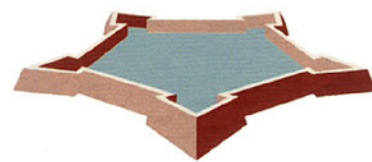


BALTIC FORT ROUTE

Monuments for Peace, Culture and Tourism

INTERREG-III-B-project for trans-national cooperation to develop a new cultural route and to rescue fortifications as a cultural heritage

Baltic Fort Route



Fortifications are historical witnesses of confrontations between empires. The former East-West-division of Europe is still obvious, especially in the Baltic Sea Region.

Exciting military architecture has been developed in recent centuries that belongs both to the World and to the European Cultural Heritage. Many of these fortifications were in military use until the end of the Cold War. They are extensively damaged. Under the EU funding project "Baltic Culture and Tourism Route Fortresses" – The Baltic Fort Route – 19 partners from 4 nations are seeking to rescue these monuments, to promote the transformation of historical fortifications into centres of culture, art, leisure, tourism and fascinating nature.

"From war to peace"- "From closed mystery locations to public living space"- "From military to culture"

Fortresses have had a significant impact on the urban and economic development in the whole of Europe and form the historic structures of towns and city centres. Fortresses in Europe present a unique military architecture worldwide - a part of our common cultural heritage.

Some of them such as the fortresses in Karlskrona (S), Helsinki (FI), Kronshstadt / St. Petersburg (RU),

Toruń (PL) and Amsterdam (NL) belong to the World Cultural Heritage (UNESCO).

A new peaceful chapter of Fortresses as historical monuments is now opening. In trans-national cooperation the best European experience of maintenance, renovation and monument-compatible utilization is being gathered so as to be at the disposal of each fortress. Universities are setting up scientific Consultation Centres. A new cultural route is opening up Fortresses for tourism.

European dimensions and scientific contributions to the project

In former times, the Fortresses separated regions; today they are bringing Europe together. The intention of the local authorities is trans-national political, economic and scientific cooperation directed at transforming historical fortresses and including them in modern European society, with the following aims:

- Monument protection and rescue of military architecture
- Transformation specimens and complexes of military architecture for modern uses compatible with monument protection

- Development of fortresses into attractive centres of culture, art, leisure, tourism and nature and their inclusion into the social and economic development of regions.

Europe needs trans-national innovative cooperation between "fortress communities" ("Fort-Pool") and the various scientific institutions / universities ("Brain-Pool"). Fortresses need exceptional scientific competence and consultation.

A **European Initiative** has therefore been initiated.

With trans-national networking between fortress communities, scientific know-how and tourism industry, fortresses should develop into attractive utilization concepts with social and economic impact on the regions.

Common creation of a new Culture Route

The focus of the project is the joint development of a **new cultural route "Baltic Fortress Culture and Tourism Route"** as a model for fortress tourism in the Baltic Sea Region and in Europe.

The project will promote trans-national cooperation to create a new quality tourist product. It will introduce new level of marketing and mobilize economic efforts for fortresses by increasing the intensity of travel and the numbers of persons visiting these monuments.

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