



VELO-CITY
GLOBAL 2012
VANCOUVER
CANADA JUNE 26-29
www.velo-city2012.com

Velo-city Global 2012 Conference
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ABOUT VELO-CITY GLOBAL 2012

Velo-city Global 2012 is part of the world's premier international cycling planning conference series. The four day event offers delegates from around the world a chance to share best practices for creating and sustaining cycling-friendly cities, where bicycles are valued as part of daily transport and recreation.

Velo-city Global unites politicians, engineers, planners, architects, social marketers, academics, researchers, environmentalists, advocates, educators and industry representatives. Delegates join forces and foster trans-national collaboration. The event also draws experts from related areas such as health, economics and the environment.

Key objectives of the Velo-city series are:

- To spread high quality knowledge, and the best new information about cycling, and transport planning at the international level.
- To aid, and promote cities with progressive cycling policies by showcasing the benefits they provide to their citizens, businesses, and others through conference generated publicity.
- To encourage the recognition of cycling as an efficient, healthy, and environmentally friendly mode of transport, while supporting its greater use.
- To promote the integration of cycle planning into transport, land-use, and other relevant policy sectors where cycling plays an important role.
- To seek involvement from all relevant stakeholders.

The Velo-city conference series began in 1980 in Bremen, Germany with deep ties in the founding of the European Cyclists' Federation. Since then, the conference has been held in cities such as Copenhagen, Brussels, Barcelona and Montreal. Velo-city Global 2012 in Vancouver represents the second of the conference's global editions, and only the second of the series to be held in North America.

Velo-city Global 2012 in Vancouver is expected to host up to 1,000 delegates from around the world. The conference will be held on June 26 - 29, 2012 at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Center Hotel, accessible by the city's Hornby Street separated bike lane.

For more information: <http://www.velo-city2012.com>



29/05/2012–Vancouver

United Nations Demanded to Enshrine Global “Right to Cycle” for Children



Global bicycle advocates unveiled the ‘Charter of Vancouver’ calling on the United Nations (UN) to recognize “the right to cycle” for all children at Velo-city Global, the world’s largest cycling policy conference.

“We’re calling upon the United Nations and we call upon you, Ban Ki-moon, to give all children access to cycling,” said Bernhard Ensink, Secretary General of the European Cyclists’ Federation.

Linking to the Convention of the Rights of the Child, the Charter calls upon the UN and other institutions to consider cycling as a human right for children and “to include cycling as part of all sustainable transport policies and strategies.”

Across the globe, the number of kids that walk or cycle to school has decreased from 82% to 14% within the last 30 years. While some countries such as the Netherlands have high levels of children cycling to school (50%), others such as the US (1%), Canada (2%), the United Kingdom (2%) and Australia (2%) need to increase their efforts.

Addressing the audience during Velo-city Global, Dr. Paul Tranter, Geography Professor at the University of New South Wales said: “If we get it right for children, we’ll get it right for cycling and if we get it right for cycling, we’ll get it right for children,”

“At the end of the day, who can argue against safer cities for children?” he added.

ECF is calling upon institutions to sign the charter which can be found here: <http://www.ecf.com/children-have-the-right-to-cycle/>

Notes to the editor:

Royalty free photos can be downloaded at:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/eucyclistsfed/sets/72157630219864030/>

About the Charter of Vancouver

The Charter of Vancouver is urging that cycling be included in all discussions about sustainable transportation and demands all relevant agencies to develop and promote policies and strategies that encourage children to walk and cycle for children. It was signed at the Velo-city Global conference in Vancouver. The text of the Charter of Vancouver can be found at: <http://www.ecf.com/children-have-the-right-to-cycle/>

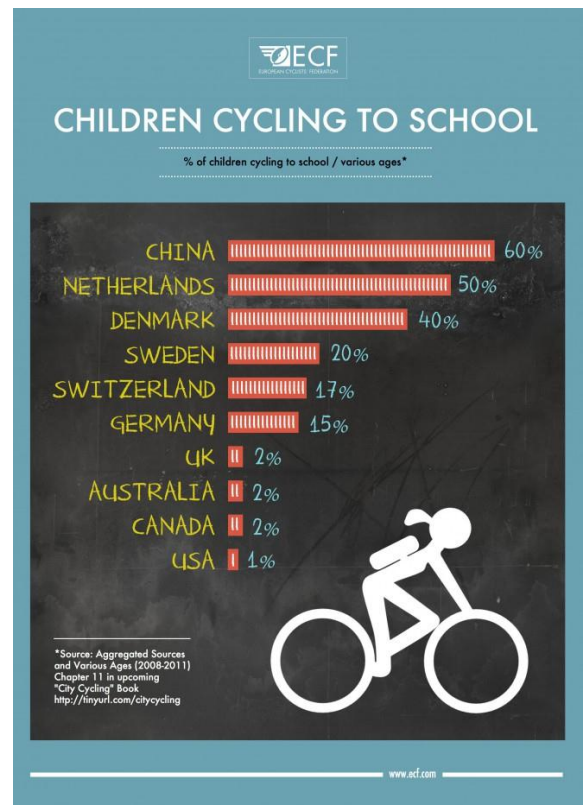
About Velo-city

The Velo-city conference series is the premier international cycling planning conference series in the world, organized by the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) and selected host cities. Velo-city conferences serve as a global communications and information platform and target to influence decision makers, and improve the planning and provision of infrastructure for the daily use of the bicycle in an urban environment. The conferences traditionally involve experts, representatives of associations, institutions, policy-makers and social agents, universities and companies. Velo-city Global will be held in Vancouver (June 26-29)

For more information visit: <http://www.ecf.com/projects/velo-city-2/>

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The Charter of Vancouver

Bernhard Ensink
ECF Secretary General

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The Charter of Vancouver

We call on the United Nations ...



“ Children have the right to cycle ! “

www.ecf.com

The Charter of Vancouver

We call on the UN,
GO's and NGO's:

- Include **cycling** as part of all sustainable transport policies and strategies

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3

The Charter of Vancouver

We call on the UN,
GO's and NGO's:

- Promote active mobility **for people of all ages and abilities**

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4

The Charter of Vancouver

We call on the UN,
GO's and NGO's:

- Improve the safety and accessibility of roads and public space, especially for **children**



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5

The Charter of Brussels (2009)

- Addressing the European Parliament
- Tripling cycling by 2020 to 15% average modal share



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6

The Charter of Seville (2011)

- Addressing all Ministers of Transport at ITF



**VELO-CITY
SEVILLA 2011**
EL CYCLO DE LA VIDA
THE CYCLE OF LIFE
MARZO 23-25

www.velo-city2011.com

- Cycling for Society:
Invest in the cycling
economy !



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7

The Charter of Vancouver (2012)

- Addressing the United Nations
- “Children have the right to cycle !”

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8

Cycling as a human right



The Charter of Vancouver

We call on the UN, GO's and NGO's:

- Include **cycling** as part of all sustainable transport policies and strategies

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The Charter of Vancouver

- Signing today:
 - Mayor Robertson and ECF President Neun now
 - Velo-city Global 2012 participants please sign *today* in the breaks
 - Confirm online at the ECF web site when you get home!

What you should do

- Sign the charter
- Use the charter
- Encourage all your networks to support cycling for children as a human right
- Tell us your achievements!

Support the Charter of Vancouver

- Make the universal right to cycle part of your advocacy and policies



Good luck!

For more information

www.ecf.com

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Fact Sheet-August 2012



VELO-CITY 2013
THE SOUND OF CYCLING
URBAN CYCLING CULTURES
VIENNA, JUNE 11 - 14



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THE SOUND OF CYCLING
URBAN CYCLING CULTURES
VIENNA, JUNE 11-14

Vienna will be a Cycling Focal Point in 2013

Cycling plays a crucial role in the new mobility strategy of the City of Vienna.

The city of Vienna is pleased to be hosting the 2013 Velo-city conference! With the motto “The Sound of Cycling. Urban Bicycle Cultures,” from June 11th to 14th, 2013, Vienna will become a focal point for cycling experts and bicycle enthusiasts from around the world.

Vienna: Quality of Living

The city of Vienna is Austria’s cultural, economic and political centre, with approximately 1.7 million inhabitants. Rich in cultural tradition, Vienna offers numerous attractions and the city centre is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. Due to its geographic location and history, Vienna forms an integral part of the CENTROPE (Central European Region) regional network.

Vienna is one of the world’s leading congress and conference locations.

The city is one of four major United Nations headquarters sites, and also hosts agencies such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The city is also home to institutions such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Vienna is indeed a fantastic place to live and to visit, and for three consecutive years (2009-2011) **Vienna was ranked in Mercer’s annual “Quality of Living” survey as the city with the highest quality of life in the world.** Vienna has also been top-ranked in surveys such as The Economist’s “World’s Most Livable Cities” and Monocle’s “Quality of Life Survey”.





The Velo-city conference will take place in the historic heart of Vienna – at the Vienna City Hall.



“Vienna is a city of music and culture. With “The Sound of Cycling. Urban Cycling Cultures”, this Viennese specialty will be integrated into the conference. Along with the classic themes of music and theatre, for some years Vienna has been establishing its own bicycle culture.”

Maria Vassilakou
Vice-Mayor and Vice-Governor of Vienna.

An Exceptional Conference City

The city’s ambitious and innovative approaches to participatory urban planning and carbon reduction, as well as to transportation and land-use planning, resulted in Vienna becoming **the world’s “smartest city”** in the first-ever global ranking of smart cities. Well-developed cultural assets, human infrastructure and networked markets render Vienna a top destination for innovation, as demonstrated by Vienna’s fifth place ranking in the “Innovation Cities Top 100 Index 2011”.

Vienna is probably the world’s prime congress destination, as it topped the International Congress and Convention Association’s (ICCA) city ranking as the world’s busiest conference city for the sixth time in 2010.

Cycling in Vienna

Vienna is a growing cycling city with ever more cyclists and an increasingly diverse cycling community. The city government aims to raise the bicycle’s modal share from the current 6% (2011) to 10 % by 2015. The strong modal share of public transportation in Vienna – amounting to 37% in 2011 - is a perfect point of departure to realize the concept of intermodal “seamless transport”.

The dynamic development of cycling in Vienna can be recognised at different levels – in politics, administration and civil society. Recent cycling surveys in spring and summer 2011 highlight that there have never been more cyclists in Vienna than there are today – cycling is everywhere!

In 2013, Velo-city participants will experience the dynamism and energy of Vienna’s current efforts towards cycling promotion. Vienna boasts many interesting aspects connected with utility and leisure cycling, such as infrastructure, PR activities and policies.

Vienna offers a unique cultural atmosphere for Velo-city 2013. The use of **Vienna’s City Hall and its forecourt as the conference venue in the heart of the historic city centre** will give participants the opportunity to enjoy a first-hand experience of Vienna’s (bicycle) culture.





The Velo-city conference series

Velo-city conferences serve as a global communication and information platform aiming to address decision makers in order to improve the planning and provision of infrastructure for the everyday use of bicycles in urban environments.

Velo-city conferences typically bring together more than 1,000 delegates such as engineers, planners, architects, social marketers, academic researchers, environmentalists, businessmen/women, and industry representatives who join forces with government at all levels in order to build effective transnational partnerships to deliver benefits to cycling worldwide.

Objectives of Velo-city conferences are:

- spreading high quality knowledge about cycling and transport planning internationally
- showcasing through conference publicity the benefits that cities with good cycling policies provide to their citizens, businesses and others
- encouraging the recognition of cycling as an efficient, healthy, environmentally friendly mode of transport, and promoting its widespread use
- integrating cycle planning into transport, land-use planning and other policy sectors related to cycling
- seeking involvement from all relevant stakeholders.

“Each Velo-City brings a new dimension to our understanding and promotion of cycling. In Vienna we will add culture to the dimensions of transport, health and economy that we carry forward from previous years.”

Manfred Neun
President ECF





The Velo-city 2013 conference

“The goal of attaining a ten percent bicycle modal share is more realistic than ever, not least due to the Velo-city conference in 2013. We are therefore pleased to host this event, which is so important for cycling in Vienna. Together with the leaders of the European Cyclists’ Federation (ECF), we will endeavour to organise an interesting conference.”

Wolfgang Dvorak
Velo-city 2013 conference director.

Building on established Velo-city discourse topics such as mobility, ecology and climate, health, the economy, resources, time and space, and social policy, a new topic will be opened for discussion at the Velo-city 2013 conference in Vienna: cycling cultures.

The motto of the Velo-city 2013 conference is therefore framed as **“The Sound of Cycling - Urban Cycling Cultures”**.

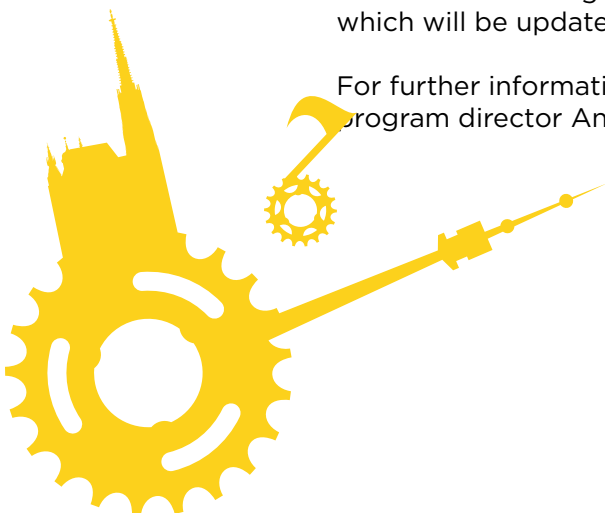
The three main themes for the conference are:

- Cycling Cultures
- Cycling Cities
- Cycling Benefits

The Velo-city 2013 conference program has been designed in cooperation with the leading Austrian Cycling NGOs, ARGUS and IGF, as well as with Austrian Universities and various Viennese cultural institutions. **It will offer a variety of inter- and trans-disciplinary approaches to cycling issues.** A special focus will be placed on developments in eastern and southeastern European cities. The conference has invited cycling experts from all over the world and from different cycling-related fields such as social cultures, the environment, health and economics, amongst others.

The call for abstracts will open in September/October 2012. Please find detailed information and registration dates on our website: www.velo-city2013.com, which will be updated on a continuous basis.

For further information concerning the Velo-city 2013 program, please contact program director Andrea Weninger: program@velo-city2013.com.





Cycling Cultures

“Born in Germany, living in Holland, based in Brussels and having visited a lot of cities worldwide, I am excited to see how Velo-city 2013 will show us the huge diversity in cycling and cycling cultures, within cities and between cities.”

Bernhard Ensink
Secretary General & Velo-city Series
Director ECF

Every city has its own unique cycling culture and diversity, consisting of specific bicycle infrastructure, ridership, cycling practices and policies, bicycle-related administration and organizations as well as bicycle subcultures. Case studies and approaches shared amongst starter, rising and forerunner cycling cities can help to develop innovative methods of cycling promotion. An exchange of professional findings about mobility groups, as well as gender issues related to transport patterns, is a vital input for bicycle advocacy and administrative work. The understanding of contemporary global cycling cultures, their relationship to social media and the linkages between specific lifestyles and bicycle use are emerging topics for a professional discussion on cycling cultures. Not least, the debate during Velo-city 2013 will encompass the impact and development of social trends in relation to the bicycle, the influences of subcultures on the mainstream (and vice versa), as well as the growing importance of the bicycle as a cultural symbol.

Cycling Cities

In addition to walking and public transport, cycling is an ecofriendly transport mode with effects on the urban quality of life, the economy and resource use. Therefore, cycling should be observed through a holistic approach, identifying cycling's potential for the planning and construction of a forward-thinking smart city. Such a professional debate will encompass (amongst other things) strategies for cycling-oriented and sustainable urban development, energy efficiency in regards to mobility, and cycling as an element of intermodal urban transportation. Velo-city 2013 will be a venue for sharing success stories about the integration of public transport and cycling, as well as examples of stakeholder cooperation in transport planning. Participants will discuss trends in urbanisation and sustainable urban development in relation to the bicycle, as well as experiences of the bicycle's role in public spaces. The debate will also encompass cycling as an emerging sustainable mode of transport and the conflicting interests arising during such a process.





Cycling Benefits

The key objective of the Velo-city conference is to stimulate participants by providing inspiration and motivation for cycling projects and initiatives.

Cycling contributes positively to an individual's and a society's economic situation, as substantiated by a growing array of research into cycling and its associated benefits. Cycling as an affordable and highly equitable transport mode has positive and quantifiable impacts on individual as well as societal health. Cycling has a growing importance for the economy in terms of bicycle production as a branch of the green economy, as well as cycle touring as a sustainable form of tourism. A debate on cycling benefits will also focus on the beneficial environmental effects of (increased) cycling, such as impacts on resources and the climate. Most recently, cycling has gained importance as a transport mode in times of crisis, with a correlation between the global economic situation and increased cycling. Moreover, cycling offers the potential for uses beyond transportation, when the bicycle is for example used as a tool of small-scale economies or as a vehicle in humanitarian and social projects.

Foto: © Rupert Larl/Tiroler Landestheater





The Velo-city 2013 conference program

Velo-city 2013 participants will enjoy an interesting and inspiring variety of sessions. The conference will offer plenary lectures, presentations and various other dialogue formats such as round tables, speed dating, open spaces and a world café.

Dialogue formats such as round tables, speed dating, open spaces and a world café, amongst others

The preliminary conference schedule:

- Saturday/Sunday, June 8/9, 2013: Bicycle Picnic Party Freudenau. Folding Bicycle Race, Bicycle and Cultural Trips (optional)
- Monday, June 10, 2013: Scientists for Cyclists Network Meeting. Cities for Cyclists Network Meeting. Bicycle Fashion Show
- Tuesday, June 11, 2013: Conference Opening. Expo Reception. Technical Excursions
- Wednesday, June 12, 2013: Conference Program. Garden Party,
- Thursday, June 13, 2013. Conference Program. Bicycle Parade
- Friday, June 14, 2013: Conference Program. Technical and Cultural Excursions
- Saturday, June 15, 2013: Bicycle and Cultural Trips (optional)
- Sunday, June 16, 2013: Historic Bicycle Race

The **Cycling Parade, Garden Party, Expo Reception** and **technical excursions** are all part of the official conference program to ensure a relaxed atmosphere and to facilitate networking. Beyond the conference program, numerous specialized excursions, trips and side events will be on offer before, during and after the conference for participants, accompanying persons and Vienna's citizens.

These program offerings will be technical, cultural and recreational, encompassing film nights, bicycle fashion shows and specific leads to Vienna's (bicycle) cultural diversity.





The Vienna Cycling Agency

In Vienna and internationally, cycling has been on the rise for several years. In November, 2011 the Viennese government underlined its commitment to cycling with the creation of the **Vienna cycling agency** headed by Martin Blum, Vienna's cycling agent.

Reflecting the political target of doubling the bicycle's modal split to 10% by the year 2015, one main task of the Vienna cycling agency is the improvement of cycling's image among the Viennese population. The Vienna cycling agency organises various cycling-related events and also supports the **Vienna cycling parade** during which Vienna's central ring road is closed to motorized traffic and reserved for cyclists. The Vienna cycling agency also opened the **Vienna Cycling House** in 2012. It is an open space with cycling as the theme and a central contact point in Vienna where one can find plenary discussions, workshops and news regarding urban cycling. Another aspect of the agency's outreach work to promote cycling is the preparation of various research studies on the topic of cycling.

*"We see Velo-city 2013 as a golden opportunity, using numerous activities next year, to inspire more people in Vienna for **everyday-cycling**. We aim at using the **momentum of the conference** to make Vienna even more bicycle-friendly."*

Martin Blum
Vienna Cycling Agency

Beyond this, the Vienna cycling agency is the first reference point for the Viennese population when it comes to cycling and sees itself as a think tank linking politics, administration, NGOs and society.

2013: Special Year of Cycling in Vienna

Surrounding the Velo-city 2013 conference there will be a strong focus on cycling in Vienna over the entire year. For this reason, 2013 will be recognised as a special year of cycling in Vienna.

During the special year of cycling in Vienna, the Velo-city conference should function as a trigger and engine for a wider array of campaign elements, events and initiatives to whet the Viennese population's desire for cycling.

The highlight of next year's program will surely be Bike Week, which will take place around the Velo-city conference in June, 2013. The concept of the 2013 Velo-city conference in Vienna will allow the active participation of the Viennese population in portions of the conference program. The Vienna cycling agency will conceptualize, supervise and evaluate the program of the special year of cycling in close coordination with the organising team of the Velo-city 2013 conference.

The special year of cycling in Vienna should achieve several objectives: improvement of public opinion on cycling and convincing more people in Vienna of the advantages of cycling as an everyday means of transport.





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