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IPA Croatia – Bosnia and
Herzegovina – Montenegro

GIFTSnet

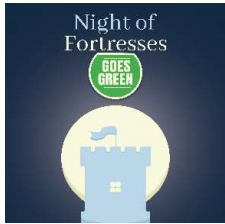
2025 EFFORTS Europe Travelling Networking Congress



Night of Fortresses and GIFTS network

Municipality of Bar

Brussels, December 2-4, 2025



Interreg - IPA CBC 
Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro
FORTITUDE 



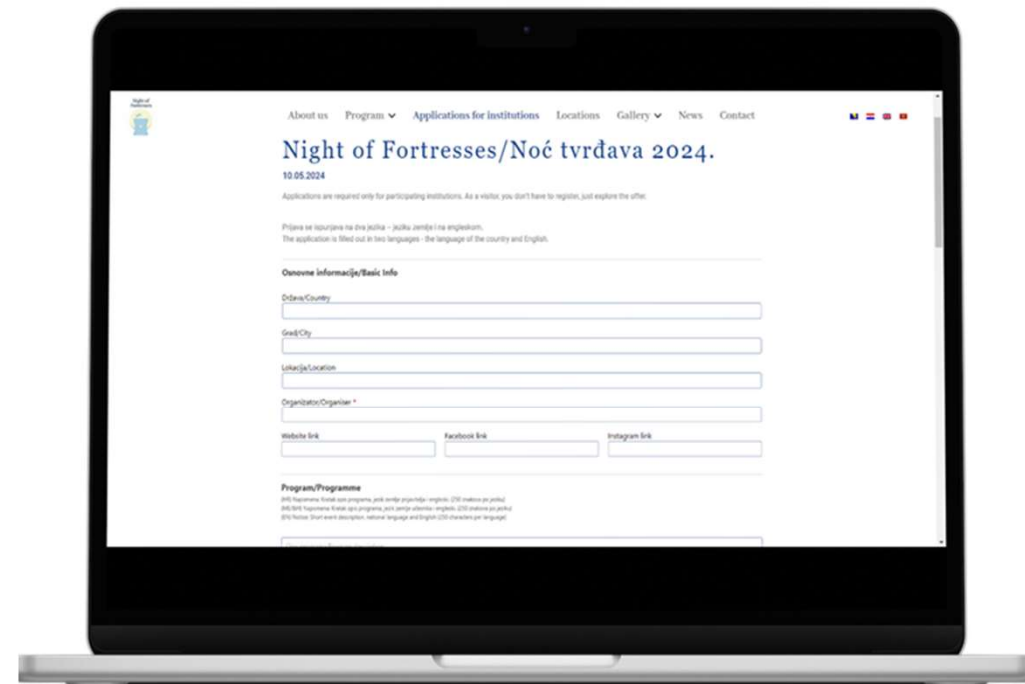
HOW IT STARTED?

- **Annual international cultural event at monuments of cultural heritage (held in May)**
- Launched in 2022 in Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina as a result of the joint European territorial cooperation project FORTITUDE
- **Goals** - to improve the cultural and tourist offer in European cities with established heritage, raise awareness of the potential and importance of the valorisation of cultural heritage, act as a catalyst for the development of cultural tourism
- NOF - an additional motive for visiting the fortifications in the pre-season
- A platform for connecting, sharing, growing and networking of participating organizations
- www.nightoffortresses.org



- Cultural heritage managers in HR-BA-ME were invited to join the event – no participation fee
- Programming – from **open door days** to organizing various **cultural-artistic**, educational and entertainment programs for visitors, including **exhibitions, lectures, workshops, musical performances, film screenings, dance performances, plays, guides...**
- Programs are applied and announced through a simple questionnaire on the Night of Fortresses website (<https://nightoffortresses.org/en>).
- **All events organized during the event must be free of charge for visitors**

- www.nightoffortresses.org

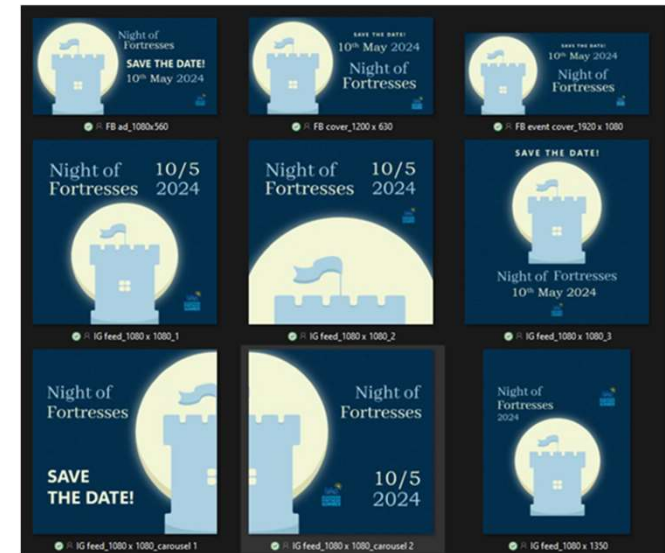


- First edition, 2022 - finalist in the "**Event of the Year**" category at the Days of Croatian Tourism 2022, organized by the Croatian Tourist Board
- **40+** participating locations
- Cooperation with international associations **EFFORTS** and **FORTE CULTURA** established



DEVELOPMENTS IN 2023/2024

- Participation kit containing necessary visual elements – new logo for a **unique visual identity**
- **Instructions for participant organizers** in English, Croatian, Bosnian, Serbian, Montenegrin and Albanian
- **Communication manual** for participants (basics of communication, e.g. writing press releases, creating lists, how to communicate on social networks)
- A team of national event coordinators in HR, BA and ME – **Memorandum of cooperation**
- Creation of **marketing campaigns** (local and national), media buying, agreement on distribution of costs
- Background work on **attracting new members**, renewing contacts with old ones, exchanging ideas, sharing knowledge
- Promotion of event and network of organizers in other countries



RESULTS 2024

Three editions of the event (2022-2024) connected and promoted programs at 50 sites in 8 European countries.

- Observed trends:
 - I. Croatia: largest number of participants from year one, wide and stable network of stakeholders
 - II. BiH, Montenegro: smaller number of participants, less stable network
 - III. Partners from other countries joining: Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Ukraine



Organizatori Noći tvrđava	Hrvatska	Bosna i Hercegovina	Crna Gora	Ostale zemlje
2022.	34	6	5	0
2023.	27	5	3	3
2024.	37	2	4	5

2025 – SUPPORTED BY 2 NEW EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

- Timely preparations: First CB capacity building for organizers: **Green-Sustain Lab** (October 2024, Šibenik)
- **NOF Goes Green Guidelines** – document available to participants as a result of a collaborative workshop facilitated by external expert in sustainable development (logistics and infrastructure, event planning and organizing)
- **Night of Fortresses Goes Green initiative:** an established international event in 2025 becomes a tool to raise public awareness of sustainability and green practices at established sites
- Event **branding strategy** developed by external experts
- **GIFTS network** of organizers in forming



NOF GG 2025: RESULTS

- 73 participation applications – 75 sites in 10 countries (+50% participants, 2 new countries)
- Observed trends:
 - I. Croatia: largest number of participants from year one, wide and stabile network of stakeholders – and growing
 - II. BiH, Montenegro: still smaller number of participants, increased networking resulted in growth of participants
 - III. Stabile partnerships from countries who joined event in 2023-2024: Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Ukraine; new participants in Serbia and Czech Republic
 - IV. New entries: Italy and Lithuania – result of FORTIC project and an ERASMUS+ project led by Fortress of Culture Šibenik

NOF ORGANIZERS	HR	BA	ME	IT	RO	CZE	UKR	RS	SI	LT
2022	34	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	30	5	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
2024	39	2	4	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
2025	41	5	9	8	1	2	1	4	1	1

NOF GG 2025: RESULTS

Increased variety and number of organized programmes/activities

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Italy - Croatia
 FORTIC

Night of Fortresses 2025



STEP BY STEP,
EVENT BY EVENT



THANKS FOR JOINING US
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

NOF GG 2025: HOW WAS IT IN BAR?

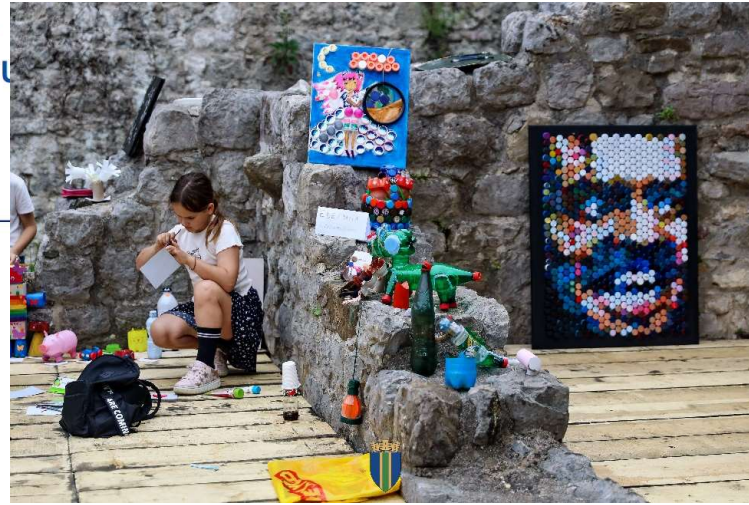
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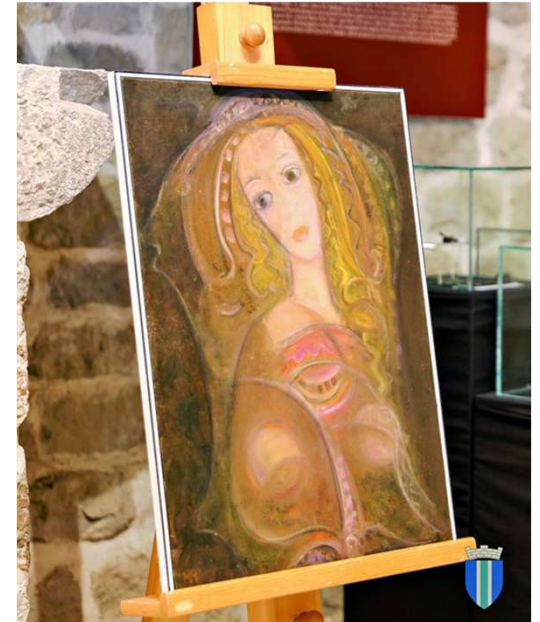
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MUNICIPALITY OF BAR

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