

Welcome / Editorial Note

Dear YAN members,

We hope this message finds you well. As we approach the end of the year, December offers a moment to reflect on a dynamic and productive period for the acoustics community. In this issue, we share highlights from recent activities, showcase new research and collaborations, and look ahead to upcoming events and opportunities where you can continue to connect with fellow young acousticians around the world.

Enjoy the read,

The Young Acousticians Newsletter Team

Your Turn !

Last month, we asked:

"If you could change the soundscape of any public place, which one would it be – and how?"

Here are some of your answers:

"To reduce noise and add calming natural sounds in busy transport hubs."

"To improve classroom acoustics so everyone can hear and focus better."

"To create more pleasant and human-centered soundscapes in city centers."

This month's question:

"What sound, place, or experience first sparked your interest in acoustics?"

Send us your answer (just a few words!) and we'll feature some of them in the next issue.

Reply

Newsletter's Summary

Agenda

Get a reminder on upcoming events and deadlines. Feel free to contribute if you become aware of any change!

News

From programmable acoustic metamaterials and AI-driven sound control to DAGA 2026 in Dresden, open-source machine-learning tools, and expanded ERC funding, this month's news highlights exciting scientific and career opportunities for the next generation of acousticians.

Job announcements

Find your dream job in this fresh list of opportunities! If you wish to announce a position, please email the [YAN team](#).

Publications

This month, find a publication titled "From Noise Reduction to Positive Soundscapes: Enhancing Well-Being in Schools," co-authored by Hatice K. Kurukose Cal, Francesco Aletta, Jian Kang.

Upcoming Events!

December 2025

24th- 25th International Conference of Acoustics and Vibration

Teheran, Iran

March 2026

23th- 26th DAGA 2026, 52nd Annual Meeting on Acoustics

Dresden, Germany

May 2026

4th- 6th Baltic-Nordic Acoustic Meeting 2026

Gothenburg, Sweden

June 2026

29th- 1st Quiet Drones 2026

Delft, Netherlands

July 2026

5th- 10th International Congress on Sound and Vibration

Istanbul, Türkiye

Upcoming Deadlines!

January 2026

12th Quiet Drones 2026

Abstract Submission Deadline. [Submission](#)

16th BNAM 2026

Abstract Submission Deadline. [Submission](#)

28th International Conference of Acoustics and Vibration

Early Bird Registration Deadline. [Registration](#)

31st DAGA 2026

Early Registration Deadline. [Registration](#)

February 2026

1st DAGA 2026

Deadline for abstract submission of "late posters" Deadline. [Submission](#)

15th Forum Acusticum 2026

Full Paper and Abstract Submission Opens. [Submission](#)

28th International Congress on Sound and Vibration 2026

Early Bird Registration Deadline. [Submission](#)

28th Quiet Drones 2026

Start Early Registration.

March 2026

31st International Congress on Sound and Vibration 2026

Deadline for Peer Reviewed Papers. [Submission](#)

April 2026

2nd BNAM 2026

Paper Submission Deadline. [Registration](#)

20th International Congress on Sound and Vibration 2026

Full text Submission Deadline. [Submission](#)

30th Forum Acusticum 2026

Abstract Submission Deadline. [Submission](#)

News!

Programmable Acoustic Metamaterial

Researchers at the University of Connecticut have developed a reconfigurable acoustic metamaterial that can bend, dampen, or focus sound waves in real-time. The material consists of asymmetrical pillars arranged in an 11x11 grid, each individually controlled by motors with one-degree rotation precision. This design creates what the researchers describe as "more configurations than atoms in the universe" - a massive leap from traditional fixed metamaterials that can only operate at specific frequency ranges. The study, led by Ph.D. candidate Melanie Keoghan and assistant professor Osama R. Bilal, was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) in November 2025.

The applications span from medical imaging and acoustic tweezers to noise control and drag reduction. Particularly interesting is the potential for targeted therapeutic techniques - imagine focusing low-amplitude waves precisely on a tumor without affecting surrounding tissue. The team is now integrating AI algorithms to navigate the enormous design space, working toward fully autonomous materials that can optimize their own acoustic performance through machine learning. A promising direction for anyone interested in the intersection of metamaterials, acoustics, and intelligent systems.

DAGA 2026 in Dresden

The 52nd Annual Conference on Acoustics (DAGA 2026) will take place from March 23-26, 2026, at the International Congress Center Dresden, Germany. Organized by the German Acoustical Society (DEGA) in cooperation with the Polish Acoustical Society, this is the main German-speaking acoustics conference and a key meeting point for researchers across all acoustics disciplines. The scientific program covers everything from room acoustics and noise control to psychoacoustics and computational methods.

For students and early-career researchers, DEGA offers concrete support: student grants are available to help cover attendance costs, and the first 50 first-time student attendees can register for free. The deadline for student grant applications has passed (November 16, 2025), but free registration for first-timers remains an excellent opportunity. If you're working in acoustics and looking to present your research or simply network with the German-speaking acoustics community, Dresden in late March is where you should be.

Machine Learning in Acoustics - Open-Source Repository

A comprehensive review on machine learning applications in acoustics has been published in *npj Acoustics*, accompanied by "AcousticsML" - an open-source GitHub repository with practical Jupyter notebook examples. The review, authored by researchers from UC San Diego, NYU, DTU, and other institutions, covers the full spectrum: from classification and clustering to generative models, physics-informed neural networks (PINNs), and explainability techniques. All examples use Python and are designed for reproducibility.

For young acousticians looking to integrate ML into their research, this is a goldmine. The repository includes tutorials on acoustic data classification, spatial audio generation with GANs, HRTF modeling with implicit neural representations, and solving wave equations with PINNs. Each notebook walks through the methodology step by step, with publicly available datasets for training and testing. Whether you're working on bioacoustics, room acoustics, or underwater sound, the techniques demonstrated here are directly applicable. The code is freely available, well-documented, and actively maintained, exactly what you need to get started with data-driven acoustics.

ERC Introduces Major Changes for 2026-2027

The European Research Council has announced significant changes to its funding programs starting in 2026. Most notably, a new "super grant" instrument will offer up to €7 million over seven years for ambitious research projects, part of the "Choose Europe for Science" initiative. Additionally, researchers moving to Europe from non-associated countries can now request up to €2 million in relocation funding (doubled from €1 million), which can also cover personnel costs. The first calls under the new instrument are expected in 2026, with details to be finalized by the end of 2025. From 2027, eligibility windows expand considerably: Starting Grants will be open to researchers within 10 years of their PhD (up from approximately 7), while Consolidator Grants extend to 5-15 years post-PhD. The ERC also added explicit provisions for researchers affected by gender-based violence or other forms of violence to obtain eligibility extensions. For young acousticians planning their career trajectory, these changes open new possibilities, whether you're returning to Europe or timing your first major grant application. Keep an eye on the ERC website for the amended Work Programme 2026.

Call for Volunteers - Newsletter Committee Member

We are looking for one volunteer committee member to be responsible for preparing the Publication Section of our newsletter. Please contact ea.yan.newsletter@euracoustics.org with a brief introduction and availability.

Job Announcements

HARMAN

Garching, Germany

Acoustic Engineer/Designer

Sonova

Hannover, Germany

PhD in Developing sustainable, scalable

methods for fabricating 2D, material

metasurfaces via Chladni-patterned

acoustic self-assembly

University of Exeter

Exeter, UK

3 PhD Positions: Acoustic, Analysis and AI

Interdisciplinary Transformation University Austria

Linz, Austria

Publication

From Noise Reduction to Positive Soundscapes: Enhancing Well-Being in Schools

Noise in schools is widely recognized as having detrimental effects on cognitive performance, communication, and emotional well-being. However, schools are dynamic and vibrant environments in which sound is not merely an incidental element, but a defining aspect of daily experience. This opinion paper advocates for a paradigm shift in school acoustic design from a narrow emphasis on noise control to a holistic soundscaping approach that balances the reduction of negative sounds with the enhancement of positive acoustic elements. Sound should be considered a resource that actively supports well-being, engagement, and the learning, rather than solely a source of disturbance.

Drawing on recent research and user perspectives, several design recommendations are proposed, including the incorporation of restorative natural sounds (e.g. birdsong, rainfall), the implementation of acoustic zoning, the creation of culturally sensitive soundscapes, and the use of sound as a tool for both engagement and restoration. These strategies extend beyond classroom acoustics to address diverse school spaces, including corridors, dining halls, and outdoor areas. By integrating participatory approaches and ongoing evaluation, school environments can be transformed into soundscapes that promote comfort, connection, and resilience for both students and teachers.

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