

The Ecsite Space Group
Annual Meeting 2015
National Museum of Science and Technology
Leonardo da Vinci
Milan, Italy

Report

3-4 November 2015

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Presentations and photos are available [here](#).

1. About The Ecsite Space Group

Since 2012, the European Space Agency (ESA) and Ecsite combine their strengths, networks and capabilities to allow European space programmes and achievements to reach the widest European audience possible.

The Space Group, that includes today more than 80 institutions, offers a platform for science centres and museums to communicate about European space activities by facilitating science communicators and educators to work together with space professionals and develop collaborative projects, to share experience, expertise, knowledge, tools, and best practices.

The group is led 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.

Joining the Ecsite Space Group means getting closer to key actors in space, such as European Space Agency (ESA), national space agencies, representatives of industry, research institutions, and academia, science centres, museums and other science engagement organisations willing to communicate about space.

2. Summary of the Space Group Annual Meeting in Milan

As agreed at the Space Group pre-conference workshop held in June 2015 in Trento, Italy the Annual Meeting 2015 took place in Milan, Italy on 3-4 November 2015 and was hosted by the National Museum of Science and Technology Leonardo da Vinci¹. Based on the outcomes of the pre-conference workshop in Trento and the feasibility study carried out by Ecsite in August-September 2015, it was agreed to discuss further development of three themes, presented in Trento:

- The International Space Station: Living and working in Space;
- Is there life out there?;
- Climate change: Monitoring the atmosphere and oceans from Space.

The first day of the meeting on the 3rd of November began with a warm welcome by the co-chairs of the Space Group. The main goal of the workshop, as highlighted by co-chairs, is to develop collaborative projects to communicate about European space activities, involving several museums – members of the Ecsite network with one science centre or museum acting as a leader. Among other goals of this thematic group are to meet space professionals, representatives of ESA and national space agencies, to share information about current projects and best practices, reinforce partnership for collaborative projects; to share best practices; to get inspired about space and find new ways to engage with different target audiences; to support space group members in building their exhibitions. After the presentations of goals of the group and brief introduction to the programme of the two days of the annual meeting, Marc Moutin summarised the work done on three themes during the pre-conference workshop in Trento, Italy². Maria Menendez gave an overview of ESA achievements and programmes in 2015-2017 highlighting the milestones for three themes selected by the group.

Giovanni Crupi (National Museum of Science and Technology Leonardo da Vinci, Italy) shared insights about building partnerships to implement new projects in science museums. In his talk, he focused on the crowdfunding campaign, which was launched at the museum to seek donors among citizens and visitors to include fragment of the moon rock into one of the exhibitions in the museum. One of the main outcomes of the campaign was creation of the community. The moon rock itself had a symbolic meaning and everyone participating in the campaign could be a part of something bigger, be a part of this project.

¹ For the full program and list of the participants of the Space Group Annual Meeting 2015, see Annex.

² The full report on the outcomes of the pre-conference workshop in Trento, Italy can be downloaded [here](#).

Antonina Khodzhaeva (Ecsite, Belgium) presented the results of the feasibility study³, carried out on three themes in August-September 2015 by Ecsite with the goal to assess the relevance of each theme and readiness to implement and use the outcomes of the projects among the Ecsite members, to identify possible options to address the three themes and the demand for these three themes/concrete projects/tools among members of the whole Ecsite network.

Fernando Doblás (ESA) focused in his presentation on the timeline of the upcoming ESA missions and events highlighting the next launches connected to the three topics:

- The International Space Station: Living and working in Space;
- Is there life out there?;
- Climate change: Monitoring the atmosphere and oceans from Space.

Monica Talevi (ESA) gave an overview of the resources developed at ESA for formal educational settings for teachers and schools as main target audiences. Currently resources are available in English. The necessity to translate them in several European languages was discussed by all participants of the meeting. However, it was pointed out, that it is important to encourage students and teachers to use the resources in English, as for example in order to participate in international contests organised by ESA good knowledge of English is one of the main requirements.

Further participants of the meeting discussed the preparations for the next Ecsite Annual Conference 2016⁴ that will take place in Graz, Austria. The Space Group submitted a proposal for a two-days pre-conference workshop and main conference session. Important milestones: 24 February 2016 - online programme is released + online registration opens, 23 March - last day of the early bird rate, 7-8 June 2016 - pre-conference workshops, 9-11 June 2016 - main conference. The next steps are to decide on speakers, format and more detailed program for the pre-conference and main session. Once again, a project showcase session will be planned during the Space Group pre-conference workshop. An official call to submit a proposal for this session will be launched soon.

Aude Lesty (Cité de L'Espace, France) presented the proposal for the update of the exhibition part of the Rosetta kit. Further, Wendy van den Putte (Science Centre NEMO, the Netherlands, via Skype) focused on the update and revision of the educational activity "Time Capsule". Finally, Antonina Khodzhaeva (Ecsite) presented the proposal for the update of the Rosetta Kit from Manuel Roca (Parque de las Ciencias, Spain), who could not attend the meeting. She also presented communication and distribution strategy, that will be implemented for the updated version of the kit. Discussion between participants on the update of the kit focused on several issues. Firstly, the possibility to include evaluation by users – visitors of the museums and was proposed. Secondly, participants brainstormed the ways to promote the kit to science centres and museums that are not using the kit yet, for example conduct interviews with each of the pilot leaders or create publication in the Ecsite Spokes magazine.

In conclusion of the first day of the meeting participants could present their projects:

Projects showcase session (Space Group members)

Exhibition "Look: There's Earth!"	Kamil Złoczewski, Copernicus Science Centre, Poland kamil.zloczewski@kopernik.org.pl
"Talking about Space through the education programmes of the Museum of science and technology Leonardo da Vinci"	Maria Xanthoudaki, National Museum of Science and Technology Leonardo da Vinci, Italy xanthoudaki@museoscienza.it

³ The feasibility study is available [here](#).

⁴ For more information about the Ecsite Annual Conference, click [here](#).

“Swiss Space Museum - first exhibition in the Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne, Switzerland”	Guido Schwarz, University of Bern, Switzerland guido.schwarz@space.unibe.ch
Traveling Exhibition “Space Girls, Space Women” developed by Sipa Press and ESA as founding partner in cooperation with CNES, Nereus, GSA, Cite de l’espace and Universcience	Fiorella Coliolo, Exoworld/Sipa Press, fcoliolo@exoworld.net
“EVA simulator: DIY! Gamification, space exploration and maker movement for STEM”	Marco Brusa, Infini.to - Planetario di Torino, Museo dell’Astronomia e dello Spazio, Italy brusa@planetarioditorino.it

The second day of the meeting on the 4th of November was dedicated to working on the three themes.

Aude Lesty (Cité de L’Espace, France) and Tina Ibsen (Tycho Brahe Planetarium, Denmark) presented the theme “The International Space Station – Living and Working in Space”. It is an entertaining experience to be in astronaut shoes, to share this experience would be possible through several interactive modules that would cover several topics – preparation for the flight, life on board, debriefing. Possibility to deliver “raw materials” kit, which would allow for potential users of the kit (science communicators, teachers, educators etc.) to reshuffle and adapt materials to their needs) was discussed.

Jose Antonio Gordillo (Ciudad de las Artes y de las Ciencias, Spain) gave an overview of the theme “Is there Life out there?”. The Space Group pre-conference workshop during Ecsite Annual Conference 2016 can be used for brainstorming and development of the resources and materials for this theme. Final presentation of the kit could be done during the pre-conference workshop in 2017.

Ana Noronha (Ciência Viva, Portugal) presented the theme “Climate change – Monitoring Oceans and Atmosphere”. In regard to this theme, several issues were discussed: possibility to change the name or the angle (more positive approach) of the topic to make it more attractive and engaging; incorporation of the ocean currents’ simulator developed by Mercator Ocean; possibility to include meteorological forecasts, animal population controlling etc.

It was agreed to develop one theme per year in the course of the following three years 2016-2018. The development phase for the theme “International Space Station: living and working in Space” would be 2015-2016, the final kit for this theme could be presented during the Space Group pre-conference workshop 2016 at Ecsite Annual Conference 2016. For the theme “Is there Life out there?” development phase could be in 2016-2017 with the final presentation of the kit during the Space Group pre-conference workshop 2017 at Ecsite Annual Conference 2017. The kit for the theme “Climate change: monitoring Oceans and Atmosphere” could be developed in 2017-2018 and presented during the Space Group pre-conference workshop 2018 at Ecsite Annual Conference 2018.

As conclusion for the meeting, a suggestion followed from to host the next Space Group Annual Meeting in autumn 2016 at Universum Bremen, Germany.

3. Next steps

The Space Group will organise next pre-conference workshop during the Ecsite Annual Conference on 7-8 June 2016 in Graz, Austria. The aims of the pre-conference workshop will be to present kit dedicated to the theme “International Space Station: Living and Working in Space”, as well as to discuss further steps in developing new kits and tools around the theme “Is there Life out there?” and *Climate change – Monitoring Oceans and Atmosphere*, presented in this report; and to exchange about space-related topics. All space-related institutions, as well as

non-space science centres and museums are invited to join the Space Group to discuss collaborative projects, build partnerships, exchange ideas and best practices.

For further information on how to join the Ecsite Space Group or if you are interested in participating in the Space Group activities, please contact Antonina Khodzhaeva at akhodzhaeva@ecsite.eu

For further information on the ESA content of the three topics, please contact Fiorella Coliolo, Space Group Coordinator for ESA, at fcoliolo@exoworld.net

ANNEX

Annex 1: Space Group Annual Meeting program

Ecsite Annual Space Group Meeting 2015

“Space for Life” – Develop and share resources

3-4 November, Sala Biancamano (Entrance- Street Olona n. 6)

National Museum of Science and Technology Leonardo da Vinci, Milano (Italy)

As agreed during the Space Group workshop «Space for life» held in Trento last June, the next Space Group Annual Meeting will take place at the National Museum of Science and Technology Leonardo da Vinci in Milan, Italy on November 3-4, 2015. One of the goals of the space group, that includes today more than 100 members, is to exchange and design collaborative projects to better share European space activities with the general public.

Representatives from museums and science centres will meet in Milan to discuss possible collaborations on these three themes for 2016 and 2017:

- **Climate change: Monitoring the atmosphere and oceans from Space**
- **The International Space Station: Living and working in Space**
- **Is there life out there?**

During 2 days, experts in the space field will exchange with museum’s representatives to discuss projects that could be developed and shared, with the support of ESA, within the Ecsite network.

Ecsite Space Group Co-chairs

- **Marc Moutin**, Head of Exhibitions, Cité de l’espace, Toulouse, France and Co-Chair of the Space Group
- **Ana Noronha**, Executive Director, Pavillion of Knowledge - Ciência Viva, Lisbon, Portugal and Co-Chair of the Space Group
- **Maria Menendez**, Head of Corporate Exhibitions and Events, European Space Agency, France and Co-Chair of the Space Group

Programme

Programme – Tuesday 3 November

Time	Session	Speaker
9:00-9:15	Welcome by Antonina Khodzhaeva, Ecsite Project Manager Fiorenzo Galli, Director General, National Museum Leonardo da Vinci	
9:15-9:20	Ecsite Space Group: objectives of the Group and presentation of the 2 days	Co-Chairs of the Space Group
9:20-9:30	Roundtable	All the participants
9:30 -	Discussion and expectations about the Space Group	

10:00	activities	
	Key-note speeches	
10:00-10h40	ESA highlights 2016-2017	Fernando Doblás, Head of ESA Communication Department Monica Talevi, ESA Head of Coordination and Outreach Unit, Education Office
10:40 - 10:50	Italian Space Agency & Museums an example of a successful collaboration on one of the 3 topics of the meeting	Representative from the Italian Space Agency (ASI) (tbc)
10:50-11:00	Building partnerships between Industries and Science Museums	Giovanni Crupi, Head of Development, Leonardo da Vinci Museum
11:00-11:15	Q&A	
11:15-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-11:40	Results of the workshop in Trento	Co-Chairs of the Space Group
11:40-11:50	Presentation of the Ecsite survey on the 3 themes	Antonina Khodzhaeva, Ecsite Project Manager
11:50-12:20	Toward Ecsite 2016 "Colours of Cooperation", 9-11 June, Graz, Austria - Preconference workshop: organisation and content - Space Group Session - Business Bistro	Co-Chairs of the Space Group
12:20-13:00	Proposals for the updating of the Rosetta kit Events Education Exhibition	Antonina Khodzhaeva, Ecsite Project Manager Representative of Parque de las Ciencias Wendy van den Putte, Nemo (via skype) Aude Lesty, Cité de l'Espace
13:00-14:00	Lunch break	
14:00-15:30	Projects Showcase from the science centres and museums <i>Exhibition "Look: There's Earth!" (Kamil Złoczewski)</i> <i>"Talking about Space through the education programmes of the Museum of science and technology Leonardo da Vinci" (Maria Xanthoudaki)</i> <i>"Swiss Space Museum - first exhibition in the Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne, Switzerland" (Guido Schwarz)</i> <i>Traveling Exhibition "Space Girls, Space Women" (Fiorella Coliolo)</i> <i>"EVA simulator: DIY! Gamification, space exploration and maker movement for STEM" (Marco Brusa)</i>	All the participants
15h30 - 16h00	Q&A Coffee Break	Co-Chairs of the Space Group

16:00-18:00	Visit of the new Space Area of the Museum Visit of the ESA exhibition "My Planet from Space"	Luca Reduzzi, Communication Curator, Space & Astronomy Robert Maisner, ESA Communication Programme Officer, Earth Observation (tbc)
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Programme – Wednesday 4 November

Time	Session	Speakers
9:15-9:30	Welcome, summary of the first day and introduction of the second day	Co-Chairs of the Space Group
9:30-9:50	Overview - The International Space Station: Living and Working in Space	Aude Lesty, Cité de l'Espace, Toulouse Tina Ibsen, Tycho Brahe Planetarium, Denmark
9:50-10:10	Overview - Is there life out there?	Jose Antonio Gordillo, Science Museum, Valencia
10:10-10:30	Overview - Climate Change: Monitoring Atmosphere and Ocean from Space and possible collaboration with Sea Change	Ana Noronha, Ciencia Viva, Lisbon
10:30-10:50	Q&A	
10:50-11:10	Coffee break	
11:10-11:20	Pilot Projects 2016-2017 - Roadmap and next steps	Co-Chairs of the Space Group
11:20-13:00	ISS: Living and Working in Space (developing timeline for 2016)	Aude Lesty, Cité de l'espace Tina Ibsen, Tycho Brahe Planetarium, Denmark
13:00-14:15	Lunch	
14:10-14h45	Is there life out there? (developing timeline for 2017-2018)	Jose Antonio Gordillo, Science Museum, Valencia
14:45-15:15	Climate Change: Monitoring Atmosphere and Ocean from Space and possible collaboration with Sea Change (developing timeline for 2017-2018)	Ana Noronha, Ciencia Viva, Lisbon
15:15-15.45	Coffee break	
15:45-17:00	Feedback and Networking session	All
17h00-17:30	Conclusion and next steps	Co-Chairs of the Space Group

Annex 2: Participants of the Space Group Annual Meeting

Nr	Surname	Name	Job position	Institution	City	Country
1	Khodzhaeva	Antonina	Project Manager	Ecsite	Brussels	Belgium
2	Ibsen	Tina	Head of science and outreach	Tycho Brahe Planetarium	Copenhagen	Denmark
3	Messal	Fabrice	Outreach Project Manager	Mercator Ocean	Toulouse	France
4	Meyer	Simon	Director	Ville de Vaulx-en-Velin Planétarium	Ville de Vaulx-en-Velin	France
5	Lesty	Aude	Muséographe and Designer	Cite de l'Espace	Toulouse	France
6	Moutin	Marc	Head of Exhibitions	Cite de l'Espace	Toulouse	France
7	Budde	Marion	Referentin Ausstellung & Programme	Universum Bremen	Bremen	Germany
8	Coliolo	Fiorella	Coordinator of the Ecsite Space Group for ESA	European Space Agency	-	Int. Organisation
9	Doblas	Fernando	Head of Communication Department	European Space Agency	-	Int. Organisation
10	Talevi	Monica	Head of Coordination and Outreach Unit, Education Office	European Space Agency	-	Int. Organisation
11	Menendez	Maria	Head of Corporate Exhibitions and Events	European Space Agency	-	Int. Organisation
12	Maisner	Robert	Communication Programme Officer, Earth Observation	European Space Agency	-	Int. Organisation
13	Brusa	Marco		Infini.to - Planetario, Museo dell'Astronomia e dello Spazio	Turin	Italy
14	Romaniello	Simona		Infini.to - Planetario, Museo dell'Astronomia e dello Spazio	Turin	Italy
15	Monge	Eleonora		Infini.to - Planetario, Museo dell'Astronomia e dello Spazio	Turin	Italy
16	Xanthoudaki	Maria	Director Education & CREI	Museo Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci	Milan	Italy
17	Reduzzi	Luca		Museo Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci	Milan	Italy
18	Crupi	Giovanni	Head of Development	Museo Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci	Milan	Italy
19	Galli	Fiorenzo	Director General	Museo Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci	Milan	Italy
20	Stavola	Fabrizio		Museo Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci	Milan	Italy
21	Cerutti	Patrizia		Museo Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci	Milan	Italy
22	Vozza	Donato		Museo Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci	Milan	Italy
23	Tucci	Lisa R.	Art&Media Communications	Art&Media Communications	-	Italy/USA
24	Złoczewski	Kamil		Copernicus Science Centre	Warsaw	Poland
25	Noronha	Ana	Executive Director	Pavillion of Knowledge - Ciencia Viva	Lisbon	Portugal
26	Gordillo	Jose Antonio	Science Outreach Department	Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias	Valencia	Spain
27	Schwarz	Guido	Communication and Outreach	University of Bern	Bern	Switzerland
28	Blum	Sylviane	Communication and Outreach	University of Bern, Center for Space and Habitability (CSH)	Bern	Switzerland