



Report on the educational situation of children whose parents work as occupational travellers in Europe

Austria

Information about Austria, provided by Austrian parents:

Children of parents who are occupational travellers are allowed to travel together with their parents. They are allowed attend the school close to the circus location or fairground. Home-schooling is also an option. At the end of the schoolyear the children have to pass the school-exam.

Information about Austria, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“[...] Apart from the option of home-schooling, private (boarding) schools or guest schools, there is no specific governmental support for these children (Population Europe Resource Finder & Archive, 2014a). Home-schooling is not easily arranged because the conditions are quite difficult to meet for circus families (Rechtsinformationssystem des Bundes, 2019).”

European Commission: Situation of circus in the EU Member States. Study Report. Page 105.

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Belgium

Belgium has a state-funded mobile pre-school for children whose parents are occupational travellers. From the age of six these children and young people are no longer allowed to travel, they must then attend a boarding school or live with relatives and attend the school in their place of residence. It is also possible to apply for home schooling. The parents are then solely responsible for the teaching of their children. At the end of primary and secondary school, the child must be registered for the state-organised exam.

<https://onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/huisonderwijs-wat-en-voor-wie>

Information about Belgium, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“For children up to 6 years old, there is a state-funded mobile pre-school (Vlaams Ministerie van Onderwijs en Vorming, n.d.). Children from the age of six, whose parents or guardians do not have a permanent residence, are allowed to move into one of the five acknowledged boarding schools to comply with compulsory education (Vlaams Parlement, 2012). Otherwise these children have to visit the school at the place of residence. However, with the approval of school directors, children are – in truly exceptional circumstances – allowed to be absent to accompany their parents or guardians during the travelling season. This is only allowed if the school provides distance learning and if the school and parents or guardians are in regular contact (Vlaams Ministerie van Onderwijs en Vorming, 2002).”

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Bulgaria

Information about Bulgaria, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“According to the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science, the educational system in the Republic of Bulgaria offers school education, which takes place in different forms of education and every citizen exercises his right to education according to his preferences and possibilities. There are no specific support initiatives for children living in travelling circus companies.”

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Croatia

Information about Croatia, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“According to the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education, in Croatia, children living in travelling circus companies are required to be enrolled in the general education system just like every other child. There are no special arrangements for these children.”

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Cyprus

We have no information about Cyprus.

The report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘ provides no information.

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The Czech Republic

Information about the Czech Republic, provided by Czech parents:

“In the Czech Republic, schools provide learning packages to children whose parents travel at home and abroad. For this the authorities must consider the parents to be 'capable' enough to teach the children themselves while travelling, i.e. the parents must prove that they have enjoyed a higher school education/studies. For the central final examinations, the children and young people have to travel home.”

Information about the Czech Republic, provided by the report 'Situation of circus in the EU Member States'

“Based on information provided by the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, in primary education children are enrolled in local schools in which they participate in exams. If they pass exams and if all conditions are met, they are allowed to be homeschooled. If they do not pass, they have to stay and attend the local school instead. However, there is no support system to accomplish this, whilst the conditions for home-schooling are quite strict. For example, the home-school teacher needs to have a university degree if (s)he wishes to teach a pupil who is in the second stage of primary education. Unfortunately, having a university degree is not a common feature amongst those working within traditional/classical circus companies in particular.”

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Denmark

In Denmark, there are no special educational facilities for children and young people whose parents are occupational travellers. However, parents may teach their children in home schooling.

Information about Denmark provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“The following information is based on input provided by the Danish Ministry of Education. Education is compulsory for all children between the ages of six and sixteen. As long as certain standards are met, children may receive their education in a publicly provided school, a private school, or at home. The act places no restrictions on the structure or specific content of home-schooling, but states that home-schooling must be equal to what is generally required in the public school. Each municipality is responsible for ensuring that all of the children living within its borders meet the educational requirements. As such, parents or guardians must notify their local municipality in writing if they want to home-school their children. This notification must contain information about which children will be taught, where the teaching will take place as well as who will be teaching (Population Europe Resource Finder & Archive, 2014b). A way the municipality can ensure that the teaching taking place is equal to what is usually required in the Danish schools is by testing the pupil annually in various subjects. If the local municipality finds that the teaching has not lived up to the expectations, they must notify the parents or guardians that a new test will be held which can ultimately lead to the student being obliged to be enrolled into a public school if the education still appears to be inadequate (Ramboll, 2018).”

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Estonia

Information about Estonia, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“In Estonia students acquiring basic education may be taught by way of home education at the request of a parent. Upon application, the parent organises and funds the part of the studies pursued outside the school (RiigiTeataja, n.d.). There is no information about specific requirements for home-schooling. According to the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, there is no special support for children living in travelling circus companies available, because there are no travelling circus companies registered in Estonia and there are no children in these situations enrolled in an Estonian school.”

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Finland

Information about Finland, provided by a Finnish circus-parent:

Finland does not offer special educational facilities for children whose parents are occupational travellers.

Information about Finland, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“[...] There is a possibility for children to be home-schooled, but according to the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture the number of home-schooled children is very low. Regulations for home-schooling are not mentioned.”

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France

CNED - Centre national d`enseignemt a distance - is responsible for the education of 100,000 pupils. 30,000 of these pupils travel regularly. Lessons are given through learning packages from the CNED, which are processed at home. Often in combination with on-site school visits. In France there is no compulsory schooling but compulsory education for children and young people aged 6 to 16.

(CNED 2016) <https://www.cned.fr/>

Information about France, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“In France 30.000 pupils that are travelling regularly, among which children whose parents or guardians work in the circus sector, have access to education through the Center National d’Enseignement a distance (CNED). The lessons are taught with Learning Packages from the CNED which pupils work on from home, often in combination with visiting a nearby school of their visiting location (ENTE, 2018).”

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Germany

In Germany, the 16 counties have educational sovereignty. This means that schooling for children and young people whose parents are occupational travellers are regulated differently in the 16 federal states. In most federal states, children and young people attend local schools - so-called ‘Stützpunktschule’. They are supported by special trained teachers, so-called ‘Bereichslehrkräfte’. Their duties and the number of hours they spend there are regulated differently in the various federal states.

In some federal states there are special schools. In Nordrhein-Westfalen travelling circus children can attend the School for Circus Children, and in Hessen, the School for Children of Occupational Travellers offers schooling for children and young people whose parents are occupational travellers. Lessons at the two schools take place both in mobile schools on site and online.

In some federal states there are additional places of learning, such as the Schulmobil in the district of Arnsberg in Nordrhein-Westfalen or the school van at the Schützenplatz in Hanover, Niedersachsen. These learning locations are a supplement to the attendance of the local school.

<https://www.schulefuercircuskinder-nrw.de/>

<http://schule-fuer-kinder-beruflich-reisender.de/>

<https://www.schule-unterwegs.de/berid/>

Information about Germany, provided by the ‘Situation of circus in the EU Member States’

“Education policies and regulations are within the sovereignty of its 16 federal states. Compulsory education in Germany involves regular attendance and participation in lessons and other compulsory school event. Students, parents or guardians, schools, and training companies are all responsible for ensuring compliance with the obligations on compulsory schooling and training. If necessary, attendance may be

enforced through various measures, including sanctions like penalty fees for parents or guardians (Population Europe Resource Finder & Archive, 2015a). In two Bundesländer there are mobile schools that work with digital learning platforms. In the other Bundesländer, it is worked with local schools and guest schools with some schools specifically being assigned as fulfilling the role of guest schools. In addition, local schools provide educational plans for when children are away to take up with area teachers active in all Bundesländer. This is supported by a diary for the children which keeps their credentials and records their progress. Its use is binding in all Bundesländer and according to experts a pilot will start in the schoolyear 2019-2020 regarding the implementation of a digital diary. It is an important tool to support the school attendance of traveling children and is created by the primary school and the travelling children in the rule on school enrolment, the relevant school authorities or handed to the field teachers. It serves the exchange of information between primary school, base school and area teachers as well as the parents or guardians, and accompanies the child throughout the school period. The school diary documents the starting situation at departure, the content of the lesson and the learning level of the child. It contains a school attendance calendar as well as individual learning plans for the individual child. It is accompanied with a guideline for teachers and schools to sensitize them for the special situation and educational interests of children of professional travellers. The area teachers are available to support, guide and provide counselling to occupational travellers, by preparing the originating school, collection and development of teaching materials including innovations (distance learning, elearning), homework assistance in connection with the originating school, supporting contacts between players, supporting handover of children to guest schools, assessing progress reports and school diaries during travelling season (BERiD, 2016; Sekretariat der ständigen Konferenz der Kultusminister der Länder in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, 2016).”

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Greece

Information about Greece, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“Based on information provided by the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, there is a traveller tuition card for children who belong to families of travellers in general and therefore do not have a permanent residence. In Greece, children need to attend the school of their district, which is not possible for children without a permanent residence. Children can change schools easier, including during the school year, with a traveller tuition card (Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, 2013; Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, 2017).”

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Hungary

Information about Hungary, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“Children living in travelling circus companies are usually home-schooled by their parents or guardians. They only have to take a compulsory exam twice a year at a local school. Other options are paying a teacher to accompany the circus company on tour or at distance education supported by their local school. For secondary education, the methods are at this moment under expansion, but according to our contact from the national circus most used methods are home-schooling, digital learning and circusowned mobile classroom. Boarding schools are also available, but these are not popular. The above information is based on information provided by the Hungarian National Circus Company Maciva and Hungarian Circus Arts School BIAK.”

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Ireland

Information about Ireland, provided by Irish parents:

In Ireland, until 2016 there were mobile teachers for the children of occupational travellers. Now that this facility has been abolished by the government, the children usually stay at home with relatives/parents or attend boarding schools.

Information about Ireland, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“[...] There is a possibility for children to be home-schooled, but according to the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture the number of home-schooled children is very low. Regulations for home-schooling are not mentioned.”

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Italy

Information provided by Migrantes, an institution of the catholic church

In northern Italy there is a project for children and young people whose parents are occupational travellers. Contact person is Monica Bergamini. `Studiando Viaggiando. Migrantes, an institution of the Catholic Church, supports the travelling families.

<https://www.migrantes.it/>

In other regions, the children of working parents visit a different host school every week. The Italian pastoral care for showmen reports that in the south of Italy in particular, around 50% do not go to school at all.

Information about Italy, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“[...] It is however stated by Gobbo (2017) that Italian travelling (circus) families are not supported by educational provisions that can ensure their children’s effective learning, on the one hand, and teachers’ informed and efficacious teaching on the other hand. Where religious boarding schools used to be an option, these are no longer available. Home-schooling is also an option. According to the Italian legislation (cfr. DL 297/1994, art. 111, and DL 76/2005, art.1, par. 4), parents or guardians who choose this particular educational opportunity commit themselves to provide for the instruction of minors up to completion of compulsory education and to warrant for the students’ participation and for their engagement in education. Children must take a qualifying examination to access the next school grade. There are no nation-wide support systems in play for this education option, apart from some example projects (Gobbo, 2017).”

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Latvia

Information about Latvia, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“In Latvia, it is possible to acquire education in four forms, namely full time, extramural (including distance education), self-education and home-schooling (Population Europe Resource Finder & Archive, 2015b). This makes it possible for children living in travelling circus companies to comply with compulsory education. However, according to the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science there are no special regulations concerning these children.”

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Luxembourg

We have no information about Luxembourg.

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Lithuania

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Malta

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The Netherlands

Information provided by the Rijdende School, school for children whose parents for at the circus or on the fairground:

In the Netherlands, the Stichting Rijdende School (SRS) has been founded 65 years ago. During the travelling season, the SRS is responsible for teaching primary school children whose parents work on the funfairs or in the circus. The SRS is a Dutch primary school, which means that children are educated from their 4th birthday until the end of the 6th grade. The Dutch law requests that the children and young people attend the secondary school at their hometown. They are no longer allowed to travel with their parents.

In the months of the travelling season, there is for the primary school children a wide range of schooling on offer: the children can visit the SRS mobile school on site, i.e. on the circus or fairground, and they can receive online instruction via the school's own online portal, called Navileren. Or they can visit guest schools on site, accompanied by SRS teachers. In winter times, the Dutch children attend their regular school in their place of residence.

For foreign children lessons are often provided in their mother tongue.

www.stichtingrijdendeschool.nl

Information about The Netherlands, provided by the report 'Situation of circus in the EU Member States'

"Parents or guardians are exempt from the obligation to ensure that a minor is enrolled as a pupil of a school, if and as long as they lead a migratory life as a fairground operator or circus employee during the months of March through October and the minor travels with them. The exemption does not apply if the distance between the place where the minor is staying and the location of a mobile school for children of fairground operators or circus employees, which is accessible to the minor, is less than 5 kilometres, measured along the shortest sufficiently safe road (Rijksoverheid, 2002). The mobile school 'Rijdende School' offers a wide range of educational opportunities generally offered in combination. These include on-line education, which children can follow at home, or being accompanied by a teacher from the mobile school to visit guest schools nearby the circus location. Lastly, the circus can be accompanied by a mini-school or teacher bus which entails a school on wheels equipped with the same facilities as a primary school in a permanent location. In the winter, when the circus companies generally do not tour, the mobile school closely collaborates with the main nearby school the children attend by then. Dutch children who are staying outside of the Netherlands also have access to the digital educational programmes from the mobile school (Stichting De Rijdende School, n.d.). From secondary level, the adolescents have to start at regular secondary schools or they can attend a boarding school for occupational travellers which are financially supported by the Dutch government. According to Landelijk Oudercontact voor de Trekkende beroepsbevolking (LOVT), these schools are however primarily attended by children from barges and rarely by circus children. "

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Norway

Information about Norway, provided by Norwegian parents:

In Norway, there are no special school offers for children and young people whose parents are occupational travellers.

"But the real situation for showmen in Norway is that the children go to school in their home town and a family member takes care of them. During the holidays and on weekends, they attend the fairs whenever possible. Most parents choose this option, which gives the children of the showmen the opportunity to lead a "normal" life, do sports and have close friends. There are very few children who take part in the daily life at the fairs, as they are organised differently from the normal life in Europe. One family is the owner of a funfair, which then travels around the country as a Lunapark".

Poland

In Poland, the Center for the Development of Polish Education Abroad – ORPEG organise online-schooling for children who travel abroad, including the children of occupational travellers.

<http://www.orpeg.pl/>

Information about Poland, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“In Poland, there are no special school offers for traveling children. In individual cases online lessons are offered by the primary school (ENTE, 2018).”

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Portugal

Information about Portugal, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States‘

“In Portugal there are two options in relation to educating children who accompany circus companies on tour. Children can receive education by distance learning in an online platform (Direcao-Geral Da Educacao, n.d., a) or children can attend both local and guest schools with the support of an online platform provided by the Ministry. On this platform, teachers are able to track the progress of the pupil by uploading information about the student, their education path from one school to the other and updating information regarding the learning progress (Direcao-Geral Da Educacao, n.d., b).”

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Romania

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Slovakia

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Slovenia

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Spain

Information about Spain, provided by the pastoral workers in Spain:

The Spanish circuses are provided with a teacher from 4 children upwards, the accommodation and the classroom must be provided by the circus itself. If there are less than 4 children, the children must attend host schools. From the age of 12, the children are looked after online.

In Catalonia, there is an institution that looks after the schooling of children and young people whose parents travel on business. They provide material and offer online lessons.

<http://www.anayaeducacion.es/proyecto-digital.php>

Information about Spain, provided by the report ,Situation of circus in the EU Member States'

“The Spanish Ministry of Education provided the following information on education of children living in travelling circus companies. By the Royal Decree 1174/1983, of April 27, the first agreement was signed between the Ministry of Education and the Spanish Association of Circus Entrepreneurs for the start-up of the Itinerant

Classroom Program, regarding the schooling of the children of the employees of the circuses. Article 47 of the Order EDU/849/2010, of March 18 1983 stipulates that the aforementioned Ministry may develop actions for the educational attention of students where schooling is compulsory that cannot attend regularly educational centres because of travelling permanently through Spanish territory during the school period. The educational stages to which this is directed are pre-primary, primary and secondary education as well as secondary education for adults at a distance (ESPAD) and high school.

By means of, among others, these laws, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training guarantees and facilitates the access and delivery of education to all students of traveling circuses. The procedure of educational provision is different depending on the number of students registered in each circus. If there is a minimum of three students enrolled, the Ministry is committed to the appointment of the teaching staff as well as to pay an amount (€ 3,000) per classroom for the cost of purchasing the caravans for traveling classes and housing of the teacher, or the operation, conservation, repair and improvement of resources and teaching materials. When the number is smaller, the teaching is remote. In any case, access to education is guaranteed as well as access to internet, the digital platform and the materials. The quality control is carried out through the teacher responsible for the teaching and the tutor of the group. Also, during the school year, three ordinary and one extraordinary evaluations are carried out. These evaluations are face-to-face, depending on the location where the circus acts. The CICEAD (Center for Innovation and Development of Distance Education) designs and sends the tests to the different consulates or Education Councils of the Spanish embassies in the different countries where the circus plans its performances. Later, the CICEAD teachers value the evaluation tests and record the corresponding notes. Student-teacher communication is very fluid during the entire learning process. The platform provided by CICEAD allows knowing the student's activity in terms of user access frequency as well.”

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Sweden

Information about Sweden, provided by Swedish parents:

In Sweden are no special schooling facilities for children whose parents are occupational travellers.

Switzerland

Information about Switzerland, provided by the Swiss pastoral workers:

The circus children in Switzerland all receive a good school education. Unfortunately, however, all circus companies have to pay for 90% of the costs for the teaching staff themselves. This is increasingly becoming a burden for the circus companies and families. Here, support from the state would be very helpful and also worth striving for!

Since Switzerland is not such a big country, almost all showman families have their children in one place in Switzerland (usually where they live) where they go to school. This means that the showman children go to school in the "normal" way and their parents (at least some) come home almost every evening. Thus, the cost problem regarding the education of the children is mainly concentrated on the circus companies in Switzerland.

In the future, it will probably be necessary to work together to ensure that the work of the circus companies is supported more by the public sector and that the continued existence of the traditional companies is secured.

The United Kingdom

In the UK there is no longer a specific educational institution that provides education for children and young people whose parents travel for work. In many families, children stay at home with their grandparents or one parent or attend a boarding school.

The NATT+ was closed in October 2018, the website was closed in 2019, but the NATT still has a Facebook page.

Information about The United Kingdom, provided by the report 'Situation of circus in the EU Member States'

“Historically speaking, families working within the travelling circus would often access education by registering with a local school where children would attend as much as possible until the family went on tour. Once on the road, families would be able to get their children into guest schools on a regular basis by approaching schools directly or contacting their local Traveller Education Services. Furthermore, the children were often given distance learning packs and laptops (DFE E-Lamp Mobility project) to keep them focused whilst on the road. However, many of the Traveller Education Services have been disbanded or changed beyond recognition which makes increasingly difficult for these children to be admitted in guest schools. In addition,

outreach support for these families and children is almost non-existent, having a local teacher visiting the fairs to mark work, give feedback and set more work is an extremely rare sight, indeed if it happens at all (NATT+ and ACP, 2016). Central government has not been supportive of Local Authority Traveller Education Services, and according to Herefordshire County Council, not all local authorities have a designated teacher to do outreach work and to monitor or support education.”