





Ecsite is the European network of science centres and museums.

Ecsite's vision is to foster creativity and critical thinking in European society, emboldening citizens to engage with science.

Ecsite gathers more than 350 organisations in Europe and world-wide. Its mission is to inspire and empower science centres, museums and all organisations that engage people with science, and to promote and share their actions.

Ecsite members are science centres, museums, festivals, research bodies, foundations, learned societies, companies... Together, they reach more than 40 million citizens per year. They create life-changing experiences, stimulate creativity, enable dialogue, provide tools for innovation. They put on exhibitions, run workshops and courses, host debates and conference, manage online platforms on science engagement...

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Common Ground

Breeding ground

Michiel Buchel

Ecsite President
CEO, NEMO Science Museum
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

As the Ecsite President, I am particularly proud of the way our network rethought its membership rules in 2016, a major achievement for which I want to thank all Ecsite members in general and Ecsite Board members in particular. Changes approved by a large majority of members are making Ecsite membership more open than ever and have turned Ecsite into an organisation where the bulk of members receive equal rights and benefits. This makes our network's governance more representative and is already generating a stronger commitment from a larger number of organisations and individuals.

Together, we offer citizens forums of dialogue and creative platforms to put into practice values of inclusiveness, integrity and innovation to quote a few – in short, to cultivate our common ground.

Pollination and cross-fertilisation are essential to a thriving science engagement field. This is why Ecsite continued to nourish and develop active partnerships in 2016 with a diversity of organisations ranging from children's museums to botanical gardens and zoos to spatial agencies.

Ecsite also joined forces with members of science centre networks around the globe to demonstrate our collective commitment to a brighter, more sustainable future during UNESCO Science for Peace and Development Day on 10 November 2016: this year, a special thematic spotlight was put on our field with the first International Science Centre & Science Museum Day.

At European level, national and regional science engagement networks consolidated their ties, gathering for the first time for a common one-day workshop at the Ecsite conference.

It is a fact that today mankind is in a better shape than ever. Huge steps are being taken towards economic progress, access to education, healthcare, water, energy and food. Fewer civilians are involved in wars and more in democracy. At the same time we are facing major global challenges like climate change, the rise of political movements rooted in fear, and the rejection of evidence-based policy making.

I trust humans' capacity of adaptation and collaboration as a powerful antidote to brutal "survival of the fittest" mechanisms. I am convinced that in Europe and beyond, science engagement practitioners and organisations can, do and will contribute to democratic, open and prosperous societies. Education and critical thinking are essential nutrients and from this fertile substrate smart solutions and brilliant technologies will germinate for our planet's future.





Curious gardeners

Catherine Franche
Ecsite Executive Director
Brussels, Belgium

Ecsite and its members flourish on hybrid ground, drawing inspiration from a diversity of soils at the intersection of science and society. Our garden patch doesn't have fences. We are curious gardeners, combining rows of old classics, patches of experimental varieties – and also leaving space for spontaneous growth and beauty.

To quote a few highlights of the 2016 year: we harvested the fruits of a long-lasting endeavour with our new membership rules. We sowed the seeds of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in the four corners of Europe through the “Beyond the Lab” touring exhibition: part of the EU-funded Sparks project we are coordinating, the exhibition stopped at 8 Ecsite members in 2016, on a general tour spanning 22 months and 29 venues, each in a different country. We re-launched the fertile EXTRA marketplace for scientific touring exhibitions. We provided Ecsite peers with a new cross-fertilization platform: Ecsite Move, an online members’ service developed together with Ciência Viva, Lisbon (Portugal) that allows staff of participating organisations to pay each other visits around the world.

As gardeners, we are careful observers. Changes in our society have a direct impact on our work – and conversely, our actions shape the world around us. In 2016 the Ecsite community expressed its solidarity with members affected by sombre events such as terrorist attacks or earthquakes. Though less tragic in its manifestations, the Brexit referendum had a ripple effect way beyond the United Kingdom. Beyond political boundaries, Europe is a cultural entity that Ecsite will, more than ever, continue to champion, creating platforms to share experiences, reflections and inspiring practices in science engagement from all over Europe and the world.

In recent years Ecsite and its members have been championing the idea that citizens can and should participate in complex dialogues built on evidence-based debates and openness. In the past few months we are proud to have witnessed a strong commitment from our members and the science engagement community at large to keep putting these principles into practice on a daily basis, true to Ecsite’s vision: to foster creativity and critical thinking in European society, emboldening citizens to engage with science.

Soil Events and professional development

As a network, one of Ecsite's most crucial missions is to support the sharing of best practice in the science engagement field. Thousands of peers draw vital nutrients from the rich soils of our Annual Conference, Directors Forum, Awards and Thematic Groups – and pump incredible energy back into it. Witness this creative cycle in action...

Quote by:

Wolfgang Muchitsch

Director, Universalmuseum
Joanneum, Graz (Austria)

Jörg Ehtreiber

FRida & freD – The Graz
Children's Museum, Graz
(Austria)

Margit Fischer

President, Science-Center
Netzwerk (Austria)

Barbara Streicher

CEO, Science-Center Netzwerk
(Austria)

Ecsite Annual Conference Colours of cooperation

1,081 participants from 53 different countries gathered in Graz (Austria), on 9-11 June 2016 for the 27th edition of the Ecsite Annual Conference, the largest professional science engagement event in Europe. A warm thank you to the trio of hosts who organised a spotless and convivial event, true to the "Colours of Cooperation" conference theme: FRida & freD – The Graz Children's Museum, Universalmuseum Joanneum and the nation-wide Science-Center Netzwerk.

The chosen "Colours of Cooperation" conference theme was an invitation to "use the conference to cooperatively work on challenges and common goals while enriching our own individual palette". Indeed, cooperation lies at the heart of science communicators' daily work: they cooperate within their teams, with other science engagement organisations, with stakeholders from research, economy, policy and arts – and, of course, with their visitors when they create meaning together.

The participative "Ecsite for all" public event put the conference theme into practice, gathering enthusiastic crowds. Graz inhabitants, schools classes, kindergarten groups, universities and companies – and of course Ecsite conference participants – collaborated in the building of a giant and memorable chain reaction.



“ Cooperation requires respectful relationships, negotiating expectations and roles, agreeing on compromises. It is often a time-consuming and laborious effort, yet it yields benefits that an individual actor could not have achieved on its own and may lead to unexpected results and learnings.”



Pre-conference

Eleven in-depth pre-conference workshops spread over 7 & 8 June acted as an introduction to a busy week of science engagement. Topics ranged from community participation to trans-national networks, from citizen science to facilitation. On the evening of 8 June almost 400 speakers and convenors were invited to a dedicated reception at FRida & freD children's museum, where they enjoyed local specialities while trying out exhibits.

Social events

Heinz Fischer, President of the Austrian Republic, officially declared the main conference opened at a beautifully orchestrated ceremony on Thursday 9 June. He delivered a moving speech, praising the work of his wife Margit, long-standing President of the Science-Centre Netzwerk. A quartet of colourfully costumed dancers gave a poetic touch to this opening. They were spotted again that same evening among the glamorous Gala Ball crowds, and the next day at the Nocturne at Joanneum quarter where Austrian science engagement professionals entertained participants with shows and demonstrations. The conference's social programme found its conclusion on the dancefloor of the Kunsthau's "friendly alien" building with a funky Farewell Party.

Conference sessions

Meanwhile, attendees could pick from 80+ sessions and workshops on a wide thematic spectrum. To quote a few topics: mobile technology, science centre marketing, initiatives for and with refugees, student-curated exhibitions, digital data ownership, participatory research, spectacular science, systems thinking, dioramas, pre-school making, smart objects, co-creation... Not to forget the dedicated MakerSpace and GameLab spaces.

Business Bistro

50 exhibitors had spread their booths on the congress centre's ample floors, presenting the latest techniques and services and entertaining attendees with demonstrations and delicacies during the popular Business Bistro Happy hour on Friday night.

Thank you, dear conference sponsors

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... and welcome to our new 2017 Gold sponsor!

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Keynote speeches

The two 2016 keynote speeches were by far the most highly rated since we started collecting online feedback from conference participants.

Pr. Frans de Waal, world-famous primatologist, put a zoological spin on the conference theme, reviewing expressions of empathy in animals, which range from a core mechanism of emotional linkage to higher levels of perspective-taking and targeted helping. He also discussed the sense of fairness in animals and the many ways in which they achieve common goals, before sharing his experience as a science communicator.

Dr. Elizabeth Rasekoala, President of African Gong, the Pan-African Network for the Popularization of Science & Technology and Science Communication, delivered a much commented on keynote speech on 10 June. Convinced that science and science communication are still dominantly white, male and Western, she challenged our field to create “truly inclusive, ‘colourful’ and gender-balanced science centres and museums”.

Dr. Rasekoala’s keynote had a catalysing effect. Institutional change on diversity, equity and inclusion may feel like “eating an elephant”, participants told her in a ‘debrief’ session after her keynote. Where to start? An international working group emerged from these conversations, following up the idea of devising a “social inclusion and diversity framework” with measurable indicators for success that could support the development of our field. The working group developed an in-depth pre-conference workshop for the 2017 Ecsite Annual Conference.

Pollinators

*The Annual Conference
Programme Committee (ACPC)*

Mikko Myllykoski

Experience Director, Heureka,
Vantaa (Finland) – Chairperson

Ian Brunswick

Programme Manager, Science
Gallery, Dublin (Ireland)

Laurent Chicoineau

Director, CCSTI Grenoble -
La Casemate, Grenoble
(France) – until September

Antonia Caola

Head of International
Collaborations & PR, MUSE,
Trento (Italy) – until November

Carlos Catalão Alves

Board Member, Pavilion of
Knowledge - Ciência Viva,
Lisbon (Portugal) – from March

Maria João Fonseca

Interim Executive Coordinator,
Natural History and Science
Museum of the University
of Porto (MHNC-UP), Porto
(Portugal) – from March

Hervé Grosscarret

Head Public engagement and
Exhibition, Muséum d’histoire
naturelle de Genève, Geneva
(Switzerland) – from September

Johannes-Geert Hagmann

Curator and Cooperation
Officer, Deutsches Museum,
Munich (Germany) –
until September

Amito Haarhuis

Deputy Director,
NEMO Science Museum,
Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Joanna Kalinowska

Senior Sponsoring Specialist,
Copernicus Science Centre,
Warsaw (Poland)

Lorenz Kampschulte

Scientific staff, Kiel Science
Outreach Campus KiSOC, Kiel
(Germany) – from September

Heather King

Research Associate, King’s
College, London (United
Kingdom) – until September

Sheena Laursen

Head of International
and Learning Projects,
Experientarium, Copenhagen
(Denmark)

Maarten Okkersen

Communications Manager,
Museum, The Hague
(The Netherlands)

Vesna Pajić

Project Manager, The House
of Experiments, Ljubljana
(Slovenia) – from September

Gerlinde Podjaversek

Exhibitions & International
Projects, FRida & freD – The
Graz Children’s Museum, Graz
(Austria) – until September

Barbara Streicher

Executive Manager, Association
Science-Center Netzwerk,
Vienna (Austria)

Dorothee Vatinel

Curator, universcience, Paris
(France) – from September

Vlasta Volak

Director, Techmania, Pilsen
(Czech Republic)

Julie Becker

Communications and Events
Manager, Ecsite, Brussels
(Belgium)

Catherine Franche

Executive Director, Ecsite,
Brussels (Belgium)



AFRICA
The Pan-African Network
for Science & Technology

The ECSITE Annual Conference
June 2016,





"I thought the new format was a good one. The key to success, for me, is people being prepared to be honest and to admit to mistakes. We all make them and it's really encouraging to see colleagues grappling with the same issues as you and sharing how they try to put things right. The Directors Forum is the best gathering for such exchanges."

Linda Conlon
Chief Executive,
International Centre for Life,
Newcastle upon Tyne
(United Kingdom)



Ecsite Directors Forum Unusual partners, strategic alliances

Parque de la Ciencias hosted the 2016 Ecsite Directors Forum in Granada (Spain) on 16-18 November as part of its 20th anniversary celebrations. 55+ Senior Managers of Ecsite Full Members came together for 2.5 days of peer learning and networking on the theme “Unusual partners, strategic alliances” – an invitation from Parque’s Director Ernesto Páramo Sureda to ask: “Which strategic partners and business models do we need to position our institutions as crossroads where scientists, artists, philosophers, policymakers, industrialists and creators find a place to interact with people and objects to trigger emotions, thoughts, ideas and new concerns?”

A warm thank you to the Parque de las Ciencias team for pioneering the event’s new format, adding an Andalusian touch and putting a poetic spin on the gathering. Based on ideas from a workshop run at the 2015 edition and an online survey conducted with Ecsite Full members, the new Directors Forum format is a careful mix of keynotes, contributions from Ecsite members, local discoveries and peer learning.

Lucía Villareal from the Museo Nacional del Prado and Santiago Merino from the Natural History Museum of Madrid-CSIC delivered the first keynote on their joint “Natural Histories” exhibition, a “scientific-artistic expedition” by artist Miguel Ángel Blanco. In the second keynote entitled “Building a culture of philanthropy for your institution”, the President of the Museum of Science Boston Ioannis Miaoulis urged attendees to unpick the “big questions” underpinning the donor-institution relationship.

No less than 15 Ecsite member representatives brought their own touch to the programme: seven unusual partnership case studies set the scene at the opening event; three respondents enriched Ioannis Miaoulis’ keynote; two Mariano Gago Ecsite Award winner representatives delivered a workshop; and four leaders told tales of re-branding and getting teams on board in a peer exchange session.

Local highlights included an exclusive tour through the Alhambra, itself a pinnacle of art-science and cultural cross-fertilizations, and a private flamenco performance in the authentic troglodytic Cuevas del Sacromonte. Not to forget a colourful Nocturne at Parque de la Ciencias, with a show, special exhibition tours and a dinner served in Parque’s new “Biodomo” greenhouse: jamón serrano with a view on the mangrove.

Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards 2016 edition

Created in 2015, the Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards encourage creative and impactful work within the informal science education sector. For this second edition, Ecsite members were running for the Ecsite Strategic Partnership Award, recognising extraordinary collaboration between an Ecsite member and an external partner whose work together enabled them to achieve goals neither of them could have reached by themselves alone.

Pollinators

*Jury of the Mariano Gago
Ecsite Awards*

Sharon Ament

Director, Museum of London
(United Kingdom) –
Chairperson

Annemies Broekgaarden

Former President of Hands
On! International Association
for Children in Museums |
Head Public and Education
Department, Rijksmuseum,
Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Simon Chaplin

Director of Culture & Society,
Wellcome Trust, London
(United Kingdom)

Anne-Marie Engel

Director of Research,
Lundbeck Foundation,
Copenhagen (Denmark)

Colin Johnson

Ecsite Honorary Fellow,
Cardiff (United Kingdom)

Tekniska Museet (National Museum of Science & Technology), Stockholm (Sweden) won for its partnership undertaken with artist Håkan Lidbo on the interactive exhibit “Make Music with Your Whole Body”, co-created with children and taking into account the needs of physically impaired visitors. The exhibit is part of MegaMind, a new exhibition space dedicated to creativity. “We were impressed by the openness of this collaboration, and the evidence of profound learning both on the artist’s and on the science centre’s side. This project struck a chord with us: it is an inspiring example of co-creation for the science engagement community,” the Jury stated.

Representing the winning project, Peter Skogh, Director of Tekniska Museet ran a “provocation workshop” together with artist Håkan Lidbo at the 2016 Ecsite Directors Forum. They invited attendees to transition from STEM to STEAM (where A stands for Arts) and challenged them to creative exercises: coding music with candies, fighting writer’s block thanks to a man versus machine challenge or tackling the planet’s problems through a card game.

The Jury also nominated a Highly commended project: International Centre for Life, Newcastle (United Kingdom) - for their partnership built with the Northumbria University, a continuing programme of activities that reinforces both partners’ mission and vision.

The 2016 Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards were carried out with the support of LIP, the Laboratory of Instrumentation and Experimental Physics (Portugal), founded by José Mariano Gago (1948 - 2015) in whose honour the Ecsite Awards are named.





"Winning the Mariano Gago Ecsite Award has been a highly valuable recognition for everyone working with and at the Museum. A sign of innovation and creativity that we have used in all our communications throughout the year."



Peter Skogh
Director,
Tekniska Museet,
Stockholm (Sweden)



Ecsite Thematic Groups

Thematic groups are communities of practice bringing together Ecsite professionals to exchange on specific topics within the field. These groups form solely on the energy, ideas and initiative of Ecsite members – thank you to all contributors!



REV Group

The REV Group ran a two-day workshop at the 2016 Ecsite Annual Conference, entitled “Accessing and implementing research findings”. Academics, museum evaluators and exhibition designers discussed how to integrate research and practice and familiarised themselves with the science capital concept. The workshop’s outcomes were shared with the science engagement community via a series of interviews published in the Spokes July-August issue. The article contains a “what to ask designers when starting a project” checklist, or “the questions you need to ask beforehand for good working relationships afterwards”.

Aim

stimulate and help facilitate research and evaluation in science centres and museums across Europe

Twitter: [@Ecsite_REV](https://twitter.com/Ecsite_REV)

Pollinators

Steering Committee

Marie Hobson, Learning and Audience Research Manager, The Natural History Museum, London (United Kingdom) – Chairperson until June

Marjelle van Hoorn, Association Manager, VSC network of science museums and science centres (The Netherlands) – Chairperson from June

Nils Petter Hauan, Head of Development, Vilvite, Bergen (Norway) - Co-Chair

Jennifer De Witt, Researcher, King’s College London (United Kingdom)

Ilona Iwiewicka-Tańska, Head of the Research Department, Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw (Poland)

Roy Schedler, Head Marketing and Partnerships, Swiss Science Center Technorama, Winterthur (Switzerland)

Nature Group

The Nature Group hosted a one-day workshop at the 2016 Ecsite Annual Conference, exploring the “indoor-outdoor paradox”, i.e. the challenging mission of natural history museums and science centres that endeavour to make visitors care about nature... in man-made, artificial settings. Nature Group representatives also actively participated in setting up “Let It Grow”, Ecsite’s joint local biodiversity campaign with the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and Botanical Gardens International (BGCI). The Nature Group started its own newsletter in December 2016.

Aim

bring together professionals and institutions who engage audiences with nature

Pollinators

Steering Committee

Henrik Sell, Deputy Director, Natural History Museum, Aarhus (Denmark) – Chairperson

Michele Lanzinger, Director, MUSE, Trento (Italy)

Anna Omedes, Director, Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona (Spain)

Camille Pisani, Director, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels (Belgium)

Jean-Marie Sani, Project Director, Musée national d’histoire naturelle, Paris (France)
Ilse Van Zeeland, Senior content developer, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden (The Netherlands)

Space Group

The Ecsite Space Group and the European Space Agency (ESA) invited science centres, space professionals and non-specialists to a two-day workshop held during the 2016 Ecsite Annual Conference. Together, attendees shaped a set of three thematic resource clusters including learning activities and exhibitions. The first kit on the International Space Station was released in December and one more will follow in 2017. Ecsite Space Group members met again in December for their Annual Meeting, held at the ESA European Astronaut Centre (EAC), in Cologne, Germany. Behind the scenes tour, space updates and collaborative project work filled two inspiring days.

Aim

offer a platform to share information, ideas, practices and expertise for developing joint projects to promote European space programmes

Pollinators

Steering Committee

Maria Menendez, Head of Corporate Exhibition and Events, European Space Agency, Paris (France) – Co-Chairperson

Marc Moutin, Director of Exhibitions, Cité de l’Espace, Toulouse (France), Co-Chairperson

Ana Noronha, Executive Director, Ciência Viva, Lisbon (Portugal) – Co-Chairperson
Fiorella Coliolo, Ecsite Space Group Coordinator for ESA

Look up the 120+ Space Group members on the Ecsite website!

Facilitation Group

In its two-day workshop held at the 2016 Ecsite Annual Conference, the Facilitation Group challenged participants to think afresh about the nature of facilitation. Attendees interrogated current shifts in facilitators’ professional development, exploring the impact of new tools and trends such as tinkering or digital interactions.

Aim

build a community for all staff who deliver learning experiences
Twitter: @Ecsite_TFG

Pollinators

Steering Committee

Brad Irwin, Partnerships Development Manager, Natural History Museum, London (United Kingdom) – Chairperson

Antonio Gomes da Costa, Independent Consultant in Science Communication, Lisbon (Portugal)

Ryan Jenkins, Learning Studio Coordinator, Exploratorium, San Francisco (USA)

Heather King, Research Associate, King’s College London (United Kingdom)

Miha Kos, Director, The House of Experiments, Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Sofia Lucas, Commercial Director, Ciência Viva, Lisbon (Portugal)

Anne-Lise Mathieu, Project Coordinator of l’Ecole de la Médiation, universcience, Paris (France)

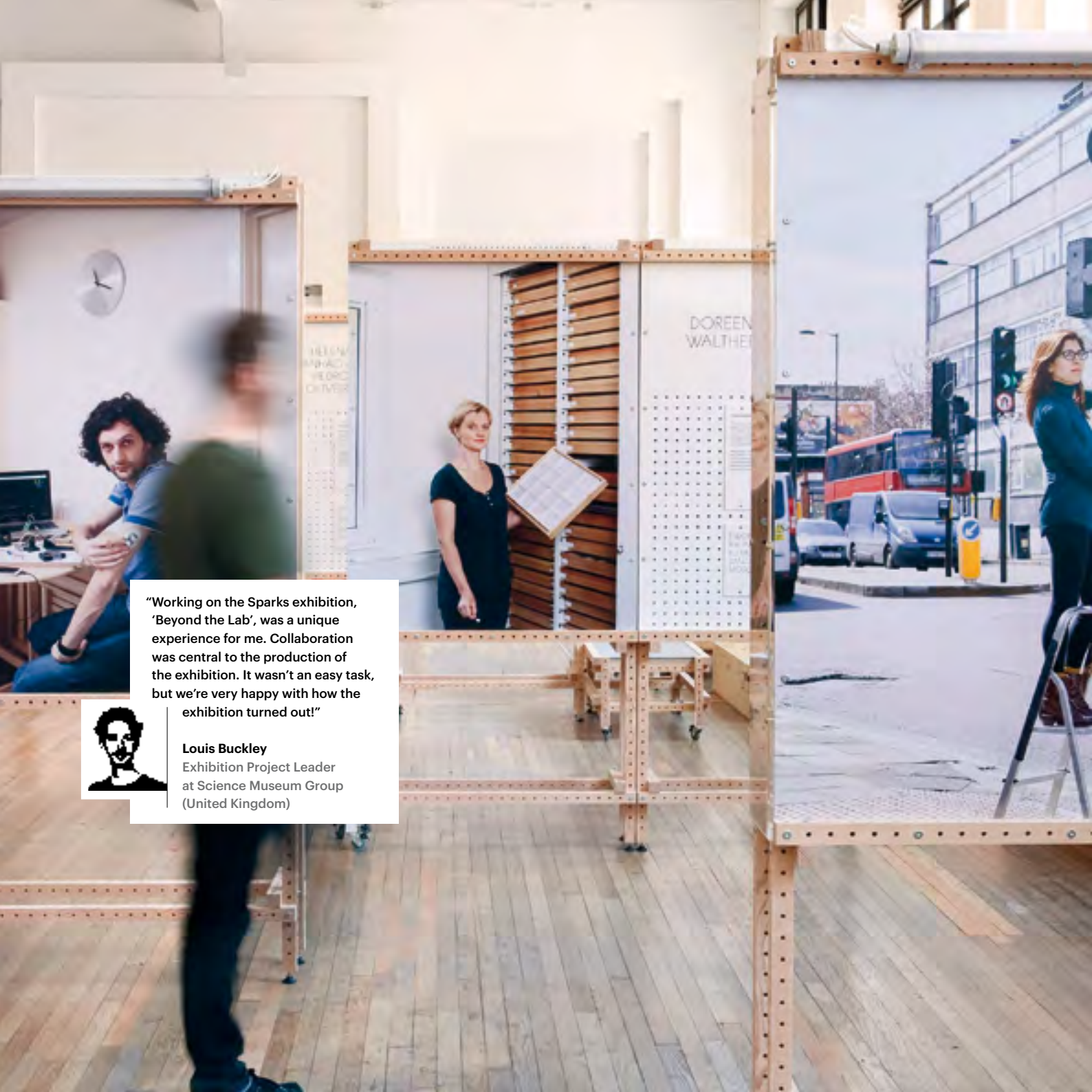
Matteo Merzagora, Director, TRACES/ Espace des Sciences Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, Paris (France)

Paola Rodari, Senior Research and Project Manager, SISSA Medialab, Trieste (Italy)

Barbara Streicher, CEO, Science-Center Netzwerk, Vienna (Austria)

Maria Xanthoudaki, Head of Education and International Relations, Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci, Milan (Italy)





“Working on the Sparks exhibition, ‘Beyond the Lab’, was a unique experience for me. Collaboration was central to the production of the exhibition. It wasn’t an easy task, but we’re very happy with how the exhibition turned out!”



Louis Buckley
Exhibition Project Leader
at Science Museum Group
(United Kingdom)

Seeds

EU-funded projects

Ecsite is involved in numerous collaborative projects, mostly funded by the European Union. These projects, directly involving 45 Ecsite members in 2016, allow practitioners to breed and test new science engagement concepts and practices, and to disseminate the seeds of these novel varieties to the four corners of Europe – and beyond. Ecsite participation in EU-funded projects strengthens the reputation of science engagement as a powerful lever for social and economic policy, results in precious tools and learnings and allows dozens of Ecsite members to grow branches in new directions. Take a tour of our 2016 nursery.

Sparks

In short

Creating a touring exhibition and activities to engage citizens with Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), focusing on technology shifts in health and medicine

Timeframe: July 2015 – June 2018

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: Ecsite

Ecsite members involved: 22

More information: www.sparksproject.eu

2016 highlights

Meet Pieter, a biohacker crowdsourcing new antibiotics; Sara, an expert patient who took her treatment of Parkinson's disease into her own hands; or Shazia, who equipped prams with air quality monitoring devices to map less polluted routes through London's neighbourhoods.

Sara, Shazia and Pieter are three of the seven DIY scientists' featured in "Beyond the Lab: the DIY Science Revolution", the Sparks touring exhibition. Opened in July 2016, the exhibition also showcases three works of art and a local case study developed by each of its 29 touring venues. Public engagement activities such as "Science espressos" and "Reversed science cafés" run parallel to the exhibition and allow further exploration of citizens' active contribution to the research process.

Coordinated by Ecsite, Sparks set itself the ambitious goal of engaging Europeans from 29 countries with the concept of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). Focussing on the topic of technology shifts in health and medicine, the Sparks exhibition turns a concept into touching human stories. In 2016 the exhibition was hosted by 8 Ecsite members and in 2017-2018 it will visit 21 more locations.

The Sparks project was selected by the Network of National Contact Points for Science with and for Society (Swafs) in Horizon 2020 as a successful project in promoting excellence in European research linked to Responsible Research and Innovation.

Hypatia

In short

Changing the way schools, science museums, research institutions and industry engage teenage girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

Timeframe: August 2015 – August 2018

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: NEMO Science Museum, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Ecsite role: Partner and work package leader, in charge of dissemination

Ecsite members involved: 14

More information:

www.expecteverything.eu
and www.hypatiaproject.eu

2016 highlights

In April Hypatia launched "Expect Everything", a social media campaign targeted at teenagers and inviting them to contribute as writers and editors. 13 national hubs led by Ecsite members kick-started their activities in Spring 2016, bringing together teenagers, parents, formal and informal education stakeholders, authorities, research institutes and industries. Last but not least, in June Ecsite hosted an industry breakfast and workshop that gathered 60+ European leaders.

RRI Tools

In short

Developing digital resources to advocate, train, disseminate and implement Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

Timeframe:

January 2014 – December 2016

European programme: 7th Framework Programme (FP7)

Coordinator: La Caixa Foundation, Barcelona (Spain)

Ecsite role: Partner and work package leader, in charge of assessing the needs and constraints of RRI stakeholders

Ecsite members involved: 8

More information: www.rri-tools.eu

2016 highlights

The project's final year saw the launch of the RRI Toolkit, an impressive online repository of projects, tools, guidelines, cases, manuals, and many other useful resources. A "quick start guide" developed with Ecsite members for science engagement organisations offers inspiring real-life examples of what RRI looks like in practice.

HEIRRI

In short

Embedding RRI into higher education

Timeframe:

September 2015 – August 2018

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (Spain)

Ecsite role: Partner, work package leader for the project's conferences and online tools and in charge of overseeing the piloting of courses undertaken by two Ecsite members

Ecsite members involved: 3

More information: www.heirri.eu

2016 highlights

150 academics and professionals involved in higher education gathered in Barcelona in April to explore and discuss the obstacles, advancements, strategies, and the best practice to teaching RRI in higher education. In November, partners launched a database of 23 in-depth case studies based on a comprehensive state of the art review and began drafting academic training materials designed to promote RRI in higher education.





SYNERGENE

In short

Fostering public participation and collaborative “shaping” in the new field of synthetic biology

Timeframe: July 2013 – June 2017

European programme: 7th Framework Programme (FP7) – MML project (Mobilization and Mutual Learning)

Coordinator: Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany)

Ecsite role: Partner, in charge of Public Involvement work package

Ecsite members involved: 7

More information: www.synergene.eu

2016 highlights

Public engagement activities on synthetic biology took place across Europe and in Brazil in 2016, including science cafés, dialogue activities and hands-on workshops. In June a Forum brought together stakeholders and citizens at the NEMO Science Museum in Amsterdam, including scientists, civil society organisations, industry representatives and policymakers.

Sea Change

In short

Raising awareness of the intrinsic links between the ocean and human health

Timeframe: March 2015 – February 2018

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: The Marine Biological Association, Plymouth (United Kingdom)

Ecsite role: Partner, contributing to education and lifelong learning activities on ocean literacy, coordinating a public consultation in Belgium, responsible for public engagement activities run by Ecsite members and co-organising project legacy action.

Ecsite members involved: 5

More information:

www.seachangeproject.eu

2016 highlights

Project partners launched Ocean Edge, a collection of educational resources and activities, as well as an online course on ocean literacy and an e-book that will be used as a study material in schools. In October the first of a series of public events planned at Ecsite members’ took place in Bulgaria, following behavioural, systems and social change methodologies recommended by social innovation experts.

EUSPACE-AWE

In short

Using the excitement of space to attract young people to science and technology

Timeframe: March 2015 – March 2018

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: Universiteit Leiden (The Netherlands)

Ecsite role: Partner, acting as a multiplier node for the project’s dissemination

Ecsite members involved: 2 & the Ecsite Space Group

More information:

www.space-awareness.org

and www.spacescoop.org

2016 highlights

The project’s website was launched in Spring 2016. Specially targeted at teachers and parents, it offers plenty of free space-related high quality resources, news, citizen science projects and events. A MOOC and a teacher training workshop were also offered as part of the project.



60+ European leaders took part in the industry workshop organised by Ecsite as part of the Hypatia project on 2016 in Brussels (Belgium).
Picture: Reimar Ott



PlayDecide workshop at the NEMO Science Museum in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) as part of the Hypatia project, May 2016. Picture: Digidaan.

ERC=Science²

In short

Raising the profile of the European Research Council (ERC) by highlighting its scientific research, achievements, and success stories while stimulating greater public interest in science

Timeframe: October 2015 – March 2019

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: Science I Business, Brussels (Belgium)

Ecsite role: Partner and work package leader, coordinating the design and delivery of public engagement activities, together with Ecsite members

Ecsite members involved: 10

More information:
www.sciencesquared.eu

2016 highlights

In 2016 the ERC=Science² communications campaign focused on two frontier research areas: the human city and food. Ecsite members ran public events such as hands-on experiments, multimedia presentations and conferences in Estonia, France, the Czech Republic, Poland and Bulgaria.

SeeingNano

In short

Creating new visualisation tools to raise awareness about nanotechnology

Timeframe: December 2014 – November 2016

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: Nanotechnology Industry Association (NIA), Brussels (Belgium)

Ecsite role: Partner, managing the piloting, validating and launching of visualisation tools

Ecsite members involved: 5

More information: www.seeingnano.eu

2016 highlights

Participating Ecsite members involved more than 2,000 participants in piloting visualisation tools developed by social scientists, nano scientists and visualisation experts to allow different audiences to “see at the nano scale”. A Nano Origami, a digital Memory game, a Nano App and a Nano Profiler count among them – available from the Ecsite website’s Resources section.

NANO2ALL

In short

Cultivating a Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) governance ecosystem for nanotechnology

Timeframe: October 2015 – March 2019

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI), Portugal

Ecsite role: Partner, coordinating the action of Ecsite members organising dialogue events

Ecsite members involved: 6

More information: www.nano2all.eu

2016 highlights

Project partners focused on preparations for upcoming citizen and multi-stakeholder dialogues on the future of nanotechnologies in Europe. They developed dialogue methodologies; adapted the ‘Scenario Exploration System’ (a serious scenario-building game developed by the EU Joint Research Centre); and trained participating Ecsite members’ staff.

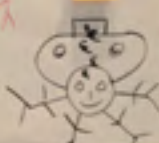




What is my community?

Draw the 6 in a group of my peers.
Use the questions below to discuss and explore your community. Why does it grow?

- 1. Who are I spending time with? 2. What groups / leading off?
- 3. Where do I volunteer? 4. Why health care work?
- 5. What do my friends have in common?



Spores

International actions and partnerships

Ecsite acts as a representative body for the European science engagement field, interacting and collaborating with a diverse range of stakeholders: EU institutions and agencies, other international, trans-national and national science centre networks, associations in neighbouring fields... Follow the 2016 international trajectory of our diplomatic spores.

Brussels sprouts Working with the European Commission

One of Ecsite's missions is to be the voice of science engagement at European level, in particular in dialogue with the European Commission (EC). Over the years and over several funding frameworks - including the current Horizon 2020 scheme - Ecsite built a solid relationship with the Research and Innovation Directorate General, in particular with the Science with and for Society Unit. In 2016 Ecsite also made new connections with the Bioeconomy Unit of DG Research and Innovation.

Ecsite's Executive Director continued to sit on the Experts Group created by Horizon 2020 National Contact Points in the Science with and for Society area and on the Advisory Group for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA).

Furthermore, Ecsite participated in two EC public consultations, about Science and Society (June) and Youth Policy (August). For the former, together with its members, Ecsite identified five priorities:

1. Accessibility of outcomes from publicly funded research in formats adapted to the public
2. Integration of citizens and society in the innovation process
3. Engagement of young people in STEM learning and careers in informal settings
4. Stimulation of innovative science engagement for adults
5. Capacity building in European and local institutions and their networks.

Networking among networks

Many European countries count national or regional science centre or science engagement networks. For the first time, a specific pre-conference workshop was dedicated to them at the 2016 Ecsite Annual Conference in Graz, initiated by Ecsite and the Austrian Science-Center Netzwerk with SPiN, the Polish network. "Making the most of national and trans-national networks" brought together representatives of more than three quarters of European national & transnational networks to explore three strands: network specificities, advocacy and membership diversity. The workshop acted as a platform to exchange ideas, learn from each other and build common agendas and synergies. A success that opened the way for a second workshop in 2017.

International Science Center and Science Museum Day

Every year, 10 November is UNESCO Science for Peace and Development Day. In 2016, a special thematic spotlight was put on our field on that day, with the first International Science Centre & Science Museum Day (ISCSMD). Members of science centre networks around the globe joined forces for this special event.

Together we showcased our field's contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs. More than 300 science centres and science museums participated, from more than 55 countries on six continents covering 20 time zones, presenting a diverse range of special events, programmes, and exhibitions.

The Science-Center Netzwerk in Austria for instance set up a hands-on SDGs "travel lounge" at the Natural History Museum in Vienna, while in Poland 34 science centres teamed up for celebrations ranging from shows to special trails, hands-on smog analysis to climate quizzes.



"Participating in ISCSMD was a great opportunity to show how much our local and global actions are connected. For instance we invited the Polish public to take part in an international cloud observation programme, which proved highly popular and encouraged participation in citizen science."

Robert Firmhofer
CEO, Copernicus Science
Centre, Warsaw (Poland)

Getting ready for the 2017 Science Centre World Summit

On 14-17 November 2017 decision-makers of the science centre field will be gathering at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation Miraikan in Tokyo (Japan) for the Science Centre World Summit, an event that takes place every third year. Science centre networks from around the globe are collaborating on the Summit's preparation via the International Planning Committee (or IPC).

Former Ecsite Presidents Robert Firmhofer and Rosalia Vargas as well as Ecsite Executive Director Catherine Franche sit on the IPC. In 2016 the Committee concentrated on building the Summit's programme around the 2017 edition's theme: "Connecting the World for a Sustainable Future".





‘Let It Grow’ campaigning with zoos, aquaria and botanical gardens

In 2014 Ecsite, EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria) and BGCI (Botanic Gardens Conservation International) signed a memorandum of understanding to work towards a common target, enhancing the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s AICHI Target 1: that “By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.”

2016 saw the launch of a joint public campaign entitled ‘Let It Grow’, raising awareness of the importance of local biodiversity and encouraging citizens’ direct involvement in its protection. Over 150 EAZA, BGCI and Ecsite members joined forces to constitute a pool of biodiversity-related resources and run public actions around the world. On 15-17 April for instance, nearly 1,000 scientists, naturalists and volunteers raced against the clock to identify as many species as possible at the Montjuïc Hill in Barcelona during BioBlitzBcn, an initiative of the Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona in partnership with the Ecology, Urban Planning and Mobility Area of Barcelona Council and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.

Another campaign highlight will be a series of actions during International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2017.



“Joining the campaign allowed us to find new local partner institutions. We built on existing local biodiversity activities and decided to give them higher priority at the Museum: thanks to the ‘Let It Grow’ campaign, ‘Nature in the City’ is now a new Museum Strategic Subject.”

Anna Omedes

Director, Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona (Spain)

Common trajectory with the European Space Agency: year 4

Ecsite and ESA, the European Space Agency, have been combining their strengths, networks and capabilities since 2012 in order to share European space programmes and achievements.

2016 was the second of the three year “Space for Life” thematic programme led by the Ecsite Space Group and ESA. Resources are being developed on three topics: ‘The International Space Station: Living and Working in Space’; ‘Is there life out there?’; and ‘Climate Change: Monitoring Atmosphere and Oceans from Space’. 2016 saw the release of the first kit about the ISS, created by Cité de l’Espace, Toulouse (France) and Tycho Brahe Planetarium, Copenhagen (Denmark).

Participants of the Space Group’s Annual Meeting in December 2016 had the opportunity to visit the ESA Astronaut Centre and the facilities of the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), in Cologne (Germany).

A lively second year of partnership with Hands On! International

2016 was the second year of partnership between Ecsite and Hands On!, the International Association of Children in Museums. 44 professionals took part in the one-day “Advancing the children’s museums field” pre-conference workshop organised by Hands On! at the Ecsite Annual Conference in Graz (Austria). A special children-related thematic strand ran through the first day of the main conference on 9 June and the Children in Museums Award, a joint venture between Hands On! and the European Museum Academy, was announced during the Ecsite Gala Ball on that same night.

As in 2015 the partnership also included cross-participation to each other’s Awards Jury. Annemies Broekgaarden, Former President of Hands On!, sat on the 2016 Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards jury and Toby Parkin, Head of Learning at the Science Museum Group (United Kingdom), represented Ecsite on the Children in Museums Award jury. Susanne Gesser, Director of the kinder museum in Frankfurt, also assisted the Annual Conference Programme Committee in picking children-related sessions.

“It was a real privilege for me to meet the Space Group at the Ecsite Annual Meeting in Cologne and to present them the future of European space activities after the decisions taken at ESA Council at Ministerial level in Lucerne last December. It is fundamental for us to share our achievements with science centres and museums as they have skills and expertise to reach different target audiences and promote our programmes in Space science, Earth Observation, Launchers, Exploration, Navigation to Telecommunications, Operations & Technology. ”



Franco Bonacina
Head Communication Department,
ESA – European Space Agency



a
PLACE FOR
DURING EXHIBITIONS



extra

THE MARKETPLACE FOR
SCIENTIFIC TOURING EXHIBITIONS



Rhizomes Communication and member platforms

What would a network be without its communications channels? Ecsite invests considerable energy into its “information rhizome”, spreading news, setting trends, curating member services platforms... In 2016 our Spokes magazine reached its full bloom and the Ecsite website grew two new branches, Ecsite Move and EXTRA.

Ecsite Move, a new peer platform

Ecsite Move, a new service open to Full members of Ecsite, was launched in June 2016. Its aim is to facilitate peer encounters and study visits. Via an online platform, staff of participating organisations can book free tickets to visit other participating organisations around Europe. Hosts and guests are also encouraged to meet in person for an informal professional exchange. All participating organisations are both hosts and guests.

Warm thanks to Ciência Viva – Pavilion of Knowledge (Lisbon, Portugal), whose team developed the platform as a gift to Ecsite members. Thank you too to Ecsite members who helped refine and test the service as it was developed.



EXTRA, the marketplace for touring scientific exhibitions

Developed in the 2000s as part of the e-Castex European project, EXTRA soon became THE online database for scientific touring exhibitions. While the service remained popular, the database’s technical framework was starting to show its age... time for a serious rejuvenation!

An entirely streamlined and re-designed EXTRA, hosted on the Ecsite website, was launched at the Ecsite Annual Conference. The search function remains accessible to all, while promoting exhibitions became a service reserved to Ecsite members. Early 2017 the platform counted 350+ advertised exhibitions.

Special thanks to Olivier Retout, who served as the EXTRA Administrator for years and played a crucial role in the platform’s redevelopment.

Thank you, dear EXTRA sponsors

Exhibition Site Management Ltd
exsm.co.uk



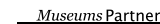
Imagine Exhibitions
imagineexhibitions.com



Mobull
mobull.be



Museumspartner GmbH
museumspartner.com



SC Exhibitions
sc-exhibitions.com



Spokes, the popular science engagement magazine

Spokes is Ecsite's magazine, relaunched in its current monthly online form in Spring 2015. Born from a strategic turn taken by Ecsite in widening its membership and setting itself an ambitious society-wide mission, the Spokes magazine has become a powerful agent to raise science engagement organisations' profile as actors of social change, advancing Ecsite's vision. The decision to make high quality contents freely available to all online, combined with a bold editorial line and elegant design, has made our new publication a must-read on the European science communication scene - in 18 months' time.

The Spokes Editorial Committee has developed a unique mix of conceptual features, journalistic pieces and more emotional contents, celebrating our professional community's human stories. The February 2016 issue for instance contained both an in-depth article proposing a new learning agenda for natural history museums and a series of interviews telling the personal tales of ex-scientists turned communicators. Other topics covered in 2016 included citizen participation, space mainstreaming, science cafés, museum shops, gender approaches in STEM, science capital and more.

Readership numbers were up by 24% in 2016 and reveal that Spokes readers expect the magazine to be bold. Those issues addressing pressing societal questions like the refugee crisis, the Brexit or the question of post-truth were the most popular ones.

We elegantly reconciled the ambition to reach the widest possible audience with the imperative of providing exclusive member benefits by distilling the best of freely accessible online contents into a members-only annual paper volume, Spokes Panorama, whose first edition was printed in 2016. In autumn 2016 the Spokes family counted a new addition with @SpokesEcsite, Spokes' voice on Twitter.

Spokes' success is largely due to its Editorial Committee's talent for anticipating trends, identifying pressing issues and spotting thematic niches. Thanks too to authors, interviewees, Ecsite members contributing news - and of course to readers.

Pollinators

Spokes Editorial Committee

Maarten Okkersen

Head of Communication and Marketing,
Museum, The Hague
(The Netherlands) -
Chairperson

Julie Becker

Communications and
Events Manager,
Ecsite, Brussels (Belgium) -
Spokes Editor

Andrea Bandelli

Executive director, Science
Gallery International, Dublin
(Ireland) - from May

Raphael Chanay

Interpretation Manager,
The Natural History Museum,
London (United Kingdom) -
from July

Raquel da Cunha

Events and Communications
Officer,
Ecsite, Brussels (Belgium)

Wiktor Gajewski

Science and Art Events
Director,
Copernicus Science Centre,
Warsaw (Poland)

Aliki Giannakopoulou

Project Manager,
Ellinogermaniki Agogi SA,
Pallini (Greece)

Antonio Gomes da Costa

Independent Consultant
in Science Communication,
Lisbon (Portugal) - from July

Gema Revuelta

Associate Professor,
Universitat Pompeu Fabra,
Barcelona (Spain)

Maria Xanthoudaki

Head of Education
and International Relations,
Museo Nazionale della Scienza
e della Tecnologia Leonardo
da Vinci, Milan (Italy)





K13 SteelPark, Košice (Slovakia)



National Institute of Research and Development
for Optoelectronics INOE 2000, Magurele (Romania)



The Olympic Museum, Lausanne (Switzerland)



K4 Club at the Kersnikova Institute, Ljubljana (Slovenia)



Kairòs Studio, Collecchio (Italy)



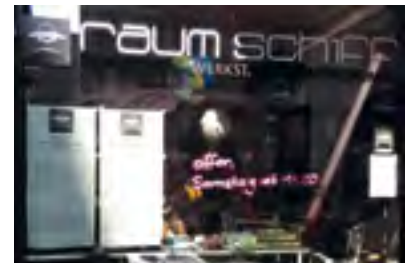
Geofort project by MMEK' experience BV, Utrecht
(The Netherlands)



Monkeys exhibition by Nomad Exhibitions, Edinburgh
(United Kingdom)



Magic City exhibition by SC Exhibitions, Bayreuth (Germany)



Raumschiff – Kulturzentrum der Astronomie, Wallisellen
(Switzerland)

Roots

Governance and membership

Ecsite would be nothing without its members. Since the network was founded, Ecsite membership has grown considerably, both in terms of numbers and in terms of diversity, now counting universities, festivals, private companies or professional networks. A growing variety of stakeholders have become active in science engagement, providing Ecsite with a deeper and further-reaching roots system. In 2016 Ecsite members took a crucial step in revising membership rules: hear how, take a tour of new members, make acquaintance with the Ecsite Board and listen to stories from the ground.

A new membership structure

Changes to the structure of Ecsite membership were approved by over 85% of voting members at the Ecsite Annual General Meeting held in Graz (Austria), on 10 June 2016. These changes were the result of careful consideration from the Ecsite Board over a period of 18 months, and of discussions and consultations with Ecsite members.

Until then, non-profit science engagement organisations based in Europe could choose between two membership categories: Full member and Associate member; only Full members could (and still can) participate in Ecsite governance. Ecsite membership rules have become simpler: since January 2017 all those eligible are now Full members. Welcoming a more diverse range of organisations to Full membership called for a fairer fees system: four different Full membership fee categories were created, based on members' yearly turnover.

As Ecsite President Michiel Buchel wrote in his introduction to the present Annual Report: “[this is] making Ecsite membership more open than ever and has turned Ecsite into an organisation where the bulk of members receive equal rights and benefits. This makes our network’s governance more representative and is already generating a stronger commitment from a larger number of organisations and individuals”.

“Be the change you want to see in Ecsite! As the Director of a small science centre, I strongly advocated for the new membership structure that enables and empowers more members to become actively engaged partners and equal contributors of fresh ideas and concepts. It empowers Ecsite. It echoes our own science centre’s vision: to live and participate in a healthy democracy, a society in which the significant majority think critically and address challenges proactively.”



Miha Kos
Director, The House of Experiments,
Ljubljana (Slovenia)

New 2016 members Welcome!

New Full members

Groninger Forum, Groningen
(The Netherlands)
INL – International Iberian
Nanotechnology Laboratory,
Braga (Portugal)
Luxembourg Science Center,
Differdange (Luxembourg)
Museu de História Natural e da Ciência
da Universidade do Porto, Porto
(Portugal)
University of Bath, Bath (United
Kingdom)

They chose to change from Associate to Full member

Blue World Institute of Marine Research
and Conservation, Veli Losinj (Croatia)
CERN, Geneva (Switzerland)
Latvian Association of Science Centers -
LZCA, Cēsis (Latvia)
Mobilis Science Center, Gyor (Hungary)
Nobel Museum, Stockholm (Sweden)
Science Animation Midi-Pyrénées,
Toulouse (France)
Science Gallery Gama – TESLA Union,
Pardubice (Czech Republic)
Stiftung Neanderthal Museum,
Mettmann (Germany)
Vitenparken, Ås (Norway)

New Associate members

Agóra Tudományos Élményközpont
(Agora Science Center),
Debrecen (Hungary)
Brorfelde Observatorium, Tølløse
(Denmark)
Centro de Ciência do Café,
Campo Maior (Portugal)
Centro Siciliano di Fisica Nucleare e
Struttura della Materia (CSFNMS),
Catania (Italy)
ExpoLab – Centro de Ciência Viva,
Lagoa (Portugal)
Institutul de Fizica Atomica, Magurele
(Romania)
Institutul National de Cercetare-
Dezvoltare pentru Fizica si Inginerie
Nucleara Horia Hulubei (IFIN HH),
Magurele (Romania)
Institutul National pentru Fizica Laserilor,
Plasmei si Radiatiei - Center for
Science Education and Training,
Magurele (Romania)
K13 - Košické kultúrne centrá (SteelPark),
Košice (Slovakia)
National Institute of Research and
Development for Optoelectronics
INOE 2000, Magurele (Romania)
Philips Museum, Eindhoven (The
Netherlands)
The Milwaukee Public Museum,
Milwaukee (United States)
The Olympic Museum, Lausanne
(Switzerland)
Training Center “Computeria”,
Tver (Russia)
Zavod Kersnikova (Kersnikova Institute),
Ljubljana (Slovenia)

New Sustaining members

Archimedes Interactive Museum,
Kato Polemidia (Cyprus)
Asal Bilim, Istanbul (Turkey)
GMC+A (Geoffrey M Curley + Associates,
LLC), Saint Paul (United States)
Kairòs Studio, Collecchio (Italy)
MMEK' experience BV, Utrecht
(The Netherlands)
Nomad Exhibitions, Edinburgh
(United Kingdom)
SC Exhibitions (Simmel Concerts
Entertainment GmbH), Bayreuth
(Germany)

New One-person company members

Exhibitions from Europe /Exhibitions
for Europe, Maaseik (Belgium)
Antonio Gomes da Costa – Consultant in
Science Communication and Science
Education, Lisbon (Portugal)
Audrey O'Connell + Associates,
Bainbridge Island (United States)
Raumschiff – Kulturzentrum der
Astronomie, Wallisellen (Switzerland)
Peter Trevitt Consulting, Penarth
(United Kingdom)



Centro de Ciência do Café, Campo Maior (Portugal)



Agora Science Center, Debrecen (Hungary)



Groninger Forum, Groningen (The Netherlands)



Museu de História Natural e da Ciência da Universidade do Porto, Porto (Portugal)



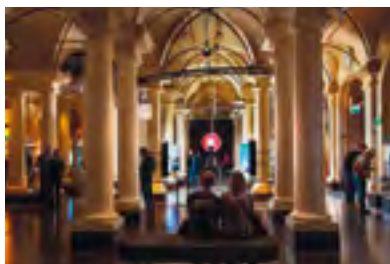
Stiftung Neanderthal Museum, Mettmann (Germany)



International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory, Braga (Portugal)




Brorfelde Observatorium, Tølløse (Denmark)



Nobel Museum, Stockholm (Sweden)



University of Bath, Bath (United Kingdom)

A group of people, mostly men, are shown in profile, clapping their hands. They are wearing suits and lanyards, suggesting a formal event or conference. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the audience.

“Getting a chance to serve as a Board member of Ecsite is not only pleasant due to the inspiring company of great colleagues, but also an opportunity to learn, compare and benchmark.

Heureka also holds Ecsite’s capability to join EU project in high esteem.”

The Heureka logo is a stylized, abstract graphic consisting of black and white shapes, resembling a map or a cluster of points.

Tapio Koivu

CEO, Heureka - The Finnish
Science Centre,
Vantaa (Finland)

2016 Ecsite Board

Ecsite Board members are elected by the Annual General Assembly, the governing body of Ecsite composed of representatives from Full Member organisations. Board members serve for a two-year period renewable twice for a maximum of six years. A warm thank you to these dedicated organisations and individuals.

Executive Committee

Presidency

- 1 NEMO Science Centre (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) - Michiel Buchel, CEO

Past Presidency

- 2 Ciência Viva – Pavilion of Knowledge (Lisbon, Portugal) - Rosalia Vargas, President

Vice-Presidency

Until June

- 3 Vilvite (Bergen, Norway) - Svein Anders Dahl, Chief Executive Officer

From June

- 4 Universum (Bremen, Germany) - Herbert Muender, General Manager

Treasury

- 5 Cité de l'Espace (Toulouse, France) - Jean-Baptiste Desbois, Executive Director

Ecsite Executive Director

- 6 Catherine Franche

Trustees

Until June

- 7 Experimentarium (Hellerup, Denmark) - Kim Gladstone Herlev, Executive Director

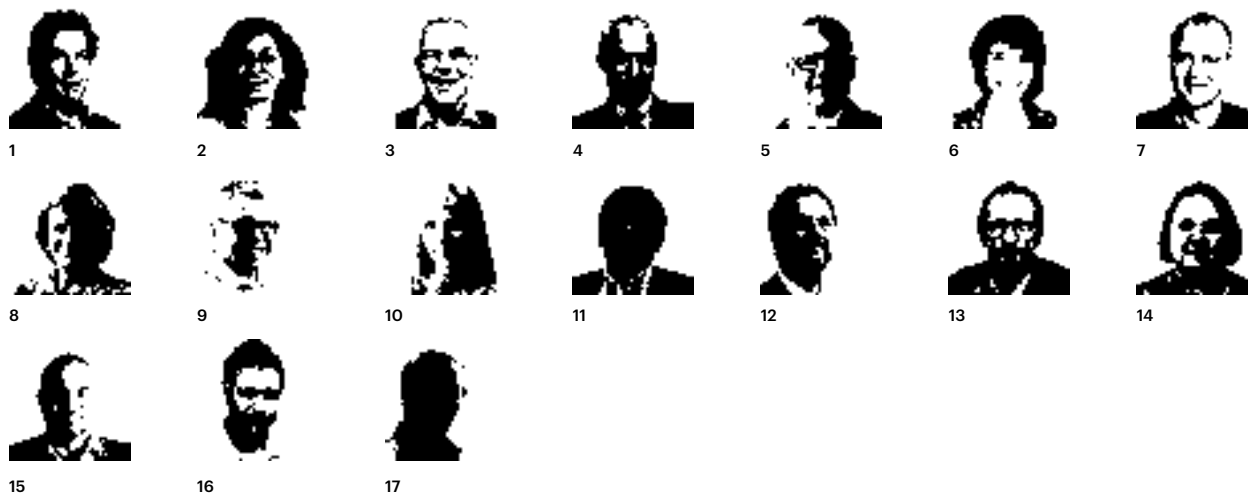
From June

- 8 Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona (Barcelona, Spain) – Anna Omedes, Director
- 9 Heureka - The Finnish Science Centre (Vantaa, Finland) – Tapio Koivu, CEO

Continuing their mandates or re-elected

- 10 AHHA Science Centre (Tartu, Estonia) - Pilvi Kolk, Member of the Management Board
- 11 Città della Scienza (Naples, Italy) - Vincenzo Lipardi, Chief Executive Officer
- 12 MUSE, Museo delle Scienze (Trento, Italy) - Michele Lanzinger, Director

- 13 Parque de las Ciencias (Granada, Spain) - Ernesto Páramo Sureda, Director
- 14 Science Museum Group (London, United Kingdom) - Helen Jones, Head of Strategy and International
- 15 Swedish Museum of Performing Arts (Stockholm, Sweden) - Daniel Wetterskog, Head of Museum
- 16 The House of Experiments (Ljubljana, Slovenia) - Miha Kos, Director
- 17 Vitensenteret, the Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology (Oslo, Norway) - Jan Alfred Andersson, Manager



An ear to the ground Stories from members

To give Annual report readers a glimpse of Ecsite members' incredibly diverse activities, each year Ecsite invites a handful of them to tell stories of their daily science engagement practice. In 2016 we asked them to share instances in which they were "proud to have listened": stories of science engagement professionals or organisations who took input from their stakeholders and audiences seriously. Let's put our ears to the ground and listen...



"When an exhibit raises important social questions, but might skirt the boundaries of legality, is it irresponsible to show it, or irresponsible not to show it? In SECRET, Science Gallery's exhibition on cryptography, deception, and privacy, we wanted to show Nicolas Maigret's "Pirate Cinema" which used BitTorrent technology to stream video snippets live as they are distributed (often illegally) over peer-to-peer sharing networks. The only problem was that showing these snippets might break Irish law. The artwork raised questions about the mismatch between archaic laws and new technologies, plus the impact on artistic expression. So there was an argument that showing the piece might initiate the kind of discussion and public awareness necessary to precipitate legal reform.

Between a rock and a hard place, we decided to host a public debate between an engineering professor and a legal scholar on what we should do, plus an audience discussion and vote. The attendees voted in favour of showing it, concluding that the legal risk was low and the benefits were high. We trusted in our audience, exhibited it, didn't get sued, and had our most popular exhibition to date."

Ian Brunswick
Programme Manager
Science Gallery
Dublin (Ireland)



"Our science centre is a popular relaxing place where families spend their afternoon or where you take your boyfriend (or girlfriend) on a date. Parents often believe that science centres are meant for children only. However seeing children dragging their parents out of our establishment after 2-3 hours of visit is not rare. Many parents, uncles and aunts, grandparents use children as an "excuse" to visit our exhibitions and feed their own curiosity.

After observing the needs of adult visitors we developed a family-oriented workshop, where parents solve tasks working together as a pair with their child. It is called "Familyologies". The curiosity that is sometimes buried deep inside these adults' hearts comes back to the surface and they get really excited about learning and exploring the beauties of science again. It is a low budget project - but the feeling I get from observing how exploration and dialogue are tightening bonds in participating families is amazing and rewarding."

Vesna Pajić
Project Manager
The House of Experiments
Ljubljana (Slovenia)





PEIXOS I FAUNA MARINA DEL CRETACI
PESCES Y FAUNA MARINA DEL CRETACIO

CRETACEOUS FISH AND MARINE FAUNA





"14 year old French students need to complete a one-week work placement. La Cité des sciences et de l'industrie and the Palais de la découverte welcome many of these youngsters. I mentor several of them each year: I see it as part of my exhibition curator's job to explain my profession to them, to raise awareness of the importance of providing access to culture for all, and to show them how an exhibition is developed and delivered.

It's always very rewarding: I share my professional experience with them, and in return they enrich my projects with their generation's perspective, their questions and sometimes their "impertinence". I have a vivid memory of Clément, a 2016 student, and his sparkling eyes as he brainstormed "dream exhibitions" with PhD students from around the globe. What a pleasure for him... and for myself!"

Dorothée Vatinel

Exhibition curator of "Gut, the inside story of our body's most under-rated organ"
Universcience
Paris (France)



"The Museon is a lively social hub in The Hague, the International City of Peace and Justice, with an inclusive image and approach. We see it as part of our mission to bridge the gap between the international city on the one hand and 'ordinary' citizens on the other.

"Practice what you preach" is what I thought when a group of students who formed The Pax Initiative asked me if they could organise their IDEALAB event in Museon. They didn't have any money but a lot of great ideas, so we decided to sponsor them.

The event, with its ambitious title 'Innovating the Communications of the International Court of Justice', was big success. The week after they managed to invite Vice-President Yusuf from the International Court of Justice to discuss their innovative ideas about using social media to disseminate the work of the Court. It was a wonderful experience to be part of this event, to work with young creative students and to show that museums are platforms for social innovation."

Maarten Okkensen

Communications Manager
Museon
The Hague (The Netherlands)



"As a Science communicator and Education technician I have been involved in our Children's Board since its beginnings in 2010. One of the most gratifying stories of its benefits was relayed to me last year by one of the teachers whose students take part in the Board.

Playing a role in the Museum's governance has had a tremendous impact on the image that these students from deprived areas of the city have of themselves: they are taking better care of their appearance, their relationships with the rest of the Board Members have become more polite and more confident and this is having a positive impact on their own families too. They explained to their families that the Museum was an interesting place that they were collaborating to improve with their ideas and opinions. Several of these families (with no financial resources at all to spend on culture) visited our Museum for the first time - guided by their own children. The "Board Chain" was hence happily completed."

José Antonio Gordillo Martorell

Science Communicator
Ciutat de les arts i les Ciències
Valencia (Spain)

Ecsite Executive Office

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Executive Director – 1

Julie Becker

Communications and Events Manager – 2

Raquel da Cunha

Events and Communications Officer – 3

Carmen Fenollosa

Project Manager – 4

Suzana Filipecki Martins

Project Assistant – 5

Antonina Khodzhaeva

Project Manager – 6

Tomas Rehacek

Project Manager – 7

Andrea Troncoso

Project Manager – 8

Anne Urger

Administrator – 9

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A warm thank you to our 2016 interns:

Lia Tedeshvili and Daphnie Daras.

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As a network, Ecsite catalyses its members' collective strengths into a powerful voice, at the forefront of science engagement advocacy.

Through Ecsite, members keep up to date with current issues in the science engagement field, spread their news and events, meet up at the biggest European science engagement conference, participate in European projects... join the network!

Expected 2017 highlights

- 175+ organisations becoming Ecsite Full members thanks to 2016 changes to membership rules
- Two Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards: "Smart and Simple" & "Sustainable Success"
- A lively Annual Conference hosted by the Natural History and Science Museum of the University of Porto and Ciência Viva in Porto (Portugal) on 15-17 June
- A collaborative Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) Summer School of Science Communication in Naples (Italy) on 10-15 September
- A highly connected Directors Forum at Unverscience in Paris (France) on 4-6 October
- A high profile Science Centre World Summit at Miraikan in Tokyo (Japan) on 14-17 November

