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Teema: BNSi uudis: Stationary display on first Estonian president opened in Russia
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Stationary display on first Estonian president opened in Russia

TALLINN, Nov 18, **BNS** - A memorial room in honor of Estonia's first president Konstantin Pats has been opened in a local high school in the town of Burashevo in Russia's Tver region.

The display is currently the only stationary exhibition of Estonia's first head of state.

According to Henn Latt, one of the initiators of the museum idea, the exhibition consists of displays and display cabinets, and the materials give a complete overview of the life of Pats.

"The museum took shape as a result of communication between the people of Burashevo and the leaders of the Kalininsky district," Latt told BNS.

According to Latt he has sent several materials and films connected to Pats to Burashevo, and several other materials are waiting to be sent as well.

Elle Lees, deputy head of the non-profit association Konstantin Patsi Muuseum (Museum of Konstantin Pats) wasn't able to give comments to **BNS** about the exhibition but she confirmed that she knows about the idea of creating such a display. According to Lees there is no stationary exhibition of Pats in Estonia because the association doesn't have a necessary facility for that, although there would be enough exhibition materials for a museum.

In June 2011 a commemorative cross was put up at a cemetery in Burashevo to mark the burial place of Pats who died in a psychiatric hospital in Tver in 1956. The cross bears the text: "Here rested Estonia's first President Konstantin Pats -- 23.02.1874-18.01.1956 -- who was under treatment at Litvinov Psychiatric Hospital No. 1. The remains of the president were reburied in Tallinn in his home country in 1990."

The elder of the village of Burashevo, Sergei Rozhkov, at whose initiative the cross was erected, told the local newspaper then that in spite of the political differences between Russia and Estonia it is vital to maintain and strengthen ties of friendship between people of different nationalities.

The leader of Tver's Estonian community, Elmar Aljas, said then that erecting the cross at Pats' grave expresses ordinary people's kind attitude towards Pats as a person rather than president.

In October this year students and teachers of the local high school visited the burial site and took candles and flowers there. A local newspaper also wrote about the commemoration event.

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