

Group 4: The Umbrella Group

chairman: Karl Köckenberg

This group is about the regional and/or national organizations over youth circuses and circus schools. These organizations are called umbrellas.

Before the seminar everybody was asked to fill out a form, designed to conform all the useful aspects of the subject, to have a good inventory already at start.

The structure of the discussion in this group is the following:

- Introduction and Expectations

- Umbrellas in each country

- Next steps and final dreams

- “Coffee House”, Share experiences and steps to build up an umbrella

- Plan for future

- Conclusions

Introduction and Expectations:

Brief explanations (further explanations will go on following days)

Who is who and why you are here in the Umbrella group:

Karl Köckenberger, is the president of German Umbrella Organization, which was started in 2004.

Expectations: to find out how to help each other out, how to build an umbrella or another organization if necessary, and how to work together internationally.

Gab Bondewel, is in the board of Circus Vlo, Flemish part of Belgium. Expectations: he believes this is a big opportunity to work together and have a network, which is important for umbrella organizations.

Tjitso Maathuis, is from new circus, in Holland. Expectations: to network with others and represent Holland, because it is important to have a representative in a seminar like this.

Gonzales, Spain, is in this group because he got the information very late, and was interested in all of the topics, but especially in this one because Spain doesn't have an umbrella organization. However, the circus activities have evolved for over 20 years and an umbrella might be a good idea. He is here to get some information and hear about the experiences of setting up a network and making exchanges.

Petra Mäki-Neuvonen has worked in Finnish association for 8 years. Expectation: thinks it is important to know what people are working with. Do they have the same problems, same ideas? It is important to have cooperation and get connected with others.

Vincent Wauters is the director of circus of Bruxelles. There is no umbrella in this part of Belgium. He has two dreams: to start European federation "caravan" (fedec is artistic) this would be academic, and to create a network of students in teacher formation, becoming teachers.

Rika, who set up the VLO in Belgium a long time ago, is interested in setting up the teacher training and hearing up others experiences and creating a network. Education group might be talking about the same matters as well, but this group should concentrate on teacher training especially, and also on organizing festivals and events.

Alain Taillard is a director of French umbrella organization. They already have a system of functioning in France, so he is interested to know how other countries do and how France can get better in this.

Christophe Crampette is the President of French umbrella organization. There are 150 schools in France, so it is a big one. He was not sent to this seminar, but felt like it is important to know how other countries do and act. The organization in France is 20 years old and could use ideas from other countries as well.

Adolfo Rossomando is from Italy, where there is no special organization, but just old "circus for kids" schools, which have grown and spread around. There is a need to get in touch with countries who have done this organization issues more professionally and a need for some structure and a way to connect and communicate.

Sabine Vecchiola, from Petit cirque de monde, is here to listen ideas about umbrellas. She is more familiar with EVS, so she wants to know other things as well.

Jackie Welbourne, representing England, wants to hear what others are doing. In England they have a committee for art form, but it is an invited committee and not a chosen one. It has been difficult for circus to deal with politics in England.

Umbrellas in each country:

Each Umbrella has also filled out a questionnaire about their work and projects. These are available as attachments to this report.

French Umbrella: explained by Christophe and Alain

The organization in France started in 1988. There are about 800 places for circus, but only 100 of them in organization. Circus schools practice in many different places, but the most important of them belong to the organization. The umbrella is there to organize, but it's not obligatory to be a member. The schools are members of the organization, and the children are licensed by the schools. Students are not members, though they are called members. Only the schools are members. 1800 students are licensed, but 300 000 practice circus. It is not easy to join the organization, because the organization wants to keep up certain standards, for example being organized, pedagogic, following security standard, education, academic and respecting the law. Schools write down their way of doing things, and they are reviewed every three years to make sure they are doing what they say they do. Schools can do as they will, as long as they follow the rules. The organization certifies the school.

5 workers in the federation. Director, administration, secretary, etc.

There's a pedagogic diploma for teachers, it is a national diploma for teaching circus. (Brevet d'Etat) (BPJEPS) 1 year education. Three schools to make this new diploma, because of the old one (BIAC) was not enough and only an information. Initiator makes things happen, professor makes things happen and teaches and thinks at the same time. BPJEPS is also recognized by the educational government. BIAC was a standard, what all the teachers needed to have in the organization. The organization has written this new diploma itself, so it is not given to them by the government.

The umbrella organization helps schools to be better, organize meetings, big national meeting three days every year in June, Cirka=a festival of circus and circus schools, traditionally there, where French organization started. In France they are organized but sometimes too organized.

In five first years it was just pleasure to meet others, after that have organized meetings and certifications to schools. After five years it was needed to start organizing things, until then it was just fun. 20 later it is important to start being more professional. Big emphasis remains on volunteers. Board of directors includes all the big schools. The new diploma was the most important project. Every school makes what they want but organization takes care of media relations etc. The umbrella can guarantee good artists from their schools and gives encouragement for young artists, like a scholarship to youth to be able to perform.

Future projects difficult to define. Not so easy to organize all, being close to local and at the same time national work. Year after year we are fighting against the same problems. Young organization has the enthusiastic attitude, old one tries to fight problems.

Umbrella in Finland: explained by Petra

The Finnish umbrella was set up in 1991. There are 30 schools total in Finland, 22-25 members in organization. Important functions: circus magazine. Circus schools are members of organization, kids are really not, but the government counts all the children that are part of these member circuses. Children don't pay for membership, but only for the circus magazine, 17€/year for four numbers of magazine. The umbrella has festivals to organize, like Finnish Youth Circus festival every other year and every other year also a camp. Camps, festivals, magazines, activity weekend for children over 15 twice year. Only one person, Piia Karkkola, works for the association. She has too many things to do, and a lot of time goes into paperwork and government.

Members in organization are very different, not certified or standardized, but just concentrating on having fun. No training for trainers in association. Anyone can join this association, no matter what they do, and nobody tests the members for anything, unlike in France, though in France as well, anybody can build up a circus if they want to, they just can't join the association, which gives the circus schools a label.

Some small circus schools in Finland are really small, and they do not do the paperwork to be part of association.

Circus Finlandia, a family owned, open minded circus, gives children a change to perform in a show as well, one act in a show.

Umbrella in Belgium, in the Flemish part was founded 2001. The actual circus "flee", before a generation of Flemish circus schools. Put together, because they wanted money from the government. Each school got money from the government, but to get more money, they needed to build a new organization. The organization gets money from the government to themselves to organize events, but also to give money back to the schools. The schools have to meet certain standards, certain conditions. According to number of students and number of courses followed, government gives out money for schools. A board of directors, including reps from different schools and educational boards, is in charge of the organization. The members have made out the rules for the organization on their own. Pedagogical working groups need improvement, and artistic working groups need ways to organize events and performances. All the schools are in this organization, but not all of them get money. For example 9000€ for the 700 members in Rika's school.

It is hard to survive as a circus school. Hardly money for teachers, but never enough for organizer, coordinators etc. so the association should give money to make things possible.

One goal to put up an association was to make new schools start as well. Budgeting in circus schools is interesting. Despite all the government money, about 80% comes from own income, own fund raising. In a start Rika got a lot of money from government, the reason her school is big right now.

A Minister visited Montreal, bringing new ideas back from there. Treating circus as an art, finally, so a new center is necessary to organize all this. CircusVLO is part of the new organization. There's a new board, where circus schools are represented, but there are also other people in it. A real, actual training building is under construction in Gent. CircusVLO has been working well, developing from 5 schools to 20 schools, so the new circus center started from VLO, adding new professionals and becoming a bigger center/association. It is a supporting association, not necessary making shows but supporting others to do that. Circus is an art for people, and the minister understands it as well.

Teacher training is needed, so there is a 10day intensive training in summer, costing 500€ per person for the training.

Children are members of the association, they pay the circus schools, and circus schools pay the organization. Every school has their own insurance. The organization is communicating with their members with a magazine and a website. The 2000 kids are all members, but only the 15 members in the board have a right to make decisions. People in the board are chosen because of their circus experience, or knowledge in cultural issues.

ESAC needs more Belgium students, so they are offering free tries for young to go and try the school before enrolling for years. The Umbrella's Strategy for next five years is being written. Depending on the money from government, the plans will be realized or not.

Umbrella in Holland: explained by Tjitso

Circomundo started in 2005, to get together and organize circuses. The goal is to have all the circuses in Holland to join this association. 5 big circuses joined together first, expanding the activity over the years and now there are 15 total in Circomundo. They need a person to organize all and to have an organization chart eventually as well. Circuses came together to organize a big events. To get people to meet each other and exchange experiences.

A plan in Holland is to create a document for trainers to follow how to start with students and also what terminology to use in circus world, and working documents to help starting up a circus and activities. Important things are listed to make sure everything has been thought about before starting up a circus school. The umbrella is in a start-up face, but they are getting there.

Goals for five years: expensive to be insured in Holland, because of all the risks that need to be covered. There is a need not only be covered as a social club, but really as a circus. There are no official circus trainers now, but only trainers who have been there themselves as students, and continued as trainers. People go from Holland to Belgium to get trained, because it is non-existent in Holland.

There's no special youth organization, except Elleboog, that has money and power.

Website, newspapers, meetings are distributing information to members, and meetings are important because you get to know the faces as well.

Circus needs a place in Holland, in political aspect as well, getting hopefully some funding in the process. There is no union in circus world, unity among different factors, and there's no connection between the big shows and the circuses. Circus is just considered sports. Elleboog is famous in Amsterdam, but others have kind of being forgotten.

German Umbrella: explained by Karl

GAB started on 6.10.2005, after long time of growing this idea. This is the same day that NICE started as well. Germany needed an umbrella to work together with international organizations and to have an organization and a network for members, as well as a professional organization for circus pedagogues. Circus schools are members of the organization, not the children.

The members consist of 4 local umbrellas, 58 circus organizations=circus schools, 18 circus pedagogues=individuals, and right now there is only a half a person working in the office, depending on the funding. The German umbrella provides services, including information on phone, website, newsletters and a 3-day conference, and they have made a questionnaire for circus schools to create a database, listing different teacher training possibilities in Germany.

The big association supports the local umbrellas and has a goal to have one umbrella in each region of Germany.

The Germans are supporting the network and trying to have a place for the youth, by creating possibilities for youth to join the others in each region. Big festivals are all separate, and there is not a single one for the whole nation.

The German umbrella is also doing work with the Muslims, helping them out.

The umbrella is not recognized by the German government. The first two conferences were funded by the government, but due to some changes this is not possible before. Youth department of Germany is responsible of this.

Italian Umbrella: explained by Adolpho

There is no real organization in Italy, but in 1999 they started to get some people together. The traditions are old and strong with circus, and plenty of families are/were included in circus life. The official circus was recognized as an art by the government and given money for it. After 1960's circus went down because of other media, but was able to stay alive because of the good funding. Contemporary circus arts arrived in Italy only in the 1990's, which is very late. They don't have any big structures in Italy, because they are not funded properly, not in schools, sports nor circuses. Thus people concentrated in street art, which is now recognized as an art form and an organization, including circus arts as well. However, the youth circus and professional circus are not part of this traditionally. "Circus for kids" schools are from excluded places near Austria, but nobody knows about them. Professional circus art came to Italy only two years ago into two schools in Turin, and one in Bologna. This activity is very young, so people are excited about this new opportunity. 30 000 kids are involved with circus by workshops and weekends etc. It is not easy to form an organization, because a lot of schools are very small, and don't have the resources to network and cooperate. Communication and meetings cost a lot of money. Funding is the key for any activity, and the funding has to be used wisely, getting something out of the meetings and conferences. Traditional circus is strong, refusing to fund circus schools, because they are thought of just dealing with amateurs and not professional circus art. The professional shows want to use the funding themselves. They want to help the professional shows, not the amateurs. Big shows don't live on the ticket money, but on the government money. They give away free tickets to get people to come see the show, to be able to say they had audience.

Umbrella in Spain: explained by Gonzalo

Spain doesn't have an umbrella organization exactly, but they are starting to think that way. Spain is trying to make something happen, but it is hard, because of so many different nationalities in Spain. It would be more reasonable to think of setting up a network of different circuses in the country, and not try to make on national umbrella over them all.

There is a person representing the circuses in the board, but it has only happened last year, and it is difficult to make funding a reality.

Catalonia is starting to think circus in a more professional way.

The association started to grow, becoming more private, because of the bigger budgets. There are two schools in Spain, in Madrid and close to Madrid for young people, but after them they need to seek education from abroad.

Schools have a leisure program and a professional program. Exchange with other schools helps to build up a method to network with other countries and schools, making it possible to take courses around the Europe, to learn how others have done things and to get information from others.

The goal in Spain is to become professional with the circus art. There are regional associations already, so a bigger association will happen in the end as well. Three people are working full time, but the amount varies project by project, depending on funding. Funding comes from the European programs.

The region around Madrid is the only place in Spain where the mayor of the town really loves circus and has great relationship with the programs. There is 180 000 000 € for a project to build new buildings around Madrid, some of this money coming to the circus, most of it going to other form of arts and activities. Circus is considered to be on very low level in this category, and not respected, but it is worth fighting over the money and appreciation.

Association is needed to manage organization and the stable circus that is being built with this project, and also to build up a basic network to really help each other and to list all the organizations to cooperate.

Youth circuses in Spain are hard to define and count, because there are set up circuses as well as circuses on the road.

Festivals are a great way to meet people and get together.

The main question is, how to start the networking when you want to work together and build a real cooperation and proper places to practice circus?

Umbrella in Belgium, Brussels: explained by Vincent

There is no real umbrella, or network yet, but just a dream to wake up one day with a network. Students come to university in Brussels for one year, then going back to their own things, keeping the networks they created during their studies, and making a network between countries and teachers and actually keeping in touch and sharing experiences.

Federation is talked, named "Caravan", and organizing a project in six different countries. Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg (Saltibanque), Holland (Elleboog), Finland (Sorin Sirkus) will be included in Caravan project. Europe needs good teachers and some help for them to share the experience and send people in different teacher formations.

Umbrella in Great Britain: explained by Jackie

The association started over 15 years ago, working more around social circus etc. and not really for professional training, but still great people working for good things. They tried to get noticed by the government, but that didn't happen. National association of the youth organization was supposed to be the umbrella in Great Britain, but the funding mostly stays in London, so it is really hard to be in the regions and to get some money out of the government.

The arts council decided that circus was not an art form and didn't get any money for the work. The government asked for all kinds of paper work, making it difficult for circuses to apply.

Six years ago, the government finally gave out some money, about 28 000€. There's a forum for circuses as a network right now and there is hope that something positive will happen. It has been hard to get circuses to work together for the common goal. The youth circuses didn't really get their voice heard, and their position is unclear right now. There are a lot of old grudges and miscommunication, thus all the information has to be made available for everyone.

A lot of circus schools practice in England, and teacher training exist on a professional level as well.

Discussion went on around the following topics, trying to figure out ideas to talk about next. What would be the most important things to take into account and evaluate?

NICE, existing as a platform, but not yet as a network association, should it be one?

Umbrellas exist already in different countries, so should we make an umbrella for umbrellas?

Network for students of schools?

Network in the ready platform of NICE, to work together in different projects, each having own specialties.

Should it be teams working for different projects by themes?

Topics for Saturday: Members, Training, Youth, PR, Social Circus, Government, Funding, Service, Definitions of, Documents,

The agreement was to figure out a theme first and then discuss about it and then figure out a structure.

Next Steps and Final Dreams

The idea was to write down three next steps/needs on national or international level. These steps should be something where others can help you out.

After writing down the next steps and dreams on a piece of paper, it was agreed that first thing to do is to figure out the terminology and make sure everybody speaks the same language.

The next steps can be divided roughly in three different sections:

SHARING EXPERIENCES, including teacher training, pedagogic experience, and the umbrellas

A PLACE FOR RESOURCES, including networks and databases

PLAN OF ACTIONS, including meetings and camps for youth and relations within circus education

Here are the ideas that were written on paper as next steps to take:

UPGRADE YOUTH CIRCUS ART

BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF PARTNERS

MORE TEACHING MATERIAL

COOPERATION WITH YOUTH AND PROFESSIONAL CIRCUS SCHOOLS

YOUTH MEETINGS

HELP FOR AN OFFICIAL CIRCUS EDUCATION SCHOOL

HOW TO GIVE CIRCUS A PLACE IN HOLLAND

SET UP A USEFUL TRAINING PROGRAMME TO TEACH SKILLS TO KIDS

TERMINOLOGY

MEETING OF UMBRELLAS

UMBRELLA IN EVERY EU COUNTRY

GET FUNDING FOR REGIONS

REVIEW ALL DOCUMENTS

EXCHANGE AND TRAINING OF TRAINERS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO MEET UP

EXCHANGE OF TRAINING OF TRAINERS

HELP TO START ARTISTIC AND PEDAGOGIC STUDIES

SHARING THE WAY OF "HUMAN" TEACHING

MEETING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

EXCHANGE EVS

NOURISH CIRCUS ARTS WITH OTHER PEDAGOGIC EXPERIENCES

Here are the ideas that were written on paper as future dreams:

GET RECOGNIZED AS AN ART AND COMMUNICATE

ASSESSMENT FOR UMBRELLA

EXCHANGE OF SPACE/MATERIAL

INTEGRATE CIRCUS IN SCHOOLS

RELATION BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR SCHOOLS

COMMUNICATION AND EXCHANGE

CIRCUS AS RECOGNISED AND DEVELOPING ART

INSURANCE, COLLECT DATA

NICE, INFO CENTRE

A CIRCULATING STRUCTURE
PROGRESS OF CIRCUS PEDAGOGIE
INTERNATIONAL WEB-PAGES FOR INFORMATION
LIVING IN ONE WORLD IN THE CIRCUS WAY
BRINGING YOUNG ARTISTS TOGETHER
BUILDING UP ONE ORGANISATION FOR YOUNG AND OLD
CIRCUS WITHOUT BORDERS

An important thing is a circular structure, where every level of action is taking into account. Actions have a right place and time, but all the levels of action should contribute to final decisions. Basically, the circular structure allows all the levels to be involved.

“Coffee House”

Based on the topics written on paper by everyone, the discussions took place in two round tables, as in a “Coffee House”. Participants changed the groups after a 45 minute discussion.

Round table: Vocabulary

Circus is an art. We create something with the respect of a person’s will to do it. It has aspects from arts and sports, without the necessary competition parts. Creativity and freedom are the keys.

3D for circus: taking these aspects into account has to start from the first step already!

body: techniques etc.

person: human development,

artistic: not necessarily esthetic, but expression of the soul, creation, liberty to be an individual

Trying to define vocabulary in NICE and start all using the same terms.

Workshop, a one-time happening

Circus Club, just for fun and leisure but not an educational program per se, informal

teaching

Circus School, including an educational project, possible on different levels

What is a school?

Professional Schools

Youth Circus Schools

What is a trainer?

Different levels of trainers

What is circus?

A form of Art but also a Method

HOW CAN WE SHARE EXPERIENCES?

What could we do for teacher training? What can we actually set up for teachers?

One option would be to set up a **pool of teachers**, who want to go out and exchange experiences with others. Job shadowing is possible. A network with the teachers contact information helps people to get in touch with the right professionals. This network/database could include pictures, resumes etc. The listing should include people who want to do this exchange project and that are also able to do it right now. The network would be updated to give out valid information. A problem with this network is to find the resources to keep it up and get it done, and to decide who is responsible of making a list of all professionals in Europe. A list should also consist of people who have enough experience and pedagogical skills to go abroad and teach others. List could be protected by giving user rights to members only. It should be decided upon who this list is for, but also about how we can guarantee the quality of the professionals on this list. It is important to have the same standards of the professionals from each country.

A **conference** about the pedagogical matters, training for trainers, can clear out issues. Participants can be from umbrellas or from some other institutions, but they need to be interested in teacher training and willing to exchange ideas and develop. The participants need to have an understanding and experience from the matters, to better contribute to conference. The right people, in right place, in the right time, to start talking profoundly about these matters.

There are already a lot of things happening in different countries. Teacher training is organized in each country, but there are no **international standards** for skills and competences. Professional level should be validated with exams and practical tests. Turku University is the only place in Europe to give a bachelor level circus diploma in teacher training. There is a program for artistic training in France, but this is not yet done to meet the requirements of universities. The existing programs and trainings need to be compared and combined into common standards.

European Social Fund, ESF, gives out money, if you work with people who need reorientation. This funding depends on the area of residence as well.

There are different levels of teachers:

1. Assistant Teacher
2. Teacher/Animator for discovery (working in a one-time happening, a yearly event)
3. Teachers for discovery and initiation (e.g. from 1 to 3-4 years, between 5-10 years)
4. Teachers for specialized groups (e.g. trapeze, juggling, circus theatre, acrobatics, etc.)
5. Teachers/Trainers for teachers

INVENTORY OF TEACHER TRAINING SCHOOLS IN EUROPE:

France:

	BIAC	a short term training for animators (60 hours)
disabilities)	BISAC	training for animators for "adapted" circus (people with
(one year course)	BPJEPS	teacher training for people who have been in circus schools
	DE	Diplome d'Etat, validation/diploma for (old) circus artists who want to be pedagogues and learn more about the circus pedagogy
	CA	Masters diploma, not yet existing, but they are planning it

Belgium:

Brussels:

Ecole de cirque de Bruxelles offers:

assistant teacher

formation pedagogic (one year full time, 2nd option year)

EPART (Etude pedagogiques artistique), (4 year course),

movement/rhythm/circus, diploma for teaching in art schools

training social animators/social circus (for young

unemployed people)

Flemish part:

Circus VLO (Flemish organization of circus arts)

BIC (Begeleiders in circus arts), (120 hours – 10 days in

summer)

University of Hasselt Klim

Post graduate in circus & theatre after a Bachelor degree

Holland:

training.

No training for teachers, but two schools, Rotterdam and Tilbury, will start teacher

Finland:

Bachelor in Circus Arts in Turku University (artistic & teacher training, 4 years)

Artistic training in Lahti Circus School

Master in Theater Pedagogy in Theatre & Dance University in Helsinki

They want to add Circus Arts in the curriculum

Sweden:

years)

Piloterna artistic training, but they are only thinking about a pedagogy diploma (3

Germany:

Jojo-centrum 1 year course spread over 3 years (Bruno Silke/Karl Köckenberger)

Lungen training in circus pedagogy (Ingo Michel)

Köln ZAK training in circus pedagogy (Sven Nitsh)

Spain:

No training for teachers.

England:

Circusmaniacs individual teacher training, combining training and pedagogy

Italy:

Ass. Giocoliere e Dintorni

Introduction training for teachers (18 hours)

Specific training for teachers (weekends)

Annual meeting for teachers (40 hours in five days)

HOW CAN WE START BUILDING AN UMBRELLA?

Steps to make the base for an umbrella?

Countries are separated in different regions, so in Germany the cooperation was started by organizing conferences and that way getting together with others. Practical things should come first and the first meetings are about finding a common language to speak about things and work together. The first step includes also workshops where people can do things together, and interact. Reflection groups are important to get the general idea. The umbrella should include everybody and take everybody into account. Sometimes the umbrellas have started with just few members, who have grown stronger in the process. This would develop into a certain way of working and thinking. It is hard to invite everybody, because of lack of a general network. The work has to be started from somewhere, even with only some people in it. The action is important to get things started. Cooperation starts when we want to start doing things together and cooperate with other. The movement is the key, but at the same time we need to keep the doors open for others to join as well. Someone needs to take care of decisions and things, but not forgetting the members and the regions, who are the base of everything.

Should we have regional umbrellas or a big national one?

Where should we start the action for this issue? Is this problem regional or national? The **problems should be solved in the right place, and not stress the national organizations with regional or local problems**. An umbrella is there to bring all together and stay in contact with everybody, handing out information for all the members.

The action needs to happen in a specific place, but the reflection of all this work allows us to work together and cooperate. The formalization of an organization should take into account all the levels of action, communicating with others at the same time. The ground work needs to be done before further levels can be attained. Stepping back and looking at the big picture gives us the motivation to cooperate and interact.

Find the balance between different levels:

School -> Local -> Regional -> National -> International

Passion to do things -> Structure to organize -> Institution to bring action to reality

Personal experiences in different countries: difficulties to make a national umbrella, because the different languages and lack of communication. First these experiences should be discussed and then the experiences and good examples should be transmitted forward for others to use them. Experiences should be shared. A meeting is good, not only to share information but also to create a real resource and network and communicate with each other and support each other, sharing documents also with people who are not present. Meeting people and getting to know them motivates to work together more. Basic agreements about basic subjects are needed to improve as an umbrella. The organization is there to make projects happen and not vice versa.

Feedback for Saturday:

Good work today, because we are not getting into details, but speaking on more general level about big issues. We are going to the right direction, but there's a lot to do. Hopefully we can keep the same group together in the next conference as well, to really continue from here and not start from scratch

again with new people. Talking about umbrellas and sharing ideas has been beneficial to everybody, no matter if there's an existent umbrella or not. A meeting is good, but breaks and moving around is needed as well. It has been very beneficial to hear about the situations in other countries. These conversations will be something to take back home and try to keep up the energy of today. Getting each and others' ideas on paper is a great way to share them.

THINGS TO DISCUSS ON SUNDAY:

These ideas came from group participants, as topics for the last discussions:

- Put together who is doing what?
- Structure to go on
- Define an action plan: actually know what we are going to do, on European level
- Education plan
- Meeting for umbrellas, Possible?
- Speak about European umbrella
- Conference, list of subjects to talk in there
- Communication

Basically, all in all, everybody is trying to figure out a plan for future!

Plan for future

Terminology: figure out common meanings to different words and terminology.

Teacher, school, places, kids, circus, disciplines... Rika & FFEC will figure out the terminology.

Follow-up of the "coffee house":

Everybody will review the ideas, correct and add things by the end of November, also adding facts about existing umbrellas in each country.

The corrected versions are sent to Gonzales, who will combine them into one final version, and send the information back to everybody in the beginning of January.

The next seminar meeting, which will be held in Amsterdam, will be too far away, so there will be a 2-3day meeting in Lille, France next summer. We can apply for EU funding for this meeting. The theme of this meeting is the structure and network of the umbrella, talking more about the common goals and needs, and not about details. The meeting in Lille is not to make decisions, but more to share ideas about organizational matters. The participants are the same as in this umbrella group right now, adding some others from existing umbrellas and other countries in Europe. Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Austria, Portugal, Luxembourg, Poland, etc. should be included as well, if possible.

Petra will find out about Sweden and Norway, Gab about Denmark, Gonzalo about Portugal, Vincent about Luxembourg, Karl about Austria and Poland, having the aim to cover the whole Europe. Even if we don't get all the countries to actively participate, we should have a contact person in each country to make sure they get the information as well and stay in touch with other countries.

We should also start thinking about a network around the world, the international contacts. There are plenty of circuses in Africa, Asia, etc. who might be interested in hearing from our experiences.

Training of Trainers

We create a pool of trainers, who are willing for an exchange. Each umbrella will figure out a list in their country and send this to Rika/Laura, who will distribute the information on NICE website: www.nicecircus.net or each umbrellas website.

This exchange might create some problems, because in France it is not allowed to work outside your own circus. Thus the exchanges should be made on organizational level, to make sure not to violate any regulations.

The standards are very different in different countries. This pool of trainers should consist of teachers that are professional and specialized in a certain discipline. Each country also needs a person, who is responsible in the updates on the trainer exchange list.

A working group made up of trainers who can go around and organize seminars and training centers. This would be a regular thing, where issues can be talked, having a workshop at the same time, concentrating on technical, pedagogical, artistic and spiritual aspects, and personality. Karl, Vincent, Christophe and Rika will be in charge of putting the first group together, meeting in Berlin in November. The working group will be started in Pimparello, where the trainers can interact with others and organize workshops.

Participants of this Umbrella group should all talk in their home countries after this seminar, if they are ready for an umbrella, which would help to apply for EU funding for a long term as well.

Website exists, and it can act as a platform for information, but it needs to be figured out how to use it and what is the relevant information to be put up there. The website has been updated by group leaders before, but it is difficult to get people committed to continue with this work. A website is important to have combined information in one place. Various things have been mentioned to be on the website, but the updating will be a massive task.

Conclusions

After the discussions in the Umbrella group, three main ideas arose on top of other:

SHARING EXPERIENCES
A PLACE FOR RESOURCES
PLAN OF ACTIONS

These three topics should be the base for continuing the cooperation and network creation. These are the things that are needed in Europe, to better interact, help and work with one another.

Things need to be done and someone needs to be set responsible for actions. Assigning a specific person for each task will make sure things don't get lost in the process.

There is a right place and time to do things, and it is important to find the balance between different levels. The action should take place on a relevant level, and local problems are solved on local level, so they don't stress the national or international levels too much.

School -> Local -> Regional -> National -> International

Passion to do things --> Structure to organize --> Institution to bring action to reality

An important thing is a circular structure, where every level of action is taken into account. Actions have a right place and time, but all the levels of action should contribute to final decisions. Basically, the circular structure allows all the levels to be involved.

