



Stichting European Juggling Association (EJA)
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT - TOGETHER AGAIN!

This EJC marks the end of my (first?) term as President, and the beginning of finally being able to come together again! It's been a year since the Virtual EJC 2021, and there is a long list of people who I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to for all their work since then.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the **EJC Tres Cantos team** around Victor, Mariela, Íñigo, Eileen, and all the others, for sticking through these two years! Having to postpone twice, not knowing for a long time what would be possible and what not, and then organising this great event is a once-in-a-lifetime feat. Your emotional and practical resilience and endurance deserves the highest recognition and praise! Thank you!

Then, there are the **EJC teams of Caen, France, and Punchestown, Ireland!** Committing to the project of an EJC during a pandemic requires a lot of courage and consideration. The French team has been exemplary collaborators, being open with challenges they faced, asking advice, and ultimately making the difficult decision to hand over to another team in December 2021. Chapeau, les Français! Equally, picking up the baton without hesitation, the Irish team came to the rescue and has been not only getting on with the job, but also been incredibly generous with their knowledge and experience to the Spanish team and ourselves. Thank you!

Beyond that, in the last year, many people have given their time generously to the European Juggling Association. A special huge and personal thank you from me goes to those on the executive team - **Alejandro, Bubba, Gamze, Linde, Sweets** - for putting an enormous amount of work in! The same goes to **Mittens** who has served as Secretary since 2019 until a few months ago! Then there are all the **board members** who have been so active during the year and a source of knowledge, support, and supportive challenge - **Anton, Ben, Blue, Cat, Giulia, Guy, Lena, Maria, Melissa, Miark, Momo, Paul, Philip, Sonja, and Tobi**, and others who have occasionally joined in, such as **Deirde 'Dee' Toher, Ray, Paul Mulrennan**, and more.

A big thank you also needs to go to **Andi Nitsche** from sixhop.net, who has been running our IT infrastructure for years, in a largely voluntary capacity. Running infrastructure is often a thankless task, as it's often only seen when things go wrong, so a huge thank you for doing it for so long!

My report last year was published during the **Virtual EJC 2021**, a close collaboration in exceptional circumstances between the EJC Hanko team and many of our own board members as volunteers - huge congratulations again to everyone involved for pulling off a successful virtual event like this! Since then, we've made some meaningful progress against our own strategic aims. What else have we done?



- We took inspiration from our past, and reintroduced **EJC support weekends**, where members of the EJA and the future EJC team visited the current EJC team for a weekend of planning, experience sharing and also some fun. It was an incredible weekend that literally saw some tears of joy in the end!
- We secured more running costs for the European Juggling Association by introducing a **voluntary EJA contribution**. Thank you to the nearly two thousand people who have helped us to keep going!
- We introduced a new **brand design** that speaks more to the nature of our identity - bringing people together through the power and joy of juggling!
- We managed to run a **pre-registration in a new, post-COVID world**, in which we needed to do things differently, for example restricting the number of tickets. Thank you to everyone for sticking through some teething problems!
- We also progressed **governance improvements such as our 'house rules'**, to get the organisation to work a little better.
- We ran a recruitment campaign for **applicants for the EJC 2024**, and worked with the candidates to produce a viable bid for the General Assembly. Another thanks goes to the Ovar team for being open to feedback, and to the others who have considered running but decided against it (for this year - we hope to see you stand in the future!).
- All of this happened in addition to the **'day-to-day'** - onboarding new representatives after last year's election, supporting France and Ireland with the handover, updating contracts, maintaining a social media presence and online collaboration systems, preparing the occasional newsletter, and more.

So, lots of progress. Yet, there is still more to be done. We have a strategy that we will need to review and update. Our organisation structure and financial future are still vulnerable. But despite COVID, we find ourselves in a better place.

It has been an honour, incredible learning experience, and pleasure to be the President for the past two years. My term will come to an end, and although I will be standing again, I invite anyone with an interest in taking on this role - now or in the future - to get involved. Let's work together to build for the future of the European Juggling Association and EJC!

Jonas Fathy
President



OUR CURRENT STRATEGY ON TWO PAGES

Who we are

We believe in the power of juggling and performing arts to connect people across borders and differences, creating beautiful and joyful moments together. We enable others to organise joyful events, first and foremost the European Juggling Convention.

In our work, these things are important to us:

Connection: We bring people together for meaningful exchanges.

Diversity: We value differences and the challenges they bring because they make us better.

Participation: We actively enable others to participate in our work and create their own work.

Joy: We create joyful moments.

Our ambitions...

...for the difference we make.

Events we support continue to bring joy, and to a wider variety of people: Not only do EJC's survive the pandemic, but we also support other events, especially in less affluent places. More people from a wider variety of countries know about the European Juggling Association and experience the joy of juggling events it supports.

...for our organisation.

We are an organisation that delivers on its promises: When we decide to start a project, we either complete it or consciously choose not to for a good reason. Our knowledge and resources are accessible in a way that is useful for those accessing them. We are financially healthy and have enough resources to support our impact ambition sustainably.



Our strategic goals for 2023

0) Recruit and support EJC teams

We will continue to recruit and support current and future EJC teams.

1) Create an organisational structure that structurally independent (of the EJC, for the benefit of the continuity of the EJC)

We will build a structure that remains functional and stable even if the EJC is under threat, in order to provide stability and support to the EJC in the long-run.

2) Create independent income streams

We will build income streams other than surplus from EJCs. This will further increase its stability and ability to support EJCs.

3) Improve the visibility and attractiveness of the EJA

We will become more visible and attractive for the community, to generate more resources for EJCs.

4) Improve internal systems and processes

We will improve its internal practices and processes, being more efficient and reducing frustration for its people.

5) Make the EJA's knowledge & information more accessible to the public and potential future EJC teams

We will create and collate resources that make the organisation of juggling events (and specifically the EJC) easier and more attractive.