

Annual National EuroVelo Coordination Centres and Coordinators Meeting

European Cyclists' Federation

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Meeting Notes

Date: Monday 12th June 2017

Time: 09:00 – 13:30

Location: Rozet, Kortestraat 16, Arnhem, The Netherlands

Attendees: Adnan Cangir, ENVERCEVKO (Turkey)
Adam Bodor, ECF (Belgium)
Bálint Madarász-Losonczy, Ministry of National Development (Hungary)
Bojan Žižek, Slovenian Cyclists' Network (Slovenia)
Camille Thomé, DRC (EVC) (France)
Christian Weinberger, ecoplus (Austria)
Cian Spillane, Sport Ireland Trails (Ireland)
Connie Bieze, Deputy of the Province of Gelderland (The Netherlands)
Daniel Mourek, Nadace Partnerstvi (EVC) (Czech Republic)
Ed Lancaster, ECF (Belgium)
Eric Nijland, Fietsplatform (The Netherlands)
Feridun Ekmekci, ENVERCEVKO (Turkey)
Gabi Bangel, ADFC (Germany)
Giulia Cortesi, FIAB (Italy)
Isabella Burczak, Union Cycliste Internationale UCI (Switzerland)
Isabela Porras, ConBici (Spain)
Jens Erik Larsen, Foreningen Frie Fugle (EVC) (Denmark)
Jesper Pørkson, DCT (Denmark)
Jesus Freire, ECF (Belgium)
Kaethi Diethelm, Pro Velo (EVC) (Switzerland)
Louise Böhler, ADFC (Germany)
Lukas Stadtherr, Switzerland Mobility Foundation (EVC) (Switzerland)
Marie Secrétant, Pro Velo (Belgium)
Marit Espeland, Norwegian Public Roads Administration (Norway)

Michael Brennan, Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) (Switzerland)
Michal Hlatký, Slovenský cykloklub (Slovakia)
Monique Goldschmit, LVI (Luxembourg)
Murat Suyabatmaz, Bisikletliler Dernegi (Turkey)
Nikola Stanisavljevic, Danube Competence Centre (Serbia)
Philippe Herkrath, LVI (Luxembourg)
Radu Mititean, Romanian Cyclists' Federation (Romania)
Rein Lepik, Vanta Aga (Estonia)
Soňa Kiovská, Slovenský cykloklub (Slovakia)
Will Haynes, Sustrans (UK)

Introduction

Opening speech by Connie Bieze, Deputy of the Province of Gelderland

- Welcome to Gelderland!
- The province is doing a lot to improve cycling conditions both for recreation and for everyday mobility.
- There is so much to explore that you will have to come back!

Kaethi Diethelm (KD), Chair of the EuroVelo Council, welcomes the participants to this year's Annual NECC/Cs Meeting in Arnhem within the cycling paradise of the Netherlands. She thanked the Province of Gelderland and Fietsplatform for covering the costs of the study tour in the afternoon and the evening meal.

Adam Bodor (AB) provided an overview of the main developments related to the EuroVelo network over the past 12 months and looks forward to the key events over the coming year (see [presentation](#)).

This is followed by a tour of the room, as everyone introduces themselves.

Latest news from the NECC/Cs network

Host NECC

Eric Nijland (EN) from Fietsplatform presents cycling in the Netherlands and the work of his organisation. You can view his presentation [here](#). Some of the key points are:

- Cycling is a symbol of the Netherlands – even the King takes his children to school by bike.
- 50% of the Dutch population make recreation cycle tours (€500m spending)
- Incoming cycle tourism also important (particularly Belgium + Germany). Mostly short trips or as part of a longer holiday.
- They have created different type of networks – national, regional and local. They are currently planning to reduce the number of national routes to focus on some strong brands, including the EuroVelo routes. All the networks are completely digitised.

Questions:

- How is a cycling holiday defined in the Netherlands? At least two overnight stays.
- How are they choosing which long distance routes to focus on? The thematic is important for the national routes. The national routes that will 'downgraded' will still be retained as either regional or local routes
- What is the reaction from visitors to the Knockpunten system? The feedback from users is generally positive and the system is expanding into neighbouring countries (e.g. Germany).

Newest NECC/C

Isabel Porras from ConBici introduced the National EuroVelo Coordination Centre that has been established in Spain over recent years. You can view her presentation [here](#). Some of the key points are:

- ConBici used the example of German cycle tourists staying in 5 Star hotels to demonstrate the economic opportunities that exist for regions if they invest in cycle tourism.
- They have worked over several years to develop their current organisational structure. Now a 5 person team.
- The basic cost for the regions to support their work is €9 / km (with minimum and maximum figures)

Questions:

Who is ConBici? It is an umbrella organisation with 50 local groups around Spain (with different profiles).

How long has it taken and what were the biggest problems? The process started in 2015 but it was perhaps too early for the regions to get behind this kind of initiative. It is definitely the right environment/moment now – proceeded quickly this year.

Romania

Radu Mititean from the Romanian Cyclists' Federation asked the participants to sign a Letter of Support directed to the Ministry of Tourism to request permission to sign cycle tourism routes. It was agreed that a common letter would be sent by the EuroVelo Council and Ádám Bodor, representing the EuroVelo Management Team.

UCI

Michael Brennan from the UCI gave a short presentation on recent developments within UCI (e.g. Bike City Label) and expressed an interest to work more closely with EuroVelo. You can view his presentation [here](#). Following the presentation, the participants were then split into two groups to discuss two questions:

1. What is the current relationship like between the NECC/Cs and the national sports cycling organisations?
2. How could we work together more closely going forward (at both national and European levels)?

Group A

1. Lots of interest in working closely but not much interaction so far.

2. Some good examples that could be repeated (e.g. in some French regions loops have been developed off the long distance cycle route (with different difficulty levels: blue, red, black etc.), Swiss website differentiates between different types of cyclists (i.e. sports, tourists, mtb etc.).

Group B

1. Some existing good examples: sports organisations invited to provide a representative on their Board and the two organisations work together closely on some lobbying activities.
2. Support closer relationship on all levels.

Coffee break

Services for NECC/Cs

Overview

Ed Lancaster (EL) presented an overview of the services that are available for NECC/C. You can view the presentation [here](#). This was followed by more detailed presentations.

Signing for EuroVelo cycle routes Manual

EL presented the updated version of the EuroVelo Official Signage Manual. You can view the presentation [here](#).

Questions:

- What to do when there are too many existing signs? EL advised to use the frame version of the EuroVelo route information panel, which can be combined with existing national or regional routes.
- Is it possible to incorporate the EuroVelo signs on some national signposts but not all? EL indicated that it could be a temporary measure but the ideal situation is to signpost following the EuroVelo recommendations.

EuroVelo Route Inspector Training on the European Certification Standard (ECS)

EL reminded the participants of the European Certification Standard (see [presentation](#)) and in particular the potential for it to be used for general route development activities. The tool, including the app, is available for NECC/Cs to assess their network (even non-EuroVelo routes) and a further training course will be held in Spring 2018.

Questions

- How much does the certification process cost? EL made a distinction between the formal certification process (which costs €5,000 plus the cost of the actual data collection) and using the tools for route assessment, which is free for NECC/Cs.
- Is there a discount for NECC/Cs to attend the training course and when will the dates be known? NECC/Cs only pay a minimum cost to cover catering, administration etc. The dates will be confirmed as soon as possible and communicated to the NECC/Cs network.

EuroVelo Candidate Routes

EL presented the EuroVelo Candidate Routes and Major Extensions. You can view his presentation [here](#). The applications received this time are:

New routes

1. Meuse River Cycle Route
2. Sava River Cycle Route
3. Waters of Central Europe

Major extensions:

1. EuroVelo 11 in Turkey

In addition, EL briefly explained the procedure for adding new routes or extending existing ones.

Questions and comments

- The Turkish National EuroVelo Coordinator offered to collaborate with other partners/countries along the routes connected with their proposed route extension.
- Why is there a requirement to have NECC/Cs in all countries where new routes are being proposed? EL explained that it is required to guarantee the sustainability of the route beyond the end of the application process.
- When is the route number chosen for new routes? EL answered that it is decided when the implementation phase starts. The EuroVelo Council will be meeting soon to decide which routes can proceed to this stage and at which point the EuroVelo Management Team will agree with the applicant which number can be used.

Focus on: Demarrage Project

Jesus Freire (JF) presented Demarrage Project Long Term Management Agreement. This former Interreg project connected to EuroVelo 15 – Rhine Cycle Route brings together lots of elements that are being discussed today – certification, communication, EuroVelo 15 etc. You can view his presentation [here](#).

Comments

- EN explained that the project was useful to bring together international partners.
- Lukas Stadtherr from Switzerland Mobility Foundation described how the partnership and work has extended beyond the end of the project thanks to a Long Term Management Agreement.

EuroVelo Communication Strategy

Jesus Freire (JF) presented the Communication Strategy that has been prepared with the involvement of the EuroVelo Council over the past few months. You can view his presentation [here](#) and the Communication Strategy is available to view here. Feedback from the NECC/Cs is welcomed.

Questions

- Is there a template for national/regional EuroVelo route websites? This is covered in the next presentation.

EuroVelo IT Strategy (including app)

Jesus Freire (JF) presented proposed EuroVelo IT strategy. The current system has developed over a number of year and is quite labour intensive for both the ECF and the NECC/Cs. It is proposed that several existing systems could be merged to avoid the same data being entered in different places. It is hoped that a Call can be published over the coming months. You can view his presentation [here](#).

EuroVelo Commercial developments

Jesus Freire (JF) gave an update on the commercial developments that have been implemented since the previous Annual NECC/Cs Meeting. Some advertising has been introduced on the EuroVelo Overview Map and a new transnational bookable offers search engine has been developed for www.EuroVelo.com. You can view his presentation [here](#).

Closing and Summary

KD thanked everyone for their contribution to a successful meeting. EN and his team then gave a short overview of the afternoon's study tour.
