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## Press release

### **Bureau Ritter to lead DanceMap, a major initiative to safeguard and promote European dance heritage**

Bureau Ritter is proud to announce the launch of **DanceMap**, a pioneering heritage initiative funded by **Horizon Europe**, the European Union's funding programme for research and innovation. This ambitious project, which will run for three years from January 2025 to December 2027, operates under the research cluster "Culture, creativity and inclusive society" and aims to develop a cross-sectoral strategy for safeguarding and promoting Europe's rich dance heritage. The total funding amount is just under 4 million euros.

Bureau Ritter leads a consortium of sixteen research centres, universities, dance archives, arts organisations and policy experts in ten countries. Together they are working to create a blueprint, or roadmap, for effective and sustainable policy solutions for European dance heritage, championing an integrated approach that incorporates empirical research, data science, artistic practice, outreach, advocacy and policymaking. The consortium believes that this approach is transferable and can serve as a model for safeguarding other embodied practices and forms of immaterial cultural heritage.

Over the next three years, **DanceMap** will:

- **Map and increase the visibility of existing dance heritage initiatives** across Europe, creating a comprehensive directory of archives, collections and knowledge bases.
- **Develop an interactive digital platform** comprising both a digital workspace for researchers and a curated, public-facing website. The platform will offer a unique insight into the diversity and richness of European dance heritage, making it accessible to and attractive for a global audience.
- **Advance a holistic, artist-led approach** to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, combining digital tools with practice-based methods.
- **Advocate for stronger policy frameworks** that recognise and support the preservation and promotion of dance heritage at local, national, and European levels.

**Madeline Ritter**, Director of Bureau Ritter and DanceMap Project Lead says:

*In these uncertain times, when budgets for the arts are shrinking, it is more important than ever to demonstrate the value of embodied knowledge and ephemeral artistic practices such as dance. DanceMap will do exactly that, by shining a light on Europe's*

*rich dance heritage and highlighting the crucial role that dancers, artists and researchers play in keeping it alive.*

The DanceMap consortium:

**Bureau Ritter** (Berlin, Germany)

**C-DaRE** (Centre for Dance Research) at **Coventry University** (Coventry, UK)

**University of Antwerp** (Antwerp, Belgium)

**Motion Bank** research group at the **University of Applied Sciences Mainz** (Mainz, Germany)

**Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln** (Cologne, Germany)

**STUK House for Dance, Image and Sound** (Leuven, Belgium)

**Culturgest** (Lisbon, Portugal)

**Noa Eshkol Foundation** (Tel Aviv, Israel)

**Station Centre for Contemporary Dance** (Belgrade, Serbia)

**Lokomotiva Centre for New Initiatives in Arts and Culture** (Skopje, North Macedonia)

**Nomad Dance Academy Slovenia** (Ljubljana, Slovenia)

**Nomad Dance Academy Croatia** (Zagreb, Croatia)

**Brain Store Project** (Sofia, Bulgaria)

**Rosas** (Brussels, Belgium)

**Culture Concepts** (Berlin, Germany)

**Goethe-Institut** – Associate Partner (Germany)



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