



## Circus Overseas presentation

### What is Circus overseas about?

Circus Overseas is a two years (2021-2022) project which wishes to address the challenges of managing social circus activities and entities through a series of four (4) training modules for young circus trainers and staff from the circus schools' partners in the project and beyond. This capacity building will be done through a combination of circus arts and non-formal education, valuing peer exchange and experience sharing while fostering creativity, liberty, and intercultural dialogue.

Circus Overseas is a partnership project between six circus schools from around the world all members of Caravan Circus Network, project's lead applicant: Altro Circo (Italy), Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (France), Phare Ponleu Selpak (Cambodia), Sirkus Magenta (Finland), The Palestinian Circus School (Palestine), & Zip Zap Circus (South Africa).

This project co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union.

### What are our objectives?

The proposed project seeks to improve the quality of youth work within circus pedagogy by combining non-formal education and circus, and by fostering creativity, liberty, and intercultural dialogue.

By doing so, we intend to empower and support young people with fewer opportunities by providing competence and skill development activities. Our aim is to inspire them to participate actively, become the protagonist of their own stories, and to take leading roles within their communities and be catalysts for positive change.

Ultimately, we wish to highlight the positive impact on the social inclusion of youth at local, national and international level.

## **Our Training programmes**

Over the course of 2022, **4 key training activities**, independent from each other and focusing on 4 different relevant elements of youth circus organisations will be organised:

1. Circus arts technical development | South Africa | Zip Zap | 16 -23 January
2. Managing and leading youth circus organisations | Cambodia | Phare | 22 – 29 May
3. Pedagogy and act of teaching | Italy | Altro Circo | 25 – 31 July
4. Directing and staging circus | France | Le plus petit cirque du Monde | Mid- September

## **Who will participate in these trainings?**

Each partner organisation will be able to send 2 participants to each of the 4 training activities (14 total/ training). Participants will differ from one training to another as theme discussed each time will target different profiles.

The selected participants will be youth workers/educators from consortium entities; majority of whom are young circus trainers - performers; young pupils (18-30 y/o); and/or future professional artists. An emphasis will be made on targeting youth with fewer opportunities.

## **What will be our methodological approach?**

Each training will last 6 days and will be a combination of practical group work and exercises, peer learning, individual reflection and self-directed learning space, study visits and field visits. All activities will foster and support team building, artistic expression, and learning by doing.

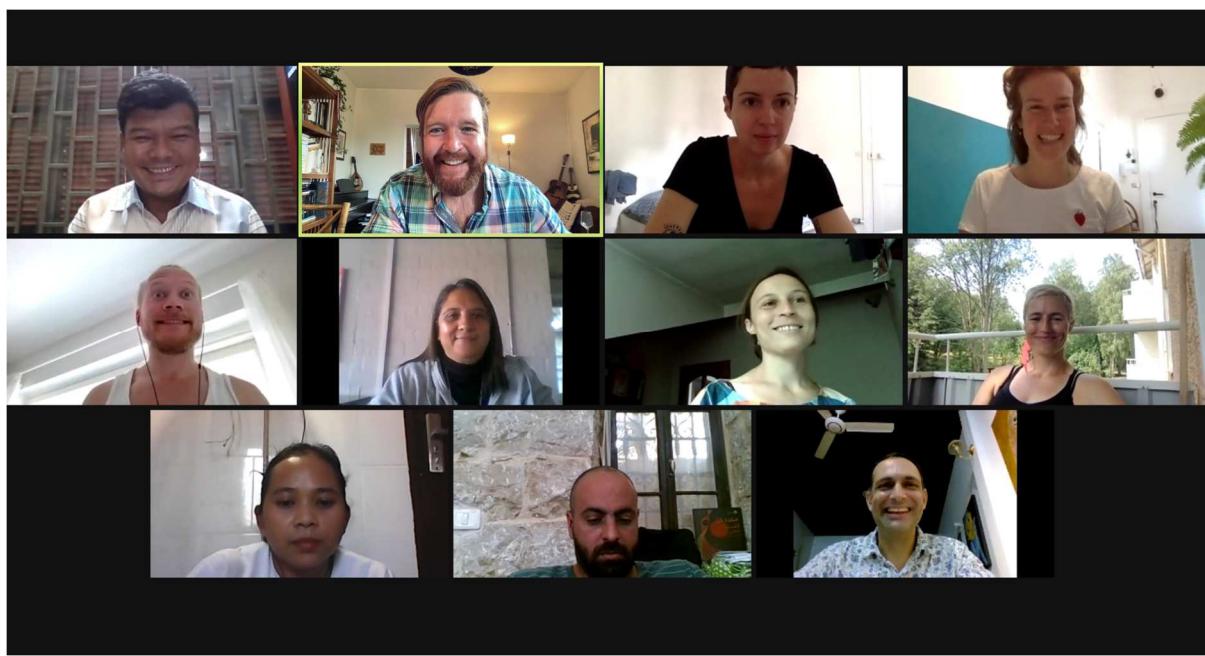
Before each training, the 2 selected participants from each organisation will spend 2 days studying linguistic and intercultural topics regarding the country where the relevant training will happen, get deep knowledge of the hosting partner organisation, research the targeted topic, and write down their related potential input, expectations, and questions.

## **Dissemination aspects beyond the training participants**

A strong element of dissemination of results and findings will take place after each training activity through toolkits, performances, round tables, conferences and social media toward local, national and international stakeholders.

Additionally, once the participants return back to their home organisation, they will dedicate 2,5 days to disseminate the outcomes, lead activities and share lessons learnt to a selected group, to maximize the impact on more individuals and multiply the application of good practices.

## Who is behind the project?



- **Caravan Circus Network (Lead Applicant)**

Caravan is an international youth and social circus network of 22 circus schools from across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, that advocates for the positive impact of youth and social circus. The network was established in 2008 by 6 European circus schools, with a common goal to use social circus as an educational tool and to dedicate this work to groups from disadvantaged backgrounds with specific needs.

- **Altro Circo (Giocolieri e dintorni)**

AltroCirco is a program of Association Giocolieri & Dintorni for the development and acknowledgement of Social Circus in Italy. It has developed a network of the associations and individuals working with Social Circus in Italy, in order to support a common process of growth and promote circus as an instrument of social transformation.

- **Le Plus Petit Cirque Du Monde**

Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (PPCM) – Centre des Arts du Cirque et des Cultures Emergentes – is a non-profit organisation that develops and promotes circus and emergent cultures in the field of youth and social circus, street performances, partnerships with professional artists, vocational training for artists and trainers and international exchanges.

- **Phare Ponleu Selpak**

Phare Ponleu Selpak (PPS) is a Cambodian non-profit arts school located in Battambang, offering support to children, youth and the surrounding communities through artistic, educational and social support programmes.

- **Sirkus Magenta**

Sirkus Magenta is a non-profit social circus association based in Helsinki, Finland. They use circus as a tool to promote mental and physical well-being, social inclusion, equality and involvement. Sirkus Magenta works with special needs children, youth at risk, families in crisis, the disabled, the elderly, refugees and anyone at risk of social exclusion.

- **The Friends of the Palestinian Circus School**

Created in 2013, the Friends of the Palestinian Circus School (FPCS) is a Belgian organisation aiming at supporting the development of the Palestinian Circus School (PCS). By teaching, creating, performing and programming circus arts, the Palestinian Circus School strengthens the creative, social and physical potential of Palestinians, seeking to engage and empower them to become constructive actors in society. The FPCS association works toward creating stronger connection both between the Belgian people and the work of the PCS, but also between the PCS and the European social and Circus field

- **Zip-Zap Circus school**

Zip Zap was founded in Cape Town to inspire young people and help building a new culture of peaceful coexistence in South Africa. Working with a diverse community of children from all backgrounds, Zip Zap helps kids to 'dare to dream' and learn to make those dreams a reality. Zip Zap's 10 different programs are all free (between 1'500 and 2'000 each year), with financial and material support coming from individuals, organization, corporations and foundations.



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