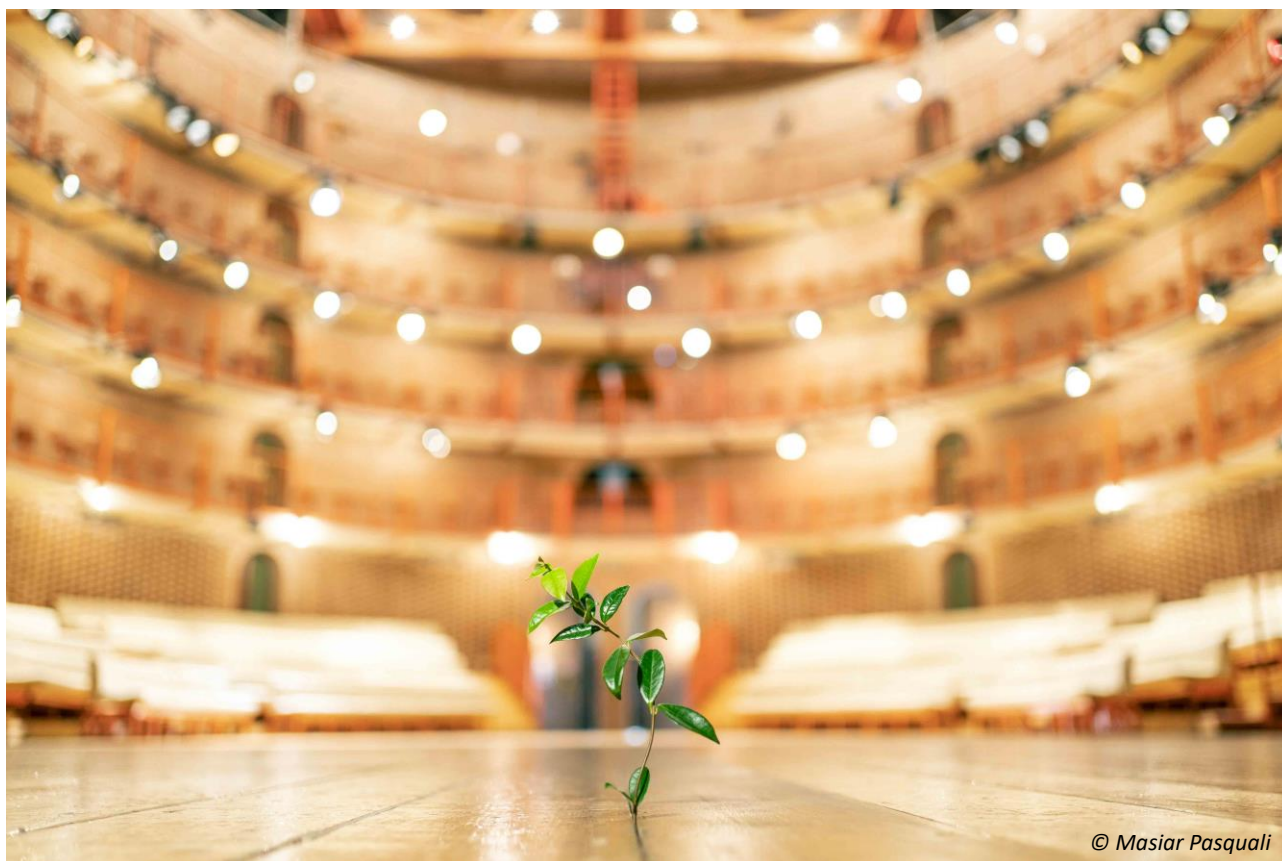


## PICCOLO TEATRO'S COMMITMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY



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*Piccolo Teatro di Milano, in line with its history and identity as the Theatre of Europe, is carrying out a dynamic operational plan - in the form of a concerted of glances, points of view and actions inside and outside the stage - concerning the themes of sustainability. Thanks to the valuable collaboration with the Politecnico di Milano, the European project STAGES is one of the focal points of this commitment aimed at promoting a culture of sustainability to be realised both in theoretical reflection as much as through concrete artistic and managerial gestures.*

Claudio Longhi  
Director of Piccolo Teatro di Milano - Teatro d'Europa



**Sustainability is inextricably linked to cultural policies as ever before:** attention to the energy crisis, strategies to cope with it, but also solutions to promote the ecological transition and guarantee new generations opportunities for growth and development are crucial challenges.

Not only for the sector organisations and the authorities in charge of managing 'public affairs', but also for all those involved in culture on a daily basis.

It is with this in mind that, after being the first theatre in Europe to join to New European Bauhaus - the cultural and interdisciplinary network promoted by the European Commission to encourage the spread of a new European Green Deal - the Piccolo continues in **its commitment to make theatre an active and propulsive centre of a culture of sustainability.**

Additionally, we acknowledge our **possibility to educate and raise awareness among individuals regarding the importance of environmental sustainability.**

We commit to actively sharing our values with our employees, users, local authorities, suppliers, and local community members:

- around 250.000 people attending our venues every year;
- 311.500 people being part of our social media communities;
- 991.000 people visiting our website every year;
- 128.100 people receiving our newsletter in their inbox;

... we will take the responsibility given from the position we occupy and use our voice to communicate the importance of these themes.

## FROM WHERE WE STARTED: THE EUROPEAN PROJECT STAGES

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In full continuity with the processes of achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the end of 2021, still during the pandemic, [STAGES - Sustainable Theatre Alliance for a Green Environmental Shift](#) - kicked off, an unprecedented theatre experiment that aims to revolutionise the way the cultural sector approaches the concept of sustainability. The objective is to generate information, knowledge and awareness in individuals, in order to change their daily behaviour and dynamics, in private life and in the workplace, with the aim at paying greater attention to the environment.

Whilst the lead partner is the Théâtre de Liège, PICCOLO is partner of STAGES along with other eleven European and non-European theatres: MC93 – Maison de la Culture de Seine-Saint-Denis (France) | Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb (Croatia) | The Royal Dramatic Theatre, Dramaten, Stockholm (Sweden) | Lithuanian National Drama Theatre (Lithuania) | Trafó House of Contemporary Arts (Hungary) | Teatro Nacional D. Maria II (Portugal) | NTGent (Belgium) | Maribor Slovene National Theatre - Slovensko narodno gledališče Maribor (Slovenia) | Riga Technical University – University of Latvia (Latvia) | European Theatre Convention (Germany) | Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne (Switzerland) | National Theater & Concert Hall – 國家兩廳院 (Taiwan).



The STAGES Project has concretely initiated and made public the theatre's commitment towards sustainability – internationally and locally - and was also the first input to start an internal work.

Since the start of the project in 2022, sustainability has been a concrete commitment for the Piccolo Teatro with a **broader objective for the future**: to set up a process of governance and planning of sustainability policies in the theatre, at all levels and with a broad vision of our role as agents in society.

## A REFLECTION STARTING FROM OURSELVES: THE AUTOANALYSIS

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The Piccolo Teatro, convinced that change begins with knowledge, wanted to initiate an articulated process of building a new and concrete awareness. Thus, in September 2022, it launched, within its own structure, **a participatory process of self-analysis on sustainability issues** in its broadest sense (environmental, energy, economic, social, relational).

Piccolo tackles this path with the **scientific collaboration of the Politecnico di Milano**, that helped in having a scientific point of view, giving different sights of what “sustainability” means effectively.

In the process of self-analysis, a very wide range of areas were explored: from artistic work - cultural productions and actions - to the monitoring of climate-changing emissions.

## THE THEATRE'S COMMITMENT FOR THE YEARS TO COME: FIVE MACRO-ACTIONS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE THEATRE

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Eight months of work, four groups, more than eighty participants, more than one hundred and ten reports and suggestions, which also went to make up, like a sort of post-it mosaic, the STAGES Wall exhibited in the entrance of the Strehler Theatre, over one hundred possible interventions for sustainable development in the social and environmental spheres, from which **5 macro-actions** were identified to be implemented.

- Integrated package of actions, aimed at the entire theatre community (workers, artists and audience), for the **promotion and adoption of sustainable behaviour**;
- **Promote inclusivity and accessibility in the theatre for different targets** (e.g. people in economic difficulty, disabled, minorities, etc...): for example Piccolo has started to work along with Al.Di.Qua. Artists (Alternative Disability Quality Artists) - the first Italian association of workers in the entertainment industry for disabled bodies and also joined the Italian network of [Europe Beyond Access](#);
- **Promote artistic devices to raise awareness and communicate a culture of sustainability** with particular attention to the **world of schools** by including in our program projects dealing with the environment and climate urgency;
- Draw up a **Green paper** for the sustainable design and management of productions, touring and hospitality, inspired by projects such as the [Theatre Green Book](#);
- Draw up an integrated sustainable design and maintenance manual for the theatre structure.



## ONE GOAL, DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

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To achieve a better level of sustainability, the Theatre is always looking for new opportunities, contacts and links to forge. Some examples are:

- **Collaborations with other non-profit organizations:** PICCOLO seeks to collaborate with other organizations that share similar goals or have complementary expertise. We collaborate with [Humana – People to People](#), that finances and implements projects in the South of the world and contributes to the protection of the environment also through the collection, sale and donation of used clothes.
  - **Finding other funding opportunities:**
    - in 2023 PICCOLO presented and won a **Lombardy Region tender for the cultural sector** for a '[light relamping](#)' project, the purchase of 34 LED projectors to progressively phase out translation lighting systems for shows in favour of LED ones, estimating an annual saving of 74% MWh.
    - through participation in the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan**, for the part intended to finance interventions to improve energy efficiency in cinemas, theatres and museums. The EUR 650,000 PNRR funding obtained is part of a **broader public-private partnership initiative**, aimed at a radical reconversion of current facilities with more technologically advanced solutions and low environmental impact solutions.
  - **Promoting a culture of sustainability**, starting from the **way we communicate**: Piccolo joined the [Sustainable Development Festival](#) organized by [ASviS](#) - The **Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development**, that brings together almost **300 member organizations among the civil society**, with the aim of raising awareness of the Italian society, economic stakeholders and institutions about the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
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In the end, we intend the term **sustainability** in its broadest sense as a relationship between the environment, politics, economics and society; a driver for the implementation of new forms of participation and awareness within the territory and the communities that inhabit it.

**We really hope you will #PLAY YOUR ROLE, with us.**