

ENMC's contribution to reduce CO2 emissions

ENMC brings on average 250-300 persons per year from all over the world to The Netherlands to participate in ENMC workshops at our hotel venue in Hoofddorp. But also members of the Research and Executive Committee fly in for the bi-annual ENMC board meetings.

Most people travel by airplane (70-80%), the rest travels by car and by train. Plane travel and car journeys are particularly impactful on the climate¹, hence we felt it is time to take our responsibility as organisation and try to help reducing global warming, even if it is a small portion. The high level of CO2 emissions are a cross-border problem and requires a European approach.

ENMC prefers travel by train

As of 2021, ENMC encourages that workshop participants and members of the ENMC Committees take the train instead of a plane. This may e.g. be applicable for people who can reach the meeting destination near Amsterdam within a total of eight (8) hours of travel time. We understand that people may require taking a plane because of personal, geographical or work-related reasons; it is not always convenient anytime for everyone. Therefore, this train preference is not mandatory and hence ENMC is not withdrawing its reimbursement policy for plane or car travel.

Guests coming from European countries

Within Europe, travelling by train is becoming more the gold standard. Therefore, we encourage our European guests to take the train instead of a plane. Although the train takes longer than a flight, it saves waiting and check-in time at airports and it may provide precious workhours. If booked at an early stage, 1st class (or Standard Premier) tickets can be just as economical as the 2nd class (or standard) ticket. To encourage train usage, ENMC will cover 1st class (or standard premier) train tickets if booked in advance at a reasonable rate < € 300.

Guests from outside Europe

It is clear that participants from outside of Europe cannot take trains for their entire journey. However, if they are combining their participation in an ENMC meeting as part of a longer trip to Europe, they may wish to consider travelling within Europe by train.

¹Air travel burdens the environment 7 to 11 times as much as the same journey by train," explains Anne Kluivers of Environment Central. And especially on shorter distances, the plane is relatively polluting compared to the train or the car. The fact that the aircraft is so polluting is due, on the one hand, to the consumption of kerosene, but on the other hand to the height at which aircraft emit the harmful substances. "By burning kerosene, aircraft emit CO2, contributing to global warming". It was calculated that 1,000 kg of CO2 emissions is approximately released by 6,000 kilometres of driving a diesel car (with a consumption of 1 in 15), 71,000 kilometres by train (emissions per passenger) and 8 flights back and forth from Amsterdam to London (emissions per passenger).