

FORTIFICATIONS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

International Conference - February 19th, 20th, 21st 2026. Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

FORTMED 2026_Roma is the ninth edition of the Conference Fortifications of the Mediterranean Coast. The Conference, organized by the Department of History, Representation and Restoration of Architecture at Sapienza University of Rome, will take place on **February 19, 20, and 21, 2026**, at the new location of the Faculty of Architecture in Via Mariano Fortuny, in the Borghetto Flaminio area. The first eight editions of the Conference were held as follows: on October 15, 16, and 17, 2015, at the Instituto Universitario de Restauración del Patrimonio of the Universitat Politècnica de València; on November 10, 11, and 12, 2016, at the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence; on October 26, 27, and 28, 2017, at the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura of the Universitat d'Alacant; on October 18, 19, and 20, 2018, at the Department of Architecture and Design of the Politecnico di Torino, hosted in the Castello del Valentino; on March 26, 27, and 28, 2020, at the Escuela de Estudios Árabes in Granada; on March 23, 24, and 25, 2023, at the Le Benedettine Conference Center in Pisa; on April 18, 19, and 20, 2024, at the Polytechnic University of Tirana; and on April 10, 11, and 12, 2025, at the University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" in Caserta.

The **primary objective** of the Conference is to encourage an exchange of ongoing research and promote the sharing of results, in order to expand knowledge and improve the valorization, management, and accessibility of the culture and heritage developed along the Mediterranean coast, while also taking into account influences originating from overseas phenomena. Within this framework, the dissemination of research outcomes is regarded as a fundamental instrument.

The Conference has an **interdisciplinary** character, involving the participation of architects, engineers, archaeologists, historians, geographers, geologists, cartographers, as well as experts in architectural drawing, restoration, architectural history, tourism, and Cultural Heritage communication, along with Heritage managers. The aim is to foster the development of a collaborative, integrated, and up-to-date vision that elevates research on this topic and carries it forward into the 21st century.

The central focus of the investigation will be fortifications in the Mediterranean, without excluding other overseas countries that feature constructed fortification systems (Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Panama, etc.).

Themes

Theme 1. Historical and Documentary Research.

Historical cartography. Archives. Treatises. History of construction techniques. Biographical studies (Duke of Maqueda, Antonelli, Vespasiano Gonzaga, Acuña, Hayreddin Barbarossa, Escrivá, Il Fratin, Cermeño, ...).

Theme 2. Theoretical Concepts.

Poliorcetics. Military engineering. "Modern" defensive systems. Emerging concepts. New methods of defense of kingdoms. The construction of "shields". Artillery. Utopian projects.

Theme 3. Research on the Built Heritage.

Architectural heritage. Studies, knowledge development, and dissemination. Castles, towers, and fortresses. Maintenance, restoration, and enhancement interventions for architectural heritage.

Theme 4. Characterisation of Geo-materials.

Mineralogical-petrographic, geochemical, and physical analyses. Study of alteration processes. Archaeometric investigations with historical or conservation purposes. Restoration proposals. Relationships between the physical and technical properties of construction materials and their use: differences and analogies within the Mediterranean context.

Theme 5. Digital Heritage.

Digital surveying, from 3D laser scanning technologies to photogrammetry. Advanced three-dimensional modelling. Evolution of graphic representation. Digital reconstructions. Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality. Conceptual modelling.

Theme 6. Culture and Management.

Interpretation and valorisation. Fortifications and the construction of civic identity. Management of castles, towers, and fortresses. Participatory management systems. Management and cultural tourism.

Theme 7. Miscellany. Anthology of Topics Not Covered in the Previous Sections but Relevant to the Main Theme of the Conference.

Sapienza University of Rome invites all scholars and professionals interested in the discussion on FORTIFICATIONS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST to submit their contributions to the FORTMED 2026 Conference, either in the form of a full paper or a short paper.

All duly accepted contributions will be published in the Conference Proceedings with an ISBN, provided that at least one author per contribution has completed early or regular registration and paid the corresponding fee. This registration guarantees the inclusion of the paper in the digital version of the proceedings, while printed copies may be requested separately during the registration process. Contributions received after the established deadline will not be included in the Conference Proceedings. Likewise, late registration will not allow the inclusion of authors in the proceedings.

The official languages of the Conference are Spanish, Italian, and English, both for written communications and oral presentations.

The written communication must always include an abstract in English, followed by the full paper in the language chosen by the author.

The oral presentation may be delivered in Spanish, Italian, or English. To ensure better understanding, any written text included in the presentation should be in English.

Simultaneous translation will NOT be provided during the Conference.

Awards

The Conference will assign six awards to the best full *paper* in each thematic section, with the exception of Theme 7 "Miscellany".

Important Dates

17th April 2025: Opening of Call for Abstracts
12th May 2025: Abstract submission deadline
9th June 2025: Notification of abstract evaluation
28th July 2025: Full paper submission deadline
15th September 2025: Notification of full paper evaluation
29th September 2025: Deadline for submission of revised full papers
13th October 2025: Early registration deadline
3rd November 2025: Regular registration deadline
30th November 2025: Late registration deadline

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Registration Fees

Early Registration (until October 13, 2025)

- Participant:	220 €
- Student (up to 30 years old):	160 €
- Member of the Scientific Committee:	180 €
- Attendee (non-presenting):	160 €

Regular Registration* (until November 3, 2025)

- Participant:	260 €
- Student (up to 30 years old):	200 €
- Member of the Scientific Committee:	220 €
- Attendee (non-presenting):	200 €

* This is the final deadline for regular registration in order for a paper to be included in the Conference Proceedings, and to reserve the gala dinner and printed volume of the proceedings.

Late Registration (until November 30, 2025)**

- Participant:	300 €
- Student (up to 30 years old):	240 €
- Member of the Scientific Committee:	260 €
- Attendee (non-presenting):	240 €

** Registration after this date does not allow for the reservation of the gala dinner or printed proceedings.

Optional Items

- Printed publication of the Conference Proceedings:	60 €
- Gala dinner:	60 €

Each conference participant must be registered. For a contribution to be published in the Conference Proceedings, at least one of the authors must be registered.

Registration fees include:

- Access to all Conference sessions
- Paper publication in the digital Conference Proceedings in open access
- Official certificate of participation
- Official certificate of oral presentation (if applicable)
- Official certificate of award (if applicable)
- Coffee breaks and lunches on February 19 and 20, 2026
- Conference bag and materials
- Guided visit on February 21, 2026

Registration fees **do not include** (optional at the time of registration):

- Printed volumes of the Conference Proceedings with ISBN/ISSN
- Gala dinner (subject to availability)

For more information, please visit: www.fortmed.eu



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