LPA MOISSAC (EPLEFPA Campus Terre-et-Vie, Tarn et Garonne)

&

LYCEE DE VÄRSKA (Setomaa, Estonia)

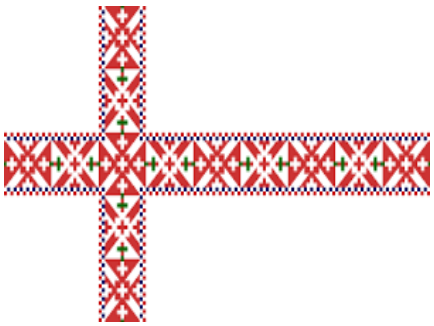
Raul KUDRE, seto mayor of Värska, presenting the book about Moissac offered ***by Moissac's mayor*** Jean-Michel HENRYOT ***in Värska Gumnaasium june 2018.***
From left to right, Christophe SQUARCIONI (organisator of project and History-Géography teacher of LPA Moissac), François OWONA (english teacher) et Kristel KODDALA (project's manager, Värska Gumnaasium).

An international cooperation project organized by volunteers

This humanistic, technical, and multidisciplinary project, which began during the academic year 2017-2018 (pedagogical project "One people, one country, one culture: the Séto community and Estonia in the European Union) on the basis of volunteer work done by students, involves audiences at different levels (1ère Bac Pro and CAPA2) and different options (landscape developments, crop production).

Chosen as an Occit'avenir project, **"Echangeons around the Setos of Estonia"** seeks to **establish a multiform exchange (oral, written, digital, artistic, professional, and human) between adolescents in different countries and cultures, who have come together in a common space (the European Union).**

We also seek to open our students' minds to the knowledge of others, in this case the **Seto people of Estonia** (15,000 people, mainly Orthodox and animist farmers who live in southwest Estonia and the neighboring Russian territory), **its values, its academic, cultural, historical, and geographical peculiarities, as well as to the exploration of universal values, such as humanism and respect.**



In addition, we seek to bring out the characteristics of a country of the European Union that is in transition, in a historical-geographical context, that is celebrating this year the centenary of its creation. We also seek to promote the written and oral practice of English, a language of communication between French and Estonian students.

In this sense, cooperation with the Lycée of Värska (the main educational institution in the Setomaa region) has made it possible for about ten volunteer students to establish contacts with their Seto correspondents through various means of communication (e-mail, social media, Skype, internet sites...).

Värska Gymnasium, the Estonian partner lycée

The volunteer students from the 1ère Bac Pro (landscape developments) of the Moissac LPA who have been involved in the cooperation since the school year 2017-2018, and their teachers

The volunteer students from the Lycée of Värska who are corresponding with our students

The students from the class BTS 1 horticultural productions of the Montauban LEGTA in front of the ecological black currant plant from the Margus TIMMO farm, a proposed internship site (accepted by a student) in this project

The meeting with the teaching team

The travel of the LPA's teachers to Värska in June 2018 thus made this cooperation concrete and at the same time established **symbolic ties between the mayors of the two communes**.

Presentation of the project by french teachers and debates with estonian pupils

It also made it possible to obtain two internship positions for the Montauban BTS of LEGTA on farms in southwest Estonia. Two BTS 1 horticulture students are currently ready to do their internships on the farm of Margus TIMMO, a prominent figure in the Seto community (production of ecological black currants) in Härma and in the framework of the National School of Horticulture in Räpina, both of which are located about twenty kilometers from Värska.

Margus Timmo's farm in Härma, a possible internship site for students in BTS.

The National School of Horticulture in Räpina also provides training in landscape developments.

An opportunity to do "woofing" has also been proposed to students on the Paadova Talu of Iisak and Maris farm in Säpina.

All these sites have been selected because they encourage durable development.

A multidisciplinary project centered on water

For this year, we have given priority to the pursuit of cooperation on the basis of a theme, namely, the problematics of water, which the two schools have in common. Moissac has a long history connected with the Lateral Canal of the Garonne and the River Tarn, while Värska has the best-known mineral water in Estonia, a famous spa, aquatic activities, and a riverine border with Russia, which is closely monitored.

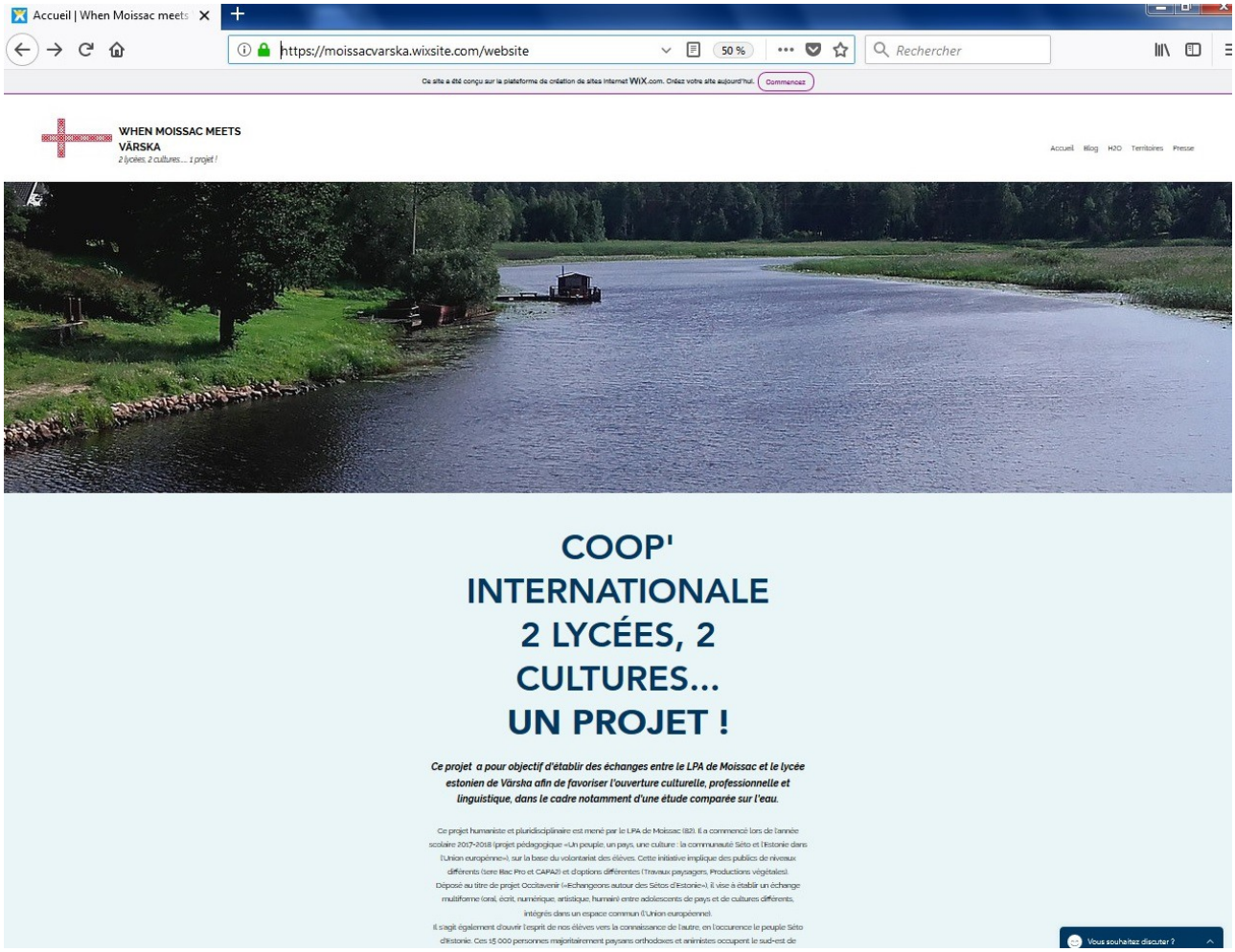
Thus the approximately ten teachers of Première will discuss different parts of this problematics in their disciplines: the study of the aquatic system (the activity of the CPIE), in biology, actors and uses of water in the economy and geography (example: a visit to the water purification plant, the importance of water in the city's past (example: a tour of the relevant sites guided by the city's historical heritage office), the uses of water in agriculture, the physical/chemical analysis of water, and stories and proverbs

concerning water, the development of an Estonian area in landscape works the creation of thematic computer graphics as documentation, and water sports in EPS...

In addition, the study of the territory of the commune of Moissac carried out by the class of Seconde Professionelle, in the context of multidisciplinary socio-cultural and historical-geographical education will serve as a framework for an overall presentation of the city of Moissac.

For their part, the students and teachers of the Lycée of Värska are carrying out a similar study of the role of water on their territory.

The results of this study will be on the internet site ["When Moissac meets Värska"](https://moissacvarska.wixsite.com/website) (https://moissacvarska.wixsite.com/website), which is already up.



Key events promoting the project

Saturday 23 March: the lycée's Open House will take place on the site of the Moissac LPA, with a presentation of explanatory notices made by the students and made available on the internet site.

On **Sunday May 26**, during the "Language Forum" in Toulouse, the France-Estonia Association and the Estonian Honorary Consulate of Toulouse will present **their joint project** to visitors.

Tuesday 28 May: the Estonian Open House will take place on the LPA's site, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition to the hoped-for presence of Hélène Berdoy-Mayer, the honorary Estonian consul, it will bring together representatives of the local communities (mayoral, departmental, regional, prefectoral), of the France-Estonia association, the representative of the Estonia network at the ministry of agriculture as well as Estonians living in the region. The students, the LPA's staff, Eric Grognier, the director of the EPLEFPA, Terre et Vie Campus, and Eric Lottiaux, head maser of the Moissac LPA, will participate in this event.

The program for this event, which will constitute the culmination of the work carried out since September 2017, is to be as follows:

10 a.m. Welcoming of the honored guests and audience. Presentation of the informational notices and the internet site devoted to the project and created by the students.

10:30 a.m. Official discourse marking this Franco-Estonian cooperation linking Moissac and Värska.

11:00 a.m. Inauguration of the Estonian and Séto Garden and the presentation of the symbolic plaque.

12:00 noon: celebratory drink and Estonian and Séto dinner, in the Lycée's cafeteria.

1:30 p.m.—4 p.m. Discussion with the Estonian community in the region regarding Estonia, the Séto community, and cooperation between Moissac and Värska, in the presence of students from the Première classe and the general public. Open to all. Presentation of the project, of the cooperation, and of the region of Setomaa. Reading of Estonian and Séto poems by students participating in the project.

3 p.m.—4:30 p.m. Showing of a film about Estonia ("The Fencing Master," by Klaus Härö, 2015).

Travel by students

Depending on financial targets being met, we envisage an **"educational excursion" to Värska from the 7-14 September 2019 for a group of students (**in principle, 6) who have expressed a clear commitment to the project. They will be accompanied by a teacher/organiser and a technical professor.

The aims of the project are as follows:

- To learn about the French embassy in Estonia who have supported this project from the outset. The students will be received in Tallinn by the Ambassador, Madame Claudia Delmas-Scherer.
- To mark the official co-operation between the two establishments with the participation of local elected representatives of the city along with a representative from the French Embassy.
- To visit the partner school and to attend meetings with the participants and the local

high school students.

- To learn about the Estonian heritage, its capital Tallinn and in particular the Setomaa region and Seto culture.
- To be received by the Royal Seto authorities and participate in a conference based on the historical and contemporary aspects of the community. A meeting will be held with leading members of the Setos community (notably Mr Aare Horn, Minister of Foreign Affairs).
- To meet with members of the Russian Setos community and learn about their heritage and the border region with Russia around Petseri, the birthplace of Seto culture.
- A visit to two farms chosen for the BTS in the context of the project.
- To explore the agricultural landscape sector developed by the Räpina National Horticultural School and participate in exchanges with the Director and his students. There is also the possibility of visiting other farms in the region.
- To learn in the context of the annual theme of cooperation, the importance of water : visits to sites that make Värska a city of water (the mineral water bottling plant, the spa and sanatorium), the Saessare hydro-electric station and the Leevaku Water Museum. A boat trip down the river Värska and Learning about the border river, Kulje and its geopolitical importance.
- Finally, as a way to demonstrate their professional skills, our final year students, under the supervision of their landscape architect instructor will produce at the heart of Värska a garden integrating some crops that are local to Moissac (chasselas grapes, Reine Claude plums …) This green space, like the Estonian garden will further reinforce the co-operation between Moissac and Värska.

The students' professional competencies were emphasized when a space was developed within the Armenian partner school Hamaskaïne (Marseille)

A photographer and professional video-maker, Tony Mywave, is to accompany us on this trip in order to produce a photographic and/or video exhibit documenting in particular the intercultural encounter and cooperation between the lycées.

This exhibit might emphasize the work carried out over the past two years in the

framework of this very fruitful cooperation, and do so in the same spirt as that already stressed during the Armenian project concerning the Centennial of the Armenian genocide.

The two sides of the project, the Fortnight of Armenian Culture and the pedagogical film "Regards croisés vers l'Arménie", which can be seen on Youtube and Facebook, were successfully carried out.

Prospects for continuing the project

This touring photography exposition will amply demonstrate (the activities?) of the 2019-2020 school year. It will be mounted on 120x80cm aluminium boards and will be presented at various sites and businesses.

Concerning the documentation of the project, images and filmed HD interviews will record the various events. Beyond this, the Internet site will be active and will continue to reflect Moissac - Värska cooperation.

At the same time, Estonian teachers are discussing a future trip to Moissac for their students, though dates have not been set (their financial constraints are the same as ours).

Contact

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