

## **GO! 2025 official programme projects**

### **What are the GO! 2025 official programme projects about?**

The official programme projects create spaces for reflection on history, current affairs, minority rights and the values of the European Community. They provide residencies for national and international artists, scientists and humanists. They preserve the historical memory and cultural heritage of the cross-border region. They promote experimentation in art and technology, film and theatre, music and dance, sustainable development and a return to nature. They are all different, but they share the same objectives: to promote the art and culture of the cross-border region, to enhance its historical and natural heritage, and to ensure that many visitors come to the capital to face the challenges of the present and glimpse a shared future.

### **Brief summaries of the official programme projects**

#### **Ab initio – An urban utopia**

Nova Gorica was built ab initio, from scratch, the first planned new city in post-war Yugoslavia. Research into the history of Nova Gorica enables the preservation and promotion of the city's tangible and intangible heritage. In addition to research, the project also aims to create a digital archive of Nova Gorica's urban heritage. The project fills a gap in heritage research and evaluation by creating the first comprehensive, transparent, and open platform for the history of the city and the stories of its inhabitants.

The project also includes the analysis and presentation of new (modernist) cities, which have also been built ab initio in twentieth-century Europe.

#### **Memory Ambulance and Archive Brigades**

Memory Ambulance is a multiannual cross-border project to preserve the memory heritage of the Goriška region. It involves recording, archiving, and presenting personal and family recollections of the key historical turning points of the twentieth century that divided this linguistically and culturally rich region.

The project aims to produce a film and edit a collective, commemorative audiovisual album that stitches together the memories of individuals from different communities, with the hope that the history of violence in this region will not be repeated.

### **Art against Guns**

The Association Mink Tolmin will organise a series of events dedicated to art in wartime and conflict zones through the Art against Guns project. Three sites of outstanding importance for both locals and Europeans in general have been chosen for the events. The Javorca church in Tolmin, which bears the European Heritage Label, was built by soldiers of different nationalities who fought on the frontlines during the Battles of the Isonzo. The same prestigious title has been awarded by the European Union to the Franja Partisan Hospital, a secret hospital from the Second World War. The third site involved is the Peace Park on Sabotin, the scene of some of the toughest battles of the First World War.

The aim of the project is to establish a dialogue between historical and contemporary war art and artists in order to celebrate humanity and art in times that are difficult for these building blocks of society.

### **Artefici Residencies**

Artefici Residencies are designed to be an opportunity for exploration – for the artists as well as the territory and its inhabitants, who are not just guests at a performance but, together with the artist, become builders of a process of growth and development. This project places the guest artists and groups selected for the residency in dialogue with the Goriška region. Round tables will also be organised, and attendance is expected to increase as the quality is raised to an international level.

### **Atlas of forgotten orchards**

At the heart of the project is the Kojsko orchard, the region's largest genebank of old fruit varieties and the only place in the wider area dedicated to the systematic maintenance and research of old local fruit varieties and their associated cultural heritage. During the year of the European Capital of Culture, the orchard will be converted for visitors and several events related to the cultivation of fruit trees will be organised.

At the same time, the project looks far beyond the borders of Goriška and recognises the disappearance of old orchards as a global phenomenon.

Selected international artists from different parts of the world will revive abandoned orchard areas through specific creative processes and place them on a virtual map. The result will be an open atlas of forgotten orchards, a library of documentary and imaginative testimonies of former spaces of coexistence between people and trees. The atlas, conceived as an open project that can be continued beyond the end of the year-long cultural holiday, challenges the forgetting and loss that the dynamics

of the modern market economy and the growing need for monoculture to treat fertile land have brought to rural communities around the world in recent decades.

### **Basaglia**

The project is inspired by the work of the psychiatrist Franco Basaglia, who turned the approach to mental illness on its head. One of the most influential European intellectuals of the second half of the twentieth century, he restored the dignity of people confined in asylums, defending the importance of their history and the principle of social equality.

The Basaglia project is founded on the premise that madness and sanity are intertwined, inseparable from each other. We will tackle the increasing polarisation of ideas and the difficulty of creating common ground for communication on difficult issues.

### **Benedetti Life**

Matea Benedetti is a globally acclaimed sustainable fashion designer and the visionary founder of Benedetti Life. Her brand's mission is to revolutionize the fashion industry by seamlessly blending innovation, ethics, and sustainability into every piece, utilizing cutting-edge, animal-free materials sourced from food waste and based on the principles of the circular economy.

Each Benedetti Life collection pays tribute to endangered species, capturing the beauty of animals threatened by human activity and climate change. The brand serves as a powerful inspiration for individuals and the fashion industry alike, demonstrating that sustainability and luxury can coexist harmoniously.

Benedetti Life has graced the world's most prestigious red carpets, including the Oscars' Red Carpet Green Dress (RCGD), and has been prominently featured in leading publications such as Vogue, Elle, L'Officiel, and many others.

For GO! 2025, Benedetti Life is hosting a spectacular fashion event, unveiling the latest textile innovations developed over the past seven years and immersing audiences in the story of a re-emerging paradise on Earth. Expect haute couture creations crafted from recycled plastic bottles, wood silk, pineapple and apple textiles, antioxidant-rich algae jerseys, and other groundbreaking materials.

In September 2025, Benedetti Life will further support the next generation of talent by organizing a sustainable exhibition showcasing unique clothing made from eco-friendly materials and upcycled designs. These creations will be displayed in shop windows across Nova Gorica and Gorizia, creating a vibrant international platform for young designers.

Benedetti Life is more than just a fashion brand—it's a movement reshaping the global fashion industry for a sustainable future.

## **BETRIB – Festival of industrial culture**

BETRIB is a biennial festival of industrial culture that pays tribute to the traditions of Idrija, fosters a culture of pioneering and exploration, weaves bonds of camaraderie and solidarity, and intertwines the old with the new. In the premises of the former smelting plant of the Idrija mercury mine, it presents multimedia content combining musical performances, talks, workshops, exhibitions, and installations, to bring new reflections, provocative ideas, and ambitious forward-looking perspectives to Idrija's typical post-mining and industrial environment.

In the meantime, the festival's biennial performances are complemented by accompanying activities – mining house days, traditional construction workshops, and artistic residencies at the traditional Giser mining house.

## **Eco threads and BIEN**

Incorporating textile art, industrial design, and landscape art, BIEN presents biennial exhibitions and accompanying activities that reflect on heritage, conservation, and sustainability. It connects two neighbouring regions, Gorizia and Gorenjska, more specifically Nova Gorica and Kranj, as it was written for Kranj's bid to be the European Capital of Culture.

The festival draws on the biological, geological, and archaeological features of the area, as well as its environment, identities, industrial culture, and traditional knowledge, to form new, contemporary expressions. It explores textile culture and art through exhibitions, workshops, and a professional line-up, connecting different cities and regions.

## **Seed library**

In cooperation with the France Bevk Public Library Nova Gorica, we are working on a project where anyone can "borrow", grow, and then share seeds from different plant species. The project promotes biodiversity and agriculture.

## **Calcetto**

Both cities have a football tradition, but the sport is not always played with the feet: many establishments (including our Xcenter!) have table football, calcetto or calciobalilla in Italian, on their premises.

In the summer of 2025, the game will move from the bars and pubs to the main square in Gorizia, Piazza Vittoria, where a big cross-border table football match will take place. You will be able to take part in workshops on making your own table for this popular game, and there will also be a charity football match on the day, played

by invited European VIP footballers – with the help of collaborators such as world-class football coach and GO! 2025 ambassador Edy Reja.

Another integral part of the project will be a photographic exhibition about Pier Paolo Pasolini, *La solitudine dell'ala destra*, presented in Nova Gorica and/or Idrija.

### **Food of the future**

The process of transforming the region – which lies at the intersection of six agricultural axes – into an international gastronomic destination will begin with the collection of historical evidence through anthropological studies.

Fruit, vegetables, wheat, and maize are still an important part of the local identity, and the region's outstanding natural features earned it the title of ""Garden of Vienna"" in the Austro-Hungarian era. The findings will then be published, presented in a public debate, and exhibited so that everyone understands the cultural dimension of growing, processing, and eating local food.

### **The shining invisible city**

The architect Edvard Ravnikar's plan for a city from scratch, Nova Gorica, was created at a moment of tectonic political and ideological shifts at the outbreak of the Second World War, when the border cut Gorizia off from its Slovenian hinterland. The new "city that would shine across the border" was therefore not faithfully built according to his vision, but adapted to political trends.

Today, Ravnikar's idea persists as an unattainable ideal that can still be glimpsed among the roads, pavements, and buildings of the city today. This project aims to revive the seeds of this utopian city, also known as the "shadow city", mapping the space of invisible Nova Gorica with holograms, memories of Nova Gorica residents, and field research. This will be followed by an exhibition and a presentation on the project.

### **Clowncity**

The title of the project says it all: clowns will flood Nova Gorica and Gorizia and link the two cities into a common clown city. The language of clowns is universal when it comes to jokes, but languages from the surrounding area and beyond will also be heard, with guests from all over the world.

Clowning classes and circus school workshops will also be organised, using different languages, to promote and revitalise hidden corners of cities that are not otherwise used as venues for cultural events. For a few days in the summer of 2025, clowns will perform in squares, streets, courtyards, atriums, and other secluded places.

### **Borderless Body**

Borderless Body is the name of the first "permanent" cross-border dance ensemble in the history of Nova Gorica, which is planning dance and multimedia performances exploring the boundaries of the body and artificial intelligence for 2025; the key event in 2025 will take place in the post-apocalyptic setting of a local quarry.

The project brings together researchers, artists and scientists from different disciplines and is one of the major cultural events of the European Capital of Culture. MN Dance Company, which is organising the project, also performs at international dance festivals, runs masterclasses, and trains young dancers, contributing to the promotion of international involvement in contemporary dance.

### **Crossings**

Crossings explores the dynamics of migration and border crossings in a digitalised society, where people's identities become numbers, and shows how unrestrained technology is driving us towards a new social reality of artificial intelligence.

In the fight against the dehumanisation of contemporary society, the BridA collective has chosen surveillance systems and information subsystems as its artistic medium: its project looks at the issue of the use of this kind of technology under the guise of security, which ultimately limits our freedom. Through this installation, the role of surveillance technology is reversed, moving people in order to create content that is used to generate free visual and audio interactive compositions in real time.

### **From Station to Station**

From Station to Station is the opening event of the European Capital of Culture GO! 2025 Nova Gorica-Gorizia, which will take place on the Slovenian cultural holiday on 8 February. This is the biggest event for every ECoC, and the largest numbers of local and foreign guests, tourists, and political representatives from Slovenia, Italy, Brussels, and elsewhere in Europe are expected to visit our city and region.

The performance will be directed by Neda Rusjan Bric, director, actor, writer, professor of screenwriting, and artistic advisor for GO! 2025. She was also the main initiator of Nova Gorica's bid with Gorizia for the European Capital of Culture, which will add an extra meaningful touch to the show.

### **DESTINYation**

The theatre dodecalogy "1972-1983" (within the Destin(y)ation/Touch of Destiny project), directed by Tomi Janežič, is a year-long theatre omnibus consisting of twelve plays produced in Nova Gorica, Ljubljana, Timișoara, Ivano-Frankivsk, Novi

Sad and within Kuršče Cultural Centre. Throughout 2025, the dodecalogy will be presented in the framework of European Capital of Culture 2025 Nova Gorica - Gorica, with one play performed each month.

The omnibus topic covers the space of director's childhood in 1970s Nova Gorica, intertwining with the actors' personal stories. The dodecalogy is a transgenerational documentary fiction about Nova Gorica as a city that is connected to other cities in a surprising way, addressing the themes of border, socio-political and ideological changes, war, etc. The dodecalogy portrays a network of life stories extending through time, that are marked by travels and migrations. Above all, it is a omnibus about theatre itself.

The dodecalogy of dramatic miniatures for the Destin(y)ation project was written by playwright Simona Semenič. The creative team is composed of Janežič's close associates: set designer Branko Hojnik, costume designer Marina Sremac, musician and composer Samo Kutin, sound designer Tomaž Grom, choreographers Dénes Döbrei and Katja Legin and many young, established directors (Tjaša Črnigoj, Žiga Hren, Brina Klampfer, Jan Krmelj, Mojca Madon, Iva Olujić, Maša Pelko, Nejc Potočan, Nina Rajić Kranjac, Dorian Šilec Petek and others), as well as an Italian artist Carl Zoratti (who is also documenting the dodecalogy's creative process), photographer Guido Mencari and many others.

The coproducers of the dodecalogy are: Slovenian National Theatre of Nova Gorica, Slovenian Youth Theatre of Ljubljana and the Krušče Creative Centre, in collaboration with numerous foreign partners, such as the Mittelfest festival in Cividale del Friuli.

### **Invisible Women**

Invisible Women is an international project about the otherness, uniqueness, and above all cultural diversity of contemporary Goriška society through the eyes of immigrant women. Participants are not placed in the role of passive observers, but are active creators, and they talk about their migration experience and our region, providing a completely new perspective.

Although they often play a marginal (invisible) role in their new environment, they are part of society, enriching it with the cultural diversity they have brought with them. This is a series of interviews, exhibitions, installations, videos, photographs, and concerts organized by Slovenia in collaboration with partners from Italy, Austria, and Croatia.

### **EPIC**

EPIC is a new exhibition space in a former warehouse next to the railway station. It will host a permanent collection on the complexities of twentieth-century history, from different perspectives that may not follow the dominant narratives.



It will be a space for reflecting not only on historical events, but also on current issues, human rights, and European values. A platform for dialogue that will also serve as an events venue.

### **East-West: The border through film and history**

Through research and studies, expert meetings and symposiums, film retrospectives and multimedia performances, the project offers an in-depth reflection on life along the border, bringing the turbulent and complex history closer to both local and European audiences. It focuses on the relationship between film and society, on the differences between fiction and reality, memory and historical fact, and between the languages of film, history, and sociology.

"Along the Slovenian-Italian border, we do not only encounter dividing lines, but also their opposite. Throughout history, this has been the location of a point of connection that has also produced a unique audiovisual heritage," stated Kinoateljje, a centre that has so far brought together more than 25 film and research institutions from Slovenia, Italy, and beyond.

Its rich network of partners is a testimony to the complexity of the project, which aims to valorise our common audiovisual heritage and showcase it internationally through a number of activities (symposium, retrospective, exhibition, production of publications and documentaries, restoration and digitisation processes, and didactic material).

### **Pixxelpoint Festival**

The Pixxelpoint International Festival of Contemporary Art Practices has a long tradition in our region and is the backbone of the GO! 2025 new media arts programme. Its multifaceted programme builds international bridges and addresses pressing twenty-first-century issues such as postmobility and digital knowledge exchange, supporting the emergence of new cultural values through the creation of sharing platforms and artistic laboratories for research and development.

Pixxelpoint aims to critically reflect and practically test new digital technologies such as virtual reality and artificial intelligence. In the framework of the ECoC programme, the festival looks outward, moving its productions to the cross-border region and bringing together producers and artists from different backgrounds and regions.

### **Cinema Hub**

The challenge of the Cinema Hub, which Kinoateljje is creating along with a number of partners, is to promote and develop an open, stimulating, and innovative cross-border audiovisual sector. It is based on a networking approach, bringing together



different film and cultural institutions, productions, and festivals and supporting the values of intercultural dialogue.

It focuses on developing film culture in its broadest sense, doing everything from encouraging media and film literacy among young people to creating strategies and research projects to better understand and actively engage local and wider regional audiences. It also includes projects for the evaluation and preservation of local audiovisual heritage during the promotion of the cross-border area. The Kinoateljje team aims to bring auteur cinema to the widest possible audience, so that a quality film experience is accessible to all.

They are organising various film evenings, talks, and workshops, promoting outdoor screenings and the development of special film experiences, strengthening local festivals, increasing media and film literacy among young people, and coming up with new approaches to audiovisual communication.

### **Down by the river**

Individual municipalities on both sides of the border – or more precisely on both sides of the Soča river – will organise artist residencies for both international and local artists. With the help of local people, these artists will explore the territory, first familiarising themselves with its characteristics and potential materials (stone, wood, clay, etc.) and then using them to create works of art inspired by the area. The final result will be 6 to 8 sculptures placed in carefully selected spaces in different municipalities on both sides of the border.

### **GO! Borderless Opera Lab**

Opera productions are something of a novelty in Nova Gorica, so the aim of the project is to bring this genre closer to the general public and to move past the belief that opera is reserved only for a "select" audience. GO! Borderless Opera Lab aims to present opera in unconventional venues and reach a very diverse audience.

Through its residency programme, project promoter Piccolo Opera Festival gives young composers the opportunity to get to know our region and create an original operatic work. In cooperation with local cross-border music institutions and schools, it thus establishes lasting cross-border action and education in the music sector, creating cohesion and developing a culture that embodies the European spirit.

### **GO! Film Office**

The presence of the Film Office will be the driving force behind a successful scheme to promote and valorise the various landscapes and urban realities in the Goriška region. This will have a positive, permanent, and lasting economic impact on the

local economy as a whole, both in the short term due to the presence of film production in the area, and in the long term due to the promotion of local tourism. In terms of employment, the permanent presence of film production will allow the creation of a growing pool of skilled professionals capable of providing support during the production and post-production phases.

As the operator and coordinator of the Film office activities, Transmedia S.r.l. aims to attract national and international audiovisual productions to Gorizia, while promoting and valorising Goriška's historical and environmental heritage, and thus increasing technical resources and expertise.

### **Gusti di Frontiera**

The project consists of two parts: the first is the organisation of the Borderless Beer event, and the second is the collaboration with one of the biggest gastronomic festivals in the region, Gusti di Frontiera in Gorizia, Italy.

Borderless Beer is traditionally held in the Europe Square, where a bar is divided exactly in half, with Slovenia on one side and Italy on the other, showing how local breweries from both sides of the border are an example of successful cross-border cooperation.

Gusti di Frontiera is well-known and internationally recognised festival that promotes cross-border cooperation, and at GO! 2025 it will offer a cultural programme that involves everything from musical performances to promoting the European Capital of Culture project.

### **Hopscotch**

Hopscotch is an art project that aims to create a series of large-scale comic strips and other murals on buildings in unfinished, dilapidated or abandoned areas. The murals are conceived as part of a unique, open-ended comic story with several intertwined narrative strands that unfold throughout Nova Gorica and Gorizia, regardless of administrative or linguistic boundaries.

The project is inspired by the work of Argentinian writer Julio Cortázar, specifically the "interactive" novel after which the project is named, and which can be read in a variety of ways. In this way the readers and viewers of the murals become literary travellers, discovering new paths and locations in the often forgotten urban peripheries the cross-border region. The aim is to share common aspects of European history in the streets and encourage visitors to cross the border and complete the story. As part of Hopscotch, Nova Gorica and Gorizia will host street artists and muralists from the surrounding area and around the world.

### **Soča power charge**

Soške elektrarne company owns several gems of industrial heritage, the power plants on the Soča river, which began operating in the first third of the twentieth century. We plan to set up a museum in the complex of the operating Doblar power plant, to highlight the importance of the Soča river in providing electricity to Slovenia and to develop modern programmes for children and young people in the field of energy.

This museum of energy and renewable resources on the Soča river will be a new entry point for tourists on their way to the upper Posočje region. A tourist centre and a campervan station with electric chargers for cars and bicycles are also planned.

### **Inabili alla Morte**

Commissioned by Regione FVG

Supported by GO! 2025

Production: Mittelfest

Co-production: SNG Nova Gorica

Media partner: Rai Radio3, Rai FVG, Radio Slovenija-Program Ars

The basic concept of the project Inabili alla Morte (Unable to Die / Nezmožni umreti) was conceived and will be partly directed by Giacomo Pedini. It is produced by the Mittelfest Association and is included in the official programme of the European Capital of Culture 2025, Nova Gorica-Gorizia. These two cities, situated at the crossroads of three European cultures – Italian, Slavic, and Germanic – collectively embody the living history of the continent following the World Wars, the resulting divisions, and the efforts to overcome them. The title "Inabili alla Morte" comes from Joseph Roth's masterpiece, "The Emperor's Tomb", and the entire project is inspired by this novel.

Supported by the Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia for the European Capital of Culture, the project has been included into its official programme. It is produced by Mittelfest in collaboration with SNG Nova Gorica, and will comprise three theatre performances, radio plays in partnership with RAI Radio 3, RAI FVG, and Radio Slovenia's Ars Programme. In addition, a documentary film and a literary publication are planned, with activities scheduled from spring 2024 to autumn 2025. All endeavors will adopt a cross-border perspective, fostering collaboration between the two cities, renowned partner institutions, and distinguished artists, including writers Goran Vojnović and Paolo Di Paolo, composer Cristian Carrara, actor Natalino Balasso, and director Janusz Kica.

### **ISOLabs**

This is one of the major GO! 2025 projects, prepared by Marko Peljhan, a leading Slovenian and international researcher in new media arts. His work is dedicated to research and pedagogy at the intersection between art, technology and media, and he is currently a full professor at the University of California, UC Santa Barbara. With the support of the ECoC, Peljhan is in charge of the art and science project ISOLabs, which will involve working on the Soča river delta, including tasks such as fieldwork, environmental and remote sensing, and mapping and charting, as well as reflections on and encounters with the local and global communities.

### **Jungle basketball**

The project is an exciting and innovative initiative that combines a passion for basketball with the creativity and modernity of the urban environment. The main goal of the project is to create and set up an urban basketball court that will become a centre of activity and socialising for the inhabitants of the urban area.

The jungle playground will be designed for users of different age groups and levels of basketball experience. Particular attention will be paid to adapting the infrastructure to the urban environment, and the court will be designed as a multi-purpose space that will allow for both competitive basketball games and relaxed recreational play.

### **The Other Radio**

This project is based on the idea of passive multilingualism. This involves listening to different languages, including those of different marginalised groups, getting to know and understanding them without necessarily speaking them.

The Other Radio will bring specific content, such as the problems experienced by other ethnic and cultural minorities, to our local minority territory by addressing marginalised issues. An internet platform, podcast and internet radio are planned.

### **Art Beyond the Visible**

Lead partner: Goriški muzej

Other partners: MDSS Association, Hiša artes d.d, School of Arts of the University of Nova Gorica

Can art be accessible to all? Can you imagine an exhibition where it's stated next to the artworks that touching them is allowed?

That is what the Art Beyond the Visible exhibition aims to achieve. It's divided into two worlds. The first is the world that exists, presenting existing adaptations for people with visual impairments. It showcases examples of best practices from previous efforts of participating institutions and organizations. The space will also feature examples from Ancona and Bologna, home to two of Italy's leading museums for the blind and partially sighted: the Museo Omero and the Museo Anteros.

The second part of the exhibition – the world in the making – is our unique contribution to national and international efforts. It's an experiment based on a dialogue between artists and users. Through group and individual encounters, we have brought the world of blindness and visual impairment closer to artists from three countries, aiming to expand their understanding and inspire adaptations in their own work. These adaptations will result in new artworks currently in progress. From the project's conception, we also decided to create an exhibition video to explain our experiment to all visitors. We have partnered with the School of Arts at the University of Nova Gorica for this purpose.

We do not intend to present the exhibition as art exclusively for the blind and visually impaired, but rather as art for everyone, allowing all to experience contemporary art in a new way.

### **Forest House**

The Forest House in Park Pečno in Kanal combines art, nature, and sustainable development into a unique experience. The venue offers visitors the opportunity to connect with the primordial nature of the forest and explore ways to preserve and improve our shared future.

As part of the project, the educational and artistic event "Guardians of the Forest" took place in the forest, where artists produced sculptures that are now on display there. A land art sculpture by landscape architect Orjana Grbac Velikonja, entitled "Valosed", is planned for the park, in addition to the theatre performance "Inferno" (directed by Mojca Madon) and an on-site art intervention by visual artist Gregor Maver.

### **It's Time to Collect Stories**

It's Time to Collect Stories is based on the collection and artistic elaboration of material about life at the border. The stories collected will be adapted by young people from the Italian and Slovenian regions into theatrical texts belonging to various comic genres, in a creative process guided by theatre professionals.

The project will culminate in an original play and a premiere theatre production with young and established professional actors. The project is interdisciplinary,

intergenerational, and participatory, involving workshops, field research, and collaborations between young and professional actors and other theatre creatives.

### **Mušič**

The main exhibition project of the European Capital of Culture will be dedicated to the painter Zoran Mušič (1909-2005). Born in Bukovica, Mušič is the only Slovenian modernist painter to have achieved international fame. An artist with a rich oeuvre and a strong cosmopolitan character, Mušič lived most of his life between Paris and Venice and is best known for his Drawings from Dachau, more than 150 drawings of the horrors he witnessed in the Dachau concentration camp.

The exhibition, conceived by Nelida Nemec, an art historian and expert on the painter's work, will bring together six institutions and venues: two main exhibitions will be held in Nova Gorica (Kromberk Castle) and Bled, while tributes to the artist will also be paid in: Gorizia; Bukovica (his birthplace, which will host an immersive experience of Mušič's life); Štanjel (where the main theme will be his inspiration by the Karst landscape); and Dobrovo (where a collection of his prints will be on display).

### **No Time to Waste**

The project offers an opportunity for festivals and cultural events in the region to work together to increase their capacity to implement actions towards the ultimate goal: zero-waste events.

The "No Time to Waste" initiative will create a green network of existing events and festivals in the cross-border area. An international conference will be organised with workshops, debates, talks, and networking events that involve the exchange of best practices, comparison of situations, adoption of common solutions and strategies, and presentations of results and certification procedures.

### **Tree Orchestra**

A music installation will be installed in the renovated park of Laščak villa, which will be restored by 2025. The trees in the park will be equipped with invisible loudspeakers, each tree acting as one member of an orchestra. Together, the recordings will form a coordinated performance of symphonic works by the Dresdner Sinfoniker, whose members will gather in Nova Gorica for a joint recording.

### **Community stages and galleries**

The project, named after a popular event from the 1980s and 1990s (Cantaquartieri), will revive the musical tradition of the Goriška summer by revitalising degraded areas for small and micro events.

In the summer of 2025, various locations around Nova Gorica and Gorizia, such as gardens, squares, and hidden courtyards, will come to life through a series of participatory micro-events. These will involve local artists, associations, orchestras, choirs, music schools, dance schools and comedians, who will each independently design and direct a programme in these unique locations, set up to allow the creation of cultural content and the development of the urban area of the ECoC.

### **Little Jerusalem**

The Jewish community in Gorizia, like in other cities in Central Europe, has ancient roots. In the past, Gorizia's Jewish community was so famous that the town was known as "Little Jerusalem on the Isonzo". With the deportations to concentration camps in 1943 and 1944, the community was virtually destroyed, leaving behind only a synagogue built in 1765 in the old Gorizia ghetto on the Italian side and a cemetery in Rožna Dolina in Slovenia.

The Little Jerusalem project aims to renovate the cemetery and to rediscover Jewish heritage at a national and an international level. In 2025, the cemetery will become one of the emblematic sites of the European Capital of Culture and the focal point of a new cross-border-themed cultural and tourist route.

### **Animation laboratory**

The project aims to implement activities to support the animation industry in achieving further development of the sector, by fostering international cooperation, promoting young talent, professional mobility, and skill transfer, and creating tools for closer cooperation between the public, private, and non-governmental sectors. The goals of the project are to increase the number of international collaborations in the field of animation, in particular between Slovenia and Italy and more widely in the region, including Central Europe and the Western Balkans; to create tools (events and information) to inform the public about creators, producers, and projects; to facilitate the transition of young graduates and other interested parties into the industry; to increase the mobility of creative and performing staff within the industry in the region; to support the development of the content of animation projects; and to place the region on the wider European map of the animation industry. The project is implemented by the Slovenian Animated Film Association (DSAF).



### **Museum Points – Border Museum**

The project contains three main segments or museum points. The first is the renovation of the old military watchtower in Vrtojba and its museum collection, with museum objects and audiovisual content that tell the story of the soldiers and the local population.

The collection of the Museo Miren, located at the Miren cemetery, will also be restored: it focuses on the past of the cemetery, which was divided into two parts by the redrawing of the border in 1947.

The third part of the project involves the production and printing of a guide to the Border Museum collections. This will introduce visitors to the area where the collections are located and tell them about the sights and attractions, and will be designed for pedestrians, cyclists, and readers.

### **Green points**

The project aims to create a new green map of the urban area and to develop a series of activities to promote a creative approach to greening city centres. To promote urban greening and sustainable lifestyles and strengthen the green movement, we will organise occasional presentations, workshops, and competitions with a focus on self-reliance and showcasing good practices for lowering urban temperatures.

### **R.o.R. residencies**

The R.o.R., or Rurally Organised Residency, works in a specific way: visiting artists develop a new artistic production or an adaptation of an existing project in interaction with the local community and their own experience of the environment. These projects incorporate contemporary and intermedia art, interdisciplinary connections between art, science and industry, and cultural heritage.

Residencies are designed to raise awareness and bring contemporary research-based artistic and performance practices to a wider audience; to involve students, primary and pre-primary school children in educational workshops and guided tours; to encourage cross-border networking; and to intervene in environments outside conventional gallery spaces.

### **Artists Out of Residence**

Senzorium is a pioneer of sensorial theatre in Slovenia. This kind of theatre uses the method of sensorial language, which includes specific features such as

audience interactivity, multisensory perceptions, and internationally and interculturably understandable content.

Artists Out of Residence is aimed primarily at those who have not experienced war, helping them to understand and empathize with immigrants who have lost their homes and been forced to embark on dangerous journeys to Europe. This sensorial theatre installation will put visitors in the shoes of someone crossing a border, showing them the experience of a person travelling without a passport, homeland, friends, or relatives, which is the reality of a myriad of people encountered every day in European cities. The aim is to sensitise European citizens, increasing their awareness, understanding, and empathy with respect to immigration.

### **R.O.R. festival**

The R.o.R festival is an international festival of contemporary, intermedia, and performance art actions that will reach new heights with the help of the European Capital of Culture, hosting world-renowned artists and scholars to leave its mark on the region's cross-border art scene.

The festival will feature artists working at the intersection of science, art, and technology, as well as experts and scientists from various sectors. You can look forward to laser projections, concerts, dance performances, lectures, and much more.

### **Scriptwriting residencies**

Each year, a team of experienced consultants carefully selects up to six submitted projects and offers their scriptwriters the opportunity to develop their own original script over a month, under the guidance of mentors. The focus is on projects, related to the region and to border zones in general, that investigate identity, multiculturalism, and human rights.

The residencies take place in Gorizia. Participation is international, with preference given to young writers, while renowned international scriptwriters are given various training and mentoring opportunities. The project strengthens the film production sector in Goriška and is a springboard for young scriptwriters to realise their film scripts.

### **Bat symphony**

The project incorporates sound ecology and bioacoustic music. The first involves a sound environment that is almost non-existent for humans because we often cannot hear it, while the second allows us to explore the possibility kind of composition consists of humanly audible nocturnal sounds combined with bat sounds in the

ultrasonic spectrum, suitably processed and shifted into a frequency range that we can perceive. This sound event will be set in the area around the Rihemberk castle above Brnik.

### **Think Thank Train**

Through its residency programme, the Think Tank Train offers young European humanists and social scientists a summer school in philosophy and media literacy, as well as a variety of events led by famous international scholars aimed at stimulate young European minds.

The symbol of the project is the train, which connects countries and nations, and also acts a meeting place for residents, participants, and guests. The Think Tank Train addresses the relations between centre and periphery, rural and urban areas, and man and nature; looks at issues that concern ecology, society and sustainability; and creates a cross-border community at a wider European level.

### **Twenty-Something**

The Twenty Something project focuses on the literary awakening of the wider region. It involves a reflection of the area through writing practices, the interpenetration of literature and other artistic spheres, the communication between the author and the space and the inhabitants, and the integration of literature into the living space. Young creators in their twenties, both locals and foreigners, who have been selected through an open call, take part in intensive workshops, residencies, and masterclasses in places in the European Capital of Culture area. Later they enter the public space through performances and installations, and the Goriška Humanist Association helps them to communicate with publishing houses, in order to prepare young authors for the publishing market, introduce them to editors, and connect them with translators. The association is dedicating the year 2025 to the hundredth anniversary of the poet Srečko Kosovel's manifesto "To the Mechanics" ("Mehanikom"), and is preparing a large installation and performance on this theme.

### **Visavi Dance Festival**

The Visavi Dance Festival is the first international cross-border contemporary dance festival in Gorizia and Nova Gorica, organised by Artisti Associati in collaboration with the municipalities of Gorizia, Cormòns, and Gradisca d'Isonzo. With our support, this contemporary dance festival is gaining visibility, expanding into alternative cross-border spaces, increasing its audience, and raising the profile of composing bioacoustic music with sounds that are both audible and inaudible to

humans. This of the whole region at an international level. With events taking place on both sides of the border, the festival creates a kind of dance conurbation, with performers coming from Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Malta, Japan, and other countries.

### **Walk of Peace: From the Alps to the Adriatic**

The legacy of war cannot be ignored: it has shaped people, landscapes, and life on both sides of the border. A century after the First World War, the Walk of Peace trail of remembrance links more than 300 monuments in a unique route of over 500 kilometres from the Alps to the Adriatic. Once war-torn sites, today they are monuments of remembrance, and the Walk of Peace spreads a message of peace, cooperation, and friendship between peoples. As part of the existing project, the European Capital of Culture will facilitate two sub-projects: the research and inventory of Austro-Hungarian cemeteries and Italian tombs along the trail, and the creation of a Park of the Nations, with cultural events and a guide to the Walk of Peace.

### **X-Mobil from X-Center**

xMobil is a working prototype of a solar-powered investigative art module. A converted but still functional car trailer, it is equipped with everything needed to foster creativity and innovation in remote locations. The trailer has built-in audiovisual production equipment (sound system, projector, etc.) and even solar panels.

The project will coordinate with guest artists to plan experimental music concerts, laser projections, and various performances. xMobil's mobility and self-sufficiency allow it to take its content to very different locations.

### **Meeting point**

Among other things, Gorizia can be proud of its world-class piano virtuoso: Alexander Gadjiev will play a special concert for the European Capital of Culture in the summer of 2025, high above the Soča river. The piano will be placed on the Solkan Bridge, which connects the Slovenian and Italian borders.

With its unique view and first-class music, the evening illumination of the concert "stage" is sure to be a very special experience. Gadjiev's "homecoming" will be one of the highlights of GO! 2025. A masterclass for young international musicians, led by Gadjiev, is also included in the project and will be one of the legacies of the ECoC 2025.

## **PostMobility**

Lead partner: GO! 2025

Leader (curator): pETER Purg

PostMobility is a series of media-artistic interventions, productions and research on re-use and contemplation of traffic and mobility in both physical and digital space. What new forms of cross-bordering do abandoned garages, unfinished roads and scrap metal offer? How can they connect to new nodes and platforms to push the boundaries of the conceivable -- and outpace the timid steps of the green transition? New technologies bring not only electric cars and bicycles, but also virtual mobility and with it the imperceptible flows of crypto-networks, and not least new eco-systemic intimacies. Through the exchange of diverse insights and good practices, the PostMobility programme between 2022 and 2025 weaves a network of research collaborations between GO! 2025 and cross-border partners from near and far. It establishes new entanglements between science and art, offers post-growth considerations, seeking to revive the transitional heritage into different lives. This testifies to the very special mobility challenges -- not only in traffic or capital, but also in the mentalities of Nova Gorica, Gorizia and the surroundings, such that are common to many European peripheries and cross-border regions as areas of transit and transition. PostMobility is lead by pETER Purg ([postmobility@pleter.net](mailto:postmobility@pleter.net)), follow them on Instagram.

## **Revive Time: Kaki Tree Project**

A seedling of the bombed kaki tree from Nagasaki will be planted as a symbol of peace and proof that life always finds its way. The "Revive Time: Kaki Tree Project" is an international art project started in 1996 by renowned Japanese contemporary artist Tatsuo Miyajima, in collaboration with tree healer Dr Masayuki Ebinuma, who rescued seeds from the fruit of a kaki tree that survived the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki. The project was first presented in Europe at the Venice Biennale in 1999 and has since grown and been successfully planted in over 270 locations in 24 countries.

In Nova Gorica, we will plant a descendant of the Nagasaki tree, putting the GO! 2025 area on the map of this global family. The project, which promotes peace, will further contribute to the idea of two cities with a difficult past that are ready to overcome past conflict.

The information is up-to-date as of October 18, 2024.