

June, 2015

# NEWSLETTER

## In This Issue

### NSCF News:

- Annual Conference registration
- World Science Centre Day
- Norsk Teknisk Museum

### News from members:

- Jærmuseet
- Experimentarium
- Heureka
- AHHA
- Energy Discovery Center

### News from the field

### Upcoming events

## The Summer News

The summer started with several large conferences. EUSEA (European Science Festival Association) gathered in Serbia in May. The members of ECSITE (European Network of Science Centres and Museums) had a successful annual conference in Italy. The collaboration between other centres and museums in our field is getting crucial for the economical survival for many of us. Recently, the NSCF website was thoroughly renewed in order to better represent the spirit of our Nordic-Baltic collaboration. Please pay a visit to our new site and let us know if you find something to add or correct!

In this Newsletter you will also find an intriguing proposal from Asger Hoeg to start a new initiative and celebrate the World Science Day! This is a wonderful idea to get all of us more attention from the public. If you are interested in joining, let us know as well.

We are also happy to present the program for our Annual conference in November. Økolariet has planned a magnificent time for us in Denmark! Take a closer look at page 2.

In the last Newsletter I reminded you about the opportunity to collaborate more actively with other Nordic and Baltic science museums and centres through Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) funding. In this Newsletter you can read about several successful projects supported by NCM. AHHA has successfully launched a project together with University of Iceland and Teknikens Hus and Jærmuseet did it together with Faroe Islands University. Also, AHHA is hosting a photo-exhibition on Iceland's amazing landscapes. This exhibition came to us via NCM as well. Take a look at your local NCM page and see if something similar is available in your region.

Wishing you all a bright and sunny summer,  
Pilvi Kolk

Chairman of NSCF,  
Science Centre AHHA, Estonia



*A couple of curious minds feasting*

### NSCF Board 2014-2015:

Pilvi Kolk (chairman) AHHA, **Estonia**, Tel +372 735 5094, pilvi.kolk@ahha.ee • Tove Marienborg, Nordnorsk Vitensenter, **Norway**, Tel +47 7762 0940, tove.marienborg@nordnorsk.vitensenter.no • Lotta Johansson, Navet, **Sweden**, Tel +46 3335 3396, lotta.johansson@navet.com • Jutta Kujasalo, Heureka, **Finland**, Tel +358 985 79280, jutta.kujasalo@heureka.fi • Gudrun Bachmann, University of Iceland, **Iceland**, gudrunba@hi.is • Asger Høeg, Experimentarium, **Denmark**, Tel +45 3925 7218, asgerh@experimentarium.dk

### NSCF Annual Conference "How much fun is acceptable in a serious science centre"

November 2th - 4th at Økolariet Denmark

Amusement parks are fun – "museums" are boring. What are we? For those of us who work in science centres, it can be annoying that amusement parks have so many more guests than we do and continue to attract more guests every year, despite the fact that it is actually quite expensive to visit them.

The number of guests going to amusement parks is a sign that this kind of experience is in high demand. If we could attract more guests by taking advantage of some of the experiences that attract guests to amusement parks, while SIMULTANEOUSLY imparting upon them some of the knowledge and insight that is a part of our vision, we could really accomplish something!

Register for the conference at [okolariet@vejle.dk](mailto:okolariet@vejle.dk) as soon as possible and no later than 15 August 2015. Please write your name, your place of work and the address we need to invoice.

The conference fee is 200 €. The price includes conference facilities, meals, transportation and admission to Royal Jelling and Spinderihallerne.

The conference will be held primarily at Økolariet,

Dæmningen 11, 7100 Vejle and secondarily at Torvehallerne A/S, Fiskergade 2-8, 7100 Vejle.

You can order accommodation at Torvehallerne. Mention that Økolariet has pre-ordered a number of rooms and, consequently, the price is 995 kr. (133 €) for a single room per night and 1,095 kr. (147 €) for a double room per night.

BEST WESTERN Torvehallerne A/S Mail: [info@torvehallerne.dk](mailto:info@torvehallerne.dk)

**Other accommodation within walking distance (prices are approximate):**

1. Scandic Jacob Gade: price about 1,346 kr. (180 €) for a single room and 1,526 kr. (205 €) for a double room
2. Vejle Center Hotel : price about 750 kr. (100 €) for single and 850 kr. (114 €) per double room per night
3. BB-Hotel Vejle Park: price about 590 kr. (80 €) per. person per night

**Find the full Program in the attachment of the Newsletter!**



### Will NSCF support The World Science Centre Day?

By Asger Hoeg

In June 2013, science centre CEO's from Europe, North America, Mexico, Asia and Australia met at Technopolis, host to the First *Science Centre World Summit*. During the meeting, I launched the novel idea that all the World's science centres should celebrate the World Science Centre Day with three purposes in mind:

i): *Brand* the science centres as important institutions that bring science and technology closer to the citizens.

ii): Cast light on the challenges that our Planet Earth is facing.

iii): Organize a mass experiment – carried out by school children - that could result in data being collected worldwide and useful for real scientific research.

On the July 6, 2013, I wrote to my colleagues:

"During our meeting in Technopolis, we talked about promoting the 1st World Day of Science Centre. The day should be linked to the number Pi. Pi's first 50 digits are:

3.14159265358979323846264338327950288419716939937510

So the 1st World Day of Science Centers should start on March 14, 2015 and start at 9.26 am in all the time zones around the world! Do you agree?"

Albert Einstein was born on March 14, 1879. So if we pick March 14 as the World Science Centre Day, we can also celebrate one of the greatest scientists of all time.

In the mean time, I was elected to the ASTC Board and later to ASTC's International Committee, which is led by Emlyn Koster.

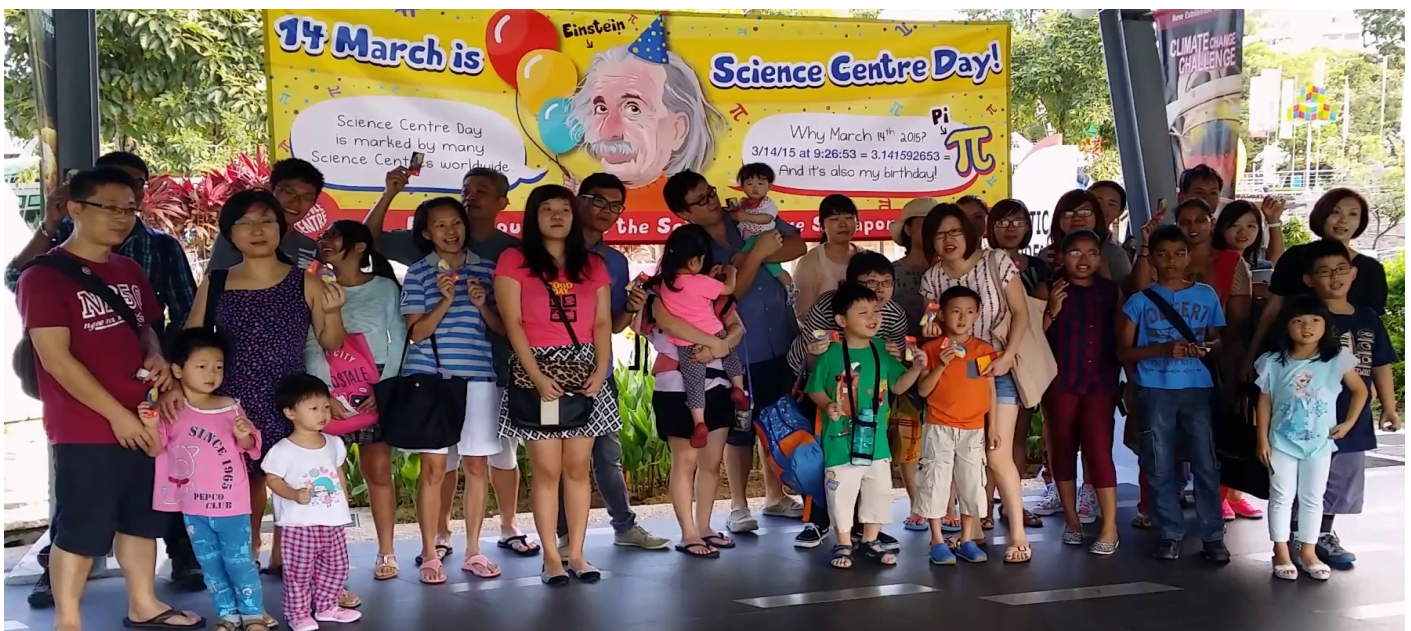
On October 19, 2013, in Albuquerque, I attended my first meeting in ASTC's International Committee. At that meeting, I suggested that the Committee took the initiative to launch the first World Science Centre Day on March 14, 2015. The Committee prioritized the work with the 1<sup>st</sup> Science Centre World Summit and the very important Mechelen Declaration. Also, the International Committee worked on persuading the United Nations to launch 2019 as the International Science Centre Year. The International Committee (now renamed The Global Committee) had discussed whether and how it should initiate the World Science Centre Day.

Among colleagues, the idea of celebrating science centres worldwide on the very same date has gained ground. I am very happy that some of the World's leading science centres actually celebrated the World Science Centre Day on March 14, 2015!

From the very beginning, Chee-Kuen Yip (among friends: CK) supported the idea of the first World Science Centre Day on March 14, 2015. CK has served as Senior Leader at both Macao Science Centre and Hong Kong Science Centre and is now the Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Network of Science and Technology Centres (ASPAC). CK initiated that several ASPAC members celebrated the World Science Centre Day: The Mind Museum in Philippines, the Science Centre Singapore in Singapore and Petrosains in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Also, Technopolis in Mechelen, Flanders, celebrated the World Science Centre Day.

People around the World celebrate March 14 as the Pi-Day. We – the science centres all over the World – should adopt the day and name it The World Science Centre Day. Pi's first 6 digits are: 3.141592. If we want to write Pi with 4 digits after the comma, we must increase the number to 3.1416. So it is quite obvious that the number Pi also gives the possibility to launch the first global World Science Centre Day on March 14, 2016.

**Will Nordisk Science Center Forbund support the idea of a World Science Centre Day every year on March 14, starting on March 14, 2016? Give us a feedback!**





### The Norsk Teknisk Museum from Norway won the prize for TING at ECSITE!

Ecsite President Rosalia Vargas announced the lucky winner of the 2015 Ecsite Creative Award tonight in Trento at the Ecsite conference's Gala Dinner. The Norsk Teknisk Museum from Norway won the prize for TING, "a participatory, immersive exhibition experience for exploring the complex relationships between technology and democracy."

The exhibition experience starts by picking up a wooden cube as a symbol of inclusion and citizenship. This cube gives the visitor access to in-depth information. The curatorial idea behind this is that democracy is exclusive, and that once you are included, you have both the right and the duty to educate yourself. In the TING, the cube is used as a ballot and represents the visitor's power and voice as a voting member of society.

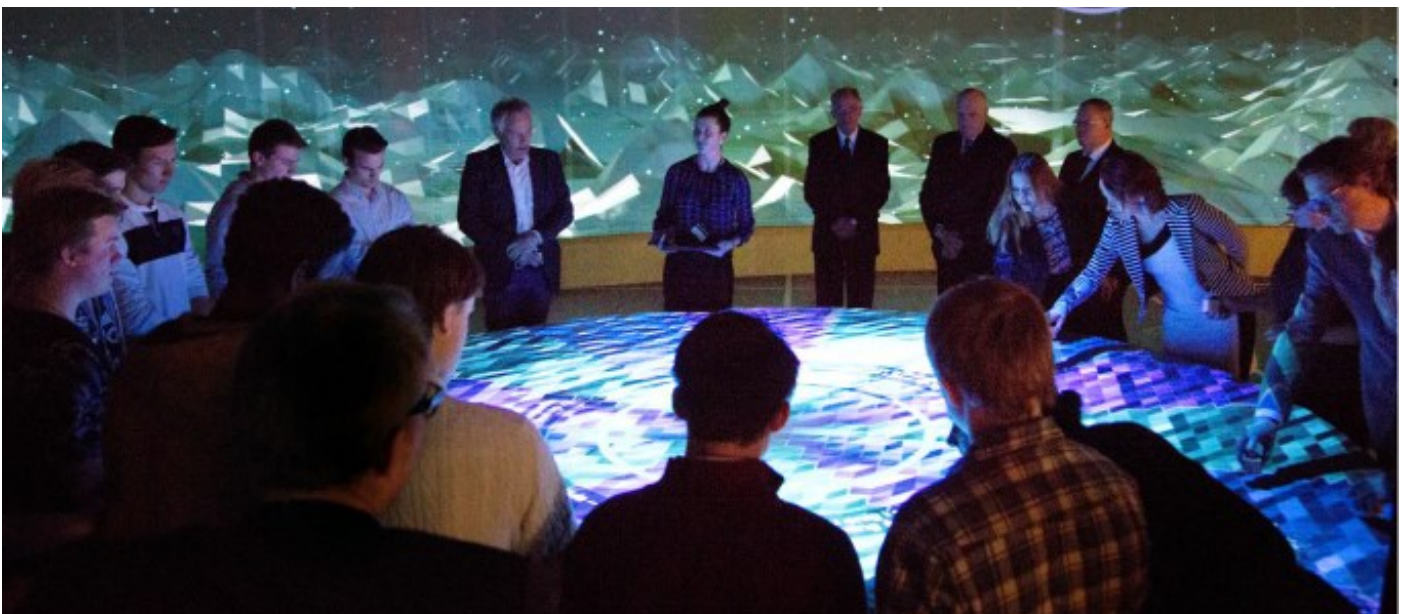
Ting in its ancient form is a governing assembly and a court – a place where things (Tings) are put up for discussion. This is precisely how the exhibition works: a selected group of objects representing revolutionary technologies are put into the TING. In each TING - session visitors valueate technologies for their positive and negative impacts on the establishment, fostering and practice of democracy in society. Just like in an ancient ting – characterized by a ring of stones defining a gathering space with a stone table at its center – the TING is defined by its circular shape and there's a large four meter diameter table at its center, whose surface is animated with interactive media projected from above. Two arcing benches with integrated touch screen provide seating for spectators and an interface for more passive participation.

Each TING session starts with a short welcome from a museum moderator, before a 2-minute long linear "trailer" introduces the technology that will be up for debate (Nanotechnology, a DNA-sequencer, an internet-server, a smartphone, a therapeutic robot seal, a solar panel, a 3D-printer or a flying drone). This is followed by several discussions and ballots. The exhibition is capable of collecting the statistic data from all the questions that are being asked.



Visitors participating in the TING experience realize that any kind of technology has many possible uses and meanings and can have profound impact on the well-being of our society as a whole. But through thoughtful debate and collective choice making we can shape the world we live in. The entire experience thus reflects on the democratic process itself, and seeks to inspire in visitors a commitment to participate in ongoing debates concerning the relationship of technology to democracy.

Partially encircling the TING area, a five-meter high by twenty five-meter long curving shelf dramatically displays 100 objects from the museum's collection. These objects represent technologies that played important roles in the development of Norwegian society.



### Jærmuseet Science Circus visits Faroe Islands

*By Magne Hognestad*

*Science Circus is Jærmuseet's "science centre on wheels". Science Circus travels to schools in the southwest of Norway with shows and experiments.*

Jærmuseet Science Circus visited the university of Faroe Islands from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May this year. During three hectic days at the university (Fróðskaparsetur Føroya) Science Circus organised courses for student teachers, workshops for school children, science shows and participated at an open day at the university. Close to 10% of the school children in the Faroe Islands met Science Circus these days.

This visit was a part of Jærmuseet's contribution to the Nordic Ministry councils project: *Biophilia-Knowledge train*. The activities and workshops brought by Science Circus will be used by the Faroe Islands own knowledge train called "Seturstokid".

*Ivar Reed Nakken drinks liquid nitrogen*

### The Knowledge Train

The purpose of the Knowledge Train is to travel around, loaded with science and fun, which are used to ignite the interest of young people in science, higher education, and universities.

The aim is for the Knowledge Train to "travel" through selected regions of the Nordic countries, with knowledge and scientific workshops on board. As it travels, it stops in nursery schools, primary schools and secondary schools where the pupils will be offered scientific workshops and lectures.

More info of the project here: <http://www.norden.org/no/tema/nordic-bioeconomy/nordbio/prosjekter/biophilia>



*Some pupils built their own multi coloured LED-lights*



### Experimentarium's Expansion Project hit by fire

By Asger Hoeg

Experimentarium in Denmark has a large on-going building project. We are renovating the old bottling hall from 1931 and expand the building with two new floors.

The renovation and expansion will give Experimentarium new muscles: an open-air exhibition, eight workshop classrooms, 9.000 m2 exhibition in total and new facilities for the staff. In total, the new building will cover app. 30.000m2 including the active roof.

The building project has met some challenges. But is there a building project with no challenges?

The two new floors cannot rest on the old building's constructions. Therefore, we had to establish some 50 new columns inside the old building. And these columns shall have a large foundation. The groundwater level was higher than expected. And the solid glacial till was, in many places, lower than expected. Therefore, we had to drill down app. 2.500 piles to form a foundation for all the columns. This work delayed the project app. 12 weeks.

With most of the foundations built, we were ready to set up the big tower crane from Liebherr in the weekend of 24 – 26 April. The tower crane is the biggest in Denmark and one out of three of the biggest tower cranes in Europe. The crane can lift 21 tonnes over a distance of 70 meters! On the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, we were ready to start the

assembly of the numerous concrete and steel elements. Then a large fire broke out at 2.30 pm. on 27 April.



The fire started on the temporary roof over our famous Water Exhibition. The fire lasted for 4 hours. Our neighbour was more hardly hit by the fire than Experimentarium. Because of a strong wind from east, the fire spread quickly to the neighbour building owned by Aberdeen.

The Water Exhibition is completely burned down. The Small Stage is also burned down. Parts of the building must be replaced, but in total Experimentarium was less harmed than you could have expected when you saw the big flames. The building is insured so we expect Experimentarium's loss to be moderate.

The project was delayed 4 weeks because of the fire. We expect to take over the building from the contractors early April 2016. Kim Herlev, Experimentarium's CEO expects the New Experimentarium to open mid September 2016.





## News from members

### Take part in crowdfunding a planetarium film!

By Heli Seppälä

The Finnish Science Centre Heureka together with the film production company Pohjankonna will produce the first Finnish planetarium film *The Secret World of Moths*, suitable for the whole family. The movie makes use of 3D x-ray tomography to investigate the world of insects at microscopic level. Heureka is launching a crowd-funding for this film. You too now have a unique opportunity to support this project.



**You can take part in crowdfunding the movie *The Secret World of Moths* between 18 May – 5 July 2015.** By donating 25 € or more, you will become part of planetarium film history.

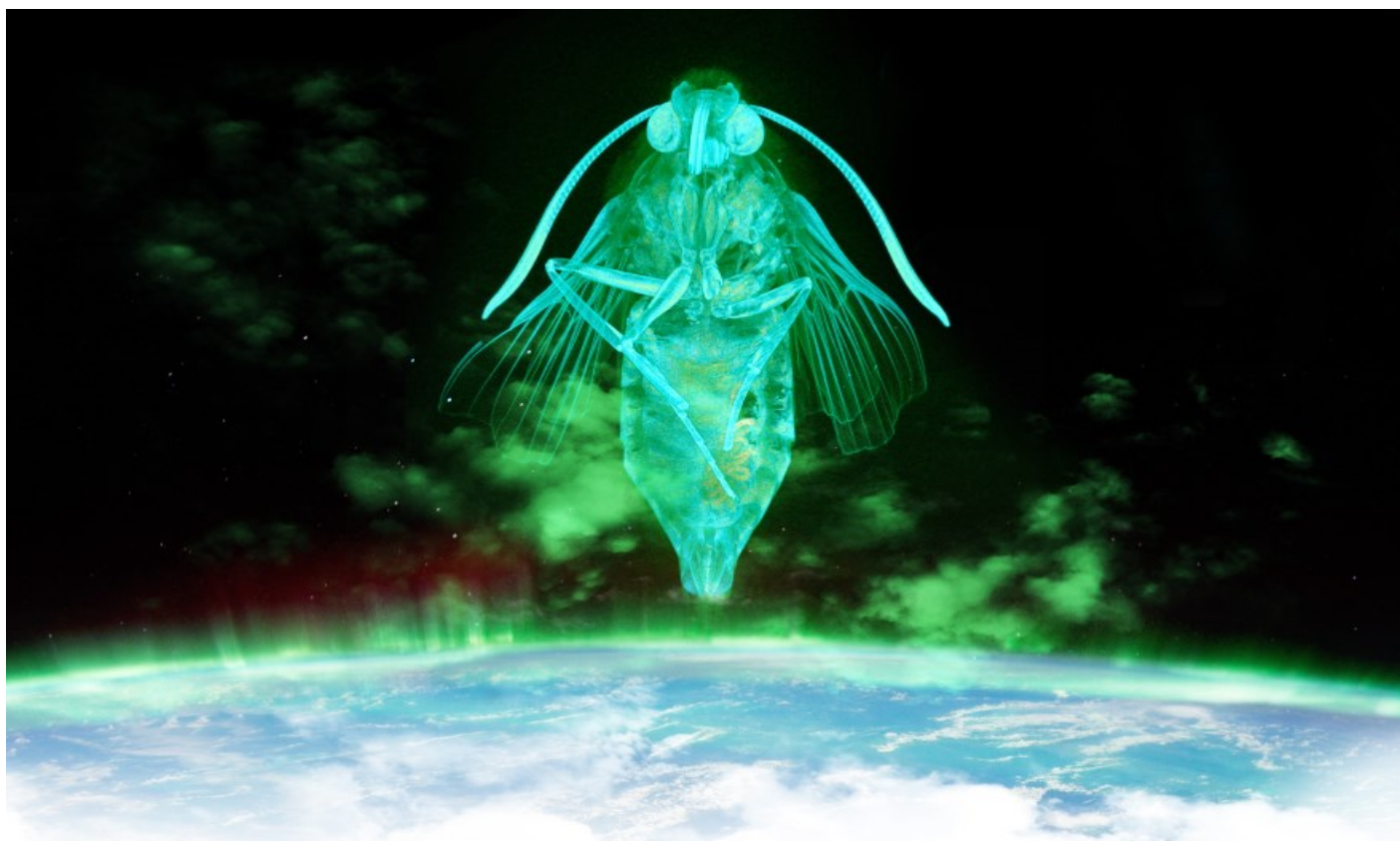
Pohjankonna Oy is a film production company established by Hannes Vartiainen and Pekka Veikkolainen in 2008, whose short documentaries have been shown on all continents. The films have won several awards in Finland and abroad. Mesenaatti.me is the first Finnish crowdfunding platform that is open for everyone.

Trailer of the film:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yml7BTEhhel&feature=youtu.be>

Join the crowdfunding project:

<http://mesenaatti.me/en/yoperhostensalattumailma/>





### 10 years of Researchers Night

By Helin Haga

This year's Researchers' Night Festival ([www.researchersnight.ee](http://www.researchersnight.ee)), taking place all over Estonia from 20 September till 25 September will celebrate its 10th anniversary!

For the occasion, the festival in Estonia will feature several highlight events, the most prominent of which will be the following:

the festival will begin with a 'big bang' of a sort, that is with the second *Tartu Mini Maker Faire* (20.09), which marks a milestone in shaping the maker landscape in Estonia. Before the first MMF held as part of the festival in 2014, the maker scene in Estonia was rather chaotic but strong ties in the community has been made thanks to the MMF culture and AHHA is expecting about 200 of the best makers to take part this year. For more, check:

<https://www.facebook.com/TartuMiniMakerFaire>

AHHA will partner up with the Tartu University Hospital to introduce the renown *Teddy Bear Hospital* concept to the youngest festival-goers (on 21.09). Children can visit real doctors in a make-believe hospital located in a real clinic to get their teddies cured and understand that medicine not so scary after all.

Science will meet the arts during the *Tour de Kivi* (Tour de Stone) bike tours (on 22.09), which will take participants to meet the trends and people behind the natural and unnatural stone and rock building districts in Tartu. The tours will end with a science café held, appropriately, in the Kivi Baar (Stone Bar) at the very heart of Tartu.

The very first *Science Show International Cup* will keep the audience on their toes with 16 spectacular shows by performers from 8 countries (from 23.09 till 25.09). The Cup will include one very special and untraditional science show format – the silent visual show in which no words can be exchanged with the audience and the coordination of experiments is paramount! For more, check:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SSIC-15-Science-Show-International-Cup/>

### A Mutual Learning Project Headed by AHHA Awarded a Nordplus Horizontal Grant

SciFEAB- Science Facilitation Expertise Across Borders is a trilateral collaboration project between Science Centre AHHA from Estonia, *Teknikens Hus* from Sweden and the *University of Iceland* from Iceland.

There will be a mutual learning workshop-seminar for those staff members of the partners who are directly involved in developing and offering education programmes in respective institutions. It will be carried out in Science Centre AHHA in Tartu, Estonia from 17 to 19 August 2015.

Each partner will have 5 staff members participating in the

3-day workshop and each day of the workshop will be dedicated to the best practices of each partner country. The workshop will involve presentations on the different methods used, as well as many opportunities for all participants to be involved in hands-on demonstrations of teaching tools (such as volunteering in science shows, being students in inventing and making workshops, filling in interactive worksheets and more).

As a result of the project, the approaches that informal education providers use to support formal education providers and receivers will be mapped, ideas on improvements will be shared and a network of science facilitation professionals will be set up to benefit future developments in this area in each participating institution.



## News from members

### The staggering Energy Discovery Center invites families to explore the secrets of the 102-year old power plant

*By Kertu Saks*

We welcome all families and friends from every country to come and have fun with our 130 hands-on exhibits on themes like energy now-and-then, renewable sources, nuclear energy, classical physics with its lights and sounds, and of course the mysterious history of this monumental building.

Be amazed by our lightning- and static electricity demonstrations. Learn new things in our workshops and science theatres. Dream away while travelling to the distant planets in our planetarium dome. All the instructions of the exhibits are in English, Estonian, Finnish and Russian. In addition, all the programs and extra activities can also be carried out in the languages mentioned above.

We are situated just by the harbor, a couple of minutes walk from Tallinn's old town.

Check us out at <http://www.energiakeskus.ee/family-holiday>



## News from members

The Energy Discovery Center offers for rent two of its most successful exhibitions

**„Discover the Art of Math!“** and

**„The Sounds of Space.“**

Both exhibitions have brought nearly 50 000 visitors!

### Discover the Art of Math!

The ‘Discover the Art of Math!’ interactive exhibition helps visitors understand and visualize the difficult logic behind math and its various equations via simple examples, and highlighting geometry. Math is everywhere – in art, technology, medical science, handicrafts and in many other spheres. Through all the different times of life, it is important to have a basic knowledge of the subject. You can even see math in nature! For instance, have you heard of the Fibonacci sequence?

6 exhibits and a workshop

estonian/russian/english

required space 50 m<sup>2</sup>

price 1000.-/month



### The Sounds of Space.

Built and completed in Austria, the science exhibition "Sounds of Space" introduces the processes that take place in the universe, such as the strange sounds of the Northern Lights and the fast-paced rhythm of Pulsar stars.

Within the exhibition, visitors can access the secrets of the universe, experiment with the rocket launch simulation and listen to the original recordings of a missile take off.

8 exhibits and a workshop

estonian/russian/english

required space 100 m<sup>2</sup>

price 5000.-/month



For more information and details, visit our website at: [www.energiakeskus.ee/3290](http://www.energiakeskus.ee/3290)



## News from the field

### ECSITE Annual Conference had a record-breaking number of participants

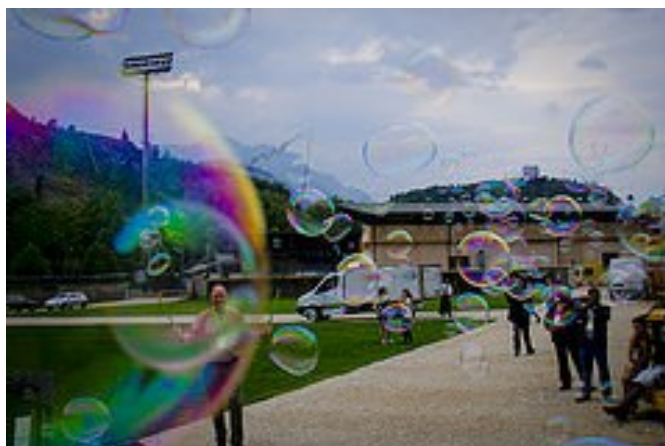
By Pilvi Kolk

The 2015 Ecsite Annual Conference just finished in Trento, Italy. It gathered 1,101 participants from 52 different countries, making it the largest Ecsite Annual Conference ever.

During the Ecsite Annual General Meeting, the election of a new presidency took place. From now on, The President of Ecsite is the Dutch science centre NEMO, Amsterdam, represented by CEO Michiel Buchel, who will be serving a two-year mandate. The new board members were also elected., among them are several representatives of NSCF as well.

The keynote speakers of the conference were Andrea Illy, CEO from Illycaffè and Tristram Stuart, the author of the book "The Bloodless revolution".

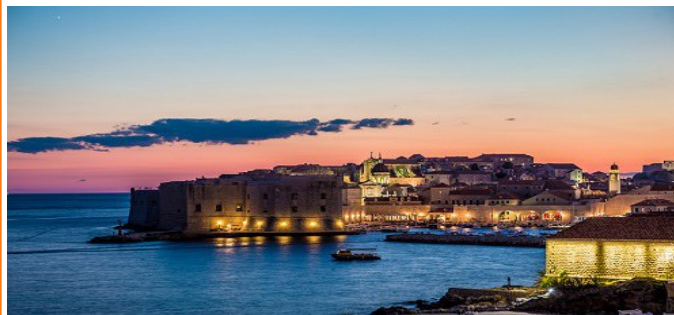
Theme of the conference was "Food for the Curious minds", representing similarity with the Milano EXPO 2015. Next conference will be held in Austria, Gratz.



## Upcoming events

### THE BEST IN HERITAGE - Dubrovnik, Croatia 24-26 September 2015

This, 14th edition of The Best in Heritage conference will once more give these projects further, well deserved attention of the international professional community. The programme promises a packed 2-day programme, with projects from China, United States, Japan, Iran, Australia, Canada, Russia and Europe taking the stage. The participation of the audience is assured through Q&A sessions and discussions. In addition, the post-conference seminar "Financing Heritage Institutions in Times of Scarcity", will take place on September 27th at Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik, in partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Croatia.



### TEM Istanbul, 10 – 12 September 2015

**The city that straddles two continents awaits you for the 4th edition of The Touring Exhibitions Meeting.**

After gatherings in Paris (2012), Berlin (2013) and Munich (2014), The Touring Exhibitions Meeting 2015 will be taking place in the bustling megacity of Istanbul. Look for more information: <http://touringexhibitions.org/tem/>

### NSCF Annual Conference in Denmark

**2-4.11 in Okolariet**

**See page 2!**

Editor: Pilvi Kolk, [pilvi.kolk@ahhaa.ee](mailto:pilvi.kolk@ahhaa.ee)

Layout: Pärt Ojamaa

**Science Centre AHHA Foundation**

Tel +372 7355 094

Subscribe to the Newsletter! Next issue will be released in September 2015