

**Identification of the researcher home institution:** Dr. Daniela Schmeinck - University of Cologne - Institute of Primary Science and Social Sciences

**Country:** Germany

**Dates:** February 12, 2020, to February 13, 2020.

**Course program**

“Teaching Science to Primary School Children”

From the pedagogical and didactic points of view, primary school advocates the challenging task of assisting children in orienting themselves in the world, understanding their environment, helping them to participate in shaping their surroundings, learning systematically and reflectively and acquiring the prerequisites for later learning. The contents and methods used in the teaching of General Studies therefore have to be adequate to meet present needs and future demands, they have to lay the foundations of life long education and promote their development by understanding children to learn and rewarding them with the enjoyment of learning, knowing and shaping their life. The integrative understanding of the didactics of the subject teaching differs fundamentally from the usual didactics subject in the subjects.

As part of the courses, students learn to reflect on science and teaching science in primary school. The participants are acquiring subject-specific skills that are considered fundamental to a professionally taught subject:

- Ability for didactic reconstruction.
- Recognizing and reflecting problems in connection with the tension between didactic, child-specific and scientific knowledge.
- Appropriation and teaching of subject-specific topics as well as the didactic and methodological reflection of their teaching implementation.

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Dr. Schmeinck has experience in science education and current director of the University of Cologne Institute of Primary Science and Social Sciences (Information: <http://www.sachunterricht.uni-koeln.de/11658.html>), where she works in teaching and learning processes related to scientific content, in Primary Education, as well as project coordinator NaWit As (Information: <http://nawitas.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=2>). NaWit As is a cooperation project between the University of Cologne and the Ministry of Education of North Rhine, Germany, in partnership with the Deutsche Telekom Foundation, which involves the production and availability of materials for teachers as well as work proposals with teachers and children.

In the course, it is expected that the dialogue will return to possible teaching practices within this same perspective, opening, with the participants, new possibilities for thinking about working with children, especially in the area of Formal Education. It is noteworthy that NaWit As has a working component with scientific literacy and digital literacy.