The Moho and the LAB under central Fennoscandia

Lev Vinnik (1), Elena Kozlovskaya (2), Sergey Oreshin (1), Grigoriy Kosarev (1), and Katja Piiponen (3)
(1) Institute of physics of the Earth, Russian Federation (vinnik@ifz.ru), (2) Sodankylä Geophysical Observatory of the University of Oulu, Finland, (3) Institute of Seismology of the University of Helsinki, Finland

P- and S-wave velocity profiles of the crust and upper mantle are obtained from P- and S-wave receiver functions (PRFs and SRFs) for 20 seismograph stations of the POLENET/LAPNET array in Lapland and a few stations in southern Finland. The lithosphere-asthenosphere boundary (LAB) beneath cratons is often described as ‘elusive’. Nevertheless, beneath Lapland we detect a clear low S-wave velocity zone with the top (LAB) at a depth of 160 km. This depth corresponds to the wet solidus of peridotite (∼1100 degrees C). The bottom of the LVZ (the Lehmann discontinuity) is at a depth of 240-250 km. Seismic anisotropy within the LVZ is distinctly different from the rest of the upper mantle.

As shown previously by controlled-source experiments, the Moho in southern Finland is anomalously deep (up to ∼60 km versus the normal depth of ∼40 km), but the depression of ∼20 km has practically no effect in the gravity field. Vp in the lower crust is high (7.3 – 7.5 km/s) and can be explained by eclogitization (Kukkonen et al. 2008). In our Vs profiles the crust/mantle boundary in this region is found at a depth of only ∼47 km. The strong dependence of the estimated depth on frequency (0.1 Hz for the receiver functions and 10 Hz for controlled-source seismology) suggests that the crust/mantle boundary in this region is a transition zone rather than a sharp interface. Another possible reason for the discrepancy in the Moho depths is the difference in the wave types (P waves in the controlled source experiments and S waves in receiver functions) and the presence of a layer with a low Vp/Vs ratio: P- and S-wave velocities can be in the crust and mantle ranges, respectively. This interpretation is supported by the extremely low Vp/Vs ratio (1.65) in a depth range from 47 to 75 km in our mantle models. This ratio is the likely effect of a large fraction of orthopyroxene (enstatite).