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The “Auditory Profile”: proposal from the European HEARCOM project

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Objective. Within the EU-project HearCom (1) important goals are: characterisation of auditory communication problems and standardisation of audiological test methods.

Material and method. Consensus has been reached about a standardised battery of audiological tests that – in addition to the pure-tone audiogram - can be applied to characterise the residual capacities of the hearing-impaired subject in an Auditory Profile.

The components of the auditory profile focus on loudness perception, frequency resolution, temporal resolution, speech perception in noise, binaural functioning, effort, and cognition.

Results. The composition of the auditory profile will be discussed based on first experiments in separate areas. The full battery of tests will be validated in an international multi-centre study.

Conclusion. International consensus is growing for a broad battery of audiological tests to characterise the residual capacities of the impaired ear. The implementation of the tests on an uniform software platform will facilitate the clinical application. Here it is our ambition to set a European standard in Audiology.

(1) This part of the HEARCOM project was conducted in co-operation with the research groups of VUMC (NL), Linköping (SE), ISVR (UK), Oldenburg, (D), and AMC (NL).

