





# INS

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2022 was a wonderful and exciting year for the Caravan Network. After several challenging years, we were able to conduct our projects and activities a little bit more similarly to previous years, meeting in person and ensuring all our members were able to have a positive impact in their local communities. In April, our ex-development manager Camille Henry departed the coordination team for new opportunities and horizons, and in May, Simona De Lisi joined the team to lead the network towards our strategic goals. Many of our projects that had been on hold and postponed through 2020/21 were able to recommence and advance efficiently towards their completion, we were even able to host our first in person General Assembly since 2019!

The ongoing organisational support from the Educational, Audio-visual, and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA) allowed Caravan to continue providing opportunities to our members to meet in person, and facilitate online gatherings for exchange of knowledge. 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 tirelessly to make

the world a better place through the wonderful art of circus.

Over the previous years, we have learned many tools and strategies that have enabled us to conduct effective and engaging online meetings, which we continued to implement in order to reduce our carbon footprint in 2022. However we were also able to conduct our first in-person General Assembly in the Autum in Prague, hosted by our wonderful Members CIRQUEON. It was a wonderful moment, filled with exchange and sense of community, that enabled our network to reconnect with each other, after several years apart. We conducted several working groups on key topics, and used collective intelligence methodologies to facilitate important dialogue on relevant topics facing the network, and benefitting from the huge array of knowledge and competencies from across the network. The young people from our network were also present, and brought their enthusiasm and vitality to the meeting, coordinating team building activities and orchestrating the filming of a trailer. It was truly a pleasure to see this youth initiative gathering momentum, and taking a leading role in the network.

2022 was a fantastic year for all our projects. After facing many obstacles in the previous years, our activities were able to take place more efficiently, and international travel enabled our members to conduct and implement events and activities in a more effective and advantageous manner. Firstly we concluded the 'Circus ++' project with a conference at Tampere University in Finland, followed by the conclusion meeting with all of the partners. The core curriculum was presented at the conference to participants from all over the world, and the national implementation plans were carefully discussed within the cultural contexts of each of the partner countries. The completion of the 'Circus as Intercultural Encounter' was highlighted by the production of a fantastic guidebook, and the delivery of a pilot training in Luxembourg with the emphasis on cultural sensitivity at the heart of the programme. All four of the 'Circus Overseas' modules were implemented at circus schools around the world, and toolkits were developed on a variety of important elements of organisational activities for the partners and the network to develop. These results were disseminated at the General Assembly and the multiplier event in Brussels in November. Our youth advisory group met two times in the summer and autumn in Finland and the Czech Rep, and consolidated their efforts, and came up with a new name for their group; What About Youth? (W.A.Y). Their ambition is to take initiative, and suggest future project ideas and direction for the network, with the needs of the young communities at the heart of our decision making. The last 2 modules of CTF 6 took place, one online, and the final one in Galway in the Spring, and the conclusion of this project led naturally into the launching of our new project 'CTF Advanced' led by Sorin Sirkus. The Kick-off meeting took place in Finland, and the first research workshop was implemented by the researchers in Prague just before the General Assembly. You will find more details on all these projects later in the report.

It has truly been an action packed year, full of excitement and enthusiasm across a many areas of our network, and we are in awe of the incredible dedication and hard work of all our Members and Friends around the world. Please enjoy all of the photos and updates with details of everything we have accomplished over the last year. We feel fortunate to have been able to collaborate with so many fantastic organisations to keep making the world a better place and improving people's lives through circus. We will continue striving to progress with the 4 pillars of our 2021-25 strategic plan and are proud of all we have achieved so far.

Taina Kopra

President

Caravan International Youth and Social Network





IN A NUTSHELL in a nutshell





# **OUR TEAM**

#### The Coordination Team

The Caravan Coordination team is based in Brussels, overseen by the Development Manager, executes the annual work plan and supports and informs members.

In 2022 we bid farewell to Camille Henry - Development Manager (until April) and we welcomed 2 new staff members.



Simona De Lisi Development Manager (from May)



William Borrell
Project & Communication
Officer



Ana-Elisa Rossini Financial & Administrative Assistant (from September)

#### **Our Board**

Caravan Board is appointed by the members of the network to guide the strategic direction of Caravan. The board works in close collaboration with the staff team to define, develop and implement the network's strategy and governance.

In 2022 we welcomed 2 new members to the Board.



Taina Kopra
President
Sorin Sirkus, Finland



**Jenna Hall**Vice President
Circusful, Northern Ireland



**Ulla Hokkanen** Galway Community Circus Ireland



Christophe Studer
Treasurer
Ton sur Ton, Switzerland



Clara Norman Cirkus Cirkör, Sweden



**Maria Tate**Phare Ponleu Selpak,
Cambodia



Nina Couzis (until July) Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles, Belgium



**Teresa Fajardo** (from September) Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles, Belgium

Thank you to our Board Members for their ongoing commitment to our network!



## OUR OBJECTIVES





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

#### Our key objectives for



Caravan as a community • Caravan as an expertCaravan as a catalyst • Caravan as an advocate

To know more about our strategic plan, click here



**Key Activities** 

Peer to peer and intercultural exchanges

**Training Programmes** 

Innovative research and publications

Volunteering programmes

Advocacy and raising awareness





### **OUR VALUES**

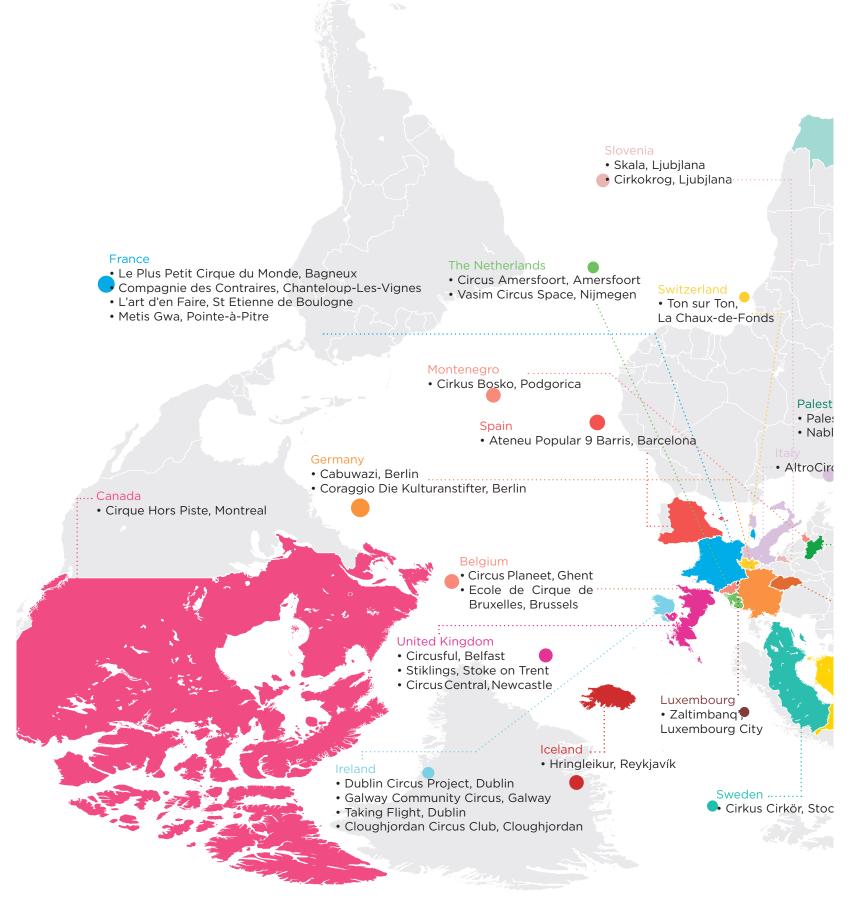
At the heart of all Caravan's activities lies a set of core values that holds our family together. Every project we participate in and every action we take stems from a strong foundation of honesty and integrity. We strive to show loyalty and solidarity to our members and create an atmosphere of trust 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.



# CARAVAN IN NUMBERS



## CARAVAN IN



# THE WORLD







# 2022 CARAVAN ACTIVITIES

#### **Caravan Board meetings**

Feb 2 | March 17 April 21 | June 14 (Tampere) Sept 22 | Oct 27 Nov 26 (Prague)

May 12- May 13: Spring online General Assembly
Nov 24- Nov 25: Autumn
General Assembly (Prague)

**Caravan General assemblies** 

W.A.Y Meetings

Feb 7 I March 28

July 7 I Sept 2-4 (Tampere)

Sept 28 I Oct 28

December 15 I November 23 (Prague)

April 6-11: Module 1

May 25-30: Module 2

July 6-7: Mid-term coordination

meeting (Brussels)

July 26-31: Module 3

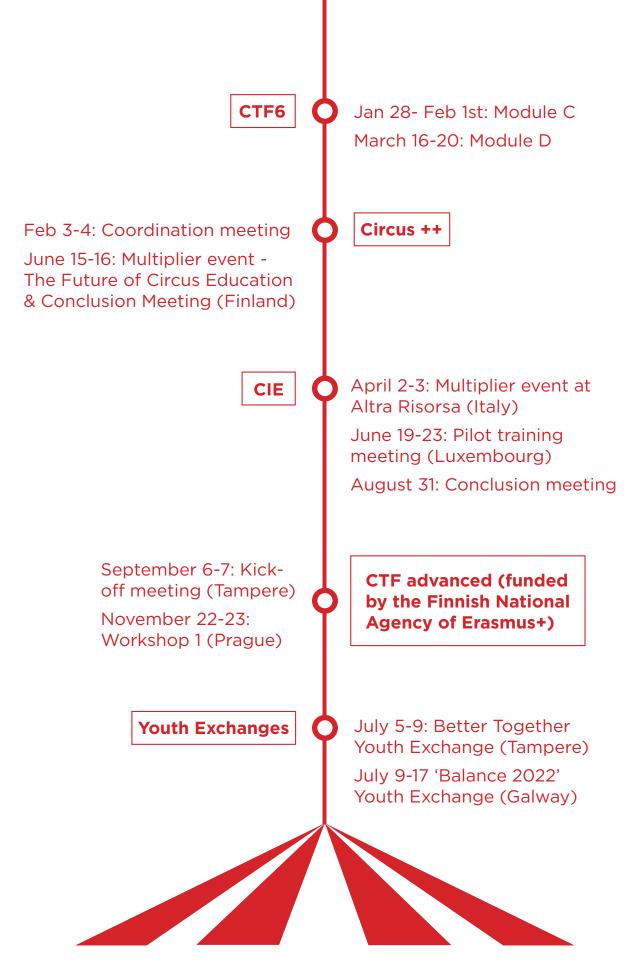
September 19-24: Module 4

November 28-29: Final coordination meeting (Brussels)

November 30: Dissemination

meeting

**Circus Overseas** 



More details of activities in the following section.

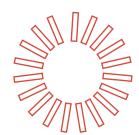
# STATUTORY | \\ \\ MEETINGS

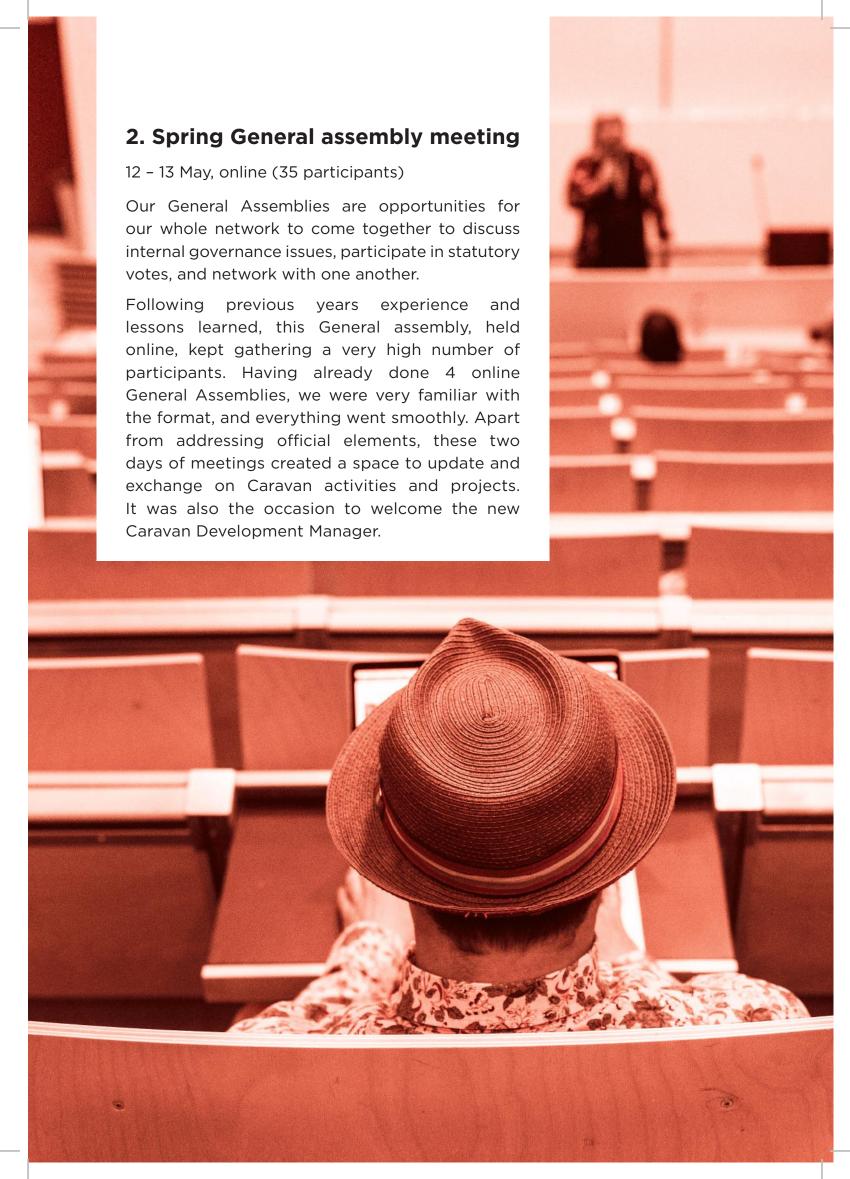
Our statutory meetings form an important part of our annual calendar. In 2022, 7 Board meetings and 2 General assemblies were organised.

#### 1. Board meetings

Caravan organised 7 board meetings in 2022, out of which 5 took place online and 2 in a hybrid way. The first one was hosted by our member Sorin Sirkus and took place in Tampere on the eve of the final meeting of the Circus ++ project and the second one took place in Prague right after our in-person autumn General Assembly.

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. They also enabled the finalisation of key legal, administrative, and human resources works in progress. The meetings were even more crucial over the course of this year to keep ensuring the development manager transition and support the growing of the Caravan staff.





#### 3. Autumn General assembly meeting

24 - 25 November, Prague (42 participants)

The 2022, Autumn General Assembly was the first in-person meeting since 2019 of the network. It was a really special moment, with participants attending from all over the world, discussing the past, present, and future of our network. It helped us evaluate our projects and activities and picture ourselves in the year to come through our 2022 provisional budget and work plan.

The W.A.Y group led team building activities on the 24th afternoon, and the official elements took place on the 25th in the morning. A new member was appointed to the board, welcome Circus Fuskabo! During the official voting, we also welcomed 2 Friends becoming Members: Circus Bosko from Montenegro, and Kreativni Pogon from Serbia!

In the afternoon of the second day, members also took part in a series of working groups. The working groups topics were selected by members and covered both external importance – Youth Accreditation and Environmental Sustainability– and internal relevance, including Advocacy and Communication & The International Dimension of Caravan.

These discussions feed directly into the workplan and key activities of Caravan in the coming years, and we were delighted to have input from the participants. It really felt like a pivotal moment for the network, to get everyone on the same page, excited and motivated for the future.

We go into the future with strength and confidence, looking forward to developing our network further, and implementing new strategies proposed by the individuals and organisations that make up the network.



## **PROJECTS**

Caravan is a community for building capacity, solidarity and mutual aid. Caravan is keen to strengthen members' project management capacity and to encourage the members to further develop their project activities and use the network as a safe space to initiate new dynamics and ideas.

In 2022 Caravan carried out 6 projects across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

#### **◆ CIRCUS TRANSFORMATION** ▶

#### what?

Our Circus Transformation 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 have already taken place.

#### How? Circus Transformation 6

The third and fourth modules of CTF 6 were implemented in 2022. Module C was supposed to take place in Italy with the host organisation AltroCirco from Jan 28th to Feb 1st, however with still rising cases of COVID, we were forced to conduct this module online. In CTF's 10year history, this was the first time we ever attempted to conduct a training of this nature in an online context. The trainers from AltroCirco were pushed out of their comfort zone and acted courageously and creatively to capture the participants attention and facilitate their creative learning experience. It was a real challenge, but the feedback we received was that it couldn't have been done any better!

The final Module took place in Galway from March 16th - 20th during St Patricks Day. This was an opportunity for the international participants to take part in a fantastic piece of Irish Tradition. The group prepared a walkabout spectacle to be incorporated into the Patricks Day Parade, which they performed in front of 25,000 people. Each of the participants was encouraged through curiosity and exploration, imagination and self-expression, research and experimentationand decision making, while exploring their own perception/conception of creativity also fostering collaboration and teamwork.

Out of the 20 participants, 17 received the CTF Certificate. Every single participant was able to create a network and share new pedagogical content and innovative practices, reinforcing that the project is in itself not only about the year which it has happened but the ongoing interaction among trainees during their lifetime.

#### 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.

#### CTF ADVANCED D

#### what?

CTF Advanced is a 2.5-year project led by Sorin Sirkus with the objectives to:

- Form a network (both local and European) of youth circuses, social circus trainers, social work organisations and institutions as well as youth work organisations.
- Evaluate the impact of CTF 4 to 6 from the feedback data collected and by interviewing trainers and organisers.
- Update the CTF Guidebook and improve the training according to the evaluation.
- Plan a follow-up strategy and peer network for social circus trainers who have gone through CTF (total 120 persons after CTF 6).

How? In September, the consortium of CTF Advanced met at Sorin Sirkus (Tampere, Finland) for the project kick-off meeting. This was an opportunity for all the partners to meet face to face, and begin clarifying roles, objectives, and schedules for each of the following workshops.

> The first CTF Advanced workshop took place in CIRQUEON Prague, on the 22nd and 23rd of November. All partner organisations were present to discuss the preliminary findings from the three researchers (Ilaria Bessone from Italy, Ian Walsh from Ireland and Heta Mulari from Finland) and other key elements for improving the CTF in action program. Discussions were had that looked at; how to develop the network of affiliate organisations; ensuring quality in terms of preparation and continuity between CTF modules; desired participant profiles; clearly defining goals and objectives for the training; developing new tools and evaluation strategies; working with specific target groups; developing the language used in the guidebook to be more gender neutral and inclusive; and paying close attention to mental wellbeing and safety. It was an exceptionally rich discussion between all the participants. Plans were put in place to carry on the momentum to the next workshop that will take place in Stockholm in February '23.

#### Wha?

Sorin Sirkus, Galway Community Circus, Altro Circo, Cirkus Cirkör, CIRQUEON, and Caravan

#### **4** CIRCUS ++ **b**

#### 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.

How? Through 2020 and 2021, huge advances were made in the development of the core curriculum through online meetings, and in 2022 we were able to finalise the document, develop national implementation strategies for each of the partner countries, and host a conference at Tampere University to share the results with a global community of circus schools and universities.

#### Circus Pedagogy Conference - The Future of Circus Education & Conclusion Meeting - Tampere, Finland - 15 - 17 June

To conclude the project, and share the core curriculum with a wider audience, a conference was organised by Tampere University with much support from Sorin Sirkus. The conference was organised in a hybrid way, with many participants joining online from all around the world. It was a platform for the partners of the project to present the core curriculum, discuss the importance of having social circus training in higher level education, and facilitate workshops, panel discussions, round tables, and talks relating to this topic. It was filled with detailed discussions about the future, the implementation strategies of the various partner countries and affiliated universities, and discussions about the importance of recognising social circus in the academic educational sector.

The conclusion meeting enabled the project partners to evaluate, analyse, and plan for the future of the project. It was clear that all the objectives had been met, and the group had worked like a well-oiled machine throughout the whole project cycle. Obstacles had been faced and overcome through the global pandemic, but the result had reached expectations, and is set to have a major impact on the field in the future.

#### 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**

#### what?

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 has enabled 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 through to 2022, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

How? 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, the field work in 2020, the data analysis and guidebook drafting in 2021, 2022 set the scene for the dissemination event at AltraRisorsa (Italy), the implementation of a Pilot training (Luxembourg), an online conclusion meeting, and saw the finalisation of the guidebook.

#### Multiplier Event - Altra Risorsa - Foligno, Italy - 2 & 3 April

"ContaminArti" was an opportunity to meet, share, discuss, deepen discoveries and challenges, joy and difficulties of circus and art as spaces of encounter between people, generations, communities, cultures, and between people and cities, the environment, nature since we look at the world as an interconnected system where all parts are interdependent. The Conference included presentations, debates, workshops, roundtables & performances.

How? It was an opportunity to share the draft guidebook, generate feedback and discussion on key topics found in guidebook, implement, and test potential activities and exercises for the Pilot Training. The content of the project was received very well and catalysed many interesting debates on the topic of circus within the intercultural context.

#### Pilot Training - Zaltimbanq, Luxembourg - 19 - 23 June

The CIE team developed a pilot training program which took place in Luxembourg at Zaltimbanq in July. 18 Participants from the 7 partner countries embarked on a journey of intercultural dialogue and sensitivity guided by trainers from Altro Circo.

#### **Conclusion Meeting - Online - 31 August**

We closed the project at the end of August with an online conclusion meeting and have made the final touches to the guidebook. It is now available on our website in a digital format, and we have some hard copies in the office in Brussels (please get in touch if you are interested in getting a copy).



Zaltimbang (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 training activities 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? This project that was accepted in 2019, was finally able to be implemented in 2022.

> There were some issues in the clarity of the objectives and fine details that were lost during the 2 years it was postponed, however all the project activities were able to be implemented and made 2022 a fantastic year for the key international project of the network:

- 4 training activities across 3 continents,
- 2 in person coordination meetings
- 2 participants from each organisation attended each of the following 4 modules

#### Module 1 - Circus arts technical development

South Africa | Zip Zap | 6-11 April

The aim of this module was to improve competencies in basic circus techniques and develop capacity in sharing one's techniques and artistic discipline to peers in an international and multicultural setting. The participants inspired each other while collaborating artistically, strengthening their abilities to present their artistic practices and develop their professional network.

#### How?

#### Module 2 - Managing and leading youth circus organisations | Cambodia | Phare | 25-30 May

In this second module, the participants developed strategic planning skills for youth & social circus organisations and sustainable strategies to support and empower young people to enable succession through the organisation. They developed strong leadership and team management skills and increased their knowledge on international project funding opportunities.

#### Module 3 - Pedagogy and act of teaching |

Italy | Altro Circo | 26-31 July

The third module focussed on the trainer. The participants defined and set achievable objectives adapted to the target group and to the context. They created and used research methodologies and pedagogical tools for the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of projects. Communicating effectively and adapting the mode of communication to the target group was investigated to create and ensure a safe environment, considering the physical, environmental and the emotional safety of the participants.

#### Module 4 - Directing and staging circus |

France |Le plus petit cirque du Monde | 19-24 Sept

The final module catered to the performers, facilitating their artistic development through inspiration from various different aesthetic conceptions in an intercultural setting. They were able to present and discuss cultural specificities of circus aesthetics from each other's countries and discussed the key concepts of circus creation processes. The exchange also enabled the development of an artistic and professional network and new professional opportunities.

### How? 6-7 July - Brussels, Belgium - Mid Term meeting

The mid-term meeting was an opportunity for the coordination team of the project to meet and evaluate the implementation methods of the project. To ensure that all elements of the project were going as planned, and to address any issues or obstacles that were being experienced. Everything was on track, and plans were made to ensure that the dissemination of the training activity toolkits was implemented effectively, and each of the participants conducted their dissemination activities.

### 28 - 30 November - Brussels, Belgium - Conclusion & Multiplier Event

The conclusion meeting of the Circus Overseas project took place at the Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles on Tuesday the 29th of November. We addressed all the official elements of concluding the project including evaluations, analysis, suggestions for improvement, dissemination strategy for the toolkits and projection for the future. The meeting went smoothly, with all participants getting the opportunity to give their opinions and feedback, and it was exciting to hear that all partners were interested in looking into the possibility of launching Circus Overseas Vol.II in the future. We invited representatives from European relevant stakeholders in the fields of social work, education, and youth, to the dissemination event for them to be able to learn about how we conduct capacity building within a circus context, and how it can also be beneficial for them.

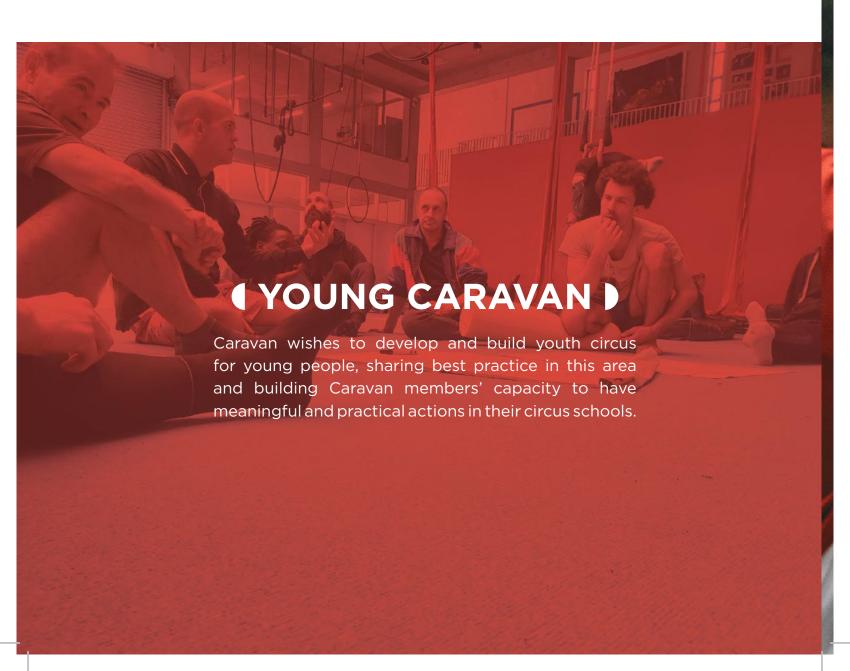
The 4 toolkits from the modules can be found on our website. We encourage you to look at them, download, print and use them to develop various areas of your circus organization!

### 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







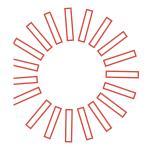


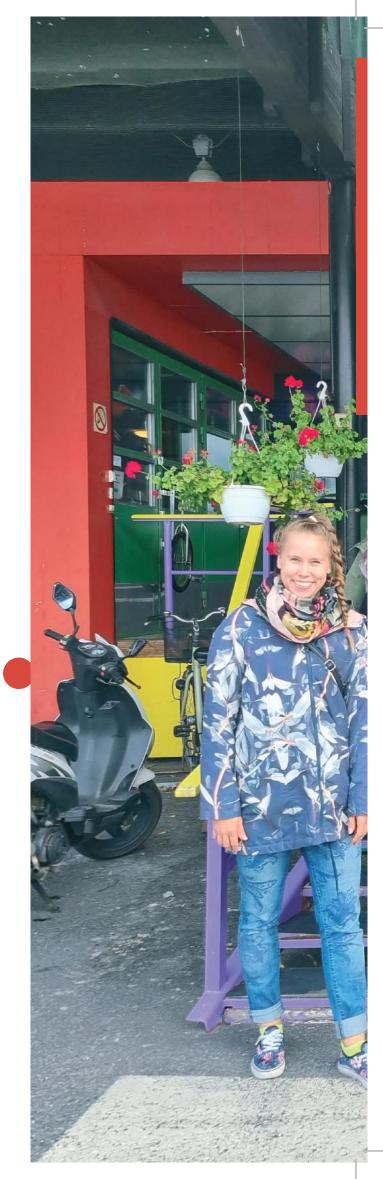
many years Caravan has been talking about having youth leadership and empowerment at the head of our strategy. Thanks to the development of the 'Youth Advisory Group' in 2021, we were able to make that dream a reality, and implement a strong youth lead approach for our activities. Based on the work done in 2021, the Youth Advisory group continued to meet online in the first half of 2022, and in the autumn and winter, they were able to meet twice in person. It was during their first meeting in Finland that they decided to change their name to more accurately reflect their identity:

### What About Youth? (W.A.Y)

The guiding principles to propel the group towards their goals remain the same:

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







Luke McFarlane - Circusful - Northern Ireland; Tracy Madi - cirquenciel 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; Pauline Ducuroir - Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles - Belgium



# 1st Meeting

We were able to host a 3-day meeting for the former Youth Advisory Group, who are the spearhead of our youth empowerment and leadership strategy. The meeting focused on figuring out a group identity and proposing concrete ideas and suggestions for the future direction of the Caravan Network. We are proud to announce that they have decided to rename their group 'What About Youth?' (W.A.Y), with their focus on creating opportunities for young people in their communities to have their voices heard on a national and international level. They will be meeting again in Prague in November, to begin the analysis of the preliminary data they've collected from the young communities in their home countries.

# 2nd Meeting

A second meeting took place on the 23rd of November in Prague before the General Assembly, where the objectives were; to discuss the findings from their preliminary research with the young people from their respective circus organisations; to elaborate the way they will work in conjunction with the Caravan coordination team, and their role within the network; to prepare a presentation to deliver at the General Assembly the following day; and to discuss an action plan for implementing their research project idea. It was a busy day filled with interesting debates and discussions that lasted long into the evening, but it was fantastically rewarding to leave with a clear vision for the next steps regarding their research project, and the reception they received from the Network after their presentation was of support and enthusiasm.

We wish to continue developing and building youth circus for young people 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.

# YOUTH // EXCHANGES & VOLUNTEERS

In 2022, Caravan continued to increase volunteering opportunities for our members (mainly under the European Solidarity Corps) and keep encouraging them to welcome young volunteers every year who will become engaged citizens in tomorrow's society.

This year, the youth exchanges that were postponed last year in Galway, Ireland (LifeLine festival) and Tampere, Finland (Better Together) were finally able to take place.

Over 30 volunteers were able to spend an exciting year with some of our members and friends around the world, discovering the inner workings of a circus school, supporting daily activities while meeting a diversity of young people and various stakeholders and building lifelong friendships and memories. The experiences they have had and the networks they have built will serve them for the rest of their lives.



**Testimony 1** 

Ines Garcia from Spain, Galway Community Circus in Ireland.

"I have been looking for new experiences and discovering what moves me forward in life, and now... I know I'm on the way!"

Starting the ESC program after planetary chaos (COVID-19) was more than interesting. There were masks and a lot of cleaning products around, but in GCC they knew how to keep things moving forward!

I felt at home and listened to from the very first moment, and it is really important to have an experience like that. I learned to plan and to run circus classes. I developed my circus and performing skills. I was a part of the largest highwire spectacle in Europe called 'LifeLine". I learned Irish music. I discovered the Irish culture. I have seen those beautiful Irish landscapes. But most importantly, I learned to do everything in every moment with passion.

I learned a lot about different cultures and countries by sharing daily life with my fellow ESC volunteers. For example, did you know that Slovenia is shaped like a chicken?

I'm so glad to have spent this time of my life with GCC, having good craic and growing in my chosen path. I am still living in Galway, and I am still part of the GCC gang, and I am so happy to still be a part of this mission to spread circus as far and wide as we can.



# **Testimony 2**

Monica from Italy, Ton sur Ton in Switzerland.

"I found this experience indispensable for open-mindedness, understanding the culture of the place and being able to communicate".

I arrived in La Chaux de Fond in September 2022. The first month was the most difficult but also essential to integrate and understand the dynamics both at work and in the city. Thanks to the language course at the Ecole Mosaique and participation in courses and events in Ton sur Ton, it was easier to integrate and have all the information necessary to live in Switzerland.

Ton sur Ton offers different opportunities and the projects can be chosen by us volunteers, carried out in complete autonomy and linked to one's own interests (in my case related to the photographic field, but there are options available for each artistic field).

Thanks to the possibility of being able to choose and follow two activities in the school (such as dance, circus and yoga) it was easier to build relationships, communicate, and understand how to move.

However, I found this experience indispensable for open-mindedness, understanding the culture of the place and being able to communicate, despite the language difficulties. What I preferred about the project was the working environment, the relationship of mutual trust and the possibility of being able to carry out the work independently allows you to develop your own interests without obligations, which is essential to be able to carry out the ESC project in serenity.

Attending the different events in Ton sur Ton (concerts, shows) has been the most exciting moment so far, appreciating the artistic and professional side of Ton sur Ton.

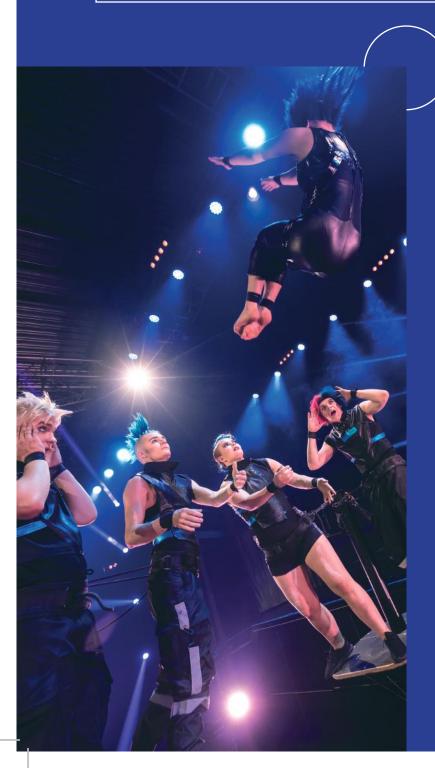
# Raising



Caravan is strongly committed to bringing expertise and raising awareness towards stakeholders not yet aware of the powerful impacts of youth and social circus.

In 2022, Caravan released 4 newsletters and continued its existing communication efforts online. General information was shared on our website. Through social media we touched the hearts of circus enthusiasts and sympathisers: our Facebook followers increased by 33%.

In 2022 we were able to attend several Social Circus conferences around the world to present our projects findings and expertise in the field:



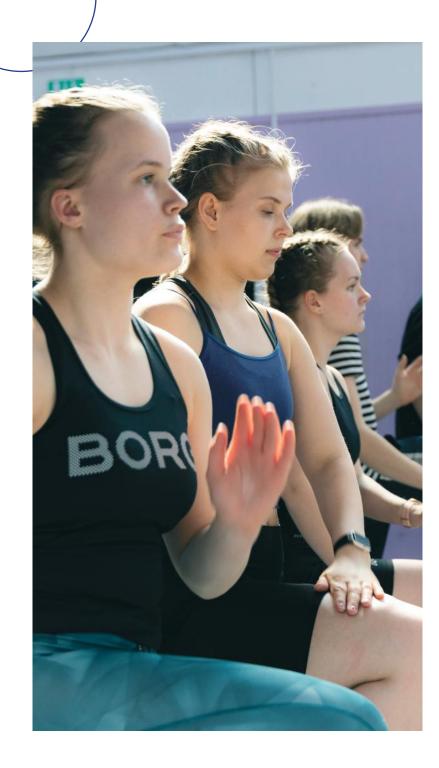
## Circus Rising - February 21-23, Bristol, UK.

Caravan participated in three days of games, workshops, lectures, and talks with some of the best circus experts, researchers, performers & education specialists in the world! Circus Rising was designed for anyone with an interest in using circus to make the world a better place, and in what the future of circus will be. The conference used a mix of online platforms, VR technology & life-size holograms to allow virtual participation.

We presented the core curriculum of the Circus++ Project, discussed European opportunities for collaborations and projects, and shared information about the diverse Members and Friends in our network.

# Circus Pedagogy - The Future of Circus Education - June 15-16, Tampere Finland

future of circus The education conference hosted Tampere at University was an opportunity to disseminate the core curriculum of the Circus++ Project, and to share more information about the project, its partners, and the national implementation strategies for each of the partner countries. More than 80 participants from 10 different countries attended in person, and dozens of participants followed online. the most distant from USA, Canada and New Zealand. The conference was also a platform for workshops, panel discussions, and roundtables. Some of the key themes were; Circus Pedagogy in the Academy; Social Circus Around the World; Responsible Future Circus Pedagogy - Inclusivity and sustainability; and Joy, success and learning - Groups and communication in circus pedagogy. The panellists discussed possibilities and visions of how the curriculum created in Circus++ could be implemented in different countries and educational contexts towards the development of the European youth and social circus sector.



### **Quinzaine de Solidarité - October 4 - City of Brussels**

In collaboration with the Clowns Without Borders, Belgium, Caravan participated in a conference and participatory debate on the theme 'Children and Migration: social circus and performing arts as a tool for resilience and socialisation'. This was an important opportunity to meet with relevant stakeholders from Brussels, Belgium, and the European network of NGO's operating in the arts field with social work as their main priority. We presented the CIE project, and discussed the challenges faced by our international members, particularly in areas of conflict and oppression.



# Circus in the context of Immigration - November 14 - CircusTalk, online

Throughout 2022, Caravan formed an invaluable communications partnership with CircusTalk, the online platform for circus professionals. Caravan hosted a panel discussion about circus in the context of immigration. With AltroCirco, Upsala Sirk, and Clowns Without Borders, we shared our projects and practices about how we use circus as a tool to facilitate migratory issues with refugees and newly arrived migrants.



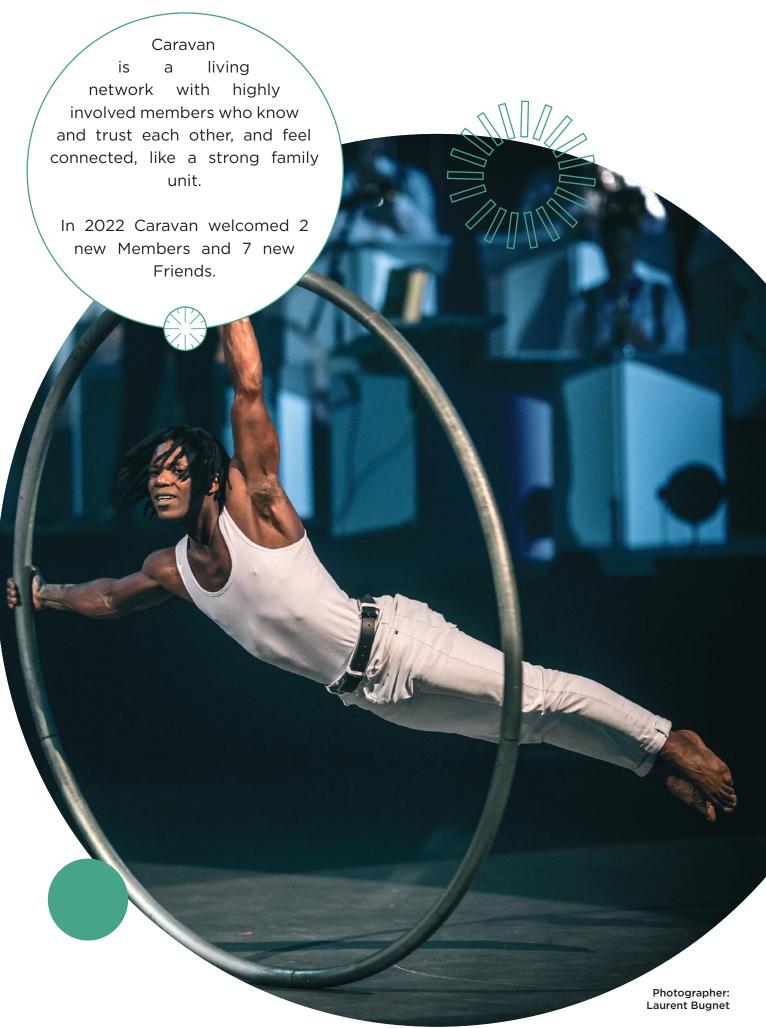
### Circus Overseas Multiplier Event -November 30, Brussels, Belgium

To conclude the Circus Overseas project, we invited participants from the modules to give their personal perspectives on the trainings, and we invited representatives from European relevant stakeholders in the fields of social work, education, and youth, in order for them to be able to learn about how we conduct capacity building within a circus context, and how it can also be beneficial for them. Overall, it was a very successful event, with around 25 participants in person, and another 15 who attended the dissemination event online. We are very excited to see how the organisations from our network can use the toolkits to develop their professional practices, and for organisations from outside our network to benefit from these findings as well.

Photographer: Geraldine Aresteanu

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### **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 1994 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



### Circus Bosko - Montenegro

In September 2013 a group of animators and volunteers from Don Bosko centre 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 teamwork.
- Personal monitoring through preparation of individual and group performances focusing on mental, social, and physical development of the youth.

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



### 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 deprivileged 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 deprivileged 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**

### **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



### **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 (ECBru) has forged, through 42 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 about 1000 students each week: 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. L'Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles offers specific training programmes, such as the internationally recognised training Circus Arts Training: La Formation Pédagogique, an acquisition of a complete package of teaching skills during one year, as well as an in-depth knowledge of circus art. In 2010, ECBru 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 for youth and social circus, located in the heart of Galway City. Our mission is to foster the growth of youth circus in Ireland and internationally through our dynamic circus school. Our vision is a future in which play, care and creativity are nurtured through circus education accessible to every child in Ireland. We provide access to high-quality subsidised circus arts education through our circus school offering youth and adult programmes for over 500 weekly students as well as professional training and community programmes in partnership with those who have specific social or developmental needs. We provide artist supports, training and mentoring and lead the development of youth circus in Ireland through our academic, national and international partnerships.

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



### 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 trough 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 was the ECOC in 2022 and our project Take balance – with circus was one of the projects that took 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/



### 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



### Skala Fuskabo - Slovenia

The dynamic started in 2013 in the streets of Ljubljana with a circus workshop in the framework of the street program "Minibus of Joy". Due to its popularity, the project moved to weekly closed indoor structured activities. The target groups are children and youths from 6 to 18 years who come from different areas of Ljubljana, each with specific needs. Many of them come from vulnerable or disadvantaged backgrounds., which is why most of Fuskabo's activities are free of charge.

Fuskabo is part of the non-governmental organization Skala, which has been working for 24 years in the field of youth street education. In addition to Fuskabo, the organization carries out a street program through its Minibus of joy, sports activities, music group, daily centre, summer camps etc. It has over 200 users in mentioned activities above.

Website: www.facebook.com/fuskabo

### SORIN SIRKUS

### **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



### **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-Neuchétel 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 Frontiére. 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 Frontiére 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.zaltimbang.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 Central - United Kingdom**

We believe that circus transforms lives! We have a mission. We want to use circus to:

- Connect and strengthen people of all ages and abilities.
- Help people get physical, emotional and professional skills.
- · Build confident and resilient communities.

To make this happen we offer an amazing programme of circus activities. We have something for all ages and abilities! We have workshops, classes, cabarets, performances. We also have qualifications to help people start careers in the Arts.

We aim to help people get personal and professional skills. Our Circus helps people build self-esteem and make new friends. We also help people to get new work skills. We have qualifications, like BTECs. We also help people get skills you can use in any job. This includes skills like confidence, perseverance and great problem-solving skills. 76% of people that come to our activities say that circus gave them confidence.

In 2021, we worked with 16 partners, and we delivered over 1000 activities that over 7900 people came to.

Most of all, we want to bring people together to have fun and enjoy something new and different!

Website: https://www.circuscentral.co.uk/



### **Cirque Hors Piste - Canada**

Cirque Hors Piste (CHP) is a Montreal organization dedicated to social circus intervention. The organization uses the circus arts to offer youth who are marginalized or at risk of exclusion an alternative path of personal development, with social support that allows them to move forward and flourish as citizens. Its impact on individuals in precarious situations is unequivocal, in addition to contributing more widely to the collective well-being in its community.

### **CIRKASKINA**

The national component of CHP, Cirkaskina, was born following the first national social circus meeting which brought together 150 youth from 17 Canadian communities in Montreal in January 2020. Cirkaskina, meaning "all together" in the Atikamekw indigenous language, gathers 20 partner organizations from across Canada. Cirque Hors Piste continues to deploy its efforts with attention and sensitivity towards each partner to reach out to the different communities and create a social circus movement. Cirkaskina's main objectives are to facilitate networking activities between youth, practitioners, researchers and social circus managers, but also to promote and strengthen the recognition of the circus arts as a tool for social transformation.

Website: www.cirquehorspiste.com



### Cloughjordan Circus Club - Ireland

Cloughjordan Circus Club is a youth and social circus project based in rural Tipperary, Ireland. The project offers an alternative social and creative outlet to children and young people aged 8 - 25 years, promoting social connections, creative expression and physical wellbeing through inclusive, participatory circus arts.

We run a year-round programme of weekly circus workshops, teaching skills such as juggling, diabolo, hula hoop, stilt walking, unicycle, tightwire, acro and have classes for Beginners, Juniors and Teens. We also run an outreach programme consisting of short term (8 -10 week) projects with a wide range of diverse groups of young people county and region wide. Alongside this we are currently developing a programme of workshops in outdoor settings in collaboration with various outdoor educators.

Our programme includes annual performance projects, regular holiday camps, weekend masterclasses with visiting tutors as well as opportunities to engage with the wider youth circus community in Ireland through projects like the Irish Youth Circus Gathering, which we host, and trips to events such as Festival of Fools, Belfast.

We are also running a programme of Outdoor Wire Walking Workshops as part of our Wires Crossed initiative.

Website: https://cloughjordancircusclub.ie/



### 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.
- REBOOT is an international collaborative project between the Swiss company Courant
  d'Cirque and the French company Compagnie d'Elles. It involves the exchange of
  knowledge and best practices around the issue of transmission in the circus arts as a
  possible place of transformation. Other partners in the circus world are joining forces
  to think and develop benevolent and inclusive practices to revolutionise the aesthetics
  of tomorrow.
- 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.courantdcirgue.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 by 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



### 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



### 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



### Norköppings Ungdomcirkus - Sweden

Norrköppings Ungdomcirkus is the oldest and one of the biggest youth circuses in Sweden. We have over 150 artists, with ages ranging from 4 to 21.

Our focus is in making a circus family. Every year we create a show and play it in our own circus tent, where everyone is involved. Artists, parents, siblings help with everything from raising the tent to rigging, lights, music, costume and more.

Website: https://www.nuc.nu/



# **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



## **Stiklings - United Kingdom**

Stiklings C.I.C. was founded in 2021 with an aim to provide free circus arts instruction and performances for anyone who may be under-circused. We are UK based and primarily work in England.

To allow us to include everyone in our workshops we have developed and manufactured a number of accessible adaptations and inventions to circus equipment.

Our key focus is expanding access to circus arts instruction. Through adapting our delivery, taking the circus to our participants and most importantly having an attitude to overcome or remove barriers.

Our shop covers the core costs of our organisation while we primarily deliver grant funded projects.

We are a small team with a big impact, follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with our work and inventions.

Website: https://www.stiklings.com/



# **Taking Flight - Ireland**

Taking Flight is dedicated to the development of circus arts through 3 strands: education, performance and community.

# **EDUCATION**

We run a regular schedule of classes for children and adults as well as developing coach education. Classes include silks, rope, trapeze, cocoon, wall running, hoop, straps, and acrobatics, as well as a variety of workshops and bespoke courses. Our coach education includes a variety of pedagogical and technical courses with partners such as Ecole Nationale De Cirque, High Performance Rigging, LEGacy Circus, Sport Ireland, and many individual international circus artists and educators.

### **COMMUNITY**

We develop bespoke responses to local needs, working with community groups such as Wet n'Wild and BeLongTo, running family introduction days, as well as longer courses and performances such as the Schools Project in partnership with St. Marys and Trinity Comprehensive. We are currently working with Erin Ball of LEGacy Circus and Cara of Sport Ireland on our upcoming adaptive aerial syllabus with a focus of making circus accessible to people with disabilities.

# **PERFORMANCE**

We provide professional development for emerging and established artists through opportunities supported by Arts Council Ireland, such as artist residencies, act creation course the Create Project, specialist workshops, and dedicated choreography classes.

Website: https://www.takingflight.ie/



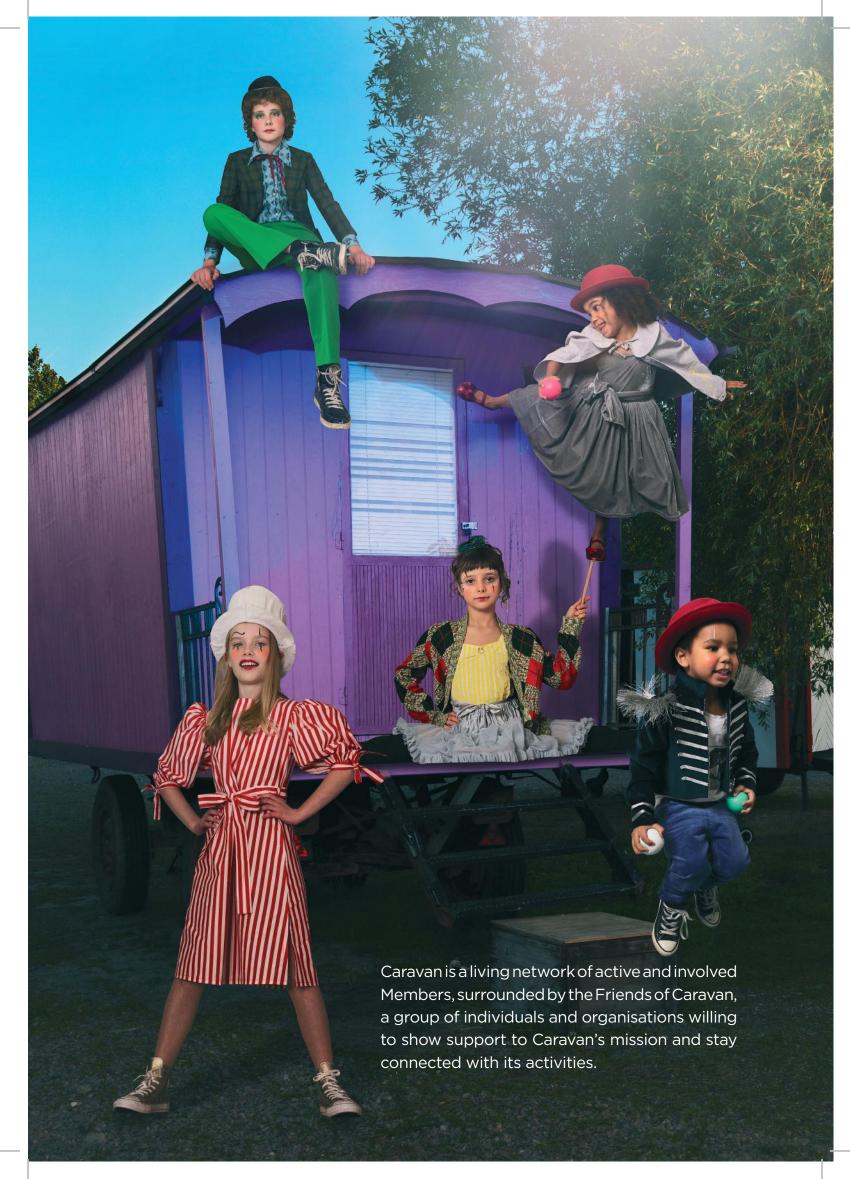
# **Vasim Circus Space - Netherlands**

Vasim Circus Space was founded eighteen years ago in the Vasim building in Nijmegen from a small group of enthusiast people strongly believing in the positive impact of social circus. Today, Vasim Circus space host dozens of people training on a regular basis and artists work on their productions. The primary building is currently being renovated and converted into a cultural dream location, where Circus Space will of course be given a central place. The objective of this renovation is to make Vasim, even more visible and accessible, so that more people can come into contact with the power of circus.

Website: https://vasimcircusspace.nl

Thank you to all of our members for your SUPPORT PARTICIPATION and ENTHUSIASM in 2022!

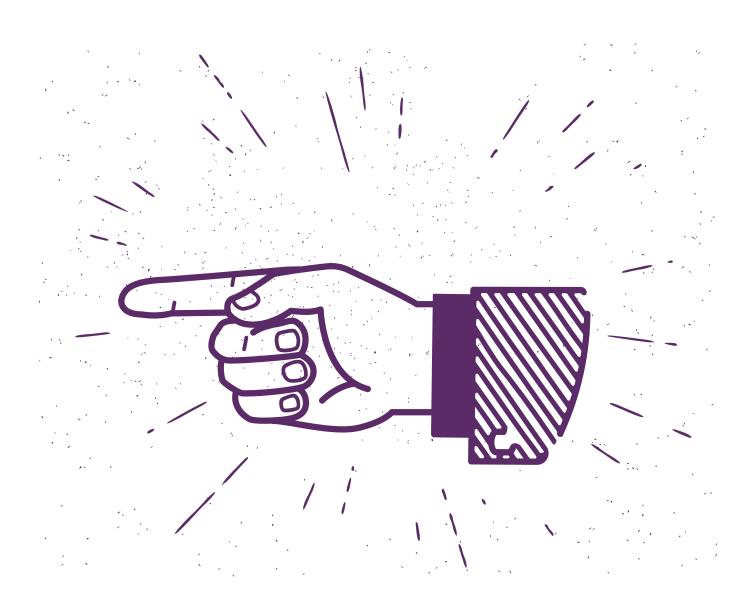
# JOIN THE CARAVAN FAMILY!





Are you a circus school and/or organisation from all around the world focused on youth and social circus?

- Do you want to join our social circus family to connect and exchange with your peers around the world?
- Are you looking for best practices from other worldwide circus school or seeking to set up new projects and collaborations?
- Do you want to improve the international profile and strengthen legitimacy of your organisation?
- Are you willing to strengthen the capacity of your circus school in youth and social circus pedagogy?
- Do you believe on the importance to advocate for a more fair, sustainable, recognised sector?



If you are interested in any of the above, and you share our vision and values, then we look forward to hearing from you!

Find out more: www.caravancircusnetwork.eu

Together, we can change lives through circus!

