



## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023



# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



As my first foreword as President of EFFORTS, please let me introduce myself. As mayor of the Flemish-Belgian city of Oudenaarde and active in city and national politics for 30 years, it is an honour for me to preside over the European Federation of Fortified Cities. On 10 November it was even a news item in Flanders.

I am equally happy to be able to lead EFFORTS to a new phase of its existence. After a start-up period of 6 years, we must now look towards the future. EFFORTS will focus more on its core business, being a network of innovative cities and sites that, with its knowledge and private partners, puts city renewal at the forefront of their re-use of fortified heritage.

It is for this that I have, with you, supported the drafting of the EFFORTS 2023 Maastricht Manifesto, calling for the optimal use of fortified heritage and the best use of our resources on a European scale. You can read about the Manifesto further down in the Newsletter. We are proud to be presenting the Manifesto to the three EU institutions between December 2023 and March 2024.

We also welcome the Flemish Platform of Fortified Cities (OPVV), set up last May after a year of preparation as a part of EFFORTS and organising in 2024 in Oudenaarde its second conference in the Belgian EU presidency. The OPVV is hopeful to count 10 cities, all via EFFORTS membership, by the end of 2024. Together with EFFORTS actions in Belgium around the Wellington Barrier, France, Italy/Croatia, Netherlands, Finland, Romania and in the Czech Republic, we prove that when we federate our member cities on the level of their national, cross-border regional or European funding in inclusivity, sustainability and innovation, it works for all. This is where we will focus on in the next years.

I am happy also that the Board has been invited by our member in Helsinki for its April meeting and that we will be able to have our experts participate in a dedicated workshop on this UNESCO-guided

site. This will lead in September 2024 towards the first EFFORTS professional training 'Summer Academy', also in Suomenlinna. After this we will end the year in Cluj-Napoca in Romania, where we will sign the Transylvanian cities grouped membership at the 2024 EFFORTS congress.

I wish you a Merry Christmas.

Marnic De Meulemeester, Mayor of Oudenaarde, EFFORTS president

## EFFORTS 2023 MAASTRICHT MANIFESTO



Based on preliminary work with the Zuiderwaterlinie cities, the EFFORTS Maastricht Manifesto was adopted at the EFFORTS 2023 Congress and is being presented to the three EU institutions, Parliament (6 December 2023, to **Tom Berendsen, MEP, with Noord-Brabant Province deputy Jos van der Horst, Zuiderwaterlinie cities 's-Hertogenbosch, Heusden, Geertruidenberg and Moerdijk, Europa Nostra (Jimmy Jamar), European Landowners Organisation and the EU Education and Cultural Executive Agency and 3 EFFORTS Board members – vice presidents Anne-Wil Maris and Daniele Sferra, and Eva Roels and Luc Olyslager**), European Commission (January 2024, tot the Climate Action Commissioner in Brussels) and the EU Council of Ministers (5 March 2024, at the conference of Flemish Fortified Cities).

**“Calling its members for EU cooperation in the following fields:**

- 1/ Sustainability
- 2/ Digitalisation
- 3/ Culture, heritage and society



**the 200 EFFORTS network fortified cities and sites in 21 European countries call for the following actions:**

- **Start from the needs of the cities, sites and the communities.** Build up relations with all the stakeholders. Keys are change analysis, resilience of communities and multi-disciplinary thinking.
- **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, coming to meeting EU policy needs. Calculate the break-even costs. Make a choice in needs and resources.
- **Combine heritage with multi-sectoral policy:** 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.
- 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.
- 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
- 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, integrate European policy. Look for partners across borders.
- Support **demonstration sites**. It is about communication on all levels, near and far, also online."

Read the full Manifesto at the EFFORTS Europe website via the EFFORTS Congress button, or on <https://www.efforts-europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-10-MANIFESTO-EFFORTS-Europe-Zuiderwaterlinie.pdf>











## EFFORTS CONGRESS MAASTRICHT 2023 (NL)

With 80 participants in the Dutch city of Maastricht from 12 countries, the annual general meeting and the 8<sup>th</sup> annual EFFORTS congress **‘Open the Gates : New Realities for fortified heritage’** was a success. The congress adopted the EFFORTS Maastricht Manifesto, calling on EU institutions and fortified heritage cities to act responsibly and concretely in the interest of sustainable regional development. See the EFFORTS website for all presentations or go via: <https://www.efforts-europe.eu/efforts-2023-congress-maastricht/>

In the frame of the ongoing EFFORTS Goes Green project, EFFORTS and its members want to be ready for the coming years in which the quality of life of our citizens will ever more connected to their identity and their future needs. Fortification is at the crossroads of these themes. With the Maastricht congress, and building on the results of the last congresses, the Faro Convention and the New European Bauhaus, this was the occasion to participate on the themes that matter: integrating

communities, green energy and rethinking tourism. The congress, introducing the interactive 'EFFORTS Court' concept, this year with **Garderhoj Fortet (DA)**, **Culemborg (NL)** and **Terezin Fortress (CZ)**, was lined with site visits, discussions in the town, and panel discussions. The results of the congress discussions were taken up in the **2023 EFFORTS Maastricht Manifesto**.

















## EFFORTS CONGRESS 2024 in CLUJ-NAPOCA (RO)

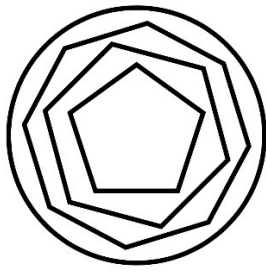
The 2024 congress of EFFORTS “**Fortified heritage regional development as drivers for cohesion in Europe**” (working title) will be organised in the Transylvanian city of Cluj-Napoca in Romania in the fall of 2024. Hungarian EFFORTS members will be included (Hungary holds the EU Council of Ministers at that time). Date : October (exact date will be communicated in January). Co-organiser is the National Museum of Transylvanian History, together with City of Cluj-Napoca and the municipal Cultural Center. Subjects are EU Interreg Reviving the Fortress Regions / Forthero project proposal themes on regional development (governance, sustainable tourism in rural regions), fortified heritage as a driver for cohesion policy, cross-border cooperation, all in the frame of the ongoing EFFORTS Goes Green process and the European Green Deal. Romanian and Hungarian cities will be asked to discuss their ideas on a cohesion policy. The congress will come to a strategy paper that will be presented in Brussels.



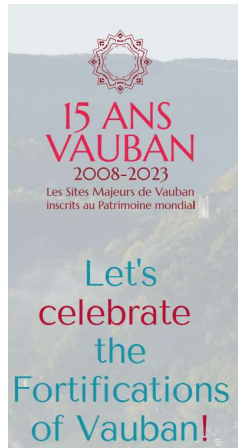
## EFFORTS AWARD - EUROPEAN FORTRESS SUMMER 2023

The European Fortress Summer platform is open for all of you to promote your events. Join us by filling in a small form. Participation is free, communicate using the ## and we select the **EFFORTS Award** among participating sites! This year the award went to the **Association Grands Sites Vauban (France)** (photo) for their insert of the 15 year UNESCO recognition in the 2023 European Fortress Summer.

SEE YOU AT **THE EUROPEAN FORTRESS SUMMER 2024**, together with the NIGHT OF FORTRESSES 2024 : present your fortified site event using the ##, and be a candidate for the 2024 EFFORTS Award.



**EFFORTS  
AWARD**



On the European Fortress Summer 2023, and going for the EFS edition 2024 :



## 2023 EFS Specs

Kick-off Conference  
March 30th Šibenik



**200**



**15**

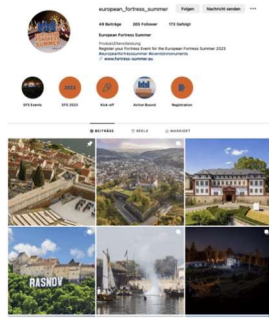


**109**

Closing Conference  
October 4th Maastricht



## Social Media Activities



Impressions: 13.176

Reach: 12.062

Announcement before Event  
Timetable /Ticket Infos & Links  
Footage Sharing during/after Event  
Stories & Posts



## Your Fortified Site Online



Logos  
Content  
Technical tips  
Links & Contacts  
Hashtags



#europeanfortresssummer #europeforculture  
#fortifiedheritage #fortressesarecool

- connect visitors with the rich history and culture of Europe's many fortresses
- a window into the past, allowing visitors to explore the stories and events that shaped each fortress and the people who lived within their walls
- variety of interests: history, architecture, city development or simply want to learn more about the people and cultures of Europe!

## Night of Fortresses 5 May 2023

shared challenge in cross-border area  
=> underdevelopment of cultural tourism

no content, cooperation between stakeholders  
no knowledge exchange on heritage management

promote joint cultural events to enhance the appeal of fortified sites

CBC Project = emphasizing cross-border cooperation among 5  
fortified cities in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro.

annual cross-border tourism events  
enhancement of four visitor centers  
(Sibenik, Karlovac, Banja Luka, Bar)



Country/Država: Hrvatska / Croatia, Senj / Town of Senj  
Organizer/Organizator: Gradski muzej Senj / Senj Town Museum  
Location/Lokacija: Tvrđava Njeh / Nehaj Fortress  
[Read more/Citaj više](#)



Country/Država: Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosna i Hercegovina, Tuzla / Tuzla  
Organizer/Organizator: Muzej Hercegovine i Tuzla / Museum of Herzegovina in Tuzla  
Location/Lokacija: Muzij Hercegovine i Tuzla / Museum of Herzegovina in Tuzla  
[Read more/Citaj više](#)



Country/Država: Crna Gora / Montenegro, Bar  
Organizer/Organizator: Opština Bar / Municipality of Bar  
Location/Lokacija: Star grad Bar / Old Town of Bar  
[Read more/Citaj više](#)

## 38 Participants

Bosnia Herzegovina  
Croatia  
Czech Republik  
Montenegro  
Romania  
Serbia



[social-media@forte-cultura.eu](mailto:social-media@forte-cultura.eu)

[fortress-summer.eu](http://fortress-summer.eu)

 [european\\_fortress\\_summer](#)

 [European Fortress Summer](#)





## PARIS CONFERENCE Association Vauban / Service historique de la Défense

EFFORTS Secretary general Raf Deroo and **Réseau des Sites Majeurs de Vauban (FR)** Camille Thomas met at the Association Vauban supported first Service historique de la Défense conference on fortified heritage in Paris on 25-26 November (photo). We met with the Vauban Association (FR) president Alain Montferrand (photo).



## GALLA PLACIDIA BUNKER LINE CONFERENCE

Through our EFFORTS member at the University of Bologna – Ravenna (IT), EFFORTS participated on 21 December 2023 in the bunker line project conference with EFFORTS network member Vallo Alpino (IT) and EFFORTS member Raversyde (BE).



conferenza internazionale \ international conference

## eredità della Seconda Guerra Mondiale: conservazione, memoria, comunità the legacy of the Second World War: conservation, memory, community

giovedì, 21 dicembre 2023 | 16:00 - 19:00  
palazzo del turismo, Riccione  
thursday, 21st december 2023 | 16:00 - 19:00  
palazzo del turismo, Riccione

relatori su invito \ invited speakers

\ **Donatella Rita Fiorino**, Università degli Studi di Cagliari  
Bunker della Sardegna  
\ **Giulia Cherchi**, Sapienza Università di Roma  
Bunker della Sardegna  
\ **Heimo Prüster**, Ricercatore indipendente  
Vallo Alpino Italiano  
\ **Maria Rita Pais**, Universidade Lusófona, Lisbona, Portogallo  
Plan Barron, Lisbona  
\ **Mathieu Mayer**, Raversyde Museum, Ostenda, Belgium  
Atlantikwall

responsabili scientifici del progetto \ scientific project leaders



prof. **Andrea Ugolini**  
Università di Bologna  
prof. **ssa Alessia Zampini**  
Università di Bologna  
prof. **ssa Chiara Mariotti**  
Università Politecnica delle Marche

organizzato da \ organised by



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA  
UNIVERSITÀ  
POLITECNICA  
DELLE MARCHE

con il supporto di \ supported by



Regione Emilia-Romagna



## ‘FORTIC’ – INTERREG ITALY-CROATIA project

A project proposal titled FORTIC, "From remains Of the war to the aRchiTecture of peace in the cross-border area of Italy-Croatia," has been approved for financing under the first call of the Interreg Italy – Croatia Cross-Border Cooperation Program for the period 2021-2027.

Serving as the lead partner, the City of Pula collaborates with other Croatian and Italian partners to foster cross-border cooperation, knowledge exchange, and the transfer of successful heritage management models as a basis for sustainable tourism development within Priority 4 of the program, focusing on Culture and Tourism for sustainable development.

Pula's partners in the project include the University of Juraj Dobrila in Pula, the EFFORTS Europe member PCI **Fortress of Culture Šibenik**, and the City of Korčula from Croatia. On the Italian side, partners include the municipalities of Vieste and Cervia, as well as **Ca' Foscari University in Venice**.

Associated partners in the project consist of the School for Education and Training in Pula, the Tourist Board of the City of Korčula, and the Venetian association UNPLI Veneto, aiming to promote tourism



at the local and regional levels in the Veneto region. EFFORTS and Forte Cultura will support the project execution.

The total budget for the FORTIC project is €2,135,773.60. The project is planned to last for 30 months, during which various activities will be conducted with a strong emphasis on cross-border collaboration in the field of sustainable cultural tourism, focusing on preserving traditional heritage.

## OUDENAARDE

In 2023, Oudenaarde's Mayor Marnic De Meulemeester took over as EFFORTS President from Frank Petter. Oudenaarde's history as a fortified city begins in 1668 with the Peace of Aachen, which awarded it to France as a fortified town. Oudenaarde was strategically important due to its location on the Scheldt.

The Kezelfort is a 9-hectare fort of the Oudenaarde fortress, built between 1822-1824 as part of the **Wellington barrier** during the Dutch period. It is the only fort in the history of Flanders that was equipped with a counter-mine system. After the fort was decommissioned from 1850, a wealthy family built a watchtower on the former fort grounds.

**The Kezelfort** is the only remnant of the fortified city in Oudenaarde that the government had built against a possible invasion from France. The reason why Oudenaarde was fortified by forts has to do with its relief. The city could easily be fired upon from two heights. To prevent this, the fortification engineers planned the construction of two forts: one on the Kezelenberg (also called Edelareberg) and one on the height of Bevere on the other side of the city. The Beverefort never came to be.

### **The Dutch Ravelijn of Oudenaarde**

During the Calvinist reign (1579-1582), the French Huguenot de la Noué erected triangular, ravelin-like strongholds in front of the then gates. After the Devolution War (1667-1668), Oudenaarde became part of France. In 1670 Vauban started fortification works and erected several ravelins. A ravelin with clad walls is being built approximately at the location of the current Hollands Ravelijn. After the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1715), Oudenaarde returned to the Southern Netherlands. Oudenaarde becomes a so-called barrier city with a Dutch garrison. In 1782, Joseph II orders all Barrier Cities to be dismantled, with the obligation to demolish the fortifications. This also happens in Oudenaarde. The Liedts family purchases large tracts of fortified land, including the site of the current Hollands Ravelijn. After the fall of Napoleon, the two Netherlands were united under William I. The Wellington barrier was erected on the border with France. Oudenaarde had to be fortified again.

The city is looking for the redevelopment of its heritage sites, together with its public and private partners. It therefore is a longtime member of EFFORTS, and also of the Vlaamse Vestingsteden Platform and the Wellington Barrier Project.

## Oudenaarde investeert in militair erfgoed met voorzitterschap Europese federatie EFFORTS: "Netwerk historische vestingsteden uitbreiden"



Oud-burgemeester van Bergen op Zoom Frank Petter draagt het voorzitterschap over aan de Oudenaardse burgemeester Marnic De Meulemeester. — © if

**UDENAARDE** - De stad Oudenaarde levert met burgemeester Marnic De Meulemeester de nieuwe voorzitter van EFFORTS, de Europese federatie van vestingsteden. "Een unieke kans om ons netwerk met andere Europese historische vestingsteden uit te breiden en het Oudenaards militair erfgoed te versterken", zegt hij.



## NEW MEMBERS and the NETWORK

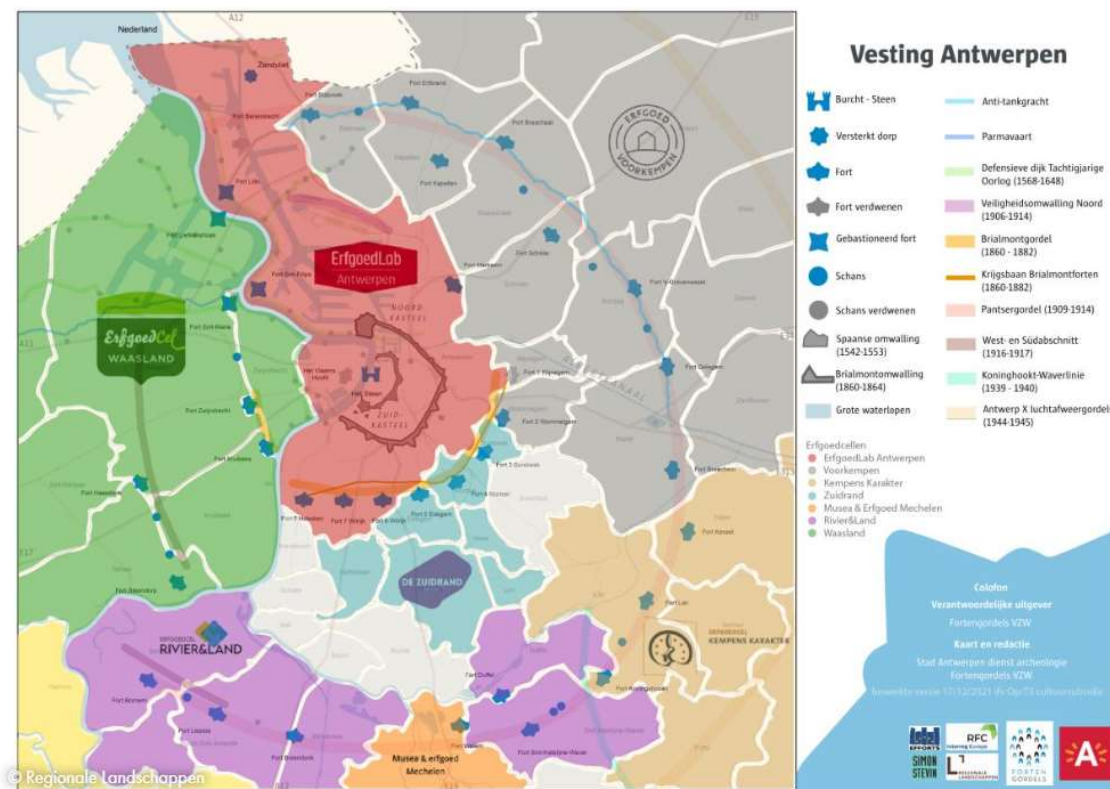
EFFORTS welcomes in 2023 its new members : Cities of Diest, Menen, Mons, Herentals, Stabroek (BE), Huis ten Bergh (NL), Fort Monostor (HU) rejoined, National Museum of Transsylvanian History in Cluj (RO), the Dutch Fortified City Association with extra 6 cities (NL), and the Ukrainian partners led by the Polytechnic U. of Lviv, among which the Cultural organisation of the city of Ivano-Frankivsk. A network cooperation was done with the Fortress Study Group, the Palmerston Forts Society and the U. of Portsmouth (UK).





## INTERLINIE – Antwerp fortress belt cultural cooperation network

EFFORTS participated, through its founding with EFFORTS members Regionale Landschappen and Simon Stevin of the association Fortengordels, the network set-up of the Flemish cultural project Interlinie. In November the project, including EFFORTS member Antwerp, was launched at Edegem (Fort 5) with the partners. EFFORTS member Schans Landmolen and Stafort are associated to the project.



## INTERNSHIP AT EFFORTS BRUSSELS

Romanian intern Andrei Vladescu from the U. of Bologna-Ravenna joins the EFFORTS secretariat in Brussels for 2 months. He is working on a satellite detection project of disappeared fortified sites. He is a Brialmont fortifications expert (19<sup>th</sup> century Belgian fortress builder Brialmont constructed the Bucarest fortress belt) and therefore will work at the EFFORTS member Simon Stevin Foundation's archives and the Belgian National Archives.

EFFORTS is always looking for internships, also in the fields of communication and administration. Contact EFFORTS (mail address in the colophon).



## EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Hereby a few interesting calls from the EFFORTS EU Calls List:

- **Creative Europe calls 2023 – 2024**

Call 2024	Expected publ.	Prov. deadline
European Cooperation Projects	October 2023	January 2024
Pan-European Cultural Organisations	October 2023	January 2024
European Platforms	November 2023	February 2024
European Networks	December 2023	March 2024





- Check out the EU Cultural projects in 2021-2027

The Guide:

<https://culture.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-11/cultureu-funding-guide.pdf>

More information:

<https://culture.ec.europa.eu/funding/cultureu-funding-guide/discover-funding-opportunities-for-the-cultural-and-creative-sectors>

## EVENTS

With the support of



- **European Fortress Summer 2024** and **Night of Fortresses** that EFFORTS takes over from the EU Interreg project FORTITUDE. For the 2022 version of the Night of Fortresses: <https://nightoffortresses.org/en/> More information and REGISTRATION, check also the EFFORTS and Forte Cultura websites.



- The Dutch EFFORTS members of Zuiderwaterlinie and Vereniging van Nederlandse Vestingsteden (Association of Dutch Fortress Cities), are organising **the first Dutch conference on fortified heritage**



- The Platform of Flemish fortified cities (Overlegplatform Vlaamse Vestingsteden), organizes its second **annual conference on Local, regional and European relevance of fortified heritage, in Oudenaarde on 5 March 2024**, also presenting to the Belgian Prime Minister, Alexander De Croo, keynote speaker and also president of the EU Council of Ministers then, the Maastricht Manifesto.





The conglomerate welcomes all fortified cities in Flanders which want to share experience and projects. The Platform's moto is 'Stronger Together' and is a direct result of the cooperation between EFFORTS Europe and its member Regionale Landschappen in the 'Recapture the Fortress Cities' EU Interreg Europe project.

See for more background at [www.regionalelandschappen.be/publicaties/rfc](http://www.regionalelandschappen.be/publicaties/rfc)

- Liberation Route Europe Annual Forum, 26-29 February 2024



Liberation  
Route  
Europe



EUROPE  
REMEMBERS

## LRE FORUM

AACHEN  
26-29 February 2024

Click for more information



Join us in  
Aachen for  
the annual  
LRE Forum!

LRE Foundation

LRE Germany

LRE NRW

## EFFORTS NETWORKS

- EFFORTS is member of the **European Heritage Alliance 3.3** - check out the calendar: <http://europeanheritagealliance.eu/events/> and the Climate Heritage Network and the Heriwell project.



- EFFORTS is a partner of the **International Fortress Council (IFC)**: <http://www.internationalfortresscouncil.org/calendar.html>, **Liberation Route Europe Foundation** [www.LREFoundation.eu](http://www.LREFoundation.eu) [www.liberationrouteeurope.eu](http://www.liberationrouteeurope.eu) and War Heritage Institute's 'Belgium Battlefield of Europe' network [www.belgiumbattlefield.be](http://www.belgiumbattlefield.be)



- EFFORTS works on an upcoming **Wellington Line project** in Belgium and the Netherlands.



- EFFORTS and the **UN International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)** and the **International Scientific Committee on Fortifications and Military Heritage (ICOFORT)** mutually support each other: <https://www.icomos.org/en/about-icomos/committees/regional-activities-europe/39374-upcoming-events-save-the-date>



For more European news on cultural heritage, see EFFORTS partner: <https://heritagetribune.eu/>

EUROPEAN  
HERITAGE TRIBUNE Newsletter



## MEETING PLACE BRUSSELS

Are you planning to come to Brussels? Need an ad-hoc workspace for a few hours or need to make a few copies? We are happy to receive you @ the EFFORTS office in Brussels at Trierstraat 67 rue de Trèves, 1040 Brussels (around the corner from the European Parliament). You can make an appointment at the EFFORTS secretariat [info@efforts-europe.eu](mailto:info@efforts-europe.eu). Also: if you need help contacting an EU official, service or a Member of the European Parliament or you need info on finding your way around Brussels, contact the same mail address.

NEXT EFFORTS NEWSLETTER nr. 28 in August 2023. Send in your information by 28 February 2024.

For more information and all other newsletters, see the EFFORTS website : [www.efforts-europe.eu](http://www.efforts-europe.eu)



Follow, like, contribute and share #EFFORTSEUROPE on facebook, Instagram and twitter.

### PRIVACY POLICY

EFFORTS collects, uses and stores the personal data transmitted in accordance with legislation, and, in particular, Reg. 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data (GDPR). If you have questions about or objections to the use of your data for EFFORTS network use, please contact us at:

EFFORTS : contact the secretariat at Trierstraat 67 / rue de Trèves 67 in 1000 Brussels : [info@efforts-europe.com](mailto:info@efforts-europe.com) T : +32.(0)477.623.792



