

Greening your mobility

Are you planning to travel abroad through a mobility program? That is some great news! Be it for the purpose of your studies, a teaching assignment, research, or for a different reason, you might consider an eco-friendly means of transportation to get to your dream destination.

Here are some useful insights and tips to make your travelling greener.

Why to go green while travelling

It is true that to travel fast is crucial for us to connect internationally, attend classes, workshops, or conferences abroad, and we in EDUC are well aware of that fact.

But at the same time, travelling – aviation in particular – takes a heavy toll on the planet. According to a [report](#) by the Air Traffic Action Group, passenger air travel on its own is responsible for nearly 12% of CO₂ emissions of the transportation industry.

The European Union, too, stresses the importance of [reducing aviation emissions](#) since these are particularly harmful to the environment and make up about 3% of the EU's total greenhouse gas emissions.

One of the current goals of the European Commission called the [Green Deal](#) aims to make Europe the world's first [climate-neutral](#) continent by 2050. The EDUC alliance supports this goal, which is why we are here with an easy, comfortable, and more affordable alternative to airplanes – trains, of course.

Trains are the answer

There are really multiple reasons why you should choose a train over a plane:

- You arrive directly in the city centre, not at a remote airport.
- There are no queues, exhausting security checks, or boarding.
- You can bring as many snacks or water bottles as you want.
- There are power sockets and Wi-Fi everywhere.
- Erasmus+ 2021–27 provides financial top-ups for ecological travel.

To make your life easier, below are the major railway companies in the EDUC partners' countries:

- [České dráhy](#) (Czech Republic)
- [Deutsche Bahn](#) (Germany)
- [Magyar Államvasutak](#) (Hungary)
- [SNCF](#) (France)
- [Trenitalia](#) (Italy)

You can make good use of other European train services like [Rail Europe](#), [Omio](#), or the [Trainline](#), and ship your luggage safely with [Send My Bag](#). Need inspiration? Get it from a [seasoned train travel enthusiast](#).

Don't forget that there are buses, too, and check your route with [Flixbus](#).

The cost of flying: Planes vs trains

To get an idea about the impact a one-way trip by plane has on the climate compared to the same route travelled by train, see the table below. Or, if you want your own custom calculation, use the [Flight Emissions Calculator](#).

| Route of the trip | CO ₂ emissions – airplane (kg) | Percentage of your annual emission budget | CO ₂ emissions – train (kg) |
|--------------------|---|---|--|
| Zurich – Milan | 104 | 6.9% | 3 |
| London – Amsterdam | 125 | 8.3% | 14 |
| Berlin – Warsaw | 156 | 10.4% | 56 |
| Munich – Budapest | 168 | 11.2% | 18 |
| Paris – Barcelona | 238 | 15.8% | 11 |
| London – Marseille | 311 | 20.7% | 36 |

Balance the scales

Even if we do our best, we will never be able to completely avoid airplane travel. There are ways to compensate for that, though, e. g. programs that aim to offset your carbon footprint on the planet. The basic idea is that you donate money and, while not erasing your flight emissions altogether, the program makes up for them by reducing emissions somewhere else.

Some airlines offer this kind of compensation directly when booking a flight, but you can choose any climate-oriented NGO or project whose program you like, such as [Gold Standard](#), [Atmosfair](#), [Climate Care](#), [My Climate](#), [Terrapass](#), or another.

We wish you an exciting journey and many valuable encounters both on the way and at your destination. Safe (and green) travels.