

The Newsletter with a Smile



“Laughter is the small, bright miracle reminding the body how to heal.”

🌟 Thank you, together we've accomplished so much—let's carry this momentum in 2026 filled with endless reasons for a smile, a deep laughter and clown related adventures, new opportunities and cherished memories.

www.efhco.eu, our relaunched website in 2025, contains lot of information about our European federation, our goals, our 21 European Healthcare Clown Organisations (HCO) members from 16 countries and Ambassadors plus always our fresh News and from our Clown Doctor universe.

Join us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

Enjoy Reading! 🍒

Inside efhco 2025

Another busy year for our federation ended; filled with joy, good laughter, and wonderful and not-so-good surprises. We welcomed [Cerveny Nos](#) from Slovakia as new full member. CN is truly professional in their organisational set-up and

outstanding in their artistic work with patients of all ages in wards, caring homes, etc. and a real asset for our growing community. In 2026, we are looking forward to more organisations joining us.

Spring 2025 saw us to bid a speedy farewell to Chairwoman Ivana Bacanovic, whose input over the past 3 years has been instrumental in defining and shaping our internal goals, in collaboration with our members and the [Board](#).

Eva Riepe, Sweden and **Miriam Bass**, Switzerland took over as interim Chair and Vice-Chair, until our Paris General Assembly in October 2025. Even with one less member, the Board remained highly motivated, driven to push current matters forward. Thank you, **Eva, Miriam, Freya Stang** (Norway), **Margarita Galen** (The Netherlands) and **Susana Ribeiro** (Portugal) for committing countless, voluntary working hours in 2025 to efhco.

An Election Committee did the groundwork for a perfect fit for the board position to be filled. In October 2025, the General Assembly in Paris elected **Deniza Drusany** (Croatia) [to recomplete the board, appointing her a week later as new Chairwoman](#). Congratulations and Welcome!

Our Working Groups



We have 4 active working groups for leading staff in Artistic, Management, R&D and Fundraising. All groups meet independently multiple times a year online and during the Annual Meeting, discussing current issues of their respective working field, exchange inspiring and down-to-earth experiences; develop common principles with a focus on their work in their organisation at home. [Contact us](#), if you would like to get a taste before joining as a federation member.



Quality Label Audits 2025



efhco stands for professional quality in healthcare clown organisations! A main pillar is our **Quality Label Audit (QLA)**, which is conducted by our qualified auditor team every 5 years at a full member. Each audit is multiple, intense days long, analysing onsite the artistic and the administrative back-office work (from management to fundraising to communications), suggesting potential for improvement within the member's standards and according to **efhco**'s baselines.

German KlinikClowns Bayern, **Czech ZdravotniKlaun** are again certified, permitted to market the presented certificate and their achieved high-quality standard. **Slovak Cerveny Nos** accomplished their 1st QLA as qualifier for a full membership. The 2026 QLA's will start in spring, continuing all year long as repeater for our existing full members **CliniClowns Belgium** and **CliniClowns Nederland**, **Rote Nasen Austria** and for our Associate member **Pallapupas, Spain** applying for a full membership ...and may-be others ...



This is to officially certify that the following

is valid for the period from 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025



European Healthcare Clown Organization fulfils
the criteria for the EFHCO Quality label:

KlinikClowns Bayern e.V., Germany

provides approved professional
healthcare clown services

Annual Meeting Paris 2025

Co-hosted by our French founding member **Le Rire Médecin**, we welcomed over 50 attendees from 14 member countries to this Annual Meeting, including 17 First-Timers - a generation change is in full swing at our organisations' side. The newbies were taken before Paris under the wings of our new Onboarding program; we will gladly retain that.

Apart from getting to know each other face to face, our exchange across borders and organisations is essential, motivating and the major focus of our Annual Meetings: whether it's about what's going on in working groups or member organisations, the efhco strategy or hot topics like 'Pediatric Clinics of the Future' by **Dr. Dominique Valteau** (President LRM) or 'Navigating ethical pathways of diversity, minorities, equity and inclusion' in healthcare.



For the latter, it was a real pleasure to engage in intensive discussions with two top keynote speakers, **Dr. Amalini Simon** (Centre Babel, France) and **Professor Susana Caires** (Universidad da Minho, Portugal and member of H-CRIN+) with smaller, mixed discussion groups exploring ideas for their respective organisation at home.

● A 'Nez d'Or' for Our Ambassadors



In recognition of their many years of devoted to our federation, the General Assembly appointed formally 8 [efhco Ambassadors](#). All those founders were awarded our newly minted Nez d'Or (Golden Nose).

Let's Meet this Year:



11 - 13 March 2026
Lausanne, Switzerland



📢 The **HCIM 2026** in Lausanne / Switzerland, hosted this time by our founding member Fondation Théodora, IS THE global meeting highlight, an inspiration for 300+ global attendees.

We will be present with "Umbrellas United", a roundtable discussion between global umbrella organisations, fostering sustainable development and inspirational collaborationand more. Stay tuned!

[The Program is published](#) and booking started just now!

📍 Fx2026, the Fundraising Xchange Meeting in Croatia in mid-June 2026, cohosted by Crveni Nosovi. Details will follow in soon!

📍 Annual Meeting from 21 - 24 October 2026 in Freising, Germany cohosted by KlinikClowns Bayern. Details will follow in early summer.

🔴 A selection of our 'Best Member News 2025' 🔴

All our healthcare clowns started with hospitalised children 30+ years ago. Now, professional HCO's broadened their working fields in bringing smiles:

✨zzz Bedtime Visits

This artistic format by Cliniclowns Nederland, Cerveny Nos and other members installing during the dark, long winter months again a “Bedtime visits” program, creating for hospitalised children a soothing, almost magical atmosphere of distraction, fun and genuine connection just before bedtime.

The kids ending their day with a positive note, helping them feel calmer and fall asleep more easily, enhancing the quality of their sleep and recovery. The clowns, dressed minimal or in pajamas, play with lights, bring special ‘night’ props, flutes and tailor their play to the calmer evening’s atmosphere, focusing on the child’s well-being. This special program is mostly active from October thru February; thanks to gracious donors all teams continue to grow, delivering wonderful bedtime stories. zzz



CliniClowns, Netherlands



Cerveny Nos, Slovakia

(c)Katarína Varga

✨ A 'Planet of Dreams' at the 1st Swiss Children's Hospice

With the launch of «Planet of Dreams» in 2025, the [Swiss Foundation Théodora](#) extended its mission to the very delicate and courageous children living in the 'allani Kinderhospiz'. The Giggle Doctors bring moments of joy, lightness and magic – through music, storytelling and playful interaction – creating a unique space of comfort, hope and shared humanity for children, their families and the care staff. "Planet of Dreams" stands for a new paradigm in palliative child care – a holistic approach that combines Theodora's professional clown-art with deep empathy and a vision of dignity, even under the most difficult circumstances.

♪ A Concert Day at 4 Croatian Hemato-Oncology Hospital Wards ♪

On World Health Day 2025, Crveni Nosovi held a unique musical event across four Croatian major pediatric hemato-oncology departments in Zagreb, Rijeka, Osijek and Split. The "["Mali Gala Concert"](#)" transformed hospital rooms of children undergoing cancer treatment into intimate concert halls created just for them. Exactly at noon, musicians and our clowns in all four hospitals performed "Ode to Joy" simultaneously, sending a powerful message of unity, hope and connection to children and their families. Classical pieces were performed by professional academic musicians, while Crveni Nosovi's healthcare clown served as a joyful bridge between the artists and young patients.



相伴于手术室

Like other [efhco](#) members, Czech [ZdravotniKlaun](#) could expand a special and successful Clown Program (NOS: To the operating room), into now 8 hospitals. A clown helps children and parents prepare for surgery, accompanies them to the operating room, and stays with them after the procedure. En plus, they implemented their Clowns visits in the 2nd pediatric infectious

diseases ward of the whole country, at Bulovka University Hospital - the other one in Brno, the ZK clowns are visiting for 20 years. ●

Our Healthcare Clown Work ● Is Scientific-Based



SykehusKlovnene, Norway



ClownMedicin, Sweden

The [Norwegian pilot project](#) “Children as Next of Kin” at St. Olavs Hospital, in Trondheim aims to develop and test a structured offer from [Sykehus-klovnene](#) for children who have a seriously ill parent or sibling. The project is based on the understanding that these children often spend significant time in the hospital and may need support and relief through safe, playful encounters that draw on imagination, connection, and emotional presence. In close collaboration with the hospital, the initiative will map needs and frameworks, to establish a practical model for testing in a long-term daily practice, may be it will be also transferred to other clinics. ●

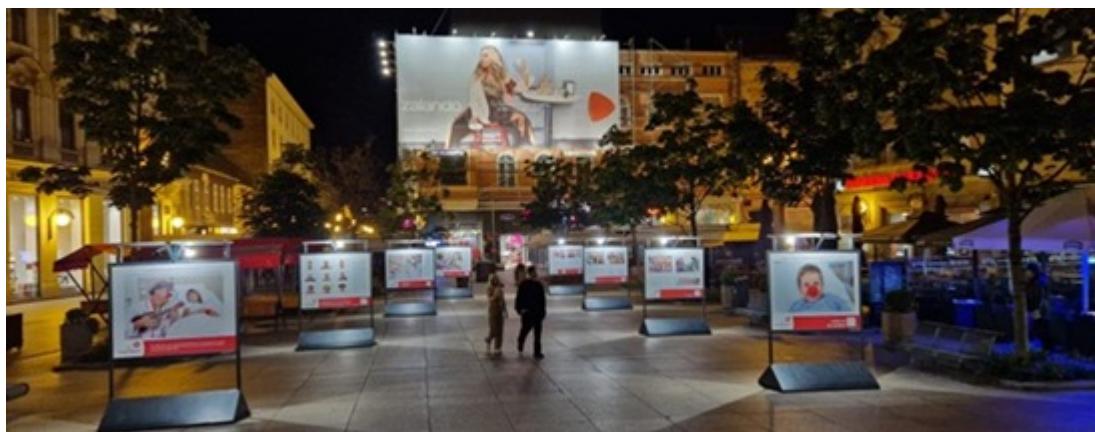
After three amazing years, [Swedish Clownmedicin](#) wrapped up a groundbreaking project exploring how clowns can meet adults with intellectual disabilities—both in person and on digital platforms. These meetings aren’t just fun—they reduce loneliness, boost self-esteem, and encourage multiple modes of communication for people with intellectual disabilities, autism, and acquired brain injury. The journey has been incredible rewarding, educational, and full of laughter. All participating Clown Medicin artists have experienced firsthand how joy and creativity can make a real difference in people’s lives. ●

A Pioneering step forward: A New At-Home Pediatric Palliative Care Pilot in Catalonia: [Pallapupas](#) and the Hospital Dr. Josep Trueta in Girona have launched the 1st program in collaboration with the medical team, the clown join weekly home visits to help reduce anxiety, improve emotional wellbeing, and support families during highly vulnerable moments. For many children, unable to travel to the hospital, this marks the first time that humor and relief reach them where they need it most: at home. The pilot, running from May to July, gathers also families’ feedback to assess its impact and explore expansion to other regions. ●



🎉 2025 - A Year of Milestone Anniversaries ✨

“15 Proud Years” was the [travelling exhibition](#) called, celebrating this jubilee of Crveni Nosovi, stopping in 4 major Croatian cities for 1 week each, showcasing the organisation's growth, key milestones and emotional stories through powerful photographs, testimonials and clown program insights. The exhibit attracted thousands of curious visitors in central public spaces, helping to connect with diverse audiences and strengthened the public understanding of professional healthcare clowning and its various impact. The national media coverage was exceptional, including 55+ minutes of prime-time TV airtime on leading broadcasters. 🎈



With a [glittering Birthday Party](#) celebrated the founders André & Jan Poulie, all **Dottore Sogni**, supporters & friends, families & children, live music and with a huge colorful cake [Fondazione Theodora Italia](#) their [30 years](#) since the 1st visit of a Dottor Sogni in May 1995 at the Hospital Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori in Milan! 🎈





Outstanding Fundraising Campaigns of our Members

Le Rire Médecin was one of the beneficiary charities of ZEvent 2025!

“It’s a dream come true and a huge source of pride for our teams,” shared Clotilde Mallard, General Director.

ZEvent, created by streamer ZeratoR, is one of France’s largest charity livestreams, uniting dozens of famous creators on Twitch for three days to raise funds for major causes. Since 2016, the event has raised over €40 million with an average of 200,000 live viewers.

From 5 to 7 September 2025, streamers supported several health-focused organisations, including a dedicated group working for children’s health:

Sourire à la Vie, L’Envol, Sparadrap and Le Rire Médecin. Funds raised for LRM will help expand clown visits to more hospitalized children and teenagers, including new pediatric psychiatry services. The Fondation de France will again oversee the donation process and support the beneficiary organisations throughout the project. 



Do it yourself: The Portuguese Tax Consignation (IRS) campaign 2025

In 2025, Operação Nariz Vermelho didn’t ask an agency to do their annual tax consignation (IRS) campaign. They decided to use instead the best resources having in-house: Their Clown Doctors ! Recordings of their work in the hospitals were worked out to a beautiful and sensible campaign, showing the impact that any contributor’s tax consignation has on the clown work onsite. What a resounding success! And ONV decided, creating in-house the brand-new institutional video, [see here](#).

Healthcare Clown at Work: Wonderful Media Coverage

 Hearts & Minds, Scotland were excited receiving in 2025 a visit from the BBC World Service to observe the Clowndoctors in Glasgow Children’s Hospital and speak to the team about the benefits of healthcare clowning. Enjoy [here](#) the broadcast “Making Hospitals Kinder for Kids”. 

 Cliniclowns Nederlands on Dutch Television: Play, Humor and Contact indispensable in Pediatric Care in May and June 2025, the three-part documentary series [“Behind the Red Nose”](#) was broadcasted on the Dutch TV channel RTL 4. The series follows Cliniclowns in Dutch hospitals and demonstrates how play and humour contribute to a more child-centered, trauma-free care experience. The series thus sheds light on a development within Dutch healthcare: The integration of positive interventions as a structural, essential

part of the care process in collaboration with care institutions: Moving from a ‘nice to have’ to a ‘need to have’ position within the pediatric care landscape. The series makes this tangible through real-life situations. 

 “A unique insight into the lives of hospitalised children and their families and how the hospital clowns bring hope, humanity and magic” (quoting Film maker Aleksander Tranberg) [Sykehusklovnene](#) premiered with a 3-part series (20 min. each) on a streaming platform, initiated and funded by the media company Screen Story. “For many, this is the first chance to see how our improvisation-based art form truly unfolds in clinical settings”, said CEO Ellen Arnstad says: “Many know of us, but few have seen the collaboration of our clowns with healthcare staff and how improvisation connects.” 

What else?

 The demand for healthcare clowns is growing as our Community expands. All professional HCOs ensure quality of their new clowns by a **minimum 600 hours, intense and multi-level training in artistry and all knowledge and tools for working in healthcare environments**. The new recruits receive their higher ordination from clown colleagues and the Artistic Director, enjoy this moment at our German member [Stiftung Humor Hilft Heilen \(HHH\)](#)



You would like to stay in contact?
Just let us know: info@efhco.eu