



EFFORTS
european federation of fortified sites

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear EFFORTS network member,

I am happy to announce a new season for the presentation of Europe's fortress heritage. EFFORTS is in its 7th year of existence and we have grown from a European Interreg project to Europe's federation of fortified sites.

EFFORTS is organising its focus, as decided by its last General Assembly in 2023, towards European and other project network platform on the development of fortified heritage. In the meanwhile, EFFORTS will continue even more to support the development of national fortification sites cooperation. We welcomed in 2023 the Belgian Flemish Platform of Fortress Cities, and this year we do this with the Ukrainian partners, our Belgian partners (Wellington Barrier). More countries are to follow and we welcome this bottom-up structuring of our European network of cities and regions.

We are therefore happy that the site of our founding member Suomenlinna (the 'Finnish fortress') in Helsinki (FI) will host the next EFFORTS Board meeting. We are planning to prepare proposals on next years' priorities for the EFFORTS General Assembly (online in June and presented at the next EFFORTS congress in the fall). EFFORTS experts will also participate there in the discussion of Suomenlinna's longtime UNESCO status.

We are also working hard on the EFFORTS and partners' project idea of an Interreg Europe project on the innovative use of governance for fortification heritage development. In the meanwhile we are boasting quite some news from our Belgian partners. However, we are obliged to change the planned venue of the EFFORTS Congress. We have a few sites that are willing to host this annual high-profile network event. More on this in the next EFFORTS news.

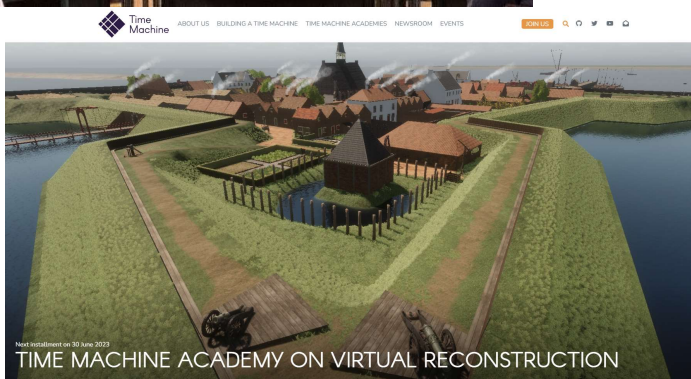
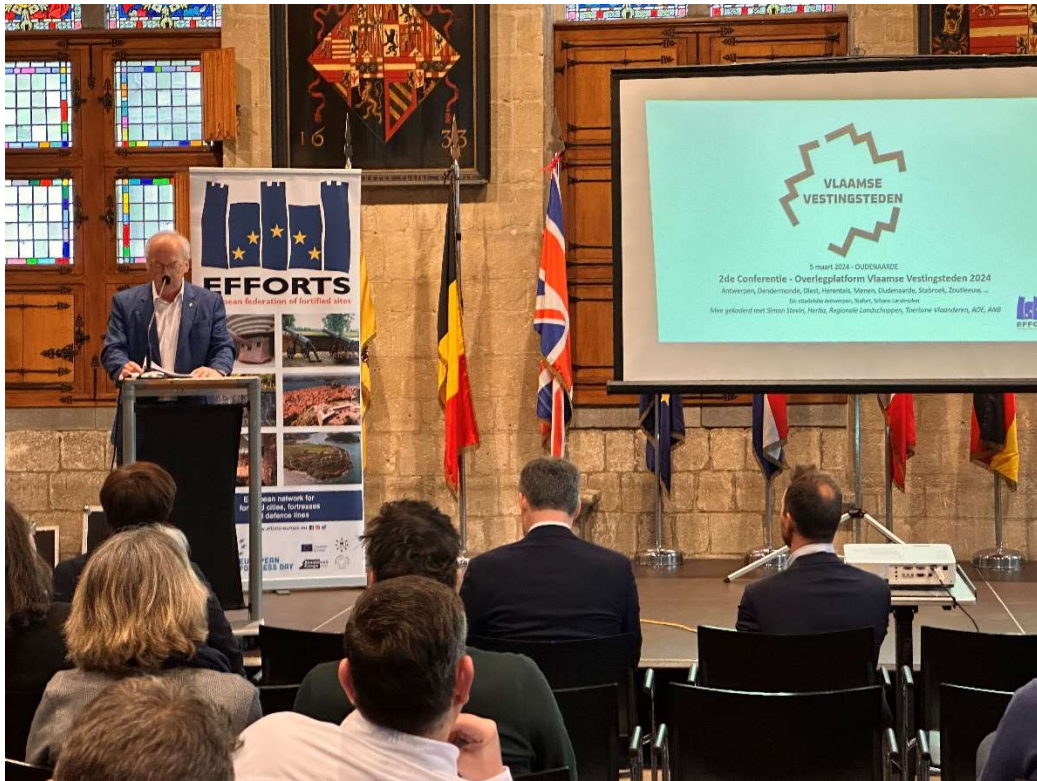
Finally, EFFORTS is putting emphasis on the people that make out our member sites. All EFFORTS network members can use the hashtag **#iamefforts** to support the human effort in EFFORTS. Join the network !

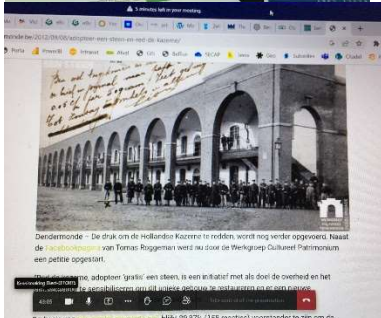
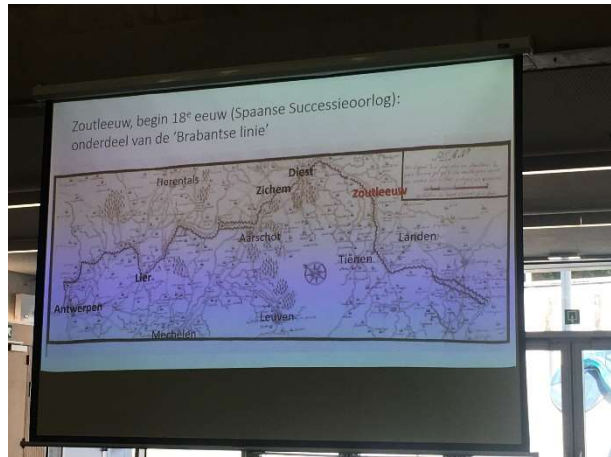
I wish you a fantastic Spring season and this not without thinking about our Ukrainian EFFORTS members. They are still suffering terribly from the horrific war forced upon them.

Marnic De Meulemeester, Mayor of Oudenaarde, EFFORTS president

PLATFORM OF FLEMISH FORTIFIED CITIES - after Herentals in 20232nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE in Oudenaarde 2024







EFFORTS organised the second annual conference of the Platform of Flemish Fortified Cities in Belgium on 5 March in Oudenaarde (BE). With a keynote from the Belgian Prime Minister, Alexander De Croo on the importance of cultural cooperation in Europe, and a welcome by mayor and EFFORTS President Marnic De Meulemeester, 10 Belgian Cities in Flanders presented their possible fields of cooperation, like cooperation on the drafting master plans for fortress city planning, environmental or digital projects and intra-Belgian defense lines. We welcomed the active input of the city of Menen (with alderwoman Griet Vanryckegem), Diest, Zoutleeuw, Herentals, Dendermonde, Antwerp and Leuven. With the participation of Leper and Lier. Also the town of Stabroek (and Stafort), and Antwerp's fortress line Schans Landmolen are EFFORTS members in Flanders.

For more on the presentations, consult the EFFORTS website (Events).

The period of January - June 2023 saw the establishment, as a result of the **EU Interreg Europe project in Belgium 'Recapture the Fortress Cities'**, of the Platform of Flemish Fortified Cities in Herentals, after many meetings between city representative with EFFORTS. In Herentals in 2023, EFFORTS members members in Flanders signed the Flemish Fortress Cities Platform's **Declaration of Intent 'Stronger Together'**, in the presence of Regionale Landschappen, supported by Herita, Toerisme Vlaanderen, Agentschappen Onroerend Erfgoed, Simon Stevin VVC, and Natuur en Bos. 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 more on this subject: www.regionalelandschappen.be/publicaties/rfc

WELLINGTON BARRIER 2024

As part of the work of EFFORTS to help cities in EU countries organize around the development of fortification heritage, the idea was put forward in 2020 to collaborate with EFFORTS Europe member, the city of Namur and the other cities that were part of the former 'Wellington Barrier' (1814/1815-1830 and later) in a contemporary supra-regional tourist development project. This project is being set up by the interested partner cities in Flanders and Wallonia, with the aim of linking this fortification line to local and regional tourist access. A first sub-project, a traveling exhibition, will be presented in the citadel of Namur at the end of 2024, together with the participating partners. It will then be exhibited in prominent places in the participating cities. The participating cities are Dendermonde, Menen, Mons, Namur, Oudenaarde and Philippeville. The other Wellington cities and sites that support this EFFORTS network are Ath, Charleroi, Liège, Ypres and Maastricht (NL) and the sites Forte Napoleon in Ostend (Herita) and the Citadel of Antwerp (Konhef site). All other Belgian cities that want to participate in these Wellington projects can contact EFFORTS (see below). This project is EFFORTS' Belgian city partners participation in the 200-year anniversary of the Belgian Independence in 2030. More information on the official presentation of the project will follow.



INVITATION

à la réunion exploratoire afin d'identifier les villes-partenaires pour un projet patrimonial et touristique commun autour des sites de la 'Barrière Wellington'

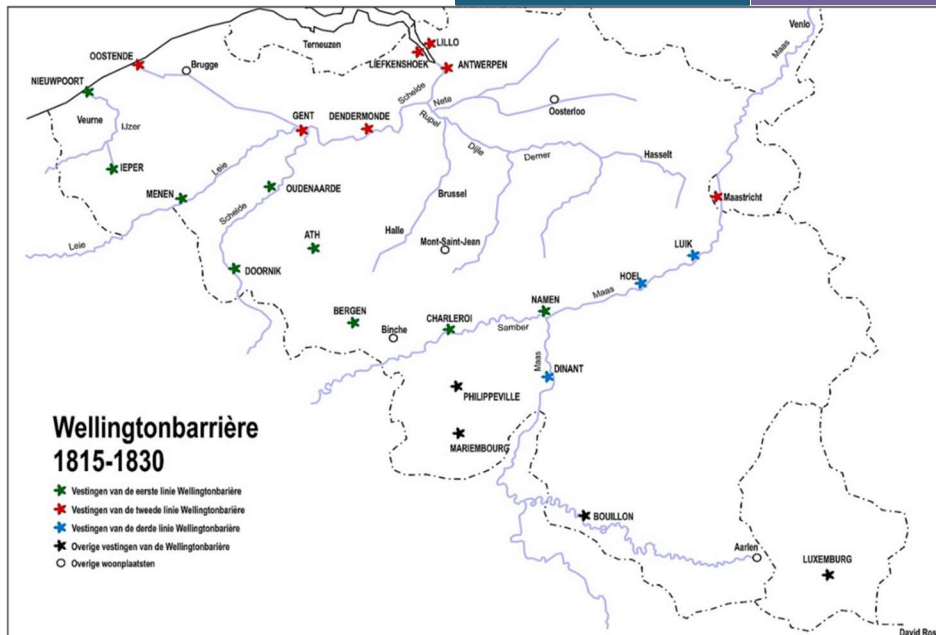
Citadelle de Namur, 22 septembre 2022, 9h-15h30
Route Merveilleuse 64, 5000 Namur
(Nederlandse versie hierna)



La Ville de Namur et EFFORTS souhaitent inviter les représentants des villes historiques de la Barrière Wellington afin de discuter, dans une réunion exploratoire, de l'opportunité et des possibilités d'une



Philippeville



"What was this 'Wellington Barrier'? After Napoleon's defeats in Leipzig and his exile to Elba, the great powers in Europe put their affairs in order. The First Treaty of Paris (1814) would ensure this. To avoid creating a spirit of revenge, France was allowed to retain its pre-1792 borders. On the other hand, the country was surrounded by a belt of medium-sized states created to counterbalance a possible new French aggression. In this political context, the new United Kingdom of the Netherlands was founded - the current Netherlands and Belgium - and it was decided to build a series of defenses along, among other things, the French northern border, the later Wellington Barrier. In 1814, both the British Commander-in-Chief, the Duke of Wellington, and the Dutch General Cornelis Kravenhoff made proposals to the new monarch of the Northern and Southern Netherlands, William I, on how the new

borders and defense position should work. After the Belgian independence in 1830, these defenses played a pivotal role in the establishment of a Belgian defense system.” (Dennis van Nieuwenhuijzen, EFFORTS expert).

Contact: EFFORTS : info@efforts-europe.eu

EUROPEAN FORTRESS SUMMER AND NIGHT OF FORTRESSES

JOIN US !



EUROPEAN FORTRESS SUMMER



REGISTER your fortress summer events as part of the European event platform #EuropeanFortressSummer! You post online, we share to partners Europe-wide!

All European fortification sites are invited to participate. Free of charge.
Reach more sites and people across Europe. -From March to October-

Participation in EFS = entering the **EFFORTS AWARD** contest (winner: at the EFFORTS Congress)

PARTICIPATING ? Simply register your EFS event online !
www.fortress-summer.eu

AND POST with #EuropeanFortressSummer #Effortseurope #ForteCultura



EFFORTS
european federation of fortified sites

The annual European Fortress Summer event is powered by EFFORTS Europe & FORTE CULTURA



**FORTE
CULTURA**

The European Fortress Summer is also the annual May European #NightofFortresses event. Register at EFS website.



Night of Fortresses
FORTITUDE



**EFFORTS
AWARD**

All EFFORTS network members are invited to show what they have in store for the 2024 season: events, visits, workshops, conferences, projects. Show your **European Fortress Summer** action online via our member Forte Cultura. Contact : office@forte-cultura.eu

Check out online : <https://forte-cultura.com/en/european-fortress-summer/>

EFFORTS member Fortress of Cultura SIBENIK, with EFFORTS and Forte Cultura also organises the annual **Night of Fortresses**. Join us and contact via : <https://nightoffortresses.org/en/> Registration : <https://nightoffortresses.org/en/forma-za-prijavu-2024/>



I AM EFFORTS

EFFORTS is putting emphasis on the people that make out its member organisations. We have created since 2023 the hashtag **#iamefforts**. All EFFORTS network members can use this to support the *human effort in EFFORTS*.

Join the network ! **#iamefforts**



#margarethavanparma
#internationalevrouwendag #sterkevrouw
#WeCanDolt



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#antwerpen #citadelantwerpen
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Dennis van Nieuwenhuijzen
16 Mar ·
Vandaag in de Citta (10.000 stappen), de bijlage van de *Gazet van Antwerpen* loods ik als militair historicus de mensen l... See more



gva.be
Hoe het vestingverleden van Antwerpen het uitzicht van de stad bepaalde: 10.000...



EFFORTS INTERNSHIPS and VISITS

Do you have the possibility to share the training of young members of your staff with EFFORTS or its members, contact EFFORTS !

In the beginning of 2024 we welcomed Andrei Vladescu from Bucarest (RO) (via EFFORTS member Alessia Zampini, from U. Bologna, IT) who is working on heat-sensing and has a Brialmont

expertise. David Wauters (Natuurpunt), led Andrei and EFFORTS around in Wilrijk's nature park Fort 7 in the Antwerp Fortress Belt. And we had in February a one-day visit of young Chris from the Altra College Bleichrodt in the Netherlands, walking with Dennis Van Nieuwenhuijzen in the footsteps of EFFORTS at the European Parliament .



EU CALLS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



EFFORTS is reactivating its EU Funding Professionals Network, first active in 2018-2021. It will replace the Joint Scientific Committee work 2021-2023. EFPN will focus on the communication, within the EFFORTS network on information on European projects. Stay tuned.

- **European Heritage Hub Launches Small Grants Scheme for Heritage Projects**

The European Heritage Hub launched its Small Grants Scheme open to heritage protection projects led by civil society in 11 EU neighbouring countries. If you haven't submitted your project yet you still have until 31 March to do so. <https://www.europeanheritagehub.eu/call-for-applications-small-grants-scheme-for-heritage-related-projects-led-by-civil-society-in-eu-neighbouring-countries/>

- **Creative Europe calls 2023 – 2024**

Call 2024	Expected publ.	Prov. deadline
European Networks	Cecember 2023	March 2024

- **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

- **European Fortress Summer 2023** and **Night of Fortresses**

For the 2024 version of the Night of Fortresses: <https://nightoffortresses.org/en/> More information and REGISTRATION, check also the EFFORTS and Forte Cultura websites.



- **Bunker Day Belgium on 2 June 2024**, organised by EFFORTS member Raversyde Atlantikwall Museum, as part of EU Creative Europe project 2028-2021 'Atlantikwall Europe' results



- Contact also for **fortification green applications** EFFORTS member Marco Acri (SL): marco.acri@ung.si



Webinars on NBS and Traditions

Green Roofs

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE AND PARTNERSHIP

Introduction by Marco Aciri
on the URBINAT project and
the initiative
Welcome by X-Center
and GOI2025

17.00 - 17.30 CET



THE TOPICS OF THE DAY

The Green Roofs.
Applications, typologies,
technologies, materials,
examples

by Maurizio Crasso
Harpo Verdenspale Italy
Vice-President EFB

17.30 - 18.10 CET



DABATE AND NEXT

Examples from the Past
Questions
Conversation on-site and
on-line

Introduction to the next
webinars on
Permeable Pavers,
Alternative Currencies

18.10 - 18.30 CET



X-CENTER, DELPINOVA ULICA 20, NOVA GORICA

WEDNESDAY, 13.03.2024 AT 17.00 CET

ZOOM LINK [HTTPS://UNGSI.ZOOM.US/J/69407056846](https://ungsi.zoom.us/j/69407056846)

MODERATOR MARCO ACRI, UNIVERSITY OF NOVA GORICA



- Terezin Workshop in 2023 on the **repair of fortification systems**. Contact : jiri.hofman@projekt-terezin.cz





- **Landscape Day** at EFFORTS Europe member Diest on 23 March 2024



- **Vallo Alpino project presentation on fortress mapping** in the Alps. Contact EFFORTS Europe network member Heimo Prünster : hpruenster@gmail.com



- EFFORTS participated in the **evaluation of the European Nostra European Heritage Award selection** (Châteaux forts d'Alsace)



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 www.liberationrouteeurope.eu and War Heritage Institute's 'Belgium Battlefield of Europe' network 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://heritagetribeune.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. 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 31 May 2024.

For more information and all other newsletters, see the EFFORTS website : www.efforts-europe.eu



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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 T : +32.(0)477.623.792



