

LEGEND

- our memories of the local project
- conversation tools we used
- reflections of (local) participants
- amount of local participants
- workshop

I think looking for common ground is a left-wing thing!

A passerby said: "Sorry, I'm too stupid to talk about society."

A lot of the people of different politics and social class I talked to said that they mostly considered "rich people" as the "other" in society.

MEMORY
A kind of Memory game with pictures (facedown on a table) expressing loneliness and other phenomena in society. People picked two pictures and discussed possible links between the two.

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Special focus on youngsters, dialogues on people's dreams about society, sitting under a Christmas tree in the shopping street and being chased away by the police, small conversation games on appointment in the cultural centre.

Humor is a good trigger. I ask "do you have 1 minute?". If people answer "no", I say: "Do you have 5 minutes then?". And suddenly a smile appears: "All right, what is it about?"

One of my conversations encouraged someone to join an activist group.

STREET QUEST 1000
Inviting people to answer a daily yes/no-question on their relations with their neighbours by hanging a yellow flag (yes) or a blue flag (no) from their window, inviting them to a daily gathering moment in the bar of the local theatre to discuss the question of the day.

By talking to clients of our fair trade shop, we realized that we should get out of the shop more regularly.

3
Conversations by the local Oxfam-Wereldwinkel on the International Day of Fair Trade, asking: "What is 'fair' to you?"

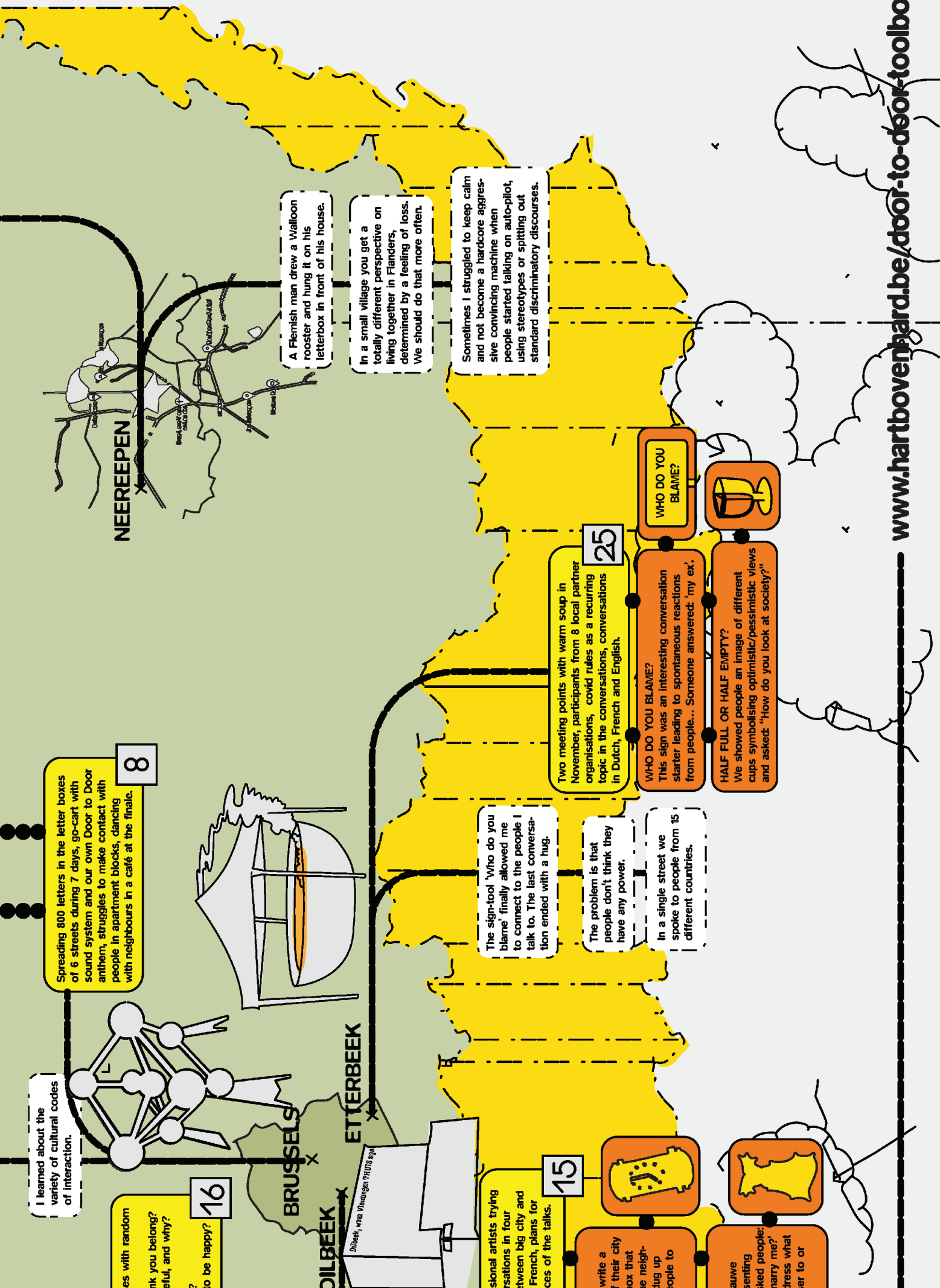


NEW FLEMISH FLAG
On the Flemish National Day, we asked people to redesign the Flemish flag, using a blank yellow flag and markers. How would they express their personal perspective on Flanders?

Ringling all the doorbells of all the houses of this small village, all using the same flag tool, chalking the slogan 'Buurthuis moet blijven' in the public space as a final trace.

6

? | state of the arts



NEEREOPEN

A Flemish man drew a Walloon rooster and hung it on his letterbox in front of his house.

In a small village you get a totally different perspective on living together in Flanders, determined by a feeling of loss. We should do that more often.

Sometimes I struggled to keep calm and not become a hardcore aggressive convincing machine when people started talking on auto-pilot, using stereotypes or spitting out standard discriminatory discourses.

Two meeting points with warm soup in November, participants from 8 local partner organisations, covid rules as a recurring topic in the conversations, conversations in Dutch, French and English.

WHO DO YOU BLAME?

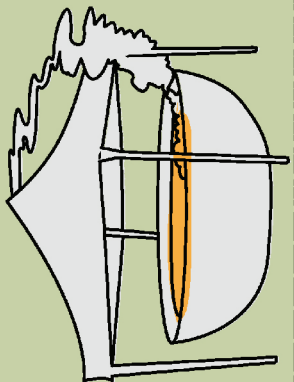


This sign was an interesting conversation starter leading to spontaneous reactions from people... Someone answered: 'my ex.'

HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY?
We showed people an image of different cups symbolising optimistic/pessimistic views and asked: "How do you look at society?"

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Spreading 800 letters in the letter boxes of 6 streets during 7 days, go-cart with sound system and our own Door to Door anthem, struggles to make contact with people in apartment blocks, dancing with neighbours in a café at the finale.



The sign-tool 'who do you blame' finally allowed me to connect to the people I talk to. The last conversation ended with a hug.

The problem is that people don't think they have any power.

In a single street we spoke to people from 15 different countries.

I learned about the variety of cultural codes of interaction.

...es with random ...nk you belong? ...eful, and why? ...to be happy?

16

BRUSSELS

ETTERBEEK

Dilbeek, was Utangen "PULG" ajn

DILBEEK

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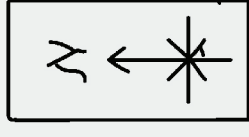
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DOOR TO DOOR

CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT TOPICS THAT MATTER

This map of Flanders and Brussels documents our personal experiences and unfinished conclusions after Door to Door: a series of conversations about society with random fellow citizens. From September 2020 to May 2022, we traveled through different cities and villages to talk to them in public space and at their doorstep. Every time we teamed up with different local organisations, cultural institutions and volunteers. Travel across the map and discover our findings. We hope it will inspire you to go on the street and have meaningful dialogues as well! For more concrete tips, check the flowchart and tools in our online toolbox. Or email doortodoor@protonmail.com.

WHAT IS DOOR TO DOOR?
 Door to Door was initiated by a group of twelve artists and other engaged people of State of the Arts and Hart boven Hard, worried about the political polarisation of Flanders. From an action group reacting to the 2019 cultural budget cuts announced by the Flemish government, it morphed into a research project. We developed artistic tools and conversation strategies for people to have one-on-one dialogues on societal issues beyond their own social bubble. We experienced that different bodies ask for different approaches: race, gender, class, ability, sexuality, citizenship and other factors influence what kind of conversations feel safe and needed. We think it is important to be aware of our vulnerabilities and responsibilities.

After 1 minute of conversation, I often realised people didn't fit the mental box I put them in.

My favorite tool is just being honest and introducing the project, before I start asking questions.

Although most people don't want to be seen as nationalists, they don't seem concerned by nationalism, as if they don't realise that it is a reality. It's often perceived as outdated but mostly harmless.

TURTLE FLAG
 Two non-Belgian members of Door to Door drew a turtle onto a yellow flag, believing that it was much more fitted symbol of the Flemish national character than a lion. They asked passersby whether they agreed with their theory.

POLL
 On a handmade cardboard sign with a scale from 1 to 10 and a moveable dial, passersby were asked to indicate how proud they are about Antwerp and how optimistic or pessimistic they are about the future of the city.

The former Antwerp city slogan "Stad is vaer iedereen" as a common theme of conversational tools with students of KdG, walking on the Kaaien with the sign "I am political".

