



The role of university research in primary and secondary education

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One of the most important roles of educators at all levels(transversally and inter-generationally between adult education, university and the primary schools, specially in sciences is to stimulate the quest for new knowledge and to help to provide the basic thinking tools of the proper scientific method. An innovative plan has been set up through the Campus Universitari de la Mediterrània that integrates the UPC, the local Education authorities and the local government in Vilanova i la Geltru, Barcelona. To coordinate university professors invited to lecture in summer courses, so their research and lecturing materials may be used as school level material (as a CD collection) and to help younger students to initiate their own research projects. During 2006-2008 a series of Environmental science seminars, group projects decided by the students or proposed jointly by the CUM were started. Examples of these works, such as Cetacean communication (with the help of the Laboratory of Bioacoustic Applications of the UPC), Shapes and patterns in the environment (CosmoCaixa Science Museum), the Rainbow, Waves and Tides, Turbulence, The growth of snails and the Fibonacci sequence, etc... will be presented, showing the importance of communicating scientific interest to the younger generations.