



## FEDERATION FRANCAISE DES ECOLES DE CIRQUE

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The « Fédération Française des Ecoles de Cirque » (FFEC) is a network of circus schools. It was founded in 1988 and currently has 153 members located all around France.

Our organisation works in collaboration with varied partners (public Departments, culture professionals, circus schools...) so as to provide a high-quality circus training.

### FFEC : FIGURES

- It collects **163 members**: 140 schools and 13 local umbrellas.
- **23 000 persons** are regularly practicing circus in our schools; we can also estimate that 300 000 persons enjoy specific circus workshops (elementary schools, secondary schools, outdoor centres...).
- As concerned circus training, we only employ **qualified teachers**: they are **600** in all.
- The schools are both professional and non professional practicing places. As “professional” schools (9 of 140), we mean that the students are given the possibility to be become artists or circus teachers.

### HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER?

There are a few steps to become a member.

First, the schools make a request. Then they have to satisfy the FFEC requirements in terms of: **administration, pedagogy, health, security, training skills**. They also have to be visited (audit), so as to check buildings, tents, staff... Finally the schools are agreed (for three years) by the FFEC direction staff and they have to pay an entrance fee (each year).

### SERVICES TO MEMBERS

We certify that our schools offer **good circus practicing conditions** (cf requirements). We also propose many **tools** to help managing the schools: administration, security, health, pedagogy... Sometimes trainings are organised by our network, dealing with these preceding themes.

Our organisation gives **specific diploma**:

- The “BIAC”: for persons who would like to be teachers in non professional schools (this diploma is required in all our schools).
- The “BISAC”: intended to train publics with social, physical or psychological difficulties.

It also helps setting out **national diploma**:

In 2007 was brought the “BPJEPS” for circus teachers (introduction and improvement).

An other diploma is being created (Diplôme d’Etat), for circus artists who would like to become teachers, but also for experienced circus trainers.

The FFEC is an **information and exchange network on circus**. It mainly relies on a sharing information system: website, forum...

The FFEC **lobbies public authorities**.



## EVENTS

Local and national circus meetings (June), Circus week-end (Ecoles en piste! / September), training workshops, participation to other circus events (CIRCA, Festival mondial du cirque de demain...).

## ORGANISATION CHART

The FFEC is lead by a **board of direction** composed of circus schools managers. They are 23, elected during the FFEC yearly meeting. The board's missions are : organising and federating the network, checking new schools' requests, lobbying circus practicing.

In Paris we have our **national office**, with a staff of 5 persons, in charge of administration, relationships with the schools, communication...

## PARTNERS

- **Government:** Youth and Sport Department / Culture Department

- **Professional partners:** National resources centre for street art and circus arts (HorsLesMurs); circus unions; festival (CIRCA)...

- The FFEC also belongs to other institutions and organisations: The European Circus Schools Association (FEDEC), The Network of International Circus Exchange (NICE), the French National Circus School of Chalons-en-Champagne (CNAC)...