

# Annual Report

# 2025

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The Annual Report is published in  
German, English and French. The German  
version of the Annual Report is binding.

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# Annual Report

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# Editorial

Water is the element that most clearly reflects the major challenges of our time: Climate change is having a major impact on our water bodies – through periods of drought, more frequent heavy rainfall, rising water temperatures and changing dynamics in lakes and rivers. Water is important for animal and plant diversity, and its quality has a direct influence on our health and well-being.

At the same time, water is not only an indicator of these major challenges, but also a key lever for developing solutions: Water is at the heart of all these solutions, whether it's new processes for removing problematic substances, more resilient wastewater and supply systems or measures for stabilising and adapting ecosystems to climate change. With scientific excellence and high practical relevance, we at Eawag develop concrete contributions for the safe use of water and the protection of our water resources.

The year 2025 highlighted the importance and effectiveness of close cooperation within the ETH Domain. Together with WSL, Empa and other partner institutions, several new initiatives were launched, including the Biodiversity Centre, the Sustainable Polymer Competence Cluster and the Climate Solutions Hub. These initiatives strengthen our ability to tackle key social challenges together and make effective contributions to sustainable development. By pooling our expertise across the ETH Domain, we combine different scientific perspectives, utilise synergies and enable innovations that only emerge through the interaction of different disciplines. This enables us to apply our knowledge in a targeted manner where it can be of greatest benefit to society, politics and the environment.

Key priorities were also set within Eawag in 2025: new tenure-track positions in the area of climate change adaptation, the further development of central research infrastructures, advances in the area of artificial intelligence in water research, and interdisciplinary projects such as the high-temperature ground source heat storage system together with Empa show breadth and innovative nature of our work. In teaching, knowledge and technology transfer as well as international cooperation, we help to impart knowledge, make solutions usable, and strengthen global partnerships.

The Annual Report 2025 illustrates how Eawag contributes to Switzerland's future viability: It creates a reliable scientific basis where water is a crucial resource – for people, the environment and critical infrastructure. By conducting excellent and solution-orientated research, we enable well-founded decisions and open up long-term perspectives for water management. In doing so, we are helping to protect this essential resource - today and for future generations.



**Martin Ackermann**, Eawag Director

# Management report

## 1. Strategic goals

Eawag's primary objective is to achieve impact through research and innovation by developing technical, policy and social solutions to water-related challenges that are committed to sustainability. Our strategy therefore aims to find effective, innovative and future-orientated answers to the questions of today and tomorrow.

We focus on our pioneering role in the field of water quality and its importance for organisms and entire ecosystems. To this end, we utilise our broad expertise in the fields of environmental chemistry, ecotoxicology, ecology, engineering and social science. At the same time, we take pressing global challenges into account.

We have identified four strategic priorities that are in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the concept of planetary boundaries:

- Climate change
- Biodiversity
- Circular economy
- Health

Our employees successfully dedicated a considerable part of their activities to these four focal points in 2025: for example, taking part in numerous research projects, international and national partnerships, in teaching and in the area of knowledge and technology transfer in politics and business.

## 2. Performance report

The performance report provides an overview of our most important activities in the fields of teaching and research as well as knowledge and technology transfer during the year under review.

### 2.1 Teaching

In 2025, Eawag continued to be committed to high-quality, innovative and forward-looking teaching. The broad range of programmes offered is based on current research and our strategic priorities.

Eawag researchers taught over 6,700 lecture hours in 2025. They thus made a significant contribution to education in the ETH Domain, at universities in Switzerland and abroad, and at universities of applied sciences. At the same time, they supervised 172 doctoral students and almost 200 Bachelor's and Master's theses each year.

As part of the PEAK continuing education programme, Eawag 2025 ran nine courses on topics such as wastewater monitoring, the environmental impact of tyre particles and the sponge city. The courses were held in cooperation with institutions such as the Ecotox Centre, WSL, EPFL, ZHAW and the VSA, the industry association of wastewater and water protection specialists, and in various languages.

In 2025, summer schools once again offered students, doctoral students and postdocs from all over the world the opportunity to deepen their knowledge on topics such as modelling environmental processes, climate science and blue-green biodiversity. Together with ETH Zurich, Eawag also welcomed 24 students this summer to the first ENHANCE Summer School on the topic of "Inter- and Transdisciplinary Integration in Science, Policy and Practice". ENHANCE is a network of Europe's leading technical universities. The Massive Open Online Courses (MOOP) "Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development", which

were launched 10 years ago in collaboration with the EPFL, are a success story. Over 200,000 people from all over the world have already completed the courses, with more than 2.3 million views on YouTube. The format also serves as the basis for "blended learning" training projects on site. These are organised in cooperation with local partner institutions, currently in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sierra Leone and Uganda, for example.

Two workshops were held to strengthen expertise in the field of artificial intelligence. These offered participants the opportunity of trying out new digital technologies in a practical setting, critically reflecting on their potential and promoting transfer into their own research practice.

Cooperation at the Lead Campus, the training centre for employees of the ETH Domain's four research institutes, was further intensified in 2025. These include in particular Eawag's participation in the Career Centre, which advises employees on career planning outside of science, as well as the expansion of the programme on topics such as resilience, unconscious bias and cybersecurity.

## 2.2 Research

In 2025, Eawag continued to prove itself as a leading international research institute that develops future-oriented strategies and solutions for safeguarding and providing water for people and the environment. Our interdisciplinary approach combines social sciences, engineering and natural sciences to develop excellent solutions in both basic and applied research.

The joint project between Eawag and Empa on high-temperature ground source heat storage on the campus in Dübendorf (ARTS) is an example of how interdisciplinary research can lead to sustainable solutions. While Empa is contributing its expertise in energy technologies and system integration, Eawag is investigating the ecological impact on groundwater and the organisms living in it. The aim of the project is to significantly reduce energy consumption through the seasonal storage of waste heat from buildings and laboratories. In this way, the collaboration contributes to decarbonisation and the efficient use of local resources.

The use of artificial intelligence is also playing an increasingly important role in the field of water research, particularly in tasks such as analysing and testing large data sets. One example is a project to optimise the monitoring and management of sewer networks, which Eawag carried out in collaboration with companies such as Rittmayer and Hunziker-Betatech as well as with wastewater associations. The virtual channel employee developed in the process is already being used in practice and complements existing process control systems.

Another example is the development of AI models that can predict how new chemicals will behave in the environment as early as the development phase: whether they will be filtered out of wastewater by sewage treatment plants, for example, or how quickly they will degrade in the soil. This has resulted in the publicly accessible PEPPER app. The aim is to help reduce the development and release of harmful substances at an early stage.

Eawag occupies a leading position in Switzerland in the area of Open Access. Over 87% of its publications in the period from 2020 to 2024 are publicly accessible via the DORA (Digital Object Repository at Eawag) platform. Eawag is also active in the area of Open Research Data. The interactive online platform Alplakes for monitoring and forecasting alpine lakes was awarded the Swiss Open Research Data Prize in November 2025.

Eawag advertised several tenure-track group leader positions in the field of "Adaptation to climate change in aquatic systems" in 2024. The new working groups should give new impetus to the research area of climate adaptation at Eawag and further strengthen co-operation in this field within the ETH Domain. Out of over 300 applicants, five people were selected to lead the new groups. Four of these started in 2025: George Wainaina, Head of the Organisations & Climate Working Group; Karin Gallandat, Head of the Public Health, Infrastructure and Climate Working Group, Cornelia Twining, Head of the Food Web Ecophysiology Working Group, and Viktoria Cologne, Head of the Climate and Societal Change Working Group. The fifth group leader, Eva Reynaert, will join Eawag in 2026.

### 2.3 Knowledge and technology transfer

In 2025, knowledge and technology transfer at Eawag continued to form a bridge between academic knowledge and practical application. It promotes sustainable innovation and strengthens Switzerland's competitiveness. Eawag integrates its research results into practice in close co-operation with national and international partners. This consolidates its position as a driving force for technological and social developments.

As an example, a team from Eawag's Process Engineering department has developed a toolbox that provides an overview of different decentralised wastewater systems. Different wastewater streams are separated at the point of origin in order to recover resources such as clean water, nutrients and energy. The toolbox can be used by planners or architects in Switzerland and around the world to find the best possible solution for their individual goals.

The promotion of entrepreneurs and innovation was continued through targeted programmes and awards. Eawag and Empa's funding association Glatec supports young entrepreneurs and enables networking within the fields of material science, environmental science and technology. This creates an ideal environment for start-ups and promotes the development of market-ready applications from research. One example is the Eawag spin-off Ogmo, which was founded in 2025 and is dedicated to the circular economy in the water sector.

Eawag also plays an important role in political processes. We regularly contribute our expertise in consultations with public authorities and consultations on topics relating to wastewater, drinking water, water protection and aquatic ecology. In the ENGAGE project led by Eawag, we are also conducting research directly into the dialogue between science, society and politics. The Joint Initiative of the ETH Domain is developing exchange formats and tools so that research results can be better integrated into political processes and researchers can enter into dialogue with decision-makers.

In 2025, Eawag also took part in 38 consultations in the environmental and water sector and our experts were involved in advisory groups. This includes, for example, the hearing by the WBK of the Council of States on "Research on risks and sustainable handling of chemicals (chemical safety), postulate 25.3431", which led to a clear acceptance.

The practice-orientated Eawag courses contribute to the transfer of knowledge. They are tailored to the respective target group and are aimed at experts from engineering and environmental offices, administration, industry and non-governmental organisations. The aim of this advanced training programme is to impart the latest knowledge from research and to promote exchange among participants and between science and practice in both directions. In 2025, the PEAK annual programme offered nine courses in German, French and English as well as the Water Days on the topic of "Vision Sponge City", together with the Association of Swiss Wastewater and Water Protection Experts VSA.

The 2025 Info Day was dedicated to the topic of groundwater. Eawag researchers presented results and tools that support practitioners and administrators in safeguarding drinking water resources in the required quality and quantity.

Eawag operates several large research infrastructures: Eawag's Mass Spectrometry Facility (MSF), which opened in 2025, brings together more than 20 mass spectrometry instruments. The aim is to enable Eawag staff to use and develop state-of-the-art environmental and biological analyses using mass spectrometry and to promote and strengthen cooperation.

The Eawag test pond facility offers 36 identical test ponds. These allow experiments to be carried out all year round under natural environmental conditions. The facility is increasingly being used internationally as part of the global Mesocosm.org network. With its urban hydrological field laboratories, Eawag is integrated into the EU-wide consortium co-udlabs.eu. It makes its infrastructure available to other research groups and, conversely, benefits from other facilities for its own projects.

## 2.4 International positioning and collaboration

In 2025, Eawag researchers succeeded in securing international projects and further expanding their collaboration with partners from abroad.

Switzerland was once again eligible to participate in the majority of calls for proposals under the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme in 2025. For example, Eawag is part of the new EU project UrbanM20, led by the Technical University of Denmark (DTU). The aim of the project, which is funded with six million euros, is to develop monitoring and modelling solutions for data-supported, holistic management of urban water quality.

Part of Horizon are the ERC Starting Grants, which are endowed with 1.5 million euros and are aimed at researchers at the beginning of their independent careers. In 2025, the European Research Council selected Serina Robinson and Catalina Chaparro Pedraza as recipients of ERC Starting Grants. Serina Robinson works in the Department of Environmental Microbiology and will hold an assistant professorship at ETH Zurich for the duration of her ERC grant. She is researching how microbes - in particular with the help of specific enzymes - break down persistent chemical pollutants such as PFAS and how these enzymatic processes can be predicted experimentally and with the aid of computers. Evolutionary ecologist Catalina Chaparro Pedraza conducts research in the Department of Systems Analysis, Integrated Assessment and Modelling. During her ERC grant, she will hold an assistant professorship at the University of Basel. She investigates how adaptation influences the resilience of populations, communities and biodiversity in a changing environment.

Numerous international partnerships and participation in international committees were also continued in 2025. This includes, for example, a workshop organised jointly with the Department of Forests and Park Services in Bhutan. The workshop brought together representatives from government agencies, research institutions, civil society organisations and international partners to strengthen the science-politics interface in the field of environmental policy in Bhutan. Participation in international conferences and symposia on the topic of water is also part of Eawag's commitment.

The Eawag Partnership Programme (EPP), which has been running since 2008, serves to promote applied research in non-OECD countries. It offers scholarships and visiting scholarships for students and young researchers and thus promotes the knowledge development, skills and careers of young researchers from countries in Asia and Africa. The programme also promotes cooperation in development research between Eawag researchers and partner institutions in non-OECD countries.

Global challenges require precise, local data. For example, in the fight against plastic pollution: The Waste Flow Diagram, developed by Eawag in collaboration with international partners, is a useful tool for tracing the flow of plastic waste from its source to its final destination. The aim is to systematically record and sustainably reduce plastic waste worldwide in future.

Pesticides also pollute water bodies worldwide. What would happen if farmers around the world switched to sustainable crop protection? This is precisely what was investigated in a study published in 2025 with the participation of Eawag and ETH Zurich. Most of the more than 500 experts surveyed assume that the consequences would be positive in the long term - even from an economic perspective. However, which effects predominate varies depending on the region of the world.

The challenges in the water sector remain particularly great in the lower-income regions of the world. The Eawag Department of Sanitation and Water for Development is committed to developing methods and technologies to enable the poorest countries to achieve sustainable water supply, waste management and sanitation. Examples from 2025 include the investigation of systematic challenges in water management in regions in Brazil where water supply and water quality management are increasingly affected by changes in rainfall patterns and droughts; the monitoring of pathogens in wastewater in Uganda; and vermicomposting of wastewater, a nature-based, cost-effective and energy-saving treatment method with great potential in countries worldwide.

## 2.5 Collaboration in the ETH Domain

In 2025, Eawag initiated several strategic collaborations and platforms to strengthen key research areas, increase their visibility and promote synergies within the ETH Domain. Internally, this includes the Lake Competence Cluster, which pools Eawag's expertise in lake research and promotes exchange across the institute in this area, as well as making consolidated expertise available to stakeholders.

Together with Empa, Eawag founded the Sustainable Polymer Competence Cluster (SPCC), which networks research into sustainable polymers and promotes joint initiatives for development and application. The aim of the joint initiative is to make polymers and their products recyclable and to bring them into use through cooperation with industry.

The Climate Solutions Hub was also created in cooperation with Empa. The initiative addresses an important gap in solutions for adapting to climate change or mitigating its consequences. The hurdle often lies not in the development of solutions, but in their scaling and adaptation to the market. This is where the hub wants to start in order to quickly scale up and establish climate solutions so that they can reach their full potential.

The topic of PFAS played an important role in the ETH Domain in 2025. Together with the Ecotox Centre and Empa, Eawag has set up the PFAS Cluster to improve networking of activities in the field of perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals. The cluster promotes the exchange of information on ongoing research projects, analytical methods and existing contacts with politics, administration and industry. The aim is to understand stakeholder needs and establish a dialogue on sustainable solutions.

The Biodiversity Centre of WSL and Eawag was launched in 2025 as a joint initiative to network and strengthen the research, nature conservation and public relations work of both institutes in the field of biodiversity. The centre provides a platform for the exchange of ideas, the promotion of interdisciplinary cooperation and the creation of synergies between terrestrial and aquatic research. By combining expertise in the fields of ecology, environmental sciences and sustainability, understanding and protection of biodiversity in Switzerland and beyond should be promoted.

In collaboration with the Universities of Zurich and Bern, ETH Zurich and the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Eawag has also collected data in the "CAMELS-CH-Chem" project on up to 40 water quality parameters for 115 Swiss catchments. This comprehensive data set extends the integration of water quality into hydrological research with large samples and supports new insights in hydrological and biogeochemical modelling.

## 2.6 Role in society and national mission

Eawag's central task is to develop future-oriented strategies for safeguarding and providing water for people and the environment. We develop high-performance solutions for Switzerland. Eawag combines ecological, economic and social interests related to the use of water, thus building bridges between science and society.

Eawag works with industry, federal agencies, authorities and decision-makers to put scientific ideas into practice and incorporate them into guidelines.

Two examples from the past year: Valuable data on the health of the population such as the spread of diseases, antibiotic resistance, drug use and pollutants can be obtained from the wastewater. The Eawag programme for wastewater-based epidemiology, which is funded by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), pools Swiss activities in this area and evaluates the health-relevant data. In this way, the laboratory makes a significant contribution to knowledge about the lifestyle and health of the Swiss population.

How can Swiss lakes become more climate-resilient and protect their biodiversity at the same time? With current challenges such as oxygen deficiency, climate change, the spread of invasive species and increasingly obstructed lake shores, this is no easy task. Together with the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the cantons, Eawag has therefore begun to develop an action plan focused on

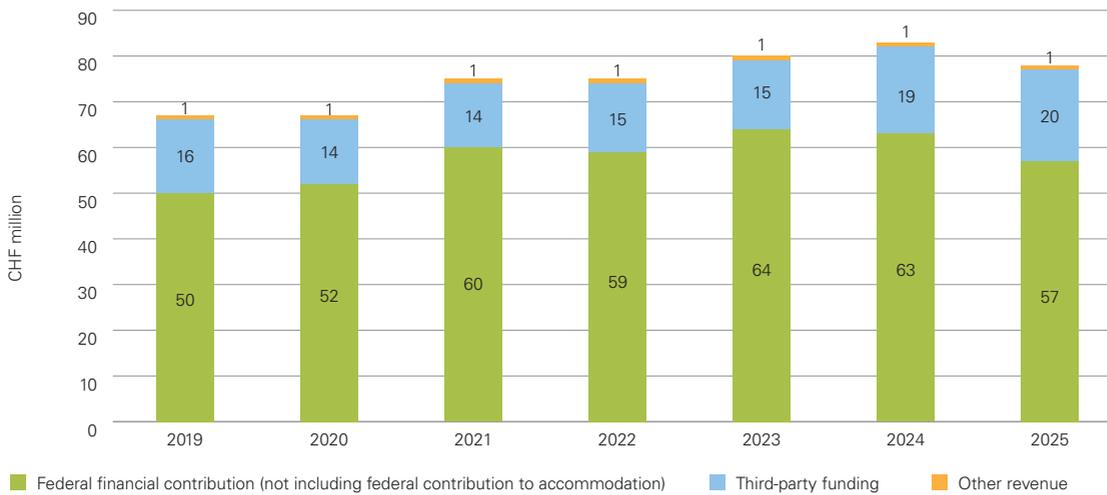
implementation. The aim is to identify knowledge gaps, integrate scientific principles and develop practical recommendations for water quality, monitoring, fisheries and revitalisation. The project promotes dialogue between science, administration and practice.

Vocational training also remains an important task for Eawag. Apprentices in the fields of laboratory technician specialising in chemistry and biology, ICT specialist and business administrator in the service and administration sector were being trained at Eawag in 2025. The training is organised in close cooperation with companies in the private sector.

## 2.7 Key financial messages

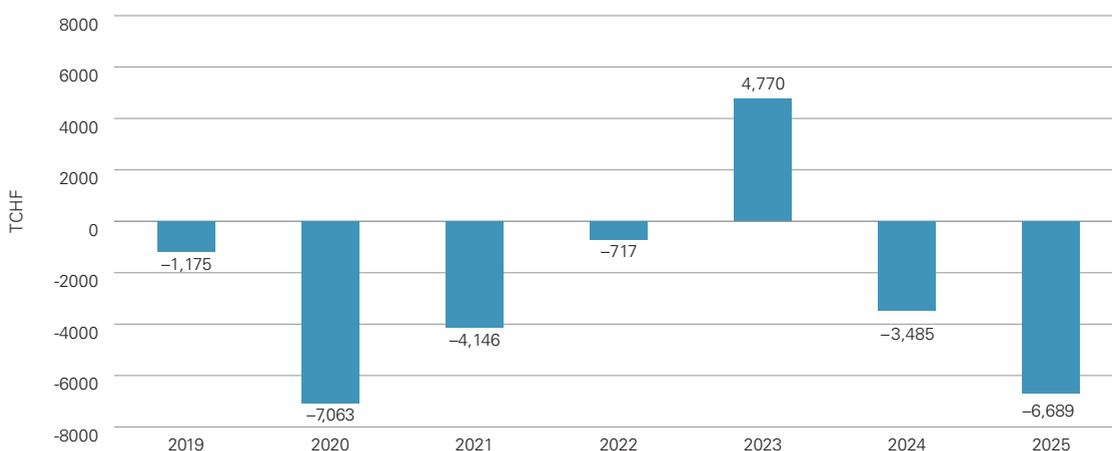
Income from third-party funding increased again in 2025 thanks to the acquisition of new research projects. Projects with the Swiss National Science Foundation were particularly successful, but research projects with the EU also contributed to growth. Cooperation with the cantons was also intensified.

Eawag figures for income 2019–2025



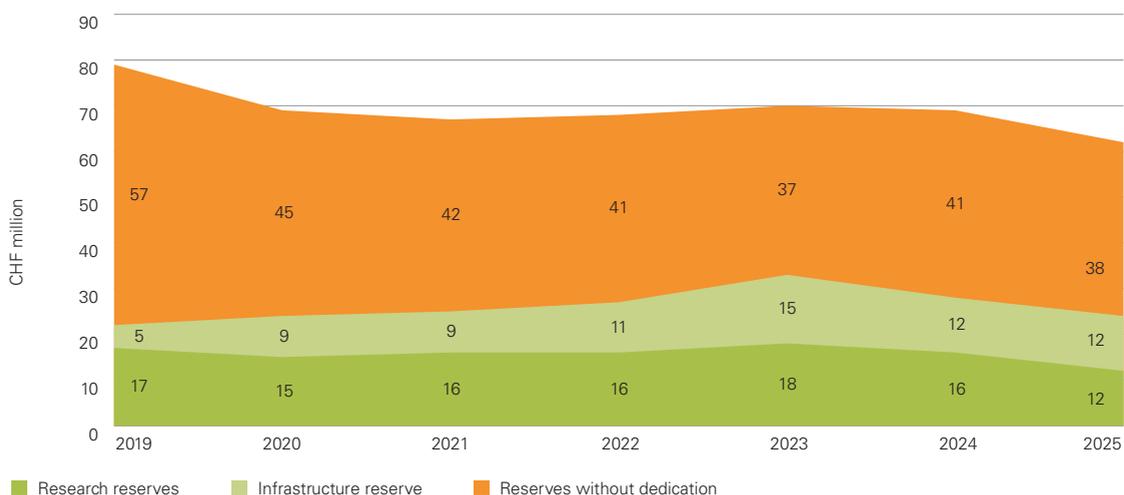
The reduced financial contribution resulted in a planned negative cash flow for the 2025 financial year.

**Figures for free cash flow 2019–2025**



This will be covered from the existing reserves. The project progress from internal research agreements led to a further reduction in internal performance commitments. The reserves for construction projects are unchanged, but the legally valid authorisation for the planned new construction project in Kastanienbaum has been granted. Construction is now scheduled to start in 2026.

**Eawag figures for reserves 2019–2025**



The expected decline in federal funding for research, education and innovation in general as well as for the ETH Domain in particular will probably limit Eawag’s strategic flexibility in the future.

The directorate is working on measures to optimise the use of free funds in order to respond even more strategically to current developments whilst at the same time tackling the challenges ahead. In 2025, some of the reserves have already been invested in strategic initiatives, and further strategic projects are planned for 2026. The acquisition of new forms of third-party funding has become considerably more important and is being pursued further at Eawag.

## 3. Sustainability & environment

Since 2017, Eawag has been aligned with the objectives of the federal initiative “Exemplary Energy and Climate”. This aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energies and increase energy efficiency. Between 2008 and 2024, we were already able to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 % and are therefore well above the 50 % reduction target of the “Federal Climate Package” by 2030. The switch to green electricity and the increased use of biogas were particularly effective.

However, there is still a need for action in the area of mobility. Flight-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which make up the largest share of total emissions, have increased again after Covid. In order to achieve the ambitious “Net Zero 2040” target in accordance with the Climate and Innovation Act (CISA) adopted in 2025, the existing measures must therefore be strengthened. A directive is currently being drawn up to reduce emissions from business flights by 50 % by 2030. In addition, a comprehensive commuter survey is being conducted in order to better understand daily commuting and develop sustainable mobility solutions on this basis.

In the energy sector, extensive projects are under way to reduce the demand for fossil fuels. This includes the construction of a modern heat exchange network, the construction of a seasonal geothermal probe storage facility, numerous energy efficiency measures and the expansion of photovoltaics. The aim is to completely dispense with natural gas from 2030 and reduce energy consumption by 15 % by 2028 compared to 2019.

The seasonal heat storage facility has been in operation since the beginning of 2025 and enables the utilisation of waste heat from ventilation systems and laboratory equipment. At the same time, we are further optimising the campus with intelligent heating networks. A voluntary target agreement was also concluded with the Energy Agency for Industry (EnAW) to increase energy efficiency. Various buildings have been equipped with intelligent thermostats from Empa start-up Viboo, and software solutions such as those from Sympheny help to optimise energy distribution in the heating network.

We are also gradually modernising the lighting: A complete refurbishment of the interior lighting using LEDs and intelligent controls is currently being implemented and should be completed by the end of 2026. Renewable electricity production will be further expanded through a new PV strategy, the implementation of which is planned from 2026.

In the area of circular economy, we successfully implemented several reuse projects last year. The upgrade of a container façade utilises reused timber elements from previous research projects and unfired clay bricks, creating a sustainable and circular building envelope. In IT, we reuse decommissioned devices internally, combine them into functioning systems or refurbish them externally and pass them on sustainably.

Nutrition was also identified as an important lever. A catering strategy introduced in 2023 promotes meals made from fresh, local and seasonal products with the lowest possible environmental impact. From 2026, we will display an “Eco Score” on the menus of all catering establishments on campus to make the ecological impact of the food visible.

To promote biodiversity, Eawag has drawn up a “Green Space Management Guide”, on the basis of which a maintenance plan is being developed. This provides the gardeners with clear ecological criteria and care instructions in order to maintain the areas in a way that conserves resources. As part of the “Animals on Campus” project, we also installed around 30 bird nesting boxes, four bat boxes and a reptile castle to visibly strengthen the fauna.

## 4. Human resources

### 4.1 Staff structure and headcount

As of 31 December 2025, Eawag's headcount (excluding interns or temporary staff) amounted to 559 people (507.7 full-time equivalents).

It is divided between the functions of science, technology, administration, students and apprentices. Overall, the number of employees has remained stable. Compared with the previous year, there has been a minimal increase of 0.4 per cent, which is attributable to financial measures, including internal succession arrangements in connection with early and normal retirements. Further vacancies were filled internally and some were restructured. The proportion of women at Eawag remained unchanged from the previous year at 51.2 per cent.

Eawag's international character as a leading research institute in aquatic research is reflected in the origins of its employees, who now come from 48 nations. Last year, the figure was 45 nations.

- Switzerland 53 %
- EU countries 32 %
- Other countries 15 %

Staff were funded not only by federal funds, but also from competitively acquired research funds. As of 31 December 2025, the financing (excluding students and apprentices) is distributed as follows:

Federal funding contribution	327 full-time equivalents
External funding	
• Research funding (SNSF/EU)	76 full-time equivalents
• Departmental funding (federal offices)	33 full-time equivalents
• Economic partners	35 full-time equivalents

### 4.2 Human resources policy and development

Internal training focuses on the areas of leadership development, occupational health management and occupational safety. The training programme is regularly reviewed on the basis of internal and individual needs and continuously developed. Our cultural diversity and international character motivate us to invest specifically in raising awareness of diversity and promoting communication skills, particularly through language courses. External specialist training is financially supported in order to ensure that employees' skills are maintained at the existing high level in the long term.

As part of its strategic development, Eawag continues to focus on the expansion of digital HR solutions and the sustainable optimisation of central HR processes. The aim is a gradual, holistic digitalisation of HR processes to increase efficiency, transparency and service quality.

In parallel, a handbook of recruitment guidelines that is valid for Eawag is being developed, which will strengthen both the recruitment process and Eawag's uniform positioning as an employer. In addition there is now a systematic company health management system in place. The award of the Friendly Work Space label by Health Promotion Switzerland underlines Eawag's long-term commitment to healthy working conditions and sustainable performance.

The 90 doctoral students employed at Eawag have access to excellent infrastructures, specific training opportunities and customised information platforms. Researchers with temporary project positions are given the opportunity to improve their qualifications for the labour market through workshops on career

planning and the funding of Academic Transition Grants. Our Partnership Program for Developing Countries (EPP) offers students from countries of the Global South the opportunity to conduct research at Eawag. They can network and apply the expertise they have acquired in their home countries. At the same time, they enrich our research and activities with new perspectives.

## 5. Equal opportunities, diversity and belonging

In 2025, the Eawag Diversity Committee once again intensified its activities along the three focal points of “Diversity in Recruitment”, “Diversity & Belonging” and “Visibility & Internal Recognition”. These include the revision of the diversity statement for job advertisements, active collaboration on a cross-institute recruitment guideline for inclusive recruitment – the finalisation of which is planned for 2026 – and the introduction of a language tandem programme that will enable Eawag’s linguistic diversity to be optimally utilised.

The “Diversity & Inclusion” centre, which is run jointly with PSI and Empa, once again enabled synergies to be exploited and DEI topics to be addressed across institutes. This includes completing the first round of the feM-LEAD programme at 4RI, a programme for women who wish to explore the topic of leadership. Three trainees from Eawag successfully took part in the programme. In addition, four women-meet-women lunches were organised in collaboration with Empa, which promoted the exchange and networking of women within and between the institutions. The specialist unit also represents Eawag in external bodies such as the Equal Opportunities Working Group in the ETH Domain and iDEAS, the association of equal opportunities officers at Swiss universities, ETHZ and EPFL.

A seminar on diversity, equity and inclusion at Eawag and several online events on topics such as psychological safety or sexism and racism in the university environment further increased employee awareness. Measures that were already well implemented were also continued. These include the Tailwind programme, which facilitates the return of female employees after maternity leave, as well as established programmes such as the Foster.Lead.Promote. (formerly the “Fix the Leaky Pipeline” programme), CONNECT or the H.I.T. programme.

As in previous years, the proportion of women in management positions increased again by 2.7% to 39.7% (2024: 37.0%) – a goal that remains at the centre of our HR strategy.

With these ongoing and other measures, Eawag is working towards breaking down structural barriers, making its diversity visible and consistently promoting an inclusive and non-discriminatory working environment. The aim is to embed this even more intensively in existing structures and processes in future.

## 6. Organisation and governance

### 6.1 Organisation

Eawag is a federal institution under public law. It is part of the ETH Domain together with the two Federal Institutes of Technology ETH Zurich and EPFL and the research institutes Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) and Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa).

The ETH Board is the strategic management and supervisory body of the ETH Domain. The status, structure and tasks of the ETH Domain are described in the ETH Act of 4 October 1991. Based on Article 27 of the ETH Act, the ETH Board issued the ordinance on the research institutes of the ETH Domain.

The structure of Eawag is governed by its organisational regulations. Eawag is managed by its Director and the members of the Directorate appointed by the ETH Board.

### 6.2 Governance

Political management of the ETH Domain is the responsibility of the Federal Parliament and the Federal Council. The ERI message and the corresponding performance mandate serve as central management instruments. Financing is provided through the annual credit authorisation by Parliament.

The ETH Board concludes the target agreements with the institutions, allocates the federal funds accordingly and approves the institutions' development plans. The Board fulfils its supervisory function with regard to Eawag in various ways. In addition to annual inputs from the institutions on the objectives in the ETH Domain's annual report, the fulfilment of the strategic objectives is reported on in the context of the dialogue discussions between Eawag and the ETH Board, which also takes place annually.

In addition, the ETH Board conducts internal audits on risk management and financial supervision. The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) is responsible for the external audits of the ETH Domain's institutions.

Eawag reports in various ways: the ETH Board's annual report on the ETH Domain sets out the fulfilment of the strategic objectives and the use of the Federal Government's financial contribution. An interim evaluation of the ETH Domain is carried out halfway through each performance period. The self-evaluation report to be prepared for this purpose provides information on the status of target achievement in the corresponding performance period. At the end of the performance period, a final report, which is submitted to the Federal Assembly for approval, summarises the achievement of the objectives over the four-year period.

Internal governance is mainly ensured in the meetings of the Directorate and via the committees assigned to the Directorate, such as risk management. The Directorate is also responsible for Eawag's Compliance Guide, Research Integrity regulations and the approval of the annual ICS report.

### 6.3 Compliance

In 2025, Eawag strengthened its compliance structures with the appointment of a Compliance Officer to centrally manage and systematically develop compliance activities and issues. The basis for this was an external situation analysis for all institutions of the ETH Domain, which formulated specific recommendations for the introduction of a compliance management system based on the ISO 37301 standard by the end of 2026. An initial interim report on the status of implementation was presented to the ETH Board at its meeting in September 2025.

The planned measures include both structural adjustments - such as the clarification of roles, the revision of existing directives and processes and the expansion of internal regulations and training courses - as well as initiatives to promote compliance awareness and strengthen an integrity-oriented organisational culture.

The Eawag management actively supports the project by informing employees about ongoing measures through various channels and involving managers at all levels in the project. These play a central role in sustainably anchoring the desired culture of values and integrity in everyday working life.

In addition to traditional compliance issues such as scientific integrity, Eawag focuses specifically on occupational safety in the field and laboratory as well as integrity in the workplace. In this way, it contributes to a safe, modern and attractive working environment that enables employees and future researchers to flourish and develop further.

In addition to central coordination, Eawag continues to have decentralised technical responsibilities that ensure compliance with legal, internal and contractual requirements in various subject areas. In the area of scientific integrity, cooperation with ETH Zurich was further intensified and existing processes optimised. Since January 2026, all applications for ethical review of human research projects have been handled by the Ethics Committee of ETH Zurich.

A central element of compliance practice at Eawag concerns the handling of secondary employment. Employees are obliged to check their secondary employment with regard to contractual obligations and possible risks to Eawag's reputation and financial interests, and to inform their superiors if there are any indications of this.

#### **6.4 Secondary employment**

Employees are obliged to assess their secondary employment with regard to compliance with their contractual obligations and the potential endangering of our reputation and/or financial interests, and to inform their line manager if there are any such indications.

Secondary employment requires the prior approval of the Directorate in all cases, if

- it concerns the assumption of a Board of Directors mandate or a management function in a company,
- the secondary employment consists of an activity in favour of a spin-off or another company,
- Eawag infrastructure or personnel is utilised, or
- a significant risk of endangering Eawag's reputation or financial interests is to be expected or exists.

In addition, the secondary employment of members of the Directorate is reported annually and reviewed by the ETH Board.

Martin Ackermann, Prof. Dr., Direktor:

- Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Rübel Geobotanical Research Institute Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland
- Member of the Delegates Assembly of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Board, Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology, Bremen
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Board, University of Vienna, Austria

Christian Stamm:

- Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Foundation for Practical Environmental Protection Switzerland (Pusch), Zurich, Switzerland
- Member of the Steering Board, World Food System Centre, Zurich, Switzerland
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Board, Federal Institute of Hydrology BfG, Koblenz, Germany
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the journal GAIA, Germany
- Member of the Board, glatec Technologiezentrum, Dübendorf, Switzerland
- Member of the Board, Wasser-Agenda21, Dübendorf, Switzerland
- Member of the Soil and Water Working Group; Action Agents: Plant Protection Products, Switzerland
- Member of the Steering Committee, VSA Water Quality Platform, Switzerland
- Member of the Steering Committee, VSA-FOEN-Eawag Platforms, Switzerland
- Member of the LANAT-3 Strategic Board, Wyss Academy, University of Bern, Switzerland
- Member of the Steering Committee, CH G-Net, Switzerland
- Member of the Board of Directors, Centre for Applied Ecotoxicology, Switzerland

- Member of the Zurich Airport Region Association, Switzerland
- Member of the Water Assessment Advisory Group (SBGB) of Swiss Environmental Protection

Florian Altermatt:

- Member of the Board of Trustees of SCNAT, Forum Biodiversity, Bern, Switzerland
- Member of the jury for the SwissRe Foundation Zurich (call 'Modelling biodiversity and ecosystem service loss to advance resilience'), Zurich, Switzerland

Lenny Winkel:

- Member of the Board, ETH Women Professors Forum, Zurich, Switzerland
- Member of the Advisory Board (Goldschmidt Officer), European Association of Geochemistry (EAG), Aubière, France

Sara Marks:

- Adjunct Professor, University of Victoria, Dept. of Civil Engineering, Canada

Gabriele Mayer:

- Member of the Executive Board of Verein Glatec, Dübendorf, Switzerland
- Employer representative on the Joint Committee of the ETH Pension Fund at Publica, Bern, Switzerland

## 7. Risk management at Eawag

### 7.1 Present situation

We enjoy a high reputation for our research and teaching both in Switzerland and internationally. This valuable reputation is ensured, among other things, by competent and prudent employees (human capital), well-functioning business processes, solidly equipped infrastructure and stable basic financing. All of these assets are exposed to risks and can be severely damaged by negative events. This can also significantly endanger operational and strategic goals.

As a management and supervisory body, the ETH Board defines objectives and requirements for the risk management process in the six institutions of the ETH Domain. Identification and assessment of individual risks, strategies for dealing with them and appropriate controlling should ensure that the institutional objectives can be met in an impact-oriented, cost-efficient and forward-looking manner. The design and implementation of risk management at Eawag are based on existing directives issued by the Federal Government and the ETH Board as well as recognised norms and standards (in particular ISO 31000). Appropriate risk avoidance measures should ensure the safety of persons, property and other (including non-material) assets, including in particular the national and global reputation of Eawag as a water research institute in the ETH Domain, to the greatest possible extent, and maintain Eawag's ability to function and innovate. The aim of our risk policy is to recognise and assess the risks to Eawag's operations and activities in a prudent and timely manner, and to raise awareness of these risks for all stakeholders and to take suitable measures in line with the cultural diversity and organisation of the institution.

The risk management processes support Eawag's Directorate and management and the ETH Board with regard to the early detection and proactive management of risks. Eawag's risk management is aimed in particular at measures designed to prevent a negative deviation in the achievement of objectives.

## 7.2 Responsibility and the risk management process

In accordance with the autonomy of the six institutions in the ETH Act as the basis for their performance in teaching, research and knowledge and technology transfer, Eawag is responsible for managing the risks existing in its own area. On the basis of the requirements of the ETH Board, Eawag has adopted its own risk management process, with the Director bearing ultimate responsibility for risk management. Eawag has a risk manager who coordinates and controls the risk management processes. He supports the Directorate in identifying and assessing individual risks and strategies for overcoming them, as well as monitoring the action taken.

The risk manager is supported by the other responsible members of the Eawag risk organisation. The effective implementation of risk management is periodically reviewed by the Directorate and the ETH Board's internal audit department.

Risk management includes specific specialist topics such as security, internal control system (ICS), compliance management, information security, export control and business continuity management (BCM).

## 7.3 Risk situation

### 7.3.1 Risks

Our individual profile is reflected in our risk catalogue. It describes identified risks and their potential impacts and assesses them on the basis of the two dimensions of probability of occurrence and scale of loss. This is used as a basis for identifying potential core risks in particular. Particular attention is paid to the potential impacts of a risk on our reputation.

We update our risk catalogue at least once a year, taking into account new developments and changing risk situations. According to ETH Board directives, the catalogue includes the following risk categories:

- financial and economic risks
- legal risks
- property risks, technical risks and natural hazards
- personal and organisational risks
- technological and scientific risks
- social and political risks
- environmental and ecological risks
- specific real-estate risks

Core risks are those with a potentially high financial impact and an above-average probability of occurrence that could directly endanger the fulfilment of the institution's statutory duties or pose a high risk to its reputation. The risk organisation (internal risk committee) meets at least once a year to discuss and assess the current risk situation at Eawag and draws up a risk report under the direction of the risk manager. This was also presented to the Eawag Directorate in 2025 and approved. As part of this annual reporting, Eawag informs the responsible bodies of the ETH Board about its core risks in particular with regard to the current status, scope and potential impact of these risks. In the event of extraordinary changes in risk or serious loss events, the ETH Board, as the supervisory body of the ETH Domain, is informed immediately and in a timely manner.

We have identified our core risks in the following areas:

- quality of teaching, research and services
- cyber-attacks and loss of data processing systems and data integrity
- loss of key personnel
- significant loss of financial resources, missing out on third-party funding potential
- damage or loss of research infrastructure
- accidents to persons at the workplace, at research facilities or during field work
- difficulties in recruiting qualified specialists
- major losses and catastrophic natural or crisis events

### 7.3.2 Risk management instruments and measures

The basic principles of risk management require that we must insure ourselves against any losses, subsidiary to other measures, taking into account the individual risk situation of the institutions. In the case of insurance policies, an appropriate cost-benefit ratio must be sought and the relevant public procurement provisions must be complied with. These insurance policies must meet the standard customary in the Swiss insurance market and must be taken out with an insurance institution authorised in Switzerland.

We are responsible for taking out our own insurance policies and managing our own insurance portfolio.

In its directives, the ETH Board stipulates that the two Federal Institutes of Technology and the four research institutes must take out the following insurance policies as basic cover in addition to the statutory prescribed insurance policies:

- property and business interruption insurance
- business liability insurance
- insurance policies that are necessary for the most complete cover as possible for the core risks

It should be noted that not all core risks can be insured or that their insurance is not financially viable.

We have taken out property insurance and business liability insurance to cover losses. We also have smaller insurance policies for specific operational risks, as stipulated in the directives.

### 7.3.3 Disclosure of risks

As part of the annual financial statements, the institute ensures that the risks are fully recognised within the existing reports. On the basis of the estimated probability of occurrence, the risks are recognised either under provisions (>50 percent probability of occurrence) or in the notes under contingent liabilities.

### 7.3.4 Internal control system

We operate an internal control system (ICS) based on the requirements of the ETH Board, that the relevant financial processes and the corresponding accounting and financial reporting are identified at an early stage, assessed and covered by suitable key controls. The ICS encompasses those processes and measures that ensure proper bookkeeping and accounting and accordingly form the basis of all financial reporting. It thus ensures a high quality of financial reporting. Eawag considers the ICS as a tool for the continuous improvement of processes.

# Financial statements

## Statement of financial performance

CHF thousands	2025	2024	Notes
Federal financial contribution	56,893	63,488	
Federal contribution to accommodation	3,502	3,446	
Total federal contribution	60,395	66,934	5
Continuing education	138	160	6
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)	9,125	7,293	
Swiss Innovation Agency (Innosuisse)	412	372	
Special federal funding of applied research	6,264	7,062	
EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation (EU-FPs)	838	1,003	
Industry-oriented research (private sector)	871	1,080	
Other project-oriented third-party funding (incl. cantons, municipalities, international organisations)	2,561	1,853	
Research contributions, mandates and scientific services	20,071	18,663	7
thereof transitional measures Confederation	1,816	868	7
Other revenue	603	811	8
<b>Operating revenue</b>	<b>81,207</b>	<b>86,568</b>	
Personnel expenses	63,336	60,399	9, 22
Other operating expenses	19,881	20,514	10
Depreciation	3,138	2,421	16
Transfer expenses	165	251	11
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>86,521</b>	<b>83,585</b>	
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>-5,314</b>	<b>2,983</b>	
Net finance income/expense	47	186	12
<b>Surplus (+) or deficit (-)</b>	<b>-5,267</b>	<b>3,169</b>	

Rounding differences: the figures presented in this document may not add up precisely to the total amounts presented in the tables. Changes are calculated on unrounded amounts and may differ from a figure that is based on the rounded amounts presented in the tables.

## Balance sheet

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024	Notes
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	45,177	51,865	13
Current receivables from non-exchange transactions	10,223	14,394	14
Current receivables from exchange transactions	879	1,108	14
Current financial assets and loans	33,892	33,830	18
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	2,683	2,503	15
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>92,853</b>	<b>103,701</b>	
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	26,079	24,208	16
Intangible assets	18	44	16
Non-current receivables from non-exchange transactions	11,680	12,388	14
Non-current financial assets and loans	40	40	18
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>37,817</b>	<b>36,680</b>	
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>130,670</b>	<b>140,381</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current liabilities	2,466	4,529	19
Accrued expenses and deferred income	2,035	1,613	20
Short-term provisions	3,775	3,393	21
Short-term liabilities	8,276	9,535	
Dedicated third-party funds	31,816	34,924	23
Net defined benefit liabilities	1,906	13,986	22
Long-term provisions	2,119	2,051	21
Long-term liabilities	35,841	50,961	
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>44,117</b>	<b>60,496</b>	
<b>Equity</b>			
Valuation reserves	22,093	10,159	
Donations, grants, co-financing	2,377	2,315	
Reserves with internal dedication	24,304	27,527	
Reserves without dedication	37,549	41,194	
Accumulated surplus (+)/deficit (-)	230	-1,310	
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>86,553</b>	<b>79,885</b>	
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>130,670</b>	<b>140,381</b>	

## Statement of changes in equity

CHF thousands	Valuation reserves	Donations, grants, co-financing	Teaching and research reserves	Infrastructure and administration reserves	Reserves with internal dedication	Reserves without dedication	Accumulated surplus (+)/deficit (-)	Total equity
<b>2024</b>								
<b>Value as of 1.1.2024</b>	<b>13,551</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>18,221</b>	<b>15,278</b>	<b>33,499</b>	<b>36,650</b>	<b>-5,725</b>	<b>80,108</b>
Items directly recognised in equity:								
Revaluation of defined benefit liability	<b>-3,392</b>							<b>-3,392</b>
Surplus (+) or deficit (-)							<b>3,169</b>	<b>3,169</b>
Transfers in current period		<b>183</b>					<b>-183</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfer of reserves with internal dedication			<b>-2,694</b>	<b>-3,278</b>	<b>-5,972</b>	<b>5,972</b>		<b>-</b>
Appropriation of reserves						<b>-1,429</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>-</b>
<i>Total changes</i>	<b>-3,392</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>-2,694</b>	<b>-3,278</b>	<b>-5,972</b>	<b>4,543</b>	<b>4,415</b>	<b>-223</b>
<b>Value as of 31.12.2024</b>	<b>10,159</b>	<b>2,315</b>	<b>15,527</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>27,527</b>	<b>41,194</b>	<b>-1,310</b>	<b>79,885</b>
<b>2025</b>								
<b>Value as of 1.1.2025</b>	<b>10,159</b>	<b>2,315</b>	<b>15,527</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>27,527</b>	<b>41,194</b>	<b>-1,310</b>	<b>79,885</b>
Items directly recognised in equity:								
Revaluation of defined benefit liability	<b>11,934</b>							<b>11,934</b>
Surplus (+) or deficit (-)							<b>-5,267</b>	<b>-5,267</b>
Transfers in current period		<b>62</b>					<b>-62</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfer of reserves with internal dedication			<b>-3,223</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-3,223</b>	<b>3,223</b>		<b>-</b>
Appropriation of reserves						<b>-6,869</b>	<b>6,869</b>	<b>-</b>
<i>Total changes</i>	<b>11,934</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>-3,223</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-3,223</b>	<b>-3,645</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>6,667</b>
<b>Value as of 31.12.2025</b>	<b>22,093</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>12,304</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>24,304</b>	<b>37,549</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>86,553</b>

As hedge accounting is not applied at Eawag, no items are recognised under the reserves from hedging transactions.

The infrastructure and administration reserve includes exclusively the savings for the planned building in Kastanienbaum, where construction can now start in the coming year after having received planning permission at the end of 2025. The reserves were increased by CHF 1 million in 2025. The reserve due to delays in the renovation of the laboratory building (CHF 1 million) from the previous year were released in 2025, as the renovation was completed in 2025.

## Cash flow statement

CHF thousands	2025	2024	Notes
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Surplus (+) or deficit (-)</b>	<b>-5,267</b>	<b>3,169</b>	
Depreciation	3,138	2,421	16
Net finance income/expense (non-cash)	-62	-183	12
Increase/decrease in net working capital	2,580	-644	
Increase/decrease in net defined benefit liabilities	-146	-484	22
Increase/decrease in provisions	450	460	21
Increase/decrease in non-current receivables	708	1,240	14
Increase/decrease in dedicated third-party funds	-3,108	2,356	23
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>-1,707</b>	<b>8,336</b>	
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
<b>Investments</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-5,018	-6,835	16
Purchase of intangible assets	-	-	
Increase in current and non-current financial assets	-	-5,040	18
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>-5,018</b>	<b>-11,875</b>	
<b>Divestments</b>			
Disposal of property, plant and equipment	36	54	16
<b>Total divestments</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>54</b>	
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>-4,982</b>	<b>-11,821</b>	
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Cash flows from financing activities	-	-	
<b>Total cash flow</b>	<b>-6,689</b>	<b>-3,485</b>	
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period</b>	<b>51,865</b>	<b>55,351</b>	<b>13</b>
Total cash flow	-6,689	-3,485	
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</b>	<b>45,177</b>	<b>51,865</b>	<b>13</b>

# Notes to the financial statements

## 1 Business activity

Eawag is a global leader in aquatic research. The combination of natural, engineering and social sciences allows water to be investigated across the continuum from relatively pristine natural waters to fully engineered wastewater management systems. Eawag offers its professors, scientific staff and doctoral students a unique research environment, promoting active engagement with stakeholders from industry and society.

Eawag is an independent institute within the ETH Domain.

Detailed information on Eawag's business activities, management and reporting can be found in the management report.

## 2 Basis of accounting

These financial statements cover the reporting period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. The reporting date is 31 December 2025. The reporting is prepared in Swiss francs (CHF). All figures are shown in thousands of Swiss francs (CHF 1,000) unless otherwise indicated.

### Legal basis

The legal basis of Eawag's accounting is formed of the version of the following (including directives and regulations) in effect in the reporting period:

- Federal Act on the Federal Institutes of Technology of 4 October 1991 (ETH Act; SR 414.110)
- Ordinance on the Domain of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology of 19 November 2003 (Ordinance on the ETH Domain; SR 414.110.3)
- Ordinance on the Finance and Accounting of the ETH Domain of 5 December 2014 (SR 414.123)
- Accounting Manual for the ETH Domain (version 8.0)

### Accounting standards

The financial statements of Eawag have been prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The underlying accounting provisions are set out in the Accounting Manual for the ETH Domain (Art. 34 Directives, Ordinance on the Finance and Accounting of the ETH Domain).

**IPSAS issued but not yet applied**

The following IPSAS were issued before the reporting date:

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Effective date</b>
IPSAS 47	Revenue	01.01.2026
IPSAS 48	Transfer Expenses	01.01.2026
IPSAS 49	Retirement Benefit plans	01.01.2026
Improvements to IPSAS 2023		01.01.2026 *
Concessionary Leases and Other Arrangements Conveying Rights Over Assets (amendments to IPSAS 43, IPSAS 47 and IPSAS 48)		01.01.2027
IPSAS 50	Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources Stripping Costs in the Production Phase of a Surface Mine (Amendments to IPSAAS 12)	01.01.2027
Definition of Material (Amendments to IPSAS 1, IPSAS 3 and Conceptual Framework)		01.01.2027
Amendments to IPSAS Standards as a Result of the Application of IPSAS 46, Measurement		01.01.2028

\* Effective date for changes that may have an impact on Eawag

The above-mentioned standards and improvements to the IPSAS have not been applied early in the present financial statements. Eawag is currently analysing the expected impacts of the following standards on the annual financial statements:

- IPSAS 47 Revenue replaces the previous standards IPSAS 9 Revenue from Exchange Transactions, IPSAS 11 Construction Contracts and IPSAS 23 Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions. Under the new standard, revenue transactions are classified into binding and non-binding arrangements. A binding arrangement is an agreement that confers both rights and obligations on the parties that can be enforced by legal or equivalent means. The difference between the two categories affects both the time at which the revenue is recognised and the recognition of assets and liabilities that are associated with revenue transactions. Eawag expects that the requirements in the standard that relate to classification and presentation of revenue transactions in particular will have an impact on the balance sheet. In both research contracts and donations subject to conditions regarding the use of funds, there are significant contract volumes that are accounted for under IPSAS 23 and the total contract value meets the recognition criteria for a receivable under IPSAS 23. In the case of research contracts, there are often conditions in the performance of the contract, which results in a liability being recognised from non-current, dedicated third-party funds. All research contracts previously classified under IPSAS 23 and a significant number of donation contracts are treated as binding arrangements under IPSAS 47, meaning that assets and liabilities arising from the agreements are only recognised if there is a deferred benefit or a deferred benefit entitlement. Receivables are only recognised if the entitlement to the remuneration is unconditional. Donations that have been recognised under IPSAS 23 without any conditions are classified as a binding arrangement under IPSAS 47 if the provisions for use are specific enough for compliance obligations to apply. As a result, the balance sheet of Eawag is significantly shortened.
- IPSAS 48 Transfer Expenses contains provisions on the recognition and disclosure of transfer expenses and thus closes an existing gap in the IPSAS. As is the case with IPSAS 47 Revenue, the standard is based on the concept of binding agreements. The recognition of transfer expenses depends on whether the transaction includes an enforceable right to the fulfilment of the obligations (by the recipient of the transfer). Such an enforceable right is recognised by the transferor and subsequently recognised as an expense when the enforceable right expires.

Eawag does not expect any material impact on the balance sheet, statement of financial performance and cash flow statement. However, these clarifications have not yet been completed.

- Concessionary Leases and Other Arrangements Conveying Rights Over Assets has led to amendments to IPSAS 43, IPSAS 47 and IPSAS 48. Among other things, these amendments address the application of these standards to agreements for the use of property, plant and equipment that are given without consideration or at below market terms.
- Amendments to IPSAS Standards: Specific IFRIC Interpretations is to support the IPSASB’s objective of supplementing the existing IPSASs with specific interpretations already published by the IFRS Interpretations Committee. Depending on the transaction, amendments based on IFRIC 1 Changes in Existing Decommissioning, Restoration and Similar Liabilities and IFRIC 14 IAS 19 – The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction relevant to Eawag. However, the relevant clarifications have not yet been completed.
- Amendments to IPSAS Standards as a Result of the Application of IPSAS 46, Measurement marks the end of the second phase of the IPSASB’s measurement project. Following the publication of IPSAS 46 in May 2023, the IPSASB analysed the applicability of the current operational value to individual IPSAS standards. The IPSASB concluded that the current operational value should be introduced in IPSAS 12 Inventories and IPSAS 21 Impairment of Non-Cash-Generating Assets.

### **First-time application of new IPSAS**

- IPSAS 43 Leases
 

On 1 January 2025, Eawag applied IPSAS 43 Leases for the first time. IPSAS 43 Leases introduces a standardised approach for lessees to account for leases, whereby for each lease an asset is to be recognised for the rights to use the leased assets and a liability is to be recognised for the payment obligations entered into. The first-time application of IPSAS 43 had no impact on the annual financial statements.
- IPSAS 44 Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations
 

IPSAS 44 Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations governs the accounting and measurement of assets held for sale and specifies the presentation and disclosure of discontinued operations. The first-time application of IPSAS 44 had no impact on the annual financial statements.
- IPSAS 45 Property, Plant, and Equipment
 

IPSAS 45 Property, Plant and Equipment replaces the previous standard on the same topic, IPSAS 17. The new standard includes an additional measurement model (“current operational value”). The standard also introduces the requirement to recognise and disclose heritage assets that qualify as items of property, plant and equipment. The first-time application of IPSAS 45 had no impact on the annual financial statements.
- IPSAS 46 Measurement
 

IPSAS 46 introduces principles for initial and subsequent measurements that apply to all IPSAS. The standard for the first time provides comprehensive guidance on fair value measurement. It also introduces a new additional measurement model (“current operational value”), which provides an alternative measurement basis for certain public sector assets. The first-time application of IPSAS 46 has no direct, material impact on Eawag. We expect the impact to become apparent only with the second phase of the IPSASB project, Amendments to IPSAS Standards as a Result of the Application of IPSAS 46, Measurement (see the section IPSAS issued but not yet applied in this Note).

## **3 Accounting policies**

The accounting policies are derived from the basis of accounting. The financial statements present a true and fair view of Eawag’s financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

The financial statements are based on historical cost. Exceptions to this rule are described in the following presentation of the accounting principles.

The annual financial statements of Eawag are included in the consolidated financial statements of the ETH Domain.

### Currency translation

Transactions in a currency other than the functional currency are translated using the exchange rate at the transaction date.

At the reporting date, monetary items in foreign currencies are translated at the closing rate and non-monetary items using the exchange rate at the transaction date. The resulting currency translation differences are recognised as finance income or finance expense.

The principal currencies and their exchange rates are:

Currency	Unit	Closing rate as of		Average rate	
		31.12.2025	31.12.2024	2025	2024
EUR	1	0.9305	0.9389	0.9370	0.9524
USD	1	0.7923	0.9063	0.8307	0.8801
GBP	1	1.0674	1.1364	1.0938	1.1251
JPY	1,000	5.0590	5.7680	5.5530	5.8150
SGD	1	0.6168	0.6642	0.6353	0.6588

### Revenue recognition

Each inflow of funds is assessed to determine whether it is an exchange transaction (IPSAS 9) or a non-exchange transaction (IPSAS 23). In the case of an exchange transaction (IPSAS 9), the revenue is generally recognised when the goods are delivered or the services rendered. For project agreements, the performance obligation not yet satisfied is allocated to liabilities. The revenue is recorded and reported by reference to the stage of completion of the project, based on the costs incurred in the reporting period.

In the case of a non-exchange transaction (IPSAS 23), a distinction is made between whether or not there is a performance or repayment obligation. If there is such an obligation, the corresponding amount is recognised as a liability at inception of the agreement and released to the surplus or deficit according to the stage of completion, based on the resources consumed.

If there is neither an exchange nor a performance or repayment obligation in accordance with IPSAS 23, as is usually the case with donations, revenue is recognised in the surplus or deficit in full in the reporting period and the net assets/equity of Eawag increased accordingly.

Revenue is structured as follows:

#### – Total federal contribution

The contributions granted by the Federal Government to the ETH Domain include the federal financial contribution (in the narrower sense) and the federal contribution to accommodation. Both types of revenue are classified as non-exchange transactions (IPSAS 23).

Federal contributions are recognised in the year in which they are paid. Unused funds from federal financial contributions result in reserves under equity.

The contribution to accommodation corresponds to the accommodation expense, which is equal to an imputed rent for the buildings owned by the Federal Government and used by Eawag. Accommodation expense is reported within other operating expenses.

#### – Continuing education

Cost contributions to continuing education and further training as well as administration fees are classified as an exchange transaction (IPSAS 9). As a rule, revenue is accounted for on an accrual basis when the goods are delivered or the services rendered.

- Research contributions, mandates and scientific services

Project-related contributions are given to Eawag by various donors with the aim of promoting teaching and research. Project financing primarily relates to multi-year projects. Depending on the nature of the contributions, they are classified as either an exchange or a non-exchange transaction.

- Donations and bequests

Revenue from donations and bequests is classified as a non-exchange transaction (IPSAS 23). Such grants, where there is no conditional repayment risk, are usually recognised as revenue in full when the agreement is signed.

Donations also include in-kind contributions, which are distinguished as follows:

- Goods in-kind are recognised as assets in accordance with the applicable provisions when the agreement is signed.

- Donated rights to use assets in the sense of an operating lease are recognised as revenue and expense.

Donated rights to use assets in the sense of a finance lease are measured at their fair value at inception of the agreement, if this is known, and depreciated over their useful life. If a performance obligation exists, it is stated as a liability and revenue recognised annually according to the services received. If there is no performance obligation, revenue is recognised upon recognition of the asset as a whole.

- Services in-kind received are not recognised, but are instead disclosed and commented upon in the notes if they are material.

Due to the high number and the difficulty in elicitation, separability and measurement of rights of use and services in-kind within research agreements, these are not recognised. There is only a general description of the research activity in the notes section.

- Other revenue

Among other items, other revenue includes other service revenue and real estate revenue. This revenue is classified as an exchange transaction (IPSAS 9). As a rule, revenue is accounted for on an accrual basis when the goods are delivered or the services rendered.

### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, demand and term deposits with financial institutions and funds invested with the Federal Government if their total term or the remaining term to maturity on the date of acquisition is fewer than 90 days. Cash and cash equivalents are measured at their nominal amount.

### **Receivables**

Receivables from exchange (from goods and services) and non-exchange transactions are presented separately in the balance sheet.

In the case of receivables from non-exchange transactions (IPSAS 23), such as for SNSF, Innosuisse and EU projects and from other donors, it is probable that there will be an inflow of funds in relation to the total contractual project volume. Therefore, the total amount of the project is usually recognised as a receivable at the inception of the agreement if the fair value can be measured reliably. If the recognition criteria cannot be met, information is disclosed under contingent assets.

Non-current receivables of over CHF 10 million are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Current receivables are stated at cost.

### Property, plant and equipment

Items of property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. They are depreciated over their estimated useful life using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Asset category	Useful life Research institutes
<b>Immovable assets</b>	
Property	unrestricted
Leasehold improvements up to CHF 1 million	10 years
Leasehold improvements from CHF 1 million	according to components <sup>1</sup>
Buildings and structures	according to components <sup>2</sup>
Biotopes and geotopes	unrestricted
<b>Movable assets</b>	
Machinery, equipment, tools, devices	5–10 years
Vehicles, aircrafts, ships, etc.	4–7 years
Furnishings	5–10 years
IT and communication	3–7 years
Large-scale research plants and equipment	10–40 years <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In the case of items of property, plant and equipment with a purchase value of CHF 1 million or above, it is checked whether components (with a value that is significant in relation to the total purchase value) need to be recognised and depreciated separately because they have a different useful life (components approach).

<sup>2</sup> Useful life depends on the type of building, its purpose and the fabric of the building (20–100 years). Assets under construction are not yet depreciated.

<sup>3</sup> This practice is deviated from in exceptional cases.

Capitalised leasehold improvements and installations in leased premises are depreciated over the estimated useful life or over the term of the lease if shorter.

In the event of additions to property, plant and equipment with a purchase value of CHF 1 million or above, it is checked whether components with a purchase value that is significant in relation to the total purchase value need to be recognised and depreciated separately because they have a different useful life (components approach).

Investments that have future economic benefits or are of public interest over several years and can be measured reliably are recognised as assets and depreciated over the estimated useful life.

The residual value of scrapped or sold property, plant and equipment is derecognised from the balance sheet. The disposal date corresponds to the date of physical disposal. The gains or losses resulting from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment are recognised as operating revenue or operating expenses.

### Intangible assets

Intangible assets are recognised at cost. Standard software is amortised over three years using the straight-line method. Other intangible assets with an amortisation period required to be determined individually are amortised over their estimated useful life using the straight-line method.

### Impairments of non-financial assets (property, plant and equipment and intangible assets)

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets are reviewed annually for indications of impairment. If specific indications are identified, an impairment test is performed. If the carrying amount permanently exceeds the value in use or net realisable value, then the difference is recognised as an impairment in the surplus or deficit.

### Financial assets

Eawag recognises loss allowances for expected credit losses (ECL) for financial assets which are valued at amortised cost. Eawag measures the loss allowances on receivables in the amount of the expected credit losses over the term (simplified approach). The amount of the loss allowance is measured in the amount of the 12-month credit loss to be expected on the following financial instruments (three-level approach):

- Loans which have a low default risk at the balance sheet date, and
- Bank deposits for which the default risk has not significantly increased since initial recognition.

Loss allowances for receivables from non-exchange transactions and for receivables from exchange transactions are measured in the amount of the credit loss to be expected over the term (simplified approach) using a loss allowance matrix for portfolios of receivables. In some individual cases, a claim cannot be assigned to a portfolio and is therefore assessed separately. The probability of default is based on experience, supplemented where possible with currently observed data and an assumption of future development. No loss allowance is recognised for the share for which a performance obligation according to IPSAS 23 is still recorded in the balance sheet.

In determining whether the default risk of a financial asset has significantly increased since the initial recognition, and in estimating expected credit losses, Eawag takes into account appropriate and reliable information, which is relevant and available without undue expenditure of time and money. This comprises both quantitative as well as qualitative information and analyses which are based on previous experiences of Eawag and well-founded assessments, including forward-looking information, where possible. Among other things, Eawag assumes that the default risk of a financial asset has significantly increased if it is overdue by more than 30 days.

Presentation of the loss allowance for expected credit losses in the balance sheet

Impairments on financial assets measured at amortised cost are deducted from the gross carrying amount of the assets.

Utilisation of loss allowances

The gross carrying amount of a financial asset is derecognised if, after reasonable assessment, Eawag does not expect the financial asset to be recoverable in whole or in part. For this purpose, Eawag carries out an individual estimate of the time and amount of the acceptance of the loss allowance. Here, Eawag fundamentally expects collection of the financial asset to be possible. If Eawag does not expect any significant redemption, the amount is used and the asset derecognised.

## Leases

Leases (method applied from 1 January 2025)

At the commencement of a contract, an assessment is made as to whether it constitutes or includes a lease. This is the case if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a specific period of time in return for consideration.

As lessee

An asset for the right-of-use asset granted and a lease liability are recognised on the commencement date. If a lease contract contains both lease and non-lease components, a lease component and the related non-lease component are recognised in the ETH Domain as a single lease component.

The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost, which corresponds to the initial measurement of the lease liability, adjusted for payments made on or before the commencement date, plus costs that can be recognised under IPSAS 43. Thereafter, the right-of-use asset is depreciated on a straight-line basis from the commencement date to the end of the lease term. In addition, the right-of-use asset is adjusted for any impairments on an ongoing basis.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments not yet made on the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate underlying the lease, or, if this cannot be readily determined, using the incremental borrowing rate of the ETH Domain. The incremental borrowing rate is based on risk-free interest rates from the Federal Government, which are adjusted for various factors, including the type of asset. The lease payments taken into account in the measurement of the lease liability comprise contractually fixed payments including de facto fixed payments and variable lease payments if they are linked to an index or an (interest) rate. The liability also includes lease payments for extension options if there is sufficient certainty that they will be exercised, as well as penalties for early termination of the lease, unless there is sufficient certainty that the lease will not be terminated early.

The lease liability is measured at amortised carrying amount using the effective interest method. It is remeasured if future lease payments change due to a change in the index or (interest) rate or if the assessment of whether an extension or termination option will be exercised alters. It is reported in the balance sheet under financial liabilities.

Current leases with a maximum term of twelve months on the commencement date are not recognised. The lease payments associated with these leases are recognised as expenses on a straight-line basis.

As lessor

Where the ETH Domain acts as the lessor, it classifies each lease as either a finance lease or an operating lease at the commencement of the contract. In order to classify each lease, an overall assessment is made as to whether the lease essentially transfers all the risks and rewards associated with ownership of the underlying asset. If this is the case, the lease is classified as a finance lease; if not, it is an operating lease. In the case of subleasing, the main lease and the sublease are assessed separately. The sublease is estimated on the basis of the right-of-use asset from the main lease.

Method applied before 1 January 2025

Leases for real estate, equipment, other movable assets and vehicles where Eawag substantially assumes all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership are treated as finance leases. At inception of the lease, the assets and liabilities under a finance lease are recognised at the fair value of the leased property or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments. Each lease payment is apportioned between the reduction of the outstanding liability and the finance charge. The reduction is deducted from the recognised lease liability. The depreciation of the leased goods occurs over whichever is the shorter of the useful life or the lease term, if the transfer of ownership is not certain by the end of the lease term. Other leases where Eawag acts as the lessee or lessor are recognised as operating leases. They are not carried in the balance sheet, but instead recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance on an accrual basis. Long-term leases of real estate are assessed separately depending on whether they are for plots of land or buildings.

### **Financial assets and loans**

At initial recognition, a financial asset is classified and measured as follows at Eawag:

- At amortised cost (AC):
  - These are debt instruments that are held in order to collect contractual cash flows which are exclusively principal and interest payments. These include primarily loans and fixed deposits.
  - Originated loans and fixed deposits are stated either at amortised cost (nominal value of less than CHF 10 million, and current loans and fixed deposits of over CHF 10 million) or at amortised cost using the effective interest method (non-current loans and fixed deposits of over CHF 10 million).
  - Amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Interest earnings, foreign exchange gains and losses and impairments are recognised in surplus or deficit. A gain or loss from derecognition is recognised in surplus or deficit.
- At fair value through surplus or deficit (FV statement of financial performance):
  - Financial assets held for trade purposes and derivative financial instruments are recognised at fair value through surplus or deficit. Fluctuations in value and dividends are recognised in surplus or deficit.

### **Investment property**

Eawag does not own any investment property.

### **Current liabilities**

Current liabilities are usually recognised on receipt of the invoice. This item also includes current accounts with third parties (including social insurance institutions). Current liabilities are measured at their nominal amount.

### **Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when a past event gives rise to a present obligation, an outflow of resources is likely and the amount can be estimated reliably.

### **Defined benefit plans**

Net defined benefit liabilities presented in the balance sheet are measured in accordance with the methods of IPSAS 39. They correspond to the present value of the defined benefit obligations (DBOs), less the fair value of the plan assets. A description of the pension scheme and the insured persons of the ETH Domain can be found in Note 22 Defined benefit plans.

The defined benefit obligations and the service costs are determined annually by external experts using the projected unit credit actuarial valuation method. The calculation is made based on information about the beneficiaries (salary, vested benefits, etc.) and using both demographic (retirement rates, disability rates, mortality rates, etc.) and financial (salary or pension trends, returns, etc.) assumptions. The amounts calculated are discounted to the valuation date by applying a discount rate. Changes in estimates of economic conditions can significantly affect defined benefit obligations.

The defined benefit obligations were measured based on the current membership base of the ETH Domain's pension scheme as of 31 October 2025, using actuarial assumptions as of 31 December 2025 (e.g. BVG 2020 actuarial tables) and the plan provisions of the ETH Domain pension scheme. The results were then adjusted using estimated pro rata cash flows as of 31 December 2025. The fair value of the plan assets was used including estimated performance as of 31 December 2025.

The inclusion of risk sharing in the measurement of pension liability occurs in a two-level judgement and requires the definition of additional assumptions. As with the other financial and demographic assumptions, these assumptions are from the employer's perspective. In the first step, it is checked whether a structural funding gap based on BVG currently exists or may arise. If this is the case, any performance measures (conversion rate reduction and accompanying measures such as the contribution of retirement assets, adjustment of amounts) are taken into consideration in the calculations. Any funding gap based on IPSAS that remains is split up mathematically in a second step between the employer and employee. The assumption is that the employer's share of the financial shortfall is limited to 64 per cent as per the current scale for regulatory savings contributions. The employee share is distributed according to the past and future expected service years at a flat rate in an acquired and outstanding share. The part that has already been acquired reduces the cash value of the employer's pension liability, while the outstanding part reduces the future service costs of the employer.

Effects from plan amendments have no longer been recognised on the statement of financial performance since the introduction of risk sharing, but rather are recognised directly in equity as part of the revaluation of the liability.

Any net pension plan asset from a defined benefit plan is recognised at the lower value of the excess cover (after deduction of the employee's contribution of 50 per cent) and the cash value of an economic benefit in the form of refunds or reductions of future contribution payments (asset ceiling).

Current service cost, past service cost resulting from plan amendments, gains and losses on plan compensation, administrative costs and interest on the net defined benefit liabilities are presented in the statement of financial performance within personnel expenses.

Plan amendments and settlements are recognised immediately in the surplus or deficit in the period in which they occur, provided that they result in vested benefits. Actuarial and investment gains and losses on defined benefit plans are recognised directly in equity in the reporting period in which they occur.

### **Dedicated third-party funds**

Liabilities from projects that arise from non-exchange transactions (IPSAS 23) are presented in the balance sheet as dedicated third-party funds. They are allocated solely to non-current liabilities because the projects usually last for several years and the current portion of the liability cannot be determined in most cases due to the nature of the projects.

They are measured based on the outstanding performance obligations as at the reporting date, which are calculated from the total contractual project volume less services performed up to the reporting date.

### **Equity**

Net assets/equity is the residual interest in the assets of an entity after deducting all its liabilities.

Equity is structured as follows:

- Valuation reserves (recognised directly in equity)
  - This position contains revaluation reserves for net defined benefit liabilities. Actuarial and investment gains and losses on defined benefit obligations or plan assets are recognised directly in equity.
- Donations, grants and co-financing
 

This item includes unused third-party funds from donations and bequests as well as from other grants that have conditions attached, but are not required to be classified as liabilities. These funds are exclusively from non-exchange transactions (IPSAS 23). The result generated from the management of third-party funds and the reserves for fluctuations in the value of the securities portfolio (risk capital) are also allocated to this category.

Eawag has neither reserves from donations or grants nor co-financing; only the results generated from the management of third-party funds are reported under this item.

- Reserves with internal dedication
  - Teaching and research reserves
 

This item indicates that various internal commitments exist and appropriate reserves have to be recognised to cover these internal commitments.
  - Infrastructure and administration reserves
 

These include reserves for delayed construction projects and for dedicated savings for specific infrastructure projects and administration projects.
- Reserves without dedication
 

Unused funds for which there are no contractual or internal provisions in accordance with IPSAS are presented as reserves without dedication. They are not restricted in terms of time or purpose.

Reserves must have been generated. They are recognised and released within equity.

- Accumulated surplus/deficit
 

The accumulated surplus/deficit shows the cumulative results as at the reporting date. It comprises the surplus/deficit carried forward, the surplus/deficit for the period and increases or decreases (transfers in the current period) in the result generated from the management of third-party funds as well as the allocations to and releases from the reserves (appropriation of surplus or deficit).

The surplus/deficit carried forward changes annually as part of the appropriation of the surplus/deficit. The surplus/deficit for the period includes the portion of the result not yet distributed.

### **Contingent liabilities and contingent assets**

A contingent liability is either a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of an uncertain future event not wholly within the control of the entity, or a present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because of its low probability of occurrence (less than 50 per cent) or because the obligation cannot be measured reliably (the criteria for recognising a provision are not met).

A contingent asset is a possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of an uncertain future event not wholly within the control of the entity.

**Financial commitments**

Financial commitments are presented in the notes if they are based on events prior to the reporting date, they will definitely lead to obligations to third parties after the reporting date and their amount can be measured reliably.

**Cash flow statement**

The cash flow statement shows the cash flows from operating activities, investing activities and financing activities. It is presented using the indirect method, i.e. cash flows from operating activities are based on the surplus or deficit for the period, adjusted for the effects of transactions of a non-cash nature. "Total cash flow" represents the change in the balance sheet item "Cash and cash equivalents".

## 4 Estimation uncertainty and management judgements

**Estimation uncertainty in the application of accounting policies**

Preparation of the annual financial statements depends on assumptions and estimates in connection with accounting principles, where management has a certain margin of discretion. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge, the actual results may differ.

This applies to the following items in particular:

- Useful life and impairment of property, plant and equipment

The useful life of property, plant and equipment is defined and periodically reviewed bearing in mind the current technical conditions and past experience. A change in the estimate may affect the future amount of the depreciation charges and the carrying amount.

Assessments that could lead to a reduction in the carrying amount (impairment) are likewise made in the course of the regular impairment review.

- Term of the lease and determination of whether the exercise of extension options is sufficiently certain

The lease term influences the amount of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities. It is estimated taking into account extension and termination options if their exercise is considered sufficiently certain. A reassessment is carried out in the event of significant changes in circumstances that are within the control of the lessee. This estimate may deviate from the actual rental period.

- Provisions and contingent assets and liabilities

Provisions and contingent assets and liabilities involve a higher degree of estimation with respect to the probability and scale of cash inflows and outflows. As a result, they may therefore lead to a higher or lower cash outflow depending on the actual outcome of a past event.

- Defined benefit plans

The net defined benefit liabilities and assets are calculated based on long-term actuarial assumptions for the defined benefit obligations and for the expected returns on plan assets. These assumptions may differ from actual future developments. The determination of the discount rate and future salary and pension trends as well as demographic development (future life expectancy, disability and likelihood of the employee leaving) and assumptions about risk sharing between the employer and employee are an important component of the actuarial valuation.

- Discount rates

Uniform discount rates have been defined for use in discounting non-current receivables, liabilities and provisions. They are based on a risk-free rate and a premium for credit risk. However, because of the current interest rate situation, these discount rates are subject to some uncertainties.

– Loss allowance for expected credit losses

In the measurement of the loss allowance due to expected credit losses for receivables from non-exchange transactions and for receivables from exchange transactions, the key assumptions for determining probabilities of default are subject to estimation uncertainties.

### Management judgements in the application of accounting policies

Neither in the reporting year nor in the previous year were there any management judgements in this regard having a material effect on the annual financial statements.

## 5 Total federal contribution

### Federal financial contribution

CHF thousands	2025	2024
Basic federal financial contribution	54,896	58,536
ETH Board incentive and seed capital funding	206	896
Strategic programs according to ERI	731	556
Various	–	–500
Credit reallocation from federal investment credit	1,150	4,020
Credit reallocation within ETH Domain	–90	–21
<b>Federal financial contribution</b>	<b>56,893</b>	<b>63,488</b>

The federal financial contribution was used to achieve the goals specified in the performance mandate 2025–2028.

During the previous year, the various item was comprised of the transfer of resources to the sister institution Empa for the redesign of the joint research campus.

The credit reallocation from federal investment credit arises above all due to the delay of various projects (including PV systems, replacement of fluorescent tubes and boat washing area in Kastanienbaum).

### Federal contribution to accommodation

CHF thousands	2025	2024
<b>Federal contribution to accommodation</b>	<b>3,502</b>	<b>3,446</b>

The federal contribution to accommodation is used to cover rental expenses for federally owned properties. The total rental amount in the ETH Domain is allocated by the ETH Board Real Estate staff to the individual institutions according to a formula.

## 6 Continuing education

CHF thousands	2025	2024
<b>Continuing education</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>160</b>

Continuing education mainly comprises income from PEAK and other courses as well as the Eawag Info Day.

## 7 Research contributions, mandates and scientific services

CHF thousands	2025	of which revenues (IPSAS 23)	of which revenues (IPSAS 9)	2024	of which revenues (IPSAS 23)	of which revenues (IPSAS 9)
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)	9,125	9,125	–	7,293	7,293	–
Swiss Innovation Agency (Innosuisse)	412	412	–	372	372	–
Special federal funding of applied research	6,264	1,262	5,001	7,062	1,412	5,650
EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation (EU-FPs)	838	838	–	1,003	1,003	–
Industry-oriented research (private sector)	871	–	871	1,080	–	1,080
Other project-oriented third-party funding (incl. cantons, municipalities, international organisations)	2,561	1,486	1,075	1,853	1,054	799
<b>Total research contributions, mandates and scientific services</b>	<b>20,071</b>	<b>13,124</b>	<b>6,947</b>	<b>18,663</b>	<b>11,134</b>	<b>7,529</b>

Teaching and research projects are generally multi-year activities (approx. 3–5 years).

In the reporting year, the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation include direct federal (SERI) funding for Horizon Europe bridging measures of CHF 741,000 (previous year: CHF 749,000).

The Swiss National Science Foundation has received indirect funding from the federal government (SERI) for Horizon Europe bridging support totalling CHF 1,075,000 (previous year: CHF 119,000).

## 8 Other revenue

CHF thousands	2025	2024
Licences and patents	21	17
Sales	5	5
Real estate revenue	374	390
Profit from disposals (property, plant and equipment)	–	10
Other miscellaneous revenue	202	388
<b>Total other revenue</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>811</b>

Real estate revenue includes, in particular, income from the rental of guest house apartments as well as the lease of the children's pavilion building to the KihZ Foundation, which is responsible for operating childcare centres on the campus.

The other miscellaneous revenue is attributable to various one-time or relatively small amounts.

## 9 Personnel expenses

CHF thousands	2025	2024
Professors	–	–
Scientific personnel	33,741	31,949
Technical and administrative personnel, apprentices, trainees	18,777	18,217
IC, Suva and other refunds	–389	–258
<b>Total salaries and wages</b>	<b>52,129</b>	<b>49,908</b>
Social insurances OASI/DI/IC/MB	3,152	3,028
Net pension costs	5,858	5,417
Accident and sickness insurance Suva (BU/NBU/KTG)	135	128
Employer's contribution to Family Compensation Fund (FAK/FamZG)	572	543
<b>Total social insurance schemes and pension expenses</b>	<b>9,716</b>	<b>9,116</b>
Other employer contributions	–220	–213
Temporary personnel	63	14
Change in provisions for untaken leave and overtime	382	334
Change in provisions for contributions to long-service awards	68	126
Other personnel expenses	1,197	1,113
<b>Total personnel expenses</b>	<b>63,336</b>	<b>60,399</b>

The increase in staff salaries is in line with expectations and results almost entirely from appointments for research projects.

## 10 Other operating expenses

CHF thousands	2025	2024
Expenses for goods and materials	2,969	3,795
Premises costs	5,916	6,103
Other operating costs	10,996	10,615
<b>Total other operating expenses</b>	<b>19,881</b>	<b>20,514</b>

The higher cost for the purchase of materials and goods in the previous year is primarily attributable to specific research projects in which materials that cannot be capitalised (e.g. sensors) were procured.

## 11 Transfer expenses

CHF thousands	2025	2024
Scholarships and grants to students and doctoral students	–	–
Contributions to research projects	165	251
Other transfer expenses	–	–
<b>Total transfer expenses</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>251</b>

Eawag cooperates on various research projects with other public institutions (universities, institutes of technology, etc.).

## 12 Net finance income / expense

CHF thousands	2025	2024
<b>Finance income</b>		
Interest income	62	183
Foreign currency gains	41	49
Other finance income	–	–
<b>Total finance income</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>233</b>
<b>Finance expense</b>		
Interest expense	–	–
Foreign currency losses	50	41
Other finance expense	5	6
<b>Total finance expense</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total net finance income/expense</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>186</b>

Income on interest consists exclusively of income from investments with the federal government.

## 13 Cash and cash equivalents

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
Cash	42	22
Swiss Post	3,832	1,597
Bank	303	246
Short-term deposits (<90 days)	41,000	50,000
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>45,177</b>	<b>51,865</b>

Short-term deposits are wholly invested in federal financial instruments. These do not earn interest.

Cash and cash equivalents are not subject to any disposal restrictions.

## 14 Receivables

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
<b>Receivables from non-exchange transactions</b>		
Receivables from project contracts and donations	21,882	26,449
Other receivables	22	334
Loss allowance	-1	-1
<b>Total receivables from non-exchange transactions</b>	<b>21,903</b>	<b>26,781</b>
of which current	10,223	14,394
of which non-current	11,680	12,388
<b>Receivables from exchange transactions</b>		
Trade accounts receivable	846	1,092
Other receivables	38	22
Loss allowance	-5	-5
<b>Total receivables from exchange transactions</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>1,108</b>
of which current	879	1,108
of which non-current	-	-

In both the reporting and the previous year, no losses on receivables were recorded.

Receivables outstanding for more than 30 days amount to CHF 218,000.

## 15 Prepaid expenses and accrued income

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
Interest	-	-
Prepaid expenses	2,277	2,261
Other prepaid expenses and accrued income	406	242
<b>Total prepaid expenses and accrued income</b>	<b>2,683</b>	<b>2,503</b>

Prepaid expenses essentially comprise the fees payable in advance for the library databases based on contracts.

Other prepaid expenses and accrued income are derived from current IPSAS 9 (exchange transaction) projects.

## 16 Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets

CHF thousands	Large-scale research plants and equipment, machinery, furnishings, vehicles	Information and communication	Advance payments, movable assets under construction	Total movable assets	Leasehold improvements	Assets under construction	Total immovable assets	Total property, plant and equipment	Total intangible assets
<b>Purchase value</b>									
<b>Value as of 1.1.2025</b>	<b>35,504</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>37,116</b>	<b>26,314</b>	<b>7,369</b>	<b>33,684</b>	<b>70,800</b>	<b>215</b>
Additions	2,446	44	977	3,467	157	1,395	1,551	5,018	–
Reclassifications	1,068	–	–1,068	–	8,764	–8,764	–	–	–
Disposals	–320	–12	–	–333	–1,748	–	–1,748	–2,080	–
<b>Value as of 31.12.2025</b>	<b>38,697</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>40,250</b>	<b>33,488</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>33,488</b>	<b>73,738</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>									
<b>Value as of 1.1.2025</b>	<b>28,227</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>28,867</b>	<b>17,725</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>17,725</b>	<b>46,592</b>	<b>170</b>
Depreciation	1,791	54	–	1,844	1,267	–	1,267	3,111	27
Impairments	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Disposals value adjustments	–284	–12	–	–296	–1,748	–	–1,748	–2,044	–
<b>Value as of 31.12.2025</b>	<b>29,733</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>30,415</b>	<b>17,244</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>17,244</b>	<b>47,659</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>Balance sheet value as of 31.12.2025</b>	<b>8,964</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>9,835</b>	<b>16,244</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>16,244</b>	<b>26,079</b>	<b>18</b>

Eawag does not own any cultural assets.

There are no disposal restrictions or pledged tangible or intangible assets.

The leasehold improvements are located in or on federally owned buildings and property.

The reclassification of assets under construction primarily relates to the completed renovation of the laboratory building.

CHF thousands	Large-scale research plants and equipment, machinery, furnishings, vehicles	Information and communication	Advance payments, movable assets under construction	Total movable assets	Leasehold improvements	Assets under construction	Total immovable assets	Total property, plant and equipment	Total intangible assets
<b>Purchase value</b>									
<b>Value as of 1.1.2024</b>	<b>35,255</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>36,136</b>	<b>25,953</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>28,853</b>	<b>64,990</b>	<b>215</b>
Additions	1,125	36	843	2,004	307	4,524	4,830	6,835	–
Reclassifications	148	–	–148	–	55	–55	–	–	–
Disposals	–1,025	–	–	–1,025	–	–	–	–1,025	–
<b>Value as of 31.12.2024</b>	<b>35,504</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>37,116</b>	<b>26,314</b>	<b>7,369</b>	<b>33,684</b>	<b>70,800</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>									
<b>Value as of 1.1.2024</b>	<b>27,497</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>28,080</b>	<b>17,089</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>17,089</b>	<b>45,168</b>	<b>144</b>
Depreciation	1,678	59	–	1,736	636	–	636	2,372	27
Impairments	22	–	–	22	–	–	–	22	–
Disposals value adjustments	–971	–	–	–971	–	–	–	–971	–
<b>Value as of 31.12.2024</b>	<b>28,227</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>28,867</b>	<b>17,725</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>17,725</b>	<b>46,592</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>Balance sheet value as of 31.12.2024</b>	<b>7,277</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>8,249</b>	<b>8,590</b>	<b>7,369</b>	<b>15,959</b>	<b>24,208</b>	<b>44</b>
thereof leased assets	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

## 17 Activated rights of use

Eawag has no long-term leases that must be capitalised as rights of use. Lease expenses for short-term leases totalled CHF127,308 in 2025 and are included in occupancy costs (see note 10).

## 18 Financial assets and loans

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
<b>Current financial assets and loans</b>		
Other financial assets	33,892	33,830
Loans	–	–
<b>Total current financial assets and loans</b>	<b>33,892</b>	<b>33,830</b>
<b>Non-current financial assets and loans</b>		
<b>Total non-current financial assets and loans</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>

Current financial assets consist exclusively of financial assets placed in accordance with the agreement between the Federal Finance Administration and the ETH Board concerning Treasury relations between the Federal Finance Administration and the ETH Board. The assets in question are third-party funds already received and temporarily deposited with the Federal Treasury before being used in teaching and research.

The increase corresponds to the credited interest income.

## 19 Current liabilities

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
Trade payables	780	1,259
Liabilities to social insurance institutions	1,115	1,192
Other current liabilities	571	2,077
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>4,529</b>

Other current liabilities mainly include withholding taxes not yet invoiced. All invoices from previous years were received and settled in the reporting year.

## 20 Accrued expenses and deferred income

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
Interest	–	–
Deferred income	1,086	843
Other accrued expenses and deferred income	949	770
<b>Total accrued expenses and deferred income</b>	<b>2,035</b>	<b>1,613</b>

Deferred income comprises primarily income from IPSAS 9 (exchange transaction) projects which is only to be recognised as revenue in the new accounting period.

## 21 Provisions

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
Provisions for untaken leave and overtime	3,775	3,393
Other long-term employee benefits (IPSAS 39)	2,119	2,051
Other provisions	–	–
<b>Total provisions</b>	<b>5,894</b>	<b>5,444</b>

**Changes in 2025**

CHF thousands	Provisions for untaken leave and overtime	Other long- term employee benefits (IPSAS 39)	Other provisions	Total provisions
<b>Value as of 1.1.2025</b>	<b>3,393</b>	<b>2,051</b>	–	<b>5,444</b>
Additions to provisions	382	326	–	708
Reversal	–	–	–	–
Use of provisions	–	–258	–	–258
<b>Value as of 31.12.2025</b>	<b>3,775</b>	<b>2,119</b>	–	<b>5,894</b>
of which current	3,775	–	–	3,775
of which non-current	–	2,119	–	2,119

**Changes in 2024**

CHF thousands	Provisions for untaken leave and overtime	Other long- term employee benefits (IPSAS 39)	Other provisions	Total provisions
<b>Value as of 1.1.2024</b>	<b>3,059</b>	<b>1,925</b>	–	<b>4,984</b>
Additions to provisions	334	377	–	711
Reversal	–	–	–	–
Use of provisions	–	–251	–	–251
<b>Value as of 31.12.2024</b>	<b>3,393</b>	<b>2,051</b>	–	<b>5,444</b>
of which current	3,393	–	–	3,393
of which non-current	–	2,051	–	2,051

Other long-term employee benefits (IPSAS 39) are future long-service awards. These are calculated pro rata, taking account of staff turnover.

## 22 Defined benefit plans

All employees and pensioners of Eawag are insured under the pension scheme maintained by the ETH Domain at the collective institution "Swiss Federal Pension Fund PUBLICA" (PUBLICA).

### Legal framework and responsibilities

#### Legal requirements

Swiss pension plans must be run through a legally separate, trustee-administered pension institution. The law prescribes minimum benefits.

#### Organisation of the pension scheme

PUBLICA is an independent, state-run institution under public law.

The Board of Directors (Kassenkommission) is PUBLICA's most senior governing body. In addition to management, it is also responsible for the oversight and supervision of PUBLICA's Executive Board. The Board of Directors has 16 members, eight representing the insured members and eight representing the employers from among all the affiliated pension plans. This means that PUBLICA's most senior governing body is made up of an equal number of employee and employer representatives.

Each pension scheme has its own governing body made up of equal numbers of representatives. Among other things, it is involved in concluding the affiliation contract and decides on the appropriation of any surpluses.

Each governing body is made up of nine employer representatives and nine employee representatives from the entities.

#### Benefits from the pension plans

In accordance with IPSAS 39, the pension plans are classified as defined benefit plans.

The pension solution is defined in the terms of the ETH Domain pension scheme applicable to employees and professors, and these regulations are part of the affiliation contract with PUBLICA. There are pension plans for different groups of insured persons. The different pension plans provide benefits in excess of the minimum benefits required by law in the event of disability, death, old age and departure; i.e. they are what are known as “enveloping” plans (obligatory and extraordinary benefits).

The employer and employee savings contributions are set as a percentage of the insured salary. A risk premium is charged for death and disability insurance. The administrative costs are paid by the employer.

The old-age pension is calculated from the credit balance in the retirement fund as at the retirement date multiplied by the conversion rate specified in the terms. Employees have the option of drawing the retirement benefits as a lump sum. In addition, employees have the option of making additional savings contributions.

The risk benefits are determined depending on the projected savings capital, which attracts interest, and on the conversion rate.

#### Investment of assets

Investments are made by PUBLICA for all pension schemes (with the same investment profile) collectively.

As PUBLICA’s most senior governing body, the Board of Directors bears overall responsibility for asset management. It is responsible for issuing and amending the investment policy and determines the investment strategy. The Investment Committee advises the Board of Directors on investment-related issues and oversees compliance with the investment policy and strategy.

Responsibility for implementing the investment strategy rests with PUBLICA’s Asset Management. Asset Management also makes tactical decisions to deviate temporarily from the investment strategy weightings in order to generate added value compared to the existing strategy. Where individual asset classes are built up or reduced over a number of years, a pro rata strategy is calculated so as to enable transactions to be diversified over time.

#### **Risks for the employer**

The Parity Commission of the ETH Domain’s pension scheme may change the funding system (contributions and future benefits) at any time. The Parity Commission may collect restructuring contributions from the employer if the scheme is underfunded within the meaning of pension law (Article 44 of the Occupational Pension Ordinance (BVV 2)) and if other measures are without success. If these are used to fund benefits in excess of the statutory minimum, the employer must indicate their agreement with this.

Risk sharing (sharing of risk between insured persons and the employer), which was introduced in 2020, remains unchanged (details can be found in Note 3 Accounting policies). Since no structural financing gap has been identified, this year’s valuation does not take into account any planned benefit adjustments (in particular no reduction in the conversion rate and thus no compensatory measures). However, assumptions used for the valuation as at 31 December 2025, still led to a funding gap under IPSAS, and the expanded risk sharing approach.

The definitive funding ratio for the ETH Domain’s pension scheme with PUBLICA in accordance with the Occupational Pensions Act (BVG) was not yet available at the time the annual financial statements were authorised for issue. The provisional regulatory funding ratio for the ETH Domain’s pension scheme at PUBLICA, in accordance with the Occupational Pension Ordinance (BVV 2), was 109.4% at the end of 2025 (2024: 105.2%,

definitive). The provisional economic funding ratio for the ETH Domain's pension scheme at PUBLICA was 97.3% at the end of 2025 (2024: 92.6%, definitive).

### Special events

The benefits of the insurance plan were adjusted in the previous year and treated as a plan amendment: adjustments to the pension regulations included changes to death benefits. Among other things, the level of lump-sum death benefits was increased and an additional lump-sum death benefit for spouses and life partners was introduced. In addition, from 1 January 2024, the level of child pension benefits was reduced to the standard BVG basis.

There were no plan amendments in the reporting year.

### Net defined benefit liabilities / assets

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
Present value of defined benefit obligations	214,922	211,087
Less fair value of plan assets	-213,016	-197,101
<b>Recognised net defined benefit liabilities (+) / assets (-)</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>13,986</b>

The decrease in net defined benefit liabilities of CHF 12.1 million results from an increase in the fair value of plan assets and a comparatively lower increase in the present value of defined benefit obligations. The increase in the discount rate (31 December 2025: 1.15%; 31 December 2024: 1.0%) led to a reduction in net defined benefit liabilities of CHF 4.1 million, whereas experience adjustments resulted in an increase in net defined benefit liabilities of CHF 4.4 million. Plan assets increased by CHF 15.9 million due to the positive return on investments.

### Net pension costs

CHF thousands	2025	2024
Current service cost (employer)	5,624	4,905
Past service cost	-	262
Interest expense from defined benefit obligations	2,110	2,940
Interest income from plan assets	-1,971	-2,780
Administrative costs (excl. asset management costs)	95	90
<b>Total Net pension costs incl. interest expense recognised in statement of financial performance</b>	<b>5,858</b>	<b>5,417</b>

Net pension costs are CHF 0.4 million higher than in the previous year. The increase is attributable to higher current service cost (increase of CHF 0.7 million), partially offset by lower past service costs (decrease of CHF 0.3 million). The rise in current service cost is primarily due to the change in the discount rate. Under IPSAS 39, the calculation of the current service cost is based on the discount rate of the previous year, and the development reflects the decrease in the discount rate in 2024.

Employer's contributions of CHF 6.2 million and employees' contributions of CHF 3.8 million are expected for the coming financial year.

**Revaluation recognised in equity**

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
Actuarial gains (–) and losses (+)	293	13,103
from change in financial assumptions	–3,586	6,863
from change in demographic assumptions	–549	–
from experience adjustments	4,428	6,240
Return on plan assets excl. interest income (gains [–] / losses [+])	–12,227	–9,711
<b>Revaluation amount recognised in equity</b>	<b>–11,934</b>	<b>3,392</b>
<b>Cumulative amount of revaluation recognised in equity (gain (–) / loss (+))</b>	<b>–22,093</b>	<b>–10,159</b>

The revaluation gain (remeasurement) recognised in equity for 2025 amounts to CHF 11.9 million (2024: loss of CHF 3.4 million). This results in positive valuation reserves of CHF 22.1 million as of 31 December 2025 (2024: CHF 10.2 million).

The actuarial gains from the change in financial assumptions mainly result from the increase in the discount rate (CHF 4.1 million). The gain was reduced by the higher salary development and other financial assumptions (actuarial loss of CHF 3.6 million).

Furthermore, experience-based losses reduced the cumulative revaluation gains recognised in equity by CHF 4.4 million. Experience-based gains and losses reflect deviations between assumptions made and actual values realised. This year, the experience-based losses particularly reflect the effect of the higher interest credited on retirement assets as well as experience adjustments resulting from changes in plan membership.

The return on plan assets recognised in equity is attributable to the gain on investments based on a return of 6.5% compared to the net interest on plan assets of 1.0%, which corresponds to the discount rate of the previous year.

**Change in present value of defined benefit obligations**

CHF thousands	2025	2024
<b>Present value of defined benefit obligations as of 01.01.</b>	<b>211,087</b>	<b>197,200</b>
Current service cost (employer)	5,624	4,905
Interest expense from defined benefit obligations	2,110	2,940
Employee contributions	3,616	3,478
Benefits paid in (+) and paid out (–)	–7,808	–10,801
Past service cost	–	262
Actuarial gains (–) / losses (+)	293	13,103
<b>Present value of defined benefit obligations as of 31.12.</b>	<b>214,922</b>	<b>211,087</b>

The weighted average term arising from defined benefit obligations is 12.9 years as of 31 December 2025 (2024: 13.1 years).

**Change in fair value of plan assets**

CHF thousands	2025	2024
<b>Fair value of plan assets as of 01.01.</b>	<b>197,101</b>	<b>186,122</b>
Interest income from plan assets	1,971	2,780
Employer contributions	6,004	5,901
Employee contributions	3,616	3,478
Benefits paid in (+) and paid out (-)	-7,808	-10,801
Administrative costs (excl. asset management costs)	-95	-90
Return on plan assets excl. interest income (gains [+]/ losses [-])	12,227	9,711
<b>Fair value of plan assets as of 31.12.</b>	<b>213,016</b>	<b>197,101</b>

**Transition of net defined benefit liabilities**

CHF thousands	2025	2024
<b>Net defined benefit liabilities as of 01.01.</b>	<b>13,986</b>	<b>11,078</b>
Net pension costs incl. interest expense recognised in statement of financial performance	5,858	5,417
Revaluation amount recognised in equity	-11,934	3,392
Employer contributions	-6,004	-5,901
<b>Net defined benefit liabilities (+) / assets (-) as of 31.12.</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>13,986</b>

**Major categories of plan assets**

	Listed	Not listed	31.12.2025	Listed	Not listed	31.12.2024
Percentage						
Liquidity	5	-	5	3	-	3
Bonds (in CHF) Confederation	7	-	7	6	-	6
Bonds (in CHF) ex. Confederation	6	-	6	7	-	7
Government bonds (in foreign currencies)	14	-	14	14	-	14
Corporate bonds (in foreign currencies)	5	-	5	5	-	5
Mortgages	3	-	3	3	-	3
Shares	34	-	34	36	-	36
Real estate	8	8	16	8	8	16
Commodities	3	-	3	3	-	3
Other	-	7	7	-	7	7
<b>Total plan assets</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>

PUBLICA bears the actuarial and investment risks itself. The investment strategy is defined in such a way that benefits under the policy can be provided at maturity.

There is no known pension plan real estate used by the employer.

**Principal actuarial assumptions used as at the reporting date**

Percentage	2025	2024
Discount rate as of 01.01.	1.00	1.50
Discount rate as of 31.12.	1.15	1.00
Expected salary development	1.25	1.20
Expected pension development	0.00	0.00
Interest on retirement savings	1.25	1.10
Share of employee contribution to funding gap	36.00	36.00
Life expectancy at age 65 – women (no. of years)	24.81	24.70
Life expectancy at age 65 – men (no. of years)	23.07	22.95

As in the previous year, the discount rate is derived from the yield on fixed-interest high-quality corporate bonds and the expected cash flows of the ETH Domain's pension scheme at PUBLICA based on data from the prior year. The expected future salary development is based on macroeconomic reference data. The rate of pension increase is the rate of pension increase expected for the average remaining term based on the financial position of the pension plan. The share of employee contribution to any funding gap is based on the current staging of savings contributions under the policy. The generation tables in BVG 2020 are applied for assumptions about life expectancy.

**Sensitivity analysis (change in present value of defined benefit obligations)**

CHF thousands	31.12.2025		31.12.2024	
	Increase in assumption	Decrease in assumption	Increase in assumption	Decrease in assumption
Discount rate (change +/- 0.25%)	-6,398	6,797	-4,876	5,163
Expected salary development (change +/- 0.25%)	871	-870	548	-533
Expected pension development (change +/- 0.25%)	4,693	n/a	3,948	n/a
Interest on retirement savings (change +/- 0.25%)	969	-952	1,021	-1,007
Share of employee contribution to funding gap (change +/- 10%)	-58	58	-840	839
Life expectancy (change +/- 1 year)	6,334	-6,322	4,960	-5,028

The adjustment in defined benefit obligations upon adjustment of the actuarial assumptions is determined in the sensitivity analysis. Only one of the assumptions is adjusted at a time, while the other parameters remain unchanged.

The discount rate, the assumptions made on salary developments and on interest on retirement savings and the share of employee contribution to the funding gap have been increased or lowered by fixed percentage points. The sensitivity of the assumption relating to expected pension development has been tested for increases only, as it is not possible to reduce pension benefits. The sensitivity to life expectancy has been calculated by lowering or increasing life expectancy by a flat-rate factor, as a result of which the life expectancy of most age categories has been increased or reduced by about one year.

## 23 Dedicated third-party funds

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024	thereof transitional measures Confed- eration 31.12.2025	thereof transitional measures Confed- eration 31.12.2024
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)	21,662	25,210	2,553	3,627
Swiss Innovation Agency (Innosuisse)	422	863	–	–
EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation (FP)	6,496	3,472	3,473	3,263
Special federal funding of applied research	1,921	3,098		
Industry-oriented research (private sector)	242	–		
Other project-oriented third-party funding	1,074	2,281		
Donations and bequests	–	–		
<b>Total dedicated third-party funds</b>	<b>31,816</b>	<b>34,924</b>	<b>6,025</b>	<b>6,890</b>

Eawag researchers successfully applied for new projects in particular with the EU. This is also because the EU Programme Agreement (EUPA) was signed between Switzerland and the European Commission on 10 November 2025. Following the conclusion of the European Commission's validation process, Switzerland was granted unrestricted access to calls for proposals in strategic areas of the "Horizon Europe" 2026–2027 work programme. This new possibility was utilised by Eawag researchers.

## 24 Financial risk management and additional information about financial instruments

### General

Financial risk management is embedded in the general risk management of Eawag, in respect of which annual reports are made to the ETH Board (see Annual Report, chapter Risk management at Eawag, p. 17).

Financial risk management primarily addresses:

- credit risk (default risk),
- liquidity risk, and
- market risk (interest rate, foreign currency and other price risk).

The focus of risk management remains on credit risk. There are guidelines governing the investment of financial resources in order to reduce default and market risk. The counterparties to a large proportion of the receivables and claims arising from financial assets are of high credit standing and solvency. Risk concentrations only exist in respect of those counterparties, which is why credit risk is regarded as low.

Furthermore, there are receivables and financial assets in foreign currencies which are hedged according to prevailing circumstances in order to minimise the risk.

Compliance with and the effectiveness of the guidelines are ensured by the internal control system (ICS).

### Credit and default risk

The default risk is the risk of financial losses, if one contractual party of a financial instrument does not fulfil its contractual obligations. The maximum exposure to default risk corresponds to the carrying amounts in the balance sheet. The actual risk is very low due to the fact that the counterparties to a large proportion of the financial assets are the Federal Government and other public-sector institutions.

The table below shows the maximum exposure to credit default risk of the financial assets broken down into type of counterparty.

#### Maximum exposure to credit risk

CHF thousands	Total	Federal Government	European Commission FP *	SNSF, Innosuisse, OASI social service, Suva *	SNB and banks with government guarantee	PostFinance and other banks	Other counterparties (e.g. cantons, foundations)	Other counterparties (e.g. private companies)
31.12.2025								
Cash and cash equivalents	45,177	41,042	–	–	303	3,832	–	–
Receivables from non-exchange transactions	21,903	1,099	3,949	13,614	–	–	3,242	–1
Receivables from exchange transactions	879	254	–	–	–	–	456	170
Financial assets and loans	33,932	33,892	–	–	–	–	40	–
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	406	–	–	–	–	–	406	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,296</b>	<b>76,287</b>	<b>3,949</b>	<b>13,614</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>3,832</b>	<b>4,144</b>	<b>169</b>
31.12.2024								
<b>Total previous period</b>	<b>113,868</b>	<b>86,418</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>17,279</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>6,307</b>	<b>99</b>

\* In the column European Commission, the receivables disclosed are from European universities which have emerged from EU research framework programmes, as well as the outstanding receivables from the temporary measures for Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe (direct financing from the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI). The temporary measures for non-accessible programme parts from Horizon Europe are shown in the column of the respective sponsor (SNSF, Innosuisse).

#### Estimate of expected credit losses as of 31 December 2025

##### – Cash and cash equivalents

Eawag deposits cash and cash equivalents in the accounts set up for this purpose at PostFinance, cantonal banks, other banks and with the Swiss Federal Finance Administration. All counterparties have an investment grade rating from a recognised rating agency. Eawag therefore assumes that no significant increase in the credit risk has occurred since the initial recognition and determines the expected credit losses, due to the short-term nature of the financial instruments, on the basis of the 12-month credit loss.

##### – Receivables from non-exchange transactions and receivables from exchange transactions

Eawag applies a loss allowance matrix to determine the expected credit losses on receivables from non-exchange transactions and receivables from exchange transactions. The changes in the reporting year are negligible and did not lead to any adjustment of the valuation allowance.

##### – Financial assets and loans

The short-term financial assets and loans as of 31 December 2025 are mainly financial assets invested with the Federal Government, which are valued at cost. Eawag assesses the credit risk as low. No valuation allowance was booked.

**Liquidity risk**

The liquidity risk is the risk that Eawag might possibly not be able to meet its financial obligations according to contract by delivering cash or other financial assets. Eawag has processes and principles in place which guarantee that adequate liquidity is available to settle current and future obligations. This includes maintaining an adequate reserve of liquidity and tradeable securities.

**Contractual maturities of financial liabilities**

CHF thousands	<b>Total carry- ing amount</b>	<b>Total con- tract value</b>	<b>Up to 1 year</b>	<b>1–5 years</b>
31.12.2025				
<b>Non-derivative financial liabilities</b>				
Current liabilities	2,466	2,466	2,466	–
Leasing liabilities	–	–	–	–
Financial liabilities	–	–	–	–
Accrued expenses and deferred income	949	949	949	–
<b>Derivative financial liabilities</b>	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>3,415</b>	<b>3,415</b>	–
31.12.2024				
<b>Total previous period</b>	<b>5,299</b>	<b>5,299</b>	<b>5,299</b>	–

Financial liabilities arise, most notably, from current operating liabilities. Under normal circumstances, expenses and investments are financed internally.

All financial liabilities are covered by liquidity and by short-term deposits with the Federal Government. Liquidity risk is low.

**Market risk**

The market risk is the risk that the market prices, such as exchange rates, interest rates or share prices, change and thus the revenues of Eawag or the value of the financial instruments held are influenced.

**Interest rate and price risk**

Interest rate risk is not hedged. A one percentage point increase or decrease in the interest rate would increase or reduce surplus or deficit by around CHF 381,000 (previous year: CHF 357,000).

The ETH Board issued the investment guidelines based on Art. 34c paragraph 2 of the ETH Act (SR 414.110). Eawag defined its own investment strategy on this basis. The risk capacity is determined using the value-at-risk approach. The investment strategy and the amount of the invested assets must be selected in such a way that sufficient risk capital is available or can be formed in order to cover the calculated value at risk.

## Foreign currency risk

The majority of the receivables and liabilities in foreign currencies are in euros and US dollars; they can be hedged using derivatives according to prevailing circumstances. Net of hedges, a fluctuation in the exchange rate of these two currencies of +/-10 per cent would impact on the statement of financial performance as follows:

## Sensitivity to foreign currency risk

CHF thou- sands	31.12.2025					31.12.2024				
	Total	CHF	EUR	USD	Other	Total	CHF	EUR	USD	Other
<b>Net currency balance</b>	<b>77,960</b>	<b>77,268</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>83,474</b>	<b>83,584</b>	<b>-119</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>-40</b>
Sensitiv- ity affecting financial performance +/- 10%			53	19				12	5	
Closing rate			0.9305	0.7923				0.9389	0.9063	

## Net surplus or deficit by valuation category

	2025			
	CHF thousands	Amortised cost	Fair Value through surplus or deficit	Financial liabilities
Interest income (+) / interest expense (-)		62	-	-
Currency translation differences, net		-9	-	-
<b>Total net surplus or deficit by category</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
		<b>2024</b>		
Interest income (+) / interest expense (-)		183	-	-
Currency translation differences, net		9	-	-
<b>Total net surplus or deficit by category previous year</b>		<b>192</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Classes and categories of financial instruments**

CHF thousands	Amortised cost	Fair Value through surplus or deficit	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	Total carrying amount
	31.12.2025			
Cash and cash equivalents	45,177			45,177
Receivables from non-exchange transactions	21,903			21,903
Receivables from exchange transactions	879			879
Financial assets and loans	33,892	40		33,932
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	406			406
Assets held for sale	–			–
Financial liabilities*		–	3,415	3,415
	31.12.2024			
Financial assets**	113,828	40		113,868
Financial liabilities*		–	5,299	5,299

\* Current liabilities, lease liabilities, other financial liabilities, accrued expenses and deferred income

\*\* Cash and cash equivalents, receivables from non-exchange transactions, receivables from exchange transactions, financial assets and loans, prepaid expenses and accrued income

Eawag does not hold any held-to-maturity financial assets.

**Estimation of fair value**

Due to their short-term maturity, the carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents and the carrying amounts of current loans, fixed deposits, receivables and current liabilities are a reasonable approximation of fair value.

The fair value of non-current receivables from non-exchange transactions and non-current loans is calculated based on the payments falling due in the future, which are discounted at market interest rates.

**Capital management**

Managed capital is defined as equity excluding valuation reserves. Eawag seeks to create a solid equity base. This base enables the implementation of the performance mandate to be guaranteed. Legal regulations prohibit Eawag from raising funds in the capital market.

## 25 Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

**Contingent liabilities**

There are no contingent liabilities.

**Contingent assets**

There are no contingent assets.

## 26 Financial commitments

CHF thousands	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
Financial commitments <= 1 year	1,605	2,321
Financial commitments from 1 to 5 years	921	227
<b>Total financial commitments</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>2,549</b>

The financial commitments relate to equipment, software or services that have been firmly ordered, but not yet supplied.

In addition, Empa and Eawag operate a communal guest house, with Empa acting as the primary tenant. This is recorded in Empa's accounts. Each year, any expenses not covered by guest house rental income are settled internally between Eawag and Empa.

## 27 Remuneration of key management personnel

### Remuneration of key management personnel

CHF thousands	2025	2024
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>1,376</b>

### Key positions

Full-time equivalent	2025	2024
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>4.50</b>

The Directorate of Eawag consists of seven people: the Director, the Deputy Director, the Head of Operations and four other members of the Directorate, two of whom hold a professorship at ETH Zurich or the University of Zurich and are also employed there; these people are not taken into account in the above table.

## 28 Events after the reporting date

Eawag's annual financial statements were approved by the Director and the Deputy Director on 23 February 2026. No significant events have occurred to date which would necessitate a disclosure in or an adjustment to Eawag's annual financial statements as at 31 December 2025.

Reg. No. 937.25401.003

## Report of the statutory auditor

to the Director of the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, Dübendorf

### REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag) which comprise the statement of financial performance 2025, the balance sheet as of 31 December 2025, the statement of changes in equity and the cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion the financial statements (pages 20 to 54) present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Eawag as of 31 December 2025, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), legal requirements and the Accounting Manual for the ETH Domain.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss Law, International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), Swiss Standards on Auditing (SA-CH) and article 35a<sup>ter</sup> of the Federal Act on the Federal Institutes of Technology (SR 414.110). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the “Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements” section of our report. We are independent based on the Federal Audit Office Act (SR 614.0) and the requirements of the audit profession. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Other information

The Management Board of the Eawag is responsible for the other information in the annual report. The other information comprises all information included in the annual report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information in the annual report and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information in the annual report and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.



If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. In this context, please refer to the section “Report on other legal and regulatory requirements” at the end of this report.

### **Responsibilities of the Management Board of the Eawag for the financial statements**

The Management Board of the Eawag is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the IPSAS and the legal requirements (Ordinance on the ETH Domain, SR 414.110.3; Ordinance on the Finance and Accounting of the ETH Domain, SR 414.123; Accounting Manual for the ETH Domain), and for such internal control as the Management Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Management Board of the Eawag is responsible for assessing the Eawag’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

### **Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Swiss law, ISA and SA-CH will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Swiss law, ISA and SA-CH we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Eawag’s internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Management Board of the Eawag’s use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Eawag’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the notes to the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Eawag to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Management Board of the Eawag and the Audit Committee of the ETH Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

## REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with PS-CH 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of the financial statements according to the instructions of the ETH Board.

In accordance with Art. 21 par. 2 of the Ordinance on the Finance and Accounting of the ETH Domain, we confirm that no contradictions exist between the personnel reporting in the annual report (management report) and the financial statements. Likewise, we confirm that no contradictions exist between the financial figures in the annual report (management report) and the financial statements.

Furthermore, in accordance with Art. 21 par. 2 of the Ordinance on the Finance and Accounting of the ETH Domain, we confirm that risk management has been appropriately conducted according to the instructions of the ETH Board.

We recommend that these financial statements be approved.

Berne, 23 February 2026

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