Etincelles *(Sparks)*

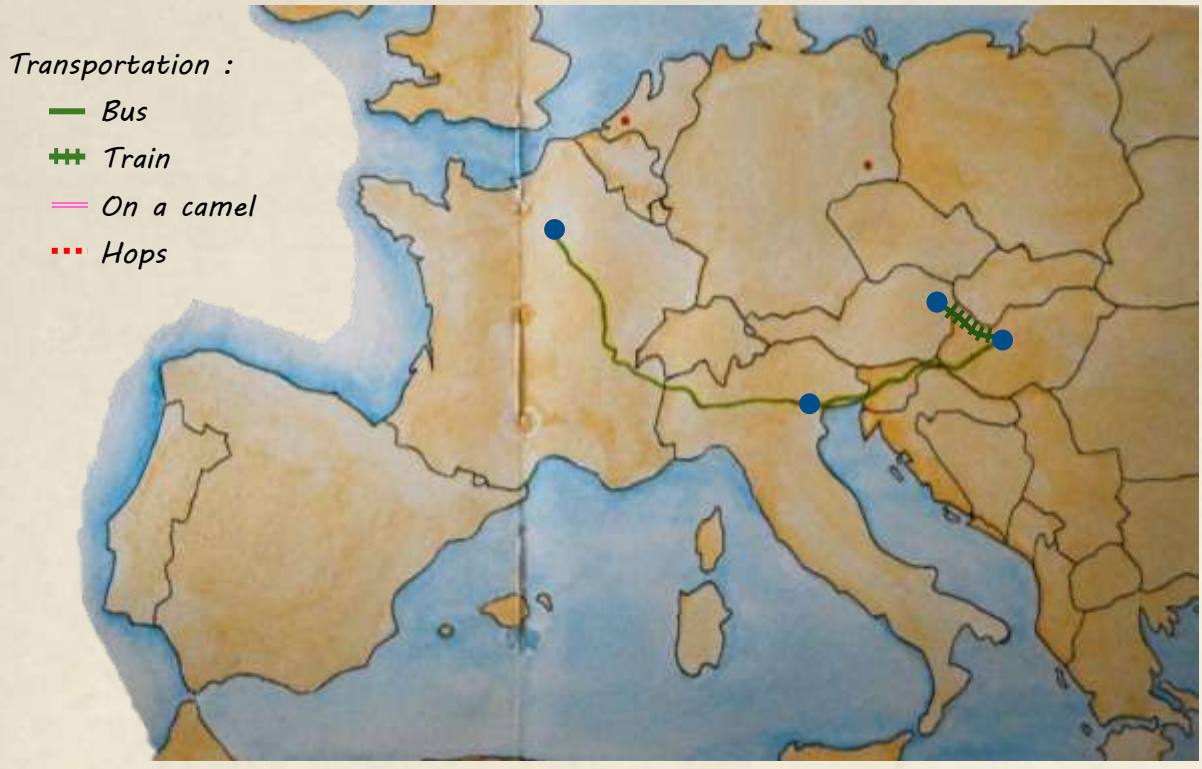
Nachrichten aus Wien

After leaving Hungary, I am off to Austria for new adventures. From now on, everything is going to happen more quickly, as my stopovers will only last a few weeks. New rhythm, new encounters, here goes the story of the three great weeks I spent in Vienna! Happy reading! 🥰

* = For more details, to retrace the previous steps, or to read the French version, take a look at the following link:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NGG1U3lY7uW8BOjAxUN4htQkQ268F7_B?usp=sharing

Summary of steps

26/02 **Padua** 16/03 **Budapest** 02/06 **Vienna** → Dresde → The Hague



Weather forecast

Having heard that in France, winter has had a hard time getting away, I feel obliged to boast about how lucky I've been with the weather so far! It feels like summer since April, and I see the sun every day! As I have been outside most of the time for several months, I don't think I've ever been so tanned··· Of course, there are also a few showers and thunderstorms from time to time· I see two main advantages: it waters the crops, which really need it, and the stormy skies are very beautiful·

Litt. « Small urban farm »
Kleine Stadt Farm

A social and natural ecosystem

Located in Vienna's 22nd district, this space has been occupied for the past decade by a number of associations working on different themes, with ecological, social, artistic and artisanal approaches. With around twenty associations today, Kleine Stadt Farm is one of Austria's largest urban agriculture projects.

This convivial place for meeting and sharing is also surprisingly rich in biodiversity, despite being surrounded by houses.
Each initiative adds its own color to the overall picture, independently. This allows for spontaneous cooperation that keeps the place alive despite any individual setbacks: if one of the projects doesn't work out, it doesn't directly impact the other projects around it, but the services of one can still help or participate in the activity of the other. So, as you can see, this model of community space is inspiring. If you know of any other similar organizations, don't hesitate to let me know 😉

Eva, photographer, currently shooting a film about Land in Sicht :

"The more hope, the more energy. And the less hope, the less energy. *And reciprocally.*"

Nikolai, Land in Sicht :

" *My hope is that* ***there are millions of people that think, feel and act already in a new way."***

The "trust that there will be a complete change and transformation coming [is] ***difficult to imagine with your brain, easier to feel with your heart."***

"My hope is that there are millions of people that think feel and act already in a new way. Transformation is everywhere and we can see it everywhere. If you connect with it, you transform yourself also. If not, you feel not only the world but also yourself in a crisis.
Try to be aware that you are not alone working on the transformation towards a new society, a new understanding of live and ourselves in nature.
If you feel hopeless towards the future, always be aware that what makes you feel bad is your own thinking prolonging the old system into the (your)Future, instead of trust that there will be a complete change and transformation coming, difficult to imagine with your brain, easier to feel with your heart. And if you feel this call, collaborating on the new... then be bravehearted and act!"

Etincelles – June 2024

Here is a map of the place. I spent three weeks there, at Land in Sicht, a market-garden farm. I've marked the places that most concerned me, but each number represents a place with a specific activity. People can enter freely and discover the many projects on offer. At the entrance, there is a café-restaurant and a children's playground: the atmosphere is very cheerful!

The site is constantly evolving, and the initiatives there have a variety of themes. A lot are multidisciplinary.

Agriculture
Market gardening, Filipino agriculture, Afghan plants, growing edible mushrooms on coffee grounds, beekeeping, self-catering, community gardens

Education
Herb recognition, nature education, contact with animals and plants, horses, educational website on food and agriculture

Eating and drinking
Organic and local café-restaurant, farm produce and other organic food store

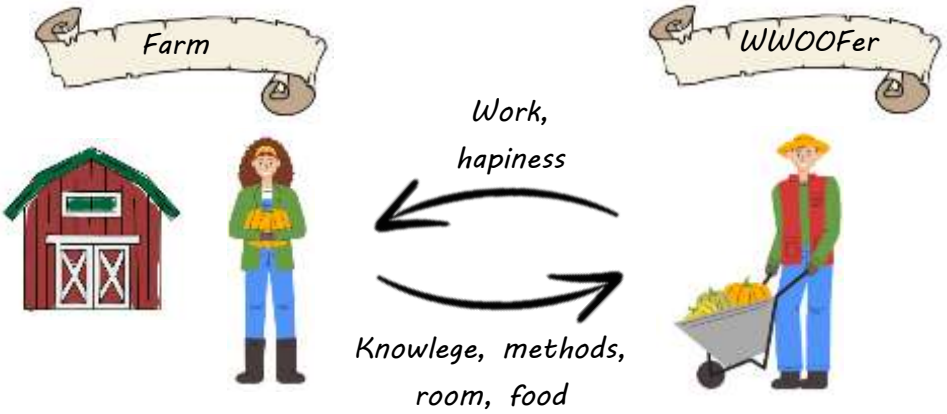
Art and culture
Puppet show, artistic interventions (rethinking the links between urban and rural areas, agriculture and food…), discussion space, artist residency, woodworking workshop, Shiatsu in nature…

Etincelles – June 2024

Wwoofing in Land in Sicht

« WWOOF », what does this strange word means ?

It might sound like a dog barking, but it is actually an acronym: World-Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms. The principle is simple:



Land in Sicht

Now, replace "WWOOFer" with "Maïlys", and "Farm" with "Land in Sicht", and we are there! Land in Sicht (lit. "Land in Sight") is a market-gardening farm, growing mainly vegetables and flowers in greenhouses and fields. The products are sold at markets and in the store run by two team members next to the farm. There are 7-8 people in the team.

Aldovina, Land in Sicht :

"I just like enjoying the moment!"

Challenge of marketing

After 3-4 years in business, production is more or less up and running. The question now is about sales: how to find customers, size up the market, what to offer, what communication plan? This is the subject of team discussions on the organization over the coming months. Here are some of the questions and ideas raised:

- Communication: flyers, website, mailing list, network of friends, collaboration with the Café...
- Formulas: in addition to markets and the store, a weekly box system with annual subscription, trial month or not, choice of products or not...
- Distribution: strategic choice of pick-up points for weekly boxes, home delivery or not, cargo bike for flower sales or single deliveries...

Sonja, Land in Sicht :

"Hope is trust."

"It is important to have a moment of thankfulness everyday. ***Thankfulness helps getting a more positive mindset."***

WeltTellerFeld : pedagogical field about alimentation

This 3,000 m^2 space is one of Kleine Stadt Farm's initiatives, and the field is maintained by Land in Sicht. The idea is to illustrate the agricultural area needed to feed an average Austrian in one year. The space is organized as follows:

- Destination: one third is used to feed humans (orange and yellow) and the rest is used to feed animals, whose meat, milk or eggs we eat (blue and green).
- Place of production: in Austria (green and yellow) or imported from other countries (blue and orange).

It is a powerful way of raising awareness among school groups and adults of the way we produce and consume. Some groups take part in the agricultural maintenance as a complement to the visit.

June, the beginning of the end of spring season

During spring, nature is full of energy, and everything grows very fast! It's a critical time, then, to ensure the survival of the young plants that will provide the year's income, while at the same time managing to keep up with the frenetic pace of growth, whether it's good weeds or bad. This means finding a balance between planting, weeding, harvesting, pruning and watering. The season calms down a little with the arrival of summer. Here is an overview of what I have seen growing:

Tomatos
Artichokes
Wild tobacco

Fenel
All kinds of cabbage
Cucumbres

Field flowers
Zucchini
Eggplants

Photo report

Farm

Kleine Stadt Farm entrance, horses, greenhouse, Land in Sicht store, part of the team in front of the greenhouse (Niccolo, Christina, Paul, Nikolai and me)·

In my spare time, I went to prune tomatoes in another place: the Laaerberg community garden, where Logan (from Cargonomia, Budapest) takes his students when he teaches in Vienna·

This garden is open to the public for weeding days, lawn mowing, tree pruning··· Another beautiful spot in a park on the outskirts of the city center!

Vienna : an imperial city

National Library, Schönbrunn, Karlskirsche (the palm tree is almost hiding the renovartion work 😉), Stephansdom and view from the tower, Schloss Belvedere.

Etincelles – June 2024

Hundertwasserhaus

Hundertwasser was a 20th-century painter, architect, environmental activist and philosopher. The expressive, colorful building he designed contrasts with the homogeneous architecture of the rest of the city center.

Small beer festival (discovered by chance on a street corner), Donauinselfest (one of the world's biggest free-entry music festivals!), watercolor break in front of the city hall (Rathaus).