

Together

Ecsite



Annual Report

2018

Ecsite members engage a wide range of audiences with science and technology: toddlers, school children, teenagers, families, adults, seniors... Activities include exhibitions, dialogue events, workshops, shows, online platforms, lectures, community projects, festivals, after-school clubs, art and science performances etc. The pictures that open and close this report give you a glimpse of what happens at Ecsite member organisations on a daily basis.















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.

Active in the field of science engagement, our 320+ members include science centres, museums, research bodies, festivals, universities, planetariums, foundations and learned societies, companies offering products and services to the field, local authorities, etc.

Ecsite members' convening power draws more than 40 million citizens each year to science-related debates, exhibitions, workshops, events or platforms.

As a network, Ecsite catalyses its members' collective strengths into a powerful voice, at the forefront of public engagement with science.

To service its members, Ecsite organises the largest professional science communication conference in Europe, represents science engagement at a European level, shapes and spreads best practice through its publications and awards, takes part in European projects – and more.

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Together

For a democratic and sustainable Europe

Herbert Mürder

Ecsite President
General Manager, Universum Bremen
Bremen, Germany

Artificial intelligence, e-health or blockchain will change our lives forever – these are exciting times. Yet these are also troubled times: while climate disruptions cast a shadow on humanity's future, fake news and distrust in experts are making science & society dialogues more challenging. In this contrasted context, we are convinced that fostering critical thinking together with enthusiasm for the possibilities offered by innovation is more crucial than ever and goes hand in hand with empowering citizen to shape science and technology.

"A democratic and sustainable Europe needs a society that welcomes and triggers technological and societal change and that shapes this change with its own progressive values," say the opening lines of Ecsite's position paper on FP9, the European Union's (EU) upcoming research and innovation programme (now named Horizon Europe). Released in April 2018, our position paper is part of an ongoing advocacy campaign from Ecsite, determined to make science engagement and science & society count in Horizon Europe, which will cover the years 2021-2027.

Framework programmes are the result of vast and complex negotiations, involving the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union (and thus national governments), and of course a myriad of public and private stakeholders, each advocating their vision.

There are manifold reasons why featuring in Horizon Europe is important: in a nutshell, it will advance our common vision for society; provide resources to develop innovative science engagement practices collaboratively; enable us to offer contemporary, relevant approaches to our audiences; strengthen our field's position as a partner for policy shaping and implementation; and reinforce Ecsite's reputation.

We realistically know that the involvement of citizens in the science and innovation process is not a top priority for most decision makers – this makes advocacy even more necessary. You may remember that the "Science with and for society" strand of the current Horizon 2020 programme, absent from the framework's first proposal, was only introduced during the programme's negotiation phase thanks to the rallying of Members of the European Parliament. This experience makes us patient and persistent advocates, defending our ideas at every stage of the process. Ecsite's strategy combines a focus on the European Parliament and its Members; advocacy at Member State level to influence the Council; alliances with other science engagement organisations; and of course, dialogue with the European Commission – for details of our actions, jump to the "Partnerships and advocacy" section of this report.

As I write these lines, Horizon Europe negotiations are still ongoing and we do not know yet if our efforts have paid. Regardless of the outcomes, I want to express our sincere gratitude to the Ecsite Board and FP9 Group, to our network's members and to the dozens of individuals and organisations giving science engagement a voice on the European scene, together. Thank you.





We too stand on giants' shoulders

Catherine Franche
Ecsite Executive Director
Brussels, Belgium

In 2018 the spotlights were on our advocacy campaign around Horizon Europe, the future EU programme for research and innovation. The whole network worked hard to build and make the case for science engagement. We developed a rationale and gathered case studies, combed hundreds of reports and legal documents, wrote papers and amendments, met Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), Ministers and Commission representatives, organised and attended events... we can be proud of this unprecedented and still ongoing mobilisation. It is an impressive collective effort, involving the Ecsite Board and Ecsite members in many different countries as well as our Brussels-based Executive Office, but also national science centre networks and other European associations in the field.

This is an exceptional advocacy campaign for Ecsite – yet it rests on decades of “ordinary work”. Every single day science engagement professionals in the four corners of Europe inspire people with science, one by one, patiently and passionately shaping the science & society interface and feeding a collective convening power that draws more than 40 million citizens in Europe each year. Every single day dozens of professionals are busy preparing the next Ecsite Conference or Directors Forum, writing the next issue of the Spokes magazine, distilling their experience or research into transferable best practice.

Every single day Ecsite members and the Ecsite team craft and deliver pan-European projects, inventing and testing new approaches. Together we have made the most of the possibilities offered by the current Horizon 2020 framework and its Science with and for Society (Swafs) strand. We built a well-respected track record, as shown by the inclusion of some of our flagship projects in the European Commission’s interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 and in a repository of success stories published by Sis.net, the Network of National Contact Points for Swafs.

Your “ordinary work” is excellent work, dear peers, and recognised as such: with your impactful actions, inclusive and collaborative values and impeccable professionalism, you are not only contributing to Ecsite’s vision by fostering creativity and critical thinking in European society and emboldening citizens to engage with science, but you are also providing building blocks for advocacy and for the future – keep going.

As celebrations of our network’s 30th anniversary begin, we are reminded of the resourceful pugnacity and generous uniting values that were passed down to us over the decades: we too stand on giants’ shoulders. We have embarked on collective endeavours before, and we know that the journey itself is as valuable as the destination: this advocacy campaign is acting as a catalyst of existing forces, alliances and skills, and as a clear invitation for Ecsite to exercise its assertive voice. We will, together with you all.

Events, professional development and publications

As a network, one of Ecsite's most crucial missions is to support the sharing of best practice in the science engagement field. Thousands of peers connect with each other thanks to our Conference, Directors Forum, Awards, magazine, online platforms or Thematic Groups – and contribute to making them such vibrant moments and places.

Ecsite Conference

A record-breaking 1,182 professionals from 58 countries gathered in Geneva, on 7-9 June for the 29th edition of the Ecsite Conference. It was hosted by the Natural History Museum of Geneva in partnership with CERN, University of Geneva Scienscope, and Campus Biotech.

As usual, the Conference combined two days of in-depth pre-conference workshops with three days of parallel sessions, keynote speeches, trade fair and networking during the so-called main conference.

Creative Collisions

The 2018 theme was "Creative collisions". In a society where thoughts, words and deeds are increasingly standardised, placing different worldviews on a collision course can be a source of innovation and creativity. Collisions are not necessarily destructive: they can produce new elements, forms, knowledge and energies. Science engagement offers a unique space to experiment with new creative collisions between science and society, experts and amateurs, science and politics, art and science, nature

and culture, science and faith, real and virtual, old and new. "Creative collisions" was a stimulating concept that helped us reinvent communication, teaching, learning, and thinking.

Pre-conference

Nine in-depth parallel workshops took place over the course of two days on 5-6 June. Participants discussed how to deal with instances in which faith and facts collide; got a practical introduction to experience design; mapped a way forward for social inclusion in their organisations; found the key to successful science games; explored how to engage audiences with space; discussed inquiry-based workshops for high school students; unravelled the potential of live action games as a communication tool; deepened their understanding of data-based marketing; or dusted up their evaluation fundamentals.

Conference sessions

No fewer than 92 parallel sessions involving more than 400 speakers and convenors were on offer on 7-9 June, taking place in "regular" conference rooms but also in our dedicated MakerSpace and GameLab. Topics included political compromises, team creativity, resilience, the future of science exhibitions, recontextualising collections, DIY biology, urban nature, the Quantum revolution, tinkering and social inclusion, gender-inclusive management, touring exhibitions, science shops and many more...

Local flavours

Stunning lake views, impeccable graphic design, traditional flag throwers and of course melted cheese counted among the local ingredients of the first ever Ecsite Conference to be held in Switzerland. The local Conference organising Committee also made a point of showcasing a less known aspect of Geneva: its vibrant science engagement scene. Special tours to CERN's public offer spaces were particularly appreciated by attendees.





“The joy of scientific enquiry should be a basic human right.”



James Beacham
Particle physicist, ATLAS Experiment at CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, Geneva, Switzerland

A busy social programme

On 5 June, the Natural History Museum of Geneva invited participants to an exhibition opening at the History of Science Museum, located on the banks of Lake Geneva.

On 6 June, speakers and convenors gathered at CERN’s Globe of Innovation for the Speakers’ reception. They received a warm welcome from Charlotte Warakaulle, Director of International Relations at CERN; Jacques Ayer, Director of the Natural History Museum of Geneva; Denis Hochstrasser, Vice Rector of the University of Geneva; and Herbert Mündler, President of Ecsite. They also had a chance to follow tours around CERN’s exhibition spaces.

On 7 June, Newcomers started early with a networking breakfast, before joining all other attendees at the Opening event, whose speakers included Sami Kanaan, Mayor of the City of Geneva and Philippe Moreillon, Vice President of the Swiss Academy of Sciences. In the evening everyone re-convened for the Swiss-themed Gala Dinner, a giant fondue held in the unusual setting of Les Vernets ice rink.

On 8 June participants enjoyed a lively Business Bistro Happy Hour, sampling through specialties brought by the trade fair’s exhibitors before gathering at the Natural History Museum of Geneva for the Nocturne. The programme included tours of the Museum’s famous dioramas and temporary exhibitions, demonstrations of CERN public engagement tools, light painting, insect food tastings and more.

Ecsite members were invited to a special breakfast with the Ecsite Board on 9 June. The conference found its conclusion at the Farewell Party, at the Bâtiment des forces motrices, a beautiful building on the river Rhône whose initial function was to supply Geneva’s households with drinking water, converted into one of the hippest venues in the city.

Business Bistro

52 exhibitors had set up their booths on the ground floor of the CIGC convention centre, presenting the latest techniques and services and entertaining attendees with demonstrations and delicacies during the popular Business Bistro Happy hour on Friday night.

Thank you, dear conference sponsors

2018 Keynote sponsor
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Keynote speeches

Particle physicist James Beacham delivered the Conference's first keynote speech on 8 June, kindly sponsored by the Kavli Foundation. As a member of the ATLAS collaboration, one of the teams that discovered the Higgs boson in 2012, at CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC), Beacham searches for evidence of new particles that could provide answers to the fundamental open questions of physics. Starting with a touching tribute to the class mate who taught him to "look where nobody else is looking", he took attendees on an exploration of dark matter, gravitons, dark photons, and exotic Higgs bosons. Yet his speech did not stop there: Beacham trained as a filmmaker before becoming a physicist and he went on with an exploration of the connections between high-energy particle physics and exploratory art, film, and music. A vocal advocate of public engagement, he urged science communicators to keep going and galvanised the audience by concluding: "you are constructing a better universe. Future paradigm shifters are probably walking through the doors of your venues right now".

Giulia and Jill Enders, author and illustrator of *Gut: The Inside Story of Our Body's Most Underrated Organ*, delivered our second keynote speech on 9 June. Taking on the "Creative Collisions" conference theme, the Ecsite Conference's first ever keynote duo unveiled the secrets of their collaboration with generous openness. Having to describe her scientific knowledge in ways that sparked her sister's visual imagination made her see her work in a new light, shared Giulia Enders. Guided by the ambition of writing a book that would be "actually helpful" to their readers, the sisters used humour and characters to guide readers through contents of increasing scientific depth. Their speech will be remembered as a powerful moment of advocacy for the use of visual language as part of science communication.

Annual Conference Programme Committee (ACPC)

Mikko Myllykoski

Experience Director, Heureka
- The Finnish Science Centre,
Vantaa (Finland) – Chairperson

Alice Brighi

Project Manager, Natural
History Museum of Geneva,
Geneva (Switzerland)

Ian Brunswick

Programme Manager, Science
Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin
(Ireland) – until September

Carlos Catalão Alves

Board Member, Pavilion of
Knowledge - Ciência Viva,
Lisbon (Portugal)

Maria João Fonseca

Interim Executive Coordinator,
Natural History and Science
Museum of the University
of Porto (MHNC-UP), Porto
(Portugal)

Amito Haarhuis

Director, Rijksmuseum
Boerhaave, Leiden
(The Netherlands)

Lea Hjelmsø Hansen

Project Manager,
Experimentarium,
Copenhagen (Denmark)

Ninian Hubert van Blijenburgh

Project Manager, Natural
History Museum of Geneva,
Geneva (Switzerland)
– from September

Brad Irwin

Head of International
Partnerships, The Natural
History Museum, London
(United Kingdom)
– from September

Joanna Kalinowska

Development Director,
Copernicus Science Centre,
Warsaw (Poland)

Jurij Krpan

Art Director, Kersnikova
Institute, Ljubljana (Slovenia)
– from December

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Programme Manager –
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Copenhagen (Denmark)

Vesna Pajić

Project Manager, The House
of Experiments, Ljubljana
(Slovenia) – until June

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Science Center Network,
Vienna (Austria)

Nele Van der Elst

Experience Director,
Technopolis, the Flemish
Science Centre, Mechelen
(Belgium) – from September

Dorothee Vatinel

Curator, universcience,
Paris (France)

Julie Becker

Communications
and Events Manager,
Ecsite, Brussels (Belgium)

Catherine Franche

Executive Director,
Ecsite, Brussels (Belgium)

The new experts who joined in in 2018 did so thanks to a call open to all staff of Ecsite Full members. Thank you to all Programme Committee members, who dedicate much time and energy to building and refining the Conference programme.





“Like citizen labs, science engagement organisations can play a key role in generating universal innovation ecosystems for the knowledge era.”



Artur Serra
Keynote speaker at the 2018 Ecsite Directors Forum / Deputy Director, i2cat Foundation, Barcelona, Spain.

Ecsite Directors Forum

Science engagement organisations as Citizen labs

Each autumn Directors and Senior Managers of Full Ecsite member organisations get together for 48 hours of networking and strategic talks at the Ecsite Directors Forum. 68 of them converged to Barcelona on 14-16 November 2018 for a Directors Forum edition hosted by The Natural Sciences Museum of Barcelona together with Barcelona Ciència. The topic, “Science engagement organisations as Citizen labs”, invited participants to explore how open science labs can become an opportunity for science engagement organisations.

“There is more to Barcelona than sun and paella”, declared Joan Subirats, Commissioner for Culture of Barcelona City Council, at the event’s Opening. “Our city is also a city of science and a European capital of Research & Innovation - at the service of citizens,” he added. The next one and a half day indeed gave participants a glimpse of Barcelona’s vibrant citizen-led innovation scene. The programme included visits to the impressive FabLab Barcelona and to a sustainable housing lab, as well as a marketplace workshop with representatives of several local projects. Two keynote speakers shed light on the topic. Artur Serra, European expert in living labs and citizen laboratories and co-founder of the local Citilab project, discussed the emergence of citizens as a fourth helix in the research & innovation system. He urged the science engagement sector to join forces with the living labs movement to build a “universal innovation system” of “collaboratories” for

Europe, modelled on our universal healthcare system.

The second keynote speaker was Lucia Malfent, Operational Manager of the Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft’s Open Innovation in Science Center, an Austrian organisation advancing open innovation principles in science. In a moving talk she described a crowdsourced research project centred on the children of parents with mental health issues. She shared her organisation’s experience of pulling together heterogeneous research teams that, in her own words, “produce better research than homogeneous ones – but need more management”.

The Directors Forum is also an opportunity for Full Ecsite members to exchange with their Board and discuss strategic issues for our network. This year participants were invited to draw the agenda themselves through an “un-conference” methodology and four topics, each subsequently discussed by a separate group, emerged from this exercise: social equity; relationship between research and public engagement and science centres; natural world; and Ecsite governance. Outputs will feed into the Ecsite’s Board strategic reflection.

Last but not least, attendees got a flavour of the local museum scene, with an exclusive tour of the Natural Sciences Museum on the first night, and two special visits for those extending their stay: to CosmoCaixa and to the Museum’s Botanical Garden.

Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards

Created in 2015, the Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards encourage creative and impactful work within the science engagement sector. Two prizes were awarded in 2018 and winning teams received their trophy from the hands of Jury Chairperson Sharon Ament at the Opening of the 2018 Ecsite Conference in Geneva.

Jury of the Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards

Sharon Ament

Director, Museum of London (United Kingdom)
– Chairperson

David Harvey

Former Senior Vice President of Exhibition, American Museum of Natural History / David Harvey Design, LLC, New York (USA)

Sarah Davies

Lecturer, University of Copenhagen (Denmark)



The Tycho Brahe Planetarium (Copenhagen, Denmark) won in the 'Sustainable Success' category for "Made in Space", an inclusive and engaging exhibition about astrophysics. Opened to the public on 1 February 2018, "Made in Space" is a permanent exhibition that invites visitors to ask the question: "What am I?" and go on a journey through the history of the Universe in search of the elements that make up life. The exhibition was designed with the aim of appealing to non-users of planetaria, often women and girls. The Tycho Brahe Planetarium team collaborated with both researchers and non-users when creating "Made in Space" and hired a company that specialises in events and theatre to produce an exhibition with a strong focus on aesthetics. The resulting show offers visitors a stunning experience and addresses the science of astrophysics in a new and inclusive way.

Exploratório – Ciência Viva Science Centre of Coimbra (Portugal) won in the 'Smart and Simple' category for "Astronomy for Babies", a full-dome movie for babies and their family. The idea for "Astronomy for Babies" came from observing the behaviour of babies who attended other film projections at the Exploratório with their older siblings or parents. They kept full awake, staring at the dome-shaped ceiling, amazed with all the images and sounds. The 23-minute movie was developed in house by the Exploratório team, with the help of a specialist in children psychology and a music PhD student. "Astronomy for Babies" promotes science engagement for very young children in a family context, creating a strong emotional link to science and arousing the interest, creativity and discovery of participants of all ages.

A warm thank you to the LIP laboratory, generous contributor to the Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards.



"The Jury was impressed with the risk the Tycho Planetarium team took, going out of its comfort zone in choosing a non-traditional, personal angle for a permanent astronomy exhibition and in working with external designers with little science communication experience - but a great sense of aesthetics and emotional design."



Sharon Ament

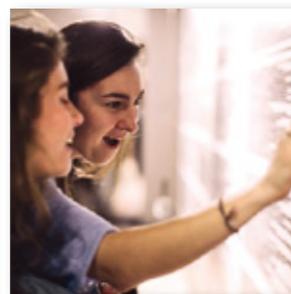
Chairperson of the Mariano Gago Ecsite awards Jury / Director, Museum of London (United Kingdom) – Chairperson



January 2018, #37



February 2018, #38



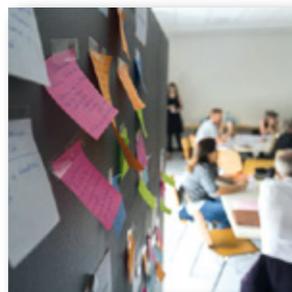
March 2018, #39



April 2018, #40



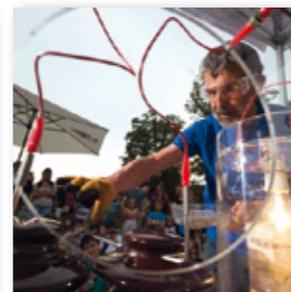
May 2018, #41



June 2018, #42



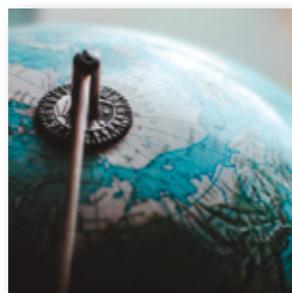
July-August 2018, #43



September 2018, #44



October 2018, #45



November 2018, #46



December 2018, #47

Spokes, the Ecsite magazine

Published monthly on the Ecsite website and delivered to hundreds of science engagement professionals' inbox, the Spokes magazine lies the heart of Ecsite communications. Every four weeks it combines network updates, conference news, jobs, good reads etc. with two feature articles, written by professionals or academics of the wide science engagement scene.

Spokes Editorial Committee

Maarten Okkersen
Head of Communications, Museon, The Hague (The Netherlands) – Chairperson

Julie Becker
Communications and Events Manager, Ecsite, Brussels (Belgium) – Editor

Andrea Bandelli
Executive Director, Science Gallery International, Dublin (Ireland)

Raphael Chanay
Exhibitions and Interpretation Manager, The Natural History Museum, London (United Kingdom) - until April

Marie Couëdic
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Raquel da Cunha
Events and Communications Officer, Ecsite, Brussels (Belgium)

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Science and Art Events Director, Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw (Poland)

Aliki Giannakopoulou
Project Manager, Ellinogermaniki Agogi, Pallini (Greece)

António Gomes da Costa
Director of Mediation and Education, Universcience, Paris (France)

Lucie Steigleder
Administrative and Communication Assistant, Ecsite, Brussels (Belgium) - from September

Maria Xanthoudaki
Head of Education and International Relations, Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci, Milan (Italy)

In 2018 the Spokes Editorial Committee offered readers an eclectic selection of 18 so-called 'Lookouts' (series of interviews) and 'In Depth pieces' (long feature articles), ranging from STEM ecosystems to visitor data analysis, and from citizen labs to organisational cultures of humility. Each issue also contains a column, usually covering a topical subject for the field, which in 2018 included the first International Day of LGBT in STEM; Ecsite's take on this year's International Science Center & Science Museum Day; and several calls to action linked with the negotiations of the European Union's next research & innovation programme.

Looking back on one year of Spokes, narratives were discussed several times over 2018, with articles asking how to tell more inclusive stories of progress and technology; how to make the most of objects' aura of authenticity in our interpretation strategies; how to deploy exhibition narratives differently in time and space; how to make the climate change story audible again... The magazine also revisited a topic it had already tackled in 2015: the role that science engagement organisations can play in the so-called 'refugee crisis'. 2.5 years on, Spokes asked community experts, NGO representatives and professionals from museums and science centres already working with refugees and migrants to share their knowledge and know-how.

As usual, the most striking and long-lasting articles published online in 2018 were gathered in a paper volume called "Spokes Panorama", an exclusive publication for Full Ecsite members.

Spokes could not exist without the Ecsite members, science engagement professionals, readers and writers who feed the magazine each month, or without its faithful Editorial Committee, whose members (and their organisations) generously contribute their insights, time and energy. Thank you all.

PlayDecide, a card game for respectful & fact-based discussion

PlayDecide enables players to get familiar with a question, see it from different perspectives and form or clarify their own opinion. Particularly suited for debating complex science-related topics, the game also invites players to look at issues as a group: can they reach a positive consensus? Can they propose solutions, define strategies and policies for action, and put themselves in policy makers' shoes?

PlayDecide was originally created as part of the EU-funded project Decide (2004-2007), coordinated by Ecsite, and took inspiration from a card game called "Democs" developed by the New Economics Foundation. The game's web platform developed thanks to the FUND project (2009-2011) needed a makeover, which Ecsite decided to fund in 2018. On the redeveloped and streamlined playdecide.eu players and facilitators can still share games and create their own, while new features include an online step by step tool for facilitators, helping them guide players before, during and after the game.

PlayDecide has been and is being used in a wide range of dialogue events, by a diverse community of users: secondary school teachers, science engagement professionals, civil society organisations, professional trainers... 350+ games in almost 30 languages are available, on topics ranging from vaccination to football refereeing. Since the new platform was launched games were created on prenatal diagnosis, genome editing or fake news. All games are free to play and shared under a generous Creative commons license.

The PlayDecide tool relies on a solid community of users who have developed, shared, translated and sometimes "hacked" content over time. Ecsite could count on them to help translate the new game's template as part of the redevelopment process – thank you to all those who contributed.



EXTRA, the marketplace for touring scientific exhibitions

Hosted on the Ecsite website, EXTRA is THE online database for scientific touring exhibitions. No less than 120 new exhibitions were added by Ecsite members since EXTRA was entirely streamlined and redesigned by Ecsite in 2016, taking the total of listed exhibitionsto over 400.



We thank our EXTRA sponsors for their renewed commitment

Imagine Exhibitions
imagineexhibitions.com
Museumpartner GmbH
museumpartner.com



"PlayDecide enables people to explore a topic in-depth in a informal and informative way. The game element really helps explore thoughts and opinions that would be difficult to get to and express in other ways."



Dr Lorraine Coghill
University Science Outreach
Coordinator, Durham University,
United Kingdom



Ecsite Thematic Groups

Thematic groups are communities of practice bringing together Ecsite professionals for exchanges on specific topics within the field. Thank you to all Ecsite members contributing energy and ideas!



ecsite
thematic group
nature



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thematic group
research and evaluation



ecsite
thematic group
space



ecsite
thematic group
facilitation

Space Group

In collaboration with the European Space Agency, ESA, the Ecsite Space Group started a three-year cycle entitled “Space for Life” in 2015. Throughout 2018 Space Group members engaged audiences with collectively developed resources such as the International Space Station toolkit, and worked on a new pilot project exploring the possibility of extra-terrestrial life, the “Alive!” board game.

In June 2018, Ecsite Conference participants could join a two-day pre-conference workshop on the topic “Is there Life out there?” and a parallel session linking Space and the Sustainable Development Goals. As usual the Space Group met a second time during the year, at its 2018 annual meeting, which was exceptionally held in January 2019 – more about it on p.58.

Aim: offer a platform to share information, ideas, practices and expertise for developing joint projects to promote European space programmes
Twitter: #EcsiteSpace

Steering Committee

- Maria Menendez**, Head of Corporate Exhibitions and Events, European Space Agency, Paris (France) – Co-Chairperson
- Marc Moutin**, Shows and Development Director, Cité de l’Espace, Toulouse (France), Co-Chairperson
- Ana Noronha**, Executive Director of Ciência Viva, Pavilion of Knowledge - Ciência Viva, Lisbon (Portugal), Co-Chairperson
- Fiorella Coliolo** - Ecsite Space Group Coordinator for ESA, Scientific Communication Officer, ESA - until March
- Barbara Budassi** - Ecsite Space Group Coordinator for ESA - from April

Look up the 190+ Space Group participants on the Ecsite website!

REV Group

The REV Group had its activity peak in June 2018 during the Ecsite Conference, where it held a two-day pre-conference workshop entitled “Research & evaluation: beginners’ guide and deeper understanding”. Among others participants discussed and tested golden rules for perfect visitor survey forms. Through its Twitter account, the REV Group also relayed visitor studies news and good reads throughout the year.

Aim: stimulate and help facilitate research and evaluation in science centres and museums across Europe
Twitter: @Ecsite_REV

Steering Committee

Marjelle van Hoorn, Head of science education, Utrecht University Museum, Utrecht (The Netherlands) – Chairperson until June

Nils Petter Huan, Head of Development, VilVite, Bergen Science Centre, Bergen (Norway) - Co-Chairperson, then Chairperson from June

Iłona Iowiecka-Tańska, Head of the Research Department, Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw (Poland)

Roy Schedler, Head Marketing and Partnerships, Swiss Science Center Technorama, Winterthur (Switzerland)

Nature Group

In May 2018 the Nature Group collaborated with the European Commission’s Directorate General for Environment as part of the 2018 EU Green week and its “Green Cities for a Greener Future” theme. Activities offered by Ecsite members on that occasion ranged from Bioblitzes to urban gardening tours. The Nature Group also ran a full-day workshop at the 2018 Ecsite Conference, on the topic “When faith and facts collide”. Speakers bringing perspectives from outside of the Ecsite community were particularly appreciated and included a member of the Tara expedition, an academic working on pseudoscience and the Chairperson of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF).

Aim: bring together professionals and institutions who engage audiences with nature

Steering Committee

Henrik Sell, Deputy Director, Natural History Museum, Aarhus (Denmark) – Chairperson

Thomas B Berg, Senior Scientist, Collection and Exhibition Manager, Naturama, Svendborg (Denmark)

Michele Lanzinger, CEO, MUSE - Museo delle Scienze, Trento (Italy)

Yuri Matteman, Head of Education, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden (The Netherlands)

Uwe Moldrzyk, Head of Exhibitions, Natural History Museum - Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science, Berlin (Germany)

Ana Noronha, Executive Director of Ciência Viva, Pavilion of Knowledge - Ciência Viva, Lisbon (Portugal)

Camille Pisani, Director, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels (Belgium)

Facilitation Group

In 2018 the Facilitation Group took a little break to reflect on their future orientations. More next year!

Aim: build a community for all staff who deliver learning experiences within a museum or science engagement organisation
Twitter: @Ecsite_TFG

Steering Committee

Brad Irwin, Head of International Partnerships, The Natural History Museum, London (United Kingdom) – Chairperson until June

António Gomes da Costa, Director of Mediation and Education, universcience, Paris (France) – Chairperson from June

Ryan Jenkins, Co-Founder, Education, Wonderful Idea Co., San Francisco (USA)

Heather King, Research Fellow, King’s College London (United Kingdom)

Miha Kos, Director, The House of Experiments, Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Sofia Lucas, Head of Education Unit, Pavilion of Knowledge - Ciência Viva, Lisbon (Portugal)

Anne-Lise Mathieu, Manager of l’Ecole de la Médiation, universcience, Paris (France)

Matteo Merzagora, Director, TRACES - Espace des Sciences Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, Paris (France)

Paola Rodari, Toward ESOF2020 Trieste “Science in the City” Programme Manager, Trieste International Foundation for Scientific Progress and Freedom, Trieste (Italy)

Barbara Streicher, Executive Manager, Science Center Network, Vienna (Austria)

Maria Xanthoudaki, Head of Education and International Relations, National Museum of Science and Technology ‘Leonardo da Vinci’, Milan (Italy)





EU-funded projects

For the past decade Ecsite and its members have been regularly involved in up to a dozen collaborative projects at the same time, ranging from citizen dialogues on nanotechnologies to art & science incubation, from engineering in school curricula to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). These days half of the Ecsite team works almost exclusively on EU-funded projects: we were busy with eleven of them in 2018, with 52 Ecsite members involved. Together, we have an excellent reputation: for instance, three projects coordinated by or involving Ecsite were praised in the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 presented by the European Commission in May 2017 (Sparks, Hypatia and VOICES).

FOR A REFLECTION ON PROJECT LEGACIES, CHECK OUT THE "GONE WITH THE WIND" INTERVIEWS IN SPOKES #43, JULY-AUGUST 2018.

Very often Ecsite's involvement in a pan-European consortium means an opportunity for members to get on board and act as so-called 'Third Parties', usually delivering innovative public engagement activities. Selection takes place via an open call and Full members have priority. For many, acting as a Third Party via Ecsite has resulted in new offers for audiences, precious professional development for staff, strategic positioning on the European scene for the organisation and subsequent access to other EU-funded projects. Yet benefits aren't restricted to those involved in a specific project: these collaborations act as an advocacy tool to raise the profile of the entire sector, positioning science engagement organisations as stakeholders in the research and innovation ecosystem, at EU, but also national and local level. Building a bridge between academia, policymakers and the industry, they are a testbed for innovative science engagement. They produce new evidence-based practices, resources and tools, making sure our field keeps addressing fast-changing societal needs.

Five of our projects ended in 2018, each leaving a lasting legacy. Aiming at engaging youth with STEM in a gender inclusive way, Hypatia developed a theoretical framework and institutional guidelines and brought together an impressive corpus of activities. Two of our Danish members already reported that the project's ethos directly fed into new exhibition concepts. HEIRRI is leaving behind ten training programmes to integrate RRI within the education of future scientists and EUSPACE-AWE offers materials on space science for youth, while Sea Change developed a wealth of ocean literacy materials and established a robust community, ready for the upcoming United Nations' Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

Last but not least, Ecsite-coordinated project Sparks reached more than 1.1 million Europeans in 28 different countries through its touring exhibition on health & RRI and its innovative participatory activities. It resulted in new local RRI partnerships on the ground, a set of policy recommendations aimed at "shaking up science and society relations", and a suite of new activity formats shared with the whole community via a toolkit. Three copies of the exhibition were donated to Ecsite members in Poland, The Netherlands and Spain.

Sea Change

In short

Raising awareness of the intrinsic links between the ocean and human health

Timeframe: March 2015 – February 2018

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: The Marine Biological Association, Plymouth (United Kingdom)

Ecsite role: Partner, contributing to education and lifelong learning activities on ocean literacy, coordinating a public consultation in Belgium, responsible for public engagement activities run by Ecsite members and co-organising project legacy action.

Ecsite members involved: 5

More information:

www.seachangeproject.eu

2018 highlights

Coinciding with the final Sea Change conference that took place on 15 February 2018 at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, the #LoveTheOcean campaign saw social media being swept by a wave of messages of love for the Ocean and concrete pledges for change, reaching 1.25 million citizens. Three busy years of empowering citizens towards Ocean Literate behaviours allowed to create a robust community, ready for the upcoming United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). Also find a wealth of ocean literacy resources online.

HEIRRI

In short

Embedding RRI into higher education

Timeframe: September 2015

– August 2018

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (Spain)

Ecsite role: Partner, work package leader for the project's conferences and online tools and in charge of overseeing the piloting of courses undertaken by two Ecsite members

Ecsite members involved: 3

More information:

www.heirri.eu

2018 highlights

The project ran a six-week MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) starting end of February, introducing different approaches towards RRI. On 27 April 150 people from 43 countries gathered in Vienna for the second and last HEIRRI Conference, organised by Ecsite and entitled "Education towards a responsible society, transforming universities through RRI". Packaged in an informative and educational format, the HEIRRI training programmes are now available to all, presenting different sides of the RRI concept and following a "problem-based learning" approach.

Hypatia

In short

Changing the way schools, science museums, research institutions and industry engage teenage girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

Timeframe: August 2015 – August 2018

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: NEMO Science Museum, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Ecsite role: Partner and work package leader, in charge of dissemination

Ecsite members involved: 14

More information:

www.expecteverything.eu

www.hypatiaproject.eu

2018 highlights

In 2018 events for teenagers focusing on gender-inclusive ways of communicating STEM were organised in the four corners of Europe as part of the project, which can boast to have reached 7,700 teachers and head teachers and 605,000 teenagers over the course of three years, both in formal and informal learning settings. Hypatia produced a vast collection of tools to help science engagement organisations promote more gender inclusive practices, gathered in the form of a toolkit, theoretical framework and institutional guidelines, available to all online.

"The Hypatia project created awareness throughout the whole organisation. Inclusivity is now a standard in all programmes we develop."



Meie Van Laar

Head of Education and Research, NEMO Science Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands





Sparks

In short

Creating a touring exhibition and activities to engage citizens with Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), focusing on technology shifts in health and medicine

Timeframe: July 2015 – June 2018
European programme: Horizon 2020
Coordinator: Ecsite
Ecsite members involved: 22
More information:
www.sparksproject.eu

2018 highlights

In this final project year, the “Beyond the Lab” touring exhibition completed its European tour, having visited 28 countries in three years. Together with participatory activities, it reached 1.1 million Europeans. The project ended with a stimulating Brussels-based forum on 4 May 2018, bringing together 100 participants ranging from science communicators to policy-makers and DIY scientists to academics, to discuss Sparks’ policy recommendations and “shake up science and society relations”. Planning a participatory activity? Check out the Sparks toolkit & handbook.

EUSPACE-AWE

In short

Using the excitement of space to attract young people to science and technology

Timeframe: March 2015 – March 2018
European programme: Horizon 2020
Coordinator: Universiteit Leiden (The Netherlands)
Ecsite role: Partner, acting as a multiplier node for the project’s dissemination
Ecsite members involved: 2 & the Ecsite Space Group
More information:
www.space-awareness.org
www.spacescoop.org

2018 highlights

The beginning of 2018 saw the announcement of the International Space Science Teaching competition winners, before the project ended in March. It is leaving behind a large array of free high-quality resources and activities for educators of the formal and informal sectors, covering space careers or space-oriented citizen science initiatives.

NANO2ALL

In short

Cultivating a Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) governance ecosystem for nanotechnology

Timeframe: October 2015 – March 2019
European programme: Horizon 2020
Coordinator: Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI), Porto (Portugal)
Ecsite role: Partner, coordinating the action of Ecsite members organising dialogue events
Ecsite members involved: 6
More information:
www.nano2all.eu

2018 highlights

In 2018, NANO2ALL ran a public engagement campaign on social media based on 37 futuristic objects imagined by citizens the previous year during the citizen dialogues hosted by Ecsite members. Project partners were also busy gathering inspiring practices for connecting society at large with research and innovation and holding a European multi-stakeholder dialogue, resulting in concrete recommendations to be taken forward to decision makers in the area of science and technology.

ERC=Science²

In short

Raising the profile of the European Research Council (ERC) by highlighting its scientific research, achievements and success stories while stimulating greater public interest in science

Timeframe: October 2015 – March 2019

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: Science I Business, Brussels (Belgium)

Ecsite role: Partner and work package leader, coordinating the design and delivery of public engagement activities, together with Ecsite members

Ecsite members involved: 10

More information:

www.sciencesquared.eu

2018 highlights

Public engagement activities showcasing ERC research on music and the senses were carried out by Ecsite members in Portugal, Latvia, Estonia and Greece. These involved talks by ERC researchers, but also a concert in the dark, a workshop at a teachers' summer school, an immersive multisensory food experience or a music instrument fabrication session.

FIT4FOOD2030

In short

Creating communities of practice to transform European food systems towards greater sustainability, resilience, competitiveness and inclusion

Timeframe:

November 2017 – October 2020

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Ecsite role: Partner and work package leader, coordinating the work of 14 City Labs set up by science centres and Science Shops all over Europe.

Ecsite members involved: 4

More information:

www.fit4food2030.eu

2018 highlights

A first wave of seven FIT4FOOD2030 City Labs embarked on an iterative journey in 2018 to gain an understanding of food systems and develop a shared vision. They surveyed food trends, mobilised a wide array of local stakeholders, called on the wider science engagement community for innovative public engagement practices, and regularly met with each other. Locally identified topics of interest range from the urgent need to build basic food literacy to a desire to act on the issue of food waste in supermarkets. In the next phase of the project, City Labs will be co-creating transformative educational activities.

spaceEU

In short

Developing outreach and educational activities that use the excitement of space to encourage young people to choose careers in science and technology and stimulate a sense of European and global citizenship.

Timeframe:

December 2018 – November 2020

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: Leiden University, Leiden (The Netherlands)

Ecsite role: Partner, coordinating ten "engagement nodes" that will carry out public engagement activities.

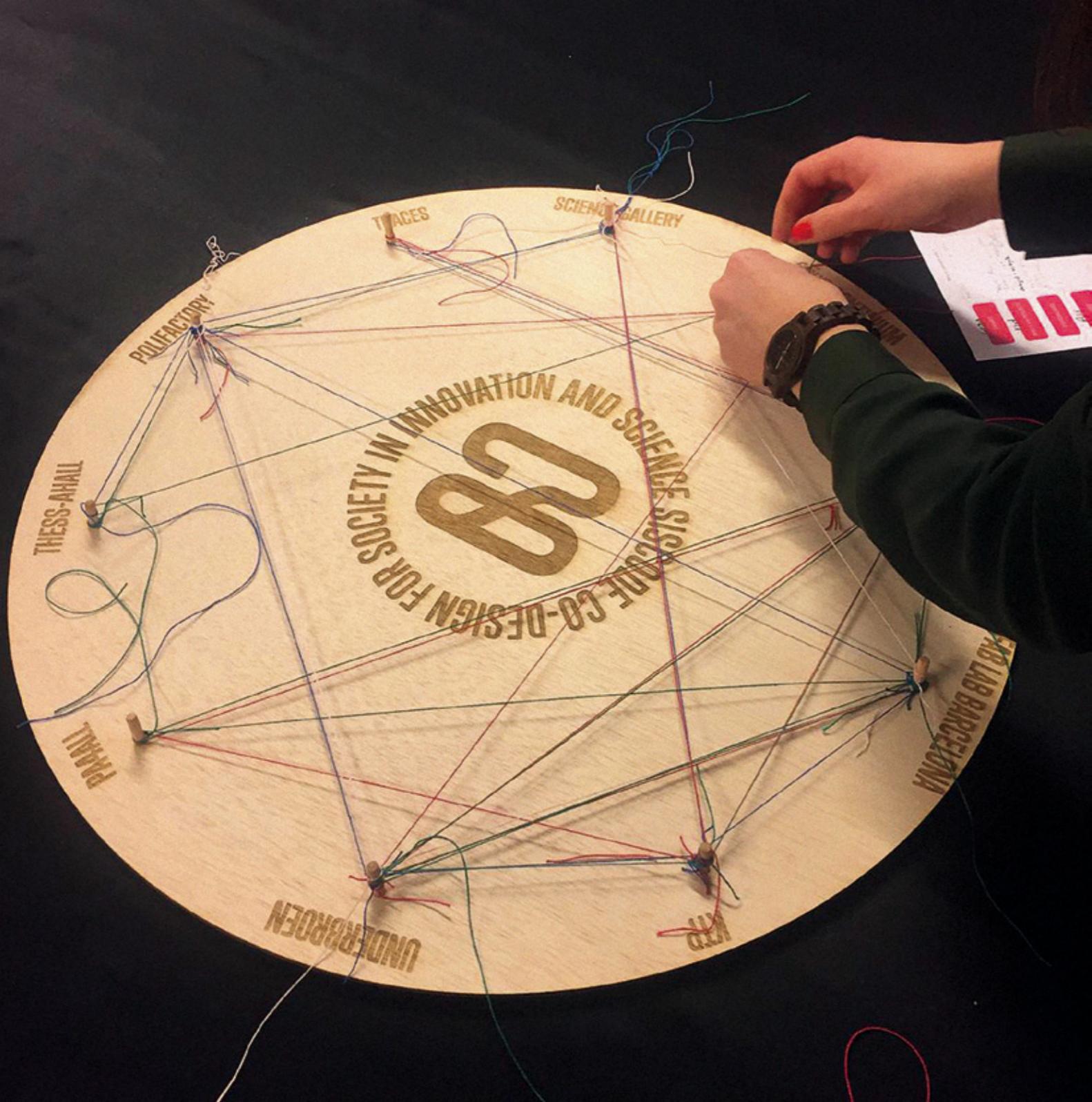
Ecsite members involved: 6

More information: space-eu.org

2018 highlights

The project had just started... more in 2019.





SISCODE

In short

Understanding the co-creation phenomenon flourishing in European science centres, FabLabs, living labs, smart cities (etc.) and identifying the conditions for effective introduction, scalability and replication.

Timeframe: May 2018 – April 2021
European programme: Horizon 2020
Coordinator: Politecnico di Milano, Milan (Italy)

Ecsite role: Partner and work package leader on engagement and dissemination.

Ecsite members involved: 4

More information: siscodeproject.eu

2018 highlights

Ecsite put in place the foundational tools for SISCODE communication and dissemination actions: a strategy, visual identity, and the project's online presence. In other parts of Europe, colleagues set up four labs that will experiment with co-creation methodologies to tackle a societal challenge.

SYSTEM2020

In short

Mapping science learning outside the classroom across Europe, sharing best principles for educators in this field and piloting self-evaluation tools for learners.

Timeframe: May 2018 – April 2021

European programme: Horizon 2020

Coordinator: Science Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin (Ireland)

Ecsite role: Partner and work package leader on communication, dissemination and exploitation of the research outcomes.

Ecsite members involved: 16

More information: system2020.education

2018 highlights

Ecsite was busy putting together the first building blocks of the project's communications strategy in 2018: working on a graphic identity, a website, a newsletter and a first series of 'behind the scenes' videos. A survey was also launched to gauge the field's expectations of a future online map aiming to gather 2,000+ informal and non-formal STE(A)M initiatives.

"Science Gallery Dublin is delighted to be collaborating with Ecsite on the realisation of the SySTEM 2020 project. This Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Action is providing valuable resources to the community of informal science education providers. Through an interactive map, we are creating an accessible tool for practitioners in the field to network with one another, to examine best practices and to explore issues around equitable access to STEAM learning in Europe."



Mairéad Hurley
 Education & Learning
 Manager, Science Gallery
 Dublin, Ireland

Partnerships and advocacy

As a European network, part of Ecsite's role is to make the voice of science engagement heard on the European stage and to represent its members in international initiatives. To reach this aim we work with a wide range of stakeholders, from the European Commission to other European associations, from civil rights organisations to other regional science centre networks.

Horizon Europe: our advocacy campaign

The European Union is a key funder of research and innovation in Europe. Every seven years priorities for EU-funded science policy are defined as part of a so-called Framework Programme. As Ecsite President Herbert Munder wrote in this report's introduction, "framework programmes are the result of vast and complex negotiations, involving the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union (and thus national governments), and of course a myriad of public and private stakeholders, each advocating their vision". The ninth Framework Programme will be covering 2021-2027 and was known as FP9 before spring 2018, when it got named "Horizon Europe". 2018 was a key year for Horizon Europe negotiations, though delays in the approval

of the European Union's overall budget and uncertainties over the Brexit slowed down the process and made an agreement on Horizon Europe impossible before the end of the year.

Ecsite and its members strongly believe that the science & society dialogue is essential to any research policy and only brings mutual benefits. Heralding these ideas, we decided to run an articulated FP9 advocacy campaign to ensure that science engagement would not be forgotten in Horizon Europe, which we knew wasn't self-evident. As Herbert Munder wrote: "featuring in Horizon Europe will advance our common vision for society; provide resources to develop innovative science engagement practices collaboratively; enable us to offer contemporary, relevant approaches to our audiences; strengthen our field's position as a partner for policy shaping and implementation; and reinforce Ecsite's reputation."

A special FP9 Group, mostly Ecsite Board members, was formed to work closely with the Ecsite Executive Office on Horizon Europe. Ecsite's efforts unfolded in several stages throughout 2018. The first step was the publication of a position paper in April, entitled "For a democratic and sustainable Europe". It argues that Horizon Europe needs a dedicated programme for science and society issues and a strong science engagement approach. The position paper's template allows easy translation and local adaptation, while its bold graphic design and practical case studies make it stand out among other advocacy publications. Ecsite then launched a call to its members to reach out to their national governments and Members of European Parliament (MEPs), armed with our position paper and practical lobbying advice. Ecsite members met dozens of policymakers in spring, summer and autumn 2018. Throughout 2018, Ecsite could also count on the support and collaboration of other science engagement organisations, such as national science centre networks



"When we talk about science engagement, we talk about a new model for society. There can be no innovation without innovators. Citizens need to be co-creators of innovation and science engagement is a way."

Michał Boni

Polish MEP, speaking at advocacy event co-organised with Ecsite and the Copernicus Science Centre, 15 May 2018



and other European associations in the field.

Still on the front of public statements: in June, following the release of the Commission's first proposal, Ecsite published a list of amendments, some of which were taken up and reviewed by the Parliament's dedicated ITRE Committee. A one-pager document focusing on science engagement and citizen participation in Horizon Europe was also delivered to Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, end of November 2018.

Events played an important part in Ecsite's 2018 advocacy actions. Polish MEP Michał Boni, together with Ecsite and the Copernicus Science Centre, hosted an event for other MEPs and EU stakeholders at the European Parliament on 15 May. The event started with speeches from Boni, Signe Ratso (Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation), and the Ecsite President. The second part of the event consisted in a workshop, facilitated by representatives of the Ecsite Board and staff from Ecsite member organisations and based on Ecsite's position paper. Using an interactive engagement format, a discussion unfolded along five thematic strands, identifying how Horizon Europe could successfully encourage the public to take a more active – and positive – role in science.

Upon request of Manuel Heitor, Portuguese Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education, Ecsite also co-organised the 2nd Gago Conference on European Science Policy in Vienna on 21 September 2018, together with Ciência Viva and the Science Center Netzwerk. A general consensus emerged over the day: with the current wave of fake news, denigration of science and democratic crisis, science engagement has never been as important and as urgent. A week later, at a Council meeting taking place in Brussels, Heitor emphasized the role of science engagement organisations in bridging science and society. On 13 November Ecsite was also invited to an experts' workshop at the European Commission on how to

best involve citizens in the co-creation of Horizon Europe Missions. The workshop resulted in a set of recommendations endorsed by 13 organisations, ranging from a universities network to a technology foundation.

2018 ended with the approval of two key Horizon Europe documents: the compromise text of the Parliament and the first general approach of the Council. In Ecsite's view, these two documents presented some improvements in comparison with the initial text but were still not satisfying. Ecsite's advocacy efforts will thus be continuing in 2019 – more in Spokes and in our next annual report.

Ecsite FP9 Group

Luigi Amodio

Director of the Science Centre, Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza, Naples (Italy)

Michiel Buchel

Past President of Ecsite and CEO, NEMO Science Museum, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Robert Firmhofer

Chief Executive Officer, Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw (Poland)

Catherine Franche

Ecsite Executive Director, Brussels (Belgium)

Helen Jones

Director of Strategy and International, Science Museum Group, London (United Kingdom)

Tapio Koivu

Ecsite Treasurer and CEO, Heureka - The Finnish Science Centre, Vantaa (Finland)

Bruno Maquart

Chairman and CEO, universcience, Paris (France)

Herbert Mürder

Ecsite President and General Manager, Universum Bremen (Germany)

Anna Omedes

Ecsite Vice President Director, Natural Sciences Museum of Barcelona (Spain)

Rosalía Vargas

President, Ciência Viva – Pavilão of Knowledge, Lisbon (Portugal)

Brokerage with DG Environment

As part of its working relationship with the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment, Ecsite encouraged its members to take part in the 2018 EU Green week on 21- 25 May. Parque de la Ciencias in Granada (Spain) for instance offered special tours and eco-friendly gardening workshops in its Urban and Ecological Orchard. In Belgium, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural sciences organised a BioBlitz event in its nearby park, in which twenty families ran an insect inventory.

Ecsite representatives also contributed to the High-level EU Green cities Summit in Brussels on 22-24 May, with presentations by Henrik Sell, Chairperson of the Ecsite Nature Group and Deputy Director of the Natural History Museum in Aarhus (Denmark), and by Paula Robalo, Executive Director of the Centro Ciência Viva do Alviela (Portugal).

Ecsite's brokerage activities between its members and DG Environment allowed another project to see the light: in 2018 the Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden (The Netherlands) and DG Environment started working together with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, combining their expertise to create a Virtual Reality experience about pollinators that will be freely available to any interested public engagement organisation.

"We used EU Green Week as an opportunity to widen our audience and to reach more people. Our ecological and urban agriculture workshops show that even in an urban area you can use your balcony to create your own organic garden."



Ana Crespo
Head of Research Department,
Parque de las Ciencias,
Granada, Spain

Connection with the Joint Research Centre

A delegation of Ecsite members was invited to attend a two-day meeting at the European Commission Joint Research centre's facility in Ispra, Italy, in January 2018. Participants discovered the wealth and breadth of JRC research and were struck by the researchers' willingness to share. Discussions to develop a possible exchange of expertise are still ongoing.

The first International Day of LGBT in STEM

Ecsite, together with some of the world's leading science institutions and societies (including AAAS, the Wellcome Trust, CERN, ASTC and many others), supported the first ever International Day of LGBT in STEM on 5 July 2018. The day is an opportunity and an instrument to celebrate all LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) people working and studying in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), to give visibility to the community, and to be part of a global push to increase diversity and inclusion in STEM, which has been shown to result in better science. More than 16,000 tweets were exchanged with the #LGBTSTEMDay hashtag and the campaign reached 64 million people on Facebook and 11 million on Twitter. Countless happenings took place at science and science engagement organisations around the world.





International Science Center and Science Museum Day, third edition

In partnership with UNESCO, science centres and museums worldwide celebrated the third edition of the International Science Center and Science Museum Day (ISCSMD) on 10 November 2018. ISCSMD coincides with UNESCO's annual World Science day for Peace and Development that takes place on 10 November with a different theme each year. In 2018, the "Science, a Human Right" theme highlighted the 27th article of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948 that states: "Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits." Coordinated by the Association of Science Technology Centres (ASTC), ISCSMD is an opportunity for the field to collectively demonstrate impact and promote its missions.

"Where there's a right, there has to be a will to seize it", reminded Catherine Franche, Ecsite Executive Director, in a Spokes column announcing the event. "And there have to be organisations that empower citizens of all places, identities or backgrounds to take an active role in the scientific process." Ecsite invited its members and all science engagement organisations to empower citizens to "seize their right to science".

More than 150 science centres and museums participated in the global event, with a diverse range of special events, programmes, and exhibitions. In Poland for instance, ISCSMD coincided with the national SPiN day dedicated to science engagement, with more than 8,000 citizens involved nation-wide. Throughout the day, Ecsite relayed its members' initiatives on social media. Spokes published a special series of interviews in December, entitled "Science: a neglected Human Right?".

"Events on the calendar like the ISCSMD allow us to get more done and show that we are more than walls or institutions: we are also part of a global community."



Cristin Dorgelo
President and CEO, Association of Science Technology Centres (ASTC), Washington, United States

In the pipes: 2020 Science Centre World Summit

Every third year leaders of the science centre field gather for an international summit, hosted on a different continent each time. The next Science Centre World Summit will be taking place in Mexico City in 2020, hosted by the MIDE – Museo Interactivo de Economía, in the name of Red Pop, the Network for the Popularization of Science and Technology in Latin America and The Caribbean. Three Ecsite representatives are part of the event's International Planning Committee (IPC): Ecsite President Herbert Múnder, Ecsite Executive Director Catherine Franche and Ecsite Board member Robert Firmhofer. The IPC held regular conference calls throughout 2018, met for a full-day meeting in Geneva in June just after the Ecsite Conference and for two days in Mexico City in October.

Sixth year of cooperation with the European Space Agency

Since 2012 Ecsite and the European Space Agency, ESA, have been working together through the Ecsite Space Group, a Thematic Group that offers a platform for science centres and museums to promote and highlight communication about ESA, National Space Agencies, industry, academia and European space achievements and activities, by sharing experiences, expertise, knowledge, tools, resources and best practices. In 2015 the Ecsite Space Group launched a three year cycle entitled "Space for Life", combining professional development & networking events with the creation, piloting and mutualisation of public engagement resources.

In 2018 Space Group participants continued to make the most of the possibilities offered by the first "Space for Life" pilot: the International Space Station Toolkit, developed by Cité de l'Espace, Toulouse (France). More than 152,000 citizens were involved in 13 different countries since the toolkit's launch in April 2017, mostly through exhibitions and workshops. 2018 also saw the testing of the second pilot, the "Alive!" board game on extra-terrestrial life developed by Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències, Valencia (Spain). The foundations of the third pilot entitled "Climate Change: Monitoring the Atmosphere and Oceans from Space" were laid. Led by Ciência Viva – Pavilion of Knowledge, Lisbon (Portugal), it will result in visual and highly interactive resources based on existing content management systems.

In June 2018, 34 participants representing 12 countries gathered at the Ecsite Conference in Geneva for a two-day workshop on the topic "Is there Life out there?", organised by the Ecsite Space Group and ESA with the support of Guido Schwarz from the University of Bern. They heard updates on the latest European space developments including further Space Exploration by Claude Nicollier, former ESA astronaut; tested and shaped pilot activities; and shared ongoing initiatives. Participants also went on an excursion to two facilities of the Department of Astronomy of the University of Geneva. At the Observatory at Sauverny they met the discoverer of the first exoplanet, Pr Michel Mayor, and visited the Control Room of CHEOPS, the next exoplanet satellite to be launched late 2019. At the Écogia site they toured ESA's INTEGRAL Science Data Centre. A session on Space and the Sustainable Development Goals was also offered as part of the conference's parallel session programmes.

The Space Group exceptionally held its 2018 annual meeting in January 2019, at the Columbus earth center (Kerkrade, The Netherlands). It brought together 27 participants representing science engagement organisations from seven different countries, the European Space Agency and the Dutch space agency and industries.





Governance and membership

As a network, Ecsite owes everything to its members' generosity. Many dedicate time, energy, human and financial resources to what they affectionately call "the Ecsite family" – our warmest thanks to them.

Far from a closed club, Ecsite is a community that, in our President's words, "greet[s] old friends with a warm embrace and welcome[s] newcomers with open arms". 2018 offered both a proof of Ecsite members' dedication with coordinated advocacy efforts around the upcoming ninth EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation; and a glimpse back to the roots of this particular spirit of openness and collaboration with the kick-off of Ecsite's 30th anniversary celebrations.

Inviting the Ecsite community to "celebrate-reflect-act", our forward-looking anniversary season will span several months, with a peak at the 2019 Ecsite Conference. It started in October 2018 on social media, with memories of a special day: 17 October 1988, when a first group of European science centre representatives met to discuss the potential setup of a new network specifically dedicated to the blooming European science centre scene. A lot happened between this first meeting and Ecsite's official birth as a Belgian international non-profit organisation in January 1991 – not every step was easy, but the funding members' thirst to share and learn from each other proved stronger than any geopolitical, administrative or financial obstacle. More history and more celebrations in the 2019 annual report!

New members

Welcome
to the 23 organisations
that became
Ecsite members
in 2018!

New Full members

Air and Space Museum,
Le Bourget (France) [1]
Bucharest Science Festival, Bucharest
(Romania)
IMAGINARY, Berlin (Germany)
Luleå University of Technology,
Luleå (Sweden)
Museum of Education & Museum Collection
of Helene Glykatzi-Ahrweiler -
University of Crete, Tethymno (Greece)
Norwegian Cancer Society's Science
Centre, Oslo (Norway)
Norwegian Petroleum Museum,
Stavanger (Norway) [4]
NTNU University museum, Trondheim
(Norway)
SciCo - Science Communication,
Athens (Greece)
State Museum Nature and Man, Oldenburg
(Germany) [5]
Trieste International Foundation for
Scientific Progress and Freedom,
Trieste (Italy)
Universitarium, Aalborg (Denmark)
Wellcome Genome Campus - Connecting
Science, Hinxton (United Kingdom)

New Associate member

Busan National Science Museum, Busan
(South Korea) [6]
CIENTEC - Foundation for the National
Centre of Science and Technology, San
José (Costa Rica)
Iranian National Science and Technology
Museum, Tehran (Iran)

New Sustaining members

Cactus Communications Limited,
London (United Kingdom)
CREATE, Evergem (Belgium)
Expona, Bolzano (Italy)
Ripley Entertainment, Orlando (United
States)
Samaya Holding, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)
Yontem Teknoloji, Istanbul (Turkey)

New One-Person Company member

Outgroup - Science Visually,
Helsinki (Finland)

... and welcome to those members
accepted by the Ecsite Board end of 2018
and whose membership started beginning
of 2019:

Autonomous University of Madrid, Madrid
(Spain)
Danish Museum of Science & Technology,
Elsingor (Denmark) [2]
FHNW Institute for Data science, the
Astroinformatics and Heliophysics
Group, Windisch (Switzerland) [3]
Flying Fish Exhibits, Mornington,
VIC (Australia) [7]
Star Group, China, Beijing (China) [8]



[1] Air and Space Museum, Le Bourget (France) © Air and Space Museum - Le Bourget / Frédéric CABEZA



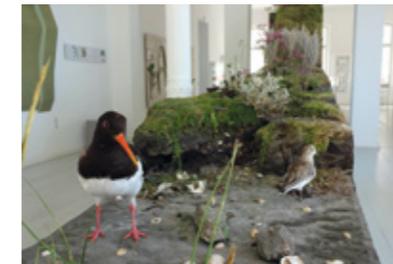
[2] Danish Museum of Science & Technology, Helsingør (Denmark) © Danish Museum of Science & Technology



[3] FHNW Institute for Data science, the Astroinformatics and Heliophysics Group, Windisch (Switzerland)



[4] Norwegian Petroleum Museum, Stavanger (Norway) © Fredrik Ringe/Norwegian Petroleum Museum



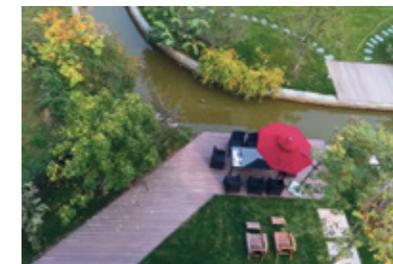
[5] State Museum Nature and Man, Oldenburg (Germany) © State Museum Nature and Man Oldenburg



[6] Busan National Science Museum, Busan (South Korea) © BNSM



[7] Flying Fish Exhibit, Mornington (Australia) © Flying Fish Exhibits



[8] Star Group, Beijing (China) © Star Group



Ecsite Board

Ecsite Board members are elected by the Annual General Assembly, the governing body of Ecsite composed of representatives from Full Member organisations. Among other duties the Board defines Ecsite's strategic orientations and budget and is responsible for the association's legal compliance and financial sustainability. Board members serve for a two-year period renewable twice for a maximum of six years. A warm thank you to all of them for their dedication and commitment.

Executive Committee

Presidency

- 1 Universum, Bremen (Germany) - Herbert Munder, General Manager

Past Presidency

- 2 NEMO Science Museum, Amsterdam (The Netherlands) - Michiel Buchel, CEO

Vice-Presidency

- 3 Natural Sciences Museum of Barcelona, Barcelona (Spain) - Anna Omedes, Director

Treasury

- 4 Heureka - The Finnish Science Centre, Vantaa (Finland) - Tapio Koivu, CEO

Ecsite Executive Director

- 5 Catherine Franche

Trustees

- 6 Cité de l'Espace, Toulouse (France) - Jean Baptiste Desbois, Executive Director
- 7 Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw (Poland) - Robert Firmhofer, Chief Executive Officer
- 8 Experimentarium, Hellerup (Denmark) - Kim Gladstone Herlev, Executive Director
- 9 focusTerra - ETH Zurich, Zurich (Switzerland) - Ulrike Kastrup, Museum Director
- 10 Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza, Naples (Italy) - Luigi Amodio, Director of the Science Centre
- 11 NOESIS, Thessaloniki Science Center and Technology Museum, Themi, Thessaloniki (Greece) - Thanassis Kontonikolaou, Director General - from June
- 12 Science Museum Group, London (United Kingdom) - Helen Jones, Director of Strategy and International
- 13 Technopolis, the Flemish Science Centre, Mechelen (Belgium) - Stephane Berghmans, CEO
- 14 The House of Experiments, Ljubljana (Slovenia) - Miha Kos, Director - until June
- 15 Universcience, Paris (France) - Bruno Maquart, Chairman and CEO
- 16 Vitensenteret, the Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology, Oslo (Norway) - Jan Alfred Andersson, Head of Science Centre Department



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Ecsite Executive Office

- 1 **Catherine Franche**
Executive Director
- 2 **Julie Becker**
Communications and Events Manager
- 3 **Marie Couëdic**
Special Projects Assistant
- 4 **Raquel da Cunha**
Events and Communications Officer
& Project Manager
- 5 **Daphnie Daras**
Project Assistant
- 6 **Carmen Fenollosa**
Senior Project Manager
- 7 **Suzana Filipecki Martins**
Project Manager
- 8 **Cristina Paca**
Project Manager
- 9 **Lucie Steigleder**
Administrative and Communications
Assistant
- 10 **Anne Urger**
Administrator
- 11 **Mariette Wennmacher**
Administrative Manager
- 12 **Andrew Whittington-Davis**
Project and Communications Assistant
(from February 2019 – we couldn't wait
until next year to introduce him!)
- 13 **Maria Zolotonosa**
Senior Project Manager

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A warm thank you to our 2018 interns:
Federico Fucci, Petroula Petropoulos,
Annelies Raes and Lucie Steigleder.





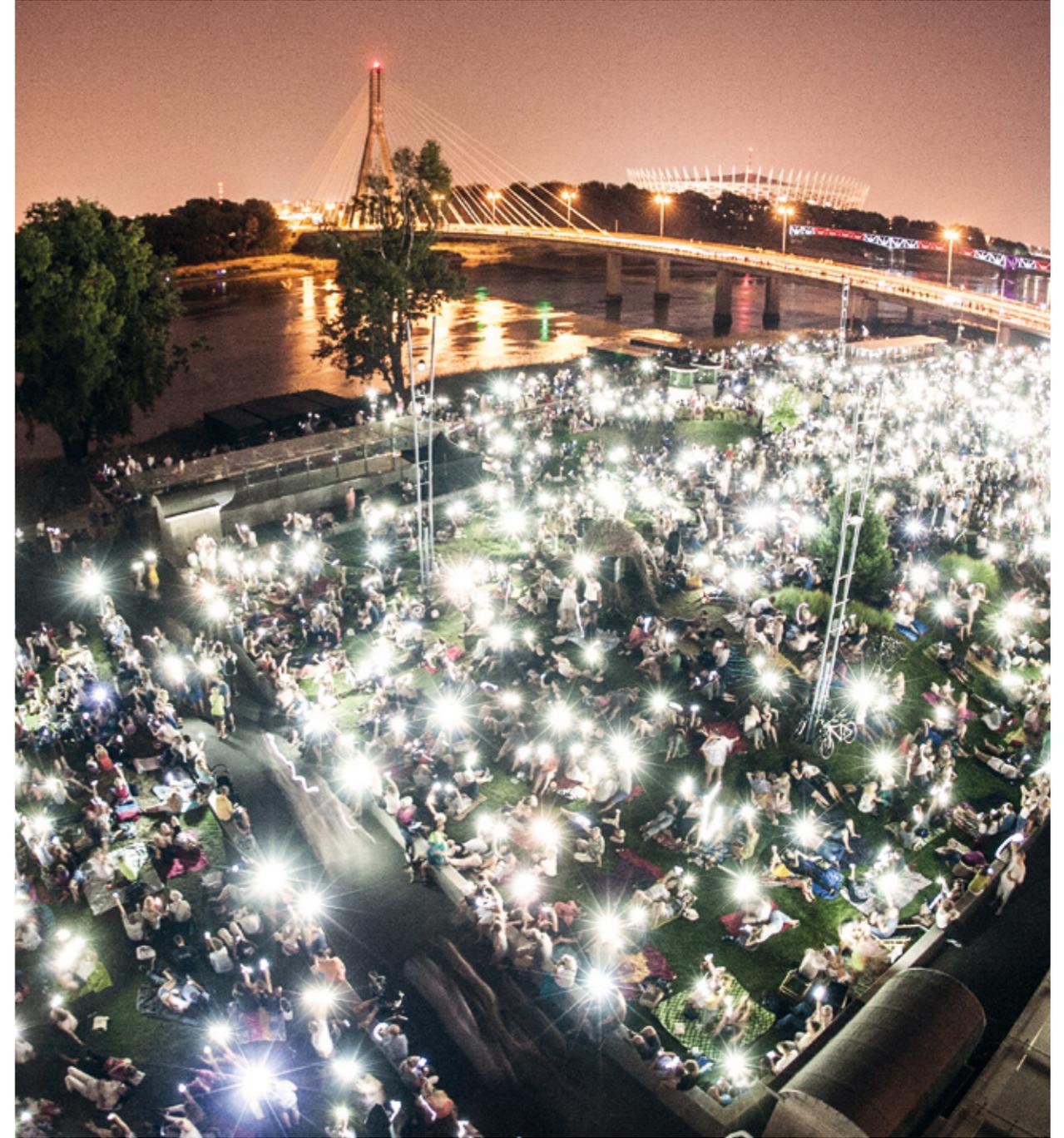
As a network, Ecsite catalyses its members' collective strengths into a powerful voice, at the forefront of science engagement.

Through Ecsite, members keep up to date with current issues in the science engagement field, spread information about their news and events, meet up at the biggest European science engagement conference, and participate in European projects... join the network!

Expected 2019 highlights

- Continued advocacy efforts for the next EU Framework Programme for Research & Innovation
- Anniversary celebrations as Ecsite and its conference turn 30
- At least three new EU-funded projects for Ecsite
- Two Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards: 'Sustainable Success' and 'Beacon of the Year'
- A boundary-pushing Conference edition in Copenhagen on 6-8 June
- A future-thinking Directors Forum in Trondheim on 13-15 November

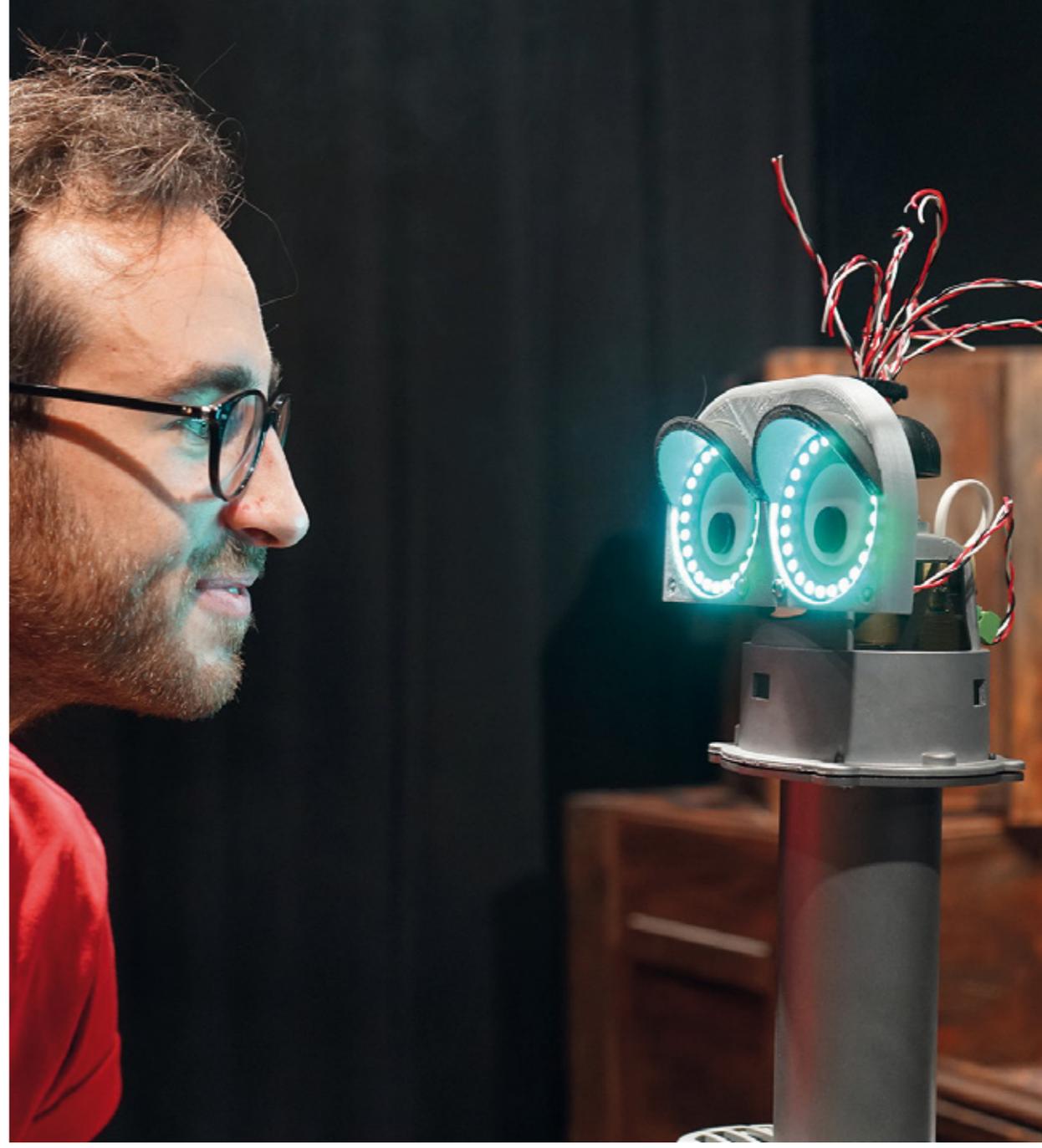
Ecsite members engage a wide range of audiences with science and technology: toddlers, school children, teenagers, families, adults, seniors... Activities include exhibitions, dialogue events, workshops, shows, online platforms, lectures, community projects, festivals, after-school clubs, art and science performances etc. The pictures that open and close this report give you a glimpse of what happens at Ecsite member organisations on a daily basis.















Together - 2018
Ecsite Annual Report

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and Fanny Trifilieff
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Responsible Editor: Catherine Franche, Executive Director, Ecsite
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This Annual Report is a publication for Ecsite members.

