

# FULCRUM: skills development for future-proof socio-cultural centres

## Sustainable Travel Policy

Transport is one of the economic sectors with the most significant impact on the environment. For cultural organisations as well, travel and mobility account for a growing share of the overall emissions harmful to the environment and to human health, not just in terms of CO2 emissions that cause climate change.

As cultural networks that place environmental sustainability at the core of their priorities and values, and coherently with the goals of FULCRUM, we feel the necessity to adopt a travel policy that enables us to reduce the negative environmental impacts of all mobility choices involved in our activities to the minimum.

### Travel hierarchy

While the exact amount of emissions of different pollutants caused by a km travelled using a category of means of transport (trains, air-planes, cars...) can vary according to the methodology used to assess them and the specific technology taken into consideration, and, in order to calculate the emissions caused by a single trip should be measured according to the specific vehicle used (What type of aircraft? What model of car?), there is a general consensus on the hierarchy of mobility choices to be made in order to reduce impacts, from the less to the most harmful:

- 1) **Avoid unnecessary trips:** it is quite obvious that a trip that does not take place causes no emissions at all. The FULCRUM consortium commits to seriously evaluate whether a meeting is really useful, and to substitute physical meetings with online meetings whenever this doesn't critically compromise the outcomes of the activity.
- 2) **Walking and cycling:** active transport only needs human energy provided by the food we eat. At the local level, we will prioritise, incentivise and facilitate walking and cycling.
- 3) **Rail transport:** trains (and, at local level, tramways and metro lines) have the lower impact, especially if powered by electricity (trains with diesel engines used in some countries have a higher impact than electric trains but still lower than cars and planes). Trains will be the preferred means of transport for national or international travel whenever feasible.
- 4) **Other public collective means of land transport:** such as buses. Bus travel will be prioritised whenever train travel is not a feasible option.
- 5) **Private cars and taxis:** many cars are needed to transport the same number of people that could travel on a bus, therefore the per capita emissions are much higher. Public transport will always be prioritised; when no public transport options are available, we will do our best to promote carpooling.
- 6) **Flight:** is the choice that implies the highest consumption of resources and the highest emissions of carbon dioxide. Flight will be allowed only when other options are too demanding in terms of time, according to specific rules set out below. When flying, we will

prioritise direct flights, as a single direct flight implies lower emissions than connection flights.

- 7) **Environmental compensation:** Compensating emissions is not a substitute for a serious travel policy. Every effort should be made in order to avoid or reduce emissions, and compensation should only be considered as a last resort to offset emissions that could not be avoided. Causing emissions and then compensating them is always more harmful than avoiding them in the first place. Moreover, while it is possible to calculate carbon emissions and take measure that sequestrate an equivalent quantitative, it is not possible to really compensate the damages caused to human health and the ecosystem's health by other harmful pollutants emitted by internal combustion engines, by electric energy production, by the production and maintenance of engines, vehicles, and mobility infrastructures. However, there is still the possibility to generate positive environmental impact through environmental compensation measures, and as cultural organisations we are aware of our power to inspire our public by providing positive examples; therefore, while putting all our effort in reducing emissions, we will also do our best to compensate them by funding or directly implementing actions with a positive environmental impact.

### Travel guidelines

We have set the following guidelines for travel reimbursement, in order to ensure that sustainable means of transport are chosen whenever reasonable; of course, if travelling by land from your location to the project venues is extremely long, flights will be reimbursed as well. Please contact your network of reference for travel arrangements before booking your tickets, in order to make sure that you are complying with our travel rules and to verify the maximum costs that will be reimbursed.

- If there is an option to reach the destination by train with a total duration of the trip under 6 hours, and whenever it doesn't require an extra night, only train travel costs will be reimbursed (i.e., a training starts or finishes at midday; if there is a train option that allows you to reach your destination in the same day, only train travel costs will be reimbursed; if the first and last days of training are full days and participants are going to travel the day before/after, and the train allows them to leave and arrive in the same day, only train travel costs will be reimbursed).
- If the train travel requires one night stopover or to travel by night, and participants are still willing to choose the train, we will do our best to reimburse the additional accommodation costs, or accommodation options on a night train (i.e., sleepers, couchette).
- Whenever train options do not fulfil the above conditions, but travelling by bus does, we will reimburse bus travel costs, but not flight travel costs.
- If neither buses or trains satisfy the above conditions, we will reimburse direct flight costs; if there is no direct flight option, we will reimburse train or bus tickets to the nearest airport that allows direct flight. If the combination of train or bus + direct flight takes more than 4 hours longer than a flight connection, we will reimburse connection flights.

Please contact your network of reference for travel arrangements before booking your tickets, in order to make sure that you are complying with our travel rules and to verify the maximum costs that will be reimbursed (e.g. for participants from Austria: IG Kultur Österreich, [office@igkultur.at](mailto:office@igkultur.at))