

FORTE CULTURA

Capitalising of fortified cultural heritage for sustainable development and competitiveness of cities and regions



Central Europe Programme
Project "FORTE CULTURA"



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Dear ladies and gentlemen,

We have gathered here today in Kostrzyn to join a partner meeting of the project FORTE CULTURA, which consists of 13 partners from 8 countries of the Central Europe. Two years ago we decided on choosing a common way to give chances to the European cultural heritage and meet today to sum up our common achievements, looking at the same time into the close future.

At the beginning I would like to welcome all our guests, in particular Mr Christopher Ebermann, the representative of the Joint Technical Secretariat from the Central Europe Program, Mr Maciej Nowicki and Mr Wilfried Görmar, the members of the Central Europe Program Monitoring Committee.

I would also like to welcome representatives of European fortresses who are not directly linked with the project and experts in this very field. The presence of 13 European countries representatives only confirms the importance of the project. I appreciate a lot your engagement and the will to learn about FORTE CULTURA and its results.

We have 2 years of intensive work behind us:

There were 5 common network meetings organized in: Kostrzyn, Berlin, Salzburg, Jaromer, Verona, many meetings of the project coordinators, work groups steering committee reunions and scientific conferences which were always held in the atmosphere of understanding and cooperation.

The aim of the project was to capitalize the fortified cultural heritage for sustainable development and competitiveness of cities and regions.

Our common project contributed to the fortification economy, social and culture development and helped to regard fortification architecture as a chance to attract new varied offers to towns and regions.

Some of the project partner such as the town Kostrzyn nad Odrą, started investing in a fortified cultural heritage revitalization.

Our results achieved through common work and engagement are:

- development of a new organization called “tourist and marketing cooperation network of the European fortresses“. The network will enable to introduce fortified cultural heritage into tourist markets what should enhance tourist interest in the new travel offer
- the project developed regional cooperation among fortification groups localized in different parts of Europe such as Franconian fortress and the ones along the Elbe river,
- There were new instruments developed: International Fortress Data Base created by Humboldt University and Data Base on fortification traditional reconstruction techniques - TaCKeDat, developed by the Slovenian National Institute of Monument Protection.
- there were best practices of managing fortification objects and their introduction into cities and regions life summing up works published

And most important - over 50 fortifications are interested in cooperation with us in the nearest future.

Institutions cooperating with us and scientific bodies contributed largely into achieving our set goals, particularly Mr Hartmut Roeder and Hans-Rudolf Neumann.

I hope our today meeting will convince you that the fortress route created by us is an undoubted tourist attraction for people of the Central Europe region and fans of travel from whole Europe.

The todays participation of the fortress representatives not directly belonging to our project shows how big interest there is for the fortress thematics and that they should be developed further, encouraging at the same time new partners and participants to join the the fortress society.

I wish you productive conference and a nice stay in Kostrzyn nad Odrą.

Dr Andrzej Kunt

The Mayor of the Town Kostrzyn nad Odrą