

Partner learning workshop:

Discussing sustainable studio – in a studio!

Film studios are key locations to develop a sustainable audiovisual industry. While on a workshop visit to Castel Film Studios just outside Bucharest, Green Screen partners had the opportunity to exchange good practices about sustainability in studio spaces.

At Green Screen we don't film in a studio space, we hold workshops!

Part of Green Screen's six monthly meetings, we concluded our stay in Bucharest with a day at **Castel Film Studios** where we were welcomed to hold our discussions in... a creepy chapel! In the creepy chapel set of *The Nun* to be precise - a horror feature which filmed at Castel Film Studios and is set for theatrical release later this autumn.

But first, we were invited to a **tour of the stages and backlot on site**. Castel Film Studios are the largest full-service studio in Romania. They serviced films such as *Cold Mountain* (2003), *Borat* (2006) or more recently *What happened to Monday* (2015) a Netflix production.

The tour gave a better understanding of the challenges of such a business and we were of course on the lookout for sustainable practices!

While Castel Film did not have a sustainability strategy, the Studios still adopted some **impressive green practices**:

- On-site costumes, set and prop shops, standard set panels and keeping scraps from previous shootings, all of which avoids for production companies to ship their material to the studio
- LEDs on all stages
- On-site canteen for cast and crew instead of hiring a food truck and its potential generator. Any food waste given to dogs in the area!
- Bus shuttle for crew and staff from and to Bucharest, encouraging people to use shared transport

After the tour, we returned to our chapel and had the opportunity to compare these initiatives to other European studios thanks to presentations from Green Screen partners.



Studio Coordinator Ulf Bruxe, Ystad Studios and Matei Smădu Project Development Expert, Bucharest Regional Development Agency, Romania

Studios: the opportunity to spread good practices in the industry

One of the biggest challenges our European audiovisual industries face is their transition to more sustainable practices, is their network-shaped, project-driven, small-company structure. How can we progressively change habits and implement long-term plans and investments in an industry which is project-led, run by short-lived productions and ever-changing production teams, in opposition for instance with American film studios, which concentrate activities, are constantly in productions or can afford having an in-house dedicated sustainable manager?

In this context, studios are interesting places to set up green strategies. While being a hub for many key players in the industry (production crews, suppliers, often home of other audiovisual companies and post-production facilities), they are companies that can invest in their infrastructures and provide sustainable solutions to productions.

European tour of studios' good practices

Studios in Europe can adopt eco-friendly practices that fit their own context and legislation.

In **France**, **Ecoprod** is collecting testimonies from different studios to create a comprehensive guide to encourage companies to adopt **10 practices to green studio spaces**. For example, a committed studio near Paris, **Studio Kremlin**, has put in place some simple changes to help reduce their environmental impact. This includes an extensive system to collect and sort out eight flows of waste, a switch to LEDs and a sustainable energy provider. Heading South to the sunny **French Riviera**, **Provence Studios** chose to create its own energy thanks to its roof solar panels and collect rainwater for greywater uses.

In **Flanders**, **AED Studios** have also installed LEDs, solar panels, high capacity power supply (to avoid generators) and created a production hub bringing together many different audiovisual servi-

ces at the same location. AED Studios also provides an on-site childcare service open to the community and have welcomed bee-hives on their roof top. One of their smartest idea, however, is certainly to have changed the name of the nearest train station Kon-tich to include the name of the city where the studio is based, Lint. A way to incentivise crew and visitors to take public transport!

The best for last? In **Germany**, **Bavaria Studios** claim to be **the first climate-neutral studio location**. And it seems like they can indeed call themselves that way. They have managed to reduce their carbon footprint by almost 97,5% over five years (2011-2014)! Their magic recipe? Not too dissimilar to what other studios in France, Belgium and Romania have adapted. In addition to this, Bavaria Studios has a strong belief that **green economy is the future** and is committed to implement this vision into practice.

Other inspiring parts from the workshop:

Tim Wagendorp from VAF highlighted the importance of embedding our discourse in the **UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Sustainability is not only about reducing our waste and carbon emissions but it can also influence positively in reducing inequalities or addressing health problems.

Moreover, linking sustainable production initiatives to a bigger local agenda helps elevate your activities. Film London gave an inspiring example of this approach as they are part of the Mayor of London's sustainability round table discussion in the cultural sector. **Film London is aiming to integrate sustainable filming into the Mayor of London's ambitious sustainability agenda**. It is a win-win situation where London can take advantage of good practices in the audiovisual sector while the green initiatives in the film industry have the potential in getting more publicity and impact.

[To learn more, take a look at our good practices!](#)



At the tailors.



The whole group gathered in the Chapel.