

# FRANCO BASAGLIA

**ONKRAJ MEJA**

**Prakse svobode**

**OLTRE I CONFINI**

**Pratiche di libertà**

**BEYOND THE BORDERS**

**Practices of Freedom**

**12.-14. 11.  
2025**

**NOVA GORICA-GORIZIA**

Mednarodna konferenca  
Convegno internazionale  
International conference



**Franco Basaglia**, the great Italian mental health reformer (1924–1980), started his work in the psychiatric hospital of Gorizia (1961–69), where the state border was its rear wall. When he moved to Trieste in 1971, he was able to close the first asylum in Europe through a process that led to the launch of the Italian Psychiatric Reform Law (1978). This law, closing all asylums, restored to the inmates all their rights as citizens and established community care as the rule in the country. This great example was paramount for the World Health Organization as best practice, while the Italian reform, supported by its law, became a point of reference for similar advancements in various countries, such as Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Argentina, among others. The Slovenian as well as the Italian communities have acknowledged his work as a great achievement not just for mental health and healthcare, but for civilization of mankind. Moreover, Trieste and the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, including Gorizia, became the symbol of a whole system change, admired and studied by visitors from all over the world, and in the last decades, mental health services in Gorizia have developed cross-border collaborations for reforms.

The proposed 3-days conference will be advocating better mental health for individuals and communities, for the change of the culture to disabilities, for the recognition of the need of universal coverage, for a care that is accessible to all, in places where people actually live, outside institutions. While honouring the figure of Basaglia and his work, this conference would take over his legacy and establish a meeting point for good practice programs and services, for innovative policies, in Europe and beyond.

The opening of the border means also opening of people's minds, interchanges and shared knowledge, and, above all the affirmation of freedom as the proposition of care, stating its therapeutic value – as 'freedom is therapeutic!' is written on the walls of the Trieste former asylum. And this is the actuality of Basaglia and his work today. He transgressed the borders between normalcy and otherness, sanity and madness; yet also between the institution and the social environment – the community – between science and culture, between professions, disciplines, between social and health, between generations.

Today, as we **GO! Borderless**, these borders must be still overcome. Basaglian thought affirms madness as a legitimate part of human existence and as a social and cultural phenomenon. Basaglian approach creates the culture of not excluding and establishes inclusive interactions. The professional culture is being challenged and changed by contesting the traditional professional mandates, by an imperative of being creative, the involvement in the community, by the necessity of working in teams, collaborating with diverse groups and actors.

The truly Basaglian praxis of freedom, is perhaps more needed than before – in order to remain human in the face of dehumanisation brought on us by digitalisation, algorithms, increasing authoritarianism, rising global temperature and the struggle for remaining resources. It is a practical wisdom, optimism of the practice, of doing things together that can overcome the pessimistic outlooks for the future.

In the first two days, many experts and other stakeholders, people with lived experience, carers, policy makers, citizens, workers of culture and science of many countries would attend and present their experiences at this important event, as the crossroads of change and transformation. This will be complemented by presentation of books and films. On the last day, the attendees will have the opportunity to visit services and projects realized through this cross-border collaboration.

A final declaration will be delivered to EU, the WHO and the UN.

## The Scientific Committee

- **dr. Roberto Mezzina**, former Director Trieste Mental Health Service, Vice President (European Region) of the World Federation for Mental Health,
- **dr. Franco Perazza**, former Director Gorizia Mental Health Service,
- **prof. Vito Flaker**, Full Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana,
- **prof. Giuseppina Scavuzzo**, Full professor in Architectural Design, Department of Engineering and Architecture, University of Trieste,
- **Jošt Cafuta Maček**, Researcher, Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana.

# European Capital of Culture Nova Gorica-Gorizia GO! 2025

In collaboration with:

European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation GECT / EZTS

World Federation for Mental Health, European region

University of Ljubljana, Faculty for Social Work

University of Trieste, Department of Architecture

organizes the international conference

## FRANCO BASAGLIA BEYOND THE BORDERS. PRACTICES OF FREEDOM

November 12th – 14th, Gorizia (ITA) / Nova Gorica (SLO)

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

TUESDAY

11<sup>TH</sup>

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18.00

Film: *E tu slegalo!*

(directed by Maurizio Sciarra) &

presentation of the book *Od blizu ni nihče normalen*

(Selected writings of Franco and Franca Basaglia, Vito Flaker,  
Založba \*cf., 2025)

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# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY

12<sup>TH</sup>

## FRANCO BASAGLIA “BEYOND”: MESSAGE AND IMPACT

Location: Gorizia, University, Aula Magna

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|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00                                               | Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 8:50–9:10                                          | <p>Opening – Greetings and public addresses: <b>Rodolfo Ziberna</b>, Mayor of Gorizia and <b>Stojan Pelko</b>, head of the programme GO! 2025</p> <p>Chair and introduction: <b>Roberto Mezzina</b> (ITA)</p> <p><b>Mauro Barberis / Gianni Peteani</b>: Nobel Prize Peace nomination to Franco Basaglia</p>                                                                                              |
| 9:10–10:00                                         | <p><b>Basaglia at the border</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Franco Perazza</b> (ITA): <b>Basaglia and Gorizia: a restitution. The redemption of Gorizia experience</b></li><li>▪ <b>Giuseppina Scavuzzo</b> (ITA): <b>Borders between the institution and its environment: reclaiming of the Parco Basaglia. Institutional architecture and psychiatry</b></li></ul>                  |
| <b>Basaglia beyond the borders of institutions</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:00–11:00                                        | <p><b>Franco Basaglia: his work, the utopia of reality, the optimism of practice</b></p> <p>Chair and introduction: <b>Michele Zanetti</b> (ITA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Maria Grazia Giannichedda</b> (ITA): <b>Who was Franco Basaglia?</b></li><li>◦ <b>Peppe Dell’Acqua</b> (ITA): <b>The transformation of the asylum to community services and the job of care</b></li></ul> |
| 10:00–11:30                                        | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 11:30–13:00                                        | <p><b>Round Table</b></p> <p><b>Basaglia beyond the borders of knowledge. The trajectory of life and ideas. Criticism of psychiatry, philosophical, sociological and political roots</b></p> <p>Chair and introduction: <b>Vito Flaker</b> (SLO)</p> <p>Panellists: <b>Mario Colucci</b> (ITA), <b>Mario Novello</b> (ITA), <b>Fabian Freyenhagen</b> (UK), <b>Stojan Pelko</b> (SLO)</p>                 |

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

13:00–13:45 Lunch

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13:45–14:30 **Basaglia after Basaglia. Trieste: utopia and reality. A paradigm shift**  
**Roberto Mezzina** (ITA), **Sashi P. Sashidharan** (UK)  
Discussant: **Paolo Peloso** (ITA)

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14:30–15:40 **Round Table**  
**On the frontiers of rights. From Basaglia until today: the subjects and citizenship**  
Chair and introduction: **Daniele Piccione** (ITA)  
Panelists: **Silva Bon** (ITA), **Gisella Trincas** (ITA), **Vahid Đulović / Esmina Avdibegović** (Bosnia-Herzegovina), **Michaela Moser** (AUT)

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15:40–17:10 **Parallel sessions**

**A. Basaglia's legacy in current politics of mental health in Italy: Forum Salute Mentale - Aula Magna**  
Chair and introduction: **Giovanna Del Giudice** (ITA)  
Panelists: **Carla Ferrari Aggradi** (ITA), **Pietro Pellegrini** (ITA), **Tiziana Tomasoni** (ITA), **Andraž Kapus** (SLO), **Fabrizio Starace** (ITA)

**B. Architecture and the psychiatry - Conference Center**

- **Giuseppina Scavuzzo** (ITA): **The Park of Infinite Healing. The Interrupted Dialogue Between Architecture and Psychiatry**
- **Lucina Caravaggi** (ITA) and **Cristina Imbroglini** (ITA): **Mindscaapes. Therapeutic Enclosures and Cultural Welfare**
- **Eliana Martinelli** (ITA): **Stages of memory. Strategies for the Regeneration of the Former San Salvi Asylum in Florence**
- **Anja Lazar** (SLO): **Spatial deployment of deinstitutionalization – a place to be**
- **Neža Čebren Lipovec / Jasna Fakin Bajec** (SLO)

**C. New subjects and social forms today - University, Room 404**  
Chair and introduction: **Thomas Emmenegger** (CH)  
Panelists: **Stefania Grimaldi** (ITA), **Tatjana Dolinšek / Aleksando Tabaj** (SLO), **Pavel Novak** (CZ), **Marco Bertoli** (ITA), **Elena Cerkvanič** (ITA)

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17:10–18:40 **Inequality and social exclusion**  
Chair and introduction: **Juan Carlos Fantin** (Argentina)  
Panelists: **Malik Gul** (UK), **Massimo Magnano** (ITA), **Piero D'Ingillo & George Suarez** (USA), **Paolo Zuttion** (ITA), **Darja Zaviršek** (SLO)

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THURSDAY

13<sup>TH</sup>

## THE IMPACT OF BASAGLIAN EXPERIENCE WORLDWIDE AND THE CONTEMPORARY REALITY

Location: EPICenter and Super Osmica,  
Nova Gorica

### EPICenter – Main Room

8:30 Greetings and public addresses – Samo Turel, Mayor of Nova Gorica and Mojca Urek, Dean of Faculty for Social Work Ljubljana

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8:40 Film: *The journey of Marco Cavallo across Slovenia*

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8:50–10:00 Chair and introduction: **Luciano Carrino** (ITA): Mental health and human development through international cooperation

- **Devora Kestel** (WHO Geneva): **The influence of Franco Basaglia on today's WHO policies**
- **Norman Lamb** (UK): **Mental health, politics and human rights**
- **Raijah Abu Sway** (WHO Palestine): **Mental health in emergencies**

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### A. BASAGLIA ON THE GROUND. INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE Parallel session

10:00–11:30 Round Table  
**Deinstitutionalization in Europe: focus on current trends**  
Chair and introduction: **Gabriele Rocca** (ITA)  
Panelists: **Roberto Mezzina** (ITA), **Jan Pfeiffer** (CZ), **Theodoros Megaloeconomou** (GR), **Urška Sorta / Dragica Fojan** (SLO)

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11:30–11:45 Coffee break

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11:45–13:15 Round Table  
**Reforms and policies in Europe and beyond**  
Chair and introduction: **Massimo Marsili** (ITA/France)  
Panelists: **Paulo Amarante** (Brazil), **Alberto Trimboli/Silvia Raggi** (Argentina), **Tim Kendall** (UK), **Andreja Rafaelič** (SLO)

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13:15–14:00 Lunch break

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# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**14:00–15:30 Round Table**  
**New services and methods: reflections from today's projects**  
Chair and introduction: **Alberto Salmoiraghi** (UK)  
Panelists: **Selvaraj Vincent** (UK), **Sheraz Ahmad** (UK), **Claudio Agostini** (IT), **equipe CSM Gorizia**, **Katja Kodelja** (ITA/SLO), **Jana Mali** (SLO)

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**15:30–15:45 Coffee break**

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**15:45–17:30 Round Table**  
**New subjects of change: from North to Global South**  
Chair and introduction: **Sashi Sashidharan** (UK)  
Panelists: **Vandana Gopikumar** (India), **Anita Abu Bakar** (Malaysia), **Alan Rosen & Vivienne Miller** (Australia), **Jan Berndsen** (NL), **Juanjo Jambrina Martinez** (E)

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## **B. WAR AND PEACE CRIMES. ROLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICIAN IN A TROUBLED WORLD. AGAINST RESTRAINT AND COERCION**

### **EPICenter – Main Room / Parallel Session**

**10:00–11:30 Round Table**  
**Professionals and services as social agents in war and peace (revisiting Gramsci)**  
Chair and introduction: **Vladimir Jović** (Serbia)  
Panelists: **Rajiah Abu Sway** (Palestine), **Renzo Bonn** (ITA), **Vera Grebenc** (SLO), **Maria Teresa Ferrazzoli** (ITA/UK)

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**11:30–11:45 Coffee break**

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**11:45–13:15 Workshop: Visual research methods against coercion (Erminia Colucci, ITA/UK)**

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**13:15–14:00 Lunch break**

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**14:00–15:30 Round Table**  
**How to stop coercion and restraint:**  
Chair and introduction: **Monika Bohinec** (SLO)  
Panelists: **Shulamit Ramon** (UK), **Thomas Emmenegger** (CH), **Lorenzo Toresini** (ITA), **Juš Škraban / Gal Prestor** (SLO), **Giovanna Del Giudice** (ITA)

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

15:30–15:45 Coffee break

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15:45–17:30 Round Table

**Affirming rights, undoing wrongs – advocacy in action**

Chair and introduction: **Mojca Urek** (SLO)

Panelists: **Jošt Cafuta Maček** (SLO), **Tatjana Knapp** (SLO),  
**Katarina Mauch** (SLO), **Associazione 180 Amici Puglia** (ITA),  
**Sophie Thunus** (B)

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## C. BASAGLIA, ART AND CULTURE

### Super Osmica / Parallel session

10:00–11:30 Culture and art as means of deinstitutionalisation  
(an expression of freedom)

Chair and introduction: **Staša Prah** (SLO)

Panelists: **Rajko Muršič** (SLO), **Sonja Bezjak** (SLO), **Pavel Berdon** (ITA), **Elena Cerkvanič** (ITA), **Maurizio Sciarra** (ITA), **Elisa Menon** (ITA), **Accademia della Follia** (ITA), **Giuseppe Pillo** (ITA)

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11:15–11:30 Coffee break

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11:30–13:15 General discussion and assembly

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13:15–14:00 Lunch break

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14:00–15:30 General discussion and assembly

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15:30–15:45 Coffee break

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15:45–17:30 Preparation: Cultural intervention in the Europe Square

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From 18.00 Celebration and party with performances, Europe Square – Final Document for Europe

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# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

FRIDAY

## 14<sup>TH</sup> FIELD VISITS

- **Parco Basaglia** (ex psychiatric hospital)
- **Community Mental Health Center in Gorizia**
- **Visit to the GECT project**  
(Nova Gorica/Šempeter: Community Mental Health Centre)
- **Deinstitutionalization of Dom Na Krasu (Dutovlje):**  
Resettlements at the border

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## Registration to the conference

The registration fee for the conference is **EUR 50.00**.

Students and people with lived experience pay **EUR 35.00**.

(The registration fee includes: lunch, coffee breaks for two days and a goodie bag)

### REGISTRATION

At the conference, simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Slovene, Italian, English and Spanish (on-line).

All the parallel session are opened to non-registered participants

For further information on the conference, please contact:

[basaglia.conference@go2025.eu](mailto:basaglia.conference@go2025.eu)

For further information on the project BASAGLIA and GO! 2025 Nova Gorica – Gorizia European Capital of Culture, please visit our website:

[Franco Basaglia Beyond the Borders: Practices of Freedom](#)

For info on where to stay, where to eat and how to reach Nova Gorica and Gorica:

[HIT \(promo code: ECOC GUEST\)](#)

[GO! 2025](#)

How to reach the conference venues:

[University of Trieste](#)

[EPICenter](#)

Organisational comitee

- Stojan Pelko, Javni zavod GO! 2025, Programme Director
- Alina Carli, Javni Zavod GO! 2025, Project Manager
- Marco Marinuzzi, EGTC GO, Project Manager for GO! 2025 – Coordinator of the activities in Italy