

# Very young audience is cherished by theatre makers in Europe!

*Jo Belloli is UK coordinator for Small Size*

Small size seeding fund received 73 applications from 19 countries on the second call for proposals. The amount of applications from new countries, especially from Eastern Europe, shows the growing interest of theatre makers to communicate with youngest audience: the babies, toddlers and their parents.

Different genres: dance, music, theatrical or movement performances, puppetry were represented in the wide selection of proposals. The committee, composed by “Small size, big citizens” project partners, read and evaluated all the applications, with regard to artistic originality, clarity of vision and precision of presentation. Through different selection phases they arrived to the final decision, choosing 4 projects for receiving support:

1. Alfredo Zinola: From my dream to your dreams (Dance theatre, Germany)
2. Birdsnest: Wash! (Theatrical performance, UK)
3. Puppet theatre Pinokio: The seesaw (Puppetry, Serbia)
4. Kabóca Puppet theatre: Mister Small Penny (Puppetry, Hungary)

Greeting from the selection committee:

“We were surprised and delighted not only by the amount of applications – 73 in all, but also by the level of quality, thought and detail of the work outlined, and of the diversity of themes and approaches taken across all four categories. This confirmed the level of interest and commitment to exploring and developing theatre for 0–4’s across Europe.

Given the excellent response, the allocation of just four funds meant this decision was not an easy one to reach and there are numerous projects that would have deserved this support. We hope that all these proposals find a way forward to be created.”

The **Small size seeding fund** is one of the activities promoted by the European project **Small size, big citizens** – Widening of the European Network for the diffusion of the Performing Arts for Early Years (2009–2014) for the achievement of its objectives.

Through this Fund, intended for European companies, the Small size Network intends to support the creation of new productions, in order to extend and diversify the European theatrical offer for the 0–4 age group. The Small size Seeding Fund is not an award, but a way to support those who intend to produce shows for early years. This is why shows already produced are not going to be awarded; projects are instead selected and supported.

A short presentation of all the proposals with contact information will be published on: [www.smallsize.org](http://www.smallsize.org) by the end of March.

*Story of a Horse by Pinokio Theatre, Serbia*

