

## Eawag

Eawag is a research institute within the ETH domain and one of the world's leading aquatic research institutions. With its professional diversity, close partnerships with practitioners and an international network, Eawag offers an excellent environment for the study of water as a habitat and resource, for identifying problems at an early stage and for developing widely accepted solutions. In addition, Eawag provides teaching and consulting services and thus fulfils an important bridging function between research and practice. Over 500 employees work at the locations in Dübendorf near Zurich and Kastanienbaum near Lucerne. [eawag.ch/en/](http://eawag.ch/en/)

## PEAK

Eawag offers a continuing education programme to practising professionals, which goes by the name of PEAK (practice oriented Eawag courses). The courses are based on current research and the many years of experience of our scientists. Several courses are run every year, which, alongside PEAK's purpose of knowledge transfer, serve as a forum for dialogue between the participants, and between research and practice. [eawag.ch/peak-en](http://eawag.ch/peak-en)

## Getting to Dübendorf

## Eawag

Swiss Federal Institute of  
Aquatic Science and Technology

# Toxic Cyanobacteria: Identification, Characterization and Communication

PEAK Advanced Course V63/26

Monday, 29 June 2026

Dübendorf



Cover photo: Bloom of *Microcystis* sp., pelagic cyanobacteria, in Lake Constance  
(Amt für Wasser und Energie, St. Gallen, Lukas Taxböck).

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## Objectives

Cyanobacteria are ubiquitous in the environment and some of them produce potent liver and nerve toxins. When cyanobacteria rapidly multiply, their so-called blooming events can pose an acute threat to humans and animals. We differentiate between pelagic cyanobacteria proliferating in the free water column and benthic cyanobacteria overgrowing sediment surfaces at lake shores, ponds and rivers. This course offers an overview of the latest advances and current challenges in identification (field observations), characterisation (morphology, gene marker, chemical toxin analysis) and communication of the specific risks of pelagic and benthic cyanobacteria. The lectures will include state-of-the-art methods as well as novel fundamental knowledge and will show illustrative Swiss case studies.

## For whom

The course targets professionals from regional and federal authorities, researchers, consultants, and environmental managers who are interested in the risks associated with cyanobacteria related to identification, monitoring, and characterisation (genes and toxins), as well as risk communication.

## Course Subjects

- Occurrences and identification of pelagic and benthic blooms
- Approach from identification in the field to risk characterisation
- Techniques for gene marker and toxin analyses
- Case studies in Switzerland
- Risk communication
- Knowledgebase in Switzerland

## Lecturers

Francesco Pomati, Elisabeth Janssen, Kim Luong, Simon Grundmüller, Marta Reyes (Eawag)

Pilar Junier, Diego Gonzalez, Sami Zhioua (University of Neuchatel)

Nicolas Tromas (French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment, INRAE)

## Course Lead

Elisabeth Janssen, Francesco Pomati

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## Course Secretariat

Eawag PEAK

Phone +41 58 765 57 65, [peak@eawag.ch](mailto:peak@eawag.ch)

## Registration

online: [eawag.ch/peak-en](https://eawag.ch/peak-en)

deadline: 8 June 2026

## Course documentation

The course documentation will be available online before the course start.

The participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

## Language

English

## Course fee

CHF 250.–

*(CHF 150 for students, a copy of a student card is required)*

The fee includes course documentation, lunch, refreshments and an apero.

Other meals and hotel accommodation are not included.

Eawag's general terms and conditions apply: [eawag.ch/gtc](https://eawag.ch/gtc)

## Date / Time / Place

Monday, 29 June 2026, from 9:15 a.m. to 16:50 p.m.,

Eawag, Überlandstr. 133, 8600 Dübendorf