



## Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) in Catalonia

Angelo Camerlenghi (1,2), Isabel Cacho (1), Eva Calvo (3), Ben DeMol (4), Catalina Sureda (5), Carme Artigas (6), Miquel Vilaplana (7), Danilo Porbellini (8), and Eduard Rubio (9)

(1) University of Barcelona, Stratigraphy, Paleontology and Marine Geosciences, Barcelona, Spain (acamerlenghi@ub.edu), (2) ICREA, Barcelona, Spain, (3) Institut de Ciències del Mar, CMIMA-CSIC, Barcelona, Spain, (4) Science Park of the University of Barcelona, Spain, (5) I.E.S. "Jaume Balmes" Barcelona, Spain, (6) Institut Angeleta Ferre, Sant Cugat, Spain, (7) Institut Duc de Montblanc, Rubi, (8) CultorMEDIA, Barcelona. Spain, (9) GeoMedia, Barcelona, Spain

CATAGIFT is the acronym of the project supported by the Catalan Government (through the AGAUR agency) to support the activities of the EGU Committee on Education in Catalonia.

The objective of this project is two-fold:

1) To establish a coordinated action to support the participation of three Catalan science teachers of primary and secondary schools in the GIFT Symposium, held each year during the General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU).

2) To produce a video documentary each year on hot topics in geosciences. The documentary is produced in Catalan, Spanish and English and is distributed to the Catalan science teachers attending the annual meeting organized by the Institute of Education Sciences and the Faculty of Geology of the University together with the CosmoCaixa Museum of Barcelona, to the international teachers attending the EGU GIFT Workshop, and to other schools in the Spanish territory.

In the present-day context of science dissemination through documentaries and television programs there is a dominance of products of high technical quality and very high costs sold and broadcasted world wide. The wide spread of such products tends to standardize scientific information, not only in its content, but also in the format used for communicating science to the general public.

In the field of geosciences in particular, there is a scarcity of products that combine high scientific quality and accessible costs to illustrate aspects of the natural life of our planet Earth through the results of the work of individual researchers and / or research groups.

The scientific documentaries produced by CATAGIFT pursue the objective to support primary and secondary school teachers to critically interpret scientific information coming from the different media (television, newspapers, magazines, audiovisual products), in a way that they can transmit to their students. CataGIFT has created a series of documentaries called MARENOSTRUM TERRANOSTRA designed and produced by a team of researchers of the Marine Geosciences Research Group of the University of Barcelona, high school teachers, and professionals of multimedia communication. Key aspects of the documentaries are:

- Easy language and international accessibility (Catalan, Spanish and English language);
- Addressing of hot topics and highly debated issues in geosciences;
- Use of the proximity of researchers to the citizens (the story is told with the help of real scientists accessible by the citizen);
- Use of video footage recorded by scientists specifically trained to do so during their field work;
- Avoidance of catastrophism and excessive dramatization of scientific problems;
- Use of slow times and emphasis on the aspects of contemplation, beauty, and astonishment in the daily work of geoscientists.

MARENOSTRUM TERRANOSTRA production to date:

Ice: The historian of the Earth. 2008. DVD PAL, colour, 27 min. Directed by D. Porbellini (Cultormedia). Catalan, Castellán, English.

20 thousand years. The history of the last big natural climate change of the earth. 2009. DVD PAL, colour, 25

min. Directed by D. Porbellini (Cultormedia). Catalan, Castellán, English.

Hidden Corals. 2010 (release date May 2010). DVD PAL, colour, 30 min. Directed by D. Porbellini (Cultormedia). Catalan, Castellán, English.