



## 1,000+ science communicators to gather in Porto, Portugal

### MEDIA ADVISORY, 9 June 2017

Porto, Portugal – Ecsite, the European network of science centres and museums, will draw up to **1,100 science communicators** from over 45 countries to its Annual Conference. It is open to all professionals working in science centres or museums, natural history museums, universities, aquaria, zoos, research institutes and private companies in the field. The conference will be celebrating its **28<sup>th</sup> edition** and is hosted by two Portuguese partners: [Natural History and Science Museum of the University of Porto \(MHNC-UP\)](#) and [Ciência Viva](#)

The three-day event will run **15-17 June 2017** and showcase the latest research and developments in **public engagement with science** through dynamic sessions, debates, workshops and a **trade show** called the Business Bistro. Pre-conference meetings and workshops, held two days prior to the main conference (13-14 June 2017), will give in-depth insight into numerous aspects of the science communication field.

The programme offers a diverse mix of more than **90 sessions delivered by over 400 speakers**, ranging from practical advice on how to conceive interactive exhibits to discussions on the sector's contribution in tackling global issues linked to this year's **theme: "Life Everywhere"**. Other topics include science communication in the post-truth era, learning ecosystems or designing for emotions.

High profile guest speakers will be:

- **Manuel Heitor**, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal, speaking at the [Opening ceremony](#) on Thursday 15 June;
- Keynote speaker **Dr. Alice Roberts**, an anthropologist, author and broadcaster, and Professor of Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham, [speaking on Friday 16 June](#);
- Keynote speaker **Nina Simon**, Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History and best-selling author (*The Participatory Museum*, *The Art of Relevance*) [speaking on Saturday 17 June](#).

More than **50 exhibitors** will be showcasing their latest products and services at the buzzing Business Bistro and participants will be able to get hands-on in **two workshop spaces**, the MakerSpace and the GameLab. Not to forget the many networking opportunities like the Gala Dinner held at the beautiful Palácio da Bolsa; the Nocturne, an evening of science entertainment at the Hall of Biodiversity and in the adjoining Botanical Garden; and the Farewell Party, at the Core Pole of the MHNC-UP.

### Quotes

"The Ecsite conference has a special spirit of openness, generosity and boldness. It welcomes newcomers with open arms and returning participants like old friends. It is a congenial assembly, a trusted and honest arena to learn from each other's experiences, try out new tools and ideas, critically question ourselves and shape our field's future." **Michiel Buchel, President of Ecsite**





"With its liberal historical background, independent spirit and inquisitive attitude, Porto is the ideal city to host the largest science communication gathering in Europe." **Rosalia Vargas, President of Ciência Viva**

"We are indeed eagerly anticipating the fruitful discussions and social interactions sure to be prompted in this year's conference, humbled by our role in providing the stage in which all the action will take place." **Nuno Ferrand de Almeida, Director of the MHNC-UP**

### **About Ecsite**

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. Its mission is to inspire and empower science centres, museums and all organisations that engage people with science, and to promote their actions. Founded almost 30 years ago, the network gathers more than 350 organisations in Europe and world-wide. [www.ecsite.eu](http://www.ecsite.eu)

### **About the conference hosts**

Natural History and Science Museum of the University of Porto (MHNC-UP)

The MHNC-UP's main mission is to disseminate knowledge about evolution, diversity and the confluence between the natural and cultural worlds, by focusing on three key lines of action: dissemination and outreach, conservation, and research and standing at the intersection of arts and science.

### Ciência Viva

Ciência Viva is an association of leading research institutions, founded in 1996 to promote a more scientifically engaged society. We work closely with the scientific community to foster scientific culture, science education and active citizenship, with strong links to schools, higher education institutions, local authorities, major employers and civil society organisations.

### **Practical Information**

- Website: <http://www.ecsite.eu/annual-conference> & programme: <http://www.ecsite.eu/annual-conference/programme>
- Twitter: [#Ecsite2017](https://twitter.com/Ecsite) and follow [@Ecsite](https://twitter.com/Ecsite)
- Pictures uploaded daily on the Ecsite [flickr account](#) during the conference.

Interviews can be arranged and media assistance is available on-site. The event will mostly take place at the [Alfândega Congress Center](#).

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