



The Earth is our lab: Ten years of geoscience school lab in Potsdam

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Starting in 2004, a geoscientific school lab for senior high school students was developed in the historical “Großer Refraktor” premises on the Telegraphenberg in Potsdam. Based on a one-day course architecture, laboratory days were developed covering singular themes:

- Magnetic field of the Earth
- Geographical Information Systems and geodata
- Gravity field of the Earth
- Geodynamics: seismology and seismics
- Geoscience math
- Geodata Brandenburg (Geological mapping with aerophotographs, remote sensing, underground data processing)

With a focus on geophysical methodologies, course days generally focused on the field work around the Telegraphenberg site while introducing into the art of handling original professional equipment. Field data were afterwards compiled, analysed and interpreted in the group. Single days could be combined as clusters of up to one week and were bookable for national and international groups of max. 25 students. The courses were taught by active scientists with the assistance of student guides as the larger groups had to be split up. The paper gives an overview over the development history of the school lab and explains the course contents, the teaching methods and several employed escorting measures. Possible impact on the professional career decisions of the students is discussed.