

19-23 OCT 2026

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION



**CIRCLE**

FEDEC STUDENTS TAKE  
THE FLOOR

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# CIRCLE 2026

**FEDEC**

International network for  
professional circus education



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# CIRCLE is back!

A new edition of [CIRCLE](#) is on its way! FEDEC brings together circus students from across Europe and beyond to perform at [Circa Festival](#) in Auch (FRA), one of Europe's leading festivals dedicated to contemporary circus.



CIRCLE offers a unique opportunity for emerging artists to meet, collaborate and present their work in an international context, while discovering cutting-edge performances. It is both a platform for artistic experimentation and a space for exchange, learning, and professionalisation.



© CIRCLE 2025 - Laure Geoffroy - The Palestinian Circus school (on the right)

This year, CIRCLE will take place from **Monday 19 to Friday 23 October 2026**.

There will be **6 CIRCLE performances**, 2 per day, each presented once, from Wednesday to Friday.

All performances must be inspired by a common theme: **'Where's the limit?'**. The aim is to encourage students to explore new artistic paths, while connecting CIRCLE to the FEDEC project Take Care, the first-ever EU project dedicated to supporting mental health and well-being in the circus arts sector.

The CIRCLE week will begin on Monday 19 October at 17:00, with a welcome meeting with all the schools. On Tuesday, a workshop will be organised to mingle the students and offer an extra professional development opportunity.

Is your school willing to participate? Read the following information to find out how!

# 1. What you need to know

## General conditions

- **6 performances**, each performed once in the FEDEC Big Top.
- **Maximum 8 students on stage** per performance.
- **6 persons per CIRCLE will be financially covered** (including accompanying staff).
- Performances must be **between 20 and 30 minutes long**.
- **Cost for extra person** (all included): €49/day

## Schedule overview (TBC)

- **Monday 19 October at 17:00** | Welcome meeting with FEDEC & Circa teams
- **Tuesday 20 October at 10:00** | CIRCLE workshop
- **Tuesday 20 October in the afternoon** | FEDEC General Assembly
- **Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 October** | CIRCLE performances at 12:00 and 18:00
- **Aftershows** | Every performance will be followed by an exchange session with the audience.

# 2. How to apply & selection criteria

## Application process

All applications must be submitted via [this online form](#).

Deadline for applications → **Thursday 21 May 2026 at 18:00**.

## Selection criteria

The FEDEC team and Managing Board will select the performances based on the following criteria (in order of importance):

1. **Application submitted on time** (by Thursday 21 May 2026, 18:00).
2. **Priority to schools that have never** (or least recently) performed a CIRCLE.
3. **Priority to collaborations between at least 2 schools** over single applications. For collaborations, priority will be given to projects involving schools from different countries and those including at least one school new to CIRCLE.
4. **Priority to schools traveling the furthest from Auch** to ensure geographical diversity.

Selected schools will be notified by email shortly after the deadline.

## Participation rules

By applying, schools agree to:

- Create a performance inspired by the **theme 'Where's the limit?'**
- Stay in Auch for the entire duration of CIRCLE (from Monday 19 until Friday 23 October 2026, whole day included).
- Include only current students.
- Include only students over 18.
- Keep technical requirements simple and feasible.
- Prioritise safety and provide necessary protective equipment.
- Be able to adapt - this is a festival context, so flexibility is key!



FEDEC reserves the right to cancel a school's participation if commitments are not respected.



## 3. Costs, logistics & technical details

### Financial conditions

- Accommodation and meals are provided by Circa for up to 6 people per CIRCLE.
- Extra participants are welcome but must cover their own stay.
- Schools are encouraged to come with their staff and students. In addition to the 6 people covered by Circa, it is possible to book a week's paid stay (boarding accommodation + meals) at a special rate of €49/day/person. This offer is open to all FEDEC members.
- Schools are responsible for their own travel costs and preparation expenses.
- Circa provides shuttle services within Auch.
- The 6 participating students & staff will receive free tickets to see the CIRCLE performances throughout the week.
- Special discounts for other Circa festival shows (details will be shared later).

## Technical & Safety guidelines

- Our rigging team will be on site to ensure the safety of all installations. The CIRCLE riggers will cooperate with a dedicated technical team of 4 people provided by Circa (lights, sound, general coordination) and will have the final word on all rigging and safety matters.
- All CIRCLE schools will be required to provide a detailed technical file, including a risk assessment of the performance and a lightening rider, specifying the disciplines and apparatus that will be used. The CIRCLE riggers have the authority to provide safety recommendations (mats, spotting, etc.) that schools will have to follow when performing.
- In terms of rigging & safety equipment, schools must be self-sufficient.
- All participants must be insured by their school (covering illness, accidents, civil liability, etc.).

## 4. Important dates

Thursday 21 May @ 18.00	Application deadline
25-31 May	Announcement of the selected schools
Mid-July	FEDEC sends practical information to the selected schools
September - October	Online preparation meetings with students and staff Review of Circa technical files
Monday 19 October @ 17.00	CIRCLE 2026 kick-off: Welcome meeting

## 5. Ready to apply?

**Fill in the form** and get ready for an incredible circus experience!  
Any questions? Reach out at: [events@fedec.eu](mailto:events@fedec.eu).