



REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF ERASMUS MOBILITIES THROUGH INCENTIVES AND CARBON OFFSETTING

In order to reduce the carbon footprint of students and staff going on mobility abroad, incentives for carbon reduction and options for carbon offsetting should be put at their fingertips so they can engage in the relevant behaviours to lower the transport CO₂ footprint of their mobility.

For IO3, we will carry out under the leadership of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) the necessary research to determine and design the incentives for carbon reduction and options for carbon offsetting to encourage both higher education students and staff to lower their carbon footprint associated with their mobility abroad. Said incentives and options will be made available through the CO₂ visualisation tool and will inform the handbook, guidelines and policy recommendations that will be produced in IO4.

The objective will be first to determine what incentives work best for influencing the choices of higher education students and staff taking part in the Erasmus+ programme regarding the means of transport they use to go on mobility. Several types of incentives will be investigated, including the impact of offering free transportation, financial top-ups for using cleaner transport, certificates of green behaviour, etc. We will look into solutions

already implemented by some universities outside our consortium. Focus groups with higher education students and staff will be set up to complement the desk research and determine what kinds of incentives could best influence their choices.

We will also investigate options for carbon offsetting that could be paired with the incentives identified in the previous task to encourage students and staff to offset their transport CO2 footprint before, during or after their mobility abroad. In particular, the potential impact of the following options (non-exhaustive list) will be investigated: Planting trees, Solar energy, Hydropower energy, Thermal energy, Ecological stoves, Water cleaning, Public procurement procedures, Food waste reduction/management. An inventory of existing measures in HEI will be compiled. The impact of those solutions will be assessed through focus groups research. Recommendations for carbon offsetting will be given on an individual level (student), institutional level (higher education institution) and on the national/European level (DG EAC, Erasmus+ National Agencies, and the Erasmus programme itself).

A final report will summarise the findings.