

FEDEC

FÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE
DES ÉCOLES DE CIRQUE
PROFESSIONNELLES

EUROPEAN FEDERATION
OF PROFESSIONAL CIRCUS SCHOOLS

ACTIVITY REPORT 2021



By Stéphane Simonin, president & Isabel Joly, director

Dear All,

2021 comes to a close with some good news enlarged upon in our annual report.

The first piece of good news is the continued growth of our sector: new professional circus schools are joining our network, which now has **74 members**, located in **29 countries**. We are pleased to welcome:

- The circus arts section at the **Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero** (UNTREF) in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **Piccola Scuola di Circo** in Milan, Italy
- **Amoukanama** in Conakry, Guinea.

Welcoming schools from countries where circus arts are not always supported remains a priority for FEDEC. We celebrate our diversity in a new leaflet that you can already circulate around you and display in your office.

The second piece of good news is the **selection of our European project RIGGERS** by the Swedish national agency for ERASMUS+, which will allow us to develop a series of activities on the theme of safety in circus schools during 2022-2024. This is an opportunity to take stock of the sector, and for the 10 project partners*, to share best practice on key issues for the entire circus arts community.

The third piece of good news is that we have been able to support students, rendered particularly vulnerable by the pandemic, through the continuation of our two flagship projects and the launch of a new video project:

- **CIRC'EYE**, our "political" project held on 8 and 9 October at the European Parliament in Strasbourg (FRA) in front of thousands of committed young people. You will be able to discover CIRC'EYE through a film that will be ready in April 2022.
- **The CIRCLES**, our creative project, 8 inventive shows performed by around

forty young circus artists on the stage at the Circa festival, in Auch (FRA).

- **TRACES**, our new video creation project: the 9 videos received in 2021 were shown during the Circa festival and posted on our YouTube channel as well as on our other social media.

For the second year running, the pandemic forced us to hold our **Annual Conference** virtually. It should have taken place at ACAPA in Tilburg (NLD). From now on, FEDEC conferences, meetings and General Assemblies are hybrid, enabling all our members to participate and our discussions to be more inclusive.

Our **European project COSMIC** has got into stride: the partners had face-to-face meetings at CRAC de Lomme (FRA) and at FLIC, in Turin (ITA) to develop their own use scenarios for the MemoRekall web application. Webinars to provide them with better coaching have been set up throughout the year. A training pack is being developed by our partner, the Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France, so that each FEDEC member can benefit from this digital tool within their school.

During the **Circa Festival**, FEDEC held a meeting for around twenty heads of member schools to discuss the issue of equality and integrity in professional circus schools. Following this meeting, FEDEC drafted a position paper on the issue of abusive behaviour which has been widely disseminated. This is a first for an international arts education network and it demonstrates our engagement.

We would like to thank our members for their commitment, and we are relying on each of them to be vigilant so that our schools become inclusive, caring and respectful learning environments.

Stéphane SIMONIN,
President

Isabel Joly,
Director



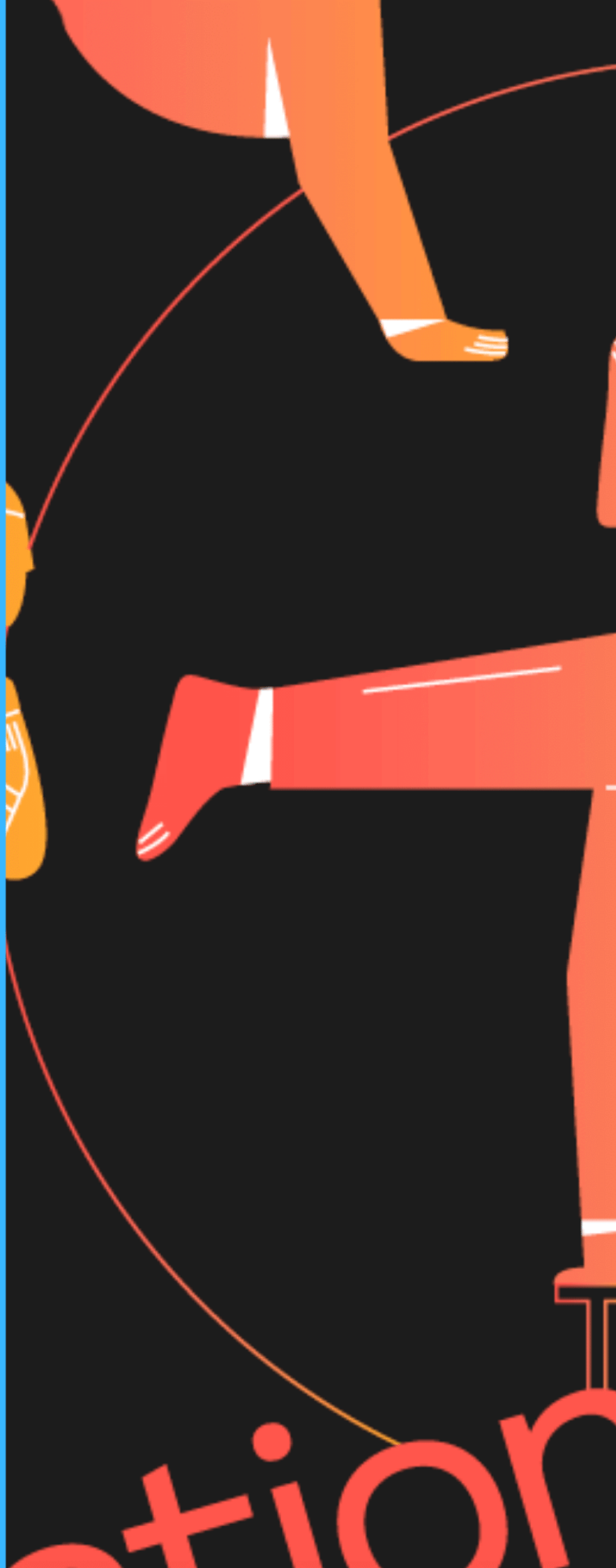

*École supérieure des arts du cirque (ESAC), Fédération Européenne des Écoles de Cirque professionnelles (FEDEC), École Nationale de Cirque (ENC), Academy for Untamed Creativity (AFUK), École Supérieure des Arts du Cirque (ESACTO'LIDO), Fondazione Circo Vertigo (FCV), Codarts Circus Arts Rotterdam (Codarts), Academy of Circus and Performance Art (ACAPA), Stockholm University of the Arts (SKH).

FEDEC

**1.1 MISSIONS &
OBJECTIVES OF THE
NETWORK**

**1.2 FEDEC'S
COMPOSITION**

**1.3 SUPPORT AND
ASSISTANCE FOR THE
RECOGNITION OF
TRAINING**





1.1 MISSIONS & OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK

FEDEC, an international non-profit organisation established under Belgian law with its Head Office in Brussels, was created in 1998 out of the need of the stakeholders in the circus arts education sector to come together, share and support each other. For over 20 years, FEDEC has been responsible for the professionalisation and structuring of the sector.

Since operating grants were created for European networks involved in education and training, FEDEC has been the only civil society network supported by the Programme Erasmus+ (Key Action 3) – to represent **arts education**.

FEDEC is proud to represent circus arts education and training and to promote the values and the tangible contribution of artistic sectors to society and citizens.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

FEDEC continues to strengthen its representation and remains the only organisation representing almost all of the existing vocational circus arts schools and all the national federations,

information centres and syndicates. FEDEC has built collaboration strategies with support networks for the development and evolution of training, pedagogy, creation, and employment in the field of circus arts education and other live entertainment courses (performing arts, dance and music).

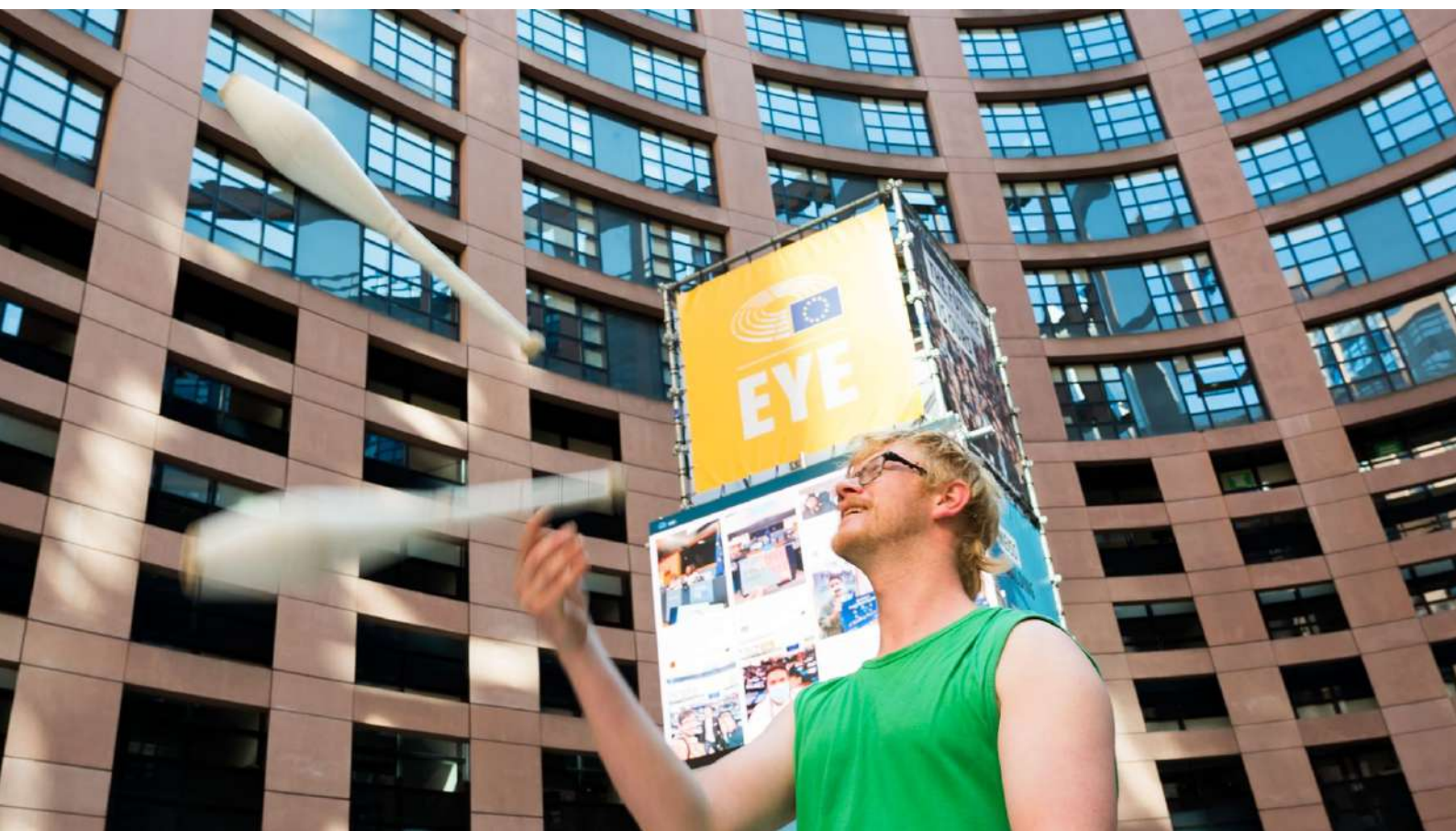
The aim of FEDEC is to work hand in hand with other networks such as EYCO, Circostrada and Circus Next, using the principle of student support from amateur practice to vocational education in order to guide them to professionalisation.

OBJECTIVES

FEDEC supports the development and evolution of training, pedagogy, and creation in the field of circus arts education with the following objectives:

- **Improving** the quality of circus arts education
- **strengthening** links between circus training programmes
- **representing** member schools on a European and international scale
- **raising awareness of** European policies among its members and partners.

Photo: European Parliament – CIRC'EYE 2021 – Graine de Cirque



1.2 FEDEC'S COMPOSITION

MEMBERS

FEDEC's European and international network includes **71 members**:

- 52 schools, universities, secondary, professional and higher training programmes
- 22 circus information, research and advocacy organisations.

... in **29 countries**.



Visual from the 2021 FEDEC poster. Two new members, welcomed after the poster was printed, are not included: UNTREF (ARG) & Piccola Scuola di Circo (ITA).

To reconnect with the existing members and reach out to the teams and students at the schools more directly, FEDEC has proposed virtual presentations of the network.

A presentation of FEDEC and COSMIC was made to students, teachers, and team members in the following schools:

- **CRAC de Lomme**, Lomme, (FRA)
- **FLIC**, Turin (ITA).

Virtual presentations have also been organised at the request of the following schools:

- **NCCA**, London (ENG)
- **ENC**, Montreal (CAN)
- **ECQ**, Quebec (CAN).

These presentations have been a way for participants to learn more about FEDEC, how it operates and its opportunities, and for FEDEC to get as close as possible to the schools and gain an even better understanding of their current needs and issues.

FEDEC is available to give a presentation of the network to any member who would like one.

Presentation of FEDEC to the students at FLIC in Turin (ITA), in September 2021.



NEW MEMBERS

This year, we are pleased to welcome **3 new members**:



Piccola scuola di circo (ITA)

Full member

Director: Camilla Peluso

piccolascuoladicirco.milano@gmail.com

www.piccolascuoladicirco.it



UNTREF (ARG)

Full member

Directors: Mario Perez and Gabriela Ricardes

artedelcirco@untref.edu.ar

www.untref.edu.ar



Amoukanama Circus (GUI)

Partner member

Directors: Facinet Camara and Nathalie Vandenabeele

amoukanama224@gmail.com

<https://amoukanama.org>

PUBLICATION

SURVEY ON FEDEC MEMBERS



In May 2020, FEDEC launched an **initial survey to map the circus arts education sector**, with a particular focus on how members were dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March 2021, FEDEC sent out a similar questionnaire to measure the changes in the figures, and in particular the impact of the pandemic on their work. The analytical report focuses on the section on general sector data, to assess developments in the sector. The idea is to conduct regular monitoring.

The survey on professional circus schools - Spring 2021 ran from 2nd March to 1st April. 39 of the 51 FEDEC schools and full members replied.

[See survey results](#)

THE MANAGING BOARD

The Managing Board is the network's elected body, meeting 4 times a year to debate, reflect and exchange on key issues for the circus sector. It is a think tank and support body for the team.

It is composed of a maximum of 12 elected representatives, all of whom are directors of schools which are full members of FEDEC. The MB members are elected for 3 years, this mandate being able to be renewed twice.

Elections happen during General Assembly in April. Prior to this event, all FEDEC members receive a call specifying the number of seats available, what their duties are and encouraging them to stand as a candidate.

The MB appoints an Executive Committee composed of a president, a vice-president, a treasurer and a secretary of the federation.

In 2021, the MB consisted of:

1) Executive Committee:

- **President: Stéphane Simonin**
(Académie Fratellini, Paris, FRA)
Start of current mandate within the MB: 2015
President since 2017
- **Vice-President: Anna Beentjes**
(Codarts Circus Arts Rotterdam, NLD)
Start of current mandate within the MB: 2016
Vice-president since 2019
- **Treasurer: Tim Roberts**
(École de Cirque du Québec, CAN)
Start of current mandate within the MB: 2019
Treasurer since 2020
- **Secretary: Aurélie Vincq**
(Esacto'Lido, Toulouse, FRA)
Start of current mandate within the MB: 2014
Secretary since 2020

2) MB Members:

In blue the Board members having their mandate ending in April 2022

Board members	Organisation	Country	Elected in	Mandate 1 ends in...	Mandate 2 Ends in ...	Mandate 3	Function
Adeline Avenel	CRAC-Lomme	France	2020	2023			
Adrian Porter	National Centre for Circus Arts	UK	2018	2021	2024		
Alisan Funk	SKH	Stockholm	2020	2023			
André Borges	INAC	Portugal	2019	2022			
Anna Beentjes	Codarts Rotterdam	Nederland	2016	2019	2022		Vice-President (2019)
Aurélien Vincq	Le Lido	France	2014	2017	2020	2023	Secretary (2020)
Daniela Arendasova	École Nationale de Cirque	Canada	2016	2019	2022		
Paolo Stratta	Cirko Vertigo	Italy	2015	2018	2021	2024	
Søren Flor	AFUK-AMoC	Denmark	2017	2020	2023		
Stéphane Simonin	Académie Fratellini	France	2015	2018	2021	2024	President (2017)
Stevie Boyd	FLIC	Italy	2020	2023			
Tim Roberts	Ecole de Cirque du Québec	Canada	2019	2022			Treasurer (2020)



Managing Board meeting at FLIC, Turin (ITA) in September 2021.

WORKING GROUPS

The working groups each have a theme and work on the issues encountered by our sector. Made up of professionals, they provide an opportunity to raise issues in the field and come together to share expertise and points of view in order to launch network discussions and consultations.

The outcomes of these discussions contribute to the development of FEDEC activities and the network's future programme of action, but also on a wider scale to the different sector and European priorities in the sectors of education and training, the arts and employment.

STEERING OF THE WORKING GROUPS

Each Working Group (WG) is composed of one or more members of the FEDEC team and, on a voluntary basis, several members of the Managing Board.

WG meetings take place on the sidelines of statutory meetings and also throughout the year via videoconference meetings and e-mail exchanges.

LIST OF THE WORKING GROUPS

1. **Student projects: CIRC'EYE – CIRCLE – TRACES.** Reflection on existing projects, their progress and the emergence of new projects according to needs. For example, TRACES, a video creation project, emerged during the pandemic (March-
2. **Security and Rigging: strengthening of security and rigging policies in the circus sector.** This WG's discussions made it possible to identify the sector needs and develop a European project that was submitted to the ERASMUS+ programme for funding.
3. **(New) members: support for members and network development** One of this working group's assignments is to analyse membership applications once they have been validated by the team.
4. **Unconscious bias:** discussions on best practice that could be disseminated in our network to support schools in their efforts to tackle unconscious bias and abusive behaviour.
5. **Strategy: the network's general policy strategy.** This working group has helped the team write FEDEC's structural grant application for the ERASMUS+ programme
6. **Equality and Integrity:** Reflections on best practice that could be put in place with the aim of supporting schools in their efforts to tackle unconscious bias and abusive behaviour.

THE FEDEC TEAM

The team listens to members' needs, coordinates projects and publications, organises the network's various events and represents it alongside the Managing Board at events and in working groups of European and national organisations in the circus arts, education & training and youth & employment sectors.

Since 2020, all of the team members have been on permanent contracts.

The new office has been located since March 2019 at rue du Meiboom 18 in Brussels, in a building hosting other associations working in the field of training.

This proximity to the central station makes welcoming visitors easier.

FEDEC regularly welcomes interns in its team for ad hoc assignments, in order to offer new insights within the network and to accompany students towards employment by providing them with field skills.

In 2020, the FEDEC team produced a **charter on how to 'work well together'**, transmitted to anyone new joining the team. It seemed essential to lay out common baselines, in terms of values, soft skills, and team work, to foster collaboration and well-being at work, both within the FEDEC team and in

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM

- **Isabel Joly**, director
isabel.joly@fedec.eu
- **Lorenzo Albiero**, EU project manager
lorenzo.albiero@fedec.eu
- **Sarah Weber**, EU project manager
sarah.weber@fedec.eu
- **Carole Bertrand**, communication manager
communication@fedec.eu

Camille Crucifix left FEDEC in April 2021, after 6 months as the communication manager.

Emily Edgar left FEDEC at the end of August 2021, after 6 months as the events manager.

the relationship between the FEDEC team and the FEDEC members.

The health situation has allowed the team to reorganise how it operates, regularly alternating working from home and working in the office. This makes it possible to prioritise everyone's well-being and efficiency.

Individual interviews are regularly conducted with the director (at least 4 times a year) to support employees' development and the balance of the team.



1.3 SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE

of the recognition of training

NATIONAL CIRCUS SCHOOL FEDERATIONS

The role of the federations is to structure the sector and create a dialogue between the different levels of training. This is to advocate the interests of professional circus arts training programmes at a national level and to obtain recognition, qualification, and support for the circus arts training programme at every stage.

Their mission of dialogue with the member countries, ministries, and authorities in charge of organising and financing training programmes makes them special partners.

FEDEC counts **5 national federations** among its members:



SPAIN: Federación Española de Formación Profesional en el Arte del Circo (FEFPAC)

FEFPAC was created in 2010 and groups together 3 Spanish schools, 2 of which are FEDEC members (Escuela de Circo Carampa & Centre de les Arts del Circ Rogelio Rivel). The FEFPAC's goal is to defend the interests of vocational circus training in Spain.



FRANCE: Fédération Française des Écoles de Cirque (FFEC)

FFEC has continued to structure the sector in France and in the regions by organising regional meetings. It brings together 12 regional circus school federations, almost 150 amateur schools, 9 vocational training centres, more than 27,000 members (from 1 to 84 years-old) and 300,000 occasional practitioners. The international action of FFEC is essentially participating in FEDEC and EYCO (European Youth Circus Organisation) activities.



ITALY: Associazione Circo Contemporaneo Italia (ACCI)

L'Associazione Circo Contemporaneo Italia (ACCI) brings together not only professional schools (including 2 of our members: Circo Vertigo & Flic), but also all contemporary circus stakeholders. The goal is to promote a much more connected circus sector at a national level and to better meet the sector's actual needs.

UNITED KINGDOM: Association of Higher Education Circus Arts Providers (AHECAP)

AHECAP groups together the only 2 existing professional training schools: National Centre for Circus Arts & Circomedia. The other schools in the country only offer leisure activities.



SWITZERLAND: Fédération Suisse des Écoles de Cirque (FSEC)

The federation hosts around 40 circus schools spread over the 3 linguistic regions of the Helvetic Confederation, including 3 professional schools, FEDEC members (Ecole de Cirque Zôfy, LeZarti'Cirque & Théâtre Cirquele).

NETWORKING ACTIVITIES & PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

Every year, FEDEC attends a series of events in order to serve its members, to reinforce its visibility and to help the training sector grow.

The involvement of network members in events and numerous festivals demonstrates their commitment to the development of circus arts and in particular their support for the younger generation and future artists. FEDEC is thus continuously developing a **strategy for the employment of artists in training or graduating students with several partner festivals.**

Since 2020, there has been limited involvement in events, as many of them have been cancelled due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, the circus arts sector has been creative and has been able to maintain some of these events online or by adapting the hosting conditions to health restrictions:

- **BIAC**, 3 February 2021, Marseille (FRA): participation in the round table “Investir collectivement la relance: La coopération européenne aujourd’hui”.
- **Sul Filo del Circo Festival**, 2-10 July 2021, Grugliasco (ITA).
- **Festival Internacional Vaudeville Rendez-Vous**, 19-24 July 2021, Vila Nova de Famalicão (PRT).
- **CIR&CO Festival**, 24-29 August 2021, Avila (ESP).
- **Circusstad Festival**, 10-12 September 2021, Rotterdam (NLD).
- **34th edition of the Circa Festival**, 21-30 October 2021, Auch (FRA).
- **Young Stage Festival**, 08-09 November 2021, Bâle (CHE): member of the festival jury.

International Young Stage Festival, Bâle, November 2021



The different actions aimed to:

- **Foster and promote the projects and activities** within events organised by network members and associate partners;
- **Provide** information about the circus arts teaching sector and pass on information about its activities and members;
- **Boost interest** in the circus arts sector and its development;
- **Develop partnerships** with **sector professionals** such as festival directors, broadcasters, and administrators;
- **Establish partnerships** to improve the **employment prospects** of the students and graduates (network of potential employers for students graduating from FEDEC training programmes);
- **Introduce the FEDEC's communication tools** and the various educational tools, as well as research (website, publications, and manuals);
- Organise **consultations** within the network and represent higher education and vocational training in circus arts to European bodies;
- Provide the opportunity to **learn** about the **European programmes** and meet other European networks.

NETWORK ACTIVITIES

2.1 DIALOGUES &
CONTRIBUTIONS

2.2 NETWORK
ENCOUNTERS

2.3 STUDENTS
PROJECTS

2.4 TRANSVERSAL
PROJECTS

2.5 COMMUNICATION





2.1 DIALOGUES & CONTRIBUTIONS

A series of strategies and actions implemented in 2017 has significantly helped to improve arts education with FEDEC's contribution to European policies in the field of education and training, culture, youth, sports and employment.

Objectives:

- **To promote** excellence and innovation in arts education
- **To modernise and develop** high quality

vocational and higher education training

- **To serve** the new generation of teachers and directors
- **To recognise and foster** student and teacher skills.

These objectives were achieved thanks to the implementation of 3 strategies and the creation of synergies between the sectors of education, training, sport, youth, and employment through its collaboration with different **key actors**.

1. DIALOGUE WITH THE CIRCUS ARTS PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

FEDEC continues to collaborate with several education sector and circus arts sector networks as well as with employer and creative industries networks:

Key-players:

- public authorities;
- actors in the field (schools, training centres, universities, federations);
- bodies responsible for observation and research into jobs and professions;

- organisation, employer and creative industry networks (Circostrada, Territoires de Cirque, HorslesMurs, Circusnext) and several festivals with a programming policy which also supports youth creation.

This strategy shared by these different networks has been reinforced for a commitment to young people and career plan support from the first year through residencies, internships, training programmes, co-productions and the programming/purchasing of performances at the end of the training pathway.

Audience during CIRCLE, during the festival Circa, October 2021



FEDEC and CIRCOSTRADA

FEDEC is a member of Circostrada, a long-time network partner.

Despite the challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis, FEDEC and Circostrada met several times in 2021 and continue to cooperate successfully:

- Preparation of common position papers requesting support for the cultural sector and in particular the circus sector.
- FEDEC's participation in Circostrada's General Assembly.
- Collaboration on the development of the Circostrada Data platform, with key figures and data regarding the circus sector in Europe and the world.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COLLABORATION

- **To develop professional exchanges**, exchange of information and communication.
- **To develop synergies** between academic and professional fields to strengthen professional integration.
- **To work on different scales of territories**, providing the means for an exchange of knowledge and knowhow between countries (where circus and street arts are faced with different levels of development and learning contexts).
- **To advocate for better recognition of circus and street arts**, in a dialogue with institutions working from local to European level.

FEDEC and the circus arts festivals

Festivals such as the **World Festival of the Circus of Tomorrow, the European Youth Event and the Circa Festival** have developed programming and support policies for specific young, innovative companies.

2. DIALOGUE WITH THE ARTISTIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTOR

FEDEC has also collaborated with ELIA - European League of Institutes of the Arts - to coordinate thoughts on arts education and training.



ELIA

ELIA represents many fields and disciplines in the arts (fine art, visual arts, architecture, dance, design, new media, music and theatre). FEDEC's objective is **to represent circus arts, which was not previously represented in the ELIA network**. As an associate member, FEDEC represents the 14 higher education institution members, but also makes it its mission to pass on the thoughts, discussions or projects developed within the ELIA to all its members and their audiences (whether they are in secondary, vocational or higher education).

Common issues link FEDEC to ELIA and are the basis for a partnership founded on their complementary nature and sharing methods and best practice.

More info : www.elia-artschools.org

3. CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPEAN POLICIES & NETWORK REPRESENTATION

FEDEC is an active member of the Lifelong Learning Platform, as an associate partner. FEDEC is the only civil society network representing circus education and training in the LLL-Platform.

In 2020, FEDEC participated in the LLLP's internal discussion on the 2021-2023 advocacy strategy. This enabled FEDEC to redefine its priorities at this level: artistic training, professional integration of artists graduating from professional circus schools, teacher training and equal rights for employees and self-employed workers, mobility adapted to artists and future artists.

In line with the LLLP's new strategy, FEDEC therefore included two new working groups in 2021: "Lifelong Learning Guidance" and "Educators Training". It also continued its work in the "Erasmus+ Coalition" intersectoral group and the "Task Force on Policy & Advocacy" group.

In 2021, through its collaboration with the LLLP, FEDEC participated in the following activities and events:

- Survey on multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnership in career guidance
- EESC Civil Society Days 2021 (organised by the European Economic and Social Committee)
- Public hearing on "European Civil Society: Time for a European Statute for Associations" (organised by the European Economic and Social Committee)
- Partibridges Final Event: Education is all about bridges
- The LLLWeek 2021: the themes for this year were assessment and well-being
- Development of 2 ideas for the Conference on the Future of Europe platform: "Give Civil

Society a Real Say in EU Education Policies" and "Make Lifelong Learning an EU shared competence".

In 2021, FEDEC also set up several collaborations with other European networks:

- Culture Action Europe, a major network in Europe for the cultural sector. FEDEC participated in the #CulturalDealEU campaign, calling on EU Member States to devote at least 2% of their National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRP) to culture.
- PEARLE, the Performing Arts Employers Association League Europe, for the "Call to support cultural relations between EU – US" campaign.
- Circostrada, the European network for contemporary circus and street arts, participating in the Circostrada network's general meeting, from 29 June to 3 July 2021, in Alès (FRA), in partnership with Le Cratère – National Stage of Alès, the French Institute and Occitanie en scène.

Political events allow members to interact with representatives of the European institutions to compare their realities with the policies implemented at national or European level. They represent a unique opportunity for our members to advance certain proposals and to openly discuss basic recommendations with public authority representatives.

FEDEC has disseminated the data from the 2021 member survey to networks with which it collaborates, in order to give a clear picture of the situation of circus schools which have been affected by the pandemic.

2.2 NETWORK ENCOUNTERS

FEDEC has been a consistently structured network thanks to operating grants since 2008. Each year it receives a grant that enables the development of the network, coordination and interknowledge, consultation, the reinforcement of its actions and the employment of a permanent team.

MOBILISING THE NETWORK AND ITS PARTNERS

Through the development of activities, FEDEC has ensured multiple exchanges and regular and fruitful relationships among members. Reflections and positions are structured through working groups. This method relies on a participatory approach based on the mobilisation of the network and its partners.

FEDEC has a large, specialised network of members and partners which enables it to gather information, contributions and expertise from a significant number of reliable and targeted sources. These include higher, vocational, and secondary education

institutions and professional players in the circus arts sector.

Likewise, the outcomes produced (studies, initial or continuing training, exchanges, and shared tools) are disseminated to the various target audiences identified.

Thanks to a high level of mobilisation, these various audiences are already either aware of or directly involved in FEDEC's activities, which is a major advantage in terms of impact.

NETWORK CONSULTATION & COORDINATION

The network members play a vital role in **identifying the themes addressed in the focus groups**:

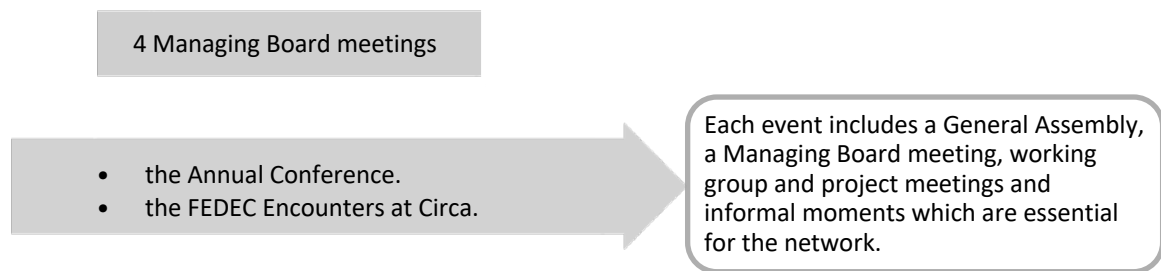
They are involved at every stage of the implementation of the work programme as regards:

- **Establishing the priority** topics and discussing the action plan for the following years
- **Mobilising their teams** to participate in focus groups, consultation phases and input of content

- **Disseminating the outcomes:** along with the valorisation activities and the presentation of the outcomes, each network member is responsible for disseminating the network tools/publications and communicating FEDEC's actions to its direct audience and local partners (on its website, in its newsletters, etc.).

NETWORK MEETINGS

FEDEC's year is organised around a regular programme of meetings, a real point of reference for its members:

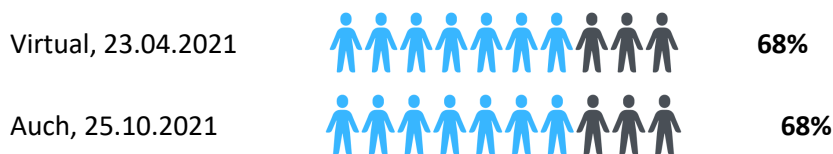


The Annual Conference and General Assembly that should have been hosted by ACAPA (Tilburg, NLD) unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the sanitary conditions. The other meetings were either organised online or blended.

In general, attendance at statutory meetings is very high. The proxy rate is proof of each and every member's strong involvement in the network.

The organisation of solely online or blended meetings has increased the participation rate, allowing members who do not have the time or means to travel to participate online. FEDEC wishes to continue developing the use of blended meetings, in a permanent concern to be more inclusive and eco-friendly.

General Assembly



Managing Board Meetings



THE FEDEC ENCOUNTERS AT CIRCA

21- 30 October 2021 in Auch (FRA)

Hosting partner: Circa, Pôle National Cirque, Auch-Gers-Occitanie, as part of its annual festival.

Participating members: **49 members present or represented**



PROGRAMME

The week featured various events:

- **Statutory meetings**
The Managing Board meeting and the Extraordinary General Assembly (GA) meeting.
- **1 workshop**
For CIRCLE students with the Basinga company.
- **CIRCLE Project**
6 performances and Aftershow, for 8 representations on 4 days, i.e. the participation of 9 schools from 3 countries (see page 24).
- **TRACES Project**
9 school videos were broadcast on the [FEDEC YouTube channel](#), and during the Circa Festival (screening before each CIRCLE and a special screening of all the videos).
- **COSMIC Project**
The 3rd partners' meeting was open to all FEDEC members. The project was presented during the FEDEC General Assembly.

FEDEC Encounters at Circa, October 2021 – Christophe Trouilhet & FEDEC



- **Themed meetings**

- **Higher circus schools**

This meeting provided 5 schools with the opportunity to present themselves in front of their counterparts, with the aim of clarifying their expectations regarding students wishing to join their educational pathway. Moderated by Jan Daems from CODARTS (NLD), the panel included:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ▪ Anna Beentjes | CODARTS Rotterdam (NLD) |
| ▪ Aurélié Vincq | ESACTO'Lido (FRA) |
| ▪ Virginie Jortay | CNAC (Centre National des Arts du Cirque) (FRA) |
| ▪ Valérie Fratellini | Académie Fratellini (FRA) |
| ▪ Reynaldo Rampersad | ESAC (Ecole supérieure des arts du Cirque) (BEL). |



- **Equality and Integrity**

An initial meeting on the theme "Equality and Integrity in Professional Circus Schools" was held, inviting all members to identify how FEDEC could help to tackle abusive behaviour in their schools.

The speeches by Rosa Matthis, a researcher at Linköping University (SWE), Stéphane Simonin, director of the Académie Fratellini (FRA) and Anna Beentjes, director of Codarts (NLD) provided ample food for thought.

IMPACT OF THE FEDEC ENCOUNTERS AT CIRCA

For 15 years, FEDEC and the Circa Festival have maintained a strong partnership. The festival has become an essential meeting place for all network members and their local, national, and international partners.

The FEDEC Encounters take place as part of an international festival and have allowed each

member of the FEDEC network to make contact with the sector's European and international professional organisations, and 15 generations of students to have access to professional conditions for presenting their educational and artistic trial performances within the framework of the CIRCLE project. As a result, some of them have been scheduled in the official programme as a company.

2.3 STUDENTS PROJECTS



CIRCLE

The 14th edition of the CIRCLE project, at this year's Circa festival, brought together:

9 schools from **3** different countries (exceptionally, there was a greater number of French schools this year due to difficulties in travelling during the pandemic).

In total, **42** students and teachers participated in this edition of CIRCLE.



CIRCLE 2021 – Christophe Trouilhet

6 Aftershows - Discussions between the artists and the audience

These discussions showed the obvious interest of the audience, made up of circus school students, artists, professionals, and spectators from Auch, in the creation process as well as in the functioning of schools, the life of circus arts students, entry requirements, etc.



Aftershows, CIRCLE 2021 – Christophe Trouilhet

1 workshop

This workshop, with Tatiana-Mosio Bongonga and Jan Naets from the Basinga Company, a professional circus company, enabled FEDEC students to meet each other while experimenting with new corporalities and circus techniques.



This year, FEDEC was delighted to work with a new stage manager, **Joppe Wouters**, who demonstrated uncompromising professionalism and efficiency.

In addition, about **60** students, teachers, and educational, artistic and general directors of FEDEC member schools participated in the FEDEC

programme of activities and the festival programme, representing a total of almost **100** FEDEC participants, or **30** members!

More info on the festival: www.circa.auch.fr

TUESDAY 26/10
PROGRAMME

FEDEC Encounters in CIRCA & CIRCLE

THIS MORNING

9h-12h - Écoles Supérieures
📍 Office de tourisme

THIS AFTERNOON

15h-16h15 - CIRCLE#1 : ESACTO'LIDO
📍 Maison de Gascogne

17h-18h15 - CIRCLE#2 : CARAMPA
📍 Maison de Gascogne

WEDNESDAY 27/10
PROGRAMME

FEDEC Encounters in CIRCA & CIRCLE

THIS MORNING

9h-12h - Equality & Integrity in circus schools
📍 Office de tourisme

THIS AFTERNOON

15h-16h15 - CIRCLE#3 : EC LYON
📍 Maison de Gascogne

17h-18h15 - CIRCLE#4 : FLIC
📍 Maison de Gascogne

THURSDAY 28/10
PROGRAMME

FEDEC Encounters in CIRCA & CIRCLE

THIS AFTERNOON

15h-16h15 - CIRCLE#5 : CARAMPA
📍 Maison de Gascogne

17h-18h15 - CIRCLE#6 : PROCIRK
📍 Maison de Gascogne

FRIDAY 29/10
PROGRAMME

FEDEC Encounters in CIRCA & CIRCLE

THIS AFTERNOON

15h-16h15 - CIRCLE#7 : ENCC
📍 Maison de Gascogne

17h-18h15 - CIRCLE#8 : FLIC
📍 Maison de Gascogne

18h15-18h45 - TRACES SCREENING
📍 Maison de Gascogne

TRACES

For this edition of TRACES, FEDEC challenged students from its member schools to make a video lasting no longer than 3 minutes on the theme of 'Fly the nest'. In response to this [call for participation](#), FEDEC received **9 videos** from international schools.

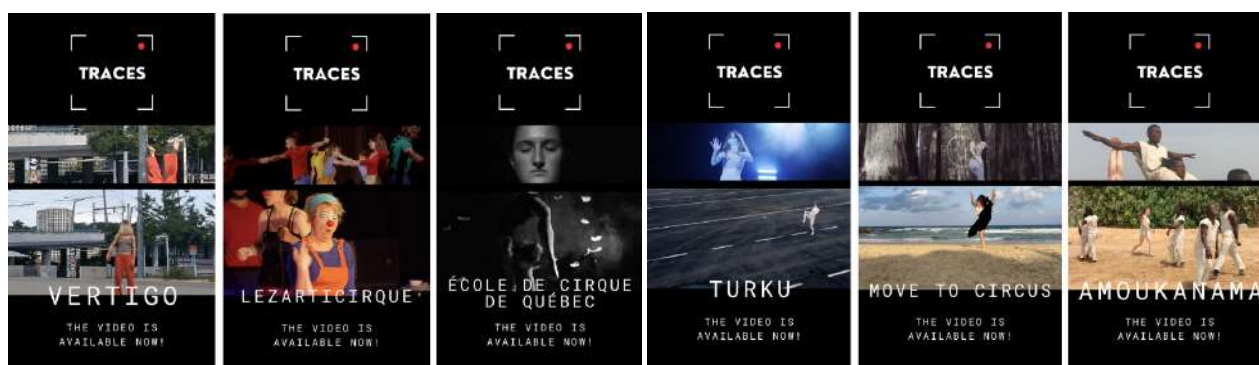
For the first time, these videos were shown before each CIRCLE show on a big screen in the Maison de Gascogne, during the Circa Festival.

To bring the CIRCLE project to a close, all of the videos were also screened during a special TRACES session.



Participating member schools:

- **Amoukanama**, Conakry (GUI)
- **Carampa Escuela de circo**, Madrid (ESP)
- **Ecole de cirque de Québec**, Québec (CAN)
- **Imre Baross**, Budapest, (HUN)
- **LeZartircirque**, Sainte-Croix (CHE)
- **Move to circus**, Hader (ISR)
- **Salpaus**, Lahti (FIN)
- **Turku**, Turku (FIN)
- **Vertigo**, Turin (ITA)



NEW TRACES LOGO

2021 also provided an opportunity to create a visual identity for the TRACES project. A logo was designed around the video theme and applied to the presentation of each video.



[Watch the 2021 TRACES videos on our YouTube channel.](#)

8-9 October 2021

European Parliament, Strasbourg (FRA)

The European Youth Event (EYE) organised by the European Parliament is an event aimed at strengthening young people's political engagement and participation in decision-making processes at European, national and local level. The event was held on 8 and 9 October 2021 in Strasbourg and welcomed more than 10,000 European visitors.



CIRC'EYE 2021 – Photos: European parliament & FEDEC

FEDEC participated in the EYE for the third time as an official partner of the European Parliament, with a special role in the development of artistic exchanges between students. **Its objective is to develop opportunities for promoting the creativity and employability of circus arts students.**

Around **20** people took part in the project in Strasbourg.

5 students and **1** FEDEC stage director:

- **Grégoire Gisselman** from Piste d'Azur (FRA)
- **Timoté Grenier & Matias Zambrano** from CRAC de Lomme (FRA)
- **Luna Lhomme & Yves Artières** from ENACR (FRA)
- **Sarah Simili** from Axé Cirque (CHE) – stage director

Around **10** young circus amateurs and **4** teachers from the Strasbourg circus school, Graine de Cirque, members of the **FFEC** (French Federation of Circus Schools).

3 residency days hosted by leisure circus school Graine de Cirque situated in Strasbourg, with the aim of preparing a collective creation by 5 students / young graduates from FEDEC schools present during the EYE event.

Workshops with students / young graduates for amateur pupils at the Graine de Cirque leisure school.

1 performance for the Graine de Cirque pupils and team.

2 performances at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

4 juggling workshops for EYE participants offered by Graine de Cirque.

2.4 TRANSVERSAL PROJECTS

EQUALITY & INTEGRITY

Equality and integrity in professional circus schools is now more than ever the priority of FEDEC, which took an official position on the issue of abusive behaviour in 2021.



implementation of these FEDEC reference documents.

The FEDEC Managing Board recognises that member institutions need more support and guidance to ensure the psychological and emotional wellbeing of their staff and students.

FEDEC is committed to promoting physically, psychologically, and emotionally safe educational and working environments. For this reason, FEDEC now prioritises the collection, development and dissemination of knowledge that will help circus education institutions reduce and prevent abusive interactions and address reports of abusive behaviour.

As a community, we ask all our members to undertake to respect the inherent dignity of every person, to take appropriate measures to prevent and respond to discrimination, abuse of authority, bullying and any form of sexual or psychological violence in schools or in connection with the work carried out by its members.

A code of conduct and a Charter of Ethics were drafted by FEDEC (in 2019 and 2012 respectively) and sent to each member. Reports of abusive conduct within professional circus schools reveal discrepancies between the understanding and

In 2021, FEDEC convened the 'Unconscious Bias' working group on several occasions. This working group has changed its name and is now called 'Equality & Integrity'. Today it includes 9 FEDEC members. The objective of this group is to set up exchanges of practices between schools and actions (meetings, publications, training, etc.) to foster healthy learning environments in our network's schools.

Several meetings have also been held with the **#Balance ton cirque** collective with the aim of opening a dialogue between (former) students and schools and meeting the needs identified in the field, with the people primarily concerned.

Rosa Mathis' thesis, *We protect animals well*, which focuses on the study of abusive behavior in circus schools, was also supported by FEDEC. 31 member schools (out of a total of 51) responded to the questionnaire sent out by the researcher to identify the network's practices in dealing with this problem. FEDEC paid for the translation of the study and widely distributed the publication (available in English and French). All members are invited to read it in the dedicated section of FEDEC's website, to learn about the issue.



A meeting open to all FEDEC members was organised at the Circa festival in Auch in October 2021, to present this thesis, as well as examples of best practice from circus schools (Codarts and Académie Fratellini). Other exchanges will take place in 2022 to explore this subject further.

Creating video-based Methodologies for Circus Education

Initiated in September 2020, the COSMIC project led by the FFEC and funded by the French Erasmus+ agency, **aims to introduce professional circus schools to the use of digital technology applied to their teaching methods.**

The project involves a total of **10 partners**, including **8 circus schools** from 7 different countries, who have joined forces to enhance the quality of circus education and training:



- [Fédération Européenne des Écoles de Cirque professionnelles - FEDEC](#) (FRA)
- [Fédération Française des Écoles de Cirque - FFEC](#) (FRA)
- [Centre Régional des Arts du Cirque de Lomme - CRAC](#) (FRA)
- [École Nationale des Arts du Cirque de Rosny-sous-Bois - ENACR](#) (FRA)
- [Società Ginnastica di Torino – FLIC Scuola Circo](#) (ITA)
- [Codarts Circus Arts Rotterdam](#) (NLD)
- [Instituto Nacional de Artes do Circo - INAC](#) (PRT)
- [Escuela de Circo Carampa](#) (ESP)
- [Circomedia](#) (ENG)
- [National Centre for Circus Arts - NCCA](#) (ENG)



The project partners had the chance to receive training in how to use MemoRekall, a web application created by Clarisse Bardiot, a researcher at the University of Rennes (associate partner). The app integrates various types of content (text, images, music, sketches, etc.) in a video. During the training and exchange labs, they were able to experiment with this circus pedagogy app and adapt it to their needs.

COSMIC in 2021 is:

- **4 COSMIC steering committee meetings**
 - Virtual, February 2021
 - Virtual, April 2021
 - At ENACR, Rosny-sous-Bois, (FRA) and Virtual, July 2021
 - Auch & Virtual, October 2021
- **2 COSMIC partner meetings**
 - Virtual, April 2021
 - Auch & Virtual, October 2021
- **3 COSMIC Labs**
 - CRAC de Lomme, (FRA), January 2021
 - Virtual, March 2021
 - FLIC, Turin (ITA), September 2021
- **4 COSMIC Webinars**
- **Over 70 mobilities and around 15 video clips produced.**

2.5 COMMUNICATION

FEDEC's communication in 2021 was marked by an increased social media presence, the development of the video format and the desire to increase its visibility, especially among the large number of students in our member schools.

WEB COMMUNICATION

WEBSITE

Through its website, FEDEC wishes to highlight the people providing today's circus training and education, the projects and values embodied by the network and the top-quality training, innovation, and creation.

More specifically, the purpose of the FEDEC website is to:

- Inform, promote, and unite its members.
- Raise the profile of the circus arts education sector.
- Inform young amateur artists interested in professionalisation.
- Promote the federation and the actions taken.
- Make resources available to everyone, especially members and other sector professionals.
- Connect, inform & promote the partners of its European projects.



#2 Members

A major resource of the FEDEC website, the [Members section](#) lists all of the network members, with an interactive map and a specific sheet for each member.

#3 Opportunities

A genuine platform for mobility, creation and jobs, [this section](#) helps artists, schools and students to find opportunities and members and professionals to publish their own job or residency offers, calls for projects or other types of opportunities.

#4 Calendar

The calendar is a showcase which lists FEDEC events and those of its members: school selections, network activities, school projects and shows.

#5 Resources

This section provides visitors with free access to all the different FEDEC publications classified per type (charters, studies, teaching manuals, infonotes on European programmes and collaborations) and all the photos and videos of the network's life.

Consideration was given to redesigning the FEDEC website, a project which will start in 2022.

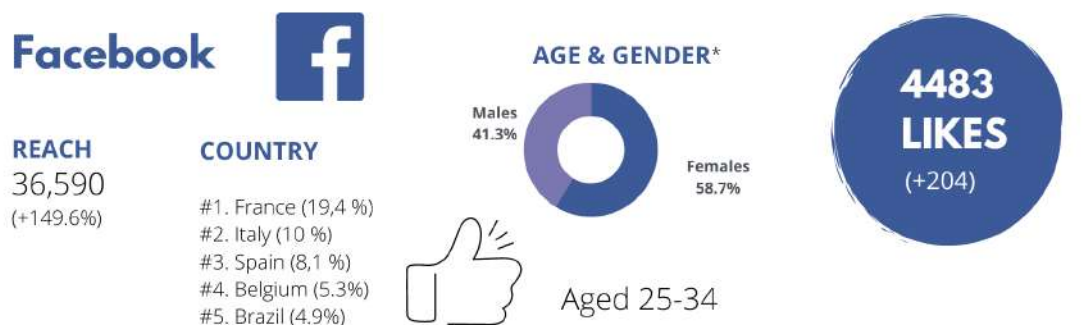
SOCIAL MEDIA

The circus is a sector with a great presence on social media and a **“living” art form where images and videos are very important elements for public understanding and entertainment.**

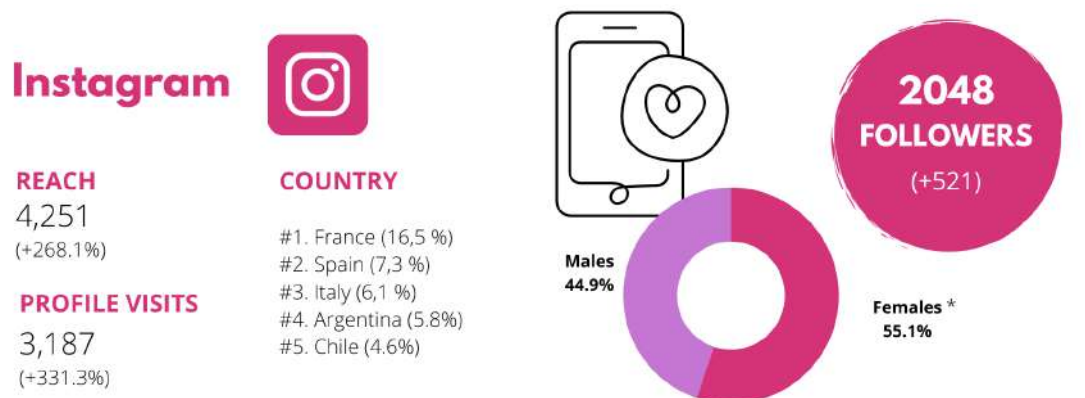
Furthermore, these platforms are becoming increasingly essential, what with the changes in practices and technology. Today they are an indispensable tool for any artist who wants to become known as a professional.

Therefore, we continued, in 2021, to strengthen our presence in social media (**Facebook, Instagram and Youtube**) in order to reach more students through publishing content.

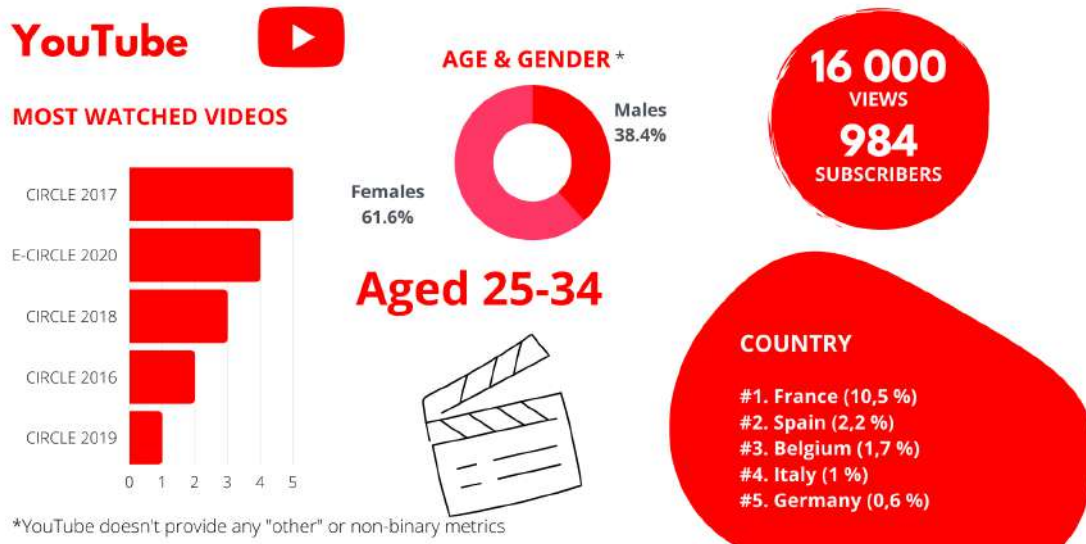
Although the number of FEDEC followers on Facebook continues to grow, it is Instagram which seems the most promising, with a 25% increase in followers in 2021 (compared to 5% for Facebook).



*Facebook doesn't provide any "other" or non-binary metrics



*Instagram doesn't provide any "other" or non-binary metric.



COMMUNICATION TOOLS

LEAFLETS

New FEDEC poster-leaflets were produced in 2021, in collaboration with the Brussels graphic design agency Piknik Graphic. The leaflets were distributed to the members present at the General Assembly at

Circa in Auch. They will be distributed more widely to all members by post in early 2022, and at each FEDEC meeting or presentation.



The main objective of this new leaflet is to update the list of members, key figures (number of member schools, students, etc.) and events and projects supported by the federation: it includes the European project COSMIC and the video project TRACES in particular.

In addition, to meet FEDEC's communication objectives, the poster's design and content aim to be more tailored to young people and member school students as regards engagement and ownership.

This leaflet will be updated annually.

[Download the leaflet from our website.](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY

FEDEC has continued to work with photographer Christophe Trouilhet for the CIRCLE project. Christophe, an associate of Photolosa, immortalised the 6 school performances, the Aftershows, the audience and the Maison de Gascogne, at the 14th edition of the CIRCLE project.

[Take a look at the CIRCLE 2021 photos](#)

CIRCLE 2021 – Christophe Trouilhet (CARAMPA)



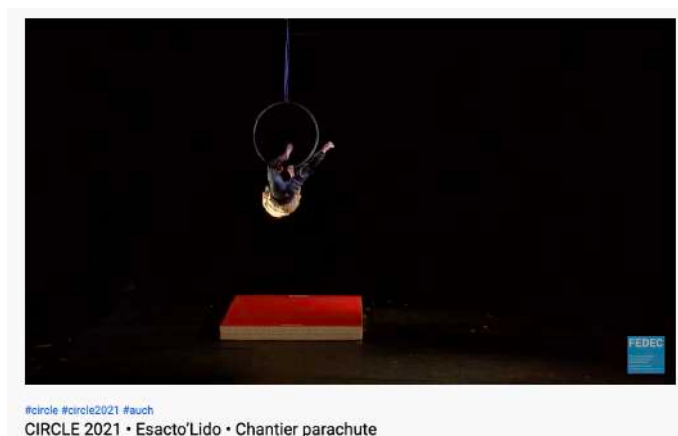
VIDEO

FEDEC was once again able to count on the support of the **AASB** and **CNAC.TV**, the audiovisual production unit at the Centre national des arts du cirque, Châlons-en-Champagne, France, which has

filmed **all CIRCLE performances** since the first edition.

We would like to thank: Anne-Laure Caquineau (direction) and François Duverger (images).

[Watch the CIRCLE 2021 videos on YouTube](#)



FINANCES

3.1 ANNUAL BUDGET 2021

3.2 MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS





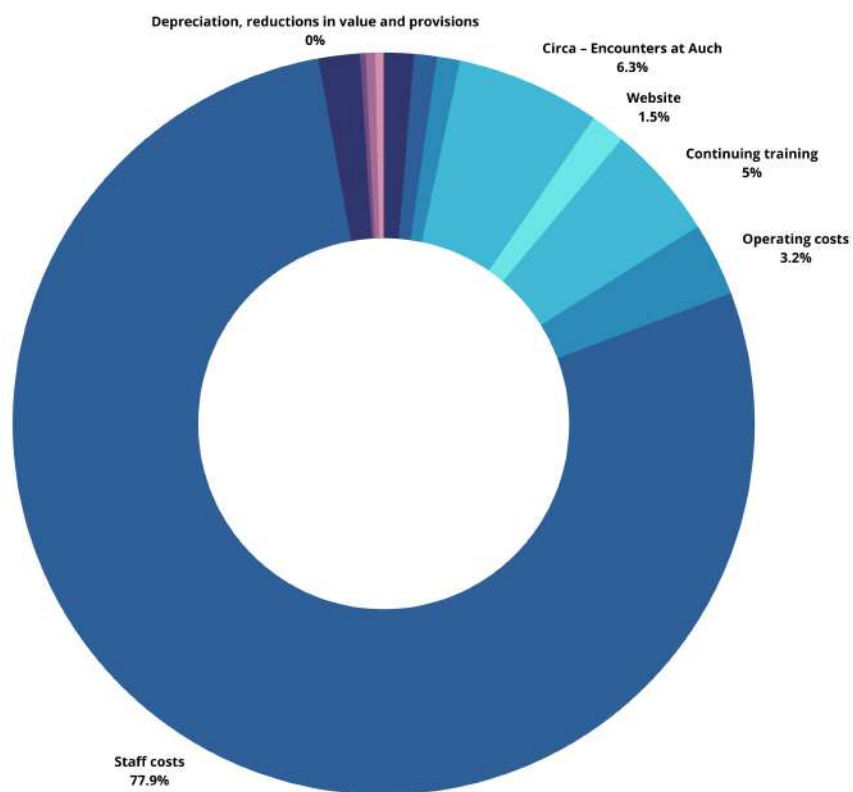
3.1 ANNUAL BUDGET 2021

	Forecast Budget 2021	Follow up 31/12/2021	Realised Budget (%)
EXPENSES			
Annual Conference / General Assembly	€ 1 520	€ 120	8%
Managing Board meetings	€ 4 000	€ 2 525	63%
International relations	€ 1 500	€ 1 945	130%
Educational publications - surveys	€ 300	€ 1 940	647%
Meetings at Circa – General Assembly 2	€ 15 550	€ 12 393	80%
Working group	€ -	€ -	0%
Communication	€ 4 050	€ 3 025	75%
Other events – CIRC'EYE	€ 14 900	€ 9 545	64%
Operating costs	€ 9 200	€ 6 409	70%
Staff costs	€ 151 802	€ 154 070	101%
Depreciations, reduction of value and provisions	€ -	€ 63	0%
Other operating charges	€ 350	€ 233	67%
Financial expenses	€ 99	€ 202	205%
COSMIC	€ 12 000	€ 3 729	31%
FMCD	€ -	€ 476	0%
REFLECT project	€ -	€ 821	0%
COVID-19	€ 1 520	€ 120	8%
	€ 215 271	€ 197 496	92%

INCOME			
Membership fees, re invoicing of expenses	€ 58 128	€ 65 743	113%
Subsidies	€ 183 973	€ 192 545	105%
Other	€ 800	€ -	0%
	€ 242 901	€ 258 289	106%

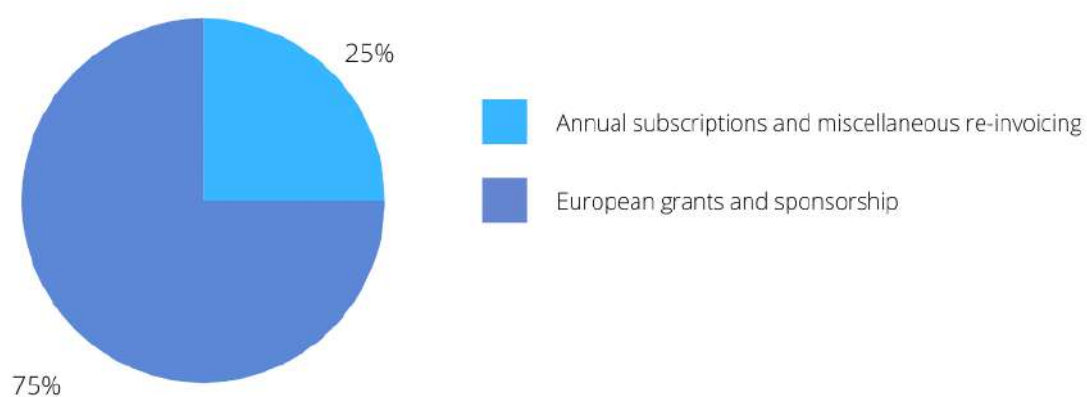
Profit	€ 27 630	€ 60 793	
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2021 EXPENSES



Annual Conference – General Assembly	€	120
Managing Board: meetings	€	2 525
Visits to members and sector support	€	1 945
Exchanges and teaching manuals	€	1 940
Circa – Encounters at Auch	€	12 393
Working groups	€	-
Website	€	3 025
Continuing training	€	9 545
Operating costs	€	6 409
Staff costs	€	154 070
Depreciation, reductions in value and provisions	€	63
Other operating expenses	€	233
Financial expenses	€	202
COSMIC project	€	3 729
WFCT	€	476
REFLECT project	€	821
COVID-19	€	120
TOTAL	€	197 496

2021 INCOME



Annual subscriptions and miscellaneous re-invoicing	€	65 743
European grants and sponsorship	€	192 545
Other	€	-
TOTAL	€	258 289

3.2 MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

FEDEC is a membership organisation so it is crucial to valorise their financial and in-kind contributions during the year. Contributions have been estimated using the network's two flagship events - the Annual Conference and the FEDEC Encounters at Circa – and the working groups as a basis.

FEDEC members

(annual average/member)

- 2 General Assemblies
- 2 COSMIC project meetings
- 30 – 60 working hours spent on FEDEC activities

Managing Board members, focus group leaders and experts

(annual average/member)

- 4 Managing Board meetings
- 10 Working Group meetings
- Approximately one hundred working hours spent on FEDEC activities

**Thanks to our members for making FEDEC a committed network, dynamic
and dedicated to a common project!**

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS IN 2021

Category	Annual revenue	Annual subscription	Number	Total amount
Cat 1	€0 - €100 000	€375	7	€2625
Cat 2	€100 000 - €250 000	€750	7	€5250
Cat 3	€250 000 - €500 000	€1125	11	€12375
Cat 4	€500 000 - 1 million	€1500	10	€16500
Cat 5	> 1 million	€1875	10	€18750
Partners		€200	18	€3600
Global amount of membership incomes global in 2020:				59 100 €

THANKS

FEDEC would like to thank its network and its collaborators for their involvement and their creativity throughout 2021.

- **Its 74 members** and their directors, teachers, admin and technical staff as well as their students.
- **Its Managing Board members:** Adeline Avenel, Adrian Porter, Alisan Funk, André Borges, Anna Beentjes (Vice-President), Aurélie Vincq (Secretary), Daniela Arendasova, Paolo Stratta, Soren Flor, Stéphane Simonin (President), Stevie Boyd, Tim Roberts (Treasurer).
- **The partners & experts associated to FEDEC's different projects:** Clarisse Bardiot, Alexandre Michaan, Mei Menassel, Rosa Matthis; Florent Fodella, Raphaël Vigier and the whole FEDEC team; Stéphanie Bulteau, Mathieu Hedde and the Festival Circa's team.
- **The CIRCLE project's rigger:** Joppe Wouters
- **Videos:** CNAC and CNAC.TV, its resource center audiovisual production unit.
- **Photos:** Christophe Trouilhet, and all the school photographers who allow us to illustrate our publications with their photos.
- **Traduction & proofreading (English):** Joanne Sharpe
- **Interpreters (French-English meetings):** Karine Baudet & Cécile Thibert
- **Technical facility (hybrid & virtual meetings):** SONO Toulouse
- **Design:** Delphine De Ridder, Charlotte Schurmans and the Piknik Graphic team.
- **Webdesign:** Tentwelve
- **Accounting:** Dimitri Dupont and Indrit Peposhi
- **The FEDEC team in Brussels :** Isabel Joly, Lorenzo Albiero, Sarah Weber, Carole Bertrand, Camille Crucifix, Emily Edgar.

FEDEC would like to warmly thank its partners for the support granted this year again and their generous contributions, which have been essential to the proper functioning of FEDEC and its projects:

- The European Union (DG for Education & Culture – Erasmus+ Programme)
- The COCOF for the provision of our offices since 2012.

2021 FEDEC ACTIVITY REPORT



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Christophe Trouilhet | p.15-16: Workshop Cie Basinga, CIRCLE 2021 – FEDEC
| p.35-36: Procirk (CIRCLE 2021) Christophe Trouilhet
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