

## Pressemitteilung

### Take Off with CALMARO

#### Oceanographers from Kiel combine forward-looking research with the objective of promotion of young researchers

*A network of 13 research institutes and 4 privately owned companies from 8 nations, with 2.7 million Euro funding by the EU, are joining forces to address pressing questions on the future of marine ecosystems as part of an advanced training programme for early stage and young experienced researchers called CALMARO (Calcification by Marine Organisms). CALMARO will start on 1<sup>st</sup> of October and the Leibniz Institute of Marine Sciences (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel will be coordinator of this project.*

Calcium carbonate is one of the most important chemical compounds in nature. Human bones, the skeleton of fishes, seashells, whole coral reefs – all are built by calcium carbonate. Therefore, the ability to deposit calcium carbonate is essential for many organisms. Varying environmental conditions - increasing temperature or acidification of the oceans caused by increased carbon dioxide emissions – could damage these processes.

What will be the possible consequences for marine ecosystems? This is only one exigent question out of many that the international research network CALMARO will focus on. “The network offers a foundation for a successful start into a career for junior scientists, thanks to the international cross-linked training”, emphasises Dr. Nicole Schmidt from IFM-GEOMAR, coordinator of the project.

For four years, twelve young biologists, chemists and geoscientists from eight different nations, most of them early stage researchers, will analyse the formation of calcium carbonate by sea dwelling organisms and their dependence on environmental conditions. Two senior scientists from the CALMARO network will co-supervise each researcher together. “The senior scientists will always come from a different country than that of the early stage researcher. Thus the young scientists will get to know several institutes right away”, the coordinator of the project explains. In addition CALMARO provides the participants with money for expeditions, even to institutions which do not belong to the network.

Periodic workshops on specific topics and annual meetings of all participants will deepen the contacts and will be the platform for an extraordinary flow of knowledge.

A fundamental characteristic of the project is the collaboration with four private small and medium-sized enterprises. The young scientists will be able to experience the practical application of research at an oyster farm in France, at an aquafarm in Norway as well as at two enterprises in Germany that deal with coastal consulting and production of instruments for analysing CO<sub>2</sub>. “Hence the participants will discover that a fascinating academic topic has an immense applied meaning for the future”, according to Dr. Schmidt.

CALMARO will run for four years. The European Community provides the project with € 2.7 Million altogether. Besides IFM-GEOMAR, as the coordinator, the Integrated School of Ocean Sciences (ISOS) of the Excellence Cluster “Future Ocean” Kiel will take an active part in the organisation of the training program.

#### Further information:

The following scientific institutions build the network of CALMARO: Leibniz Institute of Marine Sciences (IFM-GEOMAR) in Kiel, University of Bergen (Norway), University of Southampton (Great Britain), National Oceanographic Centre Southampton (Great Britain), the Netherlands

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*Das Leibniz-Institut für Meereswissenschaften ist Mitglied der*

Institute of Ecology (Yerseke), Paris-Sud XI University , (Orsay, France), Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), Center for Tropical Marine Ecology, (Bremen, Germany), French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (Ifremer) (France), Graz University of Technology (Graz, Austria), Phuket Marine Biological Center PMBC (Phuket, Thailand), The Marine Biological Association (Plymouth, Great Britain), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)

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**Links:**

[www.calmaro.eu](http://www.calmaro.eu)

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