



What makes a good Ecsite session proposal?

The Annual Conference Programme Committee receives a great number of proposals every year. This document has been drawn together to help you shape your session idea into a successful proposal.

The criteria are not essential requirements, but sessions which fit many of these descriptions are much more likely to be accepted by the Committee. We therefore recommend that you develop your proposal along these lines whenever possible.

The selection process takes these factors into account, as well as the results of the evaluation of the participants feedback forms from the previous years. We look forward to your valuable contribution for this conference.

A good Ecsite session proposal should:

...be relevant to the Conference Focus and main topics.

This year's Conference explores the risks we are taking or not in our work. For more details, see the First Announcement.

...involve a committed and skilled convenor who will advise and guide the speakers from the session's conception to the presentation at the Conference.

This includes the tasks of ensuring that the presentations are coherent as a whole, in order to produce a session with a clear vision, which addresses the aims it sets out in its abstract. It requires a good deal of communication with the speakers in the months leading up to the Conference.

...include a complete list of speakers.

Even if the speakers are not confirmed at the time of submitting the proposal, it is important to include names. Three speakers are expected for a panel session, more for a poster session, and possibly fewer than three for other types of session format.

...bring new and younger faces to the Conference.

The Conference relies on fresh perspectives. It is therefore preferable to have at least one speaker who is relatively new to Ecsite.

...include speakers and convenors from different countries.

Ecsite is a truly European network, and we want to be able to reflect this in the variety of speakers for each session. If there is a possibility to include speakers from countries which are usually underrepresented at the Conference, we fully encourage you to take this opportunity.

...be interactive.

Sessions gather together dozens of experts in the field as participants. The best sessions take advantage of this fact, whether it is simply by allowing a good amount of time for questions, or incorporating an interactive element into presentations, or using one of the interactive format suggestions, as listed in the First Announcement.

...include input from people outside the field.

Sessions can also benefit from an outsider's point of view – professionals working in other fields



relevant to science centres and museums.

...ensure a gender balance.

We benefit from a great valuable diversity of professionals within our field, and therefore prefer to avoid sessions where the convenor and speakers are all male or all female.

Please send your session proposals **by 28 October 2009** if you are interested in taking an active part in the preparation of the Ecsite Annual Conference 2010!