MARIBOR 2012 will include over 1000 events in Maribor and its partner cities during the year to satisfy everyone’s different tastes and preferences.

THE TURNING POINT
In 2012 Maribor will be the European Capital of Culture. The town will be exciting and inviting. There will be a wide range of high cultural events, and the town will come to life in all its details, with the fringes being just as interesting as the town centre. Maribor will share the title with five partner towns in the region. These partner towns offer opportunities to travel, discover, enjoy, and be playful. Most of the events will be not more than an hour’s drive away. Maribor and its partner towns are connected geographically, but we are also connected by the programmes which will provide great diversity in the year 2012.

Maribor is a green town. It offers visitors a great variety of activities: you can either decide to experience an active stay in the town’s urban environment, or – since Maribor is located by the Drava River and at the foot of the Pohorje Hills – opt for an energetic, sporty break in close contact with nature. A day out will be full of cultural experiences and you can always take a relaxing break at one of the wellness resorts and sports centers in the region. There is also a wide selection of culinary delights to be had and historic heritage to be discovered. Visit Maribor and experience all it has to offer. Find a cozy room in one of its town hotels or decide for smaller, more intimate accommodation in the town or its green surroundings. Why not stay at one of the wellness and spa centers in the area?

Come to see and feel.
Welcome!

M.Sc., MBA, Mia Miše
Tourist Promotion and Hospitality

» A day out will be full of cultural experiences and you can always take a relaxing break ... «
MARIBOR 2012 – EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Welcome to Maribor and its partner cities

SLOVENJ GRADEC
Slovenj Gradec is the cultural and administrative centre of the Koroška region. Having a notable medieval tradition, today the town combines its rich heritage from the past with the fast pace of modern life. Slovenj Gradec 2012 is a project aimed at the promotion of cultural activity in small urban centres, which represent the future of European culture.

IDENTITY TAG: United Nations Peace Messenger City since 1989

VELENJE
In modern-day Slovenia, Velenje stands out as a young town with a powerful and vigorous industry and a lively identity. Velenje will add a special playful touch to the ECOC project, since most of its programmes are intended for children and the youth, the future potential of culture. Staying true to its cheerful character, Velenje will certainly enrich the ECOC with its energy.

EVENT HIGHLIGHT: the Pippi Longstocking Festival

ITALY
Murska Sobota is a multicultural town in the cross-border region, only minutes of drive away from Croatia, Austria and Hungary. Looking back on a long tradition of coexistence between Slavs, Germans and Hungarians, today the town’s cultural platform is based on tolerance between different religions and ethnic groups. IDENTIFY TAG: the city of creative art and exemplary coexistence with the Roma population.

Ptuj is the oldest Slovenian town. As early as in Roman times, it was already an important town and a driving force for the whole region. Thanks to its rich cultural and natural heritage, Ptuj is one of the best-known tourist destinations in Slovenia. Ptuj’s participation in the ECOC project is based on its rich and proud tradition, while the town is hoping to gain new dimensions for the future of Ptuj and its inhabitants. EVENT HIGHLIGHT: the Kurentovanje Carnival, an international ethnographic and cultural festival.

NOVO MESTO

The literal translation of the name “Novo mesto” would be “the new town”. And the town certainly stays true to its name: at the core of Novo mesto are progress and youthful intensity. Little wonder then, that the town is culturally very close to the avant-garde. Regarded as the lively heart of the Dolenjska region, the town is renowned for its festivals and its theatre. EVENT HIGHLIGHT: Anton Podbevšek Theatre Productions

Murska Sobota

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Ptuj

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Maribor, Murska Sobota, Novo Mesto, Ptuj, Slovenj Gradec and Velenje are inviting you to visit their year-long performance, which we have been diligently preparing for quite a few years now. If you decide to visit Maribor or one of its partner towns which will also host numerous events of the European Capital of Culture 2012, you will be surprised by the bustling activity that will greet you.

Together with its wider surroundings Maribor represents a region of attractive contrasts. Only in Maribor can you find yourself being transported by a modern cable railway to your hotel at a beautiful ski slope just five minutes after a play or street performance has ended in the centre of town. In summer, when skiing is not possible, you can explore the untouched nature of the Pohorje Hills. The other partner towns are also surrounded by a charming green countryside, friendly forests and wine routes that criss-cross their way along picturesque little hills.

The region of the European Capital of Culture connects six towns, which have a total population of just over 200,000 inhabitants. Nevertheless, the region offers almost ten top-class thermal spas and wellness centres, over 100 hotels and event venues, six well-designed golf courses, and much more.

We are only a short trip away: You can reach Maribor by car from Vienna or Venice in less than three hours, or you can take a direct train from Vienna, which will also take you about three hours. Maribor is well-connected with the airports of Ljubljana, Graz and Zagreb.
If you are organising trips for the youth, single travellers with dynamic lifestyles, or festival-goers who would like to spice up their holidays with a dash of culture, then our wide assortment of colourful events will surely appeal to you. Fun and entertainment will be provided all day long.

Perhaps your clients include advocates of healthy living, who lead responsible lives and carefully follow what is going on in the world around them. A part of the programme – especially the programme section Urban Furrows – seeks to actively intervene in society. Focusing on ecology, local self-supply, relations within society, and the environment, this programme section will have an immediate effect on the towns, as urban gardens will be planted and more green introduced to the urban centres. Special town tours will be prepared that focus on these issues.

For more demanding visitors, art connoisseurs and artists you can combine our cultural programmes with the region’s already rich tourist offer and selected hotels of outstanding quality in Maribor and the partner towns.
Visitors of all ages and interests will have the opportunity to experience and see contents of different genres as well as numerous extraordinary authors. Slovenian stages featuring world renowned names will enable them to take in art from Slovenia and abroad.

**CHILDREN / YOUTH CAPITAL**

The program is mostly intended for young people; however a few specifics and projects will be especially suited for the vivacity of young hearts. One of the most important such ones is surely Rock Otočec, the so-called “Woodstock of Europe”, bringing thousands of visitors to ecstasy during a few days of concerts and the popular rolling in the mud; the second is the KUNIGUNDA Festival in Velenje, full of life and youth. There will also be many concerts for young people in the outdoors that will feature world-renowned performers each week.

The year 2012 will also be the year of children’s creativity. Children and their parents will be able to spend a creative summer at the Aye Festival in Ptuj or at the Reading Room in the Meadow and in Maribor’s city park at the Art camp, where they will experience the culture of Slovenia and the world through numerous festivals. Every single child should know Pippi Longstocking, the hostess of one of the finest children’s festivals in this part of Europe, the Pippi Longstocking Festival. Another wonderful experience will be the exhibition of dolls by Lila Prap or performances in different languages and different puppet languages at the International Puppet Festival in the new Maribor Puppet Theatre, which is known to be one of the most beautiful ones in Europe.

**FOR LITERATURE LOVERS**

There will be many events dedicated to literature. Beside the Regional Book Fair and Literature on the Street, where the most important authors form Maribor will be remembered again by readings of their works, book lovers will be able to enjoy themselves at the Days of Poetry and Wine festival in Ptuj. The summer will be marked by the European Poetry Tournament, where people can extend their horizons by listening to the authors or simply enjoy the Reading in the Park in Maribor in the city park. From May to October, deckchairs will be set up in the park, inviting us to read a book in the shade of hundred-year-old trees that are as old as the park itself.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS** - European poetry tournament • Twelve • Reading in the Park • Regional book fair and European translation week • Medieval manuscripts and Renaissance printing • Days of poetry and wine • Tour of writers from China • Literature on the street

**FOR LOVERS OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND FINE ARTS**

Maribor will also be a city of inspiration for world famous artists, who will be living, creating and sharing their knowledge with the world and the region for a certain period of time as part of the Guest Room project. Beside many installations in the Maribor city center, visitors will be able to see numerous exhibitions – Tracing an outline: drawing from the Tate collection or Oof, industry and an extended program in local galleries in Maribor and all its partner cities. Creators in fine arts from all over the world will have the opportunity to express hope, which is the theme of the Show your hope project and to focus on the subject of our natural surroundings – Art in Nature, involving institutions from Spain, Germany, Italy, Austria, Cyprus.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS** - Cultural embassies • Tracing an outline: drawing from the Tate collection • Rebecca Horn exhibition • Laibach Kunst • Art stays • Marko Jakšič • Oof, industry • Show your hope • Soft control • Fotopub • From page to space • Guest Room
FOR MUSIC LOVERS AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT

In 2012, there will be festivals, outdoor concerts and other music events in spectacular spaces as well as in intimate bars, when the music producers and the listeners become one. Four year-long lasting stages will give Maribor its beat; they will feature ethnic, rock, pop and experimental music. Maribor Club 2012 will attract the attentions of younger and more mature audiences with performers from Europe, Africa, America and elsewhere. Jazz lovers get their fix in the Jazz section in Maribor, the Jazzinty Festival in Novo mesto as well as in Velenje, where the Max Klub Jazz Festival will host top-quality jazz events by local and foreign authors (e.g. European Movement Jazz Orchestra, Robert Jukič band feat. Miles Griffith from New York, Howard Curtis from USA, etc.). Fearless rockers will also be satisfied with events like Rock Otočec in Novo mesto or Piše se leto 2012 featuring the charms of concert music led by the Russian conductor Kitajenko in harmony with pianist Ivo Pogorelić and the Zagreb Philharmonics, the Russian ethnic music evening with Ossipov Balalaika, the symphonic orchestra with a cast of five European music academies (Euphony), the excellent classical chamber music in the beautiful Betnava Mansion (The spectrum of sounds) and the creative Carmina Slovenica. Promising artists in the field of classical music will participate in master classes in the summer as part of the Maribor International Orchestra or follow the others and enjoy events like the Arsana Festival in Ptuj, the Maribor Festival led by the Australian virtuoso Richard Tognetti, or go to Slovenj Gradec to relive the memories of composer Hugo Wolf through the year-long project Reviving the Sounds of the Past. The colorful pallet of world folk tradition will be presented by folklorists at the International Children’s Folk Dance festival MB 2012 as well as the Lent festival.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS • etnika festival • maribum • romano čhon • maribor club 2012 • jazz in maribor • med – international festival of electronic music • piše se leto 2012 • music • wine and fashion festival • rock otočec • lent festival • max klub jazz festival • barrel organ festival • slovenj gradec summer festival • kunigunda festival • jazzinty

FOR CLASSICAL MUSIC AFICIONADOS

Aside from renowned festivals of classical music, we will host interesting events in 2012, like the international choral music day maribor international orchestra 2012 • ossipov balalaika orchestra • zagreb philharmonic orchestra and Ivo Pogorelić • the spectrum of sounds • euphony • reviving the sounds of the past • folk dance greetings from maribor • arsana festival • lent festival • international children’s folk dance

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS • maribor festival • international choral music day • maribor international orchestra 2012 • ossipov balalaika orchestra • zagreb philharmonic orchestra and Ivo Pogorelić • the spectrum of sounds • euphony • reviving the sounds of the past • folk dance greetings from maribor • arsana festival • lent festival • international children’s folk dance

FOR THEATREGOERS

Aside from renowned festivals of classical music, we will host interesting events in 2012, like the international choral music day maribor international orchestra 2012 • ossipov balalaika orchestra • zagreb philharmonic orchestra and Ivo Pogorelić • the spectrum of sounds • euphony • reviving the sounds of the past • folk dance greetings from maribor • arsana festival • lent festival • international children’s folk dance

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS • opera black masks • faust • simon, the gangster of art • war and peace • the man with the bombs • gardenia • cabaret new burlesque • the way of the rider (the academy of equestrian arts in versailles) • le cirque invisible • obludarium • maribor theatre festival – bridges • placebo • nagib • fronta • funeral fashion show • live squares and courtyards of maribor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>ARTISTIC FIELD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>Opening weekend</td>
<td>Maribor and partner towns</td>
<td>performing, visual arts (opera, concerts, installations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Opera Black Masks</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (opera)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holographic Town Hall</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>visual arts (installations)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Carmina Slovenica: Placebo</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (scenic concert)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Kurentovanje, Art and Heritage Festival</td>
<td>Ptuj</td>
<td>carnival</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Pandur Theaters with Croatian National Theatre Zagreb: War and Peace</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (theatre performance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Les Ballets C de la B from Ghent: Gardenia (Belgium)</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (theatre performance, cabaret)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>Music, Wine and Fashion Festival</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>non-classical music (concerts, wine tastings, exhibitions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra and Ivo Pogorelić (Croatia)</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>classical music (concert)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>Romano Chon, Festival of Roma culture</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>non-classical music, performing arts (concerts, dance, poetry, film, puppets, workshops, lectures, exhibition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laibach Kunst, exhibition of internationally renowned multidisciplinary collective</td>
<td>Velenje</td>
<td>visual arts (exhibition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cabaret New Burlesque (USA)</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (cabaret, burlesques show)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max Klub Jazz Festival</td>
<td>Velenje</td>
<td>non-classical music (concerts, workshops)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barrel Organ Festival</td>
<td>Slovenj Gradec</td>
<td>non-classical music (concerts, street events)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>Show Your Hope, global mobile exhibition with performances on freedom</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>visual arts (international exhibition, performances, workshops)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan Fabre: Simon, Gangster of Art (world premiere/Belgium)</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (dance solo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Magdalena, International Festival of Creative Communication</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>visual arts (festival of communication)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MLADIBOR, the Ideal Children and Youth Capital</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>child and youth creativity (workshops, events)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Ossipov Balalaika Orchestra (Russia)</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>classical music (Russian national orchestra concert)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>Martin Zimmermann and Dimitri de Perrot: Chouf Ouchouf (Switzerland)</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (theatre performance with acrobats)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>Maribor International Orchestra 2012</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>classical music (concerts, workshops)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art Stays, festival of contemporary arts</td>
<td>Ptuj</td>
<td>visual arts (exhibitions, site-specific projects, performances, live sets)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arsana Festival</td>
<td>Ptuj</td>
<td>classical music (concerts, workshops, exhibitions)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lent Festival</td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>multicultural festival</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fotopub, festival of documentary photography</td>
<td>Novo mesto</td>
<td>visual arts (exhibitions, workshops, competition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>Aye Festival in the old part of the town</td>
<td>Ptuj</td>
<td>child and youth creativity (workshops, lectures)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jazzinty, International jazz festival</td>
<td>Novo mesto</td>
<td>non-classical music (concerts)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kunigunda Festival</td>
<td>Velenje</td>
<td>non-classical music (youth festival)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roman Games at Ptuj Thermal Spa</td>
<td>Ptuj</td>
<td>performing arts (street performances, shows, culinary experiences)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER</strong></td>
<td><strong>Days of Poetry and Wine</strong></td>
<td>Ptuj</td>
<td>literature (poetry readings, concerts, film productions, performances, exhibitions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fronta, Contemporary Dance Festival</strong></td>
<td>Murska Sobota</td>
<td>performing arts (contemporary dance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Maribum, International Drum Festival</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>non-classical music (drum festival)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Marko Jakše, multidisciplinary artist</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>visual arts (exhibitions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Maribor Festival, international chamber music festival</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>classical music (concerts, workshops)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>National Theatre Radu Stanca Sibiu and ECOC Sibiu 2007: Faust</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (theatre performance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Tour of remarkable writers from China</strong></td>
<td>Maribor and partner towns</td>
<td>literature (lectures, round tables)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sankai Juké: Tobari (Japan)</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (buto dance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Folk Dance Greetings from Maribor</strong></td>
<td>Velenje</td>
<td>classical music (folk dance performances)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pippi Longstocking Festival</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (contemporary dance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Rebecca Horn, installation artist (Germany)</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>visual arts (exhibition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Euphony, Central-European Youth Orchestra</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>classical music (workshops, concerts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Maribor Theatre Festival – Bridges</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (theatre performances, lectures, round tables)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ennika Festival</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>non-classical music (concerts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Via Negativa: Kurent, crossover of music, visual and documentary theatre</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (music – theatre event)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OCTOBER</strong></td>
<td><strong>From Page to Space, Published Paper Sculptures (Bremen’s Museum of Modern Art)</strong></td>
<td>Murska Sobota</td>
<td>visual arts (exhibition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The Spectrum of Sounds at the magnificent Betnava mansion</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>classical music (concerts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Water Town, unusual domes on Lake Velenje</strong></td>
<td>Velenje</td>
<td>visual arts (installation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ligi’s Stage, underground cave as a venue</strong></td>
<td>Velenje</td>
<td>visual arts, music (concerts, exhibitions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reviving the Sounds of the Past, dedicated to the renowned composer Hugo Wolf</strong></td>
<td>Slovenj Gradec</td>
<td>classical music (concerts, exhibition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Maribor Club 2012, live music and events in bars in Maribor</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>non-classical music (concerts, exhibitions, music workshops)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOVEMBER</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jean-Baptiste Thiérrée and Victoria Chaplin: Le Cirque Invisible (France)</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (circus performance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Black-and-White World, world youth chess championship</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>chess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Soft Control, art, science and technologically unconscious</strong></td>
<td>Slovenj Gradec Maribor</td>
<td>visual arts (exhibition, conference)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Forman Brothers Theatre: Obludarium (Czech Republic)</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (circus performance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Jazz in Maribor</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>non-classical music (concerts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DECEMBER</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tracing an Outline: Drawing from Tate Collection (Great Britain)</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>visual arts (exhibition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>European Comic</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>visual arts (exhibition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The International Day of Choral Singing</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>classical music (contest, concerts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Cultural Embassies, European and other cultures in Maribor</strong></td>
<td>Maribor and partner towns</td>
<td>performing arts, non-classical music, classical music, visual arts, film, literature, gastronomy, folk dance, children and youth creativity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Twelve, renowned international figures talk about future</strong></td>
<td>Maribor and partner towns</td>
<td>literature and philosophy (lectures, roundtables)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Capital of Flavours, wine and culinary pleasures</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>culinary arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Revelations, light installations in the center of Maribor</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>visual arts (Installations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana Monro Theatre: Live Squares and Courtyards</strong></td>
<td>Maribor</td>
<td>performing arts (street performances, installations, children and youth workshops)</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Oof, Industry!, Creative Industries Through Time</strong></td>
<td>Maribor and partner town</td>
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OPENING WEEKEND ECOC 2012

- **DATE:** 14 and 15 January 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor and partner towns
- **GENRE:** performing and visual arts, non-classical music (opera, concerts, installations, street performances)

**DESCRIPTION:**

The opening week will be an outstanding overture into the European culture year. It will include numerous concerts, performances and events on several locations around town. The opening spectacle will offer something for every taste. The key element of the opening ceremony will be a performance of the opera Black Masks by Slovene expressionist Marij Kogoj. The production will be a unique homage to the unjustly overlooked Slovene modernistic opera tradition, which will be represented by this revised version of the original score of the Black Masks. Beside the opera production, the ECOC’s opening will also manifest itself in numerous installations, performances and concerts on many stages, which will turn the whole town into an exceptional spectacle. On opening day, Maribor will once more be wrapped by the holographic town hall. The laser projection will reconstruct the medieval town walls in an innovative and modern way.

**WEBSITE:** www.maribor2012.eu, www.sng-mb.si

Carmina Slovenica: PLACEBO

- **DATE:** 11 January 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** performing arts (scenic concert)

**DESCRIPTION:**

The author of the scenic concert PLACEBO is a famous Slovenian conductor Karmina Šilec, who has a creative approach to exploring vocal music, combines different periods and music, and mixes the old and the new to create new, exciting musical contexts. Collaboration of Carmina Slovenica, Slovenian chamber Choir with Sabina Cvilak, Bernarda Bobro, Musica Cubicularis etc., is a meditation on the suffering of Mary, Jesus Christ’s mother, during his crucifixion and it is based on the medieval text ‘The sorrowful mother stood’. Pergolesi’s Stabat Mater was a great success from the very beginning and just after being composed it was already pronounced the ‘masterpiece of Latin church music’ and ‘a masterpiece of invention, good taste and harmony’. Music theatre as a meeting of widespread border of music production.

**WEBSITE:** www.zbor-carmina-slovenica.si
Ptuj Public Services, MO Ptuj: KURENTOVANJE, Art and Heritage Festival

- **DATE:** 11 - 21 February 2012
- **LOCATION:** Ptuj
- **GENRE:** carnival
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  Mass event celebrating traditional folk customs based on the ethnographic symbol of the region – the “Kurent”. The Shrovetide carnival Kurentovanje with its 50-year-old tradition is one of the most important ethnographic events in Slovenia and Central Europe. The aim of the festival is to preserve and develop the outstanding cultural heritage of the Shrovetide carnival in the Ptuj area and the whole of Slovenia. The name Kurentovanje derives from a traditional carnival mask, the Kurent, which is a figure taken from pagan mysticism. According to tradition, it was his task to drive away the winter and call for spring. The Kurentovanje Carnival lasts for 11 days and draws in an average of 100,000 visitors annually. Especially colorful is the closing parade, which is attended by 70,000 visitors. Commanding special attention and fascination among the 2,000 parade participants is a group of over 600 Kurents. The Kurent has seen numerous interpretations in Slovene and European art. The performance of the Kurents on the carnival stages is downright fascinating.

- **WEBSITE:** www.js-ptuj.si

Les ballets C de la B from Ghent: GARDENIA

- **DATE:** 14 February 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** performing arts (theatre performance, cabaret)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  The performance of Belgium Alaina Platel in Frank Van Laecke is much more than just a transvestite show – it is a singular account of the common madness known as the theatre, which manages to captivate people on this side as well as on the other side of the curtain, providing the audience with an unforgettable and nostalgically beautiful experience. Gardenia is not a work of fiction; it is the most intimate of tales. It goes deep into the turbulent lives of nine striking people. Seven older individuals who seemingly effortlessly navigate the twilight zone between being male and being female. It is a shocking, humorous, nostalgic performance about growing older in cabaret stile, appropriate for a demanding theater audience as well as for the general public.

- **WEBSITE:** www.lesballetscdela.be/en/
**Saga Institute: MUSIC, WINE AND FASHION FESTIVAL**

- **DATE:** 20 and 21 March 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** non-classical music (concerts, wine tastings, exhibitions)

**DESCRIPTION:**

The festival represents the first attempt at innovatively synchronizing and combining an international music festival with a wine and also a fashion festival, thus merging the potentials of the town with the visions of musicians, wine-producers and fashion designers. Such a synchronization results in completely new, fresh and outstanding festival content, which will attract great attention, while featuring exceptional people like Yamandu Costa, Emmanuel, Rosenbeg, Stefanovski, Antonio Chainho and Kings of Strings.

**Pandur Theaters: WAR AND PEACE**

- **DATE:** 21 and 22 February 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** performing arts (theatre performance)

**DESCRIPTION:**

This major production of the Pandur Theaters in collaboration with Croatian National Theatre Zagreb will mark one of the central highlights of the culture year. The two parts of the performance will be like two panels of a diptych: the first will center on War, the second on Peace – one cannot exist without the other. War is a time of fighting for peace, and Peace is a result of war and the fear of a new conflict. While Peace lasts, War watches it just like a theatre performance, and vice versa. Perhaps the seemingly clear lines between the performers are in reality completely blurred. It is a new large scale production by Tomaž Pandur that will bring not only his creations to Maribor but also some of the stars of Croatian theatre.

**WEBSITE:** [www.pandurtheaters.com](http://www.pandurtheaters.com)
ZAGREB PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND IVO POGORELIĆ

- **DATE:** 24 March 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** classical music (concert)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  Together with the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra and the renowned Russian conductor Dmitri Kitayenko, the world-famous pianist, well-known for his technically perfect, but daring interpretations, Ivo Pogorelić will perform Brahms’ Symphony No. 2 in D major and Chopin’s Piano Concerto in E minor, which will be a real test of skill for the conductor, the orchestra and Pogorelić himself.
- **WEBSITE:** www.kitajenko.com, www.zgf.hr

ZULK: ROMANO ČHON

- **DATE:** 31 March – 1 May 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** non-classical music, performing arts (concerts, dances, workshops)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  A festival with a number of diverse events: interesting artistic exhibitions of Roma painters, educational ethnographic exhibitions of objects used by the Roma throughout history, excellent Roma theatre performances, a presentation of delicious Roma cuisine, Roma film week, poem recitals of Roma poets accompanied by live music, vivacious dance workshops and presentations of traditional Roma dances, workshops teaching the participants to play some typical Roma instruments, puppet shows, shadow theatre, and different workshops, among them a comic book workshop. The culmination of the festival will be on 21 April, when the world-renowned Roma musician Esma Redžepova will perform in Maribor.
- **WEBSITE:** www.romanochon.org
**CABARET NEW BURLESQUE**

- **DATE:** 4 - 8 April 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor and Ptuj
- **GENRE:** performing arts (cabaret, burlesque show)

**DESCRIPTION:**
The Cabaret New Burlesque performance from the US preserves the authenticity of cabaret, variety shows, musicals, and the travesty of gender, kitsch and trash. Celebrating the female body through American cultural iconography from decades gone by, Cabaret New Burlesque stars saucy ladies: Kitten on the Keys, creator and emcee on piano, ukulele and accordion, international sensation and Miss Exotic World (2004) Dirty Martini and Mimi Le Meaux mixing rock and punk with the glamour of 1950s striptease. There’s the arty Julie Atlas Muz blending burlesque and contemporary dance, 1940s-esque angel-faced (but with a devilish body) Evie Lovelle and of course, the token male - Roky Roulette, the show’s star stripper on a pogo-stick.

**WEBSITE:** [www.cabaretsnewburlesque.com](http://www.cabaretsnewburlesque.com)

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**Coal mining Museum of Slovenia: LAIBACH KUNST**

- **DATE:** 1 – 30 April 2012
- **LOCATION:** Velenje
- **GENRE:** visual arts (exhibition)

**DESCRIPTION:**
For this exhibition the internationally renowned multidisciplinary collective and performance group Laibach used huge canvases on which they recreated the imagery of industrial landscapes, relying for the most part on the linocut technique. Large scale Laibach Kunst paintings, made in recent years, are magnifications of small black-and-white woodcuts from their first years of music production in the beginning of the 1980s. The images stayed the same, only their format changes, just as the social context has changed. The exhibition consists of twelve oversized canvases; at the end there is a relief with the familiar recurring motif that is characteristic of Laibach: the cross.

**WEBSITE:** [http://muzej.rlv.si/en](http://muzej.rlv.si/en)
Troubleyn / Jan Fabre VZW: SIMON, GANGSTER OF ART

- **DATE:** 9 May 2012 (world premiere), 10 – 12 May 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor, SNG
- **GENRE:** performing arts (dance solo)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  The grand master of contemporary theatre and fine arts from Belgium; the director, painter, dramatist, and visual artist Jan Fabre will prepare for the European Capital of Culture Maribor 2012 a multimedia solo dance performance about a saintly gangster; about life between ecstasy and the abyss. He will stir our imagination; his punishment will become our catharsis.
- **WEBSITE:** www.troubleyn.be

DVK Magdalena: MAGDALENA

- **DATE:** 17 – 20 May 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** visual arts (international festival of creative communication)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  Magdalena is turning from a three-day festival into an interactive multimedia platform, which will – in the form of a new online portal – constantly seek, encourage, promote and unite different forms of original, creative, socially responsible and critical communication.
- **WEBSITE:** www.magdalena.org
Bunker and II. Gimnazija Maribor: MLADIBOR

- **DATE:** third week of May 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** children and youth workshops
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  Youth programmes encompassing not only visits to performances and exhibitions but rather seek to offer a comprehensive experience, during which an artwork is presented as part of a greater context and the young visitors are encouraged to express their own creativity and view of the ideal capital.
- **WEBSITE:** www.mladibor.si

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THE OSSIPOV BALALAIKA ORCHESTRA

- **DATE:** 30 May 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** classical music (concert)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  The Oissipov Balalaika Orchestra is often referred to as a national treasure and is regarded as one of the greatest ambassadors of Russian musical culture. It is a unique ensemble of eighty musicians who perform exclusively on Russian folk instruments. Since its establishment, the Ossipov Orchestra has toured the entire world, releasing 70 LPs and 45 CDs and earning the reputation as one of the best folk ensembles in the world.
- **WEBSITE:** www.ossipovorchestra.ru/en
Martin Zimmermann and Dimitri de Perrot: CHOUF OCHOUF

- **DATE:** 5 and 6 June 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** performing arts (performance with acrobats)
- **DESCRIPTION:** Within the framework of surrealist theatre, this duo of Swiss artists captivates audiences with an acrobatic circus. Without words they tell humorous tales about everyday incidents, which are sometimes on the brink of reality. Normal girls and boys turn into a real catwomen and spidermen from Arab world.
- **WEBSITE:** www.chouochouf.ch

Bartabas and Equestrian Show Academy in Versailles: THE WAY OF THE RIDER

- **DATE:** 12, 13, 14 June 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** performing arts (equestrian performance)
- **DESCRIPTION:** A spectacular performance with 32 horses and 12 riders, which was directed by the established theatre artist Bartabas. According to him, riding is not a sport but rather an art which demands a rider’s complete dedication and is reminiscent of ballet. His ideas come to life in wonderful performances, which he uses to celebrate the extraordinary elegance of the horses’ bodies and the magical powers of the theatre.
- **WEBSITE:** www.bartabas.fr/Academie-du-spectacle-equestre

PHOTO: Mario del Curto

PHOTO: Agathe Poupeney
Betontanc and Original Tempo: AUDITION FOR LIFE

- DATE: 22 June – 7 July 2012
- LOCATION: Maribor
- GENRE: performing arts (contemporary dance)
- DESCRIPTION:
  The dance performance Audition for Life will result from collaboration between the established Slovenian dance and theatre group Betontanc, the Japanese dance and multimedia collective Original Tempo, and the musical duo Silence. Relying on the latest in modern dance technology, the performance will offer a fresh and innovative approach to choreography and multimedia.
- WEBSITE: www.bunker.si/eng/production/betontanc

Slovenj Gradec Culture House: SLOVENJ GRADEC SUMMER FESTIVAL

- DATE: 22 June – 1 September 2012
- LOCATION: Slovenj Gradec
- GENRE: multicultural events
- DESCRIPTION:
  On two stages and in five cultural, historic and religious buildings, over 50 cultural events will take place, including jazz, folk and rock concerts by young international solo performers and bands. There will also be performances by established folklore ensembles, the RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra and the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra.
- WEBSITE: www.kulturni-dom-sg.si
Narodni dom Maribor: LENT FESTIVAL

- **DATE:** 22 June – 7 July 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** multicultural festival
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  One of the top 50 events in Europe with more than 400 performances and half a million visitors, the Lent Festival is at the same time the biggest Slovenian festival and the largest open-air event in Southeastern Europe. In its 18-year-long history it has developed into a creative beehive of different styles, art forms and methods of interaction with the audience. So far, the festival has received over 40 awards of the international festival association IFEA. Every year the festival is attended by over half a million people. The event’s redeveloped concept “Bordering European Experiences” or BEE will be fully implemented in the years 2012 and 2013, when the festival – through the inclusion of the whole town and all performers – will cause a creative buzz just before the summer heat sets in. The new concept will introduce a fresh form of creative dialogue between the space and the programme’s cultural reproduction. With its new concept, the Lent Festival is developing into an even more intense experience that is definitely worth visiting for at least a couple of days.
- **WEBSITE:** [www.festival-lent.si](http://www.festival-lent.si)

Slovenian Association of Puppeteers: LILA PRAP’S PUPPET INTERVENTION

- **DATE:** 26 June – 1 July 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** puppets, street performances, parades
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  The town will be taken over by huge and fascinating puppets based on characters created by Lila Prap, who is a real phenomenon among Slovenian illustrators, since her works have already been translated into more than 20 languages and published in the USA, Japan, France, Spain, Germany, and elsewhere. The puppets will parade along the streets of the town.
- **WEBSITE:** [http://druluus.blogspot.com/](http://druluus.blogspot.com/)
ROCK OTOČEC FESTIVAL

- **DATE**: 28 June – 1 July 2012
- **LOCATION**: Novo mesto (Otočec)
- **GENRE**: non-classical music (concerts)
- **DESCRIPTION**: Rock Otočec ranks among the most "out-there" festivals in this part of Europe. It is a real paradise for young fans of music and relaxed fun. The European Little Brother of Woodstock, as the open-air festival is sometimes called, promotes non-violence and tolerance and discourages the use of drugs. Every year over 10,000 visitors flock in to the festival. Rock Otočec is famous for its huge puddles of mud where visitors can roll around in while enjoying their favourite music – this has evolved into the epitome of youthful fun.
- **WEBSITE**: www.rock-otocec.com

Anton Podbevšek Theatre: THE MAN WITH THE BOMBS

- **DATE**: 30 June 2012
- **LOCATION**: Novo mesto (Otočec)
- **GENRE**: non-classical music (rock opera)
- **DESCRIPTION**: Drawing from a multitude of genres, the opera The Man with the Bombs will be premièred during the Rock Otočec Festival. The opera is based on a collection of poems by the Slovenian avant-garde poet Anton Podbevšek. Participating in the performance will be numerous Slovenian bands and ensembles, including Laibach, Siddharta, Dan D, the Slovene Octet, and others.
- **WEBSITE**: www.antonpodbevsekteater.si
MARIBOR 2012/Guimarães: FOOTBALL CULTURE

- DATE: June
- LOCATION: Maribor/Guimarães
- DESCRIPTION:
  Football plays a very important part in the social lives of both Maribor and Guimarães. Therefore, a football match in 2012 is absolutely inevitable. The first game will take place in Maribor in early June 2012, and the second one shortly after that in Guimarães. The matches will be accompanied by concerts by Zoran Predin, the most popular singer-songwriter from Maribor, and a Portuguese performer which will be selected by Guimarães 2012.

MARIBOR INTERNATIONAL ORCHESTRA – MIO 2012

- DATE: summer 2012
- LOCATION: Maribor, partner towns and other
- GENRE: classical music (concerts, workshops)
- DESCRIPTION:
  The project’s central element is a programme which gives young musicians the opportunity to learn from established and experienced European artists and music teachers that participate in the project as tutors and share with the up-and-comers their knowledge and experience, thus bringing their creative endeavours to the highest artistic level. Consisting of more than 200 young hopefuls, the Maribor International Orchestra will first present itself to the local audience in Maribor before going on to perform in front of a wider international audience.

- WEBSITE: www.mio2012.com
ART STAYS FESTIVAL

- **DATE:** 10 July – 30 August 2012
- **LOCATION:** Ptuj
- **GENRE:** visual arts (exhibitions, site-specific projects, performances, live sets)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  The international contemporary art festival offers various solo and group exhibitions, site-specific projects, performances, live sets, interventions into public space, lectures, workshops, discussions, and much more. The Summer Academy – an integral part of the Art Stays Festival – gives people of all generations and backgrounds the opportunity to experience contemporary art live and first-hand.
  
  **WEBSITE:** [www.artstays.si](http://www.artstays.si)

ARSANA FESTIVAL

- **DATE:** 20 July – 3 August 2012
- **LOCATION:** Ptuj
- **GENRE:** classical music (concerts, workshops)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  The explosive performances of both Vox Arsana and the Maribor orchestra will light the stage with songs from different European countries and in different languages, which will be arranged especially for this project. The Arsana Festival also offers a wide range of side events in the form of concerts and thematic events. The festival will be in July 2012.
  
  **WEBSITE:** [www.arsana.si](http://www.arsana.si)
**Lokalpatriot: FOTOPUB**

- **DATE:** 23 July – 18 August 2012
- **LOCATION:** Novo mesto
- **GENRE:** visual arts (photography workshops, exhibitions)

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Fotopub Festival of Documentary Photography is an event dedicated entirely to documentary photography, with up to 10 exhibitions, a set of workshops, lectures, and screenings of photo-stories. Festival brings to the city of Novo mesto a summertime influx of international visitors interested in photography, acclaimed professionals, as well as photography lovers of all generations. It features up to 10 exhibitions of documentary photography and multimedia projects. Fotopub is also an arena for photographers, tutors, curators, editors, enthusiasts, and experts to meet in discussion.

**WEBSITE:** [www.fotopub.com](http://www.fotopub.com)

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**KUD Čar Griča: AYE FESTIVAL**

- **DATE:** 1 – 10 August 2012
- **LOCATION:** Ptuj
- **GENRE:** children and youth workshops

**DESCRIPTION:**

The festival will revive the city center, connecting it with the youngest of audiences, children and encouraging them to express themselves creatively. There will be as many as eleven different workshops intended especially for them: crafts, music and dance, literary-journalistic workshops. In the search for coexistence with nature, parents will be able to partake in a series of lectures about nature’s energies.

**WEBSITE:** [www.ustvarjalnost.si](http://www.ustvarjalnost.si)
### Lokalpatriot: JAZZINTY

- **DATE:** 16 – 21 August 2012  
- **LOCATION:** Novo mesto  
- **GENRE:** non-classical music (concerts, workshops)  
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  
  Another significant element of the programme in Novo Mesto will be the traditional jazz festival Jazzinty, which has a strong international dimension. Foreign jazz musicians and pedagogues are invited to run the workshops and to play at the festival. In spite of rather conventional musical programming there’s also a space for more progressive performers, teachers, and concerts. The Jazzon Award is bestowed every year.

- **WEBSITE:** [www.jazzinty.com](http://www.jazzinty.com)

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### Velenje Youth Centre: KUNIGUNDA FESTIVAL

- **DATE:** 17 – 26 August 2012  
- **LOCATION:** Velenje  
- **GENRE:** non-classical music (concerts, performances, theatres), youth festival  
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  
  The Kunigunda Festival of young cultures gives young people the opportunity to have fun and enjoy themselves, but also giving them social standing and validity, enabling them to form their own opinions and views about society in the future.

- **WEBSITE:** [www.kunigunda.org](http://www.kunigunda.org)
Ptuj Thermal Spa: ROMAN GAMES

- **DATE:** 16 - 19 August 2012
- **LOCATION:** Ptuj
- **GENRE:** performing arts (street performances, shows, culinary experiences)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  
  The Roman games bring the oldest Slovenian town Ptuj back to the time of the Romans. The town is literally flooded by 1,500 Roman soldiers that demonstrate the life and customs of that time in different camps, in the market, and with the original Roman games, featuring a demonstration of former fights in the Coliseum. In 2012, the two-week long event will be the most resounding summer event in Ptuj, where the visitors can indulge in the historical events and then relax in the near-by thermal park.

Student Publishing House: DAYS OF POETRY AND WINE

- **DATE:** 21 – 25 August 2012
- **LOCATION:** Ptuj
- **GENRE:** literature (poetry reading, concerts, film productions, performances, exhibitions)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  
  Days of Poetry and Wine has a rich tradition as one of the most important European poetry festivals. The festival will attract the biggest living names of contemporary poetry in 2012. Other forms of art will join the poetry readings, as there will be several concerts, film projections, streets performances, exhibitions, puppet performances, reading hours for children, and the city center of Ptuj will be enwrapped in artistic installations for a week.
- **WEBSITE:** www.poezijainvino.org
Flota Institute: FRONTA, contemporary dance festival

- **DATE:** 24 August - 1 September 2012
- **LOCATION:** Murska Sobota
- **GENRE:** performing arts (contemporary dance)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  Murska Sobota becomes the European center of dance in August. Beside excellent international performances, the Fronta Festival also includes exciting films and video projections of dance, created especially for the camera, and young, talented dancers. In discussions after the shows, the visitors will have the opportunity to ask the resident artists questions. During the day, there will be different dance workshops with top-quality teachers.
- **WEBSITE:** www.flota.si

Plesna izba Maribor: MARIBUM

- **DATE:** 1 – 25 September 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** non-classical music (drum festival)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  A drum festival that transforms itself into a real musical gallery of the most varied, unusual, and interesting musical instruments. It is organized on the basis of friendly and professional connections of musicians from around the world and is therefore an important juncture of different music cultures.
- **WEBSITE:** www.plesnaizba.si
Slovene Philharmonic String Chamber Orchestra Association: MARIBOR FESTIVAL

- **DATE:** 5 – 15 September 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** classical music (concerts, workshops)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  Festival Maribor continues with its tradition of the internationally renowned chamber music festival Musical September. The head of these creative, executive, and artistic excesses of this year’s festival is artistic director Richard Tognetti, who never ceases to surprise with his well-thought out concept of global dimensions. Among other things, the festival boasts new works and prehistoric renditions of classical music, multimedia projects; it transcends the limits of classical music with primal ethnic and jazz music. Among the participants are a number of virtuosos in their field, who will be performing as soloists and members of the occasional Festival orchestra and will participate in the unique music workshop together with the members of the Slovene Philharmonic Orchestra. The festival events will be further variegated in the year of Maribor 2012 by the orchestra academy’s newly-founded Festival Orchestra-Junior.

- **WEBSITE:** [www.festivalmaribor.si](http://www.festivalmaribor.si)

National Theatre Radu Stanca Sibiu: FAUST

- **DATE:** 7 and 8 September 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** performing arts (theatre performance)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  Faust, directed by Silvio Purcarete, will certainly satisfy your appetites. A huge spectacle with one hundred performers, in which the audience members are directly involved. The subject matter – a gloomy philosopher and scientist sells his soul to the devil to gain eternal youth – allows the director to let his imagination roam freely. The show is even more unique because it has only been performed outside its home town a few times due to its difficulty; however, it has always been received with standing ovations as an unforgettable experience.

- **WEBSITE:** [www.sibfest.ro](http://www.sibfest.ro)
Velenje Festival: PIPPI LONGSTOCKING FESTIVAL

- **DATE:** 14 - 23 September 2012
- **LOCATION:** Velenje
- **GENRE:** children and youth workshops, performances

**DESCRIPTION:**
Each year the festival brings great joy to Velenje, flooding the town with the laughter of children that have answered the invitation of Pippi Longstocking, the legendary character created by the Swedish writer Astrid Lingred. The Pippi Longstocking Festival is the largest cultural, educational and fun event for children and youth in Slovenia. For over 20 years it has been providing Velenje with a rich and diverse assortment of events and programmes for children and the youth, encompassing over 100 creative workshops, performances and exhibitions. It attracts over 65,000 (mostly young) visitors every year. In 2012 it will be one of the main items on Velenje’s European Capital of Culture agenda. To honour this special occasion, the festival will be carried out within a new programmatic and infrastructural framework.

- **WEBSITE:** [www.festival-velenje.si/pikin-festival](http://www.festival-velenje.si/pikin-festival)

Plesna Izba Maribor: NAGIB FESTIVAL

- **DATE:** 15 - 29 September 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** performing arts (contemporary dance)

**DESCRIPTION:**
The NagiB Festival is an international festival of contemporary dance. Taking part in the festival are artists and researchers with strong concepts, socially critical views and specific aesthetics, such as Katie Duck, Philipp Riera, Advo Zakai and many others. Apart from offering a wide range of dance performances, the Festival uses the video medium as a means of documentation and communication, and YouTube as a distribution platform. The interested public will get the opportunity to express its creativity while the audience members will be put into the role of active and critical observers and sometimes even become direct participants in the artistic process.

- **WEBSITE:** [www.nagib.si](http://www.nagib.si)
Sankai Juku: TOBARI

- **DATE**: 22 and 23 September 2012
- **LOCATION**: Maribor
- **GENRE**: performing arts (buto dance)
- **DESCRIPTION**: A legendary Japanese Butoh dance group formed in the seventies by Ushio Amagatsu, the greatest aesthete among aesthetes. The sublime beauty of their performances has brought the group international acclaim; today Sankai Juku ranks among the greatest theatrical phenomena in the world. The performance Tobari, meaning curtain or that moment when dusk turns into darkness in Japanese, will wow the audience with the dancer’s dream-like movements, who are like real warriors of beauty in their totally concentrated state.
- **WEBSITE**: www.sankaijuku.com

REBECCA HORN

- **DATE**: September 2012
- **LOCATION**: Maribor
- **GENRE**: visual arts (exhibition)
- **DESCRIPTION**: The German visual artist, famous for her body modifications and installations, will inspire even the most demanding lovers of arts with her exhibition of selected works. The imagery of her performances, films, sculptures, spatial installations, drawings and photographs is a result of the tremendous precision of the physical and technical functionality she uses to stage her works within a particular space. Her new works define and cut through spaces with reflections of mirrors, light and music.
- **WEBSITE**: www.rebecca-horn.de
**SNG Maribor: MARIBOR THEATRE FESTIVAL – BRIDGES**

- **DATE:** 14 - 28 October 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** performing arts (theatre performances, lectures, round tables)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  Maribor Theatre Festival is not only the central, oldest, and most reputable theatre festival in Slovenia, but it is the manifestation of twists and challenges. Bridges, an international program section of the festival, strengthens the international program of foreign visiting shows and enables it to confront and have a dialogue with the Slovene theatrical creativity, as some of the most important shows from the wider region, Europe and other continents will be featured in the festival.
- **WEBSITE:** www.borstnikovo.si

**ETNIKA FESTIVAL**

- **DATE:** 29 September – 29 October 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** non-classical music (concerts)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  The Festival is distinguished by a diverse programme that comprises music from the four corners of the world, which makes Etnika easily recognizable not only on the local level but also in the wider world music scene. The festival’s central aims are to preserve musical heritage and tradition and to promote them among today’s listeners. In 2012 there will be 36 performers at the Etnika Festival (from Afghanistan, Vietnam, France, Bulgaria and Siberia), whose main guideline is cosmopolitanism, preserving musical heritages and traditions as well as transferring them to today’s listener.
- **WEBSITE:** www.etnika.si
Gallery of Murska Sobota: FROM PAGE TO SPACE, Published paper sculptures

- **DATE:** 11 October 2012 – 9 January 2013
- **LOCATION:** Murska Sobota
- **GENRE:** visual arts (exhibition)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  The exhibition From Page to Space of the Research Centre for Artists' Publications at The Weserburg, Bremen’s Museum of Modern Art, is an unusual journey into contemporary art. A selection of more than 90 artists of various art tendencies – Constructivism, Pop Art, Conceptual Art, Nouveau Réalisme, Fluxus, Visual Poetry – explore, in an unexpected and surprising way, the richness of sculpture. All the works are three dimensional and have been published, either independently or in books, ranging from the late 1950s to now. Works are from Yaacov Agam to Andy Warhol, from a simple fold-out by Marc Verstockt to a sophisticated pop-up by Andreas Gursky, from a three-dimensional invitation card by Cildo Meireles to a large ‘tableau-piège’ by Daniel Spoerri, from a simply folded hat by Robert Filliou to a multicolor one by Roy Lichtenstein, from a sculpture-book by James Lee Byars to a sculpture in several parts by Julio Plaza and Augusto de Campos. Curator of the exhibition is Guy Schraenen.

- **WEBSITE:** www.weserburg.de

Victoria Chaplin and Jean-Baptiste Thieree: LE CIRQUE INVISIBLE

- **DATE:** 6, 7, 8, 9 November 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** performing arts (circus performance)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  These two stage legends from France have been captivating audiences around the world with their unique circus for over forty years. They perform feats that one would usually not attribute to people of their age. They have been a continuous source of inspiration to established troupes such as Cirque du Soleil as well as for all the new circus generations that have managed to turn the circus from entertainment into a recognized form of theatre. Victoria, Charlie Chaplin’s daughter, and Jean-Baptiste are legends of the stage and their special circus has been entertaining audiences all around the world for forty years.

- **WEBSITE:** www.karavane.pro/16/le-cirque-invisible
**TRACING AN OUTLINE: Drawing from Tate Collection**

- **DATE:** November – December 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor UGM
- **GENRE:** visual arts (exhibition)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  Tracing an Outline explores the Tate Collections rich holding of works on paper and the radical transformation of the medium of drawing throughout the twentieth century, a period when numerous artists subjected the traditional concepts of drawing to a critical examination and expanded the medium’s definition. Exhibition includes approximately one hundred and fifty works, covering a period from the nineteenth century to the present. It will take in a wide range of British, American and international artists both familiar and relatively unknown, including artists like Eileen Agar, Carl Andre, Francis Bacon, Gilbert & George, Richard Hamilton, Joan Miró, Pablo Picasso, Robert Rauschenberg, Andy Warhol...

- **WEBSITE:** www.tate.org.uk, www.ugm.si

**Podjetje Šahohlačnik: BLACK-AND-WHITE WORLD, World Youth Chess Championships**

- **DATE:** 7-19 November 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** chess
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  During the World Championships about 3000 guests from all around the globe will visit Maribor. A series of cultural, educational and sports events will be followed by several spectacular events that will be held for the first time ever in Slovenia. Especially worth mentioning is the amazing blindfold chess event, where a young chess master will simultaneously play a number of players with his eyes blindfolded.
Carinthian Gallery of Fine Arts: SOFT CONTROL

- **DATE:** 14 November 2012 (opening in Slovenj Gradec), 15 November 2012 (opening in Maribor), 16 – 17 November 2012 (international symposium)
- **LOCATION:** Slovenj Gradec, Maribor
- **GENRE:** visual arts (exhibitions)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  The “SOFT CONTROL” project in collaboration with the festival platform KIBLIX in Maribor is intended for presenting, documenting and forming a platform between Slovene and European artists, researches and theorists dealing in different ways of interaction between modern art and science and technology. The main focuses of the project are designated for an exhibition (in Slovenj Gradec and Maribor), which will present the latest artistic works in various sections of science and technology, and also for an international conference of the Slovene Society of Aesthetics on Science and Art, which will feature shows and performances.
- **WEBSITE:** [www.kiba.org](http://www.kiba.org), [www.glu-sg.si](http://www.glu-sg.si)

Forman Brothers Theatre: OBLUDARIUM

- **DATE:** 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 November 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor, tent in the town park
- **GENRE:** performing arts (circus performance)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  Twin brothers Petr and Matej Forman have charmed audiences all over the world with their tent, filled with unusual creatures. They have united the worlds of dreams and playfulness in Obludarium. Aimed both at the wider audience as well as theatre aficionados, the performance comprises 20 artists, masters of various trades and musicians from the Czech Republic. As a consequence, we see bearded ladies, friendly giants and omnipotent freaks appear before our eyes, accompanied by the music of the Trained Swines Orchestra; thirsty audience members are invited to the mobile Obludarium Bar, where guests are treated to beer, wine, mineral water or lemonade.
- **WEBSITE:** [www.formanstheatre.cz](http://www.formanstheatre.cz)
Epeka Maribor: EUROPEAN COMICS

- **DATE:** December
- **LOCATION:** Maribor, Maribor Art Gallery
- **GENRE:** visual arts (exhibitions)
- **DESCRIPTION:** Exhibitions in 2011 and 2012 will present authors that profoundly influenced the development and popularity of comics in Slovenia – including Tomaž Lavrič, Kostja Gatnik and Miki Muster – and the comic heroes that captivate Europe – Tintin, Alan Ford, and many others. We will put on display originals by celebrated international artists such as Herge, Hugo Pratt, Max Bunker, Magnus, and others.
- **WEBSITE:** www.epeka.si

Maribor 2012: CULTURAL EMBASSIES

- **LOCATION:** Maribor and partner towns
- **GENRE:** performing arts, non-classical music, classical music, visual arts, film, literature, gastronomy, folklore, children and youth creativity
- **DESCRIPTION:** In cooperation with the embassies of European countries, Maribor will turn into a town presenting art from different European cultures. Twelve EU Member States and eight non-members will present themselves in the center of town, a few each month of the year. When it is their turn, each country will give a big opening party and prepare an exhibition, information materials which will be made available at Vetrinj Mansion, an art installation in the Mansion’s courtyard, and a rich cultural programme. Due to great interest, a number of other locations will also be available so that within one month several European cultures can present themselves and enrich the multicultural identity of Maribor and its partner towns. January is a month for culture and art from Finland and Estonia, February for Hungary, March for Spain, April for Italy, May for France, June for Germany, July for Great Britain, September for Belgium, October for Austria and December for culture from Latvia. The art and culture of far-off countries will also be presented, like Japan, India, Mexico and Venezuela, as well as the US, Israel, Liberia, Russia, Poland, Croatia, Kosovo and Portugal.
**KMŠ Publishing House: TWELVE**

- **LOCATION:** Maribor and partner towns
- **GENRE:** literature and philosophy
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  
  Project Twelve puts Maribor into the center of creative thought dedicated to the examination of the future of global society. Each month of 2012 Maribor or one of its partner towns will host one renowned international figure which holds a key role in his or her creative field, ranging from the arts to philosophy. These twelve leading representatives, including Charles Simic, Boris Groys, Jan Fabre, Rebecca Horn, and Garry Kasparov and others from various disciplines will share their views on a specific urban aspect of the future. The visits of the authors and thinkers to Maribor will be accompanied by numerous events which will attract great visitor numbers.

**Vivi d.o.o.: CAPITAL OF FLAVOURS**

- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** culinary arts
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  
  The European Capital of Flavour will spice up the assortment of ECOC events by adding a spoonful of culinary pleasures. There will be numerous events and festivals dedicated to the already rich culinary tradition in the town and the wider region. Visitors could embark on the Trail of Flavours, which will offer an insight into the town’s cuisine and give visitors the opportunity to make specific culinary choices. An important role will be played by regional wine festivals, which will attract the attention of lovers of Slovenian wine, since all the partner towns will join forces and contribute their special and distinct wine tradition.

- **WEBSITE:** www.maribor2012.eu/en/
Ana Monro Theatre: LIVE SQUARES AND COURTYARDS

- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** performing arts
- **DESCRIPTION:** Maribor’s courtyards will come to life through street theatre performances by artists from Maribor, Slovenia and abroad, who will prepare spatial interventions, dance performances, street and site-specific theatre performances, concerts as well as intermedia projects and fine art installations.
- **WEBSITE:** [www.ziva-dvorisca.si](http://www.ziva-dvorisca.si)

EKTC Maribor: THE SPECTRUM OF SOUNDS

- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** classical music (concerts)
- **DESCRIPTION:** Outstanding classical music performances in the historic town centre will take the listeners back in time. The programme was put together by the artistic director Andrej Petrač, an established and internationally acclaimed violoncellist and music teacher from Maribor, in cooperation with the European Cultural and Technological Centre Maribor.
- **WEBSITE:** [www.ektc.si](http://www.ektc.si)
**Mediamix: MARIBOR CLUB 2012**

- **LOCATION:** Maribor
- **GENRE:** non-classical music (concerts, exhibitions, music workshops)
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  The bars around town will be filled with live music, which will stir the hearts of younger and older audiences alike. The focus will be on blues and most of the events will be concerts, although there will also be some exhibitions, music workshops, jam sessions, thematic events with specific food and instruments, and much more.

**Velenje Youth Centre: WATER TOWN (GEODESIC ECOLOGICAL FLOATING OBJECT)**

- **LOCATION:** Velenje
- **GENRE:** visual arts
- **DESCRIPTION:**
  Unusual domes reminiscent of honeycombs will pop up on the surface of Lake Velenje. The domes represent a synergy between art and ecology since they will be absolutely self-sustaining and secure the natural resources they need – water and energy – all by themselves.
- **WEBSITE:** www.mc-velenje.si
Koroška Regional Museum: REVIVING THE SOUNDS OF THE PAST

- **LOCATION:** Slovenj Gradec
- **GENRE:** classical music
- **DESCRIPTION:** The events dedicated to the internationally renowned composer Hugo Wolf (1860–1903), who was born in Slovenj Gradec, will include an international solo singing competition, an international musicological symposium and solo singing workshop as well as numerous concerts, stage performances and publishing projects.
- **WEBSITE:** www.kpm.si

Exhibition in several towns – OOF, INDUSTRY!, Creative Industries

- **DATE:** 18 August – 31 December 2012
- **LOCATION:** Maribor and its partner towns
- **GENRE:** visual art / fine art (exhibitions)
- **DESCRIPTION:** In the summer of 2012, the leading museums in Maribor, Murska Sobota, Ptuj and Ravne na Koroškem as well as the gallery in Velenje will give insight into the histories of local industrial giants with exhibitions on TAM, Talum, Mura, the Ravne Steelworks and Gorenje. They will show how creativity – in combination with the economy – manifests itself in well-designed products and convincing marketing.
EXPERIENCE SLOVENIA IN THE MIDST OF CULTURE!

Maribor and partner towns can be your holiday destinations in 2012 that will add something special to your leisure activities in 2012 – a selection of cultural events suited for all tastes. Here are some tips for experiencing as much diversity as possible at the ECOC. We are certain you will discover many more yourselves, when you look through the program and at the selection of Slovene tourist destinations.

Have fun with your loved ones! The tourist destination Maribor-Pohorje with its diverse offer enables the family to spend precious holiday time together for a weekend of perhaps simply a day – any time of year! Visitors can explore the city’s sights in an interesting way: by train, carriage, raft or boat. They can take in a puppet or circus performance, participate in creative workshops or simply let the chords of the pleasant music at numerous concerts take them away. Different types of play-time equipment will keep the children busy, while the parents can relax, sipping delicious coffee, listening to music and indulging in culinary treats.

The sea of the green forest on the Pohorje plateau is perfect for exercising and games; just as inviting are also the picturesque green hillocks, the Drava river, the green parks as oases in the city and the botanical gardens. Hikers can explore educational paths, forests, jungles and many creeks on hikes along the Pohorje hills or perhaps discover the different footpaths and educational routes on bike; there are plenty that are suitable for families with children as well as for experienced cyclists. Exploring the animal kingdom is wonderful, whether in the green nature or in aquariums and terrariums. Families can dive into the wet world of thermal parks together or parents can treat themselves to the pampering of a variety of wellness services. There is fun for the whole family in adrenalin and other entertaining parks. When the Pohorje hills are covered in snow, skiing, snowboarding or cross-country skiing is the only logical decision.

We would like to point out the possibility of accommodation in the very midst of nature, below Pohorje or at the very top with a phenomenal view of Maribor. There is also the apartment complex or one of the other accommodation providers to choose from. The hotels offer excellent packages for families, including an interesting animation program, tailored to the season.
CITY BREAK - MARIBOR

The lively pulse of the capital of Styria, its exquisite culture and events, rich wine tradition and the oldest vine in the world, the great possibilities for entertainment, relaxation and recreation in nature, along with its reputation as open-minded and hospitable is what has been attracting visitors for years.

In 2012 the city will be especially magical, as it will be transformed to accommodate several creative interventions, productions, spectacles and events, group actions that will be written in the record books; it will also have an enriched selection of food and social events. The new legendary street benches will offer the visitors a new perspective on the happenings on the streets; there will be an alternative shopping mall set up, filled with eco-friendly products, and a collector’s market for those who like to find good deals. There will be a comic book exhibition on the ‘street of fame’, street recitals, numerous gallery and museum exhibitions. Visitors can go shopping, drink a nice cup of coffee, enjoying many concerts and performances that will be going on in the city on four different stages. A good idea would also be a tour and wine tasting in one of the oldest wine cellars in Europe, the Vinag cellar under the city streets and a visit to the Old vine itself that they can spice up with a stroll along the Drava river or by riding the Drava Fairy boat. When day turns into night, Maribor is overflown by a special atmosphere and many bars invite party-goers, young by heart and soul.

We recommend our excellent accommodation in the city center.

Color your day in the eastern end of Slovenia with culture, for a day, a week, or more!

PAMPERING WITH A TOUCH OF ART

We are expecting you in the luxury of our green forests, so that you can relax completely and hand yourself over to endless pampering. Imagine emersing yourself into a world of saunas, water fun, spas, beauty and other massage programs to make you feel good and enriching your spirit in the evening by going to one of the ECOC events, only minutes away from the heart of unspoilt nature. Spectacular performances outdoors and in extraordinary acoustic halls will exceed your expectations and the city vibe filled with cultural events will fill your heart. There will be good food in the city squares as well as concerts and visitors longing for a bit of gambling can head to the Casino Mond.

Aside from the ECOC program’s diverse offer, the activities at the foot and on top of Pohorje will also guarantee your satisfaction. The top has a magnificent view and you can climb it by foot or ascend it with a cart. After having relaxed with the wellness services, the guests can go cycling, golfing or horseback riding. Adventure-seekers can ride the summer slays down the slopes or on their own skis in the winter. Pohorje is a place for spiritual and mindful relaxation. The exclusive hotels with their wide selection of wellness services will turn that time into a true Pohorje fairy tale.

If you long for relaxation of the mind and the spirit, excellent food, a pleasant climate and plenty of cultural events, then visiting Maribor in 2012 is the best option. Let your day turn into an unforgettable experience.
EXPERIENCE THE PARTNER TOWNS

Cross the bridge for a morning coffee by the river. Then stroll among the market stalls. Zigzag your way along medieval streets to the castle where numerous performances await. The museum and its exhibitions are only a few steps away. Descend below ground and explore subterranean secrets. Return to the vibrant town to see an event of your choice. Tomorrow, head to another partner town and see new sights and cultural events.

Every town is an experience unto itself. But together the partner towns form a trail on which separate experiences merge to provide new outlooks on space and time. Enrich your stay in Maribor with visits to Murska Sobota, Novo mesto, Ptuj, Slovenj Gradec and Velenje, and satisfy your artistic side.

The driving force behind culture in Murska Sobota is literature: the town’s literary output has had and continues to have a profound impact on various genres of Slovenian literature. What is more, the local writer Feri Lainšček has left an indelible impression on Slovenian cinema with his novels and screenplays. The Mura River divides the Pomurje region into vineyard covered hills in the west and lowlands in the east. Represented by the symbol of a stork, the region has enchanted many notable artists and especially landscape painters. The high points of Murska Sobota’s cultural programme will be the PAC Musical May Festival, the dialect literature festival Dialekta, the project Ballads and Romances of Pomurje, the Fronta Contemporary Dance Festival, and numerous exhibitions including From Page to Space and a retrospective of the works of the illustrator Miki Muster.

Novo mesto was the birthplace of Primož Trubar, the author of the first Slovene-language printed book. It was also the birthplace of the avant-garde movement The Spring of Novo Mesto, which was formed after World War I: combining the worlds of literature, fine arts and poetry, the movement gave rise to Slovenian expressionism. Today, Novo mesto does not lack major cultural institutions: it boasts a central library, a museum, and the recently established Anton Podbevšek Theatre, which is preparing – in cooperation with the Rock Otočec Festival – the project The Man With the Bombs to pay homage to the local avant-garde tradition. Also worth of note are the projects Town of Goga, Fotopub, and Jazzinty.
Ptuj is the oldest town in Slovenia. It has managed to keep alive some of its former pagan heritage as well as its central mythological figure – the Kurent – which plays a key role in the traditional Shrovetide Carnival. The town will host the 1st Intercontinental EtnoFest, a unique event with traditional carnival costumes from every continent that will take place as part of the Art and Heritage Festival. The town’s main historic and cultural destination is the imposing Ptuj Castle with its many museum collections, some of which rank among the most important collections in the Central European region. There are a Dominican and a Minorite monastery; also, a part of the town wall has been preserved, and there are archaeological remains from Roman times, in which Ptuj was already an important town. The town has a recently renovated central library, several art galleries, and a chamber music theatre which is preparing quite a number of interesting premières for next year. We must not forget the Days of Poetry and Wine, the Ptuj Wine Cellar, a golf course and the Ptuj Thermal Spa.

Nestled between formidable peaks, Slovenj Gradec is the centre of the Koroška region. The town is renowned for its fine arts tradition and as a place where the rich heritage of the past meets contemporary trends. Slovenj Gradec was the birthplace of Hugo Wolf, an ingenious master of late Romantic music. Various events will be dedicated to the internationally renowned composer, including a series of concerts, an international solo singing competition, a musicological symposium and an international stage performance. There will also be an International Barrel Organ Festival as well as a sculpture symposium and workshop. What is more, the interdisciplinary Artosphere project – which will be organised in cooperation with Maribor’s Kiblix Festival – will promote convergence in the field of Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Information Technology and Cognitive Science (NBIC).

Situated in the heart of Šalek Valley, Velenje is the fifth largest Slovenian town and one of the major industrial centres in the country. It is an exemplary product of the rapid industrialisation that was typical for the period of Tito’s Yugoslavia. Little wonder then that for a number of years in the past the town’s official name was Tito’s Velenje. Today, Velenje is a modern town focused on culture, the youth, and sports – especially water sports due to the vicinity of Lake Velenje. Furthermore, it is recognised for its many social programmes and the harmonious coexistence of people with different national and social backgrounds, which provides an excellent basis for cultural creativity. One of Velenje’s highlights is the Pippi Longstocking Festival, which celebrates Astrid Lindgren’s legendary literary character. Other central projects on Velenje’s ECOC 2012 agenda include Water Town; Ligi’s Stage – a venue set in a former mine shaft deep beneath the town; the art exhibition Laibach Kunst; and the colourful Kunigunda Festival of Young Cultures.
FURTHER INFORMATION ON
THE ECOC MARIBOR 2012

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We reserve the right to make changes to the programme in the event of unforeseen circumstances.