the highway is 420. The required amount of electricity to power this type of lighting, depending on the number of operating hours of public lighting, is 696902.64 kWh per year. There is a noticeable difference in reducing the electricity consumption by replacing the light source. The rationalization of electricity consumption for street lighting on the section of the highway is possible by replacing the existing 400W sodium lamps with more modern lamps for public lighting, with degree of protection IP66, 279 LED. Comparison of consumption of electricity for sodium lamp 400W and 279W LED lamp are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Consumption of electricity for sodium lamp 400W and 279W LED lamp by month.

Month	Number of operating hours of lamp	Consumption of 400 W sodium lamp	Consumption of 279W LED lamp	Month	Number of operating hours of lamp	Consumption of 400 W sodium lamp	Consumption of 279W LED lamp
1	452	75936	52965	7	248	41664	29060
2	385	64705	45132	8	286	48123	33566
3	364	61177	42671	9	327	54936	38318
4	310	52102	36341	10	392	65931	45987
5	271	45553	31773	11	422	70896	49450
6	222	37346	26049	12	467	78531	54776
Total	4148	696902	486089				

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

For a comparative analysis of the integration of photovoltaic modules into sound barriers, different positions of PV modules were proposed giving different results



of total annual electricity generation. For the analysis, 6 variants of positions of photovoltaic modules were adopted (Fig. 3): Variant 1 – PV modules in vertical wall, opaque; Variant 2 – PV modules in vertical wall with sheds disposition; Variant 3 – PV modules in vertical wall with sun-shield disposition; Variant 4 – PV modules in vertical wall, semi-transparent (50%); Variant 5 – PV modules in vertical wall with sheds disposition, semi-transparent (50%); Variant 6 – PV modules in vertical wall with sun-shield disposition, semi-transparent (50%). All the variants of the integration of PV modules into sound barriers were analyzed for the same surface area of the barrier, i.e. 4900 sq.m. Photovoltaic modules integrated into the noise abatement element (Variant 1), covering the total area of 4900 sq.m. monthly generate the amount of electricity ranging from min 24379 kWh in December to max 88147 kWh in July. The total annual electricity production is 698229 kWh in Variant 1. The required electricity to power lighting using sodium lamps is 696902.64 kWh, and for LED lamps 486089.59 kWh.

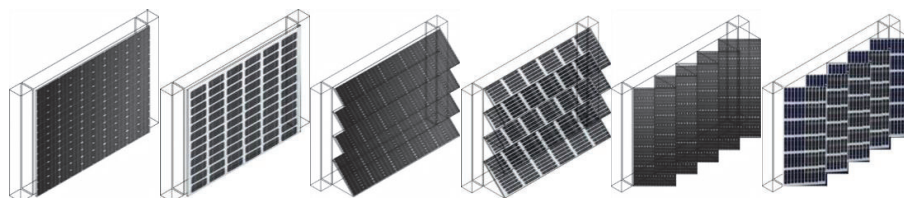


Figure 3: Design of 6 different variants of integrated PV modules.

Photovoltaic modules integrated into the noise abatement element (Variant 2), covering the total area of 4900 sq.m., monthly generate the amount of electricity ranging from min 23414 kWh in December to max 86285 kWh in July. Photovoltaic modules integrated into the noise abatement element (Variant 3) monthly generate the amount of electricity ranging from min 20036 kWh in January to max 71073 kWh in August. Photovoltaic modules integrated into the noise abatement element (Variant 4), monthly generate the amount of electricity ranging from min 12190 kWh in January to max 44073 kWh in July. Photovoltaic modules integrated into the noise abatement element (Variant 5), generate monthly the amount of electricity ranging from min 11707 kWh in December to max 43142 kWh in July. Photovoltaic modules integrated into the noise abatement element (Variant 6), monthly generate the amount of electricity ranging from min 10018 kWh in January to max 35537 kWh in August. Comparative review of monthly and annual production of electricity for all 6 variants of PV modules is shown in Table 3.



Table 3: Comparative review of monthly and annual production of electricity for different variants of PV modules.

Month	Variant 1	Variant 2	Variant 3	Variant 4	Variant 5	Variant 6
1	24675	23869	20036	12338	11934	10018
2	37130	36280	30892	18565	18140	15446
3	57834	56565	48429	28917	28282	24215
4	67037	65494	54976	33518	32747	27488
5	81244	79402	60057	40622	39701	30028
6	81077	79215	54186	40538	39607	27093
7	88147	86285	61079	44073	43142	30539
8	86293	84640	71073	43146	42320	35537
9	69141	67800	59835	34571	33900	29918
10	52368	51327	44807	26184	25663	22404
11	28903	28103	23861	14452	14051	11931
12	24379	23414	20117	12190	11707	10058
Total	698228	682394	549348	349114	341194	274675

CONCLUSION

The contribution of renewable sources of energy to electricity production using PV modules was evaluated through comparative analysis of variant solutions for integrating PV modules into noise barriers. Annually, integrated photovoltaic modules can generate the amount of electricity ranging from min 274675 kWh (Variant 6) to max 698228 kWh (Variant 1). The analysis showed that only Variant 1 can generate enough electricity for lighting. The percentage share of obtained electricity from hypothetical models in relation to the annual demand is the following: Variant 1 – 100 per cent, Variant 2 - 97.92 per cent, Variant 3 – 78.83 per cent, Variant 4 – 50.01 per cent, Variant 5 – 48.96%, Variant 6 – 39.41%. It is noted a significant difference in amounts of generated electricity by variants. It may be concluded that standard opaque mono-crystalline PV modules, placed vertically, generate the most electricity. Standard semi-transparent mono-crystalline PV modules with sun-shield disposition are the least efficient.

Adequate orientation, choice and position of PV modules may contribute to their greater energy efficiency. It is necessary to further analyze the combination of individual variants to meet shaping and visual aspects of the application of noise barriers in populated areas. In implementing such systems, the adaption of PV modules to the designed type of noise barrier could pose a problem.



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