

Travel policy for the PATH project

WHY TRAVEL POLICY?

We, SCI volunteers and activists, strongly believe that peace goes hand-in-hand with climate justice. While focusing on the topic of forced migration we cannot leave out **climate refugees** and **environmental migrants**, people forced to move from their homes due to sudden or long-term changes to their local environment which compromise their lives and well-being.

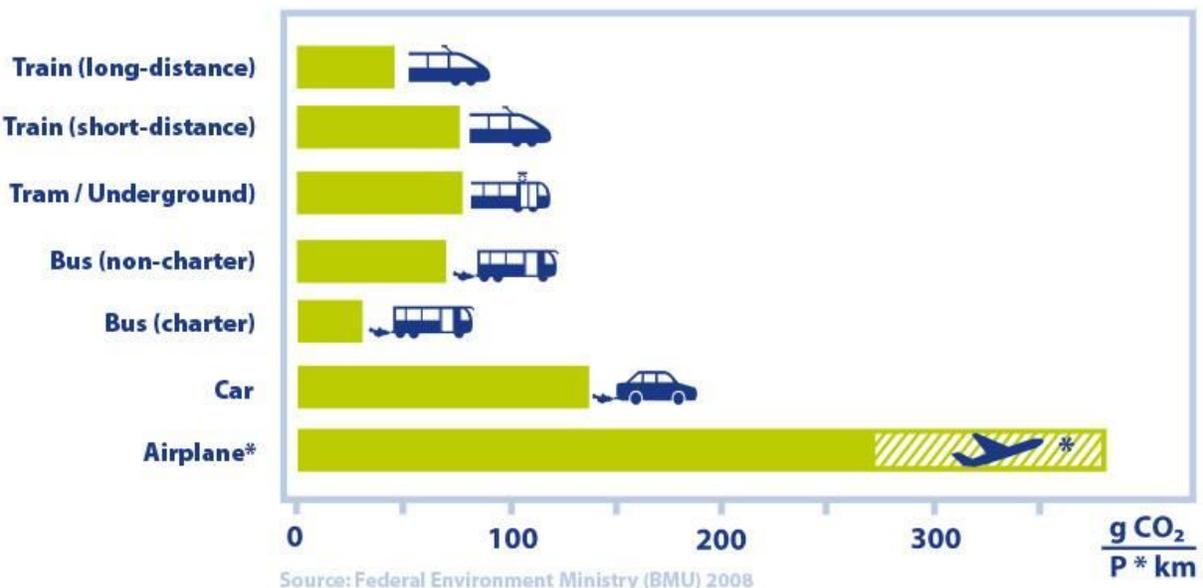
On the other hand, **mobility** is the hallmark of the 21st century. As a movement promoting international volunteering for peace we need to take our responsibility and try to limit **carbon production** as a side effect of travelling to workcamps, projects and meetings.

Having all this in mind we introduce a travel policy within the framework of this project and all its activities, aiming to make people aware of ecological impact of their travels and to motivate them to choose a **more eco-friendly way of traveling** thus actively contributing to the solution of the climate crisis.

This policy also provides an **easy-to-follow framework** for reimbursing travel costs in the project, which is explained in the last section of the document.

DID YOU KNOW?

Planes, even though fast and comfortable, are the **largest polluters**: aviation contributes to approximately 3% of CO₂ emissions globally. 45% of air travel in Europe is of a distance of 500 km or less.



Transportation emissions comparisons are measured in grams of CO₂ emissions per passenger-kilometre. Atmosfair.de considered the average capacity of each vehicle as well as the effects that each one has on the climate. Trains that run on green electricity are more or less CO₂-free.

“We can't avoid traveling, so let's be mindful of the consequences and support future solutions.”

Marta Sykut,
Climate for Peace activist

SCI CLIMATE FOR PEACE CAMPAIGN

SCI was created to respond to challenges of contemporary times and with time these challenges have evolved. Today climate change impacts are one of the main threats to human rights and at the same time they provide an amazing opportunity. As it becomes more and more obvious that people need to take action in order to prevent catastrophic climate change, as well as unite to face its inevitable impacts, an environmental movement is rising all over the world.

Activists of branches and partners of SCI respond to this global call for action in many creative and exciting ways. No matter if it is a massive long-term international project or a film screening for the members of local community, with every step that we take, we are getting closer to solving the climate crisis and creating a culture of peace.

Today climate change is for us what World War I was to Pierre Ceresole in the early 20th century: it presents a growing threat to peace, nonviolence and human rights. The climate is changing rapidly around the planet and this change is without question caused by humans. Our fossil-fuel based economy and culture of consumerism is contributing significantly to this process.



For more information visit:

Climate for Peace Campaign <http://www.sci.ngo/climate-justice-campaign>

SCI GAIA MicroGrants <http://www.sci.ngo/climate-justice-campaign/new-gaia-microgrants-programme>

SO, WHEN BOOKING YOUR TRIP

please consider a different way of traveling than using a plane! Unless the time of your travel would be inadequate to the time of activity duration (longer than 24hrs for a week long activity) or the land transportation would be markedly more expensive, we encourage you to **travel by a train, a bus or share a car**. **Still, when travelling by plane, we propose that the "travellers" make a compensation for the carbon emissions he/she is contributing to, following the analysis and recommendation made by <atmosfair.de>**

ALSO, YOU WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO CHECK THESE OUT:

- traveling by train:
 - EuroNight trains connecting many cities in Europe are very comfortable for longer night journeys and quite affordable if booked long enough in advance;
 - If your trip involves going through Austria (ÖBB) or Hungary (MÁV), booking the tickets through their railways websites is usually cheaper;
 - German Railways (Deutsche Bahn) tend to have good offers for specific trains;
 - Interrail ticket for 5 traveling days within a 15 day journey could be an idea, too!
- traveling by bus
 - Before consulting with specific companies, you can check if your travel section is offered on this website: <https://www.busradar.com/?currency=EUR>
 - There are many different affordable or even cheap bus companies today, some that we can recommend are: Eurolines, Flixbus/MeinFernbus, Megabus, DeinBus, RegioJet/Student Agency.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY FOR THE PATH PROJECT

Because of SCI strong commitment towards "Climate for peace" and following the previous recommendations, here are the rules of reimbursement for the PATH project"

For distances up to 800 km (one way) only traveling by **car, bus or train (2nd class)** is reimbursed 100% up to a maximum travel budget per participant (varies between 120€ and 180€ depending on the activity) unless the travel time would be longer than 24 hours.

For distances of more than 800 km (one way), participants may make use of the **cheapest direct flight** from/to the airport close to their place of residence. The expenses **are reimbursed 100%** up to a maximum travel budget per participant (varies between 120€ and 180€ depending on the activity).

ADDITIONALLY, if using a plane, a participant is obliged to calculate its emissions (e.g. on <https://www.atmosfair.de/en/home>) to see the impact his/her flight is leaving on the climate and the amount needed to compensate the emission. Regardless of the amount shown, everyone coming to the activity by plane should contribute on their own costs at least 10€ to either the atmosfair.de itself or the SCI GAIA MicroGrants that is supporting activities on sustainable living and climate justice.

SCI reserves the right to reimburse **only part of the travel costs up to 50%** of the max. travel budget per participant if participants do not follow the travel policy (e.g. sb. travels from Sofia to Novi Sad by plane – distance of approx. 500 km, the plane ticket costs 169€. The organizers may decide to reimburse a sum up to 50% of the travel budget, which is in this case max. $150€ = 0,5 \cdot 150€ = 75€$).

Required proof and documentation for reimbursements:

For all travel reimbursements, participants must submit a completed and signed **travel reimbursement form** (to be provided by SCI per activity with pre-filled exchange rates, updated at the beginning of the month of the activity) additional to the following:

For bus and train tickets:

- the **original ticket** clearly indicating the price and currency used or
- if there is no price indicated directly on the ticket, please provide the **original ticket** and an original invoice or receipt issued by the travel agency or railway company clearly indicating the amount paid and the currency used.

For plane and other tickets booked online via the Internet both:

- a printed booking confirmation clearly indicating the travel route, travel dates and price of the ticket,
- the original passenger voucher of the boarding pass
- if travelling by plane: a contribution to the SCI GAIA MicroGrant during the activity in cash/or a confirmation of offsetting the emissions on atmosfair.de

Travel reimbursements will only be done upon participants' return home and after they've sent all originals and invoices of the tickets by post to the organizers.

So it is important to keep both the tickets and receipts as those are the only proof of payment! No tickets/receipts also means no reimbursements!