

Sustainable Engagement Fund Travel Reimbursements

How it will run:

EYPUK currently has a reimbursement scheme offering travel reimbursement for volunteers to events within EYPUK of up to £30. This has proven very effective in enabling our volunteers to attend events within our NC. However, we historically have low numbers of members attending events abroad. We would like to support our members to do so by permanently extending our policy to offer reimbursement to first-time officials attending events abroad up to £50 reimbursement, whilst also offering the difference between the price of a flight, and the price of the cheapest alternative mode of public transport for all members attending a session abroad, up to a maximum of one session per year within our cluster (potentially extended to include other geographically close NCs, such as Belgium and the Netherlands, which can be reached through direct connections - dependent on the levels of the fund provided)*.

In terms of logistics, the scheme will follow the current EYPUK reimbursement procedure whereby participants fill in a form on the website to reimburse expenses following the event. This will be adapted to include options for this scheme, whereby they must include evidence of their expenses and a link to their member's platform evidencing that this is their first time officiating abroad, or attending a session abroad within our cluster. The beneficiary will also be asked to respond to a number of questions, enabling us to gather feedback to enable us to measure the impact of the scheme. The payments will then be approved by the Treasurer and the Chair of EYPUK. Each expense will be recorded in our financial records to monitor the overall financial cost of the scheme, and a year later we will reach out to the beneficiaries/consider their involvement in EYP since receiving their fund to help us measure the impact, as elaborated in the following question.

Given the UK is not on mainland Europe, the majority of travel by our active members is through flight. By removing the financial disincentive of other, more sustainable transportation options, which our members tell us is the primary reason for flying, we hope to achieve our goal of increasing participation abroad, without increasing the carbon footprint of our NC.

Alongside this, we are also offering reimbursement of up to £50 to first-time officials attending events abroad.

Example one

6-11th September

Flight London to Amsterdam (£74) + return coach to airport from city centre (£26) = £100

Eurostar from London to Amsterdam = £108

Total reimbursement for first-time official: £50 + £8 = £58

Total reimbursement for official who has previously been abroad: £8

Example two

6-11th September

Flight London to Dublin (£34) + return coach to airport (£26) = 60

Train from London to Holyhead, ferry to Dublin return = £97.60

Total reimbursement for first-time official = £50 + 37.60 = 87.60

Total reimbursement for official who has previously been abroad = £37.60

Example three

Flight to Paris from Edinburgh (£170) + tram to airport (£9.50) = 179.50

Train from Edinburgh to London (£60) Eurostar to Paris (£123) - both return = 183

Total reimbursement for first time official = £50 + £3.50 = 53.50

Total reimbursement for official who has previously been abroad = £3.50

By increasing incentives for people to go abroad, we hope to aid the sustainability of our NC by boosting the number of active members in our NC and spreading out workload whilst also contributing to the success of other areas of our network and enabling us to benefit from learning from the best practices from some of these other arms of EYP. In this way, the travel scheme will help us improve the long-term sustainability of our NC through boosting our human resources and enabling us to learn from other NCs and arms of EYP.

From an environmental standpoint, we would like to use the fund to promote more sustainable travel practices, including amongst more active members of our NC, by bridging the gap between the price of a flight (including transportation to/from the airport) and the price of the cheapest alternative mode of transport (such as train or ferry). By doing so, we hope to reduce the financial burden of taking more sustainable means of transportation and promote a culture where people put more consideration into taking more sustainable modes of transport. For example, in example one above - the Eurostar equals the same price as a flight, once transportation to the airport is considered (not to mention has more

generous luggage options!), yet a member may not have initially considered this option because of usual practice or convenience. The reimbursement levels for members who have been abroad before is relatively low, however the aim is that by encouraging people to look into alternative options, we hope this will encourage people to take more environmentally friendly options, when realising that once other costs such as transfers to the airport and luggage are considered the price difference is often not significantly more. Therefore, we hope this scheme will enable us to marry the dual aims of increasing human resources within our NC, whilst also seeking to lower the carbon footprint of our members.