

AESOP Abstract submission

Title: The Potential for Cycling in Starter Cycling Cities

Theme: Track 7 - Mobilities

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Abstract (max 250 words):

From the environmental benefit brought by the modal shift from less sustainable modes, to the more efficient use of urban space, the promotion of cycling has been considered a priority in many cities. However, many Starter Cycling cities are still struggling with finding the right approach to the issue.

This research aims at providing a spatial representation of a city's cycling potential by assessing its target population, i.e., the population with higher potential to cycle, and the target areas, i.e., the areas due to their natural and built characteristics are more suitable for cycling. This assessment will be done through a multi-criteria analysis based on the main factors identified in the literature as influencing cycling (population density, age, car ownership, proximity to main centralities, topography, etc.).

The tool also assesses the existence and the effectiveness of policies and measures in place to incentivize cycling.

A final aggregate value of cycling potential is calculated by joining the three groups.

The development process of the tool involved eight municipalities of starter cycling cities in Portugal, which took part through workshops. Those aimed, first, at co-develop the assessment tool with the input of the municipalities, second, to test its utility in the development of cycling strategies for starter cities and, third, to test the ability of this concept to improve the attitudes towards cycling of local authorities in starter cycling cities.

The paper will report on the results of these workshops and on the main findings brought out from the co-development process.