Introduction

Half a year has flown by since the last EUROPROBE Newsletter and this one will find most of you either in the field or on holidays. I'm writing now in a Russian AN72 plane, climbing out of St. Petersburg, on the way to Dixon, on the first leg of a journey to Arctic Siberia –Taimyr. This enigmatic mountain belt, connecting westwards across the Kara Sea to Novaya Zemlya, is a target for EUROPROBE's TIMPEBAR project and the Swedish Polar Research Committee. The Taimyr International Expedition 1998 is concerned with both the lithospheric evolution and the deglaciation history of this remote region. The bedrock team of about fifteen geologists is composed of Swedes, Russians, Norwegians and Brits –a reflection of the true spirit of EUROPROBE cooperation. Colleagues from the home country work for both the Ministry and the Academy and know the west Siberian Arctic well; so our mission –to better understand the Taimyr orogen and its relationship to the Uralides –promises to be an exciting experience.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, EUROPROBE will be sponsored by ESF member organisations at least until the end of 2001. We have a well-established collaborative operational mode that is proving effective for projects both large and small; we expect it to live on after our on-going projects have ended. What should EUROPROBE be targeting in the next decade? This question is the prime concern of the ESSC and we urge you to participate by sending suggestions to the Uppsala Secretariat.

We also anticipate changes in the EUROPROBE leadership and indeed already faced with a tricky predicament –the result of another EUROPROBE success! Hermann Zeyen has been appointed to the professorship in Geophysics at Université de Paris-Sud and starts his new job in early September. Warmest congratulations, Hermann; what a good example for the next EUROPROBE Science Co-ordinator. We expect to be advertising this position in the autumn and improvise until we get the right person.

The EUROPROBE workshops for 1998 are all fixed (see back page) and most are in the final stages of preparation. Only URALIDES people have already had their rendezvous for the year; they met in Moscow in mid February immediately prior to the 6th Zonenshain Conference. The workshop was primarily concerned with information about on-going EUROPROBE research and the programme was dominated by short poster presentations and lengthy discussions. The URALIDES project has an on-going EU-TMR network and has applied to INTAS for further support of Russian colleagues. Reprocessing and interpretation of the URSEIS and ESRU deep near-vertical reflection seismic profiles continues and a wide range of papers are in press. The project in its present form is scheduled to end in the year 2000. However, the many research partnerships will carry on well into the next century.

Looking ahead to the workshop programme for the next year, some of the projects are planning to combine venues and this will certainly work well for TESZ and PANCARDI. The planning of EUG10 (28th March to 1st April 99) is dominating our thoughts in Uppsala at the moment. Sweden is running the organisation of the scientific programme and we are designing interdisciplinary symposia that will give EUROPROBE colleagues ample opportunity to present the results of recent research. These symposia will not, as previously, target single projects, but rather, seek to bring together a wide range of interests, e.g. with the focus on Palaeozoic orogenic processes integrating Variscides, TESZ and Uralides research. EUG10 is going to be a fine venue for the whole EUROPROBE community; don't forget the deadline for abstracts –1st November 98. Let's all plan to be there. Look for sources of funding not only for yourselves, but also for support of our Central and East European partners.

Another meeting of importance to keep in mind is the next International Geological Congress (IGC) in Rio de Janeiro in August 2000. At that venue we will have a special session highlighting EUROPROBE science. This will provide a good opportunity to both communicate our own research and learn about a new and very different continent.

Funding lithosphere research is not easy today and the future doesn't look much brighter. The EU Framework V programme is much concerned with sustainable development, with little regard for sustainable resources (the only exception being water). But EUROPROBE has been particularly successful with the TMR programme, both Marie-Curie Fellowships and post-doc networks. These will be worth pursuing vigorously in the years to come.

The newsletter is dominated by EUROPROBE activities on the East-European Craton. EUROBRIDGE is now focussing on the Ukrainian segment of the Baltic-Black Sea transect and SVEKALAPKO is preparing for the new teleseismic tomography experiments of the coming winter. And POLONAISE leaders, after a notably successful 3D deep seismic project along the southwestern edge of the craton in 1997 (see EOS Transactions, AGU, 79 (June 30, 1998), pp.302,305), are going ahead with the planning of an even more ambitious experiment in the year 2000, reaching from the craton through the Carpathians into the Pannonian Basin.

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