

Circus Trans Formation

Leonardo da Vinci – Transfer of Innovation



Within the framework of the European Lifelong Learning Programme, 8 members of the European non-profit association Caravan, in partnership with the Université catholique de Louvain, are carrying out a 2-year Leonardo da Vinci – Transfer of Innovation project called **Circus Trans Formation**, from 2012 to 2014.



Partners

- Caravan is an international association gathering 12 youth and social circus schools, 8 members of which are involved in this project:
 - Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles (Belgium)
 - Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (France)
 - Circus Elleboog (The Netherlands)
 - Belfast Community Circus School (United Kingdom)
 - Sorin Sirkus (Finland)
 - Cirkus Cirkör (Sweden)
 - Ateneu Popular Nou Barris (Spain)
 - Parada Foundation (Romania)
- University:
 - Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium)

Context – Social Circus

Social circus is an innovative tool for education and social inclusion of children, young people and adults with fewer opportunities. Targeting specific schools, neighbourhoods and public from disadvantaged urban areas, social circus is also an intercultural tool favouring community links between participants, raising their self-esteem and confidence, improving their physical literacy and developing their life skills. This has led to the creation of a new profession: social circus trainer.

Objectives

Aiming at developing the appropriate competences for social circus trainers, the consortium is working on a curriculum and on a teacher's manual, which will be the basis for the creation of the **1st European training programme for social circus trainers**.

This will have an impact on the national and European Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems of this branch and will also contribute to the dynamics and the economic growth of the social circus sector all over Europe.

Methodology

The project is based on a bottom up methodology seeking to take into account partner's local contexts. The definition of the competences of social circus resulted from a 2-year field observation carried out by Caravan between 2009 and 2011. In order to analyse, develop, test, and implement the training programme at the national and European levels, Circus Trans Formation follows a specific schedule:

- Kick-off meeting in Bucharest (26 – 28 September 2012)

Presentation of the objectives followed by study meetings.

- Head trainers meetings (17-19 December 2012 / 27-29 May 2014)

Two exchange meetings between the partners and the Curriculum Team in Tampere and Stockholm.

- International Methodological training sessions (4-14 February 2013 / 25-29 March 2013)

Experimentation and transmission of the curriculum to the partners' trainers during 10 days in Amsterdam and 5 days in Belfast.

- National training sessions (June 2013 – April 2014)

National implementation of the 20-day training programme in each partner's organisation.

- Conclusion meeting in Brussels (1 – 3 July 2014)

Publication and presentation of the results to the press, the relevant partners and the public.

- Pedagogical development of the curriculum (throughout the project)

The Curriculum Team of experts, led by Professor Paquay, writes and refines the curriculum and the teacher's manual.

Contact: Laurent Beauthier – info@caravancircusnetwork.eu