



PRESS RELEASE

The Danube Dance Alliance project invites audiences to rediscover the spaces that once shaped communities — this time through movement, art, and shared experience.

In Belgrade, Sarajevo, Svetvinčenat, Trbovlje, and Velenje, innovative contemporary dance performances will be staged in abandoned public spaces between May and September 2026. Using VR technology, the events will be interconnected to create an immersive experience of dance and community. At these events, which will go beyond traditional frameworks, the audience's experience will be shaped by movement, the stories of the area, and modern technology.

The project places contemporary dance in unconventional settings—including the Museum of Yugoslavia in Belgrade, the Bentbaša swimming pools in Sarajevo, the Velenje Coal Mining Museum, the Istrian site of Žlinja in Svetvinčenat, and the chimney in Trbovlje. The rich histories of these now-abandoned spaces inspired five unique dance productions created by five outstanding choreographers: Aleksandar Ilić, Maša Kolar, Branko Mitrović, Nik Rajšek, and Ognjen Vučinić.

A vital element of the project is creating innovative VR dance experiences directed by Enya Belak, which bring selected performances into a digital environment and make them accessible to a wider audience.

The performances explore themes of collective memory, identity, heritage, and the relationship between people and places. They also highlight often-overlooked aspects of history and the challenges of a digital society.

Premiere dates:

May 30, 2026 – Madlenianum Opera & Theatre, Belgrade, Serbia

June 4, 2026 – Bentbaša swimming pools, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

June 30, 2026 – Coal Mining Museum, Velenje, Slovenia

July 5, 2026 – Žlinja, Svetvinčenat, Croatia

September 17, 2026 – chimney of the former power plant, Trbovlje, Slovenia

The International Danube Dance Alliance project brings together 12 organizations from 8 European countries, more than 50 international artists, and over 11,000 local





participants. The project strengthens international cooperation and cultural diversity and develops innovative and sustainable practices in the field of contemporary dance. For more information about the project, visit the website: <https://www.balkandanceproject.com/danube-dance-alliance>.

The Danube Dance Alliance project involves the Delavski dom Trbovlje as the lead partner, Zavod Iskriva, iskrišče za razvoj lokalnih potencialov, Festival Velenje, Kolektiv (КОЛЕКТИВЪТ), Zagrebački plesni ansambl, Institut za umetničku igru and the Sarajevski Ratni Teatar SARTR, along with its associated partners: Europäische Donau-Akademie, Donaubüero, Ars Electronica, MOME Budapest and Stiftung HfG Ulm. The project was initiated by the international dance platform [Balkan DANCE Project](#) in cooperation with the New European Bauhaus on the Danube network and is co-financed by the European Union under the Creative Europe programme.

