

THE EUROPEAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FOR SCIENCE CENTRES
AND MUSEUMS



Ecsite. Lisbon 2007
31 May > 1-2 June

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Ecsite invites you to join its 18th Annual Conference in the legendary capital of Portugal – Lisbon.

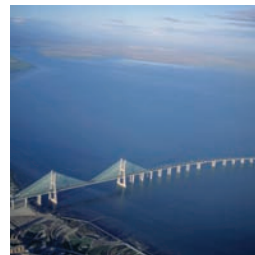
Prepare yourself for challenging themes and a new interactive programme this year. The annual conference will be an experience to remember.

Join a stimulating mix of science centres and museums professionals, from directors to explainers and from European to worldwide experts.

Participate in a variety of sessions, debate the role of our institutions in society today, share coffee and ideas in the biggest Ecsite business bistro (formerly 'exhibition market place') to

date, taste the famous Portuguese food, and then enjoy the sunshine during post conference tours.

This year the conference will be hosted by the Pavilhão do Conhecimento – Ciencia Viva. The 'Pavilion of Knowledge' is an interactive science centre, head of a network of 14 science and technology centres in Portugal, an active organisation involved in projects with schools, government and international organisations. The conference venue for the majority of sessions will be the Atlantic Pavilion, a short walk from the Pavilion of Knowledge.

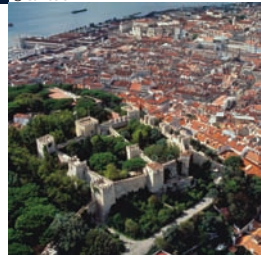


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CONFERENCE THEME

Our focus at the AC 2007 will be the role of science centres and museums as compared with that of other players in science communication. Science communication has changed a lot in a very short period of time. In less than a decade, we have moved from public understanding to public engagement. Alongside science centres and museums that are adjusting their educational programmes and exhibitions to meet the new trends, governments in Europe and worldwide have been actively involved in engaging the public. Formal education curricula have been reformed in many countries; the European Union is promoting several projects for

communicating science and universities in Europe have opened their doors to the public.

This Annual Conference will explore not only how we fit in this evolving world, but also how can we learn from the other stakeholders in the field. How can we benefit most from our relationships with these partners –as institutions, as businesses, as educators, as individuals? As always, besides our main theme, a variety of topics will also be key to the discussions at the Annual Conference 2007.



MAIN TOPICS

- Science centres / museums and the others! How do media, formal education and governments work? How can we build successful partnerships with them? Where does their role stop and where does ours begin? How can we make our position firm?
- Finance and Management: do we operate effectively, do we run our shops successfully, do we maximise our funding opportunities and how can our organizations be sustainable?
- Science: we deal with science in every aspect of our work. How do we select our topics, how do we balance content and fun for our visitors, how do we demonstrate science science effectively, creatively and efficiently? And how can we relate to other disciplines like drama, dance or music?
- Science in Society: an ageing population, multicultural environments, use and misuse of information transferred by a variety of channels, ethically sensitive scientific research - these are just a few of the topics that we have to face. How do science centres and museums tackle these issues? Sustainable development, how to make it part of our strategy? How do we evaluate our best attempts?

FORMATS

While maintaining our presentations and questions / answers sessions, we will enrich this conference with sessions in these formats:

- Poster sessions
- “reverse sessions” 10 min presentation and 50 minutes discussion
- Science Demonstrations Workshops
- Workshops
- World Café
- “Bring an object” replace your powerpoint by an object
- Keynote Sessions

If you want to contribute to a session as a speaker or a convenor please fill in your session proposal and send it to the

Ecsite Executive Office,

Aliki Giannakopoulou

agiannakopoulou@ecsite.net

Deadline for proposals

1 November 2006

Proposal forms will be found on

www.ecsite.net

or you can request one by sending an email to

agiannakopoulou@ecsite.net

Pre-programme 29-30 May For Ecsite members

To reinforce our involvement in European projects and to maximize members' networking opportunities we will devote two days before the official opening of the conference to sessions on European projects and – in parallel – a one-day training course.

The training course will be held on 29 May and will be lead by experts in European projects who will give advice on how to successfully manage European projects.

Deadline for applications: 15 April 2007
More information on www.ecsite.net

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(Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences,
Brussels, Belgium)

Roger Rocca-Serra

(Fondation Villette Entreprises, Paris, France)

Hannu Salmi

(Heureka, the Finnish Science Centre,
Vantaa, Finland)



BUSINESS BISTRO

In ecsite we are not only happy to organize a growing conference – now reaching 700 delegates, or coordinate activities across a growing network – now reaching 330 members. In 2007 we also are proud to offer an enlarged Business Bistro.

The place where businesses and institutions share their activities with conference delegates and demonstrate their work will once again play a big part in the Ecsite annual conference. With a bigger exhibition area and a brand new activity area we will continue making the business bistro the ideal place to network, to do business and exchange ideas!

Besides the stands, there will be a stage where exhibitors can demonstrate their work. The *Demo area* will be available to all exhibitors, offering the opportunity for live performances and special presentations for those institutions/companies who want to take part.

As always all coffee breaks will take place in the business bistro which will also host the internet café and an information point for the delegates.

Spaces are limited so book early by sending an email to
Aliko Giannakopoulou
agiannakopoulou@ecsite.net



REGISTRATION FEES

Members

Before March 01: **415 €**
March 01 to April 15: **465 €**
April 16 to May 26: **495 €**
After May 26 and on site: **630 €**

Non Members

Before May 26: **550 €**
After May 26 and on site: **630 €**

Newcomer member

For an institution attending an Ecsite Annual Conference for the first time. Registration before April 16: **360 €** including one year associate membership and one free registration at the Annual Conference. New Full members also benefit from this opportunity.

Newcomer institution

For an institution attending an Ecsite Annual Conference for the first time, who does not wish to benefit from the Newcomer member opportunity mentioned above. Also applies to the professionals of newcomer members beyond the first free registration. Registration before April 16: **280 €**

Students

Before May 26: **200 €**
Please fax or send by e-mail a copy of student card.

One day registration

Before May 26: **235 €**

If you want to register and/or if you are interested in forthcoming announcements, contact the Ecsite Executive Office at info@ecsite.net or at

Ecsite Executive Office

70 Coudeberg 5th floor
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 649 73 83
Fax: +32 2 647 50 98
info@ecsite.net
www.ecsite.net

For any questions or comments on the programme please contact Alikì Giannakopoulou, Ecsite Conference and Communications Coordinator
agiannakopoulou@ecsite.net

HOTELS

Block reservations have been made in several hotels close to the conference venue (Atlantic Pavilion), at Parque das Nações and in Lisbon city centre.

The hotels at Parque das Nações are within walking distance of the Atlantic Pavilion and the Pavilion of Knowledge while the hotels in the city centre have easy subway access to the conference venue.

Please book early to ensure your accommodation – contact the hotel directly.

You will find more information on www.ecsite.net



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