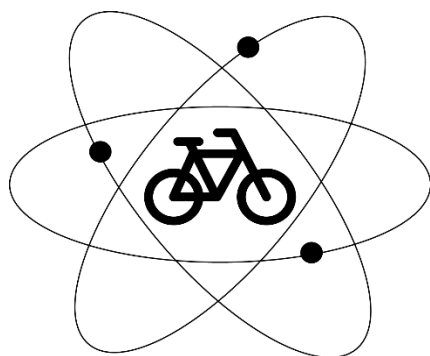


**Call for Abstracts:
Academic contributions**



**Research topics &
submission guidelines**



**Scientists
for cycling**



Welcome to the Velo-city 2025 academic call for abstracts!

The European Cyclists' Federation with its network "Scientists for Cycling" and the City of Gdansk are happy to invite you to share your research, expertise, data, or analysis and to bring an academic perspective to this edition's conference theme and its five subthemes:

Energizing Solidarity

- **The Social Power of Cycling**
- **Shaping the Urban Transformation Together**
- **Political Solidarity for a Just Transition**
- **Cycling for Joy and Health**
- **Cycling to Boost the Economy and Save Energy**

Your contributions will be integrated into the Velo-city conference programme in sessions **making the link between academic research and practice** and providing many opportunities for knowledge exchange. In addition to this call for research-focused academic contributions, Velo-city 2025 releases a general call for abstracts for other types of contributions.

In this call, we are looking for research to meet practice, and for practitioners to discover and understand the state of the art in cycling research. The Programme Team is keen on hearing voices from all over the world, so please help us spread the word about this call with your academic contacts from around the globe!

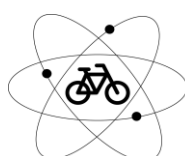
These guidelines will provide you with all necessary information on the call for abstract's subthemes and their priority research topics, programme design, parallel session formats, selection process, timeline as well as submission rules. **Make sure you read them carefully before submitting your abstract through our online platform.**

This year, as an addition to the academic track of Velo-city 2025, a special issue will be published in the [Journal of Cycling and Micromobility Research](#) with full papers building on selected contributions presented at the conference. After the abstract reviewing process, authors of qualifying contributions will be invited to submit a full paper for publication in this special issue, provided their extended abstract contains relevant information on research questions, data, methods, and key findings, and the contribution has been recommended for consideration in the special issue during the review process.

Should any questions arise do not hesitate to get in touch with us, we are here and look forward to hearing from you!

The Programme Team

programme@velo-city-conference.com



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1. The Velo-city 2025 theme & priority topics

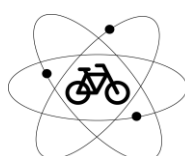
Main theme: Energizing Solidarity

Solidarity—an empathic, transformative force embraced by the citizens of Gdańsk in the 1980s—remains a powerful and enduring symbol, deeply woven into the city's identity. The globally recognized Solidarność (“Solidarity”) movement embodies the collective aspiration to improve living conditions through unity and shared goals.

Similarly, cycling represents not only freedom and sustainability but it also symbolises the power to foster connection and joy. By promoting healthier lifestyles, road space reallocation and more equitable mobility systems, cycling can drive transformative change while contributing to the decarbonisation of transport and boosting the economy.

People are the heart of Velo-city. We invite experts to share their work and discuss how cycling can energize people and lead a gentle yet massive revolution towards decarbonised and fair mobility systems and cities for all.

Under each subtheme, we suggest research topics that we consider especially relevant and would like to see in the conference programme, but also welcome other abstracts linked to the subthemes.



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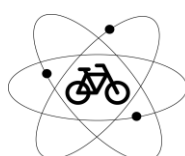
EUROPEAN CYCLISTS' FEDERATION

Subtheme 1: The Social Power of Cycling

How can cycling transcend transportation purposes and become a catalyst for stronger communities, inclusiveness, and social equity? In today's hyper-connected world, how can cycling create stronger in-person connections and contribute to creating vibrant and safe public spaces? How can we encourage a productive dialogue between different road users and promote understanding instead of aggression? This subtheme delves into different ways of how to respond to the needs of diverse groups, how to contribute to placemaking and how to foster understanding.

Suggested research topics

- **Inclusiveness & diversity:** Responding to the needs of the children & youth, an ageing population, women, schools and families
- Addressing the needs of **marginalised groups:** pregnant women, disabled people, disadvantaged communities, physically and mentally impaired people, fragile elderly people, LGBTQI+ people and others
- Analysing the relations amongst different road users, including the attitudes of people that mainly identify as **car-drivers**
- Addressing the **public discourse** around cycling and phenomena like **bikelash**,
- Urban planning to **re-connect citizens:** 15-minute city, Superblocks, placemaking practices, circulation plans, pedestrianisations...
- **Safe environments**
- Studying the transformative power of **community rides**

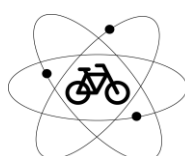


Subtheme 2: Shaping the urban transformation together

Through this subtheme we want to study the preconditions and alliances needed to create the right infrastructure and an integrated mobility offer for sustainable and resilient cities. How can dialogue and collective action help us to reimagine our streets, our governance models and our mobility systems to ensure our cities are ready to face the challenges of the climate crisis? How can we bring together all urban mobility stakeholders and decisionmakers?

Suggested research topics

- Creating an **integrated mobility system**: public transport, cycling, walking, bike-sharing, micromobility, car-sharing through multimodal solutions, MaaS and mobility hubs
- **Cycle parking** solutions
- Studying the preconditions for **car-free lifestyles** and a substantial **modal shift** from private car trips to sustainable mobility
- More comprehensive and harmonised **data collection**, trip planners and wayfinding
- Integrated transport authorities and new **governance models**
- **Masterplans** and **networks**
- **Road safety improvements** and **traffic speed regulation** solutions
- **Innovative infrastructure solutions**: Intersections, cycle highways, road space reallocation, greenery around cycle paths...

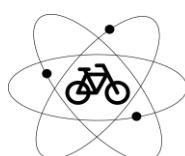


Subtheme 3: Political Solidarity for a Just Transition

A just transition should ensure that the benefits of green transport policies are shared widely, while also supporting those who stand to lose and leave no one behind. How does more active mobility lead to more just societies? How can relevant stakeholders and alliances make political leaders aware of the contribution of active mobility to a just transition? What are the potential downsides and can they be turned into a jumping ground for innovative solutions? This subtheme addresses the fair implementation of ambitious, forward-thinking (cycling) policies that foster solidarity and well-being.

Suggested research topics

- Analysing cycling and mobility policies from a **mobility justice** perspective, addressing developments like **gentrification**
- Mobility policies and realities in **Central and Eastern Europe's system transformation**
- Perspectives on the **post-war reconstruction** of e.g. Ukraine, Ethiopia and other areas of conflict
- **Effective knowledge transfer** from advanced to less advanced cities
- Preconditions for implementing the **European Declaration on Cycling** and harmonised application of **European legislation** such as EPBD, TEN-T
- **Funding and financing opportunities** like the EU Social Climate Fund
- **Fiscal incentives** and their impact



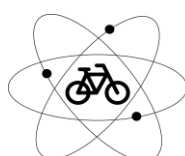
Subtheme 4: Cycling for Joy and Health

Cycling is a gateway to joy, health, and a deeper connection with the world around us. People enjoy cycling as a sport, for leisure or during their holidays. Cycling tourism offers the opportunity to discover new people and places in a sustainable way.

What is the link between recreational cycling and cycling as everyday mode of transport? What is the impact of cycling tourism routes on cycling in rural areas? How can cycling counter the lack of physical activity in many societies and offer flexible mobility choices? What is the impact of cycling on mental health? Through this subtheme we wish to explore the numerous benefits of cycling that extend beyond its role as a transportation mode.

Research topics

- The **link between recreational and utilitarian cycling**
- Use of **cycle tourism routes** for **commuting**
- **Socio-economic impacts of cycle tourism** (health, carbon emissions, job creation...)
- Impact of cycling on **mental health**
- Cycling in **suburban** and **rural areas**

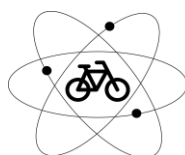


Subtheme 5: Cycling to boost the economy and save energy

How does more cycling impact our economy? How can we leverage benefits like reduced dependence on fossil fuels, creation of local jobs and less burden on health budgets? How can we measure the creation of new green jobs across various sectors, from the building sector to the bicycle industry or urban logistics? Which role does cycle logistics play in booming sectors like e-commerce and food delivery? What is the impact of cycling-friendly policies adopted by employers? How can bike-sharing support a sustainable mode shift and make urban mobility more efficient? This subtheme looks at the potential of cycling for our economies and the prospects of the European cycling industry.

Research topics

- **Job creation potential** of the cycling sector
- Building up the **European cycling industry**
- The **economic impact** of cycling
- **Cycle logistics**
- **Cycle to work** and **cycle friendly employers**
- **Bike-sharing** and **bike leasing**





2. Programme design and session formats

Velo-city 2025 Gdansk will kick-off its conference programme on **Tuesday 10 June and last until Friday 13 June mid-day**. Selected abstracts will feed into over 50 parallel sessions that will take place in the formats listed below and last 60 minutes each, except for workshops that will last 120 minutes.

Academic contributions will be fully integrated into the Velo-city conference programme, either in specific knowledge exchange sessions making the link between academic research and practice, in poster sessions, or in other sessions where they fit thematically.

Most sessions will be built with abstracts for single presentations from the call for abstracts. If you choose the format *workshop*, you will be asked to provide more information on the speakers in your session and how you plan to organise it. If there are several speakers in your workshop proposal, please ensure that there is geographical and gender diversity. Workshop submissions will not be considered for inclusion in the journal special issue.

Academic contributions can be submitted for the following formats:

PANEL DISCUSSION

Setup: Theatre seating, 60 minutes

Panel discussions are moderated debates with maximum 3-4 experts around a similar topic. This format provides space for thought-provoking discussion and debate. Initial short input presentations of 5 minutes are given by each speaker at the beginning of the session to frame the debate. After that, a moderated discussion with all speakers follows and at the end of the debate a Q&A session with the audience takes place.

LECTURE

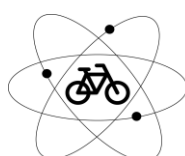
Setup: Theatre seating, 60 minutes

Lecture format features 3 to 4 presentations (12-15 minutes each). Presentations cover a wide range of similar topics and are followed by a short Q&A session with the audience.

WORKSHOP (Session proposal)

Setup: 6-10 Round tables, longer session of 120 minutes

Hands-on interactive sessions where attendees can develop new skills, collaborate with peers, and apply their learning in a practical setting. The scope can range from developing a plan, elaborating on specific infrastructure options and solutions, taking on different roles in decision-making or consultation process, etc. The format allows space to create and collaborate and leads to a stronger learning experience. The audience is limited to 100 participants (max 10 per table).



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POSTER

Poster presentations will make research contributions visually interesting and accessible to Velo-citizens through digital poster boards, and encourage discussions between researchers and practitioners. Each poster will be pitched in a short engaging style, followed by several rounds of discussions on the posters.

3. Selection process & timeline

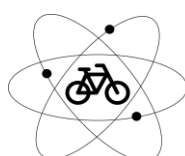
The Velo-city 2025 Gdansk programme will be designed by a Programme Team composed of designated experts from ECF and the City of Gdansk based on the evaluation of the academic abstracts performed by a scientific reviewing team according to their area of expertise. Every abstract is evaluated and rated by at least two different experts according to the following criteria:

- **Alignment with the conference theme/subtheme**
- **Level of innovation and knowledge gain**
- **Interdisciplinary awareness/ applicability beyond original disciplinary boundaries**
- **Practical relevance/contribution to sustainability**

Abstracts making a clear link between research and practical application are encouraged. We also explicitly invite research contributions from the global South.

After the review, the Programme Team will build sessions on the priority topics related to the conference theme and subthemes. Selected abstracts will be assigned to relevant sessions paying particular attention to stakeholder, geographical and gender balance to represent the diversity of the sector. An International Programme Committee composed of selected experts advises the Programme Team along the process to ensure alignment with our sector's priorities.

This year, as an addition to the academic track of Velo-city 2025, a special issue will be published in the [Journal of Cycling and Micromobility Research](#) with full papers building on selected contributions presented at the conference. After the abstract reviewing process, authors of qualifying contributions will be invited to submit a full paper for publication in this special issue, provided their extended abstract contains relevant information on research questions, data, methods, and key findings, and the contribution has been recommended for consideration in the special issue during the review process. We will inform the selected contributors about the details of this process for full paper submission by mid-January 2025.



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Timeline

Abstract submission deadline: 4 November 2024

Peer review and abstract evaluation by the Scientific Committee: 18 November 2024 – 6 December 2024

Invitation to submit a full paper for a special issue of the Journal of Cycling and Micromobility Research: Mid-January 2025

Abstract allocation during the Programme Committee meeting: January 2025

Publication of the preliminary programme with session titles: Mid-February 2025

Notification on abstract status: Mid-February 2025

Deadline to submit a full paper for a special issue of the Journal of Cycling and Micromobility Research (for invited authors): 30 April 2025

Deadline for speaker confirmation and registration: Mid-March 2025

Programme publication with speakers and sessions: End of March 2025

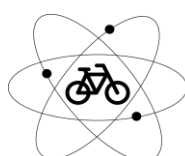
Deadline to submit the final presentation: End of May 2025

Velo-city 2024 Gdansk: 10-13 June 2025

4. Submission rules

Applications for abstracts must comply with the following rules:

1. Please consult the **themes and subthemes** to ensure the relevance of the abstract and choose the most relevant one applicable to your abstract.
2. Be aware that only one person per abstract will be able to present and be granted with the speakers' ticket fee. If you choose the workshop format, all speakers in your session proposal will be granted with the speakers' ticket fee.
3. A selected speaker is not allowed to designate a substitute in case they are not available. It is up to the Velo-city Programme Team to make such a decision if relevant.
4. Abstract & session format:
 - a. The **abstract title** should be limited to 20 words (this will not be included in the abstract word count).
 - b. Abstracts have to be written in **English**.
 - c. The maximum word count is:
 - **1000 words** for a contribution that should be considered for the full-paper submission and publication in the special issue.
 - **300 words** for a contribution that should not be considered for a full-paper submission.



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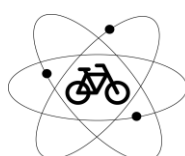


- d. Do not include tables or pictures.
 - e. The final decision on the session format will be taken by the Velo-city Programme Team who is tasked to design the programme with the submitted abstracts. It might differ from your initial choice.
5. **Submission:** Abstracts must be submitted through the Velo-city 2025 website. No abstracts sent by email will be accepted.
 6. **Acceptance of abstracts** into the conference programme will be based on the evaluation by the international expert reviewing team and the Velo-city 2025 Programme Team.
 7. Speakers will receive a notification on the evaluation result of their respective abstracts via the email specified during the abstract submission.
 8. Speakers of the accepted abstracts will be required to confirm their attendance and finalize their registration by 17 March 2025 prior to their final inclusion in the conference programme.
 9. The Velo-city organisers do not cover travel and accommodation costs but speakers enjoy a reduction of 25% on the full conference ticket fee
 10. Selected speakers give the organisers the right to share their presentation slides or posters, and use extracts in ECF publications (with reference to the source).
 11. Selected speakers give the organisers the right to record their speech in audio and/or video format to share it with Velo-city participants and to use extracts in ECF publications (with reference to the source).
 12. Selected speakers commit to help promoting the Velo-city 2025 Gdansk edition.

We look forward to reading your abstract. Should you have any further question do not hesitate to contact us!

Your Velo-city Programme Team

programme@velo-city-conference.com



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