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**INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL IDEAS AND PROJECT COMPETITION  
FOR THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF  
»PIAZZA TRANSALPINA / TRG EVROPE«**

**NOVA GORICA (SLOVENIA) / GORIZIA (ITALY)  
CUP: F82G19000110002. CIG: 821890247D.**

Photo 1: <https://www.tripadvisor.com/>  
Photo 2: <https://www.novagorica-turizem.com/>

## **ORGANISERS**

### **EUROPEAN GROUPING of TERRITORIAL COOPERATION**

GRUPPO EUROPEO di COOPERAZIONE TERRITORIALE

EVROPSKO ZDRUŽENJE ZA TERITORIALNO SODELOVANJE (**EGTC** Gorizia)

REGISTERED OFFICE: Via Cadorna 35

OFFICE PREMISES: Via Roma 9

34170 GORIZIA (ITA), ITALIA

in collaboration with the

### **MUNICIPALITY OF NOVA GORICA**

MESTNA OBČINA NOVA GORICA (**MONG**)

Trg Edvarda Kardelja 1

5000 NOVA GORICA, SLOVENIA

and the

### **MUNICIPALITY OF GORIZIA**

COMUNE DI GORIZIA

Piazza Municipio 1

34170 GORIZIA (ITA), ITALIA

endorsed by the:

### **INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS (UIA)**

Tour Maine Montparnasse

33, avenue du Maine, BP 158

75755 PARIS CEDEX 15

FRANCE

The Competition is conducted in accordance with the UIA-UNESCO Standard Regulations for international Competitions in Architecture and Town-Planning and the UIA Best practice recommendations (see: UIA Competition Guide for design Competitions in Architecture and related Fields)

#### **COMPETITION MANAGERS:**

Fabiana Pieri

Tomaž Kancler

Competition documentation prepared by:

Concept and coordination: EGTS GO, Municipality of Nova Gorica, Municipio of Gorizia

Competition brief (program): Uroš LOBNIK and Program tasks team

Competition terms: Tomaž KANCLER and experts team

February 2020

## **COMPETITION BRIEF**

The Competition documentation includes the following chapters:

- A. INTRODUCTION**
- B. REGULATIONS**
- C. COMPETITION TASKS AND PROGRAM**
- D. APPENDIXES**

- A1. Author Identification form
- A2. Basis for negotiation with Competition winner
- A3. Copyright contract

### **ANNEXES – (PLANS and photos)**

- D 2.1 ANNEX 1: BOHINJ RAILWAY – FERROVIA TRANSALPINA
- D 2.2 ANNEX 2: NOVA GORICA TRAIN STATION AND RAILWAY WORKSHOPS
- D 2.3 ANNEX 3: PHOTO – PART ONE
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- D 2.7 ANNEX 7: CAD BASE MAPS

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## A. INTRODUCTION

### 1.0. ABOUT THE COMPETITION

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#### 1.1. The purpose of the competition and perimeter of intervention

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**Urban regeneration project: connecting the two cities of Gorizia and Nova Gorica by designing a common central area: the Europe Square - Piazzale Della Transalpina and the transcultural hub EPICenter. This cross-border Competition intends to address the problem of uniting a city once divided by a border which no longer exists as a physical barrier in today's EU.**

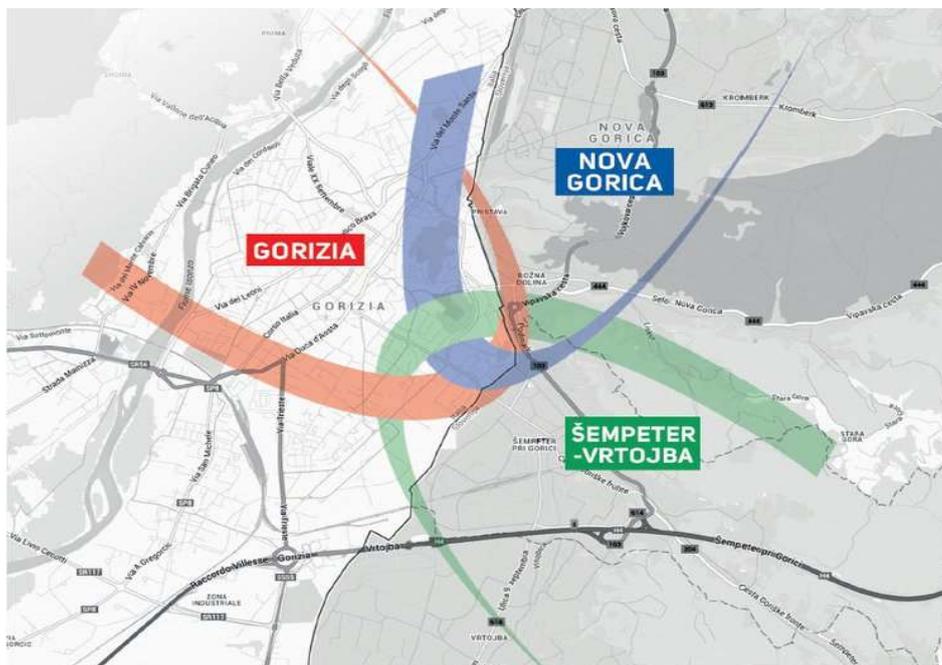
##### 1.1.1. Background and History

After World war II the region of Gorizia was divided between Italy and former Yugoslavia. Gorizia (with 45,000 inhabitants) remained on the Italian side, while the major part of the region with a few smaller settlements around Gorizia was assigned to the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, today the Republic of Slovenia. Because the region on the Slovenian side remained without an administrative center, in 1947 work began on the construction of Nova Gorica, a new modern functionalist town to the north of the railway station. Nova Gorica is today the tenth largest Slovenian city with approx. 13,800 inhabitants while Gorizia has approx. 35,000 inhabitants.

Because of the creation of a new state border that carelessly cut into the existing built up tissue of Gorizia, large "buffer zones", were formed on the edges of both cities, effectively preventing direct contacts between them, causing them to develop independently. While Nova Gorica expanded, Gorizia instead began a slow decline after World War II.

With the dissolution of Yugoslavia and the birth of an expanded united Europe in 1991, new socio-political conditions were created. Gorizia and Nova Gorica, the two towns once divided by wars but subsequently united by cooperation and close friendship, saw new opportunities for connecting the separated parts of the former region, not least the spatial integration of the two cities into a uniform urban structure. Thus since 1996 and on numerous occasions, the two Municipalities began to explore the potential of urban redevelopment of the buffer zones, today's urban degraded areas along the state border in an endeavour to formulate common goals connecting the two cities.

In 2019 Nova Gorica and Gorizia set themselves an ambitious goal – to become a cross-border European Capital of Culture in 2025. Regardless of the success of the candidacy, the two Administrations, aided by the EGTC, have decided to continue the process of connecting the two cities by planning a common central area on the state border in the area of the railway station of Nova Gorica.



### 1.1.2. Competition Goals

A city from Slovenia and another one from Germany will be chosen as the 2025 **European Capital of Culture (ECoC)**. The city of **Nova Gorica** (Slovenia) is aiming at the title, presenting its cross-border cooperation with neighbouring **Gorizia** (Italy) as one of its advantages. The two cities are going to use this opportunity to prepare a joint programme to both promote and strengthen the resources of this unique cross-border area and become a place of interest for the European public, looking for tradition and modernity, originality and visibility.

The first and main goal of the ECoC is, above all, to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of the city and its wider surroundings. It is a unique opportunity to integrate all the potentials of border towns and areas through cultural engagement in tourism, economy, education and infrastructure, that will increase economic development and investment, attract cultural tourism and enable a new and better quality of life.

Thus the Municipality of Nova Gorica, together with the Municipality of Gorizia, under the umbrella of the EGTC GO and the endorsement of UIA, calls for the international open Competition with the intent of acquiring a framework for the central stage of the European Capital of Culture 2025 and for the urban regeneration of the city in the next twenty years.

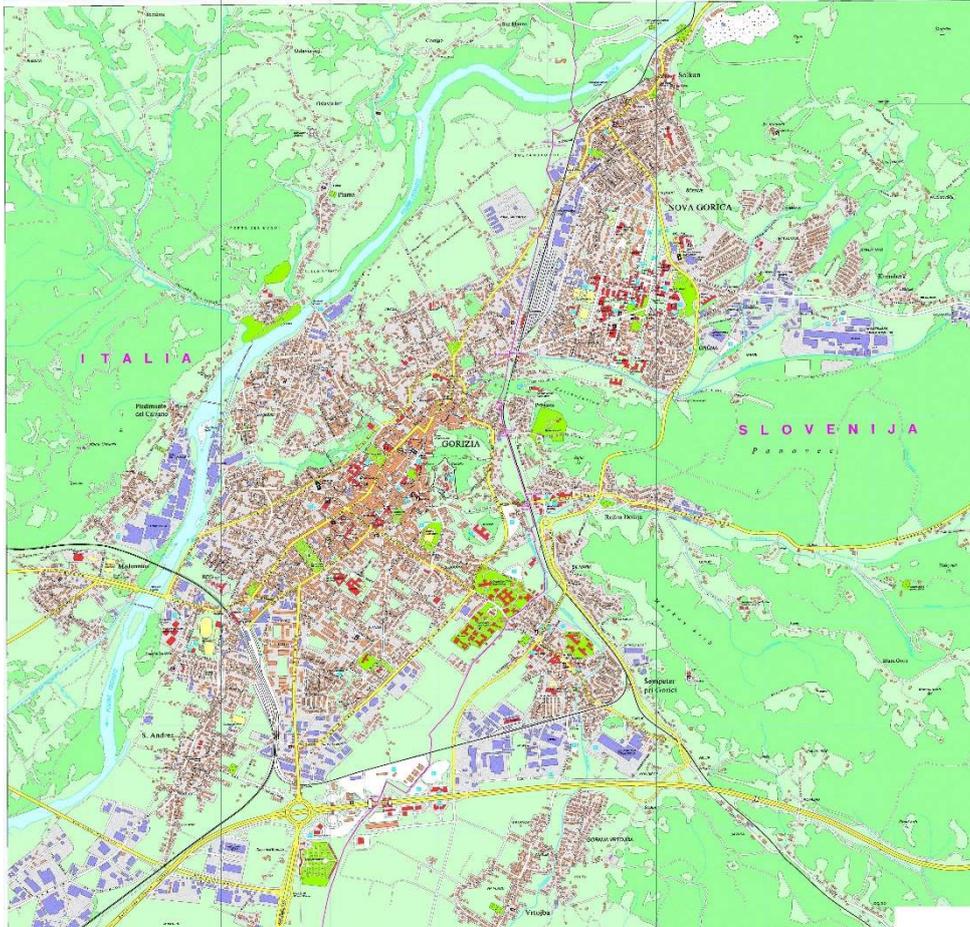
The scenario puts the area of the Europe square / Piazza Transalpina into the foreground as the central space of spatial development of the city. This area (close to the historic railway station with many railway lines cutting Nova Gorica from Gorizia) has exceptional potential to develop the urban structure of the city. So far it has never been treated as a whole, which is one of the goals of this competition. Construction and spatial arrangements have always addressed the railway station area in fragments, while the urban appearance integration and use of the railway area has never been the subject of a complex transformation.

The goal of the international competition and the aim of the two Municipalities is to find a project solution for the design of the area in front of the railway station (now divided in half by the state border) with the creation of a new square – the **Europe square/Piazzale della Transalpina** and the design of a transcultural hub, called **EPICenter**, or European Platform for the Interpretation of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The area in front of the railway station should be transformed into a manifestly recognisable urban area common to both cities, located exactly half way between the historical centre of Gorizia and the administrative and cultural centre of Nova Gorica.

The promoters also wish to gain conceptual programmatic ideas for the remodelling of the wider urban area across the border, from Solkan / Salcano to Rožna dolina / Casa Rossa. Examining this wider context is a unique opportunity, not easily found in other cities. It offers a basis for the establishment of either a brand new programme or one that allows for the replacement of all or some of the functions currently found there.

The competition is thus divided into two parts:

- **Area 1** - Project proposals for the design of Europe Square / Piazzale della Transalpina and the transcultural hub EPICenter
- **Area 2** - Ideas- proposals for the remodelling of the border zones from Solkan/Salcano to Rožna dolina / Casa Rossa



1.1.3. Purpose of the Competition

The purpose of the Competition is to acquire:

- The most suitable proposal of a comprehensive design solution to plan the Europe square / Piazza Transalpina;
- The most suitable architectural design project solution for an EPICenter on the site;
- A comprehensive concept for the future common urban development of the cities of Nova Gorica and Gorizia.

The Competition is an integral part of the preparations for the European Capital of Culture 2025 candidature, which could be held in 2025 in Nova Gorica (Slovenia) and its partner city Gorizia (Italy).

1.1.4. Competition Area

The site designated for the competition interventions is articulated in two (2) areas.



## AREA 1

### Part 1

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#### **EUROPE square / Piazza Transalpina**

Summary from the Competition task and programme

The goal of the Competition is to rearrange the Europe square / Piazza Transalpina to enable the citizens and visitors to experience the historical continuity of the place and to raise its cultural and historical value with innovative and original solutions which respect landscape and heritage parameters. This part of the Competition calls for an architectural idea for the rearrangement of the square.

### Part 2

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#### **EPICenter**

Summary from the Competition task and programme

European platform for interpretation of 20<sup>th</sup> century history.

The EPICenter shall be a new symbolic construction or an artefact in the area of the Europe Square / Piazza Transalpina. The construction will be intended for meetings and cultural tourist activities for the inhabitants of both towns - Gorizia and the Nova Gorica.

The structure shall offer in its programme permanent exhibitions and multi-purpose spaces created for meeting, learning, sharing stories and documenting new ones. It shall be designed to appeal to the public of all generations and backgrounds. It must be economically viable, so functions should enable the centre to generate some income or at least make it feasible for different initiatives, so that the structure would not have to depend wholly on public funds.

The EPIcenter's main mission shall be establishing meeting areas on the border – places to encourage cross border socialising with the goal of discovering a shared interpretation of the divided past and plan the future of this common living space.

The first and foremost goal of the EPICenter shall be to improve understanding of the area's history, its heritage, as well as present the past in all of its complexity. The ultimate objective is to contribute to the construction of a tolerant society and raise the awareness about diverse perspectives and interpretations.

## AREA 2

### Ideas competition

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Concepts regarding the remodelling of the urban area across the border, from Solkan/Salcano to Rožna Dolina/Casa Rossa / AREA 2

*The participants will be asked to give ideas on how this larger area can be included in the concept of transborder facilitation and cohesion, linking single elements to form a continuum that stretches from Casa Rossa to Solkan, thereby enhancing the importance of the Transalpina Epicenter project.*

## B. REGULATIONS

The Competition task, including both areas and their parts, defines the requirements and expectations of the Contracting authorities in detail and is a constitutive part of this Competition documentation and as such applies to all competitors.

### **1.2. The Contracting Authority, Competition organiser and participating institutions**

#### 1.2.1. The Contracting Authority and Competition Organiser:

**EUROPEAN GROUPING of TERRITORIAL COOPERATION** (henceforth **EGTC GO**)  
GRUPPO EUROPEO di COOPERAZIONE TERRITORIALE  
EVROPSKO ZDRUŽENJE ZA TERITORIALNO SODELOVANJE  
REGISTERED OFFICE: Via Cadorna 35; OFFICE: Via Roma 9, 34170 GORIZIA (ITA), ITALY

in collaboration with the

**MUNICIPALITY OF NOVA GORICA** (henceforth **MONG**)  
MESTNA OBČINA NOVA GORICA  
Trg Edvarda Kardelja 1, 5000 NOVA GORICA, SLOVENIA

and the

**MUNICIPALITY OF GORIZIA** (henceforth **GO**)  
COMUNE DI GORIZIA  
Piazza Municipio 1, 34170 GORIZIA (ITA), ITALY

1.2.2. The person responsible for procedure is:  
arch. Fabiana **PIERI** - EGTC CO (henceforth RUP)  
*Via Roma 9, 34170 GORIZIA (ITA), ITALY*

1.2.3. The Competition co-manager is:  
Mr. Tomaž **KANCLER**, BArch, MSc, **EGTC GO** consultant  
*spring consulting – s.p., Gregorčičeva ulica 6, 2000 MARIBOR, SLOVENIA*

1.2.4. UIA endorsement  
The Competition is endorsed by the  
**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS** (henceforth **UIA**),  
Tour Maine Montparnasse, 33 avenue du Maine, BP 158, 75755 PARIS CEDEX 15, FRANCE;  
The competition is conducted in accordance with the UIA-UNESCO Standard Regulations for international Competitions in Architecture and Town-Planning and the UIA Best practice recommendations (see: UIA Competition Guide for design Competition in Architecture and related Fields)

### **1.3. Type of competition and correspondence**

1.3.1. This international Competition is organised as a single stage, combined project and ideas competition, in open procedure. Anonymity will be maintained during the whole process.

1.3.2. The Competition is a constitutive part of the preparation for the Candidacy of Nova Gorica (partnering with the City of Gorizia) for the European Capital of Culture for the year 2025, which will be held in a city in Slovenia.

1.3.3. For the procedures of the competition and for the relationships between the Organisers and the competitors, in order to guarantee anonymity, equal treatment and uniformity, all two-way correspondence will be exclusively via electronic means, through the following public procurement platform:  
[https://app.albofornitori.it/alboeproc/albo\\_gectgo](https://app.albofornitori.it/alboeproc/albo_gectgo)

The system will guarantee anonymity during the entire procedure.

All documents and communications will be published on the following website:  
<https://euro-go.eu/en/>

Participants must periodically consult the above internet address to verify any further communications relevant to the procedure.

The competition announcement was:

- transmitted to the Official Journal of the European Community
- published on the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic
- published on the Authorities' profile: [http // www.euro-go.eu](http://www.euro-go.eu)
- Published on MIT website <https://www.serviziopubblici.it>
- Published on ANAC web site (National Anti-Corruption Authority)
- Published on UIA web site (International Union of Architects)
- Published on ZAPS web site (Chamber for Spatial planning and Architecture of Slovenia)

The person in charge of the procedure is arch. Fabiana Pieri. email: [procurement@euro-go.eu](mailto:procurement@euro-go.eu).

#### **1.4. Estimated Construction cost**

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The estimated cost for the construction of the work (for competition **AREA 1**), including safety costs, is **7.500.000,00 €**, excluding value added tax (VAT);

The detailed calculation, divided into categories of work, can be found in the appendix 1 (Chapter 1.1)

#### **1.5. Legal framework**

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The preparation of the Competition and its execution comply with the following current Italian legislation:

Italian Public Procurement Act (legislative decree n. 50/2016)  
Ministerial Decree (Ministerial decree 17.06.2016)

The following documents are the legal basis for the organisation and implementation of this competition:

- the present Competition Brief and its annexes;
- UNESCO standard regulations for International Competitions in Architecture and Town planning and UIA Competition Guide for design Competitions in Architecture and related Fields, which interprets and implements the UNESCO Regulations
- The Questions and Answers (Q&A) Document;
- other Notices published on the competition site and accessible to all competitors

Participants are bound to respect the code of ethics for professional practice.

#### **1.6. Language and number of Competition entries**

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**The official language of the competition is English. The language to be used in all documents and drawing annotations of the entries is English.**

- 1.6.1. The Competition documentation and documents during the evaluation and verification of compliance with Competition terms and of professional qualification of Competition participants will continue to be issued in English.
- 1.6.2. Each Competitor, individual or team (group of authors) can submit only one Competition entry, and each entry can only include one solution. Each competitor or specialist can only participate in one team.

#### **1.7. Competition Rights and Eligibility**

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##### 1.7.1. Eligibility

**This competition is open to all architects of the world and all legal entities which are entitled to practise in their country of residence.**

The Competition is open to registered Architects and all legal entities authorised to practise the profession according to the norms of the countries of the European Union to which the subject belongs, in accordance with EU Directive 55/2013.

In EU countries, competitors (authors) can come either 1) from the EU Member states, 2) from third countries which have public procurement agreements with the EU, or 3) from countries which have ratified the WTO plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA).

The competitor (author) not established in an EU country and not fulfilling the above requirement may present an affidavit or other certification testifying to the right to participate in the Competition, according to the regulations permitting practice of the profession in force in the State in which he/she is established. Competitors from countries without specific regulation of the architectural profession must provide a proof of practice.

In the case where the key competences are provided by a multidisciplinary team, the leader of the team shall be an architect or a legal entity which is entitled to practise in his/her country of residence.

##### 1.7.2. Deficiencies

The deficiencies of any formal element of the application, and, in particular, the incompleteness or lack of documentation, with the exclusion of those relating to the project proposals, can be remedied through the preliminary investigation procedure. See appendix 1.

1.7.3. Subsequent design stages

Provided that Nova Gorica – Gorizia are successful in their bid to be awarded the title of EU Capital of Culture 2025 and after the necessary funding will have been allocated, the first prize winner of the competition will be commissioned, by way of a private negotiated procedure, to carry out the services of design and site supervision.

Only when commissioned to carry out the services, participants must comply with the technical, organisational and means requisites in the ESPD. These are detailed in the appendix 1, chapter 1.2.2.

The winner of the Competition may avail him/herself (Reliance on the capacities of other entities) of other partners or entities in order to satisfy these requirements, in the carrying out of subsequent stages of design. The reliance cannot apply for conditions of moral requisites, professional qualification or strictly personal technical and professional requirements.

The winner of the competition will be obliged to present all the relevant documentation (as set out in chapter 1.2.2. of the appendix 1)

1.7.4. Competitors

Participants can be individual natural persons, teams of individuals or legal entities.

If the competitor is a natural person, this person is considered as the author of the Competition entry. If the competitor is a legal entity, it shall define the person responsible for the Competition entry. If the competitor is a group of natural persons, the group shall define the representative of the group, their mutual relationships, and which one of them is the person responsible for the entry. Individual authors of the architectural design can participate only in one group of authors. Each participant may present only one project. Variations of the project are not admitted.

1.7.5. Author's rights

The Contracting Authority may use the design of the first prize only if the author is commissioned to carry out the project. No design (whether or not awarded a prize) may be used for further design by the client, wholly or in part, without a written agreement by its author. The author of any design retains the copyright and the author's rights of his/her work; no alterations may be made without his/her formal consent. The winning design can be used only once. All participants must guarantee that their submission does not infringe intellectual property rights of third parties and that they are the authors of the submitted design.

1.7.6. Publication rights

The client and the competitors share in principle the right to publicise competition entries, provided that the authors and the client are mentioned. Competition Participants are not allowed to publish their submitted project (press, books, internet, any other media, etc.) until the Jury signs the ranking and the results become public. Prior publication of a submitted design project will be considered as a ground for disqualification.

The Contracting Authority, the Organiser and the UIA have the right to use, store, reproduce, display, print, publish, communicate to the public or distribute in hard copies, in electronic or digital format, or on the internet (including social networks as a downloadable or non-downloadable file), the submitted project or copies of the submitted project for the purpose of communicating or informing about the Competition results and the project without the authors' consent. The names of the authors will always be mentioned.

1.7.7. Participation limitations

**Not eligible** to participate in the competition - any person:

Who is the Contracting authority or the Competition organiser (or an employee of), or his trustee;

Who is excluded by provisions of art. 80 of the Italian Public Procurement Act (not having suffered criminal convictions, to have fulfilled all the obligations relating to the payment of taxes, taxes or social security contributions, whether in the country where it is established or in the Member State of the contracting authority or of the contracting entity, if

different from the country of establishment, has not violated, as far as it is aware of, applicable obligations concerning health and safety at work, environmental, social and labour law).

Who is prohibited from working with the public administration;

Who prepared or contributed to the preparation of Competition documentation (Competition task and Competition terms);

Who is a member of the evaluation commission (jury) or a substitute of such a member;

Who is the employer and/or employee of one of the members of the evaluation commission or his substitute, reporter, expert or trustee, during the competition;

Who is the owner or co-owner of the company in which the member of the jury or his substitute, reporter, expert or trustee is employed, or who has any other financial connection with such a group, during the competition;

Who is in marital or formal extramarital relation and legally recognised partnership, or a relative of a member of the jury, his substitute, reporter, expert or trustee, directly to the second degree inclusive;

Who is already participating in the tender in a group or consortium or is an administrator, partner, employee, consultant or project collaborator of that group or consortium;

Participants and jurors will not be able to have any contact on the subject of the competition for the entire duration of the competition, under penalty of exclusion.

#### 1.7.8. Queries on eligibility

If the participant is in doubt about the admissibility of his participation or the right to participate in the Competition, he can inquire about this matter specifically (relation, employee relationship, etc.) to the e-mail address of the Competition organiser – trustee. The deadline for queries is the same as that of submission.

### **1.8. Participation terms**

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By submitting an entry, the competitors accept all clauses of the competition regulations. They agree to all the terms of this Competition and the Competition documentation. At the same time the competitors agree to all the forms of public introduction and publication of their Competition entries (at the exhibition, on the websites of the Contracting authority, the Competition organiser, the UIA and in professional and other publications).

Entries not awarded a prize or mention will also be exhibited and published with the names of the authors.

Competitors are allowed to use the Competition graphic templates only for the purpose of this Competition.

Although not expressly provided for in this specification, reference to the PP Code is still applicable.

The technical assistance made available will only work if registrations are still open. Assistance requests received after the end of the deadline for participation will not be handled.

Participants are invited to adequately anticipate the activation of the procedure for the transmission of the documents.

This document contains all the necessary information for participation.

### **1.9. Jury, experts, technical committee and managers**

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#### **JURY**

**Roger Riewe** (Graz, Austria) President  
Architect, Prof., RIEGLER RIEWE ARCHITEKTEN

**Saša RANDIĆ** (Zagreb, Croatia)  
Architect, Prof., RANDIĆ AND ASSOCIATES

**Helle JUUL** (København, Denmark) UIA representative  
Architect, JUUL | FROST ARCHITECTS

**Polona FILIPIČ** (Nova Gorica, Slovenia)  
Architect, Faculty of Architecture Ljubljana

**Giovanni FRAZIANO** (Gorizia, Italy)  
Architect, Prof., University of Trieste

**Substitute members:**

**Vojko PAVČIČ** (Maribor, Slovenia)  
Architect, studio dialog

**Nathalie ROZENCWAJG** (London, United Kingdom) UIA alternate juror  
Architect, NAME architecture

**Experts (Programme tasks)**

**Uroš LOBNIK** (Maribor, Slovenia)  
Architect, Prof., University of Maribor

**Luciano LAZZARI** (Trieste, Italy)  
Architect, studio lazzari

**Technical Committee**

**Dušan BORAK**, Architect  
**Mateja KATRAŠNIK**, Architect  
**Polona LIPIČNIK**, Architect

**Competition Managers**

**Fabiana PIERI**, Architect, EGTC GO representative  
**Tomaž KANCLER**, Architect, EGTC GO consultant

The deliberations of the Jury are confidential. During the session the jury will be assisted by the competition managers. Experts may attend the jury meetings, or be called to give information, without participating in the deliberations, nor in the voting procedures. Technical committee members may be called upon by the jury to provide clarification, with the same limitations as above.

At the end of the evaluation process, the jury will rank the short listed projects, allocate the prizes and possible honorary mentions and draft a report documenting the rationale of the process and the evaluation results, with an appreciation of the prize winning projects, and any other general remarks, recommendations and conclusions. The jury will sign the ranking and the report. The final report will be published on the competition web site.

The jury's decisions are binding and the Contracting authority, after verification of all the documentation and required requisites, will formally approve the results.

The Jury will respect the calendar deadlines.

## **1.10. Prize money and honorary mentions**

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### **1.10.1. Definition:**

- **Prize** - represents a recognition to the authors of the best solutions and the right to receive payment of the prize money. It also allows for the transfer of material rights to the contract giver (author's right, 1.7.4.), within the scope set out in the copyright contract enclosed;

- **Honorary mentions** - can be awarded at the discretion of the jury. It represents an encouragement to the authors not otherwise rewarded with prize money.

1.10.2. Total prize money: **48.000,00 EUR**

**The jury will allocate three prizes which will receive the following amounts:**

1<sup>st</sup> prize 25.000,00 EUR  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize 15.000,00 EUR  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize 8.000,00 EUR

All amounts stated are net amounts (exclusive of VAT)

**Ex-aequo prizes are excluded.**

**The competition winner is the author of the first prize.**

The jury may decide to give up to 3 honorary mentions to projects of special interest.

1.10.3. Prizes and recognitions will only be granted to the competitors who:

- Have presented all the documentation requested
- Have not been excluded

*(The technical commission checks all entries to ensure that they respect the rules and programme but cannot exclude entries. They point out any shortcomings or problems to the jury who decides whether or not to eliminate an entry.)*

1.10.4. Prizes are paid by the competition organiser, the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC GO) who will transfer the prize money to the authors in accordance with the provisions in the Copyright Contract enclosed.

## **1.11. Mutual rights**

1.11.1. Copyright

The Awarding body, with the payment of the prize, takes ownership of the winning project proposal, while the copyright and the intellectual property of the project proposals remain with their respective authors.

The Awarding Body has the right to publish the project proposals after the conclusion of the Competition, in all forms of public representation and publication, with the names of the respective authors and without any additional compensation in their favour.

This right also belongs to the authors who can publish their works without limitations, but only after the conclusion of the competition procedure.

1.11.2. The contract for preparation of project documentation with the selected competitor

See also more detailed information in Annex 1.

The Contracting authority, the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC GO) shall – according to Italian Public Procurement Act (Legislative Decree 50/2016) and after completion of the negotiation process – make a Project documentation preparation contract with the author of the first prize winner.

The foundation for negotiations and contracting will be laid with the “Tender”, which will have to be provided by the selected author – after the preceding written call of the contract giver – before negotiations start. Negotiations about the execution of project design services shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Italian Public Procurement Act cited above.

The jury will be invited to help resolve any difficulties that may arise during the negotiation between the competition winner and the contracting authority.

If the negotiation with the first prize winner fails for proven and justified reasons according to EU and Italian law, the Contracting authority can negotiate with the second prize winner. In such a situation the jury shall ascertain the

correctness of the failed negotiation and will decide whether the second prize is worthy of implementation. No other negotiation with other prize winners is envisaged.

The first prize winner remains the sole winner of the competition even if the contracting authority should commission the second prize. The second prize in this case will be the winner of the contract but not the competition.

Also in the case of a foreign author (natural person or legal entity), being awarded the preparation of project documentation, the group of authors or the team must include a person who fulfils or will fulfil the terms of membership of both the Italian and Slovenian Architects Chambers.

## **2.0. COMPETITION ENTRIES**

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**WARNING: Competition entries will be submitted electronically only (as per Italian Public procurement law). Please read the following section carefully for details of the electronic submission procedure.**

### **2.1. Use of the web platform**

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The RUP will certify the correctness of the procedure designed to ensure anonymity. An illustrative guide to the encryption procedure and public key-code access will be given on the competition website.

For clarifications regarding the technical and operational procedures, contact technical assistance at the following email address: [procurement@euro-go.eu](mailto:procurement@euro-go.eu)

### **2.2. Anonymity**

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The anonymity of the participants will be guaranteed for the entire duration of the competition by the competition public procurement portal.

### **2.3. Registration**

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The competitor must **register** for the competition by sending a request, **indicating the name and e-mail address to which the information relating to the competition is to be sent**, to the following email address: [procurement@euro-go.eu](mailto:procurement@euro-go.eu). The Competition manager will give the participant a CODE. This CODE is necessary to register on the public procurement portal in anonymity. The participant will receive a temporary password to access the public procurement portal.

Using this password, that can be changed to a new and definitive one, the competitor will access the portal for the transmission of the project proposal.

The tender documentation will be available in full on the internet address [https://app.albofornitori.it/alboeproc/albo\\_gectgo](https://app.albofornitori.it/alboeproc/albo_gectgo) within the electronic data sheet dedicated to this procedure, upon access with your identification data (e-mail and password). Following access to the reserved area, the economic operator must click on the "E-procurement" menu and then on the "Proc. purchasing ". Once the competition has been identified and the card has been entered by clicking on the "Details" button, the competitor will find all the tender documentation in the "Doc." tender-"Attached ". By uploading documents, the procedure is complete.

### **2.4. Project submission content**

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Participants will have to transmit the following documents / documents by telematic means:

- a compressed folder (ZIP) of size not exceeding 100 MB, containing the administrative documents (see paragraph 2.4.2) in "ADMINISTRATIVE" envelope;

- a compressed folder (ZIP) of size not exceeding 100 MB containing the project proposal (see paragraph 2.4.1) taking care to eliminate from the file any reference to the author, obvious or hidden, on pain of exclusion from the competition in "TECHNICAL" envelope.

#### 2.4.1. **ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED – UPLOAD IN “ADMINISTRATIVE” ENVELOPE**

In this phase it is required, under penalty of exclusion, by the single participant or the agent / group leader (already appointed or to be appointed) to compile and upload, in the appropriate section of the competition site, the following administrative documentation:

- **Author Identification form – Appendix A1**
- **Copy of an identity document (identity card, passport)**

#### 2.4.2. **DELIVERABLES - UPLOAD IN “TECHNICAL” ENVELOPE**

- **Explanatory report** – text in **2 pages A4 format** - vertical orientation. The report will highlight the concepts with particular reference to the evaluation criteria indicated in the brief. The report must include the explanation on how the EPICenter can be economically viable.

- **3 Panels – A1 size** - horizontal orientation. Free representative technique in black and white or colour, single-sided printing, containing the representation of the project idea, using plans, sections and 3d images (*File: ECoC 2025 - ANNEX VI – PANELS*)

- **Documentation for the catalogue** – For the purpose of publication of a catalogue and exhibition of all the competition entries, all panels should also be submitted in A3 format.

The following digital formats shall be used:

- Text in **\*.pdf** format
- Panels in A3 format in **\*.pdf** format

Graphical representations in the following format:

- Layout situations, ground plans in **\*.pdf**
- 3D views in **\*.tiff, \*.jpg or \*.pdf**,  
Resolution should be at least 1280 px x 1024 px, the views should be suitable for web and other media use.

The aforementioned files must NOT contain any references to the author. Entries that differ from the aforementioned specifications or that contain recognisable elements (such as titles, logos, mottos, etc.) that could lead back to the authorship of the project proposal, will result in exclusion from the Competition.

### **2.5. Questions and Answers**

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Requests for clarification can only be sent according to the procedure provided on the competition website at the address <https://euro-go.eu/en/> within the deadline indicated in the calendar.

Responses will be published by the RUP, on the website at the address <https://euro-go.eu/en/>, within the terms established in the calendar. These replies, together with the questions asked, will form an integral part of this announcement.

### **2.6. Submission of entries - rules**

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Procedure for submission of projects and administrative documentation

**The delivery of the project documents and administrative documentation MUST be carried out by electronic means, according to the procedure provided on the competition website and within the deadline indicated in the calendar.**

The Competitor may modify the data previously transmitted no later than the date and time of expiry of the deadline set for the presentation of the project submission.

**The procedures of insertion into the System of all the required documentation, as well as transmission and confirmation, remain at the exclusive risk of the Competitor.**

**Competitors are therefore invited to start such activities well in advance of the scheduled deadline in order to avoid the incomplete and therefore failed transmission of participation after the deadline.**

### **3.0. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The jury will evaluate the entries considering the evaluation criteria.  
The following evaluation criteria are not listed in an order of importance.

- Pertinence of the overall concept and the development vision
- Relationship between open spaces and buildings and the connections between them
- Potential of creating identity, symbolic value and cultural unity
- Innovation, originality, creativity of the proposals
- Quality of urban spaces, architectural and landscaping design
- Adequacy, functionality, flexibility, economic viability of the proposed interventions and buildings
- Solutions for pedestrian and bicycle connections within the larger area
- Special contribution to sustainable development, environmental and social impact
- Potential to attract visitors and improve the quality of life of the inhabitants

The jury may detail and expound the evaluation criteria during the evaluation process.

### **4.0. COMPETITION SCHEDULE**

#### **4.1. Timetable - calendar**

<b>Publication of the initial competition at the EGTC GO and UIA website (and at the web pages of MONG, GO, ZAPS, CNAPPC) - the Competition opening</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> FEB. 2020</b>
Registration opening	from <b>25<sup>th</sup> FEB. 2020</b>
Competition start – documentation download	from <b>25<sup>th</sup> FEB. 2020</b>
Period for questions (1 <sup>st</sup> round)	until <b>19<sup>th</sup> MAR. 2020</b>
Period for responding to questions and FAQ publishing	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> APR. 2020</b>
Registration closing	<b>6<sup>th</sup> APR. 2020</b>
Deadline for questions (2 <sup>nd</sup> round)	<b>17<sup>th</sup> APR. 2020</b>
<b>Competition entry submission – electronically</b> 22.59 GMT +1 = 23.59 CET! (= local time Gorizia / Italy)	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2020</b>
Technical commission's work	until <b>01<sup>st</sup> JULY 2020</b>
<b>Evaluation of entries</b>	<b>01<sup>st</sup> JULY 2020 - 04<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020</b>
Proposition of final report and entries evaluation	<b>06<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020</b>
Master copy of final report and publishing on the web pages	<b>08<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020</b>
Entries exhibition in Nova Gorica	<b>to be announced</b>
Term for possible appeal (procedural)	5 days after posting on web pages <b>13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020</b>
Protest processing (30 days)	<b>13.08.2020</b>
Competition conclusion	<b>19.08.2020</b>

## **4.2. Competition start and registration**

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The competition starts on the day of public notice on the:

EGTC GO web site: <https://euro-go.eu/en/>  
 - [https://app.albofornitori.it/alboeproc/albo\\_gectgo](https://app.albofornitori.it/alboeproc/albo_gectgo)  
 - UIA website: <https://www.uia-architectes.org> and

which is **25. 02. 2020 (25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020)**

## **4.3. Visit to the competition area**

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A visit to the location is not a requisite for participation and is at the discretion of the participant.

## **4.4. Questions and Answers**

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Requests for clarification can only be sent according to the procedure provided within the deadlines indicated in the Calendar, exclusively through the Telematic Platform by way of the "**Clarifications**" feature.  
 Requests for clarifications received by voice, by telephone or after the expiration of the aforementioned term will not be taken into consideration.

Responses will be sent through the Telematic Platform through the "Clarifications" feature and published by the Competition manager, on the website at the address <https://euro-go.eu/en/>, within the terms established in the calendar. These replies, together with the questions asked, will form an integral part of the competition call.

## **4.5. Formal examination of entries and evaluation**

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### **4.5.1. Preliminary examination**

All competing entries will undergo a preliminary examination by the technical commission of the competition organiser, supervised by the competition manager. They will check whether the entries were delivered on time, whether they did not breach the rules of anonymity and whether the submission is complete in all its parts and then draw up a report which will be presented to the Jury.

### **4.5.2. Evaluation process**

All entries passing the preliminary verification shall be admitted for evaluation.

The jury will evaluate all entries in a face to face session on the basis of the exhibited printed documentation. The jury is sovereign in matters of evaluation. Jury decisions cannot be disputed by the competitors and must be accepted by the organiser.

In order to ensure anonymity, the remaining documentation (the ADMINISTRATIVE envelope) shall be deposited by the RUP after the signing of the final report of the evaluation commission. The reporter and experts shall proceed to assess and review the digital files.

In its first session, the Jury will decide on the admission of the entries and will define the methodology of its work.

The Jury shall review and evaluate the competition entries according to evaluation criteria and rank them. The jury must clearly allocate the prizes and eventual honourable mentions and sign the ranking.

After completing the evaluation process the Jury shall prepare a **draft of the final** report with the final ranking of competition entries, including critiques of the prizewinning projects and general remarks about the competition and the results. The final Jury report will be published on the website and it will also include relevant information from the preliminary report of the technical commission, as well as the names of all participants and a documentation of at least the shortlisted projects.

### **4.5.3. Additional qualification requirements**

The winner and the other prize-winners and mentions must provide within 30 (thirty) days from the request of the announcing Body the probative documentation confirming the statements made.

Notwithstanding the possession of the general requisites of the previous paragraphs that must exist from the date of entry, the Contracting authority may invite, where necessary, the participants of the Competition to complete or provide, within a period of 10 days, clarifications regarding the content of the certificates and documents presented.

The possession of the requisites of professional suitability, economic and financial capacity, technical and professional skills of the winner, will be verified only in the case of assignment of the task of the services referred to in point 1.7.3.

In the event of the exclusion of the winner, the Awarding Body will proceed according to the provisions of chapter 1.11.2 of the present regulations.

The first prize winner remains the sole winner of the competition even if the Contracting authority should commission the second prize. The second prize in this case will be the winner of the contract but not the competition.

#### 4.5.4. **The final report**

The final report shall be published on the website of the competition, the competition organisers and the UIA.

### **4.7. Assignment – subsequent design phase**

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#### Assignment

In the case of implementation of the project and following a private negotiated procedure, the winner of the Competition, will be assigned the technical and economic feasibility project, as well as the subsequent performance stages of final design: working drawings, safety coordination in the design phase and construction management.

For professional compensation provisions, see appendix 1, chapter 2.

### **4.8. Exhibition**

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The announcing body as per the competition calendar:

- will publish all submitted project proposals presented on the website (online exhibition);
- will set up an exhibition of the submitted project proposals presented, with possible publication.

The exhibition will include all entries admitted into evaluation.

All entries will be shown with the names of their authors, co-workers and consultants as indicated in the author identification form included in the submission documents.

### **4.9. Dispute resolution**

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The notice and the deeds connected and consequential to the Competition procedure can be challenged only by appeal to the regional administrative court (see the art. 211 of Legislative Decree no. 50/2016 and the art. 119 and 120 of Legislative Decree no. 104/10- Code of administrative process).

Competent court: Trieste (Italy)

### **5.0. Conclusion**

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Competition results will be published on the competition website on conclusion of the competition. The prize winners and winners of honorary mentions will also be notified by e-mail.

If objections cause changes to the final outcome, the Jury is bound to complete the final report with an addendum.

The competition is concluded when the Contracting authority giver and MONG establish that all processes have been finished according to the current regulations of the Republic of Italy. The result of the competition conclusion will be published on the web pages of EGTC GO and MONG.

The Contracting authority will keep all works in all formats in one complete copy; MONG keeps one copy of the written report in A3 format.

### **5.1. Prize money allocation**

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After the publication of the final report and competition outcome, the authors of awarded entries shall fill in the Copyright Contract, enclose all the required documents and send them all to the address of the payment office.

All amounts stated are net amounts and exclude all foreseen taxes and dues.

If the competition organiser does not receive correctly filled-out Copyright Contracts, invoices and other documents within 3 months after publication of the outcome of the competition, the awards shall **lapse**.

## C. COMPETITION TASK AND PROGRAM

### 1. INTRODUCTION - COMPETITION TOPIC

Urban regeneration project: connecting the two cities of Gorizia and Nova Gorica by designing a common central area: the Europe Square - Piazzale Della Transalpina and the transcultural hub EPICenter.

#### 1.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND and SCOPE

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##### The territory of the EGTC GO

The region of Gorizia comprises the area between the Soča river and its tributaries Vipacco, Iudrio and Idrjca, and the Collio and Karst regions. The area gained political-administrative unity thanks to the patriarchs of Aquileia and the Counts of Gorizia. From the 11th century onwards it went through several geopolitical changes and only after the extinction of the dynasty of the Counts of Gorizia, it gained its territorial structure that remained unchanged until 1918.

At the beginning of the 15th century, the land of the patriarchs of Aquileia came under the rule of the Venetian Republic. Motivated by the intention to claim the succession rights of the extinct Counts of Gorizia, in 1508 the Venetians started the war against the House of Habsburg. The battles ended only in 1521, when the Habsburgs won and inherited the territories of the Counts of Gorizia.

In 1809 most of the territory of Gorizia was annexed to the Illyrian Provinces, while a minor area was already part of the Napoleonic Empire since 1807. With the demise of Napoleon, boundaries were redefined and remained unchanged until the end of World War I.

Although in the mid-eighteenth century the first industrial plants began to settle in the area, the region maintained its predominantly agricultural tradition for a long time. One hundred years later, due to the new rail link and the strategic location by the border, trade flourished until it was interrupted by World War I and the Isonzo Front in May 1915.

In November 1918 the area was occupied by Italian military forces and, after the Treaty of Rapallo (1920), became part of the Italian territory. In 1923, the Province of Gorizia was abolished and its territories were annexed to the Provinces of Udine and Trieste. In 1927 the boundaries were redefined and the Province of Gorizia reintroduced.

After World War II, the area of Gorizia was conquered by partisans. Following the Belgrade and Duino agreements (1945), the area was divided into the A Zone, which was managed by the American and British armies, and the B Zone, which was managed by Yugoslavia. The area of Gorizia became the focus of a political and diplomatic dispute. Following the Paris Peace Treaty (1947), most of the territory was annexed to Yugoslavia, while a smaller part, including Gorizia, was annexed to Italy.

The new border - almost insurmountable in the early years - ran along the edges of the city of Gorizia and separated it from its hinterland which was traditionally connected to the city. In 1948, a new city began to be built on the Slovenian side. It was called Nova Gorica. Following the Udine Agreement (1955), signed by Italy and Yugoslavia, a new border was created. In the following Iron Curtain years, it regulated trade across the borders for those who held a specific permit and for farmers whose lands were crossed by the boundary line. Following the Treaty of Osimo (1975), the land and sea borders between the two countries were finally settled, while the agreements for economic promotion and cooperation gave impetus and contributed to the improvement of the living conditions of the population along the border.

In that period, the border area was extremely important for both countries, since it fostered mutual development (trade, transportation and shipping, customs, police and army, etc.) Despite the significant differences between the two countries, on both sides many were willing to cross the border, especially those involved in sports and cultural activities. In the following decades the two neighbouring cities and their surroundings developed as two adjacent and connected urban areas.

In 1990, Yugoslavia began to fall apart and, following the proclamation of independence of Slovenia, the Yugoslav army tried to forcefully prevent the creation of an independent Slovenian state. The war lasted ten days and was followed by negotiations and the subsequent withdrawal of the Yugoslav army from Slovenia. Over the following years, the Slovenian state adopted democratic standards and gained international recognition. In 2004 it became a member of the EU and in 2007, exactly ten years after Italy, became part of the Schengen area.

Due to these new conditions, great opportunities for joint collaboration and cohesion in the border area arose, but, although it was clear that cross-border cooperation should be redefined, these opportunities were not largely exploited.

**Nova Gorica** (population: 13,852 (*town*); 21,082 (*incl. suburbs*); 31,000 (*municipality*)) is a town and a municipality in western Slovenia, on the border with Italy. Nova Gorica is a planned town, built according to the principles of modernist architecture after 1947, when the Paris Peace Treaty established a new border between Yugoslavia and Italy, leaving nearby Gorizia outside the borders of Yugoslavia and thus cutting off the Soča Valley, the Vipava Valley, the Gorizia Hills and the north-western Karst Plateau from their traditional regional urban centre. Since 1948, Nova Gorica has replaced Gorizia as the principal urban centre of the Goriška or Gorizia region, as the northern part of the Slovenian Littoral has been traditionally called.



Since May 2011, Nova Gorica has been joined together with Gorizia and Šempeter- Vrtojba in a common trans-border metropolitan zone, administered by a joint administration board.

**Gorizia** (population: 34.411) is a town and *comune* in north-eastern Italy, in the autonomous region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. It is located at the foot of the Julian Alps, bordering Slovenia. It is the capital of the Province of Gorizia and a local center of tourism, industry, and commerce. Since 1947, a twin town of Nova Gorica has developed on the other side of the modern-day Italian–Slovenian border. The entire region was subject to territorial dispute between Italy and Yugoslavia after World War II: after the new boundaries were established in 1947 and the old town was left to Italy, Nova Gorica was built on the Yugoslav side.

Though a border city, Gorizia was only in part crossed by the border with Yugoslavia. Some important old buildings once belonging to Gorizia were included in the Yugoslav territory: these include the old railway station of the Transalpina line that connected Trieste to Villach, as well as to the city landmarks. Although the situation in Gorizia was often compared with that of Berlin during the Cold War, here Italy and Yugoslavia always maintained good relations. These included cultural and sporting events that favoured the spirit of harmonious coexistence that continued after Yugoslavia broke up in 1991.

With the breakup of Yugoslavia, the frontier remained as the division between Italy and Slovenia until the implementation of the Schengen Agreement by Slovenia on December 21, 2007. Taken together, the two towns constitute a conurbation,

which also includes the Slovenian municipality of Šempeter-Vrtojba. Since May 2011, these three towns have been joined in a common trans-border metropolitan zone, administered by the joint administration board of the EGTC.

Since Nova Gorica is inextricably linked to the urban conurbation of Gorizia and because both cities are connected by many common stories, Nova Gorica will closely intertwine its candidacy with the neighbouring Italian city. The place of contact of three European cultures - Slavic, Italian and German is, together with Gorizia, the heir of the old aristocracy, and the new work testifies that the history of post-war Europe is alive and well.

## 1.2 OVERALL DESIGN TASK

The goal of the international competition and the aim of the two Municipalities as has been set out in the Chapter 1.1.2. of this document, is to find a project solution for the design of the area in front of the railway station (now divided in half by the state border) with the creation of a new square – the **Europe square/Piazzale della Transalpina** and the design of a transcultural hub, called **EPICenter**, or European Platform for the Interpretation of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The competition is thus divided into two parts:

- **Area 1** - Project proposals for the design of Europe Square / Piazzale della Transalpina and the transcultural hub EPICenter
- **Area 2** - Ideas proposals for the remodelling of the border zones from Solkan/Salcano to Rožna dolina / Casa Rossa

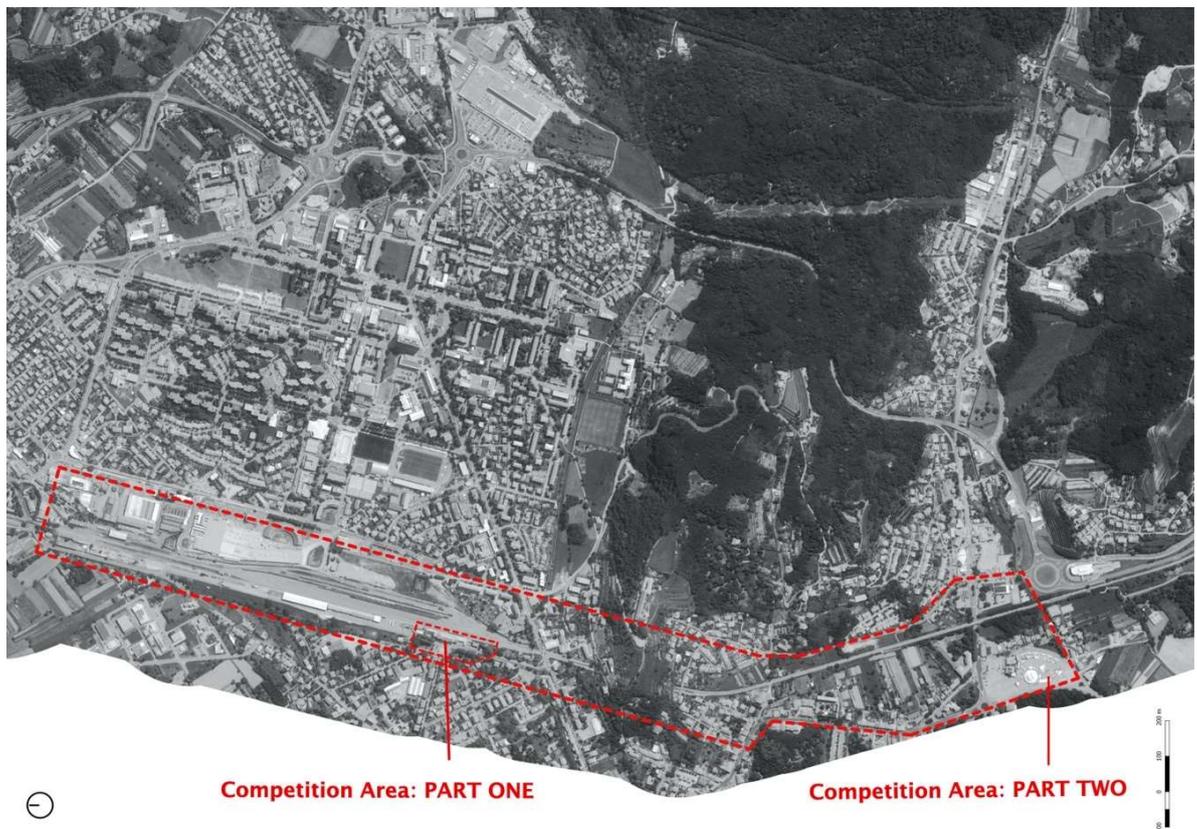


Figure 1: Outline of the competition area

**PART ONE: PROJECT FOR EUROPE SQUARE / PIAZZALE DELLA TRANSALPINA AND TRANSCULTURAL HUB EPICENTER**

**2.0 EUROPE SQUARE**

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**2.1 Premises and goals:**

At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century both cities came to recognise that the area in front of the railway station Nova Gorica, spanning two countries, is the place with the closest and most direct contact between the two cities. The municipal administrations of both cities marked Slovenia's entry into the European Union by designing a small, circular symbolic public area right on the border. After the opening of the memorial however, the area has remained undefined, both in function and urban form.

While preparing the application for the European Capital of Culture, both cities decided to take advantage of the location and symbolic value of this area and agreed to establish a modern central city square as a common focal point. The purpose of redeveloping the area in front of Nova Gorica railway station is to substantiate the intention of linking the two urban entities of Gorizia and Nova Gorica to create both a physical and symbolic connection promoting wider intercultural cooperation.

This area, which should be characterised by high quality urban, architectural and landscape design, should achieve both national and international recognition as an aspiration for European cooperation and integration.



Figure 2: The goal of the project is to establish a recognisable modern central area that will functionally and symbolically link the two morphologically different urban entities of Gorizia and Nova Gorica.

## 2.2 Design task:

The competitors should explore to the fullest innovative design principles for the design of open public places and public buildings. These should be designed for maximum flexibility as a public place for many participatory activities for the citizens of Gorizia and Nova Gorica.

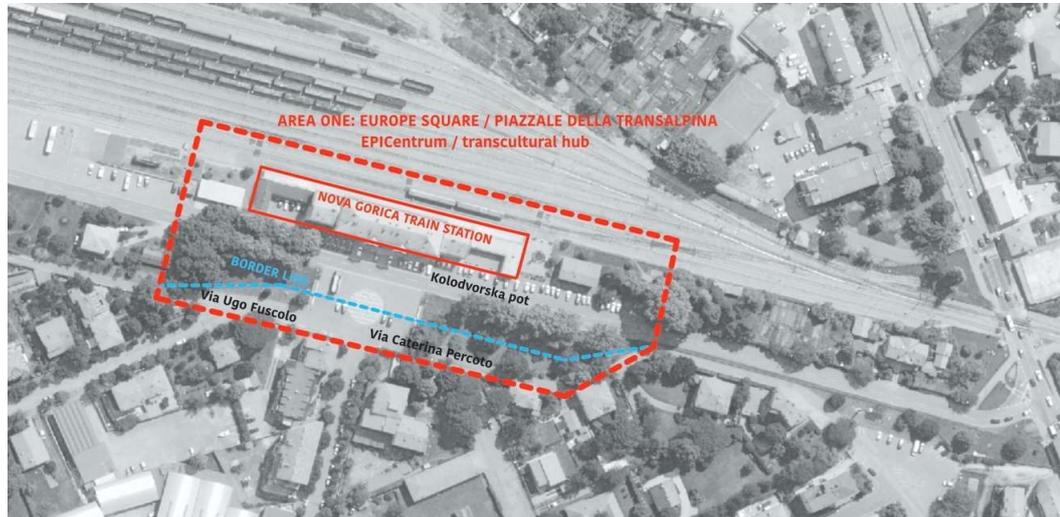


Figure 3: Outline of the project area

## 2.3. Design considerations:

The new square in front of the Nova Gorica railway station should:

- establish a central connecting area of the two towns and be a 'shared space';
- take into account the existing spatial conditions and their cultural context;
- allow multi-purpose events to take place;
- enable a large variation of program activities both within it and in its accompanying infrastructure;
- surmount the barrier represented by the railway which, at the time of construction, was located on the edge of Gorizia, but today physically separates the two towns;

The square should offer opportunities for establishing foot and bicycle connections over the railway tracks to the centre of Nova Gorica. The competitors can decide whether this connection must be from the square itself or from other nearby points and can decide what form this should take, be it bridge, subway or other.

The design of the square should stimulate the interaction between the existing buildings and the new Transcultural hub EpiCenter and the surrounding open spaces. Particular attention should be paid to the relationship between the square and the transcultural hub EPICenter, designed as a building or architectural infrastructure.

## 2.4. Design guidelines:

While designing the square, the competitors should also take into account the following:

- the buildings and the square can be linked in different ways and some parts of the buildings, public infrastructure or services may be located under the square;
- the size of this square depends on the competition solution presented but should not exceed the area of the competition. If a competitor decides to exceed this area, the reason must be clearly supported by illustrated arguments;
- the square design should correctly include some green areas and preserve as many of the current trees as possible, bearing in mind the important element of the tree-lined avenue down *Kolodvorska pot*;

- the elements of street furniture must be durable and selected to allow heterogeneous urban use – from larger outdoor events (concerts) to several smaller, specialised event areas;
- parking spaces for motorised vehicles should be removed (except for allowance for taxis and persons with disabilities);
- both the roads leading past the railway station on the Slovenian side (*Kolodvorska pot*) and on the Italian side (*Via Ugo Foscolo-Via Caterina Percoto*) should be kept as limited access routes with a maximum permissible speed of 30km/h. This should be reduced to 10km/h if they are to be incorporated into the square itself;
- parking areas for motorised limited traffic using the square should be envisaged outside the competition area unless the project proposal includes a garage;
- a bicycle lane (planned to run along the border area from the Soča Valley towards the sea) shall pass through the area of the square;
- parking facilities for approx. 100 bicycles should be provided on the square;

### **3.0 TRANSCULTURAL HUB EPICENTER**

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**(European Platform for the Interpretation of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century):**

#### **3.1. Premises and goals:**

The ambition is to create a European precedence and a landmark: a building or architectural structure, straddling two countries. The main idea is to place the structure directly on the border with a part in Slovenia and another part in Italy, promoting the slogan that culture has no borders, only networks (as defined in the International Council of Museums guidelines). This uniqueness and message are the core of the European capital of culture candidacy GO! 2025. The value of the new structure is not only in its intended content but in its transnational symbolism.

The Transcultural hub Epicenter shall be a part of the new cultural infrastructure of the city: an exhibition, events and educational space, as well as visitor centre located in the area of Europe / Transalpina square. The Epicenter aims to promote the value of cooperation and shared cultural events, by illustrating interpretations on the past and create opportunities for reflection in a constructive and engaged dialogue. The functional and formal design of the EPICenter should, together with the railway station of Nova Gorica, create an attractive new-age urban centre in this midpoint between the centre of modernist Nova Gorica and the historical nucleus of Gorizia.

#### **3.2 Design task:**

The EPICenter should be formed as a constructed symbol of both towns, as a reminder of the constant changeability of political and historical contexts. Furthermore, it should also mean raising transnational collaboration in the European union to a whole new level.

#### **3.3 Design considerations:**

The EPICenter should be designed as an attractive and creative transcultural hub that emphasises the symbolic value of the location and should:

- not diminish the value of the square as event space and should therefore be structurally designed in a way that ensures or encourages various activities on the town square;
- suggest innovative new spatial solutions for both the building and the square, which could be varied in their juxtapositions;
- be spatially and programmatically flexible and support this concept through creative multifunctional solutions;
- not dwarf the building of the railway station.

Special attention must be paid to:

- environmental sustainability;

- economic viability - competitors should suggest functions that would enable the center to generate some income or at least make it feasible for some PPP initiatives, so that the structure would not have to depend wholly on public funds.

### **3.3 Design guidelines:**

The Epicenter shall be an object intended for intercultural cooperation, which means that the new structure should be able to accommodate different programs, activities or exhibitions-over time. It should be kept in mind that the interpretive exhibitions and educational programmes are central to its operation, so the spatial structure of the EPICenter should be as flexible as possible and allow for resizing of the area allocated to individual programs.

The relative importance and coordination of exhibition, education, publication, live interpretation and other forms of direct communication with the public are the essential factors that will determine the interface between staff and public.

Competitors must consider that a wide variety of media are now used in museum exhibitions to facilitate communication with the visiting public – graphic display, audio-visual, theatre, video, computer graphics, animatronics, tableaux, reconstruction, and working environments. Through time the building should be able to accommodate different layouts and circulation possibilities, be they free circulation around a single open-plan exhibition space, or on more complex concepts related to generic interpretive structures. It is important to consider the nature of the narratives proposed.

- the recommended area is approx. 2000 sqm;
- ancillary spaces, such as offices, storage facilities etc. may be limited to the minimum;

### **3.4 Content**

#### **3.4.1. Main exhibition room:**

The EPICenter should have a central exhibition space that is reserved for a permanent exhibition - an installation, co-curated by a joint team of Slovene and Italian historians and artists on the theme of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a turbulent and violent period, which after the world wars brought sufferance and division to the area and created the barbed-wired border in what was previously a time of cooperation, multiculturalism and mutual enrichment.

The installation will be:

- audience oriented;
- mainly based on up-to-date visual and sound technology;
- experience oriented, offering the visitors an intellectual and emotional experience of the border (as symbol of division) and the overcoming of it;
- accessible to all groups of audiences (including audiences with disabilities).

The interdisciplinary installation will have a permanent part and also a dynamic one available for new content and guest curators and artists. In this regard, the exhibition area should be designed in a way that will allow for continuous refinement and improvement of the installation on specific occasions (approx. 25% of the area should be left free for additions to the installation).

The storyline of an exhibition may be translated into different ways, whether single space, core and satellite solutions, linear arrangements, grid, loop or more complex relationships between collections and interpretative themes

#### **3.4.2. Supplementary exhibitions:**

Supplementary exhibitions (that will make way for new content of intercultural cooperation) shall also be situated in the Epicenter. Therefore, a room for part-time exhibitions (at most three) should be designed next to the main exhibition area. This room should be connectible to the latter area.

If the design of the building does not allow for such a solution, the main exhibition area should also ensure areas for occasional exhibitions that can be temporarily enclosed and have separated entrances of their own. The surface size relation between the main exhibition area and supplementary exhibition areas should be 70:30.

#### **3.4.3. Depot - collection storage**

The Transcultural hub Epicenter should not be seen as a museum and as such there is no requirement for collecting, documenting and preserving any of the material. Consequently, storage should be kept to a minimum size. The bulk of the material for research and conservation purposes will be kept in existing museums located in both cities.

3.4.4. Educational and event space:

The Epicenter must have space for educational and pedagogical activities, such as:

- lecture or activity room (up to 180 people max);
- workshops and other activities for children, young people and adults, at least two rooms, for a total of 60 people that can be unified or partitioned;

The educational and event space must interact and can partly overlap.

The event area can be directly connected to the outside with the possibility of creating an open-air event space.

3.4.5. Visitor centre

The visitor centre must offer the possibility of hosting various communicative activities: info point, shop, coffee shop or restaurant and others and must be located in a focal and easily identifiable point.

3.4.6. Security and services:

The health and safety of the public and the staff and collection security are the prime considerations in determining the zoning of the centre into secure areas. During open hours it may be sufficient to separate public and staff areas. When the facility is closed to the public, thought must be given to separation of areas that may be partially or totally accessible.

## **PART TWO: IDEAS PROPOSALS REGARDING THE REMODELLING OF THE BORDER ZONES, FROM SOLKAN / SALCANO TO ROŽNA DOLINA / CASA ROSSA**

### **4.0 URBAN REMODELLING**

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#### **4.1 Premises and Goals:**

»I am quite sure that staying with the present concept of the development of both towns that has been creating each completely on their own is no longer productive. We must acknowledge the fact that Gorizia used to be an important centre of the entire Gorizia region and that Nova Gorica has been created exactly because of the loss of this centre of its twin town in certain political circumstances, ...in short, it is mandatory to find a new vision for the development of both towns that benefits the inhabitants of the border areas, a vision that will from now on allow us to build this town as one unified city. «

*SOURCE: SERGIJ PELJHAN, POGLEDI NA POBUDO DVEH GORIC, ENO MESTO, URBANI IZZIV 14/1990*

The restoration and regeneration of the degraded and underdeveloped "buffer zones" described in the introduction has an extreme importance for the further development of both cities. The consensus is that it is essential to re-plan these undeveloped, degraded or underdeveloped border areas so as to establish connection processes between the two cities.

Urban degraded areas (brownfields) along the borders are:

**a - Industrial zone by the Nova Gorica railway station:**

Heavy industry remained in Nova Gorica mostly in the area of the railway station where Gorica foundry and Gostol operate. The municipality of Nova Gorica is planning a re-structuring of this area through development of a university and technology centre, the construction of new residential areas and the establishment of a walkway on the axis of Rejčeva street that will connect the railway station to the centre of Nova Gorica.

**b - Rožna dolina / Casa Rossa border post:**

The former border constructions and infrastructure lost their purpose when Slovenia entered the Schengen area in 2007. The eastern city beltway – Vojkova runs down the edge of the area while the railway runs along the state border, partially on an embankment, elevated 4m above the surrounding area, allowing the construction of new connecting roads underneath.

**c - Area of the old psychiatric and general hospital:**

The structures in this area are largely abandoned and the activities that remain are being done away with. An urban regeneration of the area is being planned, with the construction of a new research centre, technology park, hotel and business area.

**d - Industrial zone and international border post Vrtojba:**

The wider area of this former border post is marked by industrial zones on both sides of the border - Vrtojba in the north and Sant Andrea (Štandrež) in the south. Many abandoned customs offices and warehouses can be found in the area. The common goal of Gorizia and Nova Gorica is the expansion and construction of a new industrial and logistics centre in this area.

**e - Railway station in Nova Gorica:**

We have already explained how this degraded and undeveloped area is effectively creating a spatial barrier between the two cities.

**4.2 Design task:**

Nova Gorica (population 13,500), Italian Gorizia (population 35,000) and Šempeter – Vrtojba (population 7,000) form a tri-city with a total population of 65,000. The three towns are connected via a free bus network. Designing the area as a uniform urban structure – one city, in terms of transport, culture and morphology is essential to the further development of the cities.

Competitors should prepare a conceptual solution for the establishment of a linear urban public space that will connect Nova Gorica and Gorizia. The competitors should comply with the intention of the planners, by which the “buffer corridor” is gradually reformed into a recognisable green area of the city that includes walkways, bicycle lanes and related activities. It is clear that the potential usage and market value of the land in this corridor is undoubtedly higher than its current worth.

The proposal of the conceptual design should offer the basis for:

- the creation of a public open linear area, equally shared as an interactive space for all citizens of the three towns;
- this linear area will connect the landmarks of the city - the chapel, the castle and the seminary into an integrated system of green areas with new access points, promenades and bicycle lanes;
- a programme of regeneration of the degraded areas of the former border posts;
- proposals for new programmatic urban functions;
- the integration of the redesigned “buffer corridor” into the planning of an extensive green system.

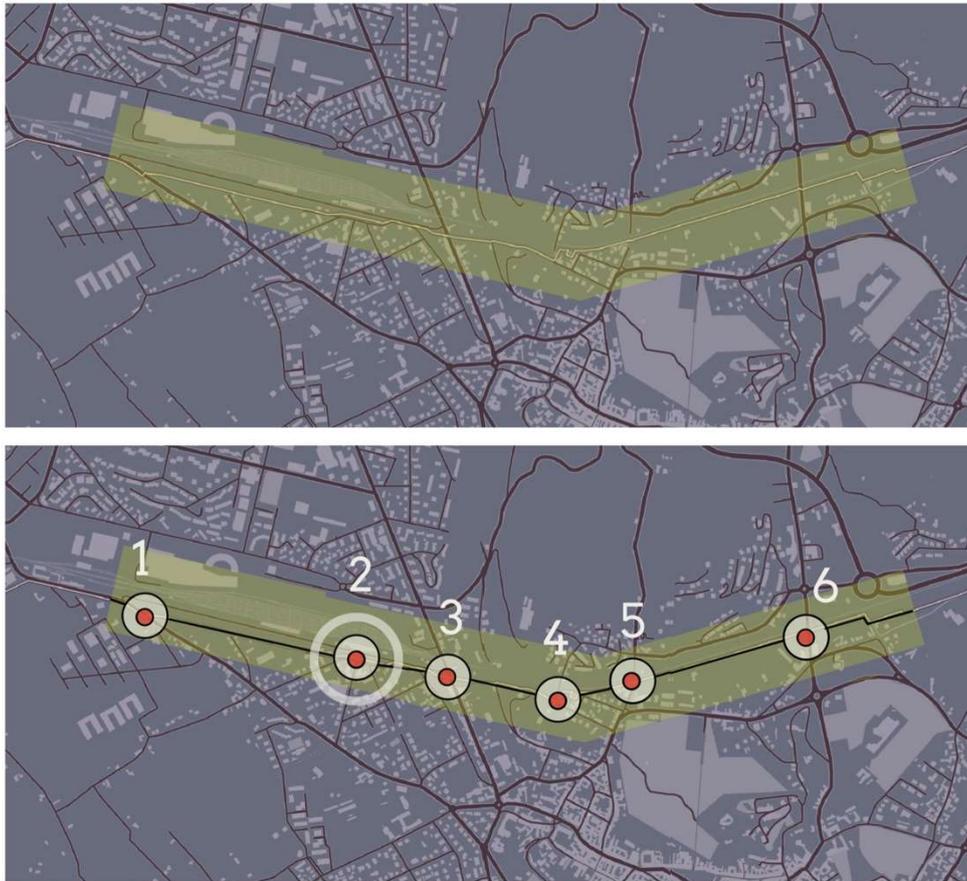


Figure 5: Gorizia and Nova Gorica were physically separated by a "buffer" corridor on both sides of the state border, which largely runs down the route of the former railway, from the end of World War II (1945) until Slovenian independence (1992).

The competitors should present their concepts with:

- sketches, photo-collages;
- schematic diagrams and programmes;
- short textual descriptions of the proposals.

The proposals should clearly indicate:

- how the proposal for the design of the »buffer corridor« is connected to the design of the new Europe Square / Piazza Transalpina and EPICenter.
- how establishing a »regenerative public corridor« impacts the concept of functionally connecting both cities and where and how it is possible to establish and improve the spatial flow between the two cities in the area north of the railway station;
- how the proposal for this new »buffer corridor« impacts the building areas surrounding the urban regeneration area and also the wider area for further urban development.

## D. APPENDIXES

### 1.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND FORMS:

- A1. Author Identification form - to be presented with project submission
- A2. Basis for negotiation with Competition winner
- A3. Copyright contract – to be presented subsequently by prize-winners only

### 2.0 ANNEXES

#### 2.1 ANNEX I: BOHINJ RAILWAY – FERROVIA TRANSALPINA

The Bohinj railway – Ferrovia transalpina (German: Wocheinerbahn) is a 144 kilometres long section of the 717 kilometres long Prague – Gorica – Trieste railway. With the construction of the southern section of the railway Prague – Trieste between the years 1900 and 1906, a connection between Central Europe and the Adriatic was established. Because of the extremely difficult construction works, the railway route was debated for over three decades and the final decision was influenced by the steel industry in the suburbs of Trieste and the ironworks in Jesenice.

The preparations and the construction of the Bohinj railway was initiated in the year 1900. 14,897 workers were involved in the building of the southern section (Bohinj railway – Transalpina), who built numerous objects including both bridges and tunnels in the gorges of Sava Bohinjka, Bača and Soča rivers. There are five galleries on railroad and as many as 65 bridges. The most outstanding engineering constructions are the Karavanke and Bohinj tunnels, and the stone bridge on Soča at Solkan which is, with its arch having a diameter of 85 metres, the largest stone bridge in the world.

From the northern Gorica railway station that was separated from Italian Gorizia, the route continues across the Karst Plateau towards Trieste. Before reaching the northern part of Trieste, the track reaches the Southern Railway, which is connected to the station *Centrale* of Trieste. The Bohinj Railway was assigned a shorter route into Trieste through Opčine: contrary to the route of the »Southern Railway«, the track turns towards the east, avoiding the city centre of Trieste, and continues through a few tunnels and over several viaducts, then ends, after going past the Škedenj blast furnaces and the shipyard, at the Trieste station of St. Andrew (patron saint of the Trieste shipyard) which is called Campo Marzio since the early nineteen-twenties.

#### 2.2 ANNEX 2: NOVA GORICA TRAIN STATION AND RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

The northern or the second train station of Gorica was constructed in the year 1905 in the vicinity of the road towards Solkan, on the northwestern edge of the town. (*Picture 1*). After the Second World War, the train station and its railway workshops were separated from Gorica with a national border and merged with the newly created town Nova Gorica, which was being developed on the other side of the railway.

The train station complex had already lost its initial importance after the First World War and was therefore preserved without undergoing any large alterations. After that war, the severely damaged building was renovated in accordance with its initial design.

The railway building that bears the house number Kolodvorska pot 8 was conceived in the manner of baroque palaces as a longitudinal and symmetric building that is composed of a long two-storey rectangular main tract of 15 axes and two pairs of lower side tracts. The facade is dissected with a bountiful of neo-renaissance elements and highlighted with secession mouldings.

The main tract, facing Gorica with its western front, is emphasised by a couple of extensions that frame the central construction that has three axes and three main entrances (*Picture 2*).

The front facing both the rail and the town of Nova Gorica is highlighted by two low extensions on its sides and furnished with a long platform cover. The cover is supported by cannulated pillars that boast Corinthian capitals (*Picture 3*).

To the south of the train station, there is a typified single-storey rectangular structure that carries the house number Kolodvorska pot 4. It contains the flats of railway workers and is designed in a similar fashion to the other buildings of the same type that are situated next to the Bohinj railway (*Picture 4*).

The construction of a complex of railway workshops situated to the northeast of the station unfolded more or less simultaneously as the building of the latter. This complex, now bearing the number Prvomajska ulica 33 (*Picture 4*), was the place where the locomotives were maintained. Around 2009, most of these former workshops were demolished and replaced with a shopping centre. The main building, however, was preserved – a *remise* for locomotives, a boiler building in the shape of a semi-rotunda that initially contained no fewer than 21 tracks. It is covered by a curved pitched roof with an air shaft on its top. Positioned in the middle of the central yard is a turntable track that used to rotate and arrange locomotives. The building that lost its primary function in 2008 is, along with the similar, but smaller buildings in Maribor, Ljubljana and Otiški Vrh, one of the few remaining constructions of its type in Slovenia and is among the largest in Central Europe.

To its northeast, in the centre of a newly made parking lot, stands an abandoned two-storey water tower that was built on an elongated octagonal platform during the renovation works after the First World War (*Picture 5*).

**2.2.1. Pictures:**



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

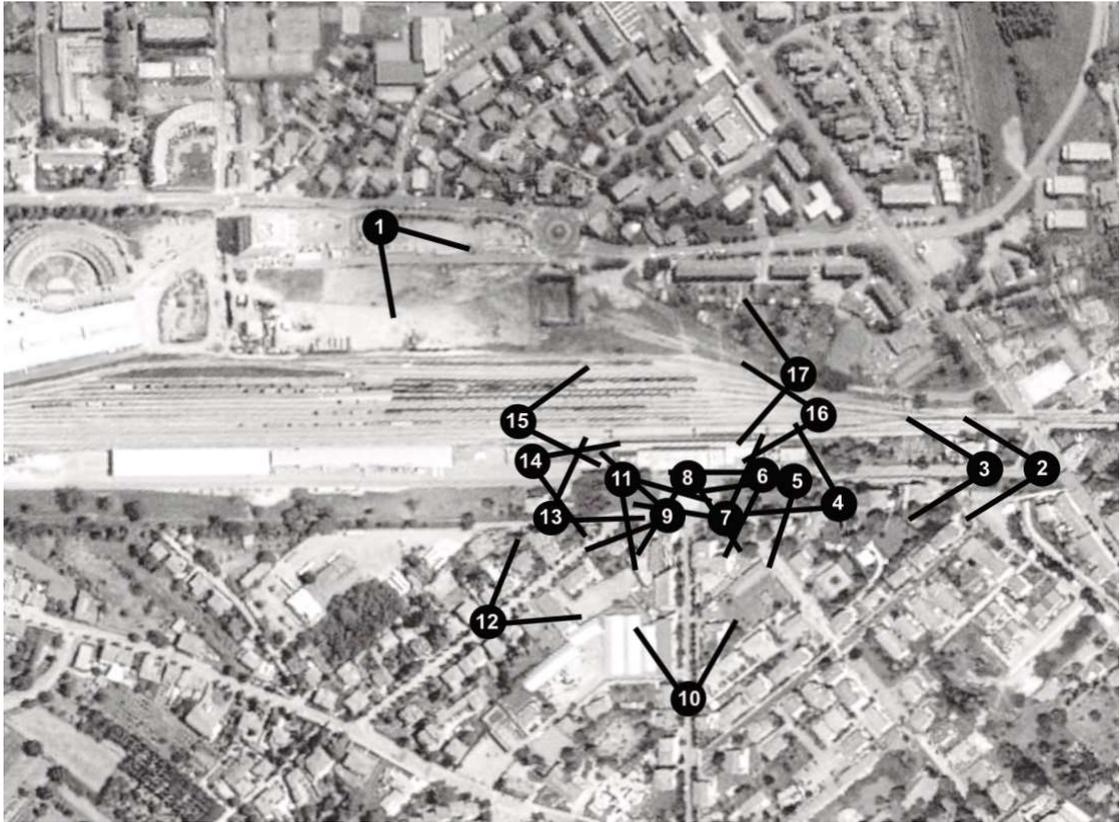


Picture 4



Picture 5

**2.3 ANNEX III – PHOTO – PART ONE:** Project part of the competition regarding the design of Europe Square / Piazzale della Transalpina and Transcultural hub EPICenter  
(File: ECoC 2025 - ANNEX III - PHOTO AREA 1)



View 1



View 2



View 3



View 4



View 5



View 6



View 7



View 8



View 9



View 10



View 11



View 12



View 13



View 14



View 15

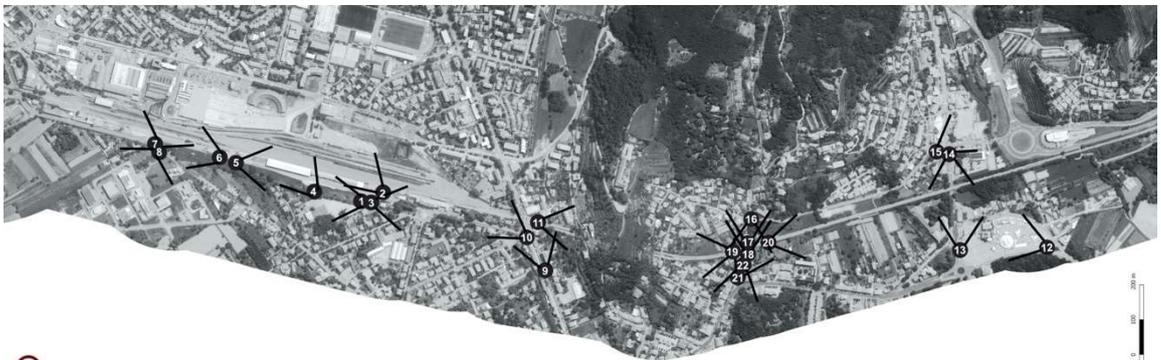


View 16



View 17

**2.4 ANNEX IV – PHOTO – PART TWO:** Conceptual part regarding the idea of remodelling of the urban area across the border, from Solkan/Salcano to Rožna dolina / Casa Rossa  
 (File: ECoC 2025 - ANEXE IV - PHOTO AREA 2)



View 1



View 2



View 3



View 4



View 5



View 6



View 7



View 8



View 9



View 10



View 11



View 12



View 13



View 14



View 15



View 16



View 17



View 18



View 19



View 20



View 21



View 22

**2.5 ANNEX V – AERIAL PHOTO**

*(File: ECoC 2025 - ANEXE V – 2.jpg files – High and Low resolution)*



**2.6 ANNEX VI – MATERIALS**

**Graphical requirements:**

- Adoption of the metric system as a reference in the presentation of graphic materials is mandatory;
- The presentation is free, and the author is allowed to use any colour, collages, drawing techniques, etc.

**Recommendations for submission for panels:**

Representational modes:

- Diagrams
- Plans;
- Sections;
- Elevations;
- Isometric drawings;
- Visualisations;
- Models cannot be submitted, but photographs of models may be included in the set of drawings

**2.7 ANNEX VII – CAD BASE MAPS**