

Safe4Cycle

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Four European organizations are to develop a common cycling road safety education program within the frames of an Erasmus+ project

The four partners have two and a half years and a 340 000 € subsidy from Erasmus+ Program for the implementation of the project. The aim of the project is to set up a standard educational program is to set up a standard educational program, which could be used in the future in all the elementary schools.

The last few years riding bicycle became more and more popular. Thousands of people use bicycle in the cities, towns (home to school or work), in free time, in tourism, friends and families, but they get no education on traffic rules, how to use bicycle on the roads, or simply just how to behave in the traffic. If somebody wants to drive a car, has to take the driving license (dozens of theoretical and practical lessons). Riding in the traffic has no difference from driving a car. Even the children are in especially danger. This is why a cycling road safety educational program has *raison d'être* in each European country.

Recognising the importance and the actuality of the issue Vuelta Sport Association in cooperation with three partners (Easy Drivers Radfahrschule from Austria, Mobycon from the Netherlands, Fundația Comunitară Mureș from Romania) decided to develop a cycling road safety education program in the frame of Erasmus+ Program. The four partners have two and a half years and a 340 000 € subsidy from Erasmus+ Program for the implementation of the project.

The aim of the participating partners in the strategic partnership for cycling road safety education is to set up a standard educational program with the connecting Mentors' teaching material which could be used in the future in all the elementary schools. The educational materials will be translated and adapted to the local traffic rules of Hungary, Austria and Romania, and the material will also be available in English.

The partnership consist of 2 organisations having experience in field of cycling road safety education (from Austria and Hungary), one Romanian partner, who has just started to initiate such a program, and an advisor partner from the Netherlands. The educational material will be set up jointly by the partners basing on their previous experience and advices of the Dutch supporter.

Parallel to the school educational and Mentors' teaching program a free access online learning material will also be set up, which will be useful as a support material to the school education program, as a home guide for parents intending practice with their children and also for interested people not reached in the schools.

The target group of the current project is the 9-16-year-old age group using bicycle on the roads.

The school educational program has both theoretical and practical part.

The 30-month-long project has three phases:

- 1) Preparing phase, when the school educational and Mentors' teaching material will be jointly set up (based on the existing materials, supported by the Dutch partner).
- 2) Pilot project year in 3-3 elementary schools in Austria, Hungary and Romania in order to test the program in practice and collect the experience. In the pilot program at least 100 pupils/school are to be involved.

3) Dissemination phase, when the educational program and the free access online version will be introduced for the public in a frame of road-shows in the partners' country and determined channels according to the dissemination action plan.

Impact of the program is to call attention of children, parents and school directors and teachers on the importance of road safety education. As a long term impact more people will use bicycle as a healthy and sustainable type of transport.

Impact of the program at national level is find solution for the permanent financing and human capacity to run the program in each elementary school and/or institution to reach all the children using bicycle in the traffic.

The background job of the project is about the long term maintenance of the educational program in the schools. By the end of the pilot year we strive to reach the goal in Austria, Hungary and Romania, which is to find some possibilities for long term financing of the program in the schools after the implementation period of the project. We would like to find an outsider financer (eg, the local municipality or a regional sponsoring company or the relevant ministry), which can guarantee to support and keep on the educational program. We want to start the second school year in the frame of the project and get a guarantee for furthering it by a local/regional/national support.

30.09.2016 Safe4Cycle program is ready to start in the schools

2016/2017 schoolyear is going to be exciting at least in 9 schools in Romania, Hungary and Austria, where Safe4Cycle program is starting in October. After the one-year-long preparing phase the Safe4Cycle Mentors' Handbook and the Safe4Cycle Booklet for Pupils are ready for the pilot project year. The project partners have met in Târgu Mureş, Romania, to discuss the next steps of the program.

03.08.2016 Safe4cycle in Budapest – five days for safety cycling

The representatives of the Austrian EASY DRIVERS Radfahrerschule and the Romanian Fundația Comunitară Mureş (AcademiaVelo program) had visited Budapest within the frame of Safe4Cycle project. Beyond discussing the actual issues of Safe4Cycle project the BringaAkadémia summer holiday camp and the activities of the professional partners of the hosting Vuelta Sports Association has been introduced during the five days.

22/07/2016 Safe4Cycle project meeting in Budapest

The next Safe4Cycle project meeting is to be hold 23-27 July in Budapest, Hungary. The host of the event, Vuelta Sports Association organized for the Austrian and Romanian guests various professional programs.

29/06/2016 S4C Mentors' training has started in Budapest

On 28th June six Hungarian primary school teachers started the four-day-long Mentors' training program in Budapest.

15/05/2016 Three Hungarian schools are to involved in Safe4Cycle program

The Hungarian project partner, Vuelta Sports Association in April set out a calling for tender to choose three primary schools to be involved in the pilot project in the next schoolyear.

06.05.2016 Job-shadowing program in Austria

After visiting the Netherlands in March, in the frame of the Safe4Cycle project the project partners from Hungary (Vuelta Sport Association) and Romania (Fundația Comunitară Mureş) in May 2016 travelled to Graz to get acquainted with the Austrian safety cycling education <http://www.radfahrerschule.at/>.

29/04/2016 Job-shadowing in Graz

The project partners from Romania and Hungary are visiting the Austrian partner, Easy Drivers RADFAHRSCHULE from 30th April to 4th May. The aim of the meeting is to get acquainted with the Austrian Education for Cycling Instructors/Teachers.

25.03.2016 Safe4Cycle – Job-shadowing in the Netherlands

In the middle of March in the frame of the Safe4Cycle project the project partners from Austria (Easy Drivers RADFAHRSCHULE), Hungary (Vuelta Sport Association) and Romania (Fundația Comunitară Mureș, Academia Velo project) visited the Netherlands to get information about the Dutch safety cycling projects on the spot.

Methodology

Within the frame of Safe4Cycle program one of the main goals of the project partners (BringaAkadémia, Academia Velo, Easy Drivers RADFAHRSCHULE, Mobycon) is to develop a common safety cycling education program (based on our previous experience and educational methodology), that can be used for cycling education in primary schools Europe-wide. Thanks to the Romanian partner the curriculum of Safe4Cycle will be tested in secondary schools among teenagers, so we can get some experience in this field also, and hopefully the program later can be extended to this age-group too.

We are planning to develop the following materials:

- Methodology of mentors' training
- Educational materials for the mentors, who are involved in Safe4Cycle program
- Curriculum of the theoretical and practical cycling courses
- Information booklet for the children involved in Safe4Cycle program

The results of the development phase will be published on our website.

Education

Within Safe4Cycle program the methodology will be implemented in 3-3 elementary schools in Austria, Hungary and Romania in the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 schoolyears in order to test the program in practice and collect the experience. In the pilot program at least 100 pupils/school are to be involved. The cycle courses will be separated to a theoretical and a practical part. The theoretical part will be organised during autumn and winter and the pupils get acquainted with the basic rules of the road. From March to June the practical lessons will be organised by Safe4Cycle mentors to improve the children's cycling skills to prepare them for riding safely and confidently in traffic.

More detailed information about the cycling courses in the schools will be available on this site from September 2016.

Online materials

Safe4Cycle online materials (mainly short videos) are planned to be developed during the project period as a guide to help anyone (teachers, parents, mentors, etc.) how to improve the practical cycling skills of a child.

Financing

Erasmus+ 15/0100-KA2SE/13572 -- HU – AT – RO – NL
Strategic partnership in field of
cycling road safety education for school children

Partner: Austria, Netherlands, Hungaria, Rumania

Time frame: 2,5 years

Promotion: € 340.000,--