



# Carcassonne

24 - 25 February 2021

First transnational meeting  
DANCE HIGHWAYS project

centro coreografico  
**l'espace**  
p a l e r m o



# Organiser:

**La Galerie Chorégraphique | Carcassonne**

# Partner:

**THEATER DER KLÄNGE | Düsseldorf**

**L'espace ASDC - Zappulla DMN Company | Palermo**

**Fundacja Rozwoju Teatru 'NOWA FALA' and**

**collective Hoteloko movement makers | Warsaw**

**Dansearena nord | Tromsø**

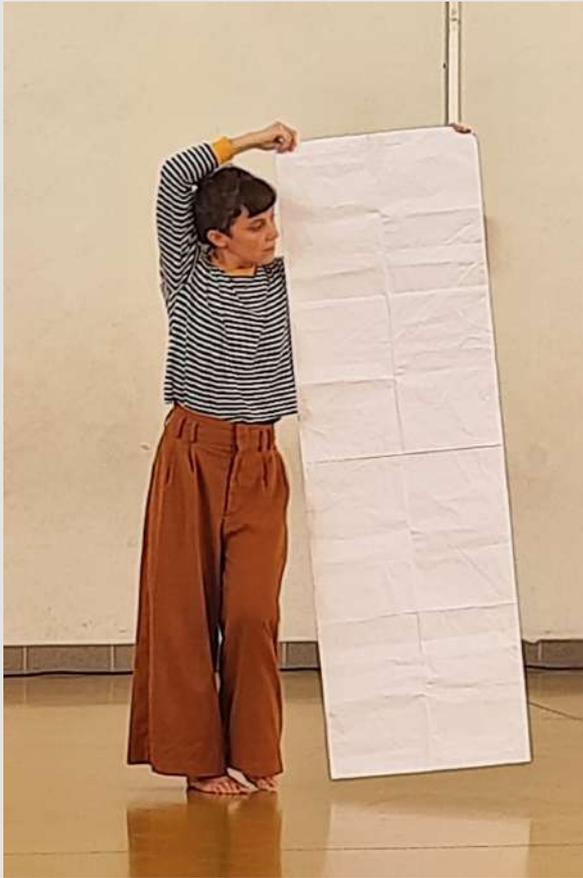
**La Fundicion | Bilbao**



# Report

On 24 and 25 February, the first meeting of the DANCE HIGHWAYS project was held in Carcassonne, allowing all the partners to get together and start exchanging good practices. Besides being a pleasant moment of conviviality, it proved to be an excellent opportunity to compare ideas in order to carry out future projects and wishes. Specifically, on the first day, a discussion platform was created in which each partner had the opportunity to introduce itself and tell its specificities. Already in this first phase, interesting perspectives emerged in terms of artistic exchanges both in connection with the project and for other events. The conversation then moved on to the general organisation of the meetings on the calendar and, as the next one was in Palermo, Giovanni Zappulla took the floor to explain the course of the second meeting, the workshop to be held on 11 - 12 - 13 - 14 - 15 May, with arrival on the 10th and departure on the 16th. The idea that the team from Palermo illustrated concerns the will to create in the same days of the workshop, the zero edition of the festival Dissidanza as a pilot event of a Festival that will be held every year in October, including for this edition the artists present from the partner countries.

This idea was well received by all those present, who immediately asked for more precise information. In addition, the Polish partner, represented by Mrs. Agata Życzkowska, also took part in the conversation, saying that she, too, would like to organise a choreographic platform for the partner artists for the event to be held in Warsaw in December. Mrs. Życzkowska, told how complicated it is to plan and find funds at this time, sharing her difficulties due to the particular situation. All the partners took turns to speak, testifying to the objective difficulties linked to the covid emergency and at the same time showing enthusiasm for these two proposals. From this first meeting it was immediately clear that within a project there are opportunities, thanks to exchange and meetings, to create new events that are in line with the dynamics of dissemination of the European directives of the Erasmus plus projects.



There was also room for artistic performances, including the solo *Petit c'est Grand* by dancer Sandrine Gout, a member of the Vialuni company directed by Michele Etti, who was present at the meeting. In fact, this opportunity provided by the Dance Highways project made it possible to present artistic works that enriched the meeting. In addition to Sandrine Gout, the young Léa Leclerc performed *Y'a des choses ou on a envie de dir des choses* and the Vialuni company directed an interactive dance conference and staged one of their creations: *Avis de recherches LDC*.



A very important moment of this first meeting was the meeting on 25 February with local institutions as part of a discussion platform in which artistic personalities also participated. Present at this round table were Solange Lopez, director of culture for the municipality of Carcassonne, Georges Bacou director of the Jean-Alary theatre in Carcassonne, representatives of local businesses and Jackie Taffanel, a choreographer in artistic residence in Montpellier who often works with Carcassonne and the dancer and choreographer Pedro Pauwels in an online link. The conversation immediately turned to the importance of raising awareness and bringing people closer to dance in a town like Carcassonne, which has an important theatre but currently offers a programme that needs to be updated in order to open up interest in the avant-garde and educate the public in contemporary artistic production. One of the central themes was the question of how to propose shows that take into account the point of view of the public, which sometimes, due to ignorance and difficulty, is completely unaware of current artistic dynamics and shuns shows of contemporary culture.

This topic aroused the interest of the local institutions, which questioned those present on how to overcome this problem, proposing possible collaborations aimed at raising awareness. This result is perfectly in line with the objectives of the meeting, which are specifically aimed at the creation of networks for the dissemination of good practices by setting up long-lasting realities with a positive impact on the territory and on dance in general.



In conclusion, the Carcassonne meeting represented an opportunity for partners, participants and local authorities to create a platform for proactive dialogue aimed at the creation of new projects. The implementation was excellent thanks to the organisation of the lead partner La Galerie Chorégraphique, represented by Thierry Gourmelen and his staff.



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