

Erasmus+ : a new European cooperation creating a European spirit centered on ecology

By Juliette Airoldi (translated by Jean-Roger Guy)

The Erasmus+ project enables students to go to various European countries. Yet, a new Erasmus+ partnership offers pupils from « collège and lycée » (= secondary school from age 11 to 18) the opportunity of taking part to exchanges with countries of the E.U.

Ever since September 1 of the 2014 schoolyear, Estic high school from Saint-Dizier has set about participation in an Erasmus+ European partnership. The latter project allows to make contacts between the 8 following countries : Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Latvia, Turkey and of course France. As the chosen theme happens to be sustainable development, then numerous school subjects can be associated to the project. Indeed, over a period of two years, the eight schools will develop common actions through artistic, scientific and sporting associations. The first competition, whose purpose is the creation of a logo symbolizing the project has already started and its winner will be chosen among all the participants. The European Council offers a grant (25 900 euros to the French) in order to finance actions as well as the journeys and stays abroad – the so-called transnational meetings and mobilities.

On the occasion of 3 transnational meetings , three representatives of each country will meet with the aim of « assessing how the project is going off, introducing each other but also their school and the place where they live » explains Mrs Guy, teacher of English at Estic as well as coordinator of the project within the pedagogical team.

The first gathering took place in Tarifa, a



town situated to the South of Spain, from December 14 to 19 back in 2014. Moreover, six more journeys are to be organized to which 3 teachers and 3 pupils aged between 11 to 16 will be invited to participate. That project clearly shows how much « we feel like going to discover different cultures, exchanging with people who are members of the E.U., just as we are, so as to eventually make way all together towards an ecologically more serene future » states MF Guy.

They participated in this issue :

- Marion Belhomme
- Quentin Benoît
- Maximilien Naisse
- Bastien Condenseau
- Brice Castex
- Juliette Airoldi
- Margaux Brunsmann

Coming soon

- Concours de brochures « Long Live Green » du 7 janvier au 6 février
- Exposition des logos « Go Green » et reportage sur la rencontre de Tarifa au CDI du 20 au 30 janvier
- Opération Calendrier « Green Beauty »

The editorial

by Margaux Brunsmann

(Translation :
J.R. Guy)

- Ecology : little step by little step -
With the appearance of industries and the emergence of our consumer society, our world is growing poorer. Climactic changes together with the disappearance of ecosystems or the depletion of natural resources provide major examples of what our earth has to suffer because of the needs of humanity.

As a consequence, there arises the question of the coming generations. Is it fair that we should leave our planet in such a preoccupying state to children of the future ? Sustainable development is based on 3 pillars : economic efficiency / social equity and environmental quality. What we must manage to achieve is a changing of our way of consuming by respecting the needs and requirements of everyone throughout the world and at the same time sparing nature. All this can only

be achieved with solidarity and carefulness of nations, the participation and responsibility of each and everyone. For example, every country promises to save up their resources so as to share them in a sharing spirit or also to avoid producing too much carbon dioxide.

Farmers endeavour to respect the products and the soil they use. We as individuals can also sort out our waste, or eat only seasonal vegetables. Yet, a world without any waste does seem utopian as our generation is constantly incited to buy things.

- Sustainable development -
Asking ourselves questions about how we consume is very important. For example, what's the origin of the product I am about to buy ? Who's going to get the money I'm going to spend ? Will my purchase have an impact on the planet ? Supposing my mind is set on buying that particular dress or pair of trainers I've just spotted in a shop window, then, as a citizen of the world, I not only can but must gather

information about how and where they were manufactured. Who in the end will get the money I have just spent ? Yet, such a behaviour takes time. So, I can also choose to perform smaller actions in my every day life, such as buy fruit and vegetables from local producers, have showers rather than baths, sort out my rubbish, avoid wasting food or even check the tyre pressure of my car before taking to the road.

Even the smallest action can have an impact on us and the planet. So, let's all do our best to head towards a nicer, cleaner and more sustainable world.

ENERGY CHALLENGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (translated by Sylvie Gaillard)

The end of the year 2014 has been an opportunity for the students of seconde B to have a break before starting 2015 and think over their practices about their energy consumption with the help of an EDF representative, Mr Philippe Oustric.

Out of that successful meeting about one of the topics on the geography curriculum in seconde, the conclusion was merciless: sustainable development, that is to say, the careful and reasoned running of our societies which would consist of satisfying our needs while preserving our planet for the future generations is neither compliant with the current demographical development nor with our consumer societies which both produce pollution, resources depletion and inequalities.



Such a conclusion made us think about solutions. Some of them have to be taken at the level of state responsibility: developing renewable energies, encouraging research, fighting against inequalities, or avoiding technological catastrophes. But others depend on us. Among them are the issues of squandering, recycling, birth control.

So what are we waiting for instead of taking action before it is too late?



A first encounter of all the Erasmus' partners collaborating on the project 'Only one world, don't waste it !' (translated by Jonathan Christiano)

Teachers and school Heads of eight European countries met for the first time in Tarifa, Spain from the 15th to the 19th December 2014, with the aim to move forward with the joint theme of sustainable development 'Only one world, don't waste it!'

Ms Guy and Dorléans and Mr Le Gall, English, Spanish and History/geography teachers respectively at ESTIC met their Spanish, Italian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Latvian and Turkish counterparts to share the results of their first drafts (logo choices within political, environmental and regional contexts), to work on the tools to disseminate information (via Twinspace, Facebook and videos) to decide on a date for the next meetings (Bulgaria in February, Latvia in March, Italy in May, France in October and Greece in November) but above all to get to network and to establish strong links. Discovering the daily reality of an Andalusian establishment as well as its natural, cultural, economic environment alongside the local environmental problems at stake have enriched us. Not as much, however, as the shared experience during the visit, the working day and especially long and more often than not informal discussions. Thanks go, therefore, to colleagues and now friends from all around Europe for these very significant moments and particularly, to our Spanish hosts. Long live Erasmus, Long live Europe.



Flags made of plastic bottle tops by Estic Euro sophomores

Last June, a cap recycling programme was set up within the school by Euro sophomores. It was designed to create the flags of our overseas partners.

These flags were hanging on the playground walls during whole september on the occasion of the European Day of Languages.

(translated by Didier Voyard)