



TWO INSTALLATIONS FOR PEACE: VISUALIA FESTIVAL UNVEILS FIRST ARTWORKS OF THE EU PROJECT “IMAGINE PEACE”

Focus on sustainability, memory, and dialogue through light in the city of Pula

This September, the city of Pula will not only host Croatia’s longest-running light art festival but also become the starting point of an extraordinary artistic journey across Europe. From 18 to 20 September, **Visualia Festival** will present the first two installations of *Imagine Peace*, a visionary EU-funded project that brings together five major European light festivals. The artworks *Pallets* and *Steps Between Wars* are the first creative expressions of a shared mission: to reflect on peace through the language of light.

Pallets – A Walkable Monument to Peace

Pallets, a site-specific light sculpture made entirely from reused Euro pallets, was developed by the Visualia Group (concept) and Stefan Vidović (structure). Designed for full reuse, local sourcing, and zero waste, *Pallets* embodies the belief that peace begins with conscious choices – ecological, social, and artistic.

In each participating city, members of the local community are invited to contribute their thoughts on what peace means to them. These quotes are projected onto the installation, transforming it into a living, multilingual archive of shared hopes and reflections.

Steps Between Wars – Light Between Past and Present

The second *Imagine Peace* installation, *Steps Between Wars*, is created by Pula-based artist **Petar Šćulac**. Built from wood, mesh, and hand-treated concrete, and illuminated by precise projections, the piece casts intricate shadows and architectural outlines on nearby walls. Šćulac’s work, known for blending traditional techniques with contemporary materials, explores the invisible structures – both physical and emotional – that connect conflict and reconciliation.

Referencing architectural motifs from different historical periods, the installation invites visitors to reflect on perception, transience, and the deep imprint of place. After its debut in Pula, it will travel to all four partner festivals: Essen, Oslo, Copenhagen, and Brixen.

Imagine Peace – A European Collaboration in Light

Imagine Peace is a Creative Europe initiative uniting five festivals: Visualia Festival (HR), Water Light Festival Brixen (IT), Essen Light Festival (DE), Copenhagen Light Festival (DK), and Fjord Oslo (NO). With artistic contributions ranging from poetic projections to interactive

installations, the project is also supported by the University of Innsbruck and Eurac Research, ensuring a strong foundation in sustainability and cultural research.

To support the project's sustainability research, a dedicated questionnaire will be launched during the first festival in Pula and conducted across all participating festivals in 2025–2026. Visitors will be invited to share their subjective perspectives on social, economic, and ecological aspects, contributing valuable insights that will inform long-term improvements in the sustainability of the light festival.

The two installations premiered in Pula stand as powerful symbols of the project's values: connection, reflection, and a hopeful, shared future.

Festival dates:

Visualia Festival, Pula (HR): 18–20 September 2025

Essen Light Festival (DE): 02–12 October 2025

Copenhagen Light Festival (DK): 30 January – 22 February 2026

Brixen Water Light Festival (IT): 29 April – 16 May 2026

Visualia Festival, Pula (HR): 17–19 September 2026

Essen Light Festival (DE): October 2026

Fjord Oslo (NO): 05–08 November 2026

Copenhagen Light Festival (DK): 29 January - 21 February 2027

Press materials and further information are available at:

<https://imaginepeaceproject.eu>

Note to editors:

Following the festival's opening, a **video news release** featuring footage of both installations and the whole festival will be made freely available. Media outlets are welcome to use the material for reporting, websites, and social media. Details and download link will be available from 20th September at www.imaginepeaceproject.eu.