How to get (even) more children on bikes?

It requires the whole community to improve road safety for school children

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About Us: Network of Finnish Cycling Municipalities

Who are we?
• More than 120 member organizations
  → 92 Municipalities
• Covers ~ 4 million inhabitants (of 5.5 million) of Finland

Our aims?
• More cycling & High quality and safe cycling infrastructure for all
• More children on bikes: Cycling Education since 2011
Finland: A Wonderland of Cycling?

90% of children walk or cycle to school when the distance is less than 1 km
How do children get to school (2012/2016)

- Walking: 31%
- Cycling: 28%
- Car: 13%
- Bus: 18%
- Other: 10%

National Travel Survey 2012/2016
Drop-off by car is increasing

Changes in mode of transportation 1998 – 2011 in comprehensive schools (ages 7 to 16)
Why do the children not cycle to school?

Lack of Cycling Culture
The culture of mobility gives preference to walking or car-driving

2 Lack of safe Infrastructure
The school route is not considered safe enough for children to cycle
How to get more children on bikes?

Good practices from different municipalities

- Safer infrastructure
- Knowledge of best cycling routes
- Cycling and traffic education in practice

→ Together we are strong: co-operation between municipalities, schools, cyclists’ organizations, parents
Good practicies: Mapping & evaluating the cycle routes

Mapping and evaluating the cycle routes to school → measures to improve the infrastructure

Co-operation: city of Lappeenranta, cyclists’ association, schools
Good practices: Teacher’s Guide to Safe Cycle Routes

Teacher’s Guide to Safe Cycle Routes from School to
- Library
- Cinema
- Swimming pool
- Sports track

Co-operation: City of Hyvinkää, Traffic Safety Organization, schools
Good Practices: Cycling/traffic education at schools

- Neighbourhood walks: traffic rules
- Improving cycling skills

- Co-operation: Network of Finnish Cycling Municipalities, Cyclists’ Federation, schools, parents
Cycling Culture: cycling to/at school
Cycling Allowed!

Practice, practice, practice: traffic and cycling education instead of restrictions

Drop-off 500 meters from the school yard

Bike share system to schools

Speed limits 30km/h; car free zones

Decent bike parking at school yards
Thank you!

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