

EU ECONOMIC, INTERREG AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



The European Union is strengthening its economic, social and territorial cohesion. In particular, the EU aims at reducing disparities between the levels of development of its various regions and cities. Special attention is paid to, among others, rural and urban areas, areas affected by industrial transition and cross-border regions, fostering mutual cooperation in an integrated holistic multi-dimensional framework of the Open Method of Coordination.

► **Fortified heritage reuse in Europe's regions and cities contribute to the improvement of regional or urban spatial and economic development.**

Example: Antwerp fortifications sites are valorized as part of the urban space (16th century Kipdorpsite).

EFFORTS and its European network support with this 2019 Statement the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage and its holistic, integrating and multi-stakeholder approach. It strives, with its partners in the cultural heritage field, to work toward a sustainable, resilient, innovative and inclusive Europe and its Member States. It supports the work of the European Commission and the European Heritage Alliance 3.3 and the Cultural Heritage Forum exchanging best practices for sustainable and participatory cultural heritage policies in Europe. In this framework, working towards mainstreaming fortified heritage policies in the new EU Commission Agenda is a key element of attention of the EFFORTS network.

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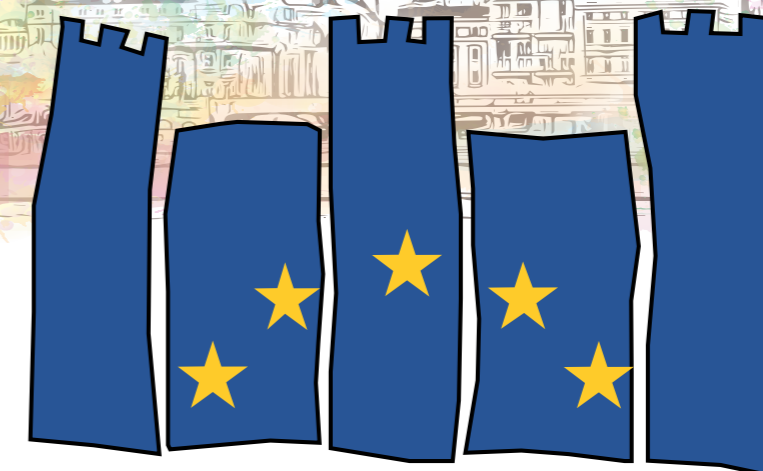
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EFFORTS

EFFORTS is a European network organisation established in 2017 to share knowledge and practical expertise on military heritage, such as walled towns, forts and defence lines. The basis for EFFORTS was laid during the final conference of the At Fort Interreg IVC project in Suomenlinna, Helsinki (Finland 2014) and international conferences on military heritage in 's-Hertogenbosch (Netherlands 2016), Berlin-Spandau Zitadelle (Germany 2017), Forte Marghera (Italy 2018) and Antwerp (2019). Today EFFORTS unites more than 50 European fortified sites and networks and is growing. Since 2018 EFFORTS has been a European professional representation of fortified sites. It is a member of the Europa Nostra managed European Heritage Alliance 3.3. Today EFFORTS' main mission is the structuring of European cooperation and keeping military fortified heritage on the European policy agenda. EFFORTS believes that European cooperation is the key to achieving its goals. Any local or regional authority and any person actively engaged in the protection and reuse of military heritage at European, national, regional or local level is welcome to join EFFORTS. EFFORTS' aim is to enhance structural European cooperation and coordination, to share expertise, to promote personal cooperation and to put fortified heritage on the agenda as a permanent link with our common European history. This in order to make a sustainable contribution to Europe's economic, energy and spatial development and social challenges.

MORE INFORMATION: WWW.EFFORTS-EUROPE.EU



EFFORTS
european federation of fortified sites

STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE 2019 ANTWERP CONGRESS

"The Future of Fortified Heritage–
The European Dimension"

Established by the EFFORTS Annual Congress 29 November 2019, Antwerp (Belgium)

The Antwerp 2019 EFFORTS Congress had **three main goals:**

- 1 To support EFFORTS members and future members building European co-funded projects.
- 2 To discuss fortification issues, crucial to fortified heritage. The City of Antwerp offers an excellent opportunity for discussion on one aspect of fortification heritage, specifically the use of water for fortifications, drainage, and climate adaptation measures.
- 3 To foster a bottom-up approach of consensus-building, awareness and out-reach activities. The protection of fortified heritage is a universal concern across the European Community and the sustainable use and reuse of this heritage will lead to positive spill-over effects and economic multi-functional opportunities..

The EFFORTS Congress **key message** was:

Local and regional authorities with the involvement of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) should work together to establish European quality fortified heritage projects. This will help facilitate the preservation and re-use of common European heritage in a sustainable and economically viable manner. These sites are multifaceted and include water related activities, community projects multi agency cooperation with socio-economic benefits. These Heritage sites will contribute to the post-European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage and the 2020+ EU policies such as INTERREG, Erasmus+, Europe for the Citizens and Horizon Europe.

The **following positions on the future of cultural heritage** in this EFFORTS 'Statement' and with added EFFORTS members project examples, is also based on the 2018 EFFORTS Venice Declaration and will be presented to the new Commissioner for Culture, Mariya GABRIEL:

1. WATER FOR DEFENCE / DEFENCE FOR WATER



City fortifications using water as a defence mechanism can play a role in spatial and environmental development and water management, as is the case in the Antwerp region. The system of inundation on the other hand, could prove very relevant for future developments, combining its engineering skills in climate adaptation. In addition, the use of (seasonal) inundation could improve soil qualities in agricultural areas: by flooding agricultural areas, pests like nematodes can be better controlled, resulting in better yields and higher quality crops.

► **Fortified inundation landscapes have a role in climate adaptation and other inundation system reuse. Cities and regions are to pool their experience in the reuse of water fortifications and water management.**

Interreg project Recapture the Fortress Cities, with Regionale Landschappen (Belgium), establishes, on the basis of UN Sustainable Development goals, best practices in all fields of fortification development.



2. DEFENCE LINES (water and other defence lines)

Europe is composed of ancient and more recent fortified defence lines, from UK's Hadrian's wall, via the Spanish fortifications and the Wellington Barrier and WWI and WWII defences, to the Cold War Dutch IJssel-line. Former signs of the division of the continent their relevance, besides their architectural, technical and historical value, is to connect former European opponents in a modern European Union and its allies. Today, defence lines as their common European heritage have the role of a bridge between European countries, cultures and people.

► **Europe's defence lines have to play a key role in future European collaborative projects in built military heritage, such as historic and touristic routes or by establishing platforms for cultural action, or they can be the center of regional economic or environmental development.**

Example: Atlantikwall Europe Creative Europe project (Norway, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Channel Islands, France).

3.

FORTIFIED KNOWLEDGE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Cultural and creative industries can ensure innovation and high-quality services. Fortified heritage being an integral part of European cohesion, has the potential to build bridges between tradition, innovation and education. Its repair, maintenance and development offer opportunities not only for a large range of local businesses and larger professional companies but also for non-professionals. Fortified heritage triggers a spill-over effect into other industrial sectors, such as tourism, retail, and digital technologies. With innovative initiatives, fortified heritage presents an opportunity for job creation and multi-cultural and social integration, becoming an extraordinary driver of sustainable social and economic development and a catalyst of creativity. Moreover, the restoration, cultural and catering sectors for instance are suited for the influx of professionals who can transfer experience to younger generations or specific social groups distanced from the labour market.



► **Fortification sites need to work towards concrete proposals for action in social development.**

Example: Suomenlinna Fortress (Finland) uses social insertion projects in the restoration of its site.



4.

ENVIRONMENTAL EU PROJECTS

The EU LIFE programme consists of funding for nature conservation projects, in particular in the areas of biodiversity, habitats and species. It provides action grants for best practices, pilot and demonstration projects that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, exploiting the potential for utilisation of renewable energies, such as shallow geothermal energy for retrofitting historical buildings, the implementation and development of EU policy and law. It also promotes knowledge sharing and integrated approaches, such as climate change mitigation strategies and action plans at local, regional or national level.

► **Fortification sites reuse has an added value for environmental and renewable energy projects.**

Example: 's Hertogenbosch (Netherlands) funded the restoration of its water fortifications with LIFE+ support.

CULTURAL EU PROJECTS

5.

The EU Creative Europe programme is the only programme focusing exclusively on cultural and creative activities and enterprises, it falls under the 'Cohesion and values' heading of the 2021-2027 EU budget. Under the proposed programme, the economic sector and its contribution to job creation and economic growth and culture's contribution to international relations, fostering cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in a long-term perspective of a strengthening and implementation of a global community good governance and a peaceful society.

► **Europe's defence lines and shared fortification heritage are good examples of cross-border shared European heritage. Their present-day relevance can be underlined by shared art and cultural projects.**

Example: Oost-Gelre (Netherlands) fortified Grolle city bi-annual re-enactment event and link with Spanish-European heritage.

