

European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation  
Gruppo europeo di cooperazione territoriale  
Evropsko združenje za teritorialno sodelovanje

## INTERNATIONAL, PUBLIC, ANONYMOUS, IDEAS, SINGLE-STAGE ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION

### EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2025

FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELECTING THREE OF THE MOST APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS (3 GROUPS) FOR ARRANGING THE "TRG EVROPE / PIAZZA TRANSALPINA" IN NOVA GORICA (SLOVENIA) AND GORIZIA (ITALY)

**REPORT JURY MEETING NOVA GORICA (Slovenia) and GORIZIA (Italia)**  
VENUE PLACE, **Glasbena šola Nova Gorica**, Cankarjeva 8, Nova Gorica (SLO)  
09.09. – 13.09.2020

09.09.2020 ARRIVAL – JURY MEMBERS  
WEDNESDAY

Arrival of all members to the hotel.

Meeting with the representatives of European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, with a welcome by EGCT GO Director Ivan CURZOLO and Tanja CURTO, followed by a dinner with all.

10.09.2020  
THURSDAY

MORNING JURY SESSION 1

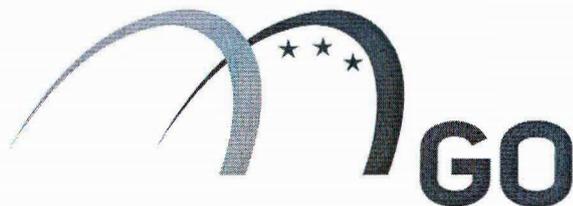
Jury members are: ROGER RIEWE, President of the Jury, NATHALIE ROZENCWAJG, UIA representative, POLONA FILIPIČ, GIOVANNI FRAZIANO, SAŠA RANDIĆ and VOJKO PAVČIČ as Deputy member;

Meeting of all the Jury members in the hotel lobby at 7.50, departure from Hotel at 8.00 to Trg Evrope / Piazza Transalpina. Welcomed by the representatives from ECoC2025 team (Mrs. Neda RUSJAN BRIC, program leader of the candidature and coordinators of the candidature Mrs. Vesna HUMAR, and Mr. Lorenzo DE SABBATA) and addressed by the Mayor of Gorizia, Mr. Rodolfo ZIBERNA and head of Nova Gorica mayor's office Mr. Gorazd BOŽIČ. Visit to the ECoC2015 offices in the old railway station building, with a detailed introduction to the brief of the candidature and some information on the recent history and the events that took place in the area.

Accompanied by a local guide, the Jury members walked around the site area and vicinity, going to Rožna dolina (Casa Rossa) from where they climbed to Kostanjevica to have a view over the cities. From there they were driven to the place of the jury's working place, Musical school of Nova Gorica, where all the project drawings had been put up on the walls and display panels.

After a brief welcome by Mrs. Tanja Curto, from EGTC GO, at 11.50 the first Jury session started

Mr. Tomaz KANCLER, EGTC GO competition consultant, introduced the work on the preparation of the competition, all the procedures and reported about the work of the Technical Committee and the new working codes stuck over the computer generated ones. The Technical Committee reported about the number of entries (59): three (3) of them



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(1) broke the anonymity requirement (no. 28324752D) and one participant (1) sent 15 panels instead of the 3 requested (no. 914172945M). Consequently, the elimination of these 5 entries was confirmed by the jury and this left 54 entries to be evaluated.

Afterwards, Luciano Lazzari, EGTC GO competition coordinator, briefly summarised the Programme tasks and the main objectives of the Competition brief for the Jury members, giving them some background information on the political and administrative processes that had brought the competition to this phase. Afterwards, the President of the Jury, Mr. Roger RIEWE, took over the floor and guided the session. The Jury members were asked about possible conflict of interests, possible knowledge of any of the participants etc. All of the present Jury members denied any conflict or reported any impropriety.

The President of the jury asked all the members to individually check all the works and familiarise themselves with all the projects, in preparation for the next session. The work was interrupted for the lunch-break.

## AFTERNOON JURY SESSION 2

The session restarted at 14.30. The members of the jury continued the individual review of the studies. On completion, the jury members discussed the entries as a group and proceeded to vote for those projects that were to pass to the next phase. The works with working codes 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 29, 30, 33, 37, 38, 44, 46, 47, 48, 52, 54, and 56 remain in jury evaluation.

The jury once again discussed all the above-mentioned works and went to each one to exchange and discuss their opinions on these. After the next round, considering all the criteria, the jury shortlisted the following projects, with code numbers: 1, 2, 8, 14, 19, 23, 44, and 54; and decided to more closely examine their written reports for the next session.

## EVENING

The members of the jury attended the event dedicated to the candidacy of Nova Gorica / Gorizia for the European Capital of Culture at the Palazzo del cinema Kinemax, piazza Vittoria, Gorizia (ITA), with following programme:

20.00 Welcome speeches

20.10 European Capital of Culture for the future, talk

### **New Europe Square**

*A group of architects from all over Europe – International Jury, choose a new architectural image of the common place from 54 international proposals.* Tomaž Kancler, Luciano Lazzari and the president of the international jury Roger Riewe, presented the competition.

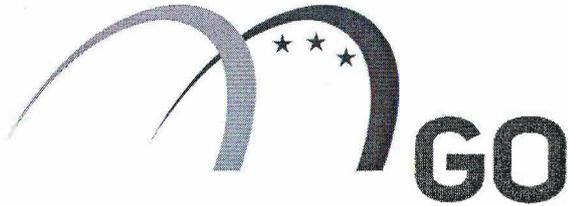
### **Culture for development**

*The European Capital of Culture is a creative and artistic project, but also a development project.* Antonella Pacorig (Federmoda), Mattia Vecchi (Tenerife Theatre Association) and Federico De Luca (LeNuoveVie) thought about how an international breakthrough can bring prosperity.

### **Live candidacy**

Neda Rusjan Bric and representatives of the ISIG Institute presented the course of the candidacy.

20.30 Video projection GO! 2025 • GO! 2025 - Life by the border, showing border life during the coronavirus epidemic.  
• Selection of statements of the Viral Café GO! 2025 • Regional videos GO! 2025 (Alan Marc) • Connected No Matter What (Jan Devetak)



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The evening finished with a Toast in the courtyard of the House of Film.

11.09.2020

FRIDAY

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**MORNING JURY SESSION 3**

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Jury meeting started its work at 10.00. After addressing some procedural questions, the jury and the advisers made some comments concerning the technical matters of working session. The jury began the individual consideration of entries once again. At the end of the morning session, six (6) projects were chosen as contenders for the prizes and mentions. The working code numbers are 1, 8, 14, 19, 23, 44.

**AFTERNOON JURY SESSION 4**

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The jury entered into a detailed examination and discussion of these final projects again and by mid afternoon, reached a unanimous decision on the three projects to be given Honourable mentions and the three projects for the prizes. After another round of discussion, the jury decided the ranking of the projects in the following order:

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	entry no. 19
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	entry no. 44
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	entry no. 14

Honourable mentions:

Entry no. 1  
Entry no. 8  
Entry no. 23

The jury then began writing the reports. The session ended at 18.00.

12.09.2020

SATURDAY

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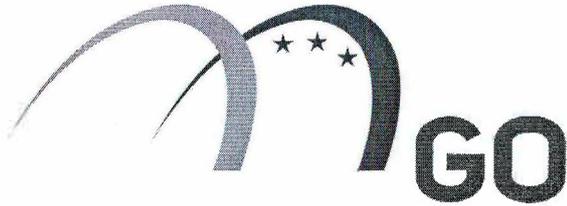
**MORNING JURY SESSION 5**

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The Jury members completed the reports about the awarded and mentioned entries, which became part of the final Report, which was then signed by all the Jury members. The final report was then sent to the European Grouping for the Territorial Cooperation Gorizia.

The Technical committee checked the Jury known working codes of the selected projects and paired them with the computer generated codes of the entries, as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	entry no. 19	364963819H
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	entry no. 44	2030462327N
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	entry no. 14	225303243V



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Honourable mentions:

Entry no. 1	382481Q
Entry no. 8	46725326N
Entry no. 23	524333545M

The session ended at 13.00. The panels were taken down and the offices vacated with the end of the jury's work.

WRITTEN REPORTS as follows, with the introduction by Jury's President Mr. Roger Riewe:

## **GO! 202 International Architectural Ideas and Project Competition**

### **General statement**

The brief asked for proposals regarding the urban context on an ideas competition level and it also asked for proposals for the Europe Square and for design solutions for the new Epicentre on the level of a project competition.

The projects submitted showed a big variety in terms of thematic approach regarding the ideas' part as well as architectural answers for the Europe Square and the Epicentre.

The proposals for the urban context addressed possibilities of sewing both sides on a long-term basis either by reactivating the area and programming it but also by reducing the amount of tracks which at present are one of the main obstacles creating a physical border.

A big issue obviously was the location of the Epicentre, either in front or on both sides of the railway station, underground or as a connecting structure across the existing railway tracks.

A group of competitors saw the proposal for the Europe Square and for the epicentre as two separated projects, others layered both fields of operation and merged them to become one project.

This diversity of approaches and the quality of the projects was a substantial basis for a highly professional and in depth discussion among the jury members trying to select the best project.

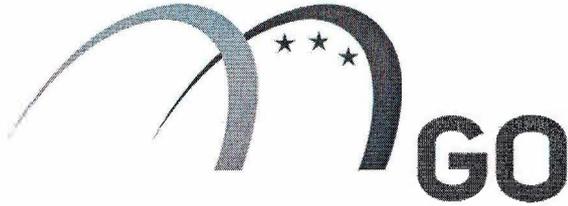
### **HONOURABLE MENTIONS**

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#### **Entry number 8 46725326N**

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The proposal has identified several areas of intervention, deemed important for the integration of the two cities. The railroad, a physical barrier between them, is modified in this proposal and reduced to a single track for tourist trains. The area currently used for freight transport, is transformed into a park with large water surfaces, connected with the existing stream Koren. "Epicenter" with the museum, auditorium and services is housed in a single volume, lined with the railroad station along the park, extending the area of the new Europa Square.



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Even though some of the proposals were rather rudimental in form, the jury found them to be a valuable contribution to the future remodelling of the city.

**Entry number 23** 524333545M

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The project brings to the fore the idea of merging and connecting. It uses architecture as a tool for spatial intervention to strengthen the social element. The two squares/cities/regions/states are connected by a ring floating in the air. The emphasised symbolism of the circle dissolves the border between cities and countries and turns it into a public space of connection. EpiCenter pursues more the idea of a building rather than the building itself. The extremely large scale of the circle defines the functional space for its cultural content, but it does not structure and define it sufficiently.

The jury decided to give this project an honourable mention for the clarity of its concept and its symbolic strength.

**Entry number 1** 382481Q

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The jury appreciated the resolution of design of both areas of the competition. At the larger scale, the proposal addresses the reality of the various situations along the site and integrates them well into a potential future. The design of the transcultural hub inscribes itself elegantly in the square, with a canopy as its main visible element to unite people and programs. However, it was felt that the design lacked a strong image reflecting the emotional importance of the site.

The consideration given to the EPIcentre programmatic potential and flexibility was commended as a strong aspect of the design proposal.

## PRIZE WINNING PROJECTS

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### 3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE

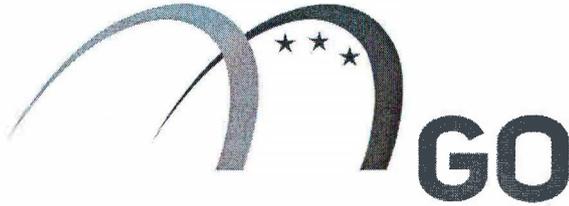
**Entry number 14** 225303243V

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The design proposal for the urban development of the area for 'Piazza Transalpina / Trg Europe' aims to implement the existing transcultural area into a new hub for dialogue between the two cities. This design proposal provides a sensitive approach by proposing to reuse and renovate the existing railway station building, a significant historical structure for both Gorizia and Nova Gorica, with its adjacent enlarged plaza and new urban connections, into the focal point of the conurbation.

The jury appreciated the approach to host all the proposed functions within the existing building, thus dictating the specific restoration of the building. However, it questioned whether it responded to the requirements of the brief to provide a new identity to the place. The proposed plaza solution is functional yet carries a strong graphic message of border dissolution as a single unified surface that connects the two cities and integrates different uses by enabling diverse scenarios.

The jury recognized the concept of reusing and repurposing the existing railway building as one of the more sustainable approaches, considering the perspective of uncertainty of the future urban developments. Moreover, the jury commended the design proposals for the wider urban area with an urban strategy that activates site-specific nodes along the border.



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## 2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE

**Entry number 44**      2030462327N

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The design proposal is a powerful symbolic evocation of the recent history, which considers a variety of planes and scales as integrated components of the concept. The bold decision to use a single colour for the floor treatment of the square, the EPICentre Structure and the urban furniture is a strong aspect of the project and provides it with a unique identity, well adapted to the aspirations of a European Cultural City. It was felt that the proposed structure responded well to the challenges of the brief and was sensitive and well integrated with the scale of the square, offering the public a variety of views over the surroundings from its different levels.

The jury appreciated the flexibility of uses proposed for the EPICentre hub, as a vertical extension of the square and thus its flexibility to adapt to a variety of uses over time.

The proposals for the larger urban area were felt to be somewhat too generic and not specific enough to the realities of the context. These did not feel conceptually related to the bold proposals developed for Piazza Transalpina / TRG Europe.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE

**Entry number 19**      364963819H

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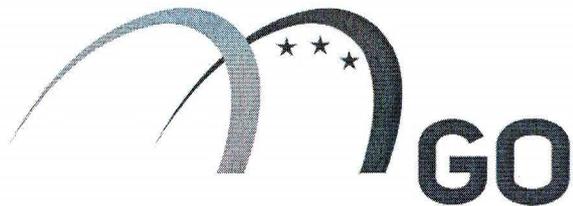
The project has a strong and clear visual impact, with a concave form that evokes a steadying point of equilibrium. This simple but significant gesture lends itself in its form to a naturally converging multifunctional space for social gathering - exalting its symbolic value, interpreting the memories still present and current, with an intervention that is however open to the future.

The Transalpina railway station remains as a natural backdrop, framed by the curve of the new structure in the foreground and is itself also an active element in the transformation of its surrounding context, as clearly indicated in the urbanistic hypotheses illustrated in the drawings presented. These explicitly show an appropriate and convincing strategy in relation to the area that fronts Nova Gorica as well as the wider, general transborder area.

The jury finds the project idea to be extremely positive, also because it recognises the possibility of easily adaptable variations, both structural and functional. The jury did find the underground part to be slightly excessive and not wholly convincing, while the technological mechanisms that indicate a range of possible uses, were considered rather impractical and superfluous, since the concept of flexibility is already inherent in the project.

The jury finds that the project addresses both the symbolic and the functional characteristics required by the brief and provides ample opportunities for development.

The visual representation contains some very evocative images, wholly in keeping with the objectives of the brief.



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## MEMBERS OF THE JURY

1. ROGER RIEWE

President of the Jury

2. NATHALIE ROZENCWAJG

UIA representative

3. POLONA FILIPIČ

4. GIOVANNI FRAZIANO

5. SAŠA RANDIČ

6. VOJKO PAVČIČ

Deputy member

In Nova Gorica (Slovenia), 12.09.2020