



**CiViTAS**  
Cleaner and better transport in cities

# Sustainable Mobility Highlights 2002-2012

CIVITAS is a European Initiative involving more than 200 cities across Europe in the testing and sharing of new technologies and innovative concepts to achieve sustainable and integrated strategies for urban transport.

## CAR-INDEPENDENT LIFESTYLES

### Public bicycles and bicycle sharing

In order to reduce motorised traffic, people will have to adopt a less car-dependent lifestyle. To facilitate this shift in mentality, cities should promote new forms of use and ownership of transport means.

With a focus on Car-independent Lifestyles, CIVITAS cities worked on car-sharing, car-pooling; and public bicycles/bicycle sharing. This highlight offers insights on the last of these subcategories.

In line with world-wide trends, there has been a major increase in the number of public bicycles and bike-sharing systems within the CIVITAS demonstration cities since 2008. Since the very first public “white bikes” in Amsterdam, there has been a massive evolution in technology to make bike-sharing systems both easy to use and theft resistant. Throughout the world, it has been shown that bike-sharing systems can kickstart a cycling culture in cities where cycling was previously a curiosity or leisure activity. Such systems offer a new way to cycle in the city and encourage citizens to make more use of their own bikes.

**CIVITAS explores innovative ways to break the car habit, such as bike sharing, and promotes the sharing of successful strategies among cities. Therefore, the CIVITAS Initiative has realised 16 public bicycles and bicycle sharing measures in 14 different cities since 2002. This highlight features some of the most successful and eye-catching among these to inspire other European cities.**



### Complementary measures

**Ghent**, Belgium, made unique efforts to encourage travel by bicycle by developing a student-friendly bike-rental scheme with a stolen-bike recovery system based on information technology. This discouraged bike theft to some extent (the theft rate dropped by 2 percent) and increased the number of stolen bikes recovered. The city also installed 27 bicycle bins (covered mini-garages), for safe parking in high-density neighbourhoods. An artistic project was set up in **Gdansk**, Poland, and as a result artistically designed cycle racks were installed.





### Links with other transport modes

Cycling is getting more popular in **Szczecin**, Poland, but hasn't yet been integrated with any other transport modes. The development of the water transport system on Lake Trzesiecko created an excellent opportunity for intermodality. Bicycle and rickshaw rental points were established close to the stops of the water tram and water taxi. The city of **Vitoria-Gasteiz**, Spain, integrated its public bike system with existing ticketing and information systems for public transport. The design of the bike stations network supported the offer of both bus and tram services. The city also increased the number of lending points from 17 to 45, so no stations were more than 5 minutes walking distance from anywhere in the city.

### Implementation of public bicycles

CIVITAS has helped many cities to introduce bike-sharing schemes. **Aalborg** in Denmark opted for a coin-deposit system for residents, commuters and tourists. The bicycles are available from early spring to autumn. A fine grid bicycle rental system was foreseen in **Utrecht**, Netherlands. However, a market consultation concluded that the project is well suited to be implemented by market players without financial support from the municipality. Since 2008, private companies have successfully implemented a bike sharing system. A few years ago, the city of **La Rochelle**, France, had Europe's only surviving first-generation bike rental system, called vélo jaunes or yellow bikes. With CIVITAS support, the city upgraded its system with state-of-the-art technology to have an automated service that was integrated into the city's smart card system.

Other inspiring cities are Burgos (Spain); Donostia-San Sebastian (Spain); Krakow (Poland); Toulouse (France); and Winchester (United Kingdom).



Learn more at [www.civitas.eu/car-independent/bike-sharing](http://www.civitas.eu/car-independent/bike-sharing)

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