



Caravan Circus Network

Changing lives through circus

Terms and Conditions

Caravan is an international non-profit association set up under the Belgian Law. The association works on the quality improvement of youth and social circus throughout Europe. It promotes circus practices in youth education in Europe and favors their development through concrete actions such as youth exchanges and training for trainers.

Caravan is, first of all, an association of members.

What does the Caravan membership imply?

Caravan always puts young people at the centre of its activities, from their conception to their completion and evaluation. Since 2007, 11 **youth exchanges** were implemented in 8 different European countries.

With the support of the **European Voluntary Service** and **Eurodyssée**, Caravan members have put in place a network of exchange of volunteers in order to promote the mobility of young people between their institutions.

Members of Caravan organises **workshops and training sessions for trainers**. Up to now 15 training sessions for trainers were organised. Some of them focusing on Social Circus were supported and led by the Cirque du Soleil. Others were part of the project « Circus Trans Formation ».

All through the years, Caravan has gained knowledge in the field of **Social Circus**. This expertise grew not only thanks to the above-mentioned activities but also thanks to the Caravan researches carried out in the framework of the European programme “Leonardo – Partnership”. This 2-year project led to the creation of the “**Framework of Competencies for Social Circus Trainers**” in 2011. Enthusiastic by the success of this first long term project, the Caravan members wanted to take a step further into this crucial work. Consequently, they carried out another important European project called « **Circus Trans Formation** » which led to the creation of the first “**European training programme for Social Circus trainers**”. We are now starting a new large scale European project under the Erasmus+ programme. Its name is « **CIRCUS+** » and the outcome will be the creation of a « **European 2 or 3-year training programme in Youth and Social Circus Pedagogy** ».

In terms of **communication and European grant expertise**, the members can also benefit from the support of the Caravan office based in Brussels.

Being a member of Caravan implies thus not only the chance to participate in all these innovative activities but also the opportunity for the members’ staff to develop and to share their knowledge of youth and social circus within a **leading European network**.

How to become a member?

Types of members allowed:

The members of Caravan are of two types:

- Circus Schools established as non-profit associations providing educational learning programs in circus arts.
- Non-profit associations sharing the objectives of Caravan (see below).

3 Categories of Caravan members:

1) Full members

The full members are organisations based in countries belonging to the Council of Europe. There are a maximum of 2 full members per European country.

They must have permanent teaching activities and a permanent staff. They must be committed to pedagogical development and have artistic activities. They must be clearly working in favor of the young people. They must share Caravan objectives (see below). They must be financially sound and trustworthy organisations.

The full members are part of the Board of Directors and have the shared responsibility for the development of the strategy and direction of Caravan. They have first call on the time of the Caravan staff for projects which further develop the objectives of Caravan. They possess voting rights at the General Assembly.

The full members are asked to place on promotional materials & letterhead the Caravan logo under which is mentioned the following sentence: « European Youth and Social Circus Network ».

They have to commit a small amount of time per year for cooperation (organisation of activities, emails, contact with the members).

2) Associate members

The associate members are organisations or individuals based/delivering Social and Youth Circus inside or outside EU qualifying area.

They receive all of the information produced by Caravan on a priority basis. They can use Caravan administration to put out their own information to all members. They get invitations to attend all conferences and networking events staged by Caravan. They have a priority on Caravan staged training and exchanges after the Full Members.

The associate members are asked to place on promotional materials & letterhead the Caravan logo under which is mentioned the following sentence: « European Youth and Social Circus Network ».

3) Friends and Supporters

Friends and Supporters are organisations or individuals supportive of Caravan in its effort to develop the Youth and Social Circus field.

They receive all of the information produced by Caravan on a priority basis. They get invitations to attend all conferences and networking events staged by Caravan.

Admission:

Caravan admits in priority members coming from countries, which belong to the Council of Europe. Caravan admits circus schools or non-profit associations sharing the objectives of Caravan and satisfying to the conditions specified in the present document. The applications are submitted to the Board of Directors. They must gather 2/3 of the Directors' votes present or represented in order to be recommended to the General Assembly. Acceptance of new members will be then granted by the General Assembly by a simple majority (50% +1). Once admitted, the associations must transmit in writing the decision of their own Board of Directors providing the name of their representative and they must pay the annual membership fee. The Board of Directors can demand any complementary pieces of information if it considers it useful. Fake information from a candidate member leads to the irrevocable rejection of the application.

Resignation:

Members of the association may at any time resign by a registered letter addressed to the President and sent to the secretariat of Caravan. Resigning members has no right with regard to the association's assets.

Membership fees:

All the Caravan members pay an annual membership fee depending on the financial capacities of the member.

The amount of the membership fees are decided by the General Assembly on a proposal of the Board of Directors. The non-payment of the annual membership fee within the deadlines may lead to the exclusion. The exclusion is taking effect after two written reminders.

Currently, the membership fees are as follow:

1) Full members

- 2000€ for full members with an annual budget exceeding 500.000€
- 1250€ for full members with an annual budget between 200.000€ and 500.000€
- 750€ for full members with an annual budget below 200.000€

2) Associate members

- 200€

3) Friends and Supporters

- 200€

What are the objectives?

Main objective

To use Circus Arts to create positive personal, community and social change

General objectives

- 1.To advocate for the positive impact of youth and social circus
- 2.To develop innovative pedagogical approaches for youth and social circus
- 3.To promote, through international co-operation, the sustainable development of organisations working in the field of social circus
- 4.To maximise opportunities and pathways for people engaged in youth and social circus to connect across Europe and beyond
- 5.Professionalize pedagogic, social, artistic and administrative skills of the sector

To this end, Caravan determines to

- 1.Organise intercultural exchanges to promote personal development, citizenship and circus creativity of young people
- 2.Organise vocational educational programmes for trainers, artists and managers in the field of youth and social circus
- 3.Support hosting and sending of volunteers on international level
- 4.Develop agreed accreditation in the field of youth and social circus
- 5.Evaluate and disseminate evidence of the impacts of social circus and promote best practice
- 6.Operate on local, national and international level
- 7.Promote the inclusion of circus arts in formal and non-formal education