



# IMAGINE PEACE



## **IMAGINE PEACE COMES TO LIFE IN BRIXEN** ***Water Light Festival presents all project artworks for the first time***

For the first time since its inception, the European cooperation project *IMAGINE PEACE* is presented in its full artistic scope. At the current edition of the Water Light Festival in Brixen/Bressanone, all artworks developed within the project come together in a single city, transforming the historic centre into a shared space of reflection on peace, responsibility and coexistence.

Co-funded by the European Union, IMAGINE PEACE connects five international light festivals across Europe. Until now, its works have been presented individually across different cities – from Pula to Essen and Copenhagen. In Brixen, however, the project reaches a new level of visibility: for the first time, audiences can experience the entire artistic constellation in one place.

This moment marks a turning point in the project's journey, shifting from a distributed narrative to a collective experience. What previously unfolded across borders now becomes tangible as a unified exhibition.

### **New works, first encounters**

Among the highlights are several premieres that expand the project's artistic language.

*Identity* by Italian artist Alessandro Lupi is presented for the first time in this context. The interactive sculpture challenges perception and ego: as visitors approach, their own reflection dissolves, revealing only the presence of the "other" within a cloud of light. The work opens a subtle yet powerful dialogue about empathy and shared responsibility.

Equally compelling is *Voice of Ukraine* by Ukrainian artist Julia Shamsheieva, which brings a deeply personal and political dimension into the project. Rooted in lived experience, the work gives form to voices often unheard, bridging individual memory and collective awareness.

These new contributions enter into dialogue with existing installations developed within IMAGINE PEACE, each shaped by different cultural contexts and artistic approaches.

Together, they create a multilayered narrative that reflects peace not as an abstract concept, but as a fragile and ongoing process.

### **From separate stages to a shared space**

The Water Light Festival thus becomes more than a host: it acts as a catalyst. By bringing together all project works, Brixen offers a unique opportunity to experience the full depth of IMAGINE PEACE — not as isolated artworks, but as a connected body of ideas.

Across the city, light installations unfold between historic architecture, public spaces and intimate interiors, inviting visitors to move, pause and engage. The dialogue between artworks becomes visible, and with it, the complexity of peace itself: shaped by memory, participation, conflict and repair.

As highlighted throughout the project's development, peace emerges through connection — through encounters between generations, cultures and perspectives.

### **A European project with local resonance**

IMAGINE PEACE links the Water Light Festival in Brixen with partner festivals in Copenhagen, Essen, Oslo and Pula. Beyond the artistic programme, the initiative includes workshops, community engagement, and scientific monitoring by Eurac Research and the University of Innsbruck, with a focus on cultural, social, and sustainability-related impacts. Eurac Research and the University of Innsbruck contribute through the development of a Sustainability Audit, which helps participating festivals assess and improve their economic, ecological, and social performance. In addition, participants, visitors, and residents are invited to take part in a questionnaire <https://eu.research.net/r/WaterLightFestival> and share their opinions, providing valuable feedback on how the festival is perceived and what impact it has on the local community.

By bringing all works together, Brixen now embodies the core ambition of the project: to make peace visible, discussable and collectively experienced.

### **Press information**

The Water Light Festival 2026 takes place from 29 April to 16 May in Brixen/Bressanone and surrounding areas. The IMAGINE PEACE installations are integrated into the festival programme.

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 is available at [www.imaginepeaceproject.eu](http://www.imaginepeaceproject.eu).