

Baltic Fort Route

Baltic Culture and Tourism Route Fortresses



NEWSLETTER 2

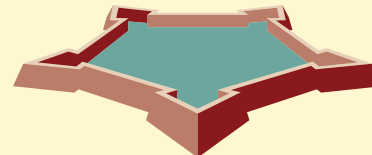
December 2006

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

PROJECT HOMEPAGE www.bfr.pl started

The Lead Partner City of Kostrzyn has started a homepage as an information platform for the "Baltic Culture and Tourism Route Fortresses" project and its progress.

Baltic Fort Route



Gdańsk old town with walls and bastions

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Network meetings proof the progress of the project

*3rd BFR-Partner Meeting in Gdańsk
June 2006*

There are two Fortresses in Gdańsk, Fortress Grodzisko in the center close to the historical part of town and the Fortress Vistulamouth in the beautiful landscape setting of the major Vistula River. Furthermore, Gdańsk has one of only a few still functioning bastions of city Fortifications situated in its Old Town.

During the network meeting the partners of the Fort Grodzisko and the Historical Museum of Gdańsk developed combined historical offers with a high cultural value. They can use the efficient tourist infrastructure of the city. Compared to that, the infrastructure of the Fortresses has a lot of potential that needs to be developed. The Fortress Vistulamouth needs to invest in the traffic and transportations system during the coming years. The keep offers a picturesque view onto the Vistula and the City. A walkway and the observation deck are to be reconstructed with project money.

Connection of Fortress and City tourism

Fortresses had a significant impact on the urban and economic development all over Europe, especially on the historic structures of towns and city centers. In three important meetings the partners discussed the great option of the Baltic Fort Route project to intensively combine Fortress tourism with city tourism. Trips to the pearls of the Baltic Sea region Gdańsk, Kaliningrad, Kaunas and Riga are very famous, not to forget the inland with the City of Berlin. A great chance to increase Fortress tourism is a stronger linkage between Fortress marketing with the attractions of the city or region.

The historical part of Gdańsk, Baltic Sea tourism in Świnoujście and Kołobrzeg ornature tourism in the rural areas such as Giżycko are only a few that can be named.

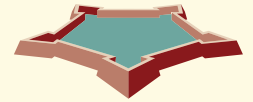


Gdańsk - Fortress
Vistulamouth



Test of Baltic Fort Route during the Network Meeting in Gdańsk:
Project partners at the monument "Westerplatte" on the walk to the fortress "Vistulamouth"

WWW.BFR.PL



STRENGTHENING OF THE TRANS-NATIONAL COOPERATION

4th BFR-Partner Meeting in Citadel Spandau of Berlin in December 2006

The network meeting in the Citadel Berlin-Spandau brought great progress in the realization of the project work packages. At the same time experts of other European cultural routes and projects exchanged their experiences with each other and with tour operators (see page 3).

Mrs Capp from the Culture Route Institute in Luxembourg explained the tasks and functions of the Culture Route Institute and presented the experiences of Culture Route development in Europe. As a result a close cooperation and regular information exchange was agreed upon.



Mrs Sorina Capp, Culture Route Institute Luxembourg

Mr Pienkoss, responsible manager of INTERREG-III-B-project **"European Route of Brick Gothic"** –EuRob– presented experiences of the development of the culture route along the gothic brick architecture in Baltic Sea region. Some possibilities for cooperation between EuRob and BFR were discussed.

Start of cooperation with Imanuel-Kant State University of Russia, Kaliningrad To proxy the official partners from Kaliningrad, Mrs Dr. Elena Kropinova represented the traditional Imanuel-Kant State University of Kaliningrad in a BFR-Meeting for the first time. She was accompanied by Mrs Dragileva.

The Steering Committee and the scientific partners of the project discussed the further involvement of the University in the trans-national science cooperation with the guests. A press conference with numerous journalists underlined the success of the meeting.

Strategy Meeting with Guest-Fortresses - the representatives of the Fortresses Kronstadt (RU), Kiev (UA), Magdeburg (D), Dresden (D) and Königstein (D) looked at the development of the Culture Route "Baltic Fort Route" and showed great interest in future cooperation



Formation of trans-national scientific cooperation and common education of students

Three scientific partners – the Kaunas University of Technology with the Institute of Architecture and Construction, the Vytautas Magnus University of Kaunas and the Humboldt University at Berlin – have been working on the courses for students (Fortress history and architecture from ancient times until the XXth century, Fortress nature and monuments) since the 2006 summer. During the Network meeting in Berlin they also gave lectures for students in Humboldt University. Next time, student courses will be given for students in Kaliningrad as well. These lessons will be given on the data basis for e-learning using the MNEME program.

Mrs Gruzdiene and Prof. Zaleckis from Universities in Kaunas were teaching lessons for students at the Humboldt University at Berlin during the two weeks. During the Milestone 4, lectures for master and bachelor students were given in three universities: Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Kaunas University of Technology and Humboldt University at Berlin.

The two Kaunas Universities prepare a scientific conference in Kaunas in March 2007, supported by the sc. coordinator Dr. Neumann.



Lecturer PD Dr. habil. F. Riesbeck at the Vytautas Magnus University Kaunas

European Heritage Fortification influence regional and city development

Chief Coordinator Hartmut Röder informed about the outstanding meaning of Fortresses as European cultural heritages and as a great influence to the development of cities and regions in Europe.

Historic Fortresses have had an important influence on the development of cities, regions, economy, work and social structures. Some of them belong to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, like the Fortresses in Karlskrona (S), Helsinki (FI), Kronstadt / St. Petersburg (RU), Toruń (PL) and Amsterdam (NL). Today, these Fortresses are part of the regional identity and attractiveness around Baltic Sea.

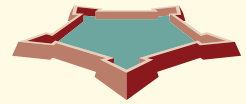
In contrast to that, a lot of Fortresses in Europe became heavily damaged through military.

Communities have enormous demand for inventory, reconstruction, monument protection, cultural and tourism utilization in trans-national cooperation.

Trans-national cooperation – key for Fortress development

Fortresses need transference of scientific know-how, models and innovative methods for Fortress development with economic effects to mobilize added value for the regions through an increase of tourism. Fortresses are to be developed as attractive centers for culture, art, leisure, tourism and nature. It includes the development of modern methods to Fortress management and marketing. This way of cross border development could solve the problems that occurred as results of military expansion and Cold War in Europe: rescue historical heritage Fortresses in Baltic Sea Region to avoid ruin.

PROGRESS IN ROUTE DEVELOPMENT



WP 4-activities:

Development of Fortress documentations

An analysis showed that only a few of the 14 Fortresses of the Baltic Fort Route project are really well prepared for tourism, (Citadel Spandau, Fortresses Dömitz, Świnoujście, Kołobrzeg, Grodzisko, Giżycko, Fort Gorgast, Kaunas Fort IX). Tour operators don't have sufficient knowledge about the high potential for tourism and about the attractiveness of the Forts, their history, architecture, rich nature and their interesting cultural Fortress life. Fortress marketing is still underdeveloped.

At the work package meeting in Gdańsk (February 2006), the Coordinator Mr H. Röder initiated an agreement of the partners to work out a documentation for each Fortress. For the first time one all-inclusive, standardized Fortress data pool will be developed. For tour operators this information is an important basis to plan individual and flexible routes along the Baltic Fortresses. It is a new instrument for Fortress presentation on the tourism market. Electronic information is easy to distribute and spread.



Marketing strategy

Transformation of former military Fortresses in a common peaceful Europe

In October 2006, a double meeting of the work packages 1 and 4 took place in Kaunas. In a "Brainstorming" the partners discussed the image, the self-concept and their Fort's presentation on the tourist market. Historical Forts were built as peaceful buildings to defend attacks from the outside. Still, a lot of them have the image of a mysterious, hidden object from war times, which in order affects Fortress tourism. The partners developed slogans as a marketing strategy and for the better development of the image.

- "From war to peace"
- "From closed mystery locations to public living space"
- "From military to culture"
- "Culture and art in casemates"
- "Events in monuments"



Participants of WP 2 and WP 4 - meeting in Kaunas, October 2006

First concept of Travelling Exhibition

During the Workshop on August, 28th, 2006 the "Expert group Traveling Exhibition" worked out main issues and categories, which will be represented on thematic maps and special exhibits. The meeting took place in the casemate of the Fort Gorgast, a typical room of a Fortress, where the exhibition is to be presented as well. Four main issues are to be developed:

- Fortress history
- Attractive architecture
- Fascinating nature
- Culture and Life in Fortresses

Start developing of marketing instruments

During the meeting of work package 4 in June 2006 in Gdańsk, the partners began developing marketing instruments in a standardized design. A logo and different folders are part of it. All partners turned in ideas for the logo and the lead partner called out a competition.

So called "merchandise products" play a major role in Fortress marketing. Up to now there have been very few offers from the Fortresses.

Different proposals for special merchandise products that need to be developed for the Baltic Fort route were discussed.



The first BFR information manual

Analysis of Fortress marketing at the ITB in Berlin

The Project-Coordination Mr H. Röder and Mr Dr. Neumann analyzed the participation and the type of representation of European Fortresses at the International Tourism Fair -ITB- in Berlin in February, 2007. Only very few Fortresses presented themselves at the most important tourism fair worldwide. To enhance Fortress tourism, the marketing strategies need to reach new quality levels and cooperation need to be promoted. These are also two of the goals of the partners in the Baltic Fort Route project.

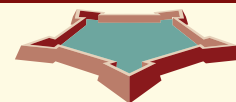
Cooperation with an experienced Tour Operator

Mr DDr. Rohrscheidt, an excellent expert of culture tourism, tour operator and lecturer for tourism at the Faculty of Cultural Studies „Gnieznienska Wyższa Szkoła Humanistyczno Menedżerska Milenium" held a lesson on the requirements of the professional organization of routes and the guaranty of high quality tourism. His company Kul-Tour.PL has good expertise with Fort tourism in Poland and offered consultancy and organization of the first pilot tours under the topic "Baltic Fort Route". Cooperation is being agreed upon.



DDr. Armin Mikos von Rohrscheidt

UTILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT METHODS



WP 3 - Seminar at Fortress Königstein

Learn best practices

Dr. H.-R. Neumann

The mountain Fortress in Saxony / Germany is a unique testimonial of European Fortress architecture and goes hand in hand with the development and history of Saxony. This cultural heritage has a long tradition in tourist development and professional Fortress management.

On April 24th and 25th, 2006 the partner European University Viadrina Frankfurt / Oder organized a seminar for all BFR-project partners and other interested fortifications on the Fortress Königstein. The seminar explored the multifaceted use of the Fortification and analysed the factors for the successful management of such a facility. Hostess and Managing director of Königstein, Dr. Angelika Taube led the seminar personally and guided the participants into parts of the Fort that are usually not open to public. The Fortresses from Dresden, Terezin and Jaromer (Czech Republic) were also taking part in the seminar. Thus, it promoted cross-border cooperation between the Fortresses of the Baltic Fort Route as well as Königstein and the Czech neighbor Fortresses. The second part of the seminar is planned for June, 2007 at the Citadel Spandau.

Practical Courses of Students

Contribution to culture route development and students research

R.S.Dornbusch, M.A.

The civil development of Fortresses as a complex task need scientific support. The relocation of economic activities to the third sector lets underdeveloped rural areas pin their hope on the tourism industry that on the one hand looks for natural resources such as landscapes, nature and culture and on the other hand more and more uses and destroys them inadequately by interfering. The European University Viadrina in Frankfurt / Oder, Chair of Preservation of Monuments / Master program "European Cultural Heritage" is specialized in terms of compatible heritage utilization and tourism planning. Focus points of Students of the Practical Courses were:

Lesson units, field trips and discussions on the History of Fortresses, Comparative European Historic Preservation Laws, History and Theory of the Preservation of Cultural Assets, Project Management and Tourism management and planning. In this intensive practical course "Guidelines for Tourism Planning in Fortresses" were worked out as a contribution to the development of the Culture Route BFR. Recapitulatory, the following core statement can be abstracted from these "Guidelines":

Before promoting and developing tourism, a management plan should be implemented to identify the mission and value of the Fortress.

Very often the environmental, economic and socio-cultural aspects of a region or nation and the good mix among them could guarantee long-term sustainability.



Fortress Königstein in Saxony / Germany

Promotion of professional management of Fortresses

One of the most important requirements to conserve and maintain a cultural heritage and utilize it under a special tourist concept is a professional management. There are big quality differences and deficits in the Baltic Sea Region. Especially in Eastern European countries, the development process for ownership policies, responsibilities and management is not yet finished. Ways to long run reconstruction of the partly heavily damaged Fortresses need to be worked out and integrated in city and regional planning.

In the Baltic Fort Route project, the partners aim at working out a "documentation of best practices" for the management organization of Fortresses. This is an important contribution to establish a professional and sustainable management organization for the European cultural heritage Fortresses.



WP 3 - Seminar at Fortress Königstein



Ming Wai Yun, a young manager from Hong Kong, presents the "Guidelines of tourism planning for Fortresses". Practising a post-graduate course at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt / Oder Mrs Yun's subject focus on the exchange of experience within the BFR project.



Panorama foto of City Dömitz with Fortress

© Tourismusamt Dömitz

RECONSTRUCTION AND NATURE MANAGEMENT IN FORTRESSES

Progress in Pilot and Demonstration Projects for best practices *Sandstone-Portal Dömitz*

Extensive preliminary site investigations were performed in 2005/2006 in preparation for the restoration. As a basis for the structural condition assessment a site measurement of the portal was performed manually, taking all deformation into account. The structural condition and discernible damages were documented with photos and included in the planning papers.

A plan for investigating the building stock and analyzing structural materials on the sandstone portal was developed on the basis of visual appraisals after thorough inspection of the structure. Special attention was given to indications of high moisture and salt content in the sandstone elements and the adjacent walls; these factors are recognized as major causes of weathering damage in sandstone elements of the structure.



Mapping of the collected samples and their salt content (Documentation of a Restoration and Repair Project Sandstone Portal Dömitz)

Malzhausbastion Peitz

To get a permission of reconstruction the Malzhausbastion by authorities was a long term process of discussing the causes of destroying and the way of reconstruction.

Especially the discussion between the authorities of monument and nature protection about cutting brushes and trees and removing the rootstocks on the Fortification and the Hedera from the walls was a long way of acceptance.

Finally the removing of all plants, the improvement of cover layers and the reconstruction work on the building, especially of the walls, could be started.



Construction work at the Malzhausbastion Peitz

Trans-national Information System -TIS- *New quality of central data basis in Europe*

The information basis and the documents about the European cultural heritage Fortresses are still very incomplete. Spread in many archives across Europe, they are not easily accessible. With the Transnational Information System -TIS- the scientific partners of the Baltic Fort Route project created a central data bank that will play a major role in the future. For the first time all accessible information will be collected electronically, systematically archived and opened to the public through a special stock inflow procedure. This is a whole new level of providing information to state of the art, the situation and the use of the monuments as well as maintenance and care. As a result, actors have easier access to information of e.g. best practices of reconstruction, renovation, utilization and management of Fortresses.

Together a data bank structure was created. It is based on the MNEME program system, which was sponsored by the Humboldt-University Berlin. After some of the partner Fortresses started data collection, the first test of the system ran successfully. A homepage was started.

There is more information available through the coordinator Dr. Hans-Rudolf Neumann.



TIS-Conference in Spandau during the WP 1-Meeting

Conflict between trees and bricks in Fortress monuments *Monument protection and nature protection needs harmonization, the contribution of "Brain-Pool"*

PD Dr. habil. F. Riesbeck

Extensive investigations about the influence of flora as one of the causes for destruction of historical monuments, especially fortifications started during the INTERREG III B Project "Baltic Fort Route" in 2005. Another research area invested in the field of Nature protection and its influence on reconstruction and special tourist utilization concepts in the different partner fortifications.

Depending on the utilization forms, the time of non-using and the degree of destruction, different situations and influences were found in the interrelation of Nature and Monument. Thus, a conflict between Nature and the Monument Protection existed in all investigated fortifications. One aim of the research in WP 2 is to develop scientific and professional methods and instruments for the owners of historical monuments, like fortresses. It is important to find acceptable solutions between monument and nature protection keeping in mind the dependence on different utilization concepts.

A short summarized presentation of first results will be given in the following.

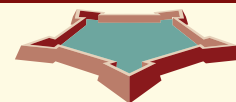


Plants destroyed monuments or parts of the monuments



Nature protected plants exist in fortifications

METHODS OF INVENTORY AND DOCUMENTATION



Difficulties for inventory and documentation after two world wars

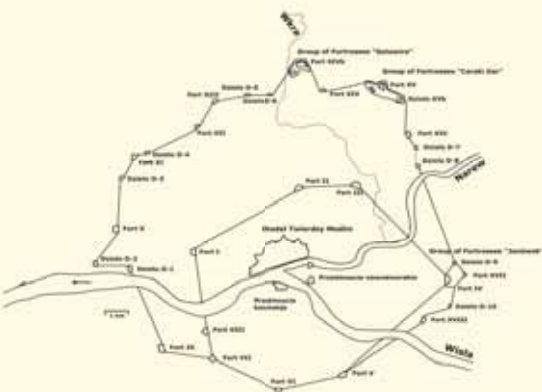
WP 1-Meeting Giżycko
February 9th-10th, 2006



Ground plan Fort Boyen

© v. Aster

At the first meeting in Giżycko, the deficits in the framework of Fortress documentation became quite obvious. Most of the historical maps are stored in other countries' archives, like in St. Petersburg, Moscow or Berlin. Only insufficient information exists for the construction- and development period. Most of them are not based on scientific research. The main goal now is to collect extensive historically secured material of all partner Fortifications, to be able to describe the European Heritage Fortresses on specially secured documents. There is a need to contact the numerous national and international archives.



Graphical presentation of the wide range of the former Russian fortification Modlin: Most of the construction history is unknown, because most of the historical maps and drawings are stored in the war archive in Moscow.

Pilot projects for new methods of inventory and documentation Fortresses



Kołobrzeg, Light Tower

The task of the Work Package 1 "Inventory and Documentation" is to investigate in archives and libraries and search for relevant papers and plans to gain information about the planning and construction of the many Fortresses that still need to be researched on. Two pilot and demonstration projects will help to create new ways of documentation and inventory management. For the former Prussian Fortress on the Baltic sea from the 18th century in Kołobrzeg and Fortress Modlin, a great 19th century Russian fortification in Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki no knowledge what so ever exists anymore.



Fortress Modlin, White Tower

In the framework of the Baltic Fort Route project, new methods for documentation and inventory management will be developed and made available to other Fortresses.

The goal is to use all knowledge, information, plans, drawings, graphics, pictures, architecture inventory and all archived materials, to enable qualified monument conservation and develop protection and utilization concepts. They are the basis for creating sufficient tourist information and functioning Fortress marketing.

Standard methodology finished

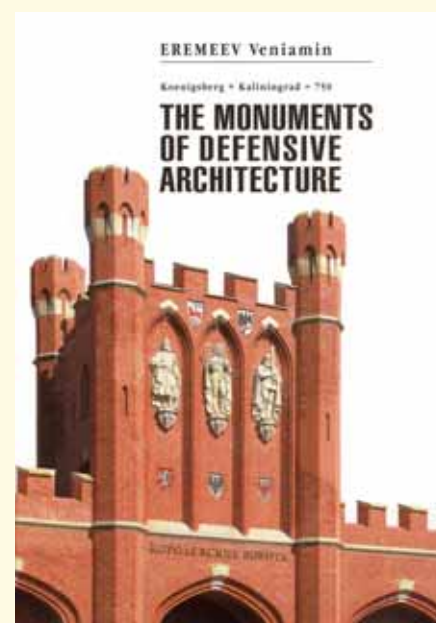
At the network meeting in Spandau, a Standard Methodology of Fortresses Documentation and Inventory Research was agreed upon for WP 1. The methodology is now used and tested in the pilot project.



Fortress Modlin, Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki

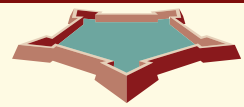
Publication about Kaliningrad Fortress

In good time for end of 2006 the 208-page-publication by Dr. Veniamin Ereemeev emerged about the fortifications in Königsberg / Kaliningrad. Initiated by the BFR, as an associated member of the EU-project, the author elaborated an exemplary documentation that can be seen as a step in the right direction even under political signs. The book is published in English and Russian languages, a German edition is still in preparation.



Publication by Dr. V. Ereemeev

TOURIST OFFERS IN BALTIC FORTRESSES



Major Fortress Kaunas – long term development

A field trip through the Fort side gave important insides to all the project partners. The large former Russian storage Fortress Kaunas consists of 12 Forts around the city. Up to now, only Fort No IX is used as a museum and Holocaust-memorial for visitors.



The monument of eternal remembrance is a symbol for the former extermination site in Fort No IX

The other Forts were in military use during the Cold War. They are badly deconstructed and need a change in utilization, reconstruction and new infrastructure. Their inventory need to be documented.

The framework of the Baltic Fort Route project realizes pilot and demonstration projects as well as practical experiences and courses for students to enhance the development process of the sides. Fort No V is planned to become a side for youth, sport and leisure time. Students from the Universities intensively work on these projects. With the pilot and demonstration project "Fortress of Baltic Youth, Culture, Sports and Leisure time" an example for utilization of historic monuments with modern tourism trends in Fort No V of Kaunas Fortress should be developed.

First local Management Organization founded

The foundation of a management organization for Fortress Kaunas is one of the first important results. It brings together the initiatives of the city with helpful volunteers and the Universities. Furthermore it will promote the tourist utilization of the Kaunas Fortress.

The Citadel Berlin-Spandau – an example of best practice

The Spandau Citadel in Berlin is an excellent place to exchange experiences about the tourist use of historical, heritage-protected Fortresses. The Spandau Citadel, the oldest secular building in Berlin and the only remaining renaissance Fortress in Northern Europe, was built in its current form in the 16th century. Certain sections, such as the Julius Tower, date back to the early 13th century.

Mrs Theissen, the head of the department of Art and Culture of Spandau, presented the interesting history of the Fortress. The defensive brick and limestone castle was directly involved in a battle only once: Napoleon barricaded himself here on his retreat in 1813 and was shot at by Russians and Prussians.

It stands for professional management and is an exemplary for the development of attractive tourist offers.



Konrad Birkholz (middle), Mayor of town district Spandau of Berlin at the Citadel Festival

The Citadel counts over 150.000 visitors annually. Rich cultural offers, changing exhibitions and special events attract all age groups. There are the Festival of Bats, the Festival of Lights, Halloween and New Years to name only a few.



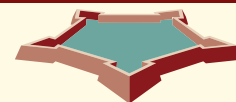
During the network meeting on December 6th, 2006 at a press conference, the Deputy mayor of Spandau, Gerhard Hanke presented an extended utilization concept to make the Citadel more attractive.

PREVIEW Highlights of Event-Calender Citadel Spandau 2007



Open Air Concerts	Month
The Berlin Symphony Orchestra	June
Jethro Tull	June
Patti Smith	June
Status Quo	June
Silbermond	June
Joan Baez	July
Helmut Lotti	July
AIDA	August
The Kelly Family	August
Fortress events	Month
Easter-Knight-Spectacular	April
Castle Festival of Spandau	May
Fortress Night	July
Long Night of the Museums	August
Festival of Bats	September
Castle Festival	September
Festival of Lights	October
New Year 's Eve party	December

NEWS OF THE WORK PACKAGES



Common workshop at Immanuel Kant State University at Kaliningrad, 4th - 6th October 2006

Highlight of WP 1 / WP 2 - Meeting has been the workshop at the Kant-University in Kaliningrad and a common visit of Kaliningrad fortifications. The workshop at I. Kant University has taken part with participation of numerous specialist of the Kaliningrad town administration, especially of the Town planning and heritage department. Dr. Veniamin Ereemeev from Spatial Planning Institute Kaliningrad gave the presentation about the city and its development, its history and Kaliningrad partners work in the Baltic Fort Route Project as well. He introduced a book about Kaliningrad fortresses that he has written recently (see page 6).

Kaliningrad authorities and partners (Kaliningrad partner Spatial Planning Institute, I. Kant University, Kaliningrad 1st and 5th forts, the experts of fortresses in Kaliningrad, some experts from museums in Kaliningrad) were very much concerned about to stay in-touch with the BFR partners.

Humboldt University at Berlin would work out concrete solutions for fortress Kaliningrad to integrate nature quality as an offer in the Baltic Fort Route. On the concept to reduce nature influence, to sensitive, careful intervention into the nature and the building as bases to develop an attractive tourist point will work together the partners from I. Kant University of Kaliningrad, Spatial Planning Institute (SPI-Kaliningrad) and Humboldt University of Berlin. Dr. Elena Kropinova (department of the EU Project Tourism Development in Northwest Russia at I. Kant University) a project coordinator in Kaliningrad region was asked to present the topic about preparation of the fortress Kaliningrad for culture and tourism utilisation's, integration of the fortress Kaliningrad in the Baltic Fort Route, to develop attractive tourist point in fortress outside of the EU in the Kaunas Scientific conference as well.



Meeting with PD Dr. habil. F. Riesbeck and Mr Dr. V. Ereemeev, project partner Spatial Planning Institute Kaliningrad at Fortress Kaliningrad



Members of BFR project together with the representatives of Kaliningrad administration during the workshop at I. Kant State University

Activities of scientific partners:

Common preparation of Kaliningrad Fortresses for tourism

After the WP 2 meeting in Kaliningrad Dr. Riesbeck together with his colleague Gunar Issbruecker worked on the examination and research on the nature of Kaliningrad's Fort No V. The proposals for the combination of nature and monument in Kaliningrad's Forts will be worked out at the end of January 2007 and presented in the scientific conference in Kaunas (22nd-23rd March, 2007). They also had additional meetings with people from Kaliningrad's Fort No I and discussed about founding a non-governmental organization that is responsible for these forts in Kaliningrad.



Kaliningrad – visit of Fort No V PD Dr. habil. Frank Riesbeck is taking a picture in front of the casemates

Mr Harald Wede,

the chairman of the Association Fort Gorgast and manager of work package 4, died unexpectedly at the age of only 50 years.



Mr Harald Wede was very engaged in preparation and organization of the Baltic Fort Route project. We thank him for his work and the promotion of experience exchange and international cooperation.

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