

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Caravan International
Youth and Social Circus Network





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A man with short brown hair and a beard is performing aerial silk. He is suspended upside down, holding onto a yellow ribbon with both hands. He is wearing a brown t-shirt and dark pants. The background is a deep blue with several yellow stars, resembling a night sky or a stage backdrop. The yellow ribbons are draped around him, creating a dynamic, swirling pattern.

FORE- WORD



2023 was an action packed and challenging year for the Caravan Circus Network. Last year marked the 15th anniversary of the network, which encouraged us to carry on our momentum from the previous year, continue striving towards our strategic goals, and implement inspiring and valuable activities. The coordination team in Brussels struggled with the departure of our Development Manager, Simona De Lisi, in March on sick leave, which reduced the working capacity of the team and made implementing our annual plan particularly challenging. We were still able to begin the 7th cycle of the Circus Trans Formation in Action (CTF 7) project, and launched headfirst into our research project CTF Advanced, while also focusing on our youth lead approach with our What About Youth? (WAY) Youth Advisory Group.

Continuous support from the Educational, Audio-visual, and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA) has empowered Caravan to sustain our commitment in fostering both physical and virtual gatherings for knowledge exchange among our Members. This dedicated backing ensures uninterrupted connectivity for our Members and Friends to a global network of resilient, industrious, and innovative circus organisations. Collaboratively, we dedicate our efforts to enhancing the world through the transformative power of circus arts.

Over the previous years, we have learned many tools and strategies that have enabled us to conduct effective and engaging online meetings, which we have continued to implement to reduce our carbon footprint in 2023. However, we also know the benefits of meeting in person and the richness of the exchanges that can be experienced, which is why we hosted the Autumn General Assembly at our headquarters in Brussels, in collaboration with our Member École de Cirque de Bruxelles (ECBru). This was also partnered with our 15-year anniversary celebration, where we encouraged our diverse Members to come together to highlight the amazing work that is happening around the world, creating positive impact on marginalised communities using circus arts.

We reduced the number of projects we engaged with in 2023 to ensure that we were able to operate with our reduced capacity. The CTF Advanced project was launched in 2022, but the bulk of the meetings, research, and analysis took place in 2023. We began the year with a coordination workshop in Stockholm (Sweden) hosted by Cirkus Cirkör, followed by the 'BIG Meeting' in Galway (Ireland) in March hosted by Galway Community Circus, and the final workshop in Siena (Italy) hosted by Altro Circo. We also launched the first module of CTF 7 in June, at Sorin Sirkus in Tampere, Finland, with the second module taking place at the ECBru at the end of November. This gave us an opportunity to begin introducing some of the findings and updated working documents in the implementation of this CTF Cycle.



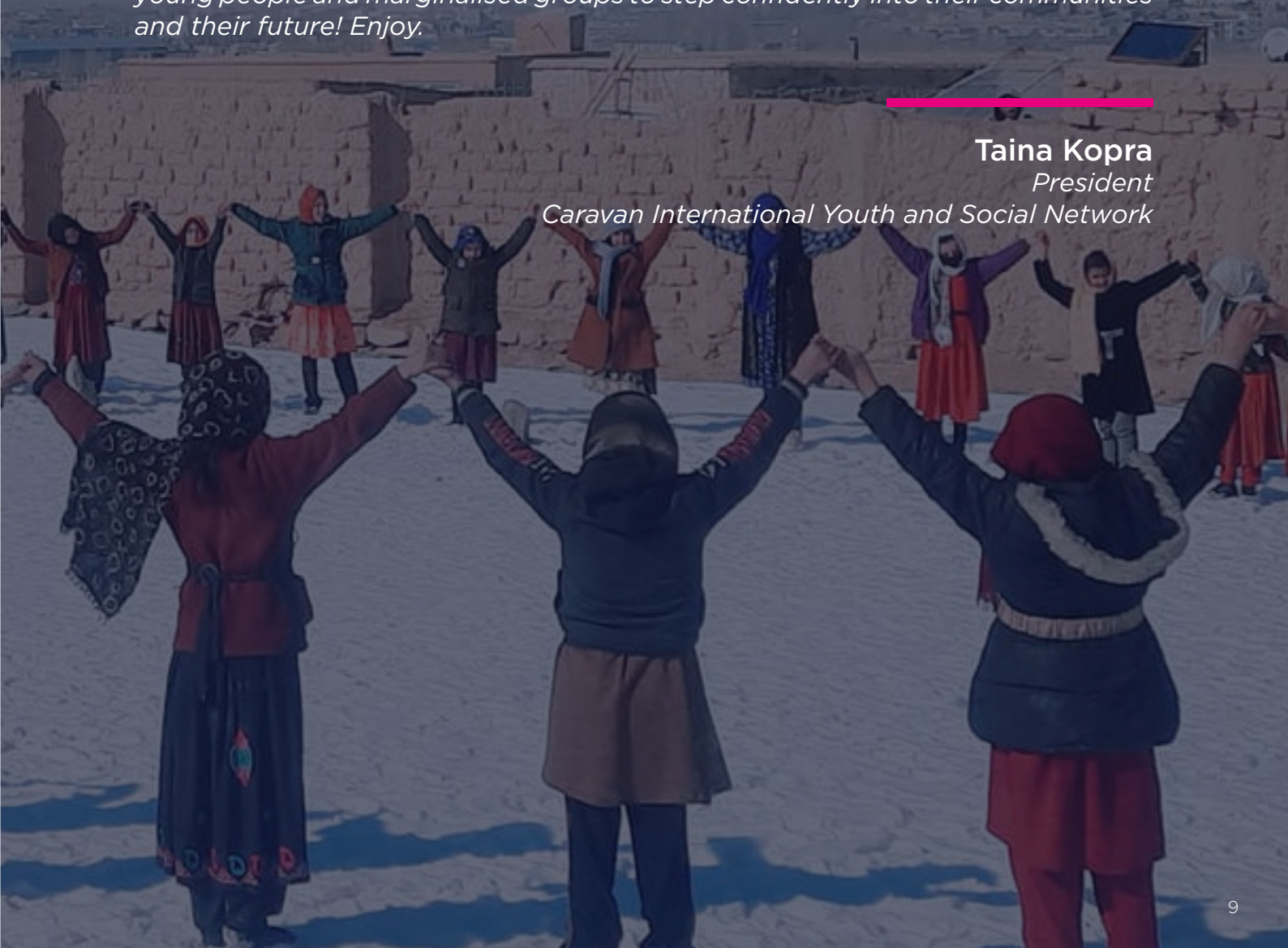
Finally, our **What About Youth?** (WAY) advisory group met 7 times over the course of the year in an online context, and we welcomed 4 new participants to the group. The online meetings allowed the group to continue discussing future goals and opportunities, as well as plan the in-person meeting in Brussels linked with the General Assembly. We also engaged in many external networking events and facilitated internal 'Family Talks' to allow the network to discuss key topics that we are experiencing. You can find more information about all communications activities later in the report.

Despite the challenges we had an extremely successful year, continuing to deliver high quality trainings for social circus trainers, developing new research material in the field of social circus, and advocating for its positive impact on the world we live in. We are now halfway through our 2020-25 Strategic Plan, with many of the goals having already been met, and we will continue striving to progress and uphold the 4 pillars of this strategy: Caravan as Community, Expert, Catalyst and Advocate. In the following pages, please enjoy the beautiful photos from our Members and Friends around the world, and find more information about each of the projects, events, and activities that have taken place across the network during 2023. We want to congratulate all the organisations in our network on the fantastic work they continue to produce every year, creating opportunities for young people and marginalised groups to step confidently into their communities and their future! Enjoy.

Taina Kopra

President

Caravan International Youth and Social Network





CARAVAN A NUTSHELL

Caravan is an international youth and social circus network. It is composed of 40 Members and Friends from across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and North America.

These circus schools all advocate for the positive impact of circus in the field of youth and are all different shapes and sizes. The network was established in 2008 by 7 European circus schools, with a common goal to use youth and social circus as an educational tool and to dedicate this work to groups from disadvantaged backgrounds with specific needs.

The Caravan offices are graciously hosted by the ECBru at the Tour & Taxis site in Brussels.



OUR TEAM

The Coordination Team

The Caravan Coordination Team is based in Brussels. Overseen by the Development Manager, they execute the annual work plan and support and inform the network's Members.



Simona De Lisi
Development Manager



William Borrell
Project & Communication Officer



Ana-Elisa Rossini
Financial & Administrative Assistant

OUR BOARD

The Caravan Board is nominated from the network's Members and prepares the draft work plan, budget and accounts, supervises the daily management of the network, and represents the organisation externally.

In 2023 we welcomed Zef Berišaj as a new member of 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



Teresa Fajardo
Ecole de Cirque de
Bruxelles, Belgium



Zef Berišaj
Circus Fuskabo, Slovenia

A large group of diverse people, including men and women of various ages and ethnicities, are gathered in a room with a large arched window. They are all cheering with their arms raised in the air, some with open mouths as if shouting or singing. The room has a wooden floor and a white wall. The overall atmosphere is one of excitement and celebration.

***Thank you
to our Board
for their
ongoing
commitment
to our
Network!***

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

Caravan as a community

Caravan as an expert

Caravan as a catalyst

Caravan as an advocate

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

Key Activities

Peer to peer and intercultural exchanges

Trainings

Innovative research and publications

Volunteering programs

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.



CARAVAN IN NUMBERS

25

COUNTRIES

24

MEMBERS

15

FRIENDS

12

**STATUTORY
MEETINGS**

1041

**NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS**

6,835

**SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS**

- **Spring online GA:** Friday 21st April
- **Extraordinary GA:** Thursday 29th June – Friday 30th June ?
- **Fall in-person GA:** Friday 1st – Saturday 2nd December

GA'S

Online:

- 25th January • 3rd Feb
- 24th March • 18th April
- 13th June • 31st July
- 9th October

In person, Brussels, Belgium:

30th November – 1st December

WAY MEETINGS

- **12th June – 16th June** (Module A, Sorin Sirkus in Finland)
- **27 November – 1st December** (Module B, ECBru in Belgium)

CTF 7

YOUTH EXCHANGES

- The Palestinian Belgium Youth Exchange Program: 10.07 – 31.07
- Sorin Sirkus & Cirkus Cirkör Youth Exchange, Stockholm: 30.10 – 3.11
- Fuskabo – International Circus Camp, Kolpa River: 10.07 – 16.07

- **8th February** (online)
- **9th March** (online)
- **5th April** (online)
- **14th – 15th June** (in person & hybrid, Brussels, Belgium)
- **7th September** (online)
- **29th – 30th September** (in person & hybrid, Brussels, Belgium)
- **12th October** (online)
- **10th November – 13th November** (email meeting)
- **30th November** (in person, Brussels, Belgium)

BOARD MEETINGS

- **16-17 Feb** – Workshop 2 Stockholm, Sweden
- **27-31 Mar** – BIG meeting Galway, Ireland
- **26-27 Oct** – Workshop 3 Siena, Italy

CTF ADVANCED

ADVOCACY & NETWORKING EVENTS

- Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain: **26th January – 29th January** (Club Pro, Paris, France)
- Cirkus Expo, Cirkusmania: **17th February** (Stockholm, Sweden)
- Conference "Circo Sociale: Un'Altra Risorsa": **15th April – 16th April** (Siena, Italy)
- Irish Youth Circus Gathering: **11th November** (Cloughjordan, Ireland)
- Caravan 15 Year Celebration: **2nd December** (Brussels, Belgium)

STATUTORY MEETINGS

Our statutory meetings form an important part of our annual calendar. In 2023, 9 Board meetings and 2 (+1 extraordinary) General Assemblies were organised.

1. Board meetings

Caravan organised 9 Board meetings in 2023, with 5 taking place online and 4 in a hybrid way. The final meeting of 2023 took place in Brussels right before our in-person Autumn General Assembly.

The purpose of these meetings was to provide support and guidance to Caravan's Coordination Team to ensure the decisions taken at the General Assemblies were realised, the objectives of the Strategic Plan delivered, and high-quality governance achieved. They also enabled the finalisation of key legal, administrative, and human resources work. The meetings were even more crucial over the course of this year to ensure the Coordination Team was supported through the difficulty of reduced capacity. In 2023, the Board committed many extra hours to make sure all strategic decisions were implemented.

- 02/08
- 03/09
- 04/05
- 06/14-15
- 09/29-30
- 10/12
- 11/10-13
- 11/30

2. Spring General Assembly meeting

21 April, online (35 participants)

Our General Assemblies are the opportunity for our whole membership to come together to discuss internal governance issues, participate in statutory votes, and network with one another.

Following previous years' experience and lessons learned, this General Assembly held online reached a very high number of participants. Having already completed 5 online General Assemblies, the Caravan Team were very familiar with the format and everything ran smoothly. Apart from addressing official elements, this day of meeting created a space to update and exchange on Caravan activities and projects. Members also had the opportunity to share their news. During the official voting, we also welcomed a Friend to become a Member: Nablus Performing Arts & Circus School from Palestine.





3. Autumn General Assembly meeting

1 - 2 December, Brussels (40 participants)

The 2023 Autumn General Assembly was a special moment, with participants attending from all over the world to discuss 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 2024 provisional budget and work plan. The WAY group lead a presentation about their group development and role within the network, and the official elements of the meeting took place during the afternoon of 1st December.

On the second day, we facilitated capacity building workshops with the Members and Friends present on key themes such as inclusion in circus, collective intelligence, and horizontal management strategies. During the 15-year celebration, we invited affiliated entities from the European circus field to witness the strength and determination of our network, thriving despite the obstacles. We were also lucky to have the 20 participants from CTF 7 present at both meetings, and the strategic vision and drive from the WAY group also provided a refreshing and enthusiastic dynamic to the proceedings. The celebrations also provided the occasion to welcome the new Caravan Interim Development Manager: Bara Adolfová.

4. 15-year Celebration

2nd December, Brussels (80 participants)

The 15-year celebration of the Caravan Network was a resounding success, marked by the enthusiastic participation of key organizations such as EYCO (European Youth Circus Organisation), FEDEC (Federation of European Circus Schools), and EASPD (European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities). This momentous occasion symbolized a decade and a half of empowering and innovative efforts in the field of social circus. Many of the network founders were present, along with important figures from our history. Together, we reflected on the transformative impact of our collective efforts in leveraging circus arts to foster social change and inclusion. The event served as a vibrant platform for sharing experiences, forging new partnerships, and envisioning the future trajectory of our collaborative work.

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, using the network as a safe space to initiate new dynamics and ideas.

In 2023, Caravan carried out 2 projects across Europe, with our Members participating in exchanges all over the world.

I CIRCUS TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION 7

WHAT?

The Circus Trans Formation in Action (CTF) training program is our flagship activity, and through it we develop a new generation of social circus trainers every year. CTF is the result of a 5-year European research project carried out by 2 universities, 8 Caravan Members, and the Caravan Coordination Team. This project resulted in creation of an in-depth Guidebook for Social Circus Trainers which is used to deliver 4 training modules hosted by 4 different Caravan Members over the course of a year. 6 cycles have already taken place.

HOW?

Module A was hosted by Sorin Sirkus in Tampere, Finland from 12th to 16th June 2023. Participants from diverse corners of Europe and the Middle East immersed themselves in exploring the social context of circus arts. Through engaging workshops and insightful discussions, participants delved into the intricate interplay between circus and societal dynamics, gaining valuable perspectives on leveraging circus as a tool for social change. Sorin Sirkus provided an enriching environment for exchange and collaboration, fostering deepened understanding and appreciation of the transformative potential of circus within varied social contexts.

Transitioning to Module B, hosted by École de Cirque de Bruxelles in Brussels, Belgium, from 27th November to 1st December 2023, participants continued their journey of learning and exploration with a focus on the act of teaching within the circus domain. Led by experienced educators, this module offered a comprehensive insight into pedagogical methodologies tailored specifically for circus instruction. Through hands-on training and pedagogical exchange, participants honed their teaching skills, gaining practical tools and strategies to effectively impart circus knowledge while nurturing creativity and inclusivity. The vibrant atmosphere of Brussels provided an inspiring backdrop for collaborative learning, empowering participants to enhance their teaching practices and contribute to the advancement of circus education across Europe and the Middle East.

WHO?

22 participants took part from the following organisations :

Sorin Sirkus (FI), École de Cirque de Bruxelles (BE), Galway Community Circus (IE), Altro Circo (IT), Cirkus Cirkör (SE), Cirquenciel (LB), Sirkus Magenta (FI), CIRQUEON (CZ), Palestinian Circus School (PS), Kreativni Pogon (RS), Nablus (PS) & Cirkokrog (SI).

CTF 7 is funded by Sorin Sirkus' & Galway Community Circus' Youth Accreditation of the Erasmus+ programme.



I CTF ADVANCED

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, and youth work organisations
- Evaluate CTF 4 - 6 using data collection and interviewing participants, trainers and organisers
- Plan a follow-up strategy and peer network for social circus trainers who have gone through the CTF training programme (total of 140 people following completion of CTF 7 in 2024).

HOW?

The first Coordination meeting was held in Stockholm (Sweden) from 16th -17th February, and was an essential workshop within the CTF Advanced project. Project partners came together to meticulously craft the project's roadmap. Through collaborative efforts, the focus was set, objectives were defined, and a comprehensive schedule was established. This meeting laid the groundwork for the project's success, ensuring clarity of purpose and direction.

The 'BIG Meeting' in Galway (Ireland) took place from 27th - 31st March, and brought together an interdisciplinary ensemble comprising researchers, CTF trainers, participants, and project coordinators. This gathering was dedicated to data collection through a combination of focus groups and embodied research methods. By engaging in diverse methodologies, participants contributed valuable insights, enriching the project's foundation. Over 30 participants took part, including representatives of young people from across the network and the social circus trainers of tomorrow.

The final meeting of the project was held in Siena (Italy) from 26th - 27th October, and provided a reflective space for analysing the wealth of data collected throughout the project. Attendees critically evaluated the gathered information, refining the communication strategy and synthesizing findings. This crucial stage in the project lifecycle facilitated the preparation of final outputs, ensuring that the CTF Advanced project's outcomes were both comprehensive and impactful.

In 2024, the final outputs from the project will be disseminated through the Caravan website and social media channels, in collaboration with the project partners. The most important outputs from the project include a research report on the impact of CTF training, pedagogical refinements, recommendations for the use of more inclusive language, fine-tuning of the practical arrangements for future training cycles, and creating possibilities for social circus teachers to interact and collaborate internationally. We also plan to host a CTF Alumni meeting and Capacity Building event for the CTF trainers based on the findings from the research.

WHO?

Sorin Sirkus (FI), Galway Community Circus (IE), Altro Circo (IT), Cirkus Cirkör (SE), CIRQUEON (CZ), and Caravan (BE)

The project was funded by the Finnish National Agency of the Erasmus+ programme.



REINVENTING CIRCUS ORGANIZATIONS

I PROJECTS FROM OUR MEMBERS: *Reinventing Circus Organisations*

WHAT?

'Reinventing Circus Organisations' was a project carried out by our Members CIRQUEON (CZ), Cirkus Cirkör (SE), Coraggio (DE) and Cirkus in Beweging (BE). The objectives of the project were to try to address questions such as:

- How can we make our organisations more democratic and more self-managing?
- How can we address how to work more autonomously in independent teams?
- How can we deal better with communication and conflict?

Strategies were developed to strengthen the relationship between the office and the training space of the participating partners. The project took inspiration from the book 'Reinventing Organizations' by Frederic Laloux, and experimented with possible implementations of his ideas within circus environment.

HOW?

The project offered four partner organisations at various stages of organisational development and growth with the possibility to share and discuss their experiences and solutions related to forming and maintaining teams and their communication. There were nine trainings offered to representatives from both the office and the hall over the course of two years focusing on communication strategies, self-care, horizontal leadership and decision-making. The partners took turns in organising the learning events and kept in close contact throughout the project duration.

You can find a podcast series [here](#), and a set of infographics to implement the findings of the project in your own circus organisation.

WHO?

CIRQUEON (CZ), Cirkus Cirkör (SE), Coraggio (DE) and Cirkus in Beweging (BE).
The project was funded by the Czech National Agency of the Erasmus+ programme.

I CIRCUS CLINIC

WHAT?

'Circus Clinic' was a project carried out by our member CIRQUEON (CZ) in collaboration with Fondazione Uniti per Crescere Insieme (IT), and Cirkus in Beweging (BE). It has built bridges between the world of circus, psychology and mental health. The three partners used the expertise of psychologists, psychiatrists, and psychomotor therapists to gather knowledge and identify skills to deal with the more challenging behaviour of mentally vulnerable young people.

HOW?

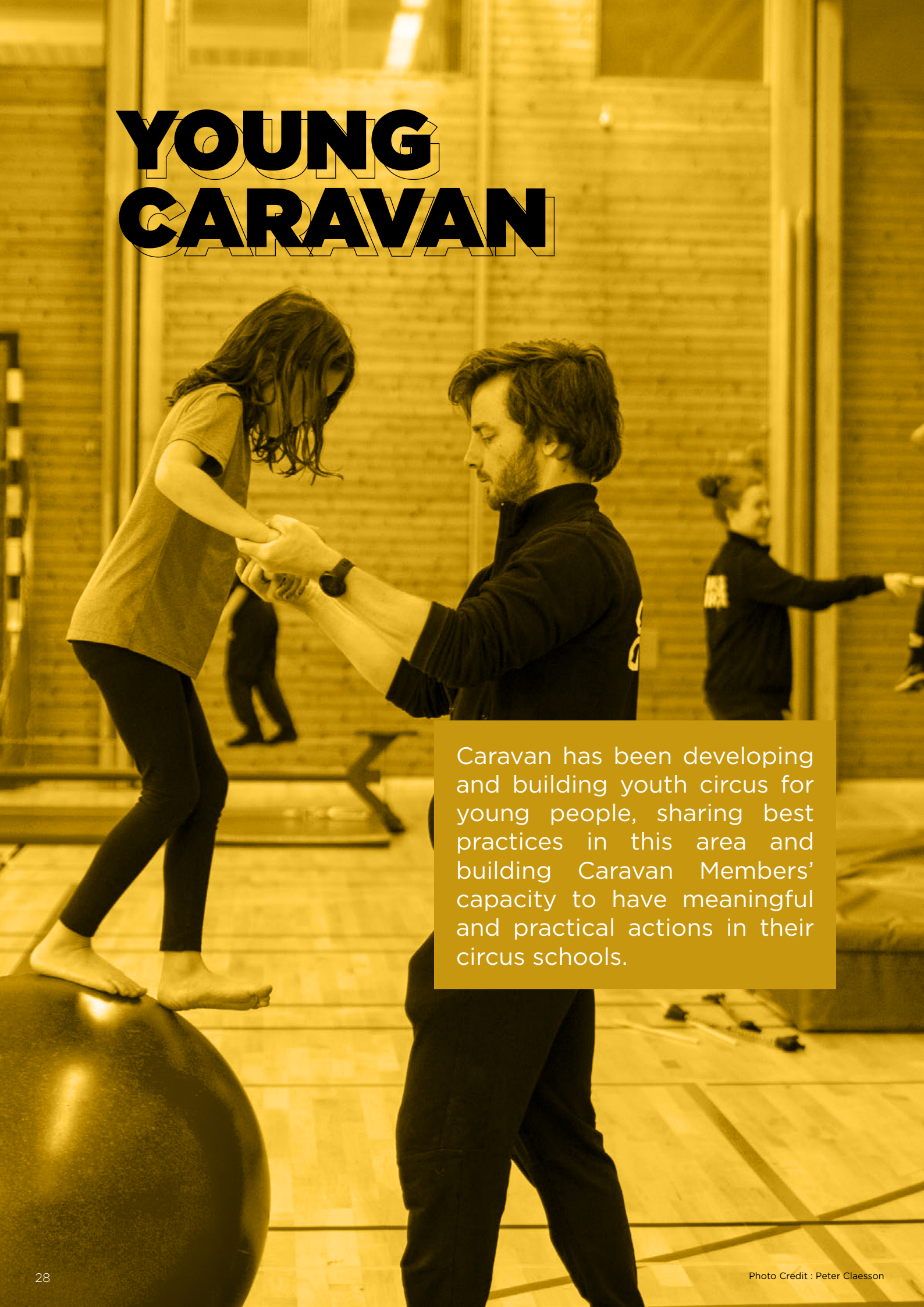
The project partners hosted meetings and brainstorming sessions in Belgium, Italy and Czech Republic where they invited professionals from both circus pedagogy and mental health to discuss the possible intersection of the two worlds. These meetings contributed to developing a shared understanding of how circus techniques can be used in mental health care and brought attention to mental health issues that can be encountered by circus educators in their daily work. Together this international and interdisciplinary team has developed a handbook: 'Circus Clinic, the Art of Wellbeing, published in English, Italian, Flemish and Czech. You can download the English version [here](#).

WHO?

CIRQUEON (CZ), Cirkus in Beweging (BE), and Fondazione Uniti per Crescere Insieme (IT) The project was funded by the Flemish National Agency of the Erasmus+ programme.



YOUNG CARAVAN

A man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is assisting a young girl with long dark hair. The girl is standing barefoot on a large, dark, reflective exercise ball. The man is holding her hands, supporting her as she balances. They are in a gym or activity room with a wooden floor and large windows in the background. Other people are visible in the background, but they are out of focus. The entire image has a warm, yellowish-orange tint.

Caravan has been developing and building youth circus for young people, sharing best practices in this area and building Caravan Members' capacity to have meaningful and practical actions in their circus schools.

WHAT ABOUT YOUTH? (WAY)

The What About Youth? (WAY) youth forum within the Caravan Network has been instrumental since 2021 in leading a youth-led strategy integral to the network's ethos. At its core, WAY is dedicated to achieving several key objectives. Firstly, it serves as a vital channel for connecting youth with the wider circus community, fostering a sense of belonging and collaboration. Secondly, WAY empowers young participants to voice their opinions and cultivates their leadership skills, nurturing a generation of circus advocates and change-makers. Additionally, the forum aims to inspire youth to contemplate their future within the circus field, offering guidance and support as they navigate their career paths. Finally, WAY showcases the diverse array of opportunities available within the circus sector, encouraging young individuals to explore and pursue their passions, thus enriching both their personal growth and the broader circus community. Through its multifaceted approach, WAY continues to play a crucial role in shaping the next generation of circus enthusiasts and professionals within the Caravan Network.

WAY Guiding Principles

- Mutual Respect
- Exchanging Ideas
- Non-Judgemental
- Possibility of Making Mistakes
- Voluntary and Responsible Participation
- Solidarity
- Inspiration
- Signalling
- Change Makers

Meetings

Throughout the year, the WAY Group has remained firm in its commitment to collaboration and progress, conducting regular online meetings to discuss key initiatives and strategies. These virtual gatherings have served as dynamic platforms for brainstorming, planning, and decision-making, fostering a sense of unity and purpose among members despite geographical distances. An in-person meeting coinciding with the General Assembly in Brussels provided the opportunity for new members to meet their peers face-to-face. This gathering held particular significance as it marked the culmination of online discussions and provided a key moment for setting concrete guidelines and objectives for the group's future functioning. By blending virtual connectivity with in-person collaboration, the WAY continues to pave the way for meaningful youth engagement and empowerment within the Caravan Network.

Moving forward, the WAY Group is committed to achieving several future goals. Primarily, to apply for funding to support and implement a youth exchange program, providing opportunities for cross-cultural learning and collaboration among young circus enthusiasts. Furthermore, the group seeks to enhance its visibility and outreach by leveraging social media platforms, thereby amplifying its impact and engagement within the community. Additionally, WAY hopes to actively encourage more participants to join, fostering a diverse and inclusive environment for youth empowerment and advocacy. Lastly, the group aspires to facilitate the establishment of 'mini-WAYS' within each Caravan network organisation, extending its reach and influence to empower youth at a local level to build broader grassroots impact across the network. Through concerted efforts towards these goals, WAY remains dedicated to empowering the next generation of circus leaders and advocates.

In 2023, WAY welcomed 4 new members to the group:

New Members:

Pia Povsic – Skala – Slovenia; Tamara Raicevic – Cirkus Bosko – Montenegro; Molly O'Brien – Cloughjordan Circus Club – Rep. Ireland; Hanane Thoumy – Cirquenciel – Lebanon.

Unchanged:

Lorenzo Morello – Altro Circo – Italy; Julien Cottenie – Circusplaneet – Belgium; Dorothea Hofmeisterová – CIRQUEON – Czech Republic; Paavo Kivimäki – Sorin Sirkus – Finland.

Youth exchanges & volunteers

I The Palestinian Belgium Youth Exchange Program

Palestinian Circus School (PL), Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles (BE), & Circusplaneet (BE) - 40 young persons - **10th - 31st July**

A remarkable celebration of cultural diversity and collaboration between 40 talented youth from Palestine and Belgium. Facilitated by the Palestinian Circus School in collaboration with six circus schools from Belgium, the exchange provided a platform for participants to share and learn circus skills, fostering cross-cultural understanding. Over three exciting weeks, the young artists engaged in workshops, performances, and cultural activities. The program concluded in a three-day carnival on the 27th, 28th and 29th July, featuring captivating shows that showcased the hard work and talents of the participating youth.



I International Circus Camp

Cirkus Fuskabo (SL), Kreativni Pogon (RS), Don Bosco Center Podgorica (ME), Galway Community Circus (IE), and CIRQUEON (CZ) - 64 young persons - **10th - 16th July**

The six-day summer camp in Kolpa River, Slovenia encouraged young people to learn about good practices from other organizations, get the experience of living with nature, learn about mental health issues, and find solutions to the aforementioned challenges. They expressed their knowledge, experiences and solutions for the future through circus arts in a final performance for local residents and tourists. We spent a week together at the camp, sleeping in tents, training together, paddling in canoes, swimming in the river, making pizzas, juggling with fire, dancing, and sharing great food and stories by the camp fire.

I Finland & Sweeden Youth Exchange

Sorin Sirkus (FI), Circus Cirkör (SE) - 18 young persons. - **30th October - 3rd November**

During the last week of October, Sorin Sirkus came to Cirkus Cirkör for a youth exchange between 9 participants from Sorin and 8 students from Cirkusgymnasiet. They met for a week of circus workshops with teachers and artists, as well as activities outside the training hall such as a visit to a local fire show, and a tour and evening at Gröna Lund amusement park. The participants slept in the circus hall, cooked together and spent the evenings watching films and playing games. They also decided to create a flashmob that they will continue working on and present in Tampere in mid-June when they'll meet again. The exchange was highly appreciated among the participants, who especially enjoyed the opportunity to get to know and gather inspiration from fellow aspiring circus artists, as well as the community feeling that was created throughout the week. We very much look forward to our reunion in June 2024!





Testimony 1

My name is Viola, I'm from Italy, and I was an ESC volunteer at Galway Community Circus from January to August 2023. Here I had the chance to work in a big organisation and charity and see some of the mechanisms that run it. I was lucky to be given the amazing opportunity to work alongside a team of international teachers and be an enriched witness to their broad range of knowledge and experience. I was able to see how GCC promotes self, reciprocal and collective care, critical thought and free self expression through youth and social circus.

Living and working with people I had never met and in an array of working places pushed me out of my comfort zone in many, safe, ways. As a young and new element in an established work environment, I was trusted and given many responsibilities, which motivated and enabled me to be proactive in my role.

Viola Fenoglio from Italy,
Galway Community Circus in Ireland.



Testimony 2

My name is Maria Sole Muzzi and since March last year I have been an ESC volunteer at the Cabuwazi Altglienicke circus. This year's experience was extremely satisfying, both in terms of my work as a volunteer and the fellow travellers I met in the Cabuwazi group. It was enriching to meet new people and to be able to create bonds that I am sure will remain even after the volunteer year is over. In the volunteer group, I made friends and lived with wonderful people who made me feel at home right from the start. As for my experience at the circus, I worked alongside the trainers of the various disciplines, learning and playing with the children and young people. I was given great trust by my coordinators and I was able to become the head of the costume shop, repair costumes and start a sewing workshop with the women of the Quittenweg refugee camp. I will continue this project once my volunteer period is over, as well as an art workshop to create sets for circus shows, this one aimed at children and young people. During this year I also took part in the project 'A Garden for all' for the construction of a community garden at the Altglienicke site, together with former ESC volunteers. We were enthusiastic about the project and decided to continue it for another year!

Maria Sole Muzzi from Italy,
Cabuwazi in Berlin.

RAISING THE PROFILE OF CARAVAN

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

With our reduced capacity in 2023, it was challenging to grow our advocacy strategy while also maintaining excellence within all of our activities. However, we were able to launch an Instagram channel and LinkedIn profile which has increased the reach of our communications.

We were able to attend several events around Europe linked to different projects, which allowed us to continue to advocate for the positive impact of social circus:

Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain: Club Pro - Paris, France (27th - 28th January 2023)

Caravan's participation in Club Pro highlighted our role as a link between the social and professional circus fields. Through insightful feedback and reflections on innovative projects such as Circus as an Intercultural Encounter, we showed our unique ability to unite diverse circus communities, bridging the gap between social initiatives and professional activities. This collaborative dialogue not only enriched individual projects but also fuelled collective efforts towards harnessing the transformative power of circus arts for societal benefit.



Cirkus Expo; Cirkusmania - Stockholm, Sweden (17th February 2023)

As part of the second CTF Advanced workshop, Caravan participated in a panel discussion at the Cirkus Expo on the topic of 'The circus - a society development factor'. We used this opportunity to shine a light on the transformational effect that engaging in circus arts can have on participants, regarding integration within societies, and opportunities for growth and development. The other panelists represented the Clownkliniken in Gothenburg, who use clowning to alleviate stress and pain in hospitals, and the Head of Culture in the city of Borås who co-founded a social circus initiative in Senegal to help provide employment opportunities.

Social Circus Conference, Altra Risorsa – Siena, Italy (15th – 16th April 2023)

Caravan's participation in Altra Risorsa showed our dedication to fostering collaboration and synergy among diverse sectors towards the shared goal of social change through the arts. By providing a platform for meaningful dialogue and exchange, Altra Risorsa facilitated connections between the youth and social circus sectors as well as formal and non-formal education and youth and social work sectors. The WAY Group also participated, giving their perspective on sustainability and youth leadership within the network.



Irish Youth Circus Gathering in Cloughjordan, Ireland (10th – 12th November 2023)

Caravan's presentation at the Irish Youth Circus Gathering in Cloughjordan, Ireland, showed the impactful work carried out to elevate the status and recognition of the social circus sector, inspiring the next generation of circus enthusiasts and advocates. Caravan showcased its efforts in fostering inclusivity, promoting social change and advancing the art of circus as a vehicle for positive transformation. By sharing successes, challenges, and lessons learned, Caravan not only raised awareness but also ignited a spark of inspiration among attendees, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to the evolving landscape of social circus.

OUR MEMBERS

Caravan is a living network with highly involved Members who know and trust each other and feel connected as a strong family unit.

In 2023 Caravan welcomed 1 new Member, Nablus Circus School from Palestine.



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 six places in different areas of the city, CABUWAZI offers circus pedagogical leisure activities, many of them free of charge, for children and young people between 2 and 21 years old. 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. Each year, 12,000 children and young people train at CABUWAZI.

GrenzKultur gGmbH also runs the Circus Akademie Berlin, which offers an annual professional training for circus educators, and Alegria – Institut für Zirkustherapie, which provides offers resource- orientated, therapeutic services for children and young people to help them deal with difficult feelings and teach techniques for self-regulation.

Website: www.cabuwazi.de

Circusful

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 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

Cirkus Cirkör – Sweden

Cirkus Cirkör was started in 1995 and is the most prominent circus company in the Nordics today. Our umbrella covers performances on tour in Sweden and the world, courses and educational programs for all ages, an upper secondary school for circus, business events and many, many collaboration projects.

Cirkus Cirkör is an idea of how to use the arts to influence, develop and change the world. With curiosity, humour and courage, we explore the diversity and limits of the circus arts. Cirkus Cirkör is a platform where different artistic practices flourish and surprise. We collaborate with many and use the circus as a method to lift and inspire humans.

We bring contemporary circus into the future.

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.

Website: www.cirqueon.cz



Cirquenciel - Lebanon

Established in 2001, cirquenciel became the first circus school in Lebanon.

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



École de Cirque de Bruxelles - Belgium

The École 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. Since 1991, ECBru has worked with people with disabilities, developing Handicirque : an expertise in the inclusive approach and adapted circus practice.

These various empirical experiences led to a systematic development of specific and global competences and tools. L'École de Cirque de Bruxelles offers specific training programmes, such as the internationally recognised Training of trainers with more than 30 years of experience: La Formation Pédagogique, an acquisition of a complete package of teaching skills during one year full time, 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. Our vision is a future in which play, care and creativity are nurtured through circus education accessible to every child in Ireland. We foster the growth of youth circus in Ireland and internationally through our dynamic circus school. We are striving to create connection, empower expression and support social change.

We provide access to high-quality subsidised circus arts education through our circus school offering youth and adult programmes and professional training. We also create 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

The Educational Program:

First, the Childhood Program, operating in Birzeit, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Jenin, and Tulkarem, caters to children aged 5 to 14, promoting self-discovery, teamwork, and critical thinking among approximately 200 children annually. A significant milestone of the program includes a research project assessing the impact of circus activities on students' well-being.

Second, the Social Program employs social circus to engage marginalized groups, collaborating with rehabilitation centres in Ramallah and Tulkarem through the Passion Program, supporting around 50 children with mental disabilities. Additionally, the program partners with educational and women's institutions in Gaza, Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, and Jerusalem, reaching about 100 girls each year through the Inhale Program. Third, the Training of Trainers' Program focuses on qualifying circus trainers, equipping them with the necessary skills to deliver educational programs creatively.

The Artistic Program:

First, The Capacity Building Program involves three groups—youth (14 to 18 years old), artistic preparatory (18 to 21 years old), and the pool of artists—engaging approximately 50 individuals annually. These groups undergo weekly training, intensive workshops, artistic residencies, and international experiences.

Second, The Artistic Production Program collaborates with artistic groups to create and perform circus shows. From 2020 to 2023, over 10 circus shows were produced and more than 200 were performed locally and internationally, providing professional artists a platform to cultivate their skills and advance in their artistic journey.

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

Le plus petit cirque du monde is a non-profit organization founded in 1992 in Bagneux (92). It's a place for artistic research, social experimentation, and international artistic exchanges. It aims at promoting culture and arts, especially in the disadvantaged areas of the Parisian suburbs. Its artistic program combines circus arts, urban planning, dance and music. PPCM is also a main actor in the field of social circus in France. The organization supports contemporary productions and professionals in the field of performing arts. In 2023, it became the first place in the suburbs to obtain the state label "Centre Culturel de Rencontre". The PPCM project aims to promote the culture and heritage of urban peripheries.

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 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 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/>



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>



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

TAMPERE FINLAND

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 in circus arts, based on a national core curriculum, to 600 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

Since 2001, 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 and is now a leader in the field of inclusive culture. 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

OUR FRIENDS



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 meet in St Kieran's Hall in Cloughjordan on Mondays!

Our programme also includes a social circus outreach programme, 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 and trips to events such as Festival of Fools, Belfast.

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.
- 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



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 Sírkus 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 village of Joyeuse 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) and youth resources.

Its projects aim to create social cohesion between inhabitants, in urban districts and rural areas, with circus as a bond. L'Art d'en faire work with many partners and want to be active in the local development of South Ardèche, on educational, social, and cultural aspects. Since september 2023, the school works all year long, in a building (and not anymore under a tent).

Website: www.lartdenfaire.com

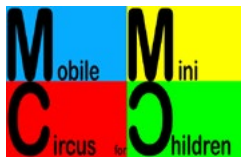


Metis Gwa - France (Guadeloupe)

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



Norrköppings 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>



Zip Zap Circus School – South Africa

Zip Zap was founded in Cape Town in 1992 to inspire young people and help build 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 8 different programmes are all provided to students for free (over 2000 each year), with financial and material support coming from individuals, organisations, corporations, and foundations.

The Zip Zap children have performed for presidents and world leaders. They have done 40 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







**Thank you
to all of our
Members and
Friends for
your support,
participation and
enthusiasm
in 2023!**





**TOGETHER,
WE CAN CHANGE
LIVES THROUGH
CIRCUS!**



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