

EAST IS BEST 2022

PROJECT LAUNCH PRESS RELEASE

We are pleased to announce a comprehensive event programme of the international **East is Best project** scheduled for the 2022 spring-summer season. Several dance and performing arts festivals in Central and East European countries will host a series of selected performances thus implementing one of the fundamental goals of the East is Best project – **to promote and develop cooperation and mutual exchange of outstanding performative art projects from the region.**

Within the East is Best project 8 festivals in 8 CEE countries will feature 24 events presenting 14 different performances; 11 partners of the project are touring 63 artists in total thus reaching several thousand unique visitors. Accompanying programme will feature several workshops with the renowned artists. We are also extending our newly developed experimental digital network, aimed at establishing active communication between our partners and audiences and promoting CEE artists globally. The project will thus enable new shared experiences, discovery and promotion of fresh and innovative regional talents.

East is Best digital network was established in 2020 in Ljubljana after the 1st **Dance>Money (un)conference** produced by Slovene association Pekinpah as a part of a partnership network Platform Center for Creativity. Public discussions at the named conference, where many artists and producers from CEE region were present, revealed the need for creation of the more formalised digital network, whose importance was subsequently recognised by the **Perform Europe** project. Perform Europe will support East is Best project for 18 months; after that initial period East is Best project will remain fully operative, further expanding its mission and goals. With the inclusion of additional partners from the region, digitalization and artistic development the East is Best project will thus strive to build an even bigger and more functional community in the region.

The East is Best project is aimed **to develop network connections, endorse artist's visibility and expose new international projects.** The nature of the partnership is rooted in balance and equity between the partners as they symmetrically share their know-how, experiences, and resources, to enhance live communication between regional producers, artists, and audiences. The platform tackles the issues of sustainability by implementing inclusive principles of social justice and commitments to human and societal wellbeing while promoting artistic practices that reflect contemporary conditions of the world.

Official partners of the project are: Exodos Ljubljana (Slovenia - lead partner), Pekinpah – Spider Festival (Slovenia), AU Association “Contemporary Dance Platform” Zelyonka festival (Ukraine), Kulturanova (Serbia), Hrvatski institut za pokret i ples - Dance Week Festival (Croatia) and Workshop Foundation (Hungary). Additional associated festivals are: Dance fest Skopje, (North Macedonia), ZVRK Festival Sarajevo (Bosna i Hercegovina), Antistatic Festival (Bulgaria) and Laiks Dejot festival (Bulgaria). Partners involved in the project are committed to promotion of fresh and innovative regional talents that tackle the established western art canon.

Essential artistic endeavor of the East is Best project consists of touring presentations of various performative artistic projects from the region. Within the project 14 performances were selected and are scheduled for tour in physical and virtual venues in Ljubljana, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Skopje, Sofia, Budapest and Riga. Unfortunately, due to known and tragic reasons, the festival in Kiev was cancelled while Ukrainian performances will appear – due to mobilisation of the male artists – in digital version only. The war in Ukraine has once more revealed the urge to stress humanism as well as cultural and artistic achievements in the region – we believe the projects such as East is Best are a vital necessity for obtaining such goals.

The programme scheduled for the spring-summer season of 2022 (see full list below) will start at Dance fest Skopje and finish at ZVRK festival in Sarajevo. Selected performances, simultaneously also presented and archived on our digital platforms, will be accompanied by invited artist's workshops that aim to further develop and empower local dance communities and to create new collaborative opportunities. A guest critic/journalist will also join each tour, being appointed to study, reflect and promote local dance scenes in various countries.

Perform Europe is an EU-funded project aimed to rethink how performing arts works are presented across borders in a more inclusive, sustainable and balanced way by testing new touring and distribution practices and providing policy recommendations for a future EU support scheme. This 18-month journey includes a research phase, launching a digital platform, testing a support scheme, and designing policy recommendations.

Perform Europe is funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union and co-managed by a Consortium of 5 organisations: [IETM – International network for contemporary performing arts](#), [the European Festivals Association \(EFA\)](#), [Circostrada](#), [EDN – European Dancehouse Network](#), and [IDEA Consult](#).

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EAST IS BEST 2022

FULL PROGRAMME:

Dance Fest Skopje - Skopje, Macedonia

9-18 April 2022

Rade Obradović and Katarina Bučić: The road to the moon (Serbia)

09/04/2022, 19:00 / physical (Home of the Army)

Žigan Kranjčan: Interview (Slovenia/Latvia)

12/04/2022, 19:00 / physical (Home of the Army)

Khrystyna Slobodianiuk: Poslukh (Ukraine)

18/04/2022, 19:00 / **digital and physical** (Home of the Army)

Kultura nova - Novi Sad, Serbia

7-8 May 2022

Saša Božić: Love will Tear us A Part (Croatia)

07/05/2022, 20:00 / physical (Laza Kostić Gymnasium Theatre)

David Somló: Drift (Hungary)

08/05/2022, 18:00 / physical (in front of SPENS)

Workshop Foundation - Budapest, Hungary

8 May 2022

Leja Jurišić and Marko Mandić: Together (Slovenia)

08/05/2022, 17:00 / physical

Antistatic Festival - Sofia, Bulgaria

9 May 2022

Jasna Vinovrski: Healers (Croatia)

17/05/2022, 19:30 / physical (Toplocentrala, Hall 1)

Dance Week Festival, Croatia

1-12 June 2022

Žigan Kranjčan: Love me tender (Slovenia)

02/06/2022, 20:00 / physical (Zagreb Dance Centre)

Rade Obradović and Katarina Bučić: The road to the moon (Serbia)

03/06/2022, 20:00 / physical (Zagreb Dance Centre)

Adrijana Danchevska: Don't touch my eyes (North Macedonia)

09/06/2022, 20:00 / physical (Zagreb Dance Centre)
Smirna Kulenović: Our Family Garden (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
11/06/2022, 18:00 / digital and physical (video) Venue: TBC
Smirna Kulenović: Our Family Garden (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
12/06/2022, 18:00 / digital and physical (video+interview) Venue: TBC
Khrystyna Slobodianiuk: Poslukh (Ukraine) / digital and physical
12/06/2022, 18:00 / physical (video+interview) Venue: TBC
Willy Prager, Iva Sveshtarova: Shamebox (Bulgaria)
12/06/2022, 20:00 / physical (TBC)

LAIKSDEJOT 2022 - Riga, Latvia

13-18 June 2022

Adrijana Danchevska: Don't touch my eyes (North Macedonia)
13/06/2022, 19:00 / physical
Yaroslav Kainar/Totem Dance Theatre: Annihilation (Ukraine)
14/06/2022, 19:00 / **digital / or physical**
Smirna Kulenovic: Our Family Garden (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
18/06/2022, 19:00 / physical

Spider festival - Ljubljana, Slovenia

15-19 June 2022

Willy Prager, Iva Sveshtarova: Shamebox (Bulgaria)
15/06/2022, 21:30 / physical (Plečnik's Summer Theatre Tivoli)
Gundega Rēdere: In Horizon (Latvia)
15/06/2022, 23:00 / physical (Plečnik's Summer Theatre Tivoli)
Smirna Kulenovic: Our Family Garden (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
16/06/2022, 21:30 / physical (Plečnik's Summer Theatre Tivoli)

ZVRK - Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

27 - 29 May & 25 - 26 June 2022

BKC Sarajevo

Žigan Krajncan: Love me tender (Slovenia)
28/05/2022, 13:00 / physical ,

Historijski muzej BiH, Sarajevo

Khrystyna Slobodianiuk: Poslukh, (Ukraine)
26/06/2022, 18:00 / digital & physical
Anton Ovchinnikov: MONOCHROME (Ukraine)
Video performance "MONOCHROME"
Gundega Rēdere: In Horizon, (Latvia)
26/06/2022, 20:00 / physical
Leja Jurišić and Marko Mandić: Together (Slovenia)
25/06/2022, 18:00 / physical