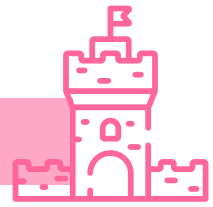




Revitalisation of Šibenik's Fortresses



Transforming fortresses into a major cultural hotspot



(HR)
SIBENIK



44,539



Adaptive re-use of heritage buildings



Quality of interventions on cultural heritage



Participatory governance of cultural heritage

Challenge

St. Michael's fortress is the oldest of four fortresses in Šibenik, dating back to the early medieval period, while Barone Fortress was built in mid-17th century outside the city's historical centre. Both fortresses were left for centuries to decay and had no public utility, or economic or social function anymore. The question was how to give a second life to this heritage while enhancing its cultural value and giving it a new social utility which is economically sustainable?

Solution

The objective of the project was primarily twofold: revitalisation and valorisation of the heritage sites along with the development of cultural contents on the sites.

The fortresses were restored to become one of the most visited historical monuments in Croatia, but also transformed into modern cultural and entertainment venues, hosting numerous performances and events.

As a result, these remarkable sites have been preserved and Šibenik has positioned itself as a major cultural hot spot, where tradition and modern technology are successfully blended.

How ?

- The St. Michael's and Barone Fortresses were revitalised in 2014 and 2016, respectively.
- The public cultural institution 'Fortress of Culture Šibenik' was founded in 2016 manage and promote Šibenik's fortification system's sustainable use.
- All year the site hosts cultural, educational and entertainment events (dance performances, concerts, movie nights, workshops, conferences, etc.)
- A 'Šibenik Fortresses Friends Club' was created to reconnect local community with its newly revitalised cultural heritage. The club promotes the fortresses' events, raises awareness and creates a sense of ownership among locals.
- Members of the Friends Club are invited to say which sites they would like to see restored in and around Šibenik. Part of the membership fee is invested in cultural programmes, while another part is invested in preservation, research and conservation.
- Products of over 60 local SMEs are presented and sold at the sites. The institution also works with cultural NGOs, local media and educational institutions.

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Budget/Financing

- St. Michael's Fortress was renovated with a total budget of €1.66 million, and the Barone fortress €1.37 million, partly funded through the European Regional Development Fund and the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, plus funds from the city.
- In 2019, the Fortress of Culture Šibenik had an annual operational budget of €1.35 million, 92.9% of it from tickets, sponsorships, souvenirs, rental and other services. Other sources of financing include the City of Šibenik (0.47%), the Croatian State (1.28%, through a programme of the Ministry of Culture) and the European Social Fund (5.35%).

Management

- 'Fortress of Culture Šibenik' sustainably manages and preserves Šibenik's fortification system for the economic and social well-being of locals.
- It manages the programming of events.
- More than 50 people were directly involved in the revitalisation projects, including staff from various departments of the city and experts. The institution currently employs 33 staff members on a permanent basis and 40 in summer.
- Stakeholders collaborate with the institution: experts, public institutions, SMEs from the Šibenik-Knin County, travel agencies and hotel companies, tourist guides, etc.
- The Fortress of Culture Šibenik also cooperates with numerous cultural organisations and associations at national and international level.



Transferability

- Find the best possible balance between heritage preservation, promotion of culture and audience development.
- Invest significant resources in building a strong relationship with the local community, artists and businesses.
- Build your project with in-house human resources and outsource only if you cannot do otherwise. A worker who believes in shared goals is a great asset for your team.



Impact

- The success of the revitalisation projects is reflected in the large number of visitors. In 2019, nearly 200,000 came to the fortresses to visit or to attend an event. There is a constant interest and increase of visits in all groups of visitors.
- The historic ambience combined with quality programmes has brought the fortresses to the status of the most prestigious stage in the region.
- In 2019, 55 events took place on both fortresses (film, music and stage programmes). The Friends Club has more than 4,000 members – around 10% of Šibenik's population.



Links

Website: <https://www.tvrdjava-kulture.hr/en>

Video overview of the St. Michael's Fortress:

<https://bit.ly/304Q7ao>

Video overview of the Barone Fortress:

<https://bit.ly/302JTYC>



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