**Programme of the Second European Capital of Culture Flagship Event – March for Europe**

# **(1**–**10 May 2025)**

Thursday, 1 May

**BORDERLESS FRIENDSHIP MARCH & BORDERLESS PARTY**

(Europe Square and EPIC district)

The unique Friendship March, which for the third year symbolically connects Nova Gorica and Gorizia, will expand to include additional sports activities as part of the Borderless Friendship March. Enriched with other sports and cultural interventions, the event revives the tradition of the legendary walk from the 1970s and 1980s, when thousands of people crossed the border once a year without being checked. Today, as the two cities build a shared future, the march remains a celebration of community, healthy living, and unity. Participants can choose between 7, 12, or 16-kilometre routes and enjoy a rich accompanying programme. Sports associations from both sides of the border will take part.

● 8.00–10.00: participant gathering and registration,

● 9.00: official opening of the Borderless March with speeches from both mayors,

● 9.30: start of the march and accompanying sporting activities, with live video links,

● 12.00–14.00: arrival of participants at Europe Square,

● 14.00–15.00: award ceremony with cultural programme and group photo,

● 15.30–23.00: Borderless Party with all-day music programme featuring Klangkarussel (AT), Spiller (IT), Vanillaz (SI/HR) and Tim Urbanya (SI).

The **Borderless Party** continues the spirit of the opening ceremony, where the electronic music of the borderless Alpe-Adria region is presented with a musical overview of the different generations. The headliner is the Austrian electronic duo Klangkarussell, known for their numerous hits, who released their new single *Afterglow* in February this year. The track offers a reflection on mourning and remembrance, exploring acceptance and beauty, through atmospheric syntheses with delicate violin input by Rusanda Panfili and piano accompaniment by renowned film composer Johannes Winkler.

Opening of the Crossings Project by the BridA Collective at Bevkov Square

Using virtual reality, lighting and artistic performance this interactive installation builds a new conurbation in dialogue with both architecture and the audience. BridA – who previously brought the Moon and Mars to the centre of Nova Gorica – is behind the concept.

Friday, 2 May

**BORDERLESS BASKETBALL**

(Europe Square and EPIC district)

A 3x3 basketball tournament for juniors aged 11–17, featuring Slovenian and Italian teams and organised in collaboration with Slovenian and Italian sports associations. Part of the SPF project GO! Hoop, the day will also include shooting contests, 3-point competitions, cheerleading performances, and a musical programme with a DJ and live band.

Saturday, 3 May

**BORDERLESS STREET with qualifiers for the European Youth Championship in breakdance**

Breakdance is a dance genre that first appeared in the 1970s in the Bronx, New York, and made its debut at last year's Summer Olympics in Paris. The qualifiers for the European Youth Championships will be in different categories such as under-12, under-18 and 2-on-2 for both girls and boys. Beyond the competition, there’ll be dance performances, DJ and MC workshops, showcases by local troupes, graffiti and comic exhibitions, and an evening music programme featuring a DJ and live band.

Sunday, 4 May

**BORDERLESS FOOTBALL / CALCETTO**

A 3v3 football tournament and an exhibition match featuring well-known Slovenian and Italian athletes. In addition, there will be a table football tournament ("calcetto") and dance cheerleading performances by local dance troupes, as well as an entertainment programme with Avtomobili band.

Monday, 5 May

**THE PLAYGROUND**

The official programme includes creative workshops and board games for the youngest children in cooperation with kindergartens and lower primary school classes. The GreenGO area will feature a children’s DJ performance – a special edition of xMobil. The programme will also feature students from the Nova Gorica Art High School, who will surprise the parents in the morning with sculptures made from around 1000 eco latex balloons, which will be released into the air at 17:30.

**Syum-ballo**

A participatory artwork composed of three complementary elements, symbolising unity and shared roots – a reminder of when we were brothers and sisters. The piece was co-created by young people from Ad Formandum, the San Luigi Association, and the Ajdovščina People's University.

Tuesday, 6 May

**BORDERLESS GREEN and LITERARY AND DANCE EVENT IN THE INGEBORG BACHMANN ​DOME**

The writer and poet Maja Haderlap and the dancer Leonie Humitsch are presented as part of the art installation The Ingeborg Bachmann Dome, a gift from the Carinthian Cultural Foundation. The focus of the performance is outward movement, both literally and figuratively. The performance is inspired by one of Ingeborg Bachmann's few unpublished poetic works, *Ängste* (*Fears*) from 1945. The two artists tackle fragments of the text, its metaphors and associations, meeting inside and outside the dome.

**Maja Haderlap** is a bilingual Austrian Carinthian and Slovenian poet and writer, who also works as a university lecturer at the University of Klagenfurt. She writes poems, novels, essays, radio plays, drama adaptations and opera texts and has published in Slovenian and German journals. She is best known for her novel *Engel des Vergessens* (*Angel of Oblivion*) and her poetry collection *Langer transit* (*Distant Transit*).

**Leonie Humitsch** holds a master’s degree in dance pedagogy from the University of Vienna and works as a dancer, choreographer and dance teacher. She works under the dance label *feitanz* in Austria, Germany and Switzerland and participates in international festivals.

 Wednesday, 7 May

**TREE ORCHESTRA**

A virtual sound installation in the exotic Rafut Park, developed by the Dresdner Sinfoniker and artistic director Markus Rindt. It will lead us on a walk through this special place, discovering open-ended narratives to the sounds of Schumann's *Forest Scenes* and a new composition by Matej Bonin.

Thursday, 8 May

**A DAY OF BORDERLESS FESTIVALS**

A full day of events curated by the Regional Chamber of Commerce an industry of Nova Gorica in cooperation with the Nova Gorica and Vipava Valley Tourism Institute and local cultural associations, with a focus on amateur culture and tastes without borders. Stalls and live music.

The Day of Borderless Festivals brings together the Festival of Crafts and Entrepreneurship, Tastes without Borders, the Rose Festival, the Festival of Amateur Culture and the announcement of the winners of the Entrepreneurial Wine 2025 competition.

Friday, 9 May

**EUROPE DAY and *NE POZABI ME* FILM PREMIERE**

Europe Day with young people in Europe Square, organised by the Nova Gorica High School with the participation of 3 high schools from Gorizia. There will be activities such as a treasure hunt, escape room, cultural programme, student band, DJ, stalls in cooperation with the European Commission Representation in Slovenia, quizzes and the wheel of fortune.

**Premiere of Anja Medved's film *Ne pozabi me***

A feature-length documentary essay in search of lost memories of World War II that were never shared by grandmother. World preview marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Saturday, 10 May

**MN DANCE COMPANY: *INFERNO***

This futuristic robotic dance performance is part of the Borderless Body project and is a collaboration between the local MN Dance Company and international Inferno artists Louis-Philippe Demers and Bill Vorn, presented for GO! 2025 in cooperation with the Kersnikova Institute. Audience members will be able to interact with and experience the movements of robotic “skeletons” as part of this dynamic and immersive event.