

EFFORTS NEWSLETTER nr. 17
MARCH 2021



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear EFFORTS Members,
Dear members of the EFFORTS community,

I am proud to see that our EFFORTS community is alive and working well in these difficult months. Spring has always been the promise of renewal and I am confident that EFFORTS and the partners in fortified heritage can soon meet and exchange on the subjects we hold dear.

In the last few months, EFFORTS has been active in the set-up of our 2021 workshops. We organize two with our members every year. With Forte Cultura, Hellevoetsluis and the EU Week of the Regions we are preparing for you and with you interesting topics : we go forward with our intent to come to a **European Fortification Heritage Impact Study**, following our last congress. We want to highlight the importance of the implication of citizens in heritage work and professions and we are working hard with national and regional stakeholders to put fortification at the forefront of regional development, clean energy and climate solutions.

EFFORTS, now with two members-partners, Stichting Liniebreed Ondernemen and Forte Cultura, is reinventing its European Fortress Day, this year adapting it to the Covid situation and installing the

European Fortress Summer 2021 : all sites are invited to show their sites to the public within the national safety situations and show that fortified heritage is open for the summer.

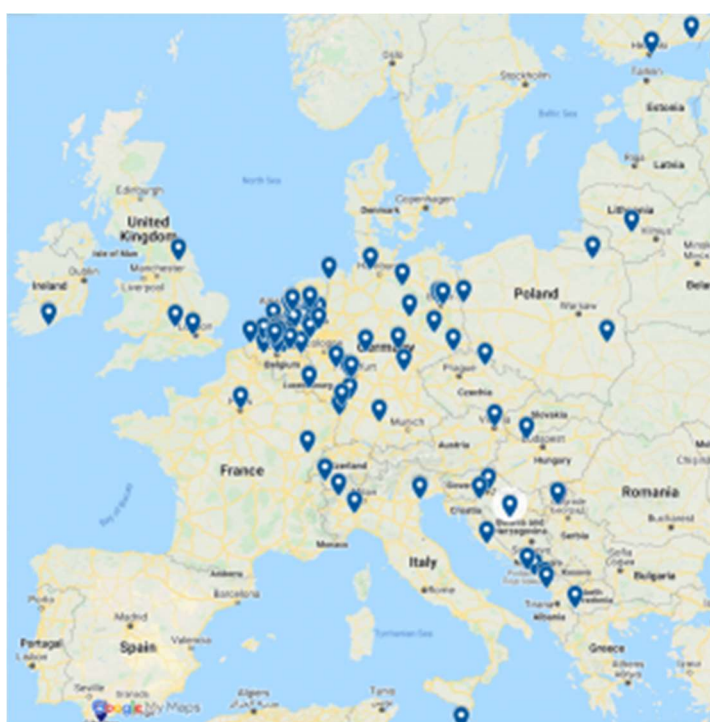
Another particular initiative I hold dear, is the **EFFORTS-Liberation Route Europe Foundation cooperation** decided in January. In this, EFFORTS and LREF will highlight this year and beyond, and with a highpoint the Bergen op Zoom conference in October, the memory of the persecuted in camps and detention centers in fortified sites during WWII. Fortification heritage is not only a bridge to the future, but also a place for remembrance.

I wish you a great Spring. And do not forget your 2021 membership !

Frank Petter

Mayor of Bergen-op-Zoom, Netherlands

President of EFFORTS



The EFFORTS members network in 2020. Will you be on this map in 2021 ?



→ *THANK YOU FOR YOUR* **2021**
EFFORTS MEMBERSHIP!

If you want to support EFFORTS financially and become a new EFFORTS funding member **IN 2021**,
PLEASE apply via the website : <http://www.efforts-europe.eu/membership/>
or contact the EFFORTS secretariat : info@efforts-europe.be

EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE GREEN PAPER



On 22 March the European Cultural Heritage Green Paper has been published. Connecting cultural heritage Europe's recovery, Europe's Green Deal and the European Bauhaus Initiative, it is linked to all current priorities of the European Union: from supporting education and the digital transformation to underpinning the tourism industry; from the creation of highly skilled and rewarding jobs to the regeneration of historic cities, villages and the countryside; and from fostering social cohesion to improving the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals and communities. Making policy recommendations, the Green Paper states that cultural heritage is a vector for achieving the long-term vision and policy goals of the European Union, including the European Green Deal. Cultural heritage is not just about preserving the past – it is about shaping the future. EFFORTS supports strongly this proposal of the cultural community in Europe.

For this read also the EFFORTS 2018 **Venice Declaration** and 2019 **Statement of Antwerp**.

Green Paper :

[https://issuu.com/europanostrat/docs/20210322-](https://issuu.com/europanostrat/docs/20210322-european-cultural-heritage-green-paper-ex)

Full version: <https://issuu.com/europanostrat/docs/20210322-european-cultural-heritage-green-paper-ex>

Executive Summary:

<https://issuu.com/europanostrat/docs/20210322-european-cultural-heritage-green-paper-ex>

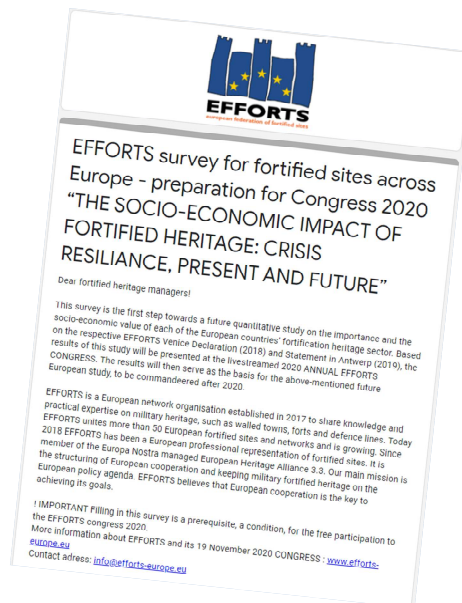
European Bauhaus Initiative : https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_111

EFFORTS :

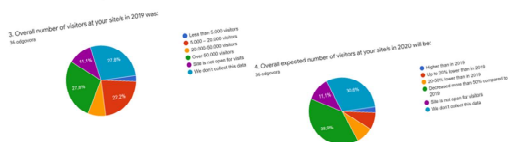
<https://www.efforts-europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/venicedeclaration.pdf>

<https://www.efforts-europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Antwerpen-Statement.pdf>

EFFORTS FORTIFIED HERITAGE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY : start in 2021



Visitors 2019 vs. 2020



Visions of the future

- heritage sites as places of endurance, knowledge and creativity, with strong cultural potential and many stories to tell, places which reflect the essence of our community
- make the city center an attractive place for residents and tourists. The prioritization is built up by looking at what is included in our spatial management plan as a long-term vision and the call to get to work
- preserve fortified monuments and strengthen infrastructure, which in turn creates jobs and thus strengthens cities and regions
- stronger cooperation, qualified offers, successful development of visitor numbers; greater perception in the region
- increased knowledge and understanding of the history and importance of the sites
- sustainable management and social cohesion of the neighborhood, social contribution

TVRBAVA KULTURE SIBENIK

TVRBAVA KULTURE SIBENIK

In 2020, EFFORTS has, on the basis of the **EFFORTS Socio-Economic Impact Study Survey**, launched its **Fortification Heritage Impact Study (FHIS)**, to be set-up in May 2021 within the **Forte Marghera EFFORTS Fortification Knowledge Center**.

The first results of the survey also indicate a wide range of local and regional stakeholders are included in programming, projects and various cultural, entertainment, sport and activities implemented at fortified sites. Social impact of fortified heritage is tangible and visible from gathered feedback, as well as the negative effect the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the intensity of activities for most sites. Some were/are closed for public and the majority has had a significant decrease in activities implemented within 2020. However, the preliminary results of the first part of the survey also indicate that fortified heritage managers are still not active enough in analyzing the financial aspect and impact that sites have within their communities: a large number of respondents does not collect and/or analyze data such as numbers of visitors, annual turnover of funds at sites, number of employees at sites, funds spent on outsourcing services within local communities etc.

In order to assess the economic impact of fortified heritage, whether in terms of individual sites or as part of wider European cultural sector; a holistic approach and scientific methodology are necessary. EFFORTS will work on developing such an approach and methodology with its members and partners, emphasizing that awareness on the socio-economic impact and value of fortified heritage is the key leverage towards achieving the future vision European fortified heritage sites as epicenters of endurance, knowledge and creativity, which reflect the essence of communities.

CALL FOR CANDIDACIES FOR THE FORTE CULTURA – EFFORTS JOINT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The joint Forte Cultura - EFFORTS scientific committee will be active, via established sub-committees or ad-hoc committees in heritage, history, management, social science, environment and climate, architecture, archeology, digital development and databases and fortress management. We are looking for experts in these fields. The committee will be linked with the **Forte Marghera EFFORTS Fortification Knowledge Center**.

One of the first tasks of the Committee will be the **Fortification Heritage Study 2021** (see elsewhere in this Newsletter) :

For your candidature or information, contact EFFORTS at info@efforts-europe.eu or FORTE CULTURA at office@forte-cultura.eu



EFFORTS FORTRESS SUMMER 2021





In 2021, the original EFFORTS European Fortress Day will become a **FORTRESS SUMMER, organised with EFFORTS members FORTE CULTURA and Stichting Liniebreed Ondernemen. The participants of EFFORTS FORTRESS SUMMER will compete for the EFFORTS Award. More registration information will follow !**

<https://www.efforts-europe.eu/european-fortress-day/>
<https://www.forte-cultura.eu/en/fortress-summer>

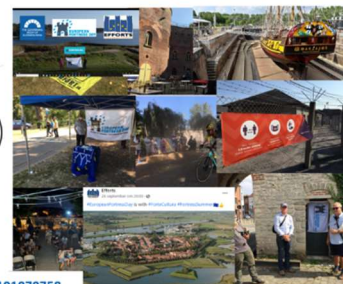
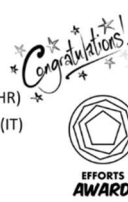
(photos and leaflet are from the 2020 European Fortress Day).

The **2020 EFFORTS Award**, presented to the 10 EFFORTS members that opened their sites during the first 2020 informal Fortress Day-Summer of the Covid19-pandemic, has been casted 10-fold, courtesy of EFFORTS member 's-Hertogenbosch. The award trophies will be presented during the year to the 10 laureats.



The 2020 European Fortress Day participants :

- European Fortress Summer
- Herentals (BE)
- Fortengordels (BE)
- Fortress of Culture Šibenik (HR)
- Fondazione Forte Marghera (IT)
- Kaunas Fortress Park (LT)
- 's Hertogenbosch (NL)
- Fort Buitensluis (NL)
- Hellevoetsluis (NL)
- Suomenlinna (FIN)



<https://www.facebook.com/effortseurope/videos/665015191070758>

CLIMATE SUMMIT DESIGNATES 's-HERTOGENBOSCH FORTIFICATIONS BEST PRACTICE

In an online meetin on 25-26 January the International Climate Adaptation Summit and the Dutch UNESCO Committee designated the bulwark fortifications a an example of climate adaptation measures.

Erfgoed 's-Hertogenbosch

Kaarten | Actueel | Over ons | Contact |  's-Hertogenbosch

 Verhalen ▾ Collecties ▾ Onderzoek ▾ Monumentenzorg ▾ Activiteiten ▾ Chat! 

Home ▾ Actueel ▾ Bossche vestingwerken praktijkvoorbeeld klimaatop

Bossche vestingwerken praktijkvoorbeeld klimaatop

25 januari 2021

Bastion Maria en het Bolwerk Sint-Jan zijn praktijkvoorbeelden van klimaatoplossingen tijdens de wereldtop van 2021. Op 25 en 26 januari vindt de internationale Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 plaats vanuit Nederland. Deze online wereldtop is gericht op het vinden van oplossingen die kunnen helpen om ons beter aan te passen aan een veranderend klimaat.



Bastion Maria

De Nederlandse Unesco Commissie schenkt speciale aandacht aan de rol die cultuur en erfgoed hierbij kunnen spelen. Vier praktijkvoorbeelden uit Kampen, Amsterdam, Bonaire en 's-Hertogenbosch staan daarbij centraal.

Bastion Maria en Bolwerk Sint-Jan



EFFORTS COMMUNITY ROLL CALL : Centro Studi MEDFORT

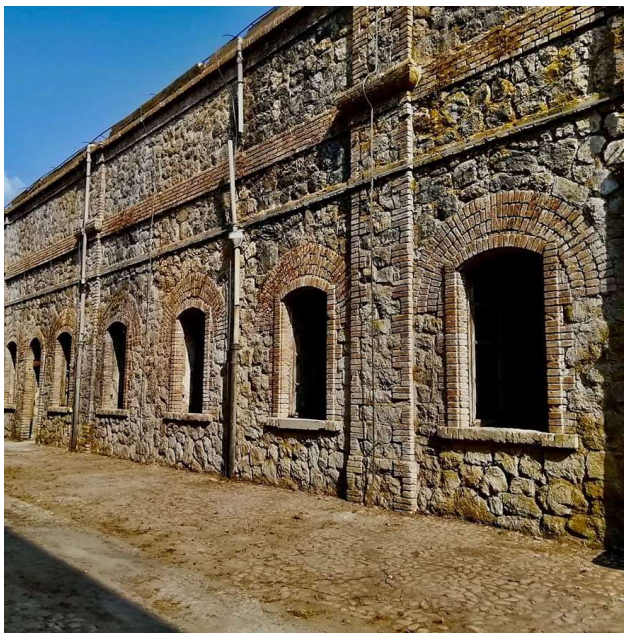
MEDFORT, an EFFORTS Member in 2021, is a non-profit association based in Italy and established in July 2020. It aims towards the preservation, enhancement and promotion of military heritage such as fortifications and generally relevant structures linked to military history.

We particularly emphasise the structures located in the area of the Strait of Messina (in southern Italy), as well as those located in the Euro-Mediterranean context and beyond considering them as a common wealth and as a tool for social inclusion.

MEDFORT operates according to the principles expressed by the Faro Convention and the Corfù Charter and this means that on the one hand, it emphasises the link between the concepts of military heritage and “heritage community”. On the other hand, it also aims to create a Euro-Mediterranean network of cities, fortifications and organisations in a perspective of cooperation which can stimulate sustainable development and dialogue among communities.

Furthermore, the association is finalised to create a study centre and a scientific platform globally accessible. In so doing, MEDFORT aims to add more value to fortified heritage in order to correctly comprehend it and to pass it on to future generations through a series of targeted activities.

Photos : Sciacchi Fort and view from the fort on the Messina Straits.

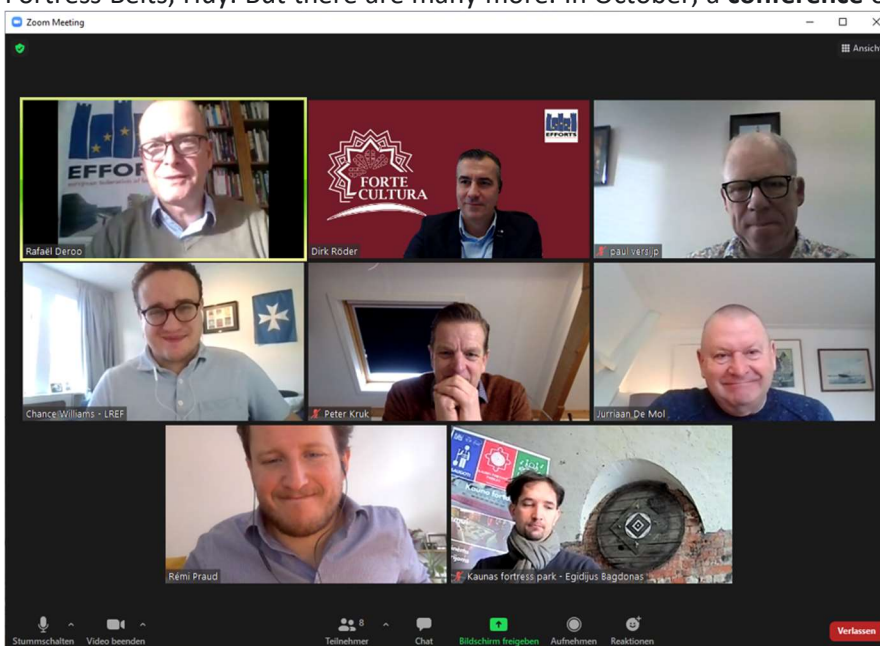




EFFORTS ACTIONS

Cooperation between EFFORTS and Liberation Route Europe Foundation

At the remembrance of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, EFFORTS, Forte Cultura and LREF signed an online **cooperation agreement** on remembrance of **forts that were used as detention and concentration camps**. They are memorials and difficult heritage monuments. Underneath, part fo of the [#EffortsEurope](#) network : Terezin, Kaunas Fort 9, Breendonk - Antwerp Fortress Belts, Huy. But there are many more. In October, a **conference** on detention and camp forts



will be organised between

LREF and EFFORTS in the City of **Bergen op Zoom**. See underneath part of the press release.



PRESS RELEASE

European Federation of Fortified Sites – Liberation Route Europe Foundation COOPERATION on WWII sites

22 January 2021

In the week leading up to the annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January, on 22 January, EFFORTS, the European Federation of Fortified Sites and Defence Lines, including its associate member Forte Cultura, signed, with the Liberation Route Europe Foundation (LREF), the international organisation that connects the World War II Allied Forces advance as milestones of modern history and remembrance, a Memorandum of Understanding, establishing the EFFORTS/Forte Cultura - LREF cooperation in the remembrance of WWII detention and concentration camps in fortified heritage sites in Europe.

Frank Petter, EFFORTS president and mayor of Bergen op Zoom (NL): "World War II remembrance has become more and more important with the passing of the last living witnesses and the need of educating Europe's youth on WWII, its suffering and the liberation effort to free Europe from oppression. In Bergen op Zoom, as in dozens of European cities and remembrance sites, we must keep the memory alive and I am happy that EFFORTS, together with LREF can work together on this in the future".



Efforts

Posted by Raf Deroo

7 mins · 🌐

At the remembrance of the end of #WW2
#75years, we stop at the forts that were used
as detention and concentration c... See more



75 Jahre Ende Zweiter Weltkrieg in Festungen 2020



Festungen standen als militärisch konzipierte Bauwerke zu allen Zeiten im Fokus kriegsrischer Auseinandersetzungen. So auch im Zweiten Weltkrieg, der mit territorialen Befestigungslinien wie dem Westwall, dem Atlantikwall oder der Oder-Warthe-Linie gigantische Festungsbauwerke und Bunkersysteme hervorrief.

Das Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges 1945 spielte sich in Europa in den schwer umkämpften Befestigungen des 20. Jahrhunderts genauso ab, wie auch ältere Festungsbauwerke Schauplatz von Ereignissen zum Kriegsende wurden. Die Netzwerkinitiative "75 Jahre Ende Zweiter Weltkrieg in Festungen" rückt diesen Teil der Geschichte in Festungen ins Bewusstsein der Öffentlichkeit. Bildungs- und Gedenkveranstaltungen in europäischen Festungen sollen historische Ereignisse und Zusammenhänge beleuchten.

Folgende Veranstaltungen werden aktuell mit Netzwerkmitgliedern und Partnern vorbereitet:

- 11./12. Januar 2020 - 75 Jahre Unternehmen "NORDWIND"
- Die vergessene Offensive zwischen Saar und Rhein -
Serie von Führungen, Ausstellungen und Gedenkveranstaltungen zur Erinnerung an die zahlreichen Opfer einer der letzten deutschen Gegenoffensiven unter der Bezeichnung "Operation Nordwind" im Januar 1945 im Elsass
- 15. März 2020 - Walbourg (FR) - Eröffnung des Museums der Kämpfe und Befreiung im Nordelsass
- Musée Mémorial des Combats et de la Libération en Alsace du Nord -
Mehr als 462 Quadratmeter Ausstellung, 3400 Gegenstände, stammend vom Nordelsass und Grenzsektoren sowie Zeugenaussagen werden dem Publikum präsentiert.
- 28. März 2020 - Kostrzyn nad Odra (PL): "75. Jahrestag der Beendigung der Kämpfe um Küstrin"
Gedenkzeremonie, Vorträge zur Geschichte der Kämpfe um Küstrin, Eröffnung einer Waffen- und Rüstungsausstellung WWII, historische Workshops u.v.m.
- 25. April 2020 - "Elbe Day" - Festungsstadt Torgau -
Gedenktag anlässlich des erstmaligen Treffens von russischen und amerikanischen Truppen auf deutschem Boden am 25. April 1945

Partner


b2b.liberationroute.com
Liberation ROUTE EUROPE
☰

NEWS

EFFORTS, the European Federation of Fortified Sites and Defence Lines, teams up with LRE Foundation

Loïc François · Comments Off · 03 Feb 2021



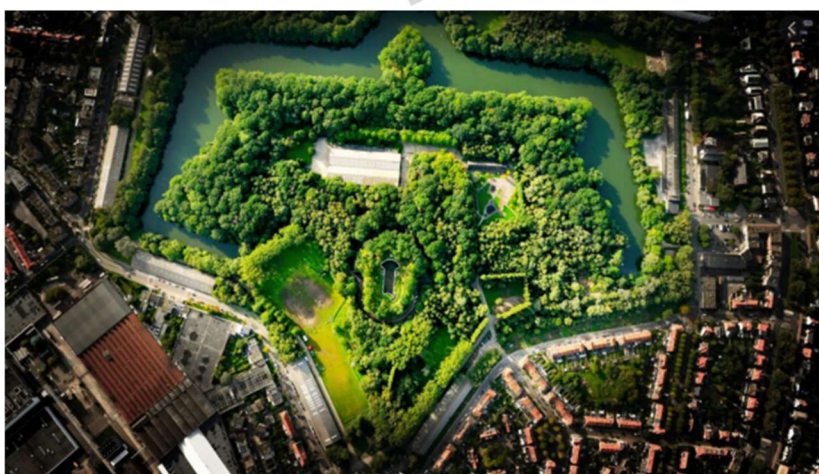
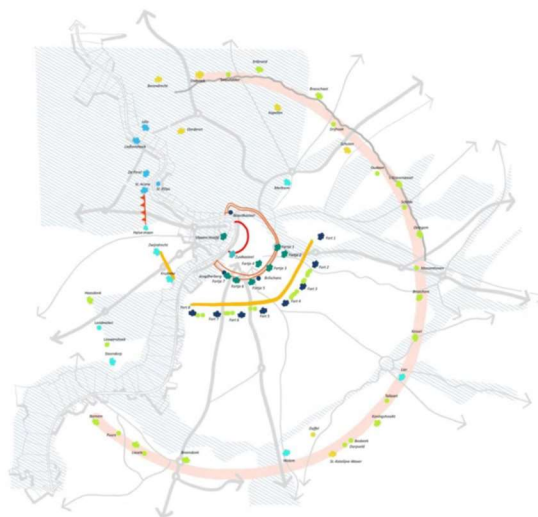

In the week leading up to the annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on 22 January, EFFORTS – the European

EFFORTS supports the founding of the FORTENGORDELS association (Antwerp region, BE)

The Antwerp region fortress belt organization 'vzw Fortengordels' will have a mission to promote the Antwerp region fortresses and belt lines. EFFORTS supports the set-up of the association, which will be active in connecting the Antwerp region fortress owners, users and partners in an organization that will defend the interests of this unique fortification heritage region in Belgium and Europe. 'Fortengordels' as a project is also a case study for the EU Interreg project 'Recapture the Fortress Cities'.

www.fortengordels.be





Open Letter 'Include Culture in Your National Recovery Strategies and Reactivate Cultural Life in Europe'

EFFORTS co-signed with 110 European cultural organisations, the new **Open Letter 'Include Culture in Your National Recovery Strategies and Reactivate Cultural Life in Europe'**, addressed to the national governments and the European Commission. An outtake :

« This is a key moment to fine-tune and validate those plans.

- *We reiterate our call made on 30 October 2020 and urge the EU and its Member States to fully include*

culture in each and every National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), and dedicate, at the very least, 2% of the RRF envelope for culture. We have seen strong political will, as expressed among others by the European Parliament, to put culture as a priority sector when using funds from Next Generation EU. It is now time to translate this commitment in the NRRPs.

- *In addition, we call on the Member States to continuously involve and engage the representatives of their cultural communities and civil society organisations in the design and implementation of the NRRPs, as indicated in the European Commission guidelines for the preparation of the national recovery and resilience plans. Long-term structural support to rebuild the European cultural ecosystem needs to be co-developed, involving all relevant stakeholders, both public and private. Reinvigorating the cultural ecosystem not only offers hope to millions of workers who saw their jobs*

**INCLUDE CULTURE IN YOUR NATIONAL RECOVERY STRATEGIES
AND REACTIVATE CULTURAL LIFE IN EUROPE**

Heads of State and Government,
Ministers for European Affairs,
Ministers for Finance,
Ministers for Culture

President of the European Commission
President of the European Parliament
President of the Council of the EU
European Commissioners

As a powerful vector for the future of Europe and a key asset for the continent's social, environmental, and economic sustainability, culture is more than a sector that needs urgent support. Culture is key to healing wounds in times of crisis, to keeping our societies together, and to making them more resilient. For those reasons, we believe it should be at the heart of the European recovery from the pandemic.

Ensuring that culture is explicitly included in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) will help secure both the future of the sector and its important contribution to Europe's future.

Ensuring that culture is explicitly included in the National Recovery Strategy is a priority for the Government, as it is a key driver of economic growth and job creation. The Government is committed to ensuring that the cultural sector is protected and supported during the recovery process. The Government is committed to ensuring that the cultural sector is protected and supported during the recovery process. The Government is committed to ensuring that the cultural sector is protected and supported during the recovery process.

Only one other sector – air transport – has suffered the same economic impact as the cultural and creative sectors, which experienced a 31% drop in turnover in 2020 (in some sub-sectors up to 90%), more than any other sector in the economy. The automotive industry⁶ has also suffered, with many plants remaining closed, cross-border cultural sites remaining closed, and many museums and galleries closed, leaving the sector, 2020

Only one other sector – air travel – experienced a 31% drop in turnover in 2020. Other sectors, which experienced a 31% drop in turnover in 2020, include the tourism and the automotive industry.

With cultural activities still halted, cultural venues and heritage sites remaining closed, cross-border cultural exchanges stalled, millions of jobs frozen or wiped out, and many talents forced to leave the sector, 2021 promises to be another trying year.

The multifaceted European cultural ecosystem, call on the Member States to work together for culture and cultural life in Europe.

We, 110 representatives of the multifaceted European cultural ecosystem, call on the Member States of the European Commission to secure a future for culture and cultural life in Europe.


One year after the breakout of the pandemic, we have the opportunity to carefully evaluate safe re-openings and a potential first step in the sector's recovery.

One year after the breakout of the pandemic, we have the opportunity to open up and a potential first step in the sector's recovery.

We ask the Member States to **reactivate cultural life in Europe**, while keeping existing and putting in place new dedicated support schemes far beyond stabilisation of the situation. **This will help rebuild confidence of both cultural communities and citizens**, ensure a smooth resumption of activities and offer hope to the millions of Europeans whose lives have become barren, devoid of cultural and social connection.


SIGNATORIES:

[illegible]




[ONS AANBOD](#)
[INSPIRATIE](#)
[KALENDER](#)
[KENNISCENTRUM](#)
[OVER ONS](#)
[STEUN](#)

[HOME](#) / [KENNISCENTRUM](#) / [EFFORTS EEN STERK NETWERK VAN FORTEN](#)



EFFORTS: een sterk netwerk van forten

Het War Heritage Institute, de federale instelling met als missie de valorisatie van het Belgische militair erfgoed, startte recent het netwerkproject 'Belgium, Battlefield of Europe' op. Wie militair erfgoed zegt, komt al snel uit bij de vele forten die ons land rijk is. Niemand beter om over forten te praten dan Raf Deroo, bezieler van EFFORTS en Fortengordels.



Dag Raf, bedankt dat je tijd voor ons wil vrijmaken. Kan je jezelf even voorstellen?

Raf "Na vele jaren voor Brusselse, Vlaamse en Europese overheden te hebben gewerkt, schreef ik een boek over mijn passie: de Atlantikwall in Normandië. Dat is lokaal goed onthaald en ben daar en elders ook gaan gidsen. Voor ik het wist was het bouwen van oorlogserfgoednetwerken uitgegroeid tot een levensvatbaar project en kon ik er ook mijn geld mee verdienen. Centraal

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EFFORTS AGENDA

Interreg 2021- 2017 – participate in the Open Consultation until 16 April 2021

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/news-and-events/news/11534/our-programme-open-for-public-consultation/>



In April 2021 we expect the calls of Creative Europe 'Cooperation' and other

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/calls_en



EU Week of Regions and Cities : 11 to 14 October 2021

<https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/>

The 2021 EURegionsWeek will take place digitally on 11-14 October, under the slogan “**Together for recovery**”, with four main themes:

- Green Transition: for a sustainable and green recovery
- Cohesion: from emergency to resilience
- Digital Transition for people
- Citizens' engagement: for an inclusive, participative and fair recovery



For more information on Urban Innovative Actions for cities

<https://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/knowledge-lab>



For more information about the EU Urban Agenda

<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda-eu/what-urban-agenda-eu>



OTHER EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Check out the **Cultural Heritage in Action** project (contact: Julie.herve@eurocities.eu): <http://www.culturalheritageinaction.eu/> EUROCITIES, in partnership with KEA, ERRIN, Europa Nostra and the Architects Council of Europe, has been selected by the European Commission to implement Cultural heritage in action, a peer-learning scheme financed by the European Union on cultural heritage to support exchanges between large numbers of cities, regions and stakeholders, thus building a broad learning community. It was presented at the 2020 EFFORTS congress.
- EFFORTS is member of the **European Heritage Alliance 3.3** - check out the calendar : <http://europeanheritagealliance.eu/events/>
- EFFORTS is a partner of the **International Fortress Council (IFC)** : <http://www.internationalfortresscouncil.org/calendar.html>.
- With IFC, EFFORTS will inform on the upcoming **Wellington Line conferences** in Belgium (26 November 2020 in Oostende) and the Netherlands. See the Simon Stevin VVC website for confirmation of the events mentioned underneath, some co-organised with EFFORTS members
- EFFORTS supports the **UN International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)**: <https://www.icomos.org/en/about-icomos/committees/regional-activities-europe/39374-upcoming-events-save-the-date>
- For more European news on cultural heritage : <https://heritagetribune.eu/>

- EFFORTS, via its members Regionale Landschappen and Simon Stevin VVC, participates in the set-up of the regional meetings in Flanders (BE), organised within the EU Interreg Europe project **Recapture the Fortress Cities**.

<https://keep.eu/projects/21538/Recapture-the-Fortress-Citi-EN/>



Partners



Contact

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#sustainability

#fortresses

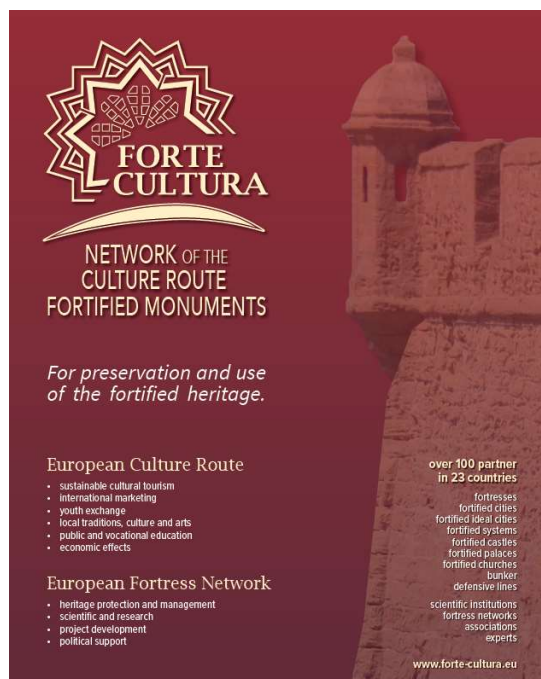
#heritage



RFC Recapture the Fortress Cities aims to develop strategies to sustainably restore, maintain, and exploit urban forts and fortified cities. It will generate smart ways to capitalise on military heritage and bring fortresses back into the lives of cities.

www.interregeurope.eu/rfc

- Check EFFORTS member **Forte Cultura's network actions and Culture Route** : <https://www.forte-cultura.eu/en/netzwerk-en/activities>



Since June 2020, the fortress networks EFFORTS and FORTE CULTURA have been linked by a cooperation agreement. **EFFORTS members are automatically associated members in FORTE CULTURA and vice versa.** Associate members, however, have limited access to the extensive services of the cultural route in fortress marketing and tourism. New online marketing tools, tour guide certifications or the joint development of tailor-made tourist offers and promotions are just some of the advantages of full membership. FORTE CULTURA e.V. offers all EFFORTS members the opportunity to upgrade to full membership with a discount of 25% on the membership fee of the first 2 years. That means for a city 450€ than 600€ per year.

Become an **official station** of the **cultural route FORTE CULTURA, which is about to be certified as Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.** For more information, please contact Dirk Röder in the network office Berlin: office@forte-cultura.eu www.forte-cultura.eu
<http://www.forte-cultura-project.eu/>

‘Bastions Zonder Grenzen’, a book by prof.em. Piet Lombaerde, University of Antwerp article (DE)

ne Grenzen): Damme, Sluis, IJzendijke; Gorredijk (Verlag Sterck & De Vreese), August 2020; Format 19,5 x 25,0 cm, frz. Broschur; 239 Seiten, 14 SW- und 50 Farbbabb.; 68 hist. Festungspläne und 4 Luftaufn.; ISBN 978-90-5615-591-9, 28,80 EURO (Amazon).

Die vorliegende Publikation entführt in die Zeit des Achtzigjährigen Krieges (1568–1648), in dem die Niederlande gegen Spanien um ihre Unabhängigkeit kämpften. Das Buch entstand anlässlich einer Reihe von Ausstellungen, die die Stadt Damme, die Gemeinde Sluis und das Museum Het Bolwerk in IJzendijke bis zum 13. September 2020 organisierten. Der Schwerpunkt liegt auf dem 16. bis 18. Jahrhundert, in dem die Sluise-Befestigungen zur mächtigsten Festung im Südwesten der Niederlande ausgebaut wurden.

Der Achtzigjährige Krieg hinterließ viele Spuren in der Landschaft der Region Zwin. Bereits während des Krieges stellte sich heraus, dass die alten mittelalterlichen Festungsmauern nicht mehr ausreichten, um sich vor Schießpulver und Schusswaffen zu schützen. Die Städte wurden mit polygonalen Bastionen, Festungen, Schanzen, Batterien und Linien befestigt, um den Feind zurückzuhalten; Gebiete wurden überflutet. Zwischen 1617 und 1620 wurde das Zentrum von Damme mit einer gemauerten, sieben Bastionen umfassenden Umwallung befestigt. Die Stadtmauern sind bis heute ein bestimmendes Merkmal der Stadt. Auch anderswo, zum Beispiel in dem von den anständigen „Staatsen“ eroberten Gebiet zwischen Braakman und Zwin, wurden Initiativen ergriffen, um strategisch günstig gelegene Orte und Orte mit verschiedenen Verteidigungsarten zu stärken. Aber auch nach achtzig Jahren des Kampfes war die Grenze zwischen den nördlichen

(„Staatsen“) und südlichen („spanischen“) Niederlanden noch nicht festgelegt. Es folgten eine Reihe kürzerer Kriege, wie der Spanische Erbfolgekrieg (1702–1713) und der Österreichische Erbfolgekrieg (1742–1748). „Bastionen ohne Grenzen“ rücken dieses militärische Erbe ins Rampenlicht. Die vielen Pläne, Zeichnungen, Stiche und Gemälde zeigen die Meisterschaft der Militärbauer. Aber heute steht man vor der Frage: Wie wurde eine solche Festung gebaut? Welche neuen militärischen Entwicklungen und veränderten Einsichten in Strategie und Taktik haben sich entwickelt? Was ist noch an Festungen zu sehen und wie geht man mit dem militärischen Erbe um? Die Festungen haben längst ihre militärische Funktion verloren und sind seitdem zu wichtigen Naturgebieten oder kulturellen Bühnen geworden. Unter der Leitung von Jan Hutsebaut und Piet Lombaerde (Hrsg.) rekonstruieren die Autoren Bruno Comer, Eric Huys, Robrecht Pillen, Johan Termote, Caroline Terry, Harold Van Damme und Arco Willeboordse die Geschichte der Verteidigung in dieser Region, durch die heute eine Grenze zwischen Belgien und den Niederlanden verläuft. – HRN



Hutsebaut, Jan / Lombaerde, Piet (Red.) / Willeboordse, Arco / Comer, Bruno / Terry, Caroline / Huys, Eric / Van Damme, Harold / Termote, Johan / Pillen, Robrecht (Autoren): **Bastions zonder grenzen**, (= Bastionen oh-

MEETING PLACE BRUSSELS

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