

Circostrada Network

CIRCUS AND STREET ARTS:

ENCOURAGING EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROJECTS

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European cooperation projects in the circus and street arts have been on the rise in recent years. This new tendency shows 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 2011 within the European Union. The goal is to help these sectors identify current networks and projects, to promote the opportunities available to (future) professional of the circus and street arts and to emphasise different community-related grants. The diversity of the projects supported proves the vitality of our sectors and its needs, while also accentuating their commitment in contributing to the objectives set by the European Union.

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Culture Programme

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HORS LES MURS

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 52 members from 17 countries, the network is working to develop the structuring and recognition of these sectors in Europe.

Circus and Street Arts: Encouraging European cooperation projects

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With this publication, we hope to accentuate 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 and transversal overview of European cooperation initiatives in the field of the circus and street arts.

From the issues of artistic training to that of the production or distribution of works, as well as the question of spreading artistic influence along cross-border territories, these projects cover a particularly large field and bring together a large number of partners. While many of them are supported by the European Commission, they are not only funded by the Culture programme, but also receive support from other programmes with widely varying objectives (education and several programmes of 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 enriched through contact with the realities of different countries along with the logistical crossovers with each partner. The projects also work, each in their own way, toward greater structuring within the European circus and street arts. Regardless of their nature or project length, they continue to put 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 proposed reinforces 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.

CARAVAN

The international association CARAVAN gathers eight youth and social circus schools, coming from eight European countries. Its objective is to promote circus practices in youth education throughout Europe and to favour their development, through concrete actions such 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, create pathways and promote 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 the work with young people across Europe.

To this end, CARAVAN determined to:

- > Organise exchanges with educational aims for young people: create a volunteers exchange network, organise artistic and intercultural encounters,
- > Organise exchanges designed for trainers: workshops, seminars, meetings, projects to be built together, pedagogical exchanges,
- > Organise exchanges designed for managers of circus schools: workshops, seminars, meetings, projects to be built together, pedagogical exchanges,
- > Develop certification tools between partners of the network in the field of circus art training,
- > Feeding relevant information to and influencing local, national and European governments,

Actions / Working programme

Even before CARAVAN was established, members were meeting 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 "European Capital

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

Training for trainers

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

European recognition

In the beginning of 2011, 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 organism in the youth sector on a european level". This recognition implies a yearly subsidies grant for the costs of the functioning in the framework of the programme Jeunesse en Action, which allows CARAVAN to develop and densify its activities with youth in the circus sector.

Leonardo da Vinci Partnership

CARAVAN members have embarked on a research project entitled "Youth and Social Circus Training. A New Spirit for Europe". Over the years, in Europe and in other parts of the world, circus has been developed as a tool presenting many pedagogical assets, which can be used to reach out to young people with special needs or fewer opportunities. The development of this rapidly growing social circus sector has led to a new profession: social circus teacher. The was time for the sector to move towards agreed standards of good practice.

Thanks to this project, the CARAVAN members were able to prepare their competences according to european referential framework to be social circus trainers. This referential framework, officially presented in July 2011, was constructed on the base of methodological research which was elaborated under the supervision of the department of Education Sciences of the University Libre in Brussels (ULB). It is based on the detailed analysis of several projects of social circus of CARAVAN members by means of a logbook, and also by direct observation of these projects in four cities: Brussels, Berlin, Amsterdam and Bagneux / Paris.

This referential framework will presently be used by the CARAVAN members in order to develop and put in place the first european training for social circus teachers.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

European grant: 148 000 Euros

European programme: Youth in Action

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

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CASCAS Experiment Diversity with the street arts and circus

CASCAS encourages the trans-mobility of people working in the street arts and circus by raising awareness regarding the diversity of European local contexts and providing actors with good examples of creative strategies to bypass structural weaknesses.

This project was conceived by key European partners, each of whom are centres that provide information and advice for these sectors.

Together, the partners aim to:

- > Provide information and intelligence in order to strengthen intercultural dialogue and understanding of local cultural contexts / realities,
- > Create and foster opportunities for artists and cultural workers to explore new connections,
- > Expand skills and knowledge of the organisations and cultural workers, for a diverse and sustainable arts environment within these unique art forms.

During the project, the consortium will experiment new ways to achieve these objectives, and share experiences with institutions, representatives, organisations and networks, processing expanding knowledge, horizons and opportunities for exchange to further the practice of international arts. The information centres strongly believe that they play a valuable role in promoting intercultural understanding and international connections. Through sharing information and intelligence, the project will champion intercultural understanding and will allow artists and producers to make new connections and collaborations which will encourage future mobility (of ideas, people and projects).

To achieve these goals, they designed a project to:

- > Welcome 32 artists and cultural workers (producers, artistic company managers, critics, presenters, technical directors, etc.) from Europe to the four partner states, to visit the street arts and circus contexts during facilitated six-day tours.
- > Create, produce and distribute information and intelligence relating to these art forms via the network of information officers: free multilingual help-sheets, cultural / sub-sector profiles
- > Review the tours by highlighting the key elements of each context, to underline their diversity, to collect and give visibility to examples of good practice. The experiences and reflections will be published in a book, which will be disseminated at regional, national and European levels.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: May 2010 – October 2011
European grant: 82 305 Euros
European programme: Culture
Partners: Subtopia (Sweden), Circus Development Agency (UK), MiramirO (Belgium), Finnish Circus Information Centre (Finland)

Tours

Each partner centre proposes a facilitated tour in its country that will enable 32 professionals from all over Europe to meet the key players for circus or street arts over a set period of six days. Each partner country offers eight beneficiaries a place at one of the four tours. Beneficiaries are not given the opportunity to attend the tour within their own country. Each tour has therefore a mixture of nationalities attending. The tours aim to develop the soft skills of the 32 beneficiaries as well as the cultural workers met during the tours. The tours take place in 2011 in Belgium, Finland, Sweden and the UK. The calls are spread all around Europe since 2010.

Briefings

The street arts and circus so called 'briefings' are targeted specifically at cultural professionals, artists and cultural officials, with the aim of encouraging and facilitating reciprocal international exchange and co-operation. However, they will also be of interest to members of the general public who are looking for detailed information on the street arts and circus of the profile countries. Each briefing focuses on a particular country, providing a thorough analysis of its cultural policy, cultural infrastructure and artistic local context, with an emphasis on developing future collaborations. They also include case studies of local artistic projects. These documents will also be downloadable on the website.

Book

The consortium will prepare the topics to be presented and debated during the visits. A researcher will witness the tours and review each of them; he will collect and compare the experiences from the beneficiaries. The researcher will be involved in the valorisation of the project: reviewing existing literature and holding discussions with beneficiaries, local professionals encountered during the visits, staff from information centres, etc. A book, focused on the individual and collective findings will then be published in the end of 2011.

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Circostrada Network

Circostrada Network is a European platform for information, research and professional exchanges for street arts and circus arts sectors.

Objectives

The objectives of Circostrada Network are to work towards the development and structuring of street arts and circus arts on the European scale and advocate for their best work conditions. If these sectors demonstrate a high level of artistic dynamism throughout Europe, they need a space for exchanges, co-operation, 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 favouring meetings and co-operation between European professionals and by carrying out common actions to further the recognition of these new artistic forms. As member of the civil society, Circostrada Network wishes to provide and disseminate quality professional information to EU institutions, researchers and professionals of the cultural field, regional and national policymakers.

Priorities

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

Three main focuses

> An 'Advocacy and Communication' focus to sectorial and horizontal advocacy through the implementation of our work programme and our participation to cultural associations and platforms activities: delivery of recommendations to civil society (including intermediaries, project holders, artists, etc) and (sub) national/ EU institutions,

- > An 'Observation and Information' focus to collect and pool reliable information on street arts and circus, increase the level of knowledge (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, and offer the opportunity to promoters to become better acquainted with the issues related to our sectors, share views on European current debates and imagine trans-national projects.

Actions

- > From the design of 2008-2010 programme, many changes occurred: local federations and unions, performing arts info centres, members decided to undertake the publication of useful information, DVDs and brochures, to foster links with universities and publish reviews or theoretical texts. From this positive development, Circostrada Network will progressively abandon some actions (e.g. multilingual theoretical editorial projects, translation into English of articles) since they will be undertaken by the fields and focus instead on strategic partnerships to experiment 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 made available in some Member States and their impacts on grassroots practices. We thus designed a 3-year action to reach these institutions, organising policy seminars gathering representatives from Member States,
- > Thanks to the work achieved by Circostrada Network in the past years, and because of the globalised cultural exchanges, we feel there is a necessity to further the collaboration with third countries and international dialogue with 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 European programme Culture 2007-2013. HorsLesMurs, French national information centre for the street arts and circus, is the Secretary General of the network.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: permanent
European grant: about 99 000 Euros per year
European programme: Culture
Members: list on www.circostrada.org

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Circ-que-o

In Spain and in France, in the sector of the circus arts, the economic and institutional contexts are converging at several points. Indeed, the participation of public authorities is greatly developing in Spain and Spanish figures have learnt to mobilise private and public funding to develop their activities. In France, difficulties experienced by the cultural sector, which received strong public funding, have forced individuals to seek out new resources and new organisational models between the market, public actions and other sectors. There is therefore a convergence of territorial situations, which create a context that is favourable to cross-border cooperation, wherein each party will be able to find, within the experience of the other, practices they will be able to adapt to their own territory in response to the difficulties encountered there.

It is in this context that 10 organisational and institutional structures of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean region have come together to construct and elaborate an innovative platform that, like a cluster, will enable the emergence of a renowned circus network within this territory. The desire to use this process to contribute to the economy of knowledge through a lasting development project relies on the artistic, cultural, economic and social approach of an outside sector.

The foundations of this partnership are the fruit of a long-term development, with, first of all, several Euro-regional projects like Chemins de Cirque or Bivouac and Caravanes de Cirques. After that, in order to best prepare Circ-que-o!, work was carried out over one and a half years with less than seven seminars and six work meetings.

The project is built around three objectives:

- > To encourage the integration of the circus section within the cross-border space,
- > To reinforce local and cross-border synergy between the actors,
- > To reinforce employment, the economy and creation by improving assistance to project leaders.

The actions are based around three main directives:

An educative platform of exchange to:

- > Encourage and develop, within the cross-border regions, cooperation between players within the network, circus schools and the university,
- > Better prepare professionals, especially artists, to make use of economic opportunities;
- > Increase the amount of training offered on an international level through a high-level, cross-border training programme.

The flagship actions:

- > Summer universities for young creators,
- > A cross-border course between the schools of Lido in Toulouse and Rogelio Rivel in Barcelona, so as to improve the training curricula of the two schools and create the conditions necessary for the implementation of an international, cross-border training programme,
- > A university training course: university diploma, then a professional degree that creates links with the curricula of other schools,
- > A master class curriculum in Aragon that takes place alongside the training programmes of the Rogelio Rivel and Lido schools.

A process of networking for the economy and for employment so as to:

- > Improve assistance for project leaders,
- > Bring together the means available to creation sites to encourage the emergence of cross-border creation,
- > Develop a cross-border job market for the circus by focusing on the realities and complementary elements of each territorial situation.

The flagship actions:

- > A united growth network to assist projects,
- > Les Chemins de la Création, with the networking of creative spaces to enable artists to create their shows,
- > Les Chemins Émergents, a network of 20 programmers from the Pyrenees region to help artists to distribute their work during the creation process.

The promotion of the project thanks to:

- > A publicity plan that will give the project impact on the local and European level,
- > A website: an online resource centre for the cross-border circus arts,
- > Migrating circus: every year, a travelling festival intended for the public and for professionals will promote the work and distribute the practices acquired in the framework of the project.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: December 2008 – December 2011

European grant: 1 163 500 Euros

European programme: Interreg

Partners: Animahu (Spain), Associació de professionals de circ de catalunya (Spain), Asociación de Malabaristas de Zaragoza (Spain), Lido (France), Rogelio Rivel (Spain), Université Toulouse 2 le Mirail / Centre d'Initiatives Artistiques du Mirail (France), Ville de Jaca (Spain)

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Ciudades que Danzan

Dancing Cities (www.cqd.info) is an international network currently composed by 35 European, American, Asian and African contemporary dance festivals in urban landscapes (festivals with an outdoor dance programme). The main aim of the network is the creation of a dynamic system of cooperation and coordination and the exchange of projects and information among the participant festivals; as well as the promotion and support for the creation of new events and festivals around the world. The network favours the cooperation between different countries, creating a common commitment of artistic diffusion of the different languages and cultures, stimulating multiculturalism. Dancing Cities facilitates communication between cultural professionals (cultural agents, dancers and institutions) within a global cultural environment and works to make dance accessible to all.

Our mission: promoting dance in the public space

- > We believe in the potential of art as a tool for social transformation, especially when it takes place in the public space,
- > We want to foster democratisation of culture by getting new contemporary art languages closer to non-specialised audiences,
- > We want to foster the reappropriation of public space as a place for community engagement and individual expression.

Our main work objectives are:

- > Establish a solid platform of exchange, collaboration and promotion among organisers of festivals, while promoting cooperation between several cities in the world, enhancing multiculturalism. A special attention to cultural cooperation between Europe and Latin America, Asia and Africa is given,
- > Establish a dance platform to promote touring of dance companies among festivals members,
- > Provide technical advice on artistic proposals and production management for festivals that have recently joined the network; as well as technical aid and support for the creation of new festivals,
- > Carry out common communication and promotion projects to achieve greater international recognition of the participant festivals,
- > Establish a platform of reflection and debate on the relation of dance with public space and, specially, with the audience,
- > Develop joint dance and interdisciplinary productions, integrating dancers and other artists of different nationalities to create art and dance shows for public spaces.

Least Common Multiple project

The Least Common Multiple is a project by The Dancing Cities Network. It explores the relationship between dance, public space and the audience of eight cities in six countries in a pan-European and interdisciplinary perspective, through the development of theoretical and practical actions fostering intercultural dialogue and transnational mobility of cultural agents and products.

Objectives

The project aims to bring together curators, art organizations, dance companies, experts and academics working in the field of performing arts, visual arts, public space and site-specific works. In doing so, we would like to create a political, social and urban mapping of different areas of different European cities to open debates around the socio-urban development of contemporary cities.

Art, public space and community

The theoretical basis for the project will be the development of focus groups on "Art (especially dance), public space and community" with experts of different backgrounds in the participant cities. Based on the discussions held, an artistic and innovative video dance will be produced in four different cities as well as a special edition of the Dancing Cities Magazine (including extensive information on the development and results of the project, working therefore as a promotion tool for it).

The project also wants to address the traditional gap between contemporary art languages and non-specialized audiences, bringing dance closer to the community and facilitating its understanding.

Media

Use of ITC and new media will help in this objective by creating an online map where everybody could add and watch short dance videos in public spaces of the participant cities, as well as an iPhone app to discover the European heritage through dance and the use of QR codes for artistic purposes.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project Least Common Multiple: May 2011 - April 2013
European grant: 80 000 Euros
European Programme: Culture
Members: list on www.cqd.info

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Educircation

Educircation is an international project for teachers of circus techniques.

Missions

The aim of this project is to improve the quality of Circus Teaching around Europe. During this project we will hold different activities between professional circus people (teachers, artists, schools, directors, administration, management, etc) to get a clearer idea of the Circus situation in Europe and to improve the methods of teaching.

Actions

Past workshops:

> Theatre in Circus, Budapest April 2011:

Understanding how to teach theatre to circus people, integration of theatre to circus techniques and combining it with circus skills (juggling, acrobatics, clown etc.)

> Acrobatic Workshop / Start up a circus school, Valencia May 2011:

- * Organization of the contents, theoretical and practical subjects,
- * Hours and annual distribution,
- * Creation Processes and end of year creations,
- * Scheduling, materials and work spaces,
- * Evaluations- student evaluation, teacher evaluation, program evaluation by students and teachers,
- * Teaching Staff- necessities, team building, coordinating divergent origins, philosophies and visions.

Future Workshops:

> Aereal Acrobatics:

The Invisible Circus will be hosting a series of workshops in Bristol, a city known for having the highest number of circus performers in the U.K. The workshops will focus on aerial teaching methods and rigging safety and will be taught by Samuel Jornot, the artistic director for ACAPA (Academy For Circus and Performance Art based in Tilburg, Netherlands). The workshops will take place in March 2012 at The Island which is managed by ArtspacelifeSpace, a not for profit workers cooperative which turns abandoned spaces into artistic resources, providing creative solutions for problem properties.

> Jugglers' Workshop:

To be held in Berlin at the Juggling Center in February 2012 (exact dates to be confirmed). The aim of the workshop is to present, discuss and share various elements and methods of teaching juggling to intermediate and advanced students.

> Social Circus:

We plan to have the practical part in Psychiatric Hospital Bohnice in Prague. All participants will be included practically in the workshop. The plan is to rehearse for three days (thursday 24th - saturday 27th) for five to six hours a day and then have a performance together with patients on saturday afternoon / evening. On sunday there will be a feedback meeting with the leader about the workshop. For the theoretical part we would like to have discussions in Cirqueon centre on other possibilities of social circus. our participants work with children in small village in countries of eastern Europe or Romanies colonies in the Czech Republic.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: October 2010 – September 2012

European grant: 75 000 Euros

European Programme: Grundtvig

Partners: The Valencian Circus Association (Spain), Cirqueon (Czech Republic), The invisible Circus (UK), The Juggling Centre Berlin (Germany), The Hungarian Juggling Association (Hungary)

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European Youth Circus Organisation

The European Youth Circus Organisation (EYCO) is a non-profit organisation / association 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 recognition and structuring of youth circus on a national and European level.

History

Founded in 2005, the NICE seminars took place in Berlin (2005), in Paris (2006), Tampere (2007), Amsterdam (2008) and London (2009). The objectives are to construct European circus groups starting from an informal network. After the NICE seminar in Amsterdam, one of the groups called "Umbrella of Umbrellas" decided to introduce an official federation, called European Youth Circus Association, EYCO.

Aims

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

- > The process of recognition and structuring for their participants and contributors,
- > The improvement of youth circus practice for its participants and contributors,
- > The promotion of youth circus, which by nature is an art for the people, accessible and complete – as a means for its participants to play 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), Asociación de Malabaristas (Spain), Albert&Friends Instant Circus (UK) et Giocolieri e Dintorni (Italy) and 4 members which are currently working on the structuring of their national representation, namely Spain, Italy and the UK.

Today, EYCO gathers about 470 organisations / circus schools, 2 200 teachers and 550 000 participants.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

European programme: Youth in Action, Action 4.3 - Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisation

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European Federation of Professional Circus Schools

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 52 members including 42 schools and 13 organisations related to the circus arts located in 26 countries: Germany, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Spain, USA, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Morocco, Norway, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia. For the period 2011-2013, the network 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 that will enable 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:

- > Improving professional education and training in circus arts and the 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,
- > Promoting the work of graduates - young artists from the schools and centres,
- > Be a dynamic network whose purpose is to initiate cooperation between European training schools and centres, their students and teaching staff,
- > Be a network that represents its members at European and international level, bringing the voice of all organisations working for the quality and diversity of initial and continuing training in the circus arts.

Missions

- > Encourage cooperation, exchange, reflection and mobility between network members and their students, teachers and administrators,
- > Develop and coordinate European projects aimed at improving higher and vocational education and continuing training of professionals: by conducting research and studies on key competences of the circus arts teacher profession, by organising continuing training modules for teachers and pedagogic and artistic directors, seminars and focus groups, by exchanging the best practices and know-how and production of 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, dissemination of opportunities for internships, practice or employment and networking activities based on professional and personal projects of students,

- > Disseminate information on network activities and 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 and organisation working for the promotion of circus arts in the European debate on education, culture and employment.

Activities

For its 2010 work programme, the FEDEC network has undertaken the following activities:

- > Meetings, assemblies, internal conferences and seminars of the network,
- > Consultation with members on key competencies and needs of teaching staff for continuing training in order to implement a program continuing training at European level and a referential of key competencies,
- > Consultation with members on the different mobilities undertaken by students in circus arts, the good practices and obstacles, and their effects on learning objectives, skill acquisition and vocational integration,
- > Organisation of two capacity building workshops for pedagogic and artistic directors and a thematic exchange on the Cyr Wheel between the teachers of the network,
- > Bilingual publication of an additional chapter of the Basic circus arts Instruction Manual dedicated to the Cyr Wheel,
- > Organisation of two artistic and pedagogical exchanges "Circle", in the framework of the Future Circus Festival in Turku - European Capital of Culture 2011 and during the Festival Circa, in Auch (France) and consultation on innovative opportunities in terms of promoting work of graduates and employability enhancement,
- > Many artistic and educational exchanges and mobilities, 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,
- > Six bilingual newsletter for members and three newsletters for partners of the network,
- > Cooperation with other networks related to education and training, culture and circus arts,
- > Representation, lobby and support of members interests through studies, reports and meetings.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: permanent, supported between 2011 - 2013

European grant: 100 000 Euros per year

European Programme: Culture

Members: list on www.fedec.eu

CONTACT

FEDEC - European Federation of Professional Circus Schools

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Le PLÔT

With five years of collaborative experience working on the cross-border project CIRCULONS!, Autour des arts du cirque (Interreg III 2002-2007), Le Prato (France) and the Maison de la Culture in Tournai (Belgium), are the proponents of an innovative initiative in the landscape of the circus arts with the establishment of a circus hub of international scale: Le PLôt, the first cross-border circus centre, 2008-2012, as part of Interreg IV (FEDER fund).

Through their historical involvement, their compatibility and their desire to support young circus creations, the two structures are determined to develop their projects in production, support for the arts, distribution, training and any activity contributing to the influence of the circus arts. This centre also exists through the communal use of workspaces and skills: staff, infrastructure, equipment, etc.

Therefore, several objectives have been set with the implementation of Le PLôt:

- > To favour the development, the creation and the influence of new artistic processes (production, co-production, aid, creation of networks),
- > To encourage artistic creation and open-mindedness to new forms (training, master classes, workshops, meetings with artists); To develop the circulation of audiences, artists and artworks; to implement events and / or festivals,
- > To reinforce a proactive approach to developing the circus arts (gatherings, conferences, involvement in networks or work groups).

Activities

Distribution:

- > 15-20 shows each year, adding up to more than 80 burlesque / circus shows distributed by one of the two structures,
- > 10,000 to 15,000 spectators per year,
- > Between 500 and 1000 tickets bought by spectators from the partner structure,
- > About one hundred artists hosted per year,
- > About ten shows per year involving a partnership between our two structures (free shuttles and / or the opening of ticket windows for certain shows or events),
- > The organisation of festivals or events (innovative and / or unique projects, Piste aux Espoirs...),
- > The hosting of artistic teams that perform under circus tents.

Co-direction:

The development and direction of communal events, from conception to execution, using the skills of each team and the resources of each structure.

Assistance:

- > Loyalty in assisting companies, which are invited on several projects,
- > Support for companies: five to ten new companies per year,
- > Five to ten instances of sharing workspaces or residencies per year, for research or creation periods, generally held at the Le Prato, for one week or more,
- > Around three co-productions per year.

And also:

- > Broad publicity throughout the euro-regional zone,
- > Special pricing policies,
- > Adjustment of performance rooms and space for the circus,
- > Possibility of converting a performance space at the Maison de la Culture in Tournai into a circus ring,
- > Projects carried out with other structures with wider influence (Armentières, Roubaix, Brussels...),
- > Active participation in national and international networks for the development and promotion of the circus arts,
- > The organisation of professional circus gatherings (national or international).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: January 2008 – December 2011

European grant: 1 050 000 Euros

European programme: Interreg

Partners: Le Prato (France), La Maison de la culture de Tournai (Belgium).

CONTACT

Le PLÔT – Maison de la culture de Tournai

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META, European Manifesto for Transformation through Art

In 2011, In Situ passes on to a new stage. Programmed for five years in the framework of the Culture Programme of the European Commission, Meta aims to accompany the artists, producers and bookers in their dealing with issues which are posed onto creation by today's European society.

The project started the 1st of May 2011 and will finish the 30th of April 2016.

Unshakably 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-scaled artistic proposals can recreate the charm of the public space, Walk in progress, urban promenades, 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 its inhabitants.

During five years, from 2011 to 2016, nineteen cultural structures from fourteen countries, notably from central Europe, will work together for Meta to allow to develop contemporary artistic forms for public space and reweave the link with the populations.

Looks of complicity

In order to enrich the projects with visions and original experiences, each of the three great themes of the project is placed under the supervision of a benevolent person 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 Aristote 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 of Ville en partage.

Five devices

To create, to share, to think, to give sense... Meta proposes five further actions :

- > To write "side by side" for the public space, to bring together artists and bookers to talk about projects in progress. These exclusive seminars will lead to assistance for writing (2011, 2012 and 2013),
- > The town in transformation, in progress, to share and co-produce creations which are collectively carried by the network, which will enter the themes of META,
- > To measure the support of Europe for artistic mobility: support for distribution and residencies,

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: May 2011 - April 2016

European grant: 220 000 Euros

European programme: Culture

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

> International Europeans to support partnerships outside Europe in the form of residencies and co-productions,

> Artists on a par with towns to create responsiveness at conferences and events to the reflections of the artists and the actors of the creative sector, to the policies and the economy on the construction of the territory.

And after?

The network has always anchored the creation between present and future. Throughout the project META, the partners will reflect upon the future which is outlined as follows: the creation of a European foundation for urban and environmental projects, the creation of a European observatory of the pedestrian town, and a charter of artistic intervention in urban mutations which will be signed by local elected representatives of the network.

Co-organisers

Ten partners of the first cycle, out of which three originating from the new members, met up in order to bring to fruition the META project 2011 -2016. They have a central role in the setting up of the project: XTRAX (UK), Promenades (France), Independent ODA Theatre (Kosovo), La Paperie (France), Fundación Municipal de Cultura (Spain), FIAR Palmela (Portugal), Chalon dans la rue (France), C'era l'acca (Italy), Bunker (Slovenia), Atelier 231 (France)

CONTACT

IN SITU

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The MOB project is a cooperative European cultural project with the theme of urban space. It focuses attention on the mutation of cities in Europe, and notably on the process of metropolitanization that is at work. It addresses questions of mobility and studies the urban realities of several cities in Europe, encouraging an artistic approach with mobile and wireless technologies. The following subjects will be addressed: local and international issues, the reduction of urban segregations and territorial ruptures, reduction of the digital divide. Experimenting with new urban usages, MOB encourages new artistic practices linked to mobile and wireless technology. Crossing and intersecting creation, artistic education and sensibilisation to technologies as a vector of expression, this project looks with a new and sensitive perspective on five European cities.

The implementation of artist residencies, put into place at the selected study site, contributes to this approach. Overview of five European cities: an artist from another city is invited to create a film focused on the site with the help of a mobile phone.

History

The MOB project, created and developed by Dédale, came to life in an early form for the Cultural European Season in 2008. A first collection of urban fictional works on mobile phones was created with French and Italian artists and collectives under the name of RomaParis en trois minutes (see www.romaparisentrouisminutes.fr). The film "Le Temps des Images" was distributed at the Grand Palais, the Pocket Film festival and the Oslo Screen Festival.

Actions

The project's actions have been implemented for 2010 and 2011 and will operate at the local and European level, creating passageways between these different scales: territorial creation residencies, allowing for the creation of a collection of mobile films focused on the cities of Europe, workshops with the residents, international workshops, mobile film contests for residents and European contests for young artists, public events in several cities of Europe.

Goals

- > Contribute to an informed and pluralistic definition of the urban space of the cities of Europe: Paris, Barcelona, Prague, Warsaw and Timisoara,
- > Encourage residents to take possession of new technologies as means of expression and of sharing,
- > Promote the new forms of creation linked to today's cultural practices,
- > Federate urban, artistic actors and create a European network out of the resulting innovation.

Eventually, MOB hopes to develop a research and production network on art, new urban usages, new technologies and mobility in Europe.

MOB also participates in the emergence of new artistic forms and in the audience's appropriation of them. The goal is also to bring about new representations of the urban space in accordance with contemporary social and cultural usages. In this vein, an international competition for art students and local competitions for the public will be organised.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: May 2010 – December 2011

European grant: 199 950 Euros

European programme: Culture

Partners: La Cité internationale universitaire de Paris (France), Le Hangar (Spain), Moving Closer (Poland), CIANT - International Centre for Art and New Technologies (Czech Republic), Centre culturel français of Timisoara (Romania), Videomedija (Serbia).

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New Nordic Circus Network

The aim is to place contemporary circus on the cultural map of the Nordic countries and to strengthen the sector on all levels in powerful way. The Nordic engagement will also raise more interest at a local, national and international level. The Nordic project is already regarded in Europe and internationally as an example of very good practice. Nordic contemporary circus is and will continue to be represented on the level of productions, festivals, tours, education and social interaction.

Overall objectives:

- > Support artistic development of Nordic contemporary circus,
- > Sustain and continue the circus network development in Nordic countries,
- > Strengthen integration of the Nordic circus field into European organisations and networks,
- > Sustain and continue contemporary circus research in collaboration with Universities and Academies in the Nordic countries,
- > Improve the cultural political status of circus art within the Nordic context,
- > Develop the market for Nordic performances both in the Nordic region and internationally and profile Nordic artists and productions to potential partners and presenters.

The partners have worked since 2007 in creating, developing, co-ordinating, financing and managing NNCN.

Activity programme:

Juggling the Arts (JTA)

The aim of JTA is to develop the artistic potential of contemporary circus in the Nordic countries and to create a working forum for this. JTA aims to develop artists' ability to create their own work and thus underline the independent authorship of contemporary circus. There is a need to develop artistic conceptual thinking – how does an artist create her own artistic language, dramaturgy and personal universe. JTA invites Nordic circus artists to four five-day laboratories with a focus on artistic concept development and dramaturgy. 24 artists are selected by an open call. The laboratories are mentored by "senior" artists, e.g. Maksim Komaro (FI) and Tilde Björfors (SE). JTA reinforces contacts between Nordic artists.

Touring support

Nordic contemporary circus is today represented internationally on the level of productions, festivals and tours. However, national support systems for touring are still limited. The development of a market is absolutely necessary, as the art form is not supported with major state subsidies. In order to develop the market in the Nordic region and internationally and to profile Nordic productions, NNCN offers touring support to four Nordic performances.

Networking activities

Experiences in the Nordic countries differ, but there is a common need for development on all levels. As the partners are dealing with a "niche" art form, and as there is a lack of critical mass at a national level that limits the potential for development, a Nordic platform and collaboration is a viable and necessary strategy.

The partners of NNCN have contact with most artists and organisations implied in contemporary circus in the Nordic countries and have a unique network of contacts internationally. They are committed to continue creating a working long-term network with these partners, and to share experiences, resources and visions.

Cultural political activities

Infrastructure and support systems for contemporary circus production and education are still fragile and weak. They aim to ensure that contemporary circus moves in from the margins and occupies a more central space in the cultural political field, by improving the commitment for developing circus recognition.

Nordic conferences with policy makers, and professionals from the circus field are arranged once a year. Roundtable talks on the situation in the countries, meetings between cultural policy makers and professionals, and networking with the European professional network Circostrada. A Nordic circus policy program, with the aim to be confirmed by all the participant states, will be produced.

Research activities

Whereas theatre / dance critics and academics are often well educated in the aesthetics and terminology of their art form, contemporary circus exists in a vacuum where clichés from traditional circus and borrowed terminologies are used. The results often do very little to help develop public understanding and appreciation.

- > Nordic circus critic and academic researcher seminars,
- > Book on artistic circus pedagogy.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: January 2010 – December 2012

European grant: pending

Partners: Subtopia (Sweden), Københavns Internationale Teater (Denmark), Finnish Circus Information Centre (Finland), Cirko Centre (Finland), Circus Village (Norway)

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OPEN Street

OPEN Street is a cooperative international project aiming to improve the development and distribution of the street and fairground arts within the territories of participating countries. By comparing their respective, international experiences, the authorities and organisations involved in this project especially intend to put into place a platform of communal initiative and strategies for encouraging the use of these forms of artistic expression within urban spaces. The project includes an approach based on the exchange of information and methodology, the creation of a network of infrastructures and services, the comparative analysis of local systems of norms as well as periods of exchange and integration between various cultures.

For these past few years, a new relationship began to exist within small European cities between the urban space and the performing arts. Breaking with the tradition of a rite to be carried out solely within a pre-set environment, the performing arts can now be seen outdoors, where it fills prevalent locations of the community's social life, adopting its rhythms and interacting with its architectural elements, even going so far as to take on the characteristics of urban life.

The typical forms of expression of the countries adhering to this project find in the performance in the public space a kind of "smallest common denominator." Reciprocal knowledge of respective artistic traditions is an essential element for the cultural involvement of the populations in question.

The network made up of public and private organisations, having previous experience in the promotion of the street and fairground arts in their own country, has made them a true national reference point.

The reference point of all of the project's activities will be the "Open Forum." There will be three permanent locations: in Italy, at the Federazione Nazionale d'Arte di Strada in Rome; in Belgium, at the Promotion des Arts forains association in Namur; and in Germany, at the Neue Gruppe Kulturarbeit, in Bremen.

The project is defined by two major strategies:

- > The promotion of artists in the three partner countries and their free circulation within Europe,
- > The study of the different regulations setting protocol for artistic performances in the cities of Europe.

With the ambition of:

- > Arriving at a new registry of communal regulation to set the contours of artistic performance in the public space and outside of festival periods,
- > Setting the standard for European regulation that complies with the needs of public spaces and artists' free speech,
- > Offering a model that identifies artists performing freely in the European public space,
- > Presenting the results to the European institutions.

Activities

Meetings in Montegranaro (IT, Open Street Forum, 24th and 25th June 2011), Bremen (DE, Open Festival 18th-21st August 2011), Montegranaro and Fermo (IT, 2nd International Showcase of Street Performing, 13th-16th October 2011).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: June 2010 – June 2012

European grant: 200 000 Euros

European programme: Culture

Partners: Promotion des arts forains asbl (Belgium), La Strada Internationales Straßenzirkusfestival (Germany), FNAS / Federazione Nazionale Arte di Strada (Italy)

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Parkinprogress

Parkinprogress is a nomadic mobility programme gathering together emerging artists and professionals from the creative and cultural world, who work on the different steps of creation, production, diffusion of a project in which transdisciplinary experience is developed.

Parkinprogress moves around six different places in six different countries. At every very stop of this itinerary, the artists and young professionals from the creative world take hold of a park or a green urban zone to create a strolling promenade, Parkinprogress, nourished by different artistic propositions to share with the public.

This creation nourishes itself from new proposals established on the encounter with artists and professionals from the hosting country, at every stage of the project.

Parkinprogress is the first step of a far-reaching project, which is meant to link the main European countries' big cities, to make emerge a vast network of artists and cultural actors able to work together on transdisciplinary projects at a European scale.

It is supported by six cosignatories on a three-year period (1st May 2010 – 31st December 2013):

the Arts Council England East-Midland (Nottingham, United-Kingdom), Transcultures (Mons, Belgium), NOASS (Riga, Latvia), Johan Centre (Pilsen, Czech Republic), Mozgo Haz Alapitvány Florian Mühely (Budapest, Hungary) and the Pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes (Saint-Cloud, France).

Objectives

Parkinprogress aims to

- > Develop professionalisation synergies in a context of transdisciplinary projects between emerging artists and professionals from the creative and cultural world,
- > Facilitate experiences' exchanges and skills sharing between partners,
- > Make visible to a very large public approach of a young generation of artists who develop crossed experiences and create tomorrow's expression forms,
- > Prepare a second cycle associating new partner countries and giving a large influence to the general concept.

Actions

This nomadic project is built on a set up process federating three actions:

- > An itinerant short residencies programme, gathering together the laureates in a single place, to set up the "Parkinprogress" event,
- > Workshops to share experiences,
- > Large-scale communication actions to reach a vast public.

Organisers

- > Arts Council England East Midlands, UK
- > Culture and Arts Project NOASS, NGO, LV
- > JOHAN, centrum pro kulturní a sociální proje, CZ
- > Mozgó Ház Alapítvány / Moving House Foundation, HU
- > Transcultures, BE

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: 2010 - 2013

European grant: 914 630 Euros

European Programme: Culture

Partners: Pépinières pour jeunes artistes (France), Transcultures (Belgium), NOASS (Latvia), Moving House Foundation (Hungary), Johan (Czech Republic), UK Young Artists (UK).

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Rendez-vous

Lieux Publics has brought together IN SITU, a network of organisers who have been associated since 2003, to discuss multi-disciplinary European works in the public space. Throughout two communally funded, multi-annual programmes (Culture programme 2000) running from 2003-2006 and 2006-2009, the network's activities were characterised by the implementation of projects, artistic production, European residencies and cross-border distribution.

In December of 2009, Lieux Publics initiated a new programme, "Rendez-vous", a project funded by the European Commission (Directorate General of Education and Culture / DGEAC), for the development and evaluation of pilot activities encouraging mobility.

Rendez-vous will carry out a certain number of activities:

- > Artists speak to artists: a seminar of artistic discussion on the creation projects by the 18 artists selected by 18 directors of the IN SITU network. This seminar took place from 2-5 February 2010 in Neerpelt (Belgium): support for the writing of new projects and the implementation of these projects by bringing them together,
- > Directors' choice: Setting up of a shared catalogue associated to a ground of mobility in order to mutualise the resources which are linked to artistic mobility,
- > a performance programme intersected with an itinerant festival, the first fruits of a festival of festivals and of pluralistic creations,
- > European Nomad residencies: eight residencies for European artists of varying content so as to experiment and define the clear protocol and specify what is going on behind this portmanteau word: intersecting East-West residencies, residencies of adaptation to another country or language, involvement of the local population, involvement of local artists, transmission of works bringing together a repertory,
- > Go & see: eight missions of benchmarking and sharing of knowledge on the European scene of arts in public space in order to make good use of the others' experience and perspective.

These actions will form the base of an evaluation, the establishment of a pattern and a re-enactment:

- > Each activity will lead to an established pattern that can be followed in all artistic disciplines,
- > The publicity will give exposure to the European Commission's activities,
- > A public meeting will take place in Brussels in February 2011 to discuss the analysis and reimplementation of the event.

Based on each of these actions as well as on the previous experience of the network and each of its members, a summarizing document, to be submitted to the Commission in February 2011, will set out the main principles and analyse the cultural, human and economic effects. The goal is to give the Commission ideas for preparing the new generation of cultural, community-based programmes.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: December 2009 – February 2011
European grant: 225 000 Euros
European programme: Culture, pilot project on artistic mobility
Partners: Lieux publics (F), Arge La Strada (A), Artopolis Association (HU), Atelier 231 (F), Ctyri dny (CZ), Københavns Internationale Teater (DK), Stichting Terschellings Oerol festival (NE), UZ Ltd (UK).

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TransAc, Transnational Co-Production in Action

The main goal is to create an opportunity for emerging artists and companies to develop new performance pieces that investigate fresh artistic expressions in the field of street arts and in non-conventional venues, and to match the commissioned companies with experienced creators to assist their artistic process.

Underpinning the dissemination of the produced work, the leading arts festivals form a supportive steering group to enable the management of the project to be facilitated, ensuring that the resulting work is seen by thousands of spectators across Europe.

Between 2011 and 2013, within the Meridians network, TransAC will join companies that wish to work with remarkable artists on a European level in the field of arts that they want to improve to mentor their creation. Four new shows will be created in 2011.

The four companies currently working on the transnational creation process:

Reial Companyia de Teatre de Catalunya (ES) with the artistic mentoring of Cie Metro-Boulot-Dodo (GB) are developing 'The guide', a creation in a non-conventional venue (a museum or an gallery space). It is an audio tour that takes us on a journey to explore stories that the exhibitions cannot tell.

Ragroof Theatre (GB) with the artistic mentoring of the Cie Vendaval (FR) will create 'Bridges' Site-generated creation of dance and music of tango, flamenco, waltz, opera or folklore to explore how new the inter-pollination of cultures in urban environments creates exciting art-forms that overcome the barriers of language, creating mutual respect and understanding between cultures.

Un'ottima lettera (IT) with the artistic mentoring of The Brothers Quay will create 'de plaga cordis', a 20-minute action that takes place in the form of a gust of wind. A ghosts' parade of images and sounds through a landscape, which will be temporally modified by the ephemeral action of the artist.

Zsuzsa Rózsavölgyi (BE) and Ivan Mijačević, Aleš Zorec (SI) - With the artistic mentoring of the Hungarian music ensemble Belamuhely (István Rimóczi, Merse Varga, Tamás Bakó) will develop the transnational creation 'Images of Villages'. An outdoor spectacle focused on European rural traditions that historically set the ground for traditions present in urban environment of today and makes comparisons between these two, rural and urban.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: May 2011 - April 2013

European Grant: 188 282 Euros

European programme: Culture

Partners: Ana Desetnica (SI), FiraTàrrega (E), Inteatro Festival (IT), ISTF-MiramirO (BE), Mala performerska scena (HR), Scènes de Rue, Mulhouse (F), SIRF-Event International (UK), St. Patrick's Festival (I) & Stockholm Culture Festival (S).

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TRANS-Mission

The goal of the TRANS-Mission project is to improve practices of assistance towards creation, production and distribution in the sector of the contemporary circus, in the hopes of increasing the sector's overall professionalisation and recognition at the European level.

An emphasis will especially be placed on the writing of shows, which is often neglected within this sector, as well as the preparative steps that can be taken as early as the first phases of a creative work to help in a project's distribution.

These hubs have noticed similar issues within their respective work environments:

- > The work behind the preliminary writing of a "script" is often lacking in circus shows, as this aspect of creation is not part of circus artists' usual process. They prefer to create through experimentation,
- > Certain shows tour very little due to a lack of professionalism within the creation and a certain lack in terms of distribution,
- > Today, the circus is not viewed on merely a national level. To be sustainable, a show must be distributed internationally, as national markets are too limited,
- > Large performance structures that bring together many artists require large-scale material and specific equipment and therefore imply a certain number of logistical and technical constraints (today, for example, very few spaces are equipped to host aerial performances). They are also more difficult to distribute due to their high cost. Therefore, large performance structures are currently left out in favour of less ambitious forms, which require a limited number of performers on stage and use a minimal amount of equipment.

From these various observations came the desire to find a communal response through a project with the goal to

- > Encourage collective processes,
- > Enable companies to implement a conceptual, dramaturgical phase so as to reinforce the writing of their show,
- > Prepare the circulation of works from early on in their creative process: to analyse, understand and integrate distribution processes and work on the issue of audience and adaptability,
- > Make companies aware of partner networks,
- > Encourage the transmission of knowledge and skills, especially through gatherings between key resource individuals and companies.

To accomplish this, the goal is to closely and continuously support four contemporary circus companies with creation projects for four, five or six circus artists, offering them a residency at each location, a co-production, as well as marketing assistance among international festivals organised by the partner structures.

At the same time, the partners hope to enable an overall analysis of the issues underlying the project. To this effect, they will organise professional gatherings as well as opportunities in the form of sponsorships to allow the sharing of experiences. The result of this experience and of this analysis will be made available through a publication.

PRactical INFORMATION

Duration of the project: January 2010 – November 2012
European grant: 160 000 Euros
European Programme: Culture
Partners: Espace catastrophe (Belgium), La Central del Circ (Spain), La Grainerie (France), Zelig (Italy).

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ZEPA (European Zone of Artistic Projects)

Background

This ambitious and original idea started in 2008, to create a European network of outdoor arts festivals and promoters, supported by the cross-border cooperation programme Interreg IV A France (Channel) - England of the European Commission (ERDF). In this area, stretching from the South of England to the North of France, nine partners are pooling their resources, experience and knowledge together to develop European artistic projects (through co-production, support to creation, programming and training).

The European Zone of Artistic Projects has involved a long period of development. It all started in 1996, with the festivals Viva Cité in Sotteville-lès-Rouen, La Fête dans la Ville in Amiens, and the Streets of Brighton with Zap Art. In 2000, the Peca network (European Polycentre for Artistic Creation) was created, with the aim to develop creation centres for outdoor arts. Atelier 231 opened in Sotteville-lès-Rouen, the Hangar in Amiens and Culture Commune in Loos-en-Gohelle. The local authorities in Hastings and Rother in England also joined the network.

In 2008, a new dynamic emerged in terms of operations and cross-border projects: Peca became Zepa. Today, there are nine partners: Atelier 231, Centre National des Arts de la rue (Sotteville-lès-Rouen); Pôle National des Arts de la rue et Cirque / Le Hangar (Amiens); Culture Commune, Scène Nationale du Bassin Minier du Pas-de-Calais (Loos-en-Gohelle); Le Fourneau, Centre National des Arts de la rue (Brest); Zap Art (Brighton); Brighton Festival (Brighton); Hat Fair (Winchester); Southampton City Council; SeaChange Arts (Great Yarmouth).

Aims of the project

- > Create opportunities for creative exchanges between local people, artists and other creative professionals in the partnership,
- > Implement high quality and ambitious artistic projects in the Zepa region through production, commissioning, distribution, documentation and training,
- > Enable the development of a European consciousness and citizenship across the ZEPA area,
- > Develop joint cross-border work, sharing and exchanging good practice,
- > Support access to culture for all, including working with deprived communities,

Activities / work plan

Cross border cooperation through regional artistic projects:

Associate companies

The 9 members of the ZEPA network have chosen two associate companies, NoFit State Circus in the UK and Générik Vapeur in France. The companies will be creating a new show for ZEPA, reflecting the network, its area and its people. NoFit State has created Barricade, and Générik Vapeur Waterlitz. The network supports the two companies for the production, programming and community engagement around these shows, which will be presented in each of the nine areas between 2011 and 2012.

The "shared" projects

The project also puts the emphasis on the development of artistic projects in which two or more partners on each side of the Channel work with the same company, French or British (hence "shared") in their own respective area. It can be through creation, translation or adaptation residencies, community and outreach work, programming, etc., with the aim of presenting these projects within the European Zone of Artistic Projects.

The ZEPA region at the heart of the project's activities

The nine partners of the network cover the whole Interreg area (Northern France / Southern England). Each partner develops a range of artistic activities in their respective area, in partnership with local organisations ('associate partners'): local authorities and statutory groups, arts and cultural organisations, companies, targeted groups and members of the community eager to discover outdoor arts. The network created through the ZEPA project enables the joint work of the nine partners together to have a bigger effect in the overall ZEPA area, to guarantee a better penetration of all the euro-regions and a fruitful increase in national and cross-border cooperation.

Training and sharing good practice

An increasing part of the project is dedicated to training and sharing skills and knowledge, geared towards professionals of specific groups. Projects between Universities within the ZEPA area are also being developed, aimed at students and teachers.

The development of shared multimedia tools (internet website, book, marketing materials, etc.) aim to leave a legacy of this collective work and this mutual enhancement.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Duration of the project: 2008 - 2012

European grant: 3 110 169 Euros

European Programme: Interreg

Partners: Le Hangar (Amiens), Le Fourneau (Brest), Atelier 231 (Sotteville-lès-Rouen), Culture Commune (Loos-en-Gohelle), Brighton Festival, Hat Fair (Winchester), Zap Art (Brighton), Southampton City Council and Nuffield Theatre, SeaChange Arts (Great Yarmouth)

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