



**ATFORT Interreg IVC POSITION PAPER  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN ACTIONS  
EFFORTS 2018**

A framework for the safeguarding of fortification heritage should be envisaged, at least to establish the basis for appropriate regeneration and maintenance mechanisms in the future.

EU programming should acknowledge the multi-sectoral characteristics of fortified heritage, dedicating explicit and specific reference to the applications on these sites as a pilot for EU development. In this respect, specific measures should be taken in the field of legislation, funding/financing and training :

A. EU legislation Specific attention must be given within European institutions to highlight the impact that European legislation has on historical sites. It is particularly important to ensure that the application of European directives for the management of historical sites (those related to habitat, air quality, water, waste, energy and noise pollution) are covered.

In this respect, the following main issues should be further investigated and regulated:

1. The privatization process of cultural heritage should favour the takeover of communities first, offering new eligible management structures.
2. The preservation and maintenance objectives and procedures should be given a theoretical and practical common base, with specific reference to the peculiarities of fortifications.
3. Fortified Heritage, due to its extension and critical status, should be considered a territorial priority, allowing flexibility in interventions (with reference to monumental and landscape bonds) and promoting integration within regional and local policy and strategic documents.
4. The operators working on fortified heritage should be properly certified according to a European standard. This action should include the improvement of training and practice.

B. EU Programming and funding

The sharing of experiences enabled partners to understand that they have similar problems and similar approaches, but further actions need to be taken. The partnership highlighted the fact that funding in different forms is needed, in particular:

1. Upcoming anniversaries of historical events should also be included in measures towards the recovery and regeneration of Modern fortifications as places of war and peace as well as tangible EU heritage. Specific and consistent funds in different measures should be allocated to the sustainable preservation of fortifications.
2. EU programming should raise attention to various forms of active participation by the EU population. The programme should include the unemployed, volunteers etc in activities that safeguarding cultural heritage and landscape, as tools for alternative funding. Education is a resource dedication will be required.
3. EU governance policies should aim at maximising sustainable infrastructural objectives to facilitate the redevelopment of dismissed heritage areas, as well as promote the coordination of inter-sectoral projects through explicit funding calls.

C. Research and Training

The knowledge acquired on European fortresses and fortifications have reached an advanced state through different European Cooperation initiatives. This expertise needs to be enhanced, monitored, organised and communicated through efficient learning experiences:

- The promotion of awareness raising initiatives in the general public targets the creation of values;
- Training professionals able to support fortresses' owners to adopt the right decisions on restoration and management issues, in line with the international standards and latest achievements;
- Coordinated research activities aiming at a systematic organisation of valuable existing researches, data and field experiences;
- To facilitate the adoption of European dismissed fortification for the testing and application of innovative and sustainable solutions for heritage and landscape preservation, as showed by the ATFORT partners during the ateliers.

In this light, it is advised that the EU support the ATFORT initiative to establish an International Centre for the Research and Valorisation of Fortified Heritage to be located in Forte Marghera, Venice, as the starting initiative for future cooperation in this field.

Exchange at all levels is the basis for the creation of a real European identity in respect to cultural and historic diversities.

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