

FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS, CIRCOSTRADA  
HAS BEEN WORKING TO DEVELOP

AND EMPOWER THE FIELDS  
OF CIRCUS AND STREET ARTS

IN EUROPE AND BEYOND

CIRCOSTRADA  
European Network  
Circus and Street ArtS



A European community of circus and street arts professionals, linked together by common values and aspirations, who advocate for greater recognition and more structured cultural policies.



The voice and reference network of circus and street arts in Europe.



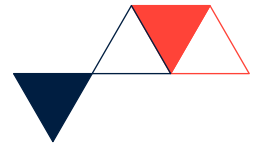
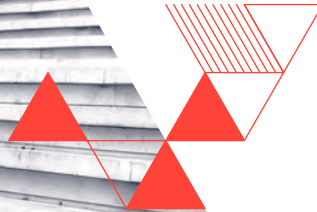
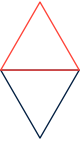
A network dedicated to its members, engaged in facilitating the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and good practices at European and international levels.



A group of passionate and committed individuals who meet several times a year at the network's events.



A digital resource platform that provides thematic publications, observation tools and news on circus and street arts, available to all free of charge in English and French.

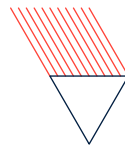


Circostrada is the European Network for Circus and Street Arts. Created in 2003 with the core mission of furthering the development, empowerment and recognition of these fields at European and international levels, over the years the network has become an important anchoring point for its members and a key interlocutor in the dialogue with cultural policy makers across Europe.

Circostrada supports circus and street arts professionals by implementing a wide range of advocacy and capacity building initiatives. The focus is on boosting professional exchange and innovation, gathering information and resources, fostering continuous training and knowledge-sharing.

With more than 100 members from 35 countries, Circostrada acts as a bridge between actors in the field and EU policy-makers, relaying their needs and expectations and advocating for the implementation of cultural policies best suited to their specific features.

In line with the values it embodies, the network works to ensure openness and diversity among its members, as well as balanced geographical representation. It is devoted to providing fertile ground for dialogue and discussion between all stakeholders operating in the fields of circus and street arts, fostering the construction of a collective European identity and advocating for a common understanding of culture as a vector of creativity, innovation and social cohesion.



Circostrada is coordinated by ARTCENA – French National Centre for Circus Arts, Street Arts and Theatre – and is based in Paris (France). Each year it implements a set of actions and events designed for its members and, more broadly, to meet the needs of circus and street arts professionals.

These activities are part of a four-year programme (2017-2021), co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union and the French Ministry of Culture.

#### FRESH CIRCUS AND FRESH STREET

Each year, the network organises a seminar dedicated alternately to the development of circus and street arts, open to all cultural players. These seminars are flagship events of the network and a moment of key visibility for both sectors.

#### PUBLIC POLICY-MAKERS SEMINAR

A gathering of European decision makers organised yearly in the frame of the FRESH seminars to voice the needs and priorities of the fields and to elaborate concrete and sustainable political solutions for the future.

#### GENERAL MEETINGS

Twice a year, the network gathers its members and invites them to share and connect with one another, explore a festival, learn about the local context of the host country, and carry on the projects of the internal workgroups.

#### CS LAB

A three-day laboratory to experiment new ideas, discover innovative tools, and learn about different methods, methodologies and practices. Gathering a dozen participants each year, it offers a dedicated environment to delve deep into a specific topic, enabling professionals to think out of the box and be more creative in their work.

#### RESEARCH TRIPS

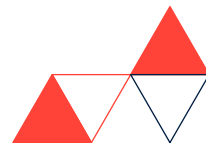
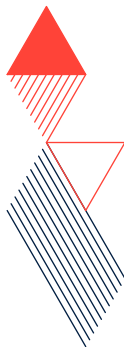
A week-long exploratory trip to a country outside Europe. The aim is to gain better knowledge and understanding of the local circus and street arts scene, to discover its creation and performance spaces, to meet its key players and to exchange experiences between professionals.

#### KAHWA

An annual meeting organised in partnership with a Circostrada member and professionals in the southern Mediterranean area working in public space. The meeting is hosted in a different country of this region on each occasion, with the focus placed both on exploring artistic creation in public space, circus arts, and on connecting European and Mediterranean professionals.

#### SYNERGIES

Circostrada works together with players involved in vocational training, along with other European networks, to advocate for a better structuring of the cultural sectors at European level.





## CIRCOSTRADATA

CircostraData is the European digital observatory for circus and street arts released in 2018 by Circostrada. Born from the experience gained through the research programmes of the network (CS Hubble and CS Audience), this project intends to provide professionals and stakeholders with a reliable tool for the comprehension of the context, the players, the diversity and the outreach of circus and street arts in Europe. It aims to give open and convenient access to a broad collection of information about the sectors. These data, originally produced by members of the network and partners coming from all over the continent, are gathered and combined into directories and graphic representations. In addition, it provides links to external resources to allow for a greater understanding of the fields.

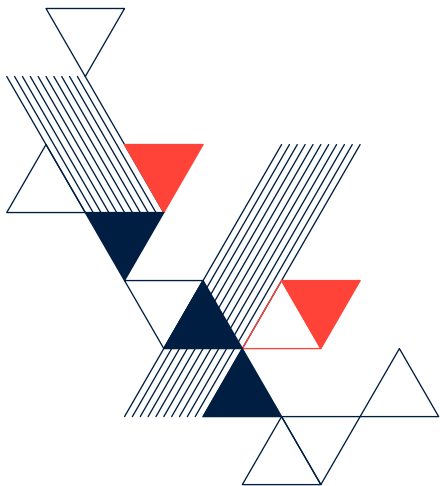
Find us on [data.circostrada.org](https://data.circostrada.org)

## DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

As resource producer, the network regularly publishes thematic records following each meeting, seminar or event organised in the frame of its yearly programme of activities, available free of charge in French and in English on its website. This editorial work aims to document the circus and street arts sectors at European level and seeks to empower the widest public possible with pedagogical, resourceful and advocacy tools.



Circostrada has more than 100 members coming from 35 countries in Europe and beyond. Through their expertise, knowledge and commitment, they all contribute to advancing the development and structuring of circus and street arts in their national territories, and play a key role in building a sustainable future for both sectors at a European scale.



All members are professionals from the fields of circus and street arts. Their profiles are extremely diverse, and include festivals, residency, creation and performance spaces, umbrella organisations, national networks, resource and information centres, development agencies, etc. Their legal statuses vary between public institutions, non-profit organisations and private agencies.

By engaging with other cultural players, organisations and networks, launching innovative projects, pulling together resources, skills and tools, Circostrada members play a critical role in designing the overall agenda of the network and in shaping its most impactful actions.



Circostrada operates under a collaborative governance structure with the help of a Steering Committee, set up in 2014. Elected by the network members, the Steering Committee works together with the Coordination Team to define, design and implement the strategic direction of the network. It is also responsible for reviewing applications for membership.

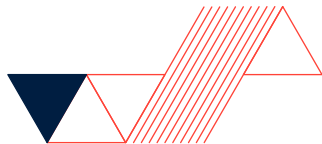
The Steering Committee and the Coordination Team meet several times per year, especially in the frame of the bi-annual General Meetings.

The members of the Steering Committee are elected by the network members themselves for a three-year term that can be renewed once. The Steering Committee is composed of seven members, including ARTCENA, which serves as a permanent member.

## WORKGROUPS

All the network's activities are conceived, designed and supported by five internal workgroups, composed of the network's members. Each one of them is in charge of developing a specific project in line with the focus areas of the network.

These five workgroups are:  
FRESH CIRCUS, FRESH STREET,  
CS ADVOCACY, CS DATA and CS LAB.



## HOW TO JOIN THE NETWORK?

An organisation wishing to join the Circostrada network must first express interest by completing an application form, which is submitted to the Steering Committee and then carefully assessed according to the membership criteria.

Once the application is approved, the organisation officially becomes a network member.

Membership entails an active participation in the network's activities.

## MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

To be a professional organisation recognised within its own country for its general contribution to the development of the circus and/or street arts sectors.

—  
To demonstrate a long-term commitment to the strategic development of circus and/or street arts.

—  
To agree with the missions of the network (advocacy, professional exchange, information and knowledge-sharing).

—  
To show an interest in cooperating with international organisations.

—  
To take part in the missions and objectives pursued by the network.

## SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

Membership is free.

—  
Membership is not intended for individual artists, companies or booking agencies, unless they can prove that they represent a recognised network of artists, artistic companies, or arts organisations in their country.

## EUROPE FOR NETWORKS, NETWORKS FOR EUROPE!

### CREATIVE EUROPE: A TOOL FOR CULTURE

Creative Europe is the European Union's financial support programme for the creative, cultural and audiovisual sectors in Europe, with a view to fostering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, as well as fomenting European values.

Among the 28 pan-European networks supported by Creative Europe for the 2017-2021 period, Circostrada is the network connecting and strengthening Europe's circus and street arts sectors.

### NETWORKS AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR PROFESSIONALS

Networks help European organisations and professionals to develop their skills, internationalise their careers and contribute to the competitiveness of the European cultural and creative sectors. They are pivotal to the structure of the Creative Europe programme, as they facilitate the networking of professionals at international level, offer training and development opportunities, and provide a platform for exchange and for the promotion and dissemination of projects and practices.

### DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN NETWORKS

Circostrada is an active member of IETM - International network for contemporary performing arts, On the Move - Cultural mobility information network, and Culture Action Europe. In the frame of the European Alliance for Culture and the Arts, Circostrada works together with several European networks in urging policy makers to re-think the European approach and to include culture and the arts in the long-term strategic goals of the European project.



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**culture**

Circostrada is co-funded by  
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ARTCENA is the French National Centre for Circus Arts, Street Arts and Theatre, funded by the French Ministry of Culture. It coordinates the Circostrada network and has a permanent seat on its Steering Committee. It works towards its missions in three main areas: sharing knowledge and resources through a digital platform; supporting professionals via mentoring and training; promoting and strengthening the circus, street arts and theatre fields by carrying out international development projects.

## CREDITS

Boris Gibé, *Work project* ©Jérôme Vila

Cie Cirquons Flex, creative residency for the show *Dobout an Bout* at Théâtre du Merlan (Marseille, France), 2012 ©Vincent Vanhecke

Cie Defracto *Dystonie* ©Pierre Morel

Alex Allison & Richard McCurry, *Girafa*, 2018

©Alex Allison & Richard McCurry

Cooperativa Maura Morales, *TIME* (Düsseldorf, Germany), 2012  
©Gorka Bravo

Graphic design: Frédéric Schaffar

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You will find all the  
information you need  
about the network's  
activities, members,  
resources and latest  
news online at:

[www.circostrada.org](http://www.circostrada.org)

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