Q-Q City – Quiet City for Life Quality

Webinar invitation brief for National Acoustical Societies

I. Summary of the Q-Q City Project and its relevance to Acoustical Societies

Q-Q City (Quiet City for Life Quality) is a 15-month EU-funded initiative within the Unite! University Alliance that aims to strengthen European collaboration on urban noise and vibration, with a particular focus on improving life quality in sustainable cities. Citizens across Europe—over 140 million people—are exposed to harmful noise levels that affect health, well-being, and environmental justice. Addressing this challenge requires coordinated action between researchers, industry, municipalities, and national bodies such as acoustical societies. The project brings together six leading acoustics groups (TU Graz, Aalto, TU Darmstadt, Politecnico di Torino, UPC BarcelonaTech, and KTH) to create a shared roadmap for next-generation noise and vibration control. This includes emerging technologies (e.g., acoustic metamaterials, bio-based materials), new approaches to modelling and measuring, and strategies covering the entire noise generation–propagation–reception chain.

Why this matters to Acoustical Societies:

By participating in the Q-Q City webinar series, national societies gain:

- A platform to showcase national priorities in urban acoustics, mobility, environmental noise, and life-quality initiatives.
- An opportunity to connect with a multi-country expert network, enabling future cross-national research proposals on a European level (e.g., Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Networks).
- An active voice in defining strategic gaps, research needs, and emerging challenges at the interface between science, regulation, and city planning.
- Visibility in a European-level roadmap, including joint dissemination at international events such as the annual Forum Acusticum, which will take place in Graz in 2026.

The goal of the webinars is to establish a long-term, structured bridge between the Unite! universities and national acoustical societies and stakeholders in the field to strengthen research, education, technology transfer, and policymaking around noise and vibration for sustainable cities.

II. Suggested questions/topics & expected contributions from the National Acoustical Societies

Each webinar will be a structured conversation that will aim to clarify some of the following (and not limited to) list of questions.

A. National landscape & priorities

Q1. What are the current major challenges in urban noise and vibration in your country?
E.g., traffic noise, railway, tram systems, aircraft, industrial noise, nightlife, building installations.

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Q2. What recent or ongoing national initiatives exist in city noise, mobility, quiet areas, environmental monitoring, soundscapes, or life-quality improvement?

Q3. How do national regulations and standards address urban noise?
E.g., recent legislative changes, gaps/mismatches between EU directives and national practice, and anticipated future regulatory developments

B. Research, expertise & emerging technologies

Q4. What are the major academic and industrial competencies in your country related to noise/vibration?
E.g., research centres, laboratories/measurement facilities, collaboration with municipalities or transport agencies.

Q5. Which research trends or innovations are seen as promising for the next decade?
E.g., metamaterials, sensing networks, immersive simulations, AI-based noise mapping.

Q6. What are the education and training needs for future acousticians in this domain?
E.g., MSc/PhD pipelines, skills shortages, continuing professional development opportunities.

C. Stakeholder ecosystem & policy links

Q7. Which key actors and stakeholders should be engaged at national level for research–industry–policy collaboration?
E.g., municipalities, public transport operators, consultancies, standards bodies, NGOs, ministries, etc.

Q8. How does the Acoustical Society interact with policymakers, and what mechanisms are in place for knowledge transfer?

D. Opportunities for collaboration with Q-Q City

Q9. Where do you see potential for joint activities with the Q-Q City network?
E.g., exchange of best practices, co-hosting workshops or special sessions, shared student mobility or lab access, joint applications for EU funding, contributions to joint scientific publication(s).

Q10. What national success cases or demonstrations could be shared with the consortium?
E.g., pilot projects, measurement campaigns, new materials, urban planning projects, soundscapes, immersive installations.

III. Expected contributions from each Society

- Input to the suggested questions Q1-Q10 above.
- A list of potentially interested expert members of the society that might be willing to contribute to the debate.
- Optional: Expression of interest for participation in Forum Acusticum 2026 and/or future Fora Acustica and/or future EU funding proposals with the Q-Q City consortium as well as other partners that might be or are willing to work on these topics.

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