

# **Ecsite Space Group Annual Meeting**



**Columbus earth center  
Kerkrade, Netherlands  
30-31 January 2019**

# 1. The Ecsite Space Group

The Ecsite Space Group offers a platform for science centres and museums to improve and extend communication about ESA and European space activities by sharing experiences, expertise, knowledge, tools, resources and best practices.

The group is chaired by Marc Moutin, Director of Exhibitions at Cité de l'Espace, France, Ana Noronha, Executive Director of Ciência Viva - Pavilion of Knowledge, Portugal, and Maria Menendez, Head of ESA Corporate Exhibitions and Events, France.

Joining the Ecsite Space Group is an opportunity to get closer to space professionals and science centres willing to communicate about space. It also allows participants to be better informed about space news, programs, achievements and next launches.

For European Space Agency (ESA), national space agencies, industries, research institutions, and academia, the Space Group offers the possibility to build close collaborations with science communication professionals. The group benefits from the already established European networks of Ecsite and the European Space network of ESA and its member states.



## 2. Overview of the meeting

As announced at the Ecsite Space Group pre-conference workshop, 5-6 June 2018, in Geneva, Switzerland, Ecsite launched and administered a call to host the Annual Meeting among Space Group members. The organisation selected to host the meeting was Columbus earth center, in Kerkrade, the Netherlands.

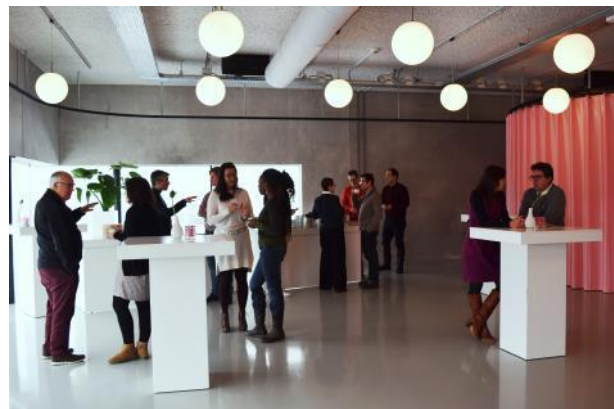
An overview of the meeting, as well as links to speaker presentations and showcase projects, follows. [All presentations can be downloaded via this link.](#)

### 2.1 Day 1, 30 January 2019

The meeting started with a welcome by **Hans Gubbels**, Director of Museumplein Limburg, who introduced participants to our host institution and the evolution of science engagement in the region. **María Menéndez**, Head of ESA Corporate Exhibitions and Events, **Ana Noronha**, Executive Director of Ciência Viva - Pavilion of Knowledge, Portugal, and **Marc Moutin** Director of Exhibitions at Cité de l'Espace, France, took the floor as co-chairs of the group to give a brief overview of the work of the Ecsite Space Group as well as the objectives of the Annual Meeting. A Tour de Table followed, participants being able to present themselves, their institutions and their motivations in attending the meeting.



*Hans Gubbels, Director of Museumplein Limburg, welcomes participants to Columbus earth center*



*Participants at the Ecsite Space Group Annual Meeting*

### Keynote addresses

The first of three keynote addresses of Day 1 was on **ESA's next missions and milestones** delivered by **Roberto Lo Verde**, Head of management support and corporate activities office, ESA Communication Department. Roberto outlined ESA's main activities in 2019, including the Ministerial Council Space19+ in November, a moment to show the logic behind ESA's pillars of 'Science & Exploration', 'Space Safety and Security', 'Applications' and 'Enabling &



Support' and their value for the public in terms of social, economic, geo-political and scientific benefits. Other upcoming developments concern ESA's ExoMars mission, ESA astronaut Luca Parmitano's 'Beyond' mission and the SAT-AIS, EDRS-C, Vega-C, Cheops, OPS-SAT programme launches. Roberto's presentation can be accessed [here](#).



*Roberto Lo Verde, Head of management support and corporate activities office, ESA Communication Department, presents ESA's main activities in 2019*

Next, **Jasper Wamsteker**, Head of Communication and Educational programme at the Netherlands Space Office, spoke about the **work of the NSO - The Netherlands Space Office and its relationship with science centers and museums**. Jasper's presentation gave an overview of the NSO's activities in space technology, science and applications, education and outreach. He encouraged science engagement organisations to communicate the added value of space in daily lives and to take full advantage of space and non-space crossovers in their engagement activities. Jasper's presentation is available [via this link](#).

Lastly, **Ruud Dullens**, Entrepreneur and Board Member of the company BlueTea B.V., gave participants insights into the **latest developments in Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR)** for learning and training in the space and non-space fields. Ruud's presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

### **Earth Observation**

The afternoon was dedicated to the topic of Earth Observation. It began with a presentation by **Mischa Horninge**, Product manager, Columbus earth center, of the centre's activities followed by the one-hour '**Earth Our Planet Our Home**' show using the centre's unique immersive projection surface.



*'Earth Our Planet Our Home' experience at Columbus earth center*

**Robert Meisner**, Earth Observation Communication Officer, ESA Communication Department, took the floor to present the wealth of **Earth Observation resources available at ESA and the [ϕ Lab at ESA/ESRIN](#)**. In planning when it was presented for the first time at the Ecsite Space Group's pre-conference workshop in Porto, Portugal, in 2017, the visualisation centre  $\phi$  Lab has now become a reality at ESRIN in Frascati, Italy. Robert's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

**Ana Noronha** gave an update on the direction in which the third pilot project of the Ecsite Space Group, led by Ciência Viva, Portugal, is heading. Entitled '**Climate Change: Monitoring the Atmosphere and Oceans from Space**', this project will result in visual and highly interactive resources based on existing content management systems. Interactive elements and an interface that allows visitors to obtain more information about aspects of interest would be particularly desirable. Once again, Ana stressed the importance of 'Space for Earth' and cited EU Marina RRI project's [travelling interactive exhibition](#), developed by the science centre AHHA in Estonia and Nausicaa Sea Experience Centre in France, as inspiration for the development of future resources under this pilot project.

## 2.2 Day 2, Thursday, 31 January 2019

### Morning sessions

Following an introduction to Day 2 of the workshop, **Gideon Koekoek**, Assistant Professor at the University of Maastricht, took the stage to speak about the Einstein Telescope, a proposed third generation gravitational wave detector and a project which the province of

Limburg is working to see implemented in this region. Gideon's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

The second speaker of the day was **Cátia Cardoso**, representative of ESA Education, who gave a comprehensive update on the ESA educational programme for schools and universities, and projects such as Mission X Train like an astronaut, Astro Pi, CanSat, Climate Detectives and Moon Camp. Cátia's presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

**Didier Laval** and **Julien No Mura** representing Airbus Foundation gave participants an overview of the **The Discovery Space platform** which was developed by Airbus Foundation in collaboration with ESA and Autodesk. As the foundation is looking to develop new kinds of resources, participants were invited to reflect interactively on the kind of digital experience their institutions would find relevant. Their presentation can be downloaded [here](#).



*Reflecting on new experiences*

### **Showcase session**

Ecsite Space Group events regularly feature sessions where participants themselves can share innovative resources and ideas following a call for presentations made by Ecsite. Four participants brought new projects to the attention of fellow participants.

**Rosa Marti**, Ciudad de las Artes y de las Ciencias, Spain, presented updates on the second pilot project, "Is there Life out there?", including changes to the design and descriptions of the cards. These resources consisting of a print-and-play board game, "Alive! An extra-terrestrial game," a mobile application, educational materials and other resources, will become available in the first half of 2019. Rosa's presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

**Mahbobah Ahmadi**, Education and Outreach Officer at Leiden University, presented Discovery Club, a project of the Leiden Astronomy & Society Group, providing after-school activities on astronomy at five refugee centres in the Netherlands. Mahbobah's presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

**Maria Menendez**, Head of ESA Corporate Exhibitions and Events, spoke about a series of ESA Exploration exhibition elements that will become available at the end of March and will be shared in early April with the Ecsite Space Group.

**Ana Noronha**, Executive Director at Ciência Viva - Pavilion of Knowledge, presented the '[The Meaning of Life, a film by Portuguese director Miguel Gonçalves Mendes](#)', a work that has been given a platform to reach the public at Ciência Viva.

### **Next steps**

#### **Ecsite Space Group pre-conference workshop at the Ecsite Annual Conference 2019**

The next pre-conference workshop organised by the Ecsite Space Group at the Ecsite Annual Conference 2019 will take place on 4-5 June 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Its focus will be on science engagement around the use of space technologies and Earth Observation data for new purposes and applications for the Earth, hence its title 'Space for all, Space for Earth', including the use of such formats such as consultations, debates, citizen science, data validation and hackathons. The meeting will explore what role science engagement organisations can play in these developments and how they can do so in an inclusive way. The meeting will be partly hosted by Tycho Brahe Planetarium, where participants can experience the 'Made in Space' astrophysics exhibition inspired by the gender inclusive principles developed under H2020 project Hypatia.

Ecsite Space Group participants will be invited via the newsletter to contribute with their suggestions to shape the meeting and to make use the ESA/Ecsite Space Group Business Bistro booth in new ways.

## 3. Programme

### Ecsite Space Group Annual Meeting 2018

**30-31 January 2019  
Columbus earth center, Kerkrade (Netherlands)**

As agreed during the Ecsite Space Group pre-conference workshop “Space for Life: Engaging audiences” held in Geneva (Switzerland) last June, an invitation to host the next Space Group Annual was issued to the Ecsite Space Group community. The 2018 edition of the Annual Meeting will be hosted by Columbus earth center in Kerkrade (Netherlands) in January 2019.

The Ecsite Space Group will come together once more to exchange and design collaborative projects to better share European space activities and space science with the general public.

The two-day workshop will give representatives from science engagement organisations the opportunity to explore:

- The latest news from the European Space Agency – ESA and national space agencies
- The third Pilot Project ‘Climate change: Monitoring the atmosphere and oceans from Space’ and other resources
- New collaborations with the European Space Agency – ESA and Airbus Foundation’s Discovery Space programme
- Exchanges with space agency and industry representatives, researchers and peers from the science engagement community
- A behind-the-scenes look at Columbus earth centre and its activity around the ‘Overview Effect’
- Innovative resources, initiatives and ideas from science engagement peers

The programme can be consulted below.

For any **questions regarding the programme**, please contact **Barbara Budassi**, [barbara.budassi@esa.int](mailto:barbara.budassi@esa.int), Space Group Coordinator for ESA.

If you are interested in attending the meeting, please **confirm your participation** with **Cristina Paca**, [cpaca@ecsitemuseum.eu](mailto:cpaca@ecsitemuseum.eu). If already known, please mention your estimated time of arrival in Aachen or Kerkrade to enable us to make the necessary travel arrangements.

#### **About the Space Group**

The Space Group aims at improving and extending communication about space by helping specialized science centres and space professionals to work together with non-specialists and develop collaborative projects and events.

The group is chaired by Marc Moutin, Director of Exhibitions at Cité de l’Espace, France, Ana Noronha, Executive Director of Ciência Viva, Portugal, and Maria Menendez, Head of ESA Corporate Exhibitions and Events, France.



## Programme

Wednesday, 30 January 2019

Time	Session title	Speaker
10:30-11:00	Arrival and welcome refreshments	
11:00-11:15	<b>Welcome address</b>	<b>Hans Gubbels</b> , Director, Museumplein Limburg
11:15-11:25	<b>Ecsite Space Group: objectives of the Group and presentation of the two-day meeting</b>	Co-chairs of the Space Group
11:25-12:15	<b>Tour de Table</b>	All participants
12:15-13:15	Networking lunch	
	Keynote addresses	Moderated by <b>Maria Menendez</b> , co-chair of the Space Group
13:15-13:30	<b>ESA next missions and milestones</b>	<b>Roberto Lo Verde</b> Head of management support and corporate activities office, ESA Communication Department
13:30-13:45	<b>How NSO - The Netherlands Space Office works with science centers and museums</b>	<b>Jasper Wamsteker</b> Head of Communication and Educational programme, Netherlands Space Office
13:45-14:00	<b>Latest VR and AR trends in the space field</b>	<b>Ruud Dullens</b> , Entrepreneur and Board Member, BlueTea B.V.
14:00-14:15	<b>Q&amp;A with speakers</b>	All participants
14:15-15:45	<b>Earth Experience in Columbus earth center</b> <i>Presentation of the center activities and 'Earth Our Planet Our Home' (1h show, immersive projection surface)</i>	Moderated by <b>Mischa Horninge</b> , Product manager, Columbus earth center
15:45-16:00	Health break	
16:00-16:30	<b>Earth Observation resources at ESA and Presentation of the <math>\phi</math> Lab at ESA/ESRIN</b>	<b>Robert Meisner</b> , Earth Observation Communication Officer, ESA Communication Department
16:30-17:15	<b>Climate change: Monitoring the Atmosphere and Oceans from Space (2019)</b> <i>Update on the development of the third pilot project</i>	<b>Ana Noronha</b> , Ciência Viva
A <b>Space Group dinner</b> will take place in the evening of Wednesday, 30 January at Columbus earth center.		

Thursday, 31 January 2019

Time	Session title	Speaker
9:30-9:45	Welcome to the second day & overview of the programme	Co-chairs of the Space Group
9:45-10:15	The <b>Einstein Telescope</b> – a new project in the Province of Limburg	<b>Gideon Koekoek</b> , Assistant Professor, University of Maastricht
10:15-11:00	<b>ESA Education updates</b>	<b>Cátia Cardoso</b> , ESA Education
11:00-11:30	Health break	
11:30-12:30	<b>The Discovery Space platform, Airbus Foundation</b> <i>Interactive session</i>	<b>Didier Laval</b> , Culture Instable & <b>Julien No Mura</b> , Project Manager, Airbus Foundation
12:30-13:45	Networking lunch	
13:45-14:30	<b>Showcase and further discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alive! The Board Game, Pilot Project, led by City of Arts and Sciences, presented by Rosa Marti</i></li> <li>• <i>UNAWÉ's Discovery Club, presented by Mahbobah Ahmadi, Leiden University</i></li> <li>• <i>ESA Exploration exhibition elements (available at the end of March, to be shared in early April with the Space Group), presented by Maria Menendez</i></li> <li>• <i>'The Meaning of Life, a film by Miguel Gonçalves Mendes', presented by Ana Noronha, Ciência Viva</i></li> </ul>	Moderated by Cristina Paca, Ecsite
14:30-15:00	<b>Toward Ecsite 2019 'Pushing Boundaries', 4-5 June 2019, Copenhagen, Denmark</b>  <i>Brainstorm together on the upcoming pre-conference workshop, the Space Group session and Business Bistro booth</i>	Co-chairs of the Space Group  All participants
15:00-15:30	<b>Conclusions and next steps</b>	Co-chairs of the Space Group
15:30-16:00	Goodbye refreshments	

## 4. Participants list

5.	Name	Surname	Position	Organisation	Country
1	Mahbobah	Ahmadi	Education & Public Outreach Officer	Leiden University	Netherlands
2	Carolina	Antunes	Senior Expert	Private	Portugal
3	Miriam	Atienza	Deputy Director	City of Arts and Science	Spain
4	Christelle	Barclay	Project manager	Planétarium, Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Universcience	France
5	Mathieu	Beylard	Planetarium Manager	Air and space Museum Aéroport de Paris - Le Bourget	France
6	Barbara	Budassi	Scientific Communication Officer	European Space Agency - ESA	Int.org.
7	Seppe	Canonaco		Cosmodrome	Belgium
8	Catia	Cardoso	STEM Didactics Expert - Scientist	ESA Education Office	Int. Org.
9	Ruud	Dullens	Entrepreneur and Board Member	BlueTea B.V.	Netherlands
10	Hans	Gubbels	Chief Executive Officer	Museumplein Limburg	Netherlands
11	Mischa	Horninge	Product Manager	Columbus earth center	Netherlands
12	Gideon	Koekoek	Researcher, Assistant Professor	Maastricht University, Faculty of Science and Engineering	Netherlands
13	Didier	Laval		CultureInstable	United Kingdom
14	Roberto	Lo Verde	ESA Communication Department	European Space Agency - ESA	Int. org.
15	Rosa	Martí	Exhibitions Department	City of Arts and Sciences	Spain
16	Robert	Meisner	Communication Officer, EO Programmes	European Space Agency - ESA	Int.org.

17	Maria	Menendez	Head of Corporate Exhibitions and Events	European Space Agency - ESA	Int. org.
18	Marc	Moutin	Exhibitions Director	Cité de l'espace	France
19	Julien	No Mura	Manager – New Projects	Airbus Foundation	France
20	Ana	Noronha	Executive Director	Ciência Viva - Pavilion of Knowledge	Portugal
21	Cristina	Paca	Project Assistant	Ecsite	Belgium
22	Stephen	Pizzey	Director	Science Projects Ltd/The Observatory Science Centre	United Kingdom
23	Martijn	Rumpen	Strategic advisor	Province of Limburg	Netherlands
24	Raf	Santermans		Cosmodrome	Belgium
25	Benjamin	Schreiber	Founder	MC2 ASBL/Spacetube Contest	Belgium
26	Annie	Sorlin	Exhibitions Assistant	European Space Agency - ESA	Int. org.
27	Jasper	Wamsteker	Head of Communication and Education	Netherlands Space Office – NSO	Netherlands