



**EFFORTS Board/Annual General Meeting /Annual Congress
Venice 7-9/11/18
Resumé and conclusions**

Overall organisation : cooperation Forte Marghera and EFFORTS secretariat + board members was very positive.

Presence : 60 participants of which 25 speakers (Spandau : resp. 42 – 25), 23 out of 40 members EFFORTS members from 11 countries. List participants on website.

Press present: Il Correo de Veneto (Il Correo de la Sera), La Nuova Venezia (La Repubblica), Il Gazzettino (Venice regional)

Board 7/11 :

- Agreement on AGM / Congress programme.
- Peter Ros and Karen Gysen present membership policy to the board to decide. Idem as in March 2018 Board decision : decision to propose plan / policy to board, work per national groups / delegations, with one responsible contact per country. Added : No contact with Russia, regional coordination (Rakutis), large cities to concentrate on.
- Knowledge Center project EP pilot project / preparatory action is researched by Raf Deroo + Andrea Bonifacio and Andrea Theissen (Multilingual Library, as presented at the board). No action possible by 2018. Taking up dossier with International Fortress Council.
- European Fortress Day Creative Europe project is being prepared by Raf Deroo + Juke van Niekerk, min. 3 partners of EFFORTS in 3 different member states : SLO / Den Bosch / Sibenik and possibly 4rd one.
- Confirmation of EFFORTS Award and its first 2018 version at this congress, connecting to European Fortress Day.
- Congress venue preparation information and confirmation to follow up with European Capitals of Culture as congress venues.
- Bergen op Zoom to host next (open) board meeting on 23 May 2019 (with arrival programme on 22 May).
- Develop further website member space / link between membership registration – information on members – newsletter address list and Newsletter system as started in July.
- Presentation of thanks to leaving board members Andrea Bonifacio, Andrea Theissen, Alessio Bellin.

AGM 8/11 :

- 18 members present (out of 40)
- Election of the candidates for Board member (with discussion on 9/11 on responsibilities) :
 - o Frank Petter : President, Operations
 - o Peter Ros : Vice-President, Funding (EFPN) and Membership
 - o Huib van Olden : Secretary of the Board, Governance and Nominations, Communication and EFD/Award
 - o Stefano Mondini : Treasurer

- Tuija Lind : Science
- Valdas Rakutis : EU Regional cooperation
- Daniele Sferra : International cooperation
- Karen Gysen : Membership with Peter Ros and Science with Tuija
- +Erika Farkas (appointed associate board member responsible for Communication with Huib)
- European Fortress Day : SLO + secretariat
- Auditors : Lex Roolvink (Grave) and Tom O'Neil (Cork)
- EFFORTS EU Funding Professionals Network set up. First meeting in February approx.
- Continuation with European Fortress Day. Linked with EFFORTS Award (best innovative site)
- Membership policy (see 'board' above)
- Next (open) board meeting : in May in Bergen-op-Zoom. Together with 2nd EFPN meeting.
- For all other info : see minutes. Full minutes will be sent to the EFFORTS members.
- Info on the board will be posted online.

Congress 8-9/11

- 60 participants
- See definitive programme, presentations, speakers and photos on website
- Visit of future site of Forte Marghera Foundation European Knowledge Center
- European Fortress Day, 61 members and 12 members states, reception very positive.
- EFFORTS Award to Sibenik, Croatia
- Declaration of Venice : elements added by the congress, content agreed by participants.

Ideas for cooperation :

- European Fortress Day : pledge for all who have not participated yet, to do so in 2019. A working group on EFD will start its work.
- Knowledge Center / Library (Forte Marghera / International Fortress Council)
- Proposal for cooperation on city gates (Antwerp + Culemborg and 's-Hertogenbosch)
- Storytelling (Sibenik)
- Partnership Agreement Kaunas Museum Fort and EFFORTS on European Capital of Culture possibilities.
- Defence line cooperation possibilities voiced : Zuiderwaterlinie, Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie, IJsellinie, Albanian coast (Andrea B.), Atlantikwall Europe, ...

Next congress (3 possibilities), with budget by organising city :

- Cork presented itself as candidate congress locality (2019)
- Sibenik is also candidate, communication to Andrea Bonifacio and Raf Deroo (earliest on 2020)
- Bàc/Novi Sad (Serbia) and Kaunas (Lithuania) are asked if they are interested for resp. Years of Cultural Capital of Europe 2021 and 2022. The City of Antwerp is contacted by board for possible candidature.

Ideas for next Congress subjects to be taken into account (14) :

- Soeters (Maastricht): how can we find / support each other ?
- Mulders (NHWaterlinie): less speakers – more content for discussion / planning / cooperation
- Booms (Culemborg) : discussion tables / give possibilities to network / show background and experiences of the members
- Haafkens (Zutphen) : ask partner cities to bring in opportunity projects / balance between realised projects and plans (1/3 and 2/3) / workshops on day 2

- Wijnand De Radder (Maastricht) : more days for a congress or less speakers and different workshops people can choose from
- Laura van der Poel (Zutphen) and Wijnand de Radder (Maastricht) : sustainability in circularity in heritage (climate solutions)
- SLO : sustainability in energy production
- Vujovic (Bàc) : Innovative ideas for fortifications in rural areas
- Rakutis (Kaunas) : quality and cooperation
- Laura van der Poel (Zutphen) : societal support for military built heritage
- Montemurro : relation between geography and positional value of the re-used fortress
- Gysen : Knowledge Center (physical and online)
- SLO : marketing tips
- Acri : 'interior design'.

Conclusions :

1. **Next congress venue** - early decision in January on congress venue, ask the 3 candidates for official proposal and budget by 31 January 2019.

2. **Next congress theme and structure** : early decision on theme(s) in February. Most common ideas for structure (see above) : how to establish networks + sustainable energy production / networking activities / opportunity projects).

3. **Date Board meeting Bergen op Zoom** on 23 May 2019 (arrival of participants on 22 May).

Other actions,

- Presentation Declaration by President to Commissioner and Member of Parliament Silvia Costa, Adam Karacsony (Committee of the Regions).
- EU projects EFD, Knowledge Center / Library in preparation for next year
- EFPN start in January / February : funding workshop, 2nd after June 2018
- 2nd EFPN workshop, in frame of Board meeting on 23 May in Bergen op Zoom
- Work on defense line cooperation.

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