

YOUR CITY

# BICYCLE-FRIENDLY CITY BENCHMARK REPORT

A Comparative Analysis Based on the  
Copenhagenize Index 2025 -  
EIT Urban Mobility Edition



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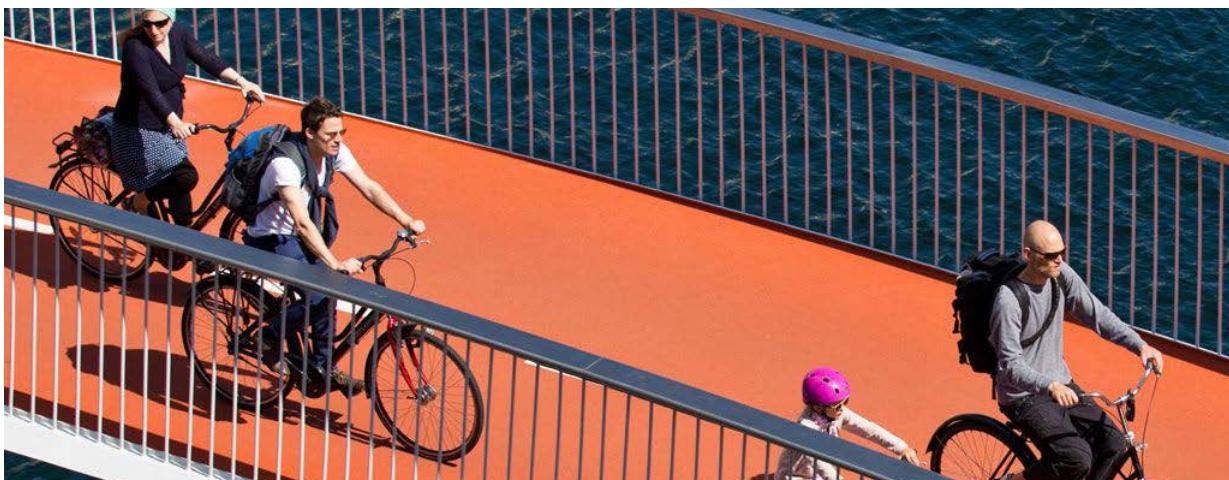
## ABOUT COPENHAGENIZE

**COPENHAGENIZE** is an industry-leading company and an international reference in bicycle mobility, supporting cities and regions worldwide. Founded in 2009 in Copenhagen (DK) – well before cycling was recognized as a legitimate mode of transportation in most cities – the company has since grown into an interdisciplinary consulting firm headquartered in Paris (FR), with team members in Montreal (CA) and Copenhagen.

For more than fifteen years, the Copenhagenize team has helped put millions of citizens back on bicycles by working to make daily trips safer, more efficient and more comfortable. As pioneers in bicycle urbanism, the firm provides a comprehensive range of services, from strategy and policy development to infrastructure design, communications, research and education.

Copenhagenize is also behind innovative tools such as the Desire Lines Analysis Tool and the Copenhagenize Index, the most widely recognized and comprehensive global ranking of bicycle-friendly cities.

Drawing inspiration from leading cycling cities and supported by a deep understanding of diverse cultural and environmental contexts, Copenhagenize provides tailored, ready-to-implement solutions for both major metropolitan areas and smaller communities. The company's expertise covers everyday cycling, tourism and sports. Driven by a strong commitment to improving cities and lives of the people who inhabit them, Copenhagenize works to make the world a little better, one street at a time.



## WHAT IS THE COPENHAGENIZE INDEX?

Started in 2011, **the Copenhagenize Index is an evidence-based benchmark** that tracks how far the world's cities have progressed in making everyday cycling safe, convenient, and mainstream. Its purpose is threefold: to recognize leadership, to provide a transparent framework for planners, advocates, and decision-makers so they might gauge their own progress, and support learning; help cities diagnose strengths and weaknesses, set priorities, and learn from proven practices by peers to accelerate policy improvement.

The **2025 edition** marks a significant evolution of the Index's methodology. **Developed in partnership with EIT – Urban Mobility, and building on more than a decade of comparative research**, this edition introduces a revamped, data-driven framework that balances quantitative indicators with qualitative dimensions. This approach ensures that assessments are both comparable

across regions and grounded in measurable evidence, while also capturing human, cultural, and political dimensions of cycling. As a result, **the Copenhagenize Index now serves not only as a global ranking but also as a usable benchmarking database** for cities, advocates and researchers worldwide.

The Copenhagenize Index is not a public policy evaluation tool in the traditional sense as it does not aim to audit or validate city strategies or tick off policy checklists. Instead, it assesses the cyclability of the city itself: to what extent a person can move easily, safely, and confidently by bicycle. By analyzing factors beyond the existence of a formal bicycle plan, **the Copenhagenize Index captures the real-world conditions that shape the cyclist's experience**. Ultimately, it positions the user at the heart of the assessment. It rewards all local actors involved in making the city bikeable for all.

## WHY A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BASED ON THE COPENHAGENIZE INDEX 2025 - EIT URBAN MOBILITY EDITION?

Cities that are seriously committed to advancing cycling as a mode of everyday transport increasingly depend on robust, reliable data to guide decisions, **prioritize investments, and evaluate the effectiveness** of their policies.

The Copenhagenize Index 2025 – EIT Urban Mobility Edition has proven to be a global reference for understanding how cities perform in terms of cycling infrastructure, usage, and policy development. For many cities, it offers a moment of recognition, validation, or sometimes a healthy snapshot of their reality.

Yet a ranking alone only tells part of the story. The real value of the Copenhagenize Index emerges when cities can interpret their detailed results in context: understanding **why** they perform the way they do, **how** they compare to truly comparable peers, and **where** their greatest opportunities for progress lie.

**Moving from ambition to implementation** requires more than inspiration; it **requires clarity**. This is where the *Bicycle-Friendly City Benchmark Report* comes in. Designed as a policy-oriented decision-support tool, it helps cities move from ranking to understanding, and from understanding to action.

## WHAT IS THE BICYCLE-FRIENDLY CITY BENCHMARK REPORT?

The *Bicycle-Friendly City Benchmark Report* is a **tailored analysis that compares your city's** performance in the Copenhagenize Index 2025 – EIT Urban Mobility Edition with that of **five carefully selected peer cities** included in the same Index. The average regional and Top 30 results are also provided as reference points.

Drawing directly from the valuable and comprehensive dataset as well as from the evaluation methodology of the Copenhagenize Index 2025 – EIT Urban Mobility Edition, **the report transforms scores and rankings into clear insights, practical lessons, and strategic direction.**

It gives decision-makers, planners, and technical teams a precise understanding of where their city stands today, and which levers can realistically accelerate progress.

Rather than benchmarking exclusively against top-performing cities, **the analysis prioritizes relevance** over idealization. Comparisons are grounded in similar urban, institutional, geographic, and mobility contexts, examining both convergences and divergences, allowing cities to learn from peers facing comparable constraints, opportunities, and political realities. The result is an analysis that is both credible and actionable.



# WHAT IS THE SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE REPORT?

## 1. Overall Performance & Positioning

A **clear snapshot** of your city's overall ranking and score distribution across all the Copenhagenize Index 2025 – EIT Urban Mobility Edition indicators.

This snapshot is supported by a highlight of the key strengths and weaknesses of the city, **offering an immediate strategic understanding** of the current performance.



## 2. Comparative analysis and Insights

This section forms **the analytical core** of the *Bicycle-Friendly City Benchmark Report*. It combines criterion-based comparison, peer city insights, and targeted opportunity identification into **an integrated analysis** designed to support strategic decision-making.

**The Data: Seeing where your city stands, clearly and in context**

	Regional Average	Your City	City 1	City 2	City 3	City 4	City 5
<b>Safe &amp; Connected Infrastructure</b>							
Infrastructure density (km of bicycle infra/100 km of roadway)	13	✓	12	41	19	11	33
Parking density (stands/1K pop)	65	✓	67	120	300	100	220
Traffic 30 km/h (% of km of roadway)	40	✓	10	44	83	15	25
Safety_rate (rate/100K pop)	1	✓	0	1	1	1	N/A

This section presents a criterion-based comparative analysis with peer cities, structured around the three core pillars and underlying indicators of the Copenhagenize Index 2025 – EIT Urban Mobility Edition.

Each pillar is analyzed comparatively, highlighting the **peer cities data across all of the Index indicators**.

Averages for the **Region** and the **Copenhagenize Index Top 30** cities are included to provide additional context and benchmarks.

Pillar	Indicators	Purpose
Safe & Connected Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bicycle infrastructures</li> <li>Bicycle parking areas</li> <li>Traffic calming</li> <li>Safety</li> </ul>	Measures what cities build – the physical investments and design standards that enable safe, continuous cycling.
Usage & Reach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bicycle modal share</li> <li>Modal share growth</li> <li>Women's share of bicycle trips</li> <li>Bike share systems</li> <li>Cargo bikes</li> </ul>	Measures what people do – how much, how often and by who cycling is practiced in daily life.
Policy & Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political commitment</li> <li>Advocacy</li> <li>Image of the Bicycle</li> <li>Urban Planning</li> </ul>	Measures what makes progress possible – governance, funding, planning and public perception that drive long-term change.

## The Learning: Understanding what makes other cities perform the way they do

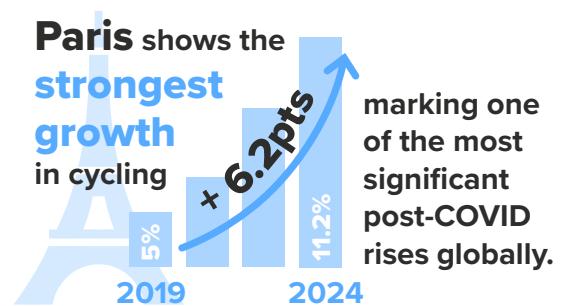
Behind every score is a story worth understanding. This section looks beyond the numbers to understand **how the selected peer cities achieved their results**, showcasing key decisions, flagship projects, and governance approaches that have helped translate ambition into everyday cycling conditions.

Drawing on Copenhagenize's extensive international experience in bicycle urbanism, the analysis is conducted by a team member familiar with your city's context and overall bicycle mobility environment, **ensuring that insights remain grounded and relevant**.

Depending on the indicators highlighted, the report may present:

- Key performance drivers
- Notable policies, design or governance approaches
- Contextual factors influencing the transferability of these practices

This section focuses on **learning value, not imitation**, helping cities understand what can be adapted to their own context.



## The Action: Turning improvement opportunities into strategic leverage

This is where insight becomes momentum, by **translating comparison and learning into clear, policy-relevant action**. Based on the criterion-based analysis, this section identifies priority opportunities for action and leverage points, helping your city focus on the measures that matter most to accelerate progress and strengthen its cycling system.

For your city, the report identifies:

- Performance opportunities where improvement is most achievable
- Areas where existing efforts could deliver greater impact
- Underutilized policy or design tools already proven effective in comparable cities

**Accelerate** the implementation of current Cycling master plan or Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan & **Establish** a dedicated team working on cycling policy

## 3. The Way Forward

A concise, cross-cutting synthesis **highlighting strategic levers for action**, offering a transversal reading of the city through the Copenhagenize Index.

This section shows how different pillars, indicators, and policies interconnect, translating analysis into insights that can **directly support** political discussion, internal coordination, and time-bound implementation.



## HOW ARE THE RIGHT COMPARISON CITIES SELECTED?

Choosing the right peer cities is central to the value of the analysis. While global leaders can serve as inspiration, **meaningful learning** requires comparisons rooted as much in reality than in aspiration.

Peer cities are selected based on a combination of factors, including:

- Population size, density, and/or urban structure
- Governance and institutional context, including the maturity of cycling policy
- Mobility culture, cycling uptake, and modal share trajectories
- Climate, topography, and spatial constraints

A preselected **shortlist of 6 to 8 potential benchmark cities** is shared prior to analysis, ensuring transparency and alignment with local expectations.

The city may choose the five cities used in the report from this shortlist or from the wider pool of Top 100 cities included in the 2025 Copenhagenize Index. If needed, the Copenhagenize team can draw on its international expertise in bicycle urbanism to support the final selection.

City (Country)	Population	Copenhagenize Index Ranking
Utrecht (NL)	≈ 376,000	1
Copenhagen (DK)	≈ 669,000	2
Ghent (BE)	≈ 270,000	3
Helsinki (FI)	≈ 684,000	6
Münster (DE)	≈ 322,000	7
Malmö (SE)	≈ 365,000	16
Graz (AT)	≈ 306,000	21
Bergen (NO)	≈ 294,000	36
<b>Your City</b>	<b>XXX,XXX</b>	<b>?</b>

## WHY DOES THE BENCHMARK REPORT MATTERS NOW?

The *Bicycle-Friendly City Benchmark Report* is designed as an evidence-based strategic asset. By situating your city's performance within the three core pillars and across all indicators of the Copenhagenize Index 2025 – EIT Urban Mobility Edition, the report enables cities to:

- Move beyond rankings toward a deeper, contextual understanding of results
- Learn from cities facing similar challenges and operating under comparable conditions
- Identify realistic, high-impact pathways for progress
- Strengthen alignment between political ambition and technical delivery
- Inform future strategies with internationally grounded, yet locally relevant insights

By transforming the valuable data from the Copenhagenize Index 2025 – EIT Urban

Mobility Edition into actionable intelligence, the *Bicycle-Friendly City Benchmark Report* becomes a strategic asset and a practical tool with potential for immediate implementation for cities committed to advancing cycling as a pillar of sustainable urban mobility.



## WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DELIVER, AND ON WHAT TIMELINE?

The final report is a **16-page illustrated document** combining comparative data, visual analysis, and clear narrative insights, all based on the Copenhagenize Index 2025 - EIT Urban Mobility Edition dataset.

The *Bicycle-Friendly City Benchmark Report* is delivered within **15 working days** of project confirmation and receipt of the purchase order.

Each project is led by a senior Copenhagenize specialist with direct experience in cycling policy and bicycle urbanism. The analysis draws on an internationally-experienced team, whose collective expertise spans a wide range of urban, institutional, and cultural contexts. Reports can be delivered in **English, French, Spanish, or Arabic**, ensuring accessibility for both technical teams and decision-makers.



## WHAT DOES THE REPORT COST?

For **cities that contributed data** to the 2025 Copenhagenize Index by completing the questionnaire distributed in summer 2025:

The **baseline price** is: **2,800€** (VAT excluded).

For **cities that did not participate** in the 2025 Copenhagenize Index data collection:

The **baseline price** is: **4,800€** (VAT excluded).

*In this case, Copenhagenize will provide a tailored questionnaire to collect the data required for the comparative analysis, and the analysis will start once the completed questionnaire is returned.*

Upon delivery of the report, cities benefit from a **complimentary 45-minute debrief call** with a Copenhagenize team member to walk through the key findings, contextualize the results, and highlight priority insights.

This discussion also serves as an opportunity to explore how the findings could inform next steps, should the city wish to deepen the analysis or move toward implementation support.

**Optional upon request:** *Strategic presentation to elected officials or city leadership*

Copenhagenize will prepare and deliver a clear, visually supported on-line presentation translating the report's findings into key messages for decision-makers, helping build political understanding, support, and momentum.

The price for a 90-minute on-line presentation is: **500€** (VAT excluded).

## HOW CAN COPENHAGENIZE FURTHER SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION?

For many cities, understanding where to improve is an important first step. However, **turning insight into action often requires alignment** across departments, political buy-in, and shared understanding among stakeholders.

To support this transition, the following implementation-oriented options can be added to the *Bicycle-Friendly City Benchmark Report* (additional costs and prices may vary based on scope and travel expenses):

### **Facilitated capacity-building workshop:**

An interactive in-person or on-line session with political and/or technical teams and relevant departments to unpack the findings, explore transferability of best practices, and identify priority actions tailored to local constraints and opportunities.

### **Follow-up advisory support meeting(s) :**

Targeted discussion(s) to support next steps, refine priorities, and integrate the report's insights into ongoing strategies, projects, or policy frameworks.



### **Detailed Bicycle Policy Evaluation & Benchmark Report:**

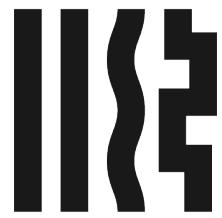
A comprehensive, in-depth assessment grounded in the Copenhagenize Index methodology and in the local ecosystem. This extended report provides a systematic, criterion-by-criterion and sub-criterion analysis of the city's cycling ecosystem, combining quantitative data, qualitative assessment, and first-hand insights gathered through a dedicated site visit and interviews with key local stakeholders.

Designed for cities seeking a deeper and more granular understanding of their cycling system, this 30 to 40-page detailed report builds on the Copenhagenize Index framework and goes beyond comparative benchmarking, laying the analytical foundation for long-term, structural improvement.



The *Implementation Support Options* are designed to ensure that the strategic analysis goes beyond being a static document, and becomes a **shared reference and an operational tool** that actively supports implementation and creates local momentum.

If your city is ready to take the next step and interested in deepening the impact of the *Bicycle-Friendly City Benchmark Report*, Copenhagenize can help identify the most relevant options and provide tailored recommendations, timelines, and pricing.



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