



Declaration on **Public Engagement in Climate Change**

Science centres and museums promote the advancement of knowledge and human endeavour based on scientific principles. We advocate that science is the most successful way of describing and understanding the phenomena of the world around us. As such, we rely on the objective use of scientific evidence to present science. Considering the wealth of scientific research, we acknowledge climate change to be a serious global threat.

As professionals in science centres and museums across Europe, we engage with over 30 million European citizens each year on the science of the world around us. This well-established connection to the public puts us in a key position to engage with citizens on the issue of climate change.

Ecsite, the European Network of Science Centres and Museums, declares that public engagement in climate change demands a partnership approach: for results of research to be made available, to enable public understanding and engagement, in order to inform policy.

To make these partnerships possible, we strongly encourage governments to systematically incorporate public engagement into their policymaking on environmental issues, enabling a true participatory dialogue between policy, research and society. We expect governments to build on their relationships with science centres and museums, the places and organisations that the public look to and trust on scientific topics. We commit our network to collective action in raising awareness of the issues at stake, to educate, engage and empower the European public, encouraging critical thinking on this issue, reaching out to adults, young people and children through the many thousands of exhibitions, events, conferences and debates which take place in our institutions every year.

On the occasion of the COP15 United Nations Climate Change Conference Copenhagen 2009, we call on European and national governments to come to a solid agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to partner with science centres and museums on public engagement in order to fulfil our shared responsibility towards our planet's climate.

**Ecsite, the European network for science centres and museums
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Ecsite is the European network for science centres and museums, linking science communication professionals in more than 400 institutions in 50 countries and uniting them in their goal of engaging, and therefore empowering, the public on matters of science. Founded 20 years ago, Ecsite connects member institutions through projects and activities and facilitates the exchange of ideas and best practice on current issues.

www.ecsite.eu

