

## A EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MILITARY HERITAGE SITES

Declaration of intent to establish a European network of military heritage sites

### BETWEEN:

- New Dutch Waterline – The Netherlands, represented by Mrs. Traag
- City of Venice – Italy, represented by Mrs. Ravenna
- Réseau des sites majeurs de Vauban – France, represented by Mr. Fousseret and Mr. Rapeneau
- Spandau Citadel – Germany, represented by Mrs. Theissen
- Kaunas Council – Lithuania, represented by Mrs. Skaistė
- Fort Monostor Non-profit Ltd. – Hungary, represented by Mr. Varga
- Province of Antwerp – Belgium, represented by Mr. de Pauw
- Paola Council – Malta, represented by Mr. Spiteri
- Governing body of Suomenlinna – Finland, represented by Mr. Anttila
- Medway Council – United Kingdom, represented by Mrs. Cable
- University of Nova Gorica – Slovenia, represented by Mrs. Dobričič
- Utrecht Town Council – the Netherlands, represented by Mr. Winkelman
- 's-Hertogenbosch Town Council – the Netherlands, represented by Mr. Nooijens
- House of Culture Nysa – Poland, represented by Mrs. Janik
- NGO Castellum - Estonia, represented by Mr. Treufeldt

### SINCE

The new European Union Programming period 2014-2020 highlights cultural co-operation and the celebration of European heritage as a key priority.

### CONSIDERED

That the ATFORT INTERREG IVC project has demonstrated the establishment of a vibrant and genuine transnational partnership of areas of military heritage dedicated to the transformation of redundant former military sites into zones of dynamic economic activity and community life.

### ACKNOWLEDGED

That former military land and heritage have played a major historic role in economic activity and wellbeing and that the departure of the military from a site or a city has often had a dramatically adverse impact on quality of life and employment, presenting major challenges for local social and economic restructuring.

That military heritage consisting of fortifications, dockyards and, generally speaking, remarkable architectural assets constitutes an irreplaceable expression of the cultural heritage of Europe, is precious testimony to the collective memory, and is a common property and source of common identity for peoples across Europe.

That the recovery, safeguarding, promoting the socio-economic potential of the abovementioned heritage assumes international relevance at historical, architectural, political and institutional levels, and also represents a strong and effective platform for intercultural dialogue.

## NOTING THAT

The awareness of the existence of such rich heritage can increase the mutual knowledge, understanding and tolerance between the peoples of Europe.

That the awareness of the values of this common architectural landscape and cultural heritage and of the importance of safeguarding it for future generations should be the starting principle that guides the process of achieving new social and economic uses for the heritage in order to sustain, preserve and promote it.

## SEEING THAT

Treaties, recommendations and international declarations that exist on the preservation of cultural and natural heritage, pointing out the importance of the protection of these unique and irreplaceable assets, regardless of their geographical location across Europe, in particular the Barroso speech called 'A new narrative for Europe' and the recent EU communication on culture.

The signatories of this declaration underline the need to protect and realise the potential of their own environmental, architectural, historic and artistic heritage based on the inspiring principle of subsidiarity.

## DECLARE THEIR INTENTION TO

Establish an ongoing Network of Military Heritage sites safeguarding and realising the socio-economic potential of military heritage, working in close partnership with national, international and European institutions and promote the interests of the Network in European policy.

Work together to progress the socio-economic re-use of former military heritage, realising its potential to deliver sustainable quality of life benefits.

Plan and deliver together the transfer of good practice regeneration actions between network partners, which enable military heritage sites to generate new employment, achieve quality of life improvements and deliver sustainable growth of economic activity, highlighting the ability of network partners to respond to the goals set by both the Lisbon Agenda and the Gothenburg Agenda.

Promote, deepen and consolidate the existing effective collaboration demonstrated by the successes of the ATFORT project.



Work as a partnership network in order to:

- Achieve tangible added value interventions through the development of suitable programs and strategies.
- Highlight and raise the profile of military heritage, its role in social, economic and physical regeneration and its importance as cultural assets which celebrate a common European heritage.
- Re-unite heritage assets with local communities as an integral part of their identity and how they perceive the sense of place in which they live.
- Support organisations and institutions involved in military heritage preservation and realising its dormant socio-economic potential.
- Bind conservation and re-use of military heritage to the sustainable development goals of the Gothenburg agenda.
- Promote international exchanges of information, research expertise and analysis on the above-mentioned cultural and environmental heritage, in order to achieve new practical partnerships between experts from the university sector, policy makers and practitioners and enterprise, which define clear and effective strategic approaches to the social and economic restructuring and master-planning of military sites.
- Promote conferences and meetings with the most important scientific institutions and to cooperate with international organisations.

## AGREE

As decided unanimously by all the At Fort partners in the Steering Group meeting in Malta in December 2013, to appoint the “Centro Studi per la Valorizzazione delle Architetture Militari e dei Sistemi Difensivi” (Centre for Studies of the Valorisation of the Military Architectures and of the Defence Systems) in the premises of Forte Marghera in Venice as the “custodian” of the achievements and results of the At Fort project, storing the relevant scientific documentation of the project. The “Centre”, managed by the partner City of Venice with the support of Marco Polo System GEIE, will also perform the task of the focal point of the project partnership for the follow up activities of At Fort partners, promoting further bilateral or multilateral joint cooperation activities among the partners enhancing the achievement of the above-stated key-points of intention. The Centre will be also available, accordingly negotiations, as the siege for any further initiative that may enhance the Network of Military Heritage Sites, with possible scenarios of enlargement of the same network. The Regional Government of Veneto Region has funded, with a commitment to the City of Venice of the amount of Euro 1.891.000,00, the settlement of the “Centre” with the so called “Programma Attuativo Regionale del Fondo di Sviluppo e Coesione (PAR FSC) Veneto 2007-2013 (Regional Executive Programme of the Development and Cohesion Funds) Axis 3.1 Strand of intervention 3.1. “Works of conservation, fruition of the cultural assets, networking and promotion of cultural activities and events (Regional Decree n.2324 of 16.12.2013; Regional Decree n. 875 of 10.06.2014).

This Declaration of Intent will be renewable, subject to confirmation and according to the will of each individual partner city and site signing up to the declaration.

# AT FORT

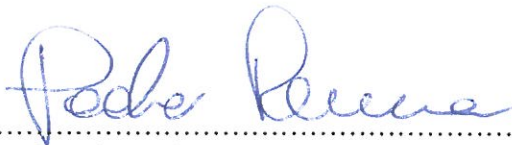
ATELIER EUROPEAN FORTRESSES

Dated on: October 27<sup>th</sup> 2014

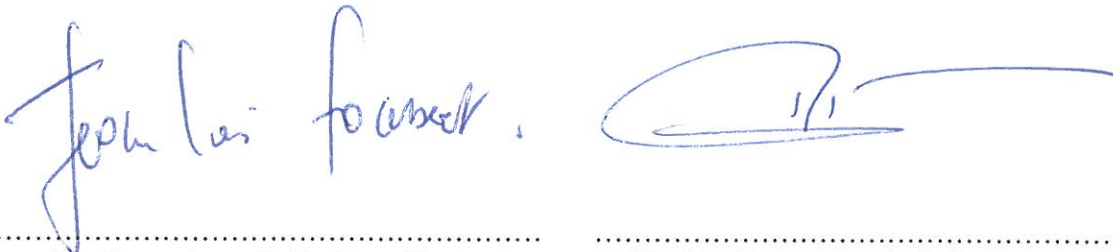
Place: Suomenlinna, Helsinki



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New Dutch Waterline – The Netherlands, represented by Mrs. Traag



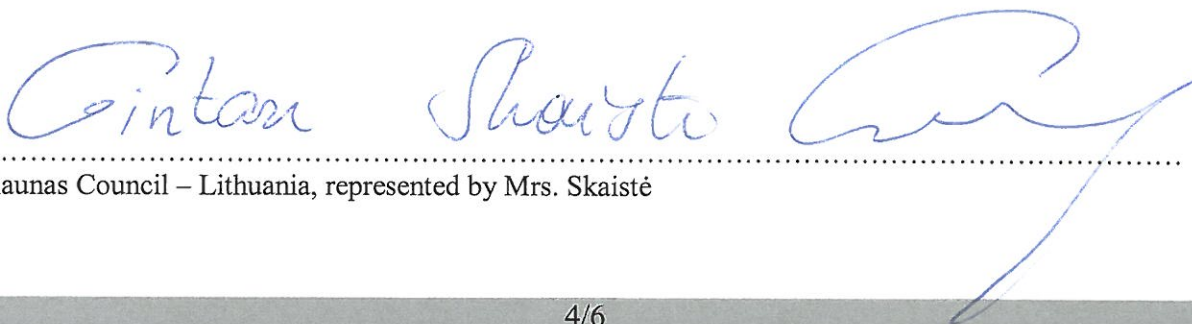
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City of Venice and Marco Polo System g.e.i.e Venice – Italy, represented by Mrs. Ravenna



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Réseau des sites majeurs de Vauban – France, represented by Mr. Fousseret and Mr. Rapeneau



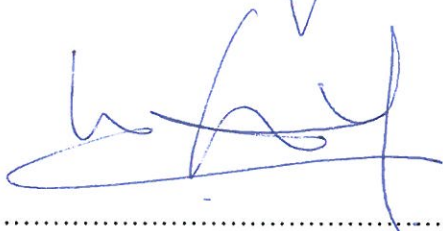
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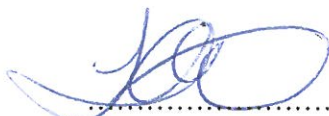
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Medway Council – United Kingdom, represented by Mrs. Cable



*Ljiljana Dobričič*

University of Nova Gorica – Slovenia, represented by Mrs. Dobričič

*[Signature]*

Utrecht Town Council – the Netherlands, represented by Mr. Winkelman

*[Signature]*

's-Hertogenbosch Town Council – the Netherlands, represented by Mr. Nooijens

*Janine Janik*

House of Culture Nysa – Poland, represented by Mrs. Janik

*Robert Treufeldt R/T*

NGO Castellum - Estonia, represented by Mr. Treufeldt

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Rector



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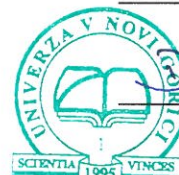
To Whom it May Concern

Subject: **Delegation of signature authority**

By means of this letter, I, prof. dr. Danilo Zavrtanik, rector and legal representative of the University of Nova Gorica (SI), hereby delegate my signing authority to prof. dr. Saša Dobričič, director of the doctoral program in *Economics and Techniques for the Conservation of The Architectural and Environmental Heritage*, for the signature of the **Declaration of Intent to Establish a European Network of Military Heritage Sites**.

21-10-2014

Date



Signature

Prof. dr. Danilo Zavrtanik  
Rector  
University of Nova Gorica

Name and Title (Delegator)

**Declaration of Delegate:**

I hereby accept the authority delegated to me to execute the above-noted declaration on behalf of the University of Nova Gorica.

21-10-2014

Date

Signature

Prof. dr. Saša Dobričič  
ETCAEH Director  
Unievrsity of Nova Gorica

Name and Title