

Nova Gorica – Gorizia European Capital of Culture 2025

What is the European Capital of Culture?

The European Capital of Culture is an honorary title awarded annually to two cities belonging to two different EU Member States. The aim of the initiative is to protect the richness and diversity of cultures in Europe, to enhance the cultural characteristics common to the peoples of Europe and to promote the contribution of culture to the long-term development of the city. The title presupposes the realisation of a cultural programme lasting an entire calendar year, endowed with originality and a high level of quality and also represents an exceptional opportunity for the redevelopment of an area and the relaunch of its tourism.

Why Nova Gorica and Gorizia?

The title of European Capital of Culture is awarded to two EU Member States in rotation each year. In 2025 it will fall to Slovenia and Germany.

Nova Gorica submitted a joint bid together with Gorizia, making cross-border cooperation its strong point in order to enhance a unique territory in the best possible way.

The deadline for submitting the first cultural programme (the so-called bid book) expired on 31 December 2019. The proposals were examined in February 2020 by a jury of independent experts, who pre-selected applications from Nova Gorica and Gorizia, Ljubljana, Piran and Ptuj. The second 100-page bid book was officially delivered on 24 November 2020. Nova Gorica and Gorizia were proclaimed European Capital of Culture 2025 on 18 December 2020. The official inauguration is scheduled for 8 February 2025, a symbolic date in Slovenia as it is Slovenian Culture Day.

Who will implement the programme of the European Capital of Culture?

The Slovenian public body GO! 2025 - Javni zavod GO! 2025 was founded specifically to implement the official programme of the European Capital of Culture together with numerous territorial partners. The infrastructure part, on the other hand, will be coordinated by the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC GO).

The details of these projects are described in the other two documents that make up the press kit.

Who is financing the European Capital of Culture?

The GO! 2025 public body receives funding from the Slovenian government, while the infrastructure works of the EGTC GO are financed with European funds and funds from the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. A number of sponsorships are also being established.

What is EGTC Go?

The EGTC GO is an Italian public body with legal personality, founded by the Municipalities of Gorizia, Nova Gorica and Šempeter-Vrtojba in 2011 in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, in order to identify and tackle common challenges that can make the cross-border territory more competitive and attractive. The EGTC GO is a body that has competence over the territory of the three cities: it can go beyond the borders and face, for the first time, the challenges of a cooperation that plans and implements together, thinking no longer of three separate municipalities, but of a single cross-border city, with no more divisions.

What is the leitmotif of the GO! 2025 bid?

The leitmotif of the Nova Gorica-Gorizia ECOC bid - under the slogan GO! BORDERLESS - is coexistence and cooperation between the two countries, especially in the border area, and therefore the programme focuses on and emphasises, in particular, those projects that support its cross-border nature. The aim of the project, embodied by the slogan GO! BORDERLESS, is to go beyond borders, an issue of great relevance to the European Union.

Nova Gorica is inextricably linked to the city of Gorizia; the two are connected by the interweaving of many common histories. A city at the crossroads of three European cultures - Italian, Slavic and Germanic - which together with Gorizia is the heir to the old aristocracy and, with its construct, to the living history of post-war Europe. The wider area of the ECOC survived twelve offensives of the bloody First World War and was cut off by the Iron Curtain after the Second. This new city and Gorizia - an old provincial centre - are both places of war and cities of friendship, of history, contemporary, university towns, which cooperate, live and breathe together, despite their mix of cultures or because of it, and are certainly unusual, interesting and part of an area pervaded with European spirit. The ECOC title is an opportunity to connect all these factors and become interesting for European audiences, who are looking for tradition and modernity, originality and visibility.

What is the goal of GO! 2025?

GO! 2025 aims to overcome the physical and mental barriers between the two cities and within the societies, demonstrating that borderless living and cross-border governance can have an impact on the strengthening and growth of European peripheries, the seams and contacts of this European mosaic.

The first and foremost objective of the ECOC is to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of the city and its surroundings. This is a unique opportunity to connect through cultural engagement all the potential of the two border cities and the area into a tourist, cultural, economic, educational and infrastructural unicum, which will increase economic development and investment and thus attract both cultural tourists and improve the quality of life of current and future inhabitants.

Will the events of the Capital of Culture only take place in Nova Gorica and Gorizia?

From the very beginning of the bid, a wide territory was included in the ECOC area: the Soča Valley, the Slovenian Collio, the Vipava Valley, the Trnovo-Bainsizza Plateau, part of the Karst, extending over the territory of all the municipalities that are part of the Slovenian Regional Council and, crossing the state border with Italy, embracing Gorizia as a partner city and including its province.

In addition to Gorica and Nova Gorica, there are 13 other main municipalities, representing sites of cultural, historical and natural interest: Bovec, Kobarid, Tolmin, Kanal, Cerklje, Brda, Idrija, Šempeter-Vrtojba, Renče-Vogrsko, Ajdovščina, Vipava, Miren-Kostanjevica, Komen. GO! 2025 is also supported by 27 other municipalities: Aiello del Friuli, Aquileia, Capriva del Friuli, Cividale del Friuli, Cormons, Doberdò del Lago, Dolegna del Collio, Farra d'Isonzo, Fogliano Redipuglia, Gradisca d'Isonzo, Grado, Mariano del Friuli, Medea, Monfalcone, Moraro, Mossa, Romans d'Isonzo, Ronchi dei Legionari, Sagrado, San Canzian d'Isonzo, San Floriano del Collio, San Lorenzo Isontino, San Pier d'Isonzo, Savogna d'Isonzo, Staranzano, Turriaco, Villesse.

Numerous activities will be offered in the large area mentioned. The Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia will also propose a rich programme of events.

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