



*29-31 May, Ecsite Annual Meeting
Budapest, Hungary*

PRE-CONFERENCE: THE Group Training Workshop for Explainers

Dialogues: learning through discussions and conversations

This two-day training workshop is a chance for explainers to hear about research on the role of dialogues and conversations in learning. This will be presented in participative round tables involving invited experts and all participants. New formats of activities involving dialogues and discussions will be tested and presented in practical workshops.

Training leaders and discussants:

Bronwyn Bevan, CILS and Exploratorium (USA); Frank Burnet, University of the West of England (UK); Sara Calcagnini (Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnica); Antonio Gomes da Costa, The Pavilion of Knowledge (Portugal); Sally Duensing, King's College, London (UK); Miha Kos, Hisa Eksperimentov (Slovenia); Sheena Laursen, Experimentarium (Denmark); Guglielmo Maglio, Fondazione IDIS- Citta della Scienza (Italy); Matteo Merzagora, ICS-SISSA (Italy) and TRACES (France); Mikko Myllykoski, Heureka (Finland); Paola Rodari, SISSA Medialab (Italy); Maria Xanthoudaki, Museo della Scienza e della Tecnologia (Italy).

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 27th of May 9.00-17.30

09.00 - 10.00 - Who are we?

*Introduction on the role of explainers in science centres
Paola Rodari and Sally Duensing*

What do we expect from that session?

- a) Present an overview of the existing researches on the role of explainers*
- b) Introduce the general objectives of the workshops*
- c) Warm up the scene*

10.00 - 10.30 Coffee break

10.30 - 13.00 - Learning by talking - 1 *Practical workshop*

Antonio Gomes da Costa, Miha Kos,

What do we expect from this session

- a) Practical demonstration on how to create an interactive atmosphere with the visitors*
- b) Practical demonstration on how a bidirectional communication with the visitors can enhance learning*
- c) Can dialogue among visitors facilitate learning?*
- d) Which kind of training is needed to achieve the desired results?*

13.00 - 14.30 Lunch

14.30 - 16.30 - Learning by talking - 2

Presentation of research results and round table

Brenwyn Bevan, Sheena Laurson, Discussants: Maria Xanthoudaki and Paola Redari

What do we expect from this session:

- a) Presentation of research results and practical experiences*
- b) Discussion on what are the limiting elements that prevent to place conversation at the earth of the explainer action*
- c) Discussion on which indicators can prove or disprove the success of the outlined approaches*

16.30 - 17.30 - Tips and tricks

Best practices from the participants

What do we expect from this session:

- a) A fun, exciting, interactive moment*
- b) That all participant can have a space for showing their best practices*

DAY 2 28th of May 9.00-17.30

09.00 – 11.00 Talking science 1

Experimenting dialogue: workshop on participatory games and activities

Frank Burnet

What do we expect from this session:

- a) practical demonstration on how to engage the public in controversial discussions*
- b) practical demonstration on how to value discussions as a crucial experience for the visitors*

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 12.15 Talking science. 2

How do we know it work - part 1

Presentation of evaluation techniques, having done some in the Let's do it session and showing the results.

Sally Duensing and Katharine Lee

12.15 - 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.00 Talking science. 2

How do we know it work - part II

Presentation of evaluation techniques, having done some in the Let's do it session and showing the results.

Sally Duensing and Katharine Lee

14.00 – 15.45 Talking science 3

Re-thinking dialogue: round table and discussion

Frank Burnet, Guglielmo Maglio, Mikko Myllykoski. Discussants: Matteo Merzagora and Sara Calcagnini

What do we expect from this session:

- a) Discussion on what are the real aims of dialogue are, from the visitors' point of view, from the science centres' point of view, and from the general "science in society" perspective*
- b) Between fashion and trust: the risk of wearing out the visitors, pushing them away from engagement by being too demanding.*
- c) Training and dissemination: which means should be supported to enhance the quality of training and dissemination of good practices.*

15.45 –16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 17.30 THE GROUP ANNUAL MEETING

The organization and the structuring of THEgroup will be updated. An open debate will frame clear questions on the necessity of defining the profession of explainers and on how to evaluate the position of explainers in the organizational structure of a science centre. Open discussion on three focused issues:

- 1. Practical organization of THEgroup*
- 2. Definition of the professional status*
- 3. The explainers within the science centre organizational structure*