

Introduction

"EUG 9" in Strasbourg, in March, was a landmark meeting for EUROPROBE – four days of symposia, with PANCARDI, GEORIFT, TESZ, URALIDES, EUROBRIDGE and SVEKALAPKO presenting their wide range of ongoing research. Congratulations, project leaders and all those who contributed to the meeting! "EUROPROBE 1996 – Lithosphere Dynamics, Origin and Evolution of Continents" was available at the EGS Booth and information about our pan-European programme is now circulating effectively world-wide.

The EUROPROBE workshop programme for 1997, you will find on the back page. As usual, the meetings tend to cluster in the autumn after the summer's fieldwork. We have had two venues so far this year – TIMPEBAR in St. Petersburg at the Ocean Geology Institute and "Earth's Upper Mantle Structure" at the Vernadsky Geological Museum in Moscow. The first meeting (in February), with its focus on the enigmatic High Arctic lithosphere and terranes around the Barents and Kara Seas, is growing fast. A variety of talks about the geology and geophysics of the on- and offshore areas were combined with preparation of research operations, starting in 1997 in the Timan-Pechora-Polar Urals and including Taimyr and maybe Novaya Zemlya and Severnaya Zemlya in 1998/99. In mid April, EUROPROBE focused on the mantle in combination with a NATO workshop. The latter mainly concerned the very long range nuclear-sourced (PNE), seismic profiling and the former provided EUROPROBE integration of petrological data with the geophysics. The meeting attracted over 40 scientists from 13 western countries and c. 50 colleagues from Russia, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan. It provided a strong stimulation for further research on these exceptional recordings, including their use in the implementation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Some years ago, EUROPROBE's German colleagues obtained funding to equip GEON in Moscow with equipment to help preserve and reprocess the unique seismic PNE data base and it was this organization that was responsible for the Moscow venue. More recently, Italian colleagues applied successfully to INTAS to build up a semi-automatic digitising system for DSS data in both Kiev and at Spetzgeofysika (near Moscow). And additional good news for our friends in the former SU is another successful INTAS application – a strategic action by French colleagues to supply Geoscience literature to leading institutes in several eastern countries.

During the winter, TOR (Teleseismic Tomography over the TESZ), headed from Copenhagen by Søren Gregersen, has been operating to everyone's satisfaction, recording numerous earthquakes on the other side

of the globe. These data will provide an image of the deep lithosphere across the TESZ from Germany, via Denmark, to Sweden in a detail that has never previously been achieved. Taken together with the recent DEKORP marine deep CDP profiling in the southern Baltic Sea and the land profile from Rügen to the Harz Mountains, we are acquiring a body of seismic data that will greatly improve interpretations of the Trans-European Suture Zone from western to eastern Europe. And as TOR winds down in April, POLONAISE takes over in May – a vast refraction / wide angle reflection / and deep near vertical reflection operation, centred in northern Poland over the Polish Basin, spanning the entire TESZ, from the craton in Lithuania to the Variscides in Germany. This will be one of Europe's largest seismic operations ever, with c. 650 seismographs deployed, the majority from USA and Canada. Poland (Alexander Guterch), Denmark (Hans Thybo) and USA (Randy Keller) lead the project, with several other European countries participating.

And whilst most of our geophysicists are getting together on major operations, EUROPROBE's geologists and geochemists are scattered across Europe from SW-Iberia to the Urals, combining their energies in the project target areas, deciphering the geological histories that have resulted in the deep geophysical signatures. In particular, in the Urals, the research base is expanding fast, with a German (DFG) programme getting underway and the EU-TMR URO-Network in full swing. Other TMR applications are being processed and we are optimistic that both in these and the many INTAS projects, the EUROPROBE design of collaborative science will be successful.

GEORIFT under the leadership of Randell Stephenson (Amsterdam) has been publishing strongly in recent years. This issue of EUROPROBE News provides us with an update on the research and the plans for new seismic investigations of the Dniepr-Donets Rift.

The importance of ESF's role in organising and coordinating its member institution's contributions to the EUROPROBE workshop programme, secretariate, etc., cannot be overestimated. The ESF support is scheduled to extend to the end of 1998 and we have applied for extension into the next century. Our application was favourably received by ESF's Life and Environmental Sciences Committee and we are at present supplying the latter with supplementary information, as basis for continuation through 2001.

On that cheerful note, we wish you all a successful summer's field and laboratory work and, of course, some relaxing holidays!

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