

Caravan

International Youth and Social Circus Network

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, 16 **youth exchanges** were implemented in 11 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 organise **workshops and training sessions for trainers**. More than 40 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 Caravan 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 Competences 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 have now carried out another large scale European project under the Erasmus+ programme. Its name was « **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 Paris.

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 based in a country belonging to the council of Europe
- 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.

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.

Full members:

- **Are supported with travelling money** to the General Assembly once a year
- Have priority to be partners in CTF in Action Caravan's training for social circus trainers and send **2 participants for free**
- Have **priority to be partners in youth exchanges**
- Take part in research activities
- Make your voice heard and have the **right to vote in the General Assembly** and are **eligible to become board members**, hence having a strong voice in the direction of Caravan
- Are invited to represent Caravan in international conference/seminars
- Have their information shared and distributed widely by the Caravan secretariat
- Enhance your organisation's visibility by being **regularly featured in Caravan's newsletter** and social media
- Receive the Caravan newsletter with youth and social circus news and opportunities
- Stay up to date with what is going on in your sector worldwide connect with your peers

2) Associate members

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

Associate members :

- Are **invited to the General Assembly**
- Can be partners in CTF in Action Caravan's training for social circus trainers and **contribute 200€ per participant** for the whole 4-week programme
- Can be partners in youth exchanges
- Can send their information to the Caravan secretariat to be shared on the network's social media
- Receive the Caravan monthly newsletter with youth and social circus news and opportunities
- Stay up to date with what is going on in your sector worldwide connect with your peers

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 is 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