

Position paper

## **Cycle Routes in the Czech Republic**

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The Ministry of Transportation charged its scientific institute - *the Transport Research Centre* - by creation of favourable terms for cycling transport and cycle tourism. In spite of the following steps broader involvement of Czech decision making bodies is still necessary. First steps are implemented through the national project „*Cycle Routes in the Czech Republic*“ coordinated by the Transport Research Centre. The project output will be a sign-posted and promoted network of long-distance, regional and local cycle routes linking all the main places of interest in the Czech Republic. The first phase is intended to be finished in summer of 2000: 4000 km of sign-posted cycle routes.

Promotion of the cycle routes is split up into four levels: international - in the frame of the EuroVelo project (co-ordinated by the European Cyclists' Federation). As for the Czech Republic, the highest promotion level is implemented for long-distance cycle routes (recently publication of the catalogue “Cycling free and easy”; a continuous range of brochures for each long-distance cycle route will follow). The regional promotion is represented by the pilot region of Central Moravia.

In order to make the project viable, development of cycle facilities is under process – e.g. rest places are gradually installed. Some sections of cycle routes need surface adaptation. These cases are mostly used for regular daily journeys which increases the need of their reconstruction. Funding of the project steps is supposed to be provided also from the pre-accession EU funds: SAPARD (rural areas) and ISPA (environment and transport sectors).

### *Expected output from the discussion:*

- comparison of formation process of cycling transport policies in other countries ⇒ to induce Czech decision makers to include construction of cycle routes ⇒ to underline in front of them the favourable approach of EU countries policy makers towards cycle projects
- highlight the image of cycling transport and bicycle use in the Czech Republic ⇒ to bring inspiration for mayors, local designers in Czech cities and especially for representatives of the government departments which are in front of signing a multilateral agreement on cooperation within supporting of environment friendly transports (at the occasion of the cycle network opening)