



# RECAPTURE THE FORTRESS CITIES

## REGIONAL ACTION PLAN





# PART I

## BASIC INFORMATION

Project:  
Recapture the Fortress Cities

Partner organisation:  
Prešov Self-governing Region

Country:  
Slovakia

NUTS3 region:  
Prešov Self-governing Region

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# **PART II**

# **POLICY CONTEXT**



**The Action Plan aims to impact:**

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

**Name of the policy instrument addressed:**

Integrated territorial strategy of the Prešov Self-governing Region for 2021 – 2030 (ITS PSGR)

Integrated territorial strategy of the Prešov self-governing region for 2021 – 2030 is being developed and will be ready to implement in the second half of 2022.

The main goal of ITS PSGR is to create conditions for balanced territorial development of the region and increasing the quality of life of its inhabitants.

ITS PSGR identifies 4 priorities:

Priority 1 Innovative and competitive regional economy

Priority 2 Living conditions of the region inhabitants

Priority 3 Developed infrastructure and energy in a favourable environment

Priority 4 Strategic territorial management and territorially balanced development

The area of tourism in ITS PSGR will be addressed within Priority 1 Innovative and

Competitive Regional Economy through Strategic Objective 1.2 To increase the number of visitors to the region by using its high endogenous potential for tourism development and related objectives 1.2.1 Expand and modernize existing tourism infrastructure, including implementation innovative solutions and expansion of the tourism offer and specific objectives 1.2.2 Ensure the protection and development of the natural and cultural heritage.



The overall goal of the project is to improve regional and local policy in the protection of cultural monuments – fortresses and military heritage, by improving the coexistence of these historical monuments and neighboring towns and to integrate historical fortifications into current urban planning, infrastructure and functional context.

This objective should be met by identifying, analyzing, transferring best practices and experiences between collaborating partners in order to support project partners in developing their action plans and incorporating new, innovative practices into their development strategies.

The project has the following sub-objectives:

- improve city-fortress cooperation through more intensive communication and cooperation, taking into account the mutual effects of the existence of fortresses and cities – positive and negative
- define innovative ways of using historic spaces with an emphasis on their future development by using existing resources with an emphasis on economic issues and financing
- develop mechanisms for support and social use of these structures and buildings as a public space for recreation and leisure or business activities, increase the attractiveness of the city-fortress
- assess environmental management and the impact of the existence and use of historical monuments
- identify best practices in policy implementation together with gaps in existing apolitical programs



Complementary projects include the completion of basic environmental infrastructure, the construction of a multimodal tourist and recreational route with an emphasis on improving nature, landscape, biodiversity and ecosystem services, support for education and employment of local people and pupils in tourism, support for local SMEs in developing their business activities in the field of tourism and investment in basic tourist infrastructure, sports infrastructure and monument restoration.



# PART III

# SUMMARY



## **CITIES IN THE REGION**

The Prešov Self-governing Region is the administrative center of three historical regions with their own defense systems of fortresses and fortified and fortified towns. The regions are Horný Spiš, Horný Zemplín and Šariš. Cities with different levels of preservation of city fortifications and fortifications are

Bardejov  
Kežmarok  
Levoča  
Prešov  
Podolíneec  
Sabinov  
Stropkov

and the town of Stará Ľubovňa as an observer of the project.

## **TYOLOGY OF URBAN FORTIFICATIONS IN THE MIDDLE AGES**

The most important factors that influenced the typology of the medieval fortifications were mainly the tactics of combat and the use of cold steel weapons, ie those that use human or animal power for their operation. These are personal weapons (sword, bow, crossbow, etc.), but also large siege engines (catapult, ram, etc.). The main defense was provided by line structures, which prevented the attacker from approaching and were insurmountable due to the range and striking power of cold weapons.

This group included brick walls, ditches and ramparts. These in certain places complemented the bastions and towers, which improved the active defense of the city. The main line of the fortification was ideally a closed circuit of the wall, complete with bastions and towers. An exception is the city fortifications, where due to the configuration of the terrain a closed circuit was not necessary or possible to build.





The main wall was formed by a sufficiently thick wall, most often of a quarry stone, on which the crown was located, the so-called undercutting, or more often a walkway, allowing the movement of defenders along the walls. There were also fortifications without a walkway, at that time the defense took place exclusively to the rises and bastions. Older types of fortifications had a brick walkway, created in the thickness of the wall, in younger periods the walls were built thinner and the walkway was formed by a wooden structure on the consoles. The movement of the defenders along the walkway was protected by a breastplate, a wall of smaller thickness. It used to end with a battlement, divided into a tooth and a gap.

The more modern fortifications already had a full chest, perforated by shooting ranges. The fortification wall was divided into sections by towers and bastions with various floor plans. Their mutual distance was conditioned by the range of period weapons, ideally the defense of them allowed to cover all places in the foreground of the fortifications, and side fire, the so-called flanking, as well as the foot of the wall, which could not be prevented from walking. The weakest links in the fortifications were the entrances to the town. The defense of important gates was mostly provided by gate towers, with a passage accessible via a drawbridge.

After the completion of the circuit of the main wall, in many cities the construction of the fence circuit of the fortifications began. The lower and narrower fence wall protected the second row of defenders moving in the fence area. The fence itself could be at the same height or lower than the city level. The park wall in many cases formed a brick escarp ditch. In that case, it was probably built at the same time as it. The moat formed another defensive line of the city. Its depth and breadth were influenced by natural conditions. It could be dry or infused with water from nearby streams and reflected mill drives. The dry ditches were intentionally overgrown with thorn bushes.



## **REBUILDINGS OF MEDIEVAL FORTIFICATIONS IN THE MODERN AGE**

In modern times, firearms have developed to such an extent that medieval designs could not withstand them. This conditioned the emergence of new typological types of fortifications. The medieval fortifications mostly continued to function, but were modernized and supplemented with new elements. Medieval buildings continued to be modernized, their height was reduced, or masonry structures were filled with shock-absorbing soil. The fortifications are supplemented by positions for cannons and have converted narrow firing ranges into cannon type.

The largest construction interventions concerned places whose economic importance had not declined and were located in places where they were still in danger. Minimal interventions were made on the fortifications in cities whose economic importance declined in modern times.

## **DOWNFALL OF THE FUNCTION OF URBAN FORTIFICATIONS**

After the end of the anti-Habsburg uprisings with the conclusion of the Satmar Peace Treaty in 1711, the need to defend the cities disappeared. The cities also lost their importance as strategic elements in the country's defense. New types of buildings took over their role. Around the middle of the 18th century, their functional degradation began and the individual elements gradually reached the state of ruin.

As the fortification consisted mainly of line elements (one or two circuits of separate walls) and landscaping, it was not possible to adapt it to the new function. The maintenance of the fortifications was expensive and gradually began to decay. Enclosed fortification disturbed growing cities and the development of transport. The ditch areas were covered and new buildings were created in their places, especially for the poor.



The walls and entrances to the city were demolished locally at the continuation of roads. The masonry was dismantled and used as a building material, or parts of the fortifications were used as building structures. In several cities, the city fortifications above the current terrain are disappearing (Žilina), or only fragments have been preserved (Kežmarok). As a rule, the best preserved fortifications in cities where economic development in the 19th and 20th centuries stagnated.

## **PRESERVATION IN URBAN SCALE**

The loss of the original function of the city fortifications, the relationship of the society at that time to these complexes and their direct contact with the living changing city are the reasons why no fortification has been preserved in its original form to date. This incompleteness can be perceived on an architectural as well as an urban scale. Urban complexes of this scale are not only about the disintegration of the material of individual buildings, but also about the loss of perception of the fortifications as a whole. This fragmentation, ambiguity of contexts and relationships is one of the basic problems of clear presentation and interpretation of this typological species.

Within one complex, different specific situations occur and the extent of preservation varies in individual parts. The following situations simply arise:

- a. the fortification is preserved with the original urban situation (dam alley, fence, moat), such as the location of the Lower and Upper Gates in Bajejov.
- b. the fortification is preserved, but secondary buildings are added to it, respectively, the course of the fortification has been preserved at least in parcelling and other.
- c. the fortification is not preserved and the original urban situation is changed, for example: the area of schools east of the Lower Gate, Levoča.



In addition to the development and parcelling of the fortifications, property and legal relations (land ownership) have a significant impact on their presentation, but especially the degree of public space, from which the degree of visual exposure of the presented phenomenon derives. The following cases occur:

- a. the land is private (land of individual housing construction),
- b. the land is semi-public (school premises, companies, etc.),
- c. the land is public (public space).

In the PSR, the fortifications of the towns are among the most important monuments of fortification character next to the castles. The subject of the analysis is the fortifications in the medieval royal cities of Prešov, Sabinov, Podolíneč, Kežmarok, Levoča and Bardejov. The town of Stropkov, which houses the archeological site of the town castle, is also involved in the project.

All fortification complexes were built in the Middle Ages, they were gradually modified, supplemented and demolished in younger periods. To date, they have survived to varying degrees. The best preserved are in the towns of Bardejov and Levoča and the least in the town of Stropkov – this is an archeological site.

All the fortifications in question have the status of an immovable national cultural monument and are registered in the Central List of Monuments (hereinafter CLM). Of these, the city fortifications in Levoča, Bardejov and also Thököly Castle, which can be considered part of the fortifications of the town of Kežmarok, are also included in the List of National Cultural Monuments with priority for protection and restoration.

The city fortifications in Bardejov and Levoča even have values that transcend national borders, and their permanent protection is of the utmost importance to the international community as a whole. As a result, they are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In 2000, Bardejov was added to this list. The location of Spiš Castle and the surrounding monuments was extended in 2009 by the territory of the historical core of the town of Levoča with the work of Master Paul and its name was changed to Levoča, Spiš Castle and the surrounding monuments.



The researched city fortifications in the cities of Prešov, Bardejov, Podolíneč, Kežmarok, Levoča are part of the area monument protection within the City Monument Reserve, the center of Sabinov is part of the Monument Zone. Summary knowledge of the architectural and historical development of the fortifications, the current state of preservation and in several cases also about the current approach to the restoration of the monument can be obtained in the text of the material of the principles of protection of the relevant monument area. The textual and graphic part of the material defines the principles of protection for individual spatial units, mostly also with regard to the possibility of presenting elements of the fortification. They have also prepared a separate graphic sheet for the city fortifications with an indication of preserved and presumed extinct courses of the fortification and its areas.

The analysis of the information collected from individual Prešov Self-governing Region cities shows the diversity of problems that local governments, as the majority owners of city fortifications and land, have to deal with. Each phase from the preparation to the actual implementation has a significant impact on the next one, and their mutual coordination determines the quality of the result. The individual phases overlap and therefore need to be considered in context.

The cities in Prešov Self-governing Region are in various stages of the process of restoring the fortifications, which most cities see as the main goal of their efforts. The problem in cities with a large extent of preservation of urban fortifications is mainly to find a way to functional use, in cities where the fortifications are preserved in torsions and in the urban planning of today's city often loses the original continuity of individual elements, polluting their presentation and interpretation.

Despite this diversity, it is possible to define common denominators that determine the problems that cities face. These include the lack of a concept, lack of funding and problematic grant schemes, traditional construction technologies, problematic functional use, property and legal relations and insufficient awareness of the values of cultural heritage.



## CONCEPT

One of the basic problems of cities is that they don't know what to do with city fortifications. That is, they lack concept. However, this does not only concern the fortification itself, but often the overall concept of the whole city (or the historic core), of which the fortification is an integral part. The city must have a clear idea of its direction, whether the goal is to involve the fortification in the city's infrastructure, its use to support tourism, use by local communities, or other goals, or a combination thereof. The monumental restoration of the fortification and its presentation can thus become only one of the goals, or it will also become a tool for achieving other goals. An example can be Bratislava, whose one of the main priorities has become the revitalization and revitalization of the city's public spaces.

Different procedures can be used to create such a concept, and communication with experts from different fields can be a prerequisite for a good result. One of the tools can be the participation of the city's inhabitants, such as in the Medený hámor locality in Banská Bystrica.

Only then can this concept serve as a local program for the elaboration of the architectural design for the fortification as a whole. This should be based on an analysis of the limits of the area, geodetic focus, static assessment of buildings, monument research. Based on this knowledge, an architect with experience in designing in a monument environment should create a concept in cooperation with the monument office, the investor and other stakeholders.

Its design can be processed alternatively (for example, according to the degree of interference of the design in private ownership), it can define sites with the potential for more similar development, architectural competition, etc. It is advisable to plan the stages, the sequence of works and the time schedule.



Where the overall concept is missing and the architectural design for the fortification as a whole is not developed, it is difficult to evaluate the correctness and effectiveness of the proposed partial solutions.

At present, these conceptual materials are often replaced by Regional Preservation Office employees. However, they do not affect the sequence of allocation of money, property relations, functional content and express and correct only those intentions that the investor submits for approval.

## **BUILDING AWARENESS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES**

This issue concerns the inhabitants of the city but also the municipality. The overall success of the restoration of the fortifications depends on the will and interest of individuals in the management of cities, who are limited in time by their term of office. Care for cultural heritage should take precedence over personal and political interests, the initiative could come from Prešov Self-governing Region. Awareness of the city's inhabitants can be built, for example, through various activities, lectures, workshops and educating children about local history.

## **PROPERTY RELATIONS**

In general, it can be stated that the property rights in the individual cities of Prešov Self-governing Region are different, they fundamentally affect the possibilities of restoration, presentation and use of fortifications.

Setting up a concept for the fortification as a whole could partially solve this problem by identifying important areas and fortifications that the city should try to get into its own hands (in most places it is not possible or desirable to take the Bardejov road and gradually buy all the land in the fortification area). ). The sale of areas or fortifications to private hands can certainly not be considered the right solution. The city thus fragments one monument among several owners and thus loses its impact on its future. The argument of a state of emergency is not suitable either. The rough bastion in Bardejov is a positive example of how a long-term lease of a building can achieve its use and renovation.



The fragmentation of ownership relations often makes it impossible to present the fortification as a whole, in worse cases there are inappropriate interventions in the monument, or its state of emergency. They may be the cause of disputes between residents and the city. The solution to this problem can be education and better information of the city residents about the importance of activities related to city fortifications.

## **FUNCTIONAL USE OF URBAN FORTIFICATIONS**

Fortifications are specific structures which, due to their defensive function, had a compact shape of objects with the smallest possible openings. As a rule, there were no windows on them, only firing ranges, and typically they were not entered from the ground floor but from elevated positions. On the contrary, the fortification areas (ditches, fences, etc.) were as large as possible, because they formed an obstacle between the enemy and the conquered territory of the city. For this reason, they do not have much potential in terms of usable indoor spaces and many functions are unacceptable for lighting and other physical reasons.

In general, it can be stated that suitable functions are those that do not disturb the values of the monument. The unsuitable need to radically modify the monument for their purpose. A universal formula cannot be used to select the functional content in individual parts of the fortifications. Although there are good examples of functional use, it depends on the location within the city, or on the interest of locals and tourists. Not a café would "feed" in every position, or there cannot be a museum in every bastion. The same applies to the fortification areas.

Communication with the local community and the third sector, architectural, landscape and other ideological competitions and positive foreign examples can be a suitable tool for defining the sustainable functions of urban fortifications. Communication and exchange of know-how between cities that have experience with various positive functions, as well as those that have proved inappropriate during use, can also be beneficial.





Due to the values of fortifications, social significance and little opportunity to adequately change their functional use, one of their most important functions is social presentation in a suitable architectural form, modification and accessibility. It is necessary to take into account that not all areas and buildings of the fortification will be profitable after the reconstruction.

## **FINANCING**

Financing of the renewal of the city fortifications and activities associated with their presentation is mostly paid from the city budget or in combination with the grant scheme. These are mainly grant schemes of the European Union, the Prešov self-governing region and the Ministry of Culture – Let's Renew Our House. The Ministry of Culture has a special sub-program 1.6 within the grant scheme for the NCPs with the priority of protection and restoration, and sub-program 1.2 for the monuments inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Monuments inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List also receive special subsidies from the Ministry of Finance.

In defining the problems with the city fortifications, the parties most often mentioned the lack of funds and the wrong setting of subsidy schemes as a problem, in particular:

- there are no schemes where it would be possible to request money for research or a project (does not apply to the OSSD program, cities either do not have money for projects and therefore cannot participate in implementation schemes or solve the problem by combining pre-project and project work with implementation, which causes many other problems),
- there are no schemes where maintenance money could be requested,
- the money arrives late (mainly concerning the OSSD program. For example, if the money earmarked for the restoration of the monument does not arrive in advance of the construction season, the construction work is due for the autumn and winter months, which is not technologically correct),



- projects are not supported in the required amounts (eg 95% + 5% co-financing from own budget). The setting up of the scheme is focused on the quantity of supported projects, which discourages cities from asking for money for larger projects, as they will not have enough funds for co-financing,
- money needs to be spent in a short period of time (compromises must be made to make it happen),
- large bureaucracy (eg Poland has much simpler conditions in the Interreg program for the same project as Slovakia),
- problematic changes compared to the project (for monuments, changes compared to the project documentation are much more common than for new buildings, it is not possible to predict what will be revealed during the reconstruction and cause the need to change the project)

Poorly set conditions force applicants for subsidies to apply inappropriate solutions. Such solutions then often result in irreversible devaluation of the original monument. In today's situation, when there is a lack of financial resources for the restoration of monuments, it is all the more important to properly set up an overall system aimed at expertise and efficiency in the use of resources. The solution may be to adjust the conditions of subsidy schemes at the state level, or to create new ones at the level of the self-governing region so that they respect the specificity of the procedures for the restoration of historic architecture.

The renewal proposal fundamentally affects not only the implementation budget but also what resources will need to be spent on administration and maintenance later. For this reason too, it is appropriate to pay sufficient attention to the pre-design and renovation phases, which most grant schemes do not take into account. The idea that the monument will be repaired so that there is no more work with it is wrong. For example, the decision to buy land owned by the city on the one hand will allow to explore and reconstruct a larger area of fortifications, but it is necessary to take into account the subsequent maintenance of these areas (eg in the city of Levoča).



In terms of maintenance, an example of the right approach is our ancestors, who did not rely on materials with unlimited life, but continuously processed the objects. For example, wooden shingles on the roof were regularly inspected and damaged parts were replaced locally. Which means much lower costs than due to several years of maintenance to rehabilitate the emergency and replace the entire roofing.

## **BUILDING MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROCEDURES**

Restoration of historic architecture is a specific process that requires a different approach than in the case of new buildings, which can be designed and implemented with a minimum of unexpected changes.

Unlike traditional building materials and solutions, the current ones work on other principles, are more resistant to mechanical action but also moisture, and in contact with traditional materials they have a destructive effect on the original structures. Previous experience with the conservation and reconstruction of monuments using traditional materials (eg in the castles Uhrovec, Lietava, etc.) confirms their suitability and durability. However, the current practice on reconstruction works (not only of city fortifications) shows that these elements of traditional construction do not apply. There are several reasons for this:

- During reconstruction works, a raid may occur, e.g. of the original paving (as was the case during the reconstruction in the vicinity of the Košice Gate in Levoča). Under standard circumstances, the project would be modified and the original paving would be reconstructed.
- It is possible that in some cases there is a mistake not in setting up the grant scheme but in the level of lack of information or lack of interest of the official in charge of the project. Such situations could be prevented by being adequately informed about the possibilities of grant schemes.



- insufficient awareness of the methods and techniques of traditional construction, both on the part of investors and on the part of contractors,
- improperly set subsidy and grant schemes, which force the investor and the contractor to implement the work often outside the construction season, due to poorly set drawing deadlines,
- lack of qualified workforce, with knowledge of traditional materials and construction procedures (potential in workers in the project of restoration of castles with the help of the unemployed).

### **POSSIBLE DIRECTIONS FOR THE FURTHER PROCEDURE**

- elaboration of a manual for the restoration of the fortification architecture, which would be created by an interdisciplinary team, composed of experts from various fields, which could also serve as a tool for city employees
- exchange of know-how between cities in developing concepts
- the creation of a grant scheme that primarily reflects the needs of the monument



# **PART IV**

# **DETAILS OF THE ACTIONS ENVISAGED**



## **ACTION 1: New floors of the Bastion (Bardejov)**

### 1. The background:

The city fortifications in Bardejov have been preserved in complete sections with point buildings, all of which have undergone monumental restoration. The perception of this integrity from a sufficient distance is also possible thanks to the remediation work on the area of the city fortifications taking place since the 1970s. At present, the original areas in the foreground of the fortifications form a relatively complete cross-section between the homogeneous structure of the historic city and the heterogeneous structure of the modern development.

In 1950, the historic core of the town of Bardejov was declared a monument reserve and subsequently the restoration of buildings in the reserve, including the town fortifications, began. First, some of the most important preserved buildings were restored from the 1950s, especially the towers, which were also among the most comprehensively preserved from the fortification complex.

They have been reconstructed into a stylistic form, including details such as shooting ranges and plasters. Shallow fire roofs have been reconstructed according to historical sources (photographs and vedutas), probably not to the exact form. The addition of extinct elements for inducing a comprehensive state was approached even if there was not enough information about them.

In 1967, a Detailed Territorial Plan for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the Historic Core was prepared, prepared by SURPMO Prague, which, among other things, developed the idea of a comprehensive renewal of the city fortifications and its areas. Especially in the 1970s, the buildings that were created secondarily on the fortifications were restored, and the walls and elements that were discovered after the renovation were restored. Here, the reconstruction into a stylistic form is applied again, even if there is not enough knowledge about their form.



After negotiations with the representatives of the place, the civic association Different managed to obtain the Rough Bastion for rent for 10 years in 2012 (currently this period is extended indefinitely). Other active organisations and individuals are included NGO Kandelaber, Guild of Architects, local artists and informal initiatives.

Goal is to revitalize its exceptional spaces and make them accessible to the general public. In gradual steps they together create a cultural and community centre BAŠTA (Bastion), in which the following operate under one roof:

- Various cultural and artistic activities: music, film, theater, fine arts, etc.
- Different types of non-formal education, leisure activities, creative workshops
- Support for local community activities (for families with children, yoga in the Bastion, Benefit Bazaars, etc.)
- Relaxation area with a café and a selection of craft drinks
- Development of ecological feeling and interest in what is happening in the city
- Development of tourism

Thanks to the determination and energy of a number of volunteers, Bašta (Bastion) has been operating on a regular program and with an open café since spring 2017. However, only one and a half floors out of five have been adapted for year-round operation. Therefore, our efforts do not end and, in addition to cultural and community activities, we are working on projects that will help us renovate the next floors, so that the Bašta (Bastion) can fully develop its potential and create even more space for active people who change society for the better.

The aim of the measure is the reconstruction of the premises of the existing rough bastion building, which houses the Bašta (Bastion) cultural centre. Today, the seven-storey building offers space and content on 5 floors, the remaining ones are not usable for public events and local communities. The measure is intended to provide a sustainable method for the maintenance and energy efficiency of the building.



As an inspiration for further development of the Bašta (Bastion) project we followed steps and tools made in Tailor's Tower in Cluj-Napoca in Romania. We saw similarities in works of Urban Culture Center and NGO Different that creates new content and events and programming around Bašta (Bastion) in Bardejov.

Cultural activities and maintenance of the building in Bardejov are beneficial for the object itself, as its condition is becoming better and better year by year. We saw such an experience in Tailor's Tower in Cluj-Napoca, as the quite similar object, with quite similar activities is in great condition after 11+ years of using it primarily as a cultural centre. This experience give us an argument to continue in support of NGO Different to work on physical reconstruction of the Bašta (Bastion) as it is great tool to preserve the structure and character of the object.

"Constant activities within the Tower organised or rented by the public service in charge of the cultural objectives, transformed the static monument into a living character of the city, attracting the community and the visitors." We see huge potential in this quote. (With slight adjustment, as the Bašta (Bastion) is managed by NGO). We understand the power of contemporary cultural and community content as an answer for not only bringing life into the medieval monument, but also as an answer for need of nowadays citizens.

## 2. Action:

The primary activity of this measure is the reconstruction of the building's energy networks on unused floors, network replacement and gasification, all in order to use the potential of the space to create new program activities and involve other local communities in Bardejov.

## 3. Players involved:

Bardejov Town Hall - owner of the building

NGO Different - operator of the Bašta (Bastion) cultural centre





4. Timeframe:

01/2023 – 06/2023

5. Costs:

25,000 – 30,000 €

6. Funding sources

Prešov Self-governing Region grant scheme

7. Performance indicators:

- new types of events
- New audiences
- new initiatives involved
- new communities involved

8. Quantification of results

- An increase in the number of events by 10 percent in the first two years since the new floors were made available
- Increase in total traffic by 5 percent in the first two years since new floors are made available
- Involvement of 2 new initiatives in the program
- Involvement of 2 new communities in the program

9. Possible measures for reorientation

- online events
- hybrid events
- exterior events



## **ACTION 2: Book about Stropkov Castle (Stropkov)**

### 1. The background:

The aim of the measure is to increase local awareness and build local identity. Stropkov Castle is a defunct building and activities to revive its remaining parts require considerable financial and time resources. In addition to activities of an archaeological and project nature, it is appropriate to run promotional and information activities in parallel, which will bring a new perspective on the city and its identity.

Knowledge about the form of the city castle (or fortified manor house), the time of its origin and building development are very limited and its existence, as a defensive structure, dates back to the 1990s. does not state at all.

The first mention probably comes from 1408 and it is assumed that the core of the seat was a toll station dating back to the second half of the 13th century. Subsequently, at the beginning of the 15th century. the manor house was rebuilt by Imrich of Perín. We have the best idea of the appearance of the complex from the partially preserved layout plan of 1767, which was discovered in 1992 in the Prešov Archive. Its credibility is partially confirmed by partial archaeological research carried out in the years 2006–2007 south and southwest of the museum building.

Archaeological research was followed by architectural and historical field research by M. Šimkoviča and M. Matejka. Those based on research state that the complex has undergone many extensive reconstructions. The plan from 1767 captures the modern reconstruction of the complex and is probably not at all related to the medieval layout of the town castle. This is a period of decline of the fortification function of the fortification, the original fortification elements have already been rebuilt and are used for new, residential and economic purposes.



The castle took the form of an irregular pentagon with five bastions (bastions) in the corners. The castle was probably entered from the southwest by a gate with a drawbridge. The castle was destroyed in a fire in 1814 and its remains were gradually dismantled into building materials. The buildings of the manor house and the Gothic church of the Blessed Body and the Blood of Christ have been preserved from the area to this day.

Good practice that served as source of inspiration was from Fortengordels from greater area of Antwerpen in Belgium. Combination of various instruments, such as branding, new identity and designing of new touristic tools was primary set of activities where we looked for details for shaping new identity of fortress in Stropkov.

Stropkov Castle, is in similar position as Zandvliet – to have most of the former walls are built over and canals are covered. We were able to see similarities or options in Zandvliet to have for development in Stropkov such as accents in ground plan – to see former shape of fortress in nowadays street grid. Traces of the original fortress can be seen in the street layout of Conterscherp, Zuidvest and Begijnhoeve. Another detail are street names, that are referring to the former fortress.

Most transferable action, that we saw is various offer of heritage walking tours. We definitely see this tool as a quick win and development for the Stropkov and Stropkov Castle.

## 2. Action:

The primary activity is the publication of a monographic publication on Stropkov Castle. The town of Stropkov employs a town historian and the activities to date have had the nature of face-to-face events such as festivities, guided tours and the like. The publication can summarize these promotional activities in one place and create basic information material for creating other awareness campaigns.



3. Players involved:  
Stropkov Town Hall

4. Timeframe:  
01/2023 – 06/2023

5. Costs:  
€ 10,000

6. Funding sources  
Prešov Self-governing Region grant scheme

7. Performance indicators:  
– 2 new presentation products  
– number of interested parties, customers and visitors

8. Quantification of results  
– creation of two new presentation products within two years of the publication  
– increase in the number of people interested in existing products (guided tours, etc.) by 10 percent

9. Possible measures for reorientation  
– new online information tools (web, application, social network profile)  
– new online campaigns



Date:

Name:

Signature:

Stamp of the organisation:



Date: 4. 4. 2022

Name: Paed. Dr. Milan Majovský, Ph.D.

Signature:

Stamp of the organisation:

