

Caravan Circus Network  
Annual Report 2012



**European Youth Circus  
and  
Education Network**

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# Introduction

Although the association was founded officially in October 2008, members of Caravan have been working together since 2007. Together, we share the common objective to promote circus practices in youth education throughout Europe and to encourage its development, through concrete actions such as youth exchanges and trainings for trainers. The association is also committed to promoting collaboration and exchanges in the field of youth and social circus across Europe.

Caravan received in the beginning of 2011 official support from the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), by awarding the association an operating grant for one year as a “body active at European level in the youth field”, in the framework of the Youth in Action programme. This official recognition by the European Commission rewards the important work and involvement of Caravan and its members for the benefit of the young people in Europe. In 2012, we are going to submit again our application. A comprehensive overview of the actions in the youth field put in place through our network is presented in the following pages.

Caravan is deeply committed to developing the sector of Social Circus. Enthusiastic by the success of its 2010 Leonardo – Partnership project on the creation of the **European Framework of Competences for Social Circus Trainers** (page 8), Caravan decided to take a step further in this initiative. After deep discussions and strategic evaluations, a new project called “Circus Trans Formation” has been conceptualised on the results of the Leonardo – Partnership. The objective is to create the first **European training for social circus trainers** (page 9). Consequently, Caravan submitted in February 2012 its application to the Leonardo – Transfer of Innovation programme in order to receive the necessary financial support for the implementation of this project. The experts of the European Commission, who very positively evaluated our application, decided to support us. The Kick-off meeting of our new European adventure took place in September in Bucharest and we are now in the process of implementing this outstanding project gathering 9 Caravan circus schools and 2 universities (Université catholique de Louvain and Paris-Sud 11).

**Hip Cirq Europ** is another major European project involving 5 Caravan members and one organisation from Guadeloupe. It is a transdisciplinary project (circus arts - hip hop - urban cultures) in favour of social inclusion, professionalization of young artists and recognition of cultures of young Europeans from the priority neighbourhoods (page 10).

Caravan is above all a network of European circus schools. We pay carefully attention to build strong ties between our members. In order to make the association sound and sustainable, we make sure that Caravan values are common to all the members. Therefore the chances of success of our projects are without any doubt higher. During 2012, Caravan decided to expand once again its membership. We were most pleased to welcome 3 circus schools from 3 different European countries:

- **Cirqueon** from Prague in Czech Republic
- **Galway Community Circus** from Galway in the Republic of Ireland
- **Upsala Circus** from Saint Petersburg in the Russian Federation

Caravan is now heading towards its 5-year anniversary with the guarantee of working with 12 strong and committed members sharing its values and objectives. Thanks to this forceful and dedicated network, Caravan is very confident in addressing its future challenges in the youth field and the promotion of circus arts and social circus.

# Caravan objectives

## General objectives

- To contribute to the improvement of the quality of circus arts teaching with a formal and non-formal educational purpose in Europe
- To promote the importance of the inclusion of artistic practices, including circus arts, in the education of young people throughout Europe
- To support personal development of young people, create pathways and promote their confidence to engage with each other across Europe

## Specific objectives

- To professionalize pedagogic, social, artistic and administrative skills of teachers and schools in terms of circus education
- To promote the use of those skills in the work with young people across Europe

To this end, CARAVAN is determined to

- 1) Organise exchanges with educational aims for young people
  - Create of a volunteers exchange network
  - Organise artistic and intercultural encounters
- 2) Organise exchanges designed for trainers
  - Workshops, seminars, meetings, projects to be built together, pedagogical exchanges
- 3) Organise exchanges designed for managers of circus schools
  - Workshops, seminars, meetings, projects to be built together, pedagogical exchanges
- 4) Develop certification tools between partners of the network in the field of circus art training
- 5) Feeding relevant information to and influencing local, national and European governments

# Caravan Timeline

2007

**Preparation meeting**  
Brussels

*Caravan hit the road!*

Announcement of the crea-  
tion of Caravan during the 3rd  
N.I.C.E. Meeting in Tampere

Approval of Networking Action  
by Belgian National Agency

*First grant for Caravan!*

2008

**Networking action**  
Brussels

Introduction Meeting

**Training for trainers  
on social circus**  
Amsterdam

*In cooperation with  
Cirque du Soleil*

**Youth exchange**  
Bagneux

30 young people and  
10 trainers

**Board meeting**  
Amsterdam

Preparation of the  
working plan, on  
the occasion of the  
4th NICE meeting

**Formal creation of  
Caravan as a legal  
entity in October**

2009

**Study visit**  
Belfast

Meeting between leaders  
and trainers of Caravan  
Genesis of "A New Spirit  
for Europe" project

**Training for trainers on  
social circus, hip-hop and  
urban cultures**

*In cooperation with Cirque  
du Soleil*

**Youth exchange**  
Belfast

28 young people and 8  
trainers

**Social circus project  
"A New Spirit for Eu-  
rope"**

Brussels

Introduction Meeting

2010

**Social circus project  
"A New Spirit for  
Europe"**

Brussels

Study Meeting 1

**1st General Assembly**  
Luxembourg

Evaluation meeting

**Training for trainers  
on circus and urban  
cultures**

Bagneux

**Social circus project  
"A New Spirit for  
Europe"**

Berlin

Study Meeting 2

**Youth exchange**  
Amsterdam

*16 young people  
and 4 trainers*

**Youth exchange**  
Reichelow

*40 young people  
and 6 trainers*

2010

**Youth exchange**  
Stuttgart

*60 young people  
and 16 trainers*

**Training for trainers  
on social circus**  
Barcelona

*In cooperation with  
Cirque du Soleil*

**Participatory forum  
"A Circus Against Exclusion"**  
Brussels

*In partnership with  
the European Commission*

**Social circus project  
"A New Spirit for  
Europe"**

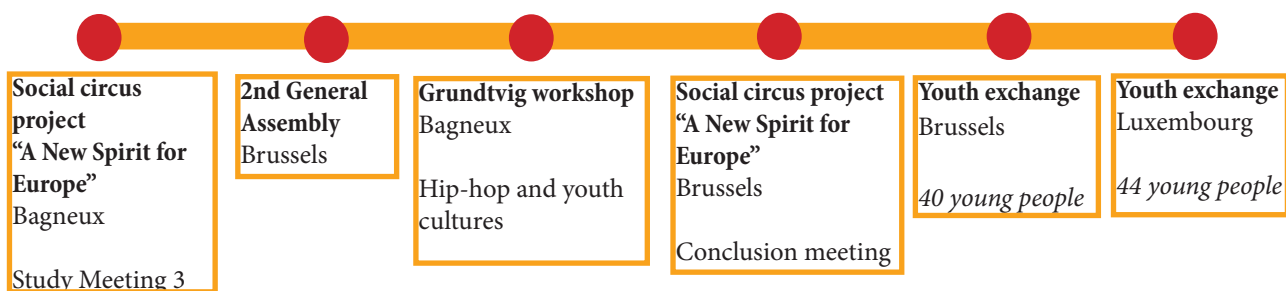
Amsterdam

Study Meeting 3

**Study visit**  
Tampere

Genesis of  
"Circus Trans For-  
mation" project

**2011**



**2011**



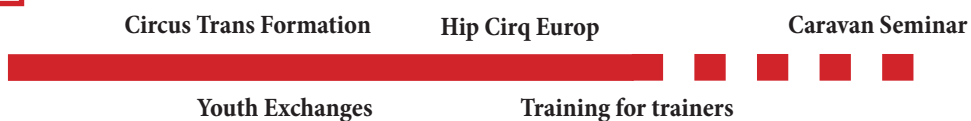
**2012**



**2012**



**2013**



# Social Circus

## Introduction

Social circus is an innovative tool for the social inclusion and the education of young people with fewer opportunities. It offers challenge, creativity, personal and physical development. Targeting specific schools, neighbourhoods and public from disadvantaged urban areas, social circus is an intercultural tool favouring community links between participants, raising their self-esteem and confidence, improving their physical literacy and developing their life skills.

In the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission, Caravan has submitted two major European projects in the field of social circus.

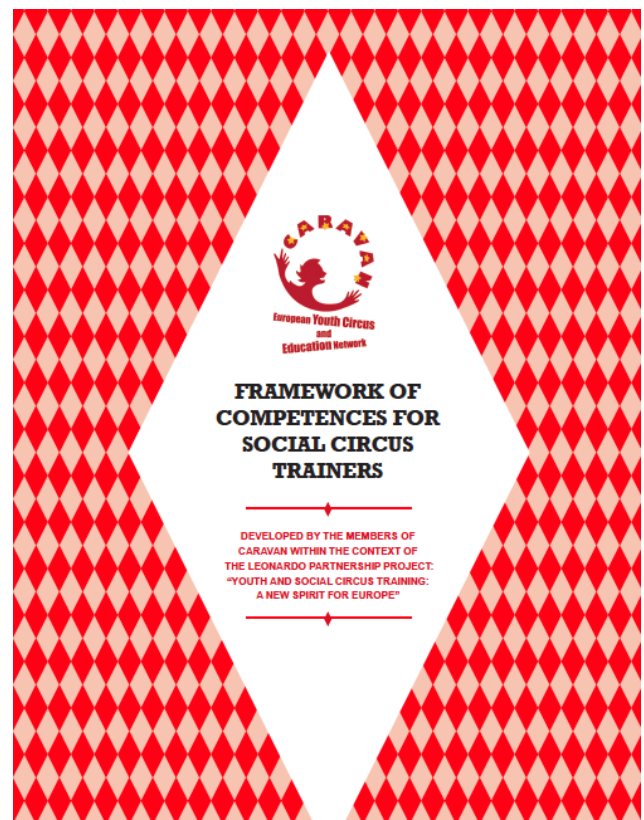
## - Youth and social circus training: A new spirit for Europe

From 2009 to 2011, a consortium of seven circus schools worked together on a Leonardo da Vinci - Partnership project called “Youth and social circus Training - A new spirit for Europe” to establish a European framework of competences for the new profession of social circus trainer. These seven partners are all major youth and social circus schools and all members of Caravan.

The methodology of the project was developed under the guidance of the University of Brussels (ULB) and derived from the practice of action research. It introduced a system in which the research material came directly from the actors in the field. It was a so called bottom-up methodology: the information was collected directly in the field, at the heart of the action of the social circus trainers, and was then analysed by the research team from ULB's Faculty of Psychological Sciences and Education. It was based on on-going academic review, continuous analysis and evaluation, in order to determine the most effective method of delivery.

At the end of the project, partners wrote a definition of social circus as it is practiced in the seven youth and social circus schools of the consortium. They also established the **European Framework of Competences for Social Circus Trainers**.

Co-funded by  Lifelong Learning Programme



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

For more info, please visit our website or follow this link:  
<http://www.caravancircusnetwork.eu/assets/PDF/LEO1finalLOW2.pdf>

In partnership with:





## - Circus Trans Formation

Within the framework of the European Lifelong Learning Programme, 8 members of Caravan, in partnership with the Université catholique de Louvain, are carrying out a 2-year Leonardo da Vinci – Transfer of Innovation project called Circus Trans Formation, from 2012 to 2014.

Aiming at developing the appropriate competences for social circus trainers, the consortium is working on a curriculum and on a teacher's manual, which will be the basis for the creation of the **first European training programme for social circus trainers**.

This will have an impact on the national and European Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems of this branch and will also contribute to the dynamics and the economic growth of the social circus sector all over Europe.

The project is based on a bottom up methodology seeking to take into account partner's local contexts. The definition of the competences of social circus resulted from a 2-year field observation carried out by Caravan between 2009 and 2011. In order to analyse, develop, test, and implement the training programme at the national and European levels, Circus Trans Formation follows a specific schedule:

- Kick-off meeting in Bucharest (26 – 28 September 2012)

Presentation of the objectives followed by study meetings.

- Head trainers meetings (17-19 December 2012 / 27-29 May 2014)

Two exchange meetings between the partners and the Curriculum Team in Tampere and Stockholm.

- International Methodological training sessions (4-14 February 2013 / 25-29 March 2013)

Experimentation and transmission of the curriculum to the partners' trainers during 10 days in Amsterdam and 5 days in Belfast.

- National training sessions (June 2013 – April 2014)

National implementation of the 20-day training programme in each partner's organisation.

- Conclusion meeting in Brussels (1 – 3 July 2014)

Publication and presentation of the results to the press, the relevant partners and the public.

- Pedagogical development of the curriculum (throughout the project)

The Curriculum Team of experts, led by Professor Paquay, writes and refines the curriculum and the teacher's manual.

In partnership with:



### Head trainers meeting

17 - 19 December 2012 - Tampere

This 3-day meeting was the occasion for the Curriculum Team to present the work they have been developing since the Kick-off meeting in September 2012, to the head trainers of 6 Caravan member schools.

The coldness and beauty of Tampere did not prevent our European team from working hard and from refining with great enthusiasm the curriculum and the teacher's manual. This was an important step of the project because it gave the opportunity to each participant to make sure that their local contexts will be taken into account in the development of this first European training programme for social circus trainers.



# Hip Cirq Europ



Hip Cirq Europ' is a multidisciplinary project of itinerant artistic residencies. It is run by Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde, in association with five European partners: l'Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles (Belgium), Circus Elleboog (Netherlands), Belfast Community Circus (United Kingdom), Sorin Sirkus (Finland), Métis Gwa (Guadeloupe).

The project is co-funded by the European Union under the Culture Programme. It aims to encourage the emerging artist's professionalization and the recognition of emerging cultures from priority neighbourhoods.

This major project includes six artistic residencies (France, Guadeloupe, Belgium, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom).

Headed by two choreographers, Eric Mezino (Cie E.Go) and Gaëtan Levêque (Collectif AOC), the project gathers twelve young European artists.

After creating an artistic form mixing circus arts, hip hop dance and emerging cultures, they move to six residencies (Metropolitan France, Guadeloupe, Belgium, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom) where they share their work with local emerging artists and young amateurs coming from priority neighbourhoods. At the end of each « residency step », the enriched creation will be presented during local cultural events.

## Objectives

- °) Support young artists in their cultural, social and economic inclusion
- °) Provide them a training on the social circus knowledge
- °) Encourage the opening up to Europe and put intercultural and artistic exchanges in favour of the social inclusion in Europe
- °) Promote urban cultures recognition
- °) Improve « the live together » and the solidarity, through the participatory, intercultural and educational dimension of emerging cultural activities
- °) Encourage cultural and artistic activities democratization to the publics far from the culture field.

## Few figures

- 72 young artists trained and accompanied in their professional careers
- 72 people in difficulty benefiting from 432 hours of actions related to the social circus
- 8 000 spectators reached by 16 performances
- 1 film describing the project implementation in the 5 partner countries
- 1 book in the form of portraits of the young emerging artists

3 - 17 September 2012 (Brussels) – Culture programme: 2nd residency of the “Hip Cirq Europ” project

After a first step in France, the group of 12 young artists coming from all Europe and Guadeloupe was welcome in Brussels by the Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles for their second residency. 2 weeks of training sessions has been concluded by a wonderful show, “Cabaret”, under the big top on 15 September 8.30pm at Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles.



Dates of the residencies

Creation Residencies :

BAGNEUX , France, from 10 to 25 JUNE 2012

**BRUSSELS, from 2 to 17 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Joint residencies :

TAMPERE, from 12 to 27 JANUARY 2013

BELFAST, from 22 APRIL to 7 MAY 2013

BAGNEUX, from 9 to 24 JUNE 2013

BRUSSELS, from 8 to 22 SEPTEMBER 2013

GUADELOUPE, 22 October to 9 November 2013

AMSTERDAM, from 16 to 20 DECEMBER 2013



*Faces of the world*  
Mixed cultures and disciplines



# Training for trainers

In order to professionalize its trainers and to promote circus arts in the education of young people in Europe, members of Caravan have already organised 10 sessions of workshops or training for trainers, which were opened to both Caravan members and non-Caravan members. In 2012, two sessions took place through the network. The participation of young people is emphasized, by allowing them to take an active part in the preparation and the development of the sessions.

## Ateneu Popular Nou Barris - Intergenerational Circus Workshop Barcelona , 4 May 2012

Ateneu Popular Nou Barris organized an intergenerational circus workshop bringing together young and elderly people. Some of the participants were coming from the School of Older People in the area of Verdun. The workshop was a 2-hour activity with a group of 35 people between 20 and over 65 years old. They experienced circus in a sweet, practical and funny way. The evaluation was such a success that it has been decided to renew the event next year.



## Belfast Community Circus School - Social circus and intercultural training for young trainers Belfast, 1 - 5 October 2012

Our member Belfast Community Circus School organised in collaboration with Cirque du Soleil a training session for trainers on social circus. This programme intends to develop strong personal and professional ethics, to link the learning content to the community's reality and to encourage and advocate circus arts as a tool of individual development.



# Youth Exchanges

Caravan always puts young people at the centre of its activities, from their conception to their completion and evaluation. In 2012, for instance, Caravan members organised one youth exchange directly aimed at and conceived with young people.

## Sorin Sirkus – Youth exchange

21 - 29 July 2012, Tampere

Caravan stresses the importance of learning through exchanges and organises each year a youth exchange in the framework of the Youth In Action programme of the European Commission. This edition was hosted by Sorin Sirkus and gathered young people from the Caravan members.

Thanks to this event, the young participants had the chance to learn more about the European programmes in the field of youth and the possibilities to create or to participate in social circus projects. The exchange aimed also to contribute to the intercultural dialogue in Europe.

A fabulous show was presented at the end of the exchange !



# Caravan for volunteers

Since 2007, with the support of European Voluntary Service and Eurodyssée, Caravan members have put in place a network of exchange of volunteers, to promote the mobility of young people between their institutions.

Here are the statistics of the volunteers hosted and sent by each school, both from 2007 and in 2012:

- Circus Elleboog (Amsterdam)
  - o Since 2007: 22 volunteers hosted and 4 volunteers sent abroad
  - o In 2012: 5 volunteers hosted and 1 volunteer sent abroad
  
- Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (Bagneux/Paris)
  - o Since 2007: 17 volunteers hosted and 8 volunteers sent abroad
  - o In 2012: 4 volunteers hosted
  
- Ateneu Popular 9 Barris (Barcelona)
  - o Since 2007: 3 volunteers hosted and 1 volunteer sent abroad
  - o In 2012: 1 volunteer hosted
  
- Belfast Community Circus School (Belfast)
  - o Since 2007: 2 volunteers hosted
  
- Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles (Brussels)
  - o Since 2007: 17 volunteers hosted and 2 volunteers sent abroad
  - o In 2012: 2 volunteers hosted
  
- PARADA Foundation (Bucharest)
  - o Since 2007: 6 volunteers hosted
  
- Sorin Sirkus (Tampere)
  - o Since 2007: 5 volunteers hosted
  - o In 2012: 2 volunteers hosted
  
- Upsala Circus (Saint Petersburg)
  - o In 2012: 3 volunteers hosted

Total since 2007:

- 74 young people were hosted as volunteers by CARAVAN members
- 15 young people were sent abroad as volunteers by CARAVAN members

# Caravan Seminar

European seminar : Circus and Hip-hop for inclusion

22 - 24 March 2012, Bagneux/Paris, France

European Seminar organised by Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (PPCM) in partnership with Caravan, UFR STAPS Paris Sud University and Le Pôle national des Arts du Cirque.

During this 3-day seminar, PPCM along with its partners had the pleasure to host more than 400 people, and to share moments of reflexion, imagination, exchanges on the circus arts and the emerging cultures, through many debates, conferences, round tables...Participants could also enjoyed during the evenings an open dance workshop, interactive sessions and, of course, the 20 steps Ball for the 20-year anniversary of PPCM!

Few figures :

35 speakers, 20 themes addressed  
10 round tables, 4 conferences  
50 Europeans participants from 9 different countries  
4 workshops gathering 150 participants  
40 hours of debates and exchanges  
5 venues, 3 performances...

and also :

600 meals and 300 breakfasts eaten  
1000 coffees, 850 teas, 350 madeleines devoured  
20 candles, 1 huge birthday cake  
...and 30 organizers exhausted but happy !



# Operating grant (EACEA)

At the end of 2010, CARAVAN applied for an operating grant from the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission. The work and actions of the association over the years was acknowledged by this European agency, since it granted support to CARAVAN in the framework of the Youth in Action programme, and officially recognised it as a “body active at European level in the youth field.”

Concretely, the EACEA awarded CARAVAN with an operating grant for one year, enabling us to hire our first employee for the following year (2011).

This recognition and direct financial support allowed us to expand our programme of activities, and to further professionalise our working methods thanks to the employment of a Development Manager.

Among the many new actions that we were able to realise with this grant, we can mention the creation of “Young CARAVAN,” the network of young people and volunteers involved in the daily life and activities of the member schools.

At the end of 2012, CARAVAN submitted its application to the 2013 EACEA call for proposals. Hopefully, thanks to this new operating grant, the association will receive support in the implementation of its future plan of actions in the youth field.





# Future plans

## **Youth Festivals**

- Youth social circus festival on 31 May 2013 in Barcelona
- Youth festival “Festival of fools” from 4 to 5 May 2013 in Belfast
- Youth festival from 2 to 5 May 2013 in Amsterdam
- Youth festival on Circus arts and Hip-hop from 18 to 23 June 2013 in Bagneux
- Youth festival “Ptit Cirq en Palc” from 1 to 7 July 2013 in Wavre (Belgium)

**Youth exchange** from 6 to 13 August in Alby (Sweden)

## **Training for trainers**

- Training in didactics in circus in Stockholm from January to March 2013
- Training for trainers on social circus from 1 to 3 March 2013 in Barcelona
- Training for trainers on social circus in partnership with Cirque du Soleil in Bucharest (dates to be confirmed)
- Training for trainers on social circus in partnership with Cirque du Soleil in November 2013 in Tampere

**Juggling and tightrope walking conventions** from 1 to 3 November 2013 in Brussels

**Caravan Seminar** on Circus and Inclusion from 18 - 21 September 2013 in Brussels

## **Circus Trans Formation**

- International methodological training session from 4-14 February 2013 in Amsterdam
- International methodological training session from 25-29 March 2013 in Belfast
- National training sessions taking place from June 2013 to April 2014 in the 9 countries of the 9 Caravan members involved in the CTF project.
- Head trainers meeting from 27 to 29 May 2014 in Stockholm
- Conclusion meeting from 1 to 3 July 2014 in Brussels

## **Hip Cirq Europ**

- Joint residency from 12-27 January 2013 in Tampere
- Joint residency from 26 April to 6 May 2013 in Belfast
- Joint residency from 9 to 24 June in Bagneux
- Joint residency from 8 to 22 September in Brussels
- Joint residency from 28 October to 10 November 2013 in Guadeloupe (France)
- Joint residency from 16 to 20 December 2013 in Amsterdam

# Caravan members

## **Circus Elleboog**

Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Elleboog's long history as a youth circus started in 1949. The school has now two buildings in Amsterdam (in the centre and South-East), and employs 35 staff members, plus 55 volunteers and interns.

Circus classes and workshops are organised every year for about 14.000 children and youngsters, from 4 to 22 years old. More than 40.000 people attend the shows and performances of the school every year. The numerous activities of Elleboog include:

- "Circusclubs" (for children and teenagers)
- "Trainingclubs" (for teenagers and young adults)
- Projects with primary and secondary schools (whether at Elleboog's or their school)
- Special projects with disabled children
- Birthday parties for children
- Circus festivals
- Youth performing groups (touring theatres all over the country)
- Parent-child activities
- Teambuilding for companies.

## **Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde**

Bagneux, France



Founded in 1992, Le Plus Petit Cirque Du Monde (PPCM) - Centre des Arts du Cirque Sud de Seine develops and promotes circus arts in the field of youth and social circus, vocational training for trainers and international exchanges. Its structure is located in Bagneux (a suburb in the South of Paris), in the heart of a disadvantaged area.

PPCM was born thanks to a group of people having a passion for the universal values and language of circus. The core of this group of volunteers has been active for seventeen years.

Its public is mainly composed of children from three years old and above, and young adults. About 420 students attend the weekly courses, 300 participants take part in the holiday workshops, and an average of 600 persons per week join in the outreach projects (workshops in schools, collaboration with social and leisure centres, projects with disadvantaged suburbs, workshops in jails, regular courses with handicapped children and young people).

## Belfast Community Circus School

Belfast, United Kingdom



Founded in the midst of Northern Ireland's conflict, Belfast Community Circus School has more than twenty years experience of working with circus as a means of bringing together young people from different cultures.

In 1999, Belfast Community Circus School took possession of the only circus building on the island of Ireland. Since that time, the organisation has expanded into providing professional development for circus artists; running an agency for performance and staging street theatre events including a five day international Festival of Fools.

The work with young people now includes a regular Youth Circus with 140 members between the ages of 8 and 18; Itty Bitty Circus with 80 members aged 2 to 7 and an extensive outreach programme working with young people from disadvantaged communities across Northern Ireland and with cross community groups. The outreach programme works with around 120 young people each week. Young people learning circus have opportunities to participate in a range of shows and parades.

The organisation currently has 6 staff and 25 freelance teachers.

## Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles

Brussels, Belgium



Founded in 1981, the Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles teaches circus arts with the aim to favour personal development. It has developed over the years its own philosophy, methodology and pedagogy. The Brussels school is a pioneer in providing training for circus teachers. It offers a specific training programme unique in Europe, called the « Formation Pédagogique », aimed at bachelor and master students in the field of pedagogy.

The school offers as well circus lessons, in the form of weekly classes and holiday workshops, for children and youngsters. It has also put in place many social projects, such as “Cirq’ de Quartier” (circus for youngsters from underprivileged areas) and “Handicirque” (circus for mentally and physically challenged people).

The school is hence, in the image of Brussels, a real melting pot...

## Zaltimbanq'

Luxembourg, Luxembourg



Luxembourg's only circus school has over 200 students, aged between 4,5 and 50 years old, taking part in one (or more) of the 20 weekly classes. These classes include parent-child circus, multidisciplinary classes, specific classes (acrobatics, unicycle, trapeze...) and performing group workshops. Furthermore there is an open training class once a week.

The school also provides workshops for children and/or adults with foreign teachers during school holidays and on weekends. In May, Zaltimbanq' organizes the festival "Cirque sous Chapiteau". During 10 days a number of international artists visit the big top to perform on stage and to work with the youngsters of the school. The festival also gives the students the possibility to show what they have learned to their parents and friends.

In 2009 Zaltimbanq' launched with the Service National de la Jeunesse (Youth division of the Ministry of Family and Integration) a training programme to become assistant trainer. This programme is opened to youngsters from 16 years old onwards.

## Sorin Sirkus

Tampere, Finland



Sorin Sirkus was founded in 1985. Recognized by the Ministry of Culture and Education as a national service and development centre for youth work, Sorin Sirkus offers Basic Education of Circus Arts in Finland based on national curriculum. 320 students, aged from 4 to 20 years old, attend the classes every week. The school employs five full time teachers, plus ten part time trainers. Other employees include: producer, financial manager, stage manager, costume designer and cleaner. Sorin Sirkus also hosts or sends volunteers through the European Voluntary Service and welcomes conscientious objectors.

Sorin Sirkus offers about 2300 m2 as rehearsing, learning and performing space. It organises more than one hundred performances every year, and collaborates with different circus and art schools around Finland. Sorin Sirkus was awarded the State Award for Children's Culture in 2010.

## **Ateneu Popular Nou Barris**

Barcelona, Spain



Ateneu Popular 9 Barris considers that cultural and artistic action is a tool for social development. Artistic and social training is hence a pillar of Ateneu's project. Their "Circus School for Children" was created in 1996 and, subsequently, they founded the "Circus School for Teenagers" in 2003.

They also organise a wide range of activities related to circus teaching, such as trainings for trainers, workshops for youngsters (on their premises or in hosting schools), workshops for mentally disabled students and open workshops.

## **Cirkus Cirkör**

Stockholm, Sweden



Cirkus Cirkör is Sweden's first and largest contemporary circus and was founded in Stockholm in 1995. Built upon art and pedagogy, Cirkus Cirkör has grown rapidly. As of today more than 340 000 children and young people have trained circus at Cirkus Cirkör and over 1,3 million people have seen the shows in all continents except Antarctica. Cirkus Cirkör consists of shows touring Sweden and the world, circus events for companies and organizations, lectures, research and development, circus training and internationally renowned secondary school.

Since 2005 Cirkus Cirkör has been an artistic institution with the mission to secure contemporary circus as an art form and Cirkus Cirkörs future growth. This is visualized every day in the Cirkör Lab – our artistic laboratory to which we welcome circus performers, companies and creators from all over the world. Together we explore the contemporary circus in order to develop the art form.

## Parada Foundation

Bucharest, Romania



PARADA Foundation is a Romanian NGO created in Bucharest in 1996 by a French clown, Miloud Oukili. The aim of the organisation is to provide assistance to street children and young people, as well as to homeless families, thanks to various services like integration, social assistance, education and “socioprofessional” integration.

The Foundation was awarded several prizes for its activities, such as: Prize UNICEF 2000, Prize ARTUSI 2000, Prize CLOWNUL SPERANTEI 1999 or Prize Albert Schweitzer 2000. For his action in favour of street children, Miloud received the title of Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Bologna, in 2007.

As part of its artistic project, PARADA has founded a “social circus”. This artistic programme was the basis for the development of the other activities of the foundation. Its main axes are:

- attracting children and young people, by inviting them to attend circus performances
- offering a framework to the children and young people, with a focus on the respect of discipline
- enabling children and young people to put on a circus show, to be performed both nationally and internationally

## Cirqueon

Prague, Czech Republic



Cirqueon is an umbrella organization dedicated to the support and development of contemporary circus in the Czech Republic. In the period from February to June 2010, the Cirqueon opened the very first regular courses of circus arts for the public in Prague.

### Long-term Goals

- educational activities, training for children, youth and young adults
- promoting the awareness of social circus in the Czech Republic, training of lecturers in this field,
- support of creation of new performance projects
- providing rehearsal space for artists and young companies
- training for professionals in the field of contemporary circus skills
- operation and development of a professional library and a documentation centre
- research and information activities in the field of related theory
- international cooperation and its expansion

## Galway Community Circus

Galway, Republic of Ireland



Galway Community Circus is a charitable organisation built on fun, innovation and a commitment to inspiring and empowering young people through circus arts. The organisation was set up in 2002 as the first dedicated youth circus in the Republic of Ireland.

There are currently 135 youth circus members between 5-20 years of age attending classes on a weekly basis. In addition GCC runs weekly Family Circus classes for younger children and training courses for adults. GCC also teaches outreach workshops and programmes with schools and community organisations. Youth circus programmes have a strong focus on performance with several youth circus shows and parades throughout the year. GCC aims to promote and sustain social inclusion and operates a bursary scheme for young people from low-income families.

## Upsala Circus

Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation



Upsala Circus is a unique project aimed at social adaptation for at risk kids and teenagers through learning circus skills.

The goal of Upsala Circus is to create an alternative to street life, bring kids back into society and create the conditions for realising their full potential. Studying circus arts allows teenagers to fulfill their need for risk and undertake this in a socially acceptable manner.

Our organisation has been operating in St Petersburg since the year 2000.

The world of the circus is colourful, engaging for all and accessible to any child regardless of their ability, physical limitations or social status.

We have two circus tents in St.Petersburg – an old summer tent and a new one, which is open all year round and seats 300 people.

Our repertoire consists of colourful contemporary circus shows, which incorporate acrobatics, juggling, pantomime and modern dance.

Upsala Circus puts on performances in children's homes, schools, boarding schools, special schools and other charitable organisations.

Every year our artists take part in a tour to Europe where we perform our latest shows.

Upsala Circus organises international circus exchanges. We have had guests from children's circus troupes in Germany, Sweden and Finland as part of this program.