

Terezín, Czech Republic



Porolissum, Romania



Albarracín, Spain



RFC



RFC
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Recapture the Fortress Cities



Bastion - City of Bardejov, Slovakia



Fortress of Lier, Belgium © Vildaphoto



Ravelin 2, Magdeburg, Germany

ABOUT RFC

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 landscape and the struggle and war around these cities, also defining 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. As this requires big financial investments and strong cooperation in the majority of cases, they are fragmented and there is a problem to maintain them.

FOCUS ON

An innovative approach by developing smart ways of utilisation of old fortresses.

Make their maintenance easier and to include the fortresses into the life of the City by the development of sustainable strategies of the maintenance and exploitation of this heritage.

A new point of view for fortress structures, not only in a conservative way as protected heritage or environment.

An integrated approach for fortresses revitalisation.

PARTNERS:

- Leader Partner: Usti Region (Czech Republic)
- P2: Regional Landscape de Voorkempen - Representative for the Antwerp Region (Belgium)
- P4: North-West Regional Development Agency (Romania)
- P5: The Prešov Self-Governing Region (Slovakia)
- P6: Provincial Government of Teruel (Spain)
- P7: City of Magdeburg (Germany)



Good Practices

What is a Good Practice?

According to the Interreg Europe programme manual, a good practice is defined as “an initiative (e.g. project, process, technique) undertaken in one of the programme’s priority axes which has proved to be successful in a region and which is of potential interest to other regions. Proved successful means that the good practice has already provided tangible and measurable results in achieving a specific objective.”

Since Interreg Europe is dedicated to regional development policy improvements, a good practice is usually related to a public intervention. A private initiative may be considered as a good practice only if there is evidence that this initiative has inspired public policies

These are RFC Good Practices

- **Germany**
 - Fortress Advisory Board
 - Change of defense barrack into a culture fortress
 - Volunteer Restoration Project "Sanierungsverein Ravelin 2 e. V."
- **Belgium**
 - Fortengordels: cooperation of fortresses around Antwerp, one of the largest fortress belts in Europe
 - Singelpark, Leiden - image quality plan and citizen participation
 - 10 small sustainable campings in heritage or nature, Flanders-Belgium and the Netherlands
- **Spain**
 - Castles and Stars Festival
 - Gradual restoration of the wall of Albarracín
 - Live the Castle
- **Czech Republic**
 - Creative industry and Terezin fortress revitalisation
 - Terezin - the Depositories of the National Museum
 - Terezin - the Project of the Restoration of Historic Buildings
- **Slovakia**
 - Community Bee Garden
 - Strengthening the common cultural heritage of the Polish-Slovak border
 - Bastion - cultural and community centre in the City of Bardejov
- **Romania**
 - Electric Castle
 - Stamp of Historical Monuments
 - Restoration and revitalization of Oradea Fortress
 - Cluj-Napoca Tailors' Tower



Good Practices of Antwerp Regional Landscapes, Belgium

Fortengordels: cooperation of fortresses around Antwerp, one of the largest fortress belts in Europe

Fortengordels is a common participative approach - giving a tool in cooperation on all levels and bringing together the many different actors involved in this special heritage: dozens of private owners, managers, municipalities, associations and volunteers. - led by the Province of Antwerp as director and the driving force in the period between 2009 and 2018 (phase 1).

In the current situation (phase 2) the Province has no longer an active role in the cooperation and coordination has been transferred to the Fortress Community with the ambition to grow into an organized structure (in four years time).



This Good Practice was selected to be part of the Interreg Europe Database

Singelpark, Leiden - image quality plan and citizen participation

(Construction of a Singelpark as a stimulus for the development of the city Leiden as a whole and as an important green lung, because there is a shortage of parks and gardens in the city center. Singelpark as a unique urban park concept and a continuous band of interconnected green spaces along the former military fortifications and 17th century ramparts surrounding the most densely built historical center in the Netherlands. It is actually a ring of seven parks along the 6.3km 'singel'.

There are many people who live and/or work in Leiden who volunteer their time and expertise towards the design, development and maintenance of the Singelpark.

10 small sustainable campings in heritage or nature, Flanders-Belgium and the Netherlands

There is need for open space in the densely populated areas of Flanders - Belgium and the Netherlands. The 10 camping sites are all on a small scale and serve multiple purposes: meaningful re-use and preservation of heritage and natural sites, sustainable and affordable lodging, special experience and use of open space, added economic and touristic value on local and regional scale

The context of the ten examples are all different, from an urban context or city edge towards more natural sites or even inside a private museum(park)

The added value and first goal is preservation and re-use of protected heritage and nature on a sustainable way, the second goal is the support for local tourism and promotion of the city, region or country.



Good Practices of Diputación de Teruel, Spain

Castles and Stars Festival

This initiative has been launched to break tourist seasonality in the municipalities that make up the region, scheduling this activity outside of the high seasons. In the Gúdar Javalambre region, the low seasons begin when the Javalambre and Valdelinares ski resorts close until August (except Easter and the main bridges and holidays) and from the beginning of the school year until the ski resorts open.

The activities consist of a guided daytime visit to the castles, by specialized guides, free food in the restaurants of the municipalities where the day is scheduled, in the afternoon an activity called "interpreted sunset" and later stargazing with expert Starlight guides.

Gradual Restoration of the wall of Albarracín

The Santa María de Albarracín Foundation is a new project for the comprehensive management of heritage, which has managed to position Albarracín in the field of good fulfilment.

The restoration work of the Foundation in this last phase (2007-2018 and following), has focused on the southern end of the wall, where it accommodates the meander of the Guadalaviar, on the high stratum of the rock. It is a very deteriorated section, sometimes hidden by brushwood, which has normally served as a land retaining wall.

Project, archaeological excavation, execution techniques, adequate materials and finishes, have stood out in the intervention

Live the castle

In the case of castles, the didactics of heritage have to be linked, necessarily, with its analysis as a primary source, but also with the determination of the identity and empathic values that the fortress may possess in the community in which it is located.

Interpretation becomes an effective weapon to be used as a decoder of the heritage reality, through different types of instruments. The models shown here are just some examples of how creativity, specialized knowledge in teaching and dissemination, and professional programming can attract thousands of tourists, in addition to serving as a focus for research and dissemination of the past. And the castles of Teruel and Aragonese are optimal spaces to implement projects of this nature.



Good Practices of Ústí Region, Czech Republic

Creative industry and Terezin fortress revitalisation

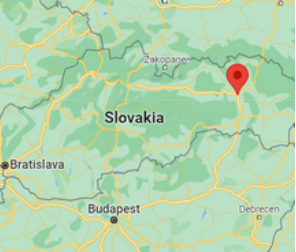
NGO “Terezín - město změny” was established by Ústí Region and Terezin Municipality to present older and longer history of fortress. Till that time only tragic history of the Jewish ghetto was presented by Terezin Memorial. The town was massively depopulated after the army left back in 1990s (some 75 % of inhabitants left). The town was perceived as a sad place without any life. In 10 years a network of other NGOs and volunteers was built around “Terezín - město změny” to present older history of the fortress and to show Terezin as a living town. They are from Terezin as well as from other towns. Thanks to them and the efforts of its members it is possible to manage various events like concerts (historical or modern music), sports events, historical events or other special events.

Terezin - the Depositories of the National Museum

The reason for the use of buildings for depositories was the fact that a lot of historic buildings should have remained abandoned by the Czech Army which definitively left the town in 1996. The technical conditions of the protected historical buildings were getting worse and the loss of their authenticity and integrity was a big threat. The project of the National Museum depository has helped to save and maintain the historic parts of a unique historic urban landscape which is protected by the Czech law. Two barracks buildings were restored (Magdeburg and Prokop Holý Barracks). The most important impact was an opportunity to guarantee a re-use of the historic buildings which were involved into the project of the National Museum

Terezin - the Project of the Restoration of Historic Buildings

In the town there are still large historic buildings without use and their safety is needed. The project provokes other restoration activities in the town, as well as it demonstrates a need of good care in the public interest. In this case, Terezin and Ústí Region established NGO named “Terezín - město změny”. Its goal is to restore the monuments by help of EU funds and to bring new life into them. In the year 2020, five years after the realisation, the project ended. It brought new use for empty buildings. It attracted more than 100.000 visitors to Terezin fortress showing them, that Terezin is not only the Jewish ghetto from WW2, but also one of the largest and best-preserved fortresses in Europe.



Good Practices of Presov Self-Governing Region, Slovakia

Community Bee Garden

The community bee garden brings together volunteers who carry out activities connected with educational activities aimed at protecting the environment and with the preservation of a historical monument in the centre of Prešov. Prešov is the city located in eastern part of Slovakia. The mainstay of this initiative are bees, which were located on the upper terrace of the Franciscan Bastion on May 20th, 2019 on the occasion of World Bee Day, declared by the UN. The reason why the beehives were located in the centre of Prešov was to draw attention to the urgent need to protect bees and biodiversity. The next step was the creation of Community Garden - therefore, in the middle of the garden, elevated flowerbeds with the planting of insect-loving plants gradually began to emerge.

Strengthening the common cultural heritage of the Polish-Slovak border

The project is aimed at creating conditions for connecting the old tourist route from Sabinov to Muszyna in Poland. It is a former fortification road, which will include a map recording the castles on this road. It is intended to attract people to visit monuments in both cities to a greater extent. Currently, the city of Sabinov is implementing the project "Muszyna - Sabinov: Strengthening the common cultural heritage of the Polish-Slovak border" within the Interreg program Polish-Slovak cross-border cooperation. The priority axis is the protection and development of the natural and cultural heritage of the cross-border area. The specific goal of the project is to intensify the sustainable use of cultural and natural heritage by visitors and residents.

Bastion - cultural and community centre in the City of Bardejov

The Bastion building is a part of Bardejov fortification system, which was one of the most perfect and best-preserved Gothic city fortifications protecting Slovak medieval towns. The owner of the building is the city of Bardejov. The civic association OZ Different has a long-term lease for the building for an indefinite period with a minimum guarantee until 2035. OZ Different has been reconstructing the gothic Bastion and creating cultural and community activities for the local community and region. The year-round program includes about 200 different events, from concerts to workshops. Team OZ Different is still continuing to renovate the building, depending on resources. Activities are carried out by volunteers.



Good Practices of the City of Magdeburg, Germany

Fortress Advisory Board

In all actions and decisions concerning the fortifications, the expertise of the Fortress Advisory Board is taken into account. This way, the town's decisions are more soundly based and conflicts can be avoided. Necessary compromises become more balanced. The Fortress Advisory Board has increased acceptance among the population. Due to the interdisciplinary composition of the advisory board, various concerns, such as open space, monument protection, tourism, etc. are brought in.

As a result of the joint discussions, the Fortress Advisory Board gives recommendations for the city for further action. They have established its own rules of procedure.

Change of defense barrack into a “culture fortress”

The project contributes to the revitalisation of the city of Magdeburg as a cultural and university city, as reaction to the alarming emigration of young people; integrating universities into the city.

It supports the identification of Magdeburg's population with their (fortress) history. The Festung Mark Operating company ensures economic and autonomous viability.

The operating concept works through the foundation of the Kulturstiftung "FestungMark". The foundation purpose is the promotion of art and culture in the fortress Mark and the preservation of the monument as a forum of cultural and academic life in Magdeburg.

Volunteer Restoration Project "Sanierungsverein Ravelin 2 e. V."

The restoration project was established in 2014 by volunteers of all ages and professions, including historians, engineers, students and retired people, to preserve and restore the Prussian fortification 'Ravelin 2' which was originally built in 1873 as part of the fortress of Magdeburg. In a transfer agreement with the city of Magdeburg (owner of the site) the fortification was handed over to the association in 2015. Since then, the volunteers have achieved a great progress in restructuring and revitalizing the fortification. Funds are raised through funding acquisition, donations, and the organisation of events. This project has raised awareness of the topic of fortified cultural and natural heritage and thus inspired an ERDF funding measure of around 3M€ with support of the city and state.



Good Practices of North-West Regional Development Agency, Romania

Electric Castle (EC)

EC is an annual music festival held on the domain of Bánffy Castle (the Versailles of Transylvania) in Bonțida village, since 2013. The main aim of the festival is to bring together different social categories through electronic music and contemporary art with built heritage, in one of the most famous renaissance baroque castles in North-Western Romania. For the 7th edition, the festival has received the Best Medium Sized Festival Award at the European Festival Awards, where EC has been always nominated.

According to the partnership between TTF and FTM, a certain amount is given towards the foundation, sum that is used for the restoration of the castle.

Restoration and revitalization of Oradea Fortress (included in the local tourist circuit)

Oradea Fortress is one of the most important late-medieval architectural monuments in Transylvania. Since the 16th century, the fortress was acting as a defensive role for the city, with its stellar-heptagonal architecture. After several lost battles, the ruined fortress was declared (in 2004) a monument of international importance (A-class).

Since 2018, Oradea City Museum is managing the entire heritage of the fortress, including a lapidarium, a bakery museum, an art gallery and sections dedicated to the history of pharmacy and to multi-confessions. Besides the main touristic purpose, revitalization is constantly performed by renting spaces to local businesses or temporary events, organization of cultural events and exhibitions

Cluj-Napoca TAILORS' TOWER

Tailor's Tower, ranked as A-class historical monument, is located in the most vulnerable part of the fortress, having a military role, the tower was also the most robust of the fortification system, entrusted to the tailor's guild. The latest rehabilitation took place in 2009, by the municipality, changing its destination into an Urban Culture Center, introducing a modern steel structure, independent and reversible, replacing the wooden boards and installing windows for functional purposes but maintaining the stone walls.

Nowadays the Tailors' Tower hosts in its 783 sqm disposed on 3 level various cultural events every week, in its foyer, meeting and exhibition spaces and conference hall, the spectacular design aiming to emphasize spatiality.



Good Practices of North-West Regional Development Agency, Romania

Stamp of Historical Monuments

SHM Programme is a public measure for the sustainability of historical monuments, financed from extra-budgetary tax collected. SHM is a mandatory tax (2%) for income-generating operators that promote/use images of historical monuments and heritage buildings or from events that take place in their protection area, such as:

- a) promotion printed illustrated materials or photo-video materials representing historical monuments through photographic images or graphic representations of interior or exterior;
- b) entrance tickets, photography or filming fees, for historical monuments made available to the public;
- c) entrance tickets to cultural, sports or leisure events, fairs and exhibitions held in spaces located in their protection zone or in protected built areas.

SHM was established to support the protection, restoration and enhancement of historical monuments, by financing technical documentation and works related to emergency interventions or tourism arrangements, programs or cultural projects on historical monuments. The financing mechanism includes public and private historical monuments, including churches.

SHM is managed by the Ministry of Culture, by the National Heritage Institute. Since 2001, SHM is enforced by the Law for the protection of historical monuments and became operational in 2003. In 2019 there was an update of the award criteria: funding is now granted following a selection of projects submitted by the administrators of the monuments.



This Good Practice was selected to be part of the Interreg Europe Database

ACTION PLANS

After sharing good practices during the first phase, in this second and last phase partners will apply them into their Action Plans

The Action Plan is a document providing details on how the lessons learnt and exchange of experience from the interregional cooperation will be exploited in order to improve the regional policy instruments. The Action Plan specifies the nature of the actions to be implemented, their time frame, stakeholders involved, the costs and funding sources.

The first phase ended with the Dissemination Conference



At the Dissemination Conference, partners Actions Plans were presented as a short film



North-West Region of Romania Action Plan

IDEA



GOOD PRACTICE



ACTIONS TO BE DONE

Green fortress belt planning under heritage rehabilitation

Lillo Fortress (Belgium), Terezin (Czech Republic), Green Fortress Belt (Germany)

Pipeline project to be prepared for ROP 2021-2027. Rehabilitation of Cluj Cetatua Fortress within green urban planning

Cultural Routes for heritage restauration, cooperation, digitisation and joint promotion

Forte Cultura (Germany), Fortress Belt (Belgium), Aragon Virtual Trips (Spain), Digital Twin Mechelen (Belgium)

Cultural Routes pipeline projects to be prepared for NRRP.

- Rehabilitation and (digital) promotion of Bologa Roman Fort/ Castrum.
- Integrated promotion for Bologa Fortress and Moldovenesti Fortress

Fortress Advisory Board for integrated management, investment planning and revitalisation strategy

Magdeburg Fortress Advisory Board (Germany), Live the Castle (Spain), Culture Fortress (Germany).

Establishment of the Bologa Heritage Advisory Board

Provincial Government of Teruel Action Plan

IDEA



GOOD PRACTICE



ACTIONS TO BE DONE

Valorization of Spanish Civil War Sites in County Maestrazgo (Teruel)

thematic seminar on-line celebrated the 8th of July 2020, concerning the valorisation of Second World War sites in Belgium. Partner: Regional Landscapes Antwerp (Belgium)

- Conditioning the site
- Creating an access so that the site can be visited properly
- Installation of informative panels and maps of the area

Use of Augmented Reality for the Valorization of Spanish Civil War sites in County Comunidad de Teruel

Virtual recreation Regional Landscapes Antwerp has developed of a defensive site in Belgium making use of Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) technologies, and Romania Study Visit.

To develop Augmented Reality solutions to recreate the bunker "Alto de La Torana" and a line of trenches close to the village of Corbalán: once developed, with a mobile and a QR code visitors will be able to see how the sites were when the events happened

Creation of an Advisory Board in Aragon bringing together different administrations to guide the valorization of Spanish Civil War sites and vestiges

"Fortress Advisory Board" (Germany)

Through the Democratic Memory Unit, an Advisory Board - similar to the one regarded in the German experience- could be implemented to guide properly the valorization of Civil War Sites in Aragon.

City of Magdeburg Action Plan

IDEA



GOOD PRACTICE



ACTIONS TO BE DONE

Overall Vision for Magdeburg's Fortifications | Master Plan

Fortengordels project (Belgium)

Implemented through updating the Integrated Urban Development Concept (IUDC) 2030+ (step 1 : include production of master plan; step 2: analysis on city district level). Production of master plan starts in phase 2

Action 1.1: The Green Fortress Belt

Singelpark Leiden image quality plan and citizen participation”

Connection: previous ‘Green Belt’ project included only parts of the core fortress. The new Green Fortress Belt should include the external belt of forts which has not been included in any greenery concepts yet.

The Future Fortress Forum

Fortengordels master plan basis (Belgium)

The previous Fortress Advisory Board task was to advise the Councilor for Urban Development, Construction and Transport. The Action will focus on renewing it and aligning to our goal of creating the master plan; New name stresses the focus: Future Fortress Forum advice on master plan development

Regional Landscapes Antwerp Action Plan

IDEA



GOOD PRACTICE



ACTIONS TO BE DONE

Serious game Lillo

Continuation on RFC's pilot action Virtuafort in cooperation with University of Antwerp

The testing consists in the development of Virtual Reality (VR) in fortifications as a durable way of restoration and preservation of military heritage.

Cooperation Fortress Belts

Selected GP Fortengordels: cooperation of fortresses around Antwerp, one of the largest fortress belts in Europe + Peer Review. Stakeholders meeting presented Zuiderwaterlinie in the Netherlands

The Peer Review resulted in an extensive list of recommendations. Only the short term - recommendations can be executed during Phase 2 of the RFC project such as continuation task force, stakeholder mapping, funding opportunities

Blue Deal Herentals

Inspired by partner meeting on green Blue theme - also repeated during Stakeholder Meeting at Dendermonde on the same theme and Good Practices Magdeburg's Fortress Advisory Board and Leiden

The project combines several tasks in one integrated project: strengthening ecological connectivity, creating new wetlands, restoring water-carrying and storing old meanders, restoring valuable heritage elements and increasing the spatial quality of public space.

Terezin Action Plan

IDEA



GOOD PRACTICE



ACTIONS TO BE DONE

New Green Management

Walls and Gardens project (France, United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands), Restoration Project Sanierungsverein 'Ravelin 2 in Magdeburg (Germany)

Masterplan and study of green places of Terezin fortification and how to maintain it optimally in the way of sustainable development, climate change and low cost - walls, ditches, inundations, water system (mowing, planting/cutting trees, paths etc.).

Manual of public spaces

Walls and Gardens project, Singelpark, Leiden (Belgium), Restoration and revitalization of Oradea Fortress included in the local tourist circuit (Romania), ALBARRACÍN (Spain), Restoration Project Sanierungsverein Ravelin 2 in Magdeburg (Germany)

Masterplan and study for future restoration of streets, parks, squares etc. inside the fortress town of Terezin (whole Terezin is under monumental preservation and on the tentative list of UNESCO)

Re-design of tourist infrastructure

Walls and Gardens project Restoration and revitalization of Oradea Fortress included in the local tourist circuit (Romania), Restoration Project Sanierungsverein 'Ravelin 2 in Magdeburg (Germany)

Study of improvement of tourist infrastructure in north-west part of the fortress, where are the main parking and info centre located - entrance sign, implementation of greenery, interior of info centre, facilities for visitors etc.

Prešov Self-governing Region Action Plan

IDEA



GOOD PRACTICE



ACTIONS TO BE DONE

New floors of the Bastion (Bardejov)

Based on Tailor's Tower in Cluj-Napoca Good Practice, Romania.

The primary activity of this measure is the reconstruction of the building's energy networks on unused floors, network replacement and gasification, all in order to use the potential of the space to create new program activities and involve other local communities in Bardejov.

Book about Stropkov Castle (Stropkov)

Good practice that served as source of inspiration was from Fortengordels from greater of Antwerpen in Belgium.

The primary activity is the publication of a monographic publication on Stropkov Castle. The town of Stropkov employs a town historian and the activities to date have had the nature of face-to-face events such as festivities, guided tours



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