



## IMAGINE PEACE CONTINUES ITS EUROPEAN JOURNEY IN COPENHAGEN

After Pula and Essen, the European project *IMAGINE PEACE* arrives in Copenhagen, marking a further milestone in its transnational journey through light art, public space and collective reflection. The festival in the Danish capital presents a selection of artworks conceived within the framework of the EU co-funded project, bringing together artistic practices that explore peace as a lived, fragile and shared responsibility.

Four light installations presented in Copenhagen are part of the *IMAGINE PEACE* project, offering distinct artistic perspectives shaped by different cultural backgrounds and methodologies. Alongside these works, the city also hosts additional light installations as part of the wider Copenhagen Light Festival programme.

Copenhagen hosts the **world premiere of *Walking Towards Peace*** by Danish artist **Eva Esmann Behrens**. Known for her poetic light projections and her use of natural and organic materials, Esmann Behrens grounds this work in a participatory process. The installation originates from a workshop held in June 2025 in Brixen, where citizens from different generations, young people aged 11 to 15 and participants over 65, came together to explore peace through shared walks, storytelling and artistic experimentation. The ideas, materials and experiences gathered during the workshop have become an integral part of the artistic process, making the installation a collective expression shaped by lived encounters and intergenerational dialogue.

*Pallets* by **Visualia Studio** (Croatia), already shown in Pula and Essen, is an interdisciplinary light installation rooted in sustainability and community participation. Visualia Studio, based in Pula, is known internationally for its site-specific light art and new media projects that engage public space and local communities. *Pallets* is built using reused Euro pallets sourced locally in each host city, combined with minimal technical equipment. The work transforms simple, borrowed materials into a temporary architectural structure, emphasising peace as a shared human value grounded in cooperation, responsibility and care for resources.

Also previously exhibited in Pula and Essen, *Stairs Between Wars* by Croatian artist **Petar Šćulac** explores the invisible architectures left behind by conflict. Šćulac's artistic practice merges traditional craftsmanship with contemporary materials and scenographic light environments. In this installation, wood, mesh, hand-worked concrete and precise

projection mapping create shifting stairways and thresholds — metaphors for the uncertain spaces between destruction and rebuilding, memory and reconciliation.

German light artist **Claudia Reh** presents *Fractions*, a growing and intentionally unfinished light installation previously shown in Essen. Based in Dresden, Reh is internationally recognised for her work with high-intensity overhead projectors and for pioneering analogue light painting performances. The work is rooted in a participatory workshop held in Copenhagen, where around twenty participants from different generations and cultural backgrounds were invited to reflect on a simple yet essential question: *What is peace for you?* Among them were Rezvan Shahrabi Farahani from Iran and Tamar Dvir from Israel, who had never met before. Their encounter became emblematic of the project's approach, echoing the intergenerational workshop held in Brixen for *Walking Towards Peace*: peace is explored not as an abstract ideal, but as something that emerges through dialogue, shared experience and human connection.

Inspired by the Japanese art of Kintsugi, *Fractions* assembles fragments from different cities, festivals and workshops. Gaps, mismatched pieces and visible breaks are not concealed but embraced, reflecting peace as a continuous process that requires daily effort, reflection and repair.

IMAGINE PEACE connects five international light festivals — Brixen Water Light Festival (Italy), Copenhagen Light Festival (Denmark), Essen Light Festival (Germany), Fjord Oslo (Norway) and Visualia Festival of Light in Pula (Croatia). Co-funded by the European Union, the project aims to foster cross-border artistic collaboration and to encourage reflection on peace, sustainability and social cohesion through the universal language of light.

Alongside the installations, IMAGINE PEACE includes a series of creative workshops in each partner city, actively involving local communities and reinforcing a central principle of the project: peace begins with connection — and everyone can contribute to illuminating its path. The project is scientifically accompanied by the University of Innsbruck and Eurac Research, which monitor its long-term cultural and social impact.

The sustainability audits carried out for the light festivals in Pula and Essen went beyond a routine evaluation and supported increased awareness and reflection on sustainability-related practices. Throughout the process, organisers and partners were encouraged to gather data, review existing procedures, and reflect on established routines across different areas of festival organisation.

This approach led to focused and, at times, critical dialogue among scientific partners, festival organisers, and local stakeholders. These exchanges helped to question assumptions and identify concrete opportunities to strengthen sustainability efforts in future festival editions.

The social relevance of the festivals also became evident. In Pula, strong participation in the audience survey highlighted a high level of community engagement, while in Essen the

reporting and audit process demonstrated close collaboration with local partners and sponsors, supported by structured planning and documentation.

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 the above-mentioned 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 1<sup>st</sup> February at [www.imaginepeaceproject.eu](http://www.imaginepeaceproject.eu).