

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.

Active in the field of science communication, our 350+ members include science centres, museums, research bodies, festivals, universities, planetariums, foundations and learned societies, companies and local authorities, etc.

Ecsite members’ convening power draws more than 40 million citizens each year to science-related debates, exhibitions, workshops, events or platforms.

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

To service its members, Ecsite organises the largest professional science communication conference in Europe, represents science engagement at a European level, shapes and spreads best practice through its publications and awards, takes part in European projects – and more.

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Rising tide

The crest of the wave

Michiel Buchel

Ecsite President until June 2017
CEO, NEMO Science Museum
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

When I was elected Ecsite President in June 2015 for a two-year mandate I looked at the Ecsite strategic plan and identified three priorities: strengthening membership, encouraging the field towards more sustainability, and reinforcing cooperation with other stakeholders. The first 2017 semester concluded my mandate and was an important implementation phase on these three fronts.

In January 2017, 175+ organisations became Full members of Ecsite as the result of a change to Ecsite membership approved by Ecsite's General Assembly by a vast majority six months before. This change made all eligible non-profit science engagement organisations based in Europe Full members, which means that they can now participate in Ecsite governance. I am proud of this new rule, which makes our network's governance more representative and generates a stronger commitment from a larger number of organisations and individuals. It is true to Ecsite's inclusive values and makes our association – and science engagement at large - fairer and more powerful.

When I listed sustainability among my priorities, I meant two things: making our network and the science engagement field more robust and futureproof, which the governance changes just mentioned contributed to; and also reinforcing one of the most important values we share: using science and technology to create sustainable solutions in order to preserve both human lives and nature. Placing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the top of our sector's agenda has been a crucial development, as has strengthening our ties with the European Commission.

I am convinced that cross-country collaborations have a key role to play in preserving the planet. The Sea Change project that gave its theme to this annual report is a powerful example of this, raising ocean literacy all over Europe – even in land-locked countries. Another important mobilisation was the joint biodiversity awareness campaign we ran together with the European Association of Aquaria and Zoos (EAZA) and Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). I was also extremely pleased to see how masterfully the Portuguese hosts of the 2017 Ecsite Annual Conference combined a magnificent welcome with a truly sustainable event organisation.

Last but not least, let me thank our partners, both new and long-lasting, with whom we have been building fruitful collaborations: to name a few, the European Space Agency, the Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums, the Kavli Foundation, our conference's faithful sponsors and of course all our sister science centre networks around the globe who teamed up to organise the 2017 Science Centre World Summit. Ecsite's partnerships have gained in breadth and depth in the past two years and I'll let Ecsite Executive Director Catherine Franche tell you more about 2017 developments in this area, but first: please meet my successor, Herbert Munder.





Steering the flow

Herbert Munder

Ecsite President from June 2017
General Manager, Universum Bremen
Bremen, Germany

Science engagement organisations are, should and will be “trusted” places for public debates. In my eyes, fostering critical thinking, scientific literacy and dialogue is more crucial than ever: we have an important role to play in the “post truth” and “anti-expert” context. It is our responsibility to serve as catalysts for a better understanding of science, to sow the seeds of critical thinking and to act as hubs for coordinated actions within our communities. In recent months Ecsite has been acting as a forum to discuss science engagement organisations’ political standpoint, through articles in our Spokes magazine, sessions at our Annual Conference and discussions at our Directors Forum for instance.

Ecsite has also been bringing the voice of science engagement to conversations at a European level on how to support evidence-based discussions and enable meaningful dialogue.

My presidency started in June 2017, six months after dozens of Ecsite members became more involved in our network’s governance – please refer to my predecessor’s introduction to read why and how. Working with these new Full members and attentively listening to their needs will turn this governance change into a long-lasting success. Welcoming some of these organisations to the Directors Forum organised by universcience in Paris in October 2017 was an important first step.

Later that autumn the Science Centre World Summit in Tokyo brought together world-wide players. Our field gave itself a new strategic positioning at global level, committing to play its part in a planet-wide effort towards delivering the UN Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, a global movement Ecsite and I urged all science engagement professionals and organisations to get on board with. Important connections for our field’s involvement in sustainability actions were also established in October 2017 when Ecsite members were invited by the European Commission’s DG Environment to attend a meeting of the so called “Green Spiders”, the Communication Heads of member states’ Ministries for Environment, and again in December when they gathered in Brussels in order to discuss collaboration for the 2018 Green Week.

In 2017 we also laid the basis of an advocacy campaign that will span my whole mandate: making the voice of science engagement heard in the negotiations for the European Commission’s next framework programme for Research and Innovation (FP9), and strengthening collaborations with other European stakeholders such as DG Research and Innovation, DG Environment or the Joint Research Centre. Ecsite is dedicating strategic resources to this process, an effort the Ecsite Board and members are personally committing time and energy to. More about this in the 2018 Ecsite annual report!

Converging currents

Catherine Franche
Ecsite Executive Director
Brussels, Belgium

It takes time to forge partnerships. You need to build a track record and a reputation, identify organisations whose goals are aligned with yours, get to know and trust each other, construct mutually beneficial relationships... Yet sometimes, after years of patient efforts, things suddenly accelerate and converge. This is precisely what happened for Ecsite in 2017, thanks to its members' long-lasting commitment, trust and support. Let me give you two examples.

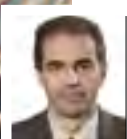
On 3 April 2017 I received an unexpected email, from Her Royal Highness Princess Dr Nisreen El-Hashemite, Executive Director of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust. Would I be interested, she asked, in speaking at the “Women in Innovation and Connectivity: The Role of the Private Sector” High-Level Event taking place in New York during the UN’s ECOSOC Science, Technology and Innovation Forum in mid-May 2017? She had spotted Ecsite’s STEM & gender actions, it turned out, thanks to an article written as part of the Hypatia EU-funded project and tweeted by my team on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. Starting with three portraits of women from the “Beyond the Lab: the DIY revolution” exhibition developed as part of the Ecsite-coordinated Sparks project, my speech was full of inspiring examples from Ecsite members. I felt truly honoured and proud to be representing such a vibrant field. We have since interviewed the Chief of the UN Conference on Trade and Development Office in New York in our Spokes magazine and our collaboration with Princess El-Hashemite continues to this day. I am sharing this story to show how interconnected all aspects of Ecsite’s work are: EU-funded projects, sharing of best practice, advocacy, communication...

A few weeks later the 2017 Ecsite Annual Conference saw an impressive concentration of EU stakeholders: DG Environment, DG Research and Innovation, the Joint Research Centre, the European Environment Agency, the European Space Agency and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions all sent representatives and some of them staffed a booth at our trade fair. We received very positive feedback, both from these institutions’ staff who praised the conference’s excellent contents and its attendees’ creative, open-minded and committed attitude, and from other participants, who found a lot of value in meeting these institutions face to face. Meetings between Ecsite members and several of these bodies have since taken place and relationships are blossoming thanks to the work of the Ecsite Executive Office, working hand in hand with members – and at their service, as always.





“Science centres have a critical role in promoting science for all. Citizen participation is key: citizens at large should help scientists to set their agendas.”



Manuel Heitor
Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal, speaking at the Opening of the Ecsite Annual Conference on 15 June 2017.

Events, professional development and publications

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 participate in our Annual Conference, Directors Forum, Awards, magazine and Thematic Groups – and contribute to making them such vibrant places.

Ecsite Annual Conference

“Life Everywhere”

Open to all professionals who engage audiences with science and technology, the Ecsite Annual Conference is the largest science communication conference in Europe. It offers an intense mix of intellectual stimulation, experimental formats and inspiring human encounters. The 28th Ecsite Conference brought 1,058 participants from 52 different countries to Porto, Portugal. Warm thanks to the Natural History and Science Museum of the University of Porto (MHNC-UP) and the nation-wide Ciência Viva network for their generous and creative welcome.

The conference theme was ‘Life Everywhere’: a celebration of life, a celebration of the extraordinary diversity of forms that have evolved on our planet for millions of years, a celebration of our existence. It also

called for the exploration of hot topics and pressing global challenges, such as: How is science engagement enlivening communities and sowing the seeds of global citizenship? What innovations are occurring in the “wild west” of our professional community? How can knowledge, art and culture drive us in the quest for life everywhere? How can we empower communities to take action and preserve the environments in which they live, such as marine ecosystems?

The programme took participants on a real architectural journey through Porto, as they enjoyed the neoclassic charms of the Alfândega, a former Customs House of Port converted into a congress centre, right by the Douro river, the marble floors of Porto’s City Hall for the Speakers’ Reception, the grand setting of UNESCO World Heritage Site Palácio da Bolsa and its succession of lavish rooms for the Gala Dinner, the poetic feel of Casa Andresen and its surrounding gardens, housing the edgy Hall of Biodiversity and its art&science flair for the Nocturne and the newly renovated atrium of the Natural History and Science Museum, turned into a night club for one night for the Farewell Party.

Pre-conference

Nine in-depth pre-conference workshops spread over 13 & 14 June acted as an introduction to a busy week of science engagement. Among other things, participants drew a research agenda for learning in informal settings, unlocked the potential of urban nature, and devised strategies for institutional change on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Social Events

On the evening of 14 June more than 400 speakers and convenors were invited to a dedicated reception at Porto’s City Hall. They received a warm welcome from Nuno Ferrand, Director of the Natural History and Science Museum of the University of Porto; Rosalia Vargas, President of Ciência Viva; Michiel Buchel, President of Ecsite; and Rui Moreira, Mayor of Porto.

On the next day, the Opening ceremony’s highlights were a ministerial speech by Manuel Heitor, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal, and

the moving chords of Paulo Soares' traditional Portuguese guitar. In the evening everyone re-convened for one of the most impressive Gala Dinners in the history of the Ecsite conference, in Palácio da Bolsa's richly decorated rooms, which include the splendid Salão Árabe ballroom and its elegant gold-plated Moorish wall ornaments.

On Friday evening attendees converged towards the Botanical Garden and discovered the exhibitions of its yet-to-be-opened Hall of Biodiversity, where they enjoyed a rich programme of shows, demonstrations and music. The conference found its conclusion at the Farewell Party: as Porto got ready for its traditional Saint John's street festival, our hosts gave participants an anticipated taste of this mini-carnival with a popular atmosphere, just outside the Natural History and Science Museum – before moving on to the Museum's atrium, transformed into a dance floor.

Conference sessions

Meanwhile, attendees could pick from 80+ sessions and workshops on a wide thematic spectrum. To quote a few topics: learning ecosystems, behavioural visitor research, science engagement and the Sustainable Development Goals, guerrilla marketing, designing for emotions, museum cafés, science and policymaking... Not to forget the dedicated MakerSpace and GameLab spaces.

Business Bistro

55 exhibitors had set up their booths in one of the Alfândega's halls, presenting the latest techniques and services and entertaining attendees with demonstrations and delicacies during the popular Business Bistro Happy hour on Friday night.

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Keynote speeches

Alice Roberts, anthropologist, author and broadcaster, and Professor of Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham, delivered a keynote speech on Friday 16 June, kindly sponsored by the Kavli Foundation. In her talk, she shared insights from her professional journey “from clinician to communicator”, explaining that public engagement made her a better scholar and teacher and urging attendees to break the artificial barrier between science and culture.

On 17 June, the conference’s second keynote speaker was Nina Simon, Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History and best-selling author (*The Participatory Museum*, *The Art of Relevance*). In her speech, Simon urged museums and science centres to re-invent themselves as “relevant” places, truly answering their communities’ needs – and tapping into their assets. “Relevance is the key that unlocks meaning,” she explained, sharing her own story of radically changing the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History. “There is no such thing as universal relevance,” she warned attendees, inviting them to “truly” listen to their audiences, including “outsiders” who don’t step through our doors. Her speech contained many mentions of doors, signs, rooms and walls: “As you go back to your jobs,” she concluded, “look at your rooms and doors - literally and metaphorically.”

The crew

Annual Conference Programme Committee (ACPC)

Mikko Myllykoski

Experience Director, Heureka - The Finnish Science Centre, Vantaa (Finland) – Chairperson

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Project Manager, Natural History Museum of Geneva, Geneva (Switzerland) – from December

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Programme Manager, Science Gallery, Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)

Carlos Catalão Alves

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

Maria João Fonseca

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

Hervé Grosçarret

Head of Public Engagement and Exhibition, Natural History Museum of Geneva, Geneva (Switzerland) – until June

Amito Haarhuis

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

Ninian Hubert van Blijenburgh

Project Manager, Natural History Museum of Geneva, Geneva (Switzerland) – from September

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Programme Manager – International Relations and Learning, Experimentarium, Copenhagen (Denmark)

Maarten Okkersen

Head of Communications, Museon, The Hague (The Netherlands)

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Barbara Streicher

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Vlasta Volak

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Julie Becker

Communications and Events Manager, Ecsite, Brussels (Belgium)

Catherine Franche

Executive Director, Ecsite, Brussels (Belgium)

Ecsite Directors Forum

“Science engagement & digital media: meant to be?”

Universcience hosted the 2017 Ecsite Directors Forum at Cité des sciences de l’industrie in Paris, France, on 4-6 October. 70+ Senior Managers of Ecsite Full member organisations got together, making it the largest Directors’ Forum to date. The event took place as part of universcience’s celebrations of two anniversaries: the 30th of Cité des sciences et de l’industrie and the 80th of Palais de la Découverte. A warm thank you to the universcience team for the superb welcome they gave attendees, with high-level and well balanced keynotes, stimulating workshops and an impeccable social programme.

This Directors Forum was an invitation to step back and question the way fast-evolving digital and social media have transformed society and impacted on our organisations and our relationship with visitors. Universcience President Bruno Maquart and Ecsite President Herbert Munder opened the show on Wednesday 4 October, before six Ecsite members presented case studies on the theme.

Intellectual highlights included two thought-provoking keynotes. Milad Doueihi, Professor of Digital Humanities at Paris-Sorbonne University, and specialist of digital culture theorised “digital humanism”, and examined materialism, ethics, sovereignty and territoriality in the digital age. Marie-Paule Cani, Professor of Computer Science at Ecole Polytechnique, demonstrated what she calls “expressive 3D modelling”. For an hour, she put flying dragons and virtual mountain ranges at participants’ finger tips, concluding: “Give users the control, and leave the constraints to the machine”. Also worth a mention: parallel workshops on digital topics ranging from artificial intelligence to the digital gender gap; a peer discussion on how our institutions practise and promote social inclusion, equity and diversity; or a reflection on post-truth and how this new context affects our organisations’ mission.

The social programme treated attendees to a digitally-themed tour of Cité des sciences et de l’industrie with a dinner in the impressive setting of Cité’s Explora hall; a behind-the-scenes tour and concert at the stunning Philharmonie de Paris; and the launch of the week-long national celebration “Fête de la science”.



“How to address sovereignty and territoriality in the digital age? What counts: where data is collected, where it is stored, the territories through which it transits?”



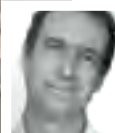


MARIANO GAGO ECSITE AWARDS

An initiative to encourage those people and organisations who demonstrate innovation, creativity and who through their work actively show how they are making an impact.



"Winning the prize demonstrated the credibility of our approach to funders and allowed us to secure support to take the project to new places and audiences."



Matteo Merzagora
Director, TRACES,
Paris (France)
Winner of the 2017 Mariano
Gago Ecsite Award

Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards

Created in 2015, the Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards encourage creative and impactful work within the informal science education sector. The winners of the 2017 edition were announced at the Opening Ceremony of the Ecsite Annual Conference in Porto by Sharon Ament, Chairperson of the Jury and Director of the Museum of London.

The crew

*Jury of the Mariano Gago
Ecsite Awards*

Sharon Ament

Director, Museum of
London (United Kingdom) –
Chairperson

David Harvey

Former Senior Vice President of
Exhibition, American Museum
of Natural History / David
Harvey Design, LLC, New York
(USA)

Sarah Davies

Lecturer, University of
Copenhagen (Denmark)

Honor Harger

Executive Director, ArtScience
Museum at Marina Bay Sands
(Singapore)



TRACES – Espace des Sciences Pierre-Gilles De Gennes from Paris (France) won in the ‘Smart and Simple’ category for the “Frugal Science” exhibition, a smart, cost-effective project that proposes a new take on both exhibition making and tinkering. This forum-exhibition explores how to reduce the cost of scientific instruments through recycling, reuse and a lot of creativity. The project combined a constantly evolving gallery of smart frugal science projects from all over the world; a series of workshops and living-labs on the frugal approach to experimental science, bringing together researchers, creative professionals and the public; and a series of round tables, pitches, conferences, meetings etc.

Dialogue Social Enterprise from Hamburg (Germany) won in the ‘Sustainable Success’ category for its Dialogue in the Dark exhibition concept, a long-standing success story with remarkable reach and an original and robust business model, true to our field’s values of inclusion and diversity. Dialogue in the Dark is an exhibition in total darkness. Visitors are guided in small groups by blind people through realistically recreated daily environments, allowing a reversal of role to happen. The first iteration opened in Frankfurt in 1988. Thanks to a social franchise model, the concept has travelled to 180 cities and 44 countries since, reaching no less than 10 million people and giving 10,000 blind people employment and recognition.

NOESIS - Thessaloniki Science Center & Technology Museum (Greece) got a Special mention for courageous leadership for welcoming children from the refugee camps of Thessaloniki and their families and offering them a scientific, educational, cultural and social programme.

The winning teams were invited to deliver workshops at the 2017 Ecsite Directors Forum. Dialogue Social Enterprise offered a one hour “darkshop”, challenging participants to solve tasks in total darkness under the guidance of a blind facilitator. TRACES ran an agile session, exploring the following proposition: science centres today should not be seen just as public engagement devices, but as research facilities to explore those areas of scientific research that can truly benefit from social, artistic, cultural, political ‘perturbations’.

A warm thank you to the LIP laboratory, generous contributor to the Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards.

Spokes, the Ecsite magazine

Published each month on the Ecsite website and accessible to all professionals with an interest in science communication, the Spokes magazine offers readers a combination of in-depth articles, interviews, case studies, good reads and of course updates from our members and the wider science engagement field.

The crew

Spokes Editorial Committee

Maarten Okkersen

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The Hague (The Netherlands) –
Chairperson

Julie Becker

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

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Gallery International, Dublin
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Raphael Chanay

Exhibitions and Interpretation
Manager, The Natural History
Museum, London (United
Kingdom)

Marie Couëdic

Acting Events and
Communications Officer,
Ecsite, Brussels (Belgium) –
from September

Raquel da Cunha

Events and Communications
Officer, Ecsite, Brussels
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Wiktor Gajewski

Science and Art Events
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António Gomes da Costa

Director of Mediation and
Education, universcience,
Paris (France)

Gema Revuelta

Associate Professor, Universitat
Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona
(Spain) – until October

Maria Xanthoudaki

Head of Education and
International Relations,
National Museum of Science
and Technology ‘Leonardo da
Vinci’, Milan (Italy)

The magazine plays a key role in delivering Ecsite’s mission: to inspire and empower science centres, museums and all organisations that engage people with science, and to promote their actions.

In 2017 Spokes published the words of learning specialists, a European Commissioner, app developers, science communication academics, UN officials, festival organisers, and LGBTQ+ activists to name a few. The magazine questioned the notion of accessibility, unlocked the secrets of successful digital strategies, explored the opportunities of engaging senior citizens in our activities and much more.

Spokes has a loyal readership base of 7,700+ subscribers, and web statistics show that reading time has kept increasing since the magazine went digital in spring 2015. With double the usual number of readers and 20% more time spent on average on the magazine page, the February 2017 issue was the most popular of the year – and in fact, the most popular in Spokes history – a success undoubtedly due to António Gomes da Costa’s “From Ear Candling to Trump: Science Communication in the Post-Truth World” article.

2017 novelties included the regular publication of book and film reviews: among others we covered Marina Abramović’s autobiography, Ed Yong’s book on microbes or the Blade Runner 2049 blockbuster sequel.





Ecsite Thematic Groups

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



Nature Group

Nature Group representatives actively participated in “Let It Grow”, Ecsite’s joint local biodiversity campaign with the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), with a peak of activities for European Natura 2000 Day (21 May) and International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May). In June the Nature Group hosted a one-day workshop at the 2017 Ecsite Annual Conference, entitled “Nature is back in town!”. Attendees discussed how to support research and creative expressions focusing on bringing nature back into our urban consciousness, language and creativity. In December, members attended a meeting with the European Commission’s Directorate General for Environment in order to discuss collaboration for the 2018 Green Week.

Aim: bring together professionals and institutions who engage audiences with nature

The crew

Steering Committee

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

Thomas B Berg, Senior Scientist, Collection and Exhibition Manager, Naturama, Svendborg (Denmark)

Michele Lanzinger, CEO, MUSE - Museo delle Scienze, Trento (Italy)

Yuri Matteman, Head of Education, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden (The Netherlands)

Uwe Moldrzyk, Head of Exhibitions, Natural History Museum - Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science, Berlin (Germany)

Ana Noronha, Executive Director of Ciência Viva, Pavilion of Knowledge - Ciência Viva, Lisbon (Portugal)

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

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 2017 Ecsite Annual Conference. Participants received space news from ESA, national space industries and fellow science engagement professionals, learned about available and upcoming Space Group resources, and shared their own space-related projects with peers. Ecsite Space Group members met again at the end of November for their Annual Meeting, held at ESAC, the European Space Astronomy Centre, in Villanueva de Cañada, Madrid (Spain). Highlights included visits of ESAC and of the Planetarium of Madrid, which hosts the reusable ESA exhibition “Europe in Space, an overview of ESA achievements”. 2017 also saw the active deployment of the first “Space for Life” pilot project.

Aim: offer a platform to share information, ideas, practices and expertise for developing joint projects to promote European space programmes
Twitter: [#EcsiteSpace](#)

The crew

Steering Committee

Maria Menendez, Head of Corporate Exhibitions and Events, European Space Agency, Paris (France) – Co-Chairperson
Marc Moutin, Shows and Development Director, Cité de l’Espace, Toulouse (France), Co-Chairperson
Ana Noronha, Executive Director of Ciência Viva, Pavilion of Knowledge - Ciência Viva, Lisbon (Portugal)
Fiorella Coliolo, Ecsite Space Group Coordinator for ESA, Scientific Communication Officer, ESA.
Look up the 190+ Space Group members on the Ecsite website!

Facilitation Group

In its two-day workshop held at the 2017 Ecsite Annual Conference, the Facilitation Group invited attendees to explore the notion of the research-informed facilitator and suggested an alternative way to view the traditional facilitator, as well as look at new research findings and practical techniques associated with facilitation. Part of the workshop was run together with the REV Group.

Aim: build a community for all staff who deliver learning experiences within a museum or science engagement organisation
Twitter: [@Ecsite_TFG](#)

The crew

Steering Committee

Brad Irwin, Partnerships Development Manager, The Natural History Museum, London (United Kingdom) – Chairperson
António Gomes da Costa, Director of Mediation and Education, universcience, Paris (France)
Ryan Jenkins, Co-Founder, Education, Wonderful Idea Co., San Francisco (USA)
Heather King, Research Fellow, King’s College London (United Kingdom)
Miha Kos, Director, The House of Experiments, Ljubljana (Slovenia)
Sofia Lucas, Head of Education Unit, Pavilion of Knowledge - Ciência Viva, Lisbon (Portugal)
Anne-Lise Mathieu, Manager of l’Ecole de la Médiation, universcience, Paris (France)
Matteo Merzagora, Director, TRACES - Espace des Sciences Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, Paris (France)
Paola Rodari, Toward ESOF2020 Trieste “Science in the City” Programme Manager, Trieste International Foundation (FIT), Trieste (Italy)
Barbara Streicher, Executive Manager, Science Center Network, Vienna (Austria)
Maria Xanthoudaki, Head of Education and International Relations, National Museum of Science and Technology ‘Leonardo da Vinci’, Milan (Italy)

REV Group

The REV Group ran a two-day workshop at the 2017 Ecsite Annual Conference: “Thinking about learning - put your research glasses on!”. The workshop included a keynote examining how out-of-school learning environments can support learning and motivation in secondary schools; a ‘learning-battle’; a series of best practice case studies; and a joint session with the Facilitation Group, exploring the value of research-informed facilitators and how to include them in research and evaluation as key members of a community of practice. The REV Group also put together an interactive session during the main conference: entitled “Facilitation Casebook: Sherlock Holmes investigates”, it invited participants to identity, examine, infer and solve a series of incidents relating to aspects of facilitation.

Aim: stimulate and help facilitate research and evaluation in science centres and museums across Europe
Twitter: [@Ecsite_REV](#)

The crew

Steering Committee

Marjelle van Hoorn, Head of science education, Utrecht University Museum, Utrecht (The Netherlands) – Chairperson
Nils Petter Hauan, Head of Development, VilVite, Bergen Science Centre, Bergen (Norway) - Co-Chairperson
Jennifer De Witt, Researcher, UCL Institute of Education, London (United Kingdom)
Ilona łowiecka-Tańska, Head of the Research Department, Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw (Poland)
Roy Schedler, Head Marketing and Partnerships, Swiss Science Center Technorama, Winterthur (Switzerland)



The “Space for Life” kit about the International Space Station had reached 40,000 visitors through permanent and temporary exhibitions and events by beginning of 2018.



“Being part of the project has given AHHA the wonderful opportunity to spread the word about ocean literacy to a multigenerational audience and collaborate with specialist organisations to raise awareness of the major maritime issues humankind currently faces.”



Helin Haga
Coordinator of External Funding
AHHA Science Centre
Foundation
Tartu (Estonia)

EU-funded projects

Ecsite is involved in numerous collaborative projects, mostly funded by the European Union. These projects, directly involving 48 Ecsite members in 2017, allow practitioners to invent and test new science engagement concepts and practices in safe waters before sailing out and reaching new shores in 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 meet, exchange, collaborate and venture into new seas.

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

2017 highlights

The ocean is Planet Earth’s life support system: its environmental, social, economic, medical and health benefits cannot be overstated. And yet, to a large extent, we remain unaware of the ocean’s influence on us and our influence on the ocean.

By encouraging a better understanding of this inextricable connection, the Sea Change project created ocean-literate citizens that feel empowered to adopt environmentally conscious behaviours and protect the precious resources the ocean provides for us all.

In 2017 the project released a package of resources ranging from videos to infographics to tools that make it easy for science centres, museums and educators to integrate and promote Ocean Literacy in their activities. Three Ecsite members, AHHA in Tartu (Estonia), iQlandia in Liberec (Czech Republic) and Muzeiko in Sofia (Bulgaria) engaged their communities in awareness raising actions that involved fish necropsy, water rockets, scientific movies, upcycling workshops and even a rescue course in the icy waters of an Estonian lake.

A pre-conference workshop and session held at the Ecsite Annual Conference in June helped spread the project’s ideas and resources in the European science engagement community. Relayed on Ecsite’s channels, the project’s awareness-raising efforts also included actions on World Oceans Day (8 June) and a citizen science Crab Watch campaign.

Last but not least, the project’s legacy lives on through this annual report, as Sea Change directly inspired its overall “Rising tide” metaphor.

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

2017 highlights

The “Beyond the Lab” exhibition continued its tour in 2017, visiting 16 locations in 16 different countries, including those of 11 Ecsite members. Events engaging stakeholders with health issues in an RRI approach were organised Europe-wide, including a workshop at the STOA (Science and Technology Options Assessment) Committee of the European Parliament in Brussels, where several DIY biologists and citizen scientists featured in the exhibition shared their thoughts with MEPs.

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

2017 highlights

Higher education institutions from all continents interested in Responsible Research and Innovation and its integration into the curricula were invited to pilot two training programmes and materials. Meanwhile, Ecsite was busy with preparations for the 2nd HEIRRI conference, planned for April 2018.

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
www.hypatiaproject.eu

2017 highlights

Hypatia released a toolkit: an accessible, practical and ready-to-use digital collection of innovative activities aimed at teenagers, produced by five Ecsite members. From April 2017 the “Expect Everything” online campaign for and by teenagers involved youth groups in 14 countries, acting as a rotating Editorial Board. The project also launched a call to individuals and organisations to share the vision of a European society that communicates science to youth in a gender-inclusive way in order to realise the full potential of girls and boys to follow STEM-related careers.





SYNERGENE

In short

Fostering RRI and 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 (Mobilisation 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.synenergene.eu

2017 highlights

Public engagement activities with synthetic biology continued during the project’s final year. The Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw (Poland) for instance ran five workshops on topics ranging from bioluminescence to drug resistance.

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), Porto (Portugal)

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

Ecsite members involved: 6

More information: www.nano2all.eu

2017 highlights

Citizen and multi-stakeholder dialogues were hosted by Ecsite members in six European countries, opening new platforms to exchange views about the future of nanotechnologies in Europe and give voice to often silent groups about such matters.

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

www.spacescoop.org

2017 highlights

The project released new space and astronomy-related MOOCs for teachers, was active during World Space Week in October 2017 and ran national and international teacher competitions. Space-related careers, some famous and many less known, were showcased in a freely reproducible booklet.

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

2017 highlights

Over the course of 42 months, the project is engaging audiences in nine European countries with six scientific themes, conveyed by means of live-science experiences, debates, games, experiments, demonstrations and public events. Food, longevity, and sensory experiences were covered in 2017.

FIT4FOOD2030

In short

Creating communities of practice to transform European food systems towards greater sustainability, resilience, competitiveness and inclusion

Timeframe: November 2017 – October 2020

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Ecsite role: Partner and work package leader, coordinating the work of 14 City Labs set up by science centres and Science Shops all over Europe.

Ecsite members involved: 4

More information: www.fit4food2030.eu

2017 highlights

The project had just started... more in 2018.





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 2017 international trajectory of our diplomatic voyages.



“You have a way into people’s hearts and minds - use them to have a positive impact on the world!”

Chantal Line Carpentier
Chief of UN Conference on Trade and Development Office, New York, United States, in Spokes#34, October 2017.

New connections with the United Nations

On 15 May 2017 Ecsite Executive Director Catherine Franche spoke at the “Women in Innovation and Connectivity: The Role of the Private Sector” High-Level Event taking place in New York during the UN’s ECOSOC Science, Technology and Innovation Forum. She had been invited by Her Royal Highness Princess Dr Nisreen El-Hashemite, Executive Director of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust. Franche’s speech was entitled “No One Left Out: Inspiring Future Innovators in Non-Formal Settings”. “Entrepreneurship begins with ownership,” she argued, and with empowering tools that science centres and museums can provide as “trusted incubators for social change”.

“The SDGs don’t belong to the UN, they are everyone’s affair,” she stated, before sharing three recommendations as a conclusion:

- 1 Develop inclusive innovation ecosystems that integrate non-formal settings such as science museums and other science engagement organisations, as well as non-traditional practices such as DIY and multi-stakeholders co-creation processes.
- 2 Recognise that empowerment is crucial to entrepreneurship. Develop the capacities and cooperate with organisations that already have a lead on science engagement.
- 3 Start early and don’t stop. Empower girls, teens, young and adult women.

In thanking the Ecsite Executive Director for her intervention, the event moderator Chantal Line Carpentier commented that she originally hadn’t thought of museums as potential partners to work with towards the SDGs. She later featured in the October 2017 Spokes magazine, in a series of interviews entitled “Re-enchanting the Sustainable Development Goals”.

Brussels scene

Thanks to its Executive Office's location in Brussels and to its members' connections and activities, Ecsite interacts with many EU stakeholders. As mentioned in this annual report's introduction, 2017 saw an acceleration of these interactions, some of which have been turning into more long-lasting collaborations. Ecsite members have now demonstrated a solid expertise in engaging citizens in meaningful dialogues and a real convening power. This excellent track record is attracting the attention of a growing number of stakeholders on the European scene who are recognising the importance of citizen participation to develop a more relevant research and innovation policy and tackle the science & society components of the EU's so-called democratic deficit.

A sign of this growing network was the presence at the Ecsite Annual Conference of the European Commission's Directorates General for Environment and for Research and Innovation, the Joint Research Centre, the European Environment Agency, the European Space Agency and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

In 2017 Ecsite continued a dialogue started the year before with DG Environment. Ecsite members filled in a survey to identify converging areas of work with the DG and got involved in European Natura 2000 Day on 21 May. In October Ecsite members were invited by the European Commission's DG Environment to attend a meeting of the so called "Green Spiders" network, the Communication Heads of member states' Ministries for Environment. In November EU Commissioner Karmenu Vella signed a column in Spokes, inviting Ecsite members to take part in the 2018 Green Week with the theme "Green Cities for a Greener Future". Green Week partnerships were on the agenda of a meeting organised by DG Environment and attended, among others, by members of the Ecsite Nature Group in Brussels in December.

Ecsite was also approached by Member of European Parliament Michał Boni, who had already collaborated with us during the new Commissioners' hearings in September 2014. A member of the Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Boni has been raising awareness among his colleagues about the fake news phenomenon and invited Ecsite to an expert group on the question.

To name a few other actions at EU level, Ecsite also coordinated responses to several public consultations, on social inclusion & informal learning, pollinators or ivory trade in the EU (the latter can have an impact on organisations holding collections). Ecsite's Executive Director continued to sit on the Experts Group created by the network of National Contact Points for the Science with and for Society area in Horizon 2020 and on the Advisory Group for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA).

In the second half of 2017 the Ecsite Board and team also prepared the ground for an advocacy campaign on the European Commission's future ninth framework programme for Research and Innovation, FP9.





Science Centre World Summit

“Connecting the World for a Sustainable Future”

On 15-17 November 2017 decision-makers from the international science centre field came together 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.

“The Summit brought to light a new societal mission for our field: social dialogue based on respect for evidence and critical thinking but also respect for different values and beliefs, thus reducing tensions and bridging ideas, cultures and views.”



Robert Firmhofer
Member of the International Programme Committee of the Science Centre World Summit / CEO, Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw, Poland

The Tokyo Protocol “On the Role of Science Centres and Science Museums Worldwide In Support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals” was developed in the lead up to the Summit (find it in full at the end of this report). Under the humbling setting of Miraikan’s iconic giant rotating globe, attendees discussed how to put this protocol into practice and our field’s global pledge to contribute to the SDGs. Thanks to Miraikan’s flawless organisation, minds were free to tackle serious issues and listen to a host of high-ranking speakers that included world-renowned architect Tadao Ando, Medicine Nobel Prize Shinya Yamanaka, sustainability researcher Johan Rockström of the Stockholm Resilience Centre or Ethiopian social entrepreneur Bruktawit Tigabu.

Ecsite magazine’s reporter on the ground Julie Becker saw “a sign of maturity” in “the fact that our field is moving towards a more global and more societal role”. “With maturity comes responsibility, and with responsibility comes worry,” she wrote, “yet with responsibility also comes empowerment”. “If we’re serious about mobilising citizens to make the planet a more sustainable and fairer place,” she continued, “we need to stop believing that science literacy alone can do it. We need to take the psychology of behaviour change seriously; we need to bring in emotion; we need to approach co-design with enormous expectations and a true dedication to being shaped by the process ourselves; we need to break silos and contribute to the ‘science of synthesis’; we need to sometimes take bold stances and sometimes listen humbly; we need to collaborate and de-polarise; and yes, we need to get those Millennials on board – or rather jump on the ship they’ve already built.”

Science centre networks from around the globe collaborate to the Summit’s preparation via the International Programme Committee (or IPC). Former Ecsite Presidents Robert Firmhofer and Rosalia Vargas as well as Ecsite Executive Director Catherine Franche sat on the IPC for the 2017 edition. The next Science Centre World Summit will be hosted in Mexico by MIDE – Museo Interactivo de Economía in 2020. Ecsite President Herbert Munder joined R. Firmhofer and C. Franche as an IPC Ecsite representative for this edition.

International Science Center and Science Museum Day

Every year, 10 November is UNESCO Science for Peace and Development Day. For the second time in 2017, members of science centre networks around the globe also celebrated International Science Centre & Science Museum Day (ISCSMD) on 10 November, in partnership with the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Numerous Ecsite members took part in this global mobilisation with activities such as an SDG-based exhibition at Museon (The Netherlands), experiments and shows about air at the Copernicus Science Centre (Poland) or a special water-related programme for local school children at the Life Science Centre in Newcastle-upon-Tyne (UK). A “Global Science Show” was also organised by Glasgow Science Centre, inviting colleagues from around the world to share a video of a staff member doing a science demonstration on their social media channels.

Throughout the day, Ecsite highlighted key actions of the Tokyo Protocol on its social media channels.

Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East Summer School of Science Communication – EMME

The EMME Summer School is a training programme for science centre leaders, co-developed by NAMES, the North Africa and Middle East Science centers network, and Ecsite. It aims to build the capacities of professionals working in the field of science communication in the Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East regions.

The third edition took place at Città della Scienza in Naples, Italy, on 10-15 September 2017 and brought together 30 attendees from 10 countries and 23 speakers. “We would like to believe that EMME will contribute to a peaceful world where people and nature of all diversities are valued, preserved, and cherished. And we hope that you as participants will be empowered to actively work for a safe, respectful, open and progressive society,” stated Ecsite Executive Director Catherine Franche, speaking at the opening.





Networking among networks

National or regional networks of organisations and professionals connecting people to science are active in many European countries. For the second consecutive time, in 2017 their representatives put together a specific pre-conference workshop at the Ecsite Annual Conference. As the conference was taking place in Porto, the Portuguese network *Ciência Viva* took the lead in organising and facilitating the workshop, with the help of AMCSTI from France. Putting science engagement at the heart of the European political agenda was identified as a common priority and networks agreed to articulate their efforts to influence the upcoming European Commission’s future ninth framework programme for Research and Innovation, FP9

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

2017 was the second and final year of a joint public campaign entitled ‘Let It Grow’, run by EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria), BGCI (Botanic Gardens Conservation International) and Ecsite. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of the importance of local biodiversity and encouraging citizens’ direct involvement in its protection. The Ecsite Nature Group was particularly involved in the campaign’s preparation, through Anna Omedes, Director of the Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona (Spain).

Over 180 EAZA, BGCI and Ecsite members joined forces to run public actions around the world, with a peak during the weekend of 20-22 May, coinciding with the inaugural European Natura 2000 Day on 21 May 2017 and the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May.

MUSE – Museo delle Scienze in Trento (Italy) for instance enrolled more than sixty people of all ages in a Bioblitz to explore the biodiversity of the Lamar Lake in partnership with the nature reserve network of Monte Bondone. Other actions included tours highlighting Andalusia’s Mediterranean vegetation heritage offered by Parque de las Ciencias in Granada (Spain), a special school trip organised by Centro *Ciência Viva* do Algarve (Portugal) or another BioBlitz involving the Natural Science Museum of Barcelona (Spain).

‘Let it Grow’ was one of the actions undertaken as part of the memorandum of understanding signed by the three organisations in 2014 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.”



Common trajectory with the European Space Agency: year 5

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.

2017 was the second of the three year “Space for Life” thematic programme led by the Ecsite Space Group and ESA. On the International Day of Human Spaceflight (12 April), the Space Group released “The International Space Station: Living and Working in Space” kit, developed by Cité de l’Espace (Toulouse, France) and the Tycho Brahe Planetarium (Copenhagen, Denmark) together with ESA and Ecsite. The kit, available free of charge for Ecsite members, contains ready-to-print exhibition panels, two hands-on activity plans and stunning space images.

33 participants representing 10 different countries gathered in Porto on 13-14 June for the two-day pre-conference workshop “Space for Life – Develop and Share Resources” organised by the Space Group and ESA as part of the Ecsite Annual Conference. The three topics addressed were the International Space Station, extra-terrestrial life, and the monitoring of the ocean and atmosphere from space. The Space Group also convened the conference session “Is there life out there?” on 15 June.

The Ecsite Space Group held its annual meeting on 26-27 November at ESAC, the European Space Astronomy Centre in Villanueva de Cañada, Madrid (Spain). Attendees gained insights into ESA’s Communication Strategy and Science Programme, visited the Planetarium of Madrid to explore the reusable ESA exhibition “Europe in Space, an overview of ESA achievements”, and took a behind-the-scenes tour at ESAC. They also had the opportunity to meet ESA astronaut Pedro Duque who joined the group to discuss cooperating with museums to engage the public on future European space programmes.



Governance and membership

Ecsite would be nothing without its members. A warm thank you to the dedicated organisations and individuals whose combined actions and energies make Ecsite what it is: a network of brilliant and passionate professionals, with representatives in all science communication ecosystems.



Universum, Bremen (Germany)
©Universum® Bremen

A new membership structure

Over the past 25 years, Ecsite has grown considerably in size and scope, adapting to changes in the science engagement field and to Ecsite members' changing social role and organisational needs. Over time, its membership composition has expanded and founding members (science centres and museums) have welcomed other types of science engagement organisations, such as science festivals, universities and learned societies

In 2016 the Annual General Assembly approved, by a vast majority, a change to Ecsite membership that makes all eligible non-profit science engagement organisations based in Europe Full members, which means that they can participate in Ecsite governance. 175+ organisations thus became Full members in January 2018 when the changes came into force.

As Michiel Buchel stated in this report's introduction, this change "makes our network's governance more representative and will generate a stronger commitment from a larger number of organisations and individuals. It is true to Ecsite's inclusive value and makes our association – and science engagement at large - fairer and more powerful."

This annual report brings together more than a hundred pictures of Ecsite members' activities, celebrating their vibrant diversity.



The Olympic Museum, Lausanne (Switzerland)
©International Olympic Committee



Scitech Discovery Centre, West Perth (Australia)



Völklinger Hütte World Heritage Site, Völklingen (Germany)
©Weltkulturerbe Völklinger Hütte/Gerhard Kassner



Nobel Museum, Stockholm (Sweden)
©Nobel Museum/Alexander Mahmoud



SciCo - Science Communication, Athens (Greece)
©Athens Science Festival



CERN - the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, Geneva (Switzerland)



TECHNOSEUM - Landesmuseum für Technik und Arbeit, Mannheim (Germany) ©TECHNOSEUM



CIIMAR - Interdisciplinary Centre for Marine and Environmental Research, Matosinhos (Portugal) ©Francisco Piqueiro



AHHA Science Centre Foundation, Tartu (Estonia)



MACA - Environmental Museum, Turin (Italy)
©Museo A come Ambiente/Pepe fotografia



Mishkat Interactive Center for Atomic and Renewable Energy, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)



Museo Galileo - Museum of the History of Science, Florence (Italy) ©Museo Galileo, Firenze/ Archivio Fotografico



Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology, Oslo (Norway)



Natural History Museum of Geneva, Geneva (Switzerland)



INL - International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory, Braga (Portugal) ©INL



Science Museum Group, London (United Kingdom)



K13 - SteelPark, Košice (Slovakia)
©K13 SteelPark



ICN2 - Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Barcelona (Spain) ©Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (ICN2)



Museum of London, London (United Kingdom)
©Museum of London



Natural Science Museum of the University of Camerino, Camerino (Italy)



The Children's Museum Jordan, Amman (Jordan)
©Children's Museum Jordan (All rights reserved)



Exploratorio - Centro Ciência Viva de Coimbra, Coimbra (Portugal) ©Exploratório - Coimbra - Portugal



Cap Sciences, Bordeaux (France)



Joanneum Universal Museum, Graz (Austria)
©Universalmuseum Joanneum



Noesis - Thessaloniki Science Center and Technology Museum, Thessaloniki (Greece) ©NOESIS - Thessaloniki Science Center and Technology Museum



Technopolis, the Flemish Science Centre, Mechelen (Belgium)



Universeum, Gothenburg (Sweden)



ESO - European Southern Observatory, Garching bei München (Germany) ©Architekten Berhardt + Partner (www.bp-da.de)



MUSEKO, Tallinn (Estonia)
©Atlantis H2O Discovery Centre



Science Center Network, Vienna (Austria)
©Verein ScienceCenter-Netzwerk/Marko Ković



Dialogue Social Enterprise, Hamburg (Germany)



Centro Ciência Viva do Algarve, Faro (Portugal)



Northern Norwegian Science Centre, Tromsø (Norway)
©Arctic frontiers 2018/Alberto Grohovaz



Norrköping Visualization Center, Norrköping (Sweden)
©Anders Ristenstrand



Natural History Museum, Aarhus (Denmark)
©Natural History Museum Aarhus



Natural History Museum - Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science, Berlin (Germany) ©Carola Radke_MfN



DASA, Dortmund (Germany)
©Harald Hoffmann



MED-EL/AUDIOVERSUM, Innsbruck (Austria)
©Audioversum



National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation - Miraikan, Tokyo (Japan)



K4 Club at the Kersnikova Institute, Ljubljana (Slovenia)



Ellinogermaniki Agogi, Pallini Attikis (Greece)



National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh (United Kingdom)
©National Museums Scotland/Andy Catlin



Museon, The Hague (The Netherlands)



International Centre for Life, Newcastle upon Tyne (United Kingdom)
©International Centre for Life



focus Terra, ETH Zurich, Zurich (Switzerland)



Exploratorium, San Francisco (United States)



Mathematikum, Giessen (Germany)
©Mathematikum Giessen



National Space Centre, Leicester (United Kingdom)
©National Space Centre, Leicester



ExpoLab - Centro de Ciência Viva, Lagos (Portugal)



Parque de las Ciencias, Granada (Spain)
©Parque de las Ciencias



The House of Experiments, Ljubljana (Slovenia)



Hungarian Museum of Science, Technology and Transport, Budapest (Hungary)
©The Hungarian Museum of Science, Technology and Transport



L'ideatorio - University of Italian Switzerland, Lugano (Switzerland)



Cité de l'Espace, Toulouse (France)
©Cité de l'Espace



Natural Science Museum of Barcelona, Barcelona (Spain)



VilVite, Bergen Science Centre, Bergen (Norway)



Heureka - The Finnish Science Centre, Vantaa (Finland)



Konya Science Center, Konya (Turkey)
©Konya Science Center



Science Village Scandinavia, Lund (Sweden)



World of Nature exhibition from Archimedes Exhibitions, Berlin (Germany)



Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza, Naples (Italy)
©Città della Scienza



Lascaux international exhibition, Périgueux (France)
© SPL Lascaux exposition internationale



Centro Ciência Viva do Alviela, Alcanena (Portugal)
©Ciência Viva



Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències - Museu de les Ciències
Príncep Felipe, Valencia (Spain)



Bloomfield Science Museum, Jerusalem (Israel)
©PR Bloomfield Science Museum Jerusalem



SC Exhibitions, Bayreuth (Germany)
©Rainer Christian Kurzeder for SC Exhibitions



Nausicaa National Sea Experience Centre, Boulogne-sur-Mer
(France)



Museos Científicos Coruñeses, A Coruña (Spain)
©Museos Científicos Coruñeses



Ontario Science Centre, Toronto (Canada)
©Ontario Science Center



Monkeys exhibition by Nomad Exhibitions, Edinburgh (United
Kingdom)



We The Curious, Bristol (United Kingdom)
©Lee Pullen



Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels
(Belgium)



Jærmuseet, Nærbø (Norway)
©Ingeborg Skrudland



Infini.to - Planetarium of Turin, Museum of Astronomy and
Space Science, Pino Torinese (Italy) ©Infini.to and Evans &
Sutherland



Museumspartner, Innsbruck (Austria)
©Museumspartner



North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh (United
States) ©Eric Knisle



phæno, Wolfsburg (Germany)
©Nina Stiller



La Casemate, Grenoble (France)



Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation,
Veli Losinj (Croatia)



Neanderthal Museum, Mettmann (Germany)
©Neanderthal Museum



Agora Science Centre, Debrecen (Hungary)



Tom Tits Experiment, Södertälje (Sweden)
©Tom Tits Experiment



The Museum of Science, Boston (United States)
©Janna Doherty



Coffee Science Center, Campo Maior (Portugal)
©Coffee Science Center/Alberto Luengo



Natural History and Science Museum of the University of Porto, Porto (Portugal)



Experimentarium, Hellerup (Denmark)
©Experimentarium/David Trood



Wellcome Collection, London (United Kingdom)
©Wellcome Collection



Techmania Science Center, Pilsen (Czech Republic)



Tekniska Museet - The National Museum of Science and Technology, Stockholm (Sweden)



Centro Ciência Viva, Sintra (Portugal)
©Centro Ciência Viva de Sintra



Raumschiff - The Maker-Space for Astronomy, Wallisellen (Switzerland) ©Raumschiff



Musealia, San Sebastian (Spain). Pawel Sawicki and Jesús Varillas © Musealia Entertainment



universcience, Paris (France)
©S Sonnet



Exhibits Development Group - EDG, Saint Paul (United States)
©Exhibits Development Group



Samaya Holding, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)



Science Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin (Ireland)



Science Centre Immaginario Scientifico, Trieste (Italy)
©Immaginario Scientifico/Massimo Goina



TRACES - Espace des Sciences Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, Paris (France)



Museum of Natural History, Luxembourg (Luxembourg)
©www.vision.lu



University of Bath, Bath (United Kingdom)
©University of Bath



Groninger Forum, Groningen (The Netherlands)



Pavilion of Knowledge - Centro Ciência Viva, Lisbon (Portugal)



National Museum of Science and Technology 'Leonardo da Vinci', Milan (Italy) ©Alessandro Grassani



NEMO Science Museum, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)



Institute of Materials Science of Barcelona - ICMAB, Barcelona (Spain) ©Institute of Materials Science of Barcelona (ICMAB-CSIC)



Esplora Interactive Science Centre, Kalkara (Malta)
©Esplora, Interactive Science Centre, Kalkara, Malta



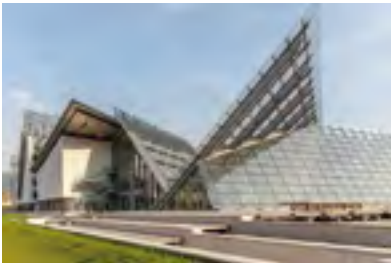
Science LinX - University of Groningen, Groningen (The Netherlands)



Natural History Museum of Nantes, Nantes (France)
©Nantes Museum/P. Jean



Stiftung Erlebnismuseum Foerdertechnik, Sinsheim (Germany)



Muse, Trento (Italy)
©Archivio MUSE Museo delle Scienze/Roberto Nova



Universe Science Park, Nordborg (Denmark)
©Universe Science Park



Swiss Science Centre Technorama, Winterthur (Switzerland)
©Swiss Science Center Technorama, Winterthur/ Beat Märki



Pilke Science Centre, Rovaniemi (Finland)
©Science Centre PILKE/Antti Kurola



A.M. Qattan Foundation - Science Studio, Ramallah (Palestine)



city2science - Science Communication and Strategy Consulting, Bielefeld (Germany) ©city2science



EXPERYMENT Science Centre, Gdynia (Poland)



Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden (The Netherlands)



RZSA - Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp, Antwerp (Belgium) ©ZOO Antwerpen/Jonas Verhulst



The Natural History Museum, London (United Kingdom)



Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw (Poland)
©Copernicus Science Center/Agata Steifer

New members

Welcome
to the 32 organisations
that became
Ecsite members
in 2017!

New Full members

Amager Resource Center, Copenhagen (Denmark)
BergamoScienza Association, Bergamo (Italy)
BIOTOPIA - Bavarian Natural History Museum, Munich (Germany)
Centro Ciência Viva de Constância - Astronomy Park, Constância (Portugal)
Exploratorio - Centro Ciência Viva de Coimbra, Coimbra (Portugal)
Heinz Nixdorf MuseumsForum, Paderborn (Germany)
Hungarian Museum of Science, Technology and Transport, Budapest (Hungary)

i3S - Institute of research and innovation in the health services, Porto (Portugal)
Innoviris, Brussels (Belgium)
Institute of Materials Science of Barcelona - ICMAB, Barcelona (Spain)
Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica - ITQB NOVA, Oeiras (Portugal)
Kiel Science Outreach Campus KiSOC, Kiel (Germany)
KU Leuven Science Communication, Leuven (Belgium)
Kurzeme Democentre, Ventspils (Latvia)
National Institute for Nuclear Physics, Rome (Italy)
Naturama, Svendborg (Sweden)
Petnica Science Center, Valjevo (Serbia)
Quai des savoirs, Toulouse (France)
Sapienza University of Rome, Rome (Italy)
Science Gallery International, Dublin (Ireland)
Stiftung Erlebnismuseum Foerdertechnik, Sinsheim (Germany)

The Children's University of the University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck (Austria)
Université Libre de Bruxelles - INFORSSCIENCES Department, Brussels (Belgium)
Vetenskap & Allmänhet (VA) - Public & Science, Stockholm (Sweden)

New Associate members

Daegu National Science Museum, Daegu (South Korea)
Ingenium - Canada's Museums of Science and Innovation, Ottawa (Canada)

New Sustaining members

Dublin Science Museum, Dublin (Ireland)
Futuroscope Park, Jaunay-Clan (France)
Innovation Gallery, Kiev (Ukraine)
Nomad Exhibitions, Edinburgh (United Kingdom)
The Shipping Monster, Smyrna (United States)

New One-person company members

Science Centres International, Newcastle upon Tyne (United Kingdom)



BIOTOPIA - Bavarian Natural History Museum, Munich (Germany) ©BIOTOPIA - Kathrin Glaw

Ecsite Board

Ecsite Board members are elected by the Annual General Assembly, the governing body of Ecsite composed of fourteen representatives from Full Member organisations. Board members serve for a two-year period renewable twice for a maximum of six years. Warm thanks.

Executive Committee

Presidency

- [Until June](#)
- 1 NEMO Science Centre (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Michiel Buchel, CEO
- [From June](#)
- 2 Universum (Bremen, Germany)
Herbert Mnder, General Manager

Past Presidency

- [Until June](#)
- 3 Pavilion of Knowledge
Cincia Viva (Lisbon, Portugal)
Rosalia Vargas, President
- [From June](#)
- 1 NEMO Science Centre (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Michiel Buchel, CEO

Vice-Presidency

- [Until June](#)
- 2 Universum (Bremen, Germany)
Herbert Mnder, General Manager
- [From June](#)
- 4 Natural Science Museum of Barcelona (Barcelona, Spain)
Anna Omedes, Director

Treasury

- [Until June](#)
- 5 Cit de l'Espace (Toulouse, France)
Jean Baptiste Desbois,
Executive Director
- [From June](#)
- 6 Heureka - The Finnish Science Centre (Vantaa, Finland)
Tapio Koivu, CEO

Ecsite Executive Director

- 7 Catherine Franche

Trustees

[Until June](#)

- 8 AHHA Science Centre (Tartu, Estonia) - Pilvi Kolk, Member of the Management Board
- 9 MUSE - Museo delle Scienze (Trento, Italy) - Michele Lanzinger, Director
- 10 Parque de las Ciencias (Granada, Spain) - Ernesto Pramo Sureda, Director

- 11 Swedish Museum of Performing Arts (Stockholm, Sweden) - Daniel Wetterskog, Head of Museum
- [Elected or re-elected in June](#)

- 12 Copernicus Science Centre (Warsaw, Poland) - Robert Firmhofer, Chief Executive Officer
- 13 Experimentarium (Hellerup, Denmark) - Kim Gladstone Herlev, Executive Director
- 14 focusTerra – ETH Zurich (Zurich, Switzerland) - Ulrike Kastrup, Museum Director

- 15 Fondazione IDIS - Citt della Scienza (Naples, Italy) - Luigi Amodio, Director of the Science Centre
- 16 Technopolis, the Flemish Science Centre (Mechelen, Belgium) - Patricia Verheyden, Director of strategic initiatives

- 17 universcience (Paris, France) - Bruno Maquart, Chairman and CEO
- 18 Vitensenteret, the Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology (Oslo, Norway) - Jan Alfred Andersson, Head of Science Centre Department

[Continuing their mandates](#)

- 19 Science Museum Group (London, United Kingdom) - Helen Jones, Director of Strategy and International
- 20 The House of Experiments (Ljubljana, Slovenia) - Miha Kos, Director





Stories from members

To give Annual Report readers a glimpse of Ecsite members’ incredibly diverse activities, each year Ecsite invites a dozen of them to tell stories of their daily science engagement practice. In 2017 we asked them to share instances in which they were proud to have acted as agents of change.



Paulo Trincão
Director
Exploratório - Centro Ciência Viva de Coimbra, Coimbra (Portugal)

“Before even starting to walk or talk, babies and small children can already participate in science awareness activities... at least at the Exploratório Science Centre of Coimbra in Portugal! During the first years of life, a child’s brain develops enormously, eagerly absorbing all experiences. For this reason, and with so few existing programmes designed for this age group (and even less in science), “Astronomy for Babies” was developed as a 23-minute full dome film, for projection at the Hemispherium. As we reached our operational speed in 2017, we realised that the logistics of the “Astronomy for Babies” sessions are not always easy, with baby strollers, and space needed for diaper bags, baby bottles and pacifiers. Yet the result is surprising and rewarding for all family members who, enjoying the music, are fascinated by the light of the stars in the night sky, the rings of Saturn, the phases of the moon... in one word, astronomy!”



Lotta Tomasson
Communications Strategist
Vetenskap & Allmänhet, VA (Public & Science), Stockholm (Sweden)

“Over 2,500 people participated in the March for Science in Stockholm on 22 April 2017. This was part of the global March for Science initiative that involved more than one million people in a total of 610 cities worldwide. Following a march through the streets of Stockholm, participants gathered in the square at Medborgarplatsen to listen to a range of speakers talk about the importance of science, engagement with science and using evidence-based research in society. Speakers included Ola Rosling, who together with his late father, the visionary statistician Hans Rosling, founded the educational foundation Gapminder; Helene Hellmark Knutsson, the Swedish Minister for Higher Education and Research; and Christina Moberg, President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The March for Science in Sweden received the support of over 80 partner organisations. Many individuals also volunteered their time to help with the planning and running, which were coordinated by Vetenskap & Allmänhet,VA (Public & Science). VA was also responsible for the marketing and communication of the national website. Having the privilege of being the Project Manager of this major event, I am proud of having brought all these people together to celebrate science.”

**Laura Kuusisto**

The Bio Era Tour Project Manager
Pilke Science Centre
Rovaniemi (Finland)

“In 2017 we really reached out with our “Bio Era” Tour. We inspired young people about the possibilities of forest-based bioeconomy to conquer future challenges. For six months we toured Finland, reaching 66 cities, covering 12,000 kilometres and engaging with 44,000 visitors! The “Bio Era” science centre exhibition in a truck invites young people to think about the future, and their own choices and actions. In 2017 our country celebrated the 100th anniversary of its independence. The anniversary’s theme, “Together”, was evident in our co-operation with the forest sector, that highlighted its know-how both in the “Bio Era Market” and in organising factory visits, forest trips and so on. The main funders were the Finnish Forest Foundation and Metsämiesten Säätiö. The exhibition is now displayed at Science Centre Tietomaa, that originally made the exhibition with us, and continues to tour different venues. We are proud that our visitors are creating solutions for the future together and bringing the Bio Era one step closer!”

**Rachael Blackburn**

Director
Esplora Interactive Science Centre
Kalkara (Malta)

“At Esplora we believe that we have been a catalyst for change in 2017 by introducing the STEAM approach. STEAM is an educational approach to learning in which Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics are used to guide people’s thinking. The end result is the development of people who take thoughtful risks, informed decisions, engage in hands-on and experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process. These all contribute to the development and enhancement of 21st century skills. This approach to learning is undoubtedly not easy, but the benefits to people and society as a whole are incredible. Visitors who engage in STEAM activities make more real-life connections so that Esplora is not a place where you visit to learn, but instead it becomes the whole experience of learning itself. Esplora has not just been a physical space this year, but rather a space that uses STEAM subjects to encourage learning, growth, social-emotional connections, and the foundation for the creatives and innovators of tomorrow.”

**Michael Pinter**

Head of Education Department
Natural History Museum | Universalmuseum Joanneum, Graz (Austria)

“Two years after the UN Climate Conference in Paris we dedicated one day to climate change and its connection to Styria. On 12 December 2017 our education department organised a programme for school groups and the general public together with ten of the leading institutions in Styria. In the morning, more than 300 schoolchildren joined our workshops. The afternoon was open to the public and started with a keynote speech by the Head of the Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change. This was followed by different workshop sessions held by 14 experts. They focused on the impact of climate change on our region and led to intense discussions among our visitors.”

**Tove Marienborg**

Director
Northern Norwegian Science Centre
Tromsø (Norway)

“Forming part of Statoil’s Heroes of Tomorrow programme, Project Imagination started as a competition in the summer of 2015, inviting children and youth to submit inventions for the future. Eleven of the ideas were chosen and prototypes of the inventions were built. Project Imagination is a collaboration between Statoil and five Norwegian science centres to help boost an interest in science and promote the importance of creativity and imagination as central elements of science. The exhibition opened at the VilVite Bergen Science Centre in August 2016, and has visited the Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology/Oslo Science Centre, the science centres in Trondheim and Tromsø as well as the Science Factory in Sandnes in 2017, resulting in strong engagement and a strong rise in the number of visitors at all centres. At the Project Imagination exhibition, you can see Jacob’s “fartinator”, a machine that converts methane gas from cows into electricity, Henning’s sound cane for the blind and Tyra’s energy swing. There is something even more important to Norway than oil, gas, fish and hydropower; namely people.”

**Henrik Sell**

Deputy Director
Natural History Museum, Aarhus
Aarhus (Denmark)

“100 images of 63 different photographers, four information boards, a large pavilion, two intermediaries and more than 40 volunteers. These are the ingredients of our museum’s biggest exhibition success outside the walls of the museum ever. More than 150,000 guests visited the “Habitat: Aarhus” exhibition. The “Habitat: Aarhus” project was a photo exhibition in the city hall where citizens took pictures of the meeting between nature and culture in the city. In the exhibition pavilion there was an exhibition of urban nature, activities and guided tours around the city. The exhibition was made with the support of the Nordea Foundation.”

**Béla Somogyi**

Executive Manager
Agora Science Centre
Debrecen (Hungary)

“Which material retains heat best?” “Is there a type of plastic that can be broken down within a few weeks?” “Can a medicine or human body part be printed in 3D?” “What can a humanoid robot do?” Answers to these questions open the way to natural sciences. Last year, we implemented programmes with several industrial partners to help young people understand what science professionals are doing, and all the innovations behind each scientific result. Along with our partners, we organised age-specific programmes for school children that make the world of robotics, chemistry, environmental protection, or maths more attractive. These programmes may have an influence on their career choice too. In this role we acted as a link between companies and students.”



Maaïke de Heij

Project leader Formal - Informal learning
Science LinX - University of Groningen
Groningen (The Netherlands)

“The University of Groningen science centre Science LinX presented an inspiring and interactive outreach programme during the bi-annual European Society of Evolutionary Biology congress 2017. The local committee approached us to organise this programme, and as the conference coincided with the annual performing arts festival Noorderzon, we combined evolution outreach with art. The highlight of the programme for young and old were the building blocks GEN.ERATE. Inspired by the BLOOM urban toy designed for the London 2012 Olympics, one of our regular designers Leen van Wijngaarden came up with building blocks that would connect in different ways, and thus create sculptures in an organic but unpredictable manner – like the mutations in our DNA that shape evolution. After the conference, GEN.ERATE is being used at schools for classes on evolution. In future, GEN.ERATE might evolve to be part of a nanoscience exhibition. And maybe into something we haven’t foreseen yet.”



Alessandro Blasetti

Exhibition curator
Natural Science Museum of the University of Camerino , Camerino (Italy)

“On 30 October 2016, an earthquake damaged the San Domenico monastery where our university museum is based. We decided to launch a series of outreach activities while we are waiting to return to our beautiful venue. “Super Natural, when reality overcomes fantasy!” is the topic of the travelling exhibition we presented in many cities of the Marche region in 2017. Exhibits, videos and interactive multimedia present comics superheroes, comparing their powers to nature: Captain America and defence strategies in nature; Flash and animal speed; Batman and special materials; the Invisible Woman for camouflage in nature. The exhibition allows the public to actively reflect on the contemporary environmental challenges and provide their personal answer. The contributions collected will be invested for the purchase of a minibus-laboratory that will host travelling educational activities by the Museum and future exhibitions.”



Kim Gladstone Herlev

Executive Director
Experimentarium
Hellerup (Denmark)

“As the first Danish science centre, Experimentarium has been a catalyst for change since 1991. But a new incarnation of Experimentarium was needed to continue our mission to ignite a spark of interest in science and technology among children and adults alike. The new Experimentarium launched with great success in January 2017 – a true celebration of curiosity and creativity. Our core belief is that we learn best when we are having fun and feel free to experiment. Doubled in size, the new Experimentarium boasts 16 homebuilt, interactive exhibitions, including the world’s first Interactive Film Theatre, as well as a flexible, interactive rooftop focused on physical activity. Soon to open is an exhibition for the youngest children (1-5 years). Attracting 400,000 guests in 2017 (Denmark’s population: 5.7 million), we continue to fulfil our role as a popular attraction and a fun, intuitive place in which to learn.”



**Francisco Franco del Amo**

Technical Manager
Aquarium Finisterrae-Museos Científicos
Coruñeses, A Coruña (Spain)

“The production of plastic objects, which are omnipresent in our lives, is ever-increasing. As a result, every year we produce more and more synthetic waste. Much of this waste accumulates in marine ecosystems. To raise awareness among citizens about the great ecological, environmental and socio-economic problem posed by marine plastic waste and, thus, contribute to reducing this type of pollution, the Aquarium Finisterrae organised the “Mar de Plástico” (“Plastic Sea”) exhibition, open between December 2017 and June 2018 and already visited by 43,136 people in the first four months since opening. Produced by the Mar de Fábula Association, a non-profit association dedicated to the conservation of the ocean, and the Retoque Retro collective, the exhibition contains 85 artistic works made with plastic materials recovered as garbage on Galician beaches by volunteers. “Mar de Plástico” is an initiative included in the Objective 14 Programme of the Aquarium Finisterrae, which includes activities aimed at contributing to achieving the objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda related to ocean conservation.”

**Dr. Ulrike Rehwagen**

Head of Project Delivery
BIOTOPIA - Bavarian Natural History
Museum, Munich (Germany)

“Exciting news: in 2017, the masterplan for BIOTOPIA was finished! BIOTOPIA takes a bold new approach to engaging people with some of the most critical issues of our time. Reinventing and expanding the current Museum “Man and Nature” at the spectacular site of Nymphenburg Palace in Munich, Germany, BIOTOPIA will aim to explore, question and reconfigure the relationship between humans and other living beings. BIOTOPIA will become an important museum to focus on behaviours, linking humans to other living species. Featuring topics like “Eat”, “Sleep”, “Reproduce” or “Move”, the content of the museum will communicate fundamental principles of the life sciences and touch on environmental consequences of collective behaviour. BIOTOPIA will emerge as a platform for debate, a showcase for collections and current research, and will include temporary exhibitions, a children’s museum, public labs and varied programmes – resulting in an interdisciplinary space that bridges nature, culture, art and design. The first step is completed, but there’s still a long way to go until the museum opens!”

**Eng. Abdulaziz AlHegelan**

Executive Director
Mishkat Interactive Center for Atomic and
Renewable Energy, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)

“Since Mishkat’s launch in 2011, we have believed in the importance of supporting the self-development of local talents, and in transforming every single mistake into a learning opportunity. This belief has helped us mature and connect with our peers around the world, in addition to developing young adults that can achieve much for themselves and their country, and help realise our country’s vision; Vision Saudi 2030. I’m proud of our team and their continuous achievements in inspiring youth to take part in the building, development and operation of the new sector of Atomic and Renewable Energy in Saudi Arabia. In 2017 for instance, my team delivered the sixth edition of our MAWHIBA summer programme that involved 70 talented middle school students for three weeks.”

**Luigi Amodio**

Director of the Science Centre
Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza
Naples (Italy)

“If we are to talk about 2017 highlights, I’d say that the inauguration of Corporea, our interactive museum on the human body, was the main catalyst of change for Città della Scienza in 2017. Corporea marks the first reconstruction step following the 2013 arson incident that took down a large part of our science centre, and so it has absolutely sparked development and new horizons for us. At its core, Corporea transforms our visitors’ understanding of the human body. By engaging in an interactive journey throughout the body, our visitors (about 200,000 in 2017) are able to explore topics of health, medicine and wellbeing and may appreciate the body through a holistic lens. On another level, Corporea wants to be an active agent of change in our city’s social innovation as it sparks a dynamic interaction between the science, innovation and research sectors and citizens of Naples. So, I’d say that Corporea embodies an ecosystem of creative catalysis; for our science centre post-arson, for our audience in their understanding of the body, and for our city in stimulating territorial social innovation.”

**Clare Meakin**

Science Engagement Manager
National Museums Scotland
Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Pic: 61_headshot1.jpg

“In February 2017 National Museums Scotland partnered with the University of Edinburgh’s School of Anatomy to engage museum visitors with science and the human body. A dedicated team from National Museums Scotland supported students in developing and delivering activities for ‘Science Saturday’. The event was a great success, with more than 3,500 visitors participating, but also had a longer-term legacy for the students who took part. We were delighted to work with the university to deliver such an innovative event. The students were fantastic at engaging visitors of all ages through fun and inventive activities. Tom Gillingwater, one of their professors, reported that the skills they developed will help them be more confident when working with patients in their clinical practice and assist them when choosing appropriate language to use when explaining complex concepts. National Museums Scotland is really keen to develop strong partnerships like this in the future, where visitors can experience contemporary science, alongside exploring our world-class collections.”

Ecsite Executive Office

Catherine Franche
Executive Director – 1

Julie Becker
Communications and Events Manager – 2

Marie Couëdic
Acting Events and Communications Officer
(from September) – 3

Raquel da Cunha
Events and Communications Officer – 4

Daphnie Daras
Project Assistant (from October) – 5

Carmen Fenollosa
Project Manager – 6

Suzana Filipecki Martins
Project Manager – 7

Antonina Khodzhaeva
Project Manager – 8

Cristina Paca
Project Assistant (from July) – 9

Tomas Rehacek
Project Manager (until October) – 10

Anne Urger
Administrator – 11

Mariette Wennmacher
Administrative Executive – 12

Maria Zolotonosa
Senior Project Manager – 13

A warm thank you to our 2017 interns:
Marie Couëdic,
Ana de la Calle Navarro,
Cristina Paca
and Bárbara Dias Teixeira.

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Rising tide - 2017
Ecsite Annual Report

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This Annual Report is a publication
for Ecsite members.



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

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

Expected 2018 highlights

- A creative Annual Conference in Geneva (Switzerland) on 7-9 June
- Two Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards: “Smart and Simple” & “Sustainable Success”
- An empowering Directors Forum in Barcelona (Spain) on 14-16 November
- A high-profile advocacy action at European level with a focus on the 9th EU Framework Programme (FP9)



The title, leading thread and graphic design of this annual report form part of the legacy of the Sea Change project. The project aimed to foster responsible behaviour of citizens towards the seas and ocean and their resources. It received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 652644.

Tokyo Protocol

The Tokyo Protocol On the Role of Science Centres and Science Museums Worldwide In Support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, was signed in June 2017 by representatives of science centre networks from around the world. The Protocol formed the backbone of the Science Centre World Summit held on 15-17 November 2017 in Tokyo, Japan and has been outlining a global vision for our field since then.

Preamble

Science centres and science museums throughout the world are committed to promoting scientifically literate societies and participatory citizenship, by educating, empowering and inspiring people of all ages about the impact of science on their lives. Since 1996, leaders of the field have convened in six world congresses, reaffirming these commitments in two formal declarations (Toronto and Cape Town.) These congresses provided the basis for convening the first Science Centre World Summit (SCWS2014) in Mechelen, Belgium, yielding the comprehensive Mechelen Declaration of principles and concrete actions to enhance public engagement for a better world.

At the convening of the second Science Centre World Summit (SCWS2017) on 15-17 November, 2017 in Tokyo, Japan, parties recognise the importance of applying the principles of the Mechelen declaration more precisely to strengthening public engagement in global sustainability. Underscoring this important role for the field,

The Parties to this Protocol:

Recalling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) endorsed by the United Nations (UN) in 2015 that are global in scope and impact;
Recognising that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is critical to meet these challenges and that STEM is universally relevant across borders and cultures;
Emphasising that public engagement and action in science and technology are key to achieving the SDGs;
Endorsing the commitments and achievements to date of global, regional and local organisations worldwide to achieve these goals for the benefit of all life forms on the planet;
Taking into account that everyone must play a part to meet the challenges addressed by the SDGs and that these will be fulfilled by the actions of individuals in communities throughout the world;
Recognising as well that the rapid pace of change in the world today - scientifically, technologically, demographically and economically - offers both challenges and new opportunities for collective actions to achieve the SDGs;
Acknowledging that nearly 3000 science centres and science museums that influence more than 310 million visitors and participants are deeply committed to raising awareness and helping all members of society to be participants in the solutions achievable to meet these goals for our planet;
Expressing confidence that science centres and science museums are agile institutions responsive to rapid changes and behaving proactively, share the vision on their roles in the ever-changing society;

Declaring that science centres and science museums worldwide are concerned, committed, and prepared to address these increasingly urgent goals,

Have agreed as follows:

General Provision

This Protocol stands as a fully endorsed supplement to the Mechelen Declaration opened for signature on 19 March, 2014 at the convening of the first Science Centre World Summit in Mechelen, Belgium and adopted as a framework with the following seven action points:

- We will ...*
1. Investigate how to engage even more effectively with local communities and increasingly diverse audiences, and keep the focus on gender differences in engagement.
 2. Continue taking actions that have a positive global impact and that will make people everywhere more aware of the opportunities that science and technology hold for the sustainable advancement of humankind.
 3. Draw the attention of decision makers and the media to the essential role of public engagement with science and technology by setting up high-profile global activities.
 4. Endeavour to leverage the position of science centres as “trusted” places to introduce the public to new technological solutions and sustainable technologies, and to broaden the potential use of these solutions.

5. Take the lead in developing the best methods for engaging learners and optimizing their education in both formal and informal settings using appropriate technologies in widely varying contexts.
6. Engage the public more directly with research, using this engagement to help empower people, broaden attitudes and ensure that the work of universities and research institutions is relevant to society and to wider social concerns on a global scale.
7. Work together in a creative celebration of the International Science Centre Year 2019, encouraging people throughout the world to take part in shared experiences relating to science and technology and society.

Statement of Purposes

The **purposes** of this Protocol are therefore to:

- I. **Recognise and utilize** science centres and science museums as platforms to help various relevant stakeholders build a better understanding of the challenges of realising the SDGs in increasingly diverse communities;
- II. **Bring** to the attention of the decision makers worldwide the accomplishments of the science centre and science museum field with regard to the SDGs consistent with the relevant action points of the Mechelen Declaration.

With Actions Set Forth:

- The Parties to this Protocol will endeavour to –*
- I. Give priority consideration to the importance and urgency of expanding public awareness of, and engagement in actions that help achieve the SDGs;
 - II. Undertake actions relevant and appropriate to local communities with consideration for the SDGs;
 - III. Serve as platforms for discourse and exchange among all diverse actors in society on these critical issues - bridging ideas, cultures, and views, whether they are founded in indigenous knowledge and long-standing traditions or fashioned in the rapid pace of global change;
 - IV. Establish new and strengthen existing partnerships and collaborations with other organisations and entities that share the commitment of science centres and science museums to raise public awareness and engagement toward timely success in achieving the SDGs;
 - V. Embrace and incorporate the contributions of technological innovation as tools to more effectively engage the public in these topics;
 - VI. Serve as trusted links and valued communicators of both the progress being made and the challenges encountered by the scientific research community worldwide in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs;

- VII. Support advancement in the number, capabilities and efforts of science centres and science museums everywhere to achieve progress in meeting the SDGs;
- VIII. Accept the responsibility to serve as catalysts for better understanding and coordinated actions within communities throughout the world by stimulating tolerance and critical thinking, distinguishing fact from belief, reinforcing the imperative for evidence-based decision-making, and inspiring a new generation to view the SDGs as foundations on which to grow a better world;
- IX. Support the organisation of collective worldwide public STEM activities, wherever possible, to include observance of an annual international science centre and science museum day, consistent with intent of action item #7 of the Mechelen Declaration, but modifying in scope from an international year to an annual international day.

