Regeneration of Daugavpils Fortress to Preserve Cultural and Historical Objects,
Daugavpils City Council

Daugavpils Fortress is the last 19th-century bastion-type fortification complex in Latvia in relatively good condition. After the Soviet Army left the fortress, the area (approximately 2 square km) was not used; it became an abandoned, degraded and unattractive space in the urban environment. The initiative of the local municipality was to define the territory of Daugavpils Fortress as a part of the city for development, including it in all planning documents. Several projects in the Fortress were successfully implemented as part of the Daugavpils City Development Programme "*Mana pils – Daugavpils*" ("My Castle – Daugavpils"), 2008-2014. All these factors created preconditions for the preservation and rational use of this urban monument of state significance as a unique cultural and historical heritage in its transformation into an administrative, cultural, recreational, business and tourism centre. Several initiatives were implemented: the restoration of the water tower to create the Daugavpils Fortress Cultural and Information Centre; reconstruction of the old Arsenal and improvement of the adjacent territory to create the Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre; development of public infrastructure of the complex by improving streets and setting up technical engineering networks; and maintenance of the fortress ramparts.

The Committee of Ministers conferred the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention, for the 5th Session of the Award 2016-2017 to the organisers of the project. The Award was attributed for regeneration of a degraded symbolic landscape. "Regeneration of Daugavpils Fortress to Preserve Cultural and Historical Objects" is a large-scale project which has helped people regain ownership of a highly symbolic landscape. It has enabled a new urban landscape to be created and has contributed to providing various services that are beneficial to public well-being.