



NaT-Working "Marine Research": a research institution's contribution to education

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NaT-Working "Marine Research" is a program of the Leibniz-Institute of Marine Sciences (IFM-GEOMAR) and several secondary schools in or near Kiel, Germany. To stimulate students' interest in sciences, opportunities are offered for laboratory work and field trips, where students are able to participate in actual marine research in direct cooperation with scientists. Symposia and teacher training courses complement the practical work by providing the scientific background. The project is funded by the NaT-Working Program of the Robert Bosch Foundation.

This talk will present the program from the perspective of the research institution, addressing concerns and practical considerations that may exist in other places that are thinking of initiating similar schemes. A vital aspect for the success of this project is the emphasis on mutual benefits from these activities: the research institution offers time and resources for education, and in return it receives support from the schools for public outreach activities and even for its scientific work. Although comparatively small numbers of students can actually participate in individual projects, public presentation of the results of their work at open days or at conferences is a requirement that multiplies the impact of the efforts invested. By creating a competence network with a restricted number of participating schools, the scale of the program remains manageable.