

NEWSLETTER

PROJECT MEETING IN LA ROCHELLE

The 7th Steering Committee Meeting of the MMIAH Project was held in La Rochelle last October, the 9th and 10th. Partners met at the Auditorium of the Maritime Museum of La Rochelle, where they discussed progress on the project’s workplan.



Project Partners at the meeting venue in La Rochelle

PROJECT UPCOMING EVENTS

While waiting to know whether the project will finally be extended until the end of 2020, two meetings are still to be held: one in Liverpool and the last one, in the Irish town of Limerick, coinciding with the closing of the MMIAH Project.



Weather Boat France I, Maritime Museum of La Rochelle

As a first step towards extending the MMIAH network, French partners invited Rafael Deroo to present the EFFORTS Project as well as the Atlantik Wall Europe Project, both pursuing similar objectives around the valorisation of military and maritime heritage and history in Europe. Jo Butler, an experienced tourism strategy consultant, appointed by Plymouth City Council to support the partnership in the development of a transnational tourism product, presented her proposal. Thus, partners discussed the design of transnational itineraries around military, maritime and industrial heritage.

Leisure activities included a city tour, a boat trip from the Old Port to the Great Port, where partners visited the World War II submarine base and the TD-6 dredge, for which the Maritime Museum is developing a virtual reality project as part of the MMIAH Project. At La Sirène, an old grain silo from the 1920s that became a concert hall in 2011, partners could also appreciate a great example of new uses for industrial assets. Finally, partners visited the Maritime Museum and its flagship, the weather boat France I, where they could appreciate the cultural interventions already carried out (rehabilitation of the tunnel escape, hologram).

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HERITAGE AS A SOCIETY DYNAMISATION FACTOR

The enhancement of our maritime, industrial and military heritage is a unique opportunity to provide each of the MMIAH territories with new exhibition, social, art, sporting or simply tourist spaces.

ÍLHAVO: A NEW LIFE FOR SANTO ANDRÉ

The Museum Boat Santo André will embark on a new journey very soon. It will not take the historic boat to the distant waters of Newfoundland or Greenland for cod fishing, this journey will instead give Santo André the opportunity to become a renewed museum which will take future visitors to explore new experiences and build new memories. In addition to structural improvement and restoration, Ílhavo City Council, together with the Ílhavo Maritime Museum, is preparing a permanent exhibition to be opened in 2020, nearly 20 years after the inauguration of the Santo André Museum. Expectations in Ílhavo are that the museum becomes more attractive to the public.

LIMERICK: CANAL HARBOUR, THE LOCK QUAY

Limerick City and County Council have chosen the Canal House buildings at the old Canal Harbour in the heart of Limerick City as their main intervention in the MMIAH project. Dating to the mid-18th century, this site served as a hub linking trade between the Atlantic Ocean and the extensive inland system of canals in Ireland.

Work has begun on clearing the site of vegetation; special care will be taken to remove invasive species such as giant hogweed from the area. This will be followed by the process of consolidating and restoring the Canal Harbour buildings. Though the canal itself is no longer navigable, the towpaths are very popular as a shared walking & cycling route linking the city with its many riverside suburbs and the University of Limerick campus.

CORK: ENHANCED EXPERIENCE FOR VISITORS TO ELIZABETH FORT

Visitors to Cork's Elizabeth Fort can now avail of self-guided audio tours of the city's star fort and view fascinating new illustrations of Cork in the 17th century in a new permanent exhibition. The new permanent exhibition 'Walls, Women, Water' at Elizabeth Fort is a key outcome of the MMIAH project in Cork. The exhibition tells the story of the development of the fort - and of Cork - through maps, images and text. One particularly exciting feature of the exhibition is a newly commissioned artwork which depicts Cork between 1624-26 and has proved particularly popular with both local people and tourists.

Also developed through MMIAH, there is now a set of multilingual audio guides, available now in 7 languages to offer a valuable support to visitors. Elizabeth Fort's location and importance, which in the last century had been largely forgotten, is now being reintroduced as a core element of the city's identity.



Hologram at the weather boat France I, Maritime Museum of La Rochelle



Image of the future permanent exhibition at Paiol de Santo André- and old fishing nets warehouse-, Ílhavo.



Canal Harbour buildings at Lock Quay in Limerick City



Cork 1624-26: Newly-commissioned artwork by archaeological illustrator, Philip Armstrong of 'Paint the Past'



Tidal dock at A Cabana, Ferrol

MMIAH WILL TRAVEL TO THE INTERNATIONAL TOURISM TRADE SHOW FITUR IN JANUARY

Ferrol City Council will display information about this European Project in its stand in FITUR, one of the most important tourism exhibitions in the world, which will be celebrated in Madrid from the 22nd to the 26th of January.

FERROL is already preparing to participate in FITUR, an international tourism show that will be celebrated in the Spanish capital city in January. And it will do so by dedicating a special space to disseminate the MMIAH tourist product amongst both tour operators and the general public. Ferrol City Council, the MMIAH Project Lead Partner, is already producing dissemination materials, including a presentation, a project video and brochures about the tourist product. Each one of the nine partners are cooperating for the elaboration of a tourist product based on a common linking element: the Atlantic Coast that shaped the history and heritage of the nine participating cities.

TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL

Creating a common tourism product, to enhance the Atlantic maritime, industrial and military heritage, is the overarching objective of the nine partner organisations that form the MMIAH Project consortium.

In view of the last year of the project, each one of the nine partners are in the process of executing the allocated tasks: evolutionary studies for each one of the participating cities, master plans and management plans that will lead to a White Paper, which is intended as the project legacy -a methodology- for similar ventures in the future, as well as rehabilitation actions on selected heritage assets to exemplify the spirit of the MMIAH Project. The project work plan will culminate in the creation of a transnational tourism product, including the nine partner cities. This action is led by Plymouth City Council.

Cooperation is therefore an important dimension of the project.



Tourist product logo

WE ALREADY HAVE A LOGO!

One of the main steps forward taken in recent weeks, under the coordination of Plymouth City Council, is the development of the tourist product brand, as well as the logo that will identify it. ATLANTIC ADVENTURES COLLECTION will promote the exciting tourist offer of the nine MMIAH destinations around the world.

OTHER RECOVERY WORKS IN PROGRESS AT MMIAH SITES

LIVERPOOL: THE ROYAL ALBERT DOCK

British partner, Liverpool City Region Growth Company Limited, has been working closely with its local partners on the development of the management for the heritage assets located along the Waterfront and encompassing the world-famous Royal Albert Dock.

The focus of the management plan will be on unlocking the offer of the north docks that are brimming with heritage assets including Victoria Tower and dominant structures such as Stanley Tobacco Warehouse. The focus for the central dock system will improve connectivity to extend the visitor draw so there is better integration with the assets which lie beyond the immediate focus of Albert Dock.



Albert Dock, Liverpool

CAEN: FURNACES OF THE BUTTE ROUGE

Partner Caen Normandie Métropole is coordinating the recovery of the calcination furnaces of the Butte Rouge in Dompierre. Works are progressing with the support of the association Le Savoir & Le Fer, and after months the rehabilitation of one of the bays of the Butte Rouge site is nearly ready. Drainage works have begun, so that the AIFR association can then continue with masonry work.



Calcination furnace Butte Rouge in Dompierre, Normandie

This site allowed the calcination of iron ore extracted at the Ferrière aux Etangs mine between 1901 and 1938. The site is open all year round with free access, and regularly hosts events such as Heritage Days. The rehabilitation of this site will restore it to its former glory to be able to welcome the public to a beautiful rural setting to discover the region's industrial history.



Works in progress at the Butte Rouge in Dompierre, Normandie

PLYMOUTH: ROYAL NAVAL FIGUREHEADS

The installation of 14 gigantic Royal Naval figureheads is well and truly underway at The Box, under the coordination of British partner Plymouth City Council.

The monumental sculptures, all of which were carved between the 1830s and 1860s, are arriving from conservation studios in London, Helston and North Devon. Their groundbreaking restoration has taken nearly two years and was kick started in 2017 with funding secured from Interreg through its 'Maritime, Military and Industrial Atlantic Heritage' (MMIAH) project.

Delivering, unloading and installing the figureheads began on Monday and is set to take around a fortnight. They're arriving in batches of three or four at a time. Some are over four metres high and the largest, known as 'King Billy', weighs around two tonnes.



Plymouth Council leader Tudor Evans goes face to face with King Billy, one of the 14 figureheads to be exhibited at The Box



Tall Ships in the Bay of Cádiz

MARITIME EVENTS IN THE PIPELINE FOR 2020

THE CITY OF CÁDIZ IS HOSTING A TALL SHIPS RACE IN JULY 2020

The naval sail training vessel Juan Sebastian Elcano has its base in the city and every year hundreds of people come to the dockside to wish her a safe voyage or welcome her home after her yearly sail training voyage with the year's naval cadets. This connection with the Elcano has helped to cement the people of Cadiz's love of the sea and tall ships.

Cadiz's first Tall Ships event took place in 1992, with an event to celebrate the Discovery of America by Columbus. This event was a huge success and laid the foundations for regular Tall Ships races. Another Transatlantic event in 2000 was followed by summer races in 2006, 2012 and 2016. These last three generating large visitor numbers have led Cadiz to organize a new event in 2020, an event that will again fire the enthusiasm of a whole city

Cadiz will be a host port in the summer races of 2020 with the fleet arriving from Lisbon on the 9th of July and leaving on the 12th of July for La Coruña. In between will be 4 days of intense activity in the port with the Class A vessels berthed in the main commercial basin and the class B, C and D vessels moored up in the fishing dock adjacent to the main quaysides.

More than 1.5 million visitors are expected, with a comprehensive entertainment program on the dockside, both for visitors and crews. From 11.00am throughout midnight, activities will include exhibitions, workshops, conferences, commercial areas, restaurant areas, a main stage, concerts, sports and activities for children.

EMD 2020, CORK

European Maritime Day 2020 is organised jointly by the European Commission, the City of Cork and Our Ocean Wealth Summit. It will be celebrated on 14 and 15 May 2020 in Cork City Hall together with Our Ocean Wealth' (OOW), Ireland's flagship annual event for the marine sector and will be held back-to-back with the 'SeaFest', Ireland's largest free family-friendly maritime celebration.



A 19TH CENTURY BATTERY TOWER TO BECOME A NEW EXHIBITION SPACE

Ferrol City Council will renovate a 19th century defensive tower located at the San Felipe Castle historical complex, right in the estuary. The project includes panels displaying the history of this magnificent military fort.



Ferrol – The investment to refurbish the tower will amount nearly 130,000 euros. The tower is an outstanding defensive element of San Felipe Castle, which was erected back in the 16th century under the rule of Phillippe the Second, even though its appearance such as it is appreciated today dates mainly from the Enlightenment period, more precisely from the late 18th century.

San Felipe Castle has always stood out for being connected to a complex defensive system spread along the Atlantic Coast of Ferrol. It is strategically located in a striking scenario, known for being one of the narrowest estuaries in the world, and flanked - precisely due to this circumstance - by two castles, San Felipe, in the municipality of Ferrol, and La Palma Castle, in the municipality of Mugardos -.

Ferrol will recover through the MMAIAH Project the low battery tower, dated in the 19th century, one of the key elements of the San Felipe Castle complex. This is one of the many actions initiated by Ferrol City Council to acclaim its historical heritage, such as the submission of a nomination proposal in 2000 to have the local Enlightenment heritage included in the UNESCO's World Heritage List, having achieved its inclusion in the tentative list in 2006.

This tower is located at the estuary mouth, so that its rehabilitation will not only contribute to the implementation of the castle's recovery plan, which has been going on for years, but will also mean a step forward for the enhancement of Ferrol's natural heritage.

The low battery tower, such arranged by Ferrol City Council, will become an exhibition space in the coming months. It will house a series of exhibition panels depicting the history of San Felipe Castle. This new space is also expected to host the virtual recreation of the coastal battery system, another action to be funded through the MMAIAH Project- with an estimated investment of 60,000 euros -. The project will include the development of a historical tour for visitors to understand the evolution of the defensive systems in Ferrol. Other related sites, such as San Carlos, Viñas, Doniños, Prior or even San Felipe are some of the best examples to illustrate the importance of Ferrol throughout history.



Interior and exterior images of San Felipe Castle Low Tower, Ferrol.

