



## **The onset of the MSC at the Atlantic side of the Rifian Corridor**

Tanja Kouwenhoven (1), Alistair Cutler (2), and Rachel Flecker (3)

(1) Dept. of Geology, Utrecht University, The Netherlands (t.j.kouwenhoven@uu.nl), (2) Network Stratigraphic Consulting Ltd., United Kingdom (Alistair@network-stratigraphic.co.uk), (3) BRIDGE, University of Bristol, United Kingdom (ggxrf@bristol.ac.uk)

The onset of the Messinian Salinity Crisis (MSC) as documented by benthic foraminifera in the Mediterranean area is not quite as clearly reflected at the Atlantic side of the Rifian Corridor. Mediterranean data indicate an early, important step in the restriction of deeper waters around 7.167 Ma; progressive isolation of the Mediterranean towards the MSC being, among others, related to astronomical cyclicality.

Land-based sections located near Rabat (Morocco) at Ain El Beida and Oued Akrech, together with the nearby Salé Briqueterie core represent a continuous stratigraphy across the Tortonian and Messinian into the Pliocene, providing an opportunity to compare benthic faunal patterns at both sides of the Rifian Corridor.

We present quantitative benthic foraminiferal data of this composite stratigraphic section with the aim to discuss the reflection of the onset of the MSC at the Atlantic side of the Rifian Corridor, and inferences in terms of Mediterranean-Atlantic circulation.