

24 -28 August 2015, Copenhagen

# THE BIKEABLE CITY SEMINAR

CYCLING EMBASSY OF DENMARK, DESPACIO AND BICIVILIZATE

## Evaluation



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Cycling Embassy  
of Denmark

# ABOUT THE SEMINAR

## **ABOUT THE SEMINAR**

In August 2015, the Cycling Embassy of Denmark (CED) hosted “The Bikeable City Seminar” (Seminario Móvil Ciudad Ciclable) in Copenhagen in collaboration with the coordinating organisations, Despacio from Colombia and Bicivilizate from Chile. The participants represented city governments, private sector and civil society organisations from Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Argentina.

The object of the seminar was to inspire and qualify the participants to better incorporate cycling in their policies and projects. The goal was to use cycle culture from Denmark as inspiration for participants to find solutions in their own cities.

The Danish Cyclists’ Federation (DCF) organised the seminar, and Lotte Bech from Urban Cycle Planning served as course leader. Both are members of the CED. The seminar was held at Aalborg University Copenhagen, AAU.

This report summarizes the contents of the course and the evaluations from participants and coordinators. Overall, the seminar was a success. The participants’ evaluations of the seminar show great satisfaction and engagement. Participants made pilot projects for incorporating the lessons learned into their daily work.

## **PARTICIPANTS AND TRAINERS**

14 participants joined the 5-day seminar. The group included 6 Colombian participants from Bogotá and Pasto, 5 Mexican participants from Guadalajara and Toluca, 2 participants from Santiago de Chile and one from Santa Fé Argentina.

The trainers were experts from the CED’s member organisations: the City of Copenhagen, the City of Aarhus, the Danish Road Directorate, the Danish Cyclists’ Federation, and Gehl



Architects. In addition, experts from Aalborg University Copenhagen and the coordinators from Despacio and Bicivilizate served as trainers and facilitators. Participants had individual meetings with Gobike about the Copenhagen public bike share system and with the organisation “Cycling without Age”.

### **PROGRAM**

The seminar consisted of a mix of lectures, discussions, hands-on workshops and pilot projects integrating participants’ own knowledge as well as bike tours with studies of cycle infrastructure and traffic safety measures. The seminar was based on experiences from former CED masterclasses and requirements from the coordinators about a strong focus on studies on bike in the cities, and exercises on possible changes in the participant’s cities. The seminar was carried out in Spanish. The purpose was to:

- Provide learning in cycle planning and cycle promotion.
- Inspire participants through best-practice examples, workshops and pilot projects for each city to translate experiences from Copenhagen and Aarhus into solutions for the local context of the participants.
- Experience the cycle culture in Copenhagen as an integrated part of urban transport.

### **The overall themes were:**

- City development and Danish cycle planning
- Multi-modal transport
- Urban logic of cities
- Bicycle strategy and bicycle account
- Infrastructure and bike friendly solutions
- Traffic safety for cyclists
- Developing a cycle culture
- Cycle training and campaigns

The seminar aimed to prepare the participants to implement the tools learnt or developed during the seminar in their home cities. For instance, the participants worked with defining pilot projects for each of their cities.

### **COURSE MATERIAL**

The participants received a certificate for successful completion of the seminar. All the course material as well as supplementary background material was made available via a common Dropbox to give the participants easy access to these resources in their future work.



# EVALUATION

The participants evaluated the overall quality of the seminar as well as the individual training sessions, bike tours and site visits in terms of their relevance to their work. Also they provided recommendations for future seminars. We value their feedback.

## GENERAL EVALUATION

All participants completed the general evaluation of the masterclass.

Participants rated activities on a scale of 1-5: "1.Very good" - "2.Good" - "3.Okay" - "4.Poor" - "5.Very poor."

General evaluation of the seminar	Very good (%)	Very good or Good (%)
Overall experience of the seminar	100	100
Overall quality of the learning's	93.3	100
Usefulness of the contents and the course material	80	100
The management of the seminar	66.7	93.3
Duration of the seminar	53.3	93.3
Own participation in the seminar – how active?	53.3	93.3

There was a very high level of satisfaction with the overall experience of the seminar; the quality of learning and the usefulness of the contents and the course material. 100% of the participants rated these as "Very good" or "Good."

*"I would like to thank you all especially for creating the seminar, since it was once of the most beautiful experiences in my life. For me it was not just enriching at an academic level, since it gave us management and planning tools, but also at a personal level. I felt very well received by each one of the organizing members and partners."*

MARIANNA SALVADOR, SANTA FÉ EN BICI, ARGENTINA

Cycling in Copenhagen changed the perception of the possibilities in the participants own cities.

*"For me, the best part was the experience of cycling, enjoying the city and watching how Danes enjoy it. It has resulted in a total change in my perception about what I want for my own city."*

The quality of the learning in the seminar was rated highly:

*"The most important thing was the learning process and the knowledge gained throughout the process of the seminar, including lectures, site visits and workshops that gave us ideas to work on solutions in our cities."*



## EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS

All participants completed the evaluation on how relevant the individual activities were for their job.

Participants rated activities on a scale of 1-5: "1.Very relevant" - "2.Relevant" - "3.Okay" - "4. Less relevant" - "5.Not relevant."

The evaluations of the individual sessions, workshops, bike tours, and site visits vary, but overall, participants deem them relevant to their work. On average, 97% of the participants rated the 19 activities as "Very relevant" or "Relevant."

According to the ratings, the most relevant sessions for the participants work were those on:

- Group work developing pilot projects for the participants cities
- Presentations and feedback on pilot projects and "take aways," messages, strategies and design aspects to bring back home.
- Cycle training for children
- Traffic safety for cyclists
- Cycle culture and campaigns
- Visit to the City of Aarhus
- Visit to Gehl Architects
- City development and Danish cycle planning
- Integration of bicycle and mass transit

100% of the participants rated these activities as "Very relevant" or "Relevant."

Evaluation of Individual activities	Very relevant (%)	Very relevant or Relevant in (%)
Overall	82	97
Sessions	79	98
Workshops and group work	87	99
Bike tours and site visits	81	94

The hands-on workshops with discussions on how to relate the experience from Copenhagen and Aarhus to the participants own cities and group work on pilot projects for each city has been considered the most relevant for their work.

*"Everything was amazing, both the speakers and the organization of the seminar. The goal was to study the Danish case, the seminar's focus, and see how to bring it to our local city contexts. For this reason, the real gem of this seminar was planning the pilot projects for our cities."*

The workshop on Urban Logic and challenges and potentials in developing cycle infrastructure in the participant's cities were also high estimated as relevant.

Bike tours in Copenhagen and Aarhus to study cycle infrastructure and road safety solutions were also important. Participants mentioned having had the possibility to ride a bicycle in the city and understanding cycling as an integrated part of the culture. The participants cycled to "work" to the university every day for a week and experienced commuter cycling in rush hour first hand.

*"The site visits on bicycle were essential to learning about and understanding the specific solutions that have been implemented. In combination with the lectures, the site visits were a great format for learning."*



Asked what was the best part of the seminar, participants emphasize knowledge sharing with the experts and the workshops to create local solutions. Several participants mentioned having the opportunity to learn about the work with cycle training for children in kindergartens and visiting the cycle playground:

*“Being able to meet, both personally and professionally, the people responsible for policy planning, supervision, safety and bicycle promotion at the level of the city and the country. I personally appreciated the workshops (pilots) to create local solutions based on what we learned.”*

and

*“Best of all was getting to see the cycling playground.”*

Asked what were the three key learnings from the seminar, focusing on the soft aspects such as promotion, education and collaboration in interdisciplinary teams in addition the importance to have and share a vision of the city to set goals and to measure the progress by collecting data were mentioned:

*“It is not only about infrastructure issues. It is about culture and the importance of the bicycle as a tool to satisfy the daily needs for transportation and access to the city.”*

and

*“The most fundamental topic that was reiterated in almost every session was the importance of monitoring cycling trends, use, and perception. Copenhagen has a vast set of information and very useful publications based on that data.”*

CARLOS FELIPE PARDO, DESPACIO COLOMBIA

After the seminar some participants have reported about their activities back home. One has written articles and given interviews about the experiences in Copenhagen to local newspapers and have had meetings with the City Government about future projects. Others have arranged or participated in Cycling Games events and are now planning to implement cycle training for children in kindergartens.



# CONCLUSION

Overall, the seminar was a success. It fully met the participants' expectations. According to the evaluations, the participants found the overall experience of the seminar very good, and the individual activities very relevant for their work.

The participants showed great interest and engagement. The final workshop with presentation of pilot projects and on "Messages, strategies and design aspects to bring back home" was very successful. Everyone presented ideas about how to bring new learning's into their daily work.

We would like to thank our coordinators, Carlos Felipe Pardo from Despacio and Claudio Olivares from Bicivilizate, for the great work with the promotion and the enrolment for the seminar and for guiding the group work with pilot projects for the participants' cities. Also thanks to Ivan Salinas for facilitating the seminar in Spanish.

*Danish Cyclists' Federation and  
Lotte Bech, Urban Cycle Planning  
December 2015*

