



Promoting cycling in cities and regions – the European Cycling Declaration and EU funds for cycling

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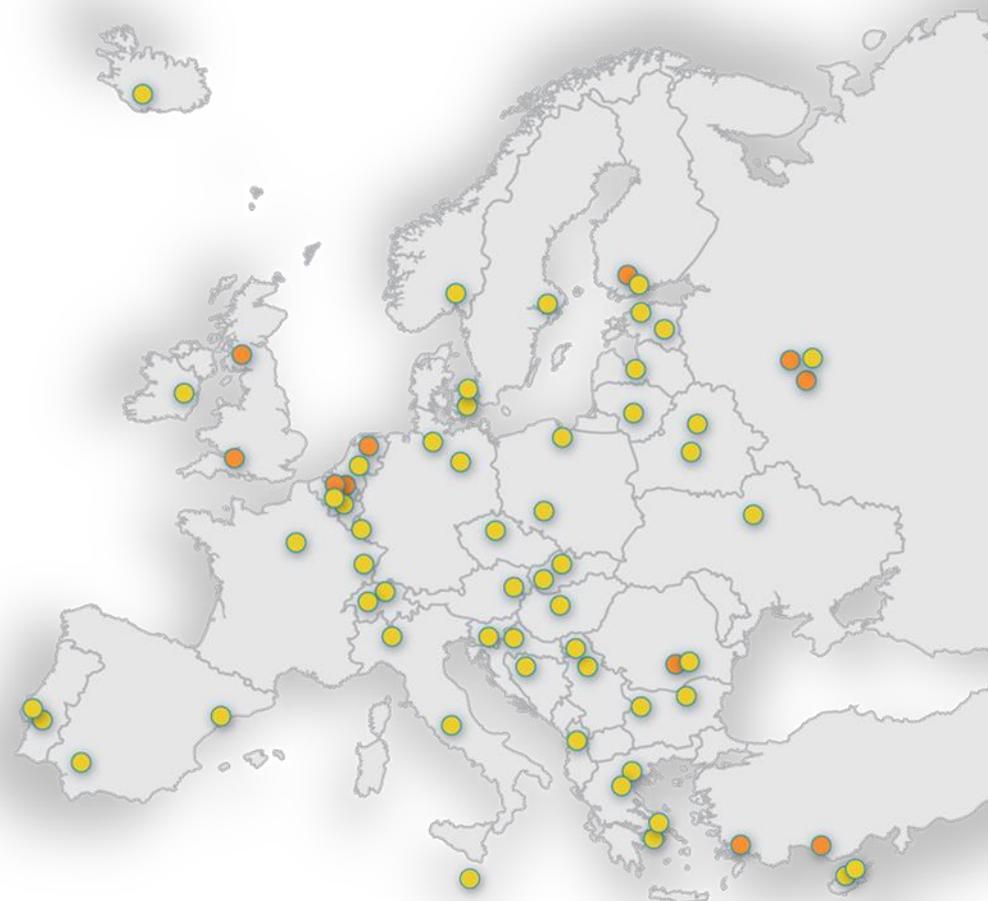
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Today's presentation

- The European Declaration on Cycling adopted by the EU in April 2024
- An overview of EU structural funds used for cycling projects



- Established in 1983
- Federation of civil society organisations with 70 members in over 40 countries
- We promote cycling as a sustainable and healthy means of transportation and leisure
- We harness the power of the European cycling movements
- Global advocacy



- **More cycling:** Increase cycling levels in Europe by at least 50%
- **Safer cycling:** Reduce the rate of cyclists killed or seriously injured in road collisions by at least 50%
- **Stronger political support:** Cycling to be prioritised by policymakers as a sustainable and healthy part of the mobility mix
- **Higher investment:** An additional €15 billion for EU-funded cycling infrastructure projects, on top of national spending
- **More and better infrastructure:** 100,000 km of new cycling infrastructure to be built in Europe



What is it?

- A political commitment between the three EU institutions – the Council, Commission & Parliament – to prioritise cycling at all levels of transport/mobility policymaking.
- It's not regulatory; not legislative
- A strategic compass

- [EUROPEAN DECLARATION ON CYCLING \(C/2024/2377\)](#)





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Three breakthrough cycling initiatives for which ECF's advocacy was decisive



European Bicycle Declaration (EU Member States)



Resolution on developing an EU Cycling Strategy (European Parliament)



European Declaration on Cycling (European Commission)



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April 2024



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European Declaration on Cycling: A historic milestone for cycling

- Most ambitious EU initiative on cycling to date
- Inter-institutional (EU Commission, Parliament, Council)
- Serves as a strategic compass for existing and future cycling policies
- Roadmap for further coordinated action in promoting cycling as a sustainable and inclusive mode of transport for all European citizens



European Declaration on Cycling: Eight chapters, 36 principles

- Developing and strengthening cycling policies
- Encouraging inclusive, affordable and healthy mobility
- Creating more and better cycling infrastructure
- Increasing investments and creating favourable conditions for cycling
- Improving road safety and security
- Supporting high-quality jobs and the development of a world-class European cycling industry
- Supporting multimodality and cycling tourism
- Improving the collection of data on cycling



Chapter IV: Increasing investments and creating favourable conditions for cycling

More investments are needed to unlock the potential for cycling.

We commit to:

17. providing technical support, **funding** and financing to help develop and implement cycling strategies and cycling-related investments, including through the relevant EU instruments and under the conditions set out therein;
18. reflecting cycling in investments at all levels of governance ^(1,2).

- Report published in July 2024
- Highlights 14 projects showing how EU funds can be used to improve cycling at the city, regional and national level.
- Includes examples from France, Poland, Romania, Italy and Estonia.
- Most concern the ERDF and Cohesion Fund
- If you know about a successful cycling project that used EU funds in your city or region, email us.



- Grants – applied by individuals or entities in response to calls for proposals
- Grants managed by national and regional authorities
- Assistance in the form of loans, guarantees, and equity to support EU policies and programmes.



2014-2020 funding period

- €2,43 billion in cycling projects was set to be made.
- But only €1,64 billion was spent (67%) by the end of 2022.

For the period of 2021-2027

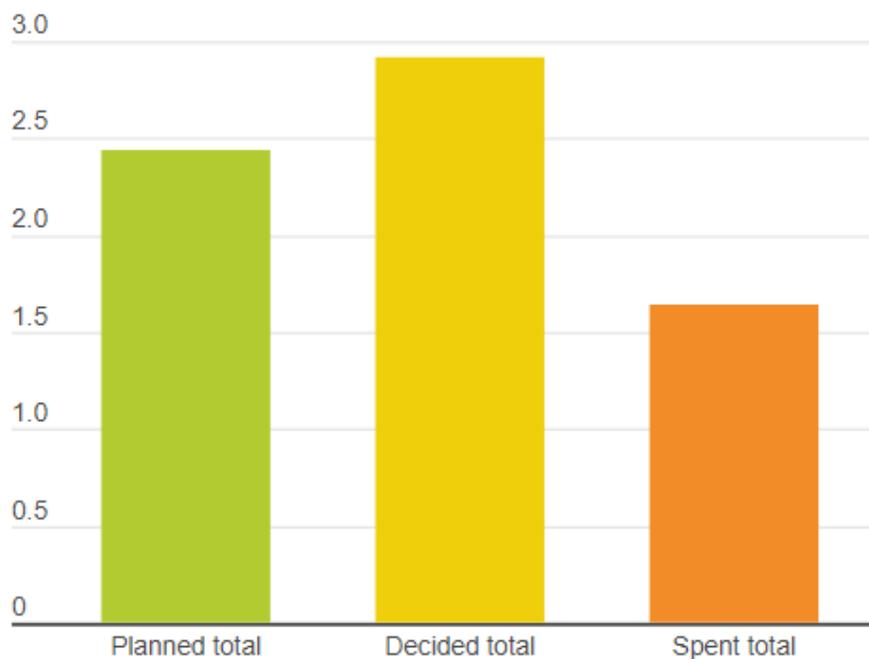
- €3,2 billion is earmarked for cycling projects in Europe.
- It's a 30% increase.
- Co-matched with national and regional funding, the total will be €4,5 billion.

From the RRF, €1,7 billion will be invested in cycling projects by 2026.



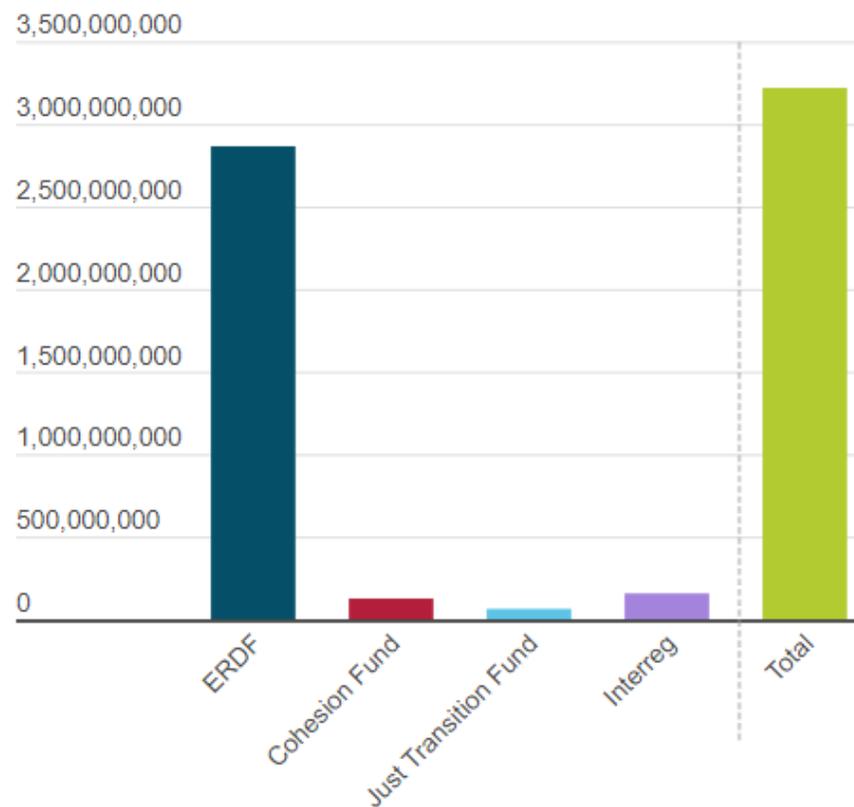
EU Structural Funds 2014-2020:

Planned/Decided/Spent (in billions of Euro) by 31/12/2022

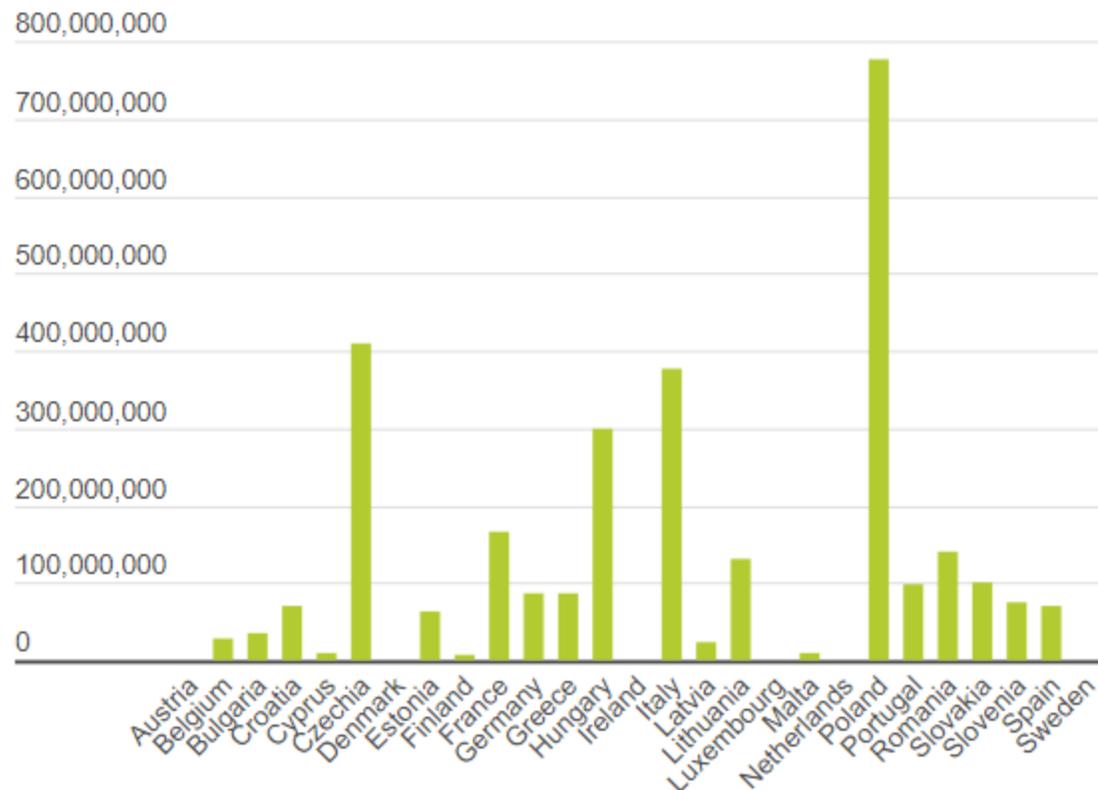


EU Structural Funds 2021-2027:

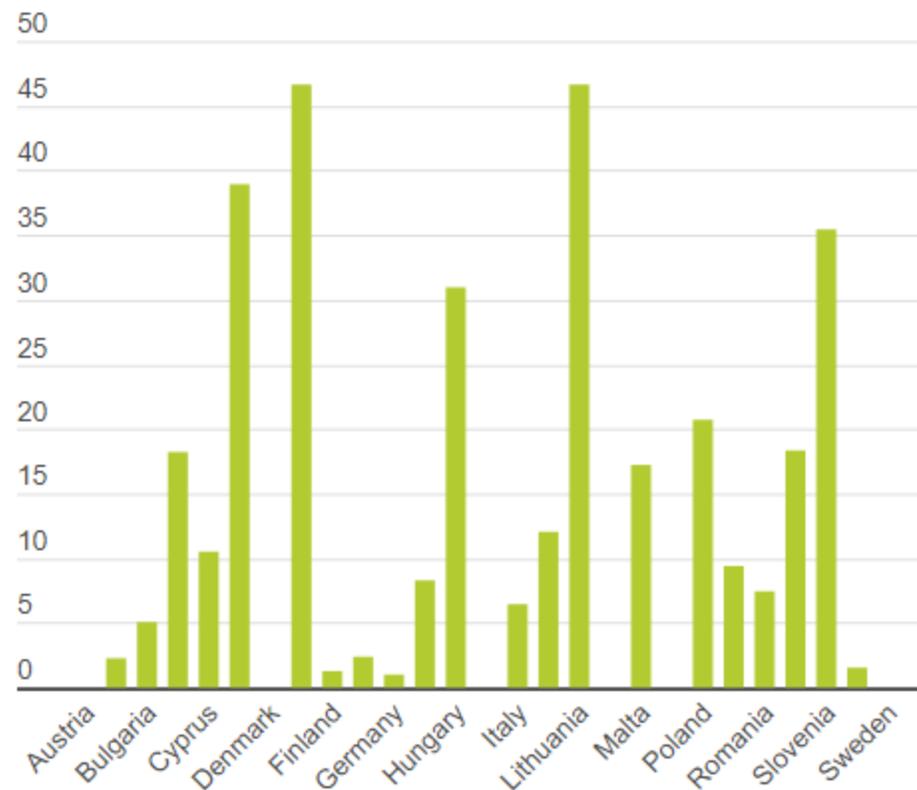
(in billions of Euro)



EU Structural Funds 2021-2027:
Investments in cycling in Euro



EU Structural Funds 2021-2027:
Investment in cycling in Euro per capita



EU funds for cycling

Country	ERDF	Cohesion Fund	Just Transition Fund	Total Country	Interreg
Austria	0	n/a	0	0	
Belgium	27,159,037	n/a	0	27,159,037	
Bulgaria	34,405,900	0	0	34,405,900	
Croatia	70,100,000	0	0	70,100,000	
Cyprus	9,500,000	0	0	9,500,000	
Czechia	401,797,639	0	6,848,770	408,646,409	
Denmark	0	n/a	0	0	
Estonia	42,000,000	20,000,000	0	62,000,000	
Finland	6,563,210	n/a	0	6,563,210	
France	165,859,379	n/a	0	165,859,379	
Germany	85,879,042	n/a	0	85,879,042	
Greece	86,087,112	0	0	86,087,112	
Hungary	287,827,186	11,935,009	0	299,762,195	
Ireland	0	n/a	0	0	
Italy	376,110,667	n/a	0	376,110,667	
Latvia	22,492,390	0	0	22,492,390	
Lithuania	108,226,000	22,500,000	0	130,726,000	
Luxembourg	0	n/a	0	0	
Malta	0	8,925,000	0	8,925,000	
Netherlands	0	n/a	0	0	
Poland	723,574,418	0	54,000,000	777,574,418	
Portugal	97,450,000	0	0	97,450,000	
Romania	140,574,469	0	0	140,574,469	
Slovak Republic	100,000,000	0	0	100,000,000	
Slovenia	13,550,000	61,000,000	0	74,550,000	
Spain	69,276,837	n/a	0	69,276,837	
Sweden	0	n/a	0	0	
Sub-Total	2,868,433,286	124,360,009	60,848,770	3,053,642,065	160,615,073
Total	3,214,527,138				

Cycling investments per fund and country in the 2021-2027 structural funding period



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Policy Objective	ERDF	Cohesion Fund	Interreg	Total
2.7 Nature protection and biodiversity	2,278,771		5,440,204	7,718,975
2.8 Sustainable urban mobility	1,883,411,472	43,360,009	8,385,330	1,935,156,811
3.2 Sustainable transport	351,402,974	81,000,000	15,460,197	447,863,171
4.6 Culture and sustainable tourism	61,472,865		101,099,571	162,572,436
5.1 Integrated development in urban areas	224,111,173			224,111,173
5.2 Integrated development in rural and coastal areas	345,756,031		30,229,771	375,985,802
Total	2,868,433,286	124,360,009	160,615,073	3,153,408,368

Cycling investments per policy objective in the 2021-2027 structural funding period



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- Metropolitan area of Antwerp, BE, second largest after Brussels.
- Project: construction of a cycle bridge in Berchem, a district of Antwerp.
- It connects an existing bridge over a ring road to new cycle parking at the Berchem train station.
- A crucial link on a cycle highway, allows cyclists to bypass car traffic.
- Cost €3,3 million. Funding from a mix of city, regional, provincial and EU money.



Connection of the new bicycle bridge to the Posthof bridge.

© Province of Antwerp

- Over 500,000 inhabitants.
- The city has a strong SUMP, enabling the metropolitan area to use EU funds for transport investments.
- Wartystrada project: creation of cycle path along the Warda river, connecting public transport hubs.
- Co-financed by ERDF.
- €5,6 million value, with an EU grant of 85%

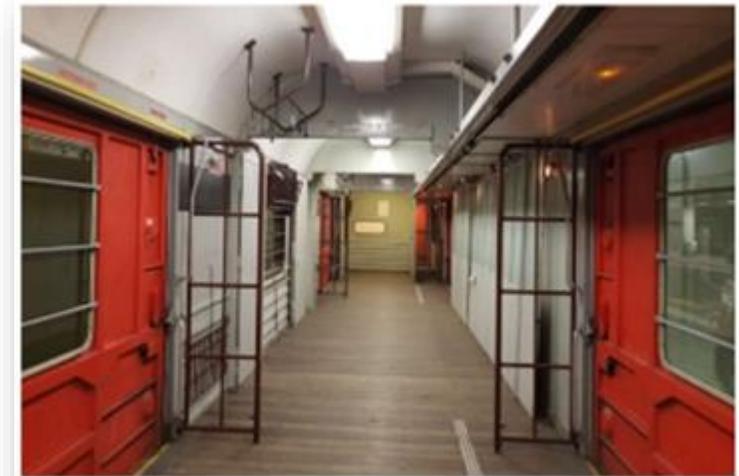


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- Projects focusing on improvement of cross-border connections and ability of customers to board trains with bikes.
- A joint initiative of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Authority and Carinthia State.
- €2,6 million from EU INTERREG VB Central Europe programme.
- Connects important tourist places, facilitating carriage of hundreds of bikes.



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Conclusion: It's possible to promote cycling with EU money

- Develop a plan for a cycle route network
- Integrate cycling facilities into other infrastructure projects
- Choose the right governance level to implement cycling projects
- Focus on a few carefully selected routes
- Collaborate with citizens
- Provide training to strengthen capacity of local authorities and project managers
- Appoint a dedicated cycling coordinator
- If using consultancies to delivery cycling projects, ensure they have proven experience and know cycle design.





EUROPEAN CYCLISTS' FEDERATION



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