

STUDY WORK-GOOD PRACTICES FINDINGS



RFC Recapture the Fortress Cities aims to develop strategies to sustainably restore, maintain, and exploit urban forts and fortified cities. It will generate smart ways to capitalise on military heritage and bring fortresses back into the lives of cities.

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**An interregional cooperation project for
improving natural and cultural heritage policies.**

Project Partners

Ústí Region (CZ)
Regional Landscape de Voorkepen (BE)
City of Magdeburg (DE)
Municipality of Komotini (EL)
Provincial Government of Teruel (ES)
North-West Regional Development Agency (RO)
Prešov Self-Governing Region (SK)

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RFC - GOOD PRACTICES SUMMARY

12 examples of Good Practices - projects were described, collected and submitted by project partners under RFC project framework till the end of sem2. All Good Practices focus on revitalisation process of historical monuments and on searching the new - innovative ways of utilisation of historical, urbanistic or construction assets of these fortifications. Good Practices examples are of course different in terms of the scale of monuments and in the character of designed actions – revitalisation and adaptation of the monument has to correspond with the new way of its utilisation.

Nevertheless, it is possible to define common points in all submitted Good Practices:

- The character of the fortification and its architecture (or architectonic monument related with the history of the fortified city) is perceived as an **important cultural heritage**.
- Reconstruction and the follow up maintenance of the monument represents an important step to **keep** the local/regional cultural values (cultural heritage) through its development and protection. Simultaneously, it represents the way of **identification** with local/regional history and cultural values.
- Revitalisation and maintenance of the monument provides the occasion for the respective location/region to apply for **subsidies**.
- Reconstructed monument increases the **attractiveness of the city/region** for residents and for tourism activities development and offer (in relation with the new way of utilisation of the historical monument).
- The design of revitalisation of the monument represents the potential for participating approach and cooperation of citizens, local associations and communities with local/regional governments. Such participating approach strengthens the positive relations of the local society with the monument and simultaneously enforces the cohesion of the local community as itself.
- All the designs are (taking on mind the planned scope) usually **demanding in terms of finances and long-term realisation**. From this point of view they are not so attractive for the private sector.

From the point of view of the processes of preparation and realisation of the adaptation of the historical monument for the new type of utilisation it is possible to define three basic areas in which the public support and interventions are necessary – legislative, organisational and economic.

RFC – GOOD PRACTICES EVALUATION – BASIC FINDINGS

1. GOOD PRACTICE PROJECT PREPARATION

- EXPERTISE: The preparation of the project (Good Practice implementation) must be provided with regard on the character and scale of the monument. The need of expertise and its results must take on mind, that there are respective legal restrictions and the need to guarantee keeping and development of specific cultural values must be kept.
- FUNCTIONAL: The future operation of the construction and public spaces is defined in the project (Good Practice implementation). The original military functions are not suitable more and the new utilisation is always in some conflict with the typology of the monument. So the new way of utilisation should be attractive for the local community and for tourism development activities. As suitable ways of utilisation are evaluated the cultural, social and educational events, linked with possibilities of short-term accommodation and gastronomy, environmental protection activities – all with strong link with the unique historical spaces of the military construction.
- ECONOMIC: Specification and budgeting of respective financial sources, timeframe of investments.
- ORGANISATION AND PARTICIPATION: The examples of Good practices describe the benefits, resulting from establishment of the specific organisational body, set up to manage the project (GP). Such body might have different forms – foundation, NGO, voluntary association, etc., and joins together all partners necessary for the project – process realisation – local community, local and regional administrations, local and regional companies, experts.
- SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT: The submitted Good practices also show the trend, that the higher the cultural value of the monument is, the higher involvement of the public and specialised entities exists and lesser participation of the local community. From the point of view of the maximal protection of the monument and its cultural values such approach is justified, nevertheless participation and involvement and cooperation especially with the local community can bring the real benefits to the realisation of the designed project (GP):

- Definition of the functional utilisation of the construction in the best way, particularly meeting the needs of the local community (sustainability of the functional utilisation).
- Possibilities to reach some amounts or all necessary financial sources for the project (GP) realisation - fundraising campaigns, sponsor s gifts or voluntary works.
- Increasing identification of the local community with the design of the revitalisation of the respective monument.
- Growing potential to reach of the effective follow up utilisation of the revitalised monument by cooperation with the local communities.

Good practices projects also show as advantageous and from the view of quality of the realisation of the designed actions as effective, if the result of the preparation of the action is the operational body (NGO) and project management is anchored in specific signed document, containing the concept and development strategy of the project, parameters of monitored objectives, definition of basic economic criterions and timescale of the planned actions. Such document supports the realisation of the action by reduction of risks as fragmentation, loss of cohesiveness and identity of the project. The document defines the cooperating stakeholders, their organisational scheme and competences, to provide the smooth functioning of the managing body.

2. REALISATION OF THE GOOD PRACTICE PROJECT

- Realisation of the projects are usually **long-term actions, demanding on time and finances**.
- Splitting of the projects into **phases**, especially regarding the financing is usual. Projects might be widened of other activities, as archeologic research and related actions, etc..
- Realisation of the project usually makes **high demands** on specific historical techniques during the reconstruction, utilisation of specific materials and provision of special surface workings.

This is linked with the need to provide the corresponding expertise for realisation of such techniques.

3. PLANNING OF MAINTENANCE OF THE RECONSTRUCTED MONUMENT

- Important is not only the reconstruction of the monument, but also the sustainable follow up maintenance
- Project promotion.
- Administration of the monument utilisation – rentals, organisation of cultural and social events, etc..