NEWSLETTER · ISSUE 2026-2

Resonance

The magazine of the Swiss Acoustical Society SGA-SSA

Editorial

Dear readers,

The SGA-SSA spring meeting 2026 was a great success and a real treat for the ears. In keeping with the theme *Audio technology and acoustics*, participants could listen not only to inspiring presentations but also to a very special concert film. And you can already look forward to the next interesting meeting: on 26 and 27 November 2026, our autumn meeting will take place in sunny Ticino, in Locarno, on the theme *Acoustics for everyday spaces*. We very much look forward to your participation.

Since the revised Noise Abatement Ordinance came into force, there has been continuing activity on the political front in Switzerland with the implementation of the Schilliger motion on 30 km/h speed limits and the fireworks initiative, which will soon be put to the vote.

In this issue you will also find information on upcoming events in Switzerland and abroad, current research topics at Empa, education and training opportunities in acoustics in Switzerland, and news from our specialist groups.

I wish you an enjoyable read and a pleasant autumn,

Manuel Isenegger

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Review of past events

EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND

SGA-SSA spring meeting 2026

This year's SGA-SSA spring meeting took place on 30 April 2026 at the Hotel Arte in Olten on the theme **Audio technology and acoustics**. A total of 73 participants followed the eight presentations given by speakers from German- and French-speaking Switzerland, Germany and France with great interest.



Presentation by Victor Désarnauld on “Évaluation objective et subjective d'un système d'assistance électroacoustique pour les concerts chorals dans la Cathédrale de Lausanne” (image: M. Isenegger)

The interaction between electrical signals and their acoustic propagation in rooms offered fascinating content, ranging from music amplification in cathedrals and the sound insulation of recording studios to the factors influencing the sense of immersion in

multichannel reproduction. The presentations were complemented by impressive listening examples.

The meeting was rounded off with a screening of “Vaulted Harmonies – A Concert Through Time and Space in Notre-Dame de Paris”. The 35-minute animated concert film brings to life the evolution of the cathedral's music, architecture and acoustics over eight centuries: eleven works from the 12th to the 20th century were recorded by professional musicians in an anechoic room and auralised in the historically reconstructed room acoustics of Notre-Dame for each period. We would like to warmly thank the initiator of the screening and SGA-SSA honorary president Beat W. Hohmann, who worked tirelessly for this Swiss premiere and for the correct multichannel reproduction (7.1.4, for those freshly inspired by audio technology) of this immersive sound experience.

SGA-SSA members have access on our website www.sga-ssa.ch to selected presentation slides from past SGA-SSA meetings.

Online acoustics colloquium SGA-HSLU #3

On 22 April, the third edition of the online acoustics colloquium, a collaboration between the SGA-SSA and Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU), took place. The well-attended colloquium was moderated by SGA-SSA president Prof. Dr Armin Taghipour. Prof. Dr Bernd Edler from Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg gave a presentation on **New developments in perceptual models for audio coding**. With well-founded explanations and engaging listening examples, participants explored various topics, for example how the limitations of human auditory perception are exploited to reduce the amount of audio data.

International Noise Awareness Day 2026

Contribution from Lärmliga Schweiz (Swiss Noise League)

On the Noise Awareness Day 2026 in Bern, Lärmliga Schweiz was present with an information stand at the Bärenplatz. Many visitors took the opportunity to find out about the health effects of noise, talk to experts and have a **free blood pressure check**.

Once again it became clear that noise is not merely annoying but can have serious health consequences – for example for the cardiovascular system or mental well-being. At the same time, it shows how important quiet is for the body's recovery and stabilisation.

The event was a great success. We warmly thank all visitors for their keen interest and the valuable exchange. Noise protection is health protection.

Lärmliga national conference 2026: “Planen und Bauen im Lärm”

Contribution by Katharina Conradin, Lärmliga Schweiz

On 29 October 2026, more than 190 professionals from administration, politics, planning and the construction industry met in Bern at the national conference “Planen und Bauen im Lärm” (planning and building in noise) to discuss the implementation of the new noise protection provisions. The conference was held to mark the 70th anniversary of Lärmliga Schweiz.

Since April 2026, new provisions of the Environmental Protection Act and the Noise Abatement Ordinance have been in force. They make it easier to build in noise-exposed areas and are intended to promote inward settlement development. At the same time, the protection of the population against harmful and annoying noise must remain guaranteed.

Federal Councillor Albert Rösti also attended the conference. He emphasised that the revision makes an important contribution to urgently needed densification (also known as inward settlement development) without fundamentally calling noise protection into question. From the point of view of Lärmliga, which took a critical view of the revised noise protection provisions, a conflict of objectives remains: more housing allows more people to find a home in the city – but at the same time there is a risk that protection against noise and its health effects will be neglected.

The technical presentations showed that cantons and municipalities face demanding enforcement issues. Which protective measures are required for building projects? How can the new scope be used without impairing residential quality? What is needed is clear enforcement guidance, close cooperation between spatial planning and noise protection, and sound acoustic expertise.

Practical examples from Wohlen and western Switzerland illustrated that attractive housing can be created even at locations heavily exposed to noise. A well-considered arrangement of buildings and uses, quiet courtyards and protected outdoor spaces contribute significantly to the pleasantness of a soundscape. The prerequisite is that noise protection is taken into account from the outset.

Lärmliga Schweiz calls for consistent, quality-oriented enforcement of the new provisions. With its conference, it promotes professional exchange and contributes to a shared understanding of the new requirements. After all, successful densification of

existing settlements does not need less noise protection, but good planning and effective solutions.

Further information: Lärmliga national conference 2026

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Forum Acusticum 2026 in Graz

Contribution by Beat W. Hohmann

This year's Forum Acusticum brought together 1,150 participants from 50 countries (one third women), 27 of them from Switzerland, in the spacious halls of Messe Graz. What the Austrian Acoustics Association AAA-OeGA, Graz University of Technology, the University of Music and Performing Arts and the City of Graz, with the support of the region and Styria, achieved and offered was impressive and praised throughout: competent, well organised, relaxed and friendly.

Of the speakers, 22% submitted their paper for review, 31% submitted a paper without review (acceptance based on the abstract) and 47% did not submit a paper for their contribution. Highlighting individual contributions would be arbitrary, but the programme on the website already gives access not only to the abstract of each contribution but also – where provided by the author – to the preliminary paper. To search by author or day, the Excel programme is more suitable.

Papers without review received a corresponding disclaimer in the proceedings.

The Technical Tours took place on Saturday after the congress and thus without the usual conflict of interest.



Dom im Berg, the experimental event hall of the University of Music with a multichannel 3D sound reinforcement system (image: Beat W. Hohmann)

A personal experience: when playing audio during a presentation (always welcome), a sound check beforehand with channel identification is strongly advisable – even, or especially, in technically well-equipped venues. In the break before my presentation, it took 20 minutes and several technicians until the right stereo channel (2.0 only) came out of the right loudspeaker.

Upcoming events

EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND

SGA-SSA autumn meeting 2026

This year's autumn meeting will take place in beautiful Ticino, more precisely at the Palexpo in Locarno, on the theme **Acoustics for everyday spaces**. On **26 and 27 November**, experts from all over Switzerland will give presentations in three of our national languages on various topics in room acoustics. A translation of the slides into German or French will also be displayed. Topics will include the new **SIA 181/1:2026 Room acoustics** as well as specialist areas ranging from the room acoustics of indoor shooting ranges to the question of why it is so nice to sing in the shower. The meeting will be complemented by coffee and lunch breaks, during which participants can visit the exhibitor stands and network, as well as by a dinner and a visit to the church of San Francesco. Alongside the many technical presentations, the autumn meeting also provides the opportunity to hold the SGA-SSA general assembly 2026. The SGA-SSA looks forward to a large turnout.

Further information and registration: SGA-SSA autumn meeting 2026

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

ANQES 2026

From **23 to 25 November 2026**, the **French city of Le Mans** will host the tenth edition of the **Assises nationales de la qualité de l'environnement sonore**. The three-day event brings together around 600 stakeholders from public authorities, acoustics, research, urban and spatial planning, architecture, industry, health and culture. Under the central theme “Innovons dans notre monde en mutation(s)”, plenary sessions and workshops will address options for local authorities, innovative mapping and technologies, noise at work and in transport, urban planning, new noise sources and the use of artificial intelligence in acoustics.

Further information: ANQES 2026

DAGA 2027

The 53rd annual conference of the German Acoustical Society (DEGA) will take place from **8 to 11 March 2027** in Darmstadt. Topics with a particular link to the conference location include machine acoustics and the active systems, simulation-based methods for sound radiation, vibroacoustic metamaterials and AI-based methods researched at **Technische Universität Darmstadt**.

Further information: DAGA 2027

Urban Sound Symposium

The 5th Urban Sound Symposium will take place from **7 to 9 April 2027** at **Technische Universität Berlin**. The Urban Sound Symposium is dedicated to the challenges posed by sound and noise in urban spaces. The event is aimed at an interdisciplinary professional audience, including acousticians, architects and planners, to discuss scientific findings and targeted noise reduction concepts.

Further information: USS 2027

53° Convegno Nazionale AIA

The 53rd annual conference of the Italian Acoustical Association (AIA) will take place from **14 to 16 April 2027** in **Caserta**. The venues are the rectorate building of the Università degli Studi della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” and the historic Belvedere di San Leucio complex.

Further information: 53° Convegno Nazionale AIA

Forum Acusticum 2027 / *Acoustics '27*

Contribution by Beat W. Hohmann

Forum Acusticum 2027, or *Acoustics '27*, will be held from **21 to 25 June 2027** together with the Acoustical Society of America ASA in Brussels, partly at the Bozar cultural centre with its renowned concert hall. The Congrès Français d'Acoustique will also be integrated. Out of consideration for the ASA, the weighting of technical topics will shift (e.g. fewer soundscape sessions).

In 2028, anyone wishing to travel to the conference by train for climate reasons will be in trouble, as Forum Acusticum will take place from **11 to 14 September 2028** in **Funchal** on Madeira (with its notoriously thrilling landing approach), organised by the Sociedade Portuguesa de Acústica (SPA).

Further information: Forum Acusticum 2027 and Acoustics '27

Event listings in neighbouring countries

Anyone wishing to find out about further 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

New members of the SGA-SSA

We warmly welcome our new members.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

- Frédérick Uhlemayr, Wilen b. Wollerau
- Francisco Sanchez, Zürich
- Nayara Korta Martiartu, Bern
- Christoph Leitner, Zürich
- Roxanne Dörge, St. Gallen
- Samuele Addario, Paradiso
- Irina Kurmanov, Nuremberg (DE)
- Patrick Oppliger, Schwyz
- Julian Kollbrunner, Bern
- Adriano Donatiello, Oberwil BL

Education in Acoustics specialist group

An online exchange is planned with education providers in acoustics and interested institutions from French-speaking Switzerland. It will focus on existing training programmes, possible additional needs and the question of how new offerings in French-speaking Switzerland could be supported. As a first step, interest among potential participants will be assessed.

Low Noise specialist group

The last meeting took place online on 23.04.2026. Participants were Martin Koller, Ruedi Bütikofer, Martin Pfirter, Edith Steiner and Stefan Rüegsegger. Otto Mattle, Mike Thoms and André Köpfli sent their apologies or were unable to attend. Topics discussed were, on the one hand, how to handle enquiries from private individuals with a limited budget and, on the other, a presentation of the long-term monitoring system “sonotrazer.ch”. It was

decided to promote Ruedi Bütikofer's information sheet "Leisen, störenden Geräuschen auf der Spur" in response to enquiries from private individuals. Likewise, the website Sonotrazer.ch should also become better known, e.g. among acousticians, authorities, ENT doctors, etc.

Software & Data Standards specialist group

The **QSI successor** project team is developing a new data exchange format for road traffic noise calculations according to sonROAD18. The Shapefile format used to date is considered outdated and technically limited. It is therefore to be replaced by the more powerful and flexible GeoPackage format.

In recent months, the "SR18DX" data exchange format has been specified in detail. The data model covers the spatial input data for road traffic noise calculations according to sonROAD18 with propagation calculation according to ISO 9613-2, i.e. including terrain data, buildings, noise sensitivity levels, receiver points and the results as rating levels. Integration of the data model into commercial noise calculation software (CadnaA, SLIP, D-noise, IMMI and SoundPLAN) is planned. The "SR18DX" data exchange format is currently in consultation. The next meeting is planned for November.

Contact "QSI successor": Mr U. Waldner, Canton of Zurich, urs.waldner@bd.zh.ch

The second project team, **Test cases**, is updating the test cases for industrial noise in view of the new ISO 9613-2:2024 standard (Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors). In some cases, this revealed significantly higher receiver levels than with the old standard – sometimes by up to 10 dB. Due to the impact on enforcement practice and insufficient validation with measurement data, the ISO standards committee is planning a revision of ISO 9613-2:2024 for next year, 2027, in which the changes made are to be reversed.

In addition, new test cases for industrial and commercial noise are to be added. We therefore welcome practical suggestions for test cases for noise propagation calculations.

Contact "Test cases": Mr B. Nigsch, BenAkustik GmbH, berno.nigsch@ben-akustik.ch

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

Decisions and publications from politics and science

POLICY, AUTHORITIES, AND STANDARDS

Calculation of aircraft noise: current FOEN recommendations

The FOEN recommends suitable state-of-the-art methods for calculating noise exposure (Annex 2, item 1, para. 2 NAO, SR 814.41 - Noise Abatement Ordinance of 15 December 1986 (NAO) | Fedlex). Since 2014, the FOEN has recommended various methods for aircraft noise (Determination of aircraft noise). This recommendation was updated in February 2026: for military aircraft noise, sonAIR is the recommended calculation method (Annex 8 NAO). In future, sonAIR will be recommended as the standard method for calculating civil and military aircraft noise.

sonAIR was developed by Empa and programmed by n-Sphere in cooperation with the FOEN as an extension for ArcGIS Pro (see Empa – Acoustics/Noise Control – sonAIR). The software and the underlying model were presented by Beat Schäffer (Empa) at the 2025 autumn meeting of the Swiss Acoustical Society (SGA-SSA).

Obtaining and using sonAIR: interested acoustic consultancies can obtain sonAIR by e-mail request to noise@bafu.admin.ch. Use requires a valid ArcGIS Pro licence (Basic licence level or higher) and a licence agreement with n-Sphere for the proprietary components of the sonAIR add-in.

The FOEN held an online training session in May 2026.

Fireworks initiative

The federal popular initiative “Für eine Einschränkung von Feuerwerk” (for a restriction on fireworks) calls for a new constitutional article on the use of fireworks. Accordingly, the sale and use of fireworks that produce noise would in principle be banned. Low-noise products such as fountains, sparklers or Bengal lights would not be affected. For events of wider regional importance, the competent cantonal authorities could grant exemptions on request; authorised public fireworks displays would therefore in principle remain possible.

The cantons would remain responsible for enforcement unless the law provides for federal responsibility. If the initiative is accepted, the implementing provisions would

have to enter into force no later than two years after its acceptance by the people and the cantons. Swiss voters will decide on the proposal on 29 November 2026.

Further information: Popular initiative 'For a restriction on fireworks'

Implementation of the Schilliger motion on 30 km/h speed limits

Contribution by Regina Bucher from the Cercle Bruit newsletter

On 12 August 2026, the Federal Council adopted the amendment to the Road Signs Ordinance (RSO) and thereby implemented the Schilliger motion. The amendment entered into force on 1 October 2026.

With the implementation of the Schilliger motion, the road hierarchy is better protected. On traffic-oriented roads, 50 km/h remains the rule in principle. A reduction to 30 km/h still requires an expert report demonstrating, among other things, that it does not lead to unwanted diversion traffic onto residential roads. In future, the introduction of 30 km/h limits will therefore have to be better justified and examined with regard to its effects on the surrounding road network. For residential roads, the simplified introduction of 30 km/h remains in place.

Further information: Bundesrat setzt Motion Schilliger zu Tempo 30 um

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Current work at Empa

Field study on the acceptance and perceptibility of commercial drone operations (FLYABLE)

Drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles, have become increasingly important in recent years. Their wide applicability in various fields (medical transport, parcel delivery, etc.) is accompanied by public concerns about the noise burden on society from this new noise source. While earlier research focused largely on short-term noise effects in the laboratory, this study investigates the long-term relationship between drone noise exposure and annoyance under real-world conditions. A six-month trial operation of drone flights transporting medical goods in Zurich, carried out by Matternet, was

accompanied by a field study with almost 2,000 fully completed questionnaires. The survey was complemented by measurements and individual modelling of sound exposure. The resulting annoyance curves are intended to serve as a basis for assessing the noise of commercial drone flights.

Noise from Electric vehicles under acceleration in Urban Settings (NExUS)

In Switzerland, road traffic is the noise source affecting the largest number of people. A particularly large number of people are exposed to noise from busy roads in urban areas. Acoustic studies of noise emissions from road vehicles often focus on driving at constant speed, while acceleration manoeuvres have not been sufficiently studied. While at constant speed the sound emission is dominated by tyre noise from around 30 km/h, propulsion noise also plays a role at higher speeds during acceleration. It is open whether this also applies to electrically powered vehicles. The NExUS research project quantifies the acoustic differences between vehicles with combustion engines (petrol/diesel) and purely electric vehicles in typical urban driving conditions, including acceleration. For this purpose, pairs of an electric vehicle and a similar combustion vehicle are measured acoustically on a test track and on public roads while completing controlled driving profiles. The aim of this measurement campaign is to gain insights into the noise reduction potential of electric cars in urban areas. The potential of low-noise tyres and low-noise road surfaces is also being investigated.

Swiss-wide evaluation of newly signposted 30 km/h sections with regard to noise exposure, noise annoyance and sleep disturbance (ImpactT30)

Reducing the speed limit from 50 km/h to 30 km/h is a measure to reduce noise emissions and thus the population's exposure to road traffic noise. In an intervention study, projects with speed changes are being monitored throughout Switzerland. Traffic counts, noise measurements and calculations as well as surveys of residents are carried out at three points in time (before the change, directly after the change and two to three years later). The aim is to investigate how the change in speed signage affects noise exposure, noise annoyance and sleep disturbance.

Simulation of the CPX road surface measurement method – CPX simulator

In today's road traffic noise, rolling noise generated by the interaction of the tyre with the road surface dominates in many situations. Road surface characterisation is therefore of great importance in noise prediction. The internationally standardised CPX method offers an elegant way of determining the acoustic properties of road surfaces by measurement. A defined test tyre rolls at 50 or 80 km/h over the road under investigation in a trailer towed by a vehicle. The resulting sound field is sampled at specific points in the near field by pressure microphones. In order for CPX measurements to be linked to the (relevant) road surface properties observable at the roadside, suitable conversion models are needed. To date, these models have been derived purely empirically by comparing data

pairs. This project aims to develop a computational model that simulates the sound field in a CPX measurement trailer close to the physical sound generation mechanisms. This will make it possible to explore the limits and uncertainties of the CPX method computationally and to assess the frequency-dependent reliability of the measured levels. In addition, modules will be developed that, in the medium term, are expected to lead to a physics-based conversion model taking additional influencing factors into account.

Thin low-frequency sound absorbers made of rigid mineral foams

Porous materials offer good absorption properties over a wide frequency range and are also extremely inexpensive to produce. However, controlling their internal structure and macroscopic properties is anything but trivial, and they have only low absorption capacity in the sub-wavelength range. The latter is often solved by resonant and/or periodic structures, often referred to as metamaterials, which can offer exceptional absorption performance.

As noise reduction becomes a priority in modern society, the development of cost-effective, robust acoustic measures that are efficient at low frequencies is of great interest. Preliminary studies on mineral foams have examined the acoustic behaviour of such materials and are readily available in the scientific literature. Laboratory tests show that these unique foams with large pores and thin pore walls absorb low frequencies better than existing products, but only in a narrow frequency band. A model will enable the development of a high-performance sound-absorbing material, for which a suitable manufacturing process will be developed. In addition, mineral foams are fire-resistant and do not release plasticisers, making them safe for indoor and outdoor use.

Restorative potential of green spaces in noise-polluted environments (RESTORE)

Urban areas are experiencing a continuous increase in population and mobility, accompanied by increased noise exposure of residents and a decline in green spaces. The aim of this project is to assess the effect of green spaces as a facilitator and of noise as an obstacle to stress recovery. The project consists of laboratory experiments with VR and soundscape simulations, field experiments in urban and suburban green spaces with different acoustic and visual conditions, an extended field study in neighbourhoods with different noise exposure, and a Swiss-wide survey and remote sensing of green spaces. The project will provide new insights into the pathways of stress formation through noise exposure and of recovery through green spaces. It will identify the visual and acoustic conditions of restorative green spaces and have implications for Swiss noise legislation and the implementation of the revised Spatial Planning Act.

Further publication portals

Presentations from the SGA-SSA spring meeting 2026
The presentation slides from the spring meeting will be available to SGA-SSA members from mid-November.

Forum Acusticum 2026 – Proceedings
Some of the papers for the Forum Acusticum 2026 contributions are available online as preprints.

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 in open access.

International Journal of Acoustics and Vibrations
A quarterly open-access journal published by IIAV.

Magazines and newsletters

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

Lärmliga Schweiz: latest articles
The Lärmliga pages contain current articles on events and information from Lärmliga Schweiz.

News from DEGA
The German Acoustical Society regularly reports on new specialist events, publications and developments in standardisation and research in the German-speaking world.

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 events and projects in acoustics worldwide.

Noise News International (I-INCE)
The magazine of the International Institute of Noise Control Engineering highlights international trends in noise control and standardisation, presents projects and case studies and even includes comics on acoustics. The September issue focuses on **Wind Turbine Noise**.

Education and further training in acoustics in Switzerland

DAS Akustik (Diploma of Advanced Studies) – new modular continuing education programme at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW)

A comprehensive continuing education programme consisting of several modular, part-time courses is now offered at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland. The programme comprises the following modules, which can also be booked individually:

- CAS Akustik-Grundlagen ("Certificate of Advanced Studies", based on the previous CAS FHNW Akustik). The next course runs from 2 February 2027 to 25 June 2027 with a total of 16 course days. This course teaches the technical fundamentals of building and room acoustics as well as noise protection. The programme is practice-oriented, scientifically grounded and designed to be taken alongside employment. It is aimed at construction professionals in architecture, engineering, building services and building physics.
- SAS Lärmschutz und Umweltakustik ("Short Advanced Studies"). The next course runs from 10 September to 10 December 2027 with a total of 8 course days. This course is aimed at staff of building, transport and environmental authorities as well as professionals in engineering and planning offices. Anyone who deals with noise protection issues professionally and wishes to support planning projects competently can take part. This module provides a solid understanding of noise protection and environmental acoustics – even for participants without an in-depth acoustics background.
- CAS Bau- und Raumakustik, starting in 2028. This five-month, part-time course deepens skills in sound insulation and room acoustics. Using real projects, participants learn to identify acoustic requirements, plan solutions for different building uses, and professionally carry out and assess calculations, verifications and measurements. The course is aimed in particular at professionals from engineering and architectural firms, building authorities and the construction and planning sector.
- CAS Ingenieur- und Elektroakustik, starting in 2028. This five-month, part-time course combines vibration engineering, audio signal processing and electroacoustic measurement technology with modern simulation methods. Participants learn to plan, simulate, measure and evaluate sound reinforcement systems, electroacoustic systems and vibrations in a well-founded manner and in accordance with relevant

standards. The course is aimed at engineers, technicians and other professionals from engineering firms, industry, mechanical and automotive engineering, and construction and building services.

- The modules can be combined to form the DAS (Diploma of Advanced Studies) FHNW Akustik.

Further information:

CAS Akustik Grundlagen

SAS Lärmschutz und Umweltakustik

CAS Bau- und Raumakustik

CAS Ingenieur- und Elektroakustik

Continuing education course “Grundlagen der Raumakustik” at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU)

This continuing education course is aimed at an interdisciplinary audience from architecture, interior design, planning and design, as well as at newcomers to acoustics and interested professionals who wish to develop their knowledge of residential and room acoustics.

Through practical experiments, you sharpen your acoustic perception and experience how rooms sound. You learn the fundamentals of room acoustics and psychoacoustics in laboratory exercises and soundwalks. The theoretical part shows you how to create a pleasant acoustic environment at work or at home: what should you look out for in forward-looking planning? What acoustic challenges arise in new buildings? How can you improve disturbing soundscapes through practical measures during renovation for greater acoustic comfort?

HSLU has a unique acoustic infrastructure. You will have the opportunity to immerse yourself in different worlds of sound and noise and to actively explore and measure our experimental rooms. In discussion with our experts in architecture, interior design, building services and electrical engineering, you discuss your personal questions and receive an interdisciplinary assessment. We want you to bring your questions actively into the experiments and discussions.

- Listening trail through different rooms
- Introduction to acoustics through experiments
- Sound propagation outdoors and indoors
- Auditory experience and psychoacoustics
- Room acoustics (theory, experiments and measurements)
- Exercises in room acoustic design
- Acoustic absorbers and diffusers, anechoic room vs. reverberation room
- Case studies: open-plan office and restaurant/canteen
- Acoustic outdoor spaces (outdoor soundscape)
- References to standards: SIA 181, DIN 18041, ISO 12913-1 to 3, IEC 60268-16, NAO, ...
- Excursion

Further information: HSLU course “Grundlagen der Raumakustik”

SAS Schallschutz im Holzbau (Short Advanced Studies) at Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH)

Sound insulation in timber construction poses particular challenges: different systems, materials and multi-layer constructions influence room comfort and require an in-depth understanding in planning and execution.

With the new Short Advanced Studies (SAS) Schallschutz im Holzbau, Bern University of Applied Sciences offers specialised continuing education for professionals in planning, construction, building physics and acoustics. It provides application-oriented expertise on acoustic fundamentals, standards, verifications and design solutions in timber construction.

The SAS comprises around 60 lessons spread over nine course days. It combines theory, practical examples and measurement exercises. The 2026 course already started in September. The next run will take place in 2028.

Further information and registration: SAS Schallschutz im Holzbau

Courses offered by the German Acoustical Society DEGA academy

The DEGA academy offers various continuing education courses on acoustics.

Further information: DEGA academy courses

Courses offered by the Centre d'information sur le Bruit CidB

The CidB offers various continuing education courses on acoustics.

Further information: CidB courses

Lärmliga Schweiz webinars

Lärmliga regularly offers webinars, which are recorded and freely available online. An overview of the webinars can be found on the website of Lärmliga Schweiz.

Miscellaneous

Information about our website

The SGA-SSA website 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 board
- 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
- Laerm.ch
- Tag-gegen-laerm.ch
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- Swiss Society for Acoustic Ecology SSAE

Concert streaming for 3D playback over loudspeakers

Contribution by Beat W. Hohmann

Since the start of the 2026/2027 season, the Digital Concert Hall (DCH) has also been streaming concerts from the Berlin Philharmonie in 3D. The signal is broadcast in adaptive Dolby Atmos 7.1.4, so that AV receivers can convert playback to 9.1.4 or 5.1.2 as required.

At the opening concert on 21 August, with 4K video and 3D audio (max. 30 Mbit/s combined), it felt for the first time like sitting in a good seat in the Philharmonie.

Incidentally, we also used this Atmos format for the screening of “Vaulted Harmonies” in 7.1.4 at the SGA-SSA spring meeting 2026.

Imprint

Editor: Manuel Isenegger

Proofreading: Beat W. Hohmann

Language editing: Sven Vallely, Vincenza Barbaro, Nadia Benyahia

Contact: manuel.isenegger@grolimund-partner.ch

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Notes and announcements:

I welcome any tips and announcements from readers. Please send them to manuel.isenegger@grolimund-partner.ch