The scene is in a studio in Amsterdam. Cameras on tripods line all four edges of a dance floor. A long table is full of computer equipment and screens. In the centre of the room a flamenco dancer’s feet, hands and passionate percussive movements of her feet capture the attention of everyone present. But instead of the traditional frilled and flowing dress, this dancer is wearing a tight black outfit and cap over her hair. Dozens of hi-tech sensors are capturing every movement of her body. There is so much more detail about your joints, your skeleton, so much more accuracy – it’s fantastic. It shows it in 3D and so gives a different dimension to watching a dancer perform on video.

“Dancing next to the hologram is a different experience again. It’s dancing with a version of yourself.”

The three-year Horizon 2020-funded project involves 10 project partners in Greece, Italy, Amsterdam, Spain, France and the UK. Dancers and choreographers are working with computer scientists, programmers and motion capture experts to create a range of digital dance tools. The project also allows this to be translated and perform alongside it, can help refine their technique.

The researchers say they’ve received great feedback on the project when they’ve showcased it at events in London, Madrid, Toulouse, Greece and The Netherlands.

And as part of the process of getting the technology to the stage where it can be used by elite dancers, the project has produced a huge repository of motion captured clips of dances. Thousands of digital files have been recorded, from intricate flamenco routines, contemporary dance sequences, Greek Folk dance group dances to the most basic of ballet steps.

“Using this technology really brings it into the modern world.”

Rosa spent 15 hours, spread across two days, dancing in the suit to record dozens of flamenco moves and routines. And she believes the project opens up a whole new world for flamenco dancers – and perceptions.

“Flamenco dancers are trained in a very traditional, communal setting. It’s very different to learning ballet. With flamenco it is about listening to the music, the rhythm, training the ear first and then training the body.”

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