

CYCLISTS LOVE TRAINS



An analysis of the bicycle friendliness
of European railway operators

European Cyclists' Federation
www.ecf.com



Publishing credits

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Executive summary

At the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF), the world's largest and best-known cyclists' advocacy organisation, we know that cyclists all over Europe increasingly want to be able to take their bicycles with them on trains.

ECF's 2020 Cyclists Love Trains campaign, which aimed at influencing the EU Rail Passengers' Rights and Obligations regulation in favour of provisions for bicycle carriage on trains, had tremendous popular appeal. No doubt such strong public support for combined bicycle-train mobility helped achieve the requirement for new and refurbished rolling stock to include a minimum of four dedicated bicycle spaces per train.

The European Commission has announced **2021 to be the European Year of Rail**, an initiative that seeks to promote rail as one of the most sustainable, innovative and safe transport modes.

With this "Cyclists love trains" report, ECF in turn seeks to shine a light on the bicycle friendliness of train operators across Europe today. This extensive piece of research can be used by policymakers and industry leaders alike to benchmark their performance, study examples of shortcomings and best practices, and understand where there is clear potential for continued improvement.

Following extensive research, data processing and analysis, **ECF has produced a ranking of 69 railway companies and services from across the European Union (EU) and beyond.** Of these 69 undertakings, 15 of them – fully 22% – do not currently accept non-foldable and un-dismantled bicycles. 12 of these 15 railway companies are long-distance, cross-border and high-speed operators. This reality shows that taking a bicycle across Europe on a long-distance journey is often not a convenient or enjoyable experience, but rather an arduous one punctuated by many connections on slow regional and local services.

In 2021, against the backdrop of the European Green Deal, the climate crisis, and the COVID-19 recovery, this is not acceptable. It should be much easier for people to combine two of the most sustainable forms of mobility, not to mention to choose green alternatives to driving cars or taking aeroplanes.

There is some hope, however. The NS-DB joint venture, Intercity Berlin¹ (IC Berlin), has topped this report's scoring. It is the only undertaking to have scored in the excellent category, an achievement which was in part helped by the number of bicycles which can be carried on their train sets and the possibility to connect to both NS and DB's bicycle hire schemes. The report's runners up, Swiss Federal Railways (SBB), the National Railway Company of Belgium (SNCB/NMBS), Deutsche Bahn (DB) and Hungarian State Railways (MÁV-START) also scored well across the board. Yet, there is much room for further improvement across Europe.

¹ Intercity Berlin is the brand name promoted by NS International. The service connects Amsterdam and Berlin.

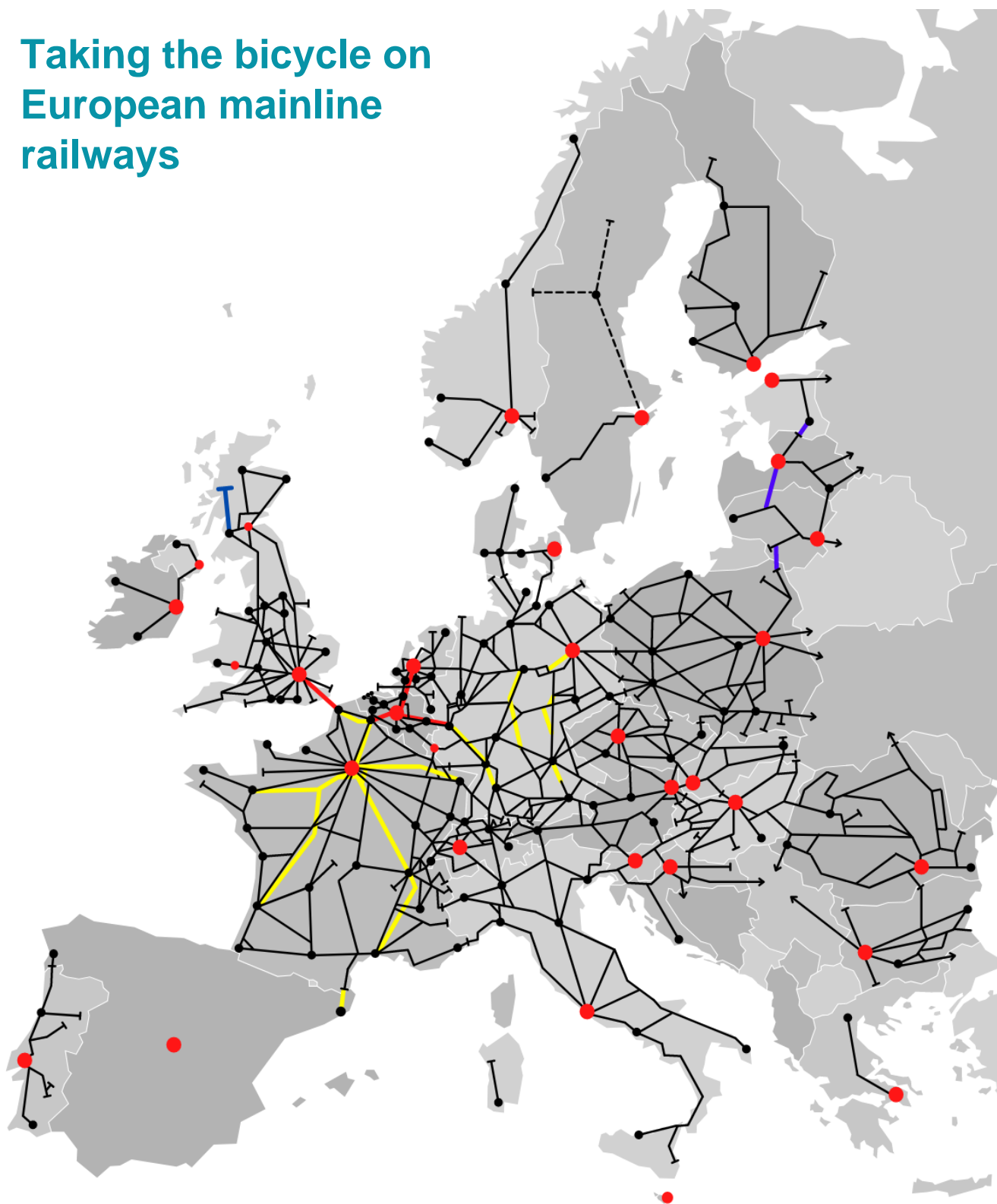
The core premise underlying this report is “**flexibility for the user.**” NS-DB (IC Berlin) and other top-ranking undertakings have scored well because their bicycle carriage policies and physical infrastructure allow for more flexibility for the user than most of their peers.

However, companies which are doing well now are not predestined to do so in the future, and, as such, every company which is highlighted in this report **should bear in mind the following things when it comes to offering good quality conditions for bicycle carriage:**

- Acceptance of non-foldable and un-dismantled bicycles on all train services.
- A commitment to go above and beyond the recently mandated (recast EU Rail Passengers’ Rights and Obligations legislation) four dedicated bicycle spaces per train.
- Dedicated bicycle spaces which are accessible and easy to use for all types of passengers. Outside the scope of this report, but also very important, are the accessibility of platforms for passengers with bicycles.
- A commitment to investigate, and potentially invest in bicycle sharing schemes. Cost-effective bicycle tickets and reservations that can be acquired via multiple different booking and sales channels.
- The provision of clear and concise information on bicycle services, which:
 - Is available in more than one language.
 - Provides information about the carriage of non-standard bicycles.
- A website that offers a bicycle connection search tool in its journey planner.
- A pan-European journey planner and coordination of bicycle carriage rules in the face of the marketisation of European railways.
- Commitment to providing flexible reservation periods, which provide the maximum flexibility and ease of use for passengers.
- Ample, covered bicycle parking at stations, with provisions for non-standard bicycles, in addition to the provision of e-bike charging points.

Cyclists love trains, but their love is not unconditional. We at ECF urge European, national and regional governments and rail operators to take these recommendations on board. If they do, combining bikes and trains will be a more viable option, and a much more pleasant experience, for many more cyclists in Europe.

Taking the bicycle on European mainline railways



- : Mainline where bicycle carriage is possible.
- : Non-mainline
- : Seasonal Service
- : High-speed rail operators that permit bikes (non-foldable/un-dismantled) on some services.
- : High-speed rail operators that do not permit bicycles (non-foldable/un-dismantled)
- ⊥: End of Line/Border Crossing
- : Large Urban Area/Important Interchange
- : Capital City

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Reason for the study

ECF decided to undertake this study for two main reasons. The first reason is now that the EU's Rail Passengers' Rights and Obligations² legislation has been recast and implemented (through Direct Effect), it is important to take stock of the state of taking a bicycle on long-distance trains in Europe. This is an important exercise because it helps interested stakeholders, industry leaders and policymakers to identify the current pitfalls regarding bicycle carriage. An exercise which will, it is hoped, contribute to lobbying efforts to improve the current bicycle carriage offer across Europe.

The second reason is that the European Commission has announced 2021 as the European Year of Rail.³ This report is ECF's contribution to this initiative. ECF has been drawing attention to issues regarding multimodality, in particular bicycle and train combinations, for some time now. In 2006, ECF published a report which scored and compared the bike friendliness of different railway undertakings, and, as recently as June 2020, ECF published an article demonstrating the significant disparity in journey duration between routes where bicycle carriage is allowed and where it is not (mostly in the case of high-speed rail services). These and other related activities highlight ECF's commitment to engendering modal shift, a key goal that is shared by the European Year of Rail initiative.



² https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/passengers/news/2021-04-29-new-rail-passenger-rights_en. Accessed 24/06/2021.

³ https://europa.eu/year-of-rail/index_en. Accessed 24/06/2021.



Study method

ECF has compiled a significant amount of data regarding the bicycle carriage policies and conditions of each of the major European long-distance railway undertakings. The report has endeavoured to include every EU member state; however, Cyprus and Malta are not included as both countries do not have railway infrastructure. In addition to this, the study has included Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (referred to as the United Kingdom or UK hereinafter).

Norway and Switzerland are included because they are involved with the EU's Single Market, and there is a significant amount of cooperation between these countries' railway operators and other EU members states' operators. The United Kingdom has also been included because it has only recently left the EU single market. In addition to this, it has a very large and well-developed passenger transport market, and it also provides a very clear example of a country that privatised its railway operations. This last point is significant because the EU's Fourth Railway⁴ package requires member states to eventually loosen the grip of state-owned railway undertakings on domestic rail markets.

The present study sets out to compare, contrast and score each railway undertaking and service that we have examined. The report has surveyed in total 69 railway undertakings and services.

The study operates off a core principle that has informed the way we have constructed the methodology of our scoring system. This principle, in short, is "flexibility for the bicycle-carrying passenger." Rail operators and services are scored by a means of six indicators. Two indicators focus on the physical infrastructure relating to bicycle carriage and bicycle and train combinations. These indicators are:

- How many bicycle spaces are offered in each train (on average) by a company?
- Whether a company offers bicycle sharing schemes and, if so, at how many locations?

At ECF, in addition to having consulted other partners and stakeholders, we deemed that the physical infrastructure (for which we use the term as "hardware") should be more heavily weighted than the other four indicators.

The other four indicators (for which we use the term "software") focus on the following indicators:

- Cost of bicycle carriage tickets and or bicycle space reservations.
- The number of booking and reservation channels.
- The languages available on the operators' websites (i.e., the number of languages bicycle carriage policies are available in online).
- Website functionality.

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/rail/packages/2013>. Accessed 24/06/2021.

A total of 50 points are available.

Below, we have set out our scoring methodology. When presented with multiple sets of data for one indicator, we have used mean average calculations to come up with a total score. Moreover, when found or given information that has been presented in ranges, we have taken the median value. In addition, each calculated mean score or median value has been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Please note that because we have been dealing with a relatively large set of companies, all of which have very different bicycle carriage conditions to each other, it has not always been easy to categorise some services, particularly joint-venture services like NS – DB's IC Berlin or Irish Rail/Iarnród Éireann – NI Railways' Enterprise service, which have been examined as separate entities.

Additionally, train operators/services who do not permit non-foldable or un-dismantled bicycles onboard their trains receive zero points for every indicator regardless if the operator fulfils the point requirements for other indicators.

Finally, we at ECF would like to stress that this report is time specific. It takes account of how it is to carry a bicycle on a train in the summer of 2021. As such, operators who score well now may not do so again in the future, and operators who have scored badly now may well be on an upward trajectory.



The indicators

Total points available: 50

- **Six indicators:**
 - **Two** indicators account for **60%** of the total score relating to “**hardware.**”
 - Hardware refers to the **physical** or **material** factors of bicycle carriage. Hardware is more heavily weighted as it is deemed more important and is a more costly investment on the part of the rail companies when it comes to change implementation.
 - **Four** indicators account for **40%** of the score relating to “**software.**”
 - Software refers to the **booking processes** and **costs** relating to bicycle carriage.

Companies have been given overall scores in the form of mean average percentages. These scores consider a company’s performance across all the indicators.

In the final ranking, companies will be sorted into “ranking ranges.” These are percentage bands which denote if a company scored very well or very poorly. The breakdown of the bands is provided below:

- ■ **Excellent:** 80-100%
- ■ **Good:** 60-80%
- ■ **Moderate:** 40-60%
- ■ **Poor:** 20-40%
- ■ **Very poor:** 0-20%.

Hardware 60%

Indicator 1: Bike spaces (20 points)

One dedicated bike space is defined as a bicycle rack or hook, whereby the bike is placed and is supervised by the passenger. The more spaces the better. And as such, the more spaces a company offers, the more they will be rewarded. The scoring is determined as follows:

- **20 points:** 10 or more spaces
- **18 points:** 9 spaces
- **16 points:** 8 spaces
- **14 points:** 7 spaces
- **12 points:** 6 spaces
- **10 points:** 5 spaces
- **8 points:** 4 spaces
- **6 points:** 3 spaces

- **4 points:** 2 spaces
- **2 points:**
 - Bicycle carriage possible: Number of spaces undisclosed
 - Carriage in vestibule or entrance lobbies
- **0 points:** 0 spaces.

NB: Extra capacity brought online in the summertime is not considered.

Companies with bicycles stored in shared spaces and guard's van are awarded points corresponding to the number of bicycles permitted on each train. However, two points will be deducted, as these spaces are deemed to not be as good as a dedicated bicycle space.

Indicator 2: Bicycle hire scheme (10 points)

This indicator evaluates whether an undertaking operates a bicycle sharing or hire scheme, and how successful the scheme is in terms of the locations it has invested in.

- **10 points:** Operator has its own bike hire scheme with over 100 locations.
- **8 points:** Operator has its own bike hire scheme with 75-100 locations.
- **6 points:** Operator has its own bike hire scheme with up to 50-75 locations.
- **4 points:** Operator has its own bike hire scheme with up to 50 locations.
- **2 points:** Operator works with an outside organisation such as NextBike.
- **0 points:** No hire scheme, no outside hire scheme cooperation.

Software 40%

Indicator 3: Cost of bicycle ticket or reservation (5 points)

Free bicycle carriage is deemed to be better for the user. Therefore, the grading system operates off a "cheaper is the best" principle. As such the scoring system grades cheaper prices better and more expensive prices worse.

- **5 points:** Free.
- **4 points:** Fare capped below €5.00. Fare is inclusive of reservation and carriage costs.
- **3 points:** Fare capped below €10.00. Fare is inclusive of reservation and carriage costs.
- **2 points:** Fare capped below €15.00. Fare is inclusive of reservation and carriage costs.
- **1 point:** Fare is a percentage of journey ticket cost with a cap below €20.00.
- **0 points:** Bicycle fares above €20.00. These tickets usually are a result of bike fares as a percentage of the journey ticket.

Indicator 4: Bike ticket/reservation channels (5 points)

How can you buy a bike ticket and or reserve a space? What channels can I use to do this? This indicator operates off the premise that the more channels there are, the better it is for the customer.

Booking channels include: Online, ticket counter, ticket machine, app, over the phone, travel agent, live chat function on webpage's help page, third party seller (such as a convenience shop), email, WhatsApp, Twitter and changes in online account portal after booking. The scoring is determined as follows:

- **5 points:** 5 or more booking channels
- **4 points:** 4 booking channels
- **3 points:** 3 booking channels
- **2 points:** 2 booking channels
- **1 point:** 1 booking channel
- **0 points:** 0 booking channels/Not Applicable.

Onboard purchase is not rewarded.

Indicator 5: Languages provided for bicycle carriage information online (5 points)

This indicator operates off the premise that the more languages that information and booking services are available in on a railway undertaking's website, the better it is for international travellers. The scoring is determined as follows:

- **5 points:** 6 or more languages
- **4 points:** 5 languages
- **3 points:** 4 languages
- **2 points:** 3 languages
- **1 point:** 2 languages
- **0 points:** 1 language.

Indicator 6: Website functionality (5 points)

A bike connection tool in the online journey planner is deemed as a vital service that is very helpful for bike carrying passengers to identify the services which are available to them. Therefore, two points are awarded instead of one. The rest of the factors are awarded the usual one point. The scoring is determined as follows:

- **2 points:** Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner.⁵
- **1 point:** One unified train journey planner.⁶

⁵ A bicycle connection search tool in the online journey planner is a small box that customers can tick as they input their desired route connection in the planner, and the search results will only show the routes available to bicycle-carrying passengers.

⁶ A unified journey planner means that a company offers just one webpage to find and buy a journey ticket and bike space reservation. If a company also offers international routes but uses a separate webpage to sell these journeys – this is deemed as not user friendly, and therefore it will not be awarded points.

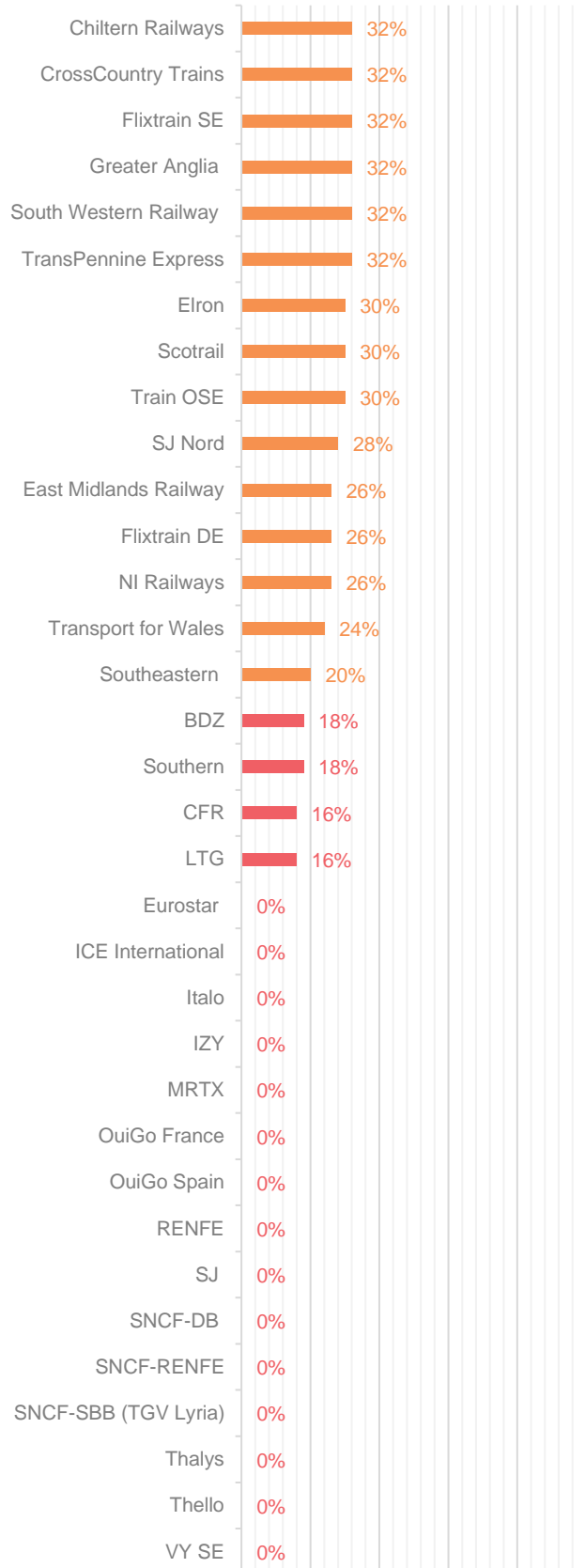
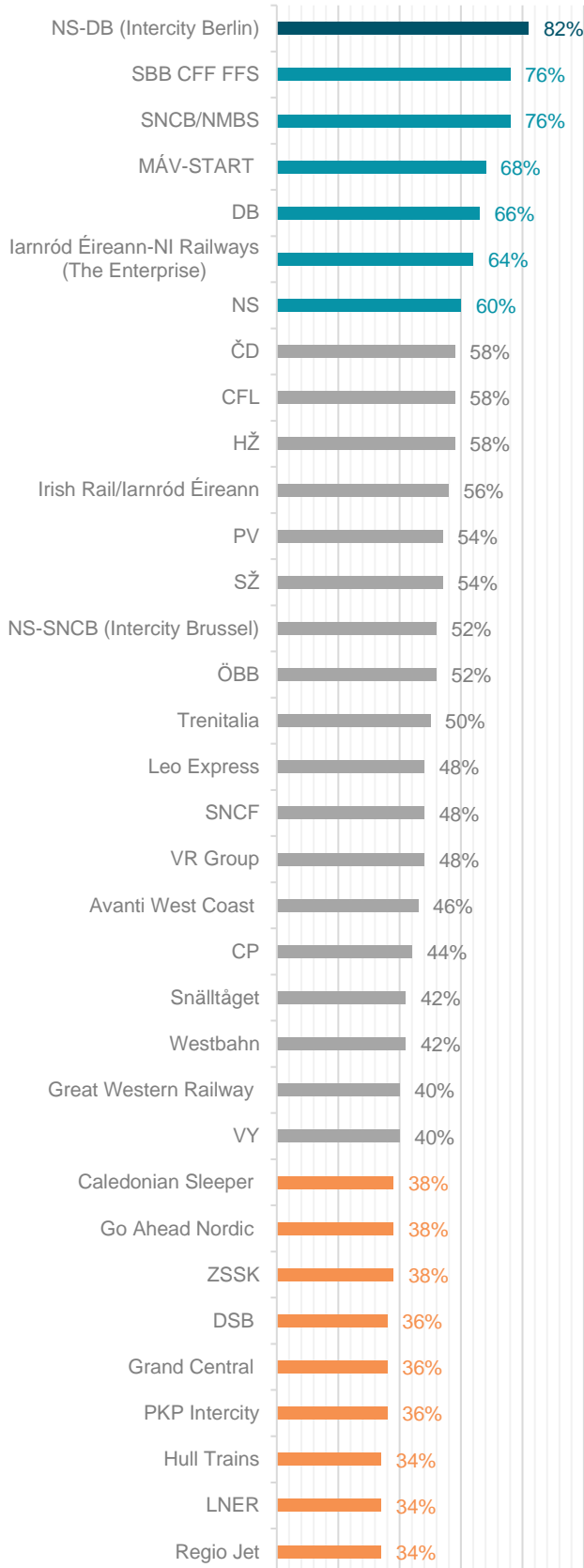
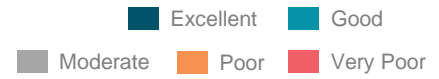
- **1 point:** One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.⁷
- **1 point:** Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.



⁷ A unified webpage regarding bicycle information is when a company states all its bicycle carriage rules and conditions on one easy to use webpage, instead of splitting it up into two pages in the event it offers international routes.

Results

Overall ranking



The NS-DB's Intercity Berlin (IC Berlin) service is the best performing operator or rail service according to our scoring system.

This service scores highly across most of the indicators. It scores particularly highly for bicycle spaces and for bicycle hire schemes, as the service stops at both German and Dutch stations, enabling passengers to make use of both NS's OV Fiets scheme and DB's Call a Bike scheme. NS-DB's IC Berlin overall ranking is an anomaly in the European long-distance railway landscape, as many other cross-border intercity trains do not permit bicycles whatsoever.

As of today, only one service, NS-DB's IC Berlin service, can be described as "excellent". As such, they should be encouraged not to backtrack from their current position; and they should endeavour to continue to improve their services for their bicycle-carrying passengers, particularly when it comes to costs, for which it only scored one point.

Companies that also scored well in the study are Swiss Federal Railways (SBB), the National Railway Company of Belgium (SNCB/NMBS), DB and Hungarian State Railways (MÁV-START). Again, these operators are highly ranked because they performed well across all the indicators. However, the number of bicycle spaces they offer per train is a key reason for their good performance.

SBB currently offers around 19 bicycle spaces per train across its fleet, on average. This high number is predominately down to the ample number of spaces available on its ageing Intercity/EuroCity (EUROFIMA coaches) rolling stock. SBB is currently upgrading its fleet and we are reliably informed that the new trains will offer fewer spaces. This is far from encouraging and if this study were to be repeated in a few years, it is likely that SBB will not score as well.

This situation is in stark contrast to what is happening in Belgium with SNCB/NMBS, who have recently improved their bicycle carriage offering, particularly on lines that serve popular destinations such as the coast and the Ardennes. This work is to be congratulated and to be further encouraged.

Moreover, it is important to highlight DB's overall score. DB ranks fifth in the overall scores (66%). It scored consistently highly across all indicators, no mean feat for such a large operator which serves a country of more than 80 million people. Yet, it could have scored even higher than it did, as it was let down by its language offering on its website. The DB website is available in eight languages; however, the full functionality of the website is only available in German (this includes information on bicycle carriage). Therefore, it scored zero points for this indicator. If DB invested some time and money into providing the full version of its website in eight languages, it would have scored five more points and would have had an overall score of 74%, ranking it fourth in our scoring. This goes to show the importance of also taking care of the software side of bicycle carriage.

Some of the operators which performed poorly in our scoring and therefore have significant work to do included the railway undertakings of the United Kingdom, Bulgarian State Railways (BDZ), Romanian Railways (CFR), and Lithuanian Railways (LTG).

In the case of the UK, operators do not offer many bicycle spaces on their trains. Moreover, in the case of CFR and BDZ, information regarding bicycle carriage was sparse; and BDZ was further let down by bicycles being carried in entrance lobbies, which is something not to be encouraged.

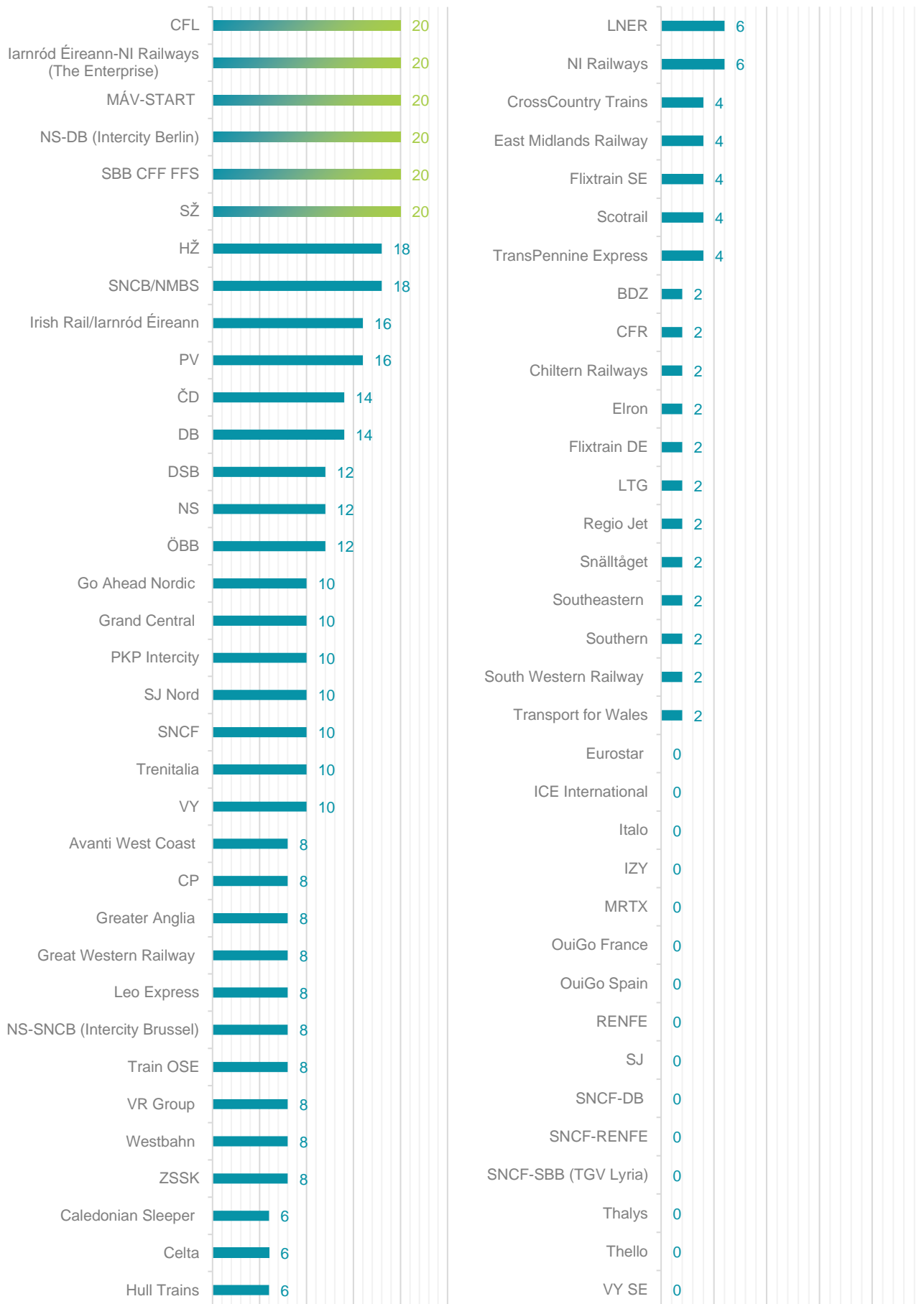
Finally, Swedish and Spanish high-speed and international rail operators performed the worst of all the undertakings examined. This is because, apart from FlixTrain Sweden, bicycle carriage is not possible at all. The fact that the carriage of non-foldable and un-dismantled bicycles is not possible in two major European countries is something to be taken seriously.

In addition, the failure of high-speed and international operators to accept bicycles is an intolerable situation, and it often means bicycle-carrying passengers must undertake convoluted and lengthy connections on regional and local trains, which can be incredibly inconvenient and time consuming.

We live in the age of the European Green Deal, and as such, European railways must be made more attractive to ALL types of passengers, so their usage increases and modal shift away from the road and air travel towards the railways can be realised for the benefit of the wider society.



Indicator 1: Bike spaces



A breakdown of the scores:

Bike Spaces		
Points	Number of Companies	% of 69
20	6	8.7
18	2	2.9
16	2	2.9
14	3	4.35
12	3	4.35
10	7	10.14
8	10	14.49
6	4	5.8
4	5	7.25
2	12	17.39
0	15	21.74

The results of the bicycle space scoring show that high-speed rail operators and some long-distance operators are not bicycle friendly in the least.

The leading operators for bicycle spaces are NS-DB (IC Berlin), MÁV-START, SBB⁸ and Slovenian Railways (SŽ). These operators provide, on average, ten or more bicycle spaces on their train services. SNCB/NMBS also offers facilities that can handle ten or more bicycle spaces on its trains. However, most of the spaces are in a shared space or flex area. ECF deems that shared spaces or flex areas are inferior in quality to dedicated bicycle spaces, and as such we deduct (as stated in the method) two points. Thus, we encourage operators to invest in quality dedicated bicycle spaces, though we are still grateful for SNCB/NMBS's progress on this topic.

Unfortunately, the above table shows that out of the 69 operators and services we have studied, 22% of them do not offer bicycle carriages at all. A further 12 operators score just two points. Meanwhile, the fewest operators score 16 and 18 points, respectively.

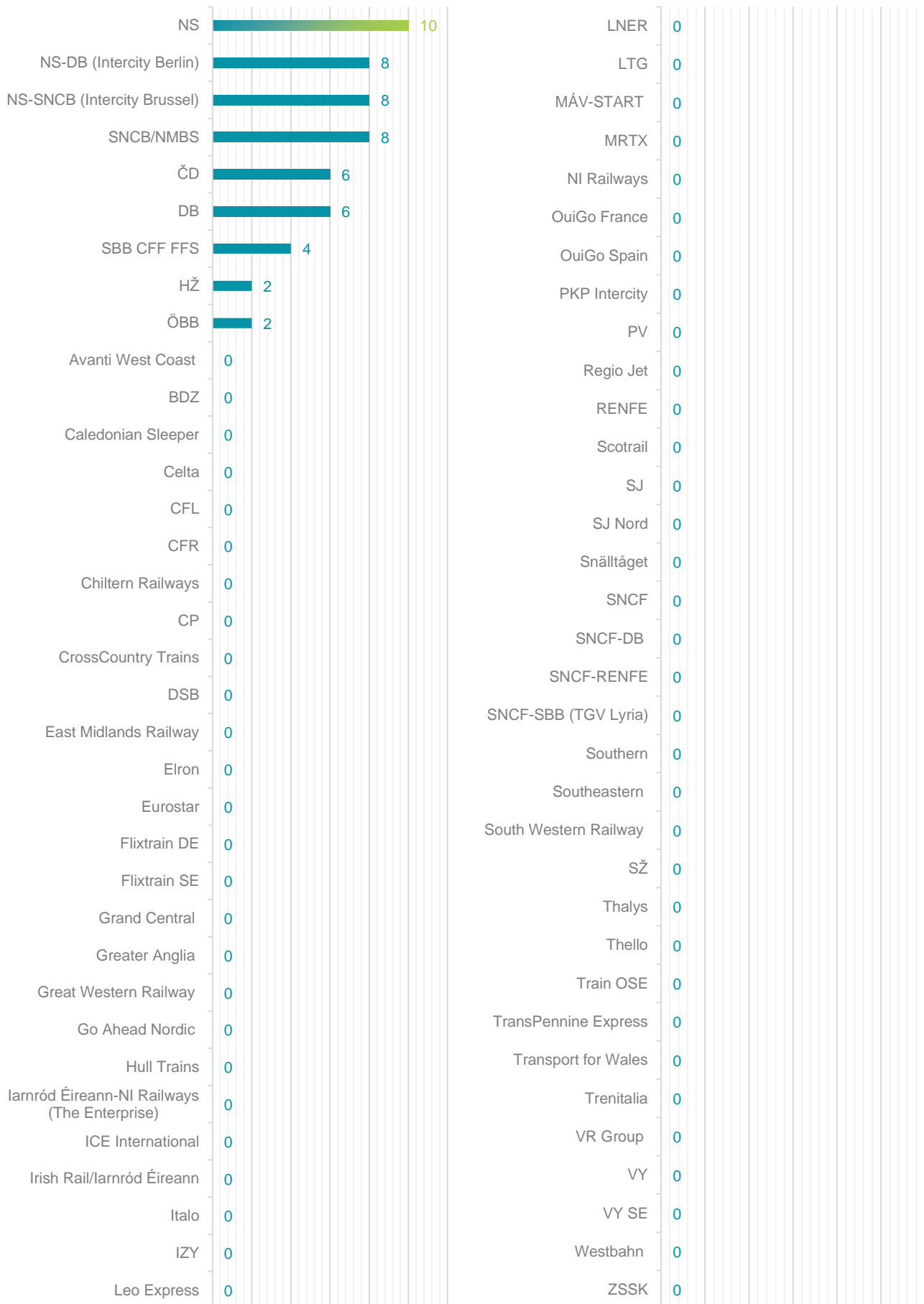
The above table speaks for itself, showing that there is still much work for operators to do to just even reach the newly mandated number of four dedicated bicycle spaces in new and refurbished trains (as required in the recently updated EU Rail Passengers' Rights and Obligations legislation).

Thus, ECF deems that no operator can rest on their laurels. They must instigate plans to increase bicycle carriage offerings, particularly on high-speed trains, something which both DB and SNCF are doing, the latter of which plans to increase the number of its high-speed (TGV) trains which accept bicycles (please see the Annex for more details).

⁸ Please refer to our previous comment about the SBB's success in this area in the explanation of the overall results section.



Indicator 2: Bicycle hire



A breakdown of the scores:

Bike hire		
Points	Number of companies	% of 69
10	1	1.45
8	3	4.35
6	2	2.9
4	1	1.45
2	2	2.9
0	60	86.96

The Dutch railway company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen (NS), is the only company to receive ten points for its bicycle hire offering. NS completely outstrips its rivals as it has just under three hundred locations for its bicycle-sharing scheme, OV Fiets. This is made even more impressive by the fact that the Netherlands is a relatively small European country. Moreover, when it is compared to Germany, where DB's Call a Bike scheme is only available in circa 50 cities across the country, the scale of NS's OV Fiets fully comes into show.

NS's excellence in this area really cannot be praised enough, and it acts as a template for many other companies and operators to follow. In addition, NS's overall score has been boosted by this result and contributed to its top ten finish in the overall rankings – yet on other factors NS still has more ground to cover.

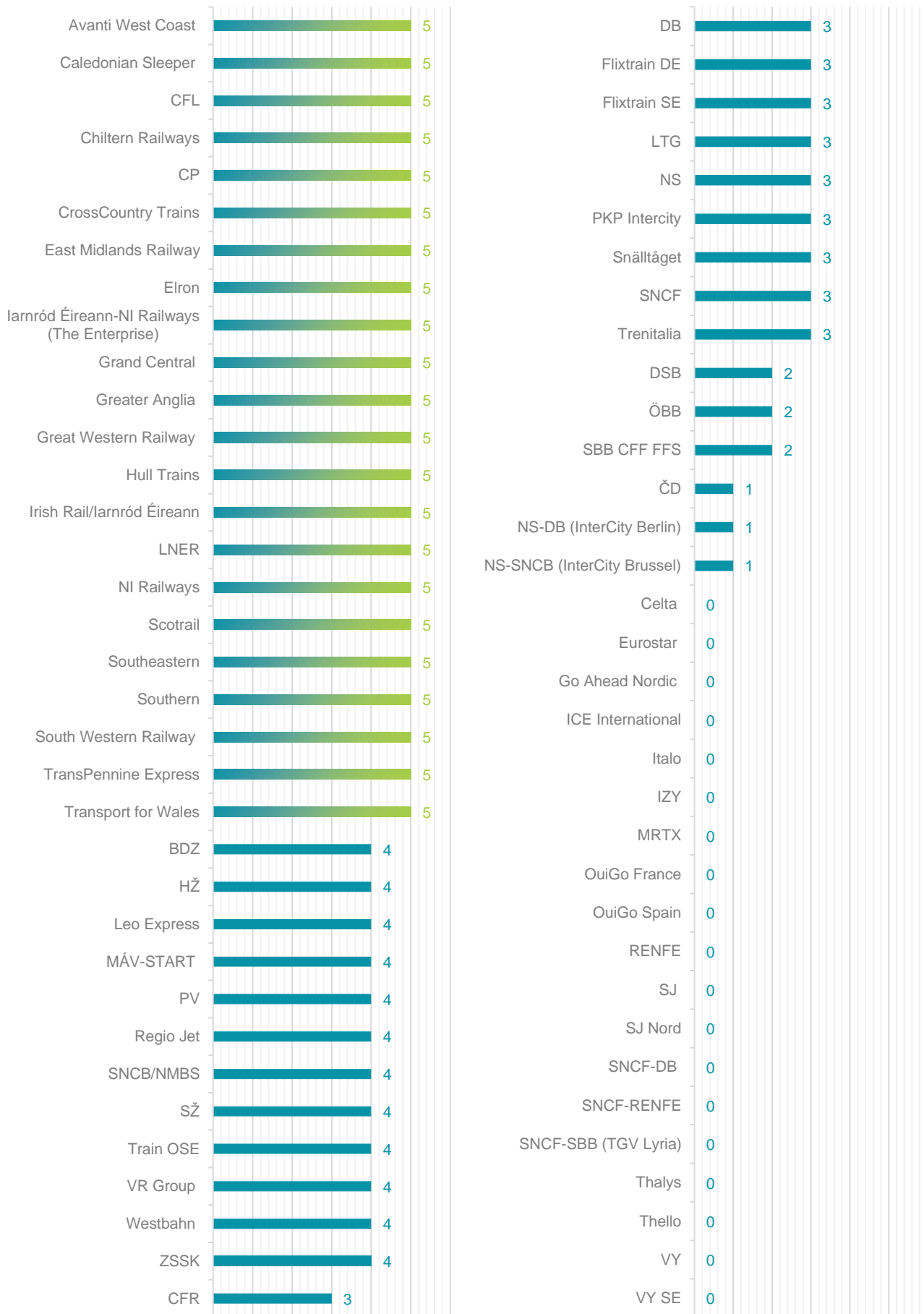
The joint international services which run in conjunction with NS, NS-DB (IC Berlin) and NS-SNCB (Intercity Brussel) also do well, as passengers can use OV Fiets at stations in the Netherlands, Blue Bike in Belgium or Call a Bike in Germany. The latter two schemes, whilst smaller in scale than OV Fiets, are still European market leaders. Unfortunately, the data shows that most European rail operators have not yet invested in bicycle sharing schemes.



A staggering 87% of the 69 operators/services we have surveyed do not offer some form of bicycle hire scheme. Therefore, this is an area where railway undertakings should focus more of their attention, as it will engender an increase of more bike and train journey combinations, which will increase modal shift.



Indicator 3: Bicycle ticket/reservation costs



A breakdown of the scores:

Costs		
Points	Number of companies	% of 69
5	22	31.88
4	12	17.39
3	10	14.49
2	3	4.35
1	3	4.35
0	19	27.54

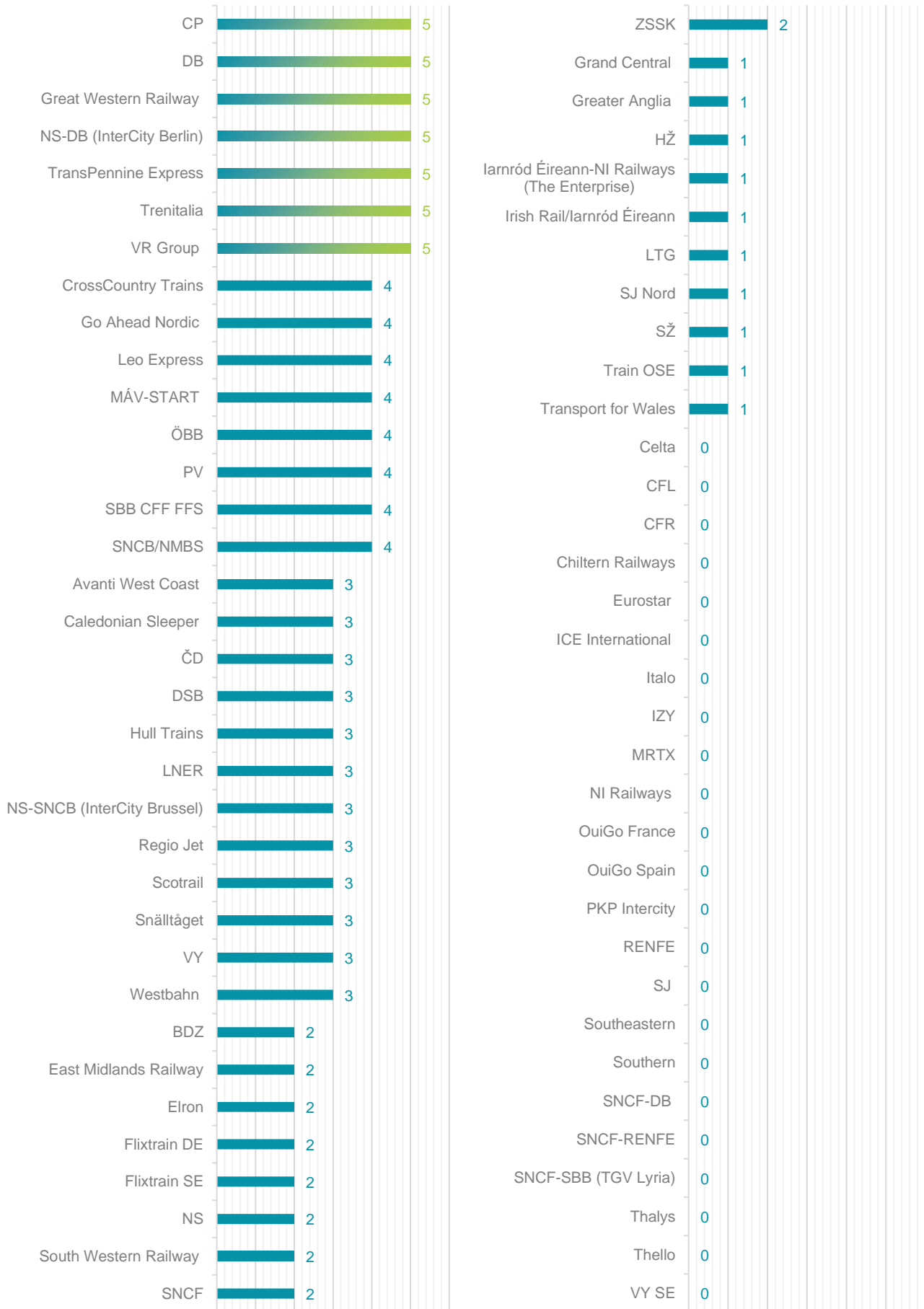
The positive news to take away from the results of this indicator is that a majority (64%) of the 69 operators surveyed scored between five and three points on costs.

Unfortunately, the three rail operators surveyed from Norway, Vy, Go Ahead Norge and SJ Nord, all offer bicycle carriage tickets/reservations for above €20.00. If a group of four people wanted to take their bikes onboard a Norwegian train the combined total (excluding the journey ticket) would be above €80.00, which is by no means cheap and, for some, cost prohibitive.

At ECF, we understand that bicycle carriage is a service and therefore we accept that this may incur a cost. However, this cost cannot be too high as it will discourage a significant number of potential bicycle-carrying passengers, which is the opposite of what we want to achieve.

NB ECF is aware of the different purchasing power of the countries surveyed.

Indicator 4: Booking channels



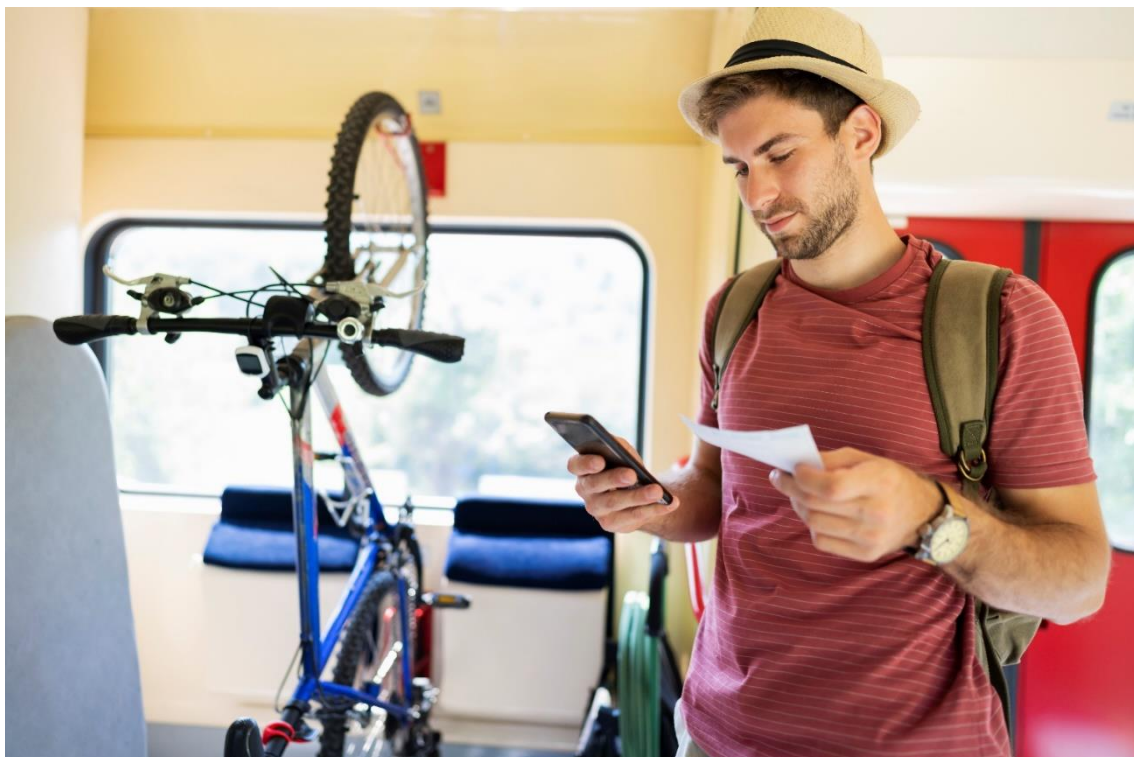
A breakdown of the scores:

Booking channels		
Points	Number of companies	% of 69
5	7	10.14
4	8	11.59
3	12	17.39
2	9	13.04
1	11	15.94
0	22	31.88

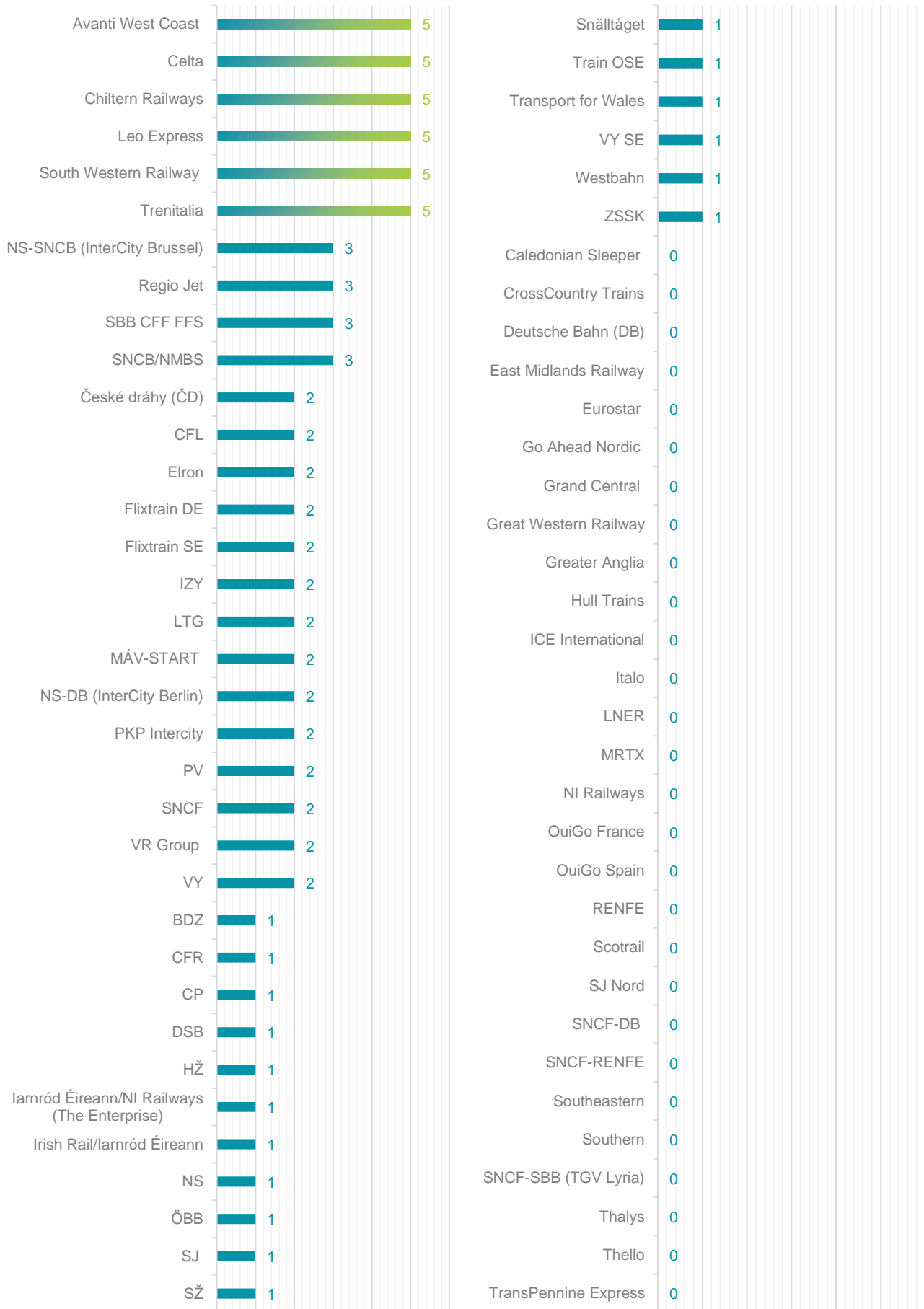
It is a shame that the fewest number of undertakings (just 7 out of 69) offer five different ways to book a bicycle on board the train. One in three companies (32%) offer no ways to book a bicycle space aboard a train because they do not permit them aboard in the first place.

Also, within this figure (0 points) are companies such as Estonia's Elron and the UK's Southern, Southeastern and South Western Railway companies, which do not require a bicycle ticket or reservation, and therefore there is no need to book one.

More positively, 68% of the companies surveyed offer at least one or more ways to book a bicycle ticket.



Indicator 5: Website languages



A breakdown of the scores:

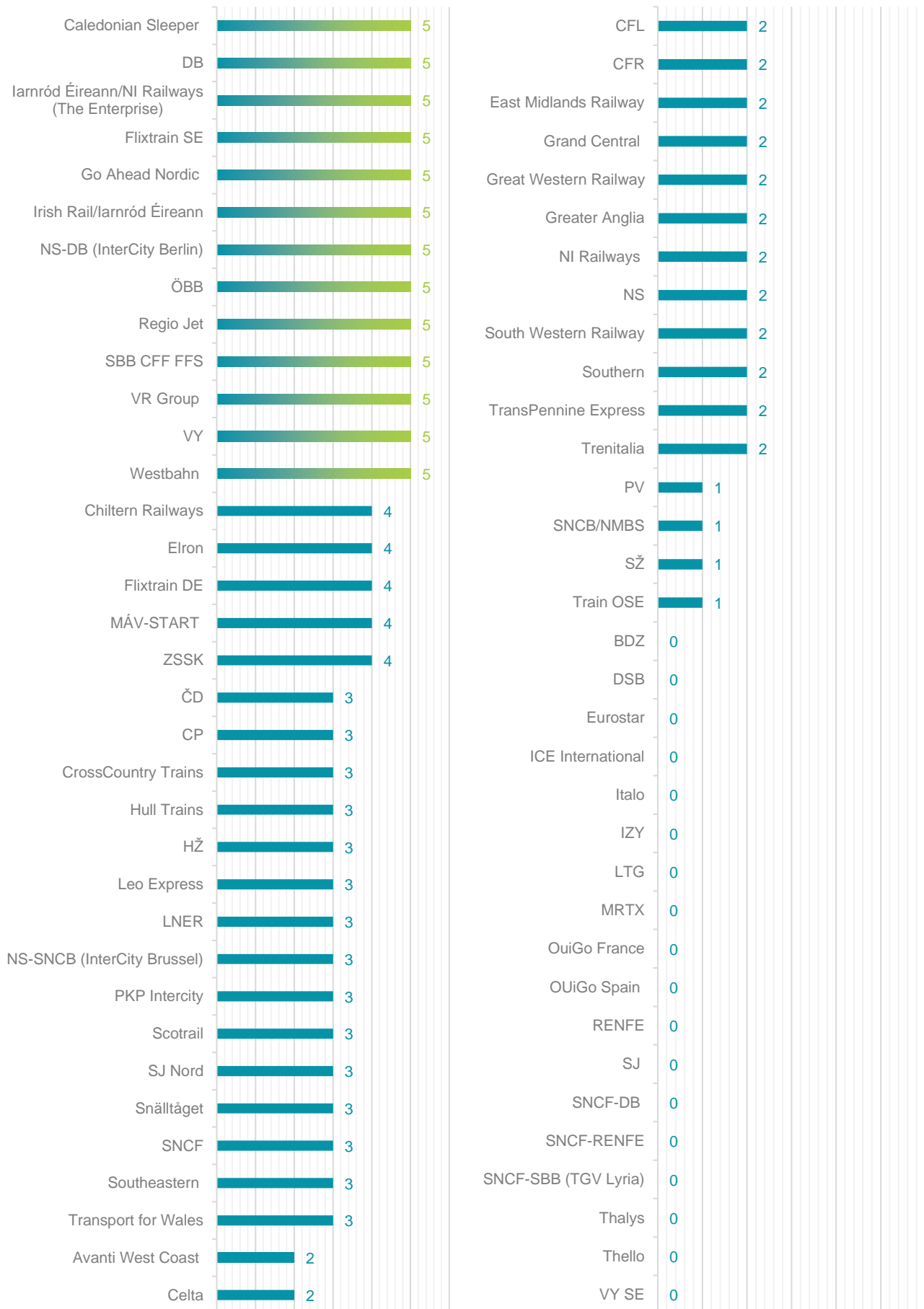
Languages		
Points	Number of companies	% of 69
5	6	8.7
4	0	n/a
3	4	5.8
2	14	20.29
1	17	24.64
0	28	40.58

Every operator that we have surveyed, except for Go Ahead Norge and SJ Nord, had an English version of their website in addition to the national language(s) of their respective countries. Some operators, such as Leo Express, Regio Jet, Avanti West Coast, Chiltern Railways and South Western Railway have versions of their website (or in the case of Chiltern railways, an in-built translation tool) in five or more languages. Therefore, it can be said that the provision of information online in different languages regarding bicycle carriage is broadly satisfactory.

However, there are two exceptions. The first, which has already been highlighted in the above pages, is that DB – a major player in the European railway landscape – only offers detailed information about bicycle carriage in German. It is possible to translate the pages through search engine translation tools, but this is an inferior and unsatisfactory situation. The second exception is that over 75% of UK rail operators only provide their websites in one language, which is English. Only providing one language significantly hampered the UK operators from doing better in the overall ranking of this report.

These two exceptions again show the importance of railway undertakings paying attention to all the details concerning their bicycle carriage offer; and changing things on websites, such as by adding different language options, is an easy and cost-effective way of enhancing the bicycle-carrying passenger's customer experience.

Indicator 6: Website functionality



A breakdown of the scores:

Functionality		
Points	Number of companies	% of 69
5	13	18.84
4	5	7.25
3	15	21.74
2	14	20.29
1	4	5.8
0	18	26.09
Bike-friendly connection search tool in journey planner	23	33.33

Most companies surveyed do not offer so-called “functional websites.” However, this is because many of these companies do not accept non-foldable and un-dismantled bicycles. It is positive that 68% of companies score between five and two points.

The most important component of the website functionality indicator, which was therefore doubled in its weighting, is the bicycle connection search tool in the online journey planner. It is (often) a box that one can tick when inputting the route and date and times of the desired journey. By “ticking” this box, only connections that accept bicycles will appear. This is a very important and useful tool for bicycle-carrying passengers.

Unfortunately, only 23 of the 69 companies and services surveyed offer this tool. Once again, this seems to be a missed opportunity for some operators, as the addition of such a tool would go some way in enhancing their bicycle-carriage offering.





Discussion of results

The main observation that can be made about currently taking a bike on long-distance and cross-border trains is that there is such a varying level in the facilities and services provided by the different operators. Yet, in addition to this, even the information and booking services to be found online also vary to a great degree in terms of quality and helpfulness.

As European Commissioner for Transportation Adina Vălean stated in her speech at the opening event for the Year of European of Rail in March 2021, Europe's railways are held back by a "long-standing lack of interoperability, alongside slow progress on digitalisation" which has undoubtedly obstructed the "development of seamless, cross-border freight and passenger services."⁹ For example, in the EU alone, there are five different track gauges, ranging from Standard Gauge to Irish Gauge, to Iberian Gauge, to Finnish Gauge and finally to Russian Gauge in the Baltic countries.

Moreover, different voltages are used in different parts of the network (ie regarding the electrified parts of the network), in addition to different signalling systems. This means that often locomotives must be switched at frontier stations, and it means high-speed electric multiple units (EMUs) must be equipped to be able to handle different voltages, across different countries.

The disjointed nature of European rail infrastructure is therefore emblematic of the complex and often confusing booking process and conditions of carriage rules that the bicycle-carrying rail passenger must negotiate. Whilst in addition to this, on many high-speed and intercity routes (Spain and Sweden), passengers are not even able to carry their bikes on train services without dismantling them and putting them in a bike box. Bike boxes disincentivise bike using passengers from undertaking a trip by rail because not only are they an expense unto themselves, but they limit the flexibility in terms of the type of trip (eg camping) that they can undertake. All of which leads to a fewer number of people willing to carry their bicycles onboard trains.

Moving into the future, there will be increasing levels of competition on Europe's railways due to the EU's Fourth Railway Package. In terms of the bike-using passenger, an increasing number of rail companies needs to be accompanied by both a simplification of bicycle-carriage rules and a pan-European journey planner. This is because with more companies, there is a potential for more differentiation in rules and regulations for the user. However, if handled correctly, the entrance of new players in the railway market, such as FlixTrain in Sweden, may benefit bicycle-carrying rail passengers.

The nature of bicycle carriage itself also varies a great deal. On some railway undertakings, bikes must be booked in advance, and they may be stored in a goods compartment, whilst for other services, passengers are only required to merely buy a ticket and turn up on the day. Moreover, the

⁹ https://europa.eu/year-of-rail/news/euyearofrail-kick-speech-adina-valean-european-commissioner-transport-2021-03-29_en. Accessed 24/06/2021.

quality of bicycle racks is incredibly variable, and it can be frustrating for passengers to not know how many bicycles can be brought on a train in advance.

Finally, the operators that have done well in this report's overall rankings have done so because they do well across the board. No operator has scored a full set of perfect scores. This shows that there is still much work to be done.

Whilst it is negative that so many companies did not score well, we cannot be in despair about these findings. Instead, we should use this negative as fuel to push forward positive momentum for changing things.



Recommendations

The results of this study have shown that there is still work to be done to improve bicycle-carriage conditions across Europe. Significant efforts need to be undertaken to align all undertakings and services into having similar good-quality offerings that are easy to use for the passenger.

As such, ECF recommends the following measures to be taken to improve on the current situation:

- Acceptance of non-foldable and un-dismantled bicycles on all train services, including cross-border, high-speed and night-time services.
- A commitment to go above and beyond the recently mandated (recast EU Rail Passengers' Rights and Obligations legislation) four dedicated bicycle spaces per train.
 - Best practice example: The French government has recently legislated for trains in France to provide a minimum of 8 bicycle spaces per train.¹⁰
- Dedicated bicycle spaces which are accessible and easy to use for all types of passengers.
 - Not all bicycle spaces should come in the form of hanging hooks, as some passengers may struggle to hang their bikes on hooks which are high up.
 - Outside the scope of this report, but extremely important, is also the accessibility of the platforms for passengers with bicycles (via lifts, ramps, etc.)
- A commitment to investigate and potentially invest in bicycle sharing schemes.
 - Investigate the success of examples such as NS's OV Fiets scheme.
 - Investigate working with outside partners, to provide information about other bicycle hire schemes operating in different destinations across a companies' network.
- A commitment to offer cost-effective bicycle tickets and reservations that can be acquired via multiple different booking and sales channels.
 - At ECF, we understand bicycle carriage is a service, but it must be made affordable to make it effective. By making it affordable, it makes taking a bicycle on the train an attractive mobility option.
- The provision of clear and concise information on bicycle services (online and elsewhere) which:
 - Is available in more than one language.
 - Provides information about the carriage of non-standard bicycles.
 - Provides information about how many bicycles can be carried on different trains and service categories.
- The provision of a website that offers a bicycle connection search tool in its journey planner, which enables passengers to understand which services they are permitted to carry their bicycle on.

¹⁰ <https://ecf.com/news-and-events/news/france-gears-promote-bike-train-intermodality>. Accessed 24/06/2021.

- A commitment to providing flexible reservation periods, which provide the maximum flexibility and ease of use for passengers.
 - For longer journeys we believe that bicycle reservations should be required, as they provide the passenger with peace of mind that they will be able to carry their bicycle on a trip. This is particularly important for those passengers planning trips or holidays in advance.
 - However, we recognise that for some services and countries, mandatory bicycle carriage reservations are not helpful for increasing the number of bicycle spaces on trains. In countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland (due to their size and due to the high frequency of intercity services) mandatory reservations are not workable. Often in these cases, rail undertakings may introduce mandatory reservations to regulate demand instead of investing in creating more spaces for bicycles on trains. The latter would then mean demand would not have to be regulated by reservation systems.
- A commitment by railway station managers to provide ample, covered cycle parking at stations, with provisions for non-standard bicycles, in addition to the provision of e-bike charging points.
 - Best practice examples: Rotterdam and Utrecht Railways stations in the Netherlands.
- A commitment by the rail operators and policymakers of Europe to implement a pan-European journey planner.
 - Best practice example: UK National Rail Enquiries Journey Planner. The National Rail website journey planner shows passengers different possible connections which may be provided by different companies.
- A commitment by rail operators to better coordinate the rules and regulations regarding bicycle carriage.
 - This is so passengers are not confronted with any extreme variations regarding bicycle carriage policies when travelling across Europe.

If these recommendations are implemented, ECF predicts that many more European railway companies will be ranked within the excellent category, vastly increasing their bike friendliness, and dramatically improving the levels of intermodality in Europe.

Annex

Tables of results

The following section provides the overall points of each operator/service. The information is tabulated. The operators' ranks are adjusted. This means we show how many operators have "beaten" (gone ahead) of another operator. As such, if three companies were ranked top, then two were ranked second, the "adjusted rank" for the third-ranking operator would not be rank three, but rather rank six, as this considers five operators scored above the "third" ranking operator.

1. Overall scores

Adjusted Rank	Railway Undertaking/Service	Total Score (%)	Country
1	NS-DB (Intercity Berlin)	82%	DE & NL
2	SBB CFF FFS	76%	CH
2	SNCB/NMBS	76%	BE
4	MÁV-START	68%	HU
5	DB	66%	DE
6	Iarnród Éireann-NI Railways (The Enterprise)	64%	IE & UK
7	NS	60%	NL
8	ČD	58%	CZ
8	CFL	58%	LU
8	HŽ	58%	HR
11	Irish Rail/Iarnród Éireann	56%	IE
12	PV	54%	LA
12	SŽ	54%	SI
14	NS-SNCB (Intercity Brussel)	52%	BE & NL
14	ÖBB	52%	AT
16	Trenitalia	50%	IT
17	Leo Express	48%	CZ & SK
17	SNCF	48%	FR
17	VR Group	48%	FI
20	Avanti West Coast	46%	UK
21	CP	44%	PT
22	Snälltåget	42%	SE
22	Westbahn	42%	AT
24	Great Western Railway	40%	UK
24	VY	40%	NO
26	Caledonian Sleeper	38%	UK
26	Go Ahead Nordic	38%	NO
26	ZSSK	38%	SK
29	DSB	36%	DK
29	Grand Central	36%	UK
29	PKP Intercity	36%	PL
32	Hull Trains	34%	UK
32	LNER	34%	UK
32	Regio Jet	34%	CZ & SK
35	Chiltern Railways	32%	UK
35	CrossCountry Trains	32%	UK

35	Flixbus SE	32%	SE
35	Greater Anglia	32%	UK
35	South Western Railway	32%	UK
35	TransPennine Express	32%	UK
41	Elron	30%	EE
41	Scotrail	30%	UK
41	TrainOSE	30%	EL
44	SJ Nord	28%	NO
45	East Midlands Railway	26%	UK
45	Flixbus DE	26%	DE
45	NI Railways	26%	UK
48	Transport for Wales	24%	UK
49	Southeastern	20%	UK
50	BDZ	18%	BG
50	Southern	18%	UK
52	CFR	16%	RO
52	LTG	16%	LT
54	Eurostar	0%	BE, FR, NL, & UK
54	ICE International	0%	BE, DE & NL
54	Italo	0%	IT
54	IZY	0%	BE & FR
54	MRTX	0%	SE
54	OuiGo France	0%	FR
54	OuiGo Spain	0%	ES
54	RENFE	0%	ES
54	SJ	0%	SE
54	SNCF-DB	0%	DE & FR
54	SNCF-RENFE	0%	ES & FR
54	SNCF-SBB (TGV Lyria)	0%	CH & FR
54	Thalys	0%	BE, FR, DE & NL
54	Thello	0%	FR & IT
54	VY SE	0%	SE

2. Bicycle spaces

Adjusted rank	Railway undertaking/service	Bike spaces score	Country
1	CFL	20	LU
1	Iarnród Éireann-NI Railways (The Enterprise)	20	IE & UK
1	NS-DB (Intercity Berlin)	20	DE & NL
1	MÁV-START	20	HU
1	SBB CFF FFS	20	CH
1	SŽ	20	SI
7	HŽ	18	HR
7	SNCB/NMBS	18	BE
9	Irish Rail/Iarnród Éireann	16	IE
9	PV	16	LA
11	ČD	14	CZ
11	DB	14	DE & NL
13	DSB	12	DK
13	ÖBB	12	AT
13	NS	12	NL

16	Go Ahead Nordic	10	NO
16	Grand Central	10	UK
16	PKP Intercity	10	PL
16	SJ Nord	10	NO
16	SNCF	10	FR
16	Trenitalia	10	IT
16	VY	10	NO
23	Avanti West Coast	8	UK
23	CP	8	PT
23	Greater Anglia	8	UK
23	Great Western Railway	8	UK
23	NS-SNCB (Intercity Brussel)	8	BE & NL
23	Leo Express	8	CZ & SK
23	Train OSE	8	EL
23	VR Group	8	FI
23	Westbahn	8	AT
23	ZSSK	8	SK
33	Caledonian Sleeper	6	UK
33	Celta	6	ES & PT
33	Hull Trains	6	UK
33	LNER	6	UK
33	NI Railways	6	UK
38	CrossCountry Trains	4	UK
38	East Midlands Railway	4	UK
38	Flixbus SE	4	SE
38	Scotrail	4	UK
38	TransPennine Express	4	UK
43	BDZ	2	BG
43	CFR	2	RO
43	Chiltern Railways	2	UK
43	Elron	2	EE
43	Flixbus DE	2	DE
43	LTG	2	LT
43	Regio Jet	2	CZ & UK
43	Snälltåget	2	SE
43	Southeastern	2	UK
43	Southern	2	UK
43	South Western Railway	2	UK
43	Transport for Wales	2	UK
55	Eurostar	0	BE, FR, NL & UK
55	ICE International	0	BE, DE & NL
55	Italo	0	IT
55	IZY	0	BE & FR
55	MRTX	0	SE
55	OuiGo France	0	FR
55	OuiGo Spain	0	ES
55	RENFE	0	ES
55	SJ	0	SE
55	SNCF-DB	0	DE & FR
55	SNCF-RENFE	0	ES & FR
55	SNCF-SBB (TGV Lyria)	0	CH & FR
55	Thalys	0	BE, DE, FR & NL
55	Thello	0	FR & IT
55	VY SE	0	SE

3. Bicycle hire schemes

Adjusted rank	Railway undertaking/service	Bike hire score	Country
1	NS	10	NL
2	NS-DB (Intercity Berlin)	8	DE & NL
2	NS-SNCB (Intercity Brussel)	8	BE & NL
2	SNCB/NMBS	8	BE
5	ČD	6	CZ
5	DB	6	DE
7	SBB CFF FFS	4	CH
8	HŽ	2	HR
8	ÖBB	2	AT
10	Avanti West Coast	0	UK
10	BDZ	0	BG
10	Caledonian Sleeper	0	UK
10	Celta	0	ES & PT
10	CFL	0	LU
10	CFR	0	RO
10	Chiltern Railways	0	UK
10	CP	0	PT
10	CrossCountry Trains	0	UK
10	DSB	0	DK
10	East Midlands Railway	0	UK
10	Elron	0	EE
10	Iarnród Éireann-NI Railways (The Enterprise)	0	IE & UK
10	Eurostar	0	BE, FR, NL & UK
10	Flixbus DE	0	DE
10	Flixbus SE	0	SE
10	Grand Central	0	UK
10	Greater Anglia	0	UK
10	Great Western Railway	0	UK
10	Go Ahead Nordic	0	NO
10	Hull Trains	0	UK
10	ICE International	0	BE, DE & NL
10	Irish Rail/Iarnród Éireann	0	IE
10	Italo	0	IT
10	IZY	0	BE & FR
10	Leo Express	0	CZ & SK
10	LTG	0	LT
10	LNER	0	UK
10	MÁV-START	0	HU
10	MRTX	0	SE
10	NI Railways	0	UK
10	OuiGo France	0	FR
10	OuiGo Spain	0	ES
10	PV	0	LA
10	PKP Intercity	0	PL
10	Regio Jet	0	CZ & SK
10	RENFE	0	ES
10	Scotrail	0	UK
10	SJ	0	SE
10	SJ Nord	0	NO
10	SŽ	0	SI
10	Snälltåget	0	SE

10	SNCF	0	FR
10	SNCF-DB	0	DE & FR
10	SNCF-RENFE	0	ES & FR
10	Southeastern	0	UK
10	Southern	0	UK
10	South Western Railway	0	UK
10	SNCF-SBB (TGV Lyria)	0	CH & FR
10	Thalys	0	BE, DE, FR & NL
10	Thello	0	FR & IT
10	Train OSE	0	EL
10	TransPennine Express	0	UK
10	Transport for Wales	0	UK
10	Trenitalia	0	IT
10	VR Group	0	FI
10	VY	0	NO
10	VY SE	0	SE
10	Westbahn	0	AT
10	ZSSK	0	SK

4. Cost of bicycle ticket/reservation

Adjusted rank	Railway undertaking/service	Ticket costs score	Country
1	Avanti West Coast	5	UK
1	Caledonian Sleeper	5	UK
1	CFL	5	LU
1	Chiltern Railways	5	UK
1	CP	5	PT
1	CrossCountry Trains	5	UK
1	East Midlands Railway	5	UK
1	Elron	5	EE
1	Iarnród Éireann-NI Railways (The Enterprise)	5	IE & UK
1	Grand Central	5	UK
1	Greater Anglia	5	UK
1	Great Western Railway	5	UK
1	Hull Trains	5	UK
1	Irish Rail/Iarnród Éireann	5	IE
1	LNER	5	UK
1	NI Railways	5	UK
1	Scotrail	5	UK
1	Southeastern	5	UK
1	Southern	5	UK
1	South Western Railway	5	UK
1	TransPennine Express	5	UK
1	Transport for Wales	5	UK
23	BDZ	4	BG
23	HŽ	4	HR
23	Leo Express	4	CZ & SK
23	MÁV-START	4	HU
23	PV	4	LA
23	Regio Jet	4	CZ & SK
23	SNCB/NMBS	4	BE

23	SŽ	4	SI
23	Train OSE	4	EL
23	VR Group	4	FI
23	Westbahn	4	AT
23	ZSSK	4	SK
35	CFR	3	RO
35	DB	3	DE
35	Flixtrain DE	3	DE
35	Flixtrain SE	3	SE
35	LTG	3	LT
35	NS	3	NS
35	PKP Intercity	3	PL
35	Snälltåget	3	SE
35	SNCF	3	FR
35	Trenitalia	3	IT
45	DSB	2	DK
45	ÖBB	2	AT
45	SBB CFF FFS	2	CH
48	ČD	1	CZ
48	NS-DB (Intercity Berlin)	1	DE & NL
48	NS-SNCB (Intercity Brussel)	1	FR & NL
51	Celta	0	ES & PT
51	Eurostar	0	BE, FR, NL & UK
51	Go Ahead Nordic	0	NO
51	ICE International	0	BE, NL & DE
51	Italo	0	IT
51	IZY	0	BE & FR
51	MRTX	0	SE
51	OuiGo France	0	FR
51	OuiGo Spain	0	SE
51	RENFE	0	ES
51	SJ	0	SE
51	SJ Nord	0	NO
51	SNCF-DB	0	DE & FR
51	SNCF-RENFE	0	ES & FR
51	SBB-SNCF (TGV Lyria)	0	CH & FR
51	Thalys	0	BE, DE, FR & NL
51	Thello	0	FR & IT
51	VY	0	NO
51	VY SE	0	SE

5. Booking channels

Adjusted rank	Railway undertaking/service	Booking channel scores	Country
1	CP	5	PT
1	DB	5	DE
1	Great Western Railway	5	UK
1	NS-DB (Intercity Berlin)	5	DE & NS
1	TransPennine Express	5	UK
1	Trenitalia	5	It
1	VR Group	5	FI
8	CrossCountry Trains	4	UK

8	Go Ahead Nordic	4	NO
8	Leo Express	4	CZ & SK
8	MÁV-START	4	HU
8	ÖBB	4	AT
8	PV	4	LA
8	SBB CFF FFS	4	CH
8	SNCB/NMBS	4	BE
16	Avanti West Coast	3	UK
16	Caledonian Sleeper	3	UK
16	ČD	3	CZ
16	DSB	3	DK
16	Hull Trains	3	UK
16	NS-SNCB (Intercity Brussel)	3	BE & NL
16	LNER	3	UK
16	Regio Jet	3	CZ & SK
16	Scotrail	3	UK
16	Snälltåget	3	SE
16	VY	3	NO
16	Westbahn	3	AT
28	BDZ	2	BG
28	East Midlands Railway	2	UK
28	Elron	2	EE
28	Flixtrain DE	2	DE
28	Flixtrain SE	2	SE
28	NS	2	NL
28	South Western Railway	2	UK
28	SNCF	2	FR
28	ZSSK	2	SK
37	Iarnród Éireann-NI Railways (The Enterprise)	1	IE & UK
37	Grand Central	1	UK
37	Greater Anglia	1	UK
37	HŽ	1	HR
37	Irish Rail/Iarnród Éireann	1	IE
37	LTG	1	LT
37	SJ Nord	1	SE
37	SŽ	1	SI
37	Train OSE	1	EL
37	Transport for Wales	1	UK
47	CFL	0	LU
47	CFR	0	RO
47	Eurostar	0	BE, FR, NL & UK
47	Celta	0	ES & PT
47	Chiltern Railways	0	UK
47	ICE International	0	BE, DE & NL
47	Italo	0	IT
47	IZY	0	BE & FR
47	MRTX	0	SE
47	OuiGo France	0	FR
47	OuiGo Spain	0	ES
47	NI Railways	0	UK
47	PKP Intercity	0	PL
47	RENFE	0	ES
47	SJ	0	SE
47	Southeastern	0	UK
47	Southern	0	UK

47	SNCF-DB	0	DE & FR
47	SNCF-RENFE	0	ES & FR
47	SNCF-SBB (TGV Lyria)	0	CH & FR
47	Thalys	0	BE, DE, FR & NL
47	Thello	0	FR & IT
47	VY SE	0	SE

6. Website languages

Adjusted rank	Railway undertaking/service	Website language score	Country
1	Avanti West Coast	5	UK
1	Celta	5	ES & PT
1	Chiltern Railways	5	UK
1	Leo Express	5	CZ & SK
1	South Western Railway	5	UK
1	Trenitalia	5	IT
7	NS-SNCB (Intercity Brussel)	3	BE & NL
7	Regio Jet	3	CZ & SK
7	SBB CFF FFS	3	CH
7	SNCB/NMBS	3	BE
11	České dráhy (ČD)	2	CZ
11	CFL	2	LU
11	Elron	2	EE
11	Flixtrain DE	2	DE
11	Flixtrain SE	2	SE
11	NS-DB (Intercity Berlin)	2	DE & NL
11	IZY	2	BE & FR
11	LTG	2	LT
11	MÁV-START	2	HU
11	PKP Intercity	2	PL
11	PV	2	LA
11	SNCF	2	FR
11	VR Group	2	FI
11	VY	2	NO
25	BDZ	1	BG
25	CFR	1	RO
25	CP	1	PT
25	DSB	1	DK
25	Iarnród Éireann-NI Railways (The Enterprise)	1	IE & UK
25	HŽ	1	HR
25	Irish Rail/Iarnród Éireann	1	IE
25	NS	1	NL
25	ÖBB	1	AT
25	SJ	1	SE
25	SŽ	1	SI
25	Snälltåget	1	SE
25	Train OSE	1	EL
25	Transport for Wales	1	UK
25	VY SE	1	NO
25	Westbahn	1	AT
25	ZSSK	1	SK

42	Caledonian Sleeper	0	UK
42	CrossCountry Trains	0	UK
42	Deutsche Bahn (DB)	0	DE
42	East Midlands Railway	0	UK
42	Eurostar	0	BE, FR, NL & UK
42	Go Ahead Nordic	0	NO
42	Grand Central	0	UK
42	Greater Anglia	0	UK
42	Great Western Railway	0	UK
42	Hull Trains	0	UK
42	ICE International	0	BE, DE & NS
42	Italo	0	IT
42	LNER	0	UK
42	MRTX	0	SE
42	NI Railways	0	UK
42	OuiGo France	0	FR
42	OuiGo Spain	0	ES
42	RENFE	0	ES
42	Scotrail	0	UK
42	SJ Nord	0	NO
42	SNCF-DB	0	DE & FR
42	SNCF-RENFE	0	ES & FR
42	Southeastern	0	UK
42	Southern	0	UK
42	SNCF-SBB (TGV Lyria)	0	CH & FR
42	Thalys	0	BE, DE, FR & NL
42	Thello	0	FR & IT
42	TransPennine Express	0	UK

7. Website functionality

Adjusted rank	Railway undertaking/service	Website functionality score	Country
1	Caledonian Sleeper	5	UK
1	DB	5	DE
1	Iarnród Éireann-NI Railways (The Enterprise)	5	IE & UK
1	Flixtrain SE	5	SE
1	Go Ahead Nordic	5	NO
1	NS-DB (Intercity Berlin)	5	DE & NL
1	Irish Rail/Iarnród Éireann	5	IE
1	ÖBB	5	AT
1	Regio Jet	5	CZ & SK
1	SBB CFF FFS	5	CH
1	VR Group	5	FI
1	VY	5	NO
1	Westbahn	5	AT
14	Chiltern Railways	4	UK
14	Elron	4	EE
14	Flixtrain DE	4	DE
14	MÁV-START	4	HU
14	ZSSK	4	SK

19	ČD	3	CD
19	CP	3	PT
19	CrossCountry Trains	3	UK
19	Hull Trains	3	UK
19	HŽ	3	HR
19	NS-SNCB (Intercity Brussel)	3	BE & NL
19	Leo Express	3	CZ & SK
19	LNER	3	UK
19	PKP Intercity	3	PL
19	Scotrail	3	UK
19	SJ Nord	3	NO
19	Snälltåget	3	SE
19	SNCF	3	FR
19	Southeastern	3	UK
19	Transport for Wales	3	UK
34	Avanti West Coast	2	UK
34	Celta	2	ES & PT
34	CFL	2	LU
34	CFR	2	RO
34	East Midlands Railway	2	UK
34	Grand Central	2	UK
34	Greater Anglia	2	UK
34	Great Western Railway	2	UK
34	NI Railways	2	UK
34	NS	2	NL
34	CFL	2	LU
34	South Western Railway	2	UK
34	Southern	2	UK
34	TransPennine Express	2	UK
34	Trenitalia	2	IT
48	PV	1	LA
48	SŽ	1	SI
48	SNCB/NMBS	1	BE
48	Train OSE	1	EL
52	BDZ	0	BG
52	DSB	0	DK
52	Eurostar	0	BE, FR, NL & UK
52	LTG	0	LT
52	ICE International	0	BE, DE & NL
52	Italo	0	IT
52	IZY	0	BE & FR
52	MRTX	0	SE
52	OuiGo France	0	FR
52	OUIGo Spain	0	ES & PT
52	RENFE	0	ES
52	SJ	0	SE
52	SNCF-DB	0	DE & FR
52	SNCF-RENFE	0	ES & FR
52	SNCF-SBB (TGV Lyria)	0	CH & FR
52	Thalys	0	BE, DE, FR & NL
52	Thello	0	FR & IT
52	VY SE	0	SE

Railway undertaking indicator information

Austria

Österreichische Bundesbahnen (Austrian Federal Railways) (ÖBB)

Carriage offer

- Non-folded/undismantled are permitted to be carried on all long-distance train categories.
 - RailJet, RailJet Express, Express, NightJet and ICE.
- Passengers should check in advance, in the timetable, if their desired connection accepts bicycles.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 12 points

- **RailJet:** 5 dedicated spaces. **New RailJet:** 7 dedicated spaces.
- **ICE T:** 3 dedicated spaces.
- **IC, EC, NightJet:** 2-16 spaces (this is dependent on the combination of railway carriages) (Median 9).

Bicycles are only permitted to be carried on NightJet services which run between Austria, Germany, and Switzerland.

Bike hire scheme: 2 points

- ÖBB does not have its own bike hire/sharing scheme. However, it has partnered with the company Next Bike at 60 of its stations in Lower Austria and Burgenland.
- Additionally, ÖBB has partnered with other bike sharing providers, as part of its “ÖBB 360°” project. ÖBB works in conjunction with municipalities, tourism regions and companies to create “mobility hubs.” These hubs offer a selection of transport modes, including trains, buses, shuttle services, car sharing, e-vehicles, bicycles, and e-scooters.

Reservation:

- Bicycles require a separate ticket to allow them to be carried (bicycle carriage ticket).
- Passengers must also make a bicycle space reservation when taking their bike aboard long-distance ÖBB train services.
- Passengers can reserve a bicycle space up to six months in advance and until the day of travel.
 - The number of bicycle spaces is limited, and therefore they are subject to availability.

No reservation is required for local trains. Depending on the capacity, a bike can be taken along at any time.

Cost of bicycle ticket/reservation: 2 points

- **Reservation:**
 - Online and on the app: €3.00.
 - Reserving a bicycle space over the phone (customer services) or over the counter: €3.50.
- **Cost of bike carriage:**
 - Domestic: 10% of a full price second class ticket (with a minimum price of €2).
 - Cost used to calculate points: On the day rail ticket and bicycle carriage ticket from Vienna to Innsbruck. As of 25/05/2021 the cost is: €74.40 without a bicycle ticket and reservation. With a ticket and reservation, the cost is €84.40. Therefore, bicycle carriage (inclusive of ticket and reservation) costs: €10:40.
- International: €12 flat rate.
- Score is calculated:
 - Domestic: Bicycle Carriage Ticket = €10.40 + €3.50 reservation. Total = €13.90.
 - Mean average of International and Domestic Ticket = €12.95.

Booking channels: 4 points

- Online.
- Mobile App.
- Over the Phone (Customer Service)
- At the ticket counter.

Website language: 1 point

- English
- German

Functionality: 5 points

- Bicycle connection search tool in the online journey planner.
- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

26/50 52%

Westbahn

Carriage offer

- Non-folded/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Westbahn services. Westbahn operate only on type of domestic intercity service/category. They use double decker Stadler Kiss trains, which have a low-floor construction which means bikes can be easily taken on and off the trains, as they are barrier free.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 8 points

- 4 dedicated spaces.

Bike hire scheme: 0 points

- Westbahn does not operate its own bicycle sharing scheme, nor does it partner with an outside provider, and nor does it provide information and links to third-party providers.

Reservation:

- Bicycle tickets are inclusive of both a bicycle space reservation and the carriage of the bicycle itself.
- Tickets can be acquired up to two months in advance and until two hours before departure.
- Bicycles can also be brought on the train without having purchased a bicycle reservation/ticket beforehand. However, space is limited, and therefore it is recommended that passengers acquire the bike ticket/space reservation in advance of travel.

Cost of bicycle ticket/reservation: 4 points

- Purchase in advance: €5
 - Score is based on advance purchase.
- Purchase onboard the train: €10.

Booking channels: 3 points

- Online
- App
- Onboard the train

Website language: 1 point

- English
- German

Website functionality: 5 points

- Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

Belgium

Société nationale des chemins de fer belges/Nationale Maatschappij der Belgische Spoorwegen (National Railway Company of Belgium) (SNCB/NMBS)

Carriage offer

- Non-folded/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all SNCB/NMBS services and train categories.
- It must be noted, however, that bicycles are not permitted to be embarked or disembarked on/from trains at Brussels Central station, Brussels Congress station, and Brussels Chapelle station.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 18 points

- The number of bicycle spaces provided on each train is dependent on the type of rolling stock in service and the combination of railway carriages used.
- The number of bicycle spaces per train ranges between 2 and 24 spaces.
 - That said, as a rule, 4 bicycles are permitted on each train.
- Bicycles are stored in flex areas on most SNCB/NMBS trains. A picture is provided below as an example of this. Please refer to the list of definitions above regarding the term “flex area.” However, on older rolling stock, bikes are stored in a luggage compartment, where in some cases bike hooks are available.

Bike hire schemes: 8 points

- SNCB/NMBS works closely with **Blue Bike** (a former subsidiary of SNCB/NMBS). **Blue Bike** provides a bicycle sharing/hire service at 87 Belgian railway stations (as of 2020).¹¹ The bikes are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
 - ECF has been informed that that the number of **Blue Bike** locations is continuing to grow.
- How to use **Blue Bike**:
 - Users need to purchase an annual pass at the cost €12.
 - Then, the cost of daily usage is capped at €3.50. That said, many local authorities subsidise the fares.

Reservation:

¹¹ <https://www.blue-bike.be/en/find-blue-bike-location>. Accessed 24/06/2021

- Reservations are not required for bicycles to be taken on SNCB/NMBS trains.
- Passengers are merely required to buy a one-way flat-rate bicycle ticket for each journey.
- Train tickets (journey tickets) can be acquired up to 30 days in advance and including up to the time of departure of the desired connection on the day of travel.

Cost of bicycle ticket/reservation: 4 points

- A bicycle ticket costs €4 per single trip (regardless of distance).

Booking channels: 4 points

- Ticket machines.
- Over the Counter.
- SNCB/NMBS App.
- SNCB/NMBS Website.

Website language: 3 points

- English
- French
- Dutch
- German

Website functionality: 1 point

- Information regarding non-standard bicycles such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

Customers must use **SNCB/NMBS International** Website for International Bookings.

TOTAL POINTS:

38/50 76%

Bulgaria

Български държавни железници (Bulgarian State Railways) (BDZ)

Carriage offer

- Non-folded/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all BDZ domestic services.
- Unfortunately, non-folded/un-dismantled bicycles are not carried on BDZ international services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points

- BDZ does not have a mandated maximum or minimum number of bicycle spaces on its trains.

- If there is significant number of passengers intending to carry bicycles on a train service, then they are requested to distribute themselves along the platform, and as such they should be able to use space in each coach to place their bicycles.
- Cyclists travelling in groups may contact BDZ in advance of their intended time of travel, and by doing so an extra rail car to accommodate the bicycles can be organised.
- Bicycles should be parked in the vestibule, in the areas in front of the toilets and or where available, in a train's luggage compartment.

Bike hire schemes: 0 points

- BDZ does not operate its own bicycle sharing scheme, nor does it partner with an outside provider, and nor does it provide information and links to third-party providers.

Reservation:

- No reservations for bicycle spaces are required.
- A bicycle ticket must be purchased before travel.
- Journey tickets can be purchased up to five days before departure.

Cost of bicycle ticket/reservation: 4 points

- **Bicycle carriage tickets purchased in advance:** 2 Bulgarian Lev.
- If someone carries their bike on the train without a ticket, a penalty fare of 20.30 Bulgarian Lev will be issued by the train manager.

Booking channels: 2 points

- Ticket offices (at stations, stops and city offices)
- Online

Website language: 1 point

- English
- Bulgarian

Website functionality: 0 points

- N/A

More information regarding bicycle carriage can be found at stations, stops and railway offices, as well as online at www.bdz.bg.

TOTAL POINTS:

9/50

18%

Croatia

Hrvatske željeznice (Croatian Railways) (HŽ)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Hrvatske željeznice (HŽ) services, **except from Night Train services.**

How many bicycle spaces per train? 18 points

- 10 bicycles dedicated domestic trains on average.
- **EC 158/159 “Croatia”**: 20 bike spaces.
- **EC 212/213 “Mimara”**: 2 bike spaces.
- **B 210/211 “Sava”**: 2 bike spaces.
- **B 480/481 “Opatija”**: 12 bike spaces.
- **B 482/483 “Ljubljana”**: 12 bike spaces.

Bike hire schemes: 2 points

- HŽ has a partnership with the independent bike sharing company **Next Bike.**

Reservation

- No bicycle space reservations are required.
- A bicycle carriage ticket is required.
- Journeys can only be booked up to two months in advance.

Cost: 4 points

- **Domestic Bicycle Ticket**: 15 Kuna.
- **International Bike Ticket**: €5.00.

Booking channels: 1 point

- **Domestic:**
 - On the train.
 - Over the counter at train stations.
- **International:**
 - International ticket sales counters.

Website language: 1 point

- English
- Croatian

Website functionality: 3 points

- Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner.
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

29/50 58%

Czech Republic

České dráhy (Czech Railways) (ČD)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all ČD's service categories.

How many bicycle spaces per train and or type of rail car? 14 points

- SC Pendolino: 3 spaces.
- RailJet: 7 spaces.
- InterPanter: 5 – 15 (depending on type of rolling stock). Median 10
- Rail Coach Bdmpee²³³ : 4 spaces.
- Rail Coach Bdpee²³¹ : 5 spaces.
- Rail Coach Bbdgmee²³⁶ : 12 spaces.
- Rail Coach Bdmz²²³ : 8 spaces.
- Rail Coach Bdmpz²²⁷ : 8 spaces.
- Rail Coach ABpee³⁴⁷ : 3 spaces.

Bike hire schemes: 6 points

- ČD operates its own bicycle sharing/hire scheme.
- It is available at 70 stations across the whole of Czechia.
 - The scheme offers bicycles, electro bicycles, scooters, and head protection.
 - **Costs for bicycle and scooter rental:** Half day = 180 CZK, and 1 day = 220 CZK.
 - **Costs for e-bikes (one day):** 350 CZK
 - **Cost for head protection (one day):** 25 CZK.
- More information can be found at www.cd.cz/cdbike. Information provided is only in Czech, however it is possible to translate the page with the Google Translate.

Reservation

- Bicycle space reservations and bicycle carriage tickets, for domestic train services, can be made up to two months in advance.
- Bicycle space reservations and bicycle carriage tickets, for international services, can be made up to 3 months in advance, and in some instances, up to 6 months in advance.
- Bicycle space reservations can be made up until 2 hours before a train service departs from its originating station.
- If a bicycle space reservation is made less than two hours before the train departs its originating station, bicycles are transferred to a "last minute" booking regime.

- When bookings are made, passengers can reserve a seat and a bicycle space in one booking, or they can also just reserve a bicycle space without a seat reservation.
- Finally, passengers can discern whether they must reserve a bicycle space on their desired ČD connection by looking at the timetable. In the timetable there are three separate symbols which denote whether a bicycle space reservation is mandatory, optional, or not needed.

Cost of bike ticket/reservation: 1 point

- **Domestic bicycle carriage ticket costs:**
 - 1 – 50km = 30 CZK
 - 51 – 100km = 40 CZK
 - 101 – 150km = 50 CZK
 - 151 – 200km = 55 CZK
 - 201 – 250km = 60 CZK
 - 251 – 300km = 65 CZK
 - 301 – 350km = 70 CZK
 - More than 351km = 75 CZK
- **International bike carriage ticket costs: €10**
- **Cost of reservations and types of reservations:**
 - **Luggage (bicycle) storage service: CZK 20**
 - This is a flat-rate one-off fee, which allows passengers to store their bikes in the train's goods van/compartiment. The fee must be paid for each train connection, as opposed to being paid once for a whole journey. This service can be purchased in advance at a ČD ticket counter, in the ČD e-shop, on the ČD app, **or** from the train manager on board. The storage fee, is of course, in addition to the bicycle carriage fee.
- **Further costs:**
 - **0 CZK:**
 - This is the cost of a seat reservation for a passenger who has also made a bicycle space reservation either in the good's van or carried on the train as an outsized piece of luggage.
 - This cost only applies if passengers make their seat reservation together with their bicycle reservation at the time of booking through the ČD e-shop, or ČD app, **or by** reserving seats through the reservation system which deals with groups of passengers transporting their bicycles together.
 - **35 CZK:**
 - This is the cost of a seat reservation for a passenger who has also made a bicycle space reservation (carried as outsized luggage) at the same

time of booking. **OR** if they have bought a bicycle space reservation (carried as oversized luggage) not at the same time of booking (ie separately). **OR** if they have made a bicycle space reservation for the bike to be carried in the good's van, at the same time of booking.

- This cost only applies if passengers make their reservations at a ticket counter. **OR**, indeed, through the ČD e-shop, but at a separate time from buying the journey ticket itself.

- **0-250 CZK: SuperCity (Pendolino) trains (ONLY)**

- This variable cost bracket applies to passengers who make a seat reservation with a reservation for a bicycle space (to be carried as oversized luggage).
- The cost is variable because it is dependent on the date and time of travel.

- **50 CZK:**

- This is the cost of a seat reservation with a reservation of a bicycle space (carried as oversized luggage) **OR** only a reservation of a bicycle space (carried as oversized luggage).
- This cost only applies if passengers make these reservations onboard the train with the train manager.

- **50-250 CZK: SuperCity (Pendolino) train (ONLY)**

- This variable cost bracket applies to passengers who make a seat reservation with a reservation for a bicycle space (to be carried as oversized luggage).
- This cost only applies if passengers make these reservations onboard the train with the train manager.
- The cost is variable because it is dependent on the date and time of travel.

Booking channels: 3 points

- Ticket Desks in Railway Stations
- Online (ČD e-shop)
- ČD Mobile App
- Onboard the Train

Website languages: 2 points

- English
- Czech
- German

Website functionality: 3 points

- One unified train journey planner

- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

An extra note:

ČD's website offers a lot of information about bicycle carriage, which is a positive thing. Moreover, ČD permits bicycles to be carried on all its train service categories, which is also incredibly positive. However, it must be noted that the information provided is in many cases confusing, as it is poorly worded (especially in the English translation), and in some cases users may feel overloaded with information. **Greater simplicity and clarity could be achieved on the part of ČD.**

TOTAL POINTS:

29/50 58%

Czech Republic/Slovakia

Leo Express

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Leo Express services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 8 points

- 4 spaces (hanging by the wheel on hooks).

Bike hire schemes: 0 points

- Leo Express does not operate its own bicycle sharing scheme, nor does it partner with an outside provider, and nor does it provide information and links to third-party providers.

Reservation

- Bicycle space reservations are required to be made before travel.
- Leo Express's reservation system will confirm, during the ticket booking process, whether there are remaining bicycle spaces available on the desired connection.
- Reservations can be made up to 3rd of October (as of 06/04/2021 (five months and 27 days)).

Cost of bicycle ticket/reservation: 4 points

- Bicycle Carriage Supplement: €2.00.

Booking channels: 4 points

- Over the Phone (However, this must be done 48 hours in advance of the intended time of travel).
- Online.
- Mobile App.
- At Selected Ticket Offices (See for more details: <https://www.leoexpress.com/en/contact/cash-desks-and-ticket-offices>).

Website language: 5 points

- English
- Czech
- Slovakian
- Polish
- German
- Ukrainian

Website functionality: 3 points

- Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner.
- One unified train journey planner.
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

24/50 48%

Regio Jet

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are only permitted to be carried on Regio Jet's **Brno to Ostrava** services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points

- Number not disclosed.

Bike hire schemes: 0 points

- Regio Jet does not operate its own bicycle sharing scheme, nor does it partner with an outside provider, and nor does it provide information and links to third-party providers.

Reservation

- Bicycle space reservations are required to be made before travel.
- Bicycle spaces are subject to availability.
- Reservations can be made up to two months in advance.

Cost: 4 points

R Trains (only): €1.40

Booking channels: 3 points

- App
- Online (found in the Additional Offers section)
- At Selected Ticket Offices (See for more details: <https://www.regiojet.com/about-us/contacts/>).

Website language: 3 points

- English
- Czech
- Slovakian
- German
- Polish (Info provided was in less detail than in ENG, CZ, SK, DE)
- Russian (Info provided was in less detail than in ENG, CZ, SK, DE)
- Chinese/Mandarin (Info provided was in less detail than in ENG, CZ, SK, DE)
- Spanish (Info provided was in less detail than in ENG, CZ, SK, DE)
- Hungarian (Info provided was in less detail than in ENG, CZ, SK, DE)

Website functionality: 5 points

- Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

17/50 34%

Denmark

Danske Statsbaner (Danish State Railways) (DSB)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all DSB services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 12 points

- **Trains which require a seat reservation: 6 spaces.**
- Trains which do not require a seat reservation: 8 bikes in a shared space area.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- DSB does not operate its own bicycle sharing scheme, nor does it partner with an outside provider, and nor does it provide information and links to third-party providers.

Reservation

- Passengers intending to take an Intercity, InterCity Lyn, Øresund, or a regional train are required to purchase a bicycle carriage ticket.
- Bicycle space reservations are required to be made on Intercity and InterCity Lyn trains between the dates of 01/05 to 31/08.
- Bicycle “seat reservations” guarantee passengers a place for their bikes on Intercity and Intercity Lyn trains.
- Reservations can be made up to two months in advance of the intended time of travel.

Cost of bicycle ticket/reservation: 2 points

- Bicycle space reservation: 30 Danish kroner.
- Bicycle carriage ticket: 75 Danish kroner.
- Total cost: 105 Danish Kroner – circa €14.12.
 - Based on “on the day of travel” costs between Copenhagen and Aarhus.
- Bicycle carriage ticket cost is dependent on the length of the journey.

Booking Channels: 3 points

- Over the Phone
- DSB Sale and Service
- At 7-Eleven Establishments

Website Language: 1 point

- English
- Danish

Website Functionality: 0 points

Total: 18/50. 36%

TOTAL POINTS:	18/50	36%
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Estonia

Elron

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Elron’s service categories.

- However, passengers should check beforehand if their desired connection accepts bicycles.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points

- Number undisclosed

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- Elron does not operate its own bicycle sharing scheme, nor does it partner with an outside provider, and nor does it provide information and links to third-party providers.

Reservation

- No bicycle space reservations are required to be made before travel.
- Bicycle tickets and journey tickets can be bought up to 6 days in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 2 points

- No bike tickets are required to be purchased. Journey tickets can be bought at the following:
 - Online
 - Onboard the train
 - Ticket machines on the train
 - Over the counter at ticket offices

Website Language: 2 points

- English
- Estonian
- Russian

Website Functionality: 4 points

- Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner.
- One unified train journey planner
 - Elron does not operate outside of Estonia.
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
 - The page is incredibly limited and therefore no points are awarded.

Total: 15/50. 30%

TOTAL POINTS:	15/50	30%
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Finland

VR

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on VR's intercity, night, and commuter train categories.
- However, it is not allowed on its Pendolino services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 8 points

- Intercity trains (depending on the route): 5-6 spaces.
 - Intercity trains have two types of bicycle spaces:
 - Hanging racks which can be locked by inserting a 50-cent coin.
 - Hanging racks without a locking mechanism. Customers can bring their own bike locks if they so wish.
 - Both styles of rack are located next to the carriage entrance lobbies.
- Regional trains use on long-distance routes and commuter trains: 2-6 spaces.
- Night trains:
 - Bicycles are stored in a separated luggage compartment.
 - In these compartments there are no racks with locking mechanisms, and so customers may bring their own locks if they so wish.
 - 3-8 bicycle can be carried, depending on the specific route.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- VR does not operate its own bicycle sharing scheme, nor does it partner with an outside provider, and nor does it provide information and links to third-party providers.

Reservation

- A bicycle carriage ticket doubles up as a bicycle space reservation.
 - On some night train services bicycle tickets may only be acquired from the train manager.
- Tickets can be bought up to 360 days in advance. Bicycle spaces are subject to availability, and it is advised to reserve bicycle spaces in advance.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 4 points

- Bike ticket supplement: €5.00

Booking Channels: 5 points

- Online
- Ticket Counter
- Ticket Machine

- Mobile App
- Over the Phone
- Travel Agent
- Third Party Seller
- On the train

Customers who hold a season ticket can purchase a bicycle ticket over the counter, ticket counter, on the phone or onboard the train. Customers who hold multitickets can acquire bicycle tickets “from self-service channels.”

Website Language: 2 points

- English
- Finnish
- Swedish

Website Functionality: 5 points

- Bike connection search tool on the online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner.
 - Tickets sold for travel to Russia are currently not available due to COVID-19.
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

24/50 48%

France

OuiGo (SNCF)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycle are currently not permitted to be carries on OuiGo services.
- From 2024 onwards, 8 spaces (2 areas of 4 spaces) will be made available on 40 OuiGo trainsets.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A

Bike Hire Schemes: N/A

- OUIGo does not operate its own bicycle sharing scheme, nor does it partner with an outside provider, and nor does it provide information and links to third-party providers.

Reservation: 0 points

- Tickets can be bought up to tow to nine months in advance (subject to change).

Cost: N/A

- N/A

Booking Channels: N/A

- N/A

Website Language: N/A

- French

Website Functionality: N/A

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:**0/50****0%****Société nationale des chemins de fer français (National society of French railroads) (SNCF)****Carriage offer**

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried SNCF's Intercity, and Intercity Night service categories.
- Currently, it is possible to carry a bicycle on 43% of SNCF's high-speed TGV trainsets. This will increase to 47% in 2022.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 10 points

- **For Intercity trains:**
 - Paris – Clermont-Ferrand and Paris – Limoges – Toulouse lines: 5 spaces.
 - This number will be increased to 10 spaces between 2023 and 2025, as rolling stock is updated.
 - Nantes – Bordeaux and Nantes – Lyon lines: 6 spaces (2 areas of 3 spaces)
 - High season: Extra capacity is brought in, and so 12 spaces are available.
 - Bordeaux – Marseille lines: 5 spaces.
- **Intercity Night trains:**
 - Paris – Toulouse, Paris – Port-Bou (weekends and school holidays only) and Paris – Nice lines: 4 spaces.
 - In 2022, the offer of 4 spaces for un-dismantled bicycles on the Paris – Tarbes and Paris – Briançon lines will be back.

- **TGV trainsets:** 2-4 bike spaces.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- SNCF offers information on the Accueil Vélo initiative but does not seem to have its own scheme.

Reservation: 4 points

- Reservations can be made for Intercity services up to four months in advance (excluding Christmas and summer and winter holidays).

Cost of bicycle ticket/reservation: 3 points

- Between €5 and €10

Booking Channels: 2 points

- Online.
- At a ticket office

Website Language: 2 points

- English
- French
- German

Website Functionality: 3 points

Based on the <https://en.oui.sncf/en/> website.

- Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner

TOTAL POINTS:

24/50 48%

Germany

Deutsche Bahn (DB)

Bicycle Carriage

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all DB's service categories, apart from ICE categories, where there is only a partial service. The website's journey planner allows passengers to see which connection (inclusive of ICE) bicycles can be carried on.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 14 points

- ICE 4: 8
- ICE T (BR 411): 3

- Intercity 1: 7-16
- Intercity 2 (Bombardier): 9
- Intercity 2 (Stadler-KISS): 8

New ICE 3 (ICE 3neo; entry into service expected in December 2022): 8.

ECx (entry into service expected in December 2023): 8.

Bike Hire Schemes: 6 points

- Call a Bike (Deutsche Bahn's own scheme).
- Available at 50 locations throughout Germany.¹² More information to be found: <https://www.callabike.de/en>.

Reservation

Reservations can be made up to six months in advance and up to ten minutes before the train departs.

- Passengers require both a bike carriage ticket and a bike space reservation to carry their bikes on the train.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 3 points

- Bicycle ticket (inclusive of a bicycle parking space reservation): €8.00
 - €5.40 euros with a Bahn Card.
- Reservation of bicycle space (without having bought a bicycle carriage ticket): €4.00.
 - Therefore, a bicycle space is free when purchased at the same time as a bicycle carriage ticket.
- International bicycle carriage ticket: €9.00.

Booking Channels: 5 points

- Online*.
- Deutsche Bahn Travel Centre
- Travel Agencies (with DB offer)
- Mobile App*
- Over the phone.

*Bicycle carriage ticket cannot be bought without buying a journey ticket at the same time. If passengers want to purchase only a bicycle carriage ticket/make a bicycle space reservation, they must do so at a Deutsche Bahn Travel Centre, a Travel Agency (which offers DB products), and over the phone.

Website Language: 0 points

- English
- German (**Bicycle Information Only in German**)

¹² <https://www.callabike.de/en/about>. Accessed 24/06/2021

- Danish
- Polish
- Dutch
- French
- Spanish
- Czech
- Italian

Website Functionality: 5 points

- Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

More information about bicycle carriage and bicycle sharing schemes can be found at on the following pages: https://www.bahn.de/p/view/service/fahrrad/07rad_fahrradzuege.shtml and www.bahn.de/fahrrad.

TOTAL POINTS:

33/50 66%

FlixTrain (Germany)

Carriage offer:

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Flix Train (Germany) services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points

- Number undisclosed.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- FlixTrain does not operate its own bicycle sharing scheme, nor does it partner with an outside provider, and nor does it provide information and links to third-party providers.

Reservation

- Reservation period undisclosed.

Cost: 3 points

- Bicycle Carriage Ticket: €9.00

Booking Channels: 2 points

- Online
- Mobile App

Website Language: 2 points

- English
- German
- Swedish

Website Functionality: 4 points

- Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

13/50 26%

Greece

Train OSE

Carriage offer:

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Train OSE's service categories.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 8 points

- 5 bicycles can be stored in a goods compartment **on certain services (Intercity)**.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- Train OSE does not operate its own bicycle sharing scheme, nor does it partner with an outside provider, and nor does it provide information and links to third-party providers.

Reservation

- Bicycles must be registered (as in a space in the guard's van must be reserved beforehand) before departure.
- Tickets can be reserved online 24 days in advance as of 06/04/2021.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 4 points

- Bicycle Carriage Ticket: €5

Booking Channels: 1 point

- Ticket Office

Website Language: 1 point

- English

- Greek

Website Functionality: 1 point

- One unified train journey planner
 - Website offers chance to find connection between Greece and international destinations. However, none are currently shown to be available.

TOTAL POINTS:

15/50 30%

Hungary: MÁV-START Vasúti Személyszállító Zrt (Hungarian State Railways) (MÁV-START)

Carriage offer:

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all MÁV-START's service categories, **apart from Night Train services.**

How many bicycle spaces per train? 20 points

- **Suburban:** 5-12.
- **Intercity (IC and Fast trains as well):** 8-28 (Number of spaces is dependent on the season (high or low)). 18 Median
- **Regional Train/Sports Train:** 2-16.
- **International train:** 5-16.
- **Night Trains:** N/A.

MÁV-START has a “medium-term strategic plan” which commits to the implementation of 8 bicycle spaces in multipurpose carriages.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- MÁV-START does not operate its own bicycle sharing scheme, nor does it partner with an outside provider, and nor does it provide information and links to third-party providers.

Reservation

- Passengers are required to make a bicycle space reservation, before travel, on both intercity (domestic) and international train services.
- Reservations can be made up to 30 days in advance.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 4 points*

- **Domestic cost of bicycle carriage:** distance dependent*

- International bicycle carriage ticket: €10.00, however for some countries the cost is €5.00.

*Points for domestic costs of bicycle carriage/reservation are based on an “on the day fare” between Budapest and Debrecen. Cost of bicycle carriage was worked out to €2.84,

Booking Channels: 4 points

- Ticket Office
- Mobile App
- Online
- Ticket Machine

Website Language: 2 points

- English
- Hungarian
- German

Website Functionality: 4 points

- Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers (domestic only).

TOTAL POINTS:

34/50 68%

Republic of Ireland

Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail)

Carriage offer:

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be taken on all Iarnród Éireann’s services.
- However, bicycles cannot be carried on both Intercity and Commuter train services which arrive in Dublin Heuston Station during peak travel times **(unless a space for the bicycle has been prebooked on an Intercity train)**.
 - Peak Travel Times:
 - Monday to Friday: Services arriving in Dublin Heuston between 07:00 and 09:30.
 - Monday to Friday: Services departing Dublin Heuston between 16:00 and 19:00.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 16 points

- Majority of Dublin to Cork and on all Dublin to Belfast (international) services: Trains are comprised of a locomotive and a rake of carriages (usually Mark 4 carriages – not related to BR Mark 4 carriages).
 - Majority of these train sets have 12 bike spaces.
 - Bicycles are stored in a separate compartment from the passengers' compartments.
- All other Intercity Connections: Intercity Railcars (Diesel Multiple Units).
 - Intercity Railcars: 2-4 bike spaces (dependent on train configuration).
 - Bicycles are carried in the passengers' compartments in dedicated spaces.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- Irish Rail does not offer its own bike hire scheme, nor has it partnered with an outside organisation. However, it does provide links to other bike rental/hire providers.

Reservation

- Bicycle spaces, on Intercity services, are required to be booked in advance.
- Journey tickets can be purchased up to 90 days in advance.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 5 points

- Customers who book online can add a bike to their booking free of charge.
- Customers who are already in possession of a ticket and would like to book their bike online will be required to pay the fare of a 'Seat only reservation'.

Booking Channels: 1 point

- Journey Planner (Online)

Website Language: 1 point

- English
- Irish (Gaelic)

Website Functionality: 5 points

- Bike connection search tool in online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

28/50 56%

Italy

Trenitalia

Carriage offer:

- From the October 17th, 2020, it has been possible to bring a non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycle on Intercity trains.
- It is also possible to take a bike on some Eurocity trains headed for Switzerland.
- Trenitalia is only in charge of EC trains to Switzerland while EC trains to Germany and Austria are managed by DB.
- Night trains between Italy and Germany as well as Italy and Austria do not provide bike carriage facilities.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 10 points

- **Domestic:** There are 6 stalls and two charging points for e-bike.
- **EuroCity trains, Italy – Switzerland:** 2 or 4 dedicated bike spaces (hooks) available per train, depending on the route and the rolling stock.

Bike Hire schemes: 0 points

- Trenitalia offers information and links about the bike hire/rental scheme BicinCittà.

Reservation

- Train ticket reservations can be made up to six months in advance.
- **Intercity trains:** Reservations are required, and they must be made at the same time as the purchase of the train ticket. Only one bicycle can be carried per passenger.
- **Domestic high-speed trains (Frecciarossa):** bikes must be dismantled and carried as luggage, and therefore they are carried as part of a passenger's luggage allowance, and so no reservation needs to be made.
- **International services to Switzerland:**
 - On Italy to Switzerland EuroCity services, a bike carriage supplement ticket can be bought before departure, at the ticket counters in the Italian stations on the train at the cost of €12.00 (subject to availability). It can also be bought onboard, depending on the availability: in peak periods, it is strongly recommended to buy it before departure. This system only applies to trains departing from Italy and travelling to Switzerland. For trains traveling from Switzerland to Italy, a bike space reservation must be made beforehand.
- **International services to Germany and Austria.**

- These services are not operated by Trenitalia. Therefore, passengers should use the bike reservation services provided by both DB and OBB. It is required to make a bike space reservation before travel.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 3 points

- Intercity trains: €3,50.
- International Bike Supplement: €12.00

Booking Channels: 5 points

- Intercity:
 - Station ticket offices
 - Travel agencies
 - Self-service stations
 - Trenitalia call centre (calls at cost)
 - Trenitalia website
 - App
- SBB-Trenitalia ticket counters at the station and travel agencies for travel from IT to CH.
- Onboard the train for travel from IT to CH.

Website Language: 5 points

- English
- Italian
- French
- German
- Chinese (Mandarin)

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

25/50 50%

Italo

Carriage offer: 0 points

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried on any Italo train services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No bike hire scheme offered or links to other schemes are provided by Italo.

Reservation: N/A

- Train tickets can be bought up to 50 days in advance.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: N/A

- Bikes need to be dismantled and carried as luggage. This means bikes are thus carried free as part of the luggage allowance.

Booking Channels: N/A

- N/A

Website Language: N/A

- English
- Italian

Website Functionality: N/A

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS**0/50****0%**

Latvia

Pasažieru vilciens (PV)**Carriage offer:**

- Un-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Pasažieru vilciens services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 16 points

- 8 spaces, on hooks if provided.
- 5 bikes maximum per carriage if no bike racks are available. In this case the bikes should be placed in the salon between the seats (at the discretion of the train manager).

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No bike hire scheme offered or links to other schemes are provided by Pasažieru vilciens.

Reservation

- Only a bike ticket is required. Tickets can be purchased up to nine days in advance.
- Group of cyclists (more than 15 people) need to register 48 hours in advance of the intended day of travel. They can do this by phoning +37167232135.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 4 points

- The cost of the bike ticket is dependent on the distance travelled*
 - Cost is calculated for a on the day/next day fare between Riga and Daugavpils (2nd Class). Cost: €1.96

Booking Channels: 4 points

- Cash offices (Over the counter at train stations).
- On the train.
- Online.
- Mobile application of Pasažieru vilciens.
- Mobilly mobile application.
- Group of cyclists (more than 15 people) need to register 48 hours in advance of the intended day of travel. They can do this by phoning +37167232135.

Website Language: 2 points

- English
- Latvian
- Russian

Website Functionality: 1 point

- One unified train journey planner
 - International routes are offered by LDZ Cargo which is another subsidiary of Latvian Railways which is PV's parent company.
 - Therefore, there is no one-stop shop for both international and domestic train travel. The rationale behind awarding 0 points is that PV is owned by a company which also offered international travel through another company.
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

27/50 54%

Lithuania

Lietuvos geležinkeliai (Lithuanian Railways) (LTG)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Lietuvos geležinkeliai services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points

- Number undisclosed.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No bike hire scheme offered or links to other schemes are provided by Lietuvos geležinkeliai.

Reservation

- Only a bike ticket is required. Tickets can be purchased up to 30 days in advance.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 3 points

- 1st Class: carriage of bikes is not possible.
- 2nd Class: 45% of the cost of a 2nd Class train ticket*
 - Cost calculated for a on the day/next day fare between Vilnius and Klaipeda.
Bicycle ticket: €7.83.
- 3rd Class: 45% of the cost of a 3rd Class train ticket.

Booking Channels: 1 point

- Online
- Other channels undisclosed

Website Language: 2 points

- English
- Lithuanian
- Russian

Website Functionality: 0 points

- One unified train journey planner
 - International Journey Planner is available however no services are shown to be running in the near future.
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
 - However, detailed information is lacking.
 - It is unclear whether the information covers both international and domestic services.

For these reason LTG scores zero points for website functionality.

TOTAL POINTS:

8/50

16%

Luxembourg

Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Luxembourgeois (Luxembourg National Railway Company) (CFL)

Carriage offer:

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all CFL services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 20 points

- Up to 16 bicycles can be carried (depending on train configuration).

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No bike hire scheme offered or links to other schemes are provided by CFL.

Reservation

- No reservation is required. No bike ticket is required. However, CFL do state that it can be preferable to call ahead to enquire about availability of bike spaces on one of their services.

Cost: 5 points

- Free (all public transport inside of Luxembourg has been made free of charge)

Booking Channels: 0 points

- Not relevant, as travel is free.

Website Language: 2 points

- English
- German
- French

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

29/50 58%

The Netherlands

Nederlandse Spoorwegen (NS)

Carriage offer:

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all NS domestic train service categories.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 12 points

- **Domestic:** 2-9 spaces (dependent on the configuration of the train carriages). Bikes are normally stored in a **shared/flex** area.

Bike Hire Schemes: 10 points

- OV Fiets.
 - Bicycle Hire Scheme from NS available at just under 300 locations.¹³
 - Personal OV Chipcard is required.
 - Cost: €3.95 for 24 hours.

Reservation

- There is no need to reserve a bike space. However, a bike ticket is needed, and passengers are encouraged to register their bike for their chosen service (up to one minute before departure) in their NS account. The reason for this is for NS to see how much demand there is for taking bikes on trains, and for passengers to see if there is space on the train for their bike, as space is subject to availability.
- Train tickets can be bought up to one month in advance.

Cost: 3 points

- Domestic NS: €7.50 per journey.

Booking Channels: 2 points

- Online
- NS App

Website Language: 1 point

- English
- Dutch

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified page for bicycle carriage.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

International tickets cannot be booked on <https://www.ns.nl/en>, instead they must be booked on <https://www.nsinternational.com/en>. **Please see international operators for more details.**

¹³ <https://www.ns.nl/en/door-to-door/ov-fiets>. Accessed 24/06/2021.

Norway

Vy

Carriage offer:

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Vy services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 10 points

- Bergen to Oslo Line: 5 spaces on hooks.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No bike hire scheme is offered directly by Vy. However they provide links to hire schemes in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Lillestron and Drammen:

<https://www.vy.no/en/travelling-with-us/other-modes-of-transport/scooters-and-city-bikes>

Reservation

- Reservation before travel is required. Train tickets are usually available up to 90 days before, although this is subject to change in the event of timetable changes or works on the line.

Cost: 0 points

- Bicycle tickets typically cost 50% of a Single ticket or a Flex Refundable ticket. However, during the summer months, there is a fixed price for bicycle carriage on the Bergen line.
 - Costs calculated for a single fare (purchased on the day of travel) between Oslo and Bergen (€22.58).

Booking Channels: 3 points

- Online
- Ticket counter at a staffed train station.
- Over the phone.

Website Language: 2 points

- English
- Bokmål (Norwegian)
- Nynorsk (Norwegian)

Website Functionality: 5 points

- Bike connection search tool in online journey planner.

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

20/50 40%

Go Ahead Nordic

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Go Ahead Nordic services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 10

- Stavanger to Oslo Line (via Kristiansand): 5 spaces on hooks.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No bike hire scheme is offered directly by Go Ahead Nordic.

Reservation

- Stavanger to Oslo line requires a seat reservation. Services which require a seat reservation also require a bicycle space reservation.
- Tickets can be purchased up to 90 days in advance on the website, but only 30 days in advance on a ticket machine.

Cost: 0 points

- Costs calculated for a single fare (purchased on the day of travel) between Oslo and Stavanger (€20.48).

Booking Channels: 4 points

- Online
- Entur's ticket machines
- Over the counter at serviced stations,
- On the train
- Customer Service

Website Language: 0 points

- Norwegian (dialect unspecified)

Website Functionality: 5 points

- Bike connection search tool in online journey planner

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

19/50 38%

SJ NORD

Carriage Offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all SJ NORD services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 10 points

- Oslo to Trondheim and Bodø: 5 spaces on hooks.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No bike hire scheme is offered directly by SJ NORD.

Reservation

- The Oslo to Trondheim and Bodø lines require seat reservations. Services which require a seat reservation, therefore, also require a bicycle space reservation. Tickets can be purchased 90 days in advance of day of travel.

Cost: 0 points

- Bicycle carriage tickets are 50% of a Standard adult refundable ticket. There is a minimum price of NOK 43 and a maximum price of NOK 215. Therefore, the price of bicycle carriage fluctuates depending on the distance travelled.
 - Costs calculated for single second class trip (purchased on the day) from Oslo to Trondheim. €21.06

Booking Channels: 1 point

- Over the phone only.

Website Language: 0 points

- Norwegian (no dialect specified)

Website Functionality: 3 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

14/50 28%

Poland

PKP Intercity

Carriage Offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all PKP Intercity service categories.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 10 points

- **PKP IC trains:** 6-24 spaces. Median 10
- **PKP IC Night Trains (selected):** 6 spaces.
 - It is not permitted for non-foldable/un-dismantled to be stored in sleeping births. Instead, they must be stored in the seated carriages.
- **Express Intercity:** 3 spaces (minimum).
- **Other PKP IC services:** Numbers vary. During the summer season a maximum of 24 space may be provided.
- **DART and FLIRT** trains: 6 spaces.
- Selected trains, composed of “classic” rail carriages bicycle can be stored on wheel hooks.
 - The number of this type of space is dependent on the carriage. These carriages can take either 3, 6, 12 or 16 bicycles.
 - However, it is also possible to carry bikes on rail carriages which are not specially adapted. On these trainsets it is possible to carry 2 bikes the carriage’s vestibule.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No bike hire scheme is currently offered by PKP group. A trial scheme has been conducted.

Reservation

- Passengers are required to buy a bicycle ticket to permit them to carry their bicycle onboard a PKP train. This is ideally done in advance; however, it is possible to buy this ticket onboard the train (subject to an onboard surcharge).
 - If a passenger does not notify the train manager that they have brought their bike onboard without a ticket, then they can face a penalty fare.

- **Domestic:**
 - Passengers can acquire tickets up to 30 days in advance, and up until five minutes before departure of the desired connection.
- **International train:**
 - Passengers can acquire a bicycle ticket up to 60 days in advance.
 - The purchase of a bicycle ticket does not guarantee a bicycle space reservation, this must be done separately (when buying a seat reservation).

Cost of bicycle ticket/reservation: 3 points

- Domestic:
 - 9.10 PLN (standard advance flat-rate bicycle carriage fare).
 - 9.10 PLN + 10 PLN (standard flat rate bicycle fare in addition to a boarding fee if the ticket is purchased onboard the train).
 - If a passenger does not notify the train manager in the event, they have brought their bike onboard without a ticket bought in advance, then they must pay a fine of 52 PLN in addition to the standard bike ticket price of 9.10 PLN. If this passenger refuses to pay, they are issued a further fine of 260 PLN. However, if the fine is paid within 14 days from the date of its issuance, then it shall be reduced to 65 PLN.
- International Ticket: €10.00.

Booking Channels: N/A

- Onboard the train (Excluding Express Intercity Premium train services)
- Other booking channels: Information not disclosed.

Website Language: 2 points

- English (translation could do better)
- Polish
- Russian

Website Functionality: 3 points

- Bike connection search tool in online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner

TOTAL POINTS:

18/50 36%

Portugal

Comboios de Portugal (CP)

Carriage Offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted on some InterCity services. However, it is not possible to carry a non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycle on the Alf Pendular (pendolino), as well as on the Sud Expresso/Lusitânia Comboio Hotel services (operated by RENFE).

How many bicycle spaces per train? 8 points

- Intercity: 2 dedicated bike spaces in EACH carriage on following services:
 - Lisbon – Oporto / Guimarães / Braga / Viana do Castelo, Beira Alta, Beira Baixa, Alentejo (Lisbon Oriente / Évora) and Sul Intercidades trains.

“The bike spaces can be found in places 15 and 17 in the 2nd class carriages on the northern line Intercidades Lisbon – Oporto/Guimarães/Braga/Viana do castelo and places 12 and 18 in the 2nd class carriages on the Beira Alta, Alentejo Lisbon Oriente/Évora and Sul line trains.”

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No bike hire scheme is offered directly by Comboios de Portugal.

Reservation:

- Bicycle ticket doubles up as a bicycle ticket reservation.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 5 points

- Ticket offices
- Online
- CP Mobile App
- Customer Services (+351 707 210 220)
- Travel agents

Website Language: 1 point

- English
- Portuguese

Website Functionality: 3 points

- One unified train journey planner.
 - Based on CP’s domestic network only.
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

22/50 44%

Romania

Căile Ferate Române (Romanian Railways) (CFR)		
Carriage Offer		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all CFR long-distance services.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “CFR Călători provides the bicycle transport service between Braşov – Budapest and return, on board train no. 366/367 ‘HARGHITA’.”		
How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number undisclosed.		
Reservation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bicycle carriage ticket is required for both domestic and international services.		
Cost: 3 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic: 15 Lei• International: €5.00		
Booking Channels: N/A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No information is disclosed.		
Website Language: 1 Point		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English• Romanian		
Website Functionality: 2 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bicycle connection search tool in the online journey planner.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Domestic only		
Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No bike hire scheme is offered directly by CFR.		
TOTAL POINTS (Subject to change):	8/50	16%

Slovakia

Železničná spoločnosť Slovensko (ZSSK)		
Carriage Offer		

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be on all ZSSK train service categories.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 8 points

- There are usually 2 dedicated bike spaces on domestic trains.
- 3-6 dedicated spaces on newer coaches.
- Bicycle spaces are dependent on the configuration of carriages in train sets.
- Summer season: Capacity is increased to meet demand.

Bicycles are not permitted to be stored in the vestibule.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No bike hire scheme is offered directly by ZSSK, nor are any links to other bike hire schemes provided.

Reservation

- **Domestic:**
 - Passengers are required to book a bicycle carriage reservation on long-distance ZSSK trains.
 - This is subject to whether a particular service offers bicycle storage facilities.
 - Tickets can be purchased up to 60 days in advance.
- **International:**
 - Passengers are required to purchase a bicycle carriage reservation on ZSSK long-distance international trains and EuroCity services.
 - Tickets can be purchased up to two months in advance.

Cost of Bicycle Ticket/Reservation: 4 points

- **Domestic – Slovakia:**
 - **Single one-way bicycle carriage ticket:** €1.50.
 - **1-day pass:** €2,50
 - **Weekly pass:** €6.00
 - **Reservation for a bicycle to be stored in a goods compartment:** €1.00.
 - Reservations are required for all ZSSK service categories apart from Os, REX and RR categories.
 - **Reservation for a bicycle carried under passenger supervision:** €2.00 (this is inclusive of a passenger seat reservation and bicycle reservation).
 - Reservations are required for all ZSSK service categories apart from Os, REX and RR categories.
 - **Intercity single bicycle carriage ticket (inclusive of required bicycle space reservation):** €2.50.

It is possible to refund a cancelled bicycle space reservation before the departure time of the service it is has been reserved on.

- **International – Czech Republic:**

- **Single one-way bicycle carriage ticket:** €1.50.
- **Reservation for a bicycle to be stored in a goods compartment:** €1.00.
This option is only available on the following train categories:
 - Fast trains
 - Express trains
 - EuroCity
 - EuroNight
- **Reservation for a bicycle carried under passenger supervision:** €4.00 (this cost is inclusive of a seat reservation (costing €2.00) and a bicycle reservation (costing €2.00).
 - This service is available on most daytime long-distance trains.
- Passengers are required to make a bicycle space reservation and purchase a bicycle carriage ticket (bicycles to be carried under passenger's own supervision) for ČD's SuperCity trains.
 - These costs are included in the total ticket cost of a global passenger ticket.
 - If reservations are made separately, they can be done so at the cost of €1.50.

- **International – Austria:**

- **Store of a bicycle in a good compartment:** Only possible on direct InterCity services between Košice and Wien.
 - Bicycle carriage ticket and bicycle space reservation costs: €2.50.
- **Railjet Xpress category trains:**
 - Reservations are required. Carriage is only possible in second class.
 - Bicycle carriage ticket: €5.00.
 - Bicycle space reservation: €3.00.

- **International – Hungary:**

- EuroCity and EuroNight service operate between Slovakia and Hungary.
 - Bicycle carriage ticket: €5.00.
 - Bicycle space reservation: €2.00.
- No difference in price whether the bicycle is carried under the passenger's supervision or if the bicycle is stored in a goods compartment.

Booking Channels: 2 points

- International: **at the desk only**
- Domestic: **online/at the desk**

Website Language: 1 point

- English
- Slovakian

Website Functionality: 4 points

- Bicycle connection search tool on online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:**19/50 38%**

Slovenia

Slovenske železnice (Slovenian Railways) (SŽ)**Carriage Offer**

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all SŽ train service categories.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 20 points

- **EuroCity:** 12-16 spaces
- **MV:** 12 spaces (maximum)
- **Domestic trains:**
 - Trains on non-electrified lines: 8-10 spaces.
 - Trains on the electrified lines: 2 spaces (maximum).

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No bike hire scheme is offered directly by Slovenian Railways.

Reservation

- Reservations are only required on international trains.
- Reservations can be made up to two months in advance, and up until one day before travel.

Cost of bike ticket/reservation: 4 points

- **Domestic:**
 - Bicycle carriage ticket: €1.50 for a standard bicycle.
 - €3.00 for an electric bike.
 - Bicycle carriage tickets when combined with journey tickets are valid for one day across the whole SŽ network.
- **International:**

- Bicycle carriage ticket: €5.00
- Seat reservation: €3.50

Booking Channels: 1 point

- Ticket Offices

Website Language: 1 point

- Slovenian
- English

Website Functionality: 1 point

- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

27/50 54%

Spain

OUIGO Spain (SNCF)

Carriage Offer: 0 points

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried on OUIGO Spain services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A

Bike Hire Schemes: N/A

- No scheme.

Reservation: 0 points

- Services begin on 10/05/2021.
- Reservations can be made up until 11/12/2021 as of 06/04/2021. Therefore, tickets can be acquired up to seven months and one day in advance.

Cost: 0 points

- N/A

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A

Website Language: N/A

- English
- Spanish
- Catalan

Website Functionality: N/A

- One unified train journey planner

- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

0/50

0%

Red Nacional de los Ferrocarriles Españoles (RENFE) (National Network of Spanish Railways)

Carriage offer: 0 points

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried on RENFE long-distance, high-speed, and night services (Trenhotel Sud Express/Lusitania).

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A.

Bike Hire Schemes: N/A

- There is no bike hire scheme directly or indirectly offered by RENFE.

Reservation: 0 points

- Journey tickets can be purchased up to 15 minutes prior to departure of the desired connection.
- Economy train tickets between Madrid and Barcelona can be purchased up to eight months and 4 days in advance (as of 07/04/2021).

Cost: 0 points

- N/A

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A

Website Language: N/A

- English
- Spanish (Castilian Spanish)
- Catalan
- Galician
- Basque
- Valencian
- French

Website Functionality: N/A

- One unified train journey planner

- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

0/50

0%

Sweden

FlixTrain

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all FlixTrain services in Sweden.
- FlixTrain currently only runs services between Gothenburg to Stockholm.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 4 points

- 2 spaces

Bike Hire Scheme: 0

- No bicycle hire scheme offered, nor links or partnership with third parties.

Reservation

- 50 days in advance.
- Reservations are mandatory.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 3 points

- €9.00

Booking Channels: 2 points

- App
- Online

Website Language: 2 points

- Swedish
- English
- German

Website Functionality: 5 points

- Bike connection search tool in online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

16/50 32%

MRTX

Carriage offer: 0 Points

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not accepted on an MTRX services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A

Bike Hire Scheme: 0 points

- MTRX does not offer a bike hire scheme, nor does with work with an outside partner nor provide links to other providers.

Reservation: 0 points

- N/A

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 0 points

- N/A

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A

Website Language: N/A

- English
- Swedish

Website Functionality: N/A

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

0/50 0%

Snälltåget

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on night trains (3900/3901, 3920/3291) which travel to and Jämtland during the summer and winter months.
- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried on Malmö – Stockholm and Berlin – Hamburg – Copenhagen – Malmö – Stockholm services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points

- Bikes can be stored in a good's van. (Amount not specified)

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- Snälltåget does not offer a bike hire scheme, nor does with work with an outside partner nor provide links to other providers.

Reservation

- Snälltåget operates trains to Jämtland between July 30th until September 26th 2021, and between December 16th until May 2nd.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservations: 3 points

- 99.00 SEK

Booking Channels: 3 points

- Online
- Over the Phone (customer service – surcharge of 100 SEK).
- Travel Agencies/Shops where tickets are sold: Skånetrafiken, Pressbyrå or 7 Eleven.
- Tickets can also be acquired onboard (subject to availability).

Website Language: 1 point

- English
- Swedish

Website Functionality: 3 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- It is possible to add a bicycle in the booking process, but not possible to see which services accept bicycles.

TOTAL POINTS:

12/50 24%

SJ

Carriage offer: 0 points

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried on long-distance SJ services.

SJ is currently planning to permit bicycle carriage in updated regional trains.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- There is no bike hire scheme directly or indirectly offered by SJ.

Reservation: 0 points

- SJ releases tickets four times a year.
 - They allow for a three to six month booking timeframe.

Cost: 0 points

- N/A.

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A.

Website Language: N/A

- English
- Swedish

Website Functionality: N/A

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

0/50

0%

Vy SE

Carriage offer: 0 points

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried on Vy (SE) services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A

Reservation: 0 points

- N/A

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A

Website Language: N/A

- English
- Swedish

Website Functionality: N/A

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- N/A

TOTAL POINTS:

0/50

0%

Switzerland:

Schweizerische Bundesbahnen/Chemins de fer fédéraux suisses/Ferrovie federali svizzere/Swiss Federal Railways (SBB CFF FFS)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all SBB CFF FFS train service categories.
 - International, InterCity, InterRegio, S-Bahn, and Regional Trains.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 20 points

- 2 dedicated bike spaces (bike wheel hooks) **per carriage** (common).
 - Capacity can be added depending on changes in seasonal demand (ie during summer).
- The type of bicycle storage/rack depends on the type of train. Types of storage rack include:
 - Bicycle wheel hooks.
 - Storage in shared/flex areas.
 - Storage in goods van.

- Each trainset can offer between 4-36 bicycle spaces.

Bike Hire Schemes: 4 points

- SBB operates a bicycle hire scheme at 20 stations.
- It is possible to rent the bicycles for a day or for longer rental periods.
- Lower prices are available to passengers who hold a half-fare travelcard and GA travelcard.

Reservation

- Passengers are required to make bicycle space reservations on Intercity (IC) trains between 21st March and 31st October. Passengers can discern which connections require a bicycle space reservation in the timetable.
 - Customers can book a bicycle space over the phone for Intercity trains. However, they must do so three working days in advance.
 - Alternatively, customers can book bicycle spaces up to 60 days in advance and right up until departure via the SBB Mobile App.
- Passengers are required reserve bicycle spaces throughout the year on: EuroCity (EC), Inter City Express (ICE) and Railjet (RJX) trains traveling within Switzerland.
 - For EuroCity (EC), InterCity Express (ICE) and Railjet (RJX) passengers can make bicycle space reservations at staffed stations 30 minutes before departure.
 - Alternatively, passengers can made bicycle space reservations via phone three working days in advance of departure.
- SBB CFF FFS require passengers to book both a bicycle carriage ticket and to reserve a bicycle space, much like the bicycle booking systems employed by Deutsche Bahn and ÖBB.
- Balance bikes and bicycles for children younger than six years of age are not required.
- Passengers who carry their bicycles aboard the train without having made a reservation beforehand will be charged a penalty fare of CHF 10 surcharge. Moreover, the lack of reservation does not guarantee that there is sufficient space remaining for the bicycle to be carried.
- Bicycle space reservation fares are not refundable.

Cost: 2 points

- Bicycle space reservation: CHF 2.
- Short journeys: Half-price of 2nd class Point-to-Point.
- Longer journeys: Day Pass Bike costing CHF 14. A Multiple Day Bike Pass which is valid for six days during the time of one year can also be purchased for CHF 84.
- Regular bike/train travellers can purchase the annual bike pass for CHF 240.

- Connection which requires reservations: A separate reservation with a cost of CHF2 must be made and purchased.

Costs calculated on a Day Pass ticket and reservation fee.

Booking Channels: 4 points

- Over the phone
- SBB Ticket Counters
- SBB Mobile App
- Online-Ticketshop*

Possible to purchase day tickets and normal bicycle tickets (without reservations).

Website Language: 3 points

- English
- German
- French
- Italian

Functionality: 5 points

- Bicycle connection online search tool (Switzerland only)
- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

38/50 76%

International operators

Celta (Comboios de Portugal & RENFE)

Carriage offer:

- Celta serves the line between Vigo (ES) and Porto (PT).
- It is permitted to carry a non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycle onboard all Celta services.
- Tickets are booked on: <https://www.renfe.com/es/en>

How many bicycle spaces per train? 6 points

- 3 spaces.

Reservation

- First come, first served basis.

Cost: N/A

- Undisclosed

Booking Channels: 0 points

- First come – first served.

Website Language: 5 points

- English
- Spanish (Castilian Spanish)
- Catalan
- Galician
- Basque
- Valencian
- French

Website Functionality: 2

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

13/50 26%

Iarnród Éireann-NI Railways (The Enterprise)

Carriage offer:

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Enterprise services. Service run between Dublin and Belfast.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 20 points

- 12 spaces

Bicycle hire: 0 points

- No bicycle hire schemes are offered.

Reservations

- Bicycle spaces, on Intercity services, are required to be booked in advance.

- Journey tickets can be purchased up to 90 days in advance.

Costs: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 1 point

- Online journey planner (Irish Rail)

Website Languages 1 point

- Irish
- English

Website Functionality: 5 points

Based on Irish Rail website

- Bike connection search tool in online journey planner
- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

32/50 64%

Eurostar

Carriage offer:

- It is currently not possible to carry non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles on Eurostar services. However, the bicycle carriage service, which Eurostar operated before the Coronavirus pandemic is intended to be revived in the late summer of 2021.
- As bicycle carriage is currently not possible, Eurostar has not been awarded any points.

How many bicycle spaces per train? N/A

- Later in the year Eurostar will restart their bicycle carriage offer under the name of **Eurostar Passenger Services**.
- Prior to the pandemic Eurostar trains could carry 4 un-dismantled bicycles, or 8 bike boxes.

- Bicycles which are less than 85cm in length (usually folding bikes and children's bikes) can be carried as hand luggage.

Reservation

- Customers are requested to call Eurostar's customer service number or the luggage registration facility to reserve a space for either an un-dismantled bicycle, or to book a space for a bike box.
- Eurostar plans to introduce an online booking option where passengers will be able to book a bicycle space themselves.

Cost: N/A

- The fare varies depending on the time in which it was booked.
- Bike box reservations cost less than un-dismantled bicycle space reservations.

Booking Channels: N/A

- Customers are requested to call Eurostar's customer service number or the luggage registration facility to reserve a space for either an un-dismantled bicycle, or to book a space for a bike box.

Website Language: N/A

- English
- German
- French
- Dutch

Website Functionality: N/A

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

There is no bike hire scheme directly or indirectly offered by Eurostar.

TOTAL POINTS:

0/50

0%

NS-DB (Intercity Berlin)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on IC Brussel train services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 20 points

- 16 spaces.

Bike Hire Scheme: 8 points

- DB and NS operate their own respective bicycle hire schemes.
 - Call a Bike.
 - OV Fiets

Reservation

- Requires a separate bicycle space reservation, bought in conjunction with a bicycle carriage to ticket, to be made.
- Tickets can be booked up to six months in advance.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 1 point

- IC Berlin: Bike carriage ticket = €12.00 and cost of reservation = €4.00.

Booking Channels: 5

- Over the phone (DB & NS)
- International Ticket Desk and Deutsche Bahn Travel Centre
- Online* (DB only)
- Travel Agencies (with DB offer)
- DB Mobile App*

Website Language: 2 points

- Dutch (NS International)
- English (NS International)
- German (DB.com)

Website Functionality: 5 points

Concerns both DB website and NS International Website. <https://www.nsinternational.com/en>

- Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner **(DB Website Only)**
- Joint Domestic and International Train Journey Planner.
- Joint Domestic and International Bicycle Carriage Information (ie on the same webpage)
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers. **(DB Website Only)**

TOTAL POINTS:

41/50 76%

NS-SNCB (Intercity Brussel)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on IC Brussel train services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 8 points

- 4 spaces (this may be increased to 8). Bicycles are stored in a designated area on the trains.
- The area is usually a **flex area**.

Bike Hire Scheme: 8 points

- NS and SNCB operate their own respective bicycle hire schemes.
 - OV Fiets
 - Blue Bike

Reservation

- Bicycle ticket/reservation is mandatory. A bicycle ticket doubles up as a bicycle space reservation and bicycle carriage ticket.
- Tickets for IC Brussel can be bought 122 days in advance.

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 1 point

- IC Brussel: €12.0 flat fee.
- €4.00 reservation fee.

Booking Channels: 3 points

- Over the phone
- International Ticket Desk
- Online (SNCB International only)

Website Language: 3 points

- English (NS and SNCB International)
- Dutch (NS and SNCB International)
- French (SNCB)
- German (SNCB)

Website Functionality: 3 points

- One unified journey planner. (Regards both SNCB International and NS International).
- One page for bicycle carriage information. (Regards both SNCB International and NS International).

- Information about non-standard bicycles. (Regards both SNCB International and NS International).

TOTAL POINTS:

26/50

52%

ICE International (DB & NS)

Carriage offer: 0 points

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried on ICE International train services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A

Bike Hire Scheme: 0 points

- N/A.
 - However, NS operate OV Fiets at its stations in the Netherlands, and DB operates its Call a Bike scheme.
 - N/A awarded as all operators who do not accept non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are given 0 points.

Reservation: 0 points

- N/A

Cost of bicycle carriage ticket/reservation: 0 points

- N/A

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A

Website Language: N/A

- English (NS international)
- Dutch (NS International)
- German (DB.com)

Website Functionality: N/A

International Train Tickets with NS: <https://www.nsinternational.com/en>

- Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner (DB Website Only)
- Joint Domestic and International Train Journey Planner.

- Joint Domestic and International Bicycle Carriage Information (ie on the same webpage)
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

0/50

0%

IZY (Thalys)

Carriage offer: 0 points

- It is currently not possible to take an unfolded/un-dismantled bike on an IZY service.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A

Bike Hire Schemes:

- There is no bike hire scheme directly or indirectly offered by IZY.

Reservation: 0 points

- N/A

Cost: 0 points

- N/A

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A

Website Language: N/A points

- English
- French
- Dutch

Website Functionality: N/A points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

0/50

0%

SNCF-DB

Carriage offer: 0 points

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried on DB-SNCF services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No scheme, no information, and no links to other schemes or partner schemes.

Reservation: 0 points

- Tickets can be bought up to six months in advance.

Cost: 0 points

- N/A

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A

Website Language: N/A

- No unified website. Check Deutsche Bahn and SNCF separately.
 - English (SNCF only)
 - French (SNCF only)
 - German

Website Functionality: N/A

- No unified website. Check Deutsche Bahn and SNCF separately.
 - Bike connection search tool in the online journey planner
 - Joint Domestic and International Train Journey Planner.
 - Joint Domestic and International Bicycle Carriage Information (ie on the same webpage) (DB only)
 - Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers. (DB only)

TOTAL POINTS:

0/50

0%

SNCF-RENFE

Carriage offer: 0 points

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried on SNCF-RENFE services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No scheme, no information, and no links to other schemes or partner schemes.

Reservation: 0 points

- Tickets can be bought up to four months in advance.

Cost: 0 points

- N/A

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A

Website Language: N/A

- English
- French
- Spanish
- Catalan

Website Functionality: N/A

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

0/50

0%

SBB-SNCF (TGV Lyria)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried on TGV Lyria services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- No scheme, no information, and no links to other schemes or partner schemes.

Reservation

- Tickets can be bought up to four months in advance (subject to change).

Cost: N/A

- N/A

Booking Channels: N/A

- N/A

Website Language: N/A

- French

- English
- German

Website Functionality: N/A

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

0/50

0%

Thalys (SNCB & SNCF)

Carriage offer: 0 points

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried on Thalys services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points

- N/A

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- There is no bike hire scheme directly or indirectly offered by Thalys.

Reservation: 0 points

- N/A

Cost: 0 points

- N/A

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A

Website Language: N/A

- English
- German
- French
- Dutch

Website Functionality: N/A

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

Thello		
Carriage offer: 0 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are not permitted to be carried Thello train services. 		
How many bicycle spaces per train? 0 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 		
Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No bike hire scheme offered or links to other schemes are provided by Thello, 		
Reservation: 0 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 		
Cost: 0 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 		
Booking Channels: 0 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 		
Website Language: N/A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Italian French 		
Website Functionality: N/A		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One unified train journey planner 		
TOTAL POINTS:	0/50	0%

Railway Undertakings of the United Kingdom

Avanti West Coast (West Coast Mainline)		
Carriage offer		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Avanti West Coast services. 		
How many bicycle spaces per train? 8 points		

- 4 dedicated spaces.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- There is no bike hire scheme offered directly by Avanti West Coast. Avanti does not provide links either to other schemes.

Reservation

- A reservation is required (doubling up as a bike ticket). Advance train tickets can be booked up to 24 weeks in advance, and up to five minutes before the train (this latter option refers to acquisition online or on the app).

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 3 points

- Online.
- Over the phone.
- If a passenger is already in possession of a ticket, they can also reserve a space at the station.

Website Language: 5 points

- English
- Welsh
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- French
- Portuguese
- Polish
- Italian
- German
- Dutch
- Spanish

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

23/50 46%

Caledonian Sleeper (North/South Sleeper Service)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Caledonian Sleeper services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 6 points

- 3 designated spaces on the Lowlander service (London to Glasgow/Edinburgh).
- There are 6 designated spaces for the Highlander service.
 - Highlander service: London to Inverness and Fort William. Train splits in Edinburgh, with one section heading north to Inverness, and the other section travelling north west to Fort William.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- There is no bike hire scheme offered directly by Caledonian Sleeper. However, they do provide links to other bike rental providers.

Reservation

- A reservation is required (doubling up as a bike ticket). Train tickets can be bought up to one year in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 3 points

- Online.
- Over the phone.
- At the station***

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 5 points

- Bicycle connection online search tool
- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

19/50 38%

Chiltern Railways (Chiltern Mainline)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Chiltern Railways services. However, bikes are not permitted for carriage on mainline peak time services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points

- Subject to staff discretion

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 point

- There is no bike hire scheme offered directly by Chiltern Railways. They do provide a link to Transport for London's bike hire scheme.

Reservation: 0 points

- No reservation required. Train tickets can be bought up to 12 weeks in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: N/A

- Free

Website Language: 5 points

- English (Default)
- Recite translation tool with 104 language options.

Website Functionality: 4 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

16/50 32%

Cross Country Trains (Cross Country Intercity Services)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all CrossCountry services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 4 points

- 2 spaces per train.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- Cross Country does not offer its own bike hire scheme. However, it provides information (links) for National Rail Enquiries' "Plus Bike" page, in addition to Brompton Bike's "Brompton Dock" scheme.

Reservation

- Reserving a space for a bicycle is advised. Reservation doubles up as a bike carriage ticket. Passengers can book train tickets up to 12 in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 4 points

- Twitter (@crosscountryuk)
- Facebook Messenger (facebook.com/Cross Country trains)
- Over the phone.
- At the station.

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 3 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

16/50 32%

East Midlands Railway (Midland Mainline)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all East Midland Railways services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 4 points

- 2 dedicated spaces per train.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- East Midlands Railway does not offer its own bike hire scheme, nor does it provide links or information for other schemes.

Reservation

- Reserving a space for a bicycle is advised. Reservation doubles up as a bike carriage ticket. Bike space reservation must be made before the day of travel. Reservation on the day of travel is not possible. Bike space reservations are required for all services leaving London as well as services between Liverpool and Norwich. Train tickets can be purchased up to 12 weeks in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 2 points

- Over the phone.
- Email: contact@eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

13/50 26%

Grand Central (East Coast Mainline)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Grand Central services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 10 points

- 3 spaces.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- Grand Central does not offer its own bike hire scheme. However, it does provide a link to National Rail Enquiries' Plus Bike page.

Reservation

- Reserving a space for a bicycle is required. Reservations double up as bike tickets. Tickets can be purchased up to six months in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 1 point

- Over the phone.

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

18/50 36%

Greater Anglia (Great Eastern Mainline)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Greater Anglia services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 8 points

- 4 spaces.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- Greater Anglia does not offer its own bike hire scheme. However, it does provide a link to National Rail Enquiries' Plus Bike page.

Reservation

- Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance of travel. Train tickets can be purchased up to 12 weeks in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 1 point

- Over the phone.

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

16/50 32%

Great Western Railway (Great Western Mainline)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Greater Western Railway services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 8 points

- IET 5 coach trainset: 2 dedicated spaces. IET 9 coach trainset: 4 dedicated spaces. IET 10 coach trainset: 4 dedicated spaces. HST: 6 dedicated spaces. Night Riviera: 2 dedicated spaces.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- Great Western Railway does not offer its own bike hire scheme. However, it does provide a considerable number of links to other bike hire schemes.

Reservation

- Reservations are required. Reservations double up as bike carriage tickets. Reservations can be made any time before the departure of a passenger's desired connection; however, spaces are subject to availability. Customers can book up to two spaces. Train tickets can be purchased up to between three and six months in advance depending on the service being booked.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 5 points

- Over the phone.
- Online.
- At a staffed train station.
- Twitter @GWRHelp
- Facebook Messenger @GWRUK
- WhatsApp at 07890 608043.

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:**20/50 40%****Hull Trains (East Coast Mainline)****Carriage offer**

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Hull Trains services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 6 points

- 2 or 4 dedicated spaces depending on the configuration of the train.
- Average: 3 spaces.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- Hull Trains does not offer its own bike hire scheme or links to other schemes.

Reservation

- Reservations are required. two reservations per person. Train tickets can be purchased up to 12 weeks in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 3 points

- Over the phone.
- Online.
- At a staffed train station.

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 3 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

17/50 34%

London North Eastern Railway (East Coast Mainline)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all LNER services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 6 points

- 2 dedicated spaces on 5 and 9 car Azuma (BR Class 800/1 & 2) trainsets. 4 dedicated spaces in 10 car Azuma (BR Class 800/1) trainsets.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- LNER does not offer its own bike hire scheme. However, it does provide a link to National Rail Enquiries' PlusBike page

Reservation

- Reservations are required. Two reservations per person. Bikes which have tires which are wider than 7.4cm or rims deeper than 50mm require two bike reservations to be made. Train tickets can be bought up to 12 weeks in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 3 points

- Over the phone.
- On the Live Chat function on the Help and Support webpages of LNER's website.
- At a staffed train station.

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 3 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:**17/50 34%****ScotRail (Rail Services in Scotland)****Carriage offer**

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all ScotRail services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 4 points

- Inter City High Speed Train: 2 dedicated spaces.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- ScotRail does not offer its own bike hire scheme. However, it does provide a link to National Rail Enquiries' PlusBike page, in addition to links of other providers and partners (ScotRail customers benefit from cost reductions with some providers as highlighted on the webpage).

Reservation

- Reservations are required. Train tickets can be purchased up to 12 weeks in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 3 points

- Over the phone.
- Online.
- At a staffed train station.

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 3 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

15/50 30%

South Western Railway (West of England Mainline, Portsmouth Direct Line, South West Mainline)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all South Western Railway services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points

- Subject to availability and 2 per carriage on London to Exeter line.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 point

- South Western Railway does not offer its own bike hire scheme. However, it does provide a link to National Rail Enquiries' PlusBike page, in addition to links to Brompton bike hire.

Reservation

- Reservations are not required on most South Western Railway services. However, reservations are required on the London Waterloo to Salisbury/Exeter/Bristol route. Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance.
- In addition, bicycles are not permitted to be carried or to be taken off services which are scheduled to arrive in London Waterloo station between 07:15 and 10:00 (during weekdays). Moreover, bicycles are not allowed to be carried on or taken off service which leave London Waterloo station between 16:00-19:00 (during weekdays).
- Furthermore, it is not permitted to carry bikes or take them off services (leaving Clapham Junction between 07:45 and 09:00) at the stations between Clapham Junction and Feltham/Strawberry Hill and the Hounslow loop.
- Train tickets can be purchased up to 12 weeks in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 2 points

- Over the phone.
- At a staffed train station.

Website Language: 5 points

- English
- Welsh
- German
- Dutch
- French
- Italian
- Polish
- Spanish
- Portuguese
- Chinese (Mandarin)

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:

16/50 32%

Southeastern (High Speed 1, Kent Mainline)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Southeastern services. However, there are restrictions on taking bikes at peak times of travel.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points

- Subject to availability.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 point

- Southeastern does not offer its own bike hire scheme but provides a link to National Rail Enquiries PlusBike webpage.

Reservation

- Reservations are not required. Train tickets can be purchased up to 12 weeks in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 3 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.
- Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers.

TOTAL POINTS:

10/50 20%

Southern (Brighton Mainline)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Southern services. However, there are restrictions on taking bikes at peak times of travel.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points

- Bikes can be taken aboard. Space subject to availability.

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- Southern does not offer its own bike hire scheme or provide any links to other schemes.

Reservation

- Reservations are not required. Train tickets can be purchased up to 12 weeks in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 0 points

- N/A

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TransPennine Express (North of England and Borders Intercity Routes)

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Trans-Pennine Express services.

How many bicycle spaces per train? 4 points

- Nova 1: 2 spaces (to be increased to 4 spaces), Nova 2: 2 spaces (to be increased to 4 spaces), Nova 3: 2 spaces (to be increased to 4 spaces).

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- TransPennine Express does not offer its own bike hire scheme. However, it does provide a link to National Rail Enquiries' PlusBike page.

Reservation

- Reservations are required. Reservations can be made up to 15 minutes before travel. Train tickets can be purchased up to 24 weeks in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: 5 points

- Tweet @TPEAssist
- WhatsApp on 07812 223 336,
- Over the phone
- Online when buying tickets, and online after tickets have been bought (changes can be made in "My Account.")
- At staffed stations

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:	16/50	32%
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Transport for Wales (Rail in Wales and England)		
Carriage offer		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Transport for Wales services. 		
How many bicycle spaces per train? 2 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number undisclosed. 		
Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport for Wales does not offer its own bike hire scheme. However, it does provide a link to National Rail Enquiries' PlusBike page. 		
Reservation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some services require reservation at least 24 hours before travel. 		
Cost: 5 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free 		
Booking Channels: 1 point		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the phone 		
Website Language: 1 point		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Welsh 		
Website Functionality: 3 points		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One unified train journey planner • One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information. • Information regarding non-standard bikes such as cargo bikes, tandems, fat bikes, and bicycle trailers. 		
TOTAL POINTS:	12/50	24%

NI Railways

Carriage offer

- Non-foldable/un-dismantled bicycles are permitted to be carried on all Northern Ireland railways services (including the International Enterprise Service)

How many bicycle spaces per train? 6 points

- **Domestic:** 4 spaces (In shared space (minus 2 points))

Bike Hire Schemes: 0 points

- Northern Ireland Trains does not offer its own bike hire scheme, nor does it provide links to other schemes and services.

Reservation:

- None required. Train tickets can be purchased two weeks in advance.

Cost: 5 points

- Free

Booking Channels: N/A

- First Come, First Served

Website Language: 0 points

- English

Website Functionality: 2 points

- One unified train journey planner
- One unified webpage on bicycle carriage information.

TOTAL POINTS:**13/50 26%**

Definitions

Long-distance train: This is a catch-all term denoting train services that travel “long distances” domestically or cross border. No length limitation is in place. This is because ECF wants to include InterCity trains in countries such as Luxembourg. In such a case distances may be short, but they still connect cities.

Intercity train:

- Train services that connect a country’s major urban centres, with few intervening stops.
- Service categories defined as Intercity by the railway undertakings included in this report.

High-speed train:

- Rolling stock that can travel above 220kmh.¹⁴
- These trains are usually premier services.

Premier Service:

- The “premier” rolling stock product offered by a railway undertaking does not run conventional high-speed trains such as DB’s ICEs and SNCF’s TGVs.
- Examples include ÖBB and ČD’s Railjet trains, ČD’s SuperCity trains and PKP Intercity’s Express Intercity Premium trains.
- These trains travel faster than conventional intercity trains, and they offer a better product standard. However, they are not classified as high-speed trains.

Night Train: Train service which travels overnight connecting cities and major towns.

EuroCity: “EuroCity (EC) is the name used for international cross-border day train connections between Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Switzerland, as well as Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary and Denmark. Eurocity trains include a wide variety of operators and trains. Most of these trains rely on slightly retro carriages and speed is not a hallmark of these services. At their best, EuroCity trains are stylish and sedate... It is essentially a brand promoted by the railways of central Europe, with most trains managed by cooperation between two or more national rail operators.”¹⁵

EuroNight: “As well as its Nightjet trains, the Austrian Federal Railways, ÖBB, offers additional night trains throughout Europe called EuroNight trains. These are run in partnership with the national railway operators of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. EuroNight trains are the nighttime equivalent of Eurocity (EC) services... Like their daytime EuroCity counterpart, they can be found

¹⁴ https://www.uic.org/com/enews/nr/596-high-speed/article/the-definition-of-high-speed-rail?page=thickbox_enews. Accessed: 31/05/21.

¹⁵ <https://www.raileurope.com/en/trains/eurocity>. Accessed: 31/05/21.

throughout much of central Europe, including Austria, Germany, Croatia, Poland, Hungary and Slovenia and usually operate across borders.”¹⁶

EMU: Electric Multiple Unit.

- The train is configured as a train set. Typically, motors are emplaced under the carriage floor, instead of a locomotive pulling a series of carriages.

DMU: Diesel Multiple Unite.

- The train is configured as a train set. Typically, motors are emplaced under the carriage floor, instead of a locomotive pulling a series of carriages.

Locomotive hauled train (with a rake of carriages): A locomotive (diesel/electric or other traction) pulls a series of carriages behind it.

Dedicated bike space:

- A dedicated bicycle space is a bike rack or hooks located in a passenger area on the train.
- Bicycles in these areas are carried under the passenger’s supervision.

Bike spaces in goods van/compartment:

- A goods van or compartment is separated from the passengers’ compartments.
- Storage of bicycles in these areas usually requires contacting the guard before embarkation and disembarkation.
- The bicycles are not carried under the supervision of the passenger.

Shared/flex space:

- A shared/flex space is a multiuse area in the passengers’ compartment of a train. These areas are typically defined by the presence of an accessible toilet, in addition to flip-down seats.
- The area is set aside for wheelchair users and those with prams and bicycles.
- There are usually no dedicated racks or hooks.
- The number of bicycles that can be carried in these areas is usually limited, and other users such as passengers with wheelchairs or prams are rightly given precedence over those travelling with their bicycles. However, this can be tricky for cyclists, as it may further limit the number of bicycles that can be brought aboard a train service.

¹⁶ <https://www.raileurope.com/en/trains/euronight>. Accessed: 31/05/21.





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