



Project RIDE AND SMILE

It is again time to see what we have done, and what we will do, all of us, the partners of the RIDE AND SMILE project. Activities continue at a good pace after the launching of the [project website](#), and step by step, we approach close to our other objectives.



Teamwork is valued highly in RIDE AND SMILE, starting from us the partners, to our faithful audience, teachers and parents too, as well as the children at the center focus of it all - with teamwork efforts and contributions, we note progress toward our goals!

And, because we value the opinions of teachers and parents immensely, we conducted a survey with relevant focal points to this project; infrastructure, cycling, and digital literacy among children.



What answers did the surveys for teachers and parents show?



For our conducted surveys, main motivation was the need to find out more about the children who go to school with a bicycle, whether all of them have a bicycle or not. Also, what are the difficulties to reach the school in this transport way, whether another transport method is used besides the bicycle, or even what is the distance between the child's home and the school. In this context too, we were also curious about the children's digital skills, as a major factor in their daily lives, and as an important segment for visiting our project website, as well as the Interactive Learning Platform that will follow.

The answers varied from country to country, even though there were quite a few similarities in most areas.

Overall, the surveys have shown that classes range between 20 and 30 pupils on average, and not all use the bicycle to arrive at school. In fact, if it's not 50% of children, then much less, percentage-wise of them, cycle to school. Most children do own their own bicycle, despite the conditions that would normally prevent them to use it for their daily needs to school.

In this context, among the most common reasons for not cycling to school (or other needs) was the insufficient traffic safety, i.e., infrastructure issues. And finally, almost every child uses or has access to smartphones, laptops, and less on average for the tablets, and no significantly major obstacles were noted when it came to digital literacy in general (if not owning a personal smartphone/laptop is excluded in a small percent overall).



What is BTS - Bike to School, and why is it important within RIDE AND SMILE?

The Bike to School challenge represents a noble initiative by parents that willingly organize to be company for the children when they go to school - using a bicycle. Still, the best thing is that this initiative became an official Association in 2018, and recently, on 30th of April 2021, they have been a part of a challenge for promoting cycling to school; a challenge including larger Italian cities, with 40 schools included and total included 500 children who went to school that day by bicycle. Shedding light on such an important topic, done the right and fun way.

On Friday 30 April 2021 in the main Italian cities 500 children from 40 schools went to school by bicycle in organized and festive groups to say YES to school roads!

The promoting associations:
 Alleanza Mobilità Dolce, Bikelife.it, Bike Pride Fioc Torino - gruppo soci Bike to school - Roma, Cinesca - Livelli, Consulta per uno città amico dell'infanzia e dell'adolescenza, Cittadini per l'Auto dolce, Comitato Torino Respira, Comitato Provinciale di Torino per l'AVVICIN, Consulta cittadina sicurezza stradale, mobilità dolce, sostenibilità di Roma Capitale
 Famiglie senza auto, FIAB Melegnano - Ciclobus CERRO AL LAMBRO - LA Cyclo Club, Gestioni Antismog APS, Gruppo FIAB - Pedaliamo Insieme - Torino, Legambiente Orlas, Massa marocchi - Milano, #servociclisti Bologna, Associazione - Savignolesi - Roma, Ufficio Servizi a Basso Impatto.

ROME

TURIN

MILAN

GENOA

NAPLES

30Aprile
 school streets
 #BIKETOSCHOOL



Inspired by the BTS, this is a great idea to try out:

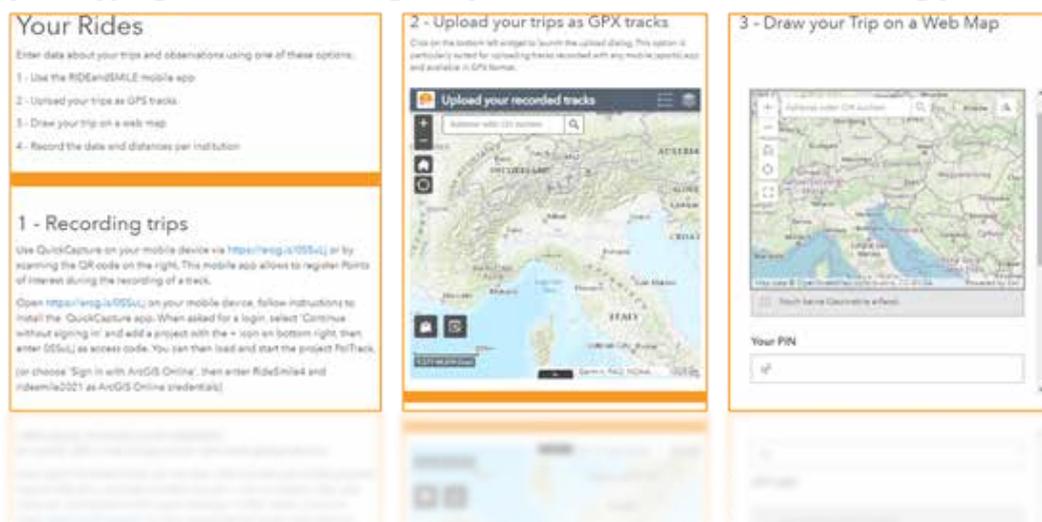
<h1>HOW TO MAKE A BIKE TO SCHOOL IN YOUR SCHOOL</h1>			
		<h2>03</h2> <p>spread via email, wapp and / or flyer at school</p>	
<h2>01</h2> <p>identify a path: a street or a series of nearby streets. It must be a path that you have already done with the children by bike!</p>		<h2>04</h2> <p>set a starting point and time and give everyone an appointment</p>	
<h2>02</h2> <p>identify a group of families that can join: 5/10 are enough to start</p>		<h2>05</h2> <p>let's go: 1 adult on the left and 2 children on the right, 2 adults ahead and behind the group</p>	
<p>biketoschoolroma@gmail.com</p>		<p>FB Bike to school Roma</p>	



● In progress - Our research of best practices and development of the ILP - Interactive Learning Platform

All of us, the partners, have been engaged in a preliminary research for best practices on national and broader level - for any useful suggestions that would contribute to the functionality and creativity of execution of the ILP Interactive Learning Platform, or more precisely, for its geo-specific segments implemented by the partners Paris-Lodron-Universität of Salzburg.

prototyping the ride-tracking component of the Ride&Smile learning platform



With that goal in mind, every project partner has completed a contributory desk research, and the suggestions to be used as good examples, such as mobile apps, websites, digital lesson clusters, community platforms across Europe, but also USA that were developed by ministries of infrastructures across the countries, the partner organizations of RIDE AND SMILE, and also national organizations across the partner countries and broader. All of these apps, websites, platforms and similar, are intended for the target groups: pupils, youths, families, teachers, and sports or cycling enthusiasts as well.

By referring to good examples and practices, the ILP will be created to the full quality potential; all for improving the way children and youths use their bicycle, tracking the cycling distances and successes, supporting the Bike to School challenge for the European schools' pupils, and partnering with local cycling shops and bike-shops and similar.

We're working toward this huge initiative, so stay tuned!



Let's bike across the schools of Europe



RIDE & SMILE

- A project addressed to primary schools involving 5 European countries
- A competition among European schools that rewards who rides more km by bike
- The right occasion to learn sustainable mobility while playing
- A way to make more pleasant going to school
- A virtual platform to share and create a network among schools
- A class to make pupils familiar with environment issues
- A series of events targeted to children, parents and teachers
- A long bike ride from Rome to Bruxelles

<https://ride.smile-project.eu>



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And of course, for more news in the meantime, follow our [Facebook](#) page.