



AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and introduction
- 2) Your expectations
- 3) Founding Steering Committee
- 4) Past/current/future activities
- 5) Work programme
- 6) Next meeting
- 7) Misc

MINUTES

1 Welcome Thomas-Benjamin Seiler welcomed all attendees, everybody introduced themselves

Attendee	Affiliation
Agnieszka Hunka	Halmstad University, Sweden
Christopher Carmean	Kobe University, Japan
Therese Karlsson	Gothenburg University, Sweden
Laura Langan	Plymouth University, UK
Leonie Nüßer	RWTH Aachen University
Henner Hollert	RWTH Aachen University
Annegaaïke Leopold	Calidris environment, The Netherlands
Thomas Backhaus	Gothenburg University, Sweden
Silke Bollmohr	EcoTrac, Kenya
Temitope Sogbanmu	University of Lagos, Nigeria
John Toll	Windward Environmental, USA
Bart Bosveld	SETAC Europe
Roel Evens	SETAC Europe
Jen Lynch	SETAC
Tamar Schlekat	SETAC

2 Expections regarding SCIRIC work All attendees were asked to shortly tell, what their expectations are regarding SCIRIC work and what they aim for as members of the group. Below is a collection of several general and some very specific expectations that were formulated.

- Improve outreach to SETAC members
- Establish lines of communication
- Make communication systematic, learn from each other
- Talk about communication since important for SETAC, develop/define toolboxes
- Create communication guidance documents, spread SETAC
- Improve communication to public and policy makers, share experience, develop tools
- Communicate impact of stakeholder activities
- Communicate risk of and research on microplastics



3 Founding Steering Committee The founding steering committee currently consists of 7 members in total, among them 4 from academia, 1 from government, 2 from business; 3 are from Germany, 1 from Sweden, 1 from UK, 1 from Africa (representing), 1 from USA. The members are: Thomas-Benjamin Seiler (Chair), Agnieszka Hunka, Gerd Maack, Sarah Bowman, Henner Hollert, Pernille Thorbeck and Silke Bollmohr.

It is hence not yet balanced between professional areas and also not very diverse with respect to regional representation. Especially the government sector is weak, and suggestions are welcome. Annegaaike Leopold was suggest to be included as business representant. Henner Hollert suggested to invite Dan Fagin of New York University. As laid out in the SCIRIC Charter, the Steering Committee can include 2 persons from other sectors, such as journalism.

4 Past/current/future activities We had a poster corner session in Nantes, 2016, on strategies, tools and new platforms for communicating research findings and uncertainty from environmental sciences, chaired by Thomas-Benjamin Seiler, Leonie Nüßer, Mattia Meli and Erica Brockmeier. This was a very lively event with a lot of interactivity and discussion. It showed again that poster corners are a good entertainment format if the chairs do not hesitate to take the stage. The session was summarised in a Globe article in the October issue (Volume 17, Issue 10).

At Orlando we had a pure poster session, chaired by Thomas-Benjamin Seiler and Leonie Nüßer in Orlando, 2016, on ideas and concepts for dissemination and communication of research findings in times of Open Science and Science 2.0, with mediocre outcome. Some nice contributions, but low attendance by the presenters, and overall not very matching to the topic of Open Science and Science 2.0. Hence, we also decided not to write a summary on this session.

For the Brussels meeting Leonie Nüßer, Thomas-Benjamin Seiler and Jan Brant organised a session on science communication and citizen science – strategies for successful stakeholder engagements. This was very successful, with strong attendance, fantastic presentations, and a lively discussion. It is planned to submit a summary on this session for the Globe October issue 2017.

At SETAC NA Minneapolis, 2017, a session chaired by Sarah Bowman, Paul Sibley and Stuart Cohen will be organised entitled „What made you become a successful science communicator? – Tell us!“. A quite similar session will be organised by the HHRA IG with chair Brian Mulhearn, but in a different track.

For SETAC Europe Rome, 2018, Annegaaike Leopold and Thomas-Benjamin Seiler proposed a special session on a shared understanding among scientists, policy makers and the public of how to balance the inevitability of chemicals in our society and the hazard they may represent.

A general problem that we observe since years is a really low number of contributions albeit a general high interest in the topic. It was suggest during the discussion that this is due to the fact that science communication is not the main topic of most participants, and they prefer to give a presentation/show a poster on their research rather than, e.g, on their experience with science communication in a project. As a solution we discussed to organise an event on Sunday in parallel to the short courses and outside the normal session schedule. We maybe have to charge a fee for this (room costs), though. However, the EDTRA IG did this in Brussels with great success. Other ideas to increase contributions were to reach out to local universities, go outside SETAC and invite external persons to submit to the sessions, to connect to other professional organisations, such as the Society of Risk Analysis, the Society for Environmental Journalists, the National Association of Science Writers, the World Federation of Science Journalists, or to include alternative formats in



the sessions (e.g., science café). It was also discussed to propose a keynote on science and risk communication.

We (Annegaike Leopold and Thomas-Benjamin Seiler) proposed three topics as Focused Topics to SWC upon request.

5 Work programme The state of work was reviewed and the next tasks defined.

Work Group PEOPLE: Build a network of expertise and experience in science and risk communication. Lead: Thomas-Benjamin Seiler

Erica Brockmeier and Thomas-Benjamin Seiler created in SurveyMonkey a survey on the outreach activities of SETAC members. The survey was transferred to the pro account of SETAC Europe to allow for more questions and unlimited participants. Thomas will check back on a regular basis with Rebecca Bundschuh of Brussels office regarding results. The survey will also be announced through SETAC mailing. It was already promoted on the SCIRIC IG poster. The poster also included a teaser version in form of a sticky dot survey. Results of this will be evaluated in the second half of 2017 and presented in a Globe article that will discuss the SCIRIC poster and several other ideas with regards to an interactive viewers experience.

Leonie Nüßer is in the process of preparing a directory of all presenters at former SCIRIC/Scicomm sessions, including also presenters of topics with a focus on communication in other sessions and even other tracks.

Thomas-Benjamin Seiler further works on an update of the directory of SETAC members that have indicated risk communication as an expertise in their SETAC profile.

Work Group TOPIC: Analyse environmental science as a topic requiring specific concepts for successful communication. Lead: Agnieszka Hunka

The group was newly formed, led by Agnieszka Hunka. Further members are Laura Langan, Thomas-Benjamin Seiler, Annegaike Leopold and Temitope Sogbanmu. Agnieszka Hunka will discuss the tasks with the members and initiate work.

6 Next meeting The next regular SCIRIC meeting will be held at the SETAC Europe AM 2018 in Rome. It should not be on Monday directly after lunch, since this would overlap with the IG summit.

7 Misc Going global. It was discussed whether and when SCIRIC will become a global IG. In general it is possible to be proposed any time. This has to be justified, which would be easy, approved by SETAC World, and the charter adopted.

Science that matters. For testing, applying and improving our tools and concepts, once they are there, we need ideas for topics that deserve attention. All members are encouraged to suggest such topics to a member of Steering Committee or via the SCIRIC mailing list.

Topics of interest in ETC/IEAM. There is a call for suggesting topics of interest for IG-sponsored articles in ETC or IEAM. <https://www.setac.org/forums/Posts.aspx?topic=1347278>

Lauren Kristofco organises a Globe article series on IGs. The Steering Committee will discuss and come up with ideas how to shape such an article.

ACTIONS



ACTION: Thomas-Benjamin Seiler to invite Dan Fagin to the Steering Committee

ACTION: All members to suggest persons from government sector for the Steering Committee

ACTION: Steering Committee to connect to other professional organisations

ACTION: Thomas-Benjamin Seiler to ask Rebecca Bundschuh for results from the survey, draft a Globe article

ACTION: Leonie Nüßer to compile a list of all presenters at past and upcoming (SW/SNA Orlando, SE Brussels, SE Rome) communication sessions

ACTION: Thomas-Benjamin Seiler to update the directory of risk communication experts

ACTION: Agnieszka Hunka to initiate work in the TOPIC group

ACTION: All members to identify and suggest science that deserves attention