

## PRESS RELEASE

Eleven European fortified heritage sites share challenges and solutions

*Utrecht, 23-10-2012*

**Eleven important European heritage sites share the firm belief that preservation their sites coupled with their economic exploitation can only be achieved by creative, mutual thinking, built on an exchange of experiences. On the 22nd and 23rd of October the partners come together in Venice to establish the ten most important themes which will lead to ten atelier visits in which the partners can learn from each other.**

One of the main reasons of the participation of for instance the City of Venice to the project AT-FORT is to exchange experiences and achievements related to the implementation and enforcement of innovative, new economic functions to the fortified sites. In Venice the partners visit Forte Marghera and Torre Porta Nuova.

### **Examples of the problems**

Another AT FORT participant, Joanne Cable of Medway Kent (UK): 'All the sites in the FORT project will have to balance the need for a sustainable re-use of the monument against the heritage and conservation needs of the site. This is certainly the case in the UK.' Another problem the heritage sites face is Wildlife. Fortified sites can offer unique environments within which a range of species, both flora and fauna can thrive. It is a challenge to deal with developing a fortress and protecting the unique wildlife.

### **First workshop**

The first atelier visit will be held in Helsinki, Finland. Tuija Lind, Suomenlinna Fortress: would like to share our experiences on restoration, present our organisation, financing premises and workshops, and show a lot of re-used spaces. Also we will point out a few cases where we support the tenants to keep up with their activities because they serve the whole site or preserve it'.

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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### **Notes to Editors**

The project At Fort "Atelier European Fortresses - Powering Local Sustainable Development" is a Regional Initiative Project in the INTERREG IVC programme.

The AT FORT partnership brings together several important European fortified heritage sites who share the firm belief that preservation of these sites, coupled with their economic exploitation can only be achieved by creative, mutual thinking, building on an exchange of experiences. AT FORT partners have set the OVERALL OBJECTIVE to facilitate the adaptive re-use of fortified heritage sites by exploring solutions for successful approaches and methods to deal with enabling conditions and to create better frameworks for their exploitation.

For more information, see: [www.atfort.eu](http://www.atfort.eu)

2. The **Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC**, financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund, helps Regions of Europe work together to share experience and good practice in the areas of innovation, the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention. EUR 302 million is available for project funding but, more than that, a wealth of knowledge and potential solutions are also on hand for regional policy-makers.