

Do you think that your professional development may suffer if you would refuse to fly?

Most commentators say “yes”, stating that networking, participation in international events and fieldwork will suffer – but many admit that reduction would be possible. Commentators, however, disagree on who would suffer more: junior scientists or senior.

Some commentators fully disagree based on their own experience, or believe professional development will not suffer if there was a cultural shift in academia. Many even flown to, they say, may be overrated in terms of benefits for professional development.

Should Eawag support you more in avoiding flights?

Yes, commentators requested financial or administrative support

1: Official Statement (Eawag Directive):

Supporting commentators often demanded more than just a statement, found the measure reasonable and easy, but were demanding clearer formulations. Some were afraid of anything mandatory, while few others questioned the effectiveness.

4: Internal competition:

Supporting commentators remind that the thresholds set should be reasonable, and highlight the effectiveness of the measure. This is questioned by a few neutral comments. Rejecting commentators see perverse incentives to travel more in the first 3 years. Many suspect a disadvantage for departments working in distant setting [*misunderstanding of the measure*], or fear an aversion and shaming culture. Some argue that measures should not target the department level but the individual level.

6: Compensation:

Supporting commentators call for an introduction of a tax that makes transparent where the money goes. Critical commentators see the danger of rebound effects, argue that costs and admin efforts are too high, and point to the fact that a tax does not hurt people personally and won't change behavior.

7: Train as official policy:

Got many commentators showing strong support. Some highlight that train rides being more expensive is a fairytale.

8: Restriction of overseas flights:

Most discussed measure. Some supports say this was the most effective measure of all, junior scholars should be allowed more flights, and argue the measure should be more flexible. Critics argue the measure needs to be individual, context and department sensitive, and fear that the regulation is too inflexible and general. Some argue it is unrealistic and fear detrimental effects on young researchers and Eawag's international recognition

9 Internal cap on emissions and trading system:

Supporters and critics agree in that this has to consider the administrative effort it will require. Supporters argue that it would require testing and a simple and efficient trading system. Critics fear that the progressive nature of the measure may punish first movers and create perverse incentives for people to sell off tradeable flying budgets.