

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS) Erasmus/Global Strategy

### Introduction

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A higher education, resource and research institute, the Centre national des arts du cirque (CNAC) was founded in 1985 with the support of the Ministry of Culture. Its statutory missions include *all actions related to the teaching of circus arts and the development of professional circus activities in France, throughout the European Union and abroad.*

The CNAC is accredited to issue two national diplomas: the DNSP, National Higher Professional Diploma, for circus artists and the DE, State Diploma, for circus teachers. It is also a continuing education body for circus professionals.

### Centre national des arts du cirque - International Strategy

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As a public body, the Centre national des arts du cirque is increasingly developing its work in an international setting and enjoys strong international appeal.

More broadly, the circus sector is continuing to develop internationally. The international structure of professional training networks, in particular that of the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools, promotes movement, exchange and dynamism within the sector.

The profession of circus artist involves cultivating mobility as circus programming networks are structured both nationally and internationally.

The Resources and Research department at the Centre national des arts du cirque is also a driving force in circus and magic resources and circus research on an international level. In its 2020-2024 objectives and performance contract, the centre commits to consolidating and developing its role as a centre for students, researchers and professionals in circus and performing arts on both national and international levels.

The Centre national des arts du cirque is a founder member of the Circus Arts Research Platform (CARP) that brings together seven international institutions: the National Circus School in Montreal, Circusinfo in Finland, Circuscentrum in Belgium, the Department of Circus at Stockholm University of the Arts, the Universidade Estadual de Campinas in Brazil and the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA).

Due to its geographical location, the Centre national des arts du cirque also develops cross-border exchanges (with Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Luxembourg) both for educational and project development support.

Finally, the Centre national des arts du cirque is involved in a professional integration scheme supported by the Grand Est region and the Ministry of Culture to provide assistance to European companies hiring young graduates from one of the three schools accredited to issue the DNSP in circus arts.

### Objectives

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The Centre national des arts du cirque offers a **single initial training course**, for circus performers. Although it draws on continuing education modules for professionals, this unique training course does not offer students opportunities for diversified development. Opening up to outgoing mobility will respond to this lack by offering students **multiple opportunities for career development**.

As with other performing arts, **transdisciplinarity has become an important issue for young artists joining the professional world**. Opening up to incoming and outgoing mobility and cooperative projects will allow students to learn from transdisciplinary experiences that would be inaccessible within the limited framework of the Centre national des arts du cirque's activities.

The Centre national des arts du cirque is committed to digitally reforming its operations and educational offering. The limits imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic have accelerated these developments in terms of recruiting students, teaching and evaluation methods. **The Erasmus + programme will make it possible to continue this digital modernisation**, in particular with the introduction of inbound and outbound mobility in mixed formats (face-to-face/distance).

Through its involvement in the Erasmus + programme, the Centre national des arts du cirque aims to:

- enrich the centre's training opportunities through transdisciplinary partnerships and combined opportunities for students;
- give every student the opportunity to create their own international network based on knowledge exchanges and meetings as part of their degree course and on which they can rely to facilitate their integration into the professional world;

- develop exchanges of best practices and shared experiences in the European circus education community, either directly for teachers or for support staff;
- compel teaching and administrative staff to reflect on challenges and developments in higher education for the circus on an international level;
- to structure, introduce and perpetuate partnerships with other international higher education institutions in the circus through inter-institutional agreements and cooperative projects.

### **Participation in the Erasmus + programme**

The Centre national des arts du cirque's membership of the Erasmus + programme will become one of the vehicles for its international policy:

- through incoming and outgoing student mobility, which will provide an opportunity to structure and enhance, through ECTS recognition, exchanges that would previously have been the result of individual student career choices;
- through incoming and outgoing staff mobility that will strengthen educational coordination between higher education institutions in the circus and share best practices and feedback;
- through short- and medium-term traineeships that will enrich the training opportunities offered by the centre and partner institutions;
- through incoming professional integration traineeships offered to foreign professionals;
- through cooperative projects that will result from the creation of a European network for higher education in the circus.

The existing international network will make it possible to set up mobility activities on membership of the charter and cooperative projects are envisaged from the second year onwards. Internal and external communication and proposals to encourage student and staff participation will help achieve these objectives.

### **Calendar - Criteria**

Given its small number of students and the modest size of its teams, the Centre national des arts du cirque is planning a gradual and realistic development of the Erasmus + programme in terms of quantity. However, the quality of its network of international partners will allow it to consider introducing changes as soon as the charter is put in place.

Development is envisaged on this basis as follows:

- student mobility: one incoming and one outgoing student in the first year, followed by two incoming and two outgoing students in the second year;
- staff mobility: two outgoing and two incoming transfers are planned for each year;
- participation in cooperative projects: this part of the programme is envisaged in a second phase depending on the structuring of existing partnerships and the realisation of a European network for higher education in the circus. Ultimately, team capacity at the Centre national des arts du cirque makes it possible to consider participating in one project per year;
- incoming professional integration traineeships: similarly, these placements will be developed on the basis of the creation of a European circus training network. From the third year, we envisage hosting three to five professionals/artists for short periods.

### **Impact**

The Centre national des arts du cirque hopes to bring about the following results through its membership of and commitment to the Erasmus + programme:

- Developing the training it offers through:
  - o the experiences of staff members as a result of incoming and outgoing mobility;
  - o educational experiences linked to mobility, particularly mixed mobility (face-to-face and distance learning).
- An increase in the diversity of student profiles and career paths as well as an expansion towards broader artistic spheres;
- An increase in international professional integration opportunities;
- The creation of a European network for higher education in the circus that will allow for the harmonisation of recognition of student diplomas and provide opportunities for the emergence of new collaborative European projects.