



Contacts

ADRIFORT PROJECT
 Department for International
 Policies and Cooperation
 Section for International
 Relations

Veneto Region

Fondamenta S. Lucia,
 Cannaregio 23

30121 Venezia - Italia

P: +39 041 279 43 49

F: +39 041 279 43 91

progetto.adrifort@regione.veneto.it



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Forte Marghera, Venice (Italy)

Dear Readers,

we are glad to present the first ADRIFORT - Adriatic Fortresses and Military Area - Newsletter. In this first release, we will introduce project partnership and objectives and inform on the forthcoming activities, among which a Project Meeting and a Workshop on valorization of Cultural Sites. In each release we will also present ADRIFORT main protagonists, the fortifications, starting from Forte Marghera in Veneto and Lezha Castle in Albania.

Enjoy the reading and do not miss the second release in June.

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Rocca Brancaleone, Ravenna (Italy)

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State of Art and Upcoming Events

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After introducing the project with several events and press conferences organized at local level, Project Partners are now working together, sharing best practices and results regarding the re-use of fortresses.

A second step will consist in the definition of a common way to operate with this cultural heritage.

The Municipality of Ravenna is launching the first international video contest called **Visual Mosaic**.

Because of Ravenna's historical and cultural connection to the mosaic, the contest is addressed to those video artists who consider this ancient technique an aesthetic reference or to those videos which show a conceptual approach to the mosaic.

The participation is opened to both Italian and international artist whose works will be selected by a panel of experts.

ADRIFORT

Adriatic Fortresses and Military Areas Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme

Arising from the awareness of the value that the Fortified Heritage in the Adriatic Region represents, the European Project ADRIFORT - Adriatic fortresses and military areas - pursues the creation of a permanent partnership. The capitalisation and the start-up of new initiatives are ADRIFORT main objectives to support the Institutions by building a model of preservation and joint cross-border management of the Network of the Adriatic Fortresses as Strategic Cultural Heritage for a sustainable development.

To preserve and manage this specific cultural heritage the project pursues four objectives:

- a new governance of the Fortified Heritage whose aim is creating a synergy among Institutions, private sector and civil society;
- the re-use of Fortresses, overtaking the vision of a passive preservation and management of cultural heritage;
- the recovery of Fortified Heritage proposing new management models, overcoming the budget constraints;
- the usage of Information Technology tools to promote local cultural heritage and to enhance the opportunities of cooperation and trans-national networking.



The city of Pirano (Slovenia)

PARTNERSHIP

ADRIFORT partnership aims to create a durable cross-borders collaboration able to set out encouraging synergies for the recovering, enhancement and promotion of Fortified Heritage.

Cross-border cooperation is the most suitable tool for this project, since it allows to highlight to a widest public the important topic of preservation and sustainable re-use of cultural heritage, raising this issue at European Level as well as matching the potentialities of all countries, otherwise individually too weak.

Cross-border cooperation also allows the partners to read, with new eyes, all the different local situations and to overcome crucial administrative and legislative matters at any level (state, regional or municipal), thanks to a mutual knowledge exchange.

The recognition of Fortified Heritage as a great resource is a starting point for Adrifort partners: it will progressively permit to analyze all territorial backgrounds taking into account the diverse geographical and economical contexts over fortifications.

The several cases involved in the project display a wide set of situations. On the one hand there are structures of different dimensions, preservation and usability. On the other hand there are buildings with different geographical locations: near the coast, on small islands or set in protected environments. Finally, some fortresses constitute a tourist attraction, others represent a strong identity factor for local communities.



The city of Corfu (Greece)

1. Veneto Region - Department for International Policies and Cooperation / Section for International Relations (Lead Partner), ITA
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2. City of Pola, HR
-
3. City of Venice, ITA
-
4. Municipality of Ravenna, ITA
-
5. Juraj Dobrila University of Pola, HR
-
6. Municipality of Corfù, GR
-
7. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tirana, AL
-
8. Regional Directorate of National Culture of Tirana, AL
-
9. Puglia Region (Policies for the Promotion of Territory , Knowledge and Talents Area), ITA
-
10. Municipality of Piran , SLO
-
11. Municipality of Kotor, MNE
-
12. Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Economics Department), ITA
-
13. Istria Region, HR
-



Torre Guaceto, Puglia (Italy)

25th -26th March 2014 SAVE THE DATE

ADRIFORT's CMG meeting will be held on 25th of March in Torre Guaceto- Apulia Region (nearest airport Brindisi and Bari). On 26th there will be a seminary about "Policies of valorization of cultural sites" held at Carovigno Castle.

ADRIFORT FORTIFIED HERITAGE

Discover ADRIFORT Fortified Heritage. Six centuries of history represented by eight fortresses located in six different countries: Forte Marghera, Rocca Brancaleone and Castle of Gallipoli in Italy, Castle of Lezha in Albania, Fort Trojica in Montenegro, the fortifications of Corfu in Greece, old venetian military forts in Pula, Croatia and Piran's old urban walls in Slovenia. In every release we will present two of these treasures, starting from Forte Marghera and Lezha Castle.

Forte Marghera, Venice - Italy

Located at the junction between Venice and Mestre, Forte Marghera is a natural link between the land and the lagoon. Forte Marghera consists of an external ring of four bastions enclosing a central *ridotto* made of four more bastions laterally protected by two counterguards; all surrounded by two moats, one internal and one external, fed by waters from the lagoon. Main protagonist of the Venetian territory history, Forte Marghera acquired the status of protected heritage thanks to its historical, architectural and environmental value. Nowadays Forte Marghera is the center of many policies aiming at its complete re-use.



Castle of Lezha, Lezha - Albania

The Castle of Lezha is located in the east of the town at the top of a 186 meter high hill which dominates the landscape. The whole structure, built up for defensive reasons, dates back to Illyrian period but over the centuries it had been reconstructed by the Venetians (1440) and then again after the Ottoman conquest (1522). Interesting places to visit are the ruins of the Ottoman buildings inside the castle, the tower at the southeastern wall with its Roman arch, the Mosque and the Illyrian tower on the southern wall. Castle position offers panoramic views of Adriatic Sea and of the town.



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