



GeoEd – Teaching teachers for a better GeoEducation in Germany

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In Germany, diverse activities have been developed over the last couple of years to make Geosciences more visible and support teachers for interdisciplinary teaching Geosciences in class room. This is important, because Geosciences are not an obligatory classroom topic in Germany and geo-related topics are taught primarily under a social science perspective. To overcome this situation, diverse attempts from educational organizations, industry and administration have been developed to provide adequate hands-on materials for teachers and students in elementary and secondary school. Parallel, research departments fostered their efforts to provide school materials in the course of newly designed outreach activities. In 2013, a new Germany-wide initiative GeoEd was set up as a platform to (1) link existing teaching materials and (2) provide access to these materials through teacher-focused workshops. For the workshops, GeoEd partners with natural science museums in order to profit from the experience of the museum's teaching professionals. Also, natural science museums provide own materials, which are an additional source of information for the presented geo-scientific topics. After the kickoff in fall 2013, first workshops on Rare Earth Elements have been established and an online searchable database of existing teaching materials was established. 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.