

E-Motional: rethinking dance

[Project Description]



THE PROJECT, THE VISION

E-Motional: rethinking dance is an artist and manager-driven initiative, dedicated to exchange, research & artistic collaboration, co-production & touring, and audience development at European level. The guiding idea and theme of this programme is *finding the right language* in the production of new cultural contents in the field of contemporary dance in the new Europe. This metaphor applies to the way the different levels of intervention of E-Motional are conceived within the proposed activities, such as: reflection-oriented encounters for groups of dance professionals, interdisciplinary artistic residencies, sharing formats for artistic processes, co-production of new works and performance programming, professional development opportunities, and dedicated programmes for general public, including regular dance classes, movie screenings, artist talks and lectures.

The project is based on a cooperation scheme developed between dance professionals from Romania, Latvia, Portugal as main project organisers, as well as from Ireland and Luxembourg, as associated countries, but it is also open to artists from more European countries. More specifically targeted countries will be those with whom the participant organisations have not yet developed close connections, such as Eastern Europe and Balkan countries, Nordic Europe or Baltic countries. In this way the project will artistically connect very different geographical regions – the Mediterranean to the Black and Baltic seas.

E-Motional: rethinking dance is a result of a previous project of the lead organiser – E-Motional Bodies & Cities, a mobility and artistic exchange dance programme, which already proves to have an extensive impact on the development of the artistic scenes in participating countries (www.e-motional.eu). The present programme incorporates the learning experience of the previous E-Motional phase between the Romania and Latvia, and translates it in new ways of imagining collaboration, more adapted to the needs of local artistic communities, extends the experience to Portugal and Luxembourg, and engages these countries in activating and putting in place a transnational practice, new for participating organisations. The project also pays a special attention to the sustainment of newly emerged research-based spaces and initiatives in the project countries, thus contributing to the future of local artistic communities.

The project embodies the processes of cooperation and mobility at European level for dance and movement (*E-Motional*), reflection, research and professional development, and their innovative translation into production (*rethinking dance, finding the right language*). E-Motional launches a new concept of creative collaboration (the Reflection Platform), by generating a sharing, brainstorming and production format designed for mixed groups of dance professionals, who function most of the time quite separately – artists/ managers/ producers/ presenters/ dance writers. The production of new European artistic works, which trespasses contemporary dance scenes in each country, is also central to the project. Audience development activities led by professional artists (workshops, classes, film screenings, lectures) are added to the project in order to allow a better connection between foreign participating artists and local communities.

This array of interlinked activities are generating an original eco-system of the European dance and a new model of interaction and cultural development that will function as a platform open to artists, cultural organisations and audiences.

PROJECT CONTEXT & ASSETS

E-Motional: rethinking dance is built on a 10-year expertise of the lead organisation in the participation and development of European projects as well as on the experiences and reflection of the coorganisers and associated partners involved towards a better future for performing arts in Europe.

The pillars of the project are small size, but highly dynamic and creative organisations, which contribute extensively to the shaping of the local contexts for contemporary dance and supporting artistic communities in their countries. The present project will empower these organisations to continue and develop their intervention into and support of local scenes, artists and audiences, while at the same time building innovative international cooperation formats.

The project emerged from previous collaborations between partner organisations, which are now reshaped and capitalized in a format that allows deeper ties between the involved countries, as well as a larger geographical distribution of the target groups, together with a different exposure to and generation of intercultural dialogue and exchange.

E-Motional: rethinking dance takes advantage of and is built upon several strong points and outcomes of the initial project mentioned above. The set up of a new dance space in Bucharest – ZonaD studio - in connection with E-Motional, and the excellent collaboration established between partners from Romania and Latvia. Portugal has joined the project as a new country, thus favouring exposure and expansion of the collaboration with a new artistic context focusing on both research and presentation of artistic work. It is worth mentioning that the history of collaboration with the project partners began about a decade ago. The collaboration with the Portuguese partner started in 2004 with the presentation of a work by the Romanian artistic director (“Serial Paradise”) in the frame of the Festival da Fabrica. Close collaborations with the Latvian coorganiser as well as the Irish associated partner have been developed through a continuous working relationship started in 2010, respectively 2011, together with the setup of the programme E-Motional Bodies & Cities. Ongoing partnership with Luxembourg was initiated in the frame Sibiu/ Luxembourg European Cultural Capitals 2007, while the ArtistNe(s)t residency programme linked Bacau to the contemporary dance scene since 2006. The project capitalizes the impact at local level in Romania, since one of the previous partners becomes now full coorganiser (“George Apostu” Cultural Centre in Bacau). All these previous and on-going connections are serving as a basis for a successful extensive collaboration between participating organisations. At different levels of intervention, the project is built on transfer of practices between coorganisers.

At local level, the project will create or continue the established cooperation mechanisms where the network of project partners is responsible for the well-being and further development of participating artists in either or both sending and destination countries. The proposed scheme allows to follow artistic directions and decisions taken by the artists as well as to offer advice and help even after the actual work, for instance in a residency period. This is beneficial both for artists and the host organisation as the organisation develops closer ties with the community.

E-motional: rethinking dance will benefit of the larger events in partner countries, such as Riga – European Cultural Capital 2014. Relating the project activities with such a large event will be bringing a different exposure to contemporary arts and also offer advocacy opportunities for the future of the field in Latvia.

Through the guiding principle on which the project is built on and its translation into action, *E-motional: rethinking dance* is relating to and integrating in an active and innovative way the values of the 2013 European Year of Citizens, as well as of the proposed year Think 2014! While promoting mobility of dance professionals at European level, the project reminds of the right to free movement of European citizens. By giving space to audience development and their open access and direct participation to the artistic process, the project talks at a deeper level about the democratization of the arts in nowadays Europe.

OBJECTIVES

E-Motional: rethinking dance aims are to:

- 1) **Articulate a diverse array of interlinked activities into an original process-based eco-system of European contemporary dance**, by acknowledging the need for reflection upon processes and artistic practices, and interdisciplinary work as its essential features, fluently integrated into the cycle of exchange, research & artistic collaboration, co-production & touring, and audience development, at European level.
- 2) **Support the development of new collaborative European art works**, which are both sensitive to the local features of the audience and of the artistic scene in each participating countries, at the same time as they are responsive to their trans-national aspirations to be known, to understand, and to interact with others.
- 3) **Promote the trans-national distribution of artistic works**, thus supporting and introducing artists and performances that are not yet benefiting from a regular exposure in the participating countries and also more generally at European level.
- 4) **Support small size, but highly dynamic and creative organisations in Europe to extend their cultural and artistic reach across borders** and thus acknowledge their extensive contribution to the shaping of the local contexts for contemporary dance, their empowerment potential and their function as both nests and flexible and growing pillars of European creativity and support for the continuous re-imagining of Europe.

ACTION/REFLECTION: FINDING THE RIGHT LANGUAGE

The guiding principle that crosses all the main strands of activities in *E-Motional* is embodied in an extensive process of reflection on the meaning of artistic contents and formats. *Finding the right language* in the development of new artistic contents is paramount to this project and is also a sincere designation, in the form of a guiding artistic idea of the project, of the actual process that took place while imagining and planning the activities below. This emerged from the actual understanding of the needs of local scenes in partner countries in relation to the experiences of previous projects and the genuine interest of the partners to join forces in *re-thinking* their practice and needs for future development.

The proposed activities are grouped according to the processes they are generating and allow an organic passage from discovery, research and development, to artistic collaboration, co-production and touring.

At a more practical level, these strands are interlinked. A mix of residencies, research and sharing formats, then programming of guest performances, and co-productions means that artists may engage in more than one of these strands. Thus a residency may result in a guest performance, which creates space for a possibility of continuity that is so necessary for dance communities where most of the activities are happening one-off.

The main beneficiaries of *E-Motional: rethinking dance* are dance professionals (artists, producers/managers, writers), artists from connected fields (musicians, visual and multimedia artists, etc.), and general audience both involved in the project or witnessing the events. As a general policy, the project favors either free access to events or low-priced tickets to encourage and support new and young audiences. The participants are invited to discover and experiment new ways of interaction and artistic collaboration at European level.

I. RESIDENCIES

1. Reflection Platform

E-Motional: rethinking dance innovates by creating a new concept of collaboration and exchange designed for mixed groups of dance professionals from project participating countries - artists, managers/producers, presenters, and writers. The format engages participants in a process of reflection, discussion, and brainstorming. The understanding of the creative process will be filtered through all these complementary perspectives, which many times choose to function somehow separately from each other. The reflection platform format proposes itself to get away from the clichés usually encountered by the interaction between these levels - artist/ presenter/ dance writer/ audience; artist/ manager/ producer.

The main project organisers will nominate three participants from their country, while a fourth one will be the local artistic responsible of E-Motional, who will act as moderator when this reflection-based encounter takes place in his country, respectively in Romania and Portugal. The creative forces of participating professionals will be put together in order to brainstorm on and explore the ongoing processes in building, making happen, presenting and reflecting upon contemporary dance works. The format envisages to generate an energetic and consistent exchange on ongoing artistic and managerial practices in participating countries. A more particular focus will be determined for each residency based on the interest of the local coorganisers in Romania and Portugal.

For a period of up to 7 days, the reflection platform will include daily encounters and discussions between participants, as well as video-presentations of selected works from the respective countries, artist talks or lectures, visits of venues from the cities of Bucharest and Porto, meeting local artists and professionals, and attendance of performances.

These creative encounters are planned to take place in the first part of the project as a kick off activity of E-Motional, while the second part will be dedicated to the outcome they will generate. As a follow up to each residency, a space in the project is dedicated to the development of two new projects, organically emerging from the experience of the reflection platform. These outcomes, which may take the shape of either an artistic product or, for instance, a mobility or research project with a particular focus genuinely resulting from the exchange, will be jointly implemented by the coorganisers in the second year of the *E-Motional: rethinking dance* and will conclude with a dissemination event.

2. E-Motional/ ArtistNe(s)t residencies

This research and development oriented activity is both a continuation and a result of the residencies strand of “E-Motional Bodies & Cities” project, which are now reshaped to be open to participants from more countries in Europe. The larger European access of artists to this strand is a direct response to the interest raised by the previous project, which attracted more than 100 reactions from all over Europe, beyond the targeted countries. This fact proved an increasing interest and need at European level for projects proposing frames of research, mobility and professional development.

The format of the residency is interdisciplinary, in order to allow space for the collaboration between a choreographer and another artist (visual, multimedia artist, musician, writer, etc.) or manager/ producer, or facilitate collaboration projects with the local artistic community in the hosting country. Project initiators acknowledge in this format the powerful results that came up in E-Motional Bodies & Cities, whenever the artistic proposal supported was either open to more artistic forms or generated collaborations at local level in the hosting countries.

The goal of this format is therefore to give support to the quality of the exchange practice between different art forms and a much needed dedicated space/time to find the right way and expression in

making this happen organically. Though interdisciplinary projects are very popular now at European level, it is not rare in fact that the communication among artists from different art forms is not an actually easy endeavor. And this aspect affects both the process and the result. The residencies will conclude with a presentation open to the public and a discussion with the audience. Artists will share their experience on the challenge and benefit of working with the specific art form.

The residencies' duration is between 2 and 4 weeks, depending on the proposed content. The partners will organise up to 7 residencies, which will take place in Romania, Latvia, Ireland and Luxembourg and will cover all costs of the trip, while also offering rehearsal studio and a research grant. The selection of the projects will be made following an open call for applications sent out at European level, and in the targeted countries, as well as through a nomination process in regards to the local artists to be involved in the collaboration.

The residency programme represents an expansion the work started by the ArtistNe(s)t artist-in-residence network in Romania set up by Gabriela Tudor and the Swiss Cultural Program in Romania in 2006, a unique international residence program for contemporary arts in the region (www.artistnest.ro). This strand also enforces the existing collaboration ties with Luxembourg and capitalizes its successful implementation into a new development. *E-Motional: rethinking dance* is opening the Romanian residencies network to other European countries, while also adding new residency opportunities in its circuit.

3. MAP - sharing artistic processes

An acronym from the Portuguese “Mostra de processos”, MAP is a sharing frame for the creative processes related to a piece/performance. MAP is open to any artist (local or international), whose work uses movement as a root to create *movement based works*. *Movement based* refers to any creative work, from any artistic field, using movement as the basis for work, research or critical approach. *Movement* is understood as the movement of the body.

MAP gives a space to share with the audience the research, essays, reflections, selection, collections, work material. The emphasis is not focused on the final product, but the on sharing of the creative process and all the research done on a specific theme or for a particular piece. The presentation to the public, which may take the form of performance, exhibition, video screening, video conferencing, artist talk, portfolio analysis, or a variety of other forms, will be a moment of opening the research designed for creation of new work to the audience. Each co-organiser will either nominate or select the invited projects following an open call, a final decision on the proceedings will be taken during the first partner meeting.

Originating in Portugal, the MAP concept will expand its action in Romania, thus facilitating a research-based exchange. This residency will support all costs for the selected projects (fee, travel and subsistence, working and presentation space), including a production pocket designed for the final event. Three MAPs will be organised along the project in Portugal and Romania.

II. BUILDING NEW SKILLS AND PRACTICES

1. Writing dance & performance workshop – supporting new voices

As the project title suggests, *E-Motional: rethinking dance* dedicates one of its components to supporting a field that is only little developed in some of the project countries, such as Romania or Latvia. In a context in which cultural journalism in general is in decay due to the pressures of the economical crisis affecting the media, which has led many people to leaving the field, and also the decreasing quality of the media's reflection of culture, there is an ever stronger need to support a field

such as performance writing. The workshop will be held in Romania by an important European figure from the performance writing field and will be open to emerging dance writers/ critics from all coorganising countries, as well as to other dance professionals keen to learn more about the subject. The workshop duration will be 7 days, and the number of participants will be up to 12, subject of selection based on letter of interest.

2. ZonaD studio programming – supporting professionals and general audience

During the entire project duration, the ZonaD studio administered by the Gabriela Tudor Foundation in Bucharest will reserve a dedicated space to projects and events, which are challenging the guiding themes of the project – *rethinking dance*, *finding the right language*. There will be workshops and dance classes held by Romanian and foreign choreographers open to both professionals and interested audiences; improvisation evenings; dance films screenings; artist talks and other special events in lab-format and experiments at the boundary between different artistic disciplines. While supporting the professional development of Romanian artists and of a new audience for contemporary dance and art practices, the programme will be also aimed at mediating and facilitating a meeting point between artists and audience.

ARTISTIC COLLABORATION, PRODUCTION AND TOURING

E-Motional: rethinking dance is innovating at the level of development of a transnational practice between partner organisations. Though previous extensive collaboration and exchange were engaged between partner organisations, especially those from Romania and Latvia, the proposed format of artistic intervention and collaboration is bringing their cooperation to a new level. Co-production of new European works and touring will be this new step and this activity is a pillar of the project through its proportion, countries involved, methods applied and outcomes generated.

At the same time, project coorganisers will present work from the other countries or from other European countries in the frame of their festivals. The presentation format of either co-productions or other scheduled performances will be favouring a conclusion of the event with an artist talk, thus facilitating connections and a more alive presence in the frame of larger events.

The artistic concepts of the co-productions *Mapping bodies* and *I say to you sing* proposed by the choreographers and artistic directors from Romania and Latvia represent an organic part connected to the more general theme of the project, of *rethinking dance* and of *finding the right language of expression*.

I. CO-PRODUCTION NE(S)T & TOURING

1. Romanian-led co-production: *Mapping bodies* (working title)

Gabriela Tudor Foundation in Bucharest will create an artistic collaborative project involving emerging choreographers and performers, as well as audiences from different European countries, under the artistic direction of Cosmin Manolescu, an established Romanian choreographer interested in cross-border artistic exchange and inclusive audience performances. The project will research the theme of the *e-motional body*, viewed as a personal geography made of memories embodied on the skin, physical traumas and signs, and all the histories that a body could tell. The artistic process will include interviews, drawings and statements, recording of body sounds, improvisations games starting from geographical and imaginary maps and movement exploration sessions. Various perspectives on the theme will be gradually researched along the creation of the work.

The working process of the co-production will include a series of coaching sessions in the main participating countries (RO, PT, LV), as well as associated countries (IE, LU) with a duration between 5 and 10 days. The coaching session in Ireland will be associated to a 2-week research residency period dedicated to the project concept development. Focusing on the *e-motional body* and on understanding the approach to the theme in a variety of local contexts and from a diversity of national identities, this coaching programme is designed as a professional development format leading to the concrete result of producing an innovative artistic work. The coaching sessions will include warm-up classes, improvisation games, daily discussions, and personal creative time individually dedicated to participants. Each working day will close with a feedback session and discussions on the development of the proposed theme along the day. The coaching sessions will conclude with open presentations, giving space to Q & A sessions for participating audience. At the end of each session, Cosmin Manolescu will invite one emerging artist from each country to participate in a final coaching residence in Bucharest in autumn 2014. The participants will be then invited to work more practically on a small solo piece benefitting from the artistic advice of the leading Romanian choreographer. As a result of the work, three artists will be finally selected in this phase to be part of co-production artistic team.

The artistic process of *Mapping Bodies* gives also an active role to the audience in the development of the production. The audience in the main partner countries – Romania – Latvia – Portugal - will benefit of a series of 3 dedicated workshops accompanying the coaching sessions in these countries, whose outcome will be the selection of several participants to the presentation of the final performance in the respective country.

The production phase of the project will start with a 2-week working period in Latvia, in which the artists, together with the choreographer, will expand the approach to the *e-motional body* theme, by integrating the findings in relation to the diversity of identities and existing physical and mental borders between countries, political contexts and more general challenges affecting individual and personal levels. *Mapping bodies'* artistic proposal will create a personal geography of participants with a reflection on more general processes that have a direct impact on personal histories. A 4-week working period and production phase will take place in Bucharest in spring 2015 concluding with the local premiere, followed by the tour in Riga and Porto festivals in spring-summer 2015.

This European artistic collaboration and co-production is a direct result of the experience coming from the four artistic research sessions facilitated by Cosmin Manolescu in the previous E-Motional Bodies & Cities project, transition from research process being now made to production level.

2. Latvian-led co-production: *I say to you: sing!* (working title)

The Association of Professional Contemporary Dance Choreographers of Latvia will invite partners to join a collaboration designed to generate a new dance piece, gathering choreographer Ilze Zirina as artistic director and 1-4 performers. The dancers will be from Latvia, Romania and Portugal, depending on the applications received.

The main theme of the dance piece will be “from local - to global - to personal”. Today, when we try to preserve national identity in the context of ongoing globalization processes, choreographer and the artistic director of the production Ilze Zirina questions if there is a line between global and local or global and personal, or personal and local. She puts *Epiphany* by Latvian poet Imants Ziedonis (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imants_Ziedonis), on music by Latvian composer Raimonds Tiguls (<http://www.myspace.com/raimondstiguls>) as a starting point to explore this theme. What may happen when a Latvian will work with this material, created by a *symbol* of Latvian poetry and how a Romanian or Portuguese artist may perceive it? Analysis and epiphany will be addressed during the creative process. Ilze Zirina will invite artists to play with the idea of revelation enclosed in the

epiphany. During the process the artists will explore the situations when the revelation comes through an analysis of the process as well as those when revelation is simply brought by intuition. Dance, spoken word and music will be the tools of the work.

The project will start with an open call to be sent out in Latvian, Romanian and Portuguese dance communities. The call will include the description of the project concept, and audio design for first three minutes of the piece (*Epiphania* by Imants Ziedonis on music by Raimonds Tiguls). Applicants will be asked to relate to it in any form (it can be written text, spoken text, dance improvisation, video material, photos). This material should be as spontaneous answer to the stimulus. The applicants will be also asked to send the motivation letter and CV. Ilze Zirina will work with selected participants in two residency periods in Romania and Latvia in summer-autumn 2014. The resulting piece will be premiered in Riga in spring 2015 in connection with the International Day of Dance events, and then toured in Bucharest and Porto.

CONCLUSION. The Co-production Ne(s)t functions as a best practice example for building thorough European collaboration. Through its focuses, the variety of methods applied to feeding artistic collaboration and the number of countries involved, these new artistic works will represent a summum in actively and constantly re-imagining a Europe of cultures.

II. Performance programming

A number of 8 performances will be presented between February 2014 and July 2015 in *Time to Dance festival* (Riga), *Festival da Fabrica* (Porto), and *Bacau Contemporary Days* dance festival (Romania). Performances that challenge the theme of the project - *rethinking dance, finding the right language* - , by favoring experiment and new ideas, or reinventing dance practices in an original way will be given a special space.

This activity is also designed to be a natural continuation of the research-oriented residencies, by offering the artists the opportunity to also present the product coming up of their work. At the same time, each co-organiser will also have the freedom to independently choose the performances according to their own artistic direction and the more specifically targeted countries in Eastern Europe & Balkan region, Nordic Europe and Baltic countries.

The performance programming serves as a display situation and sharing context of the project results, thus allowing a better dissemination and visibility of the *E-Motional: rethinking dance* outcomes.

CONTENT COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION

The communication of the project will be made in all participating countries using different formats according to each activity, while trying to find best ways to make known the proposed artistic content.

The promotion activities of the project will be undertaken through the formats of events (press conferences, launching events), online promotion (national and international press releases, newsletters, online partnerships, website, blog), printed materials (flyers, posters, roll ups, etc.), audio and visual materials (clips, DVD).

A special promotion and dissemination feature is conceived as a “project talk” in connection with the project mobility and the different encounters of the partners along the *E-Motional: rethinking dance* duration. “Project talks” will be given in all coorganising countries, as well as associated countries of

Ireland and Luxembourg, in connection with *E-Motional* activities or larger events such as Riga Cultural Capital 2014, or Luxembourg's Danz Festival Letzebuerg. In this sense, the leading project teams from each country will act as ambassadors of the programme by promoting its content and vision at European and international levels.

MAKING THINGS HAPPEN: PROJECT MANAGEMENT & MOBILITY

The project will be developed and managed through different levels of crossed actions of the project teams in each country (project managers, artistic directors, assistants): mobility of staff, team building and monitoring; selection and nomination of participants; monitoring and evaluation.

The imagined strands of activities in *E-Motional: rethinking dance* are favouring a close, active and more creative involvement of the teams in following the development of the activities, such as the reflection platform or the Latvian and Romanian co-productions, as well as the general content development of the project. In this sense, *E-Motional: rethinking dance* is giving space to a more kind of group action development than favouring individual or bilateral approaches.

Dedicated to the shaping and management of the project, the meetings between partners are conceived in a team building format in relation with the artistic activities in the project, which allows a closer connection between the staff and participating dance professionals, as well as a direct and genuine knowledge of the project as it is undertaken. Witnessing the project as it comes into light is the most rewarding experience for those that actually make the project happen. From this perspective, the mobility of the staff is essential to the organic development of the project.

PROJECT IMPACT

While making happen its complex and interlinked strands of action, the *E-Motional: rethinking dance* will have an extensive impact at the following levels:

1. **Professional development for the entire spectrum of dance professionals:** artists, managers, producers, presenters and dance writers in Europe.
2. **Development and transnational circulation of new European works of contemporary dance.**
3. **Support for cross-disciplinary research and experiment in contemporary dance at European level.**
4. **Collaboration-generated intercultural dialogue among cultural professionals in Europe.**
5. **Re-thinking of contemporary dance, both as an artistic discipline, as well as a trade and a creative process at European level.**
6. **Audience development, by presenting and engaging local audiences in new artistic experiences developed and shared by European multicultural teams of dance professionals.**

CONCLUSIONS

To sum up the innovation brought about by the project activities, the following activities are paramount to the actual translation into action of the project vision:

- ✓ **Reflection Platform**, a new type of creative residency dedicated to gather mixed groups of dance professionals from project participating countries - artists, managers/producers, presenters, and writers.
- ✓ **E-Motional/ ArtistNe(s)t interdisciplinary artistic residencies**, where interdisciplinary teams will exchange practices of different art forms and develop new creative works.
- ✓ **MAP**, which captures artistic processes and engages audiences and creative artists in discussions concerning the research, essays, reflections, selection, collections, and work material surrounding the actual performance.
- ✓ **Supporting the new voices of dance and performance writing** through a dedicated training and workshop, as well as the invitation to join in the Reflection Platform.
- ✓ **Sharing the artistic and managerial experience** with other professionals and the arts audience through workshops, coaching and material resources for development of performances – such as space - a very rare and sought resource in our cities, with limited infrastructures dedicated to cultural expression.
- ✓ **Production of new works of contemporary dance**, European and interdisciplinary, with a strong focus on *finding the right language* for performance. The artistic concepts of the Co-production Ne(s)t - *Mapping bodies* and *I say to you sing* proposed by the choreographers and artistic directors from Romania and Latvia, are reflecting upon the intertwined nature of contemporary dance and performance and are inviting artists and audiences from across Europe to speak their mind and come out with a common artistic answer, materialized in two new works of art.
- ✓ **Tour the new contemporary performances** between participating countries and share the experiences and the passion with other artists and audiences alike.

E-Motional: rethinking dance is a European project that actively strives to *find the right language* in the production of new cultural contents in the field of contemporary dance. We are dedicated to conjure the two essential philosophies of dance, that of artists, and that of managers, reuniting the reflection processes that characterise contemporary arts as a creative process with those that belong to it as a trade, as a cultural product. Through meaningfully intertwined professional exchange, research and artistic collaboration, co-production and touring, the project aims to leave a mark on the present and future of contemporary dance in Europe.

The project links small size, but highly dynamic and creative organisations in Europe, and supports them in order to extend their cultural and artistic reach across borders. *E-Motional: rethinking dance* acknowledges and advocates that it is their extensive contribution to the shaping of the local contexts for contemporary dance, their empowerment potential, and their function as both nests and flexible and growing pillars of European creativity, that make them essential to both European citizens and to European arts.