



NETWORK OF THE
CULTURE ROUTE
FORTIFIED MONUMENTS

FORTE CULTURA Malta Symposium 2026

Programme of Symposium Workshops - FINAL

Venue: Fort St. Elmo, Valletta

Day 1: Wednesday 14 October 2026

09.00 hrs: **Keynote Presentations and Official Opening**
11.00 hrs: Coffee break
11.30 hrs: **Workshop A**
13.30 hrs: Stand-up lunch with finger foods and soft drinks.
15.00 hrs onwards – Guided visit to Fort St Elmo and other sites.

Day 3: Friday 16 October 2026

09.00 hrs: **Workshop B**
11.00 hrs: Coffee break
11.30 hrs: **Workshop C**
13.00 hrs: Stand-up lunch with finger foods and soft drinks.
15.00 hrs: **Workshop D**
16.30 hrs: Visit to Msida Bastion cemetery



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Keynote Presentations and Official Opening:

Wednesday 14 October: 9.00 – 11.00 hrs

Welcome and introduction		Filippo Cailotto John Ebejer
KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS	The Maltese Fortifications of the Knights of St John: Shifting Paradigms from Serial Nomination to a Living Heritage Vision	Christian Mifsud , Anthony Pace
	Preserving a Fortress Nation: Thirty Years of Conservation Practice in Malta	Norbert Gatt
	The process of restoring the Fort Tigné and ideas of how it can be adapted to contemporary use	Alex Torpiano
<i>Speeches by</i> Prof. Leonie Baldacchino, Pro- Rector, University of Malta Ms. Sharon Sultana, Malta's representative on the EPA Governing Board of the Council of Europe		
FORTE CULTURA and Mediterranean Fortified Heritage: Towards a Shared Cooperation Framework		Filippo Cailotto Dirk Röder





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Workshop A : Wednesday 14 October 11.30 – 13.30 hrs

FORTE CULTURA Malta Symposium: Sharing knowledge about fortified heritage	John Ebejer
From Concealment to Cultural Heritage: Shifting Perspectives on Modern Defence Heritage in Japan and the UK	Masaaki Okada
Territorial valorisation and heritage management in Mediterranean Fortified Sites: A Comparative Analysis of the Castles of Milazzo and Lipari (Sicily).	Enrico Nicosia Mattia Spanò Giuseppe Rombo
From an Abandoned Fort to a Centre of Excellence: Aquarium Pula's Journey through Heritage, Science and Conservation, Croatia	Milena Mičić
Königstein Fortress: Museum, Monument and tourist hotspot	André Thieme
Heritage of European Naval ports - case study of Pula, Croatia	Nataša Urošević
Efforts: European, regional and national networks for EU funding	Rafaël Deroo

Workshop B : Friday 16 October 9.00 – 11.00 hrs

The Victoria Lines (Malta) - promoting a trail so as to safeguard the historical heritage	Ray Cachia Zammit
Heritage Perception and Power Dynamics Across the Historical Palimpsest of the Maltese Islands: A Focus on the Dockyard	Maria Katrina Xuereb
From Fortification to Cultural Destination: MICAS and the Regeneration of the Floriana Lines	Gregorio Giubilaro
Fortress Naarden; nothing is what it looks like	Jeroen van der Werf
Beneath the Bastions: The Evolution of Underground Valletta from Hospitaller Fortress to a Heritage Attraction	Curtis Callus
Stone and Fire: The Evolution of Military Architecture in Response to Artillery Technology	Kirsty Grech
Argotti Botanic Gardens: Where Fortified Heritage meets Botany and Education	Christian Borg





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Workshop D : Friday 16 October 15.00 – 16.00 hrs

Workshop C : Friday 16 October 11.30 – 13.30 hrs

Fort St Angelo: A National Icon	Matthew Balzan
From Fortifications to Hotels: The adaptative reuse of Military Heritage in Portugal (1941 - Present)	Catarina Costa Macedo
From Watchtower to Tourism Asset: Sustainable Heritage Tourism Opportunities for Burj Al-Askar, Taqah, Oman	Ali Akaak (virtual presentation)
Heritage of the Warsaw Citadel	Michał Cieślak
Experiencing Fortifications: Heritage, Interpretation and the Visitor Experience	Vincent Zammit
Mdina . The value of the fortified towns and their rehabilitation as enjoyable cultural heritage	Teresa Colletta (virtual presentation)
The brand platform, image and identity in fortifications, castles or buildings with defensive elements.	Borja Querol (virtual presentation)
L-Aħrax Tower in Mellieħa	Stanley Farrugia Randon

Reimagining 16th–17th Century Ukrainian Fortifications as National Heritage and Tourist Hubs	Alena Bagro (virtual presentation)
Stories You Can Hold: Activating Fortified Heritage through Artists and Local Makers	Deniz Beck (virtual presentation)
The Palmerston Forts Society and the Victorian Forts Network	Lewis Sharp (virtual presentation)
The Irish Walled Towns Network: Building a Community of Care for Historic Walled Towns	Eimear O'Connell (virtual presentation)

