

KLIMAATLING

Wandeling met podcast/zoektocht

**6
KM**

van
14 april
t.e.m.
21 mei
2022

WARM
ALARM

ZET HET KLIMAAT
NIET OP PAUZE

Meer info:



Vertrek- en eindpunt aan het
Wereldcafé Leuven
Joris Helleputteplein 2



Walking tour "klimaatlingen & water" in Leuven.
(English version)

Walking tour "klimaatlingen and water" in Leuven.

Dear Hiker.

During the hike you can listen to podcasts "from your canoe". After all, that's how they did it in Ghent. And that's (with a French huig-rrr) "naturel vrieë wise", and well observed by Masereelfonds Gent.

But we do it on foot. A bit with the same content, from the same concern: for the "klimaatlingen", for the recognition of the climate problem as a valid reason for recognition as a refugee, worldwide, by the united nations... but in the meantime also with us.

In addition, you can listen to these podcasts (*throughout the text we indicate where you can download them*), which also contain testimonies of refugees, mostly in English. If you let everyone listen in, make sure that at least someone follows the directions!

*Here on the Helleputteplein you will find the **QR code for the first podcast**.*

But come on, let's go!



We leave the world cafe and go to the right, until the end of the square. Behind the bushes we can turn left to the water: the Dijle, a river 86 km long that flows into the Rupel and further into the Schelde. Even in dry weather, near 4 cubic metres flow through the Dijle in Leuven per second, which is just 4000 liters, and when it rains this rises to 10 thousand liters, or 1000 buckets per second, sixty thousand buckets per minute! So if the bed is not so wide, as it is here, the river has to be quite deep to let all that water through... or flow very fast. Running water can be very powerful, and can cause devastation: uprooting trees, breaking dikes, and dragging cars along, as happened last July in Pepinster and Verviers. But water is also a blessing! Because without water, life is simply impossible: no plants,

no animals and no people.

So, water is very important. Not surprisingly, there are sometimes fights over (drinking) water.

But we return to the other side of the square and take the Waaistraat, and then turn right into the Minderbroedersstraat.

As we cross the Dijle, we see on the right that the river splits. We see this in several places in Leuven, and it immediately provides more opportunities to drain all that water.

Just at the end of the Minderbroedersstraat, we see an octagonal building on the right: the anatomical theater. Here the students sat on the bleachers against the walls to watch below the professor busy as he cut open corpses to show the construction of the body and the location of the organs...

QR code for podcast 2.

But we cross the street and go through the gate into the herb garden, now just 200 years old, and originally intended to teach medical plants and herbs.



We follow the arrows to the Verzonken Tuin, walk past the small greenhouse, the Alpine greenhouse. See the succulents? Wherever in the world it is very dry, with lots of sandy soil (through which the water - if any - runs immediately) or very high (above the "tree line") you will find few, or only small and woody plants. Now walk on to the sunken garden, which invites you to take a rest, but we don't have time! We continue walking to the right, through the little gate and enter the orchard. There we immediately turn right, almost to the right, and step into the fern greenhouse. Feel the humid warm air.



We hope that in this way you have experienced a little of what the climate, the weather, the soil means for plant growth... and therefore also for the nutrition of humans and animals!

Feel free to come back to the Botanical Garden and discover all those other peculiarities (such as the bust of that gentleman with a pacifier for a medal, or the death tree, uprooted by storm Eunice in February 2022), but we must move on. We walk out of the herb garden past where we came in, and take the Kapucienenvoer to the left. The name of this street also refers to water: the Voer, a tributary of the Dijle, which runs under the street here, and of course also to the Capuchin Fathers (named after their brown cap: whoever wears such a cap or cappa is a cappuccino).

To our right, now a huge construction site, stood the nurses' school, attached to the university hospital St. Raphael. We arrive at the Brusselsestraat, and take it to the right until the Handbooghof, just next to the "Spar". But opposite stood the Saint-Pierre hospital, recently demolished, but never completely used, because in the meantime the construction of Gasthuisberg had started... But for years the Saint-Pierre hospital was empty... although in the meantime it could accommodate so many refugees, people on the run... and 'klimaatlingen'.

'Klimaatlingen'? That's what we call people who are on the run, not for war or armed violence, but because of the climate. After all, felling often leads to silting or the formation of desert soil: everything becomes dry (because the tree roots no longer hold the soil and make it fertile), and so almost nothing grows anymore. Or fleeing from floods, where fields are flooded, harvests are lost ... but also houses are dragged along.

It is estimated that at present some 33 million people are fleeing their own countries: 8.5 million are fleeing violence, but almost 25 million are fleeing the climate. And if this continues, 143 million are expected by 2050! So it's high time to do something!



In the Handbooghof we walk along the old city wall (12th century!). At the end we turn right and follow the Dirk Boutslaan, so that the Dijle flows on our right. But look, is there someone sunbathing on the terraces of the Dyle ? We go down to the water and yes, the Dileeterraces are a wonderful place to sunbathe... if it hasn't rained too much, because sometimes the terraces can flood, and then you see Fiere Margriet floating.

QR code podcast number 3!

Margrietje is a popular saint who was supposedly murdered and thrown into the Dijle, but as if by a miracle she floated upstream, against the current, to Leuven.

Across the street you see the SLAC, art and music academy of the city of Leuven. Training in the arts, in other words. But did you know that a refugee candidate has no right to work for 4 months? He or she does have the right to shelter and food, but for a little extra, he or she must do it "in black", with all the consequences of an accident at work! And with a decent education, also "on the shop floor", he or she might be better off working here, and that is possible in our country during the "integration courses". And even if a recognition as a refugee is rejected, then that training may well be useful in the home country... and even ensure that there is less migration. After all, those rejected refugees can, upon their return to the home country, use their training precisely to contribute to making life better there, and there is less reason to flee! Think of training in construction (e.g. to build sturdy dams), in bio-agriculture (irrigation or watering of fields, composting...), in hydrology (water management)...

We go back to where the Handbooghof ended, and across the street the Dijle splits once again. We briefly follow the Brouwerstraat to the left and then walk along the Dijle via the Halvestraat, "half" a street because it could only be built on one side, although the new apartments along the water prove otherwise. At the end, where we already see a bridge over the water on the right (and we read the year of construction, but also which water it is again), we turn left into Pereboomstraat. At the Bruulpark (left) we take the little bridge on the right: the Hambrugpad (no, not named after the German city, but after the bridge over the Ham, as Penitentienstraat was called). In the Bruulpark we will all meet on 20 and 21 May 2022 for the World Festival: food and drink stands, performances, info... from all over the world!

The Hambridge path we turn with to the left, again across the water, and then to the right. In the bend we bump into the gate of the Al Fath mosque. At the Penitentienstraat we turn right for a short while, and then take the path on the left (so that the water runs to our left).



At the end, we see Dijle Terraces again, with info signs about the 1906 flood. Across the river, an arrow indicates how high the water was then. So that's over 100 years ago... but last year it still happened in Verviers and Pepinster! And imagine if that happened every year, in the rainy season. Then you would

move anyway, flee from the climate changes.... and thus become 'klimaatling'!



QR code for podcast 4

We continue the path (so do not cross the water), but go to the wharf for a new neighbourhood in the Mechelsestraat: just to the left but at the Horenblazer, house number 170 (and next) we take the path on the right. We follow it until we cross Valkenplein. But first we cross the water again: this time the Voer and look to the right: the mouth of the Voer in the Dijle. We come to the Glasblazerijstraat and go to the Sluisparkje on the right. Look down for a moment: the Vistrap! Stairs? for fish?

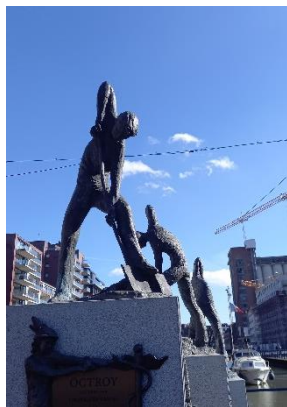


The sign explains it to us: a weir here ensures that the water is high enough to supply the canal (because water always runs "downhill", and the water in the canal is not always lower than the Dijle!). That difference in height can be a meter and a half, which is a bit much for fish... That's why we have a fish ladder: 23 small steps of 7 centimeters which the fish can take or "bridge" (without bridge).

We walk up to the water playground on the right. The trenches would represent the course of the Dijle and the Voer rivers in the city, the yellow striking trees holding up the water would indicate the locks. We take the central path through the little park to the left. Lots of water here: the fish ladder, the playground, and terraces right up to the water. All potable (because all water can be drunk, is therefore potable) but is therefore not healthy drinking water!

People sometimes call the Earth the "blue planet" because from space you can see a lot of water (3/4 of the Earth's surface is water!). But only 3% of all that water is good to drink, and then three quarters of that goes to agriculture and livestock. Meanwhile, 3 people in 10 have no access to drinking water....

At the end, watch out! We cross the street ("Port side") and arrive at a little square at OPEK (public warehouse for the arts, formerly a customs post) and the end of the canal, where the boats are moored.



Look at the beginning (or the end) of the canal bowl: a sculpture of "the canal diggers". Imagine: more than 250 years ago, before bulldozers drove, 500 workers dug a canal from Leuven to Mechelen for 2 years, with spade and shovel. By the way, do you recognize on the side the silhouette of Leuven (with city hall) and of Mechelen (with St. Rombouts tower)? And do you also see the group of applauding dignitaries on the back? The figure on the far right looks more like a beggar to me. Or could



it be a 'klimaatling'?

The city wants to create an open-air swimming pool here in the canal basin. But preferably not with Dijle water. Because in the past a lot of waste water (from washing, cooking, bathing, etc.) was simply discharged into the Dijle. And in many old houses along the Dijle this is still the case! Fortunately, more and more wastewater is now separated from "rainwater", but water pollution, in addition to climate change, is another problem that threatens the earth and life. Every year, 11 million tons of plastic waste ends up in the sea. So, use as little plastic as possible, don't throw your waste away, but put it in the bins and bags!



We walk next to the canal basin until we reach café de lantaarn. There we cross the street again and take the Vaartstraat. A little further, after house number 159, we see "Dijleterrassen" again on our right. There we cross: again, over the Dijle, past big wheels that open or close the sluice and hold back or let the water run. We then also enter the Sluisstraat....

A little to the left and then right: the Small Beguinage. We turn left along the little houses, with a number but also with a name!

At the end of the Small Beguinage: to the left of the wall is a great curiosity: old urinals or pissins. Water always flows in them, but because of the rather special environment, mosses grow here that you hardly find anywhere anymore (biologists tell us).

Equally remarkable is the church tower right in front of us: one of the 7 wonders of Leuven: a tower in which not a single nail was used: no trusses, no slates, but one big meccano, all in stone!

We walk past the church door and enter the little park behind it. We follow the path on the right, past the "Thierry wing" built with debris from houses that burned in World War I, we see some curious trees, and the museum of the scouts and guides.

QR Code podcast 5.

We walk out of the park past the gate, and there we see another lock, to keep the water level under control. And that's a good thing, because when that deluge hit Pepinster and Verviers, the water level in Leuven was also very high. Fortunately, in the hamlet of Egenhoven (along the street called "Long Tail") we have a waiting basin, where excess water can be held. And even higher up, in Neerijse, there is the large nature reserve "the Doode Bemde", where the Dijle quietly meanders through, can easily burst its banks, and let the water seep into the surrounding meadows. But you can imagine how important locks are, to hold up the water sometimes!

We arrive at the Karel van Lotharingenstraat and turn right to the Vismarkt. We cross it diagonally, take the traffic-free Mechelsestraat for a moment, and immediately turn right into the Wandelingenstraat. We cross the Dirk Boutsiaan at the bus stop and follow the Dijle that runs on our right.



At the little square, just in front of the Brusselsestraat, there is a statue of a strange guy: Paep Thoon. Walk around it, and see what he does with his hand (and his thumb) on his back.... the rascal.

A short left, then right: the Wieringstraat, turn right and then left into the Drinking Water Street ... which brings us back to "the bank of the Dijle, at the Helleputteplein", time for a snack and a drink.

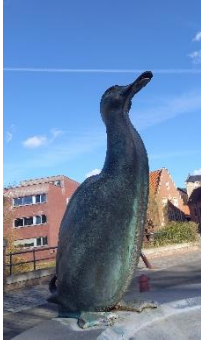
We now know what climate change is, how important but also dangerous water can be, that not everyone has access to drinking water, that water pollution is a problem... But where are the solutions? Will you join us for a while? Just one hour and you will discover one of the most beautiful green pearls of Leuven...

We take Waaistraat again straight ahead, but then take Minderbroedersstraat briefly to the left, and then Parijsstraat to the right. We walk up to Damiaanplein and go straight ahead for a while: Schapenstraat. We take the first to the right: the Redingenstraat.

On our right side: the CAW, the Center for General Welfare. Such a center helps people with all their questions and problems related to welfare: personal problems, relationship difficulties, financial, legal, administrative or material problems. Anyone can go there... including asylum seekers to find their way around the paperwork, the possibilities for asylum applications... but also for help with housing.

In addition to the CAW there is an OCMW in every municipality, a public center for social welfare. The law states: "Every person has the right to social services to enable everyone to lead a life that respects human dignity. OCMWs have the mission to ensure this service". Amai! An CPAS must therefore help everyone who is on the territory of the municipality. Some careless municipalities therefore ensure that refugees and other dependents are quickly transferred elsewhere so that they do not have to take care of them themselves. It is simply a disgrace! Not so in Leuven, but actually Leuven could also say: "in addition to the (international) recognition as a refugee according to the United Nations Convention (people fleeing persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or belonging to a group that is not protected) and / or violence (war), we also recognize (and provide assistance) to people fleeing the consequences of the climate crisis". Could be...

In addition to these official bodies, you can of course do something yourself! Just start demonstrating or sympathizing for the climate. Leave the car, take the bike and the train, eat less meat, put the heating a degree lower and put on a sweater... Because if we continue to emit CO₂, the earth will warm up, the ice caps and glaciers will melt, the sea level will rise, and whole areas and (also inhabited) islands will come under (salty, salty) seawater. And what will those inhabitants do, do you think? Flee, of course, flee from the climate: 'klimaatlingen'!



At the second bridge over the Dijle (with on the right a confluence of Dijle-arms) we briefly greet the Dijle duck (with drinking water!), and then enter the little path next to the hedge, on the left of the Dijle. We follow until we see a passage in the wall on the left, and walk into the Dijle park. We take the path on the right and walk around the entire park, or walk



to the gazebo on the left, or over the bridge. On the other side of the park we see an experimental installation on (yet another) arm of the Dijle. An attempt has been made here to generate electricity from water power. Because that's also important: generating energy from natural resources: sun (solar panels), wind (windmills), and water power. Between the Great Beguinage and the Redingenstraat there were once 7 watermills! All without heating oil, gas or coal, because they emit all CO₂!

We leave the little park in the Schapenstraat, which we turn left. Opposite number 30 you can take the stairs of the Wolvenpoort (Wolves' Gate), and you arrive in another green oasis, which gives out onto Naamsestraat. And from there we can cross over to the city park ... but that's for another time!

Now we walk further down the Schapenstraat. At the Damiaanplein we walk almost straight ahead, into the Parijsstraat, and just after Oxfam (bookshop and world store) we turn left into the Sint-Barbarastraat and arrive again... "on the bank of the Dijle, on the Helleputteplein, at the café of the whole world, where we are always welcome"...

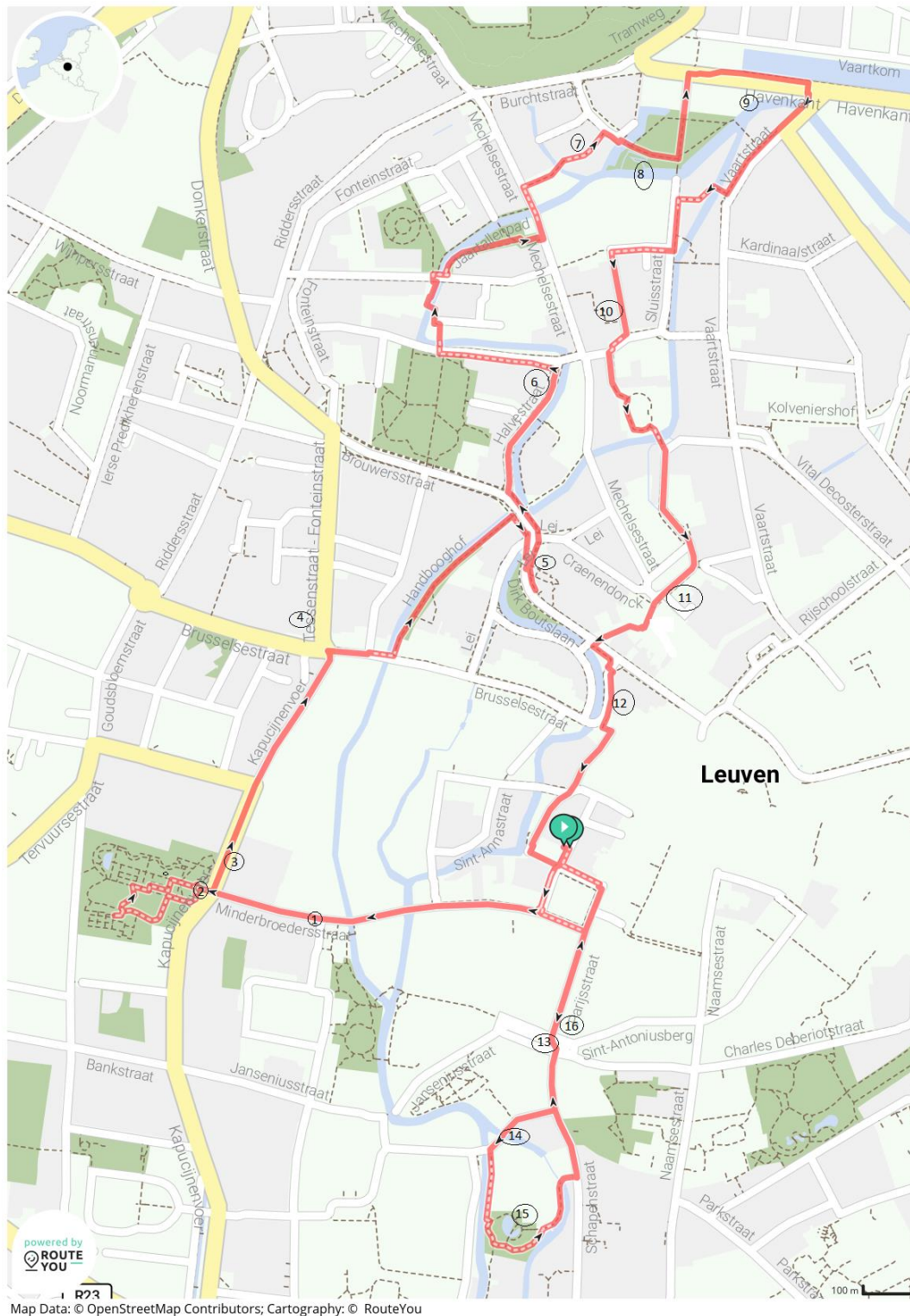


PHOTO SEARCH: where do you see the following pictures? put the correct letter to the correct number on the card.



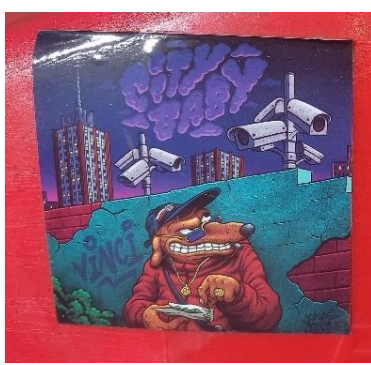
A



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ANTWOORDSTROOK : Walk water and climate... in Leuven

Put the picture with the correct letter by the correct number on the card:

1:	5:	9:	13:
2:	6:	10:	14:
3:	7:	11:	15:
4:	8:	12:	16:

My name and email address: