



Douzelage

★ *Meerssen*

# PROJECTS

1. Memorial forest
2. Sponsor campaign Road to Ukraine
3. Annual St Patrick's Day
4. Cycling project "Via Douzelage"
5. Benelux meeting
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## Meerssen Memorial Forest

The Memorial Forest is an initiative of the municipality of Meerssen and is made possible by the Limburg Landscape Foundation and the treeforestplan of the Province of Limburg.

Daily management at the Douzelage tree - a hornbeam - in the Memorial forest.







**Blankets for Ukraine**

## **Road to UKRAINE**

**The Douzelage Europa board was in Siret where they heard that there were transport problems in a Ukrainian community just across the border.**

**The Romanian Red Cross went to Ukraine with an emergency vehicle and we were given permission to ride along**

**The town they drove to normally has 90,000 inhabitants.**

**That number was now tripled.**

**What did the Ukrainians asking for?**

**They want a small bus or a car for local transport because there were no more buses.**

**Douzelage has done it before – raised money for a bus so they think:**

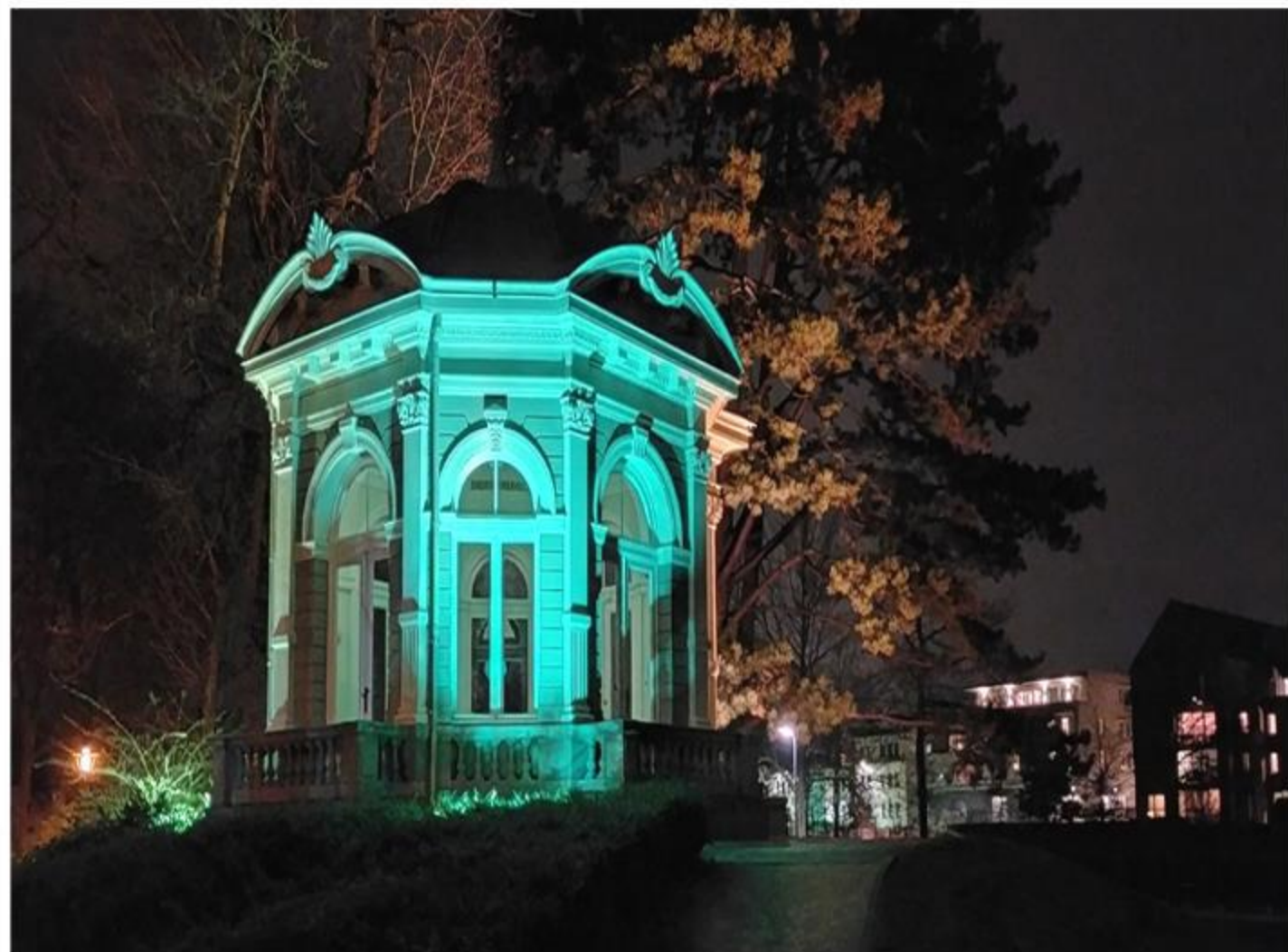
**“We can do it again.”**

**Douzelage Niederaanven Luxembourg donates two vans**

**These will be brought to Ukraine under the leadership of the Douzelage Europe board.**

## Annual St Patrick's Day

Together with other Douzelage partners, we set during St. Patrick's Day monuments of our municipality in the green light. Here the Gloriëtte in Meerssen.







## CYCLING PROJECT "VIA DOUZELAGE"

The Via Douzelage is a network of hiking trails, bicycle, car, train and flight routes nodes are formed by the 28 European municipalities that are members of the Douzelage.

The purpose of the Via Douzelage is connecting the Douzelage cities in Europe.

The network invites you to come and cycle to get to know other Europeans and with them to build lasting relationships.





## Benelux meeting

On Saturday, March 23, 2024 Niederanven organized a Benelux meeting with Houffalize and Meerssen. The crowning glory on this day was the unveiling of a Douzelage totem in front of the municipal building. All 28 Douzelage partner cities are covered the Totem indicated, including the distance from the center of Nierderanven.

We are all proud of this beautiful sign of our unity!



## Europe Day (May 9) Flag Day

The annual celebration of peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historic Schuman statement, in which he argued for a new form of politics cooperation in Europe, that war between the European nations would make unthinkable. Schuman's proposal is seen as the first foundation for what would later become the European Union.

The European flag is then displayed exuberantly in Meerssen.







## Granville walk

**Our Douzelage partner in France Granville - our French sister city - is also the town who co-founded Douzelage in 1991.**

**The deed of incorporation was signed in 1991 in the Christian-Dior Museum of Granville.**

**On June 26, 2023 Douzelage Meerssen, Sherborne and Granville formed a triangle of Douzelage Europe.**

**We met each other in Granville for a beautiful walk through the area and city of Granville. We also visited the house and Garden by Christian Dior.**



# Cultural heritage

From September 28 to October 1, 2023 the annual meeting of Douzelage Europa was held in Rovinj, our partner city in Croatia. More than 150 participants from all over Europe gathered to discuss the topic: Cultural Heritage. Each partner city had made a significant contribution.



**Meerssen train station**



**Meerssen Jewish synagogue**





## **Contacts with secondary schools**

**During the Benelux meeting in Niederaanven with Houffalize and Meerssen, consultations have taken place to involve the municipalities' secondary schools projects, such as knowledge about Europe, exchange of the language French, Luxembourgish, Dutch and German.**

**Students visit other municipalities and exchange students of the schools.**

**These contacts may lead to new projects development.**