

Project: Paleogeography of the Paratethys: Relation to hydrocarbon source rock quality (European Reintegration Grant - 7th Framework Programme)

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Project description:

The project aims to reconstruct the Oligocene to Early Miocene palaeogeographical and environmental evolution for the Central and Eastern Paratethys and their relations to hydrocarbon source rock quality.

To accomplish this goal, the marine and estuarine successions of the Maikop series of the Greater Caucasus, the Schöneck Formation of the Alpine Foreland Basin (Fig. 1), the Tard Clay of the Pannonian Basin (Fig. 2), the Menilite Shales of the Carpathian Foredeep, and of the Bulgarian Ruslar Formation will be studied using a multi-disciplinary research approach.

The results are expected to constrain the influence and interaction of the controlling factors on changes in biological communities, water exchange and formation of natural resources in intra-continental basins. Reconstruction of the thermal evolution of hydrocarbon source rocks and of charging events will enhance our understanding on the pre-conditions and generation of petroleum deposits within the prospective areas. The results are expected to contribute to the understanding of the petroleum systems and, therefore, increase the successful exploration and sustainable exploitation of hydrocarbons.



Fig.1: Autochthonous phosphate nodules in silty marl matrix of Schöneck Formation. Site Oberschauersberg 1

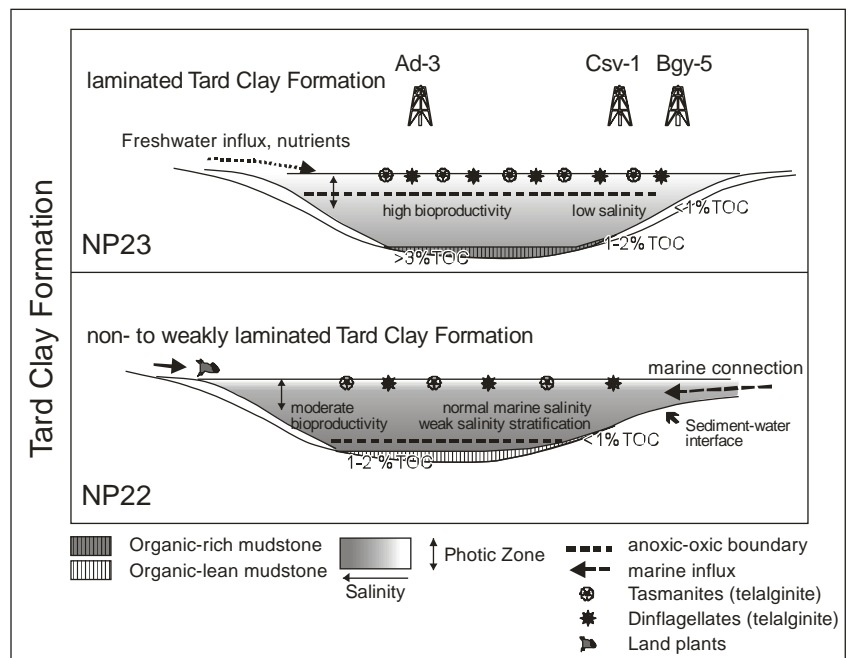


Fig. 2: Cartoon illustrating two stages of the evolution of the Hungarian Paleogene Basin during deposition of the Tard Clay Formation (approximate positions of wells are projected without scale)