Dear \*|Title|\* \*|Last Name |\*,

I am pleased to send you the position of Ecsite, the European network of science centres and museums, on the future Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP9).

We believe that for a democratic and sustainable Europe, FP9 **should actively involve citizens in the science and innovation process**. **This is the role of professional science mediators working in science engagement organisations such as science museums/centres**.

You will find in this position paper arguments that support and detail our opinion and recommendations for FP9. This document highlights 5 main topics: scientific careers, trust between research and society, innovation, democratic Europe and future and emerging technologies. In this paper, Ecsite asks for:

* European “Youth and Science and Technology” has to become a European flagship
* A science and society programme is required with a separate strand of funding that includes a focus on combating fake news.
* Science engagement must be recognised as an integral part of the research and innovation system.
* Innovation of science engagement approaches is needed to tackle new societal challenges
* Funding for engaging citizens with the process and outcomes of science and innovation needs a significant increase.

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 320+ 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.

We invite you to get in touch with Marie Couëdic, Special Projects Assistant at the Ecsite office (+32 2 649 73 83 or [mcouedic@ecsite.eu](mailto:mcouedic@ecsite.eu)) for any further information.

Best wishes,

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|  | Herbert Münder  Ecsite President  General Manager, Universum Bremen  Bremen, Germany |