



EuroMARC - Challenges of Marine Coring Research

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EuroMARC (Challenges of Marine Coring Research) is, apart from its intrinsic scientific value, an important contribution to the European participation in the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), whose overarching theme is “Earth, Oceans and Life: Scientific investigations of the Earth system using multiple drilling platforms and new technologies”. Obtaining key cores from the sub-seafloor is crucial to progress in the Earth and environmental sciences because the oceans regulate climate, cover the sites of fundamental geodynamic, geochemical and biological processes and preserve high resolution records of the Earth history. Crucially, European researchers working in the framework of ECORD and IMAGES/PAGES have demonstrated how sensitive the surficial environment is to solid Earth processes; biogeochemical interactions and internal feedbacks between mass and energy fluxes; chemical fluxes; physical states and biological communities. EuroMARC will further strengthen the European effort to address those scientific issues. This presentation will offer an overview of the EuroMARC programme, which is supported by national funding agencies from 10 European countries from Austria (FWF), Belgium (FWO), France (CNRS, IFREMER, Germany (DFG), Ireland (IRCSET), the Netherlands (NWO), Norway (NFR), Portugal (FCT), Switzerland (SNSF), United Kingdom (NERC), and by the European Science Foundation through contract No. ERAS-CT-2003-980409 of the European Commission, DG Research, FP6.