Cycling and EU urban mobility policy

Reaching the SDGs by bike - How mobility fosters development in rural settings

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Cycling on the rise

• **2019 Eurobarometer survey:** 17% of the EU population used bicycles or scooters as their primary mode of transportation. Big differences between countries, regions and cities

• **Rise of active mobility as a game changer:**
  - Changing mindsets & behavioural patterns
  - Focus on health and sustainability
  - E-bikes
  - Covid
  - National policies (e.g. FR e-bike purchase premiums up to €2,500 when scrapping a polluting car)
Covid and cycling

• Covid:
  - safe distancing and quick movement of people can be achieved by promoting cycling and walking
  - many local authorities introduced pop-up cycling lanes as emergency measures
  - Recovery and Resilience Facility: big momentum for investing in cycling, including in many national recovery plans.

• “Build it and they will come”: research from 106 European cities:
  - on average 11.5 km of provisional pop-up bike lanes built per city
  - cycling levels rose between 11 and 48%
  - new infrastructure will generate between $1 and $7 billion in health benefits per year if cycling habits remain at the current level

Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans: investment in cycling is a “no-brainer and no-regret”
...but more is needed

• What countries and regions can do?

- develop national and regional cycling policies, strategies and plans
- prioritise cycling as a sustainable and healthy mode of transport
- integrate cycling into health policies, infrastructure and land-use planning
- set targets: doubling cycling, improving active mobility infrastructure
- allocate sufficient budget
- re-allocate public space for safe and direct cycling infrastructure
- support measures: purchase premiums, tax breaks and cycle-to-work schemes
EU policy

- **Cycling: integrated into urban transport policy**, getting more EU funding, features in flagship EU urban mobility initiatives (CIVITAS Initiative and European Mobility Week)

- **Prominent place in the concept of Sustainable urban mobility planning (SUMP)**, Annex to 2013 Urban Mobility Package (https://www.eltis.org/mobility-plans/sump-concept): „Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan should incorporate a plan to raise attractiveness, safety and security of walking and cycling”

- **Interactive guidance for cycling projects (with minimum quality standards for infrastructure)** based on a study: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/cycling/guidance-cycling-projects-eu_en
Sustainable urban mobility planning

There are eight crucial principles for successful Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning:

1. Plan for sustainable mobility in the entire ‘functional city’
2. Define a long-term vision and a clear implementation plan
3. Cooperate across institutional boundaries
4. Develop all transport modes in an integrated manner
5. Involve citizens and stakeholders
6. Arrange for monitoring and evaluation
7. Assess current and future performance
8. Assure quality
European guidance under SUMP

https://www.eltis.org/mobility-plans/topic-guides
European Mobility Week

Campaign culminating in Car-Free Day; over 3000 cities from 50 countries in 2020! Encourage municipalities to introduce and promote behavioural change favouring sustainable modes. mobilityweek.eu

2019 theme - "Safe Walking and Cycling"
2021 theme - "Move sustainably, stay healthy"
Cycling is international

Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion
5th High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, May 2021

#MakeCyclingSafe:
Cycling is an affordable, reliable, clean & sustainable mode of transport

World Bicycle Day

#WorldBicycleDay
Next steps – new EU urban mobility framework

- Increased ambition:
  - urban nodes on the TEN-T network put in place their own sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMPs) by 2030 and collect minimum harmonised urban mobility data
  - active transport modes, such as cycling, have seen growth with cities announcing over 2300 km of extra cycling infrastructure. This should be doubled in the next decade towards 5000 km in safe bike lanes


- 12w Open Public Consultation – imminent launch – see @Transport_EU and DG MOVE website

- Adoption planned for 4Q2021
THANK YOU!