



RED NOSES
CLOWNDOCTORS
International



1994 - 2014

Happy Birthday RED NOSES!
The RED NOSES idea turns 20.

RED NOSES Clowndoctors International

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

World Health Organisation

Foreword

GIORA SEELIGER

MONICA CULEN

Photo: Martin Lifka

Hard to believe it's been 2 decades, 240 months or 7,300 days since our concept of hospital clowns got started. **The RED NOSES idea turns 20!**

We can still remember the first hospital visit – back when we made the impossible possible: clowns in hospital!

The doctors and the nursing staff were quite sceptical: the clowns might disrupt the well-established hospital routines and create a big disturbance. We had to muster our best diplomatic skills and exert a lot of effort convincing the hospital management. But as soon as they heard the first child laugh and noticed that the young patients were less afraid during treatments, they quickly knew better! Our concept worked!

Today, clown visits are a natural and highly valued psychosocial addition to the medical and nursing care provided not only in children's wards, but also in geriatric facilities, in rehabilitation centres and in institutions caring for children who have mental and multiple disabilities.

Our success was noticed quickly on the international stage and our know-how was soon in high demand! Shortly after we began operating in Austria, requests from abroad started pouring in. The first partner organisation was founded in Hungary, which became part of the RED NOSES idea in 1996. **Today, there are already RED NOSES organisations in 11 countries!**

This level of success is only possible by providing the highest available artistic quality at the patient's bedside. We expect a lot from our clowns. On the one hand, they need artistic abilities, like music, juggling, magic and clowning. But they also need a strong basic understanding of psychology and medicine so they can respond to a patient's situation as well as possible.

Humour can have a powerful effect. Especially in critical, life-threatening situations, supportive humour can lift people out of despair and isolation and strengthen their will to live. We now know that clowns always have a positive effect as long as the circumstances are right. Sometimes clowns are the **ONLY** ones who can create a desired effect when other possibilities have been exhausted.

We are convinced that people in difficult and crisis situations have the right to enjoy life and need to be strengthened through the power of humour. Even when we are battling our deepest despair, we all need joy and happiness.

Monica Culen,
Co-Founder and Executive Director
RED NOSES Clowndoctors International

Giora Seeliger,
Co-Founder and Artistic Director
RED NOSES Clowndoctors International

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Congratulations!

Rolando Villazón

Star tenor and Humour Ambassador of the RED NOSES group

¡Feliz cumpleaños! Dear RED NOSES, I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart on your 20th birthday! What you do is poetry. You bring happiness and colour to sick people in hospital. You entice them into a magical world where it's alright to just laugh and dream. I highly respect your abilities and I am proud to be one of you.



Michael Christensen

Founder of the Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit (New York, USA)
Initiator of hospital clowning

20 years of smiles! – 20 years of wonder! – 20 years of celebration!
20 years of talented, professional clowns and administrators giving their best to ill children, their parents, seniors and caregivers.
Thank you, Monica! Thank you, Giora!

Markus Wagenhofer

Head of Region, C&A Mode Austria and Southeast Europe

Many congratulations on 20 years of taking action against the loss of laughter! I watch in admiration as your visits give hope and joy back to people who no longer have the inner strength to muster these things themselves. It is precisely this “laughter work” that charges me with positive energy and optimism as well.

I wish you continued strength to stay on the path of bringing people happiness and moments of light-heartedness for many generations to come.



Prof. Alexander Steinberger

Vice Chairman of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra congratulates RED NOSES on their 20th anniversary. The humanitarian vision of RED NOSES is one-of-a-kind. Its goals are courageous and the way it achieves them is highly professional.

The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra understands the powerful and healing effects music has on people. Experiencing music actively and directly can play a very special role for people going through difficult periods in life. In addition to giving joy, the arts in general and music in particular can also give renewed hope.



20 years
RED NOSES

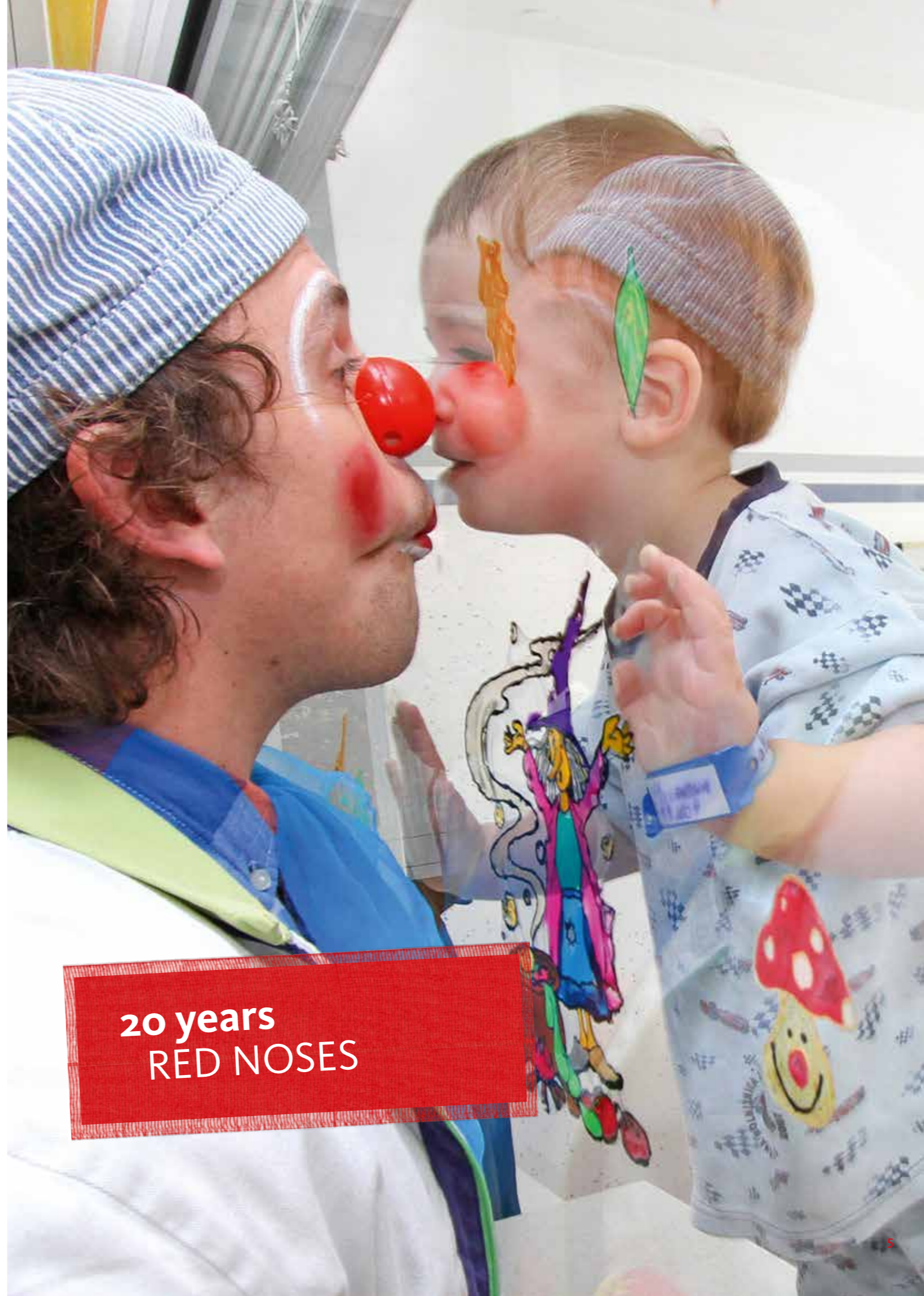




Photo: DAVID SEVCIK

By the time you're 20, you've experienced quite a lot – turbulent beginnings full of inspiration and esprit, but also many uncertainties. But inspiration gives wings to dreams and so far 11 countries have let themselves get infected by the RED NOSES mission. Today there are already more than 320 clowns who have visited approximately 2.8 million people during 70,000 visits. But let's start from the beginning.

A young sapling grows...

It all started in 1994 in Austria: a handful of clowns and their first visits to paediatric wards in Vienna and Graz. The number of hospitals prescribing sick children a regular dose of humour increased quickly.

The success attracted international attention and a small team in Hungary wanted to get the RED NOSES idea started in Budapest. No sooner said than done. The Czech Republic followed thereafter. Year after year we received more requests so that eventually we needed a new structure.

The umbrella organisation RED NOSES Clowndoctors International (RNI), was established in 2003. One after the other, under the auspices of RNI, 11 partner organisations have emerged in Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia, New Zealand, Croatia, Palestine, Poland and Lithuania.

... ..and grows big and strong!

But not only children were allowed to look forward to the clown doctors. After a long period of preparation, the first visits to senior citizens in geriatric facilities started in the year 2000 and RED NOSES has been spreading courage and self-confidence in rehabilitation centres since 2003.

In 2001, the first occasional visits took place in smaller medical and social facilities as part of our outreach programme. Circus Patientus, our own small circus programme, has been a highlight for long-term care patients since 2004.

In 2012, RED NOSES started a special programme for children and youth with mental and multiple disabilities called Caravan Orchestra, and since 2013, through Emergency Smile, RED NOSES clowns from around the world have been bringing zest for life and courage to areas stricken by crisis or catastrophe.

The difference makes it possible...

The RED NOSES family has a wealth of know-how from which the group profits greatly. For example, Circus Patientus was established in the Czech Republic and successfully introduced in Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Lithuania through RED NOSES Clowndoctors International. The cornerstone of the success of RED NOSES is definitely the multi-level international exchange platform which we facilitate.

Solid training and continuing education for the clowns goes without saying in our group. To meet the growing need for such offerings, the International School of Humour (ISH) was founded in Vienna in 2002. In addition to receiving basic training in their home country, clowns can attend courses at ISH and learn from reputable teachers and clowning experts. Since 2014, the pilot project "ISH to Go" also sends experienced trainers to partner organisations.



Photo: Nina Goldnagl

"It's your birthday – could that mean you're getting older? No, because when RED NOSES celebrates its birthday, we are reminded that one can feel reborn at any point in time, no matter how old one is.

Thank you for 20 years of facilitating births, for our laughter, our joy and the vibrancy that our world needs so badly.

Barbara Pachel Eberhart
Bestselling author and RED NOSES International Humour Ambassador

Highlights from 20 years RED NOSES



1994

Austria
ROTE NASEN Clowndoctors is founded in Austria and despite initial scepticism, is highly successful.



1996

Hungary
The first RED NOSES baby! PIROS ORR gets started with the joyous concept in Budapest.



2001

Outreach programme
Occasional visits to smaller medical and social facilities start and are soon in high demand.



2002

International School of Humour (ISH)
RED NOSES are humour experts! The in-house school guarantees on-going training and continuing education.



2003

Rehabilitation programme
The sensitive and joyous clown visits also give rehabilitation patients new courage and optimism.

1994

Children's programme
The clown doctors bring their happy visits to young patients in paediatric wards.



2000

Geriatric programme
After intense evaluation, RED NOSES starts bringing humour and life to geriatric institutions, sensitively and respectfully.



2001

Czech Republic
A further partner organisation – ZDRAVOTNÍ KLAUN – is established in Prague.



2003

RED NOSES Clowndoctors International
An umbrella organisation is founded to facilitate optimal know-how exchange and the strong development of partner organisations.



2003

Germany
RED NOSES begins work in Berlin and captures the hearts of young patients.



2004

Slovakia
The RED NOSES idea catches on in Bratislava, bringing happy moments to the hospital.



2004

Circus Patientus
A circus show for and by sick children receiving long-term treatment is fun and builds self-confidence.



2010

Croatia
The RED NOSES "virus" spreads: CRVENI NOSEVI is established in Zagreb, branching out to paediatric wards across the country.



2012

Caravan Orchestra
RED NOSES expands its programme by adding a musical theatre designed specifically for children and youth with mental and multiple disabilities.



2013

Lithuania
Laughter spreads when the cornerstone for RAUDONOS NOSYS is laid in Vilnius.

2004

Slovenia
The clown doctors of RDEČI NOSKI start up in Ljubljana, spreading laughter and humour.



2009

New Zealand
The RED NOSES concept is put into action all the way on the other side of the world: CLOWN DOCTORS NEW ZEALAND is founded.



2010

Palestine
Laughter in an area plagued by crisis – the apolitical, non-religious and non-judgmental clown character of RED NOSES Palestine helps sick children.



2012

Poland
Committed actors join RED NOSES and CZERWONE NOSKI is founded in Warsaw.



2013

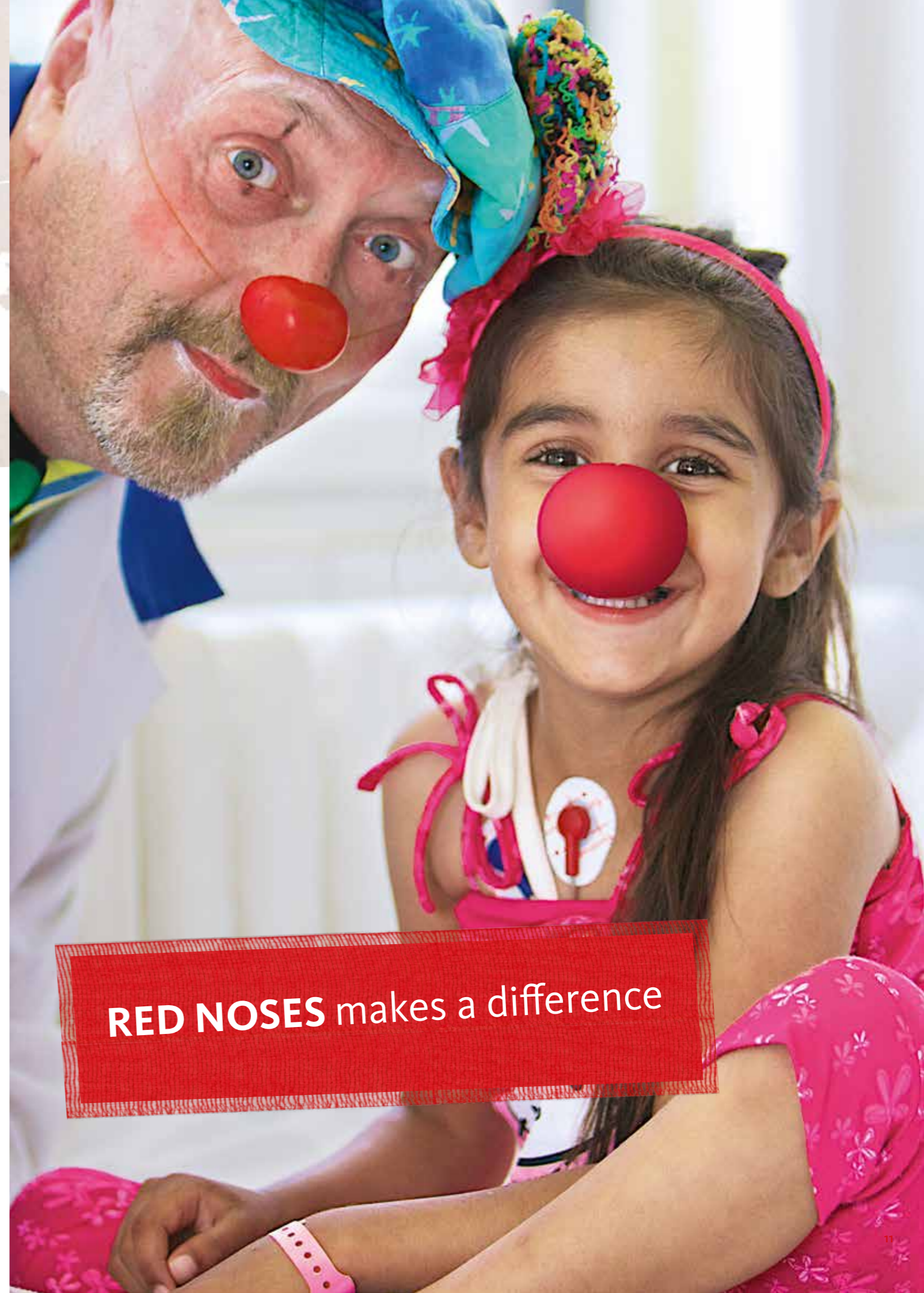
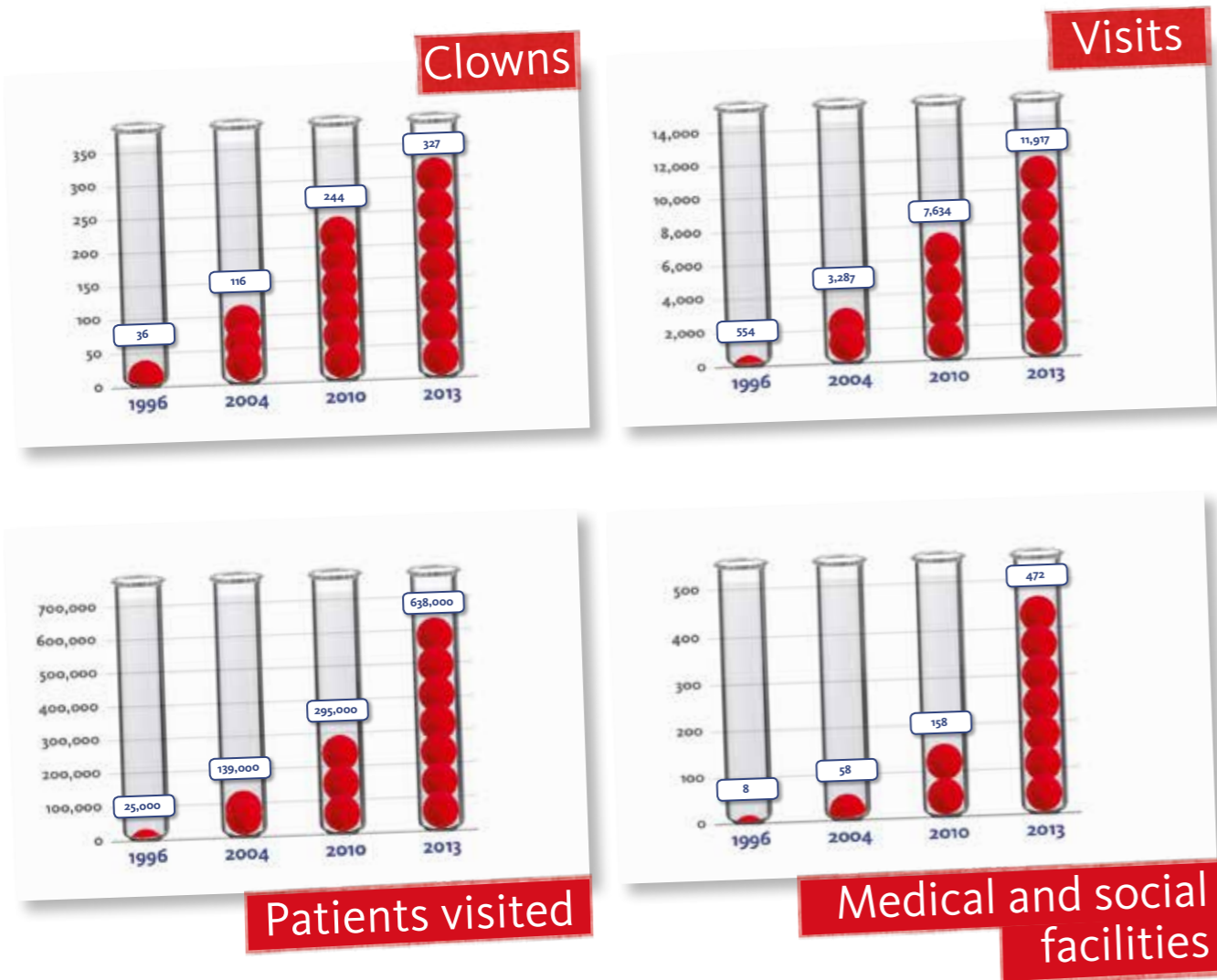
Emergency Smile
A new bold project: an international RED NOSES clown team travels to areas stricken by crisis to bring sustainable hope.





The RED NOSES idea spreads across the world!

20 years RED NOSES in figures



RED NOSES makes a difference



Children's programme

Since 1994 there's something to laugh about in hospital!

Especially for children, hospital stays are unpleasant, associated with uncertainty, fear of treatment or operations and frequently pain as well.

Even if the quality of medical care is excellent, there is not a lot of room in the hospital routine to meet the emotional needs of young patients. This leaves sick children confronted with feelings of helplessness, loneliness and boredom, and subject to the grave concerns of their parents.

That's all the more reason why the children are so happy when RED NOSES clowns visit the paediatric ward. They team up to play fun games, create unique music or perform the craziest magic tricks. When the clowns are there, sick children become active, laugh and are happy like healthy children, forgetting their concerns and fears and stocking up on joy and optimism during the everyday hospital routine.

Children have every reason to laugh when they experience fun clown visits in all eleven RED NOSES partner countries.



Foto: Bojan Tavčar



Geriatric programme

A RENDEZVOUS with life

In geriatric facilities, the main focus is on the restricted mobility or the sensory and communication deficits of elderly people in need of care.

When RED NOSES clowns come to visit, the seniors can draw on their wealth of life experiences as experts and advisers in every aspect of life.



Easily talking shop activates their spirits, letting them feel appreciated and needed. They sing and dance to the oldies. Pleasant memories are conjured up and their zest for life bubbles up seemingly out of nowhere.

Since 1999, the regular clown visits add colour and happiness to the everyday routine in geriatric facilities. RED NOSES clowns successfully help mobilise elderly patients with dementia and depression or the chronically ill.

Seniors in Austria, Hungary, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia and New Zealand have a rendezvous with RED NOSES clowns.



Rehabilitation programme



Outreach programme

And they laugh nonetheless!

An accident, an illness, a stroke of fate – and rehabilitation patients are often confronted with a diagnosis like traumatic brain injury, paralysis or even amputation.

Before being able to return to a normal life, once commonplace movements and motions have to be relearnt through protracted therapy: swallowing, speaking, walking... This is a heavy emotional burden, and the temptation to give up is great.

RED NOSES clowns are experts in falling down and in failing, but also in getting back on their feet. Since 2003 they have been showing patients of all ages in rehabilitation centres how humorous that can be and how a weakness can be transformed into a strength. The clowns' light-hearted and respectful manner generates fresh energy and optimism.

RED NOSES gives courage to patients of all ages in rehabilitation centres in Austria, Poland and Slovakia.



Wherever humour is needed

Since 2001, the RED NOSES outreach programme has been covering the bases wherever regular visits have not been possible: in smaller hospitals, social institutions, facilities for people with disabilities, refugee shelters, orphanages, assisted living facilities, mother-child centres... because a happy break from the challenges of everyday life is a welcome change here too.

RED NOSES clowns are very sensitive in their interactions, gently allowing a chuckle, laughter or amazement to take shape in the faces of the people they visit. Happiness and joy create a change of perspective on one's situation and helps one deal with things better.

Such happy, occasional outreach programme visits take place in Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Germany, Croatia, Poland and Lithuania.

"Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits."

Article 27 (§1),
Universal Declaration of Human Rights





Circus Patientus



Caravan Orchestra

The circus has been a guest in hospitals since 2004!



RED NOSES clowns transform young long-term care patients in oncological and orthopaedic units or in child and adolescent psychiatric facilities into artful magicians, dazzling artists, skilled unicycle riders and muscular weightlifters.

All sick children who want to participate are welcome. The circus programme is customized and rehearsed with children no matter what their physical state – in a cast, bedridden, with crutches – everything goes! Together with RED NOSES clowns, patients convert the hospital room into a stage and at the end of the project week the performance is met with thunderous ovations from doctors, nursing staff and family members. The sick child is relieved of his or her passive role in the everyday hospital routine even if only for a while.

The young patients discover new skills and the round of applause boosts their self-confidence. Young long-term care patients in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, Slovenia and Lithuania turn into radiant entertainers.

Circus Patientus has also been visiting geriatric wards since 2011. The humorous and respectful RED NOSES Varieté changes seniors into budding stars. New abilities are discovered and the creative collaboration stimulates their enthusiasm and vitality.

Sensitive and participatory musical theatre

Since 2012, RED NOSES has also been visiting children and adolescents with mental and multiple disabilities, sharing a musical theatre designed specifically for them.

The idea originally comes from the Netherlands and, thanks to RED NOSES International, has been a great success in Austria, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

The sensitive musical theatre starts with three RED NOSES clowns looking for new musicians for their orchestra. The clowns quickly find what they are looking for: the children in the room. A treasure chest reveals keys that become musical instruments, the children's names are woven into highly personalized songs and everything together results in a joint melody.

Every child reacts differently. Some participate immediately, clap and laugh, while the reactions of others are subtle. The clown props are designed to stimulate all of the senses, so there is something appropriate for every child. The resulting sensitive musical theatre is a special, personal experience for everyone.





Emergency Smile



Hope in dire times

With the new crisis intervention programme, Emergency Smile, RED NOSES Clowndoctors International brings renewed joy to people living under the most desperate circumstances – all around the world!

RED NOSES has experienced the healing power of humour, despite the horrors of war, the misery of refugee camps, bodily and emotional injury and

hopelessness: in 1999 during the Kosovo War, during the 2009 flood in Austria, in the wake of the massive earthquake in New Zealand in 2011, or political turmoil in Palestine during 2011.

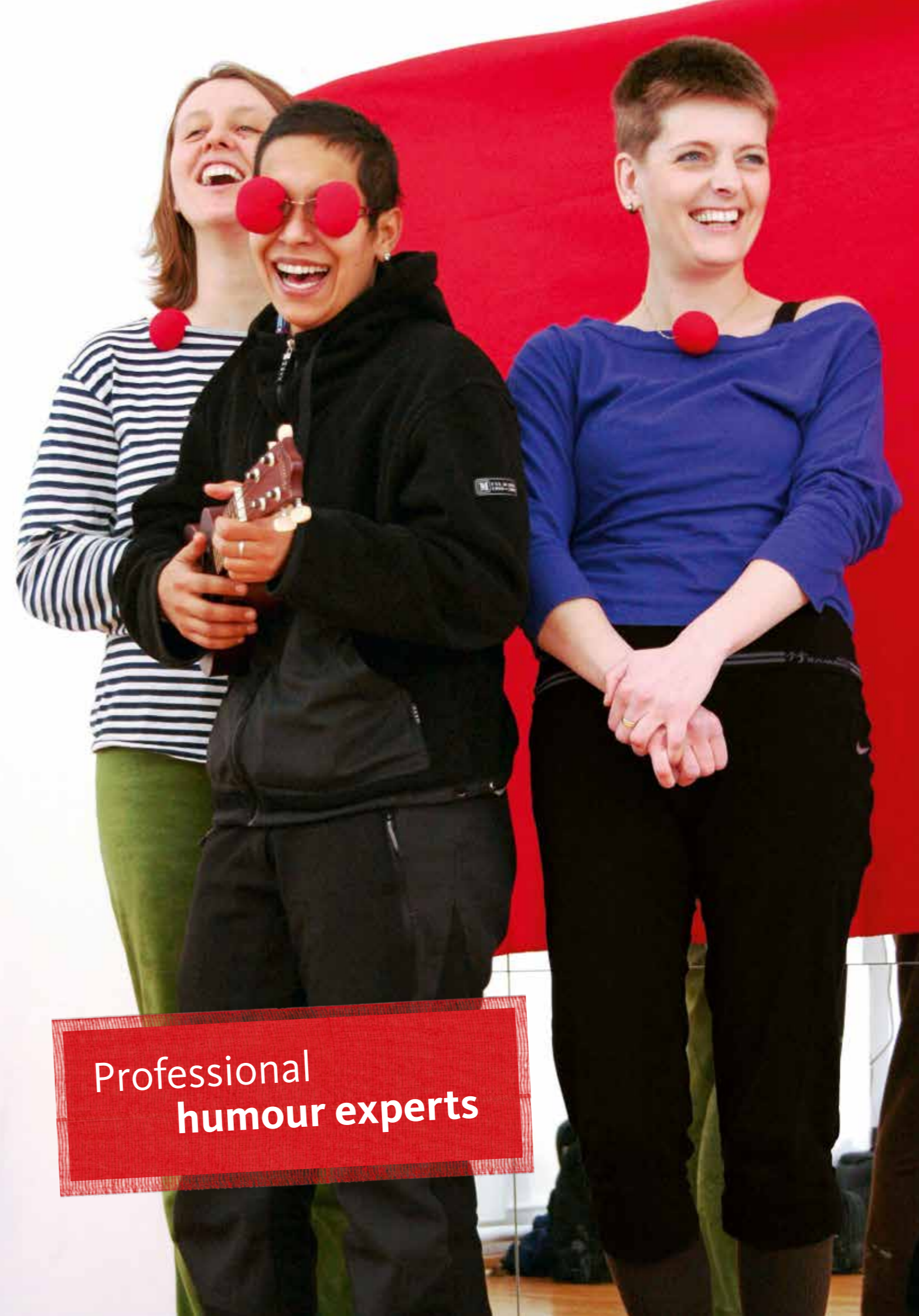
Especially people who have lost everything experience laughter as one of the biggest miracles and gifts — right up there alongside the basic needs for food, warmth, shelter, medicine, etc.

That's why RED NOSES founded the crisis intervention programme, Emergency Smile, in 2013. The missions are planned in collaboration with international humanitarian aid organisations such as Doctors Without Borders. The RED NOSES team receives special training (behaviour, psychology, safety, immunisation, hygiene, burn-out prevention, etc.), to be well prepared for the situation at hand.

The first official mission took place during the summer of 2013. The team visited a medical centre in Akonolinga health district in Cameroon, Africa, which was set up to treat children and adults suffering from the serious tropical disease buruli ulcer.

The very painful therapy lasts four months and so the children are separated from their parents for a long time. The clowns help reduce the children's fear and add variety to their everyday treatment routine. Together with the physicians on location, the RED NOSES team also developed a theatrical play to educate the local population.

In 2014, additional sustainable missions are planned for Balkan flood victims and in Syrian refugee camps in Jordan.



Professional humour experts

RED NOSES CLOWNS – Humour experts



“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including (...) medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of (...) sickness, disability, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”

Article 25 (§1),
Universal Declaration of Human Rights



“Solid training and continuing education for the clowns is an important pillar and goes without saying for RED NOSES. It is essential that the clowns continue to develop their clowning skills, perfecting the professional ‘clown failure.’ Artistic skills like improvisation, credibility, singing, making music, doing magic, pantomime, etc. also have to be fine-tuned on an ongoing basis,” says Giora Seeliger, Artistic Director of RED NOSES International.

RED NOSES clowns are trained artists, mainly in acting, children’s theatre, cabaret, acrobatics etc. This is a prerequisite for entry into the RED NOSES world. Applicants are invited to show off their skills at auditions.

After being selected, many workshops are provided in the home country, including basic psychological, pedagogical and medical knowledge, but also internationally through RNI’s own International School of Humour (ISH).

ISH was founded in Vienna in 2002. RED NOSES clowns from all partner organisations attend workshops there which are held by well-known clowning specialists. On the one hand, these teachers provide **important developmental impulses** that are then brought back to the partner organisations. On the other hand, the international cooperation among the clowns is also an **artistic exchange** that continues even after the course is over. **Since 2014, ISH also sends teachers to partner organisations as part of the new programme, “ISH to Go.”**

At the annual meeting for artistic directors of all RED NOSES partner organisations, many ideas from and for the group are discussed. This know-how transfer and mutual support leads to the discovery of new ways to support patients with humour during their hospital stay or treatment.

International exchange

The RED NOSES International Workshop is a highlight of the training year and facilitates networking and collaboration among clowns. In addition to lectures and workshops about various aspects of clowning, the clowns also exchange knowledge with each other across international borders.



The office teams also share ideas and tips with regard to management, fundraising and public relations. A professional organisation requires a strong structure so that the work in hospital runs smoothly.

Annual international workshops have been held by different partner organisations since 2009, when it all started in the Czech Republic. After that, the week-long workshop for further training has been held in Austria, Germany, Hungary and Croatia. Slovakia will be the next host in 2014.

Spreading laughter around the world



Happy Birthday RED NOSES Austria!



In Vienna, there was a change in leadership in 2012: founders Monica Culen and Giora Seeliger handed their agendas over to Edith Heller and Martin Kotal, two very experienced colleagues. This move enabled them to focus more of their attention on the international group.

20 years RED NOSES Clowndoctors also means that the concept of RED NOSES is celebrating its 20th birthday. It all started in 1994 with a handful of clowns bringing laughter and moments of joy to sick children.

A very special project organised by RED NOSES Austria is the annual RED NOSES Run, which will be held for the sixth time this anniversary year.

People of all ages have a fun day whilst simultaneously supporting the cause of RED NOSES – to bring laughter to hospitals.

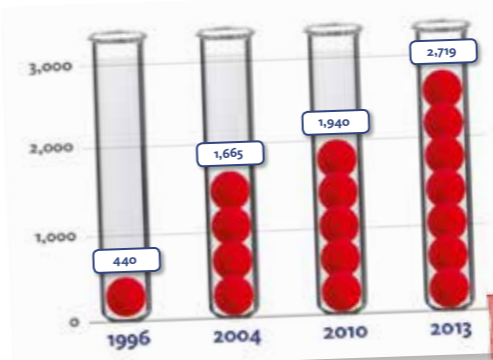
The professionalism of RED NOSES Austria rapidly paved the way for great success. There was not only a wave of requests from Austrian hospitals, but more and more international artists wanted to learn from RED NOSES how they too could bring joy to the hospitals in their own countries.

In 2009 the RED NOSES Run replaced RED NOSES Day – a happy, colourful event which was celebrated annually for 11 years in the inner city of Vienna.

Thus – radiating from Austria – RED NOSES International was founded.



In the last 20 years, RED NOSES has not only been able to visit more and more sick children, but in addition, five additional programmes have been initiated and established: the geriatric programme (2000), the outreach programme (2001), the rehabilitation programme (2003), Circus Patientus (2009) and Caravan Orchestra (2012).



Visits

“Austrian RED NOSES clowns participate in workshops together with clowns from the other 10 partner organisations to maintain the professional and high artistic level of their work. Many of these workshops are offered by the International School of Humour in Vienna. These regular courses with internationally recognized clown teachers and the exchange with colleagues are both very valuable and inspirational!”

Martin Kotal, Artistic Director of RED NOSES Austria

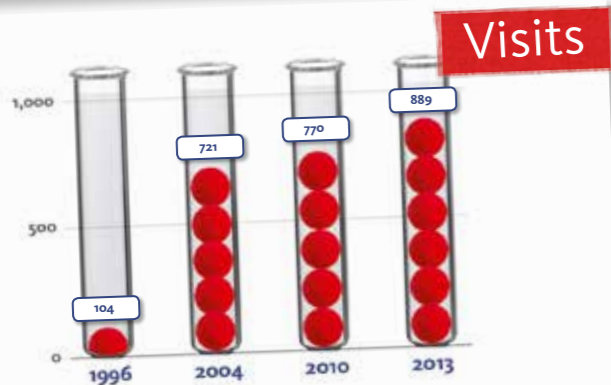
First RED NOSES partner organisation

PIROS ORR was founded in 1996 as the first RED NOSES partner organisation. Initially, the Hungarian clown doctors exclusively visited sick children in hospitals, bringing them joy, variety and laughter.

Since 2006, PIROS ORR clowns also started visiting geriatric patients in Hungary and just one year later, they adopted a further programme – Circus Patientus.

This means that since 2007, young long-term care patients have been transformed into circus ring stars in Hungary as well.

PIROS ORR has developed into an important national institution and is highly respected in the public health sector and in society at large. Many doctors and nurses now view PIROS ORR clowns as an integral part of the hospital team.

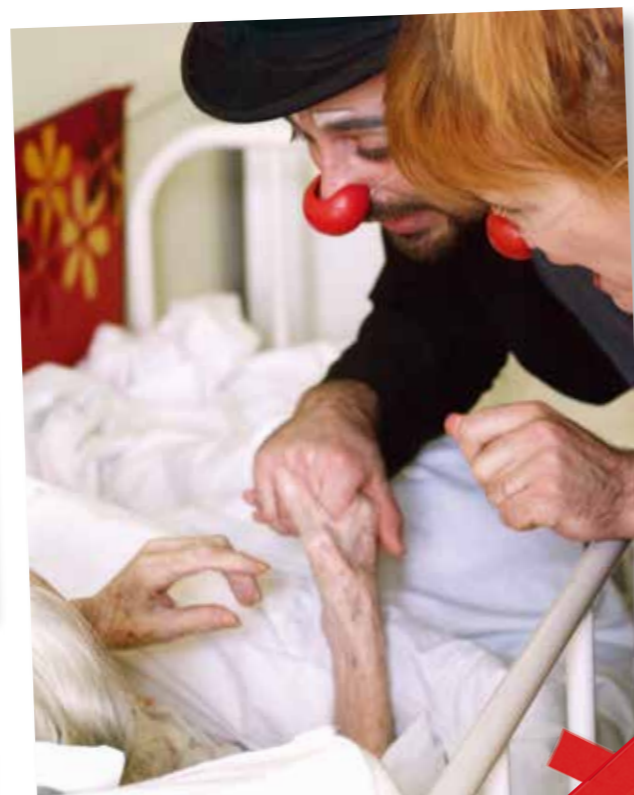


"A lot has changed in Hungarian hospitals since our first clown visits 18 years ago. PIROS ORR was part of this positive change and also contributed to joy and laughter finding their place in hospitals. Being international helps us exchange ideas, participate in clown workshops of high artistic quality, and build inspiring relationships."



János Greifenstein,
Artistic Director of PIROS ORR

As it is the case for all other ten RED NOSES partner organisations, high artistic standards are very important to PIROS ORR.



As the oldest partner organisation, the Hungarian clown doctors are willing to provide advice and assistance and are happy to learn tips and tricks from other artists in the international RED NOSES family.

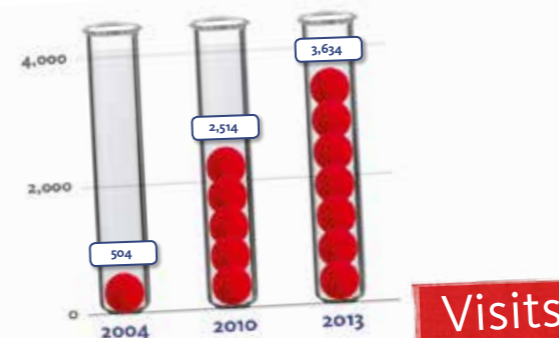
Circus Patientus: spreading from the Czech Republic across the world



The Circus Patientus programme, which is already established and is highly popular in three additional RED NOSES partner organisations, has its roots in the Czech Republic's ZDRAVOTNÍ KLAUN.

The first young long-term care patients had their first hospital circus performance in the Czech Republic in 2004. Over the course of a week, several clown doctors develop a circus programme with the children. This is then performed in front of their parents and the nursing staff. Their illness temporarily fades into the background whilst full attention is focused on their new skills.

In 2013, another very successful pilot programme – NOS! – started in the Czech Republic. Specially trained clown doctors spend time with children and their parents during preparations for operations, assuaging their fears and insecurities during these difficult moments through sensitive, humorous intervention.



The first RED NOSES international workshop took place in Štoky at the invitation of ZDRAVOTNÍ KLAUN in 2009. The get-together and the artistic exchange were so successful, that an international workshop has been held in a different partner country every year since then.



There was a change in leadership at ZDRAVOTNÍ KLAUN in 2013: Kateřina Kubešová became the new managing director and Petr Jarčevský the new artistic director. Gary Edwards, the founder and director of ZDRAVOTNÍ KLAUN, contributes now more to RED NOSES International.

"Through the exchange of information at international workshops and the support we receive from the RED NOSES family, we have succeeded in visiting many sick and suffering people in the Czech Republic every day, making them laugh and giving them new hope in a professional manner."



Petr Jarčevský,
Artistic Director of ZDRAVOTNÍ KLAUN

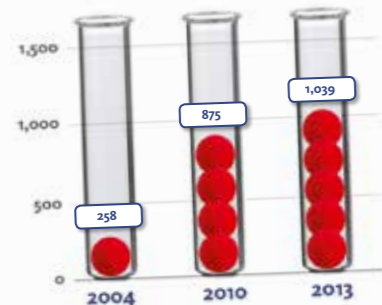
RED NOSES Germany celebrated their 10th birthday

RED NOSES Germany has been part of the RED NOSES group since 2003, and thus celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. Happy Birthday!



2013 was a year of big trips for RED NOSES Germany. In October, Reinhard Horstkotte travelled to South Africa to lead a clown workshop in a township in Nieu Bethesda. Life there is marked by poverty, violence and alcoholism. He showed local artists how they can use clown humour to infuse lightness and vitality into the often bleak daily life in the township.

At the invitation of the Goethe-Institut in New Delhi, Reinhard Horstkotte then travelled to India in November, to lead a workshop called "Everything Important, Nothing Serious," attended by Indian artists. Introducing them to the uniqueness of clowning, he simultaneously supported German-Indian cultural exchange.



Visits

"It is a great honour for us to be part of the RED NOSES family. RED NOSES International spreads laughter across the world and is a constant reminder of how important humour is. Our cooperation with and the support of our colleagues from the partner organisations enable us to deliver high quality work, both artistically and organisationally."

Reinhard Horstkotte,
Artistic Director of RED NOSES Germany

Together with the Institute of Psychology at the Humboldt University Berlin and the "Humor Hilft Heilung" (Humour Helps Healing) Foundation, RED NOSES Germany is undertaking a study at the Neurological Rehabilitation Centre at the Brandenburg Hospital. The objective of the study is to determine whether regular clown visits improve the well-being of rehabilitation patients in neurological wards.

This patient segment has not yet been studied sufficiently with regard to clown interventions, so the results of the study are extremely important and awaited with great excitement!



From the outpatient clinic to the operating room



doctors also visit children and adolescents in psychiatry units. This programme makes it possible for children to focus on something other than their illness. The director of the Psychiatric Clinic, MUDr. Igor Škodáček, confirms that performing in Circus Patientus increases the self-esteem of mentally ill children and diverts their attention away from their concerns and disorders.

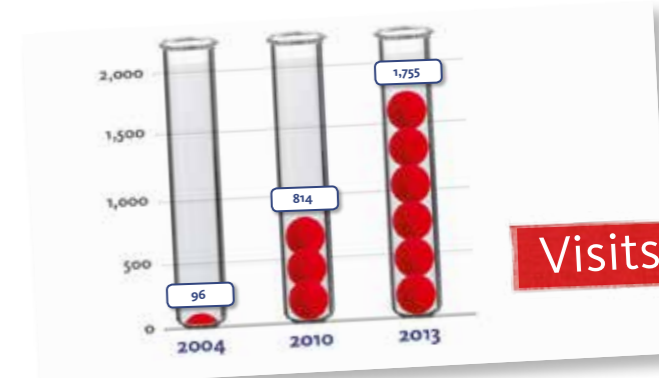
ČERVENÝ NOS's national success can be seen not only in the high demand on the part of medical facilities, but also in that they are the first NGO to be awarded the Superbrand Award Slovakia for being a trusted and well-known brand in Slovakia.

ČERVENÝ NOS is now run largely by women. Founder and president Gary Edwards turned over his agendas to the new artistic director, Mária Kecskésová, and the new managing director, Zuzana Ambro, so he can contribute more to RED NOSES International.

In 2013, ČERVENÝ NOS Clowndoctors was able to expand the scope of their visits to outpatient clinics. Now they create a happy and light atmosphere in hospital outpatient waiting rooms typically full of uptight parents and their children. More and more frequently, physicians call the clowns into examination rooms to lower children's stress levels.

Last year, ČERVENÝ NOS also introduced the pilot programme N.O.S in Slovakia, whereby clowns accompany young patients up to the operating room, distracting them from their fears and the upcoming operation during the preparation period.

The Circus Patientus programme was also successfully established in Slovakia in the past few years. Since 2012, Slovakian clown



Visits

"We are the only hospital clown organisation in Slovakia and can proudly say that we visit almost every large Slovakian hospital and bring the young children joy. It is great to see that we are no longer only an integral part of everyday hospital life just for patients, but also for physicians, nursing staff and relatives."

Mária Kecskésová,
Artistic Director, ČERVENÝ NOS Clowndoctors



Green light for the Caravan Orchestra

RDEČI NOSKI also celebrated a milestone birthday in 2013: the Slovenian RED NOSES partner organisation was founded 10 years ago in Ljubljana. Since then, the number of institutions it visits has increased steadily. In addition to visiting children, the Slovenian clown doctors now also visit seniors and adult rehabilitation patients.

RDEČI NOSKI enjoys not only the support of medical personnel, but also of the Head of State. As a sign of respect and recognition, they are invited to attend a reception with the President of the Republic once a year.

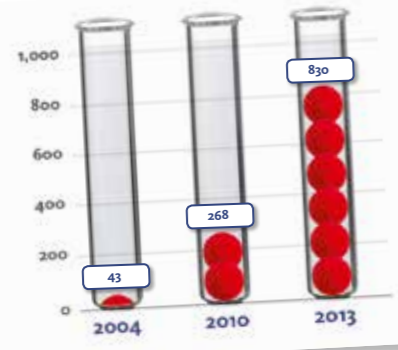
In 2010, RDEČI NOSKI began a project that has been in operation ever since: **Clown on Duty**. This project was started at the request of several nurses and is still very successful. Over a span of a few weeks, the clowns participate in the entire hospital routine, from A to Z: during medical treatments such as drawing blood or taking X-rays, during boring waiting times, during preparatory procedures before an operation, etc.

During this entire period, the clown doctors are there for patients around the clock, just like physicians and the nursing staff, bringing a sense of security and variety through their presence.



The project, which takes place several times a year, builds bridges between the hospital staff and the clowns. During the project, physicians and nursing staff can learn from the humorous interaction with patients and the clowns gain new and important experience that helps them in the everyday hospital setting.

Last year, the happy and colourful Caravan Orchestra made its first national appearance with children and adolescents suffering from mental or multiple disabilities and Slovenian clown doctors also paid their first visit to adult patients in the haematology unit in 2013.



Visits

"RDEČI NOSKI has a strong presence in Slovenia. Whenever we tell people that we work for RED NOSES, they start to gleam. We also receive daily affirmations and lots of motivational messages on Facebook. The greatest thing of all is how happy the children and their parents are when we enter the room. Their eyes start to glow. We are a fantastic team and can be proud of our work."

Eva Škofič Maurer,
Artistic Director of RDEČI NOSKI



Photo: Martin Liffka

Renewed strength after the earthquake.



The horrible earthquakes in 2010 and 2011 destroyed a lot, but this was no reason to give up. Just the opposite. With the help of RED NOSES International, Clown Doctors New Zealand was able to overcome the very difficult period, also from a financial point of view. More than ever, the traumatized people needed some spirit lifting and emotional support from the clowns.

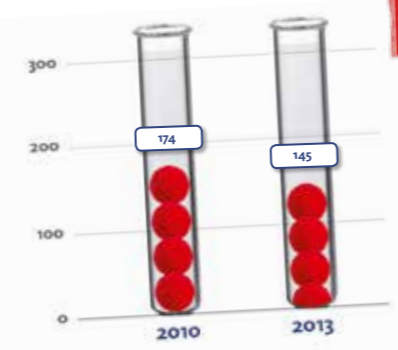
Not only patients in hospitals, but also emergency firefighters, police, soldiers and international search and rescue workers were happy about the sensitive spirit lifting.

There is a need for cheery clowns in hospitals in the other hemisphere as well. That's why a further branch of RED NOSES sprang up in 2009 in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Even then, Executive Director Dr. Thomas Petschner clearly understood that the hospitals in New Zealand wanted to cooperate with the largest clown organisation that has access to solid know-how and offer the best clown training. The team started with 8 clowns and now there are already 23.

From the outset, Clown Doctors New Zealand visited the paediatric ward in Christchurch Hospital and the geriatric ward in Princess Margret Hospital. Just a few months later, sick children in the Starship Hospital in Auckland were prescribed regular clown visits as well.

Things got better quickly and in 2012 additional clown visits proceeded in the paediatric ward of Wellington Public Hospital. In 2014, there are plans to also start visiting the neonatal unit.



Visits

"Without RED NOSES International we never would have had such well-trained and professionally competent clowns!"

Zack McCracken,
Artistic Director of
Clown Doctors New Zealand



Host of the 2013 RED NOSES International Workshop!

CRVENI NOSEVI now brings children and seniors laughter in 22 medical and social facilities in Croatia, including 5 paediatric cancer wards in Zagreb, Rijeka, Split and Osijek. In these units, Croatian clown doctors create beautiful moments, especially through music, for the young patients.

One highlight in 2013 for CRVENI NOSEVI was the international RED NOSES workshop when 170 RED NOSES clowns from all 11 partner organisations descended on the Croatian island of Murter for four days.

In over 20 workshops, they learnt from each other, discussed their daily work in hospital, and visited sick children in the paediatric ward in Šibenik. The grand finale was a joyous and colourful clown parade through the city.



Last year the children's book, "Doktor Crveni Nos," was published in Croatia to benefit CRVENI NOSEVI. Inspired by the work of the clown doctors, the author Jelena Pervan, decided to write about CRVENI NOSEVI. The book was awarded the "Grigor Vitez" certificate, a prestigious prize for children's literature.

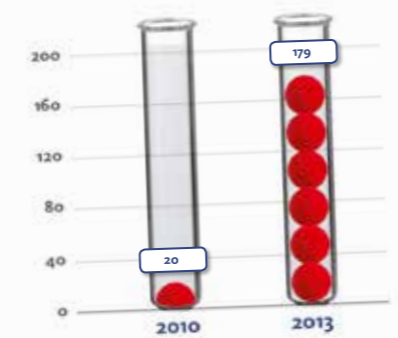


"More and more, CRVENI NOSEVI is considered an integral part of life in hospitals, but also in society at large. Thanks to RED NOSES International, we are increasingly able to achieve our mission of bringing sick people an abundance of joy, laughter and hope. Our goal is to soon visit all of the largest hospitals in Croatia."



Zoran Vukić,
Artistic Director CRVENI NOSEVI

Visits



A smile for Palestine



children, in overcoming fear and trauma. Like all other RED NOSES clowns, the clown doctors in Palestine attended many workshops, where they were trained as experts in hospital clowning. Through their efforts, the young artists now have a regular source of income. Teamwork, creativity, motivation, self-assurance and, not least, the enriching feeling of being able to give something back to their society, strengthen the self-confidence of the clown doctors.

RED NOSES has been working since 2005 in a region of the world where laughter is unexpected, but desperately needed: in the Palestinian Territories. It started as a pilot project and became a regular programme in 2012.

In the local hospitals, the emotional support provided to patients unfortunately often lags far behind basic medical care. In addition, relatives are often unable to regularly visit their family members in hospital due to the restrictions to the freedom of movement.

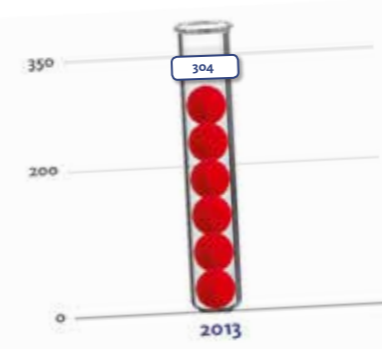
A visit from RED NOSES clowns greatly helps to improve the emotional state of patients and is often able to convey to children a sense of security and joy of life. The apolitical and non-religious stance of the clown character makes it possible for clowning to help immensely, especially for

"It was a wonderful moment the first time I saw a crying child start to laugh and forget the painful chemotherapy when the RED NOSES clowns walked in. Through humour, we can help children overcome their fear and trauma to a degree and bring moments of lightness into the hospital room, despite the tense situation."

Tarek Zboun,
Artistic Director of RED NOSES Palestine



Visits



CZERWONE NOSKI starts pilot project and visits young coma patients

CZERWONE NOSKI became part of the RED NOSES group in 2012.

At first the clowns visited three paediatric wards in Breslau, Warsaw and Cracow. In 2013 the Polish RED NOSES partner organisation was able to increase the number of medical facilities it visits to four, bringing that much more laughter and joy into the hospital.

After a short time, medical personnel viewed CZERWONE NOSKI clowns as part of the healing process, integrating them solidly into daily hospital life, as the director of the Children's Hospital in Cracow, Dr. Stanisław Stępniewski, confirms. The Polish clown doctors are lauded by the nursing staff, by younger and older patients, by relatives and by the Polish people.



Photos: Tomasz Wilczkewicz

In August 2013, the Polish clown doctors started a unique and highly successful project. They regularly visit a special clinic for young coma patients. The Budzik Clinic started operations in July 2013 and the clown doctors were part of the treatment plan from the outset because their presence is an important stimulus for comatose children. The clowns also try to maintain contact with the children even after they come out of their coma and when they are released from the hospital. They remain by their sides to accompany them on their journey back to life and give them hope and courage.

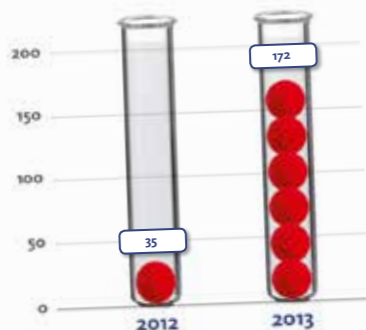
"Till now no other organisation in Poland has ever dedicated themselves to the mental well-being of young patients as systematically, professionally and in such a special manner. We are very happy about the success of our work. The exchange of knowledge that takes place regularly within the RED NOSES family is enormously helpful in this regard."



Photo: Martin Liffka

Paweł Wiśniewski,
Artistic Director of CZERWONE NOSKI

Visits

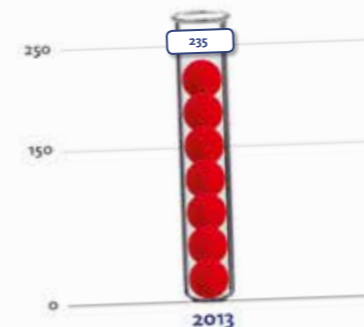


A warm welcome to RAUDONOS NOSYS!

2013 was an important year for RAUDONOS NOSYS in Lithuania. They have been visiting sick children in hospital as an independent organisation since 2010, bringing them joy and variety.

In 2013 they joined the RED NOSES family to further develop their regular and professional clown visits. RED NOSES International is very happy about this addition to the family!

Visits



Along with joining RED NOSES International, RAUDONOS NOSYS also integrated the Circus Patientus programme into their work. Now long-term care patients in oncological wards, child and adolescent psychiatric facilities and orthopaedic units in Lithuania's hospitals are transformed into circus ring stars for a week. Together with several clown doctors, the children develop a circus show and give a grand performance for parents, physicians and the nursing staff. They and their new skills are the centre of attention and they can forget about their illness for a while.

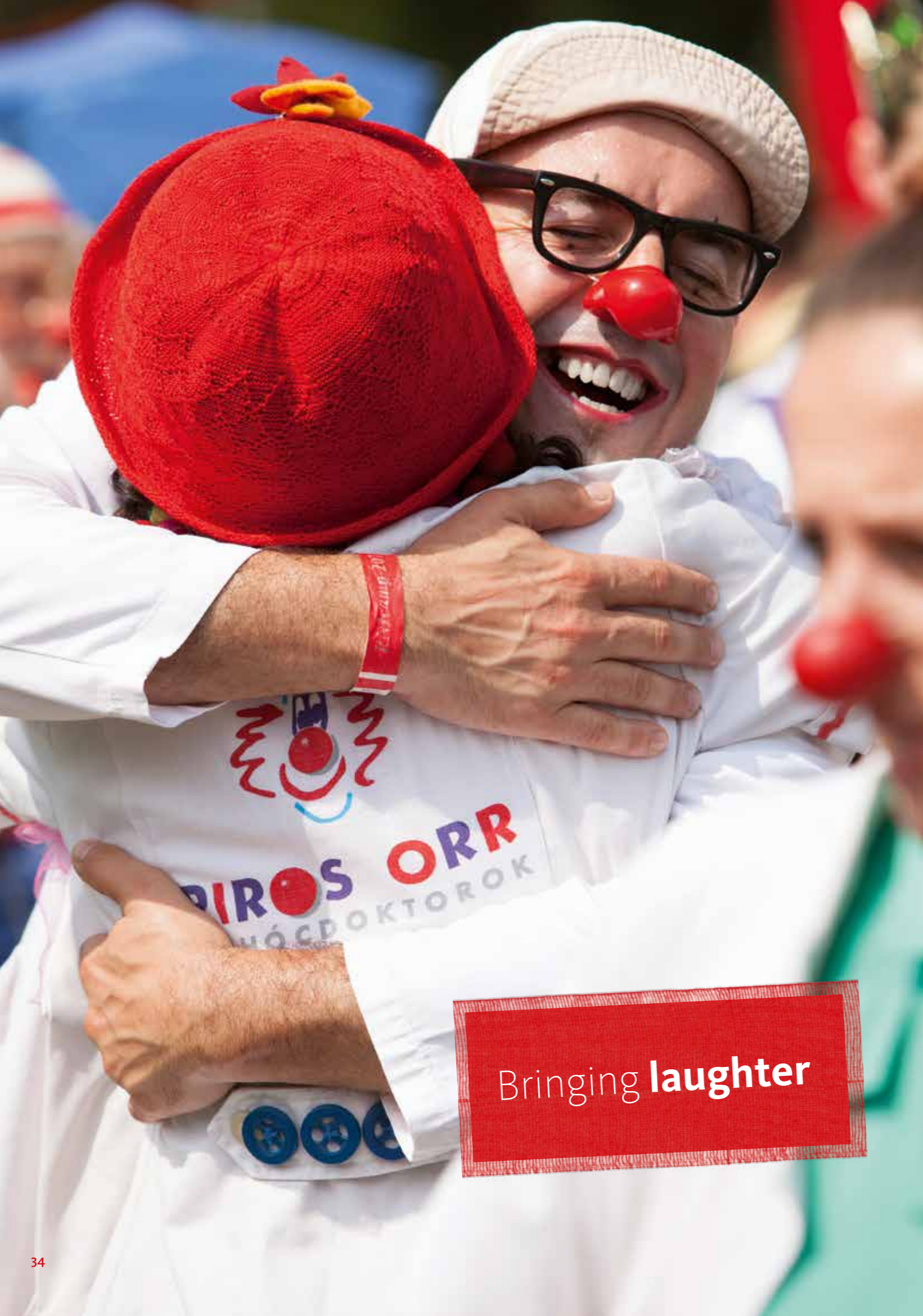


"Being part of RED NOSES International enriches our work tremendously because we can learn a great deal from the experiences of other countries – in terms of artistry as well as in terms of organisation. As part of the RED NOSES family, we can grow and incorporate lots of bright ideas into our work. And perhaps we can soon help further partner organisations by supporting their work."



Photo: Martin Liffka

Algirdas Urbonas,
Artistic Director of RAUDONOS NOSYS



Bringing laughter

ROTE NASEN Clowndoctors International

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