

Using basic accessibility measures to reveal cycling potential of starter cycling cities

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There has been an increasing recognition of the potential of cycling for a more sustainable urban mobility. Following the example of more experienced cities in the change for cycling many cities worldwide have implemented numerous measures to improve conditions for cycling. Regardless, many Starter Cycling cities are still struggling with finding the right approach to the issue and even with finding the right political and social commitment to a real change. The project Generation.Mobi has worked on bringing together simple tools to illustrate the potential for cycling of a city, with the aim of supporting the development of political and social commitment to the bicycle.

Among these tools the project used simple accessibility measures illustrating relative competitiveness of cycling compared to other modes. Simple accessibility measures are used to define the spatial location of the target areas for cycling resorting to the assessment of proximity to main centralities, to schools, to main public transport stations and to cycling infrastructure define the spatial location of the target areas offering. Accessibility measures are also used to contribute to the assessment of the effectiveness of mobility management policies in place to incentive cycling, such as, coverage (% of population) of cycling infrastructure (lanes and parking facilities), the gained coverage of public transport stations by cycling when compared with walking, the amount of student population with access to school by bicycle, the amount of population and area accessible by cycling and the ratio between accessible distance by cycling and by car.

The presentation will explore the use of such tools in two different local context (municipalities). It will discuss the results of four workshops developed with the local authorities of these municipalities (two workshop in each), where these tools were presented and use in the development of cycling strategies.

Keywords: Accessibility; Cycling; Starter Cycling Cities