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Dear colleague,

Your organisation has just joined Ecsite as a Full member. As the President of Ecsite, I warmly welcome you to our network and family.

Together, we share a vision: to foster creativity and critical thinking in society, emboldening citizens to engage with science. In Europe and beyond, science engagement practitioners and organisations stand for strong democratic values and have a clear understanding of the power of true cooperation.

Not only do we experience the benefits of sharing and collaborating in our daily work: we help break down barriers and we connect people. In the context of fake news and negations of scientific results, working together as a field to empower citizens to take an active and informed role in public discussions is crucial. In this view organisations like yours are already key players in connecting the public with science and research and I'm convinced that they will take on an ever greater societal responsibility in the near future.

Our Ecsite community has been growing and getting stronger for already 25 years and together with you, we will keep on doing what we are really good at: engaging people with science & technology topics, connecting formal and informal learning, inspiring thousands of people every day with our programmes, lectures, workshops and debates.

As a Full member of Ecsite, **a wealth of opportunities** is open to your organisation and staff. Let me walk you through a year's worth of benefits.

Enjoy **online member services** a soon as your membership fee is settled. Publish your news and events on the Ecsite website. Promote your traveling exhibitions on EXTRA, the marketplace for science touring. Make sure you join Ecsite Move, an exclusive online service connecting Ecsite peers and allowing staff of participating Ecsite members to book free visits to science engagement venues all around the world.

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Invite your staff to sign up for **Spokes**, our monthly digital magazine. Next spring you will also be getting a printed copy of Spokes Panorama, our yearly digest of articles highlighting trends in the field.

Join the **Ecsite Thematic Groups** that bring together Ecsite professionals to exchange ideas and best practices on specific strands: Facilitation, Space communication, Nature and Research & Evaluation.

Watch out for the opening of applications for the **Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards** in February-March: open to Ecsite members, the awards encourage those people and organisations who demonstrate innovation, creativity and who through their work actively show how they are making an impact.

You can look forward to a wonderful 29th **Ecsite Annual Conference** edition on 7-9 June 2018, hosted by the Natural History Museum of Geneva in Switzerland. 1,000+ professionals will analyse and make trends, connect and get inspired by the "Creative Collisions" theme. Your staff is eligible to the highest discount on conference fees and you will get reduced rates on booth rental at the Business Bistro, on sponsorship packages and on advertising opportunities on the Ecsite website.

Throughout the year, you will have priority over other types of members when Ecsite invites members to participate to **EU-funded projects**.

Last but not least, you can participate in **Ecsite's governance** by voting at the AGM (taking place during the Annual Conference in Geneva) and joining the Board of Ecsite.

I look forward to our fruitful collaboration, Kind regards,

> Herbert Münder Ecsite President General Manager, Universum Bremen Bremen, Germany

the line