



REPAIR Good Practice Example: Fort Vechten, Creating local jobs for local people



Connecting cities
Building successes



Building work on Fort Vechten started in 1867 and was finished in 1870. By 1880 the soldiers barrack blocks were added.

The land area at Fort Vechten is approximately 17 hectares with 23 buildings and a high historic and natural significance. The present owners, Staatsbosbeheer aim to stimulate a long lasting relationship between people and nature for future generations.

Staatsbosbeheer is a public-private venture commissioned by the Dutch government and manages a large part of the nature reserves in the Netherlands.

Fort Vechten produced a turnover in 2009 of 115 million euros with 42,000 visitors. There are 20 full time employees working here along with a few part time workers.

Conditions of use given by Staatsbosbeheer are to maintain the grounds and natural values, preserve and restore the buildings and organise public access to the fort.

The goals of the foundation, 'Werk aan de Linie', are preservation, recovery and development of objects in the Waterline with projects for the unemployed. This includes contributing to the military, historical, environmental, recreational and cultural value of these objects.



To meet the conditions of use and achieve the goals of the foundation an exploitation

of the site is necessary such as projects for local unemployed people.

As people become trained in new skills, such a catering long lasting jobs are created. Unemployment projects include building maintenance such as painting, green maintenance, adverts on buses etc.



The Fort is used for other uses, such as private parties and catering, renting out the buildings on the Businesspark, contract work, public and cultural events and cultural historical projects.

The socio-economic re-use of the fort has created 25 sustainable jobs and new economic and social networks with the city, region and the local community. Over the years the number of subsidised jobs has gone down whilst the number of sustainable jobs has risen through the interventions made.

The approach at Fort Vechten was to combine physical and social regeneration and economic development of the site and surroundings based on the 'sense of place'.



The initiative at Fort Vechten has resulted in sustainable jobs and a stronger close-knit community.

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