

# Circostrada Network

## CIRCUS AND OUTDOOR ARTS 2013: ENCOURAGING EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROJECTS

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European cooperation projects in the circus and street arts sectors have been on the rise in recent years. This trend is evidence of cultural actors' desire to work together on the European level and to invest themselves in sturdy and long-lasting partnerships.

Circostrada Network presents here the projects taking place in 2013 within the European Union. The goal is to help identify the networks and projects currently active in the sector, to promote the opportunities available to (future) professionals of circus and street arts, and to highlight different community-related grants. The diversity of the supported projects proves the vitality of our sectors and the range of their current activities, whilst also accentuating their commitment in contributing to the objectives set by the European Union.

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Culture

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**HorsLesMurs**

HorsLesMurs is the French national information centre for street arts and circus arts. Created in 1993 by the Ministry of Culture and Communication, since 2003, it has been the general secretariat of Circostrada Network, European platform for the street arts and circus dedicated to information, observation and professional exchanges. Representing 55 members from 21 countries, the network is working to develop the structuring and recognition of these sectors in Europe.

# Circus and Outdoor Arts 2013: Encouraging European cooperation projects

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*With this third publication, we hope to continue to show the richness of these projects and to help give them an increased level of exposure. By bringing them together in a single document, our goal is also to offer a general overview of European cooperation initiatives in the fields of circus and street arts. With subjects ranging from the issues surrounding artistic training, to the production or distribution of works, to the question of spreading artistic influence across territorial borders, these projects cover a particularly large field and bring together a large number of partners. While many of the projects are supported by the European Commission, they are not all funded only by the Culture programme, but also receive support from other programmes with widely varying objectives (including education programmes and several for regional development).*

*However, despite this diversity of nature, content and funding, the projects have certain characteristics in common. First of all, they are committed to employing professionals and artists from different practices and cultures. Each project is thus, by the logistics of its operation, enriched through contact with the realities of different countries. The projects also work, each in their own way, toward greater structuring within the European circus and street arts fields. Regardless of the nature or length of the project, each puts into place cooperative tools and apparatuses to structure the professional landscape.*

*Finally, artistic recognition for the circus and street arts is without a doubt the major preoccupation and ultimate goal that is seen in all of the projects. The European dimension of the networks in place and the activities they propose reinforce the legitimacy of these artistic forms at the local and national levels and, in certain cases, this dimension can have a decisive effect on public policies.*

# ARTICULATE

ARTICULATE (Artists, Industry & Communities Collaborate in Looking to the Future of Europe) is a European cultural cooperation project initiated by SeaChange Arts (Great Yarmouth, UK) in partnership with De Spil (Belgium), Deventer on Stilts (Netherlands) and Usines Boinot, Centre National des Arts de la Rue in Poitou-Charentes (France).

This project will gather four cultural structures from four European countries, which will together develop an innovative cross-border cooperation in the field of arts in the public space in order to explore the links between culture, communities and industry, referring especially to street arts.

Sharing the same vision of supporting artistic creation in direct contact with a place's inhabitants, possibly even with the public's direct involvement, these four partners wished to create a communal working space in order to give birth to a multiform project that brought together the energy of artists and European citizens.

Against the background of a Europe confronted by major socio-economic changes (loss of industrial employment, the growing gap between communities, fear of the other), ARTICULATE invites artists and inhabitants to redefine the link between industry and artistic creation and to reinvent the outlines of a courageous, creative and open-minded Europe.

## Objectives

- > Encourage the mobility of artistic companies on a European scale
- > Develop new models of cooperation in Europe
- > Involve the inhabitants of territories participating in the project
- > Initiate a sustainable collaboration between the four partners of the project
- > Explore innovative ways of creating a new artistic universe with the participation of industry and local communities

## Actions

- > Artistic residency exchanges in England, the Netherlands, Belgium and France
- > Specific creation work involving English, Dutch, Belgian and French artists and companies
- > Collaborative process with inhabitants
- > Artistic manifestations combining performances and installations in the territories that are involved with the project
- > Over two years, the progressive creation of a 'new world' constructed by artists, inhabitants and industries from the four countries, a 'new world' which will tour to the four partner festivals and which will get inspiration, as it moves along, from its travel

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** November 2012 – October 2014

**European grant:** 200 000 Euros

**European programme:** Culture Programme

**Partners:** SeaChange Arts (UK), Les Usines Boinot (France), De Spil (Belgium), Deventer on Stilts (Netherlands)

## CONTACT

**SeaChange Arts**

Drill House, York Road, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2LZ, UK

**Coordination:** Laurie Miller-Zutshi, [laurie@seachangearts.org.uk](mailto:laurie@seachangearts.org.uk)

T. + 44 (0)1493 745 458

**Contact France:** Les Usines Boinot – CNAR en Poitou-Charentes, [administration@usines-boinot.fr](mailto:administration@usines-boinot.fr)

**Contact Belgium:** De Spil, [gwendolien.sabbe@despil.be](mailto:gwendolien.sabbe@despil.be)

**Contact Netherlands:** Deventer on Stilts, [evenementen@vvdventer.nl](mailto:evenementen@vvdventer.nl)

# Bridge of friendship

Brouhaha International is an arts and cultural development agency with a particular focus on promoting cultural diversity and on professional and participatory work. It presents a high-quality programme of international street arts companies in Merseyside as well as the region's biggest carnival procession.

Brouhaha International delivers an annual programme of events and community celebrations, with its flagship international street festival bringing people together from across Merseyside, the region, the North West, the UK and beyond. Each year local national and international street theatre performers, dancers, acrobats, musicians, stilt-walkers and carnival artists take part in collaborative performance projects and community activities that have a major impact on the flavour, quality and success of our festival. The city-wide festival hosts both small and large-scale events involving between ten and 2000 participants as performers (people taking part), with audiences ranging between 100 and 60,000 (for individual events). Our festivals embrace and celebrate arts and cultural events that take place on the street, in parks, on stages, inside conventional art buildings, and in site-specific outdoor venues.

Brouhaha International is committed to and focused on celebrating diversity and widening participation within the arts, engaging with a broad range of individuals, groups and organisations. At home and abroad our arts engagement work has enabled us to promote and develop the idea that diversity is linked to creativity, maintaining our belief that the more diverse our workforce and programmes the more creative we are as an organisation as we can draw upon a global bank of cultural and artistic experiences.

In the coming years we intend to strengthen our carnival arts and festival work whilst developing our organisation's ability to deliver a range of new and exciting cultural initiatives and arts projects.

Our future activities will continue to embrace and celebrate a diverse range of arts work with a commitment to the realisation of performing arts projects in public spaces – on the streets, in parks, in community venues, and at site-specific outdoor locations. We strive to provide professional platforms and opportunities for artistic and cultural excellence as we move forward to create great art, doing so without losing sight of our purpose, vision and core values.

## Objectives

- > To champion diversity and participation within the arts, developing and delivering work in local, national and international contexts to meet the needs of artists, cultural operators and communities

## Activities

- > Carnival Arts
- > Arts outreach projects

Local, national and international artists deliver creative workshops within a range of community, cultural and educational contexts, with the workshops leading to subsequent public performances presented within our annual festival programme. Our current arts projects facilitate intercultural learning between children, young people and adults from different backgrounds, and reflect a practice that responds to the diversity of people living in our city, region and country.

- > Festival and community events
- > International work
- > Capacity Building Projects

Brouhaha International continues to contribute to the development of the arts and the cultural sector through placements, job shadowing, training and other capacity building opportunities that enable young performers, artists and arts organisations to develop their skills, knowledge and experience of cultural management and production.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** January 2011 – December 2013

**European grant:** 50 000 Euros

**European programme:** Youth in Action

**Partners:** Brouhaha International

## CONTACT

### Brouhaha International

37-45 Windsor Street Toxteth,

L8 1XE Liverpool - UK

T. +44 151 709 33 34

office@brouhaha.uk.com

www.brouhaha.uk

# CARAVAN

The international association CARAVAN gathers twelve youth and social circus schools from twelve European countries. Its mission is to promote circus practices in youth education throughout Europe, and to favour the development of circus education through such concrete actions as youth exchanges and training for trainers.

## General objectives:

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

## Specific objectives:

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

## To this end, CARAVAN determined to:

- > Organise educational exchanges for young people by creating a volunteers exchange network and organising artistic and intercultural encounters
- > Organise exchanges designed for trainers: workshops, seminars, meetings, projects to be undertaken together, pedagogical exchanges
- > Organise exchanges designed for managers of circus schools: workshops, seminars, meetings, projects to be undertaken together, pedagogical exchanges
- > Develop certification tools between partners of the network in the field of circus arts training
- > Feed relevant information to, and influence, local, national and European governments

## Actions:

Even before CARAVAN was established, members met for two youth exchanges in 2007:

- > In South America (spring 2007), in the framework of Youth in the World
- > In Luxembourg (summer 2007), in the framework of the European Capital of Culture 2007

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** permanent

**European grant:** 35 000 Euros

**European programme:** Leonardo da Vinci

**Members:** Circus Elleboog (Netherlands), Ateneu Popular Nou Barris (Spain), Belfast Community Circus School (UK), Ecole de Cirque de Brussels (Belgium), Zaltimbanq' (Luxembourg), Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (France), Sorin Sirkus (Finland), PARADA Foundation (Romania)

- > Since 2007, with the support of the EVS – The Way To European Understanding project and Eurodyssée, CARAVAN members have put in place an exchange network for volunteers to promote the mobility of young people between their institutions.

## Training for trainers

The Training for Trainers project is undertaken within the framework of the programme Youth in Action, sometimes with the support of Cirque du Soleil. Grundtvig workshops are also being put in place. These activities are open to non-CARAVAN members.

## European recognition

At the start of 2011 and in 2013, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) positively evaluated the quality and impact of the work of CARAVAN by recognising the association officially as an "active organisation in the youth sector on a European level". This recognition brings with it a yearly grant for core costs in the framework of the programme Youth in Action, and allows CARAVAN to develop its activities with young people in the circus sector.

## Leonardo da Vinci Partnership

Within the framework of the European Lifelong Learning Programme, eight members of the European non-profit association CARAVAN, in partnership with the Université catholique de Louvain, are carrying out a two-year Leonardo da Vinci – Transfer of Innovation project called Circus Trans Formation, from September 2012 to September 2014.

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

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

The project is based on a bottom-up methodology seeking to take into account partner's local contexts. The definition of the competencies of social circus resulted from a two-year field observation carried out by CARAVAN between 2009 and 2011. In order to analyse, develop, test, and implement the training programme at the national and European levels, Circus Trans Formation follows a specific schedule between September 2012 and September 2014.

## CONTACT

### CARAVAN

c / o Ecole de Cirque de Brussels

11, rue Picard

B-1000 Brussels – Belgium

**Coordinator:** Laurent Beauthier

**T.** +32 (0) 491 524 672

[www.caravancircusnetwork.eu](http://www.caravancircusnetwork.eu) / [info@caravancircusnetwork.eu](mailto:info@caravancircusnetwork.eu)

# Circostrada Network

Circostrada Network is a European platform for information, research and professional exchange for the outdoor arts and circus sectors.

## Objectives

The objectives of Circostrada Network are to work towards the development and structuring of outdoor arts and circus on the European scale and to advocate for their best working conditions. If these sectors are to demonstrate a high level of artistic dynamism throughout Europe, they need a space for exchange, cooperation, reflection and professional representation at the European level. Circostrada Network wishes to fulfil this need by contributing to the circulation of information within these artistic milieus, by advocating for meetings and cooperation between European professionals, and by carrying out joint actions to further the recognition of these new artistic forms. As a member of civil society, Circostrada Network wishes to provide and disseminate quality professional information to EU institutions, researchers and professionals of the cultural field, as well as regional and national policy-makers.

## Priorities

- > Obtain the intellectual and political recognition of these artforms and thus develop cultural policies and strategies in favour of these sectors at EU and (sub-)national levels
- > Advocate for the best conditions for these artistic and cultural expressions to flourish and increase their participation in the European project objectives
- > Take part in all European debates regarding cultural policies and develop contacts with policy-makers to provide them with reflections from the fields
- > Develop street arts and circus professionals' good understanding of European contexts and facilitate their access to relevant information and support schemes
- > Arrange greater collaboration with other networks and platforms operating at the EU level for partnership in content development and joint advocacy

## Three main focuses

- > An 'Advocacy and Communication' focus on sectorial and horizontal advocacy through the implementation of our work programme and our participation in cultural associations and platform activities; delivery of recommendations to civil society (including intermediaries, project holders, artists, etcetera) and (sub-)national / EU institutions.
- > An 'Observation and Information' focus to collect and pool reliable information on street arts and circus, increasing the overall level of

knowledge (through the website, studies, and experts' contributions).

- > A 'Professional Gatherings' focus to organise meetings between cultural operators from street arts and circus; work on content development and implementation phases; offer the opportunity for promoters to become better acquainted with the issues related to our sectors; and share views on current European debates and imagine transnational projects.

## Actions

- > Members suggested several changes: local federations and unions have been formed, performing arts information centres have been established, and the Network's members have themselves undertaken to publish useful information through DVDs and brochures, to foster links with universities, and to publish reviews or theoretical texts. Following this positive development, Circostrada Network progressively abandoned some actions (e.g. multilingual theoretical editorial projects, translation into English of articles) since they are being undertaken by others in the field, and will instead focus on strategic partnerships to experiment with new actions and joint advocacy.
- > There is a strong need, in this time of political uncertainty and funding cuts, to intensify the dialogue with national institutions in charge of cultural affairs in order to protect street arts and circus' vitality. We wish to provoke a positive change of perspective among the policy officers and advisers working at this level for the development of dedicated policies and support schemes by exposing them to a series of strategies undertaken in specific Member States and showing their impact on grass roots practice. We thus designed a three-year action to reach these institutions, organising policy seminars gathering representatives from Member States.
- > Building on the work achieved by Circostrada Network in past years, and because of the increasingly globalised nature of cultural exchanges, we feel there is a need to further the collaboration with third countries and increase international dialogue with their operators. Thus we propose a pilot programme called 'ETC—Explore Third Countries' in order to provoke key discussions and make decisive steps with arts organisations from other continents.

The Network receives the support for bodies active at the European level in the field of culture (category networks) in the framework of the European programme Culture 2007-2013.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** permanent  
**European grant:** about 108 000 Euros per year  
**European programme:** Culture Programme  
**Members:** 55 members in 21 countries, list on [www.circostrada.org](http://www.circostrada.org)

## CONTACT

**Circostrada Network**  
c / o HorsLesMurs  
68, rue de la Folie Méricourt  
75011 Paris – France  
**Coordinator:** Yohann Floch  
**T.** +33 (0)155 281 002  
[info@circostrada.org](mailto:info@circostrada.org) / [www.circostrada.org](http://www.circostrada.org)

# Circo Verso... Outlooks in Social Circus for the development of Active Citizenship

The Association Giocolieri & Dintorni is an organisation with twelve years of experience in circus arts, youth circus projects and social circus.

G&D recognises social circus as an innovative tool for the education and social integration of children, young people and adults who have fewer opportunities to engage with society, and has organised an international exchange seminar – 'Outlooks in Social Circus for the Development of Active Citizenship' – between nine experienced social circus trainers from eight European countries (Denmark, Great Britain, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Finland and Italy).

The seminar will be held in Castelfiorentino (Firenze, Italy) and will last four full days. The concept of the seminar evolved from the need and desire to develop intercultural exchange between young people from European countries, and to do so by implementing and defining standards for applying social circus as an educative and social tool that can foster European Citizenship. The goal of the seminar is an exchange of good practices and the development of competencies and skills for social circus trainers, with a specific focus on young people who have fewer opportunities for civic inclusion.

The participants are all very active and very experienced trainers of trainers in their own countries and organisations, and will use informal methods – combining practical and theoretical activities, as well as visits to social circus projects in the area – to develop new forms of non-formal education for young people that are based on social circus' pedagogical approach. The participants will explore concepts such as active citizenship, cultural diversity, and intercultural dialogue, and learn how these priorities can be creatively addressed in a framework of social exclusion.

The seminar will revolve around three main themes relevant to social circus. The first concerns violence, as this is something the participants within social circus projects have often suffered, as well as a factor that may directly affect classes and workshops due to the aggressive behaviour participants can exhibit. The second theme deals with the different strategies and methodologies for teaching social circus to people with disabilities. Finally, issues related to the role of performance within social circus projects will be discussed.

The results of the seminar, gathered into a dossier, will be made available to the many European organisations working in the youth social circus field, and will be presented at major European meetings. The planning of future seminars and training courses for teachers, as well as activities and exchanges which directly involve young people, is also a very important objective of this seminar.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** January 2013 – December 2013

**European grant:** 10 429 Euros

**European programme:** Youth in Action

**Partners:** Giocolieri & Dintorni (Italy), Circomundo (Netherlands), Circo Corsaro (Italy), Cabuwazi (Germany), Circ Menut (Spain), Cirkus Tværs af 1990 (Denmark), Swiss Federation of Circus Schools (Switzerland), Albert & Friends Instant Circus (UK), Sirkusyhdistys Magenta Ry (Finland)

## CONTACT

**ASS. Giocolieri e Dintorni**

Adolfo Rossomando  
viale della Vittoria 25  
00053 Civitavecchia (RM) – Italy  
T. +39 (0)766 673952  
giocolieriedintorni@hotmail.com

# Circus Adults Training in Europe (CATE)

Circus culture is vibrant and, by its very nature, transnational and inclusive. However, following a history of travelling circuses moving all around Europe, these days the culture differs strongly among the European countries.

There is no Europe-wide course for circus trainers; there are only national programmes, which are usually made exclusive by the language barrier or by certain cultural specificities. If such a Europe-wide course were to be developed – one that was open and accessible to any European – transnational cooperation would be the key to a strong foundation and curriculum.

The general aim of this project is to develop tools and new perspectives for circus pedagogy in the diverse field of adult education. Its main actions are:

- > An intensive exchange with different European circus institutions on the topic of general adult education
- > The development of a train-the-trainers curriculum with universalised standards for training circus arts in the adult education sector
- > The development of a circus-for-adults training program with special attention to the different ways it can be applied – both in terms of duration and context

## Schedule

### October 2012:

A written and signed agreement on a Learning-Partnership Masterplan.

### January 2013 & August 2013:

Written results from the different working groups (e.g. Pedagogics, Security, Arts, Communication) – according to the Masterplan.

### April 2014:

Manual on circus methods for adult education.

### June 2014:

Curriculum for respective models of training (e.g. TTT & TTA).

### June 2014:

Documented first training sessions with feedback and evaluations. Every meeting will be accompanied by circus shows performed by participating local circus groups, and will present the partnership to a wider audience.

### June 2014:

Online documentation of the meetings and open access to the manuals and publications, especially at [www.eyco.org](http://www.eyco.org)

The principle outcome of the project will be the curricula and manuals – covering the subjects of training the trainers of adult education in circus, and of adult education in circus itself. The manuals will be disseminated as open access documents on the different websites of the partner institutions (ideally under a creative commons licence) and on the EYCO (European Youth Circus Organisation) website. Most of the project partners are deeply connected with various institutions, and their collective work will be reviewed and passed on within the wider sector.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** June 2012 – June 2014

**European grant:** 152 000 Euros

**European programme:** Grundtvig

**Partners:** Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Zirkuspädagogik e.V. (Germany), Vlaams Centrum Voor Circuskunsten Vzw (Belgium), Swiss Federation of Circus Schools (Switzerland), Cirkus Tværs af 1990 (Denmark), Suomen Nuorisokirkusliitto ry (Finland), Fédération Française des Ecoles de Cirque (France), Albert & Friends Instant Circus (UK), Circomundo (Netherlands), Ass Giocolieri e Dintorni – Civitavecchia (Italy)

## CONTACT

**Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Zirkuspädagogik**

Rappenhof, Gschwend

Baden-Württemberg

D-74417 - Germany

T. +49 7972 9344 30

[www.bag-zirkus.de](http://www.bag-zirkus.de)



# Circus Art Research & Exchange

Circus Art Research & Exchange (CARE) is an artistic research network based on international collaborations between established and emerging contemporary circus companies from different cultural and artistic backgrounds.

## Objectives

Most existing circus arts networks are run by and for administrators and producers. It is very important to counterbalance this by creating meetings that address the actual artistic work that the entire circus sector is built upon. In CARE the focus is on the most fundamental question for the circus arts: how is the art created? Without a focus on artistic research the work created ends up repeating old practices and patterns. Work without research behind it only answers the question 'what'. Research brings up many new questions, and the process of working around these questions gives the creative work depth and strength. A commitment to artistic research gives the artist or company stronger roots in the topic of the work, the history of the artform, and the artistic community around them.

## Actions

CARE makes it possible for international artists to meet and collaborate in interdisciplinary labs, artistic network meetings, seminars and residencies. The partners want to find innovative ways to approach their future artistic work within contemporary circus through the artistic network meetings and through physical research.

The importance of multilateral interaction is vital for the development of contemporary circus. The very essence of circus is international (both historically and in the present day). Circus schools have student bodies made up of artists from all over the world, and circus companies/ensembles very often bring together artists from several countries.

CARE will help to strengthen creative practices within the sector, and provide a platform where new tools and approaches can be shared by the artistic partners. Since the partners are 'key companies' within their own countries, and have a lot of local contacts, the results of the research will be disseminated widely.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** 2013 – 2015

**European grant:** 200 000 Euros

**European programme:** Culture Programme

**Members:** Cirkus Cirkör (Sweden), Cahin-Caha (France), Circo Aereo (Finland), Cirk La Putyka (Czech Republic), Cirkus Xanti (Norway), Compagnie Un Loup Pour L'homme (France), Nordic House (Iceland)

## CONTACT

**Cirkus Cirkör**

Rotemannavägen 10

145 57 Norsborg

Sweden

**Coordinator:** Mette Klouman, Public & International Relations

**T.** +46 85 31 998 46 / **Mob:** +46 70 777 44 84

mette@cirkor.se / www.cirkor.se

# Circus as a way of life

There are no sustainable opportunities for new circus and street theatre in the Balkan region.

## Objectives

The aim of this project is to provide opportunities for artists in the Balkan region that already have some performance experience to further their professional practice, and at the same time to support the social, educative and professional integration of marginalised and underprivileged young people, particularly Roma people, through social circus work and street theatre. During the year young people will experience a new way of life as they are challenged by demanding workshops and give public performances at street arts festivals. Based on our previous experience we firmly believe that if we allow young people to learn and to explore their individual skills and possibilities it will strengthen them and motivate them to be active in creating a life and role for themselves within society. This project brings together young people and organisations from Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia Kosovo and Albania dedicated to the idea of social work through performing arts. We want to exchange experiences and start a new story that will reaffirm our commitment to tolerance and humanity in the region. Circus is a global form of art and entertainment, which, as it is not reliant on the spoken word, has always naturally incorporated performers from different nationalities and cultures.

## Actions

Through workshops and lectures that will combine contemporary circus, street theatre, physical performance, creative thinking and career know-how this project will professionalise about 80 young people. The project will also include the creation of one new, international group, which will be composed of twenty of the strongest participants from workshops in Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Kosovo and Albania. The group will perform at several festivals over the course of the project (the Festival of Street Musicians in Serbia, Špancirfest in Croatia, IST fest in Greece, Imaginarius in Portugal, etcetera), and afterwards will have the experience and knowledge to continue working and performing together.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** 2013-2015

**European grant:** 65 900 Euros

**European programme:** Culture Programme

**Members:** Inbox Cultural Association (Serbia), Art Kontakt (Austria), Compagnie Capillotractées (France), City tourist association Varaždin (Croatia), NVO GETO (Serbia), Helix Street Theatre (Greece)

## CONTACT

**Festival uličnih svirača**

Vladike Platona 10  
21000 Novi Sad – Serbia

**T.** +381 21 557 572

[info@ulicnisviraci.com](mailto:info@ulicnisviraci.com) / [www.ulicnisviraci.com](http://www.ulicnisviraci.com)

# [Circus] work ahead!

The contemporary circus sector has grown strong in the EU, and now extends far beyond France and Belgium, the two countries most associated with its historical development. The languages of the art have deepened and many arts venues and cultural centres now integrate circus within their programmes. Yet many challenges remain: there is still a weak link between the training of young artists and the start of their careers, a lack of international mobility for the productions created by these same young artists, and insufficient touring of contemporary circus outside of large urban areas in order to reach a broader audience familiar only with traditional circus.

## Priorities

In this context the partners of [Circus] work ahead! established four priorities which they have decided to focus their efforts on as promoters and organisations involved in the production and touring of professional artistic works.

### Professional integration

Young artists are facing real difficulties in terms of professional integration, and at the same time more and more young people are emerging from training. The link between circus schools and circus venues and creation centres is not developed enough. Many artists go through long periods of relative inactivity before they are able to strengthen their professional network and tour outside the first contacts they made during training. Several creation centres have an existing philosophical and geographical connection with training centres (like Le Lido with CIRCa, or Les Halles de Schaerbeek with l'ESAC) and these connections must be consolidated to set up a bridge connecting young European artists to lifelong training and greater professionalisation.

### Touring

These young artists, once they have started to produce work, need to be supported all the way through their creation process. They need to be able to tour their work, and need both economic and artistic support.

### Infiltrating new spaces

To develop new geographical and sociological spaces in different regions of Europe, contemporary circus has to infiltrate new artistic and cultural spaces beyond those venues and cultural centres where it is already presented.

### Study on audiences

There is a lack of research material and existing reflection regarding the place of contemporary circus within production and touring networks. What are the territories and the audiences of contemporary circus? What are the European discrepancies in terms of artistic forms? How does the reception and perception of work vary between large urban locations and more isolated areas?

## Objectives

Reacting to the current state-of-play for contemporary circus in Europe, [Circus] work ahead! will focus on four objectives:

- > Strengthen links between schools and creation/production networks and boost the training of young professionals
- > Tour contemporary circus performances outside of large urban areas, reaching regional venues and audiences who would otherwise not have the chance to discover the artform
- > Work with universities and research centres to evaluate and document the specific question of how contemporary circus is received by its audiences
- > Advocate for increased support/subvention for contemporary circus from cultural venues and institutional authorities, taking into account the specificities of the artform (equipment, the size of the artistic teams, etcetera)

## Actions

- > Each partner will hold a masterclass for around ten young professional artists from the EU
- > Eight emerging European companies will go on an international tour with four partners. The partners commit to programming, across their festivals, at least 40 events devoted to emerging European circus creations
- > 32 contemporary circus events will be organised with the help of the partners in local venues in rural areas
- > A study on circus audiences will gather the results of the local touring activities, and be led by Masters students as part of their one-year programme.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** June 2013 – May 2015

**European grant:** 200 000 Euros

**European programme:** Culture Programme

**Members:** Københavns Internationale Teater (Denmark), CIRCa, Pôle national des arts du cirque (France), Les Halles de Schaerbeek (Belgium), Zahrada – aka Cirqueon (Czech Republic)

## CONTACT

**Københavns Internationale Teater (KIT)**

Vestergade, 17 – 3 sal  
1456 Copenhagen – Denmark

**Contact:** Katrien Verwilt

**T.** +45 33 15 15 64

**kv@kit.dk / www.kit.dk**

# Create to Connect

## Objectives:

Create to Connect (CnC) is a joint effort between thirteen European cultural and research organisations to create powerful and long-lasting connections between artists, cultural operators, audiences and researchers. We recognise the need for the arts and culture sector to respond to the current global crisis, and especially to the psychological conditions that have caused citizens to disengage with the public sphere, and that have led to the disintegration of civic participation and a diminished sense of community. Given the direct interaction they promote between artists and audience, the contemporary arts have a special potential to reforge a sense of community, and to bring about conditions in which it is possible for European citizens to search for new alternatives in their society, in which a voice is given to marginalised groups, and in which there are opportunities for citizens to participate in civic society.

## Objectives:

- > To create new artworks that will engage and address the audience in a new way
- > To experiment with new production models
- > To create space for the emergence of new relationships, new communities, new modes of collaboration, and new connections between groups of people and between art and other spheres.
- > To create new works of art that will be innovative, cutting-edge, responsive to current issues, and perhaps created through broader collaborations of artists and audiences

## Actions:

CnC network has chosen a pool of European artists who will be commissioned and co-produced by the partners to create artworks that engage audiences in new and innovative ways by attempting to create new public arenas that involve the audience – whether physically, or through dialogue or participation. The partners have also made a commitment to host touring performances, and to provide artists with an environment in which longer relationships can be established with local contexts and communities. The programme of (co-)production will be curated by consensus under the principle of joint decision-making. CnC will (co-)produce 25 new art works and 'adapt' 44.

All the (co-)productions and adaptations, as well as the process of developing new work, will be documented, evaluated and further developed through a final evaluation, a number of publications, a new Master's study module, and a toolkit that will present the ideas and solutions tested within the project through a web application. CnC will also organise two conferences that will bring together artists, representatives of the participating audience, cultural operators and researchers. These conferences will offer space for exchange, confrontation, evaluation, and also provide a forum in which to devise recommendations for the future work of artists and producers.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** septembre 2013 – August 2018

**European grant:** 1 614 744,50 Euros

**European programme:** Culture Programme

**Partners:** AltArt Foundation for Alternative Arts (Romania), Art-sadmin (UK), Arts and Theatre Institute (Czech Republic), Empresa de Gestão de Equipamentos e Animação, E. E. M. (Portugal), Parc et Grande Halle de la Villette (France), Rotterdamse Schouwburg (Netherlands), Santarcangelo dei Teatri (Italy), Stichting Noorderzon Groningen (Netherlands), Walking theory (Serbia), Bunker (Slovenia)

## CONTACT

### Bunker

Ljubljana Slomškova 7 SI

1000 Ljubljana

Slovenia

T. +38 61 231 44 92

info@bunker.si / www.bunker.si/slo

# European Youth Circus Organisation

The European Youth Circus Organisation (EYCO) is a non-profit organisation bringing together national federations of circus schools. It was founded in 2009 and currently counts eight members all over Europe.

The organisation works with several partners in order to encourage, promote and support the process of accreditation and structuring for youth circus on a national and European level.

## History

Founded in 2005, the first NICE seminars took place in Berlin (2005), in Paris (2006), Tampere (2007), Amsterdam (2008), and London (2009). The aim was to build upon an initial informal networking event of European youth circus groups. After the NICE seminar in Amsterdam, one of the groups decided to introduce an official federation, called the European Youth Circus Organisation (EYCO).

## Aims

EYCO aims to stimulate and support on a national and European level:

- > The process of accreditation and structuring for youth circus and its contributors
- > An improvement in the quality of youth circus and its contributors
- > The promotion of youth circus – by its nature a popular, accessible and inclusive artform – as a means for participants to take an active role in society

## Members

EYCO consists of eight members out of which five members are existing national federations – Fédération Française des Ecoles de Cirque (France), Circuscentrum (Belgium – Flemish community), BAG Zirkuspädagogik (Germany), Finnish Youth Circus Association (Finland), Circomundo (Netherlands) – and three candidate members that are currently in the process of looking into forming national umbrellas in Spain, Italy and the UK.

Today, EYCO brings together about 300 organisations / circus schools, 2000 teachers, and 520,000 people who practice circus arts.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** permanent  
**European grant:** 18 000 Euros for 15 months  
**European programme:** Youth in Action  
**Partners:** see above and list on [www.eyco.org](http://www.eyco.org)

## CONTACT

**European Youth Circus Organisation**  
c/o Fédération Française des Écoles de Cirque  
13, rue Marceau  
93100 Montreuil – France  
**Contact:** Aline Soyer  
**T.** +33 (0)1 44 52 13 13  
[info@eyco.org](mailto:info@eyco.org) / [www.eyco.org](http://www.eyco.org)

# Fédération européenne des écoles de cirque professionnelles (FEDEC)

Founded in 1998, the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools (FEDEC) is a European and international network for professional education and training in circus arts gathering 55 members, including 42 schools and 13 organisations related to the circus arts located in 26 countries. For the period 2011-2013, FEDEC has received support from the European Commission under the Jean Monnet programme as one of the European Associations active in the field of education and training. This will enable the Federation to set up many activities enhancing European cooperation in education and training in circus arts.

## Objectives

FEDEC's main vocation is to support the development and evolution of pedagogy and creation in the field of circus arts education with the following objectives:

- > Improve professional education and training in the circus arts and their teaching
- > Develop necessary skills for a better professional integration or evolution in the employment sector
- > Strengthen links between schools and professionals from the circus field
- > Promote the work of young artists graduated from schools and centres
- > Be a dynamic network whose purpose is to initiate cooperation between European training schools and centres, their students, teaching staff and educational directors
- > Be a network that represents its members at the European and international level, acting as the voice of all organisations working for the quality and diversity of initial and continuing training in the circus arts

## Missions

To achieve its objectives, FEDEC has assumed the following missions:

- > Encourage cooperation, exchange, reflection and mobility between network members and their students, teachers, educational directors and administrators
- > Develop and coordinate European projects aimed at improving higher and vocational education and the continuing training of professionals by: instigating research and studies on the key competencies of the circus arts teacher profession; organising continuing training modules for teachers and pedagogic and artistic directors, as well as seminars and focus groups; and exchanging best practices and know-how and producing educational tools
- > Develop and coordinate actions to strengthen the employability of graduates from circus arts schools through public presentations in professional frameworks, meetings with employers from the sector,

and dissemination of opportunities for internships, practice, employment and networking activities

- > Disseminate information on network activities and the circus arts education and training sector via a set of updated internal and external communication tools
- > Develop the participation of higher and vocational education and training organisations working for the promotion of circus arts in the European debate on education, culture and employment

## Activities

For its 2013 work programme, the FEDEC network has undertaken the following activities:

- > Meetings, assemblies, internal conferences and seminars of the network
- > Consultation with members on competencies and needs of teaching staff for continuing training in order to establish a reference guide of competencies and implement a programme of continuing training at a European level
- > Consultation with members on the different mobility initiatives and projects undertaken by students in circus arts, the good practices and obstacles, and their effect on learning objectives, skill acquisition and vocational integration
- > Organisation of two capacity building workshops for educational and artistic directors on the themes 'Educational projects and training programmes' and 'Artistic education, an issue and a tool for the circus of tomorrow?'
- > Bilingual publication of an additional chapter of the Basic Circus Arts Instruction Manual dedicated to the Aerial Straps
- > Organisation of the sixth edition of the CIRCLE project – a programme of artistic and pedagogical exchanges, held in the framework of CIRCafestival in Auch (France), complimented by a meeting with Circos-trada members focusing on new opportunities to promote the work of graduates and enhance their employability
- > Many artistic and educational exchanges and mobility opportunities – formal and informal, bilateral and multilateral – between member schools and their students
- > Continuous updating of its online database of training schools and centres on the FEDEC website and within the Members' area
- > Six bilingual newsletters for members and three newsletters for the partners of the network
- > Cooperation with other networks related to education and training and culture
- > Representation, lobbying and support of members' interests through consultations, recommendations, reports, studies, rapports and meetings

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** permanent, supported between 2011 and 2013

**European grant:** 150 000 Euros in 2013

**European programme:** Education and training: Jean Monnet

**Members:** 55 members, list on [www.fedec.eu](http://www.fedec.eu)

## CONTACT

### FEDEC

Campus du Ceria, Avenue E. Gryzon, 1, bâtiment 4A 1<sup>er</sup> étage  
B - 1070 Anderlecht / Brussels - Belgium

**President:** Tim Roberts

**Coordinator:** Danijela Jovic

**T. +32 (0)2 526 70 09**

[info@fedec.eu](mailto:info@fedec.eu) / [danijela.jovic@fedec.eu](mailto:danjela.jovic@fedec.eu) / [www.fedec.eu](http://www.fedec.eu)

# HIP CIRQ' EUROP

The European project Hip Cirq Europ' is a transdisciplinary two-year project combining circus arts, hip-hop dance and emerging cultures that focuses on social inclusion, the professionalisation of young artists, and improving the recognition of cultures inhabited by young Europeans from difficult neighbourhoods. The project was accepted by the European Commission under the 'Culture' programme (first rank in France / fourth in Europe) and began in May 2012.

## The programme

Hip Cirq Europ' is a travelling artistic residencies project. Twelve young European artists who are in the process of becoming professionals come together to create a performance work under the leadership of two professional artists (Eric Mezino of Cie E.Go and Gäetan Levêque of Collectif AOC). Once the creation has been drafted, the group travel through Europe and in Guadeloupe for six residencies (France, Guadeloupe, Belgium, Finland, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom) where they work in collaboration with young emerging artists and amateurs from inner cities in order to nourish their creative skills and help participants develop their own projects.

## General objectives

- > Promote economic, social and cultural integration and a European perspective for young artists from deprived areas
- > Develop intercultural and artistic exchange to help young Europeans living in deprived suburbs and to improve the image of their areas

## Specific objectives

- > Increase the professionalisation and the economic inclusion of young artists
- > Improve the transmission of skills in teaching and social intervention for artists during the professionalisation process so that they can carry out community actions in deprived areas
- > Value the creativity of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods and contribute to the institutional recognition of their craft
- > Improve European solidarity by strengthening the inclusive, educational and intercultural dimension of emerging artistic and cultural practices
- > Facilitate public access to artistic and cultural practices that are different from their normal cultural environment

## Some Figures

- > 72 young artists trained and accompanied in their career paths
- > 72 young people from disadvantaged areas receiving 432 hours training in social circus
- > 8000 audience members attending over sixteen shows in different European countries
- > One film describing the implementation of the project in the five partner countries
- > One book drawing portraits of the twelve young artists

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** 2012 - 2014

**European grant:** 200 000 Euros

**European programme:** Culture Programme

**Partners:** Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (France), Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles (Belgium), Circus Elleboog (Netherlands), Sorin Sirkus (Finland), Belfast Community Circus School (Northern Ireland, UK), Métis'Gwa (Guadeloupe, France)

## CONTACT

**Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde**

Maison Daniel Féry  
7, rue Édouard Branly,  
92220 Bagneux - France

**Directeur:** Eleférios Kechagioglou

**T.** +33 (0)1 46 64 93 62

[elefteriosppcm@free.fr](mailto:elefteriosppcm@free.fr) / [www.lepluspetitcirquedumonde.fr](http://www.lepluspetitcirquedumonde.fr)

# European Manifesto for Transformation through Art (META)

In 2011, the European project In Situ moved on to a new stage – META, European Manifesto for Transformation through Art. Programmed for five years in the framework of the Culture Programme of the European Commission, META aims to join artists, producers and programmers together as they tackle the issues that arise within creation processes.

The project started on 1 May 2011 and will finish on 30 April 2016.

Resolutely humanistic, META explores the issues linking art and public space to the construction of a contemporary European society via three big subjects: the 'Métamorphoses Européennes', or how large-scale artistic proposals can revive the charm of public space; 'Walk in progress, urban promenades', which plans walks and other routes in order to (re-) discover our living spaces; and 'Ville en partage', where artistic creations take their inspiration to the heart of territories and their inhabitants.

Over five years, spanning the period from 2011 to 2016, nineteen cultural structures from fourteen countries – some of them in central Europe – will work together on META to develop contemporary artistic forms for public space that reforge a link with the general populace.

## Looks of complicity

In order to enrich META with an original vision and body of artistic experience, each of the three great themes of the project has been placed under the supervision of a figure from the artistic sector: the philosopher Bernard Stiegler for the spectacular 'Métamorphoses européennes'; the director Robert Wilson for 'Walk in progress', in the steps of Aristotle and in the rhythm of the pedestrian; and finally Zora Jaurová, playwright and general director of Košice, to bring to light the forgotten yet fundamental solidarities explored by 'Ville en partage'.

## Five devices

To create, to share, to think, to give sense... META proposes five supplementary actions:

- > 'To write 'side by side' for the European public space' brings together artists and bookers to talk about projects in progress. These exclusive seminars will lead to creation support (2011, 2012 and 2013)
- > 'Cities in metamorphosis' co-produces creations based on walking and shared cities that are collectively supported by the network and that engage with the themes of META
- > 'Embracing Europe' facilitates artistic mobility with support for touring and residencies
- > 'Europeans abroad' supports partnerships outside Europe in the form of residencies and co-productions

- > 'Artists caring for cities' arranges meetings that serve as forums for discussion led by personalities from the worlds of ideas, politics, economics and civil society and concerning their vision of the modern city

## And after?

The network has always kept both the present and the future in mind. Throughout the META project, the partners will turn their thoughts to the legacy of the project. This has already been sketched out with the creation of a European Foundation for Urban and Environmental Projects, a European Observatory of the Pedestrian City, and a Charter for Artistic Intervention in Urban Change that has been signed by local elected representatives throughout the entire network. There will be other opportunities to extend META's activities and initiate new processes within the In Situ network.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** May 2011 – April 2016

**European grant:** 2 200 000 Euros

**European programme:** Culture Programme

**Partners:** Four Days Association (Czech Republic), Placcc Festival (Hungary), Košice 2013 (Slovakia), Københavns Internationale Teater (Denmark), La Strada (Austria), Lieux publics (France), Theater op de Markt (Belgium), Oreol (Netherlands), UZ Arts (UK)

**Partners facilitating the touring of creations initiated by the co-organisers:** Chalon dans la rue (France), Atelier 231 (France), Fundación Municipal de Cultura (Spain), La Paperie (France), Independent ODA Theatre (Kosovo), Les Tombées de la nuit (France)

## CONTACT

### IN SITU

c/o Lieux publics - Centre national de création  
16 rue Condorcet

13016 Marseille - France

**Coordinator:** Ariane Bieou

T. +33 (0)4 91 03 81 28

[www.in-situ.info](http://www.in-situ.info) / [www.lieuxpublics.com](http://www.lieuxpublics.com)



# Parkinprogress

Parkinprogress is a nomadic mobility programme that gathers together emerging artists and professionals from the creative and cultural world to work on the production, presentation and circulation of a project in order to develop their interdisciplinary experience.

Parkinprogress moves between seven different sites in seven different countries. At every stop on this itinerary, artists and young professionals from the creative world work in a park or an urban green space to create an artistic walk – 'Parkinprogress' – which they then share with the audience.

Parkinprogress adapts its project to the artistic proposals that arise during encounters with artists and professionals from the hosting country.

Parkinprogress is the first step of a larger project that aims to link major European cities. It thus creates a huge network of artists and cultural professionals who are able to work together on interdisciplinary projects at a European scale.

## Objectives

- > Develop synergies in the context of interdisciplinary projects involving emerging artists and professionals from the creative and cultural world
- > Facilitate the exchange of experience and skills between partners, artists and professionals
- > Make visible to a wide audience an emerging young generation of artists who are developing interdisciplinary experiences and creating tomorrow's forms of expression
- > Prepare a second phase bringing in new partner countries and further developing the project's general concept

## Actions

This nomadic project has been conceived as an initial set-up phase that incorporates three actions:

- > A programme of short itinerant residencies that gathers participants in a single location to set up the 'Parkinprogress' event
- > Workshops to share experiences
- > Large-scale communication actions to reach a very large audience.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** 2011 – 2014

**European grant:** 914 630 Euros

**European programme:** Culture Programme

**Partners:** Pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes (France), UK Young Artists (UK), Transcultures (Belgium), Stiftung Genshangen (Germany), Mozgo Haz Alapítvány Florian Mühely (Hungary), and Agence Luxembourgeoise d'Action Culturelle (Luxemburg)

## CONTACT

**Pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes**

BP 80132 - Domaine national de Saint-Cloud

92216 Saint-Cloud Cedex - France

**Coordinator générale:** Cécile Brissier

T. +33 (0)1 41 12 29 30

cbrissier@art4eu.net / www.art4eu.net

# Participatory Investigation of Public Engaging Spaces (PIPES)

## Objectives

Can the spaces of daily life and communication be used to engage the public in a creative manner?

This project aims to take an innovative look at the forms of communication that enable universal creative expression, that bridge real and virtual domains, and cross borders seamlessly. We will bring together artists, designers, communication theorists and technologists in order to realise mobility-led creative processes while developing new visual communication tools, producing artistic and educational events on- and offline, as well as delivering sustainable models for creatively engaging the general public.

As the leader of the project ZKM | Centre for Art and Media intends that PIPES stand as an outstanding achievement in the production of participatory scenarios for wide audiences. This project will be an investigation that will involve not only creative professionals and cultural agents, but that will encourage all that engage with it to communicate and express themselves creatively.

## Actions

PIPES is not a 'public art' project; it is a participatory investigation of public spaces of engagement and communication with highly creative and technologically innovative ambitions. The concrete outcomes of this initiative will be:

- > New visual language-driven communication platform using advanced social and networking technologies
- > Participatory events engaging a cross-border spectrum of participants and turning them into creators
- > Accompanying artistic installations and performances connected also with educational workshops
- > Documentation and visible promotion

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** 2013 – 2015

**European grant:** 200 000 Euros

**European programme:** Culture Programme

**Partners:** ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie, brainz.cz s.r.o. (Germany), Fundació Privada AAVC (Spain), International Centre for Art and New Technologies (Czech Republic)

## CONTACT

**Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie**

Lorenzstraße, 19

76135 Karlsruhe – Germany

T. +49 (0)7 218 10 00

info@zkm.de / www.zkm.de

# PASS - Circus Channel

PASS is a European project involving eight organisations (four in France and four in England) and running for a period of three years from 2012 to 2014. During this time the partner organisations will work together to develop the circus arts with a focus on production, touring and training. PASS is an INTERREG project that links North Western France to Southern England. Its first phase in 2010 was a pilot collaboration focusing on contemporary circus on both sides of the Channel.

The PASS project was selected as part of the European cross border cooperation programme INTERREG IV A France (Channel) – England, and was co-financed by the ERDF.

Now PASS aims to broaden out its cross-Channel collaboration to more partners, in France and the UK, with a track record in programming and supporting artists in contemporary circus. The aim is to foster new emerging projects that draw in performers from both countries, to invite the commitment of various key organisations and individuals, and to aim for wider exposure for the sector.

## Objectives

- > To build cross-Channel networks for touring, training artists, and familiarising audiences with new circus arts
- > To promote fluid cultural exchange between France and the UK, greater visibility for those involved, and a dynamic new experience for those touched by work containing elements of both cultures
- > To target European mobility for artists, cultural professionals and other figures who have key roles in the areas involved
- > To facilitate meeting points between artists, cultural professionals and audiences on both sides of the Channel to create platforms for cross border exchange.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** 2012 - 2014

**European grant:** 2 097 273 Euros

**European programme:** INTERREG

**Partners:** Activate Performing Arts (UK), La brèche (France), Le Cirque Jules-Verne (France), Le Conseil Général de la Manche (France), Farnham Maltings (UK), Lighthouse – Poole's Centre for the Arts (UK), La Renaissance (France), SeaChange Arts (UK)

## CONTACT

**La Brèche, Pôle national des Arts du Cirque de Basse-Normandie**

Cherbourg-Octeville - BP 238

Rue de la Chasse Verte - 50102 Cherbourg-Octeville Cedex - France

**Director:** Yveline Rapeau - T. +33 (0)2 33 88 43 73

**French Coordinator:** Lise Hoëz-Guezennec

developpement@labreche.fr

**English coordinator:** Anne Engel, multilateral1@gmail.com

[www.labreche.fr/la-breche/projets-europeens-249](http://www.labreche.fr/la-breche/projets-europeens-249)

# Process()s

The Mediterranean Euro-region of the Pyrenees is an area known as a stronghold for the circus arts – mainly within the Midi-Pyrenees and Catalonia. Both these regions have, within their respective territories, specialised festivals, schools, vocational training or higher education, and creation centres. Many professional circus artists have already emerged from the Pyrenees and their international visibility helps to identify this territory as a circus territory.

Many artists travel between Barcelona and Toulouse – following creative projects, development opportunities or training courses – yet they have little or no link with the southern Languedoc-Roussillon region and more particularly with the city of Perpignan, where the circus arts are not well developed.

The beneficiaries of Process()s are of course the artists, but also touring venues and audiences. The presence of the city of Perpignan in the project facilitates the creation of new opportunities for companies from Catalonia and the Midi-Pyrenees to come to Perpignan to work on circus-related events that stimulate tourism. In this way Process()s provides a response to the touring problems which companies are currently facing and begins to develop a real regional dynamic beyond the axis between Toulouse and Barcelona.

Process()s is a continuation of *Cirque o!* and is organised in collaboration with the trans-border project *Pyrenees de cirque*, which brings together ten partners from the western Pyrenees. With Process()s we want to strengthen this cooperation for our organisations, for artists and for the entire circus industry.

## Objectives

- > Increase opportunities for the touring of shows throughout the various stages of creation, from the genesis of a project to its final production
- > Give companies the opportunity to work on their creations within other territories and to be in contact, early on in their creative process, with various broadcast networks and diverse audiences
- > Enhance the scope of circus companies so that their context expands to take on a Euro-regional dimension
- > Establish a network of touring venues who are open to taking new circus creations
- > Develop opportunities for circus' diffusion in connection to tourist events

## Actions

### >Support for creation

This action aims at supporting the creation of two circus shows that will be able to tour internationally. For a two-year period Process()s will support one project from an emerging company and one project from a well established company by giving them residency time, economic resources, and staff and technical support. Creative residencies will take place in at least two territories. These will end in presentations of work to which professionals will be invited in order to increase the projects' visibility and give them a better chance of sustainable development.

### Emerging Paths, a platform for the touring of trans-Pyrenean performances

This strand of the project focuses on short performances and gives artists the opportunity to expose their work to different audiences, to try out different kinds of performance space, and to travel with their creation. As it creates opportunities for artists to present their work in new contexts, Emerging Paths also opens up international horizons.

Process()s will provide support for a dozen venues from Catalonia and Languedoc-Roussillon so that they can programme from a selection of short performances which will be showcased at the Grainerie. Thanks to the collaboration with the project *Pyrenees de cirque*, selected artists will have the opportunity to be seen by roughly thirty programmers and can potentially tour their work throughout the entire Pyrenees.

### Pyrenees de cirque, an itinerant event

*Pyrenees de cirque* will create strong links between partners in Process()s and those of the Pyrenees border project, *Cirque*. The well known name of *Pyrenees de cirque* will help to increase the visibility of Pyrenean circus on an international level.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** February 2012 – December 2013

**Euroregional grant:** 40 000 Euros

**Programme:** Culture Programme of Euroregion  
Pyrénées-Méditerranée

**Partners:** La Central del Circ (Spain), La Grainerie-Fabrique des Arts du Cirque (France), Office de Tourisme de Perpignan (France), Association Animahu (Spain)

## CONTACT

**La Central del Circ**

Moll de la Vela núm. 2

08930 Sant Adrià de Besòs (Barcelone) – Spain

**Contact:** Juliette Beaume

T. +34 93 35 608 90

creacio@lacentraledlirc.cat

www.lacentraledlirc.cat / www.pyreneesdecirque.eu

# Pyrenées de Cirque

The project EGCC Pyrénées de Cirque gathers ten partners from the trans-border Pyrenees area (Aquitaine, Aragon, Euskadi, Midi-Pyrenees, Navarre) around a common desire: to lift the circus sector across the territory by supporting the venues, centres and organisations that host circus projects.

The partnership consists of creation centres (The Grainerie, The Central del Circ, Harri Xuri, Ax Animation), venues and touring sites (Animahu, the Festival Más difícil todavía organised by five municipalities of Navarre, the Tourist Office Perpignan), professional circus associations (Flik-Flak, Koblakari), training centres (Lido, the Spanish Federation of Professional Training of Circus Arts that brings together the schools Rogelio Rivel in Barcelona, Carampa in Madrid, Oreka in Pamplona, and the University of Mirail).

## The circus – a unique creative sector in the Pyrénées

Circus is dynamic and artistically unique in the regions of Midi-Pyrenees, Catalonia and Languedoc-Roussillon. The artform is emerging across these territories, and the industry is highly active. However, the economic crisis has weakened this dynamic, and most creators and industry professionals now face new difficulties they must overcome during the key stages of their journey:

- > Start and invest time in a risky career path
- > Integrate into the workplace after training
- > Create artworks
- > Market creations and productions

## Deepening and widening cross-border cooperation

Since 2009 the project Cirque o! has helped to bring together key players in the sector of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euro-region and to develop a first basis for cooperation. Following this experience, the project partners chose to deepen the initial cooperation and to expand it with new priorities:

- > To address the fragility of circus careers
- > To give circus better footing within the territory
- > To strengthen the infrastructure of the sector across the Pyrenees in order to improve its international recognition

## A strategy focused on employment and creativity

The project's strategy is focused on professional pathways. It specifically aims to improve support for creators, artists and project leaders in the four phases of creation mentioned above. Four operational objectives will be pursued:

- > To improve the support available for artists and circus professionals during their career
- > To support creators in the emerging phase of their careers in order to strengthen their projects
- > To assist project leaders in touring
- > To structure the sector in the border area and give it a dynamic and creative image abroad.

## Four steps to boost industry

- > Starting careers: a series of masterclasses in the Basque Country in Bilbao and Vitoria Gasteiz for local artists, professionals and semi-professionals
- > Improving employability and developing a career: programmes for creative interdisciplinary training; research masterclasses and workshops in Creative Techniques (Circus Camp); a university degree; training of trainers
- > Supporting creation and innovation: a joint fund for artistic circus creation: mobility scholarships for emerging and established co-productions and creative projects (Chemins de Création); a network of creation centres and a network for project support
- > Building a cross-border touring platform: awareness workshops on artistic touring techniques, contract management, communication (multilingual documents and video); a touring network for short performances (Chemins Émergents); a travelling cross-border event (Pyrénées de cirque: Transhumance).

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** April 2012 – December 2014

**European grant:** 769 893 Euros

**European programme:** POCTEFA / Interreg

**Partners:** La Grainerie (France), Animahu (Spain), Ax Animation (France), FEFPAC – Fédération Espagnole de Formation Professionnelle des Arts du Cirque (Spain), Festival Más difícil todavía (Spain), FlikFlak (Spain), Harri Xuri – SIVOM Artzamendi (France), Koblakari (France-Spain), Le Lido (France), Université de Toulouse Le Mirail – CIAM (France)

## CONTACT

**La Grainerie**

61, rue Saint-Jean  
31130 Balma – France

**Coordinator:** Jean-Marc Broqua

**T.** +33 (0)5 61 24 33 91

[jm-broqua@la-grainerie.net](mailto:jm-broqua@la-grainerie.net) / [h-metallie@la-grainerie.net](mailto:h-metallie@la-grainerie.net)

[www.la-grainerie.net](http://www.la-grainerie.net) / [www.circqueo.eu](http://www.circqueo.eu) / [www.pyreneesdecirque.eu](http://www.pyreneesdecirque.eu)

# Recover the streets

Recover the Streets is a collaborative project between five European cities (Besançon, Toulouse, Cologne, Zagreb and Zaragoza) which, using urban art as a tool and common language, aims to connect artists and cultural agents from all these cities in order to promote the exchange of artistic and social experiences. In each city the project will also recover a neglected public space, doing so through a collaborative process that engages social agents within the relevant neighbourhoods, and that provides citizens with a new perspective on urban art and its ability to effect social and cultural change.

Recover the Streets will last eight months and unite a total of five cities from different parts of Europe. In all these cities there are institutions and cultural agents that have committed to promoting urban art – and thus to maintaining an open and diverse collaboration framework which has already given rise to sporadic collaborations outside the Recover the Streets programme.

## Objectives

- > Networking: establishing connections, and therefore collaboration frameworks, between different cultural management bodies that carry out activities related to urban art
- > Exchange of experiences: offering the managers of these bodies the chance to exchange information about their management models, placing special attention on the regularisation, standardisation and promotion mechanics for artistic expressions in public spaces
- > Artistic mobility: opening up different growth paths for urban artists: new mobility frameworks, international visibility, and dialogue with creators from other countries
- > Intercultural dialogue: reflecting upon the inhabitability of the cities, and how collaborative creative processes can improve this
- > Participation: providing the residents of the neighbourhoods where the interventions are carried out with an active participation framework of cultural events, and a new public space for their use and enjoyment
- > Visibility: offering all the citizens of each city an example of the artistic value and transforming capacity of urban art in our daily environment

## Activities

Recover the Streets will be developed over eight months (May–December) through a series of different work phases that will successively engage cultural agents, artists involved in the project, social groups, communities of local artists, and citizens from each city involved in the project.

- > Locating (Intervention spaces and participative process): each city will propose a specific space where the artistic intervention will take place
- > Calling (Calls): following this, an open call will be launched in each city to urban artists who wish to take part in the project
- > Selecting (Kick off meeting): the five project partners will meet in Zaragoza, choosing an artist for each city out of the candidates presented to participate in the project
- > Creating (Intervention design): the teams of artists will start an online work process, under the supervision of the partner of the relevant city, to formulate the project that they are going to carry out in the intervention spaces. The local artist will coordinate the process of each city, with the aim of trying to involve groups of citizens in the project's execution.
- > Doing (Recovery days): the teams of artists will meet in each of the cities to execute the projects over work periods of between five and eight days
- > Telling (Travel journal): each artist will commit to writing a travel journal on the project, talking about the work process, the experiences, the dialogue with the local communities, etcetera. This travel journal will be incorporated into the project website so that the entire creative process can be followed via the different viewpoints of each artist.
- > Sharing (Final meeting): the project will end with a second meeting in Zaragoza where the results of the project will be weighed up, taking advantage of this time to exchange experiences. This event will be open to other agents who might be interested, and will be devoted to sharing the methods used by the different cities to manage urban art in their areas: access to walls, relationship with creators, training, etcetera.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** September to December 2013

**Euroregional grant:** 65 088 Euros

**Programme:** Culture Programme

**Partners:** Sociedad municipal Zaragoza Cultural (Spain), Un-doestudio (France), Association Juste Ici (Croatia), Central Unit (Germany), artrmx e. V. (France), Mairie de Toulouse (France)

## CONTACT

**Zaragoza Cultural, Torreón Fortea**

Calle Torre Nueva nº 25

50003 Zaragoza - Spain

**Contact:** Diego Garulo and Alfredo Martínez

hello@recoverthestreets.com

# Social Educircation

Educircation is an international project for teachers of circus techniques. The aim of this project is to improve the quality of circus teaching around Europe. During this project we will hold different activities involving professional circus organisations and individuals (teachers, artists, schools, directors, administrators, managers, etcetera) to get a clearer idea of the circus situation in Europe and to improve the methods of teaching.

## Actions

### Youth Rehabilitation Centre, Valencia, January 2013

The practical part of this workshop took place in a Youth Rehabilitation Centre in Valencia. The participants were young people aged 13 – 17 years. After three days of rehearsing there was a big final performance with all participating youths.

Alongside this the workshop had a theoretical part – a seminar on the basics of social circus taught by teachers from Ateneu Popular Nou Barris, Barcelona – and a festival at the end of the week.

### Ethnocircus, Sajakoza, April/May 2013

The Hungarian Juggling Association prepared a workshop for April/May 2013. It was focused on children living in poverty in the North East of Hungary.

The workshop focused on the problems of ethnic diversity and poverty in the North East of Hungary. The Association collaborated with Dr. Amédékár Secondary School, which has over 400 young adult and adult students, most of whom come from extremely poor Roma communities.

The workshop offered participants the possibility to play together and learn circus from professionals. They created a show with the local students and performed it three times in different locations within the area.

### Circus for everybody?, Berlin, September 2013

Workshop concentrated on teenagers:

'There is no substitutes' bench in circus – Essential intention of inclusive circus education in theory and practice.'

Topics of the inclusive movement and circus work:

- > Movement training, sensitisation and awareness training, dance training. Leading question: How to present the idea of physical presence and awareness so everybody can understand?
- > Basics in balance and acrobatics, games and technical improvement. Leading question: What does it mean, circus for everybody? How can we give everybody access to circus and to a technical, artistic development? What special principles of teaching do we need?
- > Circus pedagogical theories based on practical exercises. (Subjects: Philosophical issues regarding work with handicapped persons. What kind of pedagogical responsibility do we have? What kinds of basic

pedagogical and artistic ideas and approaches do we need for this kind of work? How can we develop our pedagogical methods to teach everybody?

### Invisible Youth, Bristol, October 2013

Project of The Invisible Circus involving children and teenagers from Bristol within a circus project. The project has been running from January 2013 on a regular weekly basis; international activities will take place in October 2013.

### Circus in a Psychiatric Hospital, Prague, February 2014

After the first international circus workshop for patients of the Psychiatric Hospital Bohnice that took place in November 2011, Cirqueon will organise a second workshop in February 2014.

The first workshop was part of the first Educircation project. It went very well – which lead to the decision to make a whole new Educircation project concentrated on social circus. The circus teachers will be teaching patients from various wards – patients with different diagnoses, of all ages – circus and theatre skills. At the end of the workshop there will be a performance involving all participants – patients and teachers. The theoretical part of the workshop will be prepared together with doctors of the hospital.

### Circomotoriek, Leuven, April 2014

Workshop focused on Circomotoriek – circus games for children and their parents. It will also look at the uses of circus as a means of therapy for non-functioning families.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** August 2012 – July 2014

**European grant:** 115 200 Euros

**Programme:** Grundtvig

**Partners:** Cirqueon (Czech Republic), Hungarian Juggling Association (Hungary), The Invisible Circus (UK), Jonglierkatomben (Germany), Valencian Circus Association (Spain), Cirkus in Beweging (Belgium)

## CONTACT

**Cirqueon**

Ctiradova 6

Praha 4, 140 00 – Czech Republic

T. +420 608 957 317

**Contact:** Barbora Adolfova

barbora@cirqueon.cz

www.cirqueon.cz / www.educircation.eu

# SPECTRUM

## Light interaction in Public Spaces

The project 'Light manifestations' is a succession of five European light festivals, each exploring the medium of light and the beauty and benefits that its advancement can bring. The project will be a transnational, collaborative production between Portugal, Estonia, Latvia, Germany and Slovenia.

Each partner organisation will have substantial responsibility in the production and development of the project. Light artists from three countries will create site-specific light installations which are inspired by the cultural heritage, art and architecture of the participating cities and countries. The light artists will work closely with local artists' communities and with art students, targeting educational and interactive aspects.

The partner festivals aspire to reach new audiences and interact with thousands of EU citizens, giving them an active role in the cultural experience. Six additional lighting designers/artists, each working with a group of students, will work on six different sites in the hosting cities in a PLDA workshop. The designers/artists will teach the students to use advanced lighting technology to its fullest extent, share their experiences, and create unique installations that demonstrate the benefits and opportunities that new technology brings. The workshop will last five days and the installations will be opened to the public on the first day of each of the participating festivals to form part of a city-wide lighting sensation. Over the course of the festivals, different seminars, workshops, exhibitions and laboratories will bring fresh knowledge and ideas to interested people and professionals.

A website will be created to showcase the final artworks created in the public space by the artists/designers and public/EU citizens. The website is an open window to the world (including all EU countries), showcasing art created by thousands of people in EU cities.

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** May 2013 – April 2015

**European grant:** 186 000 Euros

**Programme:** Culture Programme

**Partners:** Ocubo criativo actividades artisticas e literárias (Portugal), Forum Ljubljana, Institute for Art and Cultural Production (Slovenia), LICHT Hamburg c/o Studio Bettina Pelz (Germany), Make Art, biedri?ba (Latvia), MTÜ Valgusfestival (Estonia)

### CONTACT

**Ocubo Criativo–Actividades Artísticas e Literárias Lda 14**

Quinta Boa Esperança

Sintra 2710-063 - Portugal

**T.** +35 12 19 25 92 54

**Nuno Maya:** **T.** +351 919 990 356, [nuno@ocubo.com](mailto:nuno@ocubo.com)

**Carole Purnelle:** **T.** +351 965 249 509, [carole@ocubo.com](mailto:carole@ocubo.com)

[www.ocubo.com/index.php/en](http://www.ocubo.com/index.php/en)



# Terres d'imaginaire

Terres d'imaginaire is a cross-border cooperation project for two creative towns – Barakaldo (Spanish Basque Country) and Tournefeuille (Midi-Pyrénées). Both these small towns are situated in urban regions dominated by important city centres (Toulouse and Bilbao), and as such are seen as satellite towns or suburbs.

The project Terres d'imaginaire, organised within the framework of the European Union's Interreg IV programme, experiments with how these peripheral towns can be creative within their major cities. To become creative towns they will dynamically develop their arts and culture in way that is sustainable and attractive for the whole territory.

## A mutual dynamic of transforming territories

The implementation of this dynamic is based on cultural policy objectives imagined by the two towns, namely: culture as a stimulating element within urban development; the will to ensure artistic presence in a town and to give it a sense of civic inclusion; openness towards the rest of the world.

## An innovative approach

In order to implement this dynamic, the Terres d'imaginaire project consists of three steps in which the artistic and cultural partners of the two towns (experts, companies, universities, and other cultural and scientific figures) will participate:

- > A laboratory for action: experimenting with concrete actions in one of the towns
- > A laboratory for ideas: establishing a codified working practice, i.e. a set of professional tools that enable professionals to transfer competencies and good practice; organising a number of thematic seminars
- > Transfer: the execution of creative actions in the other town

In the long run, this project is going to facilitate the creation of a cross border community of creative towns, reuniting small and medium sized towns on both sides of the border.

## An active experiment on several levels

- > The inclusion of arts and creativity within public and living space: innovation within urban design, mural paintings, the creation of 'micro-libraries' in different parts of town, large-scale street arts performances...
- > A virtual and digital universe: workshops in online-writing, a 3D virtual museum...
- > The link between culture and the business world: artistic interventions for companies, contemporary art exhibitions in shops and businesses, implication of companies into the conception and construction of an urban interactive installation.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** 2012 - 2014

**European grant:** 700 000 Euros

**European programme:** Interreg

**Partners:** Tournefeuille (France), Barakaldo (Spanish Basque Country)

## CONTACT

### Agence Terres du Sud

For the cultural service of the town of Tournefeuille

**Project leader:** Gérald Garcia

**T.:** +33 (0)5 62 13 21 52

[contact.presse@terresdusud.fr](mailto:contact.presse@terresdusud.fr)

**Cultural service of Tournefeuille:** T. +33 (0)5 62 13 21 52

[billetterie@mairie-tournefeuille.fr](mailto:billetterie@mairie-tournefeuille.fr)

# TOQQORTUT Circus Effects Network

In 2010 the Circus Effects Network (CEN) was formed through the initiative of the organisation Circus Arts. A network of seven countries and seven organisations working with similar forms of expression was established in order to share and develop the artforms of rigging and pyrotechnics. Together, the Network have decided to create TOQQORTUT, a hybrid project of different artforms and influences where the journey and the goal are of equal value – a process where the experience and perspectives gained during the creation are of as much value as the final show itself.

TOQQORTUT is a grand site-specific performance in Greenland in which Greenlandic storytelling tradition and mask work will meet pyrotechnics, innovative air rigs, ice, fire, clown and circus.

It is a project where inspiring shows and educational workshops around rigging, pyrotechnics, circus and fire will lead to the creation and performance of a grand site-specific show in the bay of Nuuk in Greenland in 2014. The fusion of different elements will be something completely unique, especially with Greenland as the project's creation and performance location. The theme will be based on the history, present and mythology of Inuit culture. Expressing conflicts between modernity and tradition, and between nature and technology, the project will draw also on the reality of global warming (a very topical subject in Greenland). These themes will be processed in a performance that combines spectacular effects – some of them springing from Greenland's own tradition – to create a unique, pleasurable and immersive experience.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** 2013 – 2015

**European grant:** 58 170 Euros

**European programme:** Culture Programme

**Partners:** AFUK Artistlinjen (Denmark), Atempo Circ (Spain), Greenland National Theatre (Denmark), Grenland Friteater (Norway), Salpaus Further Education (Finland), The Academy for Untamed Creativity (Denmark), Vesturport Theater & Film (Iceland)

## CONTACT

**Circus Arts AB**

Rotemannavagen 10

145 57 Norsborg - Sweden

**Contact:** Mithras Ljungberg, [mithras@circusarts.nu](mailto:mithras@circusarts.nu)

T. +46 73 984 17 61

[www.circusarts.nu](http://www.circusarts.nu) / [www.circuseffectsnetwork.org](http://www.circuseffectsnetwork.org)

# Unpack the arts

Unpack the Arts is a European project that provides residencies for cultural journalists in the context of twelve major festivals programming contemporary circus. The goal of the project is to facilitate the circulation of knowledge and experience, to develop the critical discourses of its participants, and to further the role of the media within the (circus) arts and contemporary society. Together, the project partners aim to help both cultural journalists and circus promoters to develop a critical discourse on new trends, including tackling the specific 'stage writing' used by international artists in their processes.

The partners will circulate three calls for residencies in June 2012, November 2012 and July 2013 targeting cultural journalists, critics and chief editors from all kinds of media organisations (magazines, daily papers, Internet sites, radio stations...). The partners will then select 120 beneficiaries based on transparent and non-discriminatory criteria.

Each residency is held in the framework of a festival in one of the eight partner countries. The residencies are all constructed following the same basic structure: held over four days, with one moderator running thematic discussions, they incorporate talks and shows as well as interviews with artistic companies.

Twelve residencies for cultural journalists:

- > **August 2012** at Ny Cirkus festival (Copenhagen, Denmark)
- > **October 2012** at CIRCa festival (Auch, France)
- > **November 2012** at Festival novog cirkusa (Zagreb, Croatia)
- > **February 2013** at Subcase (Norsborg, Sweden)
- > **March 2013** at Hors Piste Biennale and La Piste aux Espoirs Biennale (Brussels and Tournai, Belgium)
- > **May 2013** at Cirko festival (Helsinki, Finland)
- > **May 2013** at Circusstad festival Rotterdam (Rotterdam, Netherlands)
- > **June 2013** at Humorologie, festival van verwondering (Kortrijk-Marke, Belgium)
- > **August 2013** at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe (Edinburgh, UK)
- > **October 2013** at CIRCa festival (Auch, France)
- > **January 2014** at the London International Mime Festival (London, UK)
- > **February 2014** at Subcase (Norsborg, Sweden)

At the end of the residencies, participants will each deliver one article in their native language. These texts will be collected, edited and turned into an online, multilingual publication, with each article appearing both in its original language and as an English translation. These publications will be available for free download.

The organisation On the Move has undeniable expertise in artistic mobility, facilitating, coordinating and improving the provision of information on cultural mobility in Europe and beyond, as well as defending and promoting a conception of mobility that is progressive, responsible and sustainable. This organisation manages a vital information website that has about 285,000 visitors per year, and leads many surveys (including, recently, the 'Green Mobility Guide' survey in partnership with Julie's Bicycle). The partners of Unpack the Arts will commission On the Move to deliver a directory/guide mapping the funding opportunities in the EU for cultural journalists. This digital publication, written in English, will be available to download free of charge and disseminated widely by the project partners and by On the Move.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** 2012 - 2014

**European grant:** 131 271 Euros

**European programme:** Culture Programme

**Partners:** Copenhagen Theatre Institute (Denmark), CIRCa (France), Festival novog cirkusa (Croatia), Subtopia (Sweden), Les Halles de Schaerbeek (Belgium), Finnish Circus Info Centre (Finland), Circusstad festival Rotterdam (Netherlands), Humorologie (Belgium), Crying Out Loud (UK)

## CONTACT

**Circuscentrum (Vlaams Centrum voor Circuskunsten vzw)**

Dok Noord 4 F 001

9000 Gent - Belgium

**Director:** Koen Allary

**T.** +32 (0)9 233 85 89 - [info@circuscentrum.be](mailto:info@circuscentrum.be)

[www.circuscentrum.be](http://www.circuscentrum.be) / [www.unpackthearts.eu](http://www.unpackthearts.eu)

# European Zone of Artistic Projects 2 (ZEPA 2)

The second European Zone of Artistic Projects is a continuation of the ZEPA 1 project, which succeeded in implementing a network dedicated to the development of outdoor arts across Southern England/Northern France.

This second phase aims to increase exchanges between artists and communities, and strengthen partnerships with local and regional organisations as well as develop work with universities and offer support to emerging artists.

## Objectives

- > Develop research and university exchanges on outdoor arts
- > Organise creative exchanges between artists, communities, professionals, students and university members
- > Support professional development for young and emerging artists
- > Encourage access to culture for all in isolated areas
- > Strengthen the common understanding of a European cultural reality at a local level

## Actions

Working closely with local and regional partners such as local authorities, universities, charities and arts organisations, as well as outdoor arts companies, the ZEPA 2 partners will:

- > Organise the touring of artists across their local area, particularly in rural areas, alongside community engagement arts projects; the partners could also host residencies for outdoor companies
- > Hold Anglo-French events on both sides of the Channel to present UK and French outdoor arts companies in various places across the European Zone of Artistic Projects (ZEPA)
- > Focus on developing projects with universities, through developing research and increasing university exchanges around outdoor arts. Several conferences and seminars will be held throughout the project, involving students, teaching staff, researchers and arts professionals
- > Emphasise professional development for young and emerging artists, providing training, residency, performing or mentoring opportunities.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Duration of the project:** July 2013 – December 2014

**EU match funding obtained:** 1 179 200 Euros

**European funding:** Crossborder cooperation programme INTER-REG IVa France (Channel) England, co-financed by the ERDF

**Partners:** Atelier 231 – Centre National des arts de la rue (France), Amiens, Cirque Jules Verne – Pôle National Cirque et arts de la rue (France), Le Fourneau – Centre National des arts de la rue (France), Culture Commune – Scène Nationale du Bassin Minier du Pas-de-Calais (France), SeaChange Arts (France), University of Winchester (UK), Vivacity (UK)

## CONTACT

**Lead partner and general coordination**  
**Atelier 231**

1 Rue Denis Papin  
76300 Sotteville-lès-Rouen – France

**General coordination:** Mathilde Vautier

T. +33 (0)2 32 10 88 31

mathildevautier@atelier231.fr / www.zepa9.eu