



## **GeoEd - A strategy for GeoEducation in Germany**

Britta Bookhagen (1), Andreas Bergner (2), Simon Schneider (3), and Christof Ellger (4)

(1) Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, (2) Institut für Erd- und Umweltwissenschaften, Universität Potsdam, (3) Geotechnologien, (4) GeoUnion Alfred-Wegener-Stiftung

Geosciences are not an obligatory classroom topic in Germany. Furthermore, they are underrepresented compared to other natural sciences curricula, although geosciences are highly applicable to implement interdisciplinary exercises in the classroom. One important strategy to attract future geoscientists in the classroom and share the passion for science is to make geoscience more visible and support and attract teachers for interdisciplinary teaching.

To emphasize the wide range of application and the tight linkage among several disciplines, successful geoscience education needs to combine modern educational tools with applied science.

The new GeoEd initiative will set up a platform to present (existing and novel) teaching material, provide and convey teacher workshops, and connect teachers, science centers and geo-park centers. Building on existing experiences, GeoEd will partner with museums and universities to develop modern geoscientific applications to attract teachers and high-school students. A first kickoff meeting in Autumn 2013, bringing together representatives from 17 museums, science centers, teacher organizations, and universities, revealed the strong need and support for such a network. The first outcome will be the development of an online searchable database of regionally existing outreach efforts and materials. Simultaneously, further requirements for classroom teaching material will be contented (e.g. prepared lesson plans in combination with hands-on material) and professional teacher's training will be organized. Ultimately, we hope to enlighten teachers and students for the highly interdisciplinary variety of geosciences and provide links to everyday life.