



International Fortress-Conference in Terezín

Fortified Ideal City Theresienstadt

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Rafaël DEROO, BE

EFFORTS Secretary general

Dr. Marcin GORSKI, PL

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Information-Centre City Terezín, Fortress Vyšehrad Prague

Simon KRBEČ, CZ

Theresienstadt Centre for Genocide Studies, Director

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Simone VOIGT, DE

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Director Tourism, Culture and Visitor Centre Weißenburger Tor; FORTE CULTURA Vice President



Rafaël DEROO, BE
EFFORTS Secretary general

born in Delft (Netherlands) is a law and international policy graduate, former EU civil servant, and since 2018 Secretary general of the European Federation of Fortified Sites (EFFORTS). He initiated and coordinated the idea for a European cultural defence line project, 'Atlantic Wall Europe' and is advisor at the Simon Stevin Fortified Knowledge Centre and the Antwerp Fortress Ring Organisation in Belgium. He has written on a diverse series of history subjects, among which the Atlantic Wall in France and military heritage in Brussels. He is also an accredited battlefield tour guide and lecturer in France, the Netherlands and Germany.

EFFORTS Europe Network

European Federation of Fortified Sites - "From stronghold to welcoming arms"

EFFORTS and its member FORTE CULTURA are the two European fortress sites organisation. Through common work on common goals, administration and membership, conferences, EU projects, European Fortress Summer, a Joint Scientific Committee and Knowledge Centre, Cultural Routes, both organisations are intensifying their cooperation and also keep their own characteristics. Together EFFORTS and FORTE CULTURA will strengthen the support of Europe's fortified sites, cities and lines and this in the light of Regional Development, Green Innovation and Integration. The EFFORTS Going Green project, culminating this year in the EFFORTS annual congress in Kaunas, will be the next focal point. The launch of the common European Fortress Summer is also a big moment mobilising Europe's fortified sites for 2022 and beyond.



Dr. Marcin GORSKI, PL
Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology, Department of Architectural Heritage and Art

My basic scientific interest is the new use of historical fortified complexes. In my didactic and scientific activities, I have been involved for years in cooperation with local municipalities promoting the principles of protection and providing substantive support for saving the local architectural heritage by organising student workshops. In the scientific field, I am involved in national and international research programmes related to the evolution of conservation principles and the search for model principles of management of cultural heritage. Author of 30 articles and publications on conservation issues, Co-author of over 70 conservation studies. Member of the Polish National Committee ICOMOS and the Military Architecture Commission.

Reintegration, redevelopment and upgrading of the tourist functions of Dömitz Fortress **A student project of the Warsaw University of Technology.**

Contemporary rehabilitation of fortifications is a difficult and complex task. It requires a multidimensional view of the design process, from the spatial scale of the entire establishment to the architectural detail. It involves dealing with many technical aspects. A particular challenge is the problem of water insulation of buildings hidden under earth embankments.

The final year of studies is the time to test the skills of students acquired during studies at the architecture faculty. Such a complicated task as redevelopment of a fortress is a special challenge. It requires

not only proficiency in the architect's workshop, but also knowledge and maturity associated with working on a monument. Classes are held in a group work system. The participants solve the task by means of cooperation, sharing of responsibilities, mediation, agreeing on positions - which is supposed to lead to the final effect: a joint concept of revalorization of the fortified ensemble. The topic of the project is linked to current, real-life needs and the results of the design work are confronted with the host of the site. Such a complex task is reintegration, redevelopment and upgrading of the tourist functions of Dömitz Fortress. The general objectives of the project task were:

- extending the tourist's stay from a few hours to 2-3 days,
- making the outline of the citadel's renaissance fortifications and the ideal city more visible,
- confrontation with the conditions resulting from the area's natural protection under the auspices of UNESCO,
- development of citadel tourist service system: ticket offices, toilets, information, etc.
- analysis of the possibility of realization of new parahistorical objects (in place of not preserved historical buildings) for tourism service functions.



Jiri HOFMAN, CZ
Information-Centre City Terezín; Fortress Vyšehrad Prague

He studied history in Olomouc from 2003 to 2021 in several academic degrees with a focus on the Thirty Years' War as well as fortification construction in Terezín. Since 2013 he has been working in Terezín as a project manager for marketing and tourism. Since 2020 he has been working in parallel as a historian for the Vyšehrad National Cultural Monument.

The Fortified Ideal City Theresienstadt

240 years history of a military city in transition to an important European cultural heritage and memorial - Terezín Fortress and the association "Terezín- the town of change"

Terezín Fortress was built in the years 1780-1790 by Emperor Joseph II. to protect the northern borders of Bohemia. It represents the top of European bastion fortress construction. Three lines of massive ramparts allowed the defenders to cover the entire surroundings with crossfire, so the attacker had nowhere to hide. To this day, a functioning water defence system has allowed not only to flood the inundations around the fortress, but also to create an artificial wave in the moat that destroys any enemy who stands in its way. In addition, tens of kilometres of underground mine tunnels still exist under the Terezín fortifications. These allowed the advancing attacker to be blown up by an underground explosion.

Times of World War II are a dark spot on the town's history. After the Nazi occupation started, the Prague Gestapo prison was established here. Tens of thousands of prisoners passed through here. Some of them were executed here, some continued to other prisons and concentration camps. To make matters worse, the town itself was evacuated and a Jewish ghetto was established there in 1941. It served as collection camp before transports to other, especially extermination camps. Approximately 140,000 people passed through Terezín at that time. About 35,000 died here.

Today, the Terezín Fortress is one of the largest and best-preserved bastion fortresses in Europe. The association "Terezín - Town of Change" was established to protect and present the fortress monuments to the wide public. Its aim is to show the old and today mostly forgotten history of the Terezín fortress.



Simon KRBEC, CZ

Theresienstadt Centre for Genocide Studies, Director

He holds a university degree in humanities from the Charles University in Prague. He has 17 years of experience as consultant and expert in the field of civil society, racism, genocide research and prevention and human rights. In 2015, he initiated and managed international course „Genocide Studies and Massive Violence“ at the Charles University in Prague, the very first of its kind in the Czech Republic. From 2017 he is developing new educational programs and tools about the history and context of Theresienstadt fortress.

The Theresienstadt Centre for Genocide Studies: A successful partnership between local authority and an independent educational institution

The promoter of the project “The Theresienstadt Centre for Genocide Studies” is the Archaeology of Evil Research Centre, an independent, multi-disciplinary and non-profit organisation, whose primary task is to promote and develop the scientific field of Genocide Studies in the Czech Republic. The mission of the Centre is to work towards essential respect of human rights and to stop the growth of political and social tendencies - supported by certain racist, fundamental and anti-Semitic groups as well as political movements - which help to increase hatred and violence in today’s society.

The Archaeology of Evil Research Centre launched its activities in 2012, aiming to establish the internationally recognized scientific field of Genocide Studies in the Czech education system. In the years between 2012 – 2016 the Centre produced a unique project called Arnost Lustig Train, which travelled to 35 different cities in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia, performing a theatre play as well as other educational activities to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. The project was attended by more than 35,000 Czech, Polish and Slovak people from all generations. Among other activities, the Centre launched the very first course in Genocide Studies at the Charles university in Prague in the academic year 2015/2016.

In 2016, the Centre signed a partnership agreement with the City of Terezín with the aim of saving and revitalizing the Wieser’s House in the Main Fortress. The partnership between the local authority and educational institution was a key condition for obtaining financial support from European Regional Development Fund. In 2017 the Centre moved completely to the site of the former Jewish ghetto and transit camp within the Main Fortress of the city of Terezín and started the implementation of the project called the Theresienstadt Centre for Genocide Studies. A long-term goal of the project is to offer the public knowledge and information about the history of genocide and to contribute to the vital and essential international discussion about how to prevent genocide from happening again in our lifetimes, and in the future. In 2022, the reconstruction of the Wieser’s House has been successfully completed. In 2022, the Wieser’s House will be opening a permanent exhibition of the Theresienstadt Centre for Genocide Studies with the aim to draw attention to the causes and consequences of genocide actions in different historical periods and epochs of human history. The exhibition space will simultaneously be used for continuous educational and cultural activities for students and the general public. The project of the reconstruction of the Wieser’s House is thus a proof of the successful cooperation between the local authority and an independent educational institution in the preservation of the fortress monuments.



Josephine KRONEBERG, DE
City of Magdeburg;
Fortress Construction Association Ravelin 2

Josephine Kroneberg has a Bachelor's degree in Cultural Studies from Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg, including one semester at the University of Nottingham. She wrote her thesis about fortifications in a cultural and touristic context. She is finishing her Master's degree in "War and Conflict Studies" at the University of Potsdam with a thesis on the transformation of fortresses between the Franco-Prussian War and the First World War. She is currently coordinating the Interreg Europe RFC project for the city of Magdeburg.

Restoration Association 'Ravelin 2' - Revitalization of a Prussian fortress complex

The Ravelin 2 Restoration Association is a non-profit volunteer organization based in the state capital of Magdeburg whose mission is to restore and revitalize the fortification, which was originally built in 1873. The structure of the building has been partially destroyed by post-war effects and vandalism.

Since 2014, the association members have already invested thousands of working hours in their free time in the preservation, maintenance and renovation of the decaying facilities. Water, sewage and electricity installations have been made, large areas of brickwork have been repaired, a bascule bridge (based on an original historical model) has been built and much more. Through the association's work, social control has prevented the fortifications from further vandalism and created a new place of experience and tourism for the city.

Step by step, the fortress is being restored in cooperation with the city of Magdeburg and the monument preservation authorities. The Ravelin is being used for a variety of cultural purposes and is intended to become the center of Magdeburg's fortress tourism. Regular guided tours and events, such as "Advent in Ravelin" (Ravelin Advent) or "Magdeburger Festungstage" (Magdeburg Fortress Days), contribute to a dynamic revitalisation of the complex.

A permanent exhibition is being developed for interested visitors with a 'hands-on history' approach. Fortress history is European history. Magdeburg's fortress prisoners, among them numerous well-known personalities such as Charles de Gaulle, Werner von Siemens or Józef Piłsudski have the potential to attract an international audience.

Interreg Europe project "Recapture the Fortress Cities" and results of the learning process

"Recapture the Fortress Cities" (RFC) aims at the sustainable revitalisation of heritage buildings by improving the coexistence of fortified cities and neighbouring forts in urban regions. There is a high number of former fortresses and fortified sites of big historical value in Europe, established at different times. This fortified heritage defines the image of today's landscapes and the struggle and war around these cities define the current borders of municipalities, regions, countries and Europe. But in many cases such constructions are neglected, some derelict, some presented as historical monuments, or only partly utilised. In the majority of cases, they are fragmented and there is a problem to maintain them as this requires big financial investments and strong cooperation.

Through the RFC learning process the city of Magdeburg recognised the necessity of creating an overall vision for the fortifications. The RFC Action Plan will initiate the realisation of this project. A master plan is going to be developed by the city of Magdeburg. An important aspect will be to establish green connections between the forts and city walls which are contributing to better connected city districts in the sense of climate-friendly urban mobility.

This will only be achieved through smart governance and social participation. Therefore, the city of Magdeburg wants to involve an expert board – the Future Fortress Forum – into this development. The



RFC learning process also showed that a follow-up project is needed. In close cooperation with the partner in the Antwerp region, EFFORTS and FORTE CULTURA, appropriate (lead) project partners are currently being searched to join our project idea “Reviving the Fortress Regions”.



Petr KUČERA, CZ
National Cultural Monument Vyšehrad, Prague

Graduate of doctoral degree study programme Architecture and Building Engineering at the Faculty of Civil of the Czech Technical University in Prague. Director of the National Cultural Monument Vyšehrad. Architect and urbanist, expert on urban and building development of Prague. In his spare time, he organizes educational lectures and walks for public.

The Master Plan of Vyšehrad Fortress

The Master Plan of Vyšehrad fortress is a unique material in the Czech and Central European context. It is a basic conceptual document for the long-term planning of repairs and maintenance of bastion fortifications and also for the research activities. The first part deals with the architectural and historical development of the bastion fortifications. In addition, it contains a lot of new information not only about the history of Vyšehrad, but also about the entire Prague fortification system. This information can be used for preparation of new exhibitions, publications, and guided tours for visitors. The second part focuses on the current state and technical conditions of individual elements of the fortification. At the same time, this material formulates a new methodological approach to the effective maintenance of the fortification system in accordance with the UNESCO World Heritage Site status.



Dr. Hans-Rudolf NEUMANN, DE
Dr.-Ing. Dipl.-Ing. Hans-Rudolf Neumann; Deputy Chairman of ECCOFORT reg. ass.,
Member of ICOMOS Germany, Voting Member of ICOFORT Germany

Co-founder and Scientific Coordinator of EU funded culture routes Baltic Fort Route (BFR) and FORTE CULTURA

The European Fortified Heritage - Distribution, categorization, significance

The article deals with the distribution and classification of European fortified heritage and its past, present and future importance. The fortresses along the Elbe play a special role due to their historical importance, which was particularly evident during the Napoleonic era. No less important are the fortresses in the Czech Republic, most of which are relics of imperial size from the Habsburg era. Seen in its entirety, this historic fortress heritage means invaluable potential for the expansion of the European cultural route FORTE CULTURA, whose individual building blocks thus become signposts for European cohesion.



Dirk RÖDER, DE
Vice President FORTE CULTURA, Network of the European Cultural Route Fortified Monuments
EFFORTS board member

is profiled in marketing, management, consulting, financing, funding projects and cultural route development. He grew up in East Berlin. Trained as a banker from 1992 he started in 2002 to work in the Röder company for revitalization and conversion of former military areas into civilian areas. With Dr. Hans-Rudolf Neumann, the Röders started the 2003 EU funded Baltic Fort Route project. In 2011 they founded the European Cooperation Centre of Fortified Heritage (ECCOFORT) and started the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE project Forte Cultura, from which comes out the European Cultural Route of Fortified Monuments – FORTE CULTURA®. ECCOFORT is also a founding member of EFFORTS.

FORTE CULTURA

European Cultural Route of Fortified Monuments and Fortress Network for Cultural Tourism and Marketing in Fortresses

Historical fortifications are popular travel destinations all over Europe and breath-taking backdrops for a multitude of cultural tourism offers. They are emotional, authentic, succinct and fascinating to all generations. The history of fortress construction and defence strategies, named as “architectura militaris” is closely linked to the European history. Fortifications remind of historical conflicts and reflect the technical, scientific, cultural and socio-economic development level of their time. The art of defensive architecture shaped citadels and fortresses, chess-board-shaped ideal cities and large-scale fortress systems, bastioned castles, palaces, cathedrals or fortified churches.

Today, fortified monuments have lost their military functions and offer a stunning backdrop for culture and arts, for knowledge transfer, for museums and exhibitions, for parks and gardens, for festivals and events, for remembrance and commemoration. Fortifications transformed into places for the demands of modern society.

FORTE CULTURA is the European Cultural Route of Fortified Monuments. Since its foundation in 2014, we have been supporting our member fortresses in the development of attractive tourist offers, in marketing, international networking and professional exchange. FORTE CULTURA is committed to preserving this cultural heritage and making it accessible to everyone. Together with EFFORTS, since 2020, both networks are strengthening the support of Europe's fortified sites.



Đurđa VRLJEVIĆ ŠARIĆ, HR
Head of International Cooperation and Projects Department
Public Cultural Institution Fortress of Culture Šibenik

Đurđa Vrljević Šarić graduated journalism at University of Zagreb, Croatia in 2005. She is a certified project cycle manager with experience in developing and implementing EU funded projects, particularly projects addressing cultural, social and tourism issues. She is also an experienced journalist, public relations and tourism professional; fluent in English and Italian. She has been working on developing and managing EU projects since 2014. Within Public Cultural Institution Fortress of Culture Šibenik, her focus is developing international co-operation and networking through designing and managing projects and programs for international cooperation with related institutions and organizations.



Within the institution, she has led the development, application and implementation process of EU funded projects and programmes: FORTITUDE - Historic Fortresses Intensifying Cross-border Tourism Development /2020-2022/; EMO.Undergrounds - EMOfional technologies for the cultural heritage valorization within cross-border Undergrounds /2020-2022/; Connecting Cinemas in Rural Areas /2020-2021/; Cultural Heritage in Action /2020-2021/; Fortress ReInvented - Innovative approach and digital contents in historic monuments /2017-2019/; KREŠIMIR - KREativna Šibenska Mreža Integriranog kulturnog Razvoja /2018-2019/. Since 2019 she represents Fortress of Culture Šibenik at EFFORTS Board.

FORTRESS OF CULTURE ŠIBENIK

Holistically sustainable development concept for the valorisation of the cultural heritage fortresses – best practice in Europe

In the core of our story is enthusiasm, professionalism, innovation, inclusion, courage. We believe that culture can transform a city. We have been proving this every day for 8 years. We are growing, there is still a lot of work ahead of us. We follow contemporary world trends in culture and want to share our story with others.

About us

Public Cultural Institution Fortress of Culture Šibenik focuses on sustainable management and preservation of cultural heritage, namely the three revitalized fortresses in Šibenik – St. Michael's Fortress, Barone Fortress, St. John's Fortress and one multifunctional hall – House of Arts Arsen. Institution also manages the City Point information office in the old Šibenik city center, with the purpose to provide information and promote all activities to citizens and visitors.

Organization's efforts are aimed at constant improvement of sustainable management of heritage, close cooperation with local community and improvement of visitor's experience. The long-term financial and programmatic plan is to maintain the institution's stability and sustainability, to contribute to economic and social well-being of citizens, and to be a best practice example of cultural management in the region.

Fortress of Culture was founded in 2016. The institution has grown from ca. 10 employees to a team of 49 employees in 2022. The so far achieved results in managing the Fortresses in numbers: approx. 200.000 visitors per year, around 5.000 Friends Club members (mostly local population), over 60 special events – concerts, festivals, movie nights, promotions and workshops organized per season on fortresses, and a continuous artistic and cinematographic programme with over 35 events per month at House of Arts Arsen.

St. Michael's Fortress with its new features (open-air summer stage, ground floor and basement structures, reconstructed curtain, interpretation of city history in 3D mapping technology) was reopened in 2014 and has since become one of the top cultural and tourist destinations of Croatia; usually referred to as "the most beautiful open-stage of the Adriatic basin". Main attraction of Barone Fortress, revitalised and reopened in 2016, is an augmented reality (AR) platform, which enables visitors to experience 17th-century Šibenik and relive the Ottoman attack.

Since their opening to public, both fortresses and the institution have won more than a dozen national and international awards in fields of cultural heritage management, heritage interpretation, sustainable tourism development, audience development, promotion... Direct cooperation with over 60 local SME's was established, with their products and hand-made souvenirs available in the shops of the fortresses.

Since its grand re-opening in 2021, the once old and forgotten city cinema, renamed after Arsen Dedić, most famous Šibenik songwriter, music writer, musician, poet and artist - flourished into House of Arts



Arsen; a local and regional culture and art hub developing and educating local and particularly young audiences. This new city stage is a high-tech equipped multifunctional hall with exquisite transformation possibilities due to installed modular floor.

St. John's Fortress is re-opening for public in June 2022; and will provide a new unique feature in the region: an all-year-round open educational campus offering various courses, workshops, classes, seminars and lectures for pupils, students and a wide variety of stakeholders in CCI, history, art, culture, archaeology etc., adding along the possibility of accommodation in the fortress itself!

FORTITUDE project Historic Fortresses Intensifying cross-border Tourism Development Interreg IPA CBC Croatia - Bosnia & Herzegovina – Montenegro

The main objective of the project FORTITUDE is to develop and improve supporting tourism facilities at historic fortresses and to create joint cultural events that will increase tourism attractiveness of fortified sites within the programme area of Interreg IPA CBC HR-BA-ME; and increase the number of visitors out of high season. The results of the project are reflected in the improvement of visitor centers at fortresses in 4 cities: Šibenik, Karlovac, Banja Luka and Bar, in development of sightseeing routes featuring visits to fortresses and the stakeholder representatives trained in tourism heritage management. Project cross-border added value is reflected in development of long-term cooperation in managing joint manifestation Night of Fortresses, mutual digital promotion of sites via digital kiosks and standardization of heritage tourism management through capacity building training and know-how exchange.

The Lead partner, Public Cultural Institution Fortress of Culture Šibenik (HR), is responsible for organising capacity building – cultural tourism and heritage management training workshops for partners and stakeholders from the Programme area working in this field of work. The partner is also in charge of coordinating partners and ensuring effective implementation of activities. Project partners City of Banja Luka (BA) and Municipality of Bar (ME) are responsible for the coordination of capacity building activities within their respective countries. Project partner, Municipality of Bar (ME) is responsible for the coordination of all project communications especially communication regarding Night of Fortresses event through the newly developed website. Project partner City of Karlovac (HR) is in charge of developing a joint cultural heritage application as a new tourism product which will be used and implemented by all five partners at digital kiosks on their sites.



Simone VOIGT, DE
Fortress Königstein gGmbH

was born and grown up in Dresden, Germany. She trained as a travel agent and studied law at the Technical University of Dresden. From 2002 to 2018 she worked as product manager, team leader and most recently as managing director for various tour operators throughout Germany. Since 2018 she is responsible for Public Relations & Sales at the wonderful Fortress Königstein gGmbH. Her passion is travelling: to 50 countries worldwide, mostly as tour guide with guests.

Czech-German Fortress cooperation Cross-border cooperation to develop fortress tourism along the Elbe River



Königstein Fortress has been involved in the development of the European Cultural Route since the beginnings of FORTE CULTURA in 2012. At the latest since the Conference of Elbe Fortresses in May 2019, there has been close cooperation between many important fortress monuments along the Elbe.

The funding project "Cross-border networking and marketing of the significant historical fortification heritage of the Elbe-Labe Euroregion" started in spring 2020 to further strengthen the fortification heritage in the German-Czech border region. Corona set the project far back and the Terezín conference was postponed twice. Now the project can be finished and shows good results with the new flyers, the international expert conference and the activities for the Elbe Fortresses Cultural Summer. The small project was led by Festung Königstein gmbH, together with the project partners City of Terezín and FORTE CULTURA.



Frauke VOS-FIRNKES M.A., DE
Director Tourism, Culture and Visitor Centre Weißenburger Tor,
FORTE CULTURA Vice President

studied "Ancient, Medieval and Modern History" and "Classical Archaeology" in Mannheim and received her Master's degree in January 2005. She worked at the Historical Museum of the Palatinate in Speyer, and since 2009 also as a tour guide and freelancer for the city of Germersheim. In February 2014, Frauke took over the management of the Tourism, Culture and Visitor Centre Weißenburger Tor and continued her education through distance learning to become a "Tourism Specialist for Spa and Regional Tourism". Further current honorary positions: Chairwoman Historical Association of the Palatinate e.V., Germersheim District Association, Member of the Committee of the Historical Association of the Palatinate e.V., Cash Auditor Museum Association Rhineland-Palatinate e.V.

Regional Fortress Cluster Upper Rhine

German French cross-border cooperation on fortified heritage of the last 350 years – European best practice

The working group "Networking of Franco-German Fortifications and Historical Lines" is made up of 30 fortification monuments that deal with the fortification history of the last 350 years on the Upper Rhine. Everything is represented, from Vauban fortifications to federal fortifications, state fortifications, objects of the Maginot Line, the Westwall and Cold War bunkers, and museums.

The fortifications left behind represent an impressive piece of Central European cultural history and form the basis of cross-border cooperation in the Upper Rhine region to research and explain the common fortification heritage and to preserve and present it appropriately for future generations.

In continuous cooperation, effective marketing instruments have been created and methods established in the last two years with the cooperation of FORTE CULTURA, which make the fortress heritage of the Upper Rhine region better known and sustainably strengthen and network the individual sites. Outstanding in this respect are the touring exhibition developed, the activities for the Upper Rhine Fortress Summer as part of the European Fortress Summer with over 90 events annually, as well as the travel developments with FORTE CULTURA.