Cycling Acceptability Investigation among University Students in Athens, Greece

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Current Cycling Level in Greece

- Continuously expanding in medium-sized cities of Greece
- Degree of cycling acceptance in terms of transport mean is relatively low compared to other European cities

Main Barriers

- Limited cycling infrastructures
- Topography, rather hilly, in most areas
- High temperatures in Summer, at least, during working hours
Objective

Investigate current trend of bicycle acceptability as the main access transport mean through a case study among the university students population

Phases

- Development of a questionnaire based stated behavior survey
  - identify the students’ willingness to use bicycle as their main transport mean during their access at the University from the metro station

- Design of a rider friendly bicycle path
The Stated Behaviour Survey

- 200 students participated out of 5000 students – faculty staff
  - 40 car drivers
  - 160 pedestrians from the metro station
  - 50% male, 50% female

- 4 sets of questions as to investigate
  - students’ acquaintance with cycling, frequency, purpose, cycling environment, average cycling time per week
  - reasons for not being familiar with cycling and prerequisites
  - students’ willingness to use bicycle as their main transport mean during their access at the University from the metro station
  - bike sharing prospect and potential fare charge
The Stated Behaviour Survey

- **Findings**

  - 75% of the students did not own a bicycle
  - 85% were feeling **unsafe** due to lack of **bicycle infrastructure** and cycling policy
  - >65% of the students using the metro and over 30% of the student car users were expressed positively to use bicycle as their main transport mean during their access at the TEI from the metro station
    - at least 3 times per week

  - **basic requirements**
    - the design of a **safe and user friendly** bicycle infrastructure
    - **cycling promotion** activities
Case Study Area

- Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Athens, is located at the municipality of Egaleo, 10km distance west of Athens downtown

- TEI is positioned 15 minutes by foot, or 5 minutes by bus from the closest metro station, the second most popular transport mean for the students’ access, following the car access

- 80% of students – faculty staff access TEI on foot or using public transport
Cycle Path Design

- Fairly safe and rider friendly bicycle path was drafted by addressing several traffic calming measures
  - most part of the cycling route, over 900m, bypasses a peaceful park
- Length of cycle path approximately 1.6km
Conclusions

- Further methodical actions from broader involved authorities seem necessary in order to promote cycling.
- Based on the questionnaire, cyclists’ safety was found to be the most critical prerequisite.
- The study aims to:
  - point out the cycling acceptability degree among the young population.
  - motivate the stakeholders to launch similar initiatives in a more broad and methodical process.
  - guide municipalities - local communities to introduce proposed design interventions through cycling acceptability.
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