



ESC. ACTIVE ACCESS ACTIVITIES IN NICOSIA, CYPRUS

Encouraging walking and cycling to a primary school, a high school and a university

Since there is a need to lobby and convince authorities of the necessity of cycling or walking in Cyprus and also introducing a green mode of transport to the island - which definitely will reduce the local energy consumption - the project aims to implement a walking and cycling campaign for a local primary school (C' Primary School of Makedonitissas Stylianos Lenas), a high school (High School of Egkomi) and a university (University of Nicosia). The long-term objective is to have bottom-up lobbying and pressurise the authorities through public demand and a critical approach to the current situation.

The campaign is divided in three sections in relation to the respective target groups:

1. PRIMARY SCHOOL APPROACH: All activities will focus on the 4th, 5th and 6th Grade pupils. A survey has taken place to identify the dominant perceptions and habits of pupils and parents regarding transport modes. In addition children will be asked to express their thoughts, experiences and feelings about how they travel to school through drawings. Active Access campaign materials will be available around the school and a walking bus will run for 2 weeks. The surveys and drawings will be repeated after the campaign to measure its effectiveness.

2 & 3. HIGH SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY APPROACH: A survey has taken place at the school and the university in order to identify the dominant perceptions of pupils regarding transport modes.

The **Unic Cycling Club** has been created at the University and already has 60 members. The cycling club participated actively in one event organised during the European Mobility Week and was the organiser of the Cycling Tour of Egkomi in cooperation with the Municipality. The cycling club created a network of bicycle shops, which offer discounted prices to university students, also T-shirts were printed with the logo of the cycling club and Active Access arm bands were distributed to students.

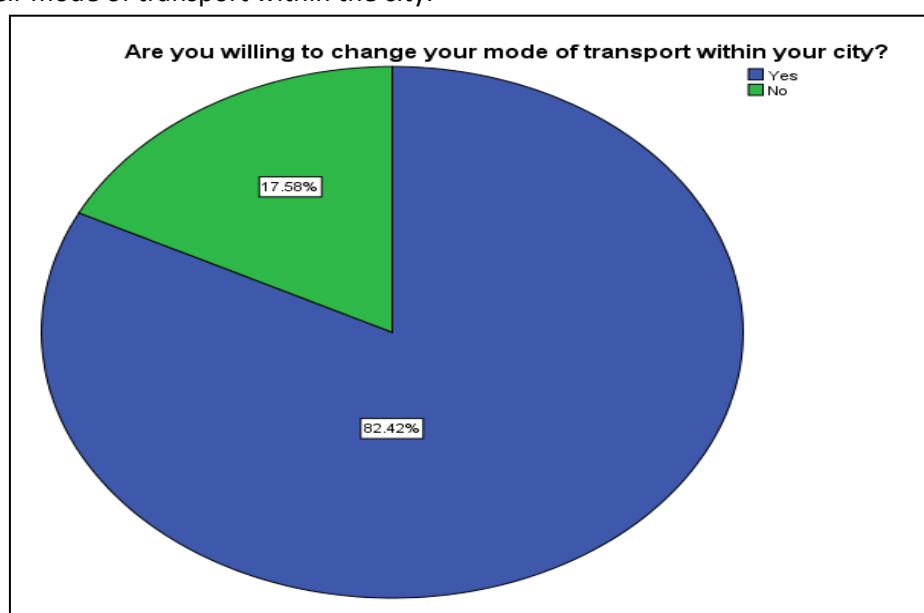
High school students will conduct research based on fieldwork in the surrounding area of their school. Guided and instructed by teachers and/or an expert research team, they will identify obstacles to walking or cycling and lack of infrastructure and proceed with suggestions for improvement of the area.

The campaign in the high school and university will use the following tools: informative presentations, posters, informational leaflets promoting alternative modes of transport, short films, 3D dimensional maps of the surrounding area indicating the walking & cycling routes. Surveys will be completed after the campaign to measure its effectiveness.

BASELINE SITUATION

The baseline situation in Nicosia was ascertained through a survey, the key findings of which were:

- The majority of the survey participants of all target groups (primary, high school and university students) feel safe walking in their neighbourhood.
- The majority of the survey participants feel that it is easier to do short distance everyday trips on foot rather than by car.
- The vast majority of the survey participants set as a major problem when walking the parked cars on the pavements.
- The majority of the participants when they were asked how often they walk they responded that they walk every single day.
- The vast majority of the participants responded that the lack of bicycle lanes in their neighbourhoods is the main reason that would discourage them from cycling.
- The majority of the survey participants despite their current habits they are willing to change their mode of transport within the city.



STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

The following stakeholders have been involved in Active Access, in Nicosia to date:

Stakeholder	Role
Municipality of Engomi	Co organising the Active Access activities
Ministry of Communications and Works	Assistance in organising the Active Access activities
Police (Traffic Department)	Training about road safety to all students participating in the walking school bus
High School of Egkomi	Participated in the survey
C' Primary School of Makedonitissas Stylianos Lenas	Participated in the survey and organisation of the walking school bus
University of Nicosia	Creation of Cycling Club

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