

Conception and positions of the GLENmobility group

Mobility might seem to be a side issue compared to the more evident topics of Global Learning. However, GLEN is a network with very **mobile members** and promotes mobility through its own structure. With the current transformation towards a **global partner network**, movements of participants and members will even increase. Mobility is thus an important aspect that needs to be considered within GLEN. Mobility causes emissions that contribute to **climate change**. GLEN has to be clear on its responsibility for increasing emissions caused by members and participants. Being able to move, to cross borders and having the **choice to select certain modes of transport** is directly linked to certain privileges. This approach to reflect on the personal privileges could be a basis while talking about (sustainable) mobility in the GLEN network. We invite all members of the network to think further about the future of mobility within GLEN.

Our Vision:

Sustainable mobility is taken for granted within the GLEN programme. The GLEN structures foster sustainable travelling to the seminars and internships. Apart from other measures this leads to GLEN as an emission-free organization.

Who we are:

With the energy and motivation of a GEA on sustainable mobility we founded the GLEN mobility group to further work on our goals and visions with a focus on GLEN. From the beginning on the group was welcoming any interested GLENies. Positive feedback from GLEN members supported our work during the past year and constantly inspires us with new ideas.

Current state of mobility within GLEN:

As we have learned from our own experiences and regular exchange with GLENies many members are kept from sustainable travelling for personal and structural reasons including:

- 🚲 high costs
- 🚲 lack of time
- 🚲 lack of infrastructure
- 🚲 lifestyle
- 🚲 expectations of the society towards our mobility, flexibility and international experiences
- 🚲 no experience with or knowledge about alternative modes of transport

People within the international network of different members forming GLEN have different views and backgrounds. GLEN offers the opportunity for young committed people to undergo a one-year training cycle to reflect on issues related to Global Learning. However, GLEN as a network does not want to impose any readymade opinion dictating personal choices.

Currently, CO₂-compensation for travels to the internship happens on a voluntary basis. Unfortunately, hardly any participants compensate for their emissions. Alternative transportation modes are not commonly used, especially during the internship phase. Therefore, the GLEN network with its very mobile members is responsible for major CO₂-emissions each year.

Our Aims:

To promote the topic of sustainable mobility within GLEN we aim to:

- 🚲 connect GLEN members who are interested in changing mobility patterns within GLEN
- 🚲 exchange ideas and experiences on sustainable mobility
- 🚲 actively shape and change the GLEN network to support sustainable mobility of its members
- 🚲 raise awareness about interdependencies of mobility with further issues including privileges, freedom of movement, climate change and post-colonialism

In line with GLEN's global education approach, we see the MTC as an important opportunity to raise awareness for the topic of sustainable mobility and to inspire this highly mobile group of young adults and potential future multipliers.

We promote the idea of the GLEN MTC as a space for reflection and dialogue between participants, tutors and member organisations to question their own mobility behaviour and to consider alternatives. During this process, and in line with GLEN's overall aims, the participants should become aware of their privileges to choose certain modes of transport as well as become conscious about responsible behaviour. It is important to us that focusing on mobility behaviour should be fun and arouse curiosity about alternative ways of travelling. At the same time, we are aware that during the seminars, mobility is only one topic among many others. We do not want to introduce a hierarchy of important topics, but offer a space for reflection.

We also want to join the current dynamics and energy of the GLEN strategy process. One aspect of the strategy 2016-2020 is to foster the engagement of former ppts. We are looking forward to see where this is going and are motivated to contribute to the idea of an active and lively network.

Long-term projects:

In the long run, we want to lower GLEN's emissions with actions on three levels: (1) on the structural level of the network's organisation and regulations, (2) during the MTC in direct contact with the participants, and (3) by providing information and inspiration.

- 🚲 structural changes:
 - place the issue in the strategy process
 - integrate time for travels into the MTCs: e.g. seminars from Monday to Friday to enable slow travel during the weekend before and after
 - mobility agents in every GLEN partner organization who support and promote sustainable travelling of its members
 - tackle the problem of unequal travel expenses and various financial backgrounds, e.g. with solidarity adjustment of costs for sustainable travelling
- 🚲 raising awareness:
 - travelling sustainable as part of the training cycle (address the issue on seminars)
 - initiate competitions and other joint actions on sustainable travelling

- encourage sustainable travel during the MTC
- initiate debates on the interconnectedness of mobility with climate change, migration, freedom of movement, and post-colonialism
- 🚲 offering support and information:
 - create an online platform for exchange and information (e.g. for arranging lifts to seminars)
 - collection of travelling experiences and hints, descriptions, and contacts for sustainable travelling to certain destinations as positive examples

How do we work:

Since the mobility group's members are just as mobile as you might expect we exchange mainly online on regular skype meetings. We further intend to have personal meetings at least once a year. These meetings ideally take place during other GLEN events (annual event, events linked to the strategy process, ReNew, etc.).

What have we done so far?

Founded in early 2014, members of the group have visited seminars of the MTCs 2014 and 2015 and discussed the topic of sustainable mobility with participants. We usually offered a platform for exchange during the open space format. To inspire future travellers, we collected mobility reports from former GLENNies and presented them online and in personal meetings to the participants. Two members of GLENmobility participated in the GLEN strategy process in the working group on sustainability.

Next steps planned:

- 🚲 present the topic at the annual event 2015
- 🚲 prepare a hitch hiking competition to ReNew 2016 and collect our experiences in a guideline document for GLENNies who would like to repeat this event in the future
- 🚲 contact MTC 2016 and raise awareness for sustainable transport alternatives
- 🚲 establish space for exchange of experience and information on the future GLENweb online platform

Challenges:

- 🚲 How to open the group for more members?
- 🚲 How to share the work?
- 🚲 How to ensure smooth communication?
- 🚲 How to establish awareness for sustainable mobility in the long run, independently from individual engagement?
- 🚲 Reflect on the topic of sustainable mobility and privileges: How to include the current political situation of migration to the "Fortress Europe" into debates within GLEN?

Contacts:

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Common Pad with information: <https://pad.riseup.net/p/GLENmobility>

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