

## PRESS RELEASE

Signing international project AT FORT at Fort Vechten

*Utrecht, 22-05-2012*

**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 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 Maximilian 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 Spool 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](http://www.ATFORT.eu) were officially shared with all the partners. Please see the website for detailed project information.

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#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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#### Notes to Editors

The project At Fort "Atelier European Fortresses - Powering Local Sustainable Development" is a Regional Initiative Project in the INTERREG IVC programme.

The AT FORT partnership brings together several 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, mutual thinking, building on an exchange of experiences. AT FORT partners have set the OVERALL OBJECTIVE to facilitate the adaptive re-use of fortified heritage sites by exploring solutions for successful approaches and methods to deal with enabling conditions and to create better frameworks for their exploitation.

For more information, see: [www.atfort.eu](http://www.atfort.eu)

2. 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.