

CYANOACTION NEWSLETTER 2

**Effective Lake
management:
reducing
cyanobacteria
by actions in the
catchment**

COST Action CA23160



Funded by
the European Union



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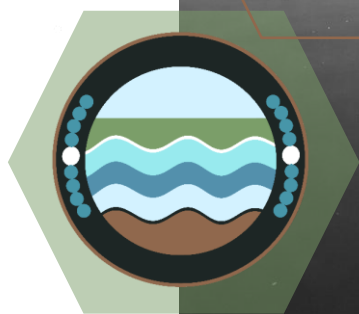
ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Pan-European Survey on Cyanobacteria Monitoring
- Training School in Wageningen, Netherlands
- Working Groups meetings
- Grantees of conference and STSM grants
- Upcoming Conferences to participate in

Grant period: November 2025 – October 2026

Publication date: 26 October 2026

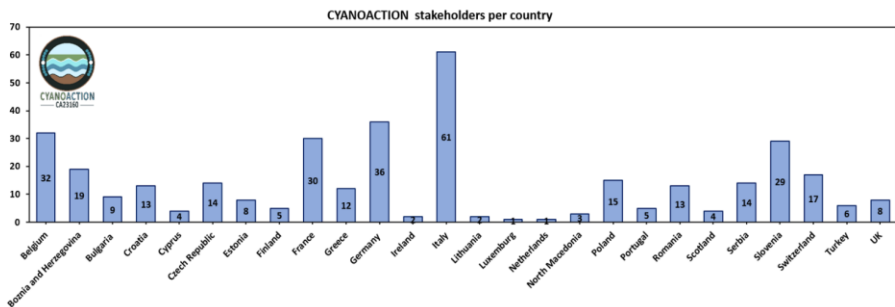


STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & QUESTIONNAIRE

PAN-EUROPEAN SURVEY ON CYANOBACTERIA MONITORING

Establishing direct communication with stakeholders is the key objective of CYANOACTION, particularly in strengthening links between scientific research and practical cyanobacterial bloom management. The Action members have thus identified relevant organisations and individuals across Europe. During GP1 and GP2, a stakeholder contact database was developed, containing **363 contacts from 26 countries**. The database includes representatives of organisations and sectors relevant to the Action's objectives, such as water management, environmental protection, public authorities, research and other stakeholder groups.

The geographical distribution of contacts shows that CYANOACTION has established connections across a broad range of European countries. Italy has the largest number of identified contacts (61), followed by Germany (36), Belgium (32), France (30) and Slovenia (29). Other countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania, are also represented. The database provides a practical resource for targeted dissemination, including newsletters, announcements, invitations to events and communication of scientific outputs. It also supports collaboration between Action members and stakeholders at the national level.



As part of its efforts to improve water quality and promote sustainable management of cyanobacterial blooms, CYANOACTION has developed a Pan-European Stakeholder Survey to gather practical insights from those directly involved in water use and management. The survey was finalized in our meeting in Rennes, subsequently translated to 22 languages by MC members and set up for answering in online platform LimeSurvey during summer 2026.

The survey targets **water managers, environmental authorities, policymakers, farmers, tourism and recreational businesses, and other relevant stakeholders**. It explores their experiences with cyanobacterial blooms, current monitoring and management practices, associated challenges, and needs for future support.

As of 23 October 2026, it has received more than 180 fully completed responses (and in addition around 500 partly filled questionnaires) from stakeholders across Europe, demonstrating encouraging initial participation and interest in sharing experiences of cyanobacterial bloom monitoring and management. Its multilingual availability and promotion through national networks have helped engage stakeholders from different countries. Data collection is still ongoing until the end of October, with further efforts focused on increasing participation and improving geographical representation. To ensure our recommendations are representative across Europe, we strongly encourage stakeholders from these critical priority countries to participate: Spain | Portugal | Austria | Romania | Denmark | Turkey | Sweden | United Kingdom | Poland | Slovakia



YOUR INPUT MAKES AN IMPACT!

PAN-EUROPEAN SURVEY

on Cyanobacterial Blooms and Mitigation Measures

Help us build the first Europe-wide overview of cyanobacterial bloom management!

AVAILABLE IN **22 LANGUAGES**

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Provide valuable information from your country
- Contribute to better management of freshwater ecosystems
- Help identify challenges and best practices across Europe
- Support research, policy and decision-making

TAKE THE SURVEY!
It only takes 10-15 minutes

CLICK THE LINK AND SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

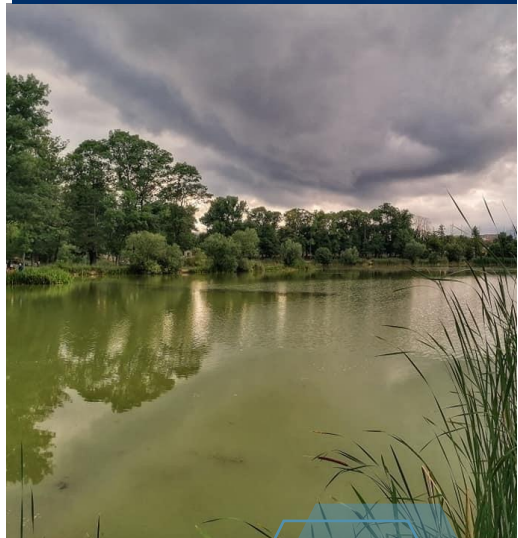
Together for healthier lakes and reservoirs across Europe!

For water managers, researchers, authorities, organisations and all stakeholders.

The survey is open now! Don't miss your chance to contribute.

COST Action CA23160 - CyanoAction
Effective Lake Management: Reducing Cyanobacterial Blooms by Actions in the Catchment

Learn more about Cyanoaction
www.cyanoaction.eu



LINK TO THE SURVEY

Once completed, the survey will provide valuable insights into existing management practices, regional challenges, and knowledge gaps across Europe.

<https://cyanoaction.eu/cyanoaction-launches-a-pan-european-stakeholder-survey-on-harmful-cyanobacterial-blooms/>

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

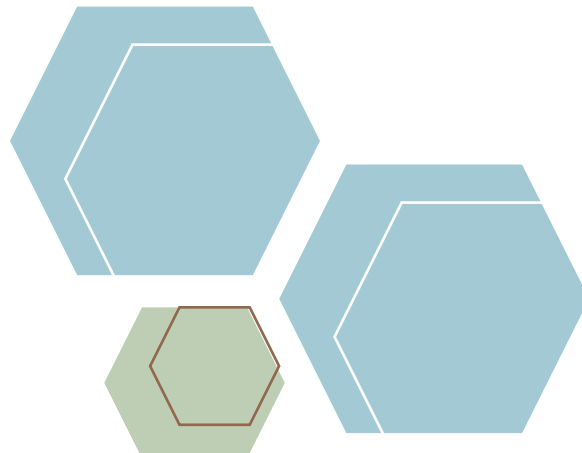
WG3 TRAINING SCHOOL, WAGENINGEN (NL)

WG3 organized the Summer Training School on “**Combined Treatment of the Water Column and Sediment with Hydrogen Peroxide-based oxidants, coagulants, and modified clays for the removal of toxic cyanobacteria**”, held on 24-27 August 2026, at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. The training school was attended by **21 participants** from Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal and Turkey (ITC participants: 16 out of 21). The four-day program integrated theoretical lectures on lake restoration and peroxide treatments, delivered by experts including Prof. Miquel Lurling, Dr. Maria G. Antoniou, Petra Visser, and Dr. Dail Laughinghouse, with hands-on practical exercises.

Trainees gained direct experience using sediment core samplers, conducting sequential sediment phosphorus fractionation extractions, performing laboratory experiments on combined peroxides, coagulants, and ballast treatments, and modeling chemical equilibria using the Visual MINTEQ program, while also enjoying a cultural visit to Het Depot Sculpture Gallery. Overall, the training school was deemed highly successful, equipping participants with essential practical skills to estimate dosages, perform restoration experiments, and present strategies for mitigating harmful cyanobacterial blooms and internal loading.



Photo credits: Maria G. Antoniou (WG3 leader)





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

CYANOACTION WG2 WORKSHOP ON NUTRIENT LOSSES IN ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

On **27 March 2026**, CYANOACTION Working Group 2 (WG2) held a hybrid workshop on Nutrient Losses at Istanbul University, Faculty of Aquatic Sciences, Türkiye, organised by Reyhan Akçaalan, Meriç Albay and Latife Koker. The meeting brought together **31 participants**, along with members of the local organising team, to exchange scientific knowledge and advance WG2 activities related to catchment nutrient management. Scientific presentations explored nitrogen and phosphorus losses across European catchments, mitigation strategies, and the challenges associated with legacy nutrients, delayed ecosystem responses and modelling uncertainties. Particular attention was given to Tasks 2.1 and 2.2, focusing on methods for assessing nutrient losses and developing a structured database of mitigation measures and their effectiveness. Through interactive discussions, participants examined the challenges of harmonising scientific data, selecting comparable indicators and developing practical tools for systematic information collection. The workshop marked an important step towards strengthening collaboration and supporting evidence-based strategies to reduce nutrient pollution and prevent cyanobacterial blooms across European freshwater ecosystems.

CYANOACTION WG3–WG5 JOINT MEETING IN LIMASSOL, CYPRUS

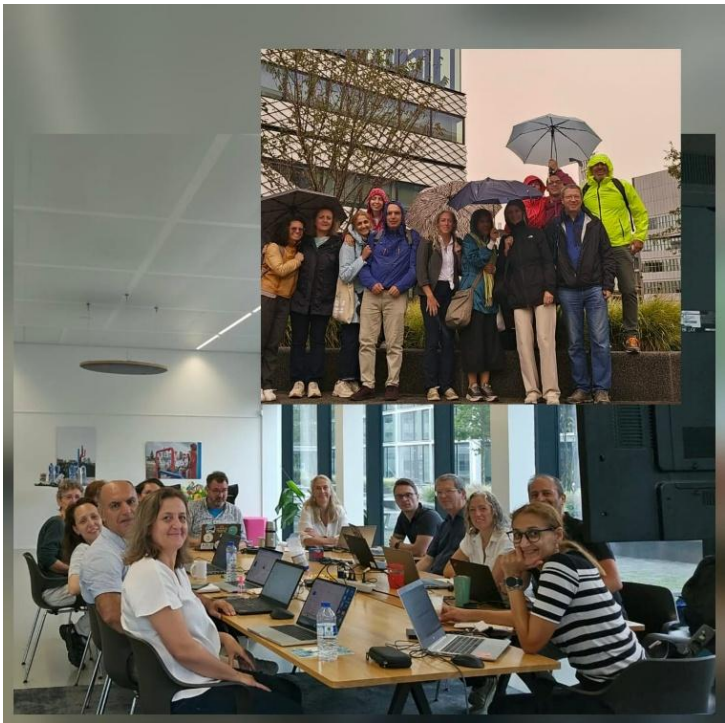
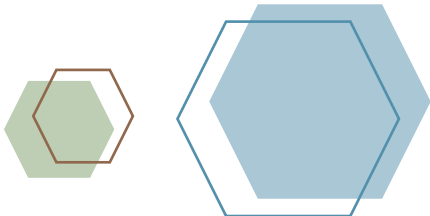
On **29–30 April 2026**, CYANOACTION held a joint meeting of Working Groups 3 and 5 at the Limassol Municipal University Library in Cyprus, organised by Dr. Maria G. Antoniou and Dr. Nikolett Tsiarta. The meeting brought together **18 participants** from 12 countries to strengthen collaboration between scientific research and communication activities. WG3 focused on evaluating short-term in-lake methods for cyanobacterial bloom control and developing a scientific perspective paper addressing their effectiveness and practical applications. Meanwhile, WG5 worked on the structure and content of the CYANOACTION newsletter and explored strategies to improve dissemination and stakeholder engagement. Through interactive discussions and joint working sessions, participants identified ways to translate scientific knowledge into accessible, policy-relevant information for water managers, decision-makers and other stakeholders. The meeting concluded with an agreed action plan, reinforcing CYANOACTION's commitment to bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and practical water management.

WG2 MEETING – ADVANCING THE DATA COLLECTION FRAMEWORK (ONLINE)

On 9 July 2026, CYANOACTION Working Group 2 (WG2) held an online meeting organised by Zenepe Dafku, Jian Liu and Theodoros Triantis, focusing on advancing the data collection framework for Tasks 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. Participants reviewed methods and tools for assessing nutrient losses, discussed the development of a structured database on management measures to reduce nutrient inputs, and examined approaches for collecting information on economic costs and losses. Particular emphasis was placed on harmonising data collection templates, establishing common literature search protocols, and ensuring consistency across the three interconnected tasks. The discussions also highlighted the importance of combining scientific evidence with practical information from water authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The meeting concluded with an agreement to refine the templates, establish smaller task-specific groups, and coordinate the next phase of data collection, contributing to CYANOACTION’s goal of supporting evidence-based and cost-effective catchment management strategies.

WG3: EDITORIAL MEETING ON THE “MAKING WAVES” PAPER “IN SITU TREATMENTS FOR CYANO-HABS”, AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

On 28 August 2026, CYANOACTION WG3 held a face-to-face editorial meeting at Science Park, University of Amsterdam, to advance its “Making Waves” perspective paper on in-situ treatments for cyanobacterial harmful blooms. Organised by Dr. Petra Visser (Action Vice Chair, University of Amsterdam), Dr. Maria G. Antoniou (WG3 Leader, Cyprus University of Technology) and Dr. Latife Köker (WG3 Co-Leader, Istanbul University), the meeting brought together 13 participants from 8 countries, including 3 Inclusiveness Target Countries. The group agreed on the title “Making Waves: Clear need for short-term in-lake intervention to control cyanobacteria harmful blooms” and on the paper’s central message: short-term in-lake interventions are needed to control blooms while the effects of long-term catchment management take hold, supported by a roadmap for their deployment.



CORE GROUP MEETING IN ROME, ITALY

The CyanoAction Core Group meeting was held in Rome, Italy, on 8–9 October 2026, and was organized by Dr. Maura Manganelli and Dr. Simona Scardala. The two-day working meeting was dedicated to reviewing progress and preparing the next phase of the Action. The first day focused on presenting, discussing, and evaluating the results of the Pan-European stakeholder questionnaire, identifying potential improvements, and outlining key findings for dissemination to stakeholders through the newsletter, website, and relevant publications. The second day was dedicated to Grant Period 2 reporting and claim procedures, followed by discussions on the planning of Grant Period 3 activities and budget. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to review the work completed so far, strengthen coordination, and establish priorities for the upcoming Grant Period.



DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION & OUTREACH

23RD ICA SYMPOSIUM

The **23rd Symposium of the International Association for Cyanobacteria/Cyanophyte Research (IAC)** took place from August 3 to 7, 2026, in Liège, Belgium, featuring outstanding talks and posters. CYANOACTION activities were successfully disseminated during the event by Wannes Van Hassel. CYANOACTION was also proud to support two Young Researchers and Innovators to present their work on key topics in cyanobacterial research, including reference-quality genome sequencing and the discovery, physiological characterization, and evolutionary history of a novel psychrotolerant and cryotolerant *Pseudanabaena* species.

Looking ahead, the next IAC Symposium will be held in Ohrid, North Macedonia, in 2029!



AQUABIOTECH2026 – A MEETING POINT FOR THE CYANOACTION COMMUNITY

The **4th International Aquatic Biotechnology Symposium (AquaBioTech2026)**, held in Naples, Italy, from 9 to 11 September 2026, brought together researchers and experts from different fields of aquatic biotechnology to share recent scientific advances, exchange ideas, and explore new opportunities for collaboration. The event saw the active participation of numerous members of the CYANOACTION COST Action, who contributed to the scientific programme through oral and poster presentations, fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening connections within the network. AquaBioTech2026 provided a valuable opportunity to enhance scientific collaboration, promote interdisciplinary discussions, and further strengthen the CYANOACTION community.

More information: <https://www.aquabiotech2026.it/>



Photo credits: Luciana Tartaglione

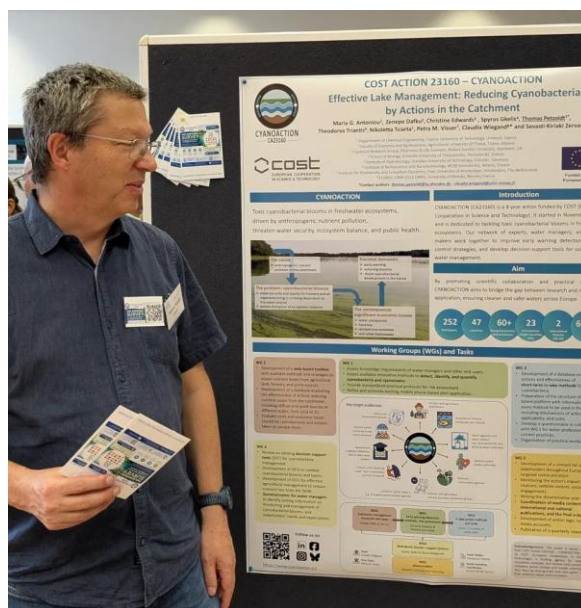
CYANOACTION AT THE GERMAN LIMNOLOGY CONFERENCE – DGL 2026

CYANOACTION was represented at the German Limnology Conference (DGL 2026), organised by the German Society for Limnology and held on 14–15 September 2026 at the Erwin-Schrödinger-Zentrum in Berlin, Germany.

During the conference, Dr. Thomas Petzoldt presented a poster introducing the CYANOACTION COST Action, highlighting its overall structure, the five Working Groups, and their interactions with key stakeholder groups. The poster illustrated how CYANOACTION aims to strengthen connections between researchers, water managers, public authorities, and end-users.

Participation in DGL 2026 provided a valuable opportunity to increase the visibility of CYANOACTION within the limnology community, foster scientific exchange, and promote collaboration on freshwater ecosystems, cyanobacterial blooms, monitoring, and management.

More information: <https://www.dgl-jahrestagungen.de/>





AWARDED GRANTS

During Grant Period 2 (GP2), CYANOACTION awarded a total of 26 grants, supporting scientific dissemination, researcher mobility and international collaboration. These included 12 Young Researcher and Innovator (YRI) Conference Grants, 6 Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference Grants, 5 Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and 3 Virtual Mobility Grants. Through these opportunities, CYANOACTION continues to strengthen scientific exchange, support early-career researchers and foster collaboration across its international network.

SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS (STSMs)

STSMs play a vital role in fostering international collaboration and skill exchange. Congratulations to our Year 2 grantees:

- **Rui Barbosa** - Advanced LCMS/MS cyanotoxin analysis (Denmark)
- **Gloria Bianchi** - Establishing conjugation protocols between bacteria and cyanobacteria: a methodological pilot study for monitoring horizontal gene transfer (HGT) using green-fluorescent-tagged plasmids (Germany)
- **Maura Manganelli** - Use of a fluorescence-based plasmid transfer platform to evaluate the role of cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins in horizontal gene transfer in aquatic environmental field studies (Germany)
- **Triantafyllos Kaloudis** - Development of targeted LC-MS/MS methods for cyanobacteria metabolites using non-targeted screening data (Italy)
- **Anastasia Hiskia** - Occurrence of cyanobacteria metabolites in Lake Serraia, Italy. (Italy)

Participant reports highlight cross-institutional learning, methodological advances, and collaborative discoveries that enrich the CYANOACTION network.

VIRTUAL MOBILITY (VM)

- **Angelos Papis** - Development of Questionnaire for Multilingual Survey for stakeholders involved in water treatment and management, agriculture, tourism, recreational activities, and policy making.
- **Jure Zrim** - Implementing a survey for European stakeholders involved in water treatment and management, agriculture, tourism, recreational activities, and policymaking.
- **Triantafyllos Kaloudis** - Developing a MassQL-Driven Computational Pipeline for the Comprehensive Detection of Cyanopeptides in Environmental Datasets.

CONFERENCE GRANTS: ITC & YRI

We are proud to support Early Career and Inclusiveness Target Country (ITC) researchers through conference grants. In our first Grant Period, awardees presented their work at international meetings, including:

- **Iva Vojtkuf (YRI)** - Annual Conference 2026 of the Association for General and Applied Microbiology
- **Gloria Bianchi (YRI)** - SETAC Europe 36th Annual Meeting
- **Sevasti - Kiriaki Zervou (YRI)** - SETAC Europe 36th Annual Meeting



- **Sofia Iliakopoulou (YRI)** – SETAC Europe 36th Annual Meeting
- **Hui Pan (YRI)** - Young Algaeneers Symposium: YAS 2026
- **Perveen Akhtar (YRI)** - 10th EuChemS Chemistry Congress (ECC10)
- **Boris Aleksovski (YRI)** - 23rd Symposium of the International Association for Cyanophyte/Cyanobacteria (IAC) Research
- **Efthymios Parisis (YRI)** - 23rd Symposium of the International Association for Cyanophyte/Cyanobacteria (IAC) Research
- **Zuhal Zengin (YRI)** - 4th International Aquatic Biotechnology Symposium
- **Nikolaos-Tryfon Papadopoulos (YRI)** - 4th International Aquatic Biotechnology Symposium
- **Ayça Oğuz Çam (YRI)** - 4th International Aquatic Biotechnology Symposium
- **Sofia Vergetzi (YRI)** - 4th International Aquatic Biotechnology Symposium
- **Spyros Gkelis (ITC)** - International Conference on Algal and Cyanobacterial Biology (ICACB-2026)
- **Ivo Pinto (ITC)** - SETAC Europe 36th Annual Meeting
- **Anastasia Hiskia (ITC)** - SETAC Europe 36th Annual Meeting
- **Triantafyllos Kaloudis (ITC)** - 43rd International Conference of the Polish Phycological Society (ICPPS)
- **Lilit Harutyunyan (ITC)** - 4th International Aquatic Biotechnology Symposium
- **Maria G. Antoniou (ITC)** – 4th International Aquatic Biotechnology Symposium

WHAT'S NEXT — UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Mark your calendars for opportunities to present, learn, and engage with the broader aquatic science and management community in 2027:

- ◆ **ICHA 2027 - International conference on Harmful Algae**, 18-22 September 2027, Aberdeen, Scotland UK
<https://www.icha2027.org/>
- ◆ **Aquabiotech2028**, 5th International Aquatech Biotechnology Symposium. 2028 Lugo, Spain.

We encourage all members to submit abstracts, use available grants, and continue raising CYANOACTION's scientific impact.



CYANOACTION

STAY CONNECTED

Keep following our progress online and share your work with the community.

 www.cyanoaction.eu

 info@cyanoaction.eu

 <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/10039005/>

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