



## **EFFORTS and INTERNATIONAL FORTRESS COUNCIL**

### **EFFORTS**

European Federation of Fortified Sites (EFFORTS) is the European network for fortified cities, forts and defence lines. EFFORTS members are cities, regions and knowledge institutions that aspire to European connection, knowledge exchange and EU funding opportunities. For the latter, EFFORTS has put into place the European Funding Professionals Network (EFPN) that concentrates on these European funding possibilities.

Working with representatives from all European countries, EFFORTS:

- establishes a permanent European network of fortified heritage sites
- sets up practical partnerships between scientific experts, policy makers, enterprises and practitioners in order to allocate means for innovative development of sites
- provides an international exchange of information and research and expertise on innovative (re)use of fortified heritage
- recognizes the tangible and intangible values and social and economic significance of fortified heritage
- supports members in the development of fortification heritage
- understands and promotes the regeneration and redevelopment of fortified sites and their surrounding urban and rural landscape
- promotes accessibility for citizens and meaningful sustainable reuse of fortified heritage
- highlights and raises the profile of fortified heritage, such as walled towns, fortresses and defensive lines

### **INTERNATIONAL FORTRESS COUNCIL**

The INTERNATIONAL FORTRESS COUNCIL (IFC) and its members aim exclusively towards encouraging the maintenance of historic forts, defensive works and military architecture, and the furtherance of knowledge and information thereof. It maintains and furthers contacts between its members, the exchange of their knowledge and experience, and information on activities of its members.

The purpose of the association can be fostered in a variety of ways, but the IFC does not aim at developing the same activities as its members, such as the organization of excursions, journeys, congresses, the edition of a magazine etc.

Membership of the IFC is open to organizations only. Full members of the IFC are active in the whole state in which they are established (or at least representing it), they are open to anyone, and they

are not public authorities nor totally dependent on public authorities. Other non-voting membership is open to organizations that are public authority or are totally dependent on public authorities. Organizations and individuals can be invited as observer.

A centerpiece of IFC action is the Multilingual Fortification Dictionary (MFD), containing an illustrated list of fortifications and their translations in multiple languages (Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish).

## **EFFORTS AND IFC**

EFFORTS and the International Fortress Council (IFC) have been in close contact from the start of EFFORTS. The first meeting of the European Funding Professionals Network (EFPN) with the International Fortress Council (IFC) was on 25 January 2019 in 's Hertogenbosch.



*Raf Deroo (EFFORTS Brussels liaison), Huibert Crijns (EFPN / 's Hertogenbosch), Peter Ros (EFFORTS vice-president), Huib van Olden (Alderman 's Hertogenbosch and EFFORTS board member), Lex Roolvink (mayor of Grave) with IFC president Andrea Kupka and secretary-general Kees Neisingh.*

The collaboration of IFC and EFFORTS in a joint Knowledge Agenda was a concrete result of this meeting: together, IFC, IFC members *Simon Stevin Stichting (B)* and *Stichting Menno van Coehoorn (NL)* and EFFORTS member *Fondazione Forte Marghera (IT)*, with support of a grouping of EFFORTS members (cities from Croatia, Serbia and the Netherlands), set up **EU FORT KNOW**, an open source knowledge research exchange platform. This is a 2019 pilot project proposal of the European Parliament to the European Commission. The IFC's Multilingual Fortification is part of the proposal

and could thus be enhanced to other time periods and other defensive systems, in synergy with other research work and systems.

### **EFFORTS activities**

In the meantime, EFPN has also secured EFFORTS' first participation in an Interreg Europe project : Recapture the Fortress Cities (2019).

EFFORTS also organises an annual congress and an annual EFPN meeting on EU subsidies (on 16 May 2019 in Olst-Wije : European defence line and EU projects workshop '*Between the lines*'). In the case of its defence line work, EFFORTS is very interested in the **Wellington Barrier** project of IFC and its members and wants to bring this with IFC to the level of a European project. The kick-off of this project, under the auspices of IFC and EFFORTS, was a colloquium that took place in Namur on 25th April 2019.

The EFFORTS Annual Congress is a moment to set up the annual working programme and priorities, linked with the European Commission agenda. In 2018, EFFORTS concentrated for this on the drafting of the **Declaration of Venice**, pointing out to the European Commission at a meeting in December 2018, its main priorities for the post-2020 Cultural Built Heritage policy in the European Union.

EFFORTS' main mobilising action is the annual **EUROPEAN FORTRESS DAY** and its **EFFORTS AWARD**. This will again be organised in September 2019 around the European Heritage Days. All EFFORTS members can participate, opening their sites to the public, and, through their participation, compete for the EFFORTS AWARD that will be awarded at the November 2019 Efforts Congress. Look at the EFFORTS website for more information.



*At the 2018 EFFORTS congress, the Fortress of Culture in Sibenik (HR) was awarded the EFFORTS Prize for innovative participation at the 2018 European Fortress Days. In the photo, from the left : Frank Petter (President EFFORTS), Josip Pavić and Đurđa Vrljević Šarić (Sibenik Fortress of Culture), Juke van Niekerk (Stichting Liniebreed Ondernemen) and Rafaël Deroo (EFFORTS).*

If you want to join EFFORTS, join the European Fortress Days in 2019 and for all other questions: go to [www.efforts-europe.eu](http://www.efforts-europe.eu) or contact the EFFORTS EU Liaison Rafaël Deroo at the EFFORTS Office in Brussels : [rafael.deroo@efforts-europe.eu](mailto:rafael.deroo@efforts-europe.eu).