

# Cycle Logistics, a new phenomenon in sustainability.

Transport and freight logistics are putting a heavy burden on the viability of almost all cities around the world. Especially the last few miles of each transport can be very cumbersome as they often mean entering a city with a truck or carrier producing large emissions of carbon dioxide and also constipate narrow inside city-streets and hampering a smooth local traffic. These kinds of transports grow hand-over-hand and in all countries of the world.

A relatively new development in this field is the rising popularity of Cycle Logistics, where transporters use so-called carrier-bicycles to bring goods from outside the city into town centers and vice versa. The advantages are obvious.

Cycle Logistics is taking carbon out of last mile deliveries in more and more cities and towns. Cost effective, fast and reliable, Cycle Logistics offers a secure, professional, zero emission service to communities everywhere. From an environmental point of view this is a major improvement. At the borders of towns and cities throughout Europe we see more and more transfer stations, 'hubs', where goods are being re-packed and made fit for further transport into city centers.



But there is more. Cycle logistics appear to be able to create thousands of new jobs for inventive people. Young or old, independent of gender, entrepreneurial individuals can prepare their own 1-2 persons company, and with the help of micro-credits invest in the relatively small financial needs of their own start-up.

In this way Cycle Logistics meets with another prerequisite of sustainable development: it can have a social impetus with a high level of gender equality and promote social independency.

Although Cycle Logistics is not new, it is a relatively unknown phenomenon. Since some years initiators from many countries meet annually during the International Cargo Bike Festival (ICBF) in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, organized by Mr. Jos Sluijsmans. Participants from over 20 countries, from Europe, the Americas and Asia attend the ICBF. In 2016 the ICBF is planned on 16 April (Conference) and 17 April (Fair).



The ICBF is organized in close cooperation with the European Cycle Logistics Federation (ECLF). The ECLF had its first meeting in 2013 in Cambridge, UK and was established in 2014 in Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

180 companies throughout Europe are member of the ECLF.

Most members earn a fair living with their work. Some of them have created employability for dozens of people. Cycle Logistics has proven to be a financially sound concept.

DHL Express in the Netherlands has replaced 33 delivery vans by delivery-cycles and saves nearly half a million euro's annually with this swap.

What can be learned from experiences so far is that the introduction of delivery bicycles in town and cities can become a major factor in future transport systems, in every part of the world. Especially in the congested and polluted cities in Africa and in Asia this concept could become an important factor of improving livelihoods for many, many people. Cycle Logistics have proven to be an outstanding means of sustainable transport in all



respects:

- clean, zero carbon impact
- financially well manageable
- potential source of employability for many inventive people: good chance to earn a decent livelihood.

Cycle Logistics is growing fast, with cycle-based delivery companies springing up in cities everywhere. How do these companies make cycle logistics work? What is the best way to organise deliveries by bike? How do these companies ensure that their riders are safe? Who has designed and built the perfect cargo bike? What actions are municipal authorities taking to make cycle logistics happen? All these questions can be asked at the CycleLogistics discussiongroup at LinkedIn, which is promoted and supported by the European Cycle Logistics Federation. You can also consider membership of this Federation by submitting to:

<http://federation.cyclelogistics.eu/contact>

For an impression of the International Cargo Bike Festival 2015, check out the blogpost of Bicycle Dutch: <https://bicycledutch.wordpress.com/2015/04/21/international-cargo-bike-festival-2015/> And more photos, videos, articles, etc. at: <http://www.cargobikefestival.com/news/photos-videos-blogs-articles-on-icbf2015/>

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Website: [www.cargobikefestival.com](http://www.cargobikefestival.com)

Facebookpage on cargo bikes: The Happy Cargo Biker / Blij dat ik Bakfiets:

<https://www.facebook.com/BlijdatikBakfiets>

Cycle Logistics LinkedIn discussion group: <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=8205534>

European Cycle Logistics Federation:

<http://federation.cyclelogistics.eu/content/home>

CycleLogistics Baseline study:

[http://cyclelogistics.eu/docs/111/CycleLogistics\\_Baseline\\_Study\\_external.pdf](http://cyclelogistics.eu/docs/111/CycleLogistics_Baseline_Study_external.pdf)

