

*Social Circus Without Borders Project implemented by Visegrad Standard Grant*

## Social Circus Training – part II

20-24 of September, Łódź, Poland

Organizer: Fundacja Miasto Projekt, Carnival – Otwarta Przestrzeń Cyrkowa

Training organized in cooperation with Cirque du Monde - social circus program of Cirque du Soleil.

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Meeting in Łódź is the second part of the training. The first meeting was held in Budapest in February 2016. The training leads Dorothée Rohrer, circus instructor and artist who has performed in the Cirque du Soleil and then conducted a workshop as part of Cirque du Monde projects around the world.

The aim of the training was to improve the skills of people working with different audiences using social Circus. Around 20 people from 10 European countries (England, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Spain, Poland, Slovakia, Turkey and Hungary) took part in the training.

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### Circus what is social and what can be learned?



Social circus is an innovative social intervention approach based on the circus arts. It targets various at-risk groups living in precarious personal and social situations, including street or detained youth and women survivors of violence. In this approach, the primary goal is not to learn the circus arts, but rather to assist with participants' personal and social development by nurturing their self-esteem and trust in others, as well as by helping them to acquire social skills, become active citizens, express their creativity and realize their potential. Social circus is a powerful catalyst for creating social change because it helps marginalized individuals assume their place within a community and enrich that community with their talents.

During the training participants learned about aspects of being a social circus trainer and working methods. They also learned how to plan workshops on what to consider when implementing social projects Circus and also discussed the issues related to ethics and safety.



The training was based on the methods of games and plays, presentations, subgroup discussions and forum discussions. Training consists of two parts; in Lodz a second 5-day meeting took place.

The full, 80 hour training was developed by the Cirque du Monde-social Circus program of Cirque du Soleil from Canada.

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### **Dorothee Rohrer, Cirque du Soleil and Europe:**

The training was led by Dorothee Rohrer. With her Swiss origins, she travelled to Canada to work with Cirque du Soleil. At first, she performed in the Cirque du Soleil on a flying trapeze.

Then, she began workshops for children and communities in various parts of the world under the Cirque du Monde program. This is a program initiated by Cirque du Soleil, whose goal is to help people in distress by participating in social circus projects. A social circus program set in motion in 1995, Cirque du Monde is one of the greatest sources of pride for Cirque du Soleil. Since its creation, this program is now implanted in more than 80 communities throughout the world in partnership with many local community organizations recognized in their milieu for the quality of their work with young people.



### **Training details:**

Training was organized in Centrum Dialogu – it is a museum and house of culture in Łódź.

Training had place every day for 7 hours from 9.00 till 18.00 with 1,5h lunch break, for 5 days = 35 hours. During this training participants learned how to work with different social groups. We talked about ethical issues,

moral issues, group problems that the social circus trainer might encounter at work, together we looked for solutions. In addition to day-to-day training, the participants visited the city, attended a meeting with local cultural, arts, education and media centers.

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