

**WIRES
CROSSED**



THE JOURNEY SO FAR 2017-2020

20
EUROPEAN
PARTNERS

13
COUNTRIES

92
ARTISTS

1 CREATIVE
EUROPE
PROJECT

PARTICIPANTS
AGED
6-74
YEARS

89
DAYS OF
PROFESSIONALS
TRAINING

36
NEW
FUNAMBULISM
TUTORS

PARTICIPATION
PROGRAMMES
8 IN
COUNTRIES

7
ERASMUS+
PROJECTS

45
PEOPLE
EMPLOYED

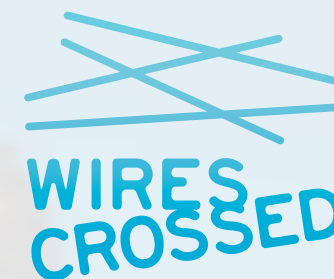
**A BALANCING
ACT FOR EUROPE**

€1,194,250
FUNDING
GENERATED

“ This is a life changing project and it has had an enormously positive effect on my life, personally, creatively and professionally. ”

Wires Crossed participant





WIRES CROSSED A BALANCING ACT FOR EUROPE

is an international participatory project that promotes physical and mental wellbeing, safe risk-taking and social inclusion through funambulism – tightwire walking using a balancing pole. The project is being delivered by a network of 15 European Youth and Social Circus Schools, led by Galway Community Circus (IE) and Ecole De Cirque De Bruxelles (BE).

HEAD/HEART BALANCE

Wires Crossed aims to highlight the importance of head/heart balance and positive wellbeing. The project emerged from a strong desire to help address the mental health crisis facing many people today and restore balance within our communities. We aim to empower people through participation in an extraordinary experience and to stand in solidarity with those affected by the challenges of mental wellbeing.

WHY FUNAMBULISM?

Funambulism is at once a spectacular circus art yet surprisingly accessible to people of all ages and abilities. It is also a powerful mindfulness tool that promotes mental and physical wellbeing. Walking on a wire conveys a sense of ease and simplicity, yet it requires focus, self-belief and courage. In a world of chaos and uncertainty, funambulism gives us all an opportunity to learn to trust in ourselves and face our fears with grace, awareness and strength.



PROJECT PARTNERS

- 1 Galway Community Circus (IE)
- 2 École De Cirque De Bruxelles (BE)
- 3 CABUWAZI (DE)
- 4 Cirkus Cirkör (SE)
- 5 CIRQUEON (CZ)
- 6 The Serious Road Trip Romania (RO)
- 7 Zaltimbanq' Zirkus (LU)
- 8 Circus Amersfoort (NL)
- 9 FLIC Scuola Di Circo (IT)
- 10 European Funambulism Network (BE)
- 11 Circus Beweging (BE)
- 12 Assoc. Valenciana de Circ (ES)
- 13 Cloughjordan Circus Club (IE)
- 14 Belfast Circus School (NI/UK)
- 15 Sorin Sirkus (FI)
- 16 Palestinian Circus School (PS)
- 17 Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture (IE)
- 18 National University of Ireland Galway (IE)
- 19 Université Libre De Bruxelles (BE)

“ The most powerful thing with funambulism is the sense of overcoming. ”

Wires Crossed participant

ACTIVITIES TO DATE



2017

- April** European public workshop programme begins.
- June** Start of Erasmus+ KA2, Strategic Partnership 'Wires Crossed: Level 1' (2017 – 2018) Galway Community Circus (IE), École de Cirque de Bruxelles (BE), CABUWAZI (DE).
- August** Funambulism crossing of Le Canal de Bruxelles, Brussels.
- October** Funambulism crossing of the Claddagh Basin, Galway.

2018

- April** Funambulism crossing of Le Canal de Bruxelles, Brussels.
- June** Start of Erasmus+ KA2, Strategic Partnership 'Wires Crossed: Level 2' (2018 – 2019) Galway Community Circus (IE), École de Cirque de Bruxelles (BE), CABUWAZI (DE).
- August** Funambulism crossing of Le Canal de Bruxelles, Brussels.
- October** Start of Erasmus+ KA2, Strategic Partnership 'Balance Your Fear' (2018 – 2019) CABUWAZI (DE), École de Cirque de Bruxelles (BE), CIRQUEON (CZ), Cirkus Cirkör (SE).
- October** Funambulism crossing of the Claddagh Basin, Galway.

2019

- April** Funambulism crossing of Le Canal de Bruxelles, Brussels.
- May** Funambulism crossing of Claddagh Basin, Galway as part of Fresh Street conference.
- June** Start of Erasmus+ KA2, Strategic Partnership 'Wires Crossed: Mind Your Balance' (2019 – 2020) Galway Community Circus (IE), École de Cirque de Bruxelles (BE), The Serious Road Trip Romania (RO), Zaltimbanq' Zirkus (LU).
- July** Start of Erasmus+ KA1, Training for Trainers '**Wires Crossed meets Educircation**' Galway Community Circus (IE), Circus in Beweging (BE), CIRQUEON (CZ), Assoc. Valenciana de Circ (ES).
- August** Funambulism crossing of Le Canal de Bruxelles, Brussels.
Start of 2020 Erasmus+ KA1, Youth Exchange '**Wires Crossed: Balance 2020**' (2019 – 2021) Galway Community Circus (IE), CABUWAZI (DE), École de Cirque de Bruxelles (BE), CIRQUEON (CZ), Cirkus Cirkör (SE), The Serious Road Trip Romania (RO), Circus Amersfoort (NL).
- October** Start of Creative Europe Small Scale Co-operation Project (2019 – 2022)
'Wires Crossed: Head, Heart, Balance' Galway Community Circus (IE), École de Cirque de Bruxelles (BE), The Serious Road Trip Romania (RO), Université Libre De Bruxelles (BE).



JOURNEY CONTINUES... NEXT STEPS

In 2021, the partners aim to produce one of the most ambitious highwire spectacles ever staged in Ireland and Europe – 400 funambulists of all ages, walks of life, cultures and nationalities will take part in a spectacular highwire crossing of the River Corrib in Galway City in a public display of hope, solidarity and strength.

Wires Crossed will continue until 2022 through our Creative Europe Small-Scale Co-operation project 'Wires Crossed: Head Heart Balance'. This project includes the creation of a new professional funambulism ensemble 'Bassalto', and scientific research into the neurological effects of funambulism practice on the brain.

Wires Crossed will create a vibrant funambulism community Europe-wide, with fully equipped training centres in each partner country and an active community of enthusiastic participants.

“Playing, dancing, feeling free on a wire is the best feeling ever for me.”
Wires Crossed participant



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