



ZUIDER
WATERLINIE



EFFORTS
european federation of fortified sites

EFFORTS Europe 2023 Manifesto

**‘OPEN THE GATES’ – New Realities for Fortified Heritage
Four EU actions of Fortification Heritage**

EFFORTS Maastricht Congress, 5 October 2023



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‘OPEN THE GATES’ – New Realities for Fortified Heritage

Four EU action areas of Fortification Heritage

Maastricht, 5 October 2023

Action in

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Sustainability |  Culture, heritage and society |
|  Digitalisation |  Values and democracy |

Focus on

- **Creating a paradigm shift:** it is not only about fortified heritage, it is also about social, economic, environmental, spatial planning and public health.
- **Enforcing an open multilateral European cooperation framework** for common projects, based on the exchange of knowledge.
- **Engaging in capacity building** for public and private stakeholders and achieving the European Green Deal goals.
- **Establishing fortified heritage** as a complementary key tool for the implementation of the New European Bauhaus Initiative.
- **Fostering cross-cutting holistic green knowledge** on management and rehabilitation of fortified sites.
- **Using fortified sites as green buffers** for post-pandemic community wellbeing locations and creative placemaking.

Manifesto priorities

- 1 Start from the needs of the cities, sites and the communities (FARO Convention).
- 2 Work towards a long-term vision and innovative funding.
- 3 Combine heritage with multi-sectoral policy to answer to local and regional needs.
- 4 Link shared heritage with regional development possibilities.
- 5 Resolve for the heritage sites shared heritage governance issues.
- 6 EU subsidy is not the goal, but part of the overall multi-level vision and policy structure of local, regional and national governments.
- 7 Support demonstration sites.

On the basis of

Article 3.3 of the Lisbon Treaty of the European Union “The European Union shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe’s cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced”

- the Memorandum of European Walled Towns - presented to European Commissioner Jan Figé at the 2005 Europa Nostra Conference (Brussels, Belgium) and the 2014 AT FORT Interreg IVC Declaration of Intent cooperation (Suomenlinna Helsinki, Finland)
- the 2016 EFFORTS Memorandum of Understanding (’s-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands) and the 2017 EFFORTS Partnership Agreement (Spandau Berlin, Germany)
- the 2018 Europa Nostra Berlin Call to Action ‘Cultural Heritage for the Future of Europe’
- the 2018 EFFORTS Conference Forte Marghera, Declaration of Venice (6 post-2018 propositions for fortified heritage) - presented to European Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, the Antwerp Statement (2019) and the Kaunas Call for Action (2022):

EFFORTS, underlines the ADDED VALUE of fortified heritage for the European Green Deal, using fortified heritage sites’ unique qualifications and characteristics:

- green spaces and biodiversity, nature reserves, climate change mitigation (urban heat reduction) in green buffers (’s-Hertogenbosch and Zuiderwaterlinie, Netherlands)
- local circular economy policies and smart energy solutions (Šibenik Fortress of Culture, Croatia)
- cross-cutting cultural and environmental slow tourism (Regionale Landschappen, Belgium)
- European cultural / green routes with their economic importance and intangible values representations (Forte Cultura, Forts/Unchained, Via Hispania, Adrifort)
- resilience, societal wellbeing and empowering local communities (Kaunas Fortress Park, Lithuania)
- urban planning and mobility solutions (Culemborg, Netherlands)
- good governance for multi-stakeholder cooperation (EU Interreg Europe projects Recapture the Fortress Cities, FortHero-Reviving the Fortress Regions)

calling, from the city of Maastricht, its members to work together, in the framework of the EFFORTS Goes Green project 2022-2024, with the EU institutions on cooperation focus in

- **creating_a paradigm shift:** it is not only about fortified heritage, it is also about social, economic, environmental, spatial planning and public health. Fortified heritage’s New Realities lie in the need of our regions, cities and citizens in the latter areas. This thinking requires stakeholders to evolve towards possibilities for sustainable adaptive reuse of present fortified and mostly underused heritage sites. Stakeholders and sites need to look to needs on all levels of government from a functional point of view: what does the community need, what can the site itself do?
- **enforcing an open multilateral European cooperation framework** for common projects, based on the exchange of knowledge (in the EFFORTS Fortification Heritage Knowledge Center in Forte Marghera (IT), with the EFFORTS Forte Cultura Joint Scientific and Expert Committee)
- **engaging in capacity building for public and private stakeholders** and achieving the European Green Deal goals through adoption of climate change adaptation and socially inclusive action, making fortified heritage the catalyst for green urban development and cohesion and the driver of European social values.
- **establishing fortified heritage as a complementary key tool** for the implementation of the New European Bauhaus Initiative.
- **fostering cross-cutting holistic green knowledge** on management and rehabilitation of fortified sites along the lines of the **EU’s Triple Transformation: Green, Social and Digital:**

1. climate adaptation actions;
2. state of the art energy solutions;
3. green responsible tourism;
4. social integration and inclusiveness and cultural diversity;
5. empowering local communities on the basis of the Council of Europe Faro Convention on the value of cultural heritage for society.
6. education in these historic sites as a tool for the above-mentioned issues.

using fortified sites as green buffers for post-pandemic community wellbeing locations and creative placemaking (European Fortress Summer). » (*Kaunas Call for Action 2022*)

gathering at the EFFORTS 2023 Maastricht Congress propose the following MANIFESTO,

reaching for tangible goals for EU fortified heritage in Europe and EFFORTS members' actions, taken from the EFFORTS 2023 Maastricht congress

calling its members for EU cooperation in the following 4 fields: sustainability, digitalisation, culture / heritage and society, and values and democracy

more specifically, the 200 EFFORTS network fortified cities and sites in 21 European countries call European fortified cities and regions for its following MANIFESTO priorities:

1. **Start from the needs of the cities, sites and the communities (FARO Convention).** Build up relations with all the stakeholders. Keys are: change analysis, resilience of communities and multi-disciplinary thinking.
2. **Work towards a long-term vision and towards innovative funding,** on all levels, also private. Set up a strategic master plan. Come up with a business case, a SWOT analysis. Start from the local, regional and national level, meeting EU policy needs. Make a choice in needs and resources.
3. **Combine heritage with multi-sectoral policy to answer to local and regional needs:** education, knowledge, memory, development on an integrated level: i.e. spatial policy solutions, green cities, local agriculture and circular economy, mobility, sustainable energy, logistics, culture, creativity, arts and heritage, tourism economy, slow economy and social needs, safe places for refugees.
4. Link **shared heritage** with **regional development** possibilities: use the smart specialization capacities of green and built spaces of fortress lines, fortress belts, walled cities. Put together shared heritage in the same region to form the basis of a regional development plan.
5. Resolve for the heritage sites **shared heritage governance issues.** Come to the joint management of shared national and European heritage, e.g. regional fortress regions for green, economic, energy or social development. Use European and national cultural governance solutions.
6. EU subsidy is not the goal, it needs to be part of the **overall multi-level vision and policy structure** of local, regional and national governments. Work on a European level, look for partners across borders, integrate European policy opportunities.
7. Support **demonstration sites.** It is about dissemination and communication on all levels, also online.

The Manifesto positions were taken from the preparations on the Manifesto with the Dutch Zuiderwaterlinie members of EFFORTS, and of the participating cities and organisations in the 2023 EFFORTS Europe Congress in Maastricht 3-5 October 2023: Oudenaarde (BE), Culemborg (NL), Terezin (CZ), Garderhøj Fortet - Gentofte (DA), Erfgoed Zeeland (NL), Cork County (IE), Regionale Landschappen (BE), Fortress Park of Kaunas (LT), Rijksdienst voor Cultureel Erfgoed (NL), Breda University of Applied Sciences (NL), Forteiland Pampus (NL), Miss Myagi (BE), Diest (BE), Lviv National Polytechnic U. (UA), Fondazione Forte Marghera (IT), Forte Cutura (DE), other experts from Netherlands, Belgium and Poland, local heritage associations in Maastricht, the European Investment Bank Institute (LUX) and ICOMOS and ICOFORT representatives.

In annex: detailed background on the 4 fields of action:

1. Sustainability
2. Digitalisation
3. Culture, heritage and society
4. Values and democracy

MANIFESTO ANNEX

Detailed background on the 4 fields of action

Sustainability

The Green Deal, with its 'Fit for 55' package, aims to decouple economic growth from resource use in a socially sustainable way.

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) and Horizon Europe will also be fully available to support environmental research in the EU.

The 2022 COP 15 Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework and Agreement to Address Biodiversity Loss, the EU aims to ensure the recovery of degraded ecosystems

The European Commission has also launched the '3 billion trees by 2030' initiative, towards more and better green in Europe by 2030.

The European Commission nature restoration law proposal

The EU's energy and climate targets for 2050, looking forward to the COP 28 Dubai agreements

The Open Method of Coordination 2022 report 'Strengthening Cultural Heritage for Climate Change' contains a list of important recommendations, of which here is a list of relevant ones:

Geographic information systems mapping and long-term monitoring of vulnerable heritage properties;

Better insight into the consequences of climate change for the intangible cultural heritage

Recognizing the importance of cultural heritage research by supporting a multidisciplinary approach in both basic and applied research programs that address climate change and integrate traditional knowledge of communities

Raise public awareness of the importance of cultural heritage through dissemination activities, both at national and EU level, for example by organizing events in schools, national heritage days;

Include cultural heritage in all national and EU climate policies and action plans

Take advantage of EU-funded programs such as Creative Europe and Erasmus+

Include training in the strategic plans of all interested authorities

Establish training programs on cultural preservation together with ICOMOS.

Signing the Climate Action Network Global Call on include Cultural Heritage in Climate Policy (2023)

Opportunities for fortress heritage: establishing historical and new ecosystems and nature in fortified heritage areas:

- Links with Research & Development, Horizon Europe, regional development, environment, climate mitigation, communities and well-being (New European Bauhaus), Erasmus+ and training (i.e. traditional skills), youth/young professionals and university cooperation, governance (joint planning and decisions)
- A role for coastal reinforcements (in mapping the baseline of climate change)
- A role for fortifications and local authorities to work together on energy saving/CO2 capture and renewable energy, energy efficiency, local energy community schemes.
- See the Green Deal Going Local handbook (for the Netherlands: water management, heat generation, specialized agricultural development, green tourism)
- Interreg Europe and cross-border Interreg projects (Fortitude, Recapture the Fortress Cities, Zuiderwaterlinie and Regionale Landschappen projects)

Digitalisation

Artificial intelligence, automatically generated texts and images - so-called generative AI is developing. In cultural and other areas, we see the digitalization of almost all activities. All activities will become more personalized, including the free flow of information, providing feedback or sharing creative content.

The EC has its policy program for the Digital Decade and the Digital Compass which focuses EU activities in this area by 2030 and the EU will publish its first report on the state of the Digital Decade in 2023. The EU promotes start-ups in all areas and is now working on instruments to stimulate open human-oriented virtual worlds, such as metaverses.

In the field of culture, the EU conducted an online survey to gather the views of cultural heritage stakeholders on the Commission's initiative to set up a European Collaboration Cloud for Cultural Heritage.

Opportunities for fortress heritage: Digitalization and climate change, biodiversity go hand in hand:

- See Artificial Intelligence initiatives, the European Time Machine project, ... ('s-Hertogenbosch)
- See the EFFORTS FORT KNOW European knowledge pilot project. Accepted by the Commission on condition of cooperation from Europeana.
- Digital storage facility with its use of generated heat.

Culture, heritage and society

Creative Europe's funds are interesting for social and network projects. The Faro Convention emphasizes the important aspects of heritage in relation to human rights and democracy. It promotes a broader understanding of heritage and its relationship with communities and society. The Convention encourages to "recognize that objects and places in themselves are not important for cultural heritage. They are important because of the meanings and uses that people attach to them and the values they represent."

Important is to present an inclusive story, with all groups, such as children, students, local residents, as well as refugees and migrants. The heritage story about division is that of living together in the present and future.

Opportunities for fortress heritage: Fortress heritage are places where people, local communities and cities/regions can find a sense of identity. Networks of sensitive heritage such as forts are important mobilizing 'efforts':

- Governance as a means to establish a structure of ownership and identity and economic development.
- 'FortHero - Reviving the Fortress Regions' is an EFFORTS Europe-driven Interreg Europe project idea for 2023, on governance issues for green tourism sites, and in which two-thirds EFFORTS members are participants (out of a first 30 European candidates).
- Every year, calls for projects are organized within the framework of Creative Europe Cooperation, relating to the European Fortress Summer (public outreach and professional capacity building), fortress clusters development, ...
- EFFORTS advocated a renewed design of the European heritage label (based on cultural heritage associations as disseminators and decentralized partners) (2022).
- Participate in the European Heritage Hub project (2023 – 2025)

Values and democracy

Support the EU continuing cooperation with the candidate countries in the Western Balkans, together with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, with a view to their future accession to the Union.

One of the demographic problems is the shrinking of the working population in Europe's peripheral regions and the general depopulation of marginalized areas. To tackle territorial disparities and youth emigration, the EU published the Communication 'Harnessing Talent in Europe's Regions' on 17 January 2023.

In 2023, the EU will propose a Democracy Defense Package to deepen action under the European Democracy Action Plan to promote free and fair elections, step up the fight against disinformation and media freedom and pluralism to support.

The EU will continue to build a Union of equality through a flagship initiative on the rights of persons with disabilities, proposing a European Disability Card ensuring the mutual recognition of disability status in all Member States.

The Commission will propose updating the current EU framework for learning mobility to make it easier for learners to move from one education system to another: an important step towards a European Education Area by 2025.

In general, the European Commission will use the possible mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework in 2023 to drive the agenda in all four areas mentioned.

See the Europa Nostra 2022 Prague and 2023 Venice Manifestos on a Europe driven by values and culture and the 2025 strategic plan.

Opportunities for fortress heritage - connecting fortress heritage with EU values:

- Working with Ukrainian entities which are EFFORTS full partners (EFFORTS - Ukraine Cooperation Programme since 2022).
- See the EFFORTS project proposal Forts/Unchained (2022) on education about values and military heritage today.
- Also focus on the story of Dissonant Heritage (EFFORTS is a member of the URBAN DH Action Group, URBACT).
- Peripheral and border regions development can be an opportunity for European fortified regions and vice-versa (Fortitude Interreg Europe project on fortified heritage tourism).
- Heritage projects must have an 'education for youth and children' component.
- Using the possibility of fortress heritage space for culture and art and the reception of rehabilitating soldiers and refugees (with Ukrainian partners).

The following are examples from member sites of the Zuiderwaterlinie (Netherlands), working in the 4 different fields of action:

- Gemeente Moerdijk: plannen voor herbestemming van Bastion Groningen: [Visie op de verdedigingswerken \(moerdijk.nl\)](https://www.moerdijk.nl/verdedigingswerken)
- Gemeente Tholen: het weer "bovenhalen" van verdrinken dorp Reimerswaal
- Gemeente Bergen op Zoom: opgravingen en terugbrengen van Kasteel van Wouw, nabij Halsteren, mede door vrijwilligers: [Index \(kasteelvanwouw.nl\)](https://www.kasteelvanwouw.nl/index)
- Gemeente Goeree-Overflakkee: afgeronde herbestemming Fort Prins Frederik: [Fort Prins Frederik | Goeree-Overflakkee](https://www.goeree-overflakkee.nl/fort-prins-frederik)