

At-Fort Project

Multifunctional re-use of Fortified Heritage

Atelier 3, Venice-Nova Gorica

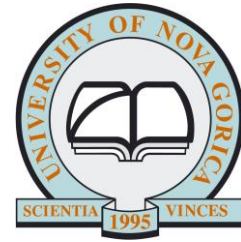
On 17-19 March 2013 the At-Fort partnership run in Forte Marghera, Venice, the 3rd thematic atelier on Multifunctional re-use. The organizers of the Atelier, the city of Venice through Marco Polo System, and the University of Nova Gorica agreed to focus on two main purposes:

- Introducing the present development of Forte Marghera and its huge potential in terms of activities accommodation and impacts on local economy, to enhance the interests by different stakeholders in the region;
- Introducing the project of the *international interdisciplinary center for the research and education on fortified heritage* to be located in some of the buildings in Forte Marghera

On which the At-Fort partnership was asked to offer its experiences and expertise, as well as sharing the contents and vision of the forthcoming establishment of the international center.

The Atelier was so organized in two and half days:

1. 1st day, 17 march, Sunday afternoon, at the premises of the University of Nova Gorica in Venice. This first gathering was aiming at anticipating the main topics and strategic purposes of the atelier, introducing the importance of a multifunctional re-use for the site of Forte Marghera and how this approach is considered by Marco Polo System and UNG strictly related to the establishment of an interdisciplinary center for the research and management of fortified sites. In a close session the At-Fort Partners could acknowledge the way the center was imagined by Marco Polo System and UNG, as well as how the At-Fort project could take the lead on such initiative.
2. 2nd day, 18 March, in Forte Marghera. This was considered the core meeting, where the ideas on Forte Marghera were presented by authorities, with open discussions to all participants. In the Morning sessions local and regional authorities explained the potential of Forte Marghera in its



multifunctional (but culturally oriented) re-use, while in the afternoon the idea for an interdisciplinary center and was presented to all participants, with a special focus on the contribution by At-Fort partners and specialized educational institutions. In the evening the At-Fort Partners moved to Slovenia, Nova Gorica, for Dinner and preparation of the following day visit.

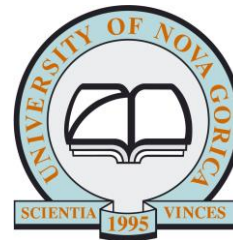
3. 3rd day visit to the premises of University of Nova Gorica in Nova Gorica, as well as the fortification and fortified witnesses in along the Italian and Slovene borders, in particular Kluze fortress, Kobarid Museum of the 1st World War and Palmanova.

Day 1

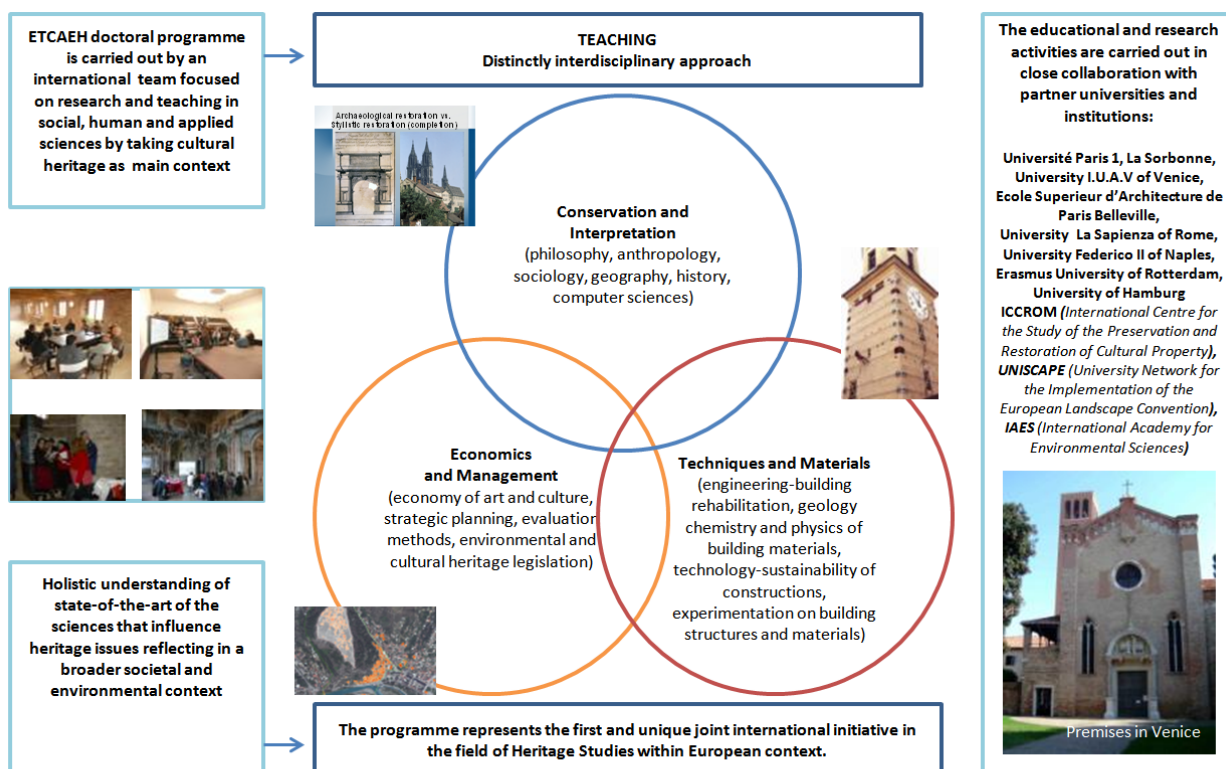
The ETCAEH Programme, which is partner of the At-Fort project, established a collaboration with Marco Polo System in 2007, with a special interest on fortified heritage conservation, re-use and management. This collaboration became even more intense in the occasion of a recent call for projects by the Veneto Region for the establishment of specialized centers on heritage conservation: this call gave strength to the idea of a specialized center for fortified heritage, recalling the multifunctional re-use to be given to Forte Marghera, as well as its cultural destination by law. The center should have served as a research, educational and dissemination facility, with direct impacts on the conservation of Forte Marghera.

The presentation to the partner was made by the representative of the University of Nova Gorica, using the structure of the ETCAEH programme as example and sharing ideas and information on the way the center could look like.

The main page of the presentation, shown in the figure below, represent the interdisciplinarity of the proposed center, targeting knowledge, conservation and management (taken from the experience of the ETCAEH Program run by UNG)



Doctoral study in
ECONOMICS AND TECHNIQUES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ARCHITECTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE (ETCAEH)
 Joint degree
 University of Nova Gorica and University I.U.A.V. Of Venice



Day 2

The second day of the ateliers has been carried in two specific sessions:

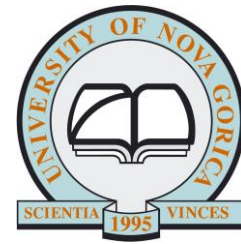
- In the Morning, with the contributions of political representatives from the main stakeholders of Forte Marghera, to raise awareness on the At-Fort project and the Forte Marghera. This session presented the Plan of the City of Venice for the re-use of the fort and its surrounding areas, as well as the proposal for the establishment of the Interdisciplinary center.



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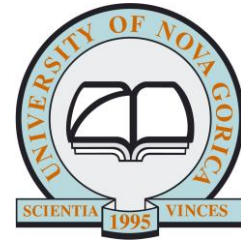
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Regarding the Plan of Forte Marghera, it has been confirmed that the area will be dedicated to mostly cultural activities and events. The plan for the 44 hectares fortification will cost approximately 120 million euros and will offer a multifunctional destination to the place, including accommodation facilities, bars, restaurants, together with offices and crafts spaces, associated to the research and educational activities of the interdisciplinary center. The area, as showed by the picture, will be surrounded by a green belt, with a little real estate development on the north, looking to Via Torino development area. All preservation interventions will be coordinated with the peripheral office of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Activities. For each of the 78 buildings of the complex of Forte Marghera it has been done a deep survey with the finalization of 4 fiches: 1 analysis of the state of art; 2A analysis of the construction components; 2B analysis of the state of decay; modalities of intervention.

The goals of the Plan can be summarized as follows:

- To assign suitable functions to the structures of the fort in order to set up a pole of cultural production and promotion included inside a multiservice urban green park;



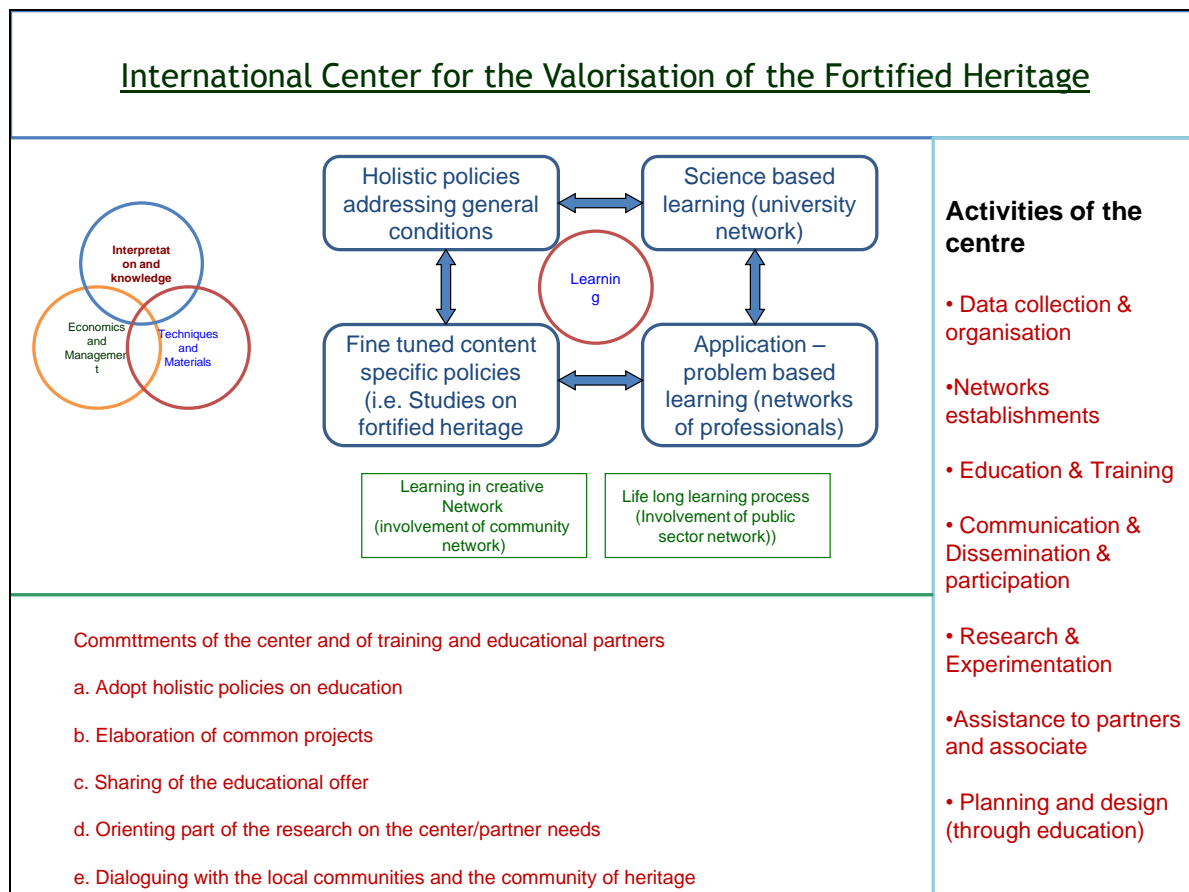
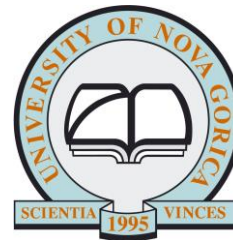
- An urban and metropolitan sustainable accessibility with the connections to the tram paths of San Marco street with Venice and the railway station of Mestre and the cycling paths;
- The strengthening of an excellence cultural offer together with the Museum of “NOVECENTO m9”, TO THE CLOSE Torino street and to the Park of S.Giuliano;
- Foster the economic and financial sustainability through the inclusion of functions compatible with the grade of transformation of the buildings, and the eventual use of neighboring areas for the functions less compatible with an inclusion inside the fort.

The introduction to the Interdisciplinary Center, as explained in the previous part and recalling the Sunday meeting, saw the participation of potential academic partners from Europe, including the universities of Pula, Leuven, Udine and Graz.

As a good reference to the multifunctional re-use, involving also private parties, the Lead Partner, the New Dutch Waterline took the experience of Mr. M. Vastenhout, Dutch entrepreneur, who exploited fort Vechten in the surrounding area of Utrecht, making of it a favorable location for different activities starting from a ruin. The interesting experience of fort Vechten shows how private initiative, favored by the public, could be of benefit to “owner” as well as to the communities. Mr. Vastenhout took the fort from the government for 1 gulden, investing his private money to maintain it and offer it for business to interested individuals and groups, organizing events, celebrating marriages, offering leisure facilities.

- b. In the afternoon Internal meeting, the At-Fort partners discussed the possibility to participate in the center, leaving however the decision to the moment the idea will be further developed by Marco Polo System and UNG, especially when Forte Marghera will be ready to host it.

The main objectives, structure and contents of the center could be explained in the following figure



Day 3

In the evening of 18 the At-Fort Partnership moved to Slovenia for the visit of the day after. Places visited were:

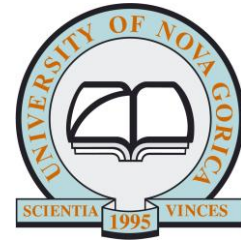
- the Kluz fortress in Bovec, where partners were guided by the Mayor of Bovec who explained the main potentials and obstacles in the use of the fortress, proposing to be part of the At-Fort network to get more familiar with the topics discussed



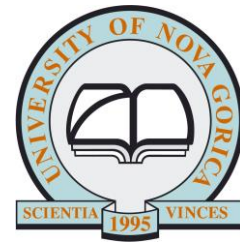
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- the Museum of the first World War in Kobarid, awarded by several international institutions, for its way of telling the daily life during the first World War. At-Fort partners could be familiar with the important battles that were fought in this areas, as well as get important information on the landscape that originated from these events;



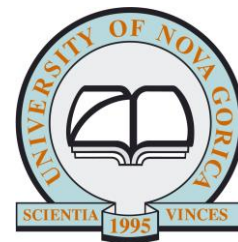
- the Italian charnel house in Kobarid, to recover the bones of all Italian soldiers that died in this area in the first World War;



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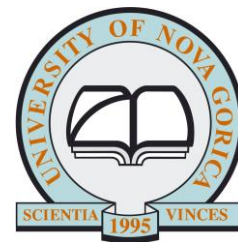


- The fortified town of Palmanova, introduced by the culture officer of the town, who explained the main assets of the fortified town, as well as its challenges for future conservation.



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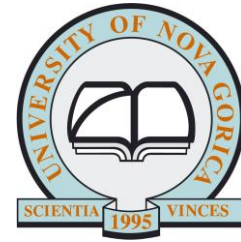




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Annex 1 – Minutes of the second day

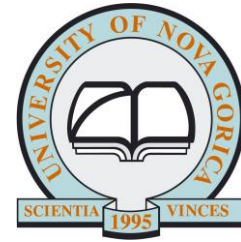
The main interventions could be summarized as follows:

ORSONI, Mayor of Venice. *The Costa local government decided for Green Belt around the City of Venice. This is the reason of my interest for Forte Marghera. Thanks to the Veneto Region that is giving support for the recovery of the other fortress, the recovery of Forte Marghera must be respectful of the Green areas. I do not agree to hand over all to the private. The City of Venice is finalizing a plan of action for the recovery of Forte Marghera focused to cultural settlements supported by financial activities. It must be a combined PPP intervention and the fund from the Veneto Region and the EU are very important for the achievement of the overall objective. Forte Marghera is also the symbol of the Venice of the future, it is the connection between the mainland and water. Therefore a Venice not only as a City of water, but instead a modern view of Venice also as a City connected to the mainland.*

CIAMBETTI, vice governor of the Veneto Region, *there are cultural reason for the Veneto Region to commit itself in the valorization of the fortress. Already in the XVI century the Serenissima started a deep revision of the Venetian Defence System. Antonio Giuliano San Gallo Florence and Architect Michele San Micheli highlighted that the Castle was not any more important for the Defence. The new Defence System of the fortress is the representation of a new society. It will be this new model of fortress that will impose in all Europe. The fortress are Island of the memory...they have an unique identity. Forte Marghera is an island of memory, between mainland and the lagoon, in particular the events of 1848. The idea of an International Centre must be the also the witness of these memories. in 1958 in Vicenza it was settled a Centre of study of the Architectures of Palladio. The occasion in FM is un-repeatable. We can consider different scenarios also in the perspective of Green economy and valorization of the culture. The government of the crisis can succeed with the economy of the culture. Or we change things or the events will over pass. FM is a barycentric in this process.*

Peter ROS, LP, NDW *I know MPS since 2005 and its professionalism. AT FORT has 10 top partnership . and it support to the creation of a knowledge center is fundamental.*

KRAUSE, Programme Specialist at UNESCO Bresce Office in Venice, *UNESCO is interested in the management plan of Venice. This is an holistic approach. From the UNESCO perspective it is a very*



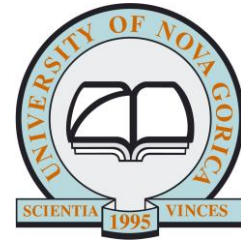
interesting case example with Romania fortified churches Knowledge centre and Submarines in Kotor. From June Novo Bordo huge project on fortress SEE readiness transnational routes, transnational museums common history, vision for the future

SCALET, Director Science Division of UNESCO Bresce in Venice, *Science sector is ready to collaborate, capacity building*

D'Alessandro, director of the Venice Office of Council of Europe (CoE) has pointed out the *long cooperation with Marco Polo System, that was one of the promoter of the settlement of the CoE Office in Venice. We follow several interesting projects, especially in the European Routes. We acknowledge a weakness of the European policies but the Faro framework convention creates a bottom up approach of the society.*

MICELLI, Deputy Mayor of the City of Venice, the *City of Venice Plan of Recovery of Forte Marghera this intervention will highlight the issues of recovery of FM in a wider context of Urban landscape. This activities is performed by the City of Venice. Forte Marghera is considered as part of the City and not as something discontinued. A wider context with the lagoon area and with the park of San Giuliano. Next week the issue will be' discussed in the local government of the City.*

Knowledge of the 79 buildings of the area , different forms of intervention assessed by the City of Venice in accordance with the superintendence. Consider the intrinsic qualities of the 21.000 covered sq. Meters. Joint task force City of Venice and Superintendence for the intervention on the single assets. We must consider the Forts as single laboratories for the eco-system value. Assessment of the decay processes. The forts have lost their original function and the functional discontinuity took place. FM considered as priority function. The culture as mean and tool of development of the local economy. This is an excellence of local development, a qualified social development. FM as centre of cultural development not as something abstract, but as something alive. FM as reflection of key driver of the metropolitan cities. We have witness the development of Marghera, the development of the tourism . FM as place of meeting of the local community, a place for the third sector. A further element the new area of Marghera as gate of the City .Relation of accessibility of FM with regards to the surrounding Urban areas. Academy of Fine arts . In a wider areas can find a higher transformability of the areas for private investments. The areas of lunettes for the environmental



development. The northern lunette will be the new gate of Forte Marghera, Few comments on the future tender, that the private widespread interests must be in the public framework. The public bodies as allied of the private parties. 40 million of euro for the first investments in the area. it is now the moment of the decisions by the public authorities . The second step of this process will be' the development of the management approaches.

TROVO' superintendence of Venice, I would like to recall the significance of the memory . A balance between the need of preservation of the fortified heritage and how to transform. Assessment of the single building, heterogeneity and homogeneity of the buildings.

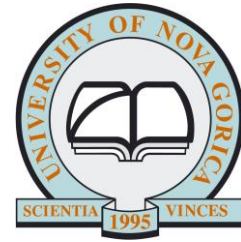
MARCO ACRI UNG the only partner of AT FORT that is not managing fortified sites . UNG following the process of Bologna with regards to the preservation of heritage. fortified heritage They preserve the history and the society. They are wide areas that give the possibility to experiment the new approaches. It is important that the knowledge process of learning of Public Private bodies is going in the same speed of the research activities. Training for students, but also for professionals of the third sector.

Barbara UNKOVIC University of Pula, we are working with Adrifort Project we were established in 2006 as integrated University . when are offering our knowledge from the historical point of view and from Culture and tourism. Pula has 28 forts. On Adrifort we are managing few fortresses, how to use them and present to the entrepreneurs. New doctoral employees research centre of knowledge

KERSTEN, University of Graz, fostering university development, need also to consider financing for doing activities

BERTAGNIN, University of Udine, the conference of San Micheli brought the grounds for a further collaboration on the project Weap World Earth . The project that MPS is implementing is really opportune. "Tiro radiante, tiro radente" change of architectures. Proposal of a centre of preservation of earthen architectures.

Van den Borg, University of Leuven, Forte Marghera is as place where it can be broken a passive attitude of



the actors .I am happy of the contribution of the international universities. Economical spin off role of the fortified heritage.

MARTIN VASTENHOUT. *Fortified sites have the same problems and the most important issue is that for society are very expensive Fortified places, for entrepreneurs, are mean and not a goal. PPP we have different language, and different speeds, public should go faster and private should go slower. In this communication though it is important also for entrepreneur to have their independence. I am a landscape Architect and I started to manage Fort Vechten, the Roman Limes and Castellium Fecto Vechten built from 1867 to 1880, in 1998. In 2008 there was a 1,4 million euro's turn over. Our main words are Condition of use, maintenance, natural values, preservation and restoration of the buildings, public access , preservation. We went through 3 steps:*

1) upgrading the structures and fast money - a social labour market project for unemployed people. Renting out of building creating a business park.

2) making an accessible fort for local people and local projects. Access for all and building network. All become an established enterprise. Marketing activities: parties and catering Marketing with a calendar. The bat theatre of 200 children , cherry days, , A FORT full of soldiers, Designers in wood., visitor centre NDW. The Waterline on wheels, the Limyrint - a maze in the corn. Until 2006 2 steps out of 3 were implemented

3) government as facilitator as entrepreneur . making preparation and finding funds for starting the restoration and becoming museum. What is expected by an entrepreneur ?