



**European Union**  
European Regional Development Fund

**AT FORT**  
ATELIER EUROPEAN FORTRESSES



**INTERREG IVC**  
INNOVATION & ENVIRONMENT  
REGIONS OF EUROPE SHARING SOLUTIONS

## PRESS RELEASE

CITTA' DI  
VENEZIA



### **An International Centre for the Development of the fortified heritage**

AT FORT Atelier meeting - Venice

**Forte Marghera, 18 March 2013**

#### **Venice, Italy**

In the framework of the joint atelier Venice-Nova Gorica that took place last 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013 in Forte Marghera, it was presented the project for the set up on an International Centre for Research and training on the Development and Reuse of Military Architectures and Fortified System. This project will be funded by the Veneto Region and it will allow the restoration of some of the 79 buildings of the site of Forte Marghera. The proposal of the settlement of this Centre of excellence on fortified heritage is the result of the achievements of a roadmap finalized by Marco Polo System in collaboration and with the support of the City of Venice. In fact, the action of Marco Polo System geie on the enhancement and dissemination of the tangible and intangible fortified heritage has been focused on two precise synergic directions: at local and regional dimension and at international level and dimension. At local level and regional level it was accomplished through a bottom-up approach of involvement of local and regional public and private stakeholders. At international level it was achieved through the successful submission by Marco Polo System of more than 45 project financed by EU, Veneto Region and City of Venice funding. This has lead to the tangible reality that Forte Marghera became a real crossroad of networking of relevant European institutions dealing with fortified heritage. This was highlighted in the morning session of the atelier that was devoted to the institutional presentation of the Centre by the representatives of relevant public and scientific bodies that will play a key-role in its settlement and in the implementation of its activities. The review started with the mayor of the City of Venice highlighting the finalization of the plan of action for the Recovery of Forte Marghera focused to the cultural settlements supported by financial activities, also in the framework of combined PPP intervention with the support of EU and Veneto Region funds. Forte Marghera is also the symbol of the Venice of the future, it is the connection between the mainland and water. The assessor of the budget and of the local bodies of the Veneto Region recalling the historical heritage of the Venetian fortresses highlighted their role of “island of the memory” that will be also the *leit motiv* of the new Centre in combination with the joint modern scenarios of the green economy and the valorization of the culture. Peter Ros of the NDW pointed out the key-role of the knowledge Center in the international framework of fortified heritage actors. UNESCO Office in Venice representatives have highlighted the importance of the valorization of Forte Marghera and its wider representation of tangible and intangible fortified heritage in an holistic approach of the management plan of Venice. Mr. D’Alessandro of the Council of Europe Office in Venice stressed the importance of the Centre and the valorization of the fortified heritage also in the framework of the Faro Convention on the bottom-up approach of the society and culture. Mr Micelli, City Councilor for the urban planning highlighted the new role of Forte Marghera as a gate of the City of Venice in a perspective of continuity with the Venetian



**European Union**  
European Regional Development Fund

**AT FORT**  
ATELIER EUROPEAN FORTRESSES



historical center, in a context of alive cultural development of the local economy. Forte Marghera has to be considered as a key-driver of the metropolitan city as a meeting place for the community, for the cultural activities and for the third sector. Mr Trovò of the superintendence of Venice, recalling the role of Forte Marghera as a place of the memory, pointed out the need to research a balance between the need of preservation of the fortified heritage and how to transform it to new functions. Mr. Vidal of the Marco Polo System geie highlighted the state of art of preservation of the buildings of the site of Forte Marghera and the buildings that will be restored and refurbished with the establishment of the Centre. Mr Sferra of the Marco Polo System geie highlighted how Forte Marghera will became in the future a more and more relevant crossroad of international, national, regional and local public private actors involved directly and indirectly with the fortified heritage as a result of the existing networks of the implementing or implemented projects and the new Centre of the site. Marco Acri of the University of Nova Gorica raised the attention on the interdisciplinary approach for the establishment and the management of the Centre focused on the three pillars of interpretation and knowledge, Economics and management and techniques and materials in a framework of involvement of the public, private and third sector actors.

[www.atfort.eu](http://www.atfort.eu)

ENDS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

	<p>Gregorio Olivetti T. +39 041 5319706 M: +39 3478037237 Email: <a href="mailto:gregorio.olivetti@comune.venezia.it">gregorio.olivetti@comune.venezia.it</a></p>
--	---

**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.