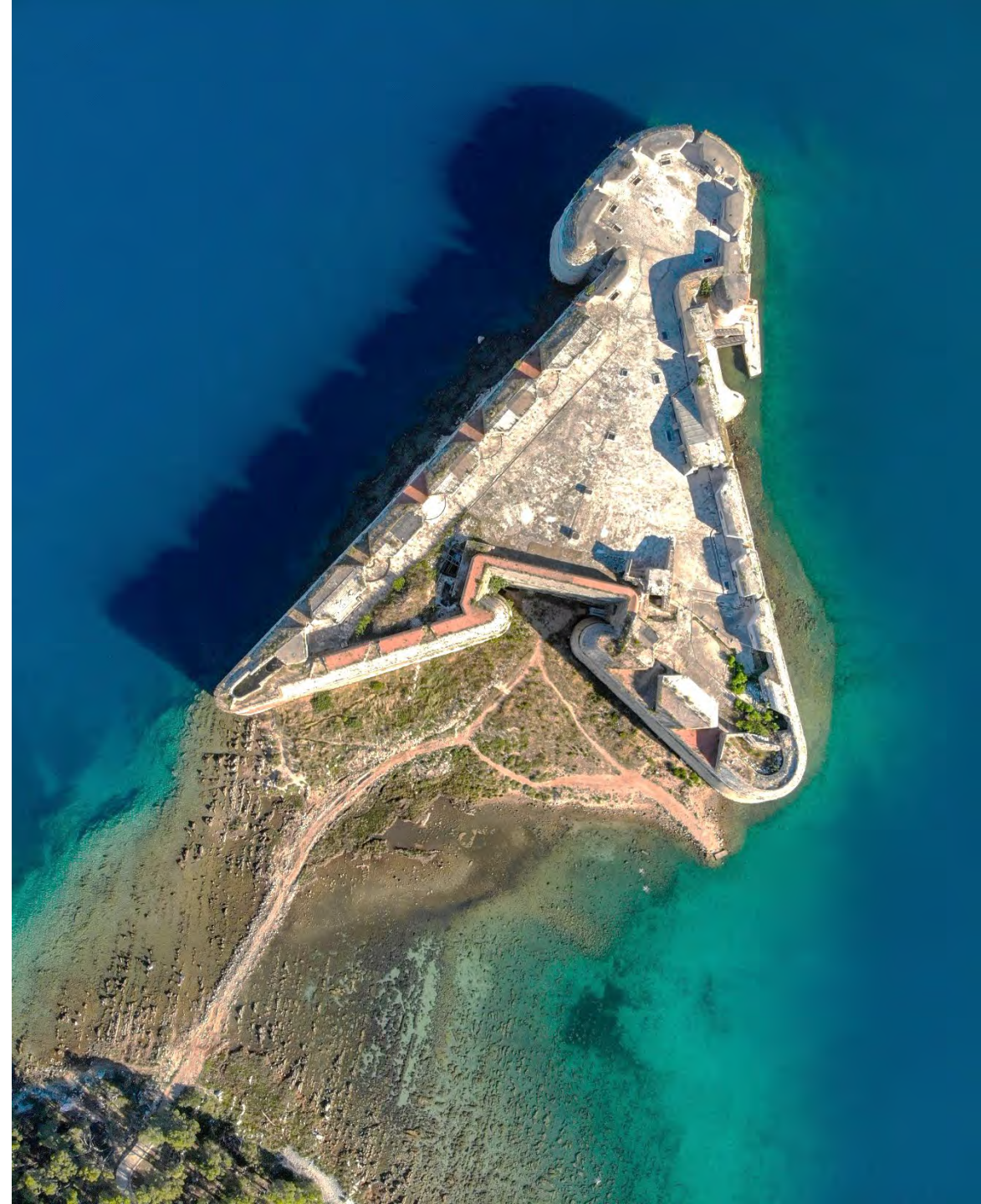
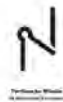


# St Nicholas' Fortress - a UNESCO site

Public Institution Nature  
of Šibenik-Knin County



## St Nicholas' Fortress



- unique construction of the Venetian Renaissance fortification architecture, represents a monument of world heritage in the Mediterranean
- it was built in the 16th century on the islet of Ljuljevac at the site of the former Benedictine Monastery of St Nicholas, from which it took its name



In 2017 St Nicholas' Fortress was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List

- part of a transnational nomination entitled:

*Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar*, which also includes the Defensive System of Zadar, Fortified City of Bergamo, Fortified City of Peschiera del Garda, City Fortress of Palmanova in Italy, and Fortified City of Kotor in Montenegro



CONVENTION CONCERNING  
THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL  
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The World Heritage Committee  
has inscribed

*Venetian Works of Defence between  
the 16th and 17th Centuries:  
Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar  
on the World Heritage List*

*Inscription on this List confirms the outstanding  
universal value of a cultural or  
natural property which requires protection for  
the benefit of all humanity*

DATE OF INSCRIPTION

*12 July 2017*

*Irina Borova*

DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
OF UNESCO

# The Venetian Works of Defence between 16th and 17th centuries: Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar

## Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

CRITERION (III): The Venetian Works of Defence provide an exceptional testimony of the *alla moderna* military culture, which evolved within the Republic of Venice in the 16th and 17th centuries, involving vast territories and interactions from Venetian *terraferma* to the Levant

CRITERION (IV): The Venetian Works of Defence present the characteristics of the *alla moderna* fortified system (bastioned system) built by the Republic of Venice following changes that were introduced following the increased use of firearms

- Fortified city of Bergamo
- Fortified city of Peschiera del Garda
- City Fortress of Palmanova
- Defensive System of Zadar
- St Nicholas' Fortress
- Fortified city of Kotor

PROFILLO DE K SOPRA LE CORTI<sup>22</sup>

Con la contrammina & Rami di comunicazione

PROFILLO DELLE FRONTE VICINO L'ORECHIONI DI BALOARDI

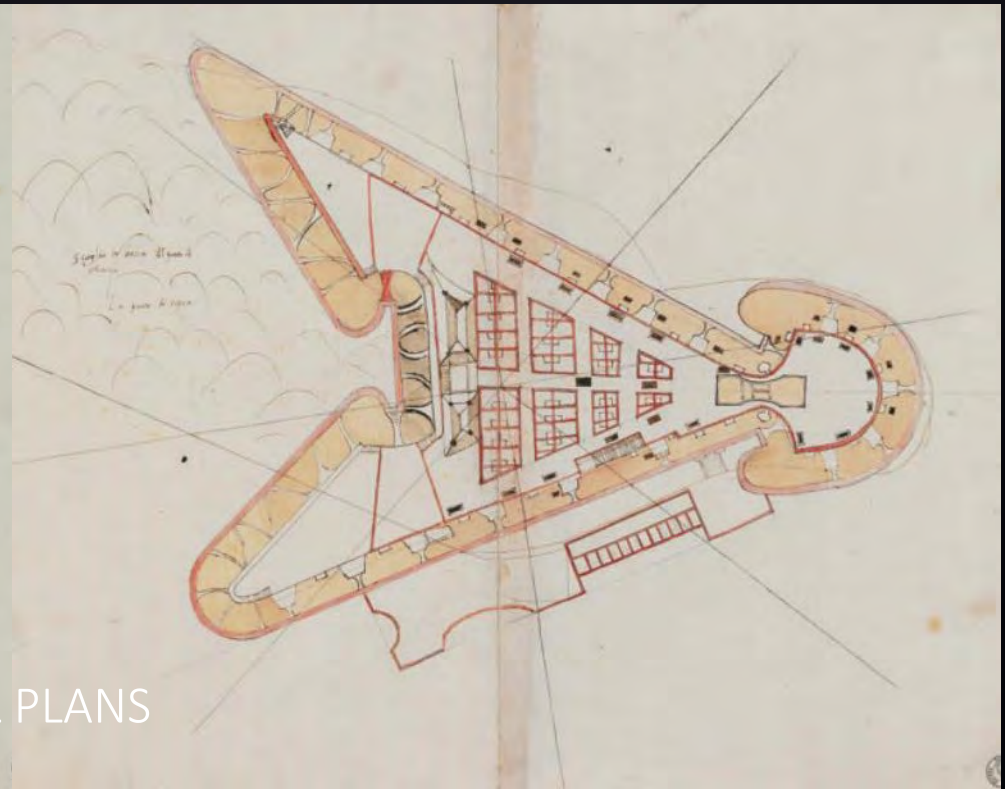
ce alla falsa porta delle torrioni, con la Contrammina & rami proposti in due fronte, ce pariment > nella contrascarpa

# The Venetian Works of Defence between 16th and 17th centuries: Stato da Terra - Western Stato da Mar

- The construction of St Nicholas' Fortress started at the very end of the so called third Ottoman - Venetian war, around 1540 as the response of Republic of Venice to the powerful Turkish naval force
- The construction began according to plans by Giangirolamo Sanmicheli, the nephew of famous Venetian architect Michele Sanmicheli and under his supervision
- The basic layout form of the fort is a **triangle**, with a round shaped bastion - **rondel** directed towards the channel, and **two demi-bastions** towards the land, on the south side, which create a *tenaglia*, an element that appeared here very early in Venetian military architecture

PROFILLO DE K SOPRA LE CORTI  
con la contramirina & Rami di comunicazione

PROFILLO DELLE FRONTE VIGINO L'ORECHIONI DI BALOARDI  
et alla falsaporta delle serride, con la Contramirina & rami proposti in dette fronte, et perimetro  
nella contrascarpa

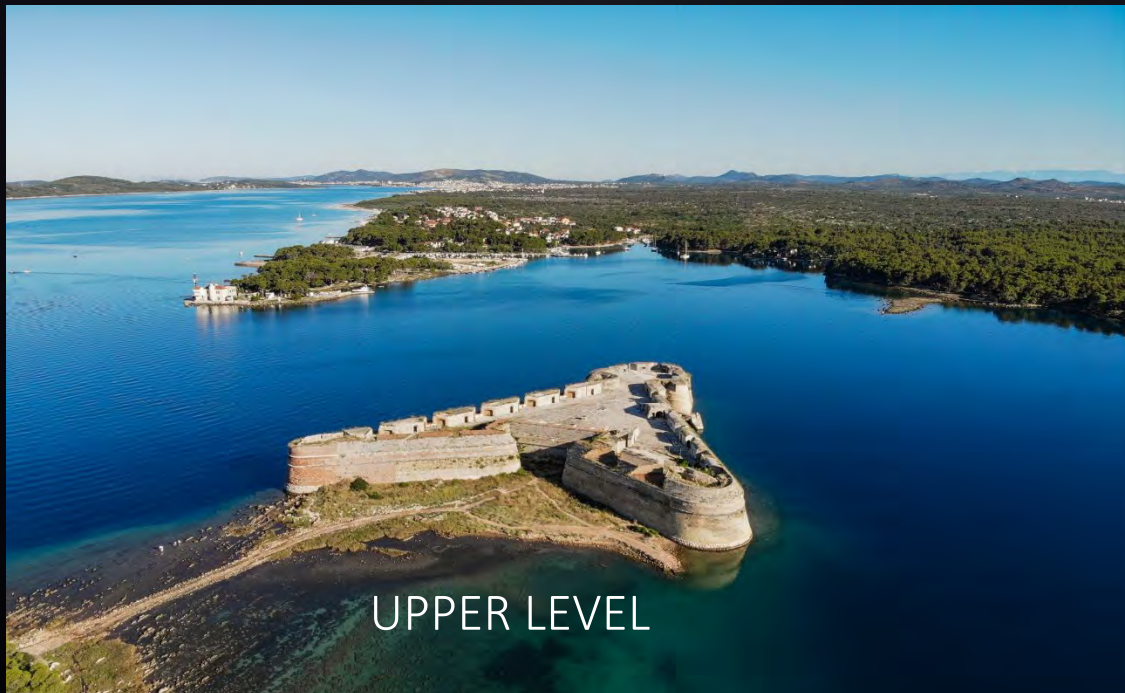


ORIGINAL PLANS

## ENTRANCE - RENAISSANCE PORTAL



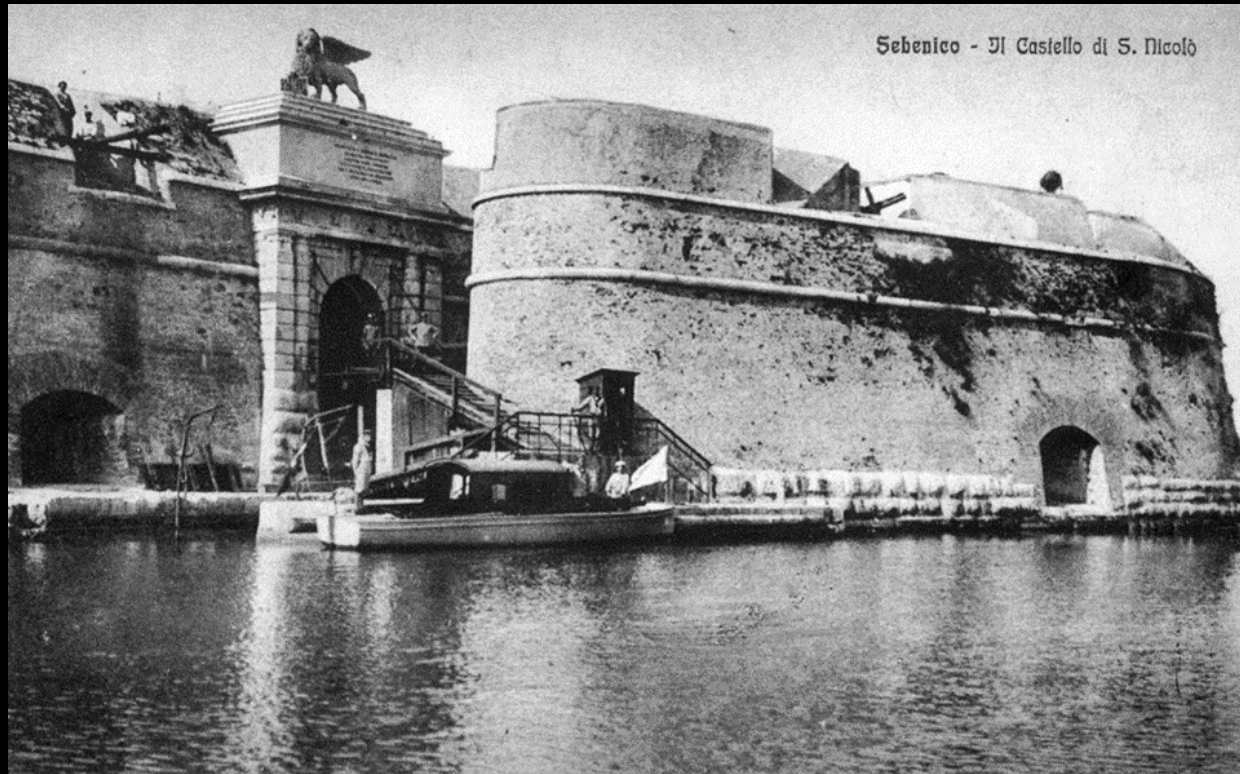
- two internal floors
- a spacious terrace
- system of skylights
- combination of construction materials
- decorative elements



## UPPER LEVEL

## INTERIOR - RONDEL





...for a long time the fortress was under military administration,  
therefore isolated from the local population...

but today it is on its way to **revitalization!**





St. Nicholas' Fortress is part of the significant landscape Channel – Port in Šibenik managed by  
**Public Institution Nature of Šibenik-Knin County**

- St. Anthony's Channel -

Public Institution Nature is managing  
6 significant landscapes,  
1 monument of nature,  
and about 60 *Natura 2000* sites

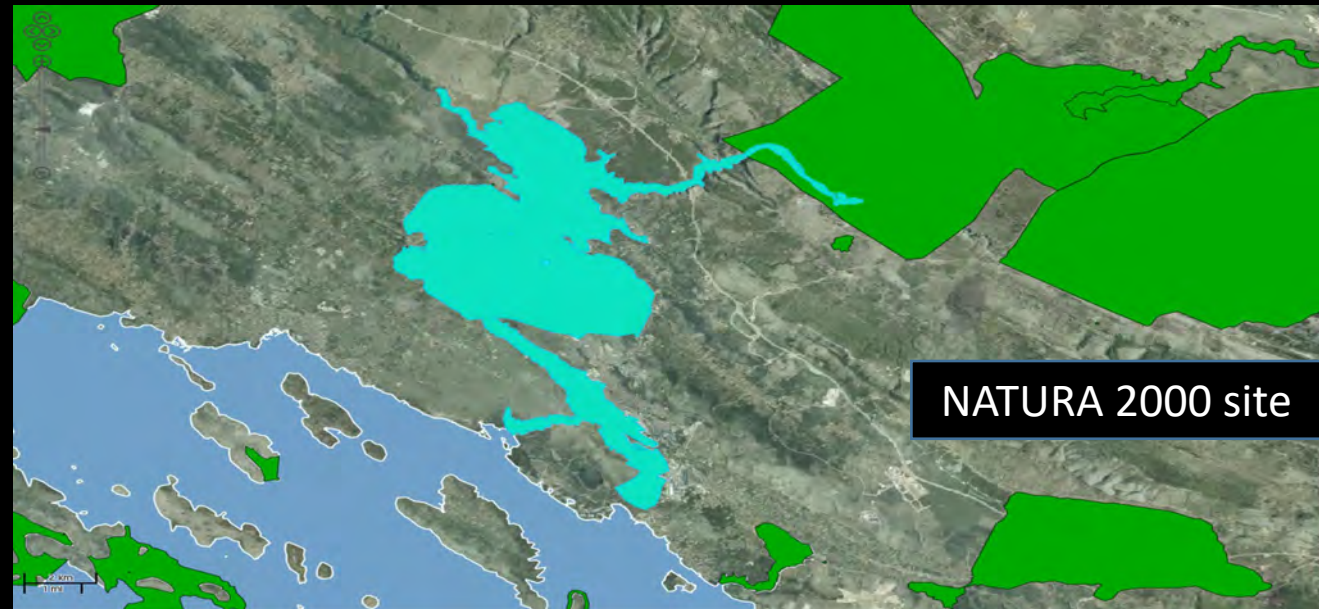


## SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE CHANNEL PORT





- the whole area of the fortress is protected by the laws of national and international protection

The area chosen as **buffer zone** has been selected within the Channel – Port in Šibenik' area, categorized as „Protected Areas-Category V,, in the IUCN classification, characterized by a "Significant Importance". Furthermore, this area is part of the **European ecological network NATURA 2000 Krka estuary**



# Buffer zone

## 2.15 Fort of St. Nikola, Šibenik- Knin County - Buffer zone (HR-02)

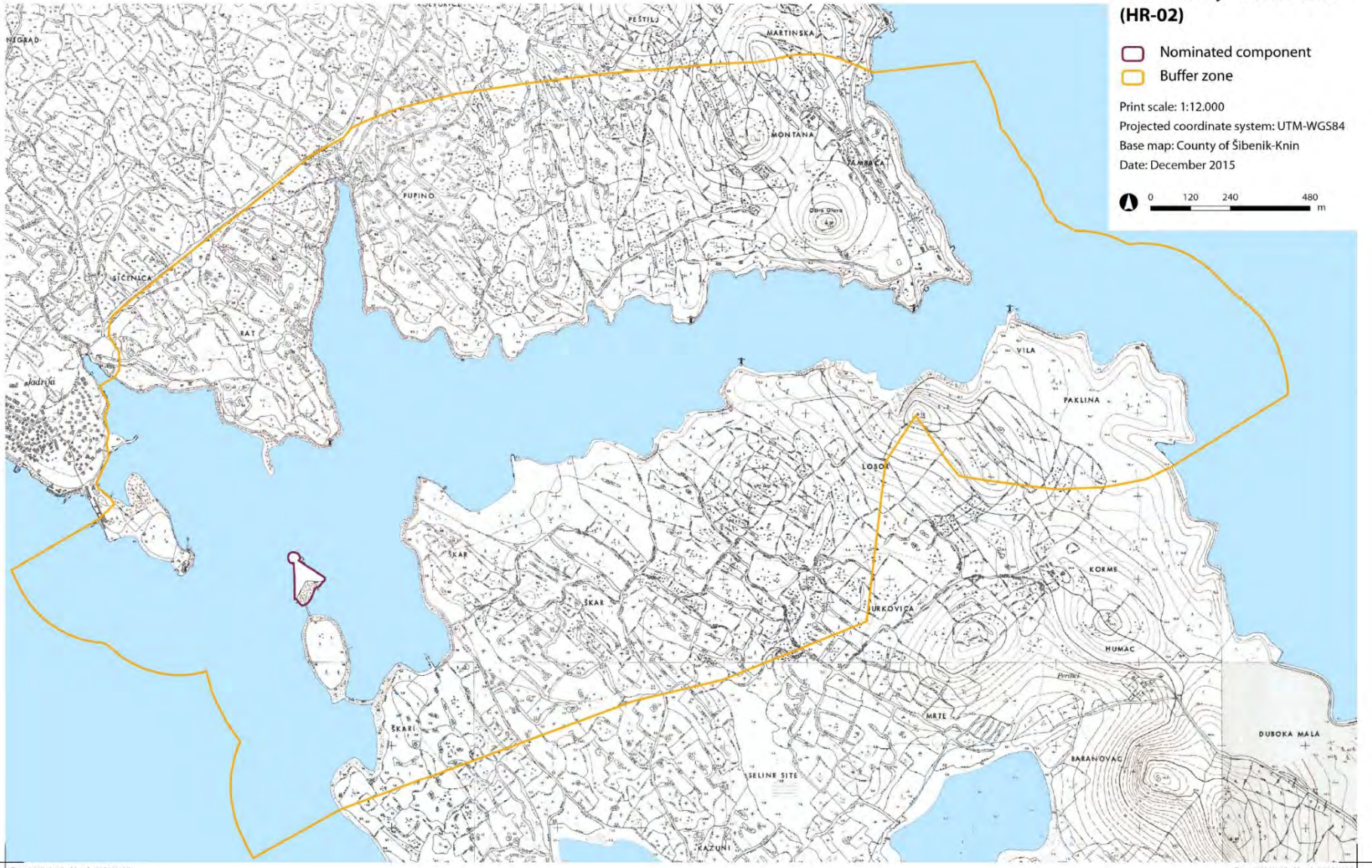
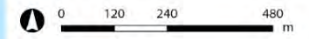
-  Nominated component
-  Buffer zone

Print scale: 1:12.000

Projected coordinate system: UTM-WGS84

Base map: County of Šibenik-Knin

Date: December 2015



Protection according to *Act on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Goods*



St. Nicholas' Fortress – maritime property

Public Institution Nature is the concessionaire for special use of maritime propriety in St Anthony's Channel - southern side



# Management of the St Nicholas' Fortress

*St Nicholas' Fortress is world-famous for its impressive fortification architecture and for being located in a unique natural environment, where natural and cultural heritage are closely intertwined. The common objective of its protection and use is to maintain its **authenticity**, to manage it according to the principles of **sustainability**, thereby benefiting local residents, visitors and future generations*

## Local Management Plan for St Nicholas' Fortress

- designed by the **Institute for Tourism**, Zagreb in collaboration with **experts at the Croatian Conservation Institute** in 2019 and presented to the public

Management principles:

- **Protection**
- **Sustainable use**
- **Participative management**

# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

The Local Management Plan for St Nicholas' Fortress is developed within the project:

- *Tourism Valorization of St Nicholas' Fortress in the St Anthony's Channel*
- Co-financed with EU Structural Funds
- covers a 10 year period



The other **significant documents** derived from the same project are:

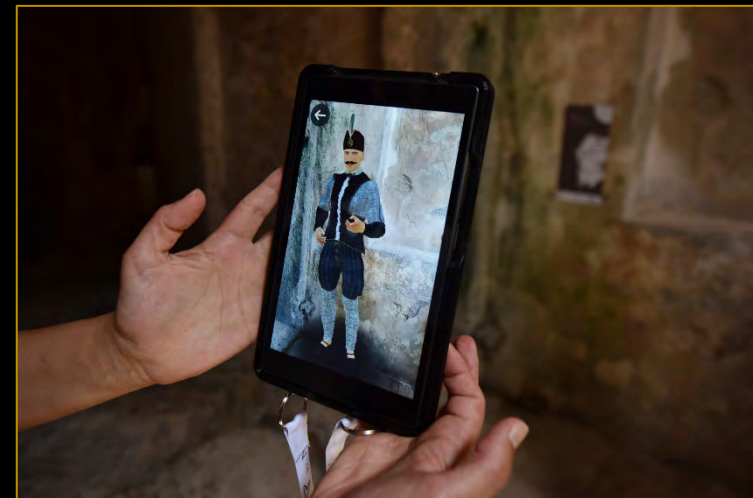
- Designed studies and **surveys for architectural projects**
- Developed **architectural** (conceptual, master and execution) **designs for St Nicholas' Fortress**
- Developed architectural (conceptual, master and execution) **designs for access infrastructure**
- Prepared documentation for **environment and nature protection**
- Prepared documentation for the **application** of the integrated programme implementation related to the EU structural funds



Financed from the same project in 2020. *The Tourist Carrying Capacity for the Significant Landscape Channel-Port* was made as part of the *Action Plan for the Management of Visitors to the Significant Landscape*. The part of Significant Landscape is also a *buffer zone* of the St Nicholas' Fortress.



Public institution Nature is implementing Local Management Plan for St Nicholas' Fortress continuously through activities of **protection, valorization, restoration and maintenance of the building architecture** and **sustainable use** - activities of **sustainable tourism, promotion, interpretation, education and cooperation**



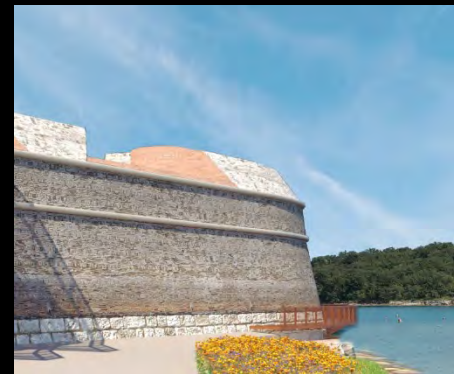


# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

## FORTRESS PROTECTION – STATE OF CONSERVATION

~ Rehabilitation and reconstruction of the fortress ~

- complete project documentation for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the fortress (prepared by the Croatian Restoration Institute) including the **project application for the second phase** which would finance the complete renovation of the building
- after obtaining a building permit and confirmation of the main renovation project from all administrative bodies, conservators and the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, the Public Institution Nature is waiting the opening of an **adequate call for EU funds** for implementation the second phase of the project - financing complete building restoration



In the meantime, rehabilitation and restoration works are being carried out in phases, given the availability of funds:

- all the works are being carried out according to the *Conservation and Technical Study of the Restoration of the St Nicholas' Fortress* and **renovation project documentation** made by the Croatian Restoration Institute without compromising the Outstanding Universal Value of the monument
- the funds are provided by the **Croatian Ministry of Culture and Media**

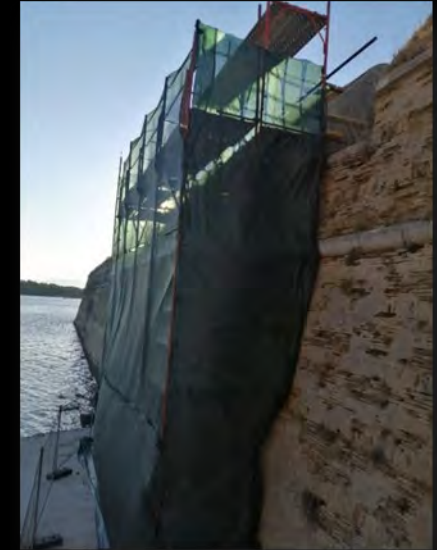


ILLUSTRATION OF THE LATERAL SURFACE OF THE FORTRESS BY TYPES OF MATERIALS – facade of the north-east curtain wall / entrance facade

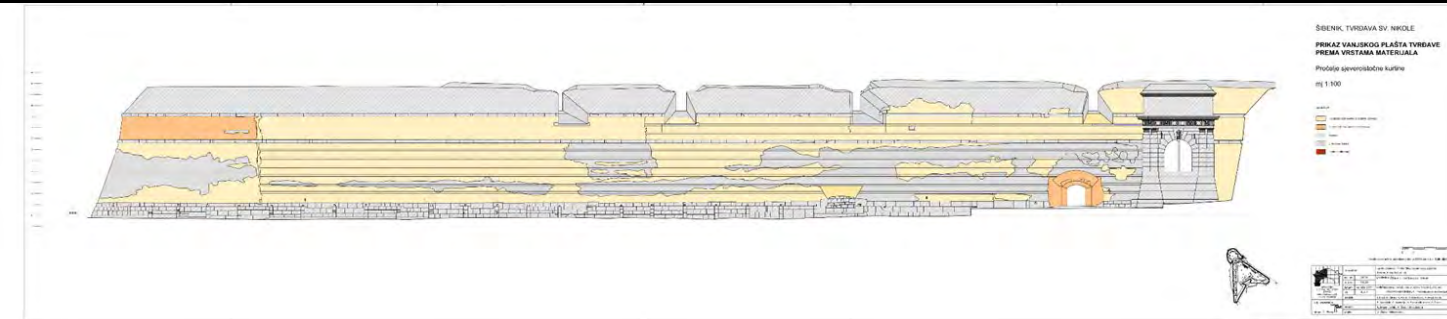


ILLUSTRATION OF THE LATERAL SURFACE OF THE FORTRESS BY TYPES OF MATERIALS – top view of the fortress plateau

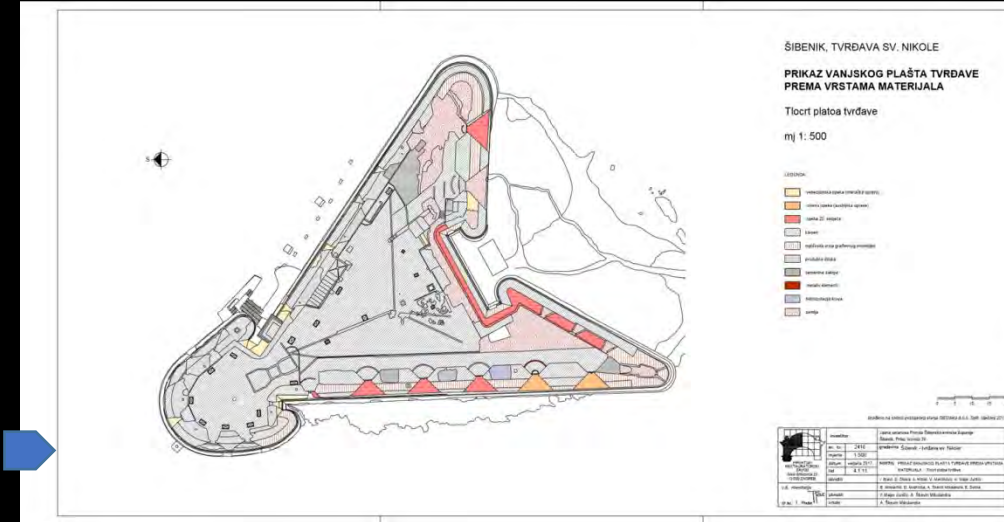


ILLUSTRATION OF THE LATERAL SURFACE WITH DATING OF THE MATERIAL USED - facade of the north-east curtain wall / entrance facade

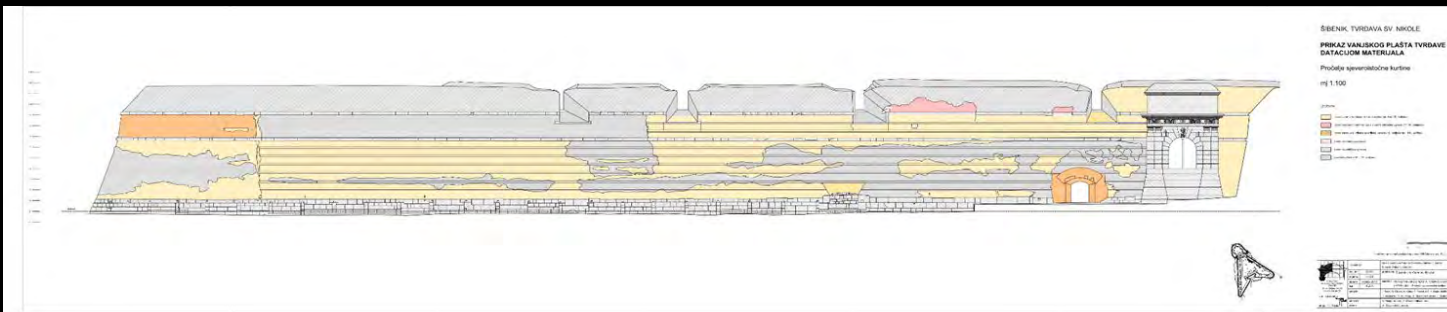
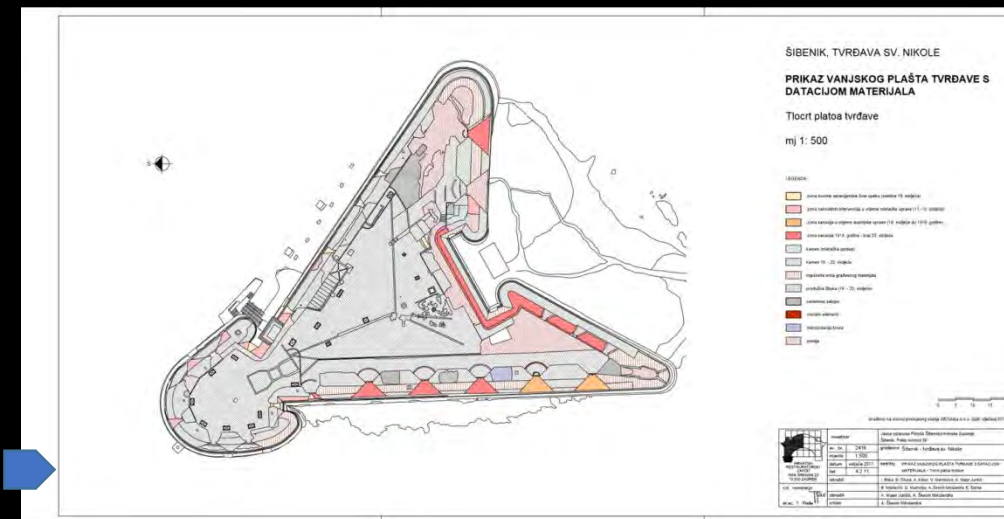


ILLUSTRATION OF THE LATERAL SURFACE WITH DATING OF THE MATERIAL USED - top view of the fortress plateau

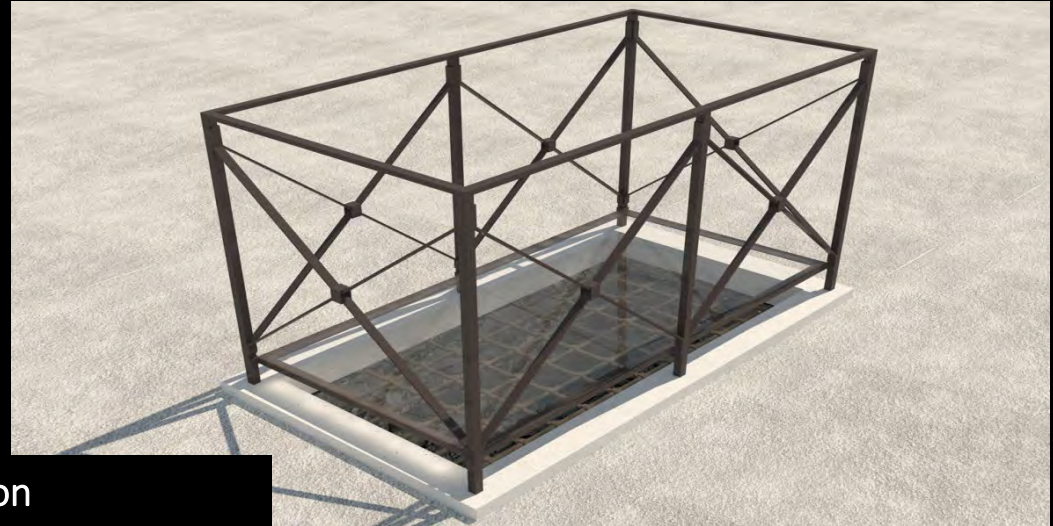


challenge

heritage conservation - cooperation with conservators



Reconstruction and restoration works of St Nicholas' Fortress – in progress in order to provide safe visits



Pier reconstruction



Access ramp reconstruction





# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

## USE OF THE FORTRESS

### Organized visiting of the Fortress – Sea transport system

Since mid-June 2019 St Nicholas' Fortress opened its doors to visitors...

- for the time being, due to demanding restoration and conservation works, it is possible to visit St Nicholas' Fortress **by boat**, organized by the Public Institution Nature of the Šibenik-Knin County
- **boat trip** includes **boat transport**, **admission to the monument site**, **guided tour** during the visit to the fortress, with the use of **multimedia guides** (tablet-based AR technology)



# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

## USE OF THE FORTRESS

- location for *film sets, music videos, special events*

The authentic architecture of the historical fortification of St Nicholas' Fortress was used for the filming of famous HBO and Netflix series...

*Game of Thrones; Vikings: Valhalla; Final Fantasy;*





# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Info - center

Of the existing visitor infrastructure outside significant landscape Channel – Port **St Nicholas' Fortress Information Centre / The Ticket Office** is opened since 2019

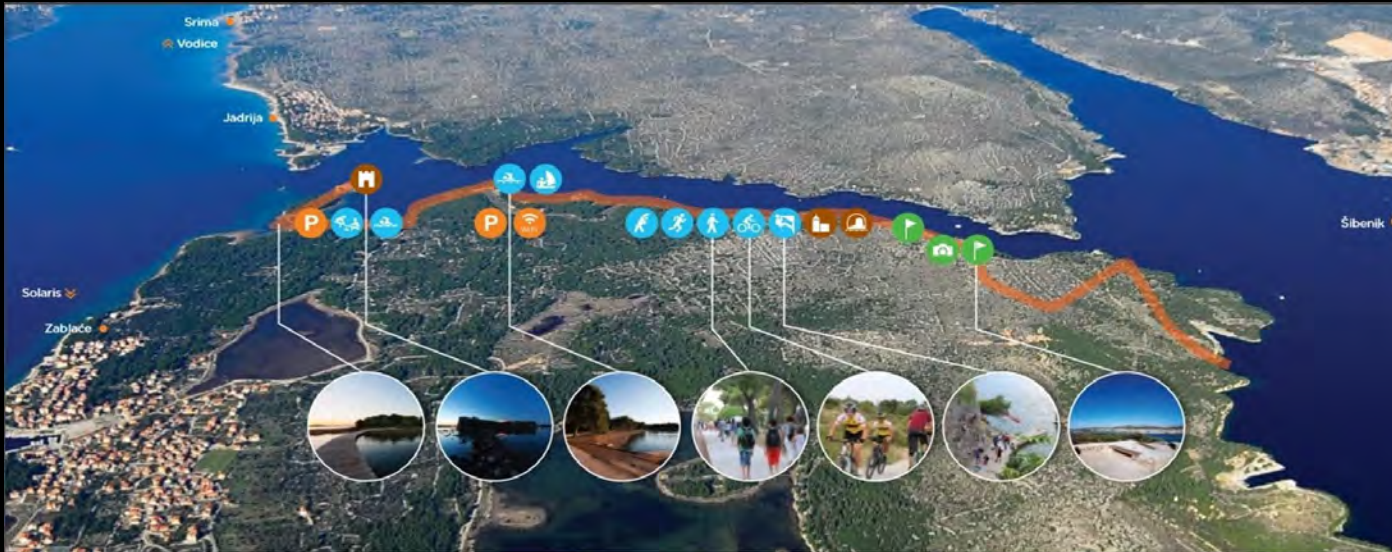
- located in the city of Šibenik, on the Šibenik waterfront, near the location from where the organized boat tour starts to the Fortress
- managed by Public Institution Nature



# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

## INFRASTRUCTURE – buffer zone

### *Tourism Valorization of the St Anthony's Channel in Šibenik – phase 1*



- the St Anthony's Channel is part of the significant landscape Channel – Port in Šibenik. It spreads from the Šibenik Bridge to the end of the channel, to St Nicholas' Fortress
- the project included a **promenade along the south-east shore of the channel**, from Panikovac Cove in Šibenik Bay to St Nicholas' Fortress at the entrance to the channel

The overall objective of the project was to contribute **growth in the tourism sector** of the Šibenik-Knin County, to improve public tourism infrastructure and management system in order to plan the development as well as to **promote selective aspects of active and cultural tourism** and related services in the natural protected areas and Natura 2000 sites within the Šibenik-Knin County

## INFRASTRUCTURE – buffer zone

### *Tourism Valorization of the St Anthony's Channel – phase 2*

Visitor Center - added content in the buffer zone

Through the project "Tourism valorization of the St'Anthony's Channel Šibenik - phase 2" worth 3.540.633,72 € co-financed by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund:

- **unique visitor center** with the permanent exhibition setup dedicated to protected natural and cultural heritage of the Šibenik-Knin County
- **a coffee bar** with an open terrace and a winter garden
- **an educational trail for the visually impaired and blind** from Škar Bay to the visitor center
- **sanitary facilities**

The project holder is Public Institution Nature of Šibenik-Knin County, and the partners are Šibenik-Knin County, Tourist board of the Šibenik-Knin County, and the Public Institution Development Agency of Šibenik-Knin County.



# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION



# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

## USE OF THE FORTRESS

Promotion



In order to improve visibility, the *Book of graphic standards for the St Nicholas' Fortress* with logo was made



# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

## USE OF THE FORTRESS

Promotion

Joint campaign with the:

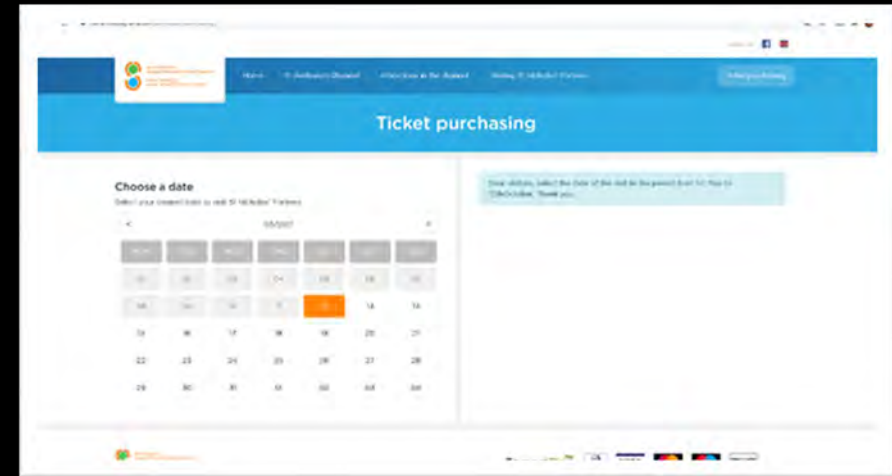
- Krka National Park,
- Kornati National Park,
- Fortress of Culture Šibenik
- Knin Fortress
- Memorial Center “Faust Vrančić
- City Card – discount of 20 % for the visitors that present the tickets to this sites





# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

- USE OF THE FORTRESS –  
Promotion



- WEB shop in 5 languages - <https://www.kanal-svetog-ante.com/en/ticket-purchasing>

- eTicketing web partner System - sale, control and management of tickets for organized visits to the St Nicholas' Fortress by business partners is done through the information system for ticket sales and control - eTicketing Partner Web system

- due to the pandemic situation, the capacity of the boat was halved, as well as WEB shop and we started promotion on social media as an **OUTDOOR** and **SAFE** destination

- membership in the *Club of friends* of St Nicholas' Fortress





# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

## USE OF THE FORTRESS

### Promotion

### ST NICHOLAS' FORTRESS SOUVENIRS

- souvenirs promoting the values of the UNESCO site are included in the fortress Info Centre offer

- souvenirs are made according to the book of graphic standards for the St Nicholas' Fortress



# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

## USE OF THE FORTRESS

### Promotion

- the prestigious **European Excellence Award** in the category of the best marketing online campaign from Southeast Europe

"**Take a walk with us**" is the project that promotes the natural and cultural beauties of the destination, concept of walking through the videos and storytelling. Collaborators on the project are key stakeholders in our destination: Šibenik Tourist Board, Šibenik-Knin Tourist Board, Vodice Tourist Board, Krka National Park, Kornati National Park, Šibenik Fortress of Culture



# TOURISM VALORIZATION – SUSTAINABLE USE - REVITALIZATION

## USE OF THE FORTRESS

Promotion

### NIGHT OF FORTRESSES - Open Door Day

St Nicholas' Fortress on invitation of Fortress of Culture Šibenik participated in cultural event **Night of Fortresses 2022**, as part of the European project FORTITUDE with the main goal of promoting fortification architecture and monumental heritage

- visitors were offered free interpretive guidance and a little musical surprise in cooperation with the Music School "Ivan Lukačić" from Šibenik



## EDUCATION

### Interpretation of the Fortress

A boat trip and a visit to the fortress is accompanied by a **multimedia guide** that includes:

- 37 points of interest (translated to 8 languages)
- 28 audio
- 9 AR points and 1 game



# EDUCATION

## Workshops and educational projects

- **RECOLOR project**, a painting school was held at the St Nicholas' Fortress - views of the city of Šibenik
- guided tours and workshops for children - preschool and school pupils
- photography workshop organized in cooperation with the local Photo Club Šibenik
- 62. International Children's Festival – Šibenik: participation in the official workshop program
- "PLASTIC FREE" - a project that encourages tourist visits without the use of plastic and promotes St Nicholas' Fortress and its buffer zone as plastic free zone





Europska unija  
Zajedno do fondova EU

Operativni program  
**KONKURENTNOST  
I KOHEZIJA**

**EUROPSKI STRUKTURNI  
I INVESTICIJSKI FONDOVI**

# Visitor Center St Anthony's Channel

An entertaining and educational exhibition:

**“Where the River meets the Sea”**

- Exhibition setting - a wonderful combination of cultural and natural heritage of the St Anthony's Channel, the living world and the morphology of the Krka estuary and the presentation of the other protected areas of Šibenik-Knin County
- A wealth of visual exhibits, didactic models and multimedia content.
- The central building of the visitor center is equipped with facilities for people with disabilities.
- The modern multimedia hall is equipped with an audio-visual projection system for projections, lectures and educational workshops.



Javna ustanova  
**PRIRODA ŠIBENSKO-KNINSKE ŽUPANIJE**  
Public Institution  
**NATURE of Šibenik-Knin County**



JAVNA USTANOVA  
**RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA  
ŠIBENSKO-KNINSKE ŽUPANIJE**



This project is co-financed by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund.

The contents of this presentation are the sole responsibility of the Public Institution Nature of the Šibenik-Knin County



Europska unija  
Zajedno do fondova EU

Operativni program  
KONKURENTNOST  
I KOHEZIJA

EUROPSKI STRUKTURNI  
I INVESTICIJSKI FONDOVI

# Visitor Center St Anthony's Channel

Through the project "Tourism Valorization of the St Anthony's Channel in Šibenik - 2nd phase" have been developed:

- 4 thematic education programs created according to the guidelines of the National Curriculum
- for 4 target groups of children and adults (preschool-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, 6-8th grade, high school and adults)
- they will soon be verified by the Ministry of Education, as part of the curriculum for schools in nature
- all programs are based on long-term scientific and research work, monitoring the state of nature and work on preserving the originality of nature and the sustainable use of natural and cultural assets



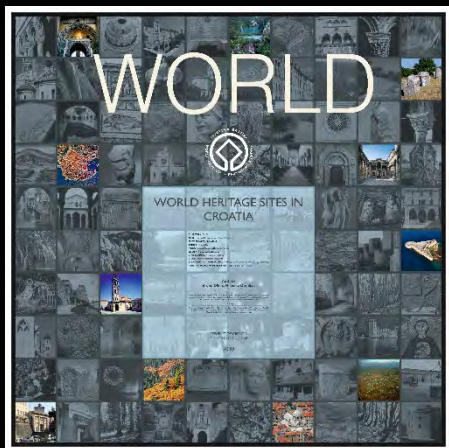
# EDUCATION

## Exhibitions

### "CROATIAN MONUMENTS ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST,"

In the season of visiting the St Nicholas' Fortress, from May to October there is an opportunity to see the exhibition "Croatian monuments on the UNESCO World Heritage List,"

- the project of the Croatian Ministry of Culture and Media



**VENETIAN WORKS OF DEFENCE BETWEEN 16<sup>TH</sup> AND 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES**

10. svibnja - 10. listopada 2015. u St. Nikolajevskoj tvrđavi u Dubrovniku

10 May - 10 October 2015 at St. Nicholas' Fortress in Dubrovnik

Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia  
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Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia  
Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia



## EDUCATION

### Exhibitions



### “IX. ŠIBENIK IN THE FRAME - ST NICHOLAS' FORTRESS ” - photo exhibition

A group exhibition of photographs was opened on St Nicholas' Fortress on the Šibenik City Day in September 2021

- the project was realised through the cooperation of the Photo Club Šibenik and the Public Institution Nature of Šibenik-Knin County



# EDUCATION

## Exhibitions

“VENETIAN WORKS OF DEFENCE BETWEEN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES: STATO DA TERRA – WESTERN STATO DA MAR” - traveling exhibition

The exhibition was opened in July 2022 at St Nicholas' Fortress on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the of the inclusion of the monument on the World Heritage List

- the authors of the exhibition are Miljenko Domijan and Bruno Diklić from the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia



## COOPERATION



### International Coordination Group

As an active member of International Coordination Team we contribute to development of monitoring by sending reports, posts and events related to the St Nicholas' Fortress

Visibility of the fortress in the network of the *Venetian Works of Defence between 16th and 17th centuries*

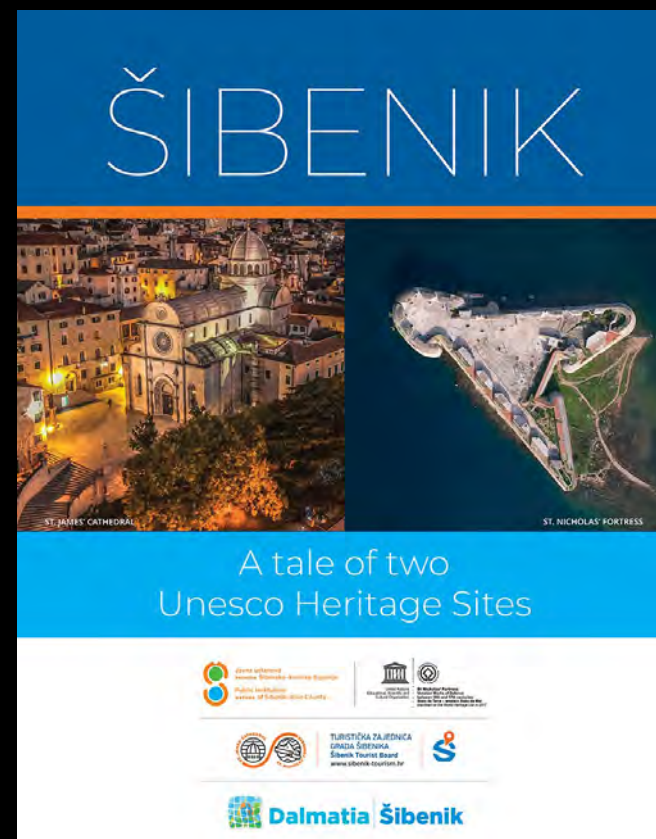
Social media connections /FB | IG/

### UNESCO sites of Šibenik

Joint campaign with Tourist board of Šibenik and Šibenik-Knin County in promotion of the city of Šibenik on Google Arts and Culture platform as the city with 2 UNESCO sites – St James' Cathedral and St Nicholas' Fortress

### UNESCO sites of Croatia

The above mentioned Exhibition; joint promotion



## VALORIZATION

- archaeological research of the fortress
- archeological research in the buffer zone
- underwater archaeological research in the areas around the fortress
- conservation and restoration studies
- technical analysis of architecture (bricks, foundations...)



**Visiting season** started again, for the fourth time, in April 2022

It lasted until the middle of October 2022

- We introduced the PLASTIC FREE ZONE – *Culture without plastic is possible!*
- The fortress is promoted as an outdoor and safe destination
- We had good visiting season

**Hope to see you in visiting season 2023!**



**Tvrđava sv. Nikole**  
St Nicholas' Fortress

**Boat schedule and timetable**  
1.9. - 30.9.2022. Raspored polazaka

**10:00**  
**12:30**  
**15:00**

Departure from Šibenik port  
Polazak sa šibenske rive

A promotional poster for boat tours from the St. Nicholas' Fortress. The top part features the fortress's logo and name in both Croatian and English. Below that, it states the boat schedule and timetable for the period from September 1st to September 30th, 2022. The departure times are listed as 10:00, 12:30, and 15:00. The bottom part of the poster shows a photograph of a white boat with a canopy docked at a stone pier in Šibenik port, with a location pin icon and text indicating the departure point.



Thank you for attention!