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Throughout last week, we held the first BASE Sampling Workshop at the [BGR core repository](#) Spandau. Spandau is a western „suburb“ of Berlin although the locals would see it the other way because their city is older. 41 scientists were in attendance, 43 research projects are currently registered, and 24 sampling plans were filed (and filled!) during the workshop.



After a few hours of data review and presentation of plans, we went into the backyard to the cores, first for inspection, then marking, then sampling. From the second day on, three rock saws were humming and screaming, as people queued with their samples.



We were lucky with the weather. Except for a compact front with wind and a bit of rain which came through Wednesday morning, we had pleasant late-summer temperature all week and plenty of sunlight. This allowed us to spread out all of the 503 core boxes (each containing 4 – 6 m of core) in the spacious parking lots. The 1885-vintage military stables provided a wonderful backdrop. Dr. Ehling, the custodian, gave us a tour through the extensive Prussian and GDR rock, mineral, and fossils collections. The supermarkets next door filled all our needs, even for those whose baggage had been lost.



Cindy loaded all images onto the [gallery](#).

We now have excellent data sets, all of which are (or will be shortly) online: Lithologic columns at various scales, core photos, high-resolution scans of many core boxes, an extensive geochemical reference data set (XRF, XRD), spectacular hyperspectral data and geophysical logs. The availability of these high-quality data sets challenges us to interdisciplinary integration !



Most everyone, I believe, went home with heavy baggage; some will have their samples shipped.

Some science team members could not attend, for various reasons. For those (and those who need more material), we will schedule a second sampling workshop in a few months time.



Frohes Forschen !  
Christoph and the SMB