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## **‘Resilient Fortress’: working with climate change in Europe’s fortresses: Suomenlinna Summer School report**

At their first gathering in Suomenlinna in Finland, a mapping exercise between the participating European partners resulted in March 2025 in a listing of today’s challenges on climate change adaptive management in Europe’s fortresses. Climate change creates new risks to cultural heritage and the biodiversity of sites.

The European Union Erasmus+ project ‘Resilient Fortress’ concentrating on the topic of fortified structures and fortified landscape unites partners and specialists from 5 countries. The project aims to improve access to information on sustainable heritage maintenance and preservation, restoration and maintenance practices level for heritage workers and management. The project consists of a series of workshops for heritage professionals leading up to Guidelines for Europe’s fortified heritage.

There is an immediate need to further develop measures that nurture sustainability and biodiversity, and at the same time create new methods to combat the accelerated decay of heritage caused by the already changed climate conditions. ‘Resilient Fortress’, uniting fortress management teams in Finland, France, Italy and the Netherlands are, in 2025 continuing their work on sustainable approaches to today’s fortified heritage challenges.

The project increases the green competence of professionals and employees through peer support between organisations. It strengthens the organisation’s green policy and competence in environmental responsibility. It supports lifelong learning by applying multidisciplinary approaches to solving current challenges. This new approach on fortified heritage contributes fully to the UN Sustainable Development Goal ‘Climate Action’. The next project meeting between the partners is in April in Antibes and Mont-Dauphin (FR). In May 2025 follows Naarden (NL).

‘Resilient Fortress’ partners are the Governing Body of Suomenlinna (FIN), Stichting Monumentenbezit for the fortifications of Naarden (NL), Centre des monuments nationaux for the stronghold of Mont-Dauphin (FR) and EFFORTS, with the EFFORTS, the European Federation of Fortified Sites (EU) and Atelier d’Architecture Philippe Prost (FR) and Studio Architettura Meneghelli (IT).

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Link to the March 2025 report: <https://www.efforts-europe.eu/erasmus-resilient-fortress/>