# Voorbeeldcharter voor internationale samenwerkingsverbanden

As research institutions, we are well aware about the urgency of the climate crisis and are motivated to act on it with specific and effective measures that reduce our CO2-emissions, to eventually be CO2-neutral as soon as possible. However, due to the strong international focus of universities, the CO2-footprint is strongly determined by air travel. Therefore, we should take immediate action to reduce the amount of flights, especially because no groundbreaking technological advancements for sustainable flying are to be expected in the upcoming decade.

With this sustainable travel charter, we are seeking a balance between sustaining a dynamic, effective, and international platform on the one hand and acting on the urgency of the climate crisis additional concrete and effective measures on the other hand.

We commit ourselves to:

## Reducing physical meetings

Every taskforce meet physically maximum once a year. Other meetings will be held online.

## Traveling by train/bus/car to places that are accessible with an eight hour train/bus ride

## The travel time is calculated on the basis of the distance from the employee's place of employment to their destination.

Specific for our project, it means that following trips can be done by train:

* Ghent University – University of Groningen: travel time 4h 45min, 2 transfers (train)
* Ghent University – University of Bordeaux: travel time 5h 30min, 3 transfers (train)
* University of the Basque Country – University of Bordeaux: travel time 5h 30min, 3 transfers (train, bus)
* University of Groningen – University of Göttingen: travel time 5h 12 min, 2 transfers (train)
* University of Ghent – University of Göttingen: travel time 6h 26 min, 4 transfers (train)

If the travel time by train/bus is more than eight hours, the participant may also opt to travel by train/bus and will be reimbursed.

## Compensating the price of CO2 of our travel by air

Every business trip by plane will be compensated for at least the price of CO2 on the international market. Every institution can choose out of these options:

* Direct CO2-compensation by a certified organization
* Subsidies for train- or bustickets
* Living labs at the own university in the framework of the Climate Lab