



© Ecsite/Space Talks online series 2020

# The Ecsite Space Group REPORT 2020



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## 1. About the Ecsite Space Group

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

The group is chaired by Maria Menéndez, Head of Outreach Coordination office, European Space Agency (France), Christophe Chaffardon, Head of Education at Cité de l'espace (France) and Ana Noronha, Executive Director of Ciência Viva (Portugal).

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

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

## 2. Space Talks online series

Due to current circumstances linked to the Covid-19 pandemic all over the world the Ecsite Space Group came up with new activities in an adapted format to stay connected and reach out to even greater audience of space enthusiasts.

The new format composed of a series of 3 online meetings happening on 3 days, which were hold on the ZOOM platform, hosted by Ecsite. The full programme of the event is available in the Annex 1. Below are the short descriptions of each meeting:

### 1. Virtual coffee (27th November at 14:30-16:00)

It was an informal drop-in exchange session, a great opportunity for the existing members and new participants to share information and challenges they faced in last months, to re-connect and to establish new connections.

### 2. Share, inspire, connect (1 December at 14:30-16:30)

This meet-up was devoted to showcasing various space-related projects by the group members and discussing them in the virtual break-out rooms with other peers. It was an excellent opportunity to share experience, to inspire others and to get inspired. The participants were offered the opportunity to network with other members of the group via the [Ecsite app's](#) Meetups function between and after the events.

### 3. Space News (2 December at 14:30-16:30)

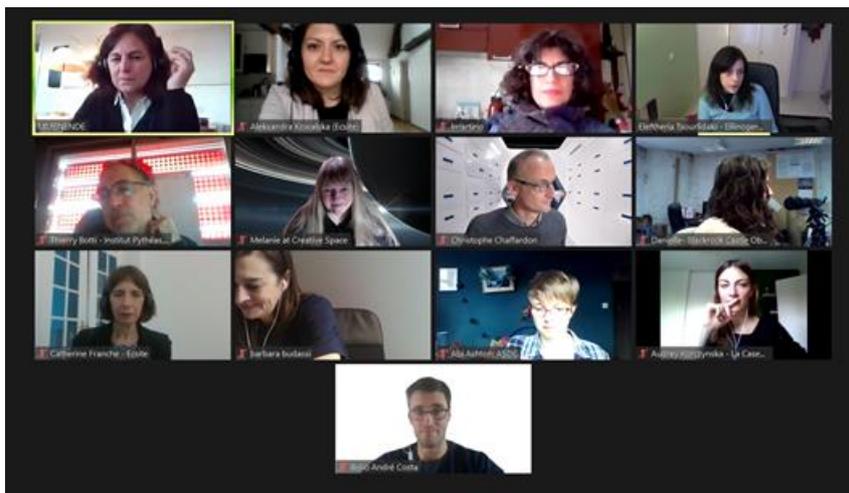
ESA's experts presented the latest achievements of the agency and its activity for the 2021, including the SpaceCare campaign, the Earth Observation programme, and the Climate Change. Participants had a chance to discover the benefit of Earth Observation from space for monitoring both the global climate change and the environment. ESA presented resources and materials related to environmental topics that can be used to better meet the needs of science engagement organizations.

### 3. Day 1 Virtual coffee - 27 November 2020

The first day of the Space Talks online series was an informal drop-in allowing people to reconnect and have a chat, which served as a replacement of the informal networking during the coffee breaks of the physical events, being an important element to keep the space community connected.

The meeting started with the introduction by **Catherine Franche**, Executive Director of Ecsite and **Maria Menéndez**, co-chair of the Space Group, who introduced the group activities for the newcomers. It was followed by 3 rounds of informal exchanges in the breakout rooms (each with 4-5 people). The discussion was formed around getting to know each other and sharing updated about the way science centers and space-related organisations are coping in these times of uncertainty related to Covid-19 pandemic.

At the end of the meeting there was a poll launched asking the participants: *How do you want to stay in touch with the Space Group in the next year?* All participants vote for the regular informal catch-up, the second choice was virtual tours of different organisations and as the third came regular online project showcases.





## 4. Day 2 Share, inspire, connect - 1 December 2020

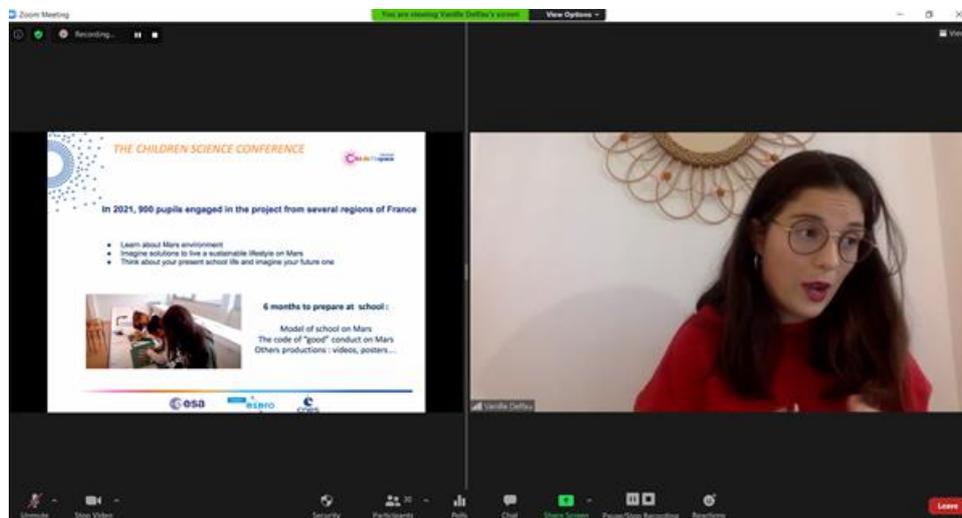
Second day of the Space Talks online series was devoted to project showcase. Six Space Group members were presenting their space-related projects and discussing them in the virtual breakout rooms with other peers.

The meeting started with the welcome words and overview of the programme by **Barbara Budassi**, Ecsite Space Group coordinator for ESA and Aleksandra Kowalska from Ecsite.

Six project promoters presented their 10-minutes pitch in the plenary and then the participants had a chance to discuss two projects in a small group of 5-6 participants in breakout rooms. The participants have pre-selected the breakout session before the event.

All the presentations are saved [here](#). Below are the project summaries:

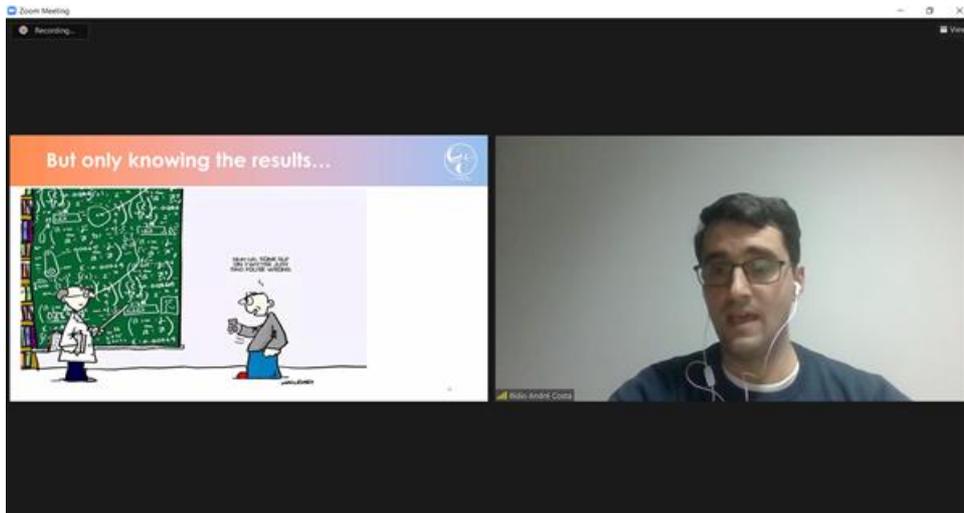
### 1. Vanille Delfau, Cite de l'espace, Children Science Conference: your school on Mars



The Children Science Conference is an interesting example of an educational project mixing all together citizenship, science discovery, self-confidence, peer to peer approach, and academic support. The project let 9 to 12 years old children become real scientists in a real science congress. The topic of the congress is "Your School on Mars"; pupils have to imagine how their school (primary and middle school) could operate on Mars, considering the specific environment: buildings, energy, food, but also lessons, sports etc. They are helped during 5 months by PhD students to prepare the congress, which will take place next June in Cité de l'espace offline and online.

More information: <https://www.cite-espace.com/evenements-scolaires/imaginer-ton-college-sur-mars/>

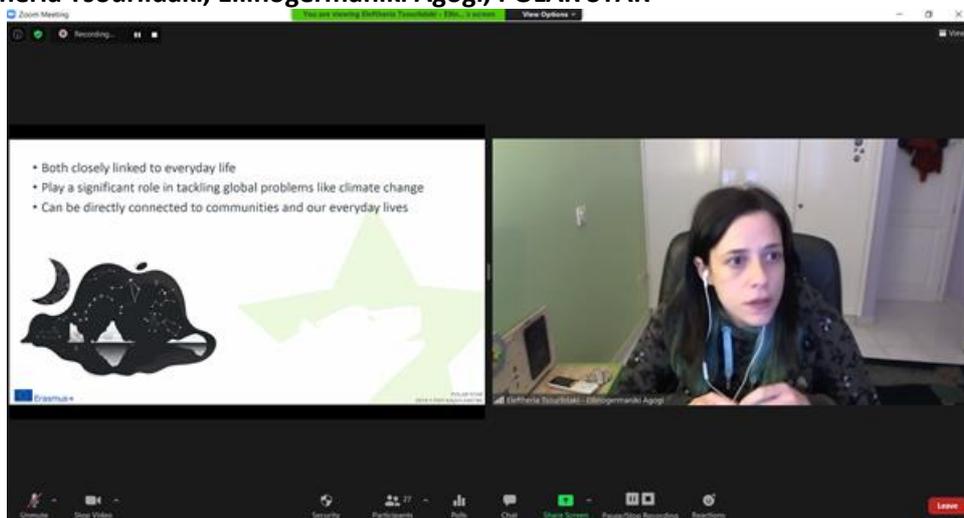
2. Ilídio André Costa, Porto Planetarium - Ciência Viva Center / Instituto de Astrofísica e Ciências do Espaço, CoAstro: @n Astronomy Condo



CoAstro: @n Astronomy Condo is a citizen science project that directly connected four astronomers, nine elementary school teachers, four science disseminators and one mediator, in order to find new ways to carry out scientific dissemination of content, but also of processes promoting positive attitudes towards science. CoAstro allowed us to understand how a citizen science project can contribute, with lasting and wide-public-ranging effects, to open the school to the surrounding community and vice-versa and how the public can open up to astronomy research and the latter to the public.

More information: <https://condominio.astro.up.pt/>

3. Eleftheria Tsourlidaki, Ellinogermaniki Agogi, POLAR STAR

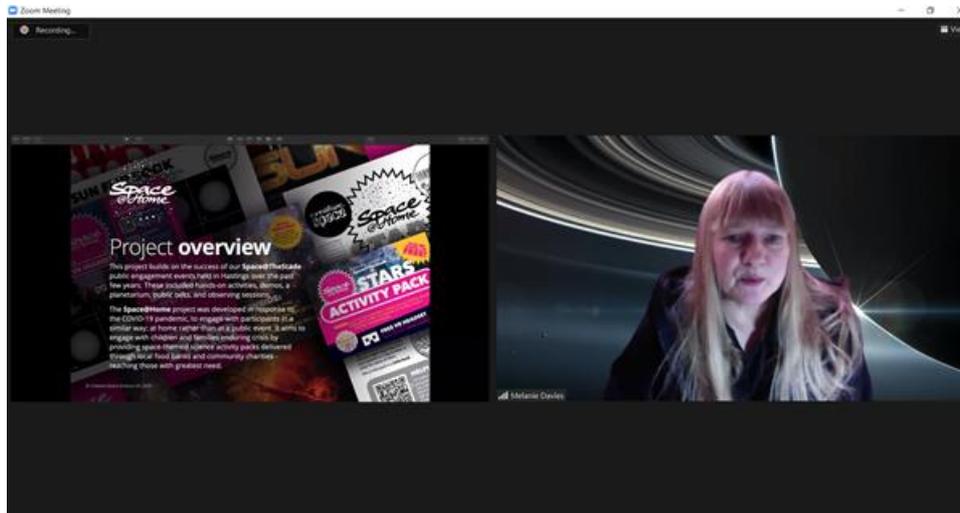


POLAR STAR aims to bring together state-of-the-art learning pedagogies and combine them with exciting activities that focus on contemporary science, thus helping teachers to introduce STEAM successfully in their class. At the same time the project focuses on the development of students' key skills and competences as well as deepening their knowledge of fundamental science principles, increasing their appreciation of science and technology and their role in today's societies. To introduce contemporary science into the science classroom, POLAR STAR focuses on two main scientific areas, Arctic research and Space Exploration. Although both fields of research have contributed greatly to the advancement of science and are directly linked to our everyday life and the development of

societies, they are usually not seen as science disciplines with real impact on our lives and are largely left out of science curricula.

More information: <http://polar-star.ea.gr/>

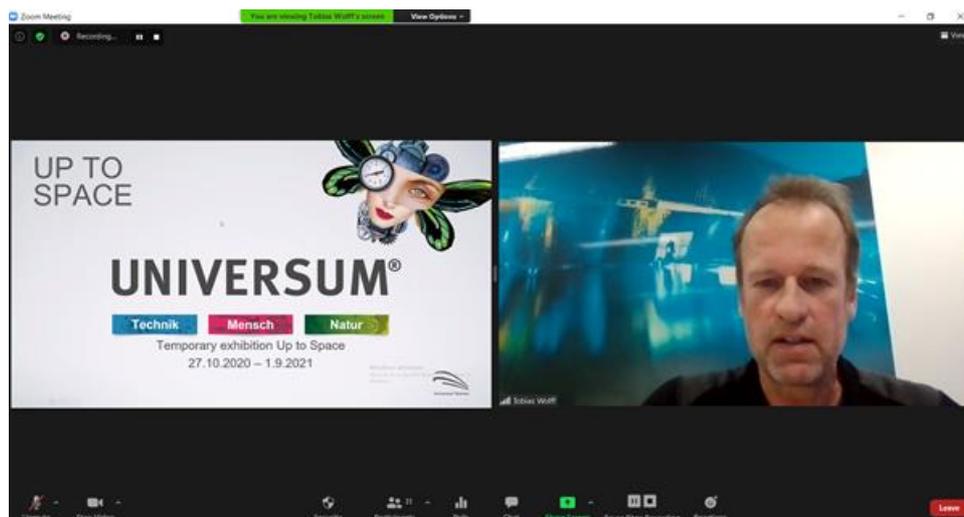
#### 4. Melanie Davies, Creative Space, Space@Home



It is a space-themed project engaging with hard-to reach audiences through community charities in era of COVID-19. Aimed at children aged 8 to 14, plus their families and carers, the Space@Home: Stars Activity Pack brings star-themed, interactive activities right into the homes of the most vulnerable and at-risk in Hastings, St Leonards and the surrounding villages in the UK. Working with local foodbanks, church groups and mentoring charities, the project leader is able to deliver these FREE to families in crisis due to COVID-19. This project is built on the success of the Space@TheStade public engagement events.

More information: <https://creative-space.org.uk/spaceathome>

#### 5. Wolff Tobias, Universum Bremen, New exhibition "Up to Space"



Up to Space is a highly interactive space exhibition with outstanding objects from space research and of space technology. Among the 40 Interactive exhibits are a VR-moon jump, a rocket start simulation, a vacuum glove, an air rocket, microscopes and multimedia exhibits with satellite pictures and Hubble data. Real space suits, moon and mars meteorites and a Viking rocket engine are among the artefacts.

Completely new to this kind of exhibition is an Augmented Reality App ("App2Space") that adds virtual 3D perspectives of robonauts, rockets, the moon and the ISS to the exhibition. The App can also be explored at home. The primary focus group of the exhibition are teenagers who can find answers to the question: "Do I want to become an astronaut and travel to space? How do I get there and back?" More information: <https://universum-bremen.de/>

## 6. Emmanuel Mondon, AdviceGEO, Creating the first European Cooperative Society (SCE) dedicated to space



“Co-innovation Space HUB” is a new initiative dedicated to space, started in December 2020 in Munich, triggered by Markus Häuser and supported by Bavarian government, industry and ESA (TIA-AI). It aims at creating the first European Cooperative Society (SCE) dedicated to space, including earth observation applications and services.

The project discussions were followed by a Space Quiz. It composed of questions extracted from an interactive exhibit of Cite de l'espace new travelling exhibition « Spaceship Earth ». The aim of the game was to recognize remarkable earth places or major events by examining carefully satellite images.

The participants were invited to stay connected via the Ecsite app:



### The Ecsite APP

- ➔ Install it on your mobile: <https://app.ecsite.eu/>
- ➔ Browse the upcoming programme of Ecsite events, connect with peers and get in touch and join or build your own meetups for topical discussion or to share ideas.
- ➔ Features:
  - Personalise your profile
  - Connect with your peers
  - Arrange your own or join existing meetups

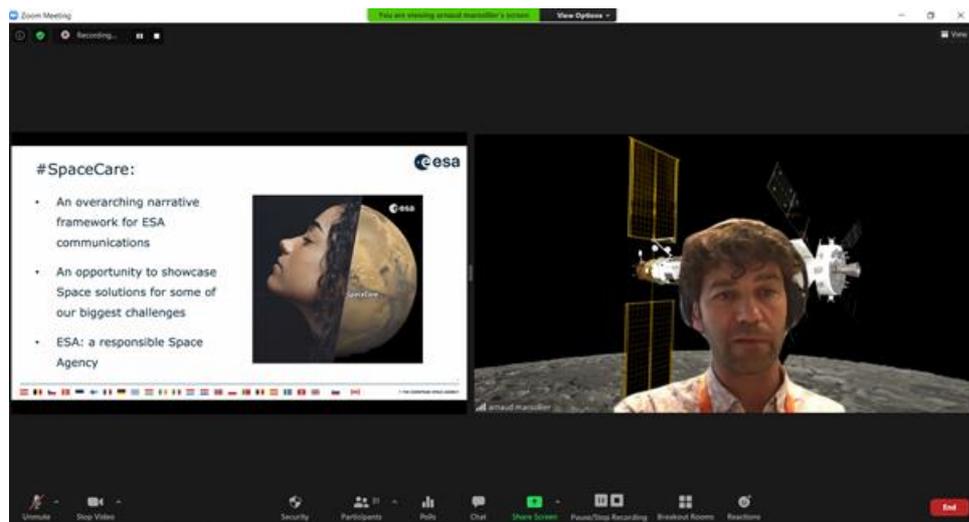


## 5. Day 3 Space news – 2 December 2020

On the last day of the series, ESA's experts presented the latest achievements of the agency and its activity for the 2021. The session was introduced by **Maria Menéndez**, Head of Outreach Coordination Office, ESA & co-chair of the Space Group and facilitated by **Barbara Budassi**, coordinator of the Ecsite Space Group for ESA.

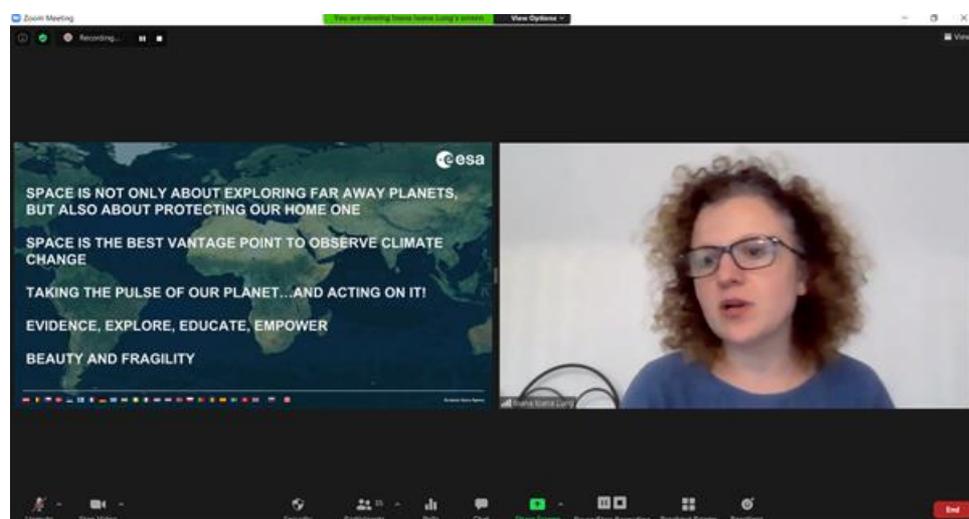
All the presentations are saved [here](#). Below are the summaries of the presentations and discussions.

### 1. SpaceCare Campaign and main activities for 2021, Arnaud Marsoiller, Head of the Contents Office, ESA



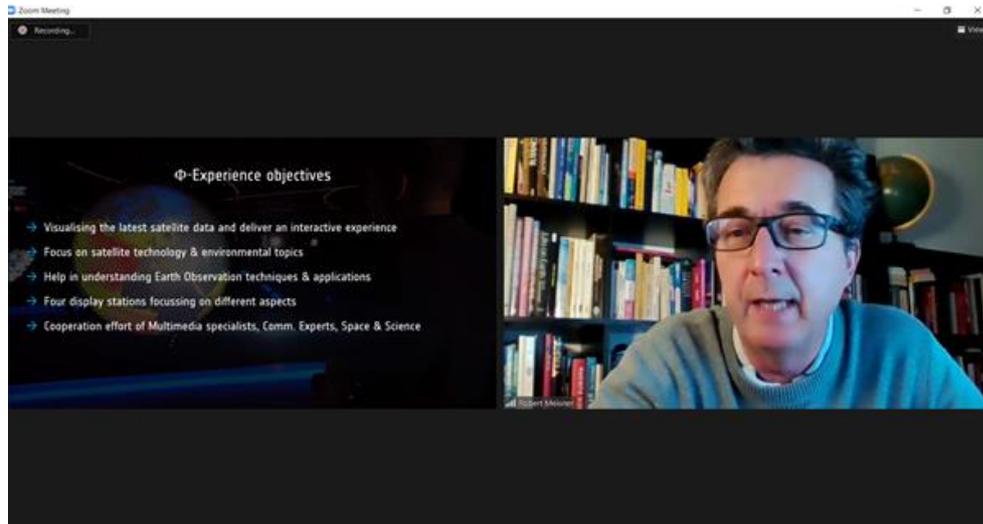
Arnaud introduces the #SpaceCare campaign, an opportunity to showcase Space solutions for some of our biggest challenges and announced the upcoming events in 2021 including i.e. new astronaut selection campaign, two astronauts' missions, new rocket Vega-C, three European astronauts to the Moon, launch of Jane Webb, European rover on Mars and exploration of Jupiter's moons.

### 2. Climate change: Monitoring the atmosphere and oceans from Space, Ioana Lung, Communication Programme Officer, ESA



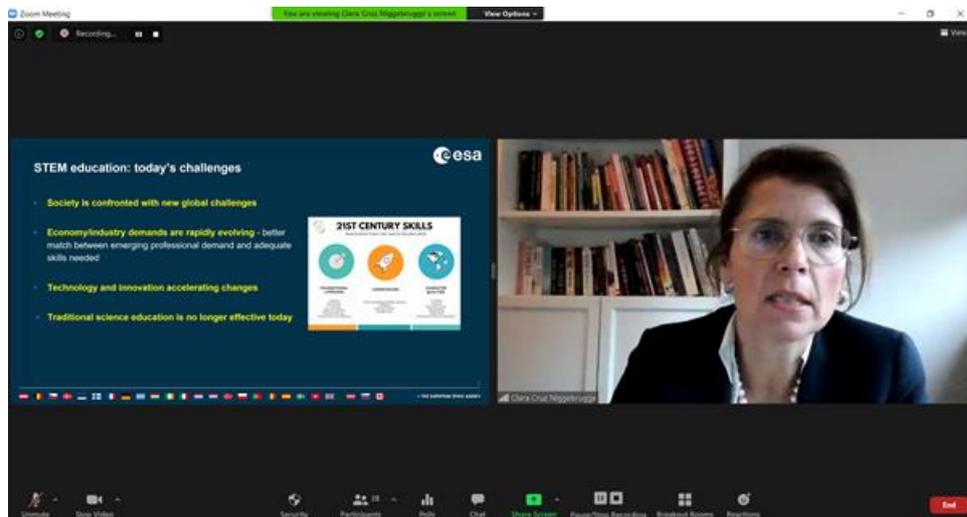
Ioana underlined the important role the space plays to protect our planet through observation of climate change effects and gathering the evidence. She showed interesting examples of climate change effects seen from the space like deforestation, sea surface temperatures, pollution, melting ice shelves and the sea-level rise.

**3. Resources from the Earth Observation Programme, Robert Meisner, EOP Outreach and PHI Experience coordinator, ESA and Michele Martino, Earth Observation Data Visualization, ESA**



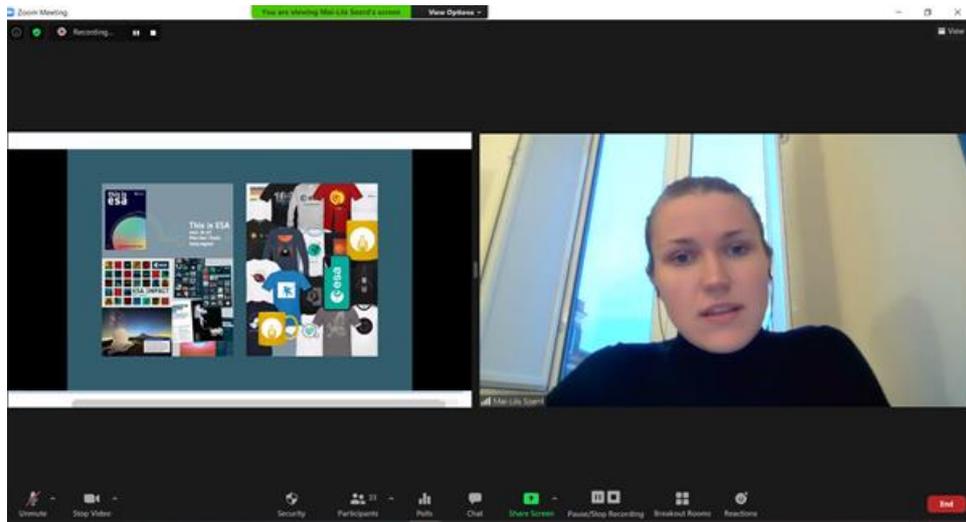
Robert and Michele presented the resources from the Earth Observation Programme and PHI Experience aiming at visualising the latest satellite data and delivering an interactive experience.

**4. ESA Education updates, Clara Cruz Niggebrugge, Esero & European Stem Education Projects Coordinator**



Clara started the presentation with stating today's challenges in STEM education: new global challenges, mismatch of skills vs economy demands, accelerating technology & innovation and ineffectiveness of traditional science education, which gave directions to ESA Education activities. She gave examples of some recent projects, like Expedition: Home launched in April 2020, Climate Detectives and Moon Camp, Paxi animations and new ESA Kids website. In the future the focus will be on e-learning offer.

## 5. ESA e-shop, Mai-Liis Soerd, Merchandising and Licensing Officer, ESA

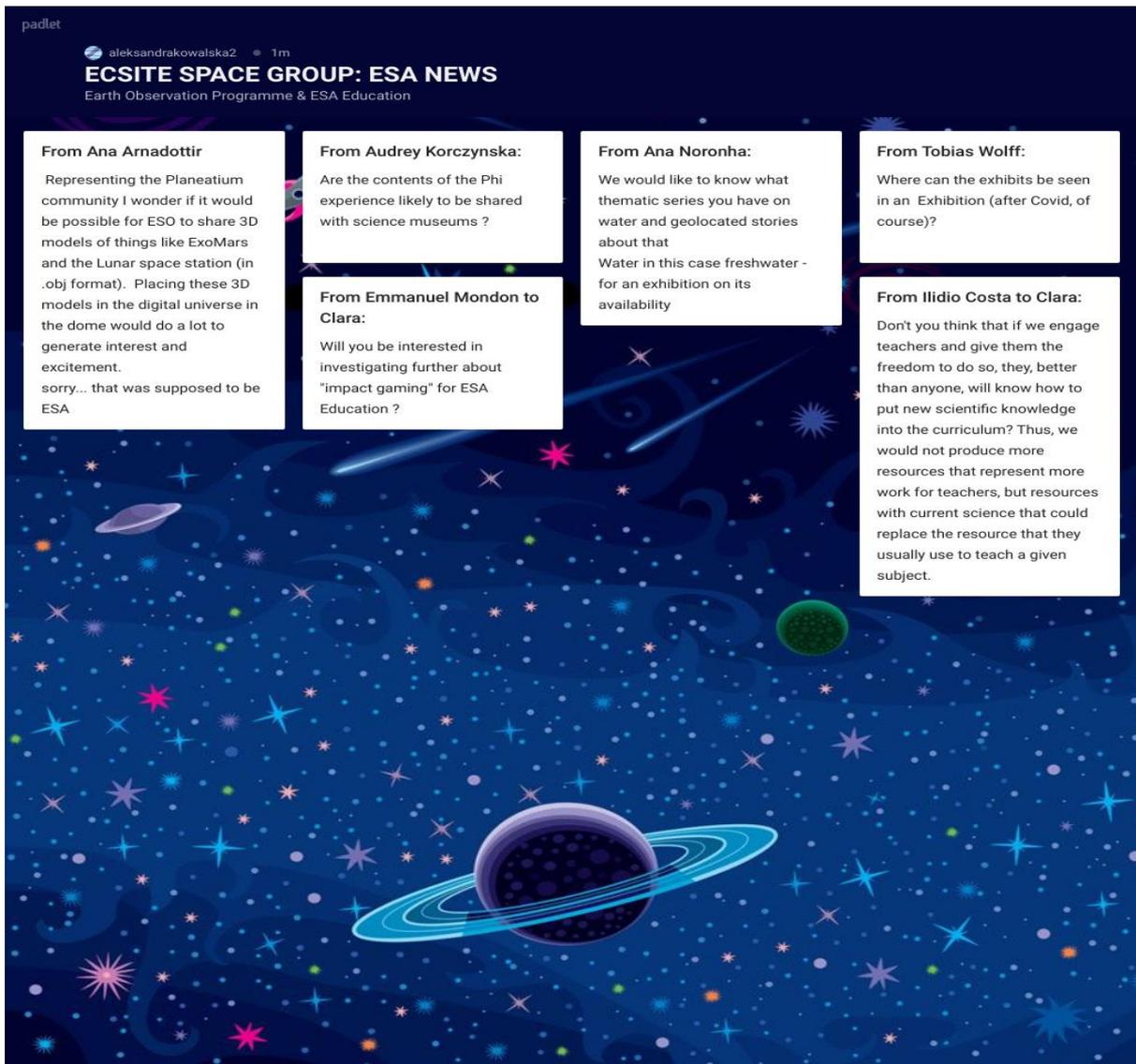


Mai-Liis presented two channels of ESA Shop: ESA Space Shop and ESA On Demand offering wide range of products. More details and examples available in the presentation.

### Discussion:

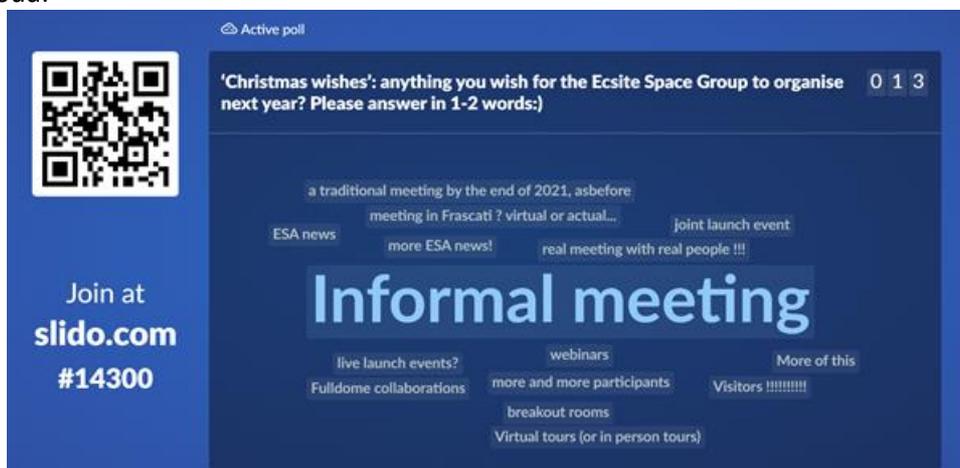
The participants were impressed by presented achievements from ESA and plans for the upcoming year. Below are some questions posed by the participants:

- Q: Representing the Planetarium community I wonder if it would be possible for ESA to share 3D models of things like ExoMars and the Lunar space station (in .obj format). Placing these 3D models in the digital universe in the dome would do a lot to generate interest and excitement.  
A: Yes
- Q: Are the contents of the PHI experience likely to be shared with science museums?  
A: Yes
- Q: What languages are available for the touch table?  
A: For now, only in English
- Q: What thematic series do you have on water and geolocated stories about that water, in this case freshwater, its availability - for an exhibition?  
A: Will be answered by email
- Q: Where can the exhibits be seen after Covid-19 pandemic?  
A: In France
- Q: Will you be interested in investigating further about "impact gaming" for ESA Education?  
A: The games are already a part of education programmes.



The meeting was closed by the Space Group co-chairs: **Maria Menéndez (ESA), Ana Noronha (Ciência Viva) and Christophe Chaffardon (Cité de l'espace).**

The final request to the participants asked using the Slido tool was the following: *'Christmas wishes': anything you wish for the Ecsite Space Group to organise next year.* Below is the outcome in a form of a word cloud:



# ANNEX 1: PROGRAMME

## Space Talks online series

### Ecsite Space Group

(27 November 2020, 1-2 December 2020)

#### About the Space Group

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

It also allows to be better informed about space news, programs, and discoveries. The Space Group offers opportunities to share experience, expertise, knowledge, and tools.

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

Follow the European Space Agency @esa and #ecsitespace

The group is chaired by Maria Menéndez, Head of Outreach Coordination office, European Space Agency – ESA, France, Christophe Chaffardon, Head of Education at Cité de l'espace, France and Ana Noronha, Executive Director of Ciência Viva, Portugal.

The programme and practical information can be consulted below. Additionally:

- For any **questions regarding the programme**, please contact **Barbara Budassi**, [barbara.budassi@esa.int](mailto:barbara.budassi@esa.int), Space Group Coordinator for ESA and **Aleksandra Kowalska**, [akowalska@ecsitem.eu](mailto:akowalska@ecsitem.eu), Space Group Coordinator at Ecsite.
- If you are interested in attending the meeting, please **register here**: <https://forms.gle/nv6zwu22jWyg5CuJ9>

## Programme

### Friday, 27 November 2020 Virtual coffee

It will be an informal drop-in exchange session, a great opportunity for the existing members and new participants to share information and challenges they faced in last months, to re-connect and to establish new connections.

Format: Introduction by Catherine Franche, Executive Director of Ecsite and Maria Menéndez, co-chair of the Space Group followed by 3 rounds of informal exchanges in the breakout rooms.

14:30-14:40	<b>Welcome words from Ecsite</b>	<b>Catherine Franche</b> , Executive Director, Ecsite
14:40-14:50	<b>Welcome address from the Ecsite Space Group co-chairs</b>	Co-chairs of the Space Group <b>Maria Menéndez</b> , ESA <b>Ana Noronha</b> , Ciência Viva <b>Christophe Chaffardon</b> , Cité de l'espace
14:50-14:55	<b>Ice-breaker</b>	
14:55-15:15	<b>Round 1 - Networking in breakout rooms</b>	
15:15-15:30	<b>Round 2 - Networking in breakout rooms</b>	
15:30-15:45	<b>Round 3 - Networking in breakout rooms</b>	
15:45-16:00	<b>Final reflections in the plenary</b>  <b>A poll: How do you want to stay in touch with the Space Group in the next year?</b>  <b>Goodbyes</b>	<b>Co-chairs of the Space Group</b>

### Tuesday, 1 December 2020 Share, inspire, connect

Discover the new projects from your colleagues, present your project and get constructive feedback! It is an excellent opportunity to share your experience, to inspire others and to get inspired.

Format: showcasing various space-related projects by the Space Group members and discussing them in the virtual break-out rooms with other peers.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session title</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
14:30-14:40	<b>Welcome to the meeting and an overview of the programme</b>	<b>Barbara Budassi</b> , Ecsite Space Group coordinator for ESA <b>Aleksandra Kowalska</b> , Ecsite
14:40-15:40	<b>Inspiring project presentations*</b>	<b>Projects presenters</b>

15:40-16:00	<b>Conversations in breakout rooms (1)</b>	<b>Projects presenters</b>
16:00-16:20	<b>Conversations in breakout rooms (2)</b>	<b>Projects presenters</b>
16:20-16:30	<b>Next steps.. and the Space Quiz</b>	<b>Co-chairs of the Space Group</b>

### Wednesday, 2 December 2020 Space news

ESA's experts will present the latest achievements of the agency and its activity for the 2021. The session will be facilitated by Barbara Budassi, coordinator of the Ecsite Space Group for ESA.

Time	Session title	Speaker
14:30-14:40	<b>Welcome to the second day and overview of the programme</b>	<b>Maria Menéndez</b> , Head of Outreach Coordination Office, ESA & co-chair of the Space Group
14:40-15:00	<b>SpaceCare Campaign and main activities for 2021</b>	<b>Arnaud Marsoiller</b> , Head of the Contents Office, ESA
15:00-15:20	<b>Climate change: Monitoring the atmosphere and oceans from Space</b>	<b>Ioana Lung</b> , Communication Programme Officer, ESA
15:20-15:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
15:30-15:45	<b>Resources from the Earth Observation Programme</b>	<b>Robert Meisner</b> , EOP Outreach and PHI Experience coordinator, ESA <b>Michele Martino</b> , Earth Observation Data Visualization, ESA
15:45-16:00	<b>ESA Education updates</b>	<b>Clara Cruz Niggebrugge</b> , Es-ero & European Stem Education Projects Coordinator
16:00-16:10	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
16:10-16:20	<b>ESA e-shop</b>	<b>Mai-Liis Soerd</b> , Merchandising and Licensing Officer, ESA
16:20-16:30	<b>Wrap-up and the upcoming activities of the Group</b>	<b>Co-chairs of the Space Group</b>

#### \*Showcase session

- Vanille Delfau, Cite de l'espace, **Children Science Conference: your school on Mars**
- Ilídio André Costa, Porto Planetarium - Ciência Viva Center / Instituto de Astrofísica e Ciências do Espaço, **CoAstro: @n Astronomy Condo**

- Eleftheria Tsourlidaki, Ellinogermaniki Agogi, **POLAR STAR**
- Melanie Davies, Creative Space, **Space@Home**
- Wolff Tobias, Universum Bremen, **New exhibition "Up to Space"**
- Emmanuel Mondon, AdviceGEO, **Creating the first European Cooperative Society (SCE) dedicated to space**

## ANNEX 2: LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

	Name	Surname	Organisation
1	Eleonora	Monge	Associazione Apriticielo
2	Ana	Noronha	Ciencia Viva
3	Adelina	Machado	Ciencia Viva
4	Sofia	Lourenço	Ciência Viva
5	Danielle	Wilcox	CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory
6	Rosa	Martí	City of Arts and Sciences
7	Weronika	Śliwa	Copernicus Science Center
8	Mateusz	Wyszynski	Copernicus Science Centre Planetarium
9	Melanie	Davies	Creative Space
10	Sebastian	Marcu	Design & Data GmbH
11	Catherine	Franche	Ecsite
12	Clara	Cruz Niggebrugge	ESA
13	Barbara	Budassi	ESA
14	Maria	Menendez	ESA
15	Wendy	Slater	ESA
16	Arnaud	Marsoiller	ESA
17	Ioana	Lung	ESA
18	Robert	Meisner	ESA
19	Michele	Martino	ESA
20	Lorena	Martino	Randstad for ESA
21	Dorothea	Danesy	ESA
22	Bettina	Braunstein	ESA
23	Kylian	van Oosterhout	ESA
24	Tuulia	Hokkanen	ESA
25	Mai-Liis	Soerd	ESA
26	Sara	Rodriguez	ETH Zürich
27	Stefanie	Borgmann	Futurium
28	Yariv	noyman	Israel national museum of science
29	Audrey	Korczynska	La Casemate

30	Anna	Arnadottir	Lund University Planetarium
31	Michael	Bradke	MobilesMusikMuseum
32	Thierry	Botti	Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers Institut Pythéas (CNRS)
33	Mathieu	HIRTZIG	Planétarium de la Sélune
34	Ilídio André	Costa	Porto Planetarium / Instituto de Astrofísica e Ciências do Espaço
35	Leonardo	Alfonsi	Psiquadro
36	Heidi	Kouki	Science centre Heureka
37	Christophe	Chaffardon	SEMECCEL Cité de l'espace
38	Aude	Lesty	SEMECCEL Cité de l'espace
39	Ines	Prieto	SEMECCEL Cité de l'espace
40	Vanille	Delfau	SEMECCEL Cité de l'espace
41	Barbara	Hoppel	Space Expo, NL
42	Abi Ashton	Ashton	UK Association of Science & Discovery Centres
43	Robin	Clegg	University of the Third Age, Lecturer
44	Sümeyye	Ceylan	Usturlab
45	Gary	Fearnall	Yumebau / Underknown
46	Tobias	Wolff	Universum Bremen
47	Marion	Budde	Universum Managementges. mbH
48	Emmanuel	Mondon	AdviceGEO
49	Eleftheria	Tsourlidaki	EA
50	Fulvio	Marelli	SPACE42
51	Naama	Charit Yaari	Weizmann Institute of Science
52	Ana	Alves	Freelancer
53	Aleksandra	Kowalska	Ecsite