



VCD project introduction

European Biking Cities

Main project LIFE+ Clean Air

Project sponsor European Union LIFE programme

Project duration 09/2012 - 09/2015

Background

Four years ago the European Commission summarized five previous acts on air pollution policy to the European Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC (AQD).

In its thematic strategy on air pollution the EU states that it is its aim to achieve an air quality that "causes no significant adverse effects to human health or the environment and thus no corresponding danger".

Despite the existing legislative framework and the citizens' right to clean air, continuing violations of air pollution limits remain a serious problem that threatens health, environment and climate.

With the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union nine NGOs now take action in the project CLEAN AIR to contribute to improved implementation of the AQD on a regional and local level.

European Biking Cities

The aim of this CLEAN AIR sub-project is to contribute to clean air in cities by increasing the share of bicycle traffic. On a political level the direct link between bicycle friendly policy and better air quality should become more present. Increased cycling at the same time offers a way out of various other urgent problems of urban traffic such as congestion, noise, or land consumption of car traffic. Many European cities have already recognized this and employ different means to inspire people to cycle.

By linking active cities in the projects network, mutual transfer of knowledge is enhanced. Best practices are pointed out, difficulties and dead ends are identified. Through continuous dialogue and at several conferences, problems which have been faced in one place can be avoided else-

where. At the same time good strategies can be adapted to different conditions and thus quickly imitated.

The Network

The network addresses cities that actively strengthen bicycle traffic and thereby have achieved first goals already (so called "climbers"). Additionally, participating cities have to commit to a number of concrete measures during the project phase.

Participating in the network offers each city the option to advertise for its efforts on the European level. Cities in similar





conditions are supposed to share advice mutually.

Copenhagen – a model city of the CLEAN AIR project – serves as an important source of ideas. Experience gained in the network's cities give an example and motivation for non-participant cities to invest in cycling.

Conferences

In at least four of the networks partner cities conferences are held to foster knowledge transfer and qualify personnel working on the issue in the cities. The thematic focus of each event depends on the specific situation in the host city of the event. Additionally, the conferences are open for representatives from other cities, the media or non-governmental organisations. The outcome is passed on to other cities interested and through the European Cyclists Federation.

Public relations

European Biking Cities is supported by the CLEAN AIR

project's press and public relations department. Additional cooperation between the cities and the network for public relation activities is planned. The CLEAN AIR project's website provides information on how efforts to promote cycling can benefit air quality in cities. Furthermore, expert talks are employed as a means to sensitise stakeholders for specific issues.

Project partners



Photos (from left to right):

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