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Scientists going cross-border in search of young talents

About 50 scientists from six countries will meet in Warnemünde on March 21st and 22nd to figure out good strategies for getting teenagers interested in a scientific career. The Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research will host the workshop in celebration of the WebLab project that will come to closure in 2013. The WebLab gives school students from the whole Baltic Sea region the opportunity to slip into the shoes of marine researchers and get inspiration from using web2.0-based e-Learning offers.

The workshop provides a suitable frame for scientists, science communicators, and school representatives to exchange experiences and discuss various different approaches for motivating young people. Among the participants are also school students from the Christophorus Gymnasium in Rostock who are interested in establishing international cooperations. The two-day conference also aims at generating new joint project ideas that benefit from cross-border synergies.

Key speakers will be Anna-Maria Giannopoulou from the European Commission (Directorate B) and Claudia Immisch from the European Office of the Leibniz community. The organizers hope to initiate a cross-border network that aims at recruiting young talents and generates joint projects for reaching that goal.

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The IOW is a member of the Leibniz community that comprises of 86 research institutes and scientific infrastructural institutions at present. The members cover a wide scope of fields ranging from natural sciences, engineering and environmental sciences to economies, social and special studies as well as humane disciplines and arts. The Leibniz community is supported by the federal republic as well as the federal states of Germany. A total of 16.800 employees work for the Leibniz institutes, of which 7.800 are scientists, 3.300 of which count as junior scientific staff. The total budget of all Leibniz institutes amounts to more than 1.4 billion Euros, which includes roughly 330 million Euros third-party funds per year. (www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de)