

CORE OUTPUT WP 4.6.2
REPORT

STRENGTHENING EFFECTS OF FORTIFIED HERITAGE FOR URBAN,
RURAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Province of Verona





Responsibilities

PP10 Province of Verona, Italy

Involved partners

- LP City of Kostrzyn nad Odra
- PP2 Austrian State Archives
- PP3 Salzburg's Palaces and Castles Management
- PP4 Jaromer Municipality
- PP5 Humboldt University at Berlin
- PP6 City of Kronach
- PP7 Thuringian Institute for Advanced Studies and Education
- PP8 ECCOFORT reg. ass. "European Cooperation Centre of Fortified Heritage"
- PP9 "Fort Monostor" Military Cultural Center Komarom
- PP11 Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (ZVKDS)

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1 Introduction

Nowadays fortified heritage represents an essential and irreversible element of the urban and rural landscape. In fact we have to highlight that since time immemorial the military architectures has affected both the urban development, both the same aspect of the urban asset of the cities. The walls of the Medieval age, such as the bastioned curtain of the Sixteenth century have inevitable and conditionally affected the urban spaces. The military architectures of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries and also of the first years of the twentieth century have conditioned in a parallel way the urban and landscape aspects of the territory due to their wide areas of military servitude that has led to safeguard relevant green areas around the city, so as to be nowadays in many occasion to be responsible of the presence of real green belts. In this sense it is not incorrect to speak about military architectures not only as part of the landscape, but also as elements that where the cause of determination of the landscape. Their progressive decommissioning and their parallel social utilization and their still widely economic un-exploitation, contributes furthermore to determine a new range of functions whereas besides to the aspects of the landscape features, nowadays are progressively becoming elements of historical, cultural and social identification and therefore as elements of primary importance in a general context of the relations between the community and the territory. It is unanimously acknowledged that fortified heritage either in its physical layout of single or whole system of sites assumes nowadays an increasing key driver role of mutual local, regional, national and international development from the economic, social, cultural, environmental point of view.

The partners of FORTE CULTURA represent both a balanced outstanding and varied anthology and typologies of military architectures and as well as the different state-of-art status management and valorisation of the single fortified assets or whole defence systems.

2. Overview of WP4

2.1 Ratio of WP 4

In the last couple of decades with the enlargement of the European Union towards East starting from the framework of the “Visegrad initiative” that was launched in the early 1990s for the re-emerging of Central East European democracies (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) it was a clear priority to foster the process of integration and of bilateral or multilateral mutual cooperation among the different regions and cities economies. In the framework of the irreversible process of modernisation and development and integration of Western and Eastern regions and cities the fortress are an unique tangible and intangible heritage that represents a key-driver element of grow and improvement of the quality of life of the citizens. The fortresses that were elements of clashes and confrontation among different countries and powers until the Cold War Period, now they became an international crossroad of cultures, a genuine melting pot and an element of integration, recalling the United Nation’s inspiring principle “united in diversity”. The same fortresses that hosted the Soviet Army such as Fort Monostor in Komaron Hungary or the Citadelle Petersberg in Erfurt – Germany are now an outstanding example of successful revitalisation and cultural and economic utilisation of fortified compounds. FORTE CULTURA has 12 project partners and 7 associated partners, including also a full partnership of an Ukrainian institution. A balanced geographical and varied typology of partnership representativeness that can provide a comprehensive overview of the state of art of both good practices as well as the “bottlenecks” that faces a sustainable cultural and touristic management of fortified sites. In an European Union of 28 member states with future scenarios of further enlargements in the South East Europe the fortified heritage represents nowadays an acknowledged shared value of the European society according to all the levels of subsidiarity, but at the same time this heritage is both valuable and vulnerable and securing its benefits now and to the future generations, it demands specific focused actions and investments from the relevant public and private stakeholders, the heritage sector and in particular a constant focus of the public authorities that should have the constant pulse of the situation.

WP4 has as main focus “to connect and implement fortified cultural heritage with the development of cities and regions, the changes of the society and to ensure on this way the long term maintenance and new functions...”. In accordance to the goals of the Central Europe Programme, WP4 has the tasks to facilitate the consolidation of an effective framework for a sustainable re-use and exploitation of renovated and revitalised fortified heritage in accordance with Europe 2020 goal’s of smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. A specific attention is given to the social and cultural dimension of fruition of the fortified heritage enhancing and fostering the cultural and social identity values that are represented by the former military sites of the past centuries, that nowadays with their new functions and enhanced utilisation are the

holders of the European values of peace. In this perspective fortified sites are now citizen's participated places and they are the evidence of the human and social dimension of the cultural heritage according to the recent Faro framework convention on the value of cultural heritage for society that sets the "heritage community" as pivot of the widespread alive utilization of cultural sites. The same "heritage community" assumes new leading tasks of key-actors of the irreversible process of bilateral and multilateral local and regional development among neighbouring geographical areas in a comprehensive multi-level governance of relevant public/private actors and stakeholders. Fortified sites represent an extraordinary evidence that enhances the intrinsic tangible and intangible cultural, social, environmental, historical, architectonic values that are rediscovered through this spontaneous bottom-up process. Fortified sites are not only places of culture *tout court*, but they represent a potential unexploited cultural tourist-economic resource both for local, national and international communities. The cultural-tourist potentialities of each fortified site or defence system are empowered through also the WP4 finalised activity of setting up transnational interconnections of touristic routes with waterways and cycle paths that creates relevant synergies also with the art and craft trades which in an effective way can contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage and develop further local economies. We have to draw your attention on the added value of the above mentioned transnational interconnections which fulfil the goals of creating a competitive, sustainable, modern and socially responsible tourism activities fostering clean energy means of transportation safeguarding the natural and cultural integrity of the high-quality fortified tourism destination in accordance with the 2010 European Commission Communication (COM(2010)352)4 *"Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination – a new political framework for tourism in Europe"*.

2.2 Structure of WP 4

WP 4 is structured into 6 specific actions with 22 specific outputs of which three are core outputs. More precisely the specific actions are as follows:

- 4.1 Exploration of transnational knowledge and definition of development tasks
- 4.2. Implementation of fortified heritage into cities and regions modernisation
- 4.3 Fortified heritage enhance the cultural and social identity and involve citizens
- 4.4 Transnational Information System and databank CE fortified heritage
- 4.5 Strategies for infrastructural interconnection of fortress heritage
- 4.6 Knowledge transfer to development effects of fortified heritage

The three core outputs are:

- 4.4.3 Implementation of Transnational Information System CE Fortified Heritage
- 4.5.2. Report to pilot investment: Heritage interconnection via waterway
- 4.6.2 Report summing up conference fortified heritage integration strategies

3 Actions of WP 4

3.1 Action 4.1 Exploration of transnational knowledge and definition of development tasks

The starting point of WP4 was the Transnational Workshop “Procedures and tools for fortress integration into urban, regional, cultural and social development” that took place in January 2013 in Verona, where all the project partners gathered together for the second time after the kick-off meeting of Kostrzyn nad Odra of fall 2012. In Verona all the partners presented their state-of art situation related to their fortified sites or defence systems in a context of mutual confrontation of best the and bad practices that they had experienced so far in order to analyse and assess jointly the up-to-date situation of fortified heritage in the wider context of urban development, the key priorities and the possible scenarios of win-win solutions. Already some common issues were unanimously highlighted by all the partners. First of all to enhance a long term process of effective integration of the fortified assets into a comprehensive regional and local sustainable development it is necessary to set up a clear framework of balanced division of sharing of public and private responsibilities and tasks in the management and valorisation of fortified compounds sites: the public authorities and decision-makers have the challenging function to provide clear guidelines, a defined step-by-step roadmap and a suitable legal framework for the preservation, valorisation and management of fortified areas, enabling therefore the relevant involved public/private stakeholders and actors to perform in a successful way their activities and their goals. It is a realistic and pragmatic acknowledgment of the overall generalised decreased financial capacity of the public bodies and institutions, that are affected in a dramatic way by spending review policies with the inevitable consequence of an increasing and leading role of private funds, that nevertheless combined with the fewer resources of public funds can be the win-win alchemy of successful, inclusive and innovative functions of a specific fortified site or even more of a local or regional defence system.

In parallel to the key achievements of the conference of Verona, the German partner Thuringian Institute for advanced Studies (TIAW) in cooperation with the same Province of Verona have jointly finalized a report that highlighted the key aims, tasks and effects with the implementation of fortified heritage into the irreversible process cities and regions development and modernisation, enhancing the component of the cultural and social identity. The exemplary state-of art context and the performed best practice of Citadel Erfurt and of the Province of Verona are effectively inspiring for all the partners on the specific focus of the general problems of fortress integration and connection with city development. The key achievements of this report were also the capitalisation of the results of two Interreg IIIC projects “INHERIT – Investing in heritage to regenerate heritage cities” and ASCEND – Achieving the socio-economic reuse of former military land & heritage” that were the “summa” of rele-

vant exchange of best practices of reconversion and upgrade respectively heritage sites and fortified sites.

Main findings show how the integration of fortresses with city development is generally affected by some problems: their separation from the sphere of economy; their potentials are mostly unknown; there is no understanding of the positive effects of investments in preservation and recovery. In order to overcome such constraints there are some opportunities to exploit, and certain recommendations should be considered: understanding the link between fortress and the identity of cities and regions; stimulating public and private investments and inclusion of fortified heritage into urban modernisation; collecting and sharing information about best practices of fortresses valorization and their positive effects.

The common findings with regards to the general problems of fortress integration and harmonization with the cities and regions developments were as follows. Due to the intrinsic nature and tasks of the fortified compounds, for military and political historical doctrines that evolved constantly along the centuries, they were mostly located in “separated” areas from the city and from the territory. They were the so called “white areas”, that were cancelled from the urban maps, they were inaccessible for the inhabitants, they were unknown detached areas, far away from the social and cultural dynamics of the city and of the civil society, not only in physical terms, but also in terms of cultural and social relations. And often this situation is perpetuated also after the decommissioning of the military sites, representing therefore a challenge nowadays to convey the fortified sites in the main streams of tourism, the social and cultural life, as well as to the sphere of economic. The latter one is pivotal because still nowadays the economic potentials of well preserved fortress monuments for the city and region are mostly unknown, with the outstanding exception of jeopardized single best practices widespread in the EU and in the neighbouring countries. As a consequence of this situation there is the lack of comprehensive knowledge and understanding for the positive effects of investments into the reconstruction, preservation and utilisation of fortifies assets that could benefit small medium enterprises with the supply of services of accommodation, gastronomy, marketing, tourism services, technical supply and maintenance of the buildings and of the facilities of the fortified heritage. Therefore, the inclusion of the fortified heritage into a holistic process of recovery, on one side it preserves the historical memory of its intrinsic tangible and intangible heritage, but also on the other hand it represents new opportunities of development and growth of the city and of the territory. This is a spectrum of the assessment and recognition of the general problems of fortress integration and connection with the city development. What are the possible future scenarios and solutions with regards to the fortress integration with the city development plans? We can summarise it into 4 specific interrelated aspects:

- 1) Implementation of fortified heritage into urban modernisation, that is to say that the so-called “white areas” that were completely cancelled in the territorial planning in the past when they were active military facilities, that currently are dismissed are now again “rehabilitated” in the city development

- plans with a specific classification, identifications and quantification with also an hypothetic future destination of outlined by the local and regional administrations;
- 2) Fortified assets are an essential key-tool to enhance the attractiveness and the identity of cities and regions since they represent the historical and architectonic identity of the cities and of the territories that feature and distinguish each city from other locations;
 - 3) Strictly linked to the former point, the increasing of the cultural and social quality in people's mind by modern utilisation of the heritage recalls the legacy of the tangible and intangible heritage values perpetuated along the centuries and the generations, of which the fortified heritage represents an unique added value in the perspective of the assignment and performance of new functions to the fortified sites in a wide complex process of reconversion of destination of use of former military compounds;
 - 4) Effects of investments in fortress heritage for city development and economy represents an extraordinary opportunity of development and economic spillover that will benefit in an effective way the local and regional economies.
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As driving principles for the needs for future fortress integration and connection with the city development it is the gathering of information of best practices of monument protection and monument utilisation with clear and sustainable effects for social life and economy, taking into account the census of the existing fortified heritage in the site, its classification and assessment of the state of preservation and the possible allowed intervention according to the compatible new functions. A further issue to take into consideration is the different location of the fortified heritage to be recovered that decreases in proportion the same attractiveness and the potentialities of investments by private entrepreneurs: the fortifications in urban context as citadels or walled towns are more remunerable in terms of break-even of investments, than the fortification in suburbs and in rural areas that are in less attractive sites unless they are located in relevant sites in terms of environmental, architectonic and historical features. The renovation of fortified sites in an urban context as immediate consequence enhances the quality of life of the city with tangible benefits for the local population and the tourists, therefore consolidating a consensus-building on fortified heritage. On the other side the recovery of fortified works mostly does not meet an immediate particular interest of financial investment and its benefit is not immediately perceivable by the public administrations, but also very often by the same population. Even less attractive is the recovery of fortified assets in remote rural areas because the breakeven of the investments are quite difficult to achieve unless there any features of excellence of the site. On the other side, on the latter two scenarios of suburbs and rural areas a relevant intervention of restoration of fortified sites and their following cultural, touristic and economical activities exploitation could lead to immediate benefits and welfare to the local population that usually is marginalized from the mainstream of cultural and tourism flows. Public administra-

tions have also the pivotal task to set up a favourable legal framework, as well as urban long-term master-plan in order to enhance public private investments that could benefit the recovery of fortified assets, as well as also the reconversion of brownfield areas that could be the leading factors of the process of modernisation of the city. As consequence of the above-mentioned scenarios, virtuous awareness and better understanding that preserved fortified sites are a part of the unique identity of city and region in the competition of regions in Europe, is empowered according the Comunitarian principle of subsidiarity at European, regional and local scale.

The exemplary best practice of Citadelle Petersberg in Erfurt, its past, present and future roadmap are the clear evidence of a progressive rehabilitation of a former inaccessible “white area” of the Soviet Army during the Cold War. A specific Master Plan with six guiding principles was launched in 2001/2002 which pointed out the character of public area, a vocational place of culture, education and recreation, preserving its status of cultural monument to be protected. Furthermore, it enounced a conceptual new development of the free spaces, in combination with the urban development impact of the Citadel to restore, with also a reduction of the traffic burden. The future roadmap of Citadel Petersberg is the fitting combination of history culture and urban parks in the future city and tourism marketing as part of the cultural concept 2020 and of the integrated city development planning 2020. In this long term framework Erfurt has achieved the award of appointment as a garden city of culture for the Federal Horticultural Show in 2021 with the consequent tangible upgrade of the city green spaces rising the inhabitants quality of life.

In the context of this report the Province of Verona has presented the recovery of Fort Santa Viola in a rural area of the Prealps, a best practice of synergic cooperation between public bodies that have coordinated the whole process of restoration that started in 2002 with the feasibility studies of the historical and environmental valorisation of the fort and the mountain in Santa Viola and ended in 2013-2014 with the termination of the works with a financial intervention of 1.9 million Euro with the contribution of the Municipality of Grezzana, the Province of Verona, the Veneto Region and private banks funds. Fort SantaViola is part of the defence System of Lessini, that is part of the Park of Lessinia, an outstanding environmental protected area of which the restored fort represents the ideal green gate of access, fully equipped with tourism facilities and a museum.

3.2 Action 4.2 Implementation of fortified heritage into cities and regions modernisation

The second action of WP4 “Implementation of fortified heritage into cities and regions modernisation” is developed in two exemplary best practices implemented in Kostrzyn and in Erfurt. The first one is the exemplary research documentation for the settlement of residential buildings in an overall plan of reconstruction of the

zitadelle of the old town of Kostrzyn. The reconstruction of the Old Town in Kostrzyn nad Odrą initiated 20 years ago with the inauguration of the rubble removal and proceeded with the a series of initiatives and activities. A publication entitled " A virtual reconstruction of the fortress and the Old Town n Kostrzyn nad Odrą" offered a visual computer model of the reconstruction and included studies that formed the basis for the spatial development of the area. In the years 2001-2003 a Local Spatial Development Plan was developed and adopted for the area of the Old Town: it provided the legal framework for the following investment plans of the public sector and private investors, and settled certain constraints and rules for the works according to different conservation zones. Another important step in the redevelopment process was the "Cross-border Study of the Old Town revitalization in Kostrzyn nad Odrą" with the project entitled "Stary Kostrzyn 2015": it aimed to develop a coherent and holistic vision of the reconstruction of the Old Town, facilitating a compromise between preservation and revitalisation, and promoting and coordinating the investment processes within the area of the Old Kostrzyn. A division into stages of implementation of the Old Town reconstruction was adopted: 1) restoration and reconstruction of the preserved fortifications, the castle, and the parish church; 2) introduction of the quarter development with the service and residential functions; 3) landscape re-composition of the non-existent northern front of the fortress core, revitalisation of the Dzieło Rogowe as a park and recreational facility assumption. In the last ten years considerable financial resources have been invested in the revitalisation of the Kostrzyn fortress, including: the Berlin Gate and the Chyżańska Gate; the Filip bastions and the Brandenburg bastion. The number of tourists visiting this area continues to increase. Nevertheless, since 1999 no new commercial investment appeared in the historical Old Town. The construction works concerning the complex of tenement houses at Szkolna Street completed around 2009. The first few residents appeared at that time. However, until today, a part of the residential apartments has not found any buyers or tenants. This indicates almost a complete lack of interest in the settlement within this area. This experience highlights how it is pivotal to plan the revitalisation and rebuilding of a fortified site in a wider regional framework of urban planning development, enhancing and supporting all the economical, collateral activities that are necessary to assure a sustainable and harmonized development process of the fortified sites.

The second best practice is a visual presentation of the different phases of the ongoing integration programme "Lebendiger Petersberg" of the off-limits former military area "Zitadelle Petersberg" , into the urban planning masterplan that in the wider framework of the development of the historic centre of Erfurt, it is included a comprehensive plan of urban and green areas development of the Zitadelle in order

to enhance the attractiveness and the historical identity of the same city of Erfurt. The visual documentation is divided into six panels and its leitmotiv is “Petersberg Erfurt – a cultural monument in change”. The first one “From secret area to public space” presented the different architectonic developments, as well the no realized plans of development of the Zitadelle during the twentieth century. The second one “the gate to the citadel – once defensive now inviting shows the evolution of the Peter’s Gate, with the restorations, the enlargement and paving of the bridge access ways and the restoration of the Ravelin Peter. The third one “old paths – opening up and dividing presented the renovation of the rear access to the fortress Anselmi-Gate and Poterne with a partial reconstruction of the walls and ramp areas, as well as the renovation and redevelopment of the compounds of two inner roads of the Zitadelle. The fourth one presents four new passageways to the once closed area, highlighting the closer integration of the Zitadelle to the urban development of the city also through a consistent improving of the accessibility to the former “white area”. The last two panels, respectively “Lower fortress round trip – along restored bastion walls” and “Upper fortress round trip – nice views for everyone” shows the work of restoration of other bastions and of a caponier, as well as the definition and settlement of pedestrian routes along the bastions with also the building of a new pedestrian bridge.

3.3 Action 4.3 Fortified heritage enhance the cultural and social identity and involve citizens

The third action “Fortified heritage enhance the cultural and social identity and involve citizens is pivotal in the balance of the activities of the process because it has its ratio on the bottom-up process of active involvement of the citizens in the fruition of fortified heritage with the effective and tangible result of enhancement of the cultural and social identity of the local and regional community to specific sites. A very effective way of develop this awareness and consensus building of the local communities towards the most often unknown and unexploited fortified sites from the cultural, economic and social point of view is to empower synergic activities of urban development activities and labour market policy. In this way the same local community is active actor of the process of requalification of former military areas. A successful implementation of social labour for the restoration of fortified sites has been the best practice of the city of Erfurt with a long-term programme of integration of unemployed people into the Zitadelle restoration and maintenance activities with the valuable reintegration of disadvantaged workers into the job market.

Under the vision "Lively Petersberg", resulting from the master plan of the city of Erfurt, labour market policy objectives are linked to the interests of regional and urban development. Thus, unemployed people in the city of Erfurt get employment and make a sustainable contribution to the restoration and preservation of the city fortress. After all, the most part of development results at the Petersberg are result of the cooperation of the city of Erfurt with the local labour administration and employment projects by supporting organisations like TIAW.

The Petersberg fortress is an example for the sensible combination of local policy and labour market policy. As a result, the citizens of Erfurt have built their Petersberg again. Through the broad participation of administration, construction industry, handicraft, stakeholders, associations and labour office and the citizenship of Erfurt, the reconstruction of the citadel became a symbol for cooperation and public spirit and high identification with the fortress. Also other EU funded projects on fortified heritage highlighted similar positive experiences, such as New Dutch Waterlinie in the Interreg IV C project – AT FORT – Atelier European Fortresses – Powering Local Sustainable Development, where there was a specific atelier of exchange of best practices on this issue.

As part of the process to enhance the cultural and social identification of local communities to the fortified heritage sites, also the environmental component plays a key role as element of attraction for the cultural and touristic offer. This is due to the intrinsic nature of the fortified sites that are mostly surrounded by a green “buffer zone” as well as according to their typology and age of construction which affected the extension of the inner green areas. Still in Erfurt, in the whole plan of rehabilitation, recovery and resettlement of the inner spaces and green areas of Zitadelle Petersberg, a comprehensive exemplary development plan of the green area has been finalized with a peculiar attention to the utilization of smart energy solutions and green economy.

The main dilemma for the owners of historical monuments like fortresses is to find acceptable solutions to balance the preservation of fortified assets with the conservation of the environmental habitats according to different utilization concepts. A scientific approach is suggested to face such issue, collecting knowledge about flora and fauna in fortresses, investigating current real situations, promoting interdisciplinary discussion. The studies showed that fortresses are artificial human made ecosystems that were built through the same natural resources of the site (clay for brigs, loam, lime, sand and gravel and so on). The attention of the audience was drawn on the effects of abiotic factors on fortresses and their structures, but also on how forts represent biotic areas (they often have habitat conditions for bats).

Fortresses without maintenance and utilisation let plants conquering and often

destroying walls and other building parts: different biotopes developed with high biodiversity. The cases of Spandau Citadel and the fortresses of Kaunas were presented as examples of the continuously evolving and challenging relationship between monument and nature. The attention was focused on the two clashing scenarios of “priority monument protection” and “priority nature protection”. A compromise is necessary for successful solutions: it should be facilitated by strong cooperation between authorities, deep investigations from both the point of view, and interdisciplinary discussion and evaluation based on utilisation concepts. Moreover, some knowledge deficits should be faced in order to influence restoration technologies, harmonise laws for nature and monument protection and develop better management instruments. It is strongly recommended a clear scientific strategy based on the development of a European Center for nature management in monuments and the promotion of international scientific cooperation in the field.

4.3.3.

A milestone of the WP4 activities was the 3rd European Conference of Fortified Ideal Cities that took place in Jaromer-Josefov in the Czech Republic in April 2014 which was the successful completion of the multilateral outstanding networking of FORTE CULTURA, also outside the project’s partnership, after the previous conferences in Daugavpils (Latvia) in 2011 and in Karlovac (Croatia) in 2012. The tangible result was the signature of the Declaration of Josefov”, the Declaration of Unique Cultural Heritage Fortified Ideal Cities for European Cooperation and Partnership in the frame of the European Cultural Route FORTE CULTURA”. The Declaration is an enhanced framework of trans-national cooperation of the participating fortified ideal cities which recognises the potentials of culture-tourism. It is a mutual acknowledgement that the fortified ideal cities belong to the most attractive and important fortified monuments representing the history of Europe. In Josefov 11 fortified Ideal Cities and 13 Fortified Monuments signed the Declaration. And the potentiality of enlargement of the network of the fortified ideal cities reaches 60 candidatures in Europe, 14 of them in Central Europe. The future roadmap is the development of specific targeted tourism products and travel programmes for the Fortified Ideal Cities under the umbrella of the new brand “FORTE CULTURA”. In this medium-term enlargement of the network 6 travel programmes including 38 Fortified Ideal Cities in Europe were presented. They were: 1) Fortified architecture of chessboard cities; 2) Art of the Dutch Fortification School; 3) The heritage of famous architect Vauban; 4) Pearls of History in the Architecture of the Adriatic Sea;

5) Pearls of History from Bohemia to Lombardy; 6) Habsburgs Balkan-Barricade against the Ottomans

4.3.4

A specific Transnational Workshop to involve citizens into fortress utilization was organized in September 2013 in Komárom focusing on the involvement of citizens and civil organisations in the utilisation, operation and maintenance of fortified monuments. Advantages and constraints in working with NGO's and local inhabitants were highlighted.

The main conclusions of the workshop were:

- The involvement of citizens into fortress utilization is pivotal and necessary for every public and private entity, who owns, and manages a fortified site;
- The engagement and commitment of the citizens can help to develop the forts as a touristic attractions;
- There is a huge potential on the cooperation with volunteers and associations;
- Every managing organization should clearly define the Terms of Reference of the responsibility and tasks of the volunteers , should be careful and well prepared for every critical situation (as much as it is possible);
- The legal background of the cooperation between citizens and managing organizations are different in the states;
- Development or reutilization of fortresses can create jobs, as well as social employment programmes can mitigate unemployment rates in the local areas of the fortified sites;
- The cooperation among all involved actors should be enhanced;
- There should be a responsible person at every organization who manages the cooperation between citizens and the organizations.

3.4 Action 4.4. Transnational Information System (TIS) and databank CE-fortified heritage

The Transnational Information System (TIS) aims to cover the deficit and the lack of a centralised databank of fortified heritage in the area of Central Europe. It is carried out by the Humboldt-University Berlin that is capitalising its multi-decennial experience in this field. It is a user-friendly open platform that collects the relevant information of each fortified site or system: historical relevant documents, current state of conservation and utilisation of the assets with the main information of the ongoing activities. The purpose is the TIS is to provide an electronic tool of exchange of knowledge of fortified heritage for public private actors, decision makers, empower-

ing an effective qualifying bilateral and multi-lateral communication network to fortified heritage that is complementary and harmonized to the project's Real Estate Platform, the Digital Marketing Platform Fortified Monuments and the Tourism Marketing Portal Culture Route Forte Cultura. There are uploaded more than 5.000 single files and more than 3,4 TB of data. The required information for each fortress is:

1. General information including Name, Location and Situation
2. Historic information as in Inventories of all Objects of Fortress
3. Information about Reconstruction and Architecture
4. Nowadays information of realized and possible utilisation
5. Information about Fortress as part of Baltic Fort Route

This leads to 5 major categories in the system of TIS:

- Collection - Documents, Maps, Bibliography, Location, Pictures, etc.
- Database of Experts – People, NGO's or others who are involved for later cooperation and advice
- Project-Management - internal Use and Coordination of Activity and Data
- TIS History
- TIS Nature management
- TIS Reconstruction

Furthermore, the TIS includes also a roster of 86 experts known from overall network activities.

3.5 Action 4.5 Strategies for infrastructural interconnection of fortress heritage

It is pivotal to draw your attention to second core output that tackles the pilot investment of the lead partner Kostrzyn nad Odra focused on heritage interconnection via waterway. The pilot investment is the landing stage construction project destined for small boats and ships localized by the Odra River, within the Old Town in Kostrzyn nad Odra. It is an exemplary project of sustainable fruition of fortified heritage connected by rivers itineraries. The landing stage will be capable to host maximum 10 ships with a full length of 25m destined for sport, recreation and passenger ships, as well it will be able to recover also boats for inspection, safety, sailing control, training and life or property saving ships. The technical project has been cleared by all the authorities, after a long lasting accurate evaluation of the Regional Water Economy Management in Szczecin and the tendering process is finalized. The whole process has pointed out the profitable synergies of environment protection and monuments protection experts in order to achieve the common goal of this pilot project. The pilot project will inspire other fortresses facing waterfronts, lakes and coastal area to adopt similar solution in order to set up permanent touristic water

routes of fortified heritage sites, as well it represents the barycentre of transnational interconnection between the German rivers and the coast of the Baltic Sea. Inland waterways are an extraordinary potential sustainable routes of cultural-tourism routes widespread in the Old Continent along which are disseminated extraordinary evidences of fortified heritage. The access of canals, canalised sections and navigation channels of river and lakes were often protected by military settlements and infrastructures. Nowadays they represent an ensemble of integrated cultural and environmental heritage where the fruition of cultural heritage sites and in particular fortified heritage can be combined with the private leisure boat sector, boat hire, fishing, accommodation such as also house-boats and services associated with land-based activities.

3.6 Action 4.6 Knowledge transfer to development effects of fortified heritage

With regards to final core output of summing up conference Fortified heritage integration strategies that is the “summa” of WP4, the partner’s mutual exchange of best practices on transnational knowledge and development tasks of the implementation of fortified heritage cities into the cities and regions modernisation, highlighted the irreversible relevance of fortified heritage in the European cities and regions, transcending national or regional boundaries, and at the same time it required increasingly global answers. This has lead to enhanced urban planning solutions that now includes the former neglected “white areas” that in the long term perspective will effectively contribute to regional and local cultural, historical and social efficient and sustainable development of the cities and of the regions, thanks also to the Transnational Information System (TIS) CE Fortified Heritage that represents an open international multilateral platform of exchange of knowledge and expertise that is enlarged to external public and private actors that are directly or indirectly involved in all the related activities of fortified heritage, upgrading their capacity building to deal with the relevant challenges of management, valorisation and cultural and touristic exploitation of fortified sites.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion fortified heritage trans-national cultural and touristic exploitation is an extraordinary occasion for stimulating the diversification of transnational thematic tourism products with a high potential for sustainable development of the tourism sector and therefore for contributing to competitiveness in the sector. At the same time it also encourage an higher involvement of small and micro enterprises and local authorities in the development and promotion of fortified heritage cultural-tourism products with an evident spin-off of local economies such as the production of handicraft products. This leads to a virtuous process of strengthening transna-

tional public-private cooperation aimed at developing and promoting competitive and sustainable transnational tourism products.

In 2010, in the Communication (COM(2010)352)4 *“Europe, the world’s No 1 tourist destination – a new political framework for tourism in Europe”*, the European Commission focuses on two key-driving milestones mutually influencing each other: the need for a sustainable approach and the need to boost the competitiveness of the European tourism sector. There cannot be competitiveness without sustainability and sustainability makes no sense if it doesn't bring to more competitiveness.

Furthermore, in this Communication, the European Commission highlights as pivotal the promotion of the development of a competitive, sustainable, responsible and high-quality tourism offer. And this leitmotiv is fully endorsed by the FORTE CULTURA project.

WP 4 has provided an effective contribution in the enhancement of the capacity building of public administrators to face with the challenges of restoration, maintenance, management of fortified sites, with a parallel increasing of relevance of the private actors, which play an increasing crucial role due to the progressive decreased financial capacities of the local administration. Herewith the fostering of sustainable economic activities of cultural and tourism fruition of fortified sites is pivotal in a wider framework of trans-national attractiveness and competitiveness of the cities and of the regions. The enlarged open networking implemented by FORTE CULTURA project and the follow up strategies after its termination are an asset in the perspective of the multilateral cultural and touristic cooperation in the perspective of Europe 2020 goals where culture is at the hearth of the long term strategies.