

# Introduction

Congratulations Europrobeans! On 28th November, the General Assembly of the European Science Foundation approved our plans to continue EUROPROBE into the next century. The ESF member organisations, supporting our ESF programme, have agreed to extend their sponsorship until the end of 2001 and the total annual budget will be somewhat higher than at present. There is a consensus that EUROPROBE research is good, not only for lithosphere geoscience in itself, but also for the international integration of Earth Science, in general.

ESF programmes are not usually extended in this manner and it is greatly to the credit of the EUROPROBE research teams, project leaders and scientific steering committee that this has been achieved. Success breeds success. New strategies are under discussion and we welcome feedback. Our East European partners are encouraging us to widen our horizons.

We have just finished the last workshop for 1997, SVEKALAPKO in Lammi (near Helsinki), Finland; another fine meeting with about eighty participants, including many from Russia and, of course, Finland. This project is moving into an exciting phase, as the general results of INTAS supported collaboration bear fruit and the ambitious plans for reflection seismic profiling, deep lithosphere tomography, and magnetotelluric probing come close to realisation. This part of the Fennoscandian Shield, with its great variations in crustal thickness (locally 60 km), is one of the best places on Earth for studying late Archaean and early Palaeoproterozoic processes and their interrelationships; at the same time it offers unique opportunities to investigate the lower lithosphere below a craton and the transition down into the asthenosphere.

SVEKALAPKO was the seventh EUROPROBE workshop for 1997 (see p. 14/15, EUROPROBE Summary Report). This year, we also organised specific contributions to international conferences, in particular EUG 9 and IASPEI. The Europrobe Scientific Steering Committee has decided (Potsdam, October 1997) that next year's workshops will, in general, be organised in conjunction with (i.e. before or after) major international conferences. The conferences will provide an opportunity for presentation of EUROPROBE research and the workshops can focus on integration (geological, geochemical and geophysical) of the project science, with much use of posters for discussions of on-going activities. Consult the back page of this newsletter to see the preliminary arrangements for

1998. And look ahead to EUG 10 (Easter 1999); Sweden is organising the scientific programme and we have a fine opportunity to show what EUROPROBE has been doing during the ESF-sponsored years.

1997 has been an excellent year for all our lithosphere disciplines. The TESZ project has obtained support from the EU TMR programme for a post-doc network (PACE, see page 2), and EUROPROBE now has three of these, much coveted networks. Both SVEKALAPKO and TIMPEBAR have new INTAS projects (note that INTAS has announced new opportunities for applications, with a deadline in mid March 98). EUROBRIDGE completed the last lap of the DSS profiling (from the Belarus Republic to the Ukraine) and POLONAISE gathered a vast array of seismic instruments and people in central Europe for investigating the deep TESZ. The TOR seismic tomography transect across the TESZ, from Germany via Denmark to Sweden, gathered data during the 1996-97 winter and eventually ended the recording campaign in the late spring this year. It has been a hectic year!

On the organisational front, we note some changes. Enric Banda (Barcelona), one of the leaders of EUROPROBE in the early days and, before that, in the European Geotraverse, has accepted the position of ESF General Secretary, succeeding Peter Fricker in the middle of 1998; Enric Banda has therefore retired from the ESSC. And another major "loss" for EUROPROBE of a wise advisor and a good friend has been the retirement of Michele Fratta from the Earth Science leadership at ESF. Michele has moved back to southern climes. We thank him warmly for his guidance over the years; maybe it's time we had a workshop in Italy! Carol Williams at ESF has taken over from Michele and is already well versed in EUROPROBE activities. Carol's strong background in marine geophysics, will no doubt be an asset for the years to come.

With regard to the EUROPROBE News, we have decided to change the distribution from next year onwards (see page 8). The Newsletters will be on the WWW from January '98 and only those who cannot download them will get a copy from Uppsala, on request.

Christmas is coming and there is much to celebrate. Best wishes everyone and thanks for a job really well done. We have an exciting year ahead!

*David G. Gee*