New Steps

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NEWSLETTER

THE OPERATIONAL PHASE HAS BEGUN

New Steps is on the move

New Steps - EU's first steps towards career transition support for dancers — has officially entered its operational phase. The 36-month project, funded by the Creative Europe programme, brings together six organisations from five EU countries: Savonia University of Applied Sciences (Finland, coordinator), SPACES Foundation (Bulgaria), Clubul de Dans Phoenix (Romania), MV International (Italy), Plesni klub Mimi (Slovenia) and Hypex (Italy).

The project addresses a critical and long-overlooked challenge: the career transition of professional dancers. Because a dancer's career is tied so closely to the body, the move away from performance tends to come earlier and more abruptly than for most other artists - often in the early to mid-30s - frequently without adequate financial, psychological or educational support. New Steps responds by adapting the concept of "dual career pathways," widely used in the sports sector, to the cultural domain, helping dancers build skills they can carry into cultural management and other roles within the Cultural and Creative Industries.

All partners at work on the research

The first major activity is now underway: a crossEuropean research effort led by Savonia University of Applied Sciences and SPACES Foundation, which coordinates the project's research and capacity-building work package. All partners are contributing to map the reasons behind and the consequences of dancers' career transitions across Europe.

The research combines desk research, national surveys and roundtables. Through desk research, the consortium is examining national approaches to dancers' career transitions, identifying common challenges and gaps, and gathering best practices of dual-career support - at least 15 to 30 across the partner countries. This will be complemented by roundtables bringing together stakeholders from the dance, sport, cultural and educational sectors, and by a survey addressed to professional and former dancers, which will be launched in September.

The aim is to fill a significant knowledge gap: there is currently no comprehensive EU-level data on dancers' career transitions, and most existing studies date back 15 years or more.

Stay tuned: from September, we will be inviting dancers across Europe to have their say through a **dedicated survey**.

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