

# FEDEC

EUROPEAN FEDERATION  
OF PROFESSIONAL CIRCUS SCHOOLS

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2020



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*by Stéphane Simonin & Isabel Joly*

What year. What an incredible effort we have made together to maintain our activities and support our teams, adapting constantly and courageously because this sector of arts education, of which we are a part and in which we invest our energy, is so crucial for our societies.

This annual report retraces FEDEC's activities throughout the months and its working groups, an occasion to rejoice the existence of a federation that, more than ever, makes sense.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, our Annual Conference in Montpellier, where the CADC Balthazar was so much expecting to welcome us, could not happen. But we managed to maintain the Encounters at CIRCa with the organization of our first blended General Assembly. While we were claiming saturation with Zoom meetings, this GA broke attendance records, in particular thanks to the virtual presence of the most distant members. No doubt that in the future, we will maintain this possibility of following our meetings remotely in a permanent concern to be more inclusive and ecofriendly.

The impossibility of maintaining the CIRCLE project as it has existed for the last 13 years mobilized our creativity and we offered the 40 current member schools to send us a short video creation on the theme 'Constrained space / Unlimited space'. Here again, you responded enthusiastically with 17 diversely inventive proposals.

They were screened during CIRCa at the festival ticket office and in the well-known Ciné 32, and of course, widely posted and liked on social networks. We are already imagining a follow-up to this successful 'E-CIRCLE' project and we will be sure to keep you informed.

The COSMIC project, resubmitted in March 2020, was selected by the ERASMUS + program - a true bubble of oxygen in the life of a European network! Let's say that we had flair in proposing a project with a digital tool in its heart, allowing remote work and adaptable to circus arts pedagogies. The 11 partners of the project coordinated by the French Federation of Circus Schools will meet on a regular basis for 28 months, with the aim of sharing their experiences and new learnings with the entire network. The partners met up in Auch for the launch of the

project in October 2020, and a Steering Committee has been established to insure the good management of the project.

Throughout the months of the pandemic, FEDEC has supported its members by organizing virtual meetings regarding the re-opening of schools, the modalities of the disinfection of material, distance learning, that has reinforced the network's cohesion. The team has also launched a survey on the impact of COVID on the professional circus schools, resulting in a report that will be updated all the way through the crisis. An evolutive world map has also been published online to give information on the members situations. All these measures will be maintained and updated as long as necessary.

Regarding the Managing Board, the (virtual) elections have allowed to nearly reach a parity which we are proud of. Alongside the members already elected, we have welcomed Adeline Avenel ([CRAC'Lomme](#), France), Stevie Boyd ([FLIC](#), Italy) and Alisan Funk ([Uniarts](#), Sweden) – do not hesitate to discover the 12 administrators, and the Executive Committee, on our website.

Just like its members, FEDEC has demonstrated resiliency tackling the pandemic, it has adapted and showed its creativity in order to overcome this ordeal. We will keep from this year the good ideas invented in constraint and that could sustainably enhance and renew our practices. For the rest, we are happy to turn the page on 2020 and open with hope and enthusiasm 2021's one!

# WHO ARE WE?

- 1.1 Missions et objectives of the network
- 1.2 FEDEC's composition
- 1.3 Support and assistance for the recognition of education and training programs







# 1.1

## Missions et 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 one another. For more than 20 years FEDEC has been fostering the professionalisation and structuring 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.



Erasmus+

FEDEC keeps increasing its representation and remains the only organisation representing almost all of the existing vocational circus arts schools, all the national federations, information centres and unions. 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 and Circostrada to support the guidance of students from amateur practices to the vocational education and 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:

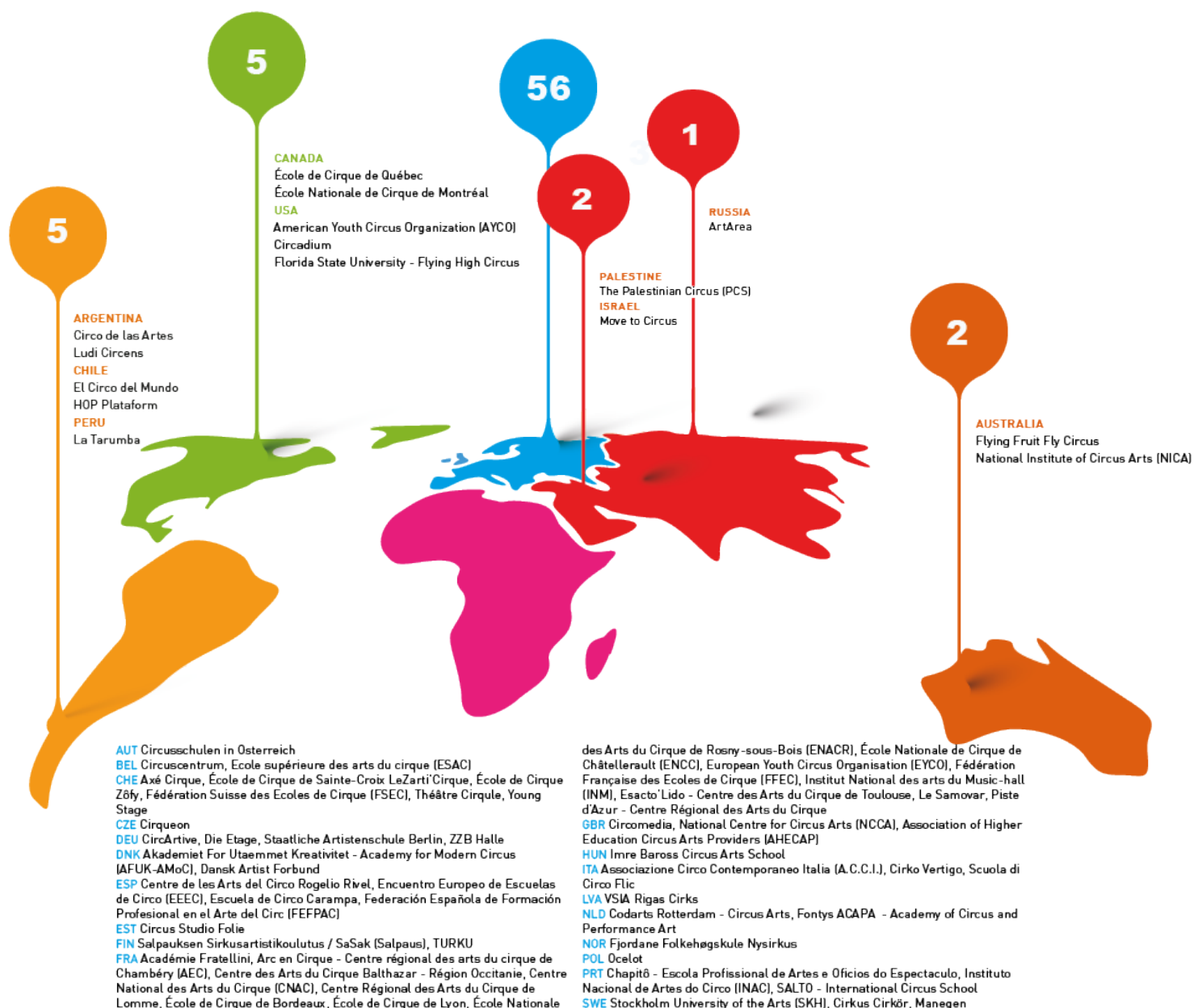
- to enhance the quality of circus arts education
- to reinforce links between circus training programmes
- to represent these schools at European and international level
- to raise the awareness of FEDEC members and partners of the EU policy agenda

## 1.2

# FEDEC's composition

### ○ Our members

FEDEC's european and international network includes 71 members located in 28 countries: 51 schools and universities, covering secondary, vocational and high education training, as well as 20 organisations, including research and information centres and those involved with circus advocacy.

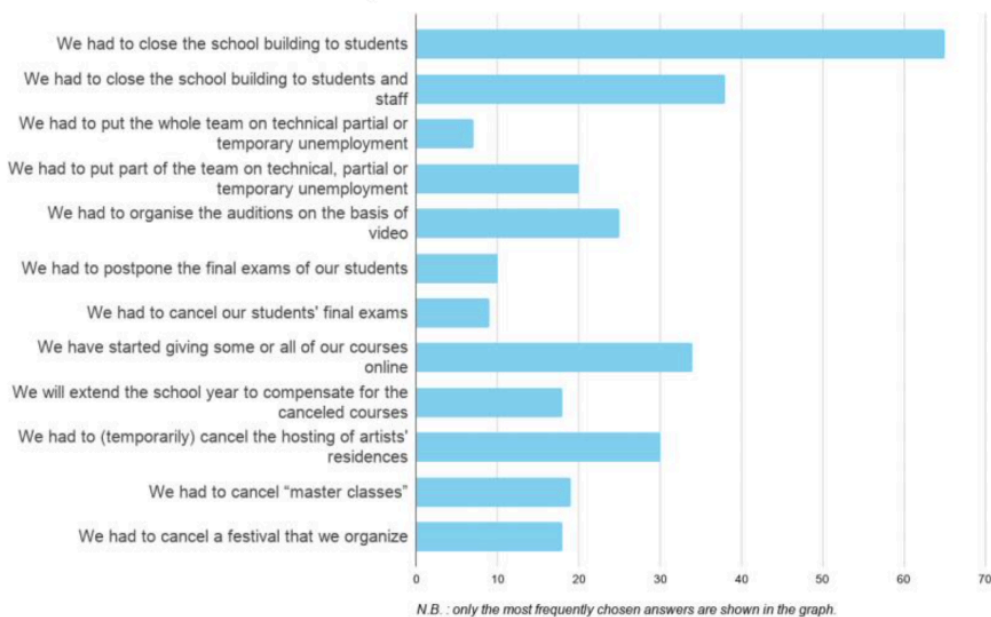


## ○ The impact of COVID-19 on schools

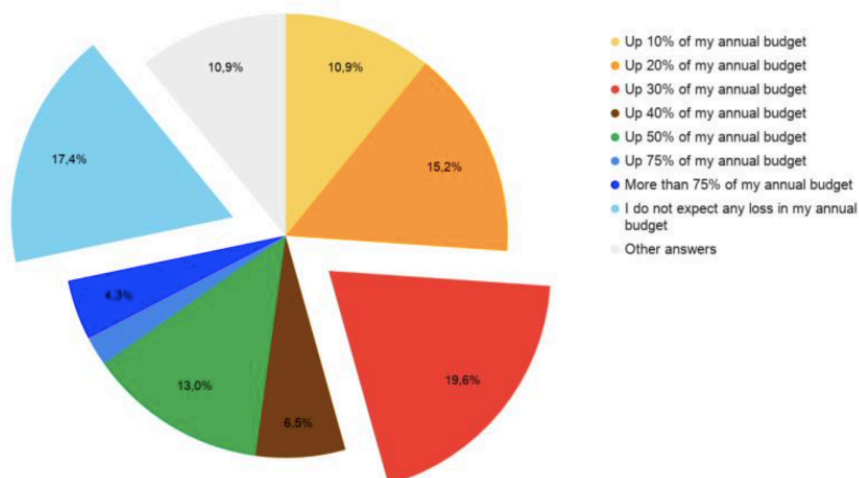
In May 2020, FEDEC conducted a study to assess the situation of professional circus schools around the world through the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, a questionnaire was sent to the FEDEC members. This included a section about the impact of COVID-19, the strategies developed to deal with it and a more general part aimed at collecting basic data.

A report emerged from this research. It has three main objectives: to identify the problems encountered by the FEDEC members, to better understand their needs and their situations in the field. The conclusions make it possible to better support the sector during and after the crisis.

### 14. How does COVID-19 affect your activities?



### 16. How much do you estimate the losses on your annual budget 2020 due to COVID-19?



The Impact of COVID-19 on professional circus schools in a nutshell:

- All professional circus schools (PCS) across the world have had to close their doors
- 20% of the professional schools lost 30% of their annual budget
- 50% had to cancel at least 5 events (festival, master classes, performances...)
- 43% had to put their staff on unemployment schemes
- 75% have shifted to online courses during the pandemic

○ **Becoming a oEDEC member**

This year, we welcome 5 new members, including one new school:

- Palestinian Circus School (Palestine) – full member  
Director: Mohamad Rabah  
Contact: [info@plcircus.ps](mailto:info@plcircus.ps) / website: <https://palcircus.ps/en/>
- Move to Circus (Israel) – full member  
Pedagogical director: Shahar Kamay / Artistic director : Ines Lorca  
Contact: [movetocircus@gmail.com](mailto:movetocircus@gmail.com) / website: <https://www.movetocircus.com>
- Encuentro Europeo de Escuelas de Circo/EEEC (Spain) – full member  
Director: Natalia Ortega Embid  
Contact: [eeec.tac@gmail.com](mailto:eeec.tac@gmail.com) / website: <https://www.thefreakcabaretcircus.com/eeec/>
- Zentrum für Zirkus und bewegtes Lernen/ZZB (Germany) – full member  
Director: Jürgen Wiehl  
Contact: [kontakt@zzb-halle.de](mailto:kontakt@zzb-halle.de) / website: <http://www.zzb-halle.de>
- Plataforma HOP (Chile) – full member  
Co-directors: Clara Donoso, Bárbara Rodríguez  
Contact: [plataformahop@gmail.com](mailto:plataformahop@gmail.com) / website: <https://cargocollective.com/PLATAFORMAHOP>



FEDEC usually goes to visit its new members with someone from the Managing Board and from the FEDEC team, to introduce the role, missions and opportunities of FEDEC and to better understand the reality of its new member.

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no visits were feasible.

To reconnect with the existing members and address themselves more directly to the teams and students of the schools, FEDEC has proposed virtual presentations of the network to their members.

- A presentation of FEDEC and COSMIC was done on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September in the framework of a webinar on circus, offered by the National University of Tres Febrero (Argentina) and funded by the French Institute of Argentina and the network of French Institutes in latin America. This presentation reached more than 500 students in real time and 1000 registered, accessing the videos in delayed time.
- A second presentation was produced online the 16<sup>th</sup> of December for ESAC (Brussels), in order to outline more specifically the challenges of FEDEC and the COSMIC project to the teachers of the school.

## ○ The Managing Board

The Managing Board is the network's elected body, meeting 4 times a year to debate, reflect, exchange on key issues for the circus sector. It's 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, with the possibility to renew this mandate twice.

Elections happen during General Assembly in April, and prior to it, all FEDEC members receive a call giving details on the number of seats available, the duty and encouraging them to be candidates. The MB appoints FEDEC President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary of the federation.

In 2020, the Board was composed of :

An executive Committee :

President	Stéphane Simonin (Académie Fratellini) <i>Beginning of current mandate within the Board: 2015 / President since 2017.</i>
Vice-President	Anna Beentjes (Codarts Circus Arts Rotterdam) <i>Beginning of current mandate within the Board: 2016 / vice-president and interim since 2019.</i>
Treasurer	Before the <u>25/11</u> : Gérard Fasoli, (Centre national des arts du cirque) <i>Beginning of current mandate within the Board: 2017, end on the 20/10/2020 / treasurer since 2019</i>  <u>As from 25/11</u> : Tim Roberts (École de Cirque du Québec) <i>Beginning of current mandate within the Board: 2019</i>
Secretary	Before the <u>01/02</u> : Anne Morin (Centro de las Artes del Circo Rogelio Rivel) <i>Beginning of current mandate within the Board: 2015 / secretary since 2017 / resignation from the Board the 01/02/2020</i>  <u>As from 25/11</u> : Aurélie Vincq (ESACTO'Lido)

And administrators:

- Adeline Avenel (CRAC de Lomme) *elected on the 20/10/2020*
- Adrian Porter (National Centre for Circus Arts) *beginning of current mandate: 2018*
- Alisan Funk (SKH) *elected on the 20/10/2020*
- André Borges (INAC) *beginning of current mandate: 2019*
- Daniela Arendasova (ENC Montréal) *beginning of current mandate: 2016*
- Martin Gerbier (CADC Balthazar) *beginning of current mandate: 2017 end on the 20/10/2020*
- Paolo Stratta (Cirko Vertigo) *beginning of current mandate: 2015*



- Soren Flor (AFUK-AMoC)
- Stevie Boyd (FLIC)

*beginning of current mandate: 2017 reelected on the 20/10/2020  
elected on the 20/10/2020*



### ○ Working groups

The working groups each have a theme and work on the issues encountered by the FEDEC's main target audiences: students, teachers and pedagogical directors & directors.

They are made up of professionals and provide an opportunity to raise issues in the field and come together to share expertise and points of view, as well as launch network discussions and consultations. Their outcomes contribute to the FEDEC's activities and the network's future action program, but also on a wider scale to the different sector and European priorities in the education and training sectors, the arts and employment.



### **Steering of the working groups**

Each working group is chaired by one or more board members, called "group leaders". The group leaders are responsible for the work program and ensure it is implemented to achieve the targets and projects assigned to each working group.

The working group leaders generally hold meetings on the fringes of statutory meetings or public relations activities, as well as throughout the year via video-conferencing and exchanging e-mails.

## List of the working groups

1. **Students/projects:** dialogue with the sector for school-to-work transition and professional opportunities for students
2. **Security and rigging:** strengthening of security and rigging policies in the circus sector. Setting up of projects to exchange good practices on this matter.
3. **(New) members:** support for members and network development
4. **Unconscious bias:** discussions on good practices that could be disseminated in our network to support schools in their efforts to tackle unconscious bias and abusive behavior.
5. **Annual conferences:** organization of the FEDEC annual conference
6. **Non-EU members:** specific support for members who are located outside the European Union and discussions on the development of the network outside these borders.
7. **Researches:** conduct studies and strengthen resources concerning circus arts education and the circus arts sector.

### ○ FEDEC team

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

The new office has been located since March 2019 rue du Meiboom 18 in Brussels, in a building hosting other association working in the field of training. This proximity to the central station makes welcoming visitors easier.

### Team members

- Isabel Joly, director – [isabel.joly@fedec.eu](mailto:isabel.joly@fedec.eu) (*permanent contract*)
- Lorenzo Albiero, european projects manager – [lorenzo.albiero@fedec.eu](mailto:lorenzo.albiero@fedec.eu) (*permanent contract*)
- Sarah Weber, european projects manager – [sarah.weber@fedec.eu](mailto:sarah.weber@fedec.eu) (*permanent contract*)
- Camille Crucifix, communications manager – [camille.crucifix@fedec.eu](mailto:camille.crucifix@fedec.eu) (*fixed-term contract*)
- Amandine André left FEDEC end of January 2020, after 6 years as the communications manager
- Capucine Hec-Couton left end of August 2020, after 2,5 years as the events manager



FEDEC regularly welcomes interns in its team for punctual missions, 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 the relationship between the FEDEC team and the members of FEDEC.

It's also been the year of adjustments, the FEDEC team has spent a majority of time teleworking. This has enabled the usage of digital tools to thrive in everyday work.

For the first time, FEDEC has proceeded to an exchange with someone from the CIRCa Festival team, through Circostrada's job shadowing program, « Time Capsule ». This exchange has allowed to better understand the functioning of one and other's organization and to create new ideas for future collaboration as part of the annual festival and therefore sustain the partnership.

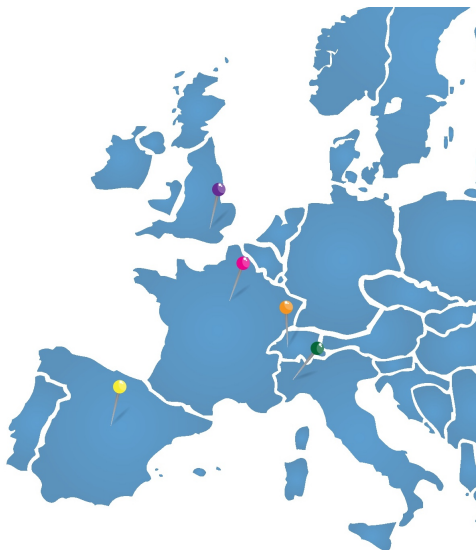
## 1.3

# Support and assistance for the recognition of education and training programs

### ○ Les fédérations nationales des écoles de cirque

The role of the federations is to structure the sector and create dialogue between the various levels of training for the advocacy of vocational training programs in circus arts nationally and to obtain recognition, qualification and support for the circus arts training program at every stage. Their mission of dialogue with the member countries, ministries and authorities in charge of organizing and financing training programs 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 organizing regional meetings. FFEC brings together 12 regional circus school federations (FREC), around 150 leisure schools, 9 vocational training centers, more than 27000 members (from 1 to 84 years-old) and 300 000 occasional practitioners. The international action of FFEC is essentially participating to FEDEC and EYCO (European Youth Circus Organization) activities



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#### ITALY : Associazione Circo Contemporaneo Italia (ACCI)

FISAC (Federazione Italiana delle Scuole di Arti Circensi) has completed the process to become a new organisation : Associazione Circo Contemporaneo Italia (ACCI), which gathers not only the professional schools (among others our 2 members schools : Cirko Vertigo and Scuola di Cirko Flic), but also all stakeholders in contemporary circus for a far more connected circus sector at national level and to better address the actual needs of circus sector.

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#### 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 rest of the schools in the country only offer leisure activities.



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#### 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 vocational schools, FEDEC members (Ecole de Cirque Zôfy, LeZarti'Cirque & Théâtre Cirquele).

#### ○ Networking activities

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 network members' involvement in these events and numerous festivals shows their commitment to developing circus arts. Their undertaking to always include education and training in discussions is proof of their commitment to the young generation of future artists.

- 41<sup>e</sup> Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain, 30<sup>th</sup> January - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020, Paris - FR
- Festival Circusstad, 5-9<sup>th</sup> May 2020, Rotterdam – NL
- Jury for public performances of CNAC students - les Echappées, 26-29<sup>th</sup> August 2020, Châlons-en-Champagne – FR
- CIR&CO Festival, 25-30<sup>th</sup> August 2020, Avila - E
- 33<sup>rd</sup> edition of CIRCa Festival, 16-25<sup>th</sup> October 2020, Auch – FR

The different actions aimed to:

- Foster and **promote the projects and activities** within events organized 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 programs)
- **Introduce** the **FEDEC's** communication **tools** and the various educational tools, as well as research (website, publications and manuals)
- Organize **consultations** within the network and represented higher education and vocational training in circus arts to European bodies
- Provide the opportunity to **learn** about the **European programs** and meet other European networks



*Pictures taken during the CIRCa festival in Auch and during a visit to ÉSACTO'Lido, October 2020..*

# NETWORK ACTIVITIES

- 2.1 Dialogues et contributions
- 2.2 Network encounters
- 2.3 COVID 19
- 2.4 Communication





## 2.1

# Dialogues et contributions

A series of strategies and actions implemented in 2017 has significantly helped improving 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 modernize and develop high quality vocational and higher education training
- To serve to the new generation of teachers and directors
- To recognize and foster student's and teacher's 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 players**.

### 1) Dialogue with the circus arts professional sector

In 2020, FEDEC continued to implement a collaborative approach with several networks in the education and circus arts sector as well as with the employer and creative industries networks:

#### Key-players :

- Public authorities
- Grassroots stakeholders (schools, training centers, universities, federations)
- Organisations responsible for the observation and research into jobs and professions
- Employer and creative industries 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.

### FEDEC and CIRCOSTRADA

FEDEC is a member of Circostrada and is a regular partner in the network.

Despite the challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis, FEDEC and Circostrada met up multiple times in 2020 and a fruitful cooperation was developed:

- FEDEC and Circostrada cooperated in order to elaborate common position documents requiring support from the cultural sector and in particular the circus sector.
- FEDEC attended Circostrada's GA.
- FEDEC participated in Circostrada's Job-Shadowing programme : Time Capsule. The representatives of the CIRCa Festival and of FEDEC each visited the other in the purpose of improving cooperation and develop new projects. One of the concrete results that emerged was the idea of the project E-CIRCLE.
- FEDEC cooperated with Circostrada on the development of the <https://data.circostrada.org/en/> platform with the numbers and visuals on the circus sector in Europe and in 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, giving the means for an exchange of knowledge and know-how between countries where circus and street arts are facing different levels of development, and learning from different contexts

- To advocate for a better recognition for circus and street arts, in a dialogue with institutions working from the local to the European level

### **FEDEC and several festivals**

Festivals such as Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain, European Youth Event, Sul Filo del Circo, Festival CIRCa... have developed programming and support policies for specific young, innovative companies.

## **1) Dialogue with the artistic education and training sector**

FEDEC collaborated with networks from other sectors in order to coordinate thoughts on arts education and training.

### **Key-players :**

- arts training networks :
  - ELIA- European League of Institutes of the Arts



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 at present are not represented within ELIA's network. As an associate member, the FEDEC network represents the 14 higher education organisations, which are members, and 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 good practice.

More info: [www.elia-artschools.org](http://www.elia-artschools.org)

- UNESCO - International Theatre Institute (ITI)



Circus arts is one of the performing arts under UNESCO and FEDEC became an official partner of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) during the 35<sup>th</sup> ITI world congress which took place in Segovia on 14-16 July 2017.

More info: <https://www.iti-worldwide.org/index.html>



## 2) Contribution to European policies and network representation

FEDEC is an active member of the Lifelong Learning Platform's Platform, as an associated partner. FEDEC is the only civil society network in LLL-Platform representing circus education and training. In 2020, FEDEC was very active in the platform, participating in 2 Working Groups and being part of other 2 inter-sectorial groups.

In 2020 FEDEC took part in Lifelong Learning Platform's working groups on Social innovation and Learning participation. FEDEC is also part of the LLLP Policy and Advocacy task force and the Erasmus+ Coalition. FEDEC took part in various consultations and recommendations:

- Joint statement on the revised proposal for EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027
- Reaction to European Education Area – Education Package
- Response to New Digital Education Action Plan public consultation

Policy events enable the members to discuss with representatives of the European institutions in order to confront their realities to the policies implemented at national or European levels. They represent a unique opportunity for our members to push forward some proposals and to openly discuss with public authorities' representatives about grassroots-based recommendations.

We attended and supported several policy debates related to FEDEC and LLL-Platform common interest:

### 1. Participation in the yearly Survey on Erasmus+

In 2020, the Lifelong Learning Platform has launched the 6th annual review of the Erasmus+ programme implementation addressed to NGOs and civil society organisations that benefit from or have applied for the Erasmus+ programme. <http://lllplatform.eu/news/new-publications-erasmus-implementation-survey-results/>

### 2. Participation to the Erasmus+ Coalition Meeting

In 2017 LLLP, YFJ and Eurodesk launched together in 2017, a new campaign to call for an Erasmus+ budget multiplied by 10 times in the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2028 (<http://erasmusx10.eu>). The Erasmus Coalition is the result of this cooperation. The meeting focused on general updates concerning the design of the future Erasmus+ programme, in particular about the civil society cooperation (operating grants) in the future programme. <http://lllplatform.eu/what-we-do/erasmus-coalition/>

### 3. Participation to the LLL-Week no. 10 | Lifelong Learning Culture: Sustainable Learning | 01-04 December 2020 - Online

The 10th edition of the LLL week organised by the LLL-Platform aimed at exploring the concept of sustainable education. The LLLPlatform believes that sustainability – of learning and of education systems as a whole – shall be the polar star for Europe for the years to come.

### 4. Dissemination of best practices and contributions to evidence-based policy developments at European level



## 2.2

# Network encounters

FEDEC is a network which has been run in a consistent manner since an operating grant was first awarded in 2008. Since then, it has received a subsidy every year, which has enabled network structuring, leadership and mutual knowledge, consultation, action development and employment of staff.

### 1) Mobilizing the network and its partners

Le développement des activités a fait en sorte que les échanges soient multiples, et les relations entre les The development of activities has brought about more and more exchanges and members have formed closer relationships. The idea of structuring reflections and standpoints takes place through the creation of groups for specific topics. This method relies on a participatory approach, which hinges on mobilizing the network and its partners.

FEDEC has a large and specialized network of members and partners, which enables it to :

- collect information, contributions and expertise from a significant number of reliable and targeted sources, at the level of higher education, professional, secondary institutions and other types of training centres, as well as that of professional stakeholders in the circus arts sector
- in the same way, the produced outcomes (studies, initial or continuous training, exchanges and mutualized tools) are distributed to various identified target audiences.

Through a strong mobilization, these various audiences are already either aware of or directly involved in FEDEC activities, which is a distinct advantage in terms of impact

### 1) Network consultation and 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 program** as regards:

- Establishing the priority topics and discussing the action plan for the following years
- Mobilizing their teams to participate in focus groups, consultation phases and input of content
- Disseminating the outcomes: along with the valorization 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.)

## 2) Network meetings

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

- 4 Managing Board Meetings

- The Annual Conference
- FEDEC Encounters et CIRCa

Each events include a General Assembly, a Managing Board Meeting, working groups and projects meetings, as well as informal moments which are very important for the network.

The Annual Conference and General Assembly that should have been hosted by the CADC Balthazar (Montpellier, France) unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the sanitary conditions. The other meetings were either organized 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 organization of solely online or blended meetings has increased the participation rate, allowing the members who don't 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 ecofriendly.

### General Assembly

Auch 20.10.2020  70%

### Managing Board Meetings

Paris 31.01-1.02.2020  85%

Online 15.04.2020  91%

Online 09.07.2020  82%

Online 03-04.09.2020  91%

Auch 19.10.2020  82%

Online 23.11.2020  100%

## FEDEC encounters at CIRCa in Auch (France)

Dates: 17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

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

Participating members: **46 members present or represented**



### Program

The week featured various events:

- **Statuary meetings:** The Managing Board meeting and the Extraordinary General Assembly (GA) meeting
- **The E-CIRCLE Project :**
  - Due to the pandemic, the CIRCLES were not able to be arranged. The FEDEC and the CIRCa festival therefore decided to launch a video project: « E-CIRCLE ». The school members of FEDEC were invited to share their interpretation of the theme « Constrained Space / Unlimited Space » in a video of 3 minutes maximum.
  - 16 schools took part in this initiative, the videos were broadcasted on the FEDEC's YouTube channel, as well as during the CIRCa Festival at the festival's ticket office, at the food service, at the cinema and during the artistic encounters.
- **COSMIC Project :**
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee (SC) meeting
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> partners meeting and the official launch of the project.
  - La 1<sup>ère</sup> réunion de Partenaire et le lancement officiel du projet.



### Impact

For over 14 years now, FEDEC and CIRCa Festival have established a strong partnership; the festival has become an essential meeting place for all members of the network and their partners as well as local, national and international authorities.

FEDEC Encounters are a very estimated part of the festival bringing an international and an educational dimension to the festival, enabling each member of the FEDEC network to contact their professional partners in the sector at European and international level, and enabling already 13 generations of graduates to have access to a professional environment to present their educational and artistic works in progress as part of the CIRCLE project, and some of them to be included in the official programme as a company later on.

## 2.3

# COVID-19

FEDEC reacted to the COVID-19 crisis by shifting most of its activities online, by creating virtual and hybrid spaces of encounter for its members and for performing arts representatives around the world, by studying the impact of the pandemic in Circus schools and by developing an international project on digital-based pedagogical methodologies. In October 2020, FEDEC held its first “hybrid” General Assembly: in presence at CIRCa, the Festival du Cirque Actuel in Auch (France) and online.

In 2020, the level of participation of members to the network activities has been higher than ever: virtual and blended formats allowed an unprecedented number of people to take part in network meetings.

### **Professional Circus Schools under Covid-19 - an evolving map**



FEDEC developed an [evolving map](#) with information on how each professional circus school dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic between March and September 2020.

The map was shared by other networks and organizations such as Culture Action Europe and Manegen in order to help raising awareness on the impact of the Pandemic on the cultural sector. Along

with the map FEDEC also provided a document with the new audition procedures, as most schools could no longer invite candidates in their premises.

### **Study on the impact of COVID-19 on professional circus schools**

During the first-wave of the COVID-19 crisis, FEDEC launched a European research study on Circus education. The research served a double purpose: to collect general data from FEDEC members to make a state of play of circus schools' situation and to collect data about how schools were affected by the pandemic and what strategies they implemented to face it.

FEDEC also participated and cooperated with the surveys led by other networks on the COVID-19 crisis: [Circostrada](#), [ACE](#), [IETM](#), [On the Move](#), [Connecting Europe](#).

### **Réunions virtuelles de soutien aux membres**

FEDEC also organised 6 virtual meetings in french and in english, to support it's members and encourage peer exchange in times of crisis, on the following topics :

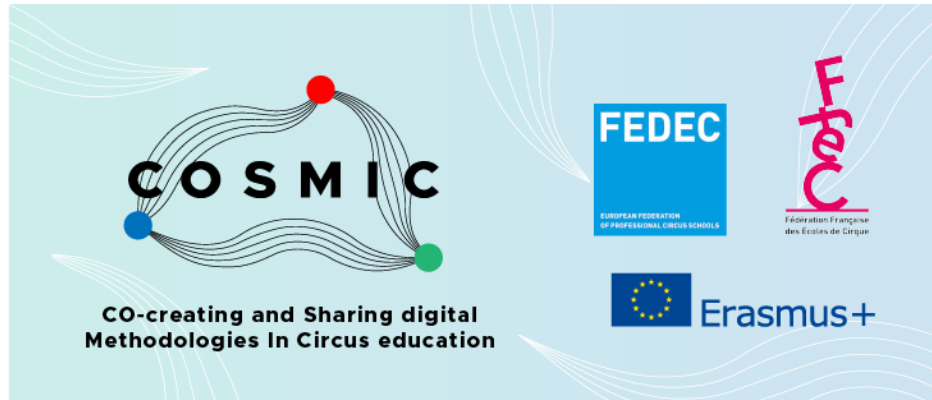
1. Re-opening of schools
2. Distance teaching practices
3. Management of equipment
4. Selections/Auditions
5. End-of-year performances

The meetings led to the creation of a [Google Drive shared folder](#) containing the videos of the meetings, as well as the documents shared before, during and after the meetings.

Futhermore, FEDEC took part in various virtual meetings organised by relevant national and international players of the Circus sector :

- "Circus and Changing Realities 2020" : A Series of Virtual Dialogues about the Future of Circus, organized by Circus Talk.
- FEDEC and EYCO met twice to share data and good practices about how schools were dealing with the COVID-19 crisis.

## ○ EUROPEAN PROJECTS AND FEDEC



## COSMIC

### CO-creating and Sharing digital Methodologies in Circus Education

After a first refusal from the ERASMUS+ french agency in 2019, FEDEC has reshaped the COSMIC project in order to submit it again in march 2020, alongside the FFEC (Fédération française des écoles de cirque). It has been selected in september 2020 with a total score of 96/100. **During 28 months (sept. 2020 – déc. 2022), COSMIC will introduce professional circus schools to the use of digital technology applied to their pedagogy.**

The project will involve a total of **11 partners**, including **9 circus schools** from **7 different countries**, who will unite their forces towards enhancing the quality of circus education and training:

- [Fédération Européenne des Écoles de Cirque professionnelles - FEDEC](#) (Belgium)
- [Fédération Française des Écoles de Cirque - FFEC](#) (France)
- [École supérieure des arts du cirque - ESAC](#) (Belgium)
- [Centre Régional des Arts du Cirque de Lomme - CRAC](#) (France)
- [École Nationale des Arts du Cirque de Rosny-sous-Bois - ENACR](#) (France)
- [Società Ginnastica di Torino – FLIC Scuola Circo](#) (Italy)
- [Codarts Circus Arts Rotterdam](#) (Netherlands)
- [Instituto Nacional de Artes do Circo - INAC](#) (Portugal)
- [Escuela de Circo Carampa](#) (Spain)
- [Circomedia](#) (United-Kingdom)
- [National Centre for Circus Arts - NCCA](#) (United-Kingdom)

Project partners will have the chance to be trained on MemoRekall, a software that allows to integrate different types of content (texts, images, music, sketches, etc.) in a video. After the initial training, they will also enjoy 2 international training Labs during which they will present their work, share and exchange about the development of pedagogical methodologies connected to the digital Artistic Notebook.

In order to settle the baselines of the project, the following activities took place in 2020:

- **2 COSMIC steering committee meetings**
  - Virtual, september 2020
  - Auch & Online, october 2020
- **1 COSMIC partners meeting**
  - Auch & Virtual, october 2020

## RIGGERS

*“React, Invent, Get together for a Goal: Expertise in Rigging Services”*

The RIGGER project was presented to the UK Agency for Erasmus+ on April 2020. In September, the selected results were published and the project was not approved. Nevertheless, the FEDEC Board stressed the importance of the project for the sector and decided to reshape it, according to the Agency's feedback, and to apply again in 2021 with a stronger proposal. The decision was confirmed by FEDEC members during the General Assembly in Auch (France) on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. The new application is called RIGGERS (instead of RIGGER) and it is currently being developed by the FEDEC team in cooperation with the FEDEC Working Group on Safety & Rigging.

### The objectives

The RIGGERS project aims at enhancing the quality of circus education and training by contributing to the professionalization of circus riggers and technical directors. In order to do so, the specific objectives of the project are:

- to create a network/platform for sharing and exchange dedicated to Circus rigging;
- to develop of EU-level reference documents and standards on how to assess risk and ensure safety in circus school equipment, spaces and apparatus;
- to collect and organise relevant info about existing legislation frameworks on safety and for the circus rigger profession in different EU countries;
- To support the development of common guidelines for safety practices for circus arts education;
- to offer specific guidance for new practitioners who would like to be introduced to the rigger profession;
- To improve competences in rigging and safety of circus school communities, by exchange and disseminate good practices within circus schools, in and outside the EU.

## E-CIRCLE

CIRCLE has been for 13 years a showcase of school's productions: short performances of 20-30 min created by students through pedagogical workshops, and performed on a main stage of the CIRCa Festival in Auch (FR).

Between June and August 2020, FEDEC and the CIRCa festival have proceeded to an exchange via Circostrada's job-shadowing programme « Time Capsule ». Someone from each structure came to work at the other's office for about a week. In this context the respective teams have been able to learn about the way one another works, and develop new ideas for themselves. Due to the pandemic, the CIRCLES were not able to be arranged. FEDEC and the CIRCa festival therefore decided to launch a video project : « E-CIRCLE ». The school members of FEDEC were invited to share their interpretation of the theme « Constrained space / Unlimited Space » in a video of 3 minutes maximum.

16 schools took part in this initiative, the videos were broadcasted on the FEDEC's Youtube channel, as well as during the CIRCa Festival at the ticket office, the food service, at the cinema and during the artistic encounters.

On Facebook, each E-CIRCLE video was separately promoted in cooperation with the members, who republished on their channels. This allowed the YouTube playlist to reach 2000 unique views (as a comparison, 2019 CIRCLE playlist reached 626 unique views) with most of the videos reaching more than 500 unique views. Besides broadcasting the videos during the festival, CIRCa used the E-CIRCLE videos as a promotional tool during the *“Nuit the cirque”* event. Furthermore, FEDEC presented E-CIRCLE videos at the [International Theater Institute General Assembly](#).





For more infos on the festival: [www.circa.auch.fr](http://www.circa.auch.fr)



## ○ PUBLICATION



### Publication REFLECT



The REFLECT Publication was issued in September 2020 and provides the outcomes of the discussions between circus schools' teachers which took place within the framework of the European project REFLECT - REflections and EXchanges for Circus arts Teachers project, funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission, and led by FFEC (the French Federation of Circus Schools) and FEDEC (the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools) between 2017 and 2019. The publication was realized on FEDEC's expense and published on its website and on the ISSUU platform.

The REFLECT publication was a collection of reflections, recommendations and best practices. It promoted the REFLECT project, as well as FEDEC EU-funded project in general, among circus stakeholders and contributed to the policy debate of the EU Skills Panorama and the EU New skills Agenda.

### ***PARTNERSHIPS WITH FESTIVALS for professional integration of students and young graduates***

Throughout the whole year of 2019, FEDEC continued to develop its strategy for the employment of artists in training or graduates with several festival partners – committed employers advocating a policy within their programming geared towards “young people in training and graduates”. A part of these festivals have unfortunately had to be cancelled, including the Sul Filo del Circo at Gruliasco (IT) who had programmed numerous performances of outcoming students from des FEDEC school members. Certain collaborations have still managed to be maintained.

#### ● **Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain (Paris, France – January, February 2020)**

The 2020 edition of the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain organized by Cirque Phénix, a **partner and graduate employer with a special programming policy for young students and graduates and a co-financer of FEDEC**, strengthened the collaboration between the Festival, Cirque Phénix, FEDEC and its member schools and students.

Many FEDEC schools featured on the program and among the Festival's prize winners. They included directors on the jury (Stéphane Simonin, president of **FEDEC** and director of **Académie Fratellini**), students (**ENACR**) who collaborated with the technical team of the festival for the technical set up or young artists who have graduated from FEDEC schools presenting an act in the Festival competition (gold, silver, bronze medals as well as other prizes such as the Special Jury Prize were awarded to graduates from FEDEC member schools).'





More info about the festival: [www.cirquededemain.com](http://www.cirquededemain.com)

- **Festival CIR&CO (Avila, Spain, August 2020)**

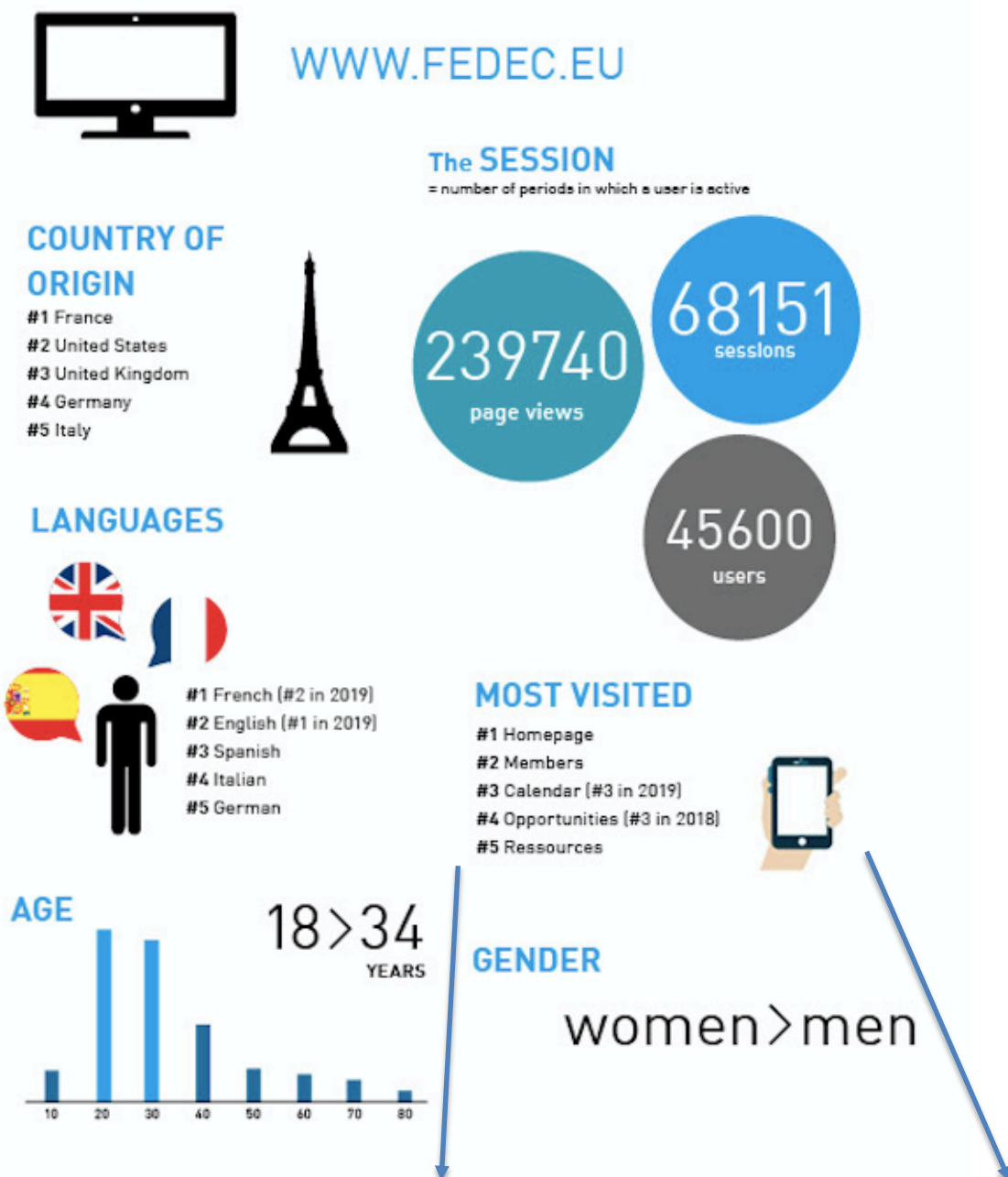
CRECE project took place at CIR&CO - Festival Internacional de Circode Castilla y León in Avila (Spain) from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2020. The objective of the CRECE project at CIRC&CO was to create an exclusive performance presented in the festival program, and created during an educational research workshop between circus schools from different countries (Germany, Belgium, Brasil, Spain, Italy, Netherlands).

## 2.4

# Communication

### ○ Website

Our website is about the valorization of the people making circus arts education and training of today, the projects and the values conveyed by the network leading to quality of education, creation and innovation.



#### #4 Opportunités

Véritable plateforme sur la mobilité, la création et les emplois, cette section permet aux artistes, écoles et étudiants de trouver des opportunités et aux membres ou professionnels de publier leurs propres offres d'emploi ou de résidence, appels à projets ou autres types d'opportunités.

#### #5 Ressources

Cette section permet aux visiteurs d'avoir accès gratuitement à toutes les différentes publications FEDEC classées par type (chartes, études, manuels pédagogiques, infonotes sur les programmes européens et collaborations) mais également toutes les photos et vidéos de la vie du réseau.

## ○ Social media

Circus is a highly active sector in the networking field and a “living” art form where images and videos are very important features for public understanding and enjoyment. Therefore, we continued to strengthen our social media presence on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Youtube](#) in order to reach out to more students and future students through posts and sharing photos and videos.



**FACEBOOK**/fedecpro

**4275  
LIKES**

+ 233 in 2020



**Our posts COVERAGE**

**112**

posts in total

**16364**

medium coverage

**COUNTRIES**

- #1 France
- #2 Italy
- #3 Spain
- #4 Brasil
- #5 Belgium

**LANGUAGES**

- #1 French
- #2 Spanish
- #3 English
- #4 Italian
- #5 Portuguese



**AGE** 25 - 34 YEARS OLD

**GENDER** 41% men 57% women



**INSTAGRAM** / fedec\_network

**1411**

**FOLLOWERS**

+ 500 in 2020

**COUNTRIES**

- #1 France
- #2 Brasil
- #3 Chile
- #4 Spain
- #5 Argentina



**Our posts COVERAGE**

**80**

posts and stories in total

**1253**

medium coverage

**GENDER** 48% men 52% women

**AGE** 25 - 34 YEARS OLD



27 600 videos seen on **YouTube** (+34%)

**878**

**FOLLOWERS**

+ 182 in 2020

**1500**

hours of viewing

## ○ Communication tools

### Brochures

New design for our brochures: the front presenting FEDEC, its projects and its publications and the back showing members all over the world (in the form of a poster).



### Cups

For ecological reasons, FEDEC uses now reusable cups during its events.



### Masks

Masks have been conceived for the FEDEC team and all the Managing Board members.



# FINANCES

**3.1 Annual budget**

**3.2 Members contributions**



## 3.1

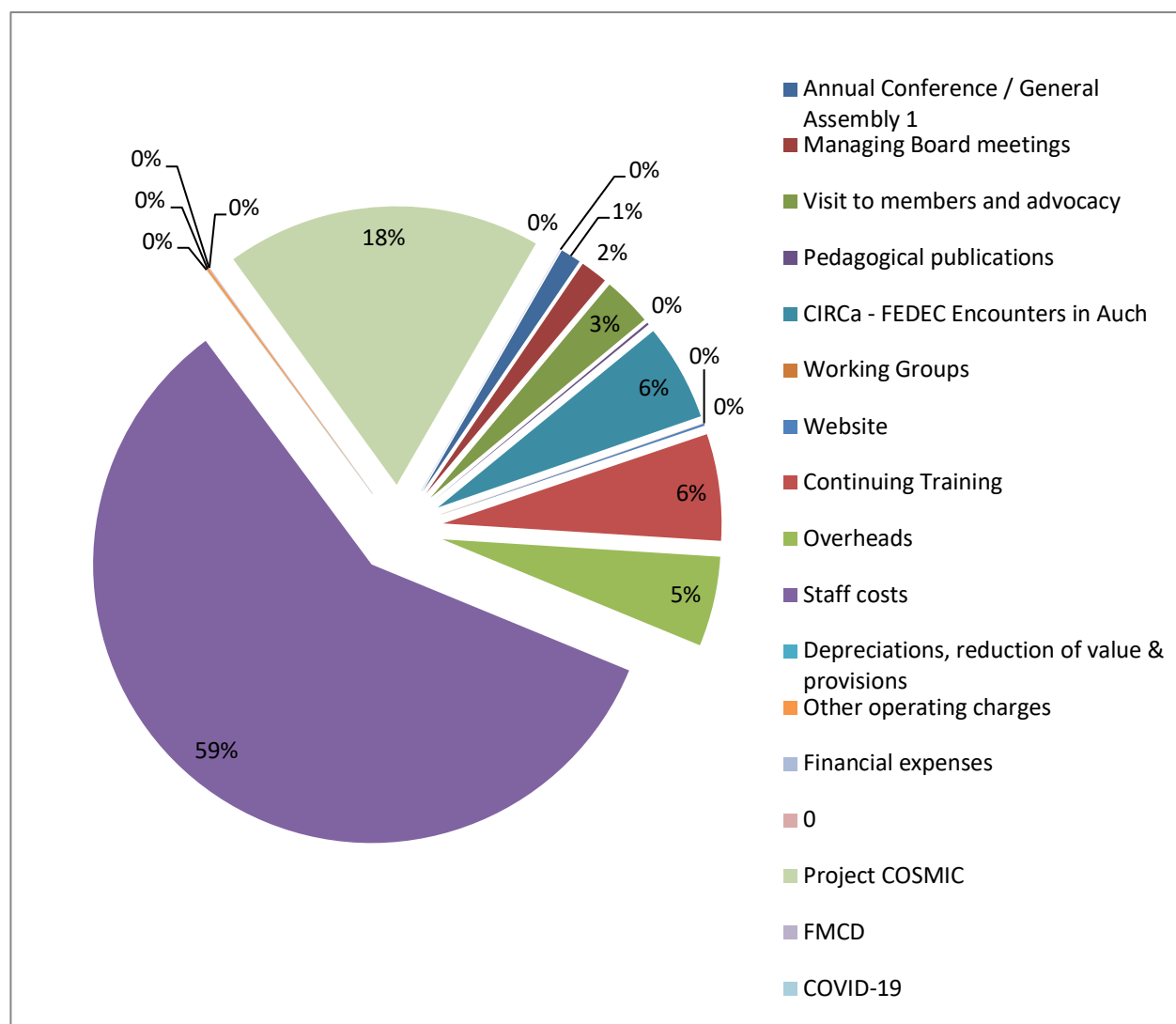
### 2020 Annual budget

	Forecast Budget 2019	Follow up 31/12/2020	Realised Budget (%)
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Annual Conference / General Assembly	600 €	597 €	99%
Managing Board meetings	2 580 €	2 450 €	95%
Visits to members and advocacy	6 980 €	1 169 €	17%
Pedagogical exchanges and manuals	1 500 €	0 €	0%
CIRCa – FEDEC encounters at Auch	9 720 €	6 872 €	71%
Working groups	2 530 €	0 €	0%
Website	150 €	0 €	0%
Programme of continuing education	1 000 €	0 €	0%
Overheads	17 307 €	9 349 €	54%
Staff costs	123 882 €	134 710 €	109%
Depreciations, reduction of value and provisions	0 €	0 €	0%
Other operating charges	140 €	0 €	0%
Financial expenses	200 €	161 €	80%
Project COSMIC	44 073 €	9 304 €	21%
FMCD	0 €	350 €	0%
Project REFLECT	0 €	1 518 €	0%
COVID-19	0 €	601 €	0%
	<b>210 662 €</b>	<b>167 081 €</b>	<b>79%</b>

<b>INCOMES</b>			
Membership fees, re invoicing of expenses	58 700 €	57 200 €	97%
Subsidies	127 500 €	125 000 €	98%
Others	48 646 €	3 368 €	0%
	<b>234 846 €</b>	<b>185 568 €</b>	<b>79%</b>

<b>Balance</b>	<b>24 184 €</b>	<b>18 486 €</b>	
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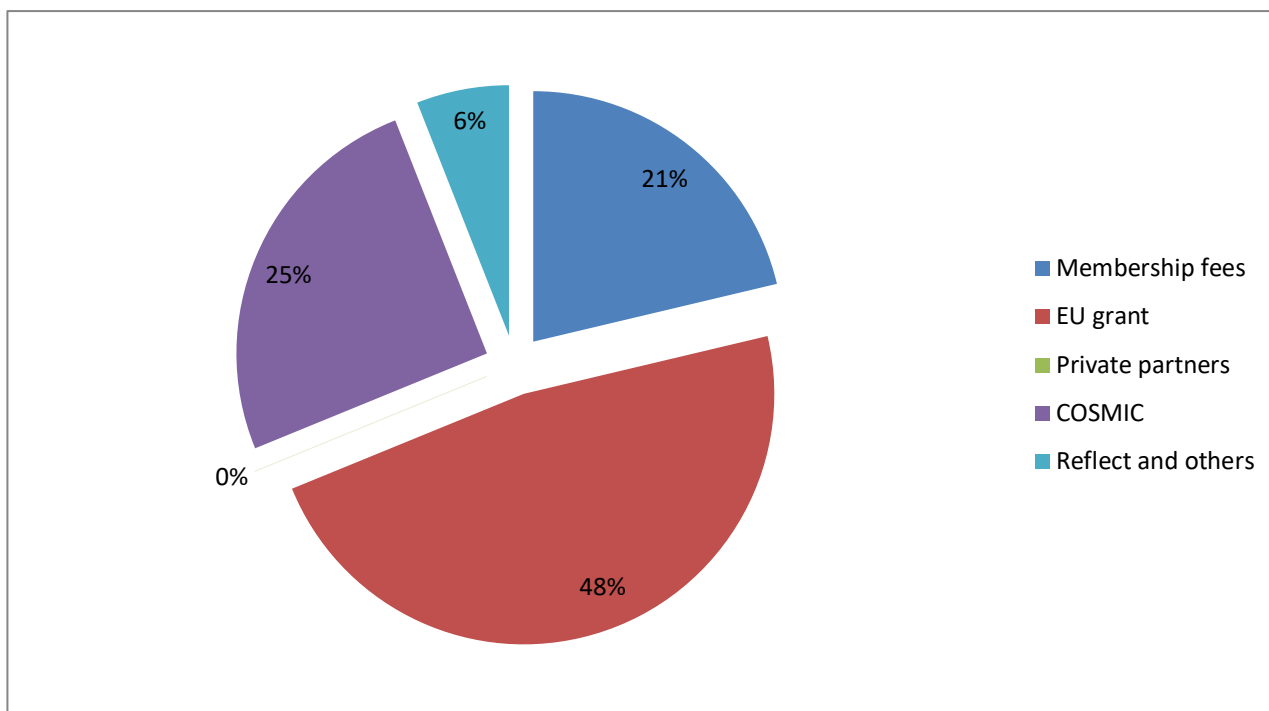
## Expenses 2020



Annual Conference / General Assembly	597 €
Managing Board meetings	2 450 €
Visits to members and advocacy	1 169 €
Pedagogical exchanges and manuals	0 €
CIRCa – FEDEC encounters at Auch	6 872 €
Working groups	0 €
Website	0 €
Programme of continuing education	0 €
Overheads	9 349 €
Staff costs	134 710 €
Depreciations, reduction of value and provisions	0 €
Other operating charges	0 €
Financial expenses	161 €
Project COSMIC	9 304 €
FMCD	350 €
Project REFLECT	1 518 €
COVID-19	601 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>167 081 €</b>



## Revenus 2020



Membership fees, re invoicing of expenses	57 200 €
Subsidies	125 000 €
Project COSMIC	2 875 €
Others	493 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>185 568 €</b>

## 3.2

# Members contribution

FEDEC is a membership organisation so it is crucial to valorise their financial and in-kind contributions during the year. In 2020, the Federation played an important role in supporting its members by planning virtual thematic meetings to accompany the sector through the COVID-19 crisis, around the remote selections or the setting up of sanitary procedures in circus schools for example.

The members were therefore more involved in the network, finding answers to their immediate needs, and allowed them to engage more easily in different meetings that took place online. Thus, even if certain face-to-face events had to be cancelled, FEDEC has been very active in 2020, permanently soliciting its members.

### FEDEC members (average/year/member)

1 General Assembly (in stead of 2 usually)  
5 thematic virtual meetings (focus COVID-19)  
3 COSMIC project meetings  
Between 40 hours and 70 hours of work dedicated to FEDEC activities

### Members of FEDEC Managing Board and focus groups leaders and experts (average/year/member)

6 Managing Board meetings (in stead of 4 usually)  
10 Working group meetings  
Around 100 hours of work dedicated to FEDEC activities

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

### Membership fees in 2020

Category	Annual incomes	FEDEC Annual membership fee	Number	Total amount
Cat 1	€0 - €100 000	€375	8	€3000
Cat 2	€100 000 - €250 000	€750	6	€4500
Cat 3	€250 000 - €500 000	€1125	11	€12375
Cat 4	€500 000 - 1 million	€1500	10	€15000
Cat 5	> 1 million	€1875	10	€18750
Partners		€200	15	€3000
<b>Global amount of membership incomes global in 2020:</b>				<b>56 609 €</b>

# Thanks

FEDEC would like to thank its network and its collaborators for their involvement and their creativity throughout 2020.

## ***Its members and their directors, teachers, staff and students***

***Its Managing Board:*** Adeline Avenel, Adrian Porter, Alisan Funk, André Borges, Anna Beentjes (Vice-President), Anne Morin, Aurélie Vincq (Secretary), Daniela Arendasova, Gérard Fasoli, Martin Gerbier, Paolo Stratta, Soren Flor, Stéphane Simonin (President), Stevie Boyd, Tim Roberts (Treasurer).

## ***Its working groups leaders and members:***

- **CIRCLE & CIRCEYE** : Anna Beentjes, André Borges / Team : Capucine Hec-Couton
- **SECURITY & RIGGING**: Adrian Porter, André Borges / Team: Lorenzo Albiero
- **(NEW) MEMBERS**: Daniela Arendasova, Tim Roberts / Team: Isabel Joly
- **Annual Conference** : Martin Gerbier, Paolo Stratta, Stéphane Simonin / Team : Capucine Hec-Couton
- **General Strategy**: Gérard Fasoli, Paolo Stratta, Stéphane Simonin / Team: Isabel Joly, Sarah Weber
- **Research**: Daniela Arendasova, Gérard Fasoli / Team: Sarah Weber Permanent working group
- **Human Ressources**: Adrian Porter, Anna Beentjes, Stéphane Simonin / Team: Isabel Joly

## ***Partners and associated experts to the different FEDEC projects:***

Clarisse Bardiot (Université Polytechnique Hauts de France); Florent Fodella, Leïla Medejel and all the FFEC; Stéphanie Bulteau, Mathieu Hedde and the Festival CIRCa team.

***The FEDEC team in Brussels:*** Amandine André, Camille Crucifix, Capucine Hec-Couton, Lorenzo Albiero, Isabel Joly, Sarah Weber

FEDEC would like to thank its private and public partners for their support this year again and to their generous contributions which are essential to support FEDEC in its projects and operations:

- The European Union (DG Education and Culture –Erasmus+ Program) -
- The COCOF who provides our offices since 2012





[www.fedec.eu](http://www.fedec.eu)

