



## **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION in the Creative Laboratory for Emerging Choreographers - "HELIOS": Choreographic Experimental Laboratory and Innovative Educational Stage**

These general terms and conditions for participation have been adopted by the Board of Directors of the association "Helios - Sofia" to:

- Provide accurate and correct information to all those who wish to apply and participate in the training program;
- Ensure a calm and effective training process that enables participants to develop their artistic potential.

Dear applicants and participants, please read these General Terms carefully, as they will inform you about what to expect from the "HELIOS" project and prepare you to be an informed participant who contributes to the successful implementation of the training process.

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## I. Organizer

The association "Helios-Sofia" is the organizer of the creative laboratory for emerging choreographers "HELIOS". The project is carried out in partnership with the Sofia Development Association, the Regional Center for Contemporary Arts "Toplocentrala," and the International Choreographers' Organization and Networking Services – Dance ICONS, Inc., Washington, USA, with financial support from the Sofia Municipality – “Culture” Programme end Lachezar Tsotsorkov Foundation.

## II. Right to Participate

The creative laboratory "HELIOS" invites participation from Bulgarian citizens or permanent residents of Bulgaria and citizens of the European Union who have skills in choreography, modern ballet, and/or contemporary dance and aspire to be part of the new generation of contemporary Bulgarian choreographers of the 21st century.

The organizer, its partners, their employees, and/or their family members, as well as related persons, are not eligible to participate.

## III. Conditions for Participation and Responsibilities of Participants

Any individual, hereinafter referred to as the Participant, who meets the following conditions, is eligible to participate in the "HELIOS" creative laboratory:

- Aged between 18 and 36, a citizen of the Republic of Bulgaria or a permanent resident of Bulgaria.
- Has fundamental education and/or training in contemporary dance, classical ballet, physical theater, or other movement-based forms.
- Has stage experience and has performed regularly on stage in the past three years.
- Has a strong interest and dedication to the art of choreography.
- Is in the early stage of a choreographic career and in the process of professional development.
- Has created and presented their own original short works in the past three years.
- Has advanced skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in English.
- Accepts and adheres to the rules for conducting the training program described in this "General Terms and Conditions for Participation."



To participate in the creative laboratory, the following steps must be completed:

### Step #1: Registration

**Deadline for registration: April 26, 2026**

A registration form is available on the organizer's website (<https://helios-sofia.eu/registration/>), which each participant must complete.

The registration process includes the following application documents:

- A one-to two-page biography including:
  - a) Personal and professional information: name, date of birth, place of residence, and contact details;
  - b) Details of completed or attended educational dance training, seminars, and professional initiatives in dance in Bulgaria and/or abroad, stage experience, performance repertoire, and affiliations with companies, projects, or productions;
  - c) Titles of original short works created, duration, number of participants, format, and where they were presented, along with information on additional professional interests and special skills.

*The biography must be submitted as a PDF file with a maximum size of 2 MB.*

- A one-page recommendation letter from a distinguished figure in dance and performing arts in Bulgaria or abroad, such as a teacher, choreographer, director of a company, theater, project, or production. The letter should highlight the candidate's potential and talents, supported by examples. It should be addressed to "HELIOS-SOFIA" and include the recommender's signature, name, profession, administrative affiliation, and contact details (email and phone number).

*The letter must be submitted as a PDF file with a maximum size of 2 MB.*

- One, two, or three video samples of excerpts from the candidate's choreographic works demonstrating their creative direction and dance aesthetic. Each video should be no longer than three minutes and should not include special video edits or cinematic effects. The videos may be short excerpts from stage performances or rehearsal footage, featuring solos, duets, and group formations. Performers should be visible in full length in a well-lit space.

*The materials should be uploaded to YouTube as private and/or public links or submitted as MP4 video files with a maximum size of 5 GB.*



## Step #2: Attendance

All selected and registered participants must attend the daily sessions from **June 20 to June 30, 2026**, from **10:00 AM to 5:00 PM** at the Regional Center for Contemporary Arts "Toplocentrala" or another location specified by the organizer during the training process.

Participants are required to attend all lectures and rehearsal parts of the training program. Absences of up to one hour per day or a total of one full day are allowed only in exceptional cases.

## Step #3: Training Program

Each day will include:

- A lecture on choreographic theory;
- A lunch break;
- A choreographic laboratory featuring improvisation, experimentation, and dance composition;
- A short laboratory presentation of the movement material generated during the day, followed by discussions and suggestions for improving artistic expression.

The goal of this experimental educational process is to allow each choreographer to create sufficient movement material that can later be structured into new short experimental works, which will be presented on stage before an audience on the final day before the seminar concludes.

Choreographers will work on their own movement as well as have the opportunity to invite dancer-performers to participate in their newly created works. The choreographers and their invited dancer-performers will work under the guidance and mentorship of the artistic leadership of the training program.

## Step #4: Presentation

On the final day of the project (**June 30, 2026**), before the conclusion of the creative laboratory, choreographers and dancer-performers will present short experimental works using the movement material developed during the project.

The training program focuses on choreographers acquiring new knowledge and skills, both in contemporary choreography and in leading an artistic team of dancers. Choreographers are not allowed to participate as dancer-performers on stage unless explicitly permitted by the artistic leadership.



## IV. Responsibility of the Organizer and/or Third Parties Involved in the Initiative

1. The Organizer and its partners commit to providing the necessary conditions for the event and to distributing information about it in the form of photos, videos, interviews with participants, and the artistic leadership.
2. The Organizer and its partners are responsible for the entire process of preliminary activities before the start of the training process in the Creative Laboratory for Emerging Choreographers. This includes disseminating information about participant registration, selecting candidates through an independent jury, informing applicants about the jury's decision, and other details regarding the actual training.
3. The jury's decision regarding the selection of participants in the Creative Laboratory for Emerging Choreographers "HELIOS" is final and cannot be appealed. By registering, applicants agree to this condition.
4. The Organizer and its partners commit to maintaining ongoing communication with applicants during the application process and with participants during the actual training process. Communication will be conducted through the email addresses provided during registration, as well as through the contact details published by the organizers. The Organizer is not responsible for incorrectly provided email addresses during candidate registration.

## V. Financial Conditions

1. The training program is free for all participants—choreographers selected by an independent jury and dancers-performers invited by the choreographers. All costs for conducting the training program are covered by a project of the "Helios - Sofia" Association, funded by the Sofia Municipality – "Culture" Programme and Lachezar Tsotsorkov Foundation.
2. Choreographers selected by the independent jury for the training program will receive a budget of 250 (two hundred and fifty) EURO for the entire training period. The funds will be paid after the completion of the training process and the final public performance.
3. Each choreographer has the right to invite up to three dancers-performers for the creation of their artistic work, subject to approval by the artistic leadership of the program. In exceptional cases, the number of dancers-performers may be increased based on the creative concept and after discussion and approval by the artistic leadership. If the total number of dancers-performers exceeds the number planned in the project budget, the scholarship amount for dancers-performers may be reduced.

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4. To process the scholarship payments, each choreographer must electronically submit (info@helios-sofia.eu) the following information for themselves and for the dancers-performers in their artistic work: full name, personal identification number (EGN), exact address, phone number, and email address. The deadline for submitting this information is 5:00 PM on June 20, 2026.
5. To receive the scholarship payments, a signed attendance list of participants (choreographers and dancers-performers) must be provided. The Organizer will distribute this list at the beginning of the training, and each choreographer must complete it with their own name and signature, as well as the names and signatures of the dancers-performers in their artistic work.

## VI. Publicity and Personal Data

The personal data of each participant is protected in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Policy of the "Helios - Sofia" Association, which can be found [HERE](#).

By applying for the "HELIOS" 2026 program, all participants declare and agree that they provide their personal data voluntarily as a necessary condition for applying to the training program and for exercising the rights they may acquire as participants. They expressly consent to the Organizer processing their personal data, including sharing it with third parties for reporting to funding programs and/or partners, experts, and lecturers involved in organizing and conducting the training program.

Participants in the training program agree that their names, photos, videos, or other personal data may be publicly disclosed and used in audio, print, or video materials by the Organizer and/or a designated third party, with no financial compensation owed by the Organizer.

The personal data collected for the "HELIOS" program is provided voluntarily by the participants, who have the right to access and correct their data. The personal data of participants will only be used in connection with the activities of the "HELIOS - SOFIA" Association and for its promotion, as well as for presentation to funding programs, sponsors, and institutions.

Participants agree that they and the dancers-performers may be photographed during the presentation of experimental works, and that these photos/videos featuring them and their participation may be publicly distributed by the Organizer through various communication channels and used in other promotional campaigns and events.



## VII. Code of Ethical Conduct

All participants in the "HELIOS" program are expected to adhere to the following principles:

- **Integrity** – Building and maintaining relationships based on respect, trust, cooperation, and collegiality.
- **Loyalty** – Conducting themselves in an honest, fair, and responsible manner.
- **Responsibility** – Following the rules outlined in this document and not disrupting the training process through absences, lateness, or unethical behavior.
- **Non-Discrimination and Prohibition of Hate Speech** – Participants must not engage in discrimination or hate speech based on gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, citizenship, origin, religion, education, beliefs, political affiliation, personal or social status, age, sexual orientation, marital status, financial status, or any other characteristics recognized by law or international treaties to which Bulgaria is a party.

The artistic leadership is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Code of Ethical Conduct and has the obligation to recommend or require participants to change their behavior or artistic approach if it identifies a risk of violating these rules.

## VIII. Termination of the Program

The Organizer has the irrevocable right to terminate the training program at any time if abuses, violations of these General Terms, or force majeure circumstances occur. In such cases, the termination of the training program will be announced on the website and Facebook page of the Creative Laboratory for Emerging Choreographers "HELIOS." Participants are not entitled to compensation in these situations.

## IX. Disputes

Any potential disputes between the Organizer and the Participants will be resolved through negotiations. If an out-of-court resolution is not possible, disputes will be settled by the competent courts in Sofia. This provision serves as an explicit agreement within the meaning of Article 117, paragraph 2 of the Bulgarian Civil Procedure Code.



## X. Final Provisions

The General Terms and Conditions are available at: <https://helios-sofia.eu/повече-информация/>

By registering for participation in the "HELIOS" project, participants accept the binding nature of these General Terms and Conditions and agree to comply with their provisions.

### **Campaign Coordinators and Contact Person for the Organizer:**

Albena Nacheva: info@helios-sofia.eu

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