

Empowering Performing Artists Beyond Performance

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Career Development rather than Transition

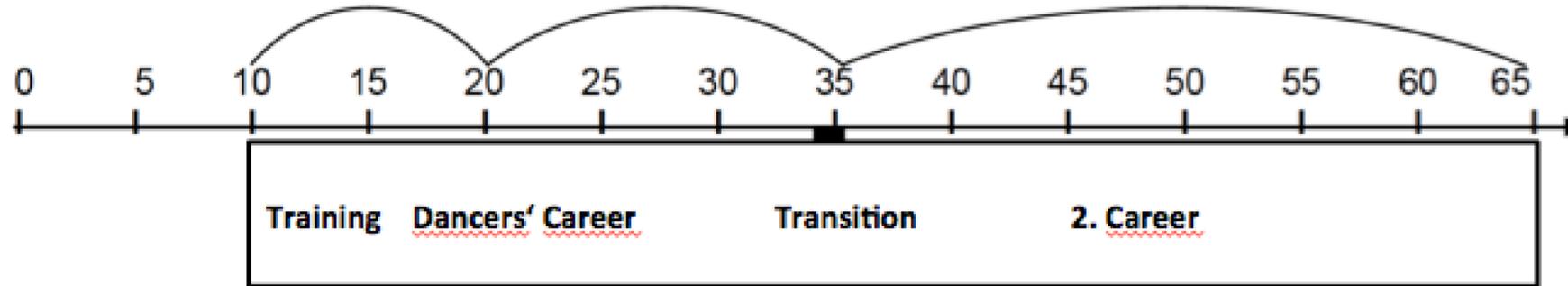
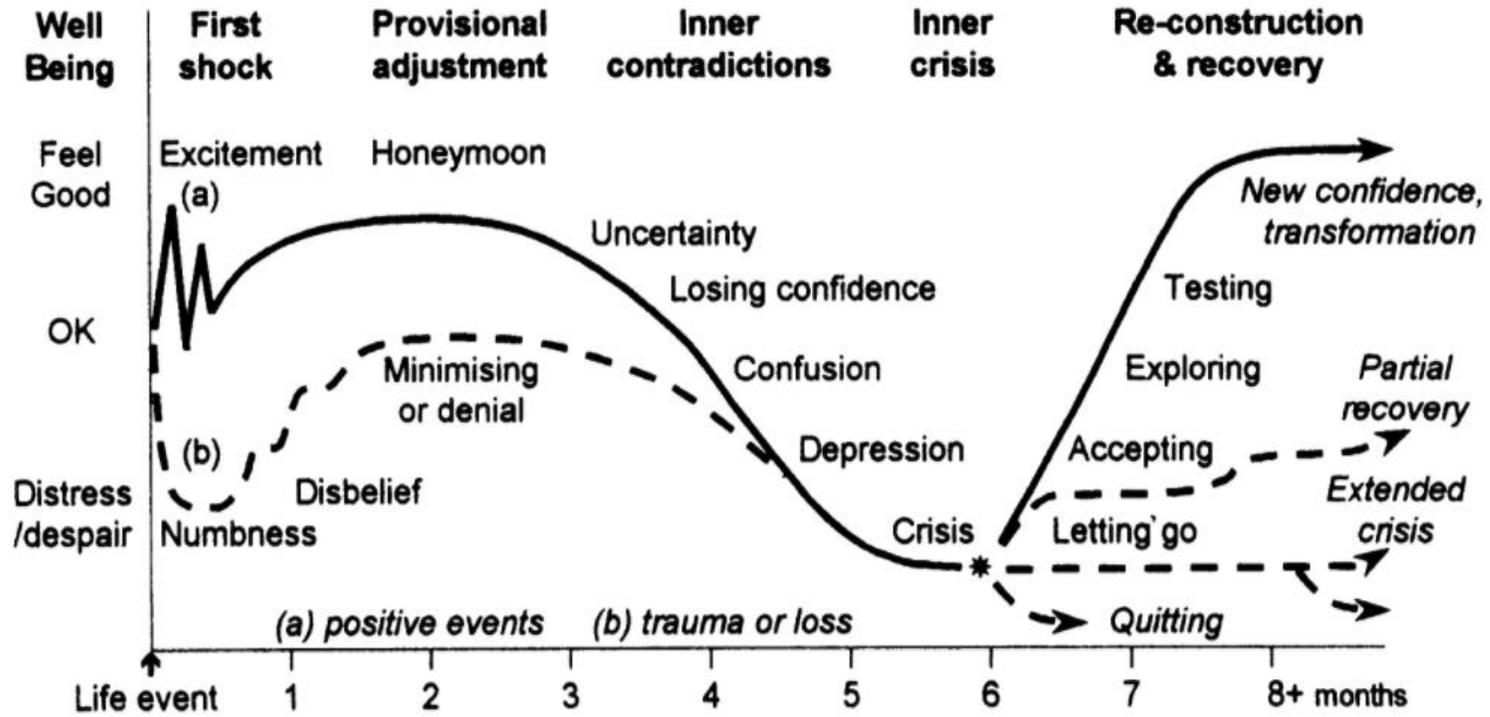


Figure 1: The transition cycle - a template for human responses to change.



2) Identify performing artists skills

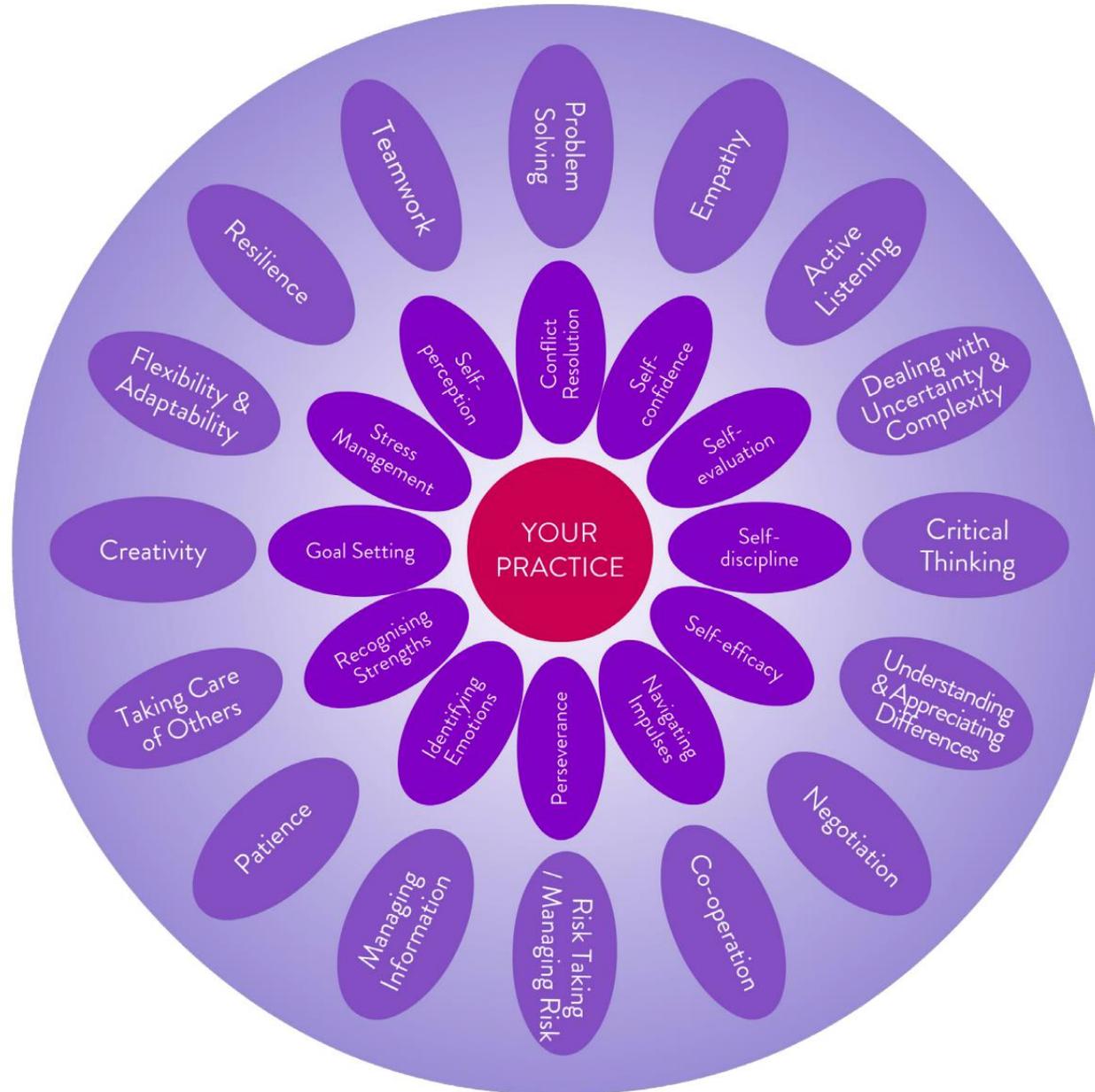
What skills do dancers and performing artists acquire?

2) Identify performing artists skills

- Kinesthetic intelligence (ability to remember movement sequences)
- Body awareness
- Artistic sensitivity and musicality
- Ability to concentrate and discipline
- Early independence
- Ability to work in a team
- Quick reactions, the ability to improvise and adapt quickly to new contexts
- Ability to deal with stressful situations, a heavy workload and irregular working hours
- Intercultural skills / working with people from other cultures and with different mentalities



MAP OF SOFT SKILLS



- **Soft Skills** are patterns of **thought, behaviours** and **communication**.
- They support you in **navigating your emotions**
- Help deal with **Interpersonal relationships**
- Encourage individual and personal approaches to working Relations and social encounters.

- These skills are identified by **UNESCO** and the **World Economic Forum** as the most vital skills of the future.

➤ **EMPOWERING DANCE LINK**

3) Challenges

Identity & Future of Work

Transition = Identity Shift

From “I am a performing artist” → **multi-professional identity**

Artists already live:

- Portfolio careers
- Freelance structures
- Continuous reinvention

➤ Artists are **ahead of the labour market**

3) Challenges

Reframing Transition

Artists are not leaving their careers — they are expanding them (career development rather than transition)

- Transition is not failure — it is **evolution**
- Artists build **multi-phase careers**
- The future of work is **non-linear**

3) Challenges

Artistic Skills = Future Skills

- Creativity & problem-solving
- Emotional intelligence
- Resilience & discipline
- Embodiment & communication

Societal value:

- Health
- Education
- Innovation

3) Challenges

Bridging the Gap

Challenges:

- Precarious income
- High living costs (Switzerland)
- Social systems not adapted

Future models:

- Lifelong learning (sabbaticals)
- Flexible pensions
- New career paths
- Solidarity transition fund: one franc is donated for each dance ticket

4) Conclusion

- **Artists don't exit careers — they expose how outdated career systems are**
- **What we call “transition” is actually the future of work already in practice**
- **Artists don't lack skills — the system fails to recognize them**
- **The problem is not artistic careers, but systems designed for a world that no longer exists**

Study choice „Omscholing Dansers Nederland“ scholarship holders in Holland

Primary school teacher *

Dance teacher *

Beautician *

Truck driver

Ballet Master *

Art Historian

Photographer *

Actress *

Sailing Instructor

Administrative

Medical secretary

Graphic Designer *

Auctioneer

Choreographer *

Fashion designer

Musician *

Opera director

Sales manager retail

Web designer *

Yoga teacher *

Museum custodian

Arts Manager *

Film video director *

Interior designer

Events project manager

Physical therapist *

Cook

Psychologist *

Theater technician *

Real estate agent

Cab driver

Gyrotonics instructor *

Career counselor

Naturopath *

Dolphin trainer

Language teacher

Publicity manager

Remedial educationalist

Translator

Outdoor sports instructor

Carpenter *

Construction worker

Human Resource Manager

Lawyer *

Furniture designer

Nurse

Camera Crew

Receptionist

Driving instructor

Movement therapist

Theater maker

Study choice „Omscholing Dansers Nederland“ scholarship holders in Holland

Goldsmith / jewelry design *

Manager fashion

Child care worker

Alexander teacher

Rolfing masseur

International Business and
Language

Computer science *

Horse back riding instructor

Gallery keeper

Pilot

Choreologist (Laban)

Bookkeeper

Pilates instructor *

Osteopath

Ayurveda instructor

Journalist

Secretary

Grinberg instructor

Multi Media Engineer

Tailor's cutter

Helicopter pilot

Light designer

Arts consultant

Podologist

Gardener

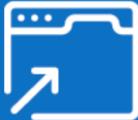
Hairdresser

Optician

Wine importer

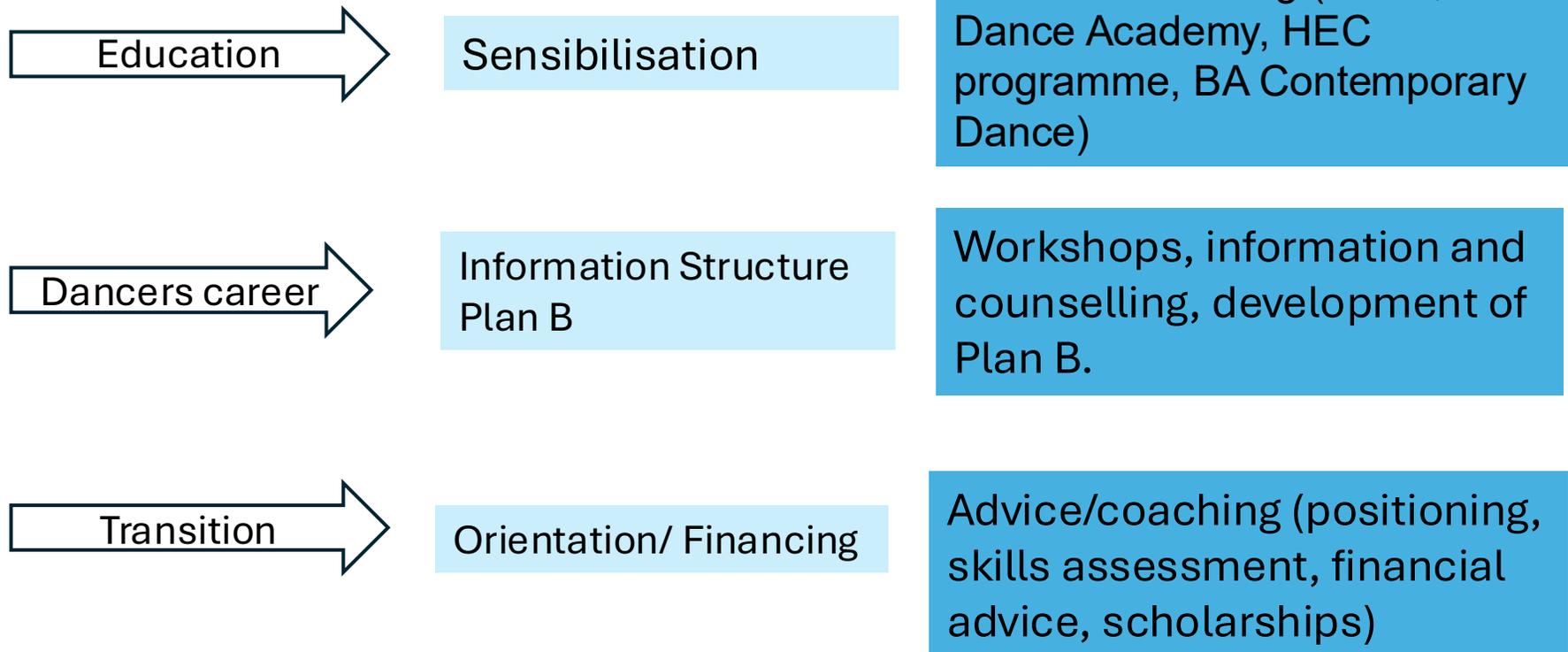
*More than one person has
chosen this training programme

Services Transition-Center SSUDK

 <h3>COUNSELING</h3> <p>Initial assessment and information on retraining opportunities.</p> <p>Contact</p>	 <h3>GRANTS</h3> <p>Grants can include both tuition fees and contributions to living expenses.</p> <p>Grants</p>	 <h3>WORKSHOPS</h3> <p>Imparting practical knowledge to raise awareness of the problems of changing careers at an early stage.</p> <p>News</p>	 <h3>NETWORK</h3> <p>Networking with partner organisations and former performing artists who are successful in their new profession.</p> <p>Contact</p>
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2. Career Development and Transition support



Facts and Figures SSUDK 2016/2023

2016-2026

- 90 grants of totally Euro 520'000
- more than 1'000 performing artists benefit from the services

2025

- over 100 counselling cases, 10 grants totally Euro 53'000
- annually 5 „Career Development Workshops” lectures and talks for awareness-raising
- New cooperation with Athletes Network <https://www.athletes-network.com/en/>

Tools:

[The Dancers Survival Guide to Transition](#)

[Dance Careers Hub](#)



Impact Examples

Dancing with Neurological Challenges (multiple sclerosis (MS) or Parkinson's disease)

The European Organization for Nuclear Research Art's at CERN



Questions?

Contact: oliver.daehler@ssudk.ch

Thank you for yor attention! 😊

Insta: Transition Center SSUDK

