

Agile seed funding 2019 recipient report

Project title: Crowdsourcing listening tests? Evaluating the validity of using a polling station in a science exhibition

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Abstract: The relevance of using polling stations as a tool for crowdsourcing perceptive evaluations of sounds and involving the general public into this process is under consideration. Data concerning different sounds are currently being gathered using a station installed in a travelling exhibition. Over 5000 opinions were already collected and coherent trends are observed in a preliminary analysis between field or laboratory data. The project aims at (1) analyzing the whole dataset, (2) using this proof-of-concept in a grant application and (3) including sounds from other research areas in a similar setup to be installed in a fixed exhibition (2020-2021).

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The funds were used to pay salary to support the analysis of already obtained data and to help developing a similar setup to be setup at Musée de l'Ingéniosité Joseph-Armand Bombardier (MIJAB), initially starting April, 2020. This setup will later include sounds related to soundscapes, an input from Prof. Guastavino.

A letter of intent (Bornes participatives pour la collecte d'avis sur des sons liés à l'acoustique environnementale et industrielle) was submitted in October 2019 for the highly competitive Engage – pilot program (Fonds de Recherche Québec), but the proposed research idea was unfortunately not selected for stage 2 of the program.

The results already obtained are being gathered in an article to be submitted to an open-access journal (Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, Express letters – Crowdsourcing listening tests by using a physical polling station, *Olivier Robin, Abdelghani Benghanem, Philippe Gournay, Olivier Valentin, Alain Berry, and Roch Lefebvre*). The results will be also presented at an international conference, Forum Acusticum 2020 (Crowdsourcing listening tests by using polling stations?, *Olivier Robin, Abdelghani Benghanem, Philippe Gournay, Olivier Valentin, Alain Berry, and Roch Lefebvre*). The conference session in which the presentation is planned covers promising and concrete applications in psychoacoustics (session 'Psychoacoustics: From the ivory tower to tangible practical applications').

All goals were not fully achieved at the time of writing of this report, especially due the unforeseen COVID-19 crisis. The situation put delays on finishing the journal paper and setting up the polling station at MIJAB (including new sound banks), exhibition starting is now expected in June, 2020. The Forum Acusticum 2020 conference that was initially planned in April, 2020, has been postponed to December, 2020.