



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Caravan International
Youth and Social Circus
Network



Caravan aims at being environmentally friendly!
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A woman with long, curly hair is performing an aerial silk routine. She is suspended in the air, holding onto two red silks. Her body is arched, with one leg bent and the other extended. She is wearing a dark blue leotard and black tights. The background shows a white van with a red circular logo and the letters 'AIC' on its side. The scene is set outdoors, with a concrete ground and a building in the background.

Caravan is an international youth and social circus network consisting of 36 circus school Members and Friends from across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Caravan advocates for the positive impact of youth and social circus. The network was established in 2008 by 6 European circus schools with a common goal to use social circus as an educational tool and to dedicate this work to groups from disadvantaged backgrounds with specific needs.

2021 was a gruelling year! After a challenging 2020 focused on navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, the end of the obstacles was nowhere in sight. But that didn't stop us from doing our best to help our members create lasting positive change in their communities. Caravan started the year positively by hiring William Borrell to support Camille Henry in steering the Caravan ship towards new horizons and building on the progress that was made in 2020. Despite the year beginning with more cancellations and postponed activities, the new team began to find their rhythm, the wind from our members was harnessed in our sails, and we were able to continue beating through the oncoming waves to create opportunities around the world.

The ongoing organisational support from the Educational, Audio-visual, and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA) allowed Caravan to continue providing crisis support to our members. This enabled our Members and Friends to benefit from uninterrupted access to a tight knit, worldwide network of resilient, hardworking, creative circus organisations. Together, we worked to make the world a better place through performance art, despite the pandemic.

After the success of our online meetings in 2020, and the continued travel restrictions in place to curb the spread of the virus, our spring general assembly was held online with tremendous participation and generosity from all our Members and Friends. This was the first year of our new reformed membership format, and we were delighted that many of our international members were willing and able to join our extended circus family, become Members and vote within the assembly. We tested new online tools to facilitate connection and communication and strived for collective intelligence methodologies to make the most of the vast array of knowledge and expertise from our diverse community. During the GA we took the decision to launch a new pilot project focusing on the young people within the organisation, and give them a voice within the network, to propose future project ideas and incentives themselves. This came in the form of a 'Youth Advisory Group' that would support the management team in Brussels, and the board, in making important decisions for Caravan's future.

We cannot pretend that our project activities were not still heavily impacted by the pandemic in 2021... The final module of 'Circus Transformation in Action (CTF) 5', supposed to be held in Prague was unfortunately cancelled, though the participants were invited to an online conclusion meeting to share their thoughts and feedback. Towards the end of the year however, CTF 6 modules A & B were able to take place in person in Slovenia and Finland. After almost 2 years since our last in-person activity, it was a surreal and enriching experience to bring young trainers from around the world to share, learn, and bond through our flagship project. The resilience of our 'Circus as Intercultural Encounter' research coordination team enabled the project to continue advancing despite countless barriers and they were rewarded with 2 coordination meetings towards the end of the year. The 'Circus Overseas' project, that was supposed to begin in 2020, continued to be postponed through the beginning of the year, but was able to get out of the starting blocks at the end of the summer with an online kick-off meeting after almost 2 years away from each other. The first in person training activity is due to be held in South Africa in the first quarter of 2022. The advancement of 'Circus++' was stable and consistent, with the bachelor diploma being developed, reviewed, and evaluated throughout the year. With the end in sight in the coming summer, everything is on track for a photo finish!

We are delighted to share with you more detailed updates of everything that has happened in the previous year in the coming pages, filled with fantastic photos from our members around the world. Despite the challenges we are proud of the strides we have taken in strengthening and solidifying the 4 pillars of our 2021-25 Strategic Plan. This provides a strong foundation from which to enter 2022 with passion and drive to keep helping our members make the world a better place by empowering young people, engaging and including marginalised people through the joyful and creative art of Circus!

Ulla Hokkanen
Interim President
Caravan International Youth and Social Network

OUR TEAM



Camille Henry
Development manager

William Borrell
Projects and communication
assistant



Our Board

Thank you to our board members for their ongoing commitment to our network. A special thanks to Vincent Wauters, one of Caravan co-founder, who retired from his function at Ecole de cirque de Bruxelles (Belgium) and at Caravan in June 2021. Our Board members are nominated from the network's Members.



Ulla Hokkanen
Interim President, Galway
Community Circus, Ireland

Christophe Struder
Treasurer, Ton sur Ton,
Switzerland



Taina Kopra
Sorin Sirkus, Finland

Matthias Vermael
Circusplaneet, Belgium



Jenna Hall
Circusful, Northern Ireland

Clara Norman
Cirkus Cirkör, Sweden



Vincent Wauters
Ecole de Cirque Bruxelles,
Belgium

OUR Objectives

Our Vision

Changing lives through Circus!

Our Mission

To use circus arts to create positive personal, community and social change.



Our key objectives for 2021 – 2025

Objective 1 :

A **community** - for building capacity, solidarity and mutual members

Objective 2 :

An **Expert** - in developing and delivering quality in youth and circus education

Objective 3 :

A **catalyst** - for participation and youth leadership

Objective 4 :

An **advocate** - for a more fare, sustainable, recognized sector

To know more about our strategic plan, click [here](#)

Key Activities

01. *Peer to peer and intercultural exchanges*

Innovative research and publications

03.

02. *Trainings*

Volunteering programs

04.

05. *Raising awareness and advocacy activities*

Our Values

At the heart of all Caravan's activities lies a set of core values that holds our family together. Every project we undertake and every action we take stems from a strong foundation of ***honesty and integrity***. We strive to show ***loyalty and solidarity*** to our members and create an atmosphere of ***trust and respect***. We firmly believe that circus is for everyone, which is why all our projects have ***inclusivity*** in mind. We appreciate and encourage careful participation from people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, ages, genders, and abilities into our practices. Particularly, we actively ***fight against discrimination of any kind***, and pay specific attention to ***gender equality***. The final element that rests at the heart of our ethos is about the ***safety and security*** of our members and participants; from the young to the vulnerable, and all those who are at risk of abuse or neglect. We hold all our members, as well as ourselves, ***accountable for our actions***, and offer support and recognition of important advances in this field. We want to keep the world of circus colourful, diverse, and safe for all those who desire to participate!





Our new membership structure

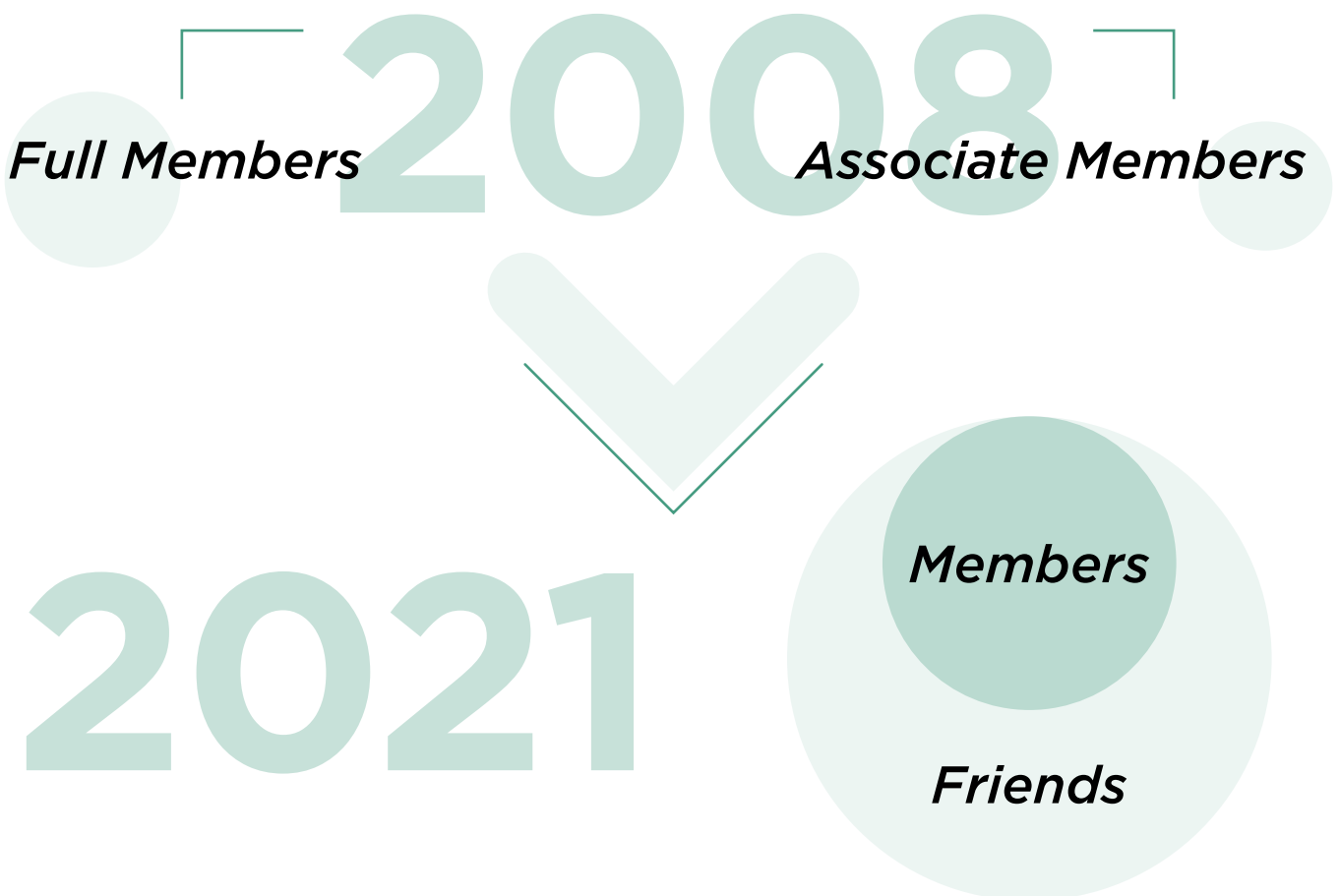
Two categories of Members:
Full and associate since our
creation in 2008

TO

In 2021 we are moving towards a more
fair and **equal** membership system with
only one category of 'Member'.

We want to remain a living network with highly involved members who know and trust each other, and feel connected, like a strong family unit. This unit will be **surrounded by group of 'Friends'** who will to be allied with us and our vision, to support and be connected with our mission.

Members





Countries

18

Members

22

Statutory meetings

09

New funding acquired

01

Partners in projects

22





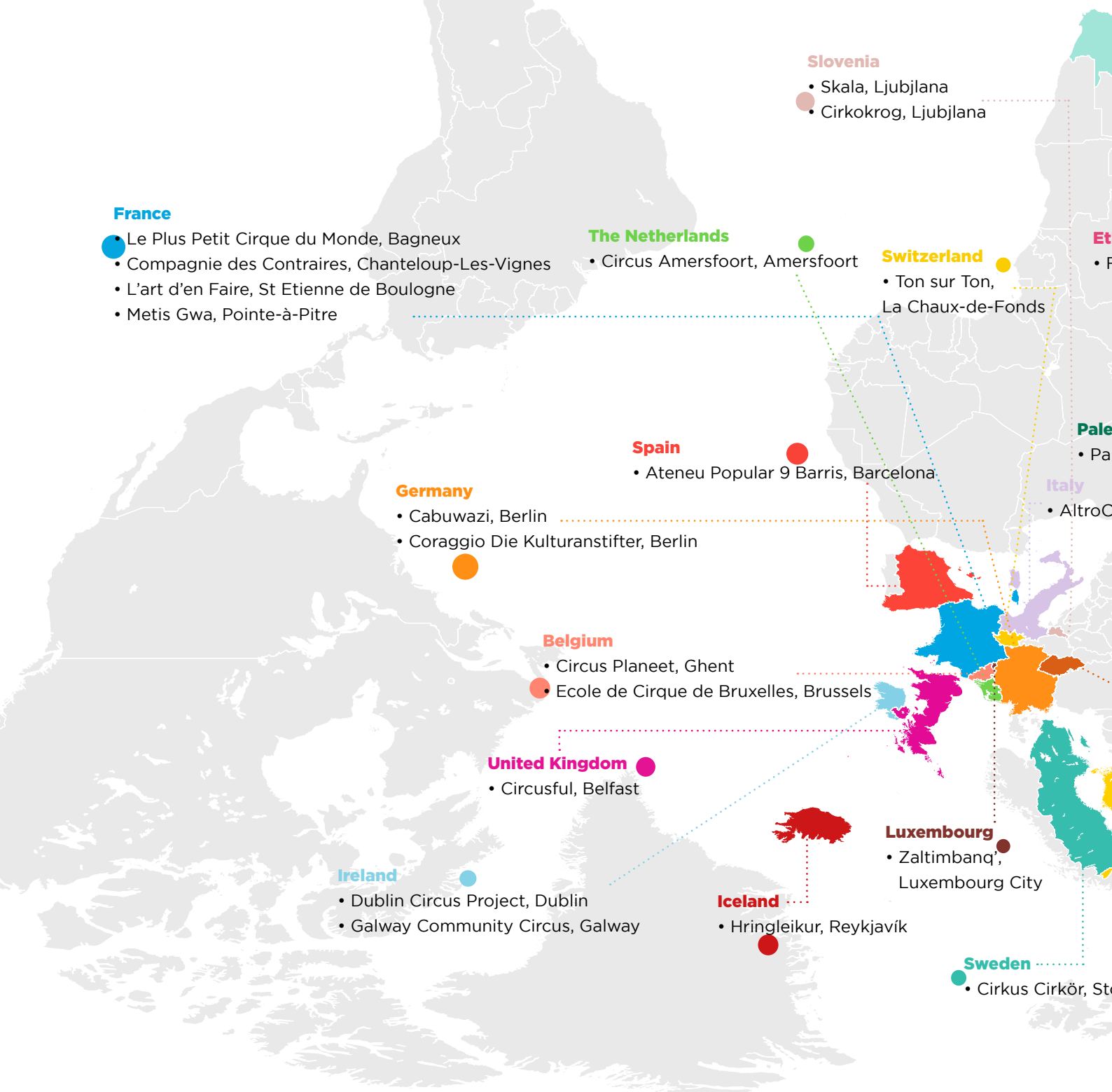
1 054

Newsletter Subscribers

4,892

Social media followers

Caravan in the world



France

- Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde, Bagneux
- Compagnie des Contraires, Chanteloup-Les-Vignes
- L'art d'en Faire, St Etienne de Boulogne
- Metis Gwa, Pointe-à-Pitre

The Netherlands

- Circus Amersfoort, Amersfoort

Slovenia

- Skala, Ljubljana
- Cirkokrog, Ljubljana

Switzerland

- Ton sur Ton, La Chaux-de-Fonds

Spain

- Ateneu Popular 9 Barris, Barcelona

Germany

- Cabuwazi, Berlin
- Coraggio Die Kulturanstifter, Berlin

Belgium

- Circus Planeet, Ghent
- Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles, Brussels

United Kingdom

- Circusful, Belfast

Ireland

- Dublin Circus Project, Dublin
- Galway Community Circus, Galway

Iceland

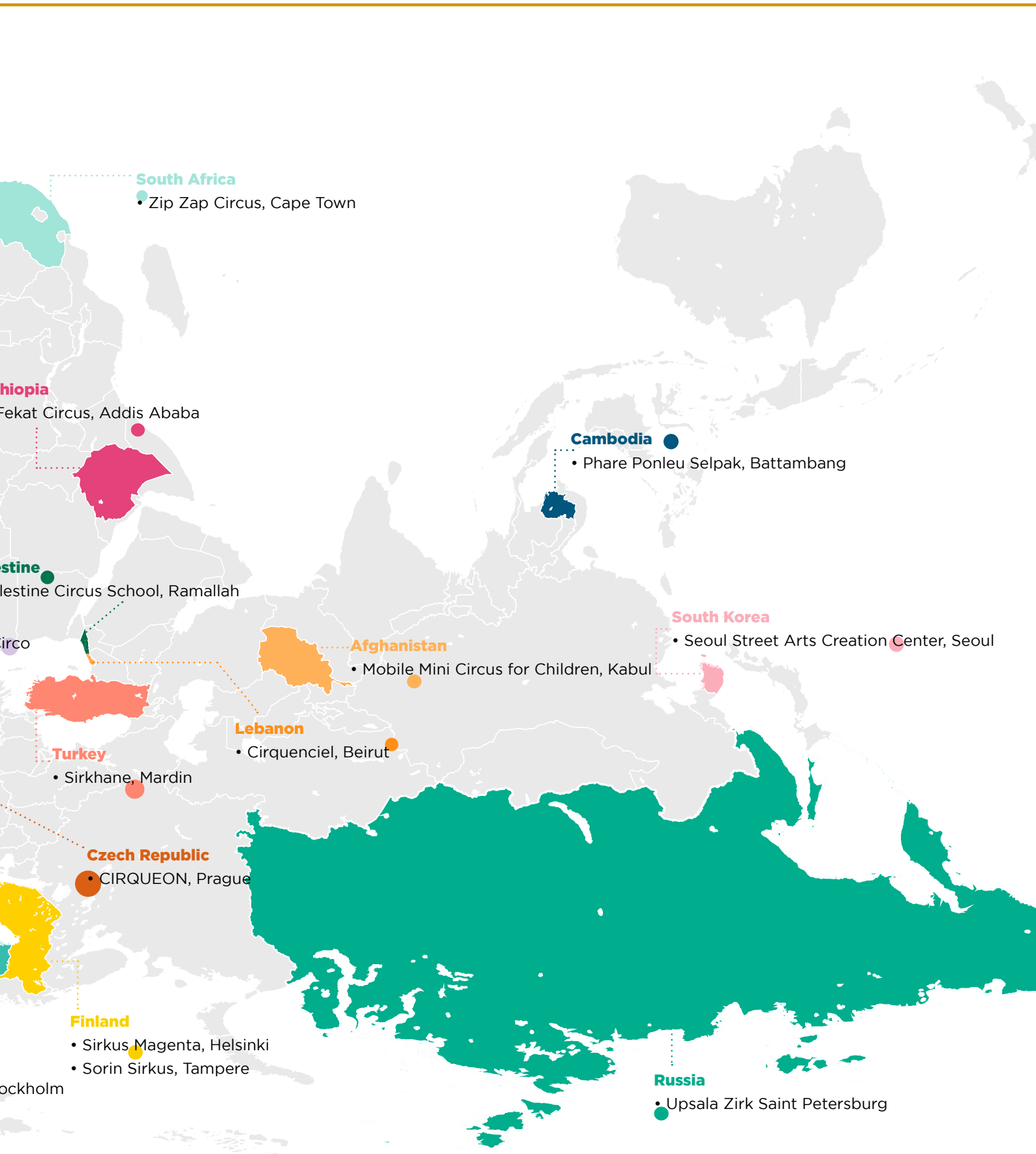
- Hringleikur, Reykjavik

Luxembourg

- Zaltimbanq', Luxembourg City

Sweden

- Cirkus Cirkör, St. Erik



Our statutory meetings

Board meetings

Caravan organised 7 board meetings in 2021, out of which 6 took place online and one in a hybrid way, hosted by our member Ton-sur-Ton at La Chaux-de-fonds in Switzerland.

The purpose of these meetings was to provide support and guidance to Caravan coordination team to ensure the decisions taken at general assemblies were realised, the strategic plan delivered, and high-quality governance achieved. The meetings were even more crucial over the course of this year to keep ensuring reactivity and crisis management in the framework of the Covid 19 pandemic. They also enabled the finalisation of key legal, administrative, and human resources works in progress.



Spring General assembly meeting

28 - 29 April, online (35 participants)

Following 2020 experience and lessons learned, this General assembly held online kept gathering a very high number of participants. Apart from addressing official elements, these two days of meetings created a space to update and exchange on Caravan activities and to update on the implementation of Caravan's Members Review. It was also the occasion to celebrate the creation of the Caravan Youth Advisory group, an initiative based on discussions held over several years within the Network. This group will enable Caravan to align with our mission and vision, promote youth led leadership & empowerment, help us develop a stronger youth led approach, and build circus projects with and for young people.



Autumn General assembly meeting

28 - 29 October, online (30 participants)

Looking at the end of 2021, this General assembly helped us evaluate our projects and activities and picture ourselves in the year to come through our 2022 provisional budget and work plan.

We also took this opportunity to create a space to trigger new project ideas, while highlighting Caravan's recent development and growth as the network is currently running more than 4 projects in parallel. Discussions on inclusive pedagogy, circus with disabilities or circus in specific geographical regions were suggested and have been followed up afterwards. This Autumn General assembly ended with an inspirational conversation on Youth leadership with the presence of Steven Desanghere proposed by the Caravan Youth advisory group as guest speaker, who has spent many years experimenting with different approaches to social, youth and community circus in his hometown Ghent, Belgium and beyond.

Circus Trans Formation

Our Circus Trans Formation in Action (CTF) training program is our flagship activity, and every year we develop a new generation of social circus trainers. It is the result of a 5-year European research project carried out by 2 universities, 8 Caravan members, and the Caravan coordination team. The result of which was an in-depth [Guidebook for Social Circus Trainers](#) and is used to deliver 4 modules hosted by 4 different Caravan members over the course of a year. 5 cycles already took place.

What?

Circus Trans Formation 5

How?

The first 3 modules took place in between 2019 and early 2020 before the start of the pandemic. The final module of this fifth cycle was to be hosted in CIRQUEON, Prague (Czech Republic) in April 2020 but had to be postponed several times until we were forced to cancel it. An online get together took place on April 10, 2021, in order to create a nice and friendly occasion for closing.

Cirqueon, Altro Circo, Sorin Sirkus, Belfast Community Circus School, Cirkokrog, Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles, Hringleikur, Metis Gwa, Zaltimbanq, Galway Community Circus.

Funded by the Luxembourg Erasmus + National Agency

Who?

How?

The first and second module of CTF 6 were able to take place in 2021, after over a year of having been postponed.

On September 13 - 17, 21 participants (10 countries) were able to meet in person in Ljubljana, Slovenia at the hosting organisation Skala Fuskabo. Two trainers from our member Sorin Sirkus (Finland) also made the journey to deliver the content mainly focused on social context. The group slept and worked in a beautiful, rural centre called Majcnov Dom in the mountains just outside Ljubljana.

In Mid-December (13-17), 21 participants (10 countries) were hosted by Sorin Sirkus in Tampere, Finland for the second module focused on the act of teaching, in the welcoming Finnish winter! Towards the end of the module, the participants were treated to Sorin's yearly winter production Soilu.

In 2022 they will attend the final 2 modules in Italy (hosted by AltroCirco) and Ireland (hosted by Galway Community Circus) to conclude the cycle.

Who?

Sorin Sirkus, Cirkus Fuskabo, Altro Circo, Galway Community Circus, Upsala Zirk, Zaltimbanq, Sirkhane, CIRQUEON, Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles, Palestinian Circus School.

Funded by Slovenian Erasmus + National agency.



Circus++

What?

Based on Circus + and years of research and cooperation, Circus ++ is a three-year project (2019-2022) in which universities and circus schools from five partner countries are developing a core curriculum for the first Europe-wide training programme in youth and social circus pedagogy.

The project produces the very first research based European full-degree curriculum of 180 ECTS in EQF level 6 of Youth and Social Circus Pedagogy with five national implementation plans to respond both to the shortage of the professionals and qualitative needs. Thanks to strong internal communication and resilience, Circus ++ project partners managed to respect the initial timeline and to keep adapting the format of the planned activities to organise them online. Two key activities took place, on top of several coordination meetings to ensure a good administrative and financial management, as well as the reporting to our donors.

How?

8- 11 June - Online - Feedbacks week

Initially planned in Bagneux, France, hosted by Le plus petit Cirque du Monde, this week of consultations gathered more than 50 specialists from the social & welfare field, circus pedagogues and academics. Over 4 days, the project consortium presented their work on the core curriculum and exchanged with these specialists to use their feedback and questions to ensure the relevance of the said core curriculum and move on toward the finalisation of the project.



*12 - 13 October - Online - European Curriculum
Development Team meeting*

This meeting aimed at following up last edits on the final version of the European Core Curriculum on Youth and Social Circus Teacher studies, but also to present and discuss the draft national implementation plans, on top of reporting aspects, financial and administrative management.

Who?

Tampere University, Sorin Sirkus, Stockholm University of Arts, Cirkus Cirkör, Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde, National University of Ireland Galway, Galway Community Circus, CIRQUEON and Caravan.

Funded by the Finish Erasmus + National agency

Circus as an Intercultural Encounter

This project aims at promoting intercultural dialogue and strengthening knowledge and acceptance of diversity. By conducting field research and analysing the data collected, this project will enable the production of a guidebook and training tips targeted to social circus trainers and other stakeholders involved in circus activities within communities of refugees, asylum seekers and new migrant youth. Initially planned for two years, this project has been extended for another year (2019-2022) due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

What?

A research coordination team composed of 4 experts in youth and social circus, sociology, and anthropology together with Caravan coordination team, has been established to lead the implementation of the project. They played a crucial and leading role in the coordination and mentorship of the 6 young field researchers. The project consortium followed their work as well as the overall administrative and financial management. Following the kick-off in 2019 and field work in 2020, 2021 led to the analysis of data through a series of online meetings and first draft of the guidebook through two in person meetings. In between these activities and meetings, internal communication was reinforced to address crisis management and support the implementation of the project

How?

21-23 October - Ljubljana, Slovenia

Hosted by our member Skala Fuskabo, this 2 day meeting was the first one to take place in person since December 2019, a real breath of fresh air! The research coordination team and field researchers worked on the draft guidebook: data, definition, stories, games, good practices, and tools. They also discussed and agreed on next steps and distribution of tasks, while enjoying beautiful Slovenia and discovering more about the work of Skala.

This second in person meeting was hosted by Circusplaneet in Gent and Ecole du Cirque de Bruxelles, Brussels, where Caravan coordination team is based. Field researchers and research coordination team were gathered again in a hybrid way (some participants joined online) to follow up on the draft guidebook and discuss the finalisation of the project as the multiplier event is coming in spring 2022.

Who?

Zaltimbanq (lead applicant), Palestinian Circus School, University College Dublin, Altro Circo, Sirkus Magenta, Circusplaneet, Skala, Caravan.

Funded by the Luxembourg Erasmus + National agency



Circus Overseas

What?

Circus overseas is a two-year project (2021-2022) which builds on Circus Transformation in Action but also Circus as an Intercultural Encounter and the partner's expertise to develop a series of 4 trainings for youth workers and educators from the project partners based around the world. These training activities will combine non formal education and circus arts, fostering creativity, liberty and intercultural dialogue while strengthening pedagogic, management, and the technical skills of the participants.

How?

With the truly international nature of this new Caravan Project, it was with no surprise that COVID 19 continued to present obstacles in 2021, more than in any other of our projects.

6-7 July - Online - Kickoff meeting

In the opening months of the year, we were forced to put the project on hold but were able to host our kickoff meeting online on 6 - 7 July (initially planned in Brussels, Belgium). During these two days, the project consortium clarified the project's objectives and outputs, agreed on a revised timeline considering the pandemic and debated on the pedagogical strategy. It also has been the occasion to agree on the distribution of tasks, financial and administrative management as well as to define the communication strategy.

24th November – Online – Coordination meeting

In November, we hosted a new coordination meeting to take stock of the Covid 10 pandemic updates and travel restrictions, but also to follow up the preparation for the first module in South Africa. We also used this meeting to solidify the external communication strategy in terms of dissemination of project activities and learnings.

Unfortunately, with the Omicron variant discovered in South Africa, further postponement was required due to travel restrictions imposed, and the first module is due to take place in South Africa in April 2022.

Who?

Caravan (lead applicant), Zip Zap Circus school, Phare, Altro Circo, Sirkus Magenta, Le Plus petit cirque du monde, The Friends of the Palestinian Circus school.

Funded by the EACEA



Young Caravan

Caravan wishes to develop and build youth circus for young people, sharing best practice in this area and building Caravan members' capacity to have meaningful and practical actions in their circus schools. Within our network, and each of our members' communities, we strive to enable young people to empower themselves and become vocal at the local, national, and international level.



Caravan Youth Advisory Group

2021 was a great year for the 'Catalyst' element of the new Strategic Plan, with the formation of a Youth Advisory Group made up of 10 young people from our Member organisations. The group had its first meeting in May, and throughout the year had 5 more online meetings to develop team morale, group ethos, and brainstorm potential project ideas and areas of development for Caravan. In autumn, the group introduced itself to the Caravan Network at the General Assembly and suggested a motivational talk from longstanding Caravan contributor Steven Desanghere on Youth Leadership in circus organisations.

The group developed a set of guiding principles to propel the group towards their goals:

- Mutual Respect • Exchanging Ideas • Non-Judgemental
- Possibility of making mistakes • Voluntary and responsible participation
- Solidarity • Inspiring • Signalling • Change Makers

Youth exchanges & volunteers

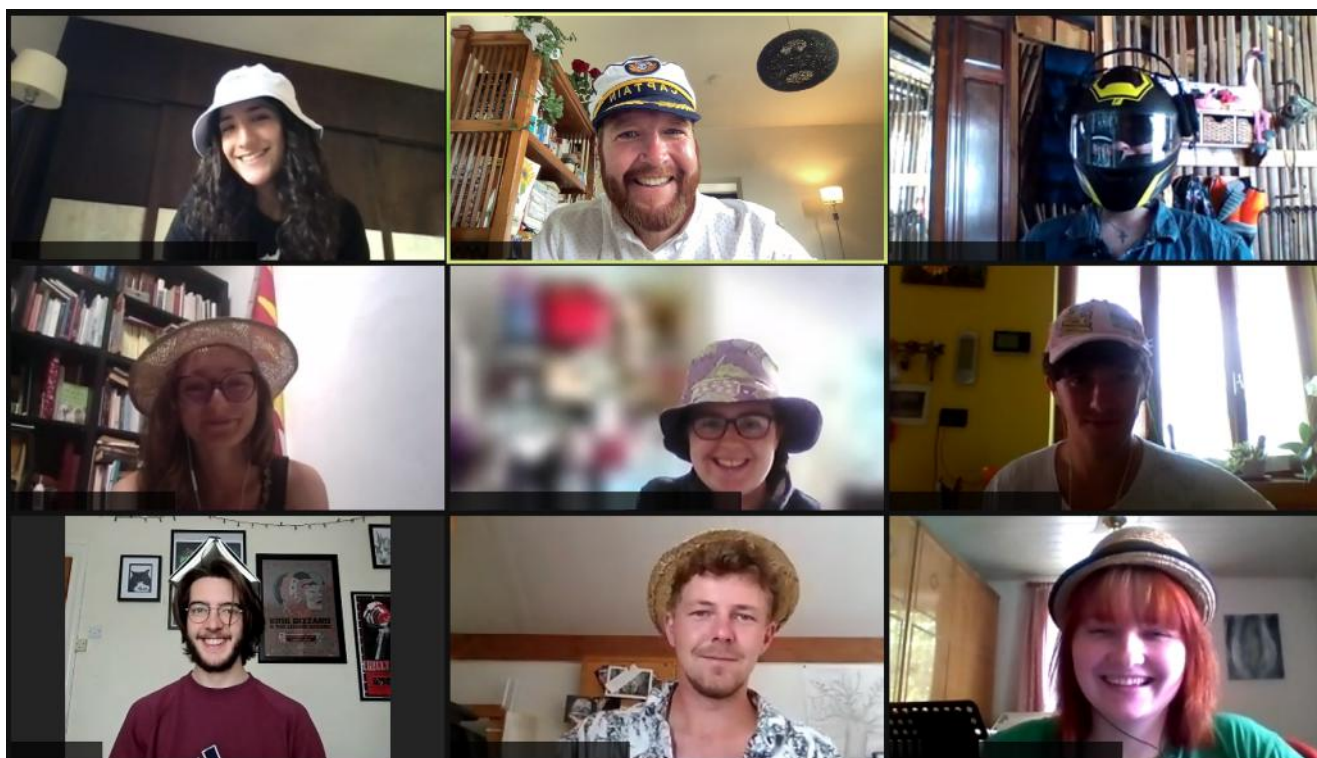
This year has been again particularly challenging as our youth exchanges planned in Galway, Ireland (Wires Crossed festival) and Tampere, Finland (Better Together) had to be postponed again.

Nevertheless, at least 25 volunteers were able to spend an exciting year with some of our member organisations, discovering the life of a circus school (despite the pandemic), supporting daily activities while meeting a diversity of young people and various stakeholders.

We plan to secure funding in 2022 to enable the group to meet in person, and deepen their sense of belonging to a team, and effectively brainstorm for concrete project ideas, and areas of development for the Caravan Network.

Members

- Arianna Scaglia – Altro Circo - **Italy**
- Lorenzo Morello – Altro Circo - **Italy**
- Julien Cottenie – CircusPlaneet - **Belgium**
- Luke McFarlane – Circusful - **Northern Ireland**
- Tracy Madi – Cirqu'en Ciel - **Lebanon**
- Dorothea Hofmeisterová - CIRQUEON - **Czech Republic**
- Caoimhe O Dochartaigh Barr – Galway Community Circus - **Ireland**
- Julia Rafidi – Palestinian Circus School - **Palestine**
- Nastja Fekonja - Skala - **Slovenia**
- Paavo Kivimaki – Sorin Sirkus - **Finland**



Testimony1

Alessandra from Italy,
Ton sur Ton, Switzerland

“The secret was putting myself out there and not being afraid to make mistakes, gaining confidence in myself and in the entire team.”

I have been living one of the most involved and enriching experiences of my life, personally and professionally, in the Ton Sur Ton school in Switzerland. My passion for circus and the arts, and the encouragement from all the teachers at Ton sur Ton, has allowed me to participate in all their various circus events & activities. Especially, I remember with joy the youth exchange week with Italy, and the exchange and performance weekend with Opsion Sirk (Ton sur Ton's circus company) and LABO'Cirque. In both events, Ton sur Ton hosted young people and I co-managed the organisation of the days and helped during the creative process. I made a documentary and a film, where I collaborated in the editing and translations of short moments (first event); and in the staging and co-animation of the weekend (second event).

My year at Ton Sur Ton has been an all-round experience through which I've enriched my professional background: surprising myself by being able to speak both French and English, quickly changing between languages when necessary; expanding my circus knowledge, especially on safety techniques for students and equipment; discovering the world of professional video-editing; and unleashing my unstoppable creativity.



Testimony2

Gökçe from Turkey, Galway
Community Circus, Ireland

“I learned about resilience! If you keep pushing continuously it will come”

Galway Community Circus was (and still is) the best place for me to be. I wanted to learn about the inner workings of circus, how the magic works inside an organization and the production side of things.

I feel now more aware of teaching techniques. I gained so much confidence! I saw how things run behind-the-scenes and I learned that even in the smallest circus projects, you need to juggle with budgets, permissions, complying with Covid-19 regulations and much more.

Circus is the only place where I don't feel awkward (other than being out in nature). It's not only a place, but also people, it's an understanding of the world. It's everywhere, it's inclusive and it's in everything. I am the kid whose mom keeps telling her to stop playing with my food. I am 30 years old and still playing with my food, but here in the circus no one tells me to stop playing – they join me in playing, by making a puppet character out of food.



Communication & Advocacy

Thanks to the on-going work of our coordination team, we've been able to double the number of followers on our Facebook page as well as issuing 7 newsletters.

2021 remained a challenging year for our advocacy strategy as most of the events we had been hoping to attend were postponed, cancelled or transformed into online events and our priority was to address crisis management and to support our members. We still managed to co-organise and attend two in-person events.

Roundtable on Inclusive pedagogy June 25 - Brussels, Belgium

In the framework of the 40 years of Ecole du cirque de Bruxelles (ECBru), one of Caravan co-founder, a roundtable was organised between Caravan and the circus with disabilities program of ECBru. This discussion gathered a very diversified range of specialists, testimonies from Caravan members but also families to exchange good practices developed within the circus with disabilities program and how inclusive pedagogy is at the heart of social circus.



***Inclusion & Diversity Forum
29 November - 2 December
Ostende, Belgium***

The ID Forum was an international conference organised by SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, which aimed to create greater visibility for inclusion & diversity and building bridges between stakeholders active in the EU youth programs. 2021 marked the beginning of a new generation of the Erasmus+ program and the European Solidarity Corps, together with the launch of a common Inclusion & Diversity Strategy 2021-2027 for both formal & non-formal education sectors, with new formats and possibilities.

Ophelie Mercier from Circusplaneet and on behalf of “Circus as an Intercultural Encounter” consortium took part in the discussions to present the project and share preliminary findings.



Our Members



Altro Circo - Italy

AltroCirco is a program of Association Giocolieri & Dintorni for the development and acknowledgement of Social Circus in Italy. It has developed a network of associations and individuals working with social circus in Italy, to support a common process of growth and promote circus as an instrument of social transformation. AltroCirco has the following mission: Network - Research - Professional training and sharing methodologies

Website: www.altrocirco.it



Ateneu Popular de Nou Barris - Spain

The Ateneu Popular de Nou Barris (Ateneu) has been in operation since 1977 in the district of Nou Barris in Barcelona. It is managed by the non-profit association “Bidó de Nou Barris”. It uses circus and culture as a means of education to reach a social transformation. “Bidó de Nou Barris” is governed by a board elected by the assembly members and several working committees, in which anyone interested can participate. Considering circus as a tool for education in values and the transformation of society, Ateneu provides training and social circus activities to children, adolescents, and young people, including groups in danger of social exclusion and training of trainers in social circus.

Website: www.ateneu9b.net



Cabuwazi - Germany

CABUWAZI is a youth circus in Berlin that started in 1996 and since 2010, is part of GrenzKultur gGmbH. With its five places in socially difficult areas of the city, Cabuwazi offers circus pedagogical leisure activities, mostly free of charge, for children between 4 and 21 years old, and runs the Circus Akademie Berlin which offers an annual professional training for circus educators. Their activities are based on the idea that people, and children in specific, need to develop social competences to build a stable and safe environment. Together with the physical development of the body that circus provides – strength, balance, coordination – it demands a certain trust in yourself and the others, which they teach through games, training, and performances.

Website: www.circusakademie.de





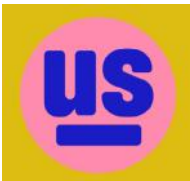
Circus Amersfoort – The Netherlands

Circus Amersfoort (CA) was founded in 2004 by a dozen acrobats. They learned the necessary circus skills in a short time by organizing teacher training courses for themselves. All CA teachers work on a voluntary basis.

CA started their activities in a rented gym hall with a group of 35 members and now, in 2020, the circus has 185 members, lots of circus equipment, their own (rented) location and about 18 teachers. Many of whom were circus kids themselves and trained to be teachers following our own internal educational program.

In November 2010, CA started with the refurbishment of an old train warehouse located centrally in Amersfoort and (obviously) close to the railway station. It took two years to finish it thanks to a grant from Amersfoort Council and many sponsors.

Website: www.circusamersfoort.nl



Circusful (former Belfast Community Circus School) - Northern Ireland

Circusful is Ireland's premier circus arts organisation. Its headquarters in Belfast's Cathedral Quarter is the first and only fully equipped, purpose-built circus arts centre on the island.

In 2021, Circusful launched its new name and brand together with a new vision: A 21st Century where the streets, hearts and minds are filled with the wonder and colour of circus. Their new mission: We support people to surprise themselves through circus. We meet them where they are, have fun and build a community together.

Every week, across the island of Ireland and beyond, Circusful:

- Teach circus skills to people of all ages and abilities
- Bring events and conferences to life through the work of our professional artists
- Add the wonder and colour of circus to other people's festivals, events, and workshops.

These activities are supported by a small staff team and a freelance team of both trainers and professional performers.

Website: www.circusful.org



Cirkokrog - Slovenia

The Association for Circus Pedagogy -Cirkokrog- is a nongovernmental non-profit association that is developing and working in the field of circus pedagogy, youth, and social circus in Slovenia since 2005. Cirkokrog uses circus activities to stimulate creative expression, cooperation, connectedness, education, empowerment, promotion and activation of children, youth, and other groups.

They are active with youth and social circus programs held in schools, multicultural schools, (re)educational homes for children and youth, asylum homes, student homes, youth centres and elsewhere. They also organize international youth exchanges and street circus projects in deprived communities. They aim to create mixed communities and create bridges between different groups of people.

Cirkokrog's focus is to develop and cherish youth and social circus programs based on the empowerment of youth, inclusion of deprived groups, culture animation and community work.

Website: www.cirkokrog.com



Cirkus Cirkör - Sweden

Cirkus Cirkör is a contemporary circus company since 1995 founded by our artistic director Tilde Björfors. Cirkus Cirkör arranges term courses and workshops in schools for over 20 000 children and youths and has several activities for residents in their municipality. They operate in 50 different cities across Sweden through workshops, courses, camps, open training, and school activities, and provide this to further personal development, to promote creativity, and to produce performances. Cirkör stages circus arts training and education for young people with or without disabilities and has an upper secondary school. One of Cirkör's statutes is to inspire and to be inspired by the youths and street arts. The core values of the organization are cocky commitment, individualistic solidarity, and quality madness.

Website: www.cirkor.se



CIRQUEON - The Czech Republic

CIRQUEON is an umbrella organization dedicated to the support and development of contemporary circus in the Czech Republic. The main purpose of CIRQUEON is to provide information about the Czech and European contemporary circus events, to support projects of the new circus wave emerging in the Czech Republic and to facilitate educational and training programs for children, youths, and adults. CIRQUEON supports the creation of new performance projects and provides rehearsal space for artists. In February 2010, Cirqueon, the Centre for Contemporary Circus was founded in a rented industrial space. The centre houses a training space, an office, and an information centre. There is a library available which collects Czech and foreign publications, articles and DVDs related to the contemporary circus. The library is registered in the SIBMAS international network of performing arts collections. In March 2012 Cirqueon and other partners established a Czech social and youth circus network - Cirkonet.info.

Website: www.cirqueon.cz



Cirquenciel - Lebanon

Established in 2001, Cirquenciel became the first circus school in Lebanon and the Middle East. It promotes intercultural dialogue and helps youth at risk find a professional path. Cirquenciel works toward an environment free of any discrimination and aims at spreading peace through circus arts.

On April 7th, 2016, Cirquenciel opened its own dedicated space in Jisr el Wati, Beirut (Lebanon), with its own school that hosts classes, workshops, and events to build a community centred around circus, arts, and movement. These three aspects of Cirquenciel's educational approach have proven to boost the physical, cognitive, and social developments of the beneficiaries. Students work in a spirit of joy, cooperation, peace, and unity.

Within the local community, Cirquenciel runs many projects that serve the purpose of integration, artistic vocational training, and other soft skills that are essential to one's feeling of belonging in society.

Website: www.arcenciel.org/activities/cirquenciel



Circusplaneet - Belgium

Circusplaneet was founded in 1996 by a group of friends who believed in a better world, a place under the sun that unites people through a common circus passion.

Circusplaneet organises various activities: circus courses, workshops, performances with youngsters, EVS, international Youth Exchanges, social neighbourhood projects. Circusplaneet has 1000 members. 14 people in the staff, about 20 freelance-teachers, and about 40 very active volunteers. Through our activities we reach several thousand kids and youngsters each year.

Website: www.circusplaneet.be



Compagnie des Contraires - France

Created in Paris in 1991 by Neusa Thomasi, the association creates cultural and educational international activities linking theatre, circus, community education and training. Compagnie des Contraires works with youth in marginalized neighbourhoods through its circus school, theatre troupe and educational space.

La Compagnie des Contraires' mission is also to support and train municipalities, artists and socio-cultural institutions to implement and stage performances locally in order to reinforce the competences in dealing with young people and the specific local issues that they face.

Website: www.compagniedescontraires.com



Coraggio Die Kulturanstifter - Germany

Coraggio – Die Kulturanstifter is an association for cultural education founded in Berlin in 2019. Coraggio works with performing arts - circus, theatre, dance, and music - using them to create a world of experience and education for children and young people. Coraggio implements holistic education and promotes the participation of children and young people in cultural, social, and political life. Since 2019, Coraggio is cooperating with schools in three different neighbourhoods of Berlin. In those primary and secondary schools, the children can take part in weekly circus and dance groups, during class and as an after-school-activity. As newly founded organization, Coraggio aims to widen its activities in youth work, cooperation with schools and pre-schools, support for families, further education, and cultural events.

Website: www.kulturanstifter.de



Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles - Belgium

The Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles (ECB) has forged, through almost 40 years of experience, its own methodology and pedagogy in circus arts. It considers that circus arts, beyond the mind-soul and skills-creativity conciliation, can be used as a tool for education, pedagogy, and integration. In that framework, circus lessons are provided for children, adolescents, and adults, whether they are physically and/or mentally challenged or not, and from disadvantaged or more privileged neighbourhoods.

These various empirical experiences led to a systematic development of specific and global competences and tools. Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles offers specific training programmes, such as the internationally recognised training Circus Arts Training: La Formation Pédagogique, acquisition of a complete package of teaching skills, as well as an in-depth knowledge of circus art. In 2010, ECB created “Le Centre Européen de Funambulisme”, which offers tightrope walking trainings and performances throughout Europe.

Website: www.ecbru.be



Galway Community Circus - Ireland

Galway Community Circus is Ireland's flagship organisation for youth and social circus, located in the heart of Galway City with a local, national, and international remit. Their mission is to unlock personal and creative potential and deliver social inclusion for young people through circus arts. Through our ground-breaking programmes and high-quality productions, Galway Community Circus has proven itself to be a cradle of artistic excellence and educational innovation in Ireland, working with over 650 young people from diverse backgrounds every week.

Website: www.galwaycommunitycircus.com



The Palestinian Circus School - Palestine

Palestinian Circus School (PCS) teaches circus to children and youth between 6 and 20 years old (some older students). They organize weekly circus clubs in different locations and for different groups through the country: Ramallah, Birzeit, Al Jalazon refugee camp, Al Fara refugee camp, Jenin, Star Mountain, and Red Crescent centre for people with disabilities, and Jenin girl's rehabilitation centre. They also organize yearly summer camps for students.

For PCS, circus is a strong tool to address the many challenges children and youth face while growing up under military occupation and in a society where freedom is being curbed more and more. Through circus, PCS contributes to create a more inclusive society. PCS also creates performances, and the students develop shows which tour the country.

They are also founding member, together with 11 other Palestinian organisations, of the Palestinian Performing Arts Network with aims to raise awareness and support for performing arts among the Palestinian society and to lobby Palestinian authorities and international donors to support a genuine independent performing arts movement.

Website: www.palcircus.ps/en/content/home



Phare Ponleu Selpak - Cambodia

Phare Ponleu Selpak (PPS) is a Cambodian non-profit arts school located in Battambang, offering support to children, youth, and the surrounding communities through artistic, educational, and social support programmes.

Over 1,000 students are empowered every year through our schools and programmes: performing, visual and applied arts, leisure classes and vocational training, allowing children and young adults to develop their creativity, communication, concentration, and life skills and access a sustainable artistic career whilst preserving and promoting Cambodian arts, heritage, and culture.

Website: <https://phareps.org>



Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde - France

Founded in 1992, Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (PPCM) – Centre des Arts du Cirque et des Cultures Emergentes – is a non-profit organisation that develops and promotes circus and emergent cultures in the field of youth and social circus, street performances, partnerships with professional artists, vocational training for artists and trainers and international exchanges.

Located in Bagneux (a close suburb in the South of Paris), in the heart of a disadvantaged area, PPCM is recognised as the leading organisation for social circus in France by the European Commission and the French Ministries of Culture and Disadvantaged areas. PPCM is currently preparing for a 2 – year VET programme in the field of Urban Cultures and Social Circus.

Website: www.lepluspetitcirquedumonde.fr



Skala Fuskabo - Slovenia

We started the circus activities in 2011, when we hosted the circus group Parada from Bucharest for a one-week visit. The charity project "Circus for a Better Tomorrow" toured in different parts of Slovenia as a promotion of the social circus and obtaining funding for the continuation of street work in Romania. After successfully completing the tour, based on the experience gained, we began to promote the circus among our users and gradually conducted certain circus workshops in the street program of the Minibus of Joy. Regular circus workshops were soon transformed in december 2013 into a permanent activity with a small group of children. Today, Fuskabo Circus has 150 participants per week in various circus classes.

Mission: Discover, strengthen and develop personal and creative potential and enable children and young people to socialize through circus arts.

Vision: To become a recognisable quality development centre of the youth and social circus in Slovenia by 2025.

Website: www.facebook.com/fuskabo



Sorin Sirkus - Finland

Sorin Sirkus is a youth circus from Tampere Finland, established in 1985. Their main objective is to maintain, enhance and develop circus studies for children and young people. Sorin Sirkus provides basic education of circus arts to 500 students per week. Sorin Sirkus offers a broad variety of social circus workshops to youth at risk and short-term courses and camps to children and adults. Sorin Sirkus is a forerunner in the field of Finnish youth and social circus.

Sorin Sirkus organises diverse activities from youth circus schools to social circus and work welfare workshops and all the way to festivals and camps as well as performances. Sorin Sirkus was granted with a State Prize in the field of Children's Culture in 2010 and the Ministry of Education and Culture appointed it the Finnish Young Cultural Ambassadors in 2008 and 2009.

Website: www.sorinsirkus.fi



Fondation Ton sur Ton - Switzerland

For the past 18 years, the foundation Ton sur Ton, based in La Chaux-de-Fonds, has provided full and lively academic teaching to the students of the Bern-Jura-Neuchâtel region (Switzerland) in the disciplines of Jazz, Modern Music, Theatre, Contemporary Dance and Circus Arts.

In parallel to the recreational and the pre-professional teachings, the Ton sur Ton foundation initiated in 2016 the program Art Sans Frontière. It is a participatory mediation and social circus program that aspires to use circus, dance, theatre and music as integration and personal development tools. Art Sans Frontière favours a concrete, real and participatory access to performing arts and is facilitated by professionals.

Website: www.tonsurton.ch/cirque



Upsala Circus - Russia

Upsala-Circus Centre for the New Circus combines socio-cultural, educational and art-projects for children and adults.

Their main goal is to develop new circus in Russia making it a known and understandable art trend. Upsala Circus raises the cultural level of the whole society by developing creative potential of its members and inspiring their desire to contribute.

They believe that contemporary art cannot be separated from life itself, its different aspects and all the different people around us. Therefore, they always invite their project's participants to be actively involved in the creative process and become co-authors.

Website: www.upsalacircus.ru/en/home



Zaltimbanq' Zirkus - Luxembourg

Luxembourg's only circus school has over 250 students, aged between 4,5 and 50 years old, taking part in one (or more) of the 30 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 space once a week.

The school also provides workshops for children and/or adults with foreign teachers during school holidays and on weekends, social circus projects (prison, disadvantaged neighbourhoods, mentally and physically challenged people) and performances. Every year in May, Zaltimbanq' organizes the festival "Cirque sous Chapiteau". For 10 days several international artists visit the big top to perform on stage and to work with youngsters from the school. The festival also gives the students the opportunity to show what they have learned to their parents and friends."

Website: www.zaltimbanq.lu

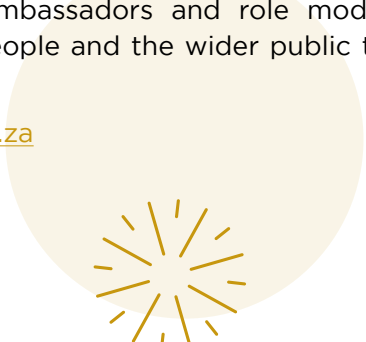


Zip Zap Circus School - South Africa

Zip Zap was founded in Cape Town in 1992 to inspire young people and help building a new culture of peaceful coexistence in South Africa. Working with a diverse community of children from all backgrounds, Zip Zap helps kids to 'dare to dream' and learn to make those dreams a reality. Zip Zap's 10 different programs are all free (between 1'500 and 2'000 each year), with financial and material support coming from individuals, organization, corporations, and foundations.

The Zip Zap children have performed for presidents and world leaders. They have done 35 international tours and numerous international media showcases. Young people who grew up on the streets are now skilled and valued artists and technicians in the entertainment and film industries. Best of all, these kids have become teachers themselves. They are ambassadors and role models for others, demonstrating dramatically to young people and the wider public the possibility of a new way of treating each other.

Website: www.zip-zap.co.za



Our Friends



Circus Bosko - Montenegro

In September 2013 a group of animators and volunteers from Don Bosko center Podgorica, decided to try circus skills, inspired by their colleagues and peers from the organization Skala based in Ljubljana. Two leaders were trained in Ljubljana where Circus Fuskabo was already established. Upon their return, the first group was formed and started practicing regularly. The trainers were further trained on international circus trainings in Slovenia, together with youngsters from different countries. This programme had great success in Podgorica, as it is the first and only programme of this type in our country.

Their goals:

- Education of children and youth through preventive system in the area of circus arts.
- Develop their creativity, persistence, reflexes, motor skills, concentration and team work.
- Personal monitoring through preparation of individual and group performances focusing on mental, social, and physical development of the youth.

Website: <https://donbosko.me/cirkus/>



Courant d' Cirque - Switzerland

Swiss Circus Company Courant d' Cirque manages a panel of different actions combining professional creations, social-cultural and educational projects:

- International Youth Circus Project Axé Cirque; this project is a platform for intercultural exchanges of young people, enabling 80 soon-to-be adults to live a magical and unique artistic and human experience through exchange workshops, cultural activities, artistic discoveries and sharing of knowledge.
- National Youth Circus Project LABO' Cirque: they welcome young Swiss emerging circus talents for three weeks of intensive research. They are guided and supervised by a professional artistic team.
- Social Circus Project Festival Encirqué: Encirqué is both a festival entirely dedicated to circus dissemination and a large-scale participatory mediation project. It is based on a manifesto that evokes a strong desire for recognition of the contemporary circus as an art form as well as a tool for social integration and wishes to actively participate in its development.

Website: <https://www.courantdcirque.ch/>



Dublin Circus Project - Ireland

Dublin Circus Project is a non-profit, member-based organisation, working to bring circus arts to life in Dublin and beyond. They provide a dedicated training centre, offering adult and youth circus education, and host circus events as well as performances in Dublin.

Founded in 2009, they have a dedicated management team voted in by their members. Their members vary from full time circus performers to emerging circus artists to hobbyists engaging in a fun fitness alternative.

Website: www.dublincircusproject.com



Fekat Circus - Ethiopia

Fekat Circus, blossoming circus in Amharic, was started in 2004 in the outskirts of Addis Ababa, by a group of young Ethiopians united by a deep passion for circus. In the African circus scene, Fekat Circus has played an important role in strengthening cross-continental ties by initiating and organising the African Circus Arts Festival in 2015 & 2018, and the first circus tent in the horn of Africa.

Today, Fekat circus comprises of 30 professional artists who perform in Ethiopia and abroad. Besides staging professional shows, Fekat Circus spreads the joy of circus in the capital through its circus school and outreach programme. Since 2009 Fekat Circus has been running a clown-doctor project called the Smile Medicine at paediatric ward of the largest referral hospital in the country. With the aim of developing the circus sector within Ethiopia and African continent, Fekat circus facilitates capacity building, exchange programme and networking opportunities for young local and international circuses.

Website: www.fekatcircus.com



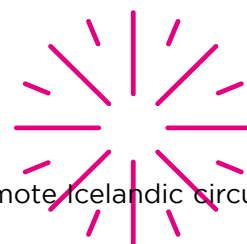
Hringleikur - Iceland

Hringleikur is a new Icelandic circus company that aims to promote Icelandic circus culture.

The members of Hringleikur come from a variety of backgrounds, but they all share a passion for the circus arts and strive to build a diverse circus culture in Iceland.

The group runs a youth circus school and are looking to expand their training program for new and experienced Icelandic circus students. Artists in Hringleikur come from various backgrounds, including gymnastics, drama, and dance, as well as some educated in circus schools abroad, such as at the Codarts Art Academy in Rotterdam and AFUK in Copenhagen. The group has worked together for many years under the name of Sirkus Island.

Website: www.sirkusislands.is





L'Art d'En Faire - France

L'Art d'En Faire is a circus school and a non-profit organisation working on youth and social circus and using circus as a tool for education. It was set up in 2008 in South Ardèche, France.

L'Art d'En Faire have several compatible activities, in the city of Aubenas and in remote rural areas in the surroundings; circus school for local residents; circus in school (primary and secondary); circus as educational extracurricular activities with partners; circus and disability: workshops and trainings with special institutes, integration, mixed projects" (participants with and without disabilities); circus, citizenship and youth resources

Their projects aim to create social cohesion between inhabitants, in urban districts and rural areas, with circus as a bond. They work with many partners and want to be active in the local development of South Ardèche, on educational, social, and cultural aspects. They take their big-top tent to areas across Ardèche for 2-3 month stays to share the benefits of circus.

Website: www.lartdenfaire.com



Kreativni Pogon - Serbia

Established in 2017, this is the first circus school in Serbia, based in Novi Sad. Their organisation uses circus as a tool for solving social and community issues around Serbia through different projects. Their goal is to develop the capability of human body and mental state of all ages from children to seniors, we are promoting circus as a multidisciplinary artistic, cultural, social, community and pedagogical form. They have formed relationships with Temishoara circus school in Romania, and Circus Fuskabo in Slovenia, from whom they have developed their pedagogical knowledge in circus.

Novi Sad will be ECOC at 2022 and our project Take balance - with circus is one of the projects that will take place including 10 primary schools, school for children with special needs, team of psychologists, and many more...We are going to make an advocacy panel discussion for school system. Also, we started an institution developing our project of decentralising culture.

Website: <https://kreativnipogon.com/>



Metis Gwa – France (Guadeloupe)

Metis Gwa is an association from Guadeloupe. It believes in art not only as a tool to get to know a society but also to communicate and exchange ideas beyond borders.

It supports culture in the Caribbean, Europe and in the world since 2007. Its actions promote the link between art, culture and society through creation, training, spreading and employment.

Website: www.metisgwa.com



Mobile Mini Circus for Children - Afghanistan

MMCC (Mobile Mini Circus for Children) is a leading social circus organization working for and with vulnerable children and youth in challenged societies. Through social circus, they improve social skills and facilitate a sense of belonging to the society. The key elements of their pedagogy and works are children's participation, facilitation, local ownership, sustainability, and cost efficiency.

MMCC has reached over 3.6 million audience and workshop participants in Afghanistan since 2002. It established "Afghan Educational Children Circus" as its satellite organization which implements and carries on the activities in Afghanistan. With 15 years of experience, a unique pedagogy, a range of developed systems of initiating, implementing, administrating, monitoring and supervisions, MMCC is now reaching other countries to support similar initiatives and provide its unique capacities to the world.

Website: www.afghanmmcc.org



Nablus circus school – Palestine

Assirk Assaghir is made up of a team of motivated trainers and enthusiastic students from the Nablus area, including surrounding villages and refugee camps. This area in the northern West Bank, is one of the areas the most hard-hit by the Israeli occupation. The more subtle effects of the occupation, such as a lack of playgrounds in most neighbourhoods, high students to teacher ratio in schools and almost no affordable extracurricular activities are the realities that affect children there. They aim to provide children with a safe place to play, more individual attention than they get in schools and a fun extracurricular activity that builds skills and allows them to develop their personalities. Many of the trainers have been with the circus since its establishment in 2004 and have worked tirelessly as volunteers to keep their dream alive.

Assirk Assaghir provides circus workshops for children and teenagers in acrobatics, stilts, unicycle, clowning, juggling, trapeze, tissue and other with occasional workshops in music and acting. All activities require that the students encourage and support each other, creating an environment of trust where students feel free to take risks and express themselves. The trainers encourage the students become active, not only in circus, but in other aspects of their lives, especially in school. The trainers and students perform in many different centres around Nablus and in the refugee camps.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Nablus.Circus.School>



Seoul Street Arts Creation Center – South Korea

Seoul Street Arts Creation Center (SSACC) is the first street arts and circus base camp for production, practice, education, and distribution in South Korea.

SSACC is located in Gwangjin-gu, Seoul. Among other activities, SSACC focuses on art education through programs, such as: circus Arts Playground, Workshop for lecturers in Circus Arts or a project aiming at introducing circus in everyday life...

SSACC also contributes to the evaluation and the dissemination of the impact of social circus through the participation in international exchanges and conferences, as well as through a wide range of training for trainers, among which teachers but also public employees receive this formation in order to provide them with creative thinking abilities.

Website: www.ssacc.or.kr/en



Sirkhane – Turkey

Sirkhane is a Social Circus School founded by Art Anywhere Association in 2012 in South-eastern Anatolia. Sirkhane mission is to provide safe, friendly, and embracing environment for children, who are affected by conflicts.

Sirkhane Social Circus School is carrying out activities continuously in Turkey and Iraq.

Website: www.heryerdesanat.org



Sirkus Magenta – Finland

Sirkus Magenta is a non-profit social circus association based in Helsinki, Finland. They use circus as a tool to promote mental and physical well-being, social inclusion, equality, and involvement. Sirkus Magenta works with special needs children, youth at risk, families in crisis, the disabled, the elderly, refugees, and anyone at risk of social exclusion.

In addition, they teach circus for families, adults, and kids in 25 hobby groups every week. In 2013 Magenta established a circus school with Finn Church Aid at Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan. Young Syrian trainers educated by Magenta are now teaching circus for large groups of girls and boys living in the camp.

Magenta reaches about 200 special needs customers and 400 hobbyists weekly. Yearly over 9000 people participate in Magenta's circus activities.

Website: sirkusmagenta.fi







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