

Minutes of the Ecsite Annual General Meeting 2022

Friday, 3 June 2022
15h45 – 17h00 CEST

The Ecsite Camp at Theresienwiese

Auditorium
Theresienstraße
74072, Heilbronn, Germany

1. Welcome

Bruno Maquart, President of Ecsite, welcomes delegates to the 2022 Ecsite General Assembly Meeting, henceforth referred to in the minutes as the Annual General Meeting, or AGM.

2. Verification of the quorum and Opening of the Annual General Assembly Meeting

The meeting is declared quorate by Bruno Maquart with 62 of Ecsite's 204 Full Members with paid membership fees present or represented.

Bruno Maquart declares the Ecsite Annual General Assembly Meeting 2022 open at 15:52 CEST.

3. Designation of the Secretary of the Annual General Assembly Meeting

Bruno Maquart designates Cristina Paca of the Ecsite Head Office as Secretary of this AGM.

4. Introduction and testing of the voting system

Andrew Whittington-Davis of the Ecsite Head Office explains the digital voting system, NemoVote, which is being used for the AGM.

5. Election of the two 2022 Protocol Officers

Bruno Maquart suggests Ursula Warnke (State Museum Nature and Man, Germany) and Peter de Haan (Museum-Omniversum, Netherlands) as Protocol Officers, who accept to be nominated for the role.

There are no further suggestions from the General Assembly on other names to be added to the list of Protocol Officers for the vote.

The General Assembly approves the 2022 Protocol Officers with 61 votes in favour, no votes against, and no abstentions.

6. Comments on the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021 as approved by the 2021 Protocol Officers

Bruno Maquart thanks the 2021 Protocol Officers and invites all participants to send comments by email regarding the Minutes 2021.

7. Activity report 2021

7.1 – Presentation of the Activity report 2021

Bruno Maquart begins by placing the activity report in the context of a year marked by a period of lockdown and progressive reopening of on-site activities, which required adaptations from Ecsite. He thanks the 313 Ecsite members for their crucial support and renewal of membership. He highlights a key milestone for Ecsite in 2021, the Ecsite Online Conference with 1,262 participants from 58 different countries, of which 42% were newcomers.

Bruno Maquart goes on to present further achievements according to the strategic directions defined in the Ecsite Strategy launched in 2021: 'Confirm our leadership', 'Maximise our impact', 'Strengthen our community' and 'Increase our sustainability'.

In terms of confirming Ecsite's leadership, Bruno Maquart points to regular meetings of the directors of the six international science engagement networks and, at the instigation of Ecsite, new bi-monthly meetings between the Presidents, Board representative and Directors of these networks and an International Directors' Forum that will take place in Europe in 2023. Moreover, Ecsite began a series of introductory meetings with European stakeholders from universities, academies, museums and with the European Commission: Science Europe, EUA – European University Association, NEMO - Network of European Museum Organisations, ALLEA – All European Academies, the Director General of DG Research & Innovation, ICOM Europe, and EUREC – European Network of Research Ethics Committees. During the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Ciência Viva organised in partnership with Ecsite a one-day hybrid conference. Furthermore, Ecsite joined the board of EUFIC (European Food Information Council) and the Advisory Board of the Horizon Europe's Ocean Mission. During this first semester of 2022, under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, a series of meetings and roundtables were included in the Ecsite agenda, such as the European Valorisation Week and the Forum of Universities for the Future of Europe.

Concerning maximising impact, Bruno Maquart highlights the 13 EU-funded projects that involved 36 members from 24 countries in 2021 and five new proposals submitted for such funding. Additionally, bi-monthly meetings took place with the national European science engagement networks. In 2023, the Ecsite Directors' Forum will be an International Directors Forum to be hosted by Heureka, the Finnish Science Centre, Finland, as decided by the Board.

As for strengthening the community, Bruno Maquart cites the six online professional learning Workrooms, the in-person 2021 Directors' Forum hosted in Paris by Universcience, EXTRA, the online market place for touring exhibitions, and the online activities of the Ecsite Space Group in collaboration with ESA - European Space Agency. He mentions that 2021 saw the launch of a new data collection project to share specific information that can benefit members. Lastly, he stresses that Ecsite stands together with Ukraine and Ukrainians.

Regarding sustainability, Bruno Maquart points to the change in format of Spokes, Ecsite's online magazine: Spokes Magazine became quarterly while Spokes News brought information to members in the months in between. Spokes and Ecsite's social media channels reach thousands of people connected to science engagement. Bruno Maquart reports that 2022 Annual Conference has also taken steps to be more sustainable, highlighting in particular the pilot attempt to offset the carbon footprint from travel by donating to reforestation efforts in the districts of Heilbronn. Bruno Maquart thanks the members of the different committees – the Board of Trustees, the Annual Conference Programme Committee, the Spokes

Editorial Committee, the Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards jury, and the Space Group Steering Group – for dedicating their time and resources to Ecsite. Lastly, Bruno Maquart mentions as a sustainability focus for the future an increase in sponsorship and funding for long-term projects.

To conclude, Bruno Maquart states that, while his presentation included activities that took place in the first half of 2022, participants are invited to vote only for the activity report that covers the year 2021.

7.2 – Questions

No questions or comments are raised.

7.3 – Vote on the Activity report 2021

The Activity report 2021 is accepted with 66 votes in favour, no votes against, and no abstentions.

8. Financials 2021

8.1 – Presentation of the Accounts 2021

Kim Gladstone Herlev, Treasurer of Ecsite, presents the financial activity of Ecsite in 2021, as audited by DGST & Partners and detailed for Full Members in the AGM booklet.

He outlines the Income and Costs for 2021 according to the main categories. He notes that the two largest sources of income were the collaborative projects (64,64%) and membership fees (23,37%), and that a small income was generated from the #EcsiteOnline events.

The two largest categories of costs were the Head Office and collaborative projects, together amounting to around 82% of all costs. Costs for further services to members include the #EcsiteOnline events, facilities costs, accounting and social and legal fees, taxes, communication, sponsorship and fundraising, the Directors' Forum and travel.

Comparing this overview with that of past years, Kim Gladstone Herlev remarks that the Annual Conference and its Business Bistro are no longer among the most important sources of income and costs due to the fact that the Annual Conference could not be held in person in 2020 and 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has led to a situation where membership fees and collaborative projects become more important than before in terms of income.

Overall, in 2021, the income was €1.526.669 while costs amounted to €1.544.450 resulting in a negative EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) of - €17.780 and a negative overall final result of - €39.393. Kim Gladstone Herlev highlights the fact that compared with the Budget 2021 approved at the 2021 AGM, this represents a positive difference of €129.819 and that the reserve of Ecsite remains positive overall, amounting to €493.621 at the end of 2021.

Kim Gladstone Herlev concludes by outlining that in 2021 Ecsite managed to reduce the loss of income experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that, while the reserve of Ecsite decreased in 2020 and 2021, it remains at a higher level than in 2016.

8.2 – Questions

No questions are raised.

8.3 – Vote on the Accounts 2021

The General Assembly approves the Accounts 2021 with 69 votes in favour, 1 vote against, and no abstentions.

8.4 – Vote on the discharge from the liability to the directors in office during the year 2021

In relation to the financial report 2021, Kim Gladstone Herlev further explains that the Belgian law governing companies and associations state that, after the approval of accounts, the General Assembly should vote on the discharge of the Directors who were in office during the financial year 2021. By this vote, the General Assembly gives up the possibility to hold responsible the directors for the financial decisions relevant to that year. He further reminds delegates that Ecsite's accounts are audited and the auditor gives a guarantee that the accounts give a true and fair view of Ecsite's equity and financial position in its report.

The General Assembly grants the discharge from liability of the Directors with 68 votes in favour, no votes against, and no abstentions.

9. Financials 2022

9.1 – Presentation of the budget 2022

Kim Gladstone Herlev begins by remarking that the Budget 2022 was prepared on the assumption that it would be possible to organise an in-person Annual Conference in 2022 and this proved to be correct. Therefore, the Budget 2022 sees the return of the Annual Conference and its Business Bistro as an important source of both income and costs, with the financial overview beginning to resemble that seen before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The expected overall income for 2022 amounts to €1.980.300, which is €278.900 more than communicated at the AGM 2021. This is in part because of a higher number of participants at the Annual Conference, higher membership fees invoiced, and higher income from collaborative projects than anticipated in 2021.

A similar development is noticeable in terms of costs, with overall costs anticipated at €1.923.300, which is €260.700 more than communicated at the AGM 2021. The three main categories of costs are expected to be collaborative projects, the Head Office, and the Annual Conference and its Business Bistro.

The preliminary Budget 2022 shows a positive EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) of €57.000 and positive final result of € 40.100, meaning that the reserve will increase slightly to reach €533.721. Kim Gladstone Herlev ends by thanking the Ecsite Head Office for the financial management that has led to this positive news.

9.2 – Questions

No questions are raised.

9.3 – Vote on the budget 2022

The General Assembly approves the Budget 2022 with 71 votes in favour, no votes against, and no abstentions.

10. Financials 2023

10.1 – Presentation of the budget 2023 and of the membership fees 2023

Budget 2023

Kim Gladstone Herlev begins by mentioning that the Budget 2023 will be approved by members at the next AGM in 2023. The preliminary overview of the main categories of income and costs for 2023 resembles that seen before the COVID-19 pandemic. The preliminary final outcome of a positive EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) of €43.900 and positive final result of €12.300 sends an important message. The reserve of Ecsite will be maintained and slightly increased.

Membership fees 2023

Kim Gladstone Herlev explains that Article 3.5 of Ecsite's *Internal Regulations* stipulates that membership fees are indexed to the inflation rate of the Eurozone. Considering the difficult financial situation of science engagement organisations over the last three years, the General Assembly chose not to apply this indexation, upon the recommendation of the Board. This meant that membership fees remained the same between 2020 and 2022. At the same time, under Belgian rules, the personnel costs of the Head Office were automatically indexed.

Kim Gladstone Herlev quotes the European Central Bank which estimates inflation to average 5.1% in 2022 and 2.1% in 2023. Considering the inflation costs born between 2020 and 2022, the Board of Ecsite recommends to apply the indexation rate of 2022, 5.1%, to the current fees. Kim Gladstone Herlev concludes by mentioning that applying the indexation of 5,1% instead of that of 2.1% does not represent a significant change for members, the difference ranging between €20 and €98 depending on the type of organisation they are.

10.2 – Questions

No questions are asked on the budget or the membership fees 2023.

10.3 – Vote on membership fees 2023

The membership fees 2023 are adopted with 61 votes in favour, 5 votes against, and 5 abstentions.

Membership fees 2023

Turnover	NON-PROFIT		FOR PROFIT	
	FULL	ASSOCIATE	SUSTAINING	
			Company	One-person company
< 1 million €	810 €	460 €	915 €	460 €
1 million € - 4.999.999 €	1.625 €			
5 million € - 14.999.999 €	2.165 €			
15 million € and over	3.250 €			

11. Election of the Ecsite Board of Trustees 2022-2024

In 2022, four positions are open on the Ecsite Board. Four candidates stand for election and introduce themselves and their organisation in front of the General Assembly.

As a result of the voting process, four candidates are elected. Bruno Maquart therefore confirms the newly elected members of the Ecsite Board.

Ciudad de las Artes y de las Ciencias,

Valencia, Spain

Represented by

Miriam Atienza Fernández, Content Manager

Votes: 67; elected

Museu de História Natural e da Ciência da Universidade do Porto,

Porto, Portugal

Represented by

Maria João Fonseca, Interim Executive Coordinator, Head of Communication and Director of the Hall of Biodiversity

Votes: 63; elected**Natural History Museum of Toulouse,**

Toulouse, France

Represented by

Francis Duranthon, Museum Director

Votes: 58; elected**NOESIS, Thessaloniki Science Center and Technology Museum,**

Thessaloniki, Greece

Represented by

Athanasios Kontonikolaou, General Manager

Votes: 63; elected

Therefore, the Ecsite Board of Trustees 2022-23 is introduced, as shown in the table below:

	Institution	Represented by
1	Universcience – France (Presidency)	Bruno Maquart
2	Universum Managementges GmbH (Past Presidency)	Herbert Münder
3	Ciudad de las Artes y de las Ciencias – Spain	Miriam Atienza Fernández
4	Copernicus Science Centre – Poland	Robert Firmhofer
5	Experimentarium – Denmark	Kim Gladstone Herlev
6	<i>focus</i> Terra – ETH Zurich – Switzerland	Ulrike Kalstrup
7	Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Toulouse – France	Francis Duranthon
8	Natural History and Science Museum of the University of Porto (MHNC-UP) – Portugal	Maria João Fonseca
9	Natural History Museum – United Kingdom	Alexandra Burch
10	NOESIS, Thessaloniki Science Center and Technology Museum – Greece	Athanasios Kontonikolaou
11	Psiquadro scarl – Italy	Leonardo Alfonsi
12	Rijksmuseum Boerhaave – The Netherlands	Amito Haarhuis
13	Stiftung Neanderthal Museum – Germany	Bärbel Auffermann
14	Technopolis®, the Flemish Science Centre – Belgium	Stephane Berghmans

12. Miscellaneous**Presentation of the Directors Forum 2022**

The Ecsite Directors Forum 2022 will be hosted by NEMO Science Museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands, on 17-18 November 2022. Marjolein van Breemen introduces the key theme of this event: the trends that

are impacting the work of science engagement organisations and how the community is addressing them. Attendees will be invited to visit the temporary exhibition space where NEMO Science Museum experiments with programmes for adult visitors, as well as other award-winning science centres and museums belonging to the Ecsite community which are located nearby. She ends by informing the audience that registrations will begin in September.

13. Close of the meeting

Bruno Maquart thanks the Ecsite Executive Office and the experimental team for the success of the AGM meeting in terms of organisation and technical solutions.

He closes the meeting at 17:09 CEST.

Signed:

Date:

Bruno Maquart

President of Ecsite

Signed:

Date:

Ursula Warnke

Protocol Officer

Signed:

Date:

Peter de Haan

Protocol Officer

Ecsite Annual General Meeting
Heilbronn, Germany, 3 June 2022, 15h45 – 17h00 CEST

Present

N°	Country	Full member Institution	Represented by
1	Austria	FRida & freD - The Graz Children's Museum	Joerg Ehtreiber
2	Austria	Natural History Museum Vienna	Iris Ott
3	Austria	Science Center Netzwerk	Barbara Streicher
4	Belgium	Fondation Entreprise / Institut FUP	Gérard Cobut
5	Belgium	SPARKOH!	Chris Viceroy
6	Belgium	Technopolis	Mikko Myllykoski (proxy)
7	Czech Republic	Středisko společných činností AV ČR, v.v.i.	Roman Ondracek
8	Czech Republic	Techmania Science Center	Kateřina Chábová
9	Denmark	Experimentarium	Kim Gladstone Herlev
10	Estonia	AHHAA Science Centre Foundation	Pilvi Kolk
11	Finland	Heureka - The Finnish Science Centre	Mikko Myllykoski
12	France	AMCSTI	Agnès Parent (proxy)
13	France	Cité de l'Espace	Francis Duranthon (proxy)
14	France	Citéco-Cité de l'Economie et de la Monnaie	Philippe Gineste
15	France	EPCC de diffusion de la CSTI Grenoble Alpes (La Casemate)	Audrey Korczynska
16	France	Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace	Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine
17	France	Musée des Arts et Métiers	Sophie Biecheler (proxy)
18	France	Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Toulouse	Francis Duranthon
19	France	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle	Agnès Parent
20	France	universcience	Sophie Biecheler
21	France	Université de Montpellier	Thierry Brassac
22	France	Université de Strasbourg / Jardin des Sciences	Christel le Delliou
23	Germany	botanika BREMENS GROSSE ENTDECKERWELT	Armin Schlüter
24	Germany	DASA	Bernd Holtwick
25	Germany	experimenta - Science Center der Region Heilbronn-Franken gGmbH	Wolfgang Hansch
26	Germany	Futurium	Gabriele Zipf
27	Germany	Landesmuseum Natur und Mensch	Ursula Wanke
28	Germany	Mathematikum e.V.	Albrecht Beutelspacher
29	Germany	NAWAREUM	Vanessa Roden
30	Germany	phæno gGmbH	Michel Junge
31	Germany	Phänomena	Achim Englert
32	Germany	PHÄNOMENTA Lüdenscheid	Torsten Schulze

33	Germany	Stiftung Deutsches Technikmuseum Berlin	Christian Neuert
34	Germany	Stiftung Neanderthal Museum	Bärbel Auffermann
35	Germany	Technische Sammlungen der Stadt Dresden	Holger Seifert
36	Germany	Universum Managementges GmbH	Herbert Münder
37	Greece	Ellinogermaniki Agogi SA	Angelos Alexopoulos
38	Greece	Noesis-Science Center of Thessaloniki & Technology Museum	Athanasios Kontonikolaou
39	Italy	Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza	Luigi Amodio
40	Italy	Muse - Museo delle Scienze	Antonia Caola
41	Italy	Psiquadro scarl	Leonardo Alfonsi
42	Italy	Sissa Medialab srl	Aldo Rampioni
43	Latvia	Ventspils Zinātnes un inovāciju centrs	Mikko Myllykoski (proxy)
44	Luxembourg	Musée national d'histoire naturelle – 'natur musée'	Patrick Michaely
45	Netherlands	Discovery Museum	Hans Gubbels
46	Netherlands	Museon - Omniversum	Peter de Haan
47	Netherlands	NEMO Science Museum	Marjolein Van Breemen
48	Netherlands	Rijksmuseum Boerhaave	Amito Haarhuis
49	Netherlands	Space Expo	Peter de Haan (proxy)
50	Netherlands	Universiteitsmuseum Utrecht	Femke den Boer
51	Netherlands	Vereniging Science Centra Nederland	Menno Tummers
52	Norway	Norsk Teknisk Museum - Oslo Vitensenter	Jan Alfred Andersson
53	Norway	Vilvite, Bergen Vitensenter AS	Lars Leegaard Marøy
54	Poland	Centrum Nauki Kopernik	Robert Firmhofer
55	Poland	EC1 Lodz - Miasto Kultury w Lodzi	Magdalena Kosiada-Sylburska
56	Poland	EXPERYMENT Science Centre in Gdynia	Alicja Harackiewicz
57	Portugal	Centro Ciencia Viva de Bragança	Ivone Fachada
58	Portugal	Centro Ciência Viva de Tavira	Cristina Veiga-Pires (proxy)
59	Portugal	Centro Ciência Viva do Algarve	Cristina Veiga-Pires
60	Portugal	Museu de História Natural e da Ciência da Universidade do Porto	Maria João Fonseca
61	Portugal	Pavilhão do Conhecimento - Centro Ciência Viva	Pedro Russo
62	Slovenia	Zavod Kersnikova (Kersnikova Institute)	Klemen Kristan
63	Spain	Ciudad de las Artes Y Las Ciencias, S.A.	Miriam Atienza Fernández
64	Spain	Fundació Bofill	Montse Dalmau
65	Spain	Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales - CSIC	Borja Milá
66	Spain	Parque de las Ciencias	María Salud Sánchez Sierra
67	Switzerland	CERN—the European Laboratory for Particle Physics	Emma Sanders
68	Switzerland	<i>focus</i> Terra, ETH Zürich	Ulrike Kastrup
69	Switzerland	Swiss Science Centre Technorama	Thorsten-D. Künnemann

70	United Kingdom	Centre for Research in STEM Education	Justin Dillon
71	United Kingdom	Museum of London	Sharon Ament
72	United Kingdom	Science Museum Group	Alexandra Smirnova
73	United Kingdom	The Natural History Museum	Alexandra Burch
