

## Scientific report

(Application Reference No. 4250)

### Short Visit Grant to Geology Museum of University of Oslo

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**Host:** Prof. Felix M. Gradstein, Geology Museum, University of Oslo. PO Box 1172 Blindern. N-0318 Oslo, Norway. Phone: +47-22851663, E-mail: felix.gradstein@nhm.uio.no

**Proposed project work:** To examine the existing data and discuss a potential EARTHTIME-EU proposal on '*Evolution and chronology of Early Jurassic planktonic foraminifera in order to improve the Time Scale (Creator) data base*'.

**Time of the visit:** September 4 to 8, 2011

**Description of the work:** Due to the fact that existing record on the early planktonic foraminifera, which give some of the most accurate biozonations for the Cretaceous to Neogene Time Scale, is quite incomplete and inconclusive below the Cretaceous, we decided to explore the possibilities of studying this subject in more detail. In order to prepare a new project proposal on the subject, we had exploratory discussions based on existing literature, studied the material in the collections of the Geological Museum of the University of Oslo, and discussed the working plan.

**Description of the main results:** Micropaleontologic assemblages with type material of early planktonic foraminifera from Portugal, Poland, Canada, France were examined. A collection of published papers was also prepared for further use.

We agreed on an action plan which includes:

- examination of prospective sections around the world;
- establishing of a research network by making a list of potential collaborators, both from the academic environment and industry;
- establishing the approach methods (e.g. micropaleontology, biostratigraphy, biology, DNA, paleoenvironments & sequence stratigraphy etc.)
- making a provisional budget and finding the possible funding resources (e.g. industry, GTS next etc.).
- proposing a new project with potentially high scientific impact
- establishing of at least two PhD subjects and selection of proper candidates;

**Future collaboration:** Both the applicant and host will be part of the research network which will be established for the newly proposed project.

**Projected publications:** No publications are planned at this stage.

**Other comments:** A new project on biostratigraphy and early evolution of planktonic foraminifera would be highly appreciated by the stratigraphic community and could generously fit the targets of the EARTHTIME-EU programme.

September 19, 2011

prof. Sorin Filipescu

