

Project-based Language Learning: A City Trip combining TBLLT, Blended Learning and social Media (or not?)

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UMONS
langage

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DE L'UMONS



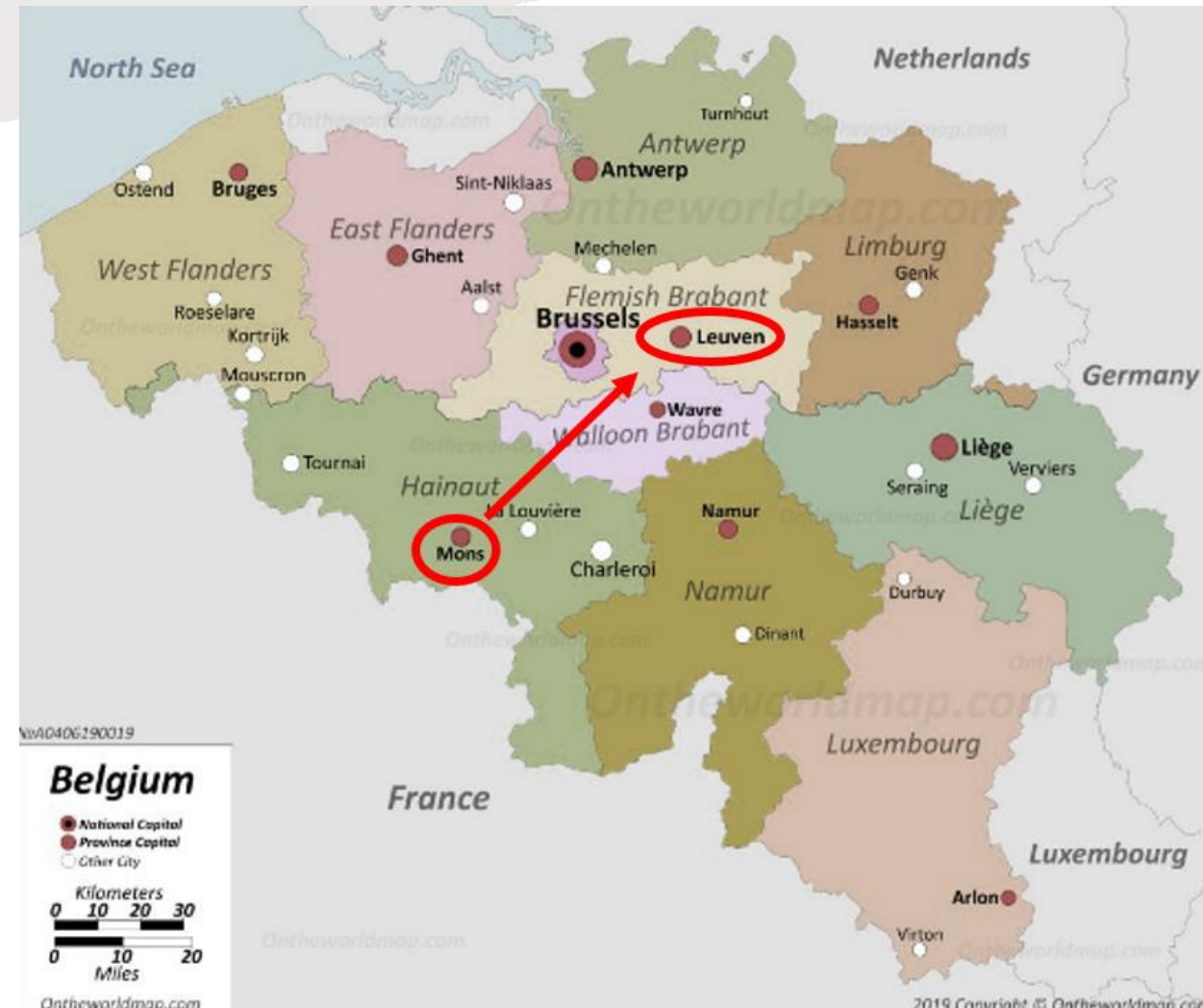
Florence, 9 – 10 November 2023

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 - Hardware: computers and mobile devices (BYOD)

A city trip to Leuven

- UMONS in Mons (Belgium)
- Faculty of Engineering
 - Master 2 (final year)
 - Option: 56 hours of Dutch
- Goal: refresh language skills in Dutch to find a job in Belgium / Brussels
- Task-based language teaching (TBLT)
- Authentic documents: websites, articles, publicity, ... and a city trip!



Belgium

- 3 communities, based on language
 - French
 - Dutch
 - German
 - 3 regions, territorial issues
 - the Flemish Region
 - the Brussels-Capital Region
 - the Walloon Region
- + Federal government
- = « only » six governments



Belgium

- Language border since 1962
- Lack of knowledge about the other part of the country
- Clichés:
 - Flemings: hard workers & cold
 - Walloons: enjoy life & warm
- Brussels: capital of Europe
 - 150 nationalities
 - More than 100 languages
- Official languages: French, Dutch and German
- Dutch: not popular but « necessary »



Teaching a language is teaching culture

- Bring the world to the classroom or take the class into the world
 - Lack of interest vanishes thanks to culture
 - Emotions: surprise, shock, beauty, astonishment, ...
 - Discovering differences but also similarities
- Citytrip
 - Immersive language activity
 - Preparation – visit – evaluation of the visit
 - takes a whole semester



Pre-task

- « We are going to Leuven and the students are organising the citytrip »
- 2 months before the citytrip
- In our classroom
 - 1) Activating students' prior knowledge**
 - Flanders
 - University
 - Famous brewery



Pre-task

- In our classroom

2) Looking up more information about Leuven = receptive skills

- Where?
- Distance?
- Transport?

(B)
Mijn treinreis

Van:
Mons

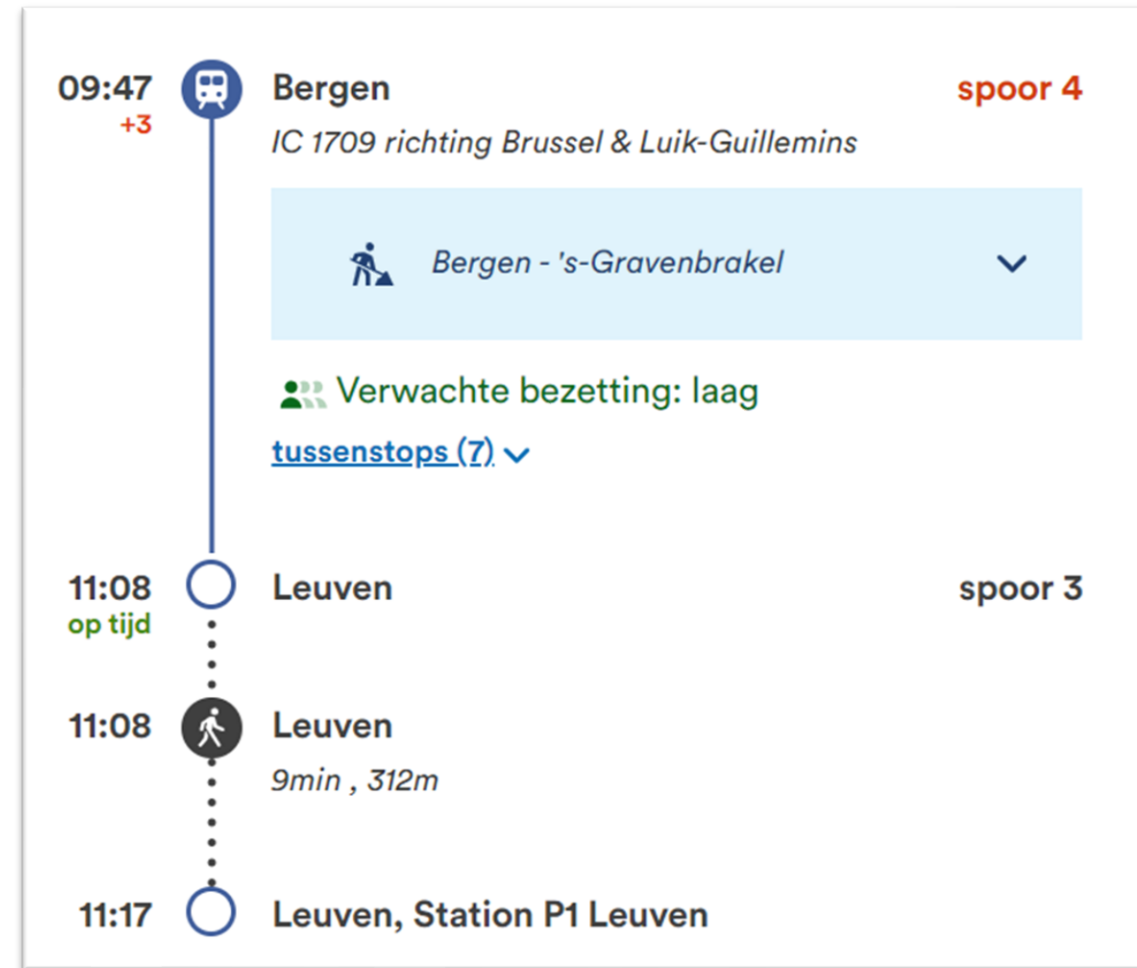
Naar:
LEUVEN Station [TEC]

Datum: 26/04/2024 Tijd: 09:10

Vertrek Aankomst

> [Personaliseer mijn reis](#)

Plan mijn reis >

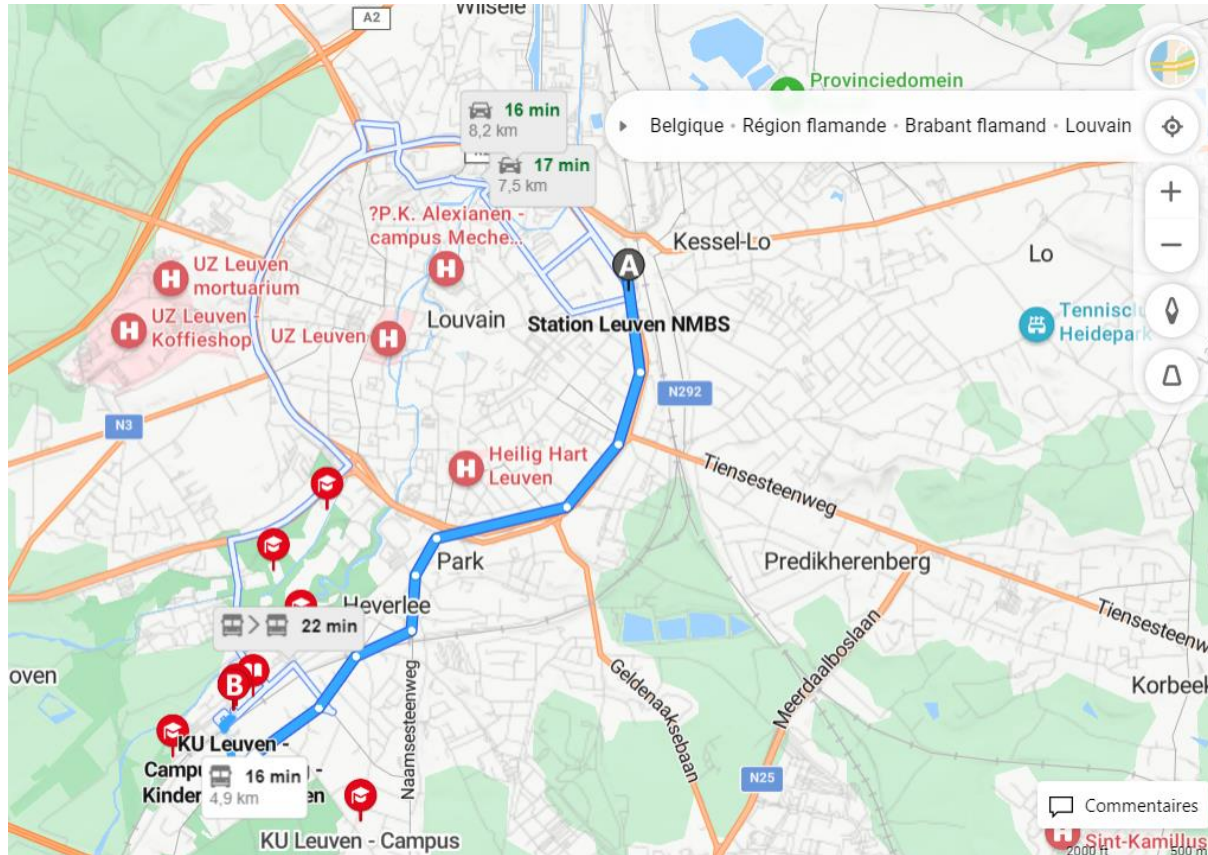


Pre-task

- In our classroom
 - 2) Looking up more information about Leuven like real tourists = receptive & intercultural skills
 - Sightseeing?
 - Lunch?



Campus of Engineering



- Conversations with students from Flanders
- Shared history (Arenberg)
- Meeting with UMONS-alumnus / professor at KUL



Pre-task

- In our classroom

3) Meeting: agreement on transport and lunch

productive skills

- Vegetarians?
- Budget?
- Train pass?

4) Getting into action

- Ask for information
- Make a reservation at the restaurant
- Buying tickets for the train
- Reply to e-mails



Pre-task

- Individual, concrete goal
- Teacher is not involved
- The students are responsible
 - Empowerment (Broom, C. (2015))
 - Imagination (Egan, K. & Judson, G. (2016))
 - Willingness to communicate (Macintyre, P.D. (2007))
- IT
 - makes the pre-task authentic
 - HARDWARE: language lab with computers (< > meeting room)
 - SOFTWARE: websites, e-mails, reviews, youtube
 - Do it yourself (DIY): follow up on e-mails



Task: visit to Leuven

- Group page on Facebook

 **Leen Stevens** 😊 voelt zich enthousiast
Beheerder · 20 april · 🌐

Dag iedereen, zijn jullie klaar voor morgen?

Hier nog even de reisgegevens uit het verslag van Célia:

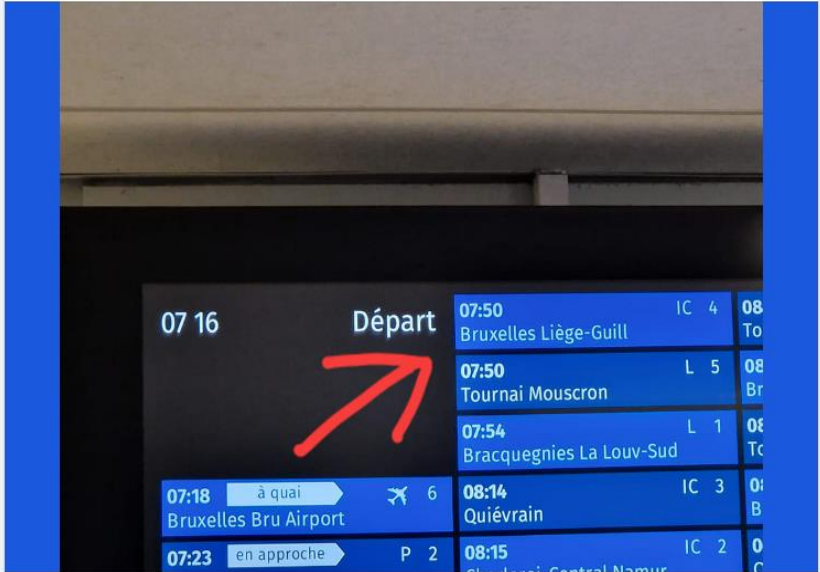
- We zullen **de trein om 7:50 in Bergen** nemen en de aankomst in Leuven is om 9:08 gepland. Deze trein is een rechtstreekse trein.
- Op het einde van de namiddag zullen we **de trein in Leuven om 17:53** nemen en we zullen om 19:12 in Bergen aankomen. Deze trein rijdt ook rechtstreeks.

Ik wacht morgen op jullie in het station, tot dan.

Meer weergeven

 Viviane Grisez en 2 anderen

Gezien door iedereen



07 16		Départ		07:50		IC 4		08	
				Bruxelles Liège-Guill				To	
				07:50		L 5		08	
				Tournai Mouscron				Br	
				07:54		L 1		08	
				Bracquegnies La Louv-Sud				Tc	
07:18		à quai		✈️		6		08:14	
Bruxelles Bru Airport								Quiévrain	
07:23		en approche		P 2				IC 3	
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 **Viviane Grisez**
🌐 · 21 april · 🌐



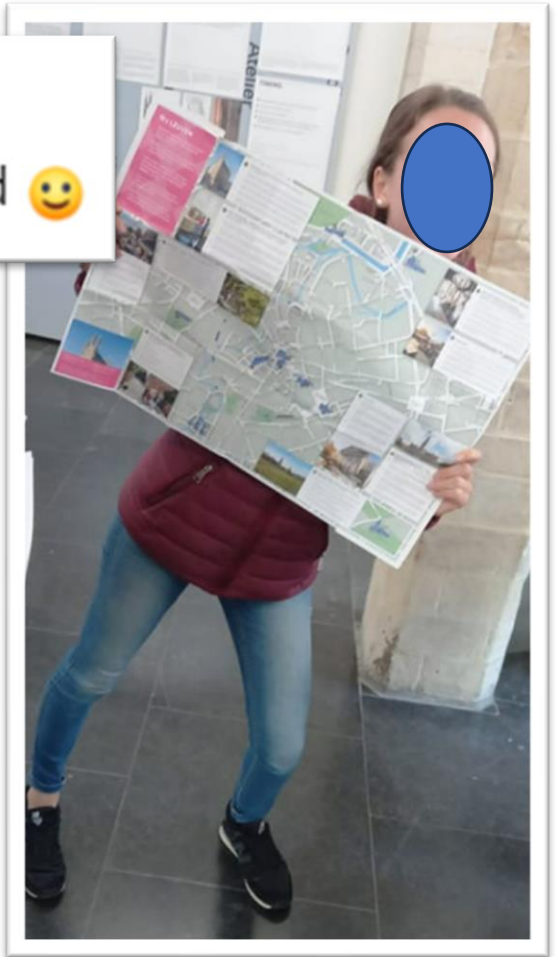
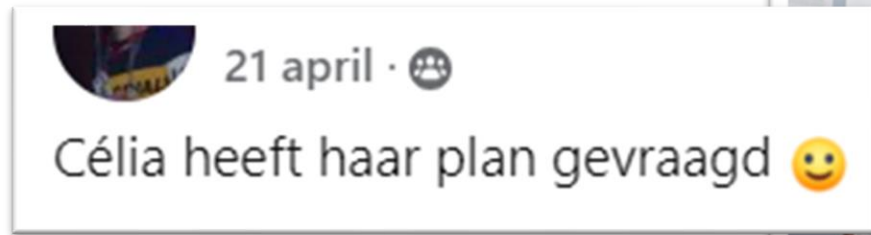
Gezien door iedereen

Task: visit to Leuven

- Train to Leuven
- Campus Arenberg – lunch – quiz in the city centre
- Authentic language tasks
 - Receptive and productive language skills
 - Order tickets for the bus
 - Read the time schedule for the bus
 - Formal and informal conversations with locals
 - Authentic context
 - Concrete goals
 - Understand others and being understood by others

Task: the quiz in Leuven

- Goal: culture & communication
- 3 levels
 - Individual quiz: read, talk, listen, write, ...
 - FB = (spontaneous) communication with the other groups
 - Photo quest = competition



Quiz with Facebook since 201

- Students: facebook is a distraction
- Students: social awareness
- Teacher: Monitoring system
 - Freedom for the students
 - Up-to-date information





Post-task = a meeting

- Reflection on the visit to Leuven
- Sharing experiences / unexpected situations
- Talking about the posts on Facebook

Post-task: reflection on Facebook

- 2013: « unexpected original, cool, « our » medium »
- 2023: « maybe it was too much? »

- Enjoy the sightseeing in the city centre
- Facebook is
 - not « our »medium
 - Indispensable in daily life
 - An obligation

- A shift in the perception of Facebook
 - (Often) still a distraction
 - Not (always) received positively (anymore)

And now? Another medium?

- Tiktok = « innovative but too young + for high school »
- Snapchat = « popular but outdated »
- Twitter = « too formal & not used enough »
- Students' advice: Messenger
 - « Easy to access + private modus »
- Back to reality: no social medium?



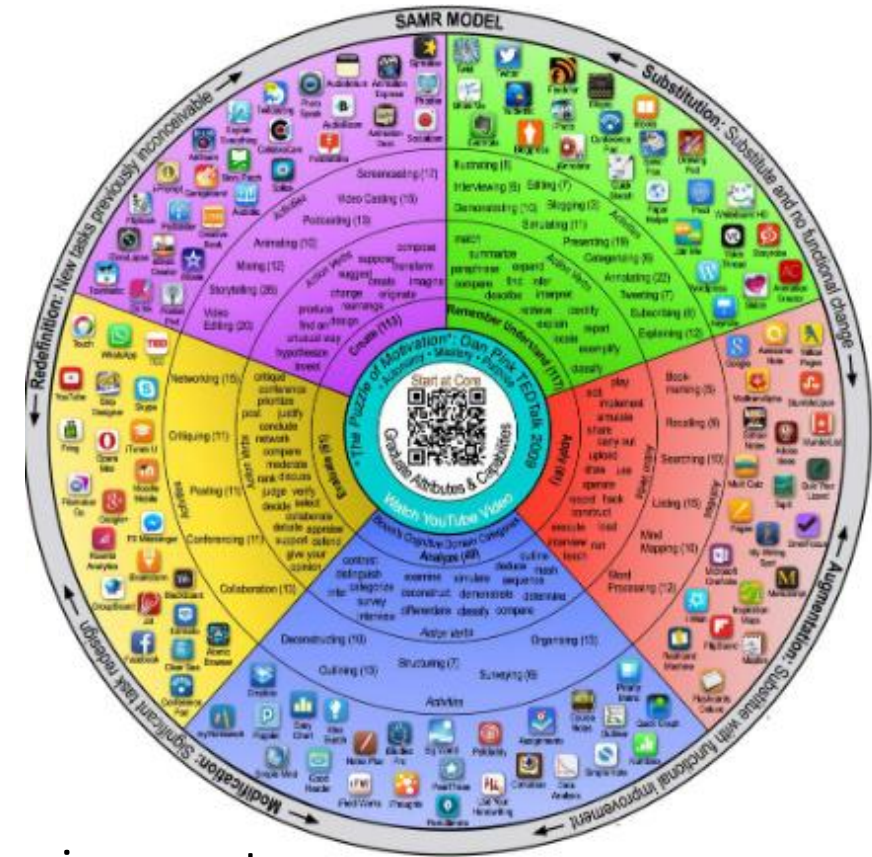
Immersion day: yes!

- Authentic tasks in an authentic setting: DIY!
 - Intercultural competences
 - Receptive and productive language skills

 - Concrete, « individual » goals: empowering
 - Willingness to communicate increases
 - Motivated students: responsibility
- Criteria: time available – students' maturity – group size

Devices and social media?

- During pre-task: internet – mail – devices
 - indispensable to empower the students
- Task: Facebook
 - Communication & quiz
 - Extra dimension – necessary?
 - 10 years ago: social awareness < > distraction
 - 2023: « too much » in an unknown, authentic learning environment
 - 2024: Messenger ? Or ... ?
- Post-task:
 - Posts on FB are a spontaneously written track = valuable



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