

Anthropo(s)céna: Sustainability and the circular model in theatre operations

Centre for Research and Education in Theatre of the Theatre Institute

(in cooperation with the Institute of Circular Economy and Slovak Theatres)

At the end of December, we evaluated the partial results of a survey on environmental sustainability and circular solutions in theatre.

The questionnaire sent out to the theatres focused on how they perceived their own impact on the environment, what activities they had carried out in this sense, what they were planning and what they were not planning. The data collected forms the premise for a forthcoming guide/manual for more sustainable operation, which will be developed at the Institute of Circular Economy and can facilitate theatres to become greener.

We have prepared a short overview of the data collected, as most of the sample of theatres that responded to the questionnaire perceive the issues of minimising carbon footprint and resource conservation as a natural thing to do. The reasons are both ecological and economic.

So far, 19 theatres¹ - both established and non-established - regional, municipal and independent - have participated in the research. Two other large theatres have pledged to participate and are currently working to deliver materials. In the case of large theatres, completing the questionnaire requires the cooperation of multiple departments or sections. The questions focus on the entire operation of the theatre, focusing on operational processes, building management and functioning, creation and production, disposal of used items and materials, and dramaturgical decisions.

The Slovak National Theatre is also a partner of the research, which gave INCIEN experts a practical insight behind the scenes - into the structure of the functioning, the course of production, daily routines and production in the Art and Decoration Workshops.

More detailed results are presented in the attached working report ***SOME FINDINGS FROM A QUESTIONNAIRE RESEARCH DEDICATED TO SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS IN SLOVAK THEATRE.***

A brief summary is offered here:

- Both building-based and non-building-based entities perceive the technical condition of the buildings as the most important problem, as well as the consumption in daily operations;

¹ Asfd divadlo ašttnnkorazd fildj, Bratislava, Puppet Theatre in Košice, Puppet Theatre Žilina, Bratislava Puppet Theatre, Debris Company, Bratislava, Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra, Arena Theatre, Bratislava, Jozef Gregor Tajovský Theatre in Zvolen, Divadlo LUDUS, Bratislava, Divadlo Nová scéna, Bratislava, Divadlo PIKI, Pezinok, Divadlo Romathan, Košice, Divadlo Štúdio Tanca, Banská Bystrica, Jókai's Theatre in Komárno, Late Collection, Bratislava, Príchod Godota o. z., Bratislava, Štúdio 12, Bratislava, Stanica Žilina-Záriečie and Nová synagóga Žilina, UhoI_92, Bratislava.

- There is a big difference between the impact of large established theatres and small established and non-established theatres. In addition to the operation of the building, different forms of impact are left by the administration, operation, production, production and waste management of productions after the dernière;
- Regularly subsidised theatres with a founder and non-regularly subsidised theatres cannot address fundamental issues on their own - they lack influence and reach, and are limited by human and financial capacity;
- According to the theatres, practices such as: ordering and importing items and costumes from abroad, the inevitable consumption of disposable materials, the inability to recycle effectively, the necessity to throw things away due to storage and legislative constraints, etc., are not in line with the environmental aspect;
- There is a general consensus that this topic needs to be addressed, although it is difficult to prioritise it to the detriment of other issues in day-to-day operations.

The theatres unanimously identify finance (76%), insufficient staff (70%) and then time (35%) capacity, as well as unclear or insufficient legislation (35%) as the biggest constraints to moving forward on this issue.

Nevertheless:

- In the questionnaire, 80% of the theatres indicated that they had introduced or were implementing some simpler environmental measures;
- 75% of the theatres in the questionnaire are trying to reduce energy use in the long term; in addition to those that have already implemented various measures, another 30% of the sample of respondents are preparing a concrete plan to implement sustainable building solutions and 11% percent are potentially in favour of such a change;
- 30% have already applied for some form of grant funding for greening, 11% plan to apply.

For further information about the research and its continuation, please contact the coordinator of the Anthro(s)cena project:

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