

## **Pedagogical Concept: Submarines**

The working group at the University of Würzburg was based on voluntary sessions. At first single topics (submarine war, technical aspects of the submarine, experiences of submarine sailors, memoirs and their treatment of experiences during the First World War) were handed to specific teams that consisted of 2-3 students. In a first step the students were demanded to create bibliographies with regard to their topic of choice. After a preliminary check by the supervisor the groups began to work with this bibliography to excerpt and collect important information. In this phase of the project the students were supposed to mainly work on their own.

In a second session the results of the working groups were presented. Some aspects were discussed in more detail due to this meeting. The excerpts and notes were made available for the group members. Thereupon the group supervisor could start the composition of the final contribution. In the end our contribution is based on the results of the single working groups.

By the work on the project, especially in the form of smaller working units, the students should gain several competences:

- 1) bibliographical experience by research in international databases
- 2) analytical competence for the reading of German and English primary sources
- 3) a competence for source criticism to be able to evaluate primary sources (e.g. memoirs)
- 4) writing competence, since complex contexts needed to be expressed in short notes

All in all the students were able to gather several experiences by working in smaller units. They learned how to answer concrete scientific questions and how to ultimately integrate their answers into a larger project.