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## Connecting Bicycles and Trains in Europe – Easier, Faster, Cooler

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Wed, Dec 17, 2014 at 4:54 PM

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### Connecting Bicycles and Trains in Europe: Easier. Faster. Cooler.

BiTiBi, the innovative EU project, has been launched in March 2014 and the ten partners are now ready to connect bicycles and trains in their cities.

Inspiring meetings in Utrecht and Copenhagen

During the first months, the European team visited several world-class bicycle parking in Utrecht and its surroundings (NL). The one located at Houten station offers to the train passengers a bicycle parking on the ground-floor of the station directly and easily connected to the platforms above it. Discussions about the optimal location and the design of bicycle parking as well as required commuter services were at the top of the agenda.

Since the aim of BiTiBi is not only to get people from station to station, but from door to door, an in-depth presentation of the Dutch OV-fiets system (shared bike run by the train operator NS) was hold.

In order to use the Danish model as an inspiration to build more bicycle-friendly cities, a second meeting was hold in Copenhagen. The focus laid on the communication strategy of the Municipality. The city of Copenhagen prioritizes cyclists. It considers cycling rather as a serious mean of transportation than as an end, gimmick or a trend. And when it comes to promoting cycling, positive messaging is the key.



After learning from the BiTiBi concept already in use for many years in the Netherlands and positive communication in Denmark, partners in Belgium, England, Italy and Spain are setting up a plan to build safe bike parking at train stations and/or implement resp. enlarge public bike schemes in 7 cities. These facilities will allowed commuters to use the most efficient and environmental means of transportation: the bicycle. Two out of the four pilot projects set up in Europe are highlight here:

## CATALONIA

In the area of Barcelona, train stations in Sant Boi and Sant Cugat will become the first bike-train-bike hubs in the Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat de Catalunya (FGC) Anoia and Vallès corridors. In both cities, safe bike parking with controlled access will be implemented in unused spaces. A shared bicycle scheme will be

## BELGIUM

In Belgium, pilot projects will be implemented at three trains stations: Sint Pieters and Dampoort in Ghent (Flanders) and Guillemins in Liège (Wallonia). In Ghent, the underground bike parking that hosts currently 6.959 bicycle parking spaces will be enlarged to reach 10.000 spaces and a shared bike scheme will be

managed by the train operator. When these facilities will be launched, attractive activities like bike and self-repairing training courses will be organized. The Municipality of Sant Boi has already planned to improve the access to the train station for the cyclists by building a new bike path.



available. In the scope of the BiTiBi project, Blue Mobility, running the Blue-bike scheme at Belgian train stations, will develop communication and promotional activities. The bike operator will also provide real time information on the number of bikes available.



#### New downloads available on the BiTiBi website

- The **BiTiBi brochure**, which is available in 5 languages: [Catalan](#), [Dutch](#), [English](#), [French](#) and [Italian](#).
- A [Fact Sheet](#) with the implementation guidelines of the BiTiBi concept



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#### Coming Soon

The Implementation and Marketing Plans for each city will be available as downloads on the BiTiBi website in January 2015.

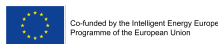
#### The BiTiBi Concept

The future of urban mobility is a return to a tried and tested combination of bicycles and trains. BiTiBi is an innovative, three year project funded by the European Union aimed at improving the livability of European cities and improving the energy efficiency of our transport. Combining the two most energy efficient modes of transportation - the bicycle and the train - provides a seamless **door-to-door** transport connection. **Faster. Easier. Cooler.**

Pilot projects will be implemented in the regions of Barcelona, Milan, Liverpool and Belgium with the help of our ten partners, in order to inspire all European cities to consider a modern, multimodal approach to transport.

Sign up for the newsletter. We will send it out twice a year to keep you posted about our pilot projects in our partner cities.

**HAPPY 2015!**



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