



The teachers at Sea program of the Committee on Education of EGU

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"Teachers at sea" is an Educational Program making it possible for high school teachers to participate to oceanographic cruises together with the scientists.

With the support of the French Polar Institute (IPEV) and of EGU, 3 editions of this program have taken place on board the R/V Marion Dufresne during cruises PACHIDERME in 2007 (along the Coast and in the fiords of Southern Chile), AMOCINT in 2008 (in the North Atlantic Ocean), and CIRCEA (in the South China Sea in 2012)

Another edition took place in 2014, aboard the oceanographic cruise PREPARED (PREsent and PAsT flow REgime on contourite Drifts west of Spitsbergen, onboard the Norwegian Research Vessel G.O Sars from 05 to 15 June 2014. The expedition was part of the EUROFLEETS

On board, the teachers participated to all the scientific activities. In order to be fully immersed in the scientific work, the teachers also participated together with the scientists and technicians to two 4-hours shifts per day (8h total per day). During these shifts, they were involved in every step of the process of obtaining the cores, cutting, opening and labelling them, archiving, and measuring some of the physical parameters, and finally sediment description. It was possible to establish almost daily reports of the scientific progress of the cruise and to send regular logs to the participating land-based teachers in different schools mainly in Europe and in the USA, taking advantage of a list of addresses of teachers having participated to the Geosciences Information for teachers (GIFT) workshops of the European Geosciences Union. This should bring authentic science in the classroom, and indeed we received enthusiastic responses from many teachers.

Exposure to authentic science, such as that the teachers have experienced during these oceanographic cruises, may be a pivotal experience for them, causing them to change at least in part their teaching methods, possibly creating more future scientists or at least adults with positive attitudes towards science. Both the work done on board and the conferences held during the cruise stressed that there are a lot of questions for the future and there are difficulties in making predictions, a message to be transmitted to the next generation. Teachers as multipliers in educational sectors and partners for students are the best actors to make students (the next generation) aware about these problems in the school.