



The newsletter with a smile



NEWSLETTER December 2019

Content:

Welcome.	1
efhco facts.....	1
efhco today	1
Staff Change	1-2
Looking back 2019.....	2
Discover Events 2020	3
Save the date: HCIM21.....	3
New efhco members	3
Happy Birthday	3
Latest News	3

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

To the relaunch of our *efhco* newsletter that will be published about twice a year for our members, our friends across Europe and around the globe.

We will keep you all up-to-date with the latest news in *efhco* and the European Healthcare Clowning universe.

Enjoy the read!

Discover the past exciting months of our federation in our 2019 review. Learn about efhco's goals and how we bring them to life in our daily work in healthcare institutions and in our artist-clown organizations.

You would like to join efhco? Please study our plan for 2020 and email us your interest: You are welcome to join us at any event, exchanging knowledge with efhco's HCOs without being a member yourself at that time.

efhco facts:

In March 2011 eight professional Hospital Clown Organizations officially founded our European Federation, established under the 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.

At the end of 2019 we now have **14 full and 4 associate members from Finland to Portugal, Italy and UK to Austria**. All are driving forward our growing federation, and its goals and values on a European level.

efhco organizes several events per year across Europe, facilitating the knowledge exchange among active HCOs staff. We also offer our members support in communications.

Inside efhco 2019:

Over the past 12 months one major staff change became a reality: Paulien Trapman, efhco's master mind in inspiration & strategy since 2011, left for a career change. The General Assembly held in Prague in September 2018 cheered her in a moving farewell.



Ursula Fährer,
A German-national,
based in Brussels,
took over the office
position in 11/2018.

Please feel free to contact her any time by email info@efhco.eu or mobile phone **+32 489 257 005**.

If you have not yet met Ursula in the past months, here are some basic facts:



The newsletter with a smile



Raised in Southern Germany, Ursula has now lived in Brussels for over 20 years. She originally trained as a social worker and has gained professional experiences in Fairtrade Promotion and as a Youth Worker. Her achievements as a Youth Worker include founding and running for ten years a children's summer circus, before joining for 1 year Laura Fernandez as office manager in Germany.

Today Ursula is an independent consultant for marketing and office services. "I love working with my clients and harmonizing with their mind- and goal set. We can communicate in English, German, French and some Dutch or Italian. I love cats, cooking, chocolate, clowns, circus arts, crime stories, hiking and traveling – and having a good laugh".

Looking back 2019:

2019 was a busy year and sometimes for Ursula a kind of challenging **efhco** training on the job.

efhco Chairwoman **Monica Culen** and Treasurer **Coen Abbenhuis** met Ursula for the first time in person in Brussels in January 2019. They introduced her to her new part-time role (2 days per week) and outlined the annual plan for 2019.

A **board meeting with all members** followed in Brussels in March 2019, with a packed agenda and time to learn more about each other.



Coen Abbenhuis, Yury Olshansky, Caroline Simmonds, Monica Culen, Kenneth Øhrberg, Ursula, Susana Ribeiro, Laura Fernandez

Springtime in Paris? Yes! Our member **Le Rire Medecin** hosted the **efhco Fx2019**, the annual fundraisers exchange and we welcomed 16 professional HCO fundraisers from 12 EU countries for an intense two-day exchange on the latest trends. This was punctuated with showcases (the good and the bad) of donors' campaigns from all participants and 2 external speakers on Digital Fundraising topics.



Geneva was calling in September 2019

Over 50 people met in **Geneva, Switzerland** at **efhco's annual meeting**, which was the largest meeting ever, and hosted by our Swiss member **Hôpiclowns Genève**. It was a joyful reunion filled with professional networking, working sessions and inspirational dialogues between managing staff, artistic directors and HC researchers. These were interwoven with moments of shared laughter. You want to know more, please see www.efhco.eu/news



We are further happy to share: Even with our limited annual budget, we do the utmost to promote professional healthcare clown work across Europe.



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Discover our efhco events in 2020

We are working out an ambitious program for 2020, all event specifics & topics will be published as soon as available at www.efhco.eu/news. You are interested in attending, just contact Ursula (info@efhco.eu or Mobile +32 489 257 005) for putting you on her respective e-mailing lists.

● 26 / 27 March

efhco Board Meeting in Brussels

● 1st half of June (2,5 days)

efhco Fx2020, the Fundraising Xchange hosted by our Swiss member Fondation Theodora (Lake Geneva region)



● 29 June – 02 July & efhco invite to their 1st Summer School in Healthcare Clown Research (Braga / North Portugal).

● Summer

efhco Ax2020, our 1st Artistic Exchange – a summer retreat in Provence / France.

● 30 Sept 30 – 2 Oct 2020

efhco Annual Meeting (plus General Assembly, Board Meeting, Working sessions and Artistic workshops), hosted by Operação Nariz Vermelho in Lisbon, Portugal.

New efhco members

In spring we welcomed the German foundation [Humor Hilft Heilen](#) (aka HaHaHa, © picture) as Associate member, followed in September 2019 by [Dottor Sorriso](#) and [Fondazione Theodora](#), both from Italy. Several other organizations are showing interest in joining – every new professional HCO is strengthening our federation, and its goals and values. Please [see here](#) for more membership info.



News from our efhco members

Happy Birthday

● 25 years Clown Doctors celebrated in 2019 our members in [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [The Netherlands](#), [Switzerland](#) - together with other organizations!

Latest News

Congratulations to our Italian founding member [Soccorso Clown](#), who has been awarded, (selected within 26 eligible innovation projects out of 192), an ‘Erasmus+’ EU funding. The “Healthcare Clown Pathways” supports innovation in the field of education and vocational training. Soccorso Clown is partnering strategically with HCOs in [Italy](#), [France](#), [Latvia](#) and [Norway](#). The project launched in October 2019 in Florence, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-fe6TzYxjM&fbclid=IwAR0E30ZgDNx6bk32n6F7SI1gyHh0c1JYnLgbvTO5mhQq49v8Qz779MrhntI>



efhco is part of the global healthcare clown movement. Our Dutch member is welcoming you in October 2021 in The Hague!