



The newsletter with a smile



#efhco1

NEWSLETTER December 2020

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Welcome, Bienvenue, Bem-vindo, Welkom, Ahoj, Vitejte, Willkommen, Hola, Tervetuloa, Benvenuti

Hello from Brussels – a very special 2020 lays behind us and for sure, still challenging months are ahead.

It does not matter if you read our **efhco** newsletter in Europe or in any region around the globe: Covid-19 is affecting everything: our physical and emotional health, our families and friends and our clown practice in hospitals with children, parents, 'locked-in' seniors, other vulnerable patients of all ages as well as over-loaded healthcare staff. A lot has happened within **efhco** and at member level over the past few months.

We invite you to keep up-to-date with the latest news in the European Healthcare Clowning universe.

Enjoy the read!

Learn about the last busy months in our federation in our 2020 review. Discover **efhco's** goals and how we bring them to life in healthcare and

how our professional healthcare clowns are challenging the new Covid-19 situation - in their artistic teams, in management, in fundraising, and in using new media and 'never dreamed of' options to reach their patients.

efhco also assists in international communications and research. In addition, we are currently proud **supporters of EU-funded Healthcare Clown research projects** within their programs 'Erasmus+' and 'Creative EU'.

efhco basic facts:

Back in **March 2011** eight professional Hospital Clown Organizations officially **founded our European Federation**, established under Belgian NGO law. They outlined in the **efhco** charter and its statutes the promotion, support and protection of professional clown work in healthcare environments; in particular the caring for hospitalized children and their families and other vulnerable and sick people.

Today **efhco** has **14 full and 4 associate members from Finland to Portugal, Italy and Scotland to Austria**, driving forward our federation, on a European level. More organizations are showing interest in joining – and every new professional HCO is strengthening our federation. Please [see here](#) more membership info.

efhco organizes **several events per year** virtual or on-site around Europe. This is facilitating an open-minded, easy knowledge exchange among active HCOs staff. We have now **four active working groups** for Managing and Artistic leaders, for staff in Fundraising or Research & Development – with regular, inspiring meetings.

*You would like to join **efhco**? Check-out our 2021 planning and email us your interest. You are welcome to participate in any virtual or on-site event, sharing knowledge with our **efhco** members without being a member yourself at that time.*



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Inside efhco 2020:

Since Spring 2020, the Covid-19 outbreak has been a roller-coaster for everyone across Europe, not least our 18 members: *Hospitals and caring institutions shut from one day to the next for 'outsiders / visitors', funding cancelled, working from home, and last but not least adapting artistic practice in record time to work in various multimedia applications, in gardens or even from hoists. Team work, inspiration and creativity have rocketed to their highest ever red nose levels!*

Instead of organizing their usual onsite meetings in 2020, **efhco** supported the transfer of knowledge between active healthcare clown organizations (HCO's) virtually; they collected and shared amazing artistic developments as well as successful new fundraising ideas to support their clown work.

efhco quickly pivoted to virtual meetings, and in September we marked **a moving farewell** to our founding members Monica Culen (Austria) and Yury Olshansky (Italy) who have left the board after nearly 10 years. Both developed our federation into what it is today.



Do you know we have a Search Machine set up specifically for worldwide HCO's on our [website](#)? We are **currently updating** all of our listed clown organizations! **Please have a detailed look at your organization's info** there, **complete our questionnaire** and send it back to info@efhco.eu
🇸🇰 Thank you!

Bienvenue to the new efhco board 🇸🇰



We held online our **General Assembly 2020 including our board election for the term until 2023.**

The new board consists of 7 elected board members: Chairman Kenneth Øhrberg (DK), Vice Chair Caroline Simonds (FR), Coen Abbenhuis (NL), Susana Ribeiro (PT), Valerie van Gastel (BE), Ivana Bacanovic (AT) and Suzie Ferguson (Scotland), plus Laura Fernandez (DE), reappointed Artistic Advisor to the board.

A truly European mix from 8 countries! 🇸🇰



Ursula Fährer 🇸🇰 is your contact at **efhco's Brussels office.** Please feel free contacting her via info@efhco.eu or +32 489 257 005.

🇸🇰 Happy Research! **We have a small curated research archive related to Healthcare Clowning on our [website](#)?** Is a specific scientific paper missing or do you want to contribute one? Contact us info@efhco.eu



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'Best of' Corona 2020: 🇨🇪

What a great idea to have 3 days of fundraiser meetings days in the balmy Lake Geneva springtime!

History books will tell a different story for this year:

The **efhco Fx2020** edition welcomed in two Zoom afternoons **11 professionals sharing their experiences in HCO fundraising under exceptional circumstances**, like staff working @ home office, 'new F2F marketing' to 'Happy, having already invested before in virtual FR' :



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'The Impact of Covid-19 on Healthcare Organizations'

a survey was conducted by **RED NOSES International** and **efhco** in summer 2020.

40 HCO's working with professionally-trained and paid clown artists in 21 European countries completed our survey, covering topics from management to artistic to fundraising. The results show **the resilience and the creativity that our clown organizations had when facing a sudden crisis.**

Our publication was accompanied by a **media campaign**. The report was well received by the EU Commissioner for Health Ms. Stella Kyriakides in Brussels. 🇨🇪

A first step into advocacy on a political level for our members across Europe:

All HCO's need to continue their mission with clown visits in hospitals and care facilities! **A Smile and emotional support is needed more than ever. Healthcare Clowns are more than a 'Nice to have' for patients, families and HC staff – we are indispensable within a healthcare system!** and hospital managements and ward staff have already asked the clowns back to work!" 🇨🇪



www.hcim2021.com



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Discover our efhco events in 2021

We will remain positive and flexible for 2021. All **event specifics & topics will be published as soon as available** at www.efhco.eu or visit us on **Twitter #efhco1**.

Are you interested in being added to our mailing list? Just drop an email to info@efhco.eu

News from efhco members



Virtual **efhco** Board Meetings

efhco Working Groups for Artistic or Managing Directors, 'Research & Development' and Fundraisers will be virtual until we can travel safely again.

June 2021 (2.5 days) Morges, Switzerland
efhco Fx2020, the Fundraising Xchange hosted by our member Foundation Théodora.

November 2021 in Lisbon, Portugal
efhco Annual Meeting (plus General Assembly, Board Meeting, Working Group sessions), hosted by our member Operação Nariz Vermelho.

Smiles for Vienna

The **cruel attack of November 2, 2020 in Vienna** shocked the world. The values of this vibrant European metropolis were hit hard and shook its multicultural spirit and active diversity to the core. **RED NOSES** was founded in Vienna and since has brought humor to people in need of joy in 11 countries. **Therefore, the international RED NOSES community showed its solidarity with Vienna, and brought the smiles back doing what they all know best: Clowning!**

From 10 -12th November clowns were available for a virtual visit, free of charge in German, Arabic, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak, Slovenian, Lithuanian, Spanish, Italian or French.

I give, You give - They SMILE

In **Mid-November 2020**, **Le Rire Médecin** kicked off their end-of-the year fundraising campaign. Knowing that 40% of donations in France are made during the last three months of the year, it is more than ever a big "rendezvous" to earn public support.



This time the focus is on a strong, communicative message: **"I give, You give, He/She gives, We give, You give, THEY SMILE!"**

At Le Rire Médecin, we are convinced we can do great things **ALL TOGETHER**.

And in the **Netherlands**, the **Cliniclowns** 'changed their job' in a Home for seniors with dementia. **Enjoy their new experience**.



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The EU projects Erasmus+ and CREA

Our member [Soccorso Clown](#), Italy leads the EU funded “[Healthcare Clown Pathways](#)” project until 2022, in researching and developing a professional vocational training for clown doctors and its official EU-wide [ECVET accreditation](#). Soccorso Clown is partnering strategically with HCOs in [Italy, France, Latvia, Portugal and Norway](#). [efhco](#) is associate member of this Erasmus+ project.



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Another EU-funded project kicked-off in fall: “[ClowNexUs](#)”, with clown partners in 7 countries from Austria as project leader, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Spain, supported by [efhco](#). “[ClowNexUs](#)” addresses the needs of elderly people with dementia and children within the Autism Spectrum Disorder. It is promoting social inclusion by clowning interventions in [Europe](#).



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Latest News

On 3rd December the new [efhco](#) board started one major topic: The discussion on [efhco](#)’s future working approach for being the best value for its members. **We are developing a strategy, how to join forces of our best practices and talents within our federation – BE CURIOUS -You will be part of it!**



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