

EUROPROBE leadership (1991—2001) — V.I. Starostenko

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This short paper is meant to be a brief 90th birthday celebration of Academician Vitaly Starostenko's fundamental contributions to EUROPROBE (a solid Earth integrated multidisciplinary programme of the European Science Foundation in the 1990s). Several major workshops of EUROPROBE projects and themes were held in Ukraine under Vitaly's leadership and guidance, not to mention innumerable visits of many, many scientists to Ukraine, especially to the Institute of Geophysics, enabling numerous collaborative scientific works and scientific publications. Two major geophysical acquisition programmes in Ukraine were developed and executed under the EUROPROBE umbrella.

Key words: V.I. Starostenko, Ukraine geology and geophysics, EUROPROBE, European Science Foundation.

Introduction. EUROPROBE grew out of the International Lithosphere Programme in the late 1980s and was supported by the European Science Foundation (ESF) from 1992—2001. It was aimed at investigating continental geodynamics and sought to develop a new generation of major multidisciplinary projects across Europe from the Ural Mountains to the Iberian Peninsula and through geological time from the Archaean to the Present and that these would enhance a common understanding of the tectonic evolution of the European crust and mantle.

EUROPROBE was driven by two scientific priorities — excellence and East-Central-West European collaboration anchored in partnerships, first and foremost between individual scientists, but also between geoscientific institutions. ESF financial support was directed primarily to define, develop and implement projects to accomplish this by means of a series of scientific workshops with oversight of the EUROPROBE Scientific Steering Committee (ESSC, populated by scientists involved with EUROPROBE), which met with and reported to the EUROPROBE

Management Committee (EMC, populated by research managers from countries participating in EUROPROBE).

The launch meeting of EUROPROBE was held in November in Jabłonna, Poland (near Warszawa). Jabłonna began the process of identifying critical themes in which a series of more targeted EUROPROBE projects were to be defined. Four overarching themes were developed: Trans-European Suture Zone (TESZ), the Uralides and Variscides (U&V), Intraplate Tectonics and Basin Dynamics (ITBD), and Deep Europe (DE). All of these themes had some pertinence to the geology of Ukraine and ITBD and DE became important themes in which many Ukrainian Earth scientists participated. Two EUROPROBE projects in particular (of ten in total across all of Europe) were defined and carried out largely or partly within Ukraine: «GeoRift» (ITBD) and «Eurobridge» (DE), respectively. GeoRift and Eurobridge culminated in two of the largest geophysical field-acquisition programmes that took place under the EUROPROBE umbrella: Eurobridge'97 (e.g., [Bogdanova, Gorbachev, 1998]) and DOBRE

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(e.g., [DOBRReflection-2000..., 2002]), testament to the vision and drive of Academician V.I. Starostenko.

Jablonna workshop (November 1991) — author's recollection. It was my first time in Eastern Europe and I was still learning much about Europe and Europeans, not to mention European geology. Warsaw was wonderfully intriguing and I was privileged to participate in a field excursion to the Holy Cross Mountains, travelling by train to Kielce and back. The Jablonna workshop programme was fascinating to the «ⁿth degree»: its topics, its people, the gentle clash of cultures and beautiful minds and people. I was exposed to ideas and attitudes and diverse approaches from every corner but one delegation at the workshop more than any other — and one person at the workshop more than any other — grabbed my attention and interest. Among the cacophony of many discursive discussions about basins and mountains and cratons, the Moho and sutures, seismogenesis and mineralisation there was one simple straightforward uncomplicated proposal made directly to me paraphrased as «we invite you to come and visit our country and institution and we want to show you with pride what we've done and show you with curiosity and imagination what we can still do and do

it together». This was the Ukrainian delegation and the words paraphrased are those of Vitaly Starostenko.

Peter Ziegler, Marjorie Wilson, and I arrived in Kyiv about two months later, in February 1992. Peter, who passed away in 2013, was a famous Swiss geologist whose career was spent mainly with Shell Oil all over the world, an author of numerous books and atlases and was a kind of EUROPROBE godfather. Marjorie, who I believe is comfortably retired in England at this time, was a professor at Leeds University and the author of the paramount English language textbook in igneous petrology at that time, when igneous rocks were being increasingly recognized as important for understanding tectonics and lithosphere processes in intraplate lithosphere settings. And me: I was just a (relatively) young punk who made some connections at Jablonna that would end up defining much of the rest of my career.

I believe we may have been the first western European scientists to make a scientific visit to any of the former Soviet Union countries after the launch of EUROPROBE at Jablonna. Peter, Marjorie, and I had a magical week of science, horilka, pickled tomatoes, sausage, and rather good bread with our hosts from the Institute of Geophysics. I have no photos

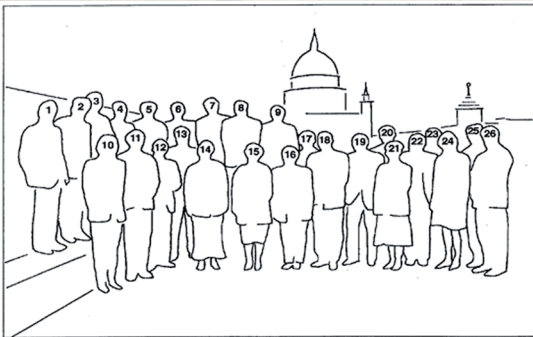


a



b

Fig. 1. Vitaly Starostenko and Peter Ziegler in Crimea (1996) (a) and Marjorie Wilson and the author in 1992, location uncertain but seems likely to be the «boulder field» at the Institute of Geology in Minsk, which was visited some months after the February, 1992, visit to Kyiv (b).



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Fig. 2. Participants of the joint EUROPROBE Scientific Steering and Management committees in Potsdam in 1997. St. Nikolaikirche is seen in the background.

(or at least I couldn't find any) of what happened during this profound week of my life, the meetings, the sight-seeing, of course the people and the science plans, but Fig. 1 shows Peter Ziegler with Vitaly and Marjorie Wilson with me on EUROPROBE travel on different occasions in the early 1990s. Both came back to Kyiv with me several times during this time (e.g. Fig. 3) and Marjorie accompanied me to Lviv from Kyiv and back by train on one such visit. I became a frequent visitor from February 1992 until October 2019 and it's my sincere hope and dream to return at least once more to a free, safe and prosperous Ukraine in the nearest future.

EUROPROBE Scientific Steering and Management committees. The EUROPROBE Scientific Steering Committee (ESSC) comprised EUROPROBE theme leaders as well as most project leaders. The EUROPROBE Management Committee (EMC) comprised senior representatives of all the national funding agencies of European countries sup-

porting EUROPROBE financially as well as representatives from Ukraine and Russia, Vitaly Starostenko being the representative of Ukraine. Joint meetings of ESSC and EMC initially took place each year in Strasbourg, where ESF was headquartered, and later in Vienna (1996), Potsdam (1997), Prague (1998), Paris (1999), Barcelona (2000), Thessaloniki (2000), Saint Petersburg (2001), and Strasbourg in 2001. Vitaly Starostenko participated in these meetings as the representative of Ukraine for EUROPROBE. Fig. 2 shows the participants of the 1997 meeting in Potsdam, including Vitaly at the far left-hand side.

EUROPROBE committees — author's recollection. Vitaly Starostenko was a distinguished member of the ESSC and EMC and I had the honour and responsibility to be a member of the ESSC as leader of the ITBD theme. For this I strongly relied on EUROPROBE «godfather» Peter Ziegler behind the scenes. Peter was an adjunct faculty member of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam,



Fig. 3. Group photo taken at the EUROPROBE ITBD workshop at Vorzel, Ukraine, in October 1994. Academician Starostenko is standing in the centre right part of the photo with Professor Nick Kusznir (Liverpool University, now retired) to his right and directly in front of Professor Marjorie Wilson (Leeds University, now retired). Readers will recognise many of the other participants. The author seems to be missing; he did not take the photo so it is a mystery what he may have been up to.



Fig. 4. Group photo taken at the EUROPROBE ITBD workshop at Gursuf, Ukraine, in November 1996. Academician Starostenko is standing in the front right part of the photo. Readers will recognise many of the other participants, with Professor David Gee (Uppsala, University, deceased 2023) prominent at the centre top of the photo with his signature Tirolian (?) hat. The top of the author's head can be seen a metre or two to David Gee's right. The photo was taken at the Nikitsky Botanical Garden, near Yalta.



Fig. 5. The closing ceremonies of the EUROPROBE ITBD workshop at Gurzuf, Ukraine, in October 2000. Vitaly Starostenko has presented gifts of Crimean wine and a bundle of oblate red onions to the author.

where I was based at the time and, besides his invaluable geological knowledge, he was a fine source of jokes and amusing anecdotes.

EUROPROBE committee members included some of the most powerful men and women in Europe when it came to national administration and disbursement of funding for the European Earth science. But they clearly liked the concept of EUROPROBE very much from what they heard from the scientist committee members who put on a great show for them every time we met. That was easy to do with so many EUROPROBE colleagues in so many countries. One notable memory that I have is that these meetings together represented a decade of fine hospitality and pan-European culinary experience for me. Although, to be fair, accommodation and cuisine were more exemplary when meetings were organised by the EMC, with its more southern European (and, particularly, French and Italian) affinity than the ESSC meetings, which were organized in more of a spartan northern Scandinavian style.

EUROPROBE workshops in Ukraine.

Ukraine hosted four EUROPROBE scientific workshops during the peak EUROPROBE years of 1994 to 2000. These were ITBD/Georift workshops in Vorzel in October 1994

and Gurzuf in November 1996, a Eurobridge workshop in Vorzel in September 1998 and a joint Georift/Eurobridge workshop in Gurzuf in October 2000. These workshops were led by Academician Starostenko and organised by him with the enormous support, of course, of his colleagues and associates at the Institute of Geophysics and Academy of Sciences (and no doubt elsewhere in Ukraine too). Group photos of participants at the Vorzel 1994 and Gurzuf 1996 meetings are included as Figs. 3 and 4. Unfortunately, the author has no equivalent photos for the other two EUROPROBE workshops in Ukraine.

The 1994 and 1996 ITBD workshops led to the publication of special issues of the journal *Tectonophysics*, which were co-edited by Vitaly Starostenko [Stephenson et al., 1996, 1999], as well as a special issue derived from the 2000 meeting in Gurzuf [Stephenson, 2004]. The Eurobridge workshop in Vorzel in 1997 and joint workshop Gurzuf in 2000 contributed to papers in one *Tectonophysics* special issue [Bogdanova et al., 2001]. Many papers in these workshop collections were authored or co-authored by Vitaly Starostenko and many other Ukrainian Earth scientists. For example, Ukrainian authors (and Vitaly Starostenko specifically) contributed 11(1) of

16 in total, 4(2) of 12 in total and 6(4) of 10 in total of the 1996, 1999 and 2004 special issues, respectively.

Gurzuf 1996 — author's recollection. The workshop participants had the pleasure of an excursion to the Nikitsky Botanical Garden and the nearby vineyard, the name of which I don't remember. Half the group tasted wine first and half the group toured the Garden first and then we switched around. The second group to visit the Garden, of which I was part, was notably more raucous (for some mysterious reason) than the first. I was truly bamboozled watching the bamboo, my memory of which is that I could actually see it growing. Or was it that my blood alcohol level had grown?

Among these and the many scientific historic and cultural highlights to be fascinated by near Gurzuf in 1996 and 2000 were the oblate red onions that were abundant and available for sale all along the highway. I was intrigued by them and expressed an interest in wanting to taste them. I didn't expect it at

the time (in retrospect it was inevitable) but I found myself receiving as a gift at the end of the workshop a bundle of these flat onions (Fig. 5). I'm afraid that this might have led to me making a lame attempt at an onion-based «toast» at the concluding banquet. It might have been something along the lines that we «were bound together for a common purpose», like the onions. I hope I may have qualified this by mentioning that our purpose of course had to do with the pursuit of scientific knowledge and peaceful co-existence (rather than to find ourselves being gobbled up as part of a gluttonous meal).

Author's acknowledgement. Thank you, Vitaly, for all that you've done: for making EUROPROBE a resounding success in Ukraine and this being fundamental to EUROPROBE's overall success. Thank you for your friendship, hospitality and support. Thank you for introducing me to so many colleagues and others in Ukraine who became lifelong friends. Happy birthday!

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Керівництво EUROPROBE (1991—2001) — В.І. Старостенко

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Ця коротка стаття присвячена стислому викладу фундаментального внеску академіка Віталія Старостенка в EUROPROBE (інтегрована мультидисциплінарна програма твердої Землі Європейського наукового фонду в 1990-х роках) у зв'язку з святкуванням його 90-річчя. Декілька великих семінарів проєктів і тем EUROPROBE було проведено в Україні під керівництвом Віталія, не кажучи вже про незліченні візити багатьох вчених в Україну, особливо в Інститут геофізики, що дозволило створити численні спільні наукові роботи та публікації. Дві основні програми геофізичних досліджень в Україні були розроблені та виконані під егідою EUROPROBE.

Ключові слова: В.І. Старостенко, геологія та геофізика України, EUROPROBE, Європейський науковий фонд.