



The **AT FORT project** “Atelier European Fortresses - Powering Local Sustainable Development” is a Regional Initiative Project under the INTERREG IVC programme. The New Dutch Waterline, (The Netherlands), is the lead partner of the AT FORT project. The AT FORT partnership brings together representatives of eleven important European fortified heritage sites who share the firm belief that preservation of these sites, coupled with their economic exploitation, can only be achieved by creative, cooperative thinking, building on an exchange of experiences. On 22 May 2012 the AT FORT partnership Agreement was signed by eight representatives of the eleven “AT FORT partners



Undersigning the Partnership Agreement

Peter Ros, project manager of the AT FORT project: “We initiated this project because we need in-depth and intensive cooperation to tackle the issues fortified heritage sites have to deal with. We invited the top ten organisations dealing with fortified heritage sites within the EU. I hope and expect this project will be a success.”

The three **main themes** of the AT FORT project are:

- ✚ **Multifunctional use**
- ✚ **Enabling conditions**
- ✚ **Governance models**

The partners met for the first time at the strategic preparatory meeting in Italy, Mestre/Venice (16-17. April 2012.) They visited Fort Marghera, Fort Carpenedo and the Maximillian Tower, San Remo (introduced by Mr. Daniele Sferra, Marco Polo System g.e.i.e.). These fortresses showed examples of multifunctional use, enabling conditions and governance models.

During the launch event in the Netherlands, Utrecht (21-23 May 2012) the project partners visited several examples of multifunctional use (Fort Werk IV, Fort de Klop, Fort Blauwkapel), enabling conditions (restoration techniques at Fort Asperen, problems with vegetation presented by Caros Scheltema) and governance models (*Werk aan het Spoen* by Sander Booms, Fortresses of Utrecht city, Anton van Emst). On the first day of the event the project logo and website www.ATFORT.eu were officially shared with all the partners. Please see the website for detailed project information.



Visiting Fort Carpenedo



The Maximillian tower in Venice



At the Fort Vechten in Utrecht

Next part of this first newsletter we proudly introduce the partners of AT FORT

Antwerp National Réduit, Belgium

Antwerp was for centuries one of Europe's largest fortified cities. In the Middle Ages the city fulfilled a key role in the defence of the Catholic Empire, and in the Spanish period Antwerp had the most modern fortifications north of the Alps. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, two fortification belts made Antwerp the second most developed military réduit after Paris.

More info: <http://www.atfort.eu/node/26>



Fort Starbroek

Citadel Spandau, Germany

Work on the Citadel Spandau began in 1560, a modern fortress in the “New Italian Manner” replacing the former castle, whose origins date back to Slavic times. Citadel Spandau is the best preserved renaissance fortress in northern Europe and is now used exclusively for cultural purposes and for recreational and leisure activities. More: <http://www.atfort.eu/node/23>



Citadel of Spandau

Suomenlinna, Finland

Founded on islands off the coast of Helsinki in 1748, the Suomenlinna sea fortress is a cultural treasure. Its construction began in the 1700's when Finland was part of the kingdom of Sweden. The guns that still face west on the ramparts at Kusaanmiekka are a reminder of the period under Russian rule in the 19th century.

Suomenlinna is situated in front of the city of Helsinki, at a distance of 15 minutes by ferry. The site (80 ha) consists of seven islands, 200 buildings, 900 inhabitants, 350 permanent working places and 700,000 visitors per year, half of them Helsinki inhabitants. More: <http://www.atfort.eu/node/28>



Suomenlinna

The Network of Vauban's major sites (Réseau Vauban), France

The 17th century fortifications of Vauban guard the boundaries of France and are located in the mountains, at the sea and in urban landscapes. Vauban selected these sites and with his constructions has rendered them beautiful.

The Network of Vauban's major sites is a non-profit association, uniting towns and their inter-city administrations situated within ten of France's administrative regions and ten departments in order to hand down these World heritage listed fortifications to future generations. Further: <http://www.atfort.eu/node/22>



Besancon

Fort Monostor, Hungary

The system of historic forts is situated in and around the “twin” towns of Komárom, Hungary, and Komárno, Slovakia on opposite banks of the Danube River in Central-Europe. Three large forts of the fortress system are situated in Hungary (Fort Monostor, Fort Igmánd and Fort Csillag) and represent one of Hungary's outstanding national monuments. For a century the fortresses of Komárom served generations of soldiers in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the Hungarian Army, and functioned as the secret arsenal of Soviet troops from 1945 to 1991. Further: <http://www.atfort.eu/node/25>



Fort Monostor

Forte Marghera, Italy

From the founding of Venice until 1805 ‘Malghera’ was a thriving village at the end of the lagoon. Its crucial position (at the crossroad between the edge of the lagoon and the line joining Mestre at Venice), forced a military use, and the old quarter was turned into a grand and, for the time, modern fortress, able to keep the enemy fire of cannons away from Venice and to control land access to the city. the end of XIX the fortress defensive ability became insufficient so it was strengthened building a fortress system: the entrenched Camp of Mestre. More: <http://www.atfort.eu/node/21>



Aerial view of Forte Marghera

Kaunas 7th Fort, Lithuania

In the 19th century the development of the city of Kaunas was closely connected to the incorporation of Lithuania into the bureaucratic system of Russian empire. The city gained military importance, becoming one of the main centres of the Russian defensive system. This led to the construction around Kaunas of two rings of military fortresses. The Kaunas fortress complex included over 200 objects of different purpose. It was built during 1882-1889 on the orders of Alexander II. At the beginning of the 20th century, the fortress lost its defensive significance, especially when Lithuania regained its independence. More: <http://www.atfort.eu/node/24>



Aerial view of 7th Fort, Kaunas

Paola, Malta

The Corradino Lines, a low defensive line, was constructed by the British Royal Engineers in 1871-72 on the Corradino Heights. More: <http://www.atfort.eu/node/27>



Fortress of Paola

ETCAEH, Slovenia

In 2004 the University of Nova Gorica and the University IUAV of Venice established the joint 2nd Level Master in ***Economics and Techniques for the Conservation of the Architectural and Environmental Heritage***, which also became an integral part of the homonim PhD of the university of Nova Gorica. The programme aims to educate experts and researchers in the field of heritage preservation and management through an interdisciplinary approach. The main courses address the theories of architectural conservation, urban preservation tools, legislation of cultural and natural heritage, (historic) urban landscapes and cultural landscapes assessment and management, economics of art and culture, marketing of cultural projects, fund-raising and strategic management of heritage sites. More info: www.iuav.it



Medway Council and its associated partners, UK

Kent and Medway have a vast array of defensive heritage sites, including a potential World Heritage Site (Chatham Dockyard and its defence line) and an overwhelming number of individual and ring fortifications, covering a variety of periods, and affected by a range of issues - such as decaying fabric, fragmented



Great Lines heritage park

ownership, lack of economic purpose, limited community involvement and ecological concerns. More: <http://www.atfort.eu/node/29>

New Dutch Waterline, the Netherlands

Because large parts of the Netherlands are below sea level, the Dutch have been fighting the water for as long as we can remember. However, water is not the only enemy of our country. In times of war water became a welcome ally and the nation's best line of defence. The Dutch caused intentional inundation using Holland's largest secret weapon: the Dutch Waterline. In contrast to the Old Waterline of 1672, the new one (from 1885) was never fully inundated. After World War II the Waterline no longer played a prominent role and was quietly forgotten. The Line was established as a protective ring approximately 85 km long and 3 – 5 km wide around the Dutch cities of Muiden, Utrecht, Vreeswijk and Gorinchem. More info:

<http://www.atfort.eu/node/20>



Planned activities of the AT FORT Project

Phase 1

Apr 2012 - Oct 2012: every partner produces a self-analysis report. This report sets out the current situation and transferable case studies of own good practices and research questions.

Oct 2012: Good Practices Engineering Workshop in Venice

Phase 2

Nov 2012 - Oct 2013: Fortress Development Ateliers (one per partner) and Good practice Transfer Visits: 1 Report/Atelier and 1 Integrated Atelier Report/theme (result Toolkit)

Nov 2013: Integration Seminar Paola, Malta

April 2013: Midterm event in France including policy advisors

Phase 3:

Nov 2013 – June 2014: Making implementation plan

June 2014: interregional event in Komarom, Hungary

Phase 4:

July 2014 - Oct 2014: Making policy recommendations

Oct 2014: final result presented at final event in Antwerp, Belgium

End of project: 31 December 2014

Key Facts

11 Partners

Total costs of the project: EUR 2,170,753.80

Funding period: January 2012 to December 2014

INTERREG IVC Programme

For more info, visit www.atfort.eu

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"The Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC, financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund, helps Regions of Europe work together to share experience and good practice in the areas of innovation, the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention. EUR 302 million is available for project funding but, more than that, a wealth of knowledge and potential solutions are also on hand for regional policy-makers."

www.interreg4c.eu