

Resonance - The magazine of the Swiss Society for Acoustics SGA-SSA

Issue 2026-1

Editorial

Dear members of the SGA-SSA

Last year, the final issue of the SGA-SSA bulletin was published under the editorship of Beat Hohmann. First and foremost, I would like to thank him warmly for his consistently up-to-date, professionally valuable and subtly witty contributions. Dear Beat, thank you very much for your tremendous work and your commitment to the SGA-SSA!

With this issue, I have the pleasure of taking over Beat's editorial work and briefly introducing myself. My name is Manuel Isenegger, I have been working in acoustics for several years and have been a member of the Swiss Society for Acoustics for five years. What I particularly appreciate about the SGA-SSA is the professional exchange at the conferences as well as the close connection between the different Swiss language regions. I would like to continue fostering this multilingualism. That is why the magazine is published in the three most widely spoken Swiss national languages as well as in English. I would also like to warmly thank the proofreaders Nadia Benyahia, Vincenza Barbaro, and Sven Valley. In the future, the magazine will be available in a visually refreshed blog format on the new SGA-SSA website.

This issue brings several important updates:

- On 1 February 2026, the **new SIA 181/1** was published — an important milestone for acoustic planning practice.
- The SGA-SSA **spring meeting will take** place on 30 April 2026 under the theme “*Audiotechnik und Akustik / Techniques audio et acoustique*”.
- On 25 February 2026, the Federal Council decided on the **partial entry into force** of the **amendment to the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and the amendment to the Noise Abatement Ordinance (NAO)** with effect from 1 April 2026. Exceptions are now possible for designating or adjusting building zones. This requires consideration of the design of open spaces and residential quality.
- To support this, the Federal Office for the Environment published the *document “Bauzonen in lärmbelasteten Gebieten – Kompendium für die Planungs- und Beurteilungspraxis zum Umgang mit Artikel 24 USG”*.
- The **practice guide “Geräuschwahrnehmung und Erholung in periurbanen Landschaften”** published by the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research **WSL** is now available.

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Prix Colladon and association meeting 2025

As part of the autumn meeting, the Prix Colladon 2025 was also awarded and went to Werner Stalder for his many years of running the course (including the script) “*Lärm und Schallschutz*”. The laudation in German can be found [here](#).



Prix Colladon 2025 laureate Werner Stalder (image: Buzz Aebischer)

At the association meeting, Beat W. Hohmann was appointed honorary president and Walter Lips honorary member. Board members Beat W. Hohmann and Dimitri Magnin stepped down from the board. Nadia Benyahia was elected as a new board member.



Thanks to Beat W. Hohmann and Dimitri Magnin for their work on the board (image: Walter Lips)

Upcoming events

Events in Switzerland

SGA-SSA spring meeting 2026 (German, French)

On **30 April 2026**, the spring meeting of the Swiss Society for Acoustics will take place in Olten. The event will focus on “**Audiotechnik und Akustik / Techniques audio et acoustique**” and provide a platform for exchange between research, planning and application.

Online acoustics colloquium SGA-HSLU #3 (German)

On **Wednesday, 22 April 2026**, from 16:30 to 17:30, the third online acoustics colloquium SGA-HSLU will take place. **Prof. Dr. Bernd Edler** will give a presentation on “*Neue Entwicklungen bei Wahrnehmungsmodellen für die Audiocodierung*”.

International noise awareness day 2026 (German, French, Italian)

The national action day “**Tag gegen Lärm / Journée contre le bruit / Giornata contro il rumore**” will take place on **29 April 2026** and once again carries the motto “**Lärm macht krank / Le bruit rend malade / Il rumore fa ammalare**”. On that day, various institutions will provide information on the health effects of noise and possible protective measures.

Klangschloss Greifensee

From **27 to 29 March 2026**, the Klangschloss Greifensee event will take place at **Greifensee Castle**. The programme includes concerts, specialist lectures, a vinyl record fair and an exhibition of high-end loudspeakers.

Audible Perspectives - The festival dedicated to acoustic ecology

On **18 and 19 April 2026**, the "*Audible Perspectives*" festival will take place. The event is dedicated to **acoustic ecology and the perception of soundscapes**.

SIA webinar "Die neue Norm SIA 181/1- Raumakustik: verstehen, anwenden, umsetzen"

(German)

On **19 May 2026**, SIA will offer a webinar on the new **SIA 181/1 – Room acoustics** standard. The webinar consists of two modules:

Webinar 1 – Grundlagen und Normverständnis

09:00–10:00. Introduction to the structure, objectives and application of the new standard.

Webinar 2 – Vertiefungsmodul

10:30–12:30. In-depth look at the practical application of the standard in planning.

In addition, a **French-language webinar** on the standard is in preparation.

International events

DAGA 2026 - 52. Jahrestagung für Akustik (German)

The **52nd annual conference of the German Acoustical Society (DEGA)** will be held in **Dresden, Germany** from **23 to 26 March 2026**.

52° Convegno Nazionale AIA (Italian)

The **52nd national conference of the Associazione Italiana di Acustica** will take place from **10 to 12 June 2026** in **Perugia, Italy**.

32nd International Congress on Sound and Vibration (ICSV32)

The **32nd International Congress on Sound and Vibration** will take place from **5 to 10 July 2026** in **Istanbul, Turkey**.

INTER-NOISE 2026

INTER-NOISE will take place from **9 to 12 August 2026** in **Adelaide, South Australia** under the theme "*From the outback to the ocean*".

Forum Acusticum 2026

Forum Acusticum will be held from **8 to 12 September 2026** in **Graz, Austria**. It is now possible to submit papers **with or without peer review**.

Event listings in neighbouring countries

Anyone wishing to find out about additional events in acoustics can find comprehensive overviews on the websites of the respective professional societies.

- **German Acoustical Society DEGA**
- **Austrian Acoustical Society OeGA**
- **Associazione Italiana di Acustica AIA**
- **Société Française d'Acoustique SFA**

Updates from the board and specialist groups

Board

The first meeting to develop the new SGA-SSA website together with weiss communication +design has taken place, and the high-level architecture has been defined.

Specialist groups

In the **Software & Data Standards specialist group**, two new project teams were formed in 2025. The **“QSI successor” project team** is developing a new data exchange format for road traffic noise calculations according to sonROAD18. The Shapefile format used so far is considered outdated and technically limited. It is therefore to be replaced by the more powerful and flexible Geopackage format. At the meeting on 28 January 2026 in Zurich, the first proposal for the model documentation was discussed in detail and refined.

Contact **“QSI successor”**: Mr Urs Waldner, Canton of Zurich, urs.waldner@bd.zh.ch.

The second **project team, “Test tasks”**, started updating the test tasks for industrial noise in view of the new ISO 9613-2:2024 standard (Attenuation of sound during propagation - Part 2: Engineering method of accuracy class 2 for predicting outdoor sound pressure levels). In a first step, the effects on the calculated noise immissions in different configurations are being carefully analysed.

Contact **“Test tasks”**: Mr Berno Nigsch, BenAkustik GmbH, berno.nigsch@ben-akustik.ch.

The specialist group moderators of the Software & Data Standards group thank all volunteers in the two project teams for their commitment.

FHNW is being supported by the **Education in Acoustics specialist group** in developing the DAS Acoustics programme and shaping the 2027 noise protection course.

A meeting with members of the **Low Noise specialist group** is planned for this month.

Political decisions, new publications and releases

Politics, authorities, standards and norms

New SIA 181/1 standard - Raumakustik / Acoustique des salles (German, French)

SIA 181/1 entered into force on **1 February 2026**. It complements the existing SIA 181 standard and creates a basis for the assessment and planning of room acoustics in buildings.

Federal Council brings revised Noise Abatement Ordinance into force (German, French, Italian)

On **25 February 2026**, the Federal Council decided on the **partial entry into force** of the amendment to the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and the amendment to the Noise Abatement Ordinance (NAO) with effect from 1 April 2026. **Exceptions are now possible** for designating or adjusting building zones. This requires consideration of the design of open spaces

and residential quality. Regarding such open spaces, it states:

“Art.29²... open spaces ... must be of adequate size and accessible on foot and barrier-free. They must feature design and infrastructure oriented toward recreation.”

The amendment proposal put forward by the SGA-SSA “...must have a size and acoustic quality appropriate for the purpose of recreation...” was not considered.

FOEN compendium on building zones in noise-exposed areas (German)

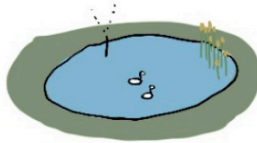
The Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) has published the document “**Bauzonen in lärmbelasteten Gebieten – Kompendium für die Planungs- und Beurteilungspraxis zum Umgang mit Artikel 24 USG**”.

The compendium explains the new legal provisions and provides practical guidance for planning and permitting authorities.



Begrünung / Bepflanzung

Bäume, Sträucher, Blumenwiesen etc. sorgen für einen hohen Grünanteil und schaffen eine naturnahe und erholsame Umgebung.



Gewässer / Wasserelemente

Gewässer mit zugänglichen Ufern sowie künstliche Wasserelemente (z.B. Brunnen) fördern die Erholungseignung und schaffen eine angenehme Umgebung.



Landschaftliche Reichhaltigkeit steigern

Eine Landschaft mit einer hohen Reichhaltigkeit an orts- und regionaltypischen Landschafts- und Kulturelementen, zieht Aufmerksamkeit auf sich.



Durchwegung

Ein barrierefreies, engmaschiges Wegnetz macht Freiräume für die Erholung zugänglich. Für ein gutes Sicherheitsempfinden sollten Wege wo nötig beleuchtet werden.



Ausstattung / Bepflanzung

Durch die Bereitstellung von Infrastruktur wie Spielgeräten oder Sitzgelegenheiten werden zusätzliche Erholungsmöglichkeiten geschaffen.



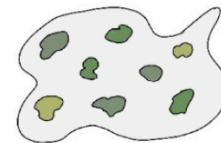
Multifunktionalität

Freiräume mit verschiedenen Nutzungszonen ermöglichen ein Neben- und Miteinander von unterschiedlichen Nutzungen und Erholungsformen.



Aneignung ermöglichen

Freiräume ohne Nutzungsprogrammierung können von der Bevölkerung nach eigenen Präferenzen und Bedürfnissen genutzt, angeeignet oder sogar mitgestaltet werden.



Kommunale Abstimmung der Freiräume

Die Abstimmung der kommunalen Freiräume stellt sicher, dass ausreichend Angebote für verschiedene Erholungsformen im Wohnumfeld zur Verfügung stehen.

Upper part of the figure “Approaches to open-space quality”

(Source: Krass, Leiser, Maag, 2025: Bauzonen in lärmbelasteten Gebieten. Kompendium für die Planungs- und Beurteilungspraxis zum Umgang mit Artikel 24 USG.)

Practice guide “Geräuschwahrnehmung und Erholung in periurbanen Landschaften / Perception du bruit et détente dans les paysages périurbains” by the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL (German, French)

The WSL practice guide addresses the influence of different landscapes and sound sources on human recreation.

FOEN: pages on the topic of noise

FOEN regularly publishes **news**, **publications** and **studies** on the topic of noise.

Scientific publication portals

Presentations from the 2025 SGA-SSA autumn meeting (German, French)

The presentation slides from the autumn meeting are now available to SGA-SSA members.

Forum Acusticum 2025 – Proceedings

The papers from Forum Acusticum 2025 are now fully available online.

Acta Acustica

Since 1 January 2025, Acta Acustica has been Diamond Open Access, thanks to the support of various partner organisations.

Documenta Acustica Electronica, DAEL

DAEL is the portal of the European Acoustics Association (EAA). It collects all journals, conference proceedings and further literature in all European languages under open access.

International Journal of Acoustics and Vibrations

A quarterly open-access journal published by IIAV.

Magazines and newsletters

Cercle Bruit newsletter (German, French, Italian)

The March 2026 newsletter of Cercle Bruit provides information on current developments in noise protection and on the activities of the participating specialist bodies.

Lärmliga Schweiz / Ligue suisse contre le bruit (German, French)

The Lärmliga pages contain current articles on events and information from Lärmliga Switzerland.

Hochparterre (German)

In March 2026, Hochparterre published an issue on the theme “Raum hören”, with many interesting contributions on various topics in acoustics.

EAA Nuntius

The newsletter of the European Acoustics Association reports on current developments in the European acoustics community, including conferences, research initiatives, technical committees and new issues of Acta Acustica.

ICA Newsletter

The newsletter of the International Commission for Acoustics offers insights into awards, events, international cooperation and reports on worldwide events and projects in acoustics.

Noise News International (I-INCE)

The magazine of the International Institute of Noise Control Engineering highlights international trends in noise protection and standardisation, presents projects and case studies, and even includes comics on acoustics.

New members of the SGA-SSA

We warmly welcome our new members.

Collective members:

AFRY Svizzera SA, Bellinzona; kustik AG, Uster; T4G Engineering GmbH, Root; Bächtold Moor AG, Bern; Akustik Atelier GmbH, Zürich; LSS Lärmschutz AG, Grenchen; CDM Stravitec, France.

Individual members:

Sönke Press, Kastanienbaum; David Cordier, Bellinzona; Samuel Hermes, Liestal; Michael Hafner, Olten; Sven Vallely, Staufen; Aimée Leberecht, Zürich; Stefan Müller, Basel; Hans Boegli, Stettlen; Christoph Kirsch, Zofingen; Caroline Karmann, Fribourg; Liridon Selmani, Le-Mont-sur-Lausanne; Roland Spalinger; Dietlikon.

Education and continuing training in acoustics in Switzerland

CAS Akustik an der Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW) (German)

Key data:

- Qualification: CAS
- ECTS credits: 10
- Next start: February 2027
- Duration: 4 months
- Teaching days: 16
- Language of instruction: German
- Location(s): Olten
- Price: CHF 6'400.00

Grundlagen der Raumakustik am Wohn- und Arbeitsplatz: Erleben, verstehen und positiv gestalten at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU) (German)

Key data:

- Start: 10 June 2026
- End: 12 June 2026
- Registration deadline: three weeks before the start of the course
- Duration: 3 days
- Cost: CHF 1'650.-
- Programme leads: Prof. Dr Thomas Graf and Prof. Dr Armin Taghipour

Weiterbildungsmodul FHNW Lärmschutz und Umweltakustik (German, successor to Werner Stalder's course)

Key data:

- Qualification: certificate of attendance
- Learning format: hybrid and in-person
- Next start: 01.01.2027
- Duration: 3 months
- Language of instruction: German
- Location(s): FHNW Campus Olten
- Price: CHF 2'250.00

Two further FHNW CAS programmes ("*Lärmschutz und Raumakustik*" and "*Ingenieur- und Elektroakustik*") will start in 2028.

Information about our website

The SGA-SSA website (currently mostly in German and French) provides access to a wide range of resources from the Swiss acoustics community:

- Current **events**
- **Publications** on various acoustics topics (room acoustics, test tasks for software, etc.)
- **Job portal**
- Access to **the INCE publications** database (**members only**)
- **List of corporate members and certified acousticians**
- **Information on the SGA-SSA Acoustician diploma**

Further useful websites

Cercle Bruit (German, French, Italian)

Laerm.ch (German, French, Italian)

Tag-gegen-laerm.ch (German, French, Italian)

Bauen-im-laerm.ch (German)

Baukultur-laerm.ch (German)

Klangraumarchitektur.ch (German, French)

Schallundlaser.ch (German, French, Italian)

Laermspur.ch (German)

Hoerpfad.ch (German)

Swiss Society for Acoustic Ecology SSAE

Miscellaneous

The **map of SGA-SSA 3D recordings** continues to grow:

Now all the way to Japan! So that you do not have to scroll too far east, here are the links to the **temple complex in Nara** and **Kyoto station**. **Avignon** can now also be heard, as can the **water wheel in Biel's Schüssinsel park**. Earlier additions were Geneva (2), Fribourg (2), Sion (3), Berne (3), Val Müstair (2), Ftan/Scuol (2), Málaga (2).

EAA Seed Fund Program

The EAA Seed Fund Program is designed to support innovative and cooperative research initiatives in acoustics within EAA member countries. In particular, it aims to provide concrete support to early-career researchers, encourage them to take part in international cooperation and initiate structured research paths that can lead to larger external funding opportunities.

The call for the first edition of the EAA Seed Funds opened on 1 March 2026, and the submission deadline is 15 May 2026.

Notes and announcements from members:

I am pleased to receive any notes and announcements from readers. These may be sent to admin@sga-ssa.ch