

TIME CAPSULE



ORGANISED BY:



COORDINATION :



FUNDERS:



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union



**MINISTÈRE
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TIME CAPSULE PRESENTATION

WHAT IS IT?

The Time Capsule activity promotes a job-shadowing experience between Circostrada members, allowing four organisations per year to benefit from cross-mobilities and exchange good practices. The activity aims at ensuring sustainability, innovation and professionalism to circus and street arts professionals.

TIME PERIOD

Each exchange has a duration of one week minimum and two weeks maximum.

REPORT

Resources must follow from each mobility / exchange of good practices:

- A complete review of the mobility - questionnaire to fill in (see below). The review will be published in the Circostrada Website.
- A photo gallery of the stay (place, people met, events, etc.). The photos will be published in the Circostrada Website.

EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Tell us about your mobility!

Mathieu Hedde – Public relations Officer, CIRCa

Capucine Hec-Couton – Event coordinator, FEDEC

- Please briefly describe your exchange programme and how did you prepare it


Mathieu & Capucine: CIRCa and FEDEC have been collaborating for 13 years on the ambitious project called “CIRCLE”. Mathieu and Capucine are the referents for the implementation of the project, and they have been working together on it for 2 years. The “Time capsule” job-shadowing opportunity felt like a good way to strengthen their partnership.

After taking the decision to conceive this exchange together, the programme was rooted on our usual collaboration, with the objective to improve many aspects of the project. We decided to work on a programme that will leave us some time to re-think actual and existing parts of the project, but also to conceive new meetings and imagine future collaborations. In order to improve the project, we decided to come back to the operational scheme of the project, in order to improve our understanding of each of our venues’ situation to create a better collaboration. We worked together through the phone and zoom meeting in order to conceive the best programme possible in the short amount of time we had. We also felt that we needed to leave some room for change and for inspiration.

With this “Time capsule” opportunity, we planned to focus on deepening our understanding of each of our stakes throughout the year in order to reevaluate our yearly organisation, and to pinpoint where we could improve the operational scheme of the project.

- Who is/are the person(s) who inspired you the most during your stay?

Mathieu: I was not inspired by a specific person, but rather by the functioning and organisation of the team. I was happy to discover the functioning of a small team, and surprised by the scale of it. I was inspired by the team management of Isabel leaving space for discussion in the decision-making and assembly. It was inspiring to get to know a more horizontal functioning. The team atmosphere felt like we had space for listening to ideas of other members of the group. It also felt like the proposed initiatives were more included and enhanced.



Capucine: I was not inspired by a specific person, but rather by the functioning and organisation of the whole team. I was surprised by the scale of such a large team compared to my usual work place. It was also inspiring to discover the management of a team without a director and their solidarity during a period of change and adaptation. The whole team included me as I was a part of it, and I felt very much involved. It was also a very difficult time for the team, they kept smiling even if the situation of uncertainty was heavy. Their strength, courage and positivity were truly inspiring.

- What idea will you bring back home to your team?

Mathieu & Capucine: We both agree that the idea that we will bring home is the advantages of such an experience: taking the time to reassess the project, to design in a time “out of time of pressure”, which allows time for reflection that we could not have in normal daily operations. The idea we will bring back is establishing these times "off", to bring new ideas for the conception of our respective partnerships.

- Is there anything unexpected that you learned or that happened to you that you would like to share with the network?

Mathieu: Something unexpected that I have learned was how to set up an EU project. The FEDEC team took the time to explain to me how to design EU projects and the different stages of carrying out an international large-scale one. I discovered methods of conception and how to create a project associating different partners from several structures and levels of involvement, inter-country partnerships, as well as the specificities of funding requests from national branches and the relevance of each of them within the same grant programme. I was really interested by this aspect, and ideas for new projects were born during the discussions, offering to CIRCa and FEDEC new perspectives for future partnerships.

Capucine: Something quite unexpected was that shortly after conceiving the “Time Capsule” exchange and knowing that our application was approved, FEDEC had to cancel the CIRCLE project in CIRCa Auch festival for the 2020 edition. This meant that the position of “event coordinator” was in jeopardy considering the long-term impact of the covid-19 crisis. It was thus one of my last mission in FEDEC, putting us through a weird timing but also motivating us to be very efficient and to improve the project in the best way we could.

Despite of all the last-minute changes, difficult bad news, and unexpected turns of events, we decided to keep the exchange programme and not to cancel it, because it gave us the opportunity to work for the future and not for our personal level.

- What new skills would you like to share with the network?

Mathieu: A new skill that I would like to share with the network is FEDEC ability to rely on the specificities of the members of a network to conceive and run an EU project, and how to involve different members on subjects that concern them.

Capucine: I was impressed by the organisational skills in the offices. Mathieu shared with me some of the office organisation and the different excel sheets they use to share the different aspects of the same event. I was very impressed by the efficiency of how they deal with very complex information.

- What is the deepest cultural difference that you experienced in terms of management, work, relationship between colleagues?

Mathieu: the deepest cultural difference in terms of scale in terms of team, and collaborator. It is difficult to know how much is cultural, but a small team brings more flexibility, and a different approach of the hierarchy.

Capucine: the deepest cultural difference that I experienced was during the implementation of the health protocol in CIRCa. The main cultural shift is the one of the “respect of the rules”. There is a French “resistance” side that sweats through how people deal with rules. We had some “heated” exchanges during the team meeting revealing how difficult it is for the team to deal with this uncertain time and how we have to adapt our daily lives to carry on like “normal”.