

Ecsite



Directors Forum

Reconnect
& Reinvent

4-5 November 2021
at the Cité des sciences
et de l'industrie, Paris



#EcsiteDF2021

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EUROPEAN NETWORK
SCIENCE CENTRES & MUSEUMS

INTRODUCTION BY BRUNO MAQUART



Bruno Maquart

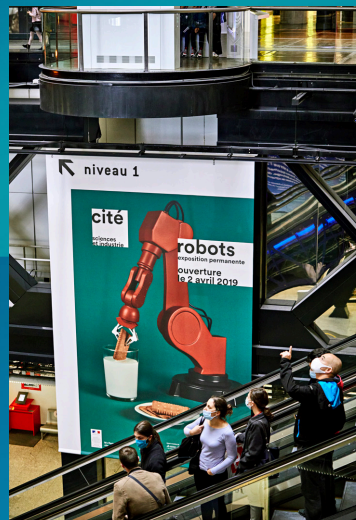
Ecsite President
CEO and Chair of Universcience
Paris, France

Universcience is very happy to welcome the 2021 edition of Ecsite Directors Forum to Paris. A non-digital event, for a friendly moment of re-connection and re-invention.

Our institutions as well as our network have been resilient during the health crisis, which has not yet come to an end. This year's edition of the Directors Forum will allow us to analyse the role we have played both individually and collectively these last months; an opportunity to exchange views on the way the crisis is changing us. Policymakers, scientists and activists will be meeting in Glasgow for the COP26 and during the event we will have a unique opportunity to share ideas on how we can address climate change.

Let's re-discover together the almost forgotten pleasure of meeting again in person. See you in November!

RECONNECT & REINVENT



The 18 months which have just passed, paralysing the majority of economic, social and cultural activity, have put us to the test. Confidence in science and in science engagement activities have also faced challenging times.

What does human life become if it is deprived of person-to-person connections, face-to-face dialogue, laughter and emotion? We are delighted to invite you to meet for the 2021 Directors Forum, face-to-face in Paris, to chat live, discuss in person and reconnect with others!

Most of our institutions have not stopped their activities; during this time we have learned to work remotely, we have turned digital for our audiences, and we have continued to prepare projects for upcoming seasons.

The DF21 is an opportunity to take a look at the place of our institutions, that of science during the pandemic and to project ourselves into the future, reinventing ourselves. Take part in discussions: what are the lessons learned? How should the field move forward?

Help generate new ideas on how to best continue serving our audiences in this “post-crisis” world.

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER

- 10:00** **Registration and welcome of participants**
(Main hall of La Cité des sciences et de l'industrie)
- 11:15** **Official opening** (Auditorium)
- 11:30** **Networking catch-up moment** (Auditorium)

Prepared and convened by **Wiktor Gajewski** (Ecsite)
To get the networking and discussions moving, join us for an ice-breaker. We will share our past successes, lessons learned and wishes for the future in a playful manner. The only thing you are asked to prepare is your curiosity!
- 12:30** **Welcome lunch** (Le Loft, La Cité des sciences et de l'industrie)
- 14:00** **“Did science communication fail during the pandemic crisis?”**

Session prepared and convened by **Raphael Dupin** (Cap Sciences) & **Antonio Gomes da Costa** (Universcience)
Most, if not all science centres and museums have certainly developed offers in relation to the Covid health crisis. However, science centres and museums were seldom, if ever, considered as actors in public debates, controversies and discussions regarding this issue – hosts; yes, actors; no. This is usually also true for other politically or socially charged topics: science centres and museums are regarded as trusted sources of information regarding topics such as

climate change or vaccination, but rarely considered as actors in dialogue and controversies, on a par with media or scientific institutions. Should it be otherwise? What position should our institutions take concerning these issues? Which lessons and perspectives can we draw on from recent experience with the pandemic?

- 15:30** **Comfort break**
- 16:00** **“Using the pandemic to help reshape and reinvent our organisations governance”**

Session prepared and convened by **Michèle Antoine** (Universcience) & **Francis Duranthon** (Museum Toulouse)

The Covid crisis has forced our institutions to act in an emergency, without a blueprint and often in a certain solitude. What lessons did our organisations learn from this in terms of internal organisation, funding and team management, to be able to deal with the crises that have been announced; whether they be climatic, economic, social or migratory? On the basis of this experience, could we build more relevant, more efficient and more resilient organisations?

Three issues will be addressed during the session, each one after an introduction based on the tension between two opposing and contradictory points of view. Participants will then be invited to exchange their experiences, points of view and projects in order to identify lines of thought and, if necessary, models that can be applied both at the level of the organisation itself and that of the Ecsite network. The reflection will have to combine the individual dimension - the future of each institution taken separately - and the collective dimension - the institutions working together and the institutions together taken as a sector.

- 18:00** **Tours of Universcience: highlights**
Jeans exhibition, Renaissance exhibition, Bio-inspirée exhibition, Bio-Lab, Data du futur show
- 20:00** **Dinner** (Restaurant – VENTRUS, Parc de la Villette)



FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER

08:30 Opening remarks, wrap-up of the previous sessions

09:00 “How can we tackle the biodiversity and climate crises?”

Prepared and convened by **Bruno David** (Natural History Museum, Paris) and **Ulrike Kastrup** (focusTerra, ETH Zurich)

While the IUCN World Conservation Congress mobilised the international public sphere a few weeks ago, at a time of COP26 and a few months before the COP15 to the Convention on Biological Diversity, scientists mobilise decision-makers and citizens on the urgent need to act in favour of the conservation of species and biodiversity. What role can science engagement organisations play in genuinely engaging citizens in action?

10:00 Comfort break

10:30 Virtual visit to COP26 to talk about collaborations between media and science engagement institutions

Session prepared and convened by **Wiktor Gajewski** (Ecsite) and **Brad Irwin** (Natural History Museum, London)

From 1-12 November COP26 will see world leaders come to Glasgow to confront the global climate emergency. With the Earth's temperature rising, many have called this event “make or break” as the window of opportunity to remain under 1.5°C is diminishing. During COP26, the Natural History Museum London is moving to Glasgow and partnering with The New York Times as part of their ambitious Climate Hub. Hear the Museum's Executive Director of Engagement, Clare Matterson, plus guests - live from Glasgow - on the latest from COP26 and on exploring the role science centres and museums can and should play in these important global moments.

11:30 Invitation to the 2022 Ecsite Conference by **experimenta, Heilbronn, Germany**

12:00 Final remarks

12:30 Lunch and closing

14:00 Optional visits to other museums will be suggested.



Cité des sciences et de l'industrie

30, avenue Corentin-Cariou
75019 Paris, France

Metro: line 7 - station Porte de la Villette

Tramway: T3b (Porte de Vincennes – Porte de la Chapelle) - station Porte de la Villette

⚠ In order to offer you a safe and healthy environment, the day of your visit you must present proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test of less than 72h (PCR or antigen) with a valid QR code in order to access the museum. For further information visit: [EU Digital COVID Certificate](#) and [Covid-19 advice for foreign nationals in France](#). Controlling health passes does not give access to personal medical data.

