



NEWSLETTER MARCH - JUNE 2025



Zoutleeuw EFFORTS Vlaamse Vestingsteden conference (with Jessi Clos, city of Zoutleeuw)



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear EFFORTS member,

It is a great pleasure to introduce myself to you as Mayor of Oudenaarde and new EFFORTS President. I am proud to take over this role from my predecessor Marnic De Meulemeester. I want to thank him hereby for his role last year in guiding the EFFORTS ship.

As a long-term local council member and alderman in my city, I am very much an advocate of communication and participation. I want to reinforce the role of cities in the EFFORTS organisation. We are therefore working towards a good and open representation of our central stakeholder group.

We are recentring the EFFORTS to a platform where cities and regions can find each other to cooperate in European or other cross-border projects that are based on local or regional development and the reuse of their fortified heritage capital. I see that EFFORTS is working alongside our members in different regions: the Baltic region, Ukraine, the Wellington Barrier in Belgium, Dutch – Flemish cross-border cooperation, the Antwerp fortresses, the Flemish fortress cities platform, the Finnish Fortress cooperation, the France UNESCO sites, Italy and the Adriatic and the Czech Republic. In all these regions we work with and for our members finding together the best solutions for the regeneration of our heritage sites and our cities and regional development. In order to make our collaboration even more fruitful, we started again this year with the EFFORTS European Funding Professionals Network, a central platform for our members on which they can reach out to other EU-project-interested sites and be informed of the ins and outs of EU project set-ups and opportunities.

In these challenging times we also do not forget that we have since 2024 'EFFORTS Ukraine', a Ukrainian association that counts numerous EFFORTS sites that are interested to work with other European sites. We strongly encourage you all in this. A first common European project proposal is on its way.

Finally, I can tell you that the EFFORTS congress in 2025 will be in December and in a new style. More on this will come your way soon!

In the mean time I wish you peace and success,

John Adam, Mayor of Oudenaarde, EFFORTS president

'RESILIENT FORTRESS' Erasmus+ 2025

EFFORTS is partner in the Erasmus+ EU project 'Resilient Fortress'. We informed you on the start of the project in our last Newsletter. The project counts EFFORTS members Suomenlinna (project leader, FI) with Naarden (NL) and Mont Dauphin (FR).

"Climate change creates new risks to cultural heritage and to the biodiversity of cultural heritage sites. The 2022 report of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture "Strengthening the resilience of cultural heritage to combat climate change, where the European Green Deal meets cultural heritage" emphasizes that there is a need to improve access to information on sustainable heritage maintenance and restoration practices at the grassroots level for heritage management and heritage workers. There is an immediate need to 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. The project responds to these requirements with reference to fortified heritage by identifying and developing updated practices."

The project consists of a series of workshops and study days that include site visits. The main goal is sharing of practices and other peer learning, as well as the identification of the necessary additional climate and diversity information. External environmental climate change expertise complements knowledge gaps. After a first meeting in Suomenlinna, the partners met at **Mont Dauphin** and **Antibes** (April) and in **Naarden** (May). With the help of cooperation and shared learning, the partners prepare guidance for the restoration, preservation and maintenance of the fortified heritage in such a way that environmental responsibility filters all steps of the measures - part of everyday work. The guidance can be further developed into site-specific practices. The goal of the project is also to come to a guideline book for fortified sites on the treated subjects.





Erasmus + project named Resilient Fortress is designed for upskilling professionals facing the challenges of climate change and the increasing need of environmental responsibility in the context of fortified heritage.

Project partners and case studies are chosen by the geographical location of the sites and by the quality of their restoration, conservation and repair projects.

The nine months project is divided into four activities: Suomenlinna Summer School (2–4,9.2024), Antibes Site Visit (2.4.2025), Mont-Dauphin learning session (3.4.2025) and Naarden Exchange Session (5–7,5.2025). The outcome of Resilient Fortress -project is environmentally responsible guidelines, that are widely pread and will motivate other fortified sites professionals to gain an alert attitude towards climate change and open mind to transform old routines to green skills.

The activity in the City of Antibes is organized by Port Vauban – CCI Nice Côte d'Azur and Architecture Agency Philippe Prost. It consists of site visits to two best practice examples – bastion Saint-Jaume and to Fort Carré – guided by specialists on architectural conservation and on biodiversity.

Antibes site visit participants come from Finland (Governing Body of Suomenlinna), from Netherlands (Stichting Monumentenbezit and Groningen University), France (Centre des monuments nationaux), all representing World Heritage sites and from Belgium (EFFORTS, European Federation for Fortified Sites).



Antibes Programme / 2nd of April

8.50 am

9.30 - 11.30 am

12 am- 1 pm 1 pm- 2 pm

2 pm- 4 pm

meeting in the bastion St Jaume at the gate entrance of the quai des Milliardaires (restricted entrance therefore we must pass through together) welcoming coffee at the international vacht Club Antibes

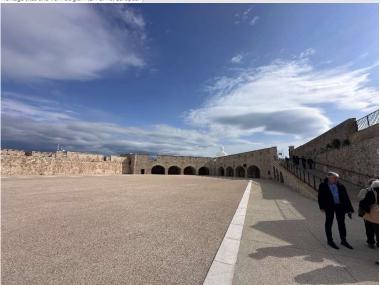
• speech by Dider Ochs – director of the port speech by Catherine Seyler – Introduction of the day site visit with architect, construction firm and ecologist speech by Baptiste Grandais – Presentation of restauration works (AAPP) speech by Baptiste Grandais – Presentation of restauration works (AAPP) speech by Gregory Deso – Herpetologist (Société Méditerranéenne Bätiment et Rénovation) speech by Gregory Deso – Herpetologist visit of bastion St Jaume, ramparts, old lighthouse, Gritt access exhibition lunch at the International Yacht Club Antibes walk to the Fort Carré

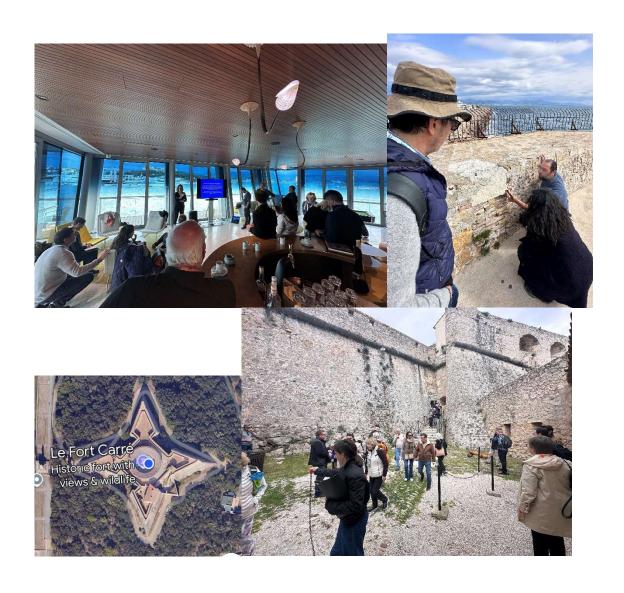
• coastal footpath from the port to the Fort Carré : dockyard, rewilding zone of the port, most and lower ramparts visit of the Fort Carré with presentations

• presentation by Fabien Vinciquerra, conservator of the fort presentation by Baptiste Grandais of the preliminary study of the site of the Fort Carré

Fort Carré end of visit, participants leave towards Mt Dauphin 4 pm







STUDY DAY AT THE STRONGHOLD OF MONT-DAUPHIN

8h45: Tea and coffee reception - Auberge de l'Echauguette

9hoo : Restoration work at Mont-Dauphin (site visit)
An evocation of the restoration work presented during Summer school
Isabelle Fouilloy-Jullien, Laurent Alberti, Philippe Allée (works operations manager)

- Path on the glacis Bastion 63
- Briançon Gate
- Lunette d'Arçon underground access
- Powder magazine

11h15: Taking overall account of a heritage site: eco-context and experiments (indoor)

- Taking overall account of a heritage site (20 min)
 - o The site's territorial resources in Vauban's time Isabelle Fouilloy-Jullien
 - Landscape protection: different layers of regulation Laurent Alberti
- The Biodiversity's issues through the CMN 2030 project (30 min) Gaëlle Chériaux (head of corporate social responsibility at CMN)
- Monuments and experiments in progress (30 min)
 - Issues on the sites of the towers of La Rochelle and the fortress of Salses Laurent Alberti
 - o What type of mortar should be used to restore the castle of If? Philippe Allée

12h35 : Lunch - in the village - Auberge de l'Echauguette

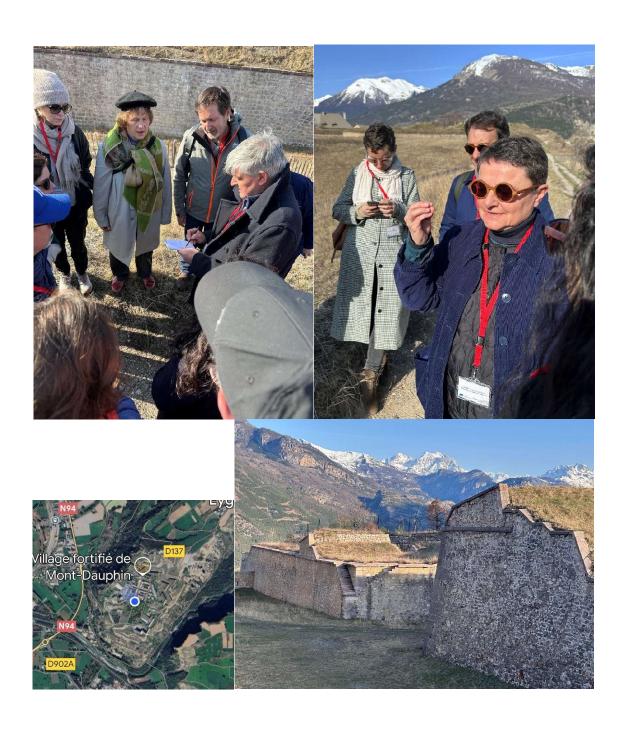


Mont-Dauphin is located at an altitude of approximately 1000 metres...

The weather will surely be fine

but just in case, don't forget to take some warm clothes and, above all.

good shoes!





NAARDEN EXCHANGE SESSION 5 - 7 MAY 2025.

RESILIENT FORTRESS SYMPOSIUM 6 MAY 2025

Location: de Mess, Adriaan Dortsmanplein Naarden.

Program:

	10:00 -	10:15	Walk-in and co	ffee
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. 10:15 - 10:45 Welcome by Mark van den Bos, director of Monumentenbezit

Introduction of the venue: the former garrison cantina by Jeroen van der Werf

Introduction of the project and presentation of the project book by Tuija Lind of the Suomenlinna Fortress and project leader of Resilient Fortress.

10:45 - 11:30 Short introduction of the participating sites:

Suomenlinna by Tuija Lind

Mont Dauphin by Isabelle Fouilloy

Antibes by Germaine de Bazelaire

Bomarsund fortress, Aland by Jani Johnsson

Naarden by Jeroen van der Werf

- 11:30 11:45 Coffee break
- 11:45 12:15 The early landscape designs for the demilitarized fortifications of Naarden

by Federica Marulo

- 12:15 12:30 Research on the green maintenance of Suomenlinna by Asko Jääskeläinen
- 12:30 13:00 Restoring the covered way in Naarden, lessons in behavioral psychology

by Jeroen van der Werf





2nd EFFORTS Europe SUMMER SCHOOL and Resilient Fortress extra Erasmus project meeting in HAMINA and reaffirming of the FINNISH FORUM FOR FORTIFICATIONS







EFFORTS was please to participate on 15 and 16 of May in the second EFFORTS Europe Summer School (2025) in Hamina, organised as a learning meeting on the Resilient Fortress EU Erasmus project, led by Suomenlinna (see above). Visits were organised to the members of the Finnish EFFORTS platform: the cities of Lappeenranta, Luumäki, Koska and the Salpa Bunker Line (Miehikkälä).

At this same meeting, the Finnish city cooperation within EFFORTS (Finnish Forum For Fortifications) was endorsed in the presence of the participating cities.









3rd Annual Conference of Flemish Fortress Cities on Masterplanning in fortified cities





Vestingerfgoed, ontwikkeling en ruimtelijke planning



Maandag 10 maart 2025 Zoutleeuw



At a previous Vlaamse Vestingsteden conference in Oudenaarde, the city of Dendermonde preseted the why and how of a fortified city 'masterplan', more specifically the preparatory process to arrive at a sustainable vision for the future of a fortress city. The third conference of the Consultation Platform t took place on 10 March in another Vlaamse Vestingsteden city of Zoutleeuw, where the Intermunicipal Heritage Service (IOED) and the Regional Landscape Zuid-Hageland are currently working on drawing up a master plan for the Spanish citadel and (part of) the fortress belt. The main theme of the conference was fortress heritage, development

& spatial planning, and this in close interaction with current social challenges: water, climate, mobility, tourism, recreation, and nature.



Peter De Wilde, Director of the Flanders Built Heritage and Tourism agencies, Johan Adam, EFFORTS president and Mayor of Oudenaarde, Natascha De Meulemeester, alderwoman for Tourism of Oudenaarde are welcomed by Zoutleeuw Mayor Guy Dumst.

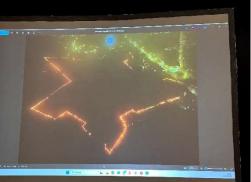




Making a vision on a viable city in Zoutleeuw, using cross-border experiences (photos with Leendert Quintens (IOED Zuid-Hageland), Huibert Crijns, city of s-Hertogenbosch and with representants of EFFORTS Vlaamse Vestingsteden members Herentals (Stijn Geuens), Diest (Bart

Severi) and Rik Rousseau (Dendermonde). EFFORTS Europe members Gerco Meijer, coordinator of ICOFORT Europe and David Verhoestraete, director of Cluster Landscapes added to a full programme. A community action of rendering visible the outline of the Zoutleeuw citadel was organised earlier in 2025 with the population and the Vice-Premier of the Flanders Government, responsible for built heritage, Ben Weyts (between the Mayor of Zoutleeuw and Marijke Wouters, IOED Zuid-Hageland, on the right).





INTERLINIE – ART at ANTWERP REGION FORTS

Working further after the 2024 version of Interlinie, on 2 March, the second year of the Flanders Supralocal cultural project 'Interlinie – art in Antwerp forts' was launched. Based on EFFORTS induced actions with its member Regionale Landschappen and with Zuidrand and the Antwerp region Heritage cels ('Erfgoedcellen'). This project attracts dozens of artists and thousands of enthousiasts to the Antwerp fortress region each summer. This year, two artists from outside Antwerp will join: Frédéric Fourdinier (Brussels) and Patriija Gilytė from Munich (DE) and Kaunas European Cultural Capital of Europe 2022 (LT) respectively at Fort Duffel and Fort Stabroek (Stafort), both active EFFORTS Europe members. Other EFFORTS Europe Antwerp fortresses participate in Interlinie: city of Antwerp with Fort 8 and the city bastions, and Schans Landmolen (Kruibeke). The photos show events in Mortsel (Regionale Landschappen Zuidrand,), Antwerp Fort 8, Stabroek and Duffel.











WELLINGTON BARRIER EFFORTS City Cooperation: START TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

On 31 March the EFFORTS Wellington Barrier Cities presented their itinerant exhibition on the Wellington Barrier and its importance for today's city development. All cities of this historic line are invited to participate in the events of the WB City Cooperation in EFFORTS. Participating cities now are the Cities of Namur, Oudenaarde, Mons, Philippeville, Dendermonde and Menen. They are supported by the City of Liège and ICOFORT. Many thanks to Philippe Bragard (U. Liège) and Piet Lombaerde (U. Antwerpen) for their view on this event. Many thanks to the alderwoman of Namur, Anne Barzin and Jean-Sébastien Misson (director of the Namur Citadel and with Eva Roels (Oudenaarde) ICOMOS Belgium co-president, also.





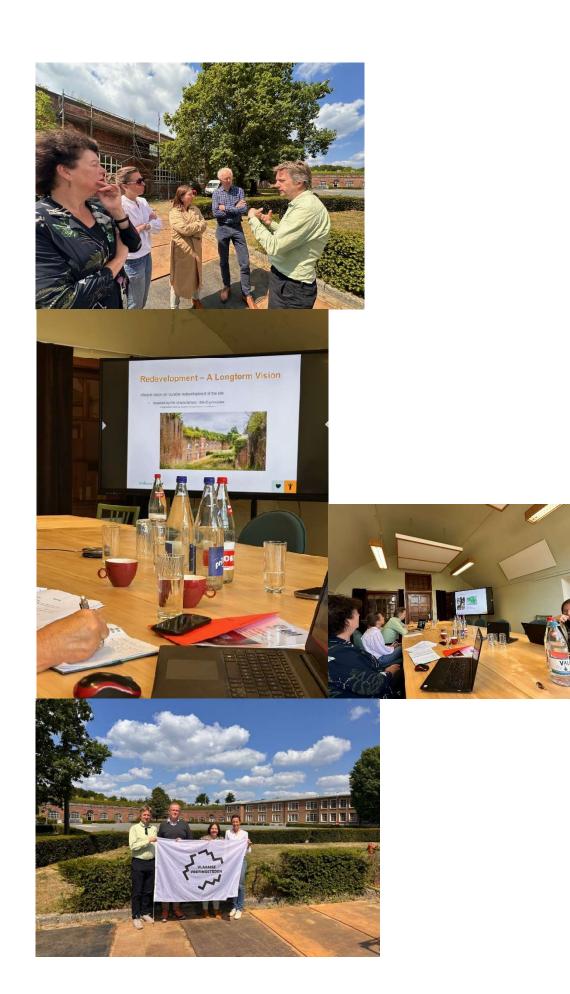




BOARD meeting in DIEST (BE) and ANNUAL MEETING

At the City of Diest, on 9 April board members toured the citadel and were informed by project manager Bart Severi (see also the EFFORTS Congress in Maastricht in 2023) on the innovative projects forming and executing a coherent masterplan for the city, member of EFFORTS and Vlaamse Vestingsteden. The Annual General Meeting for 2025 took place on 18 June. From next year on, the AGM will be live again.





FORTE DI BARD Forte Cultura conference

EFFORTS participated at its member Forte Cultura's annual conference in EFFORTS member site Forte di Bard (IT).



With the newly elected president of Forte Cultura, Filippo Cailotto and with the well-known colleagues of Josefov, joint EFFORTS -Forte Cultura member (Tomas Jirouch) and Dirk Röder and Jelena Kolbe (Forte Cultura).



ZUIDERWATERLINE Liniemeeting 2025

In Breda, we witnessed on 4 June the annual member meeting of the EFFORT city members grouping Zuiderwaterlinie (Province of Noord-Brabant, NL). Keynote speaker was architect Ad Kil, presenting his environmental integrative work on fortress sites in the Zuiderwaterlinie region (Fort De Roovere for instance).





SCIENCE IS WONDERFUL

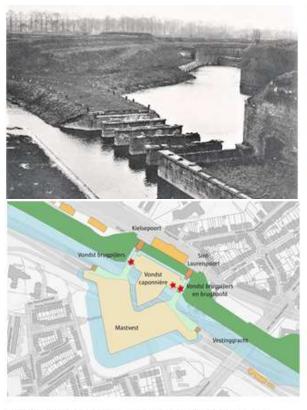


On 13 March, Olha Tikhonova and Ukrainian colleagues, part of the **EFFORTS:UA organisation**, organised a European Commission funded Marie Curie Action 'Science is Wonderful at the Tervuren Africa Museum near Brussels. On active display was a 3D- puzzle model of an Indonesian Dutch Fortress, made by Olha.



ANTWERP DISCOVERY of FORTIFIED PAST

From the EFFORTS member Antwerp City's Newsletter of 26 June: "At the end of May, the works for the construction of Pomppark Zuid started. During the excavations, the pillars of the access bridge to the Sint-Laureis gate were found to be still intact, together with part of the caponier, the defensive structure at the gate. They are valuable remains of the Brialmont ramparts that were built between 1859 and 1864. At that time, Antwerp, as the military capital of Belgium, also called the National Redoubt, was given a ring of fortifications. A 15 km long rampart protected the city and a belt of forts was built in the surrounding municipalities (Forts 1-8). Typical of the Brialmont ramparts are the double gates with access roads in a chicane (bend) and in between the caponier, the brick passage from which both entrances were defended. The excavations were carried out by RAAP Belgium in collaboration with the municipal archaeology department. The city is now investigating how the archaeological remains can be integrated into the park."









Huls obus Howitzer 45 inch uit WOI @ Frederik Beyens

EUROPEAN FORTRESS SUMMER and NIGHT OF FORTRESSES



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









The annual European Fortress Summer event is powered by EFFORTS Europe & FORTE CULTURA European #NightofFortresses event. Register at EFS website.



European Fortress Summer

Arts & entertainment
Register your Fortress Event for the European Fortress Summer 2025

www.fortress-summer.eu









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/forma-za-prijavu-2024/

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 in 2025 focus on the communication of European funds, within the EFFORTS network. We will do a regional approach, focusing on regional needs and capacity or EU funding. On 7 April, more than 30 participants discussed with the representatives of the cities of 's-Hertogenbosch and Breda the possibilities for and examples of European fortified heritage development.





CERV 2025

The Call for Proposals for European Remembrance – 2025 (CERV-2025-CITIZENS-REM) is now open for submission. The European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) organizes an online Info Session to present the content and requirements of the Call for Proposals to any interested applicants and stakeholders.

The online event will take place on 30 June 2025 from 9:30 am to 17:00.

You will find the link to the registration platform on <u>Online info session: CERV Civil Dialogue</u> <u>Group - 2025 Call for Proposals European Remembrance - European Commission.</u>

For more information see also:

CERV-2025-CITIZENS-REM Call document.

EVENTS

• VAUBAN UNESCO + EFFORTS conference 30 June 2025

Fortified Futures

Towards a European Platform for Technical Cooperation on Climate-Smart Management of Fortified Heritage

Webinar and Match-Making Session Monday, 30 June 2025 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM CEST (Paris time)







Organisers: Network of Major of Vauban Sites and EFFORTS Europe

REGISTRATION (free but obligatory)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSfgonhCXnwYNQDEsHOXSOEck_ivXqwWDUC-CPkA_ELGhB31Bw/viewform?usp=header

About the Session

This first informal online exchange will bring together managers of European World Heritage (WH) fortified sites (and those on national Tentative Lists). Together, we will:

- · Share experiences from around Europe;
- Reflect on the potential of modern fortifications as "frontline" observatories for climate-related transformations;
- Start a conversation about creating a European Platform for Technical Cooperation between fortified sites.

Objectives

- Bring together site managers (municipalities and professionals) to:
- o Identify common challenges, needs, and dynamics among participating sites;
- Reflect on opportunities for integrating climate issues into fortified heritage management;
- o Highlight the links between fortifications, territories, and urban landscapes;
- o Discuss the responsibilities and opportunities linked to WH in the context of climate change.

- Discuss the responsibilities and opportunities linked to World Heritage designation in the context of climate change.
- Strengthen the sense of unity and collaboration between site managers.
- Lay the foundations for partnerships around the role of fortifications in climate monitoring and adaptation.
- Advocate for the creation of a dedicated European Platform for Technical Cooperation.
- Share insights and outcomes with national and European authorities involved in heritage-related projects and policies.
- Build the capacities of fortified sites in Europe, notably through the EFFORTS network.

Programme (10:00-12:30 CEST):

10:00-10:15 Welcome & Introduction

10:00-10:10 Opening remarks:

- Anne Vignot, Mayor of Besançon, President of the Network of Major Sites of Vauban (Réseau Vauban)
- John Adam, Mayor of Oudenaarde, President of the European Federation of Fortified Sites (EFFORTS)

10:10-10:15 Overview and introduction to the interactive mural

10:10-11:30 Exploring fortified World Heritage sites and networks

- 10:15-10:30 Camille Thomas, Director, and Alba Zamarbide, Project Manager, Network of Major Sites of Vauban, representing the "<u>Fortifications of Vauban</u>" (serial property-France) (joint presentation)
- 10:30-10:45 Raf Deroo, Secretary General, EFFORTS Europe, presenting the results of the EU Resilient Fortress project, and Tuija Lind, Senior Architect, representing the "Fortress of Suomenlinna" (Finland) (combined presentation)
- 10:45-11:00 Claudio Cecchinelli, Head of the Culture and UNESCO Department, Municipality of Bergamo, Site Secretariat, representing the "<u>Venetian Works of</u> <u>Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: Stato da Terra – Western</u> <u>Stato da Mar</u>" (transnational serial property-Croatia, Italy and Montenegro)
- 11:00-11:15 Fiorenzo Meneghelli and Daniele Sferra, representatives of the Fondazione Forte Marghera, as part of "Venice and its Lagoon" (Italy) (joint presentation)
- 11:15-11:30 Magda Gonçalves, Senior Architect, Regional Directorate for Culture of Azores, representing the "<u>Central Zone of the Town of Angra do Heroismo</u> <u>in the Azores</u>" (Portugal)
- 11:30-11:45 Wietse Burger, Site Coordinator, representing the "<u>Dutch Water</u>
 <u>Defence Lines</u>" (serial property-Netherlands)

11:45-12:15 Interactive debate and match-making session

- What are the key climate-related challenges and opportunities for your site / European fortified World Heritage sites?
- What European collaboration tools, projects, or support networks do you need / are needed?
- EFFORTS 10th Annual Congress: all information is coming up!

• EFFORTS endorsed the Cultural Action Europe action on safeguarding the EU Creative Europe programme.

<u>Endorse the campaign – Culture Action Europe</u>



hundreds demand action to save creative europe



More than 800 cultural sector professionals, representing 479 organisations from 40 countries, believe that the future EU budget must include a strong, standalone Creative Europe programme. Are you one of them? Add you voice now!

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 Foundationwww.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://heritagetribune.eu/



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**!

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**

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. 32 in Septemberl 2025. Send in your information by 31 August 2025.

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



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























