

## WELCOME WORDS

**Frank Riesbeck**

FORTE CULTURA e.V.

Network of the Culture Route Fortified Monuments



Dear conference team,  
dear speakers and colleagues,  
dear friends of the fortress heritage,  
dear ladies and gentlemen,

today I have the honour to open the conference “Sustainable Valorisation of Fortified Heritage - European best practice” on behalf of FORTE CULTURA and its joint Scientific Committee with the partner network EFFORTS.

I would like to thank the University of Pula as host, and especially Ms Natasa Urosevic, who as a member of the joint Scientific Committee was instrumental in organising this event.

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. From the Roman Limes till the bunkers of the Cold War, fascinating architectures developed, adapted to the advances in weapon technology. 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 urban development and was used in secular and religious buildings. In addition to citadels and fortresses, chess-board-shaped ideal cities and large-scale fortress systems, bastioned castles, palaces, cathedrals or fortified churches belong to this cultural heritage.

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, together with its members, aims to support the diverse architectural and cultural heritage of fortified monuments, to promote their trans-formation into sites of culture and tourism and to raise awareness among the general public. With our European cultural route, we want to offer each fortified monument the chance to network and develop new, joint instruments and activities to promote tourism to the European cultural heritage fortified monuments.

Our full members form the stations of the European cultural route FORTE CULTURA, where the fascinating cultural heritage of the fortress monuments can be experienced live. As attractive places of experience for modern society, many disused fortifications today offer an

enormous variety of cultural events, exhibitions, active tourist offers, nature experiences, enjoyment and education and preserve the memory of historical events.

And as different as the types of fortifications are, so different are their needs, financial resources, management structures, methods or utilization concepts.

Today's conference aims to help achieve a better balance between needs and best practices, project results and project initiations on fortress heritage in Europe.

To this end, the joint Scientific Committee of FORTE CULTURA and our partner network EFFORTS has identified relevant issues affecting fortress heritage. To-day's conference provides an overview and is intended to be both, a test and a starting signal for an intensified international exchange for the preservation and sustainable use of the common cultural heritage of fortress monuments.

In this sense, I wish the event maximum success.

Many thanks.

Frank Riesbeck

President

FORTE CULTURA e.V. – Network of the Culture Route Fortified Monuments

## WELCOME WORDS

**Rafaël Deroo**

Secretary General of EFFORTS  
European Federation of Fortified Sites



Dear Mr. Mayor,  
dear President,  
dear colleagues,

I have the honour to replace Mr. Frank Petter, Mayor of the Dutch City of Bergen op Zoom and President of EFFORTS.

EFFORTS is, with FORTE CULTURA as its prominent member association, and together with FORTE CULTURA the representation of the interests of fortified cities, regions and sites. We group 200 members in 23 European countries and are very proud of this Network.

It is an honour also to be at the Pula conference, taking stock with you the situation and the future of our work in shared heritage, in the red line in European history, in our past, and our future.

I am proud however on the road that FORTE CULTURA and EFFORTS have travelled in the last 3 years. Proud on FORTE CULTURA, with its exciting candidature for a European Cultural Route, with its hopeful result in a few weeks.

We are currently working on several exciting common dossiers :

- Joint Scientific Committee and its workshops
- EFFORTS Fortification Knowledge Center
- EFFORTS Fortification Heritage Impact Study
- European Network
- European Fortress Summer



From the Atlantic to the Oder, we will work together,  
in Europe and in fortified heritage and regional development.

Thank you.

Introductory speech notes of Rafaël Deroo, Secretary General of EFFORTS, 6/5/21 PULA (HR) FORTE CULTURA EVALUATION CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE VALORISATION OF FORTIFIED HERITAGE - EUROPEAN BEST PRACTICES

## INTRODUCTION

**Dirk Röder**

Vice President FORTE CULTURA e.V.

Board Member EFFORTS



The cultural heritage of fortified monuments is to be found over all epochs. The reason was the demand to protect people against enemies. The demand to protect their goods, habitats and landscapes or political and religious views. This physical protection always had to be at least as good as the offensive weapons of the conquerors.

The invention of gunpowder and the introduction of firearms in the 13th and 14th centuries has changed the fortress architecture fundamentally. The second major change for the fortress architecture came with the use of reinforced concrete during the First World War. Bunkers were the new generation of fortifications and fortification construction moved underground for camouflage and protection from air attack.

Finally, no building can survive the attack with modern weapons.

What remained, is the incredible heritage of fortified monuments throughout Europe and around the world. It has a high diversity of authentic architecture like bastioned fortresses, fortified cities, defensive lines or bunkers, and with typical characteristics like bastions, towers and gates, walls and moats, ramparts and many more.

Today, fortified monuments have lost their military functions.

However, the impressive “architectura militaris” offers 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. They are monuments of European history and sites of culture, partially awarded with protection status UNESCO or the European Heritage Label.

But the European fortified heritage does not only refer to architecture and European history. The influence of the cultural heritage of fortified monuments also touches archaeology, economy, culture and art, nature, transnational cooperation, research and development, politics and sociology. Fortified monuments are or are becoming more and more an integral part of modern life in cities and regions. They influence local and regional development and are identity-forming.

The European Cultural Route FORTE CULTURA, is committed to preserving this cultural heritage and making it accessible to everyone. European history can be felt and experienced in the monumental contemporary witnesses. Fortresses are a great resource for education and knowledge for future generations and to keep the memory alive. Fortresses are a mirror into the past, they let us feel and understand European history, traditions and cultures. And they give us a reason, why it is so important to learn from the past for a better future.

There is a high volume of fortifications, from a wide variety of eras, with enormous historical significance and with a high structural diversity. At the same time, this means that there are also countless experts and many regional, national and international networks dealing with their fortress heritage.

Countless research results acquired knowledge and best practices on fortified heritage are decentral distributed around the world, often inaccessible for the public or interested parties.

Today's conference aims to fill this gap somewhat. It aims to show that there are already many innovative practices and methods in Europe in the various fields of fortification heritage to preserve, restore, repurpose and integrate this important heritage into our society.

The event also aims to convey what an enormous task this is, how long the road is from a fortress ruin to a sustainable public attraction, and how far reality and desire often diverge. The previous slides suggest that this goal can never be satisfactorily achieved within one conference. Today's conference is therefore intended as the start and framework for a series of specialist workshops and international scientific exchange.

The two major fortress networks in Europe, FORTE CULTURA and EFFORTS, have started a cooperation in June 2020. As a European Cultural Route, FORTE CULTURA networks the cultural heritage of fortress monuments under a common umbrella brand for tourism and thus ensures attention, image and economic effects. As a lobby network, EFFORTS fights for recognition, political support and funding in Brussels.

Together, the two networks represent over 200 fortresses in more than 20 countries. Knowledge about the fortress heritage, its construction, history, development and current use is the basis for the so important path of change from military objects to modern places of culture and tourism.

The FORTE CULTURA / EFFORTS Joint Scientific Committee for the Fortified Heritage in Europe and Beyond is currently composed of scientists from Poland, Italy, Croatia, Germany and Slovakia who belong to different fields of expertise. An international centre of expertise is to be established in the Forte Marghera in Venice.

To show the importance of the fortified heritage sector in the European Union, a FORTIFIED HERITAGE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY (FHIS) is started by the EFFORTS – FORTE CULTURA network.

Today's conference is thus a prelude to more knowledge transfer and exchange on the cultural heritage of fortified monuments. Using the example of Pula, one of the largest fortified harbours and coastal defence systems in Europe, we will see what challenges the rehabilitation and conversion of fortifications entail.

Using the example of the province of Trento, we will learn about the great importance of inventorying the fortress heritage for its preservation and protection.

The cultural fortress of Sibenik will show us how to innovatively and purposefully develop a fortress location into a modern hotspot and at the same time sustainably integrate the population and economy of an entire region.

Using the example of the large fortress systems of Krakow and Przemysl in Poland, we will learn about the interrelationships and the influence of fortress heritage on cities and regions.

I will use the example of the cultural route FORTE CULTURA to introduce you to the significance and effects of sustainable fortress tourism.

Finally, we will show you the process of preparing transnational World Heritage nominations for fortress heritage.

All topics can only give an overview today. It is planned to deepen these and other topics in specialist workshops. We are currently looking for financial support for this.

Our conference will be recorded and made available digitally. I would like to thank all the organisers and speakers, especially Natasa Urosevic from the University of Pula and FORTE CULTURA, and I wish you many insights and lively exchanges in the further course of the conference.

## ABSTRACT

Nataša Urošević, Kristina Afrić Rakitovac  
Juraj Dobrila University of Pula



### MODELS OF SUSTAINABLE VALORISATION OF FORTIFIED HERITAGE

The paper will present recent studies and projects, reflecting the legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, which main goal was to promote the key European values and heritage through participatory heritage management. Our experience has showed that a project-based research and training which included students, reserachers, conservation offices, tourist boards, NGO activists, tourist guides and the local community could enhance awareness raising and capacity building efforts in the field of sustainable heritage management, cultural education and promotion of the key European values, which are the most important objectives of the European programmes, such as Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

Promotion of Europe's best practice in the valorization of common European heritage was also the intention of the editors and 22 authors of the monograph 'Models of sustainable valorization of cultural heritage in sustainable tourism' from Croatia, Italy, Austria, Poland and Germany. The European and Croatian experiences presented in management, funding and the interpretation of a shared heritage indicated great potential for the transfer of knowledge, awareness raising and capacity building in the development of European projects. The monograph elaborates: Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Development; Valorising Common European Heritage through Transnational Networks (European Cultural Routes, serial transnational nominations, European Heritage Label etc.); Regional and National Experiences in Heritage Management; and The European Best Practice in the Valorisation of Fortified Heritage (with examples from Croatia, Poland and Italy).

The studies conducted in the framework of EU projects (Afrić Rakitovac, Urošević, 2017: *Sustainable development potential of fortified heritage in Croatia*) indicated important contribution of fortified heritage to sustainable development:

- a) **Economic sustainability:** its adaptive reuse stimulates entrepreneurship and creativity, generating new employment and increasing the incomes of included stakeholders with, multiplication effects. Restoration with traditional materials and techniques enables crafts and stimulates the local economy;
- b) **Social sustainability:** the inclusion of local community results in strengthening the social capital, contributes to social integration and the social inclusion;
- c) **Environmental sustainability:** energy-efficient renovation, sustainable waste management and recycling, etc.;
- d) **Cultural sustainability:** contribution to the conservation of cultural and historical landscape as a significant aspect of the cultural identity and cultural diversity.

The pilot project ADRIFORT (Adriatic Fortresses and Military Areas) included 5 forts in the Štinjan area on the northern part of the Pula bay. It involved the University and the City of Pula as well as other 9 partners from the Adriatic, with the Veneto Region as the lead partner. The main role of the University was to provide support through scientific research contribution in various project activities from the pre-research phase to the new operational methodology for the management of the fortification system and to make studies of sustainable development and adaptive reuse of the local fortification system, with comparative analysis of European good practice models of transnational cooperation, such as Trails of Peace from the Alps to the

Adriatic of the Forte Cultura cultural route, as well as the proposal for transnational nomination of Central European fortified systems for UNESCO LIST. Students were involved too in creation of new cultural, bike and hiking routes connecting several forts on the entrance of the Pula's port.

## ABSTRACT

**Katarina Marić, Sunčica Mustač (Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria)**

### **THE VISIBLE FUTURE OF *FORTRESS PULA* – RESTORATION, VALORIZATION AND PRESENTATION OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN FORTIFICATION SYSTEM IN PULA**

Ancient Pula emerged during the antique period in what is now the most protected part of one of the biggest natural bays on the east coast of the Adriatic, located on one of the corner points on the triangular peninsula of Istria. Turbulent historical circumstances and numerous pandemics have altered this thousand-year-old city in a variety of ways. On several occasions, these events resulted in Pula falling into a state of general neglect. The last such period was in the 18th century when travel writers reported that at the end of the century, little more than 600 people lived in the "city of the dead".

After the 1815 Congress of Vienna, all of Istria was annexed to the Habsburg Monarchy, and its position as a political backwater gradually diminished. Quite a few more years passed before the Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria declared Pula a new military port, replacing Venice, after an analysis of the empire's defence policy. Many top-class engineers arrived in the city to design a new system of defences. Up to that point, the city had been protected by fortified points that were of questionable efficacy. Besides the central Kaštel that Antoine De Ville built from 1631 to 1633, the field fortifications Maximilian and Fort Louise were erected, as well as the Zonchi and San Pietro batteries. On St Andrija's island, a fort had been built in the Napoleonic period above the Venetian one. Even before Pula was officially proclaimed as the main port, the monarchy filled in the gaps of this range of defences with new round buildings from a specific class of building named the Martello tower. Between 1830 and 1838, the San Giovanni, Punta Christo, and Grosso Martello towers were built.

Once again, before Pula was officially declared the new military port, that is, immediately after Venice lost that prime role in 1848, works began on the construction of the first stores inside the future arsenal, and works soon also began on the first part of the new fortification system. From 1852 to 1854, round and horseshoe-shaped fortifications of various diameters were built in the city and its immediate surroundings (Kaiser Franz I., Zaro, Movidal, San Michele, Grosso, San Giorgio, Casoni Vecchi, Monsival/Bourguignon, Musil, Marie Louise, Munide, and Brioni/Tegetthoff) as an overture to the official opening of the arsenal on 9 December 1856. The imperial couple attended along with the archduke and commander of the navy, Ferdinand Maximilian. Over the next twenty years, these forts and the previous Martello towers were expanded and upgraded. New types of warfare resulted in new forms of fortifications being designed.

Between 1881 and 1885, an entire series of polygonal forts and batteries were built in the wider area surrounding Pula (Punta Christo, Bradamante/Valmarin, San Daniele, Turcian, Pomer, Verudella, Musil, San Giovanni Cunfida, Stoja, Ovine, Valmaggiore, and Fisella), and around fifteen years later a new series of fortifications even further away from Pula with similar layouts were built. These had been further elaborated in the projects of military engineers who then built armoured forts, armoured artillery and Mörser batteries, as well as

dug-out buildings (Castellier, Brioni Minor, San Nicolò, Peneda, San Benedetto, Forno, Paravia West, Paravia Ost, Paravia Untertritt, and Lussin). Immediately before the First World War, the aviation industry began to develop and in Monumenti, the command of the Navy Air Corps was set up. There were airstrips on Valtursko polje, Valbandon, and Puntizela. On Kosada island there was a flight-training centre for pilots, while the nearby island of St Katarina housed an arsenal for hydroplanes alongside a test station. Later, during the time of the Italian administration, it also had a centre for training divers. Together with Monumenti, this grew into the Royal Submarine School.

The operation to fortify the Pula arsenal, and consequently the whole city, resulted in the construction of a fortification system distributed along three strips of defences that were not only made of forts, but also of batteries, bases, entrenchments, overground and underground shelters, water tanks, quarries, quays, and air bases. Everything was joined up by carefully designed communications links and greenery camouflaging it all. This system of defences occupied an area of over 700 km<sup>2</sup> and it had one task alone – the protection of the port whose centrepiece was the arsenal and the anchorage of a large part of the navy fleet of the Habsburg Monarchy. Pula succeeded in this task and reached the end of the First World War with hardly any military actions having occurred there.

The Naval Fortress of Pula is now protected as a cultural good. The first steps towards gathering the documentation required were made in the 1970s by the Department for Architectural Heritage of the City of Pula. After they had been gathered, they were evaluated by the Ministry of Culture and the conservation department in Pula, and many revitalisation studies were conducted. However, the act of renewing the main components of this enormous system was mostly reduced to the necessary maintaining and guaranteeing of access to the fortifications. The Kaštel fort that houses the Historical and Maritime Museum of Istria, and the Verudella fort, in which the Pula aquarium is presently located, were the only buildings that were completely restored and properly presented. The Bourguignon fort, which was once a concert venue, is now used by the Archaeological Museum of Istria as a depot. Casoni Vecchi, Turcian, Pomer, and Punta Christo are looked after by civic associations supported by the City of Pula. The Ulysses theatre is used by the fort at Mali Brijuni as a stage, and the military complex Katarina Monumenti has become the site of a large nautical and tourist project that has managed to preserve just one part of the original buildings.

One further step towards evaluating and renovating Pula's forts is surely the ADRIFORT project. As part of this project, cities, municipalities, counties, the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula and the Ca' Foscari from Venice intend to revitalise several forts in the Pula group. There are also projects led by the Brijuni National Park, and finally the renovations made by the Pula Fort Center as part of the ITI (Integrated Territorial Investment) mechanism. The latter project will link up the Zerostrasse system of underground tunnels both metaphorically and materially (via a lift) with the Kaštel space. It will draw on contemporary museological techniques to present the rich heritage of the city so that visitors from various groups will gain an impression of the breadth, excellence, construction complexity, and sophisticated organisation of the entire *Pula Fortress*.

## ABSTRACT

dr.sc. **Milena Mičić<sup>1</sup>**, **Merima Zukić<sup>2</sup>**, univ.bacc. turism. cult.  
1,2 Aquarium Pula Ltd., Verudella 33, 52100 Pula  
[milena.micic@aquarium.hr](mailto:milena.micic@aquarium.hr); [infos@aquarium.hr](mailto:infos@aquarium.hr)

### FORTRESS VERUDELA

#### EXPERIENCES IN RECONSTRUCTION AND REVITALIZATION FOR THE AQUARIUM PURPOSES

Fortress Verudela, which was taken over by Aquarium Pula Ltd., is one of a few well maintained and systematically renewed forts, among all the other fortification objects surrounding Pula. In 2002 Aquarium Pula took over the object in a rather dilapidated condition and all the work necessary to reach this current state was very demanding. Although Fortress Verudela was not registered as a cultural asset at the time, Aquarium staff was aware of its immense cultural and historical value. All early activities on reconstruction and revitalization of Fortress Verudela were performed in close cooperation with local (dr.sc. Attilio Krizmanić and Zofia Mavar) and international (dr. Wojciech Rymysz – Mazur) fortification experts. Since becoming a cultural asset in 2008, all reconstruction work on Fortress Verudela was done under the authority of Conservation Department of Pula, Ministry of Culture. The biggest and most demanding project was a new steel dome above the former artillery block with 3 large tanks on 2 new levels.

Today, Fortress Verudela is an exceptional and positive example of cultural heritage revitalization. With the commitment of the Aquarium staff, once a neglected historic building has become an important addition to the tourist offer of Pula, Istria and Croatia and can be visited throughout the year.

## ABSTRACT

**Breda Bizjak**

DAI – SAI Association of Istrian Architects

### "PROCESS PULA UNDERGROUND 2001-2021"

"Process Pula Underground" was Breda Bizjak's master thesis at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia in 2002, done under the mentorship of prof. Janez Koželj.

The project suggested an alternative and complementary idea to the overall revitalization of Pula city center: to discover and activate a developing potential, a new spatial situation in already existing spaces of the city.

The "light motif" of the project was the initiation of a dynamic process of a revitalization of the underground system of tunnels and consequently - to stimulate a different perception of Pula, a desire to explore and discover hidden and abandoned spaces in the city. The process should activate underground tunnels and also the spaces above. Project focuses on a two-level underground tunnel system lying beneath the hill of Kaštel in a historic center of the city. This group of tunnels is just a small part of the overall underground tunneling system widely spread under the city and reaching beyond city limits. Built in the beginning of 20th century under the government of Austro-Hungarian monarchy, they were envisioned as a system of underground shelters from direct air attacks. The underground tunnels are understood as a system, a network of walkways which is connected with the existing system of the city roads. They are the alternative paths of the city, a subway for pedestrians, in the means of shortcuts and different way of moving through the city. The system of tunnels connects all important strategic points in the city, they already have an excellent location and spatial organization.

If we understand the city as a complex and interactive network of events - their correlation and movement between them becomes important reference point in the process of forming new conditions in the space. Beside the activation of using the existing tunnels as a pedestrian infrastructure, project proposes newfound situation of threedimensional movement through the hill of Kaštel through the implementation of an elevator which connects both levels of tunnels with the Venetian fortress on the top of the Kaštel hill. The established new permeability of the city surface is causing new conditions in dealing with city's third dimension and a new role for the city's topography as well.

The project was first exhibited in 2002 at the Diana gallery in Pula, presented to the City council in 2009 and through several lectures as well as published in architectural magazines. The project was formally commissioned in 2018 and by the end of 2020 the realization of the project started. In the project commissioned by the City of Pula named "Fortification System of Pula as New Cultural Tourism Product" only a part of the revitalization ideas from the original project was adopted - the elevator which connects both underground tunnels with venetian fortress and the refurbishment of the tunnels entrances.

## ABSTRACT

**Snežana Smolić, NP Brijuni**

### **FORTIFICATION ARCHITECTURE IN BRIJUNI NATIONAL PARK**

Public institution Brijuni National Park manages the area where there are a number of Austro-Hungarian fortification facilities built for the purpose of defending Pula – the main naval base and the most important war port of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

The most impressive of these is certainly Fort Brioni Minor on the island of Mali Brijun. Although the full potential of the island's fortification heritage has not been sufficiently recognized so far, thanks to the International Fortification Architecture Workshop, which has been held on the islands for many years, a part of the profession and the public is familiar with the importance of this part of the island's heritage.

Snežana Smolić graduated in 2009 in Archaeology, Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Zagreb. During and after completing her studies she participated in a number of archaeological excavations. Since 2010 she has been working in the Department for the Protection of Cultural Heritage at the Public Institution Brijuni National Park as an expert associate, and since 2014 as a curator. She was further educated in the field of EU funds at the Algebra University College in Zagreb and has participated in the application and implementation of several EU projects in Brijuni National Park. Her professional interests include the archaeological and cultural-historical heritage of the Brijuni Islands.

## ABSTRACT

**Fiorenzo Meneghelli ,**

Istituto Italiano dei Castelli, sezione Veneto, IT

### **CATALOG OF AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN FORTIFICATIONS AND FORT CADINE'S CANDIDACY FOR THE EUROPEAN HERITAGE LABEL.**

In 2009 I was appointed by the Cultural Heritage Department of the Province of Trento to write the Catalog of fortifications in the Austro-Hungarian Empire "with the fortifications of: Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and Ukraine, identifying 32 defensive systems in 10 European countries and 22 in Italy for a total of 516 forts.

The study, divided into 4 volumes, was intended to promote a European network of the fortifications of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. 1st volume historical context and proposals. History of the different types of fortifications from the French model to the Prussian and Habsburg model and of the various defensive organizations: the fortified city, the mixed polygonal system, the entrenched camp and the fortified regions; the defensive types: the artillery tower, the polygonal fort, the armored fort and so on. The other volumes: 2nd the Fortifications of Trentino, 3rd The fortifications of the Regions of Lombardy, Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia, 4th the European Fortifications are divided into factsheets with a historical-cartographic overview, consisting of a report, historical and current maps. There is also a factsheet for each fort with the date of construction, ownership, state of conservation, historical use, current use, type of activity and relevant architectural changes. The examination of the fortifications was broken down according to the current national borders, while highlighting their original defensive role in the strategic context of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This study has not been yet published.

The Italian Ministry of Culture chose Forte Cadine as a candidate for the European Heritage Label (EHL) in 2017. Fort Cadine (1860-61) is one of the forts built to defend Trento between 1860 and 1915. one of the most important defensive systems created by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a fundamental element in the history and landscape of the territory. The dramatic divisions caused by the First World War led Trentino, a border land (between the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Kingdom of Italy), to develop a culture of coexistence and cooperation between peoples. Fort Cadine is a meeting place, open to young Europeans, part of the cultural tourism system capable of connecting several European countries with a similar historical heritage. Forte Cadine no longer represents a border area, but rather becomes a European meeting place that raises awareness of common cultural values, starting with historical heritage and promoting cultural tourism. European history has been distinguished by division and conflict, and defensive systems are an expression of this; they were created as "barriers" for separate areas and peoples. Fortification systems will become "new European cultural networks", offering opportunities for exchange and collaboration and promoting a balanced cultural and social development of the community, increasingly integrated into the process of the European Union.

Fort Cadine's in the European Heritage Label and valorisations of Trentino forts network.

Giuseppe Ferrandi, Trentino Historical Museum Foundation, IT

Fortresses, trenches, look outposts and military roads: Trentino is like an open-air museum where many testimonies of the First World War can be found.

From the second half of 19th Century, during the Austro-Hungarian domination, a great number of fortifications were built to defend the territory from an Italian advance. Some of them were used during World War 1.

Fort Cadine is a representative military architecture of this defensive system of about 80 forts built between 1860 and 1915 in the Trentino region. It outlines the historical importance of this territory as a place of contested borders and uneasy cultural integration, in the past, and cultural encounters and

intercultural dialogue over the historic lessons of Europe, at the present. Since the designation of the European Heritage Label in 2018, the site has been consistently working on its symbolic European values and on a long-term ambition of a re-brand based on new interpretations about the World Wars' effects and a focus on the evolving European values of cooperation, social inclusion, open borders and cultural diversity. Precisely, this attempt of labelling a fortified space not only for what happened while it was in use but also for the symbolic message it still embodies, has already started during the WW1 Centenary connected to the activities of the "Trentino Circuit of Forts-Circuit Forti".

The network of 18 forts has been organizing the yearly edition of "Sentinelle di Pietra", a rich program of events (performances, lectures, gigs, etc.) taking place during the summer months. Moreover, the network has conceived a diffuse art exhibition, called Arteforte: in 2016 and in 2018 Italian artists and galleries were invited to create site-specific pieces of art.

As EHL holder, the site strives to promote the label in various forms, through numerous guiding tours aimed at classes, tourists and other organised groups, via television series and social media campaigns, by displaying the EHL plaque outside and inside the fort. At the moment the site is also involved in co-funded European and national projects: EHL@N – Network of EHL sites, Fort – Europe: Nice to Meet You (European Heritage Days call for EHL), Il filo della scelta (Fondazione Caritro).

In conclusion, Fort Cadine has turn itself from a space of conflict (due to war and cultural diversity) to a space of cultural encounters where diversity can stand up and have a voice.

## ABSTRACT

**Josip Pavić**

Fortress of Culture Šibenik, HR



### ŠIBENIK AS CROATIAN AND EUROPEAN BEST PRACTICE IN FORTIFIED HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

In the last decade or so, the mid-sized coastal city of Šibenik, Croatia, has become an often-mentioned example of good heritage management. Since the collapse of the local industry in 1990's, Šibenik was gradually reduced almost to the Croatian version of flyover county, sort of a "drive-through city" for visitors of nearby touristic attractions. Things started to change in late 2000's as Šibenik was one of the first Croatian cities realizing the potential of EU funds. Four historical fortresses within the city, were seen as a resource for decades. The old idea of inserting an open-air stage within the walls of St. Michael's Fortress, Šibenik's oldest monument, was unearthed once again. The revitalization project was completed in 2014. This first project also kickstarted the conveyor belt of EU-funded cultural and heritage-themed projects in Šibenik. All fortresses received significant funds, but many "minor" projects were implemented as well, developed/oriented by and to the city, its institutions, or local NGO's.

Near the end of St. Michael's Fortress revitalization project, a question of future management sprang up. After operating within the city museum for two years, the Department for management of fortification system facilities was separated into a new public institution (Fortress of Culture Šibenik), with an opportunity to develop a modernized management model. The initial team developed a strategy by defining mission, vision, general and specific objective for the next 4-year period. The goal was to implement a holistic approach in managing infrastructure and integrated content on these historical monuments, all for the higher purpose of cultural, economic and touristic development. The holistic approach implies the establishment and evolution of two main areas (research and interpretation of heritage; cultural programmes production). These areas and their activities are followed with communication and marketing plan and a proactive approach for reaching as many target audiences as possible – from local community, through fortress or event visitors to long-term business partners. At the same time, human resources are being developed which create and develop new areas such as international cooperation and new projects.

Fortress of Culture grew annually in terms of activities, visitors, budget and visibility causing significant positive impact on city's new image as desirable cultural destination. As a result of good work, two major cultural assets/venues will be entrusted to the institution in 2021 – a refurbished cinema in the city centre as the new mixed art venue, and St. John's Fortress. The latter one, almost completely unexplored 17th century, 19.000 m<sup>2</sup> mammoth became one of the more carefully researched fortifications in the region, thanks to the flourishing cooperation between local conservation officers, archaeologists and historians. Unlike many other monuments, all uncovered historical structures will be presented regardless of the newly inserted features.

Javna ustanova u kulturi Tržava kulture Šibenik / Vodička 4, 22 000 Šibenik / OIB: 09301205081 / IBAN HR2324020061844400003 SWIFT: ESBCHR22 / Odgovorna osoba: Gorana Barišić Bačelić, ravnateljica

## ABSTRACT

**Jadwiga Środulska-Wielgus, Krzysztof Wielgus**  
Krakow University of Technology –

### **REHABILITATION OF FORTRESS KRAKÓW AND FORTRESS PRZEMYŚL WITH THE REFERENCE TO OTHER FORTRESSES IN POLAND AS EXAMPLE OF SYNERGY IN FORTIFICATION REHABILITATION**

authors:

Krzysztof Wielgus PhD. arch., e-mail: krzysztof\_wielgus@wp.pl  
Jadwiga Środulska- Wielgus, PhD. habil. arch., e-mail: jadwiga.wielgus@gmail.com  
Anna Staniewska, PhD. arch, e-mail: astaniewska@pk.edu.pl  
Cracow University of Technology,  
Chair for Landscape Architecture,  
Faculty of Architecture,  
Kraków, Poland

Poland is a veritable open air museum of military strategy as reflected in the landscape,<sup>1</sup> unique both in Europe and in the world because of its representation of the development of fortifications, the diversity of its military developments, and the numbers and the state of preservation of those developments. These factors stem directly from Poland's geopolitical location at the crossroads of East and West. Fortifications were erected by different political forces, in different eras and with different techniques.

In 2017 we presented a review of activities carried out in Poland to restore the multitude of strategic landscapes<sup>2</sup>. These works are currently far more advanced. The 2017 report referred to the experience related to the involvement of significant EU funds in the 2007-2013 financial perspective in the restoration of fortification complexes. Currently, an attempt can be made to report the effectiveness of activities carried out in more difficult conditions, based on the financial resources allocated for the years 2013-2020. Archeological investigations are carried out in Kostrzyn (Küstrin an der Oder), Fortress Silberberg (Srebrna Góra), functioning as a cultural park restoring and partly opening to the public further parts and buildings. Fortress Zamość turned out to be a big tourist attraction and destination, which is proved by large number of visitors and their positive feedback.

The rehabilitation of the great ring fortresses takes other routes, it is a complex regional activity. The only two fortress complexes in Poland carry out systemic activities, which are an expression of both the maturity and determination of local governments, NGO's cooperation as well as a high level of support from conservation services and scientific circles. These are the fortresses of Krakow and Przemyśl. The progress in the systemic protection of the 20th century's Polish and German fortifications (with elements of Czech fortifications) in Upper

---

<sup>1</sup> J. Bogdanowski, *Krajobraz warowny XIX/XX w. Dzieje i rewaloryzacja, skrypt dla studentów wyższych szkół technicznych do przedmiotu: architektura krajobrazu*, Kraków 1993, p. 48.

<sup>2</sup> K. Wielgus, J. Środulska-Wielgus, A. Staniewska, *An outline of restoration of fortifications in Poland – a review with regard to eras and fortification systems*, [in:] *Models of valorisation of cultural heritage in sustainable tourism*, Nataša Urošević, Kristina Afrić Rakitovac (eds.), Juraj Dobruša University of Pula, Croatia, Pula 2017, p. 295-340.

Silesia should also be mentioned. However, this is primarily the result of a thriving non-governmental organization, supported by the National Heritage Board of Poland.

In the case of the Przemyśl Fortress, the organization which successfully initiated and continues, despite many difficulties, the restoration and access to the "Verdun of the Eastern Front of World War I" is the Union of Fortress Communes of the Przemyśl Fortress. After the successfully completed project, supported by EU funds, completed in 2015, tasks related to the dissemination of the idea of volunteer guardians (protectors) of fortress monuments, dissemination of knowledge about the fortress and its history, as well as point revalorization activities, supported by local funds, are carried out. A symbolic summary of these activities was the decision of the President of the Republic of Poland to enter the entire Przemyśl Fortress on the list of Monuments of the History of the Republic of Poland (2018) - the highest form of legal protection implemented by the Polish State (this is a sine qua non condition for any efforts to be entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List).

The Union of Fortress Communes initiated the building of agreements with local governments of other Central and Eastern European fortresses.

In the case of the Krakow Fortress, the task of integrated protection and restoration of the fortress complex was undertaken by the local government of the Krakow Commune. The activities of individual local government administration departments of a large municipal complex are being integrated - the Board of Municipal Buildings, the City Greenery Board, the Department of Tourism, the Department of City Promotion, the Municipal Conservator of Monuments and the Department of Spatial Planning. Other owners and users of fortress facilities play an important role - the Polish Army, universities, non-governmental organizations, foundations, etc. The city of Krakow and several other partners are currently or have completed revalorization activities on more than 20 facilities of the former Krakow Fortress. The major stage of these works is scheduled for completion in 2022. The most exposed part of the Krakow Fortress around the Kościuszko Mound and Fort 2 was entered on the List of Monuments to the History of the Republic of Poland in 2017.

One of the most challenging aspects remains still integration of spatial aspirations and urban growth of the municipalities with the protection of the most valuable fortified landscapes and preserving their integrity to show the dimensions and functions of the ring fortress. A number of strategic documents were introduced and linked with planning policy instruments concerning spatial management but the results will be seen in the future.

A comprehensive restoration and promotion of Polish strategic landscape presents a challenge not only to the conservators, ecologists or businessmen. It is a sign of concern for the identity of the location and its educational role in the teaching of Central European history as well as its universal value as a testament of the advancements of science, technology and engineering. Many hopes are linked to established trans-European initiatives towards wider appreciation and heritage status of fortified landscapes and Austro-Hungarian Fortresses particularly in frames of UNESCO or via cultural routes and trails.

**Jadwiga Środulska-Wielgus**, PhD. arch., habil., Professor of the Krakow University of Technology,  
Chair for Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Architecture,  
The Military Architecture Committee of the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS.

**Krzysztof Wielgus**, PhD. arch., Krakow University of Technology,  
Chair for Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Architecture,  
The Military Architecture Committee of the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS.  
Social Committee for the Restoration of Krakow's Monuments

## ABSTRACT

**Dirk Röder,**  
FORTE CULTURA e.V. –  
Network of the Cultural Route FORTE CULTURA



### **FORTE CULTURA – CULTURAL ROUTE OF FORTIFIED MONUMENTS SUSTAINABLE FORTRESS TOURISM AS KEY FOR UTILISATION AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS**

One of the most important ways of transformation of cultural-historical values or events for the following generations is CULTURAL TOURISM. Europe claims a leading place in global cultural tourism thanks to its unique cultural history and, above all, thanks to the mostly systematic documentation of cultural achievements.

Fortified monuments are cultural heritage and therefore content for cultural tourism. And fortress monuments are even a very important cultural heritage that touches almost all areas of our society. Through all countries the fortified heritage is very widespread and shape the history and identity of cities, regions, nations, the European Union and beyond - until today.

The diversity of content and variance of the fortified heritage allows for countless cultural tourism themes and thus appeals to nearly all target groups. So, fortresses are the perfect content for cultural tourism,

After fortresses are retired from military use, the historic buildings must be used differently to preserve them. Fortifications become sceneries for movies, theatres and films, event and sport arenas, museum and memorials, historic craft shops and markets, extraordinary hotel and restaurant locations, nature, and adventure trails. Fascinating fortress sceneries enthuse young and older Europeans with their authenticity, their history, their individual tradition, and culture. Modern technologies enable unbelievable adventure worlds – virtually, in reality, and in between both.

Tourism (outside of Corona) is the third largest economic sector in the European Union and cultural tourism plays an increasingly important role. It offers travellers and visitors the opportunity to experience or learn about a destination's culture - its lifestyle, history, art, architecture, religion and more. Cultural tourism is an economic factor and engine for local and regional development. It is employer and innovation engine with income effects for cultural sites, cities, retail trade, service, accommodation, catering and gastronomy, transport, etc. Cultural tourism strengthens regional identity, recreational value and the quality of life.

Cultural tourists are among the most important tourist target groups (with the highest purchasing power), and their demands on the quality of the tourist offer are correspondingly high. To develop offers for cultural tourism is the best way for sustainable utilization and economic effects for fortified monuments.

Cultural routes level up cultural tourism. They invite people to get to know special topics of European history and heritage by culture travel and by discovering places, stories and other people. With the focus on opening up cultural heritage for cultural tourism, the cultural routes provide impulses for the preservation and use of this cultural heritage. They mobilize regional, national and European cultural heritage as an economic factor. They make cultural heritage

visible and tangible and have an important socio-economic impact for participating places and regions along the routes.

Cultural routes very rarely act as tour operators themselves. Their task is primarily to create and ensure all the conditions for sustainable tourist use of the cultural heritage. Above all, they have to ensure that the historical and cultural context is presented in a qualified and correct manner.

FORTE CULTURA is the cultural route for the fortified heritage. FORTE CULTURA supports and presents this unique cultural heritage of fortified monuments of Europe as European Culture Route. With FORTE CULTURA tourists can conquer fortresses peacefully and meanwhile learn European culture and history.

To be successful on trans-national tourism markets you should have all local stakeholders of a fortified monument on your table. FORTE CULTURA, often is an occasion to define a clear strategy, concept and common goals. The opportunity “to become ready for international tourism within a transnational brand” can bring them together to think about sustainable utilizations and tourism infrastructures and services of your fortress.

Using the example of the Franco-German fortress region of Upper Rhine-Alsace, FORTE CULTURA with 30 fortress partners and museums makes the development of fortress construction over the last 350 years visible. There are fortified castles like La Petit Pierre, or huge fortresses like Bitche, there are fortified cities like Rastatt or Germersheim, or a couple of bunkers from the Maginot line and the Siegfried Line and also NATO and government bunker from the cold war. Also, there are battlefields, stories of political fights, stories of winners, losers, victims and perpetrators. And when they talk about the history and architectures of these monuments over the last 350 years, they will explain at the same time the evolution of Europe through 2 World Wars and the Cold War – up to the European Union.

The regional FORTE CULTURA fortress cluster applied for a small cross-border funding to develop new marketing instruments: regional fortress map and flyer (100,000, DE-FR); stamp passes (15,000 DE-FR); travelling exhibition (12 boards). During the regional Fortress Summer Upper Rhine 2021, as part of the European Fortress Summer, about 90 events were promoted.

The next step will be the preparation of tourism offers and local routes to different topics and target groups as well as the qualification of local tour guides with the FORTE CULTURA guide certification program. This is a very important step to ensure the quality of the tourist offers at the stations of the cultural route. As stations, the fortress monuments with their local actors are the link to the visitors. A cultural route is therefore only as good as its weakest member. We work together in the network on quality standards and qualification programs in order to be able to meet the high demands of cultural tourists.

So, FORTE CULTURA has methods, a lot of instruments and partner to develop fortress tourism together with the fortified monuments who are interested to become an official station of the cultural route.

Finally, fortress tourism opens the opportunity for economic effects, but it must be planned and good prepared. At the beginning there is a lot of work and sweat, lobbying and investment. But FORTE CULTURA is supporting you in any way.

It is helpful to have clear visions of the final goal for the development of your fortress property. Therefore, concrete concepts can be worked out. And this brings us back also to our conference agenda today. At first a detailed inventory is needed, about the architecture, the history, the local interdependencies and a lot more.

Fortified monuments are or are becoming more and more an integral part of modern life in cities and regions. They influence local and regional development and are identity-forming as

we had seen in Sibenik. This presupposes ideas and creative thinking, but also consideration of the economic feasibility. It leads to utilization concepts and budget plans. And finally, with realistic concepts, examples of European best practice, and a European network supporting you, this will open political support and probably funding opportunities.

So, cultural routes generate market presence, with their international brand and new marketing tools, with widespread awareness and visibility in European tourism markets. Cultural Routes can create or improve economic effects at their stations, with more visitors and more resonance, with revenues for the fortress cities and regions, with development effects for the fortress and its infrastructure.

Cultural Routes provide networking effects, through joint international marketing, through transfer of best practices and knowledge, through transnational cooperation and promotion projects, and through support for the integration of fortress monuments into urban and regional developments.

To be a station of FORTE CULTURA means to have a fortified monument and to know your own history, tradition, art and culture. It needs all your commitment to present this knowledge and traditions to the whole world.

To be a network member means, to be open for networking and transnational exchange and cooperation. To be willing to contribute one's own knowledge and experience or to learn and want to develop and shape together. The fields of expertise related to the fortress heritage are diverse and range from economics to monument preservation to culture or politics.

Everybody is very welcome to join our fortress community to give the cultural heritage of fortified monuments a bright future.

*Dirk Röder, FORTE CULTURA e.V., May 2021*

## ABSTRACT

**Prof. Ilija Lalosevic, PhD**

University of Montenegro, Faculty of Architecture

### FORTIFIED HERITAGE OF KOTOR/MONTENEGRO

#### ABSTRACT

Boka Kotorska bay (Bocche di Cattaro) fortifications had extraordinary historic importance. The town and fortress of Kotor and the bay had been the key strategic area for powerful neighboring empires. It was particularly important to Venetian Republic, since being very important check point in trade routes of the Mediterranean basin. Its architecture testifies of its historic strategic role, representing genuine testimony of values of cultural heritage, showing its quality and important place in the context of wider defensive system of Venetian Republic. Genesis and typology of city fortifications and defensive points close to urban settlements or on strategically important locations inside the bay, testify influence of the architecture of other regions and similar examples from surrounding from Venetian and Austro-Hungarian period.

After the fall of the Venetian Republic and especially after fall of Austrian monarchy in 1918, these places, especially those far from sea and frequent roads, lost their strategic importance, and became abandoned and exposed to decay and devastation, to atmospheric and seismic influences, vegetation and neglect.

Kotor Fortress recently had been included in The World Heritage List as Venetian heritage in the frame of international transboundary nomination, together with other Italian and Croatian fortifications. The same should be done with Austro-Hungarian fortification of Boka Kotorska.

**Milica Nikolić**

Secretary General of the National Commission of Montenegro for UNESCO

#### Process of preparation of transnational World Heritage nominations

Natural and cultural historic region of Kotor was first inscribed on the UNESCO list in 1979 (criteria I, II, III, IV). The Outstanding Universal Value of the Cultural-historical Region of Kotor is embodied in the quality of the architecture in its fortified and open cities, settlements, palaces and monastic ensembles, and their harmonious integration to the cultivated terraced landscape on the slopes of high rocky hills. The Natural and Cultural-Historical Region of Kotor bears unique testimony to the exceptionally important role that it played over centuries in the spreading of Mediterranean cultures into the Balkans. The Outstanding Universal Value of the Cultural-Historical Region of Kotor is embodied in the quality of the architecture in its fortified and open cities, settlements, palaces and monastic ensembles, and their harmonious integration to the cultivated terraced landscape on the slopes of high rocky hills. The Natural and Cultural-Historical Region of Kotor bears unique testimony to the exceptionally important role that it played over centuries in the spreading of Mediterranean cultures into the Balkans. It is not mixed but cultural property. From 2003 it struggles with influences of mass tourism. Management system is still not on the level which is need for such a complex properties. In 2016 received strong requests by WHC - recently approved Spatial Plan.

**Short review on the methodology:** Joint agreement between experts and institutions in recognition of some property; Communication and discussion between recognized states which could jointly prepare the nomination; Preparation of the Tentative Lists which should be the same for the joint property; After approval on WHC meeting of Tentative Lists, the launch of the process can start; Its lasting varies from one property to another; When the document is ready Permanent Delegations to UNESCO send the file to the WHC. Review lasts for 1 year and a half including mission.

**ICOMOS conclusions:** The extensive and innovative defensive and trade networks established by the Republic of Venice and this period are clearly important in human history and worthy of representation in the World Heritage List.

On the crucial question of the selection of the components, ICOMOS considers that the nomination should focus on the Venetian fortifications that demonstrate the alla moderna innovations, acknowledging that the territory of the Serenissima was indisputably the near-exclusive setting of the genesis of the bastioned system during the Renaissance. It is this subject alone that should be highlighted in order to demonstrate the Outstanding Universal Value of this transnational nomination.

ICOMOS does not consider that all of the nominated components have met this requirement. ICOMOS therefore considers that the integrity of the series as a whole is not demonstrated for all the components, but that it is demonstrated for a reduced series of components. Through a more rigorously applied comparative process, ICOMOS considers that criteria (iii) and (iv) are demonstrated; and that the following six components should be inscribed from the Stato da Terra and Western/Adriatic Stato da Mar:

- City Fortress of Palmanova (Italy): an ideal new city
- Fort of St Nikola at Šibenik-Knin County (Croatia): a sea fort
- Defensive System of Zadar (Croatia): a peninsular fortified city
- Fortified City of Peschiera del Garda (Italy): a fortified city in a lake-river context
- City of Kotor (Montenegro): a fortified complex between sea and mountain over a long historic period
- Fortified City of Bergamo (Italy): a later fortified hill complex

**Key challenges for overall management:**

- ✓ Relation between tourism and protection of the World Heritage with specific focus on the impacts of mass tourism such as cruising
- ✓ Proper valorisation being focused on the needs of local communities
- ✓ It is much more challenges to manage with the whole area than with the single monument
- ✓ When inscribing multinational nominations all component parts should be considered as one property
- ✓ Impacts of COVID crises on economy and tourism
- ✓ Different climate conditions in one property
- ✓ UNESCO's methodology being more and more complexed (management plans, disaster risk management plans).