

## Velo-city 2013: Press release

### Only six days to go until the Velo-city conference 2013 in Vienna

- The motto **“The Sound of Cycling”** will unite 1,200 cycling experts, including 330 speakers, from all continents at the **world’s biggest bicycle-themed conference**.
- **Around 400 discussions, seminars and workshops** will cover all facets of urban cycling cultures.
- All of Vienna is keen on cycling and will share in the multifaceted **Velo-city side events and the Vienna Cycling Week**.
- During the **Year of Cycling 2013**, numerous measures for infrastructure improvement are taken to facilitate cycling in the city.

**Vienna, 5 June 2013:** The modal split share of cycling in Vienna, one of the world’s leading “smart cities”, is to be increased from currently six to ten percent by 2015. A strong impulse towards this goal is generated by the Velo-city conference: in keeping with the motto **“The Sound of Cycling – Urban Cycling Cultures”**, the City of Vienna joins forces with the European Cyclists’ Federation (ECF) to host the world’s biggest bicycle-themed conference from 11 to 14 June 2013. During this week, multifaceted side events and the accompanying Vienna Cycling Week will make cycling the top priority in the Austrian capital. Moreover, numerous new measures for infrastructure improvement during the Year of Cycling 2013 make cycling increasingly attractive all year round.

Vienna is considered a leading “smart city” not least because of its innovative traffic and transport planning. “We have declared 2013 the Vienna Year of Cycling and are working on numerous infrastructure-related measures to facilitate urban cycling. Since we aim to increase the modal split share of cycling from currently six to ten percent by 2015, creative ideas and an international exchange of knowledge are essential to attain this goal. For this reason, we are very happy to welcome 1,200 cycling experts, including 330 speakers, from such areas as urban planning and urban development, politics, science, health and architecture as well as from various advocacy groups and NGOs at the world’s biggest bicycle-themed conference, Velo-city 2013, next week. We expect an extremely interesting know-how exchange and will share our knowledge as a leading metropolis in the field of transport development with other cities”, comments Deputy Mayor Maria Vassilakou. Manfred Neun, President of the European Cyclists’ Federation, adds, “For the international developments in cycling and urban mobility infrastructure, cities like Vienna are very important because they take up on new trends, promote creativity and innovative ideas and develop their own typical cycling cultures and communities. This boosts the popularity of cycling even further. We are especially delighted that the Velo-city conference will take place in one of Europe’s great capitals of culture.”

## Highlights of Velo-city 2013

- The Velo-city 2013 conference, which reflects the motto “The Sound of Cycling – Urban Cycling Cultures”, will welcome **prominent speakers** including Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission, Hep Monatzeder, Vice Mayor of the City of Munich, and Amanda Ngabirano, urban planner and scientist from Uganda. Austrian experts such as Alec Hager, managing director and spokesman of Radlobby Österreich, or Georg Hauger, scientist at Vienna University of Technology, will likewise share their know-how.
- **The conference will be inaugurated on 11 June** by the Mayor of Vienna, Michael Häupl, Deputy Mayor Maria Vassilakou, ECF President Manfred Neun as well as the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Nikolaus Berlakovich, and the Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology, Doris Bures.
- Following the inauguration ceremony, the **Cycling Visionary Awards** will be handed over to 60 prize-winners from all over the world, whose project submissions convinced both 31,000 participants in the public voting procedure and a high-level jury with their innovative ideas and approaches to transport development, urban design, cycling and cycling cultures.
- The **Velo-city Mayors’ Panel Discussion on 12 June** will involve the greatest number of mayors and vice mayors of metropolises– including Bratislava, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Munich and Nantes – of any meeting held in Vienna since Austria’s EU accession nearly 20 years ago. The politicians will discuss topical issues of contemporary, eco-friendly mobility in cities and urban agglomerations. Once more, Vienna will present itself as a platform for the exchange of know-how and implementation models.
- The **Cycling Week** and the **Velo-city side events** will offer all citizens and international guests of Vienna a multifaceted program composed of cycling tours, film nights, a bicycle picnic, a bicycle fashion show, bicycle races and many other events.

**Conference registration:** [www.velo-city2013.com](http://www.velo-city2013.com)

**Information on Velo-city 2013 and program:** [www.velo-city2013.com](http://www.velo-city2013.com)

**Media accreditation:** [www.velo-city2013.com/?page\\_id=3720](http://www.velo-city2013.com/?page_id=3720)

**Photos and video statements:** [www.velo-city2013.com/?page\\_id=22](http://www.velo-city2013.com/?page_id=22)

## The Velo-city conference series

The Velo-city conferences serve as global communication and information platforms to provide decision-makers with ideas and impulses for infrastructure planning and implementation in order to foster the everyday use of bicycles in urban environments. Every year, the Velo-city conferences bring together more than 1,000 planners, architects, engineers, social marketers, businesspeople, industry representatives, academic researchers, environmental activists, managers and administrative experts in a selected metropolis to share their know-how and establish networks for the promotion of cycling worldwide. The European Cyclists’ Federation (ECF) is the initiator and co-organiser of the Velo-city conferences.



VELO-CITY 2013  
THE SOUND OF CYCLING  
URBAN CYCLING CULTURES  
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