

From shore to open sea: a vessel size adapted educational concept for ship board training

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Teaching (post-graduate-) students and scholars under “real life” conditions on board of scientific vessels are still rare opportunities, although it has been proven to be beneficial approach for both scholars and teaching scientists / crew members. Especially for young scientists from African countries lacking the experience of sampling in marine and coastal science on board of research vessels, we developed a portfolio of different programmes adapted to the different sizes of research vessels and duration of cruise/ shiptime. This approach comprises the use of a variety of vessel types including very small vessels (eg RV Aade, RV Uthörn) with day trips in shallow areas to medium sizes research vessels (eg RV Celtic Explorer, RV Celtic voyager, RV Heincke) to trainings conducted on very large research infrastructure like the RV Polarstern. This training month on the RV Polarstern as a best practice example has been proven to be an excellent hub for sustainable and continuous networks of young scientist as well as connecting young scientists from African countries and their home institutes to German and European research institutions. These trainings were conducted in international and multidisciplinary environments aiming for multidisciplinary understanding and intercultural competence. To enlarge the impact of outreach and the visibility of these types of educational opportunities a web - portal for ocean trainings was installed. This portfolio can be used as a blueprint for other similar projects for marine education at sea.