

LIFE CYCLE'S BEST IN THE SCHOOLS OF GRAZ

During an intervention programme in two schools in Graz, which lasted 12 weeks, two activities proofed to be the most successful:



Primary school Mariatrost:

In Austria, children aged ten are able to perform a voluntary bicycle exam. If they pass it, they are allowed to ride their bike on the streets without parental company. In this context, an activity in the primary school of Mariatrost has demonstrated that the best approach to reach parents, grandparents and children simultaneously is to provide training for the entire family in real traffic situations. In these training sessions the family members are taught how to behave as cyclists in traffic, how to ride a bike safely and how to pass the bicycle exam.

Secondary school St. Johann:

Thanks to four intense bicycle repair workshops, flat tyres and brake problems are no issue anymore. Pupils aged 13 and 14 participated in these workshops to get acquainted with their bikes and learnt how to deal with minor - or even bigger - technical problems. Due to the success of this activity, the school already thinks about setting up a bicycle repair room for their pupils.

The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not represent the opinion of the European Communities. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

UNIVERSITY CAMPAIGN: “BIKE YOUR WAY TO A DEGREE”

Throughout this campaign the project LIFE CYCLE promotes new healthy mobility habits to all mobility students. The Municipality of Aveiro, in association with the University, will promote and develop a number of initiatives targeting all students but especially newcomers (freshmen). These are the students most open to adopt the bicycle as a mode of transportation mainly because they don't have strong mobility habits in this new environment yet.

The awareness campaign among freshmen started during enrolment week when these were queuing up to enroll and undertaking guided tours of the campus. Six older students who were involved with the project and had received some training, approached 1st grade students individually to explain the importance and benefits of cycling for their daily trip to the university and around the city. Information and advice about cycling in the city was also given on an individual basis. They also distributed flyers of the project LIFE CYCLE to other students and staff.

This “awareness” phase ended on the 21st of September with the Bicycle party which involved more than 350 participants.

On top of this, there was a university competition for ideas to promote cycling to the university. Three scholarships were awarded and three students were chosen to boost and execute the ideas as part of the University campaign. Hopefully, this campaign will develop a new generation of bicycle users among the University students which can contribute to a much easier, economic lifestyle and will also help to create an environmentally friendly city.

