



The newsletter with a smile



NEWSLETTER December 2022

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Editorial:

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Hola, Willkommen, Bemvindo, Dobrodošli, Welcome, Vitejte, Bienvenue, Welkom, Ahoj, Benvenuti, Tervetuloa, Benvinguda, Dag & Bonjour from Brussels!

Another emotionally challenging year lies behind us in Europe. We all know the 2022 keywords: War in Ukraine, Pandemic, rising Costs of Living & Energy and Climate crisis ...

Smiles and emotional support are needed more than ever. Healthcare Clowns are more than a ‘Nice to have’ for patients, families and HC staff – we are indispensable within a country’s healthcare system!”

Time flies, and a lot happened again. We invite you keeping up-to-date with latest news from **efhco**, its members and the Healthcare Clowning universe.

Enjoy the read!

Our European federation had a busy year, promoting **efhco**’s goals for the clown life in healthcare, arts and culture – and matching them for the profit of our members being very active in their home countries.

efhco basic facts:

In March 2011 eight professional **Healthcare Clown Organizations** (HCOs) founded our **European Federation**, established under Belgian Non-Profit-Organization 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 people.

Today, **efhco** has grown to **15 full and 7 associate members from 15 countries across Europe**. All 22 are professional **HCO’s** driving forward our truly European federation. Some HCO’s are currently considering joining us in 2023. Every new member is strengthening our NPO.

efhco organizes **several** virtual or nose2 nose **meetings per year** easing inspiring knowledge exchanges among clown artists and back office staff. By now **4 working groups** are active for **Artistic and Managerial leaders, Fundraisers and Research**.

Discover efhco events 2023

All event specifics* will be published as soon as available: www.efhco.eu

- Year Round: Regular Virtual **efhco** Working Groups*** for Artistic, Manager, R&D, Fundraisers
- Virtual **efhco** General Assembly*** and **Board Preparatory Meetings: Revision of Statutes**
- March 21-23, 2023*** (2.5 days) Bonn, DE **efhco Fx2022, the Fundraising Xchange** hosted by our member HHH.
- Spring 2023: Brussels Board Meeting***
- HCCOA 2023 – The Online HC Academy***
- September 2023 (2.5 days) in Brussels, BE*** **efhco Annual Meeting** (including GA, Working Groups and a special EU program),

The past two years left its traces in our professional teams in artistic, management, communications, fundraising or R&D with different results: from a general change of the corporate management style, to the installation of regional leadership teams or job withdrawals.

Some positive impact? Yes, this period clearly improved internal and external communications and the working experience with the multiple virtual clowning applications to reach best all people in needs, we work for!



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Inside efhco 2022:

Some of our members had still a 2nd difficult year affected by the pandemic in their daily work in all departments: From further closed hospital wards and units in caring homes for real face2face clown visits, staff issues due to legally mandatory vaccination to required home offices. Uncertain donor situations challenged fundraisers to creative activities. **Much more important, the infection waves are held in check balance now: *The direct clown interactions are back!***



THE HEALTHCARE CLOWN WORLD met in The Netherlands, a first physical meeting for all of us since 2020, [a highlight and such an inspiration](#) for 300+ attendees. **The next host is Foundation Théodora in 2025. Stay tuned!**

Our Virtual Health Care Clowning Academy



The HCIM 2022 in The Hague was the **birthplace of another global project.** *efhco* and *nafhco* joined forces for its

virtual kick-off on **September 16, 2022**: About 50 viewers followed the presentations of **Tsour Shriqui, Dream Doctors Israel on 'Clowning during Covid'** and **Perola R. Ribeiro & Tünde Gelenscer from RNI, real experts in 'Intensive Smile'**, the pre-operative clown work. **Do you want to support us in 'Getting around the globe'?** We are looking for collaborators in Asia, Australia and Latin America for the virtual sessions in 2023. **Just contact us!**

IN NEED OF ARTISTIC INSPIRATION?

All of our 22 *efhco*. Members can register for a free access to our online **MARKOVA Archive**. This archive contains hundreds of recorded theatre plays, sketches, dances etc. Just email us for your code info@efhco.eu

Quality Label Audits 2022

In Summer 2022 our qualified auditor team could finally restart the *efhco* **Quality Label Audits (QLA)** of three full members. Each multiple day long, intense audit analyses the artistic and administrative management, suggests potential for improvement within the member's quality standards according to *efhco*'s ones set in its baselines. **Scottish Hearts & Minds, Swiss Hôpiclowns Genève** and **Sairaalaklovnit, Finland** are again certified healthcare clown organisations, permitted to market their achieved high quality standard. The 2023 QLA's are starting in spring and will continue all year long for another 5 – 6 full members.

New efhco board members: Eva & Margarita

Readers of our 2021 edition may remember: we had to pass a farewell last year to two board members. The remaining ones Caroline, Coen, Susana and Valerie appointed **Ivana Bacanovic, Austria** as **new chairwoman**. In spring 2022 started the search for suitable candidates for the vacant seats, and the General Assembly (GA) conducive to discussion postponed this by-election to the next GA in fall.

The 2nd round for our applicants, accompanied by the start of a legally required overhaul of the *efhco*'s statutes, began. At the Lisbon GA in September 2022 the *efhco* full members elected **Eva Riepe** (Artistic), **Sweden** and **Margarita Galen** (Managerial), **The Netherlands** to recomplete a motivated board.

Välkommen & Welkom!



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Welcome 🎪 to our new Associate members

“Bom Dia Palhaços d’Opital” from Portugal and **“Herzlich Willkommen RNI, Red Noses International”**, based in Vienna / Austria joined our network as new associate members.

Swedish ClownMedicin, who started also as an associate, applied in summer 2022 for a full membership, received then a 3-days through artistic and administrative audit.

The GA in Lisbon **approved their application.**

Congratulations to Stockholm! 🎪

🎪 We care for **Healthcare Clown R&D**: **efhco**’s **R&D Working Group** conducted in 2022 a survey within HCO’s and other stake-holders on their interest to contribute to a research project under the **efhco helmet**? They received 21 replies from 11 countries. About 4 out of 10 topics had been top ranked, the study project will be further developed and shaped the coming months. **How can you support? The working group is welcoming you.**

🎪 Just now in November 2022 started the new **Erasmus+ Project on “Virtual Healthcare Clown” (VHC)**, running from 2022 - 2024 and led by Soccorso Clown (IT). Other project partners are Spazio Reale Formazione (IT), Blue Room Innovation SL (ES), Stiftung Humor Hilft Heilen (DE) and Palhaços d’Opital (PT). **The VHC project aims to create a program of methodological studies, procedures, tools and digital skills to adapt Virtual HCC interventions to the needs of our high standard quality clown work.** 🎪

Research Projects funded by the EU: ClowNexus & Erasmus+ 🎪

Since 2020 is **efhco** a proud supporting associate of EU-funded HC Projects.



is a ‘Creative EU’ project in which **8 European HCO’s** want to explore in more detail how health-care artists and humor can be used to develop stronger social connections. The goal of this ‘Creative EU’ project is a better communication with people living with dementia and children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their caregivers. 🎪



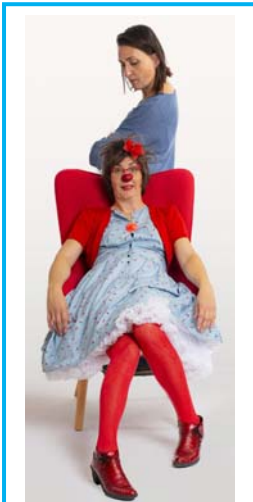
🎪 This autumn finished the Erasmus+ project ‘**Healthcare Clown Pathways**’, a joint research of 6 HCO’s partnering to collect all available data on professional HC training programs. **Main goal was the development of a comparable, innovative, training curriculum for especially for HC Clowns.** With this, a HCO can apply for the official ‘ECVET’ accreditation in their EU member state! Visit www.erasmushccp.eu to explore the model for a HC training! 🎪



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🔴 New Faces in the efhco community 🔴



© Benoit Daynes

🔴 **Bienvenue, Pauline!**

[A new Artistic Director for Le Rire Médecin!](#)

"It's been a bit of a crazy moment, I must admit, a gamble too, quite a life changer.... So, let's get to work: let's play, let's dance, let's dream, let's open the hospitals' doors, let's make people smile: young and old; thanks to the multiple unique talents of LRM!"

In June 2022, LRM welcomed **Pauline Réant** as its new Artistic Director. **Pauline is quite familiar with all topics related to clowning in hospitals, as she has been a LRM healthcare clown for over 10 years plus being a clown team leader in Rouen, in the Normandy region.** Her various professional experiences enable Pauline meeting within LRM the complex strategic, new artistic or organisational challenges. Our French founding member has now 135 clown artists working all year around all over France.

🔴 Anabela Possidónio joins Portuguese Operação Nariz Vermelho' team as new General Director

After a long and notable year 2022 celebrating the 20th anniversary, ONV welcomed **Anabela Possidónio** as the Association's new General Director in November. She is founder and General Director of 'Shape Your Future', whose mission is to help young people and adults make the best academic and professional decisions and boost their careers. Anabela made a corporate career, and held over 25+ year's leadership positions in several sectors worldwide. She holds an MBA from Católica School of Business and Economics and a Management degree from ISEG, she's also a Professional Coach (PCC) by the ICF. **Joining ONV's team, Anabela's aim is to support ONV thrive in the years to come, boasting its work and mission: Bringing joy to patients, their families and to health professionals.** 33 clowns work in 4 Portuguese cities in 100+ units / 17 hospitals.



© Op. Nariz Vermelho, PT

🔴 News from efhco members



© Crveni Nosovi, HR

🔴 CRVENI NOSOVI: The Zagreb Flash Mob:

Our Croatian member celebrated a laughter day in May 2022 a "Smijeh budi nadu*" (In laughter there is hope) with a press event to present their new claim plus a flash mob in their capital.

They wanted to show what people can do for society when they come together and also to thank them for their trust and support. A 45-minute round table covered several topics about Crveni Nosovi's work and programs, discussed with relevant professional experts.

Over 200 participants danced on the main square in Zagreb:

children, elderly, institutional representatives and corporate donors. The action day was backed nationwide by an extensive campaign via all digital social & marketing channels and ads in the print press.



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More News

A new model for Healthcare Clowning: Clowns are 'Essential in a Person-Centered Value-Based Health System'. Pallapupas is currently closing a deal with the Catalan government to develop a pilot in the Hospital Sant Pau, Barcelona. Goals are an integrated, transversal and solid health-care clowns' model to bring emotional care to patients, their families and healthcare professionals.



© Pallapupas, ES

ClownMedicin Sweden is in full expansion

Our Stockholm-based member CM switched during 2022 from an associate to a full member status, a desire which was firstly stopped by Covid19. CM started proudly three new programs in 2022: **A collaboration with the NPO 'Bufff', supporting children having a parent or close relative in prison.** Once a month clowns back Bufff's open day arrangements for families with children younger than 12 years. **"It feels like you understand the group. The children light up in a way we haven't seen before. It is valuable for these children to experience this together with their parentsthese meetings are so important."**

Secondly, CM was unexpectedly given the opportunity to apply for government money to visit Ukrainian refugees. Clowns attend open days in different help organizations.

In addition, they got a grant to develop, over a three-year period, a method in meeting adults with intellectual disabilities in virtual or live encounters.

The method will be developed together with clients and the board of a national interest organisation representing the target group. This project launch is scheduled for January 2023.



© Zdravotni Klaun. CZ

A study by Zdravotni Klaun, the Universities of Motol Prague/ CZ and Vienna / Austria The positive effect of the clown confirmed!

Up to 60% of children suffer from preoperative anxiety. A clown visit is one of the alternative means of reducing the level of stress before a surgical procedure. As part of the NOS! (To the Operating Room!) Program, the research on the positive effects of Healthcare Clown intervention on children undergoing surgery took place in collaboration with **Motol University Hospital in Prague (CZ)** under the guidance of **child psychologist Gabriela Markova, researcher at the University of Vienna.** **Their research objectively confirms that the presence of a Healthcare Clown has positive effects on the behavior and mood of children preparing to undergo surgery and their parents.** These effects persist even after the clown leaves. The expert research text in English was published in the international scientific journal *Frontiers*: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2021.653884/full>. For more information on this ZK project including an almanac summarizing the entire research, click [here!](#)

German HHH started two Pre-Surgery Programs

in the Children Cardio Unit / University Hospital Bonn and the ambulant Ear-Nose-Throat unit / Asklepios Paediatric Hospital St. Augustin (near Bonn). **Two completely different pre-surgery clown concepts, discover more here!**



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News from efhco members

A cross-section of activities in 2022 of our eager members
...showcasing the diversity of fields of work ...



'Rosie and the Rainbow'

For its new campaign [Theodora Foundation](#) and the Dream Doctors offered in summer 2022 young patients from the Lucerne Children's Hospital and the University Hospital of Vaud (CHUV) the opportunity to take part in a creative workshop. With their assistance and imagination the kids transformed the hospital room into the setting for a magical adventure [that brought a film to life](#). A story of a symbolic quest for the stolen colors of the rainbow. Created at the same time, the documentary "[Behind the Curtain](#)" gives an in-depth insight into the special relationship between the Dream Doctors and the young patients, having no limits in their fantasy.



© Rote Nasen Clowndoctors, AT

Vienna Red Noses Run for more laughter and hope: 1800 runners, a clown band, a colorful supporting program on and off stage for participants to catch their breath, and many, many clowns: for the 12th time the RED NOSES run took over the Prater Hauptallee in Vienna. And the fundraising result was equally joyful: a total amount of over **60.000€ for more clown visits** in Austria!

Among the many participants and VIPs, **Michaela Kotásková deserves a special mention: earlier in 2022 she ran a marathon each day on the Camino de Santiago, 850km in total for the profit of RN Austria.** Due to her incredible accomplishment and the digital marketing campaign **her supporters donated 8000€ for clown visits in psychiatric facilities.** This campaign was also rewarded "**The best online campaign of the year 2022**" in Austria, obtaining incl. media clippings a total value of 22k€.



Smiling tears in the Kitchen?

while supporting [Pallapupas](#)? Yes, with '[La Ceba que fa Riure](#)' (the onion that makes you laugh)! A special fundraising action in cooperation with a super-market chain raised in 3 years donations for 10.700+ clown visits in the Barcelona region.



© Sairaalaklovnit, FI

Onnittelut, Sairaalaklovnit (The Finnish Hospital Clowns Association) is since 20 years in action in Finland, nationwide operating in all University Hospitals. **As a part of their celebrations they published their brand-new clown app "Sairaalaklovnit"**, freely available in the app stores.

Happy Birthday – more HCO's will celebrate a Jubilee in 2023: 10 years – Palhacos d'Opital, Coimbra / PT with a Gala on 12 February

A non-member, active in our working groups
30 years – Docteurs ZinZins, Brussels / BE
with a show, date to be confirmed