



POLISH AND NORWEGIAN CITIES
together for climate and energy



VETURILO – THE WARSAW PUBLIC BIKE

Sector: Sustainable transport

Timeframe: from 2012

Location: Capital City of Warsaw



Photo: Municipal Roads Administration, Warsaw

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Capital City of Warsaw, which is a member of the Association of Municipalities Polish Network "Energie Cités" since 2010, aspires to the title of "green metropolis". As such, it aims at ensuring high quality of life for the citizens combined with sustainable development and environmental protection. As a Covenant of Mayors signatory, in 2011 the city adopted "Sustainable Energy Action Plan for Warsaw until 2020".

One of the areas of intervention envisaged in the action plan is transport. Some of the tasks, including promotion of cycling, were also described in the document entitled "The Transportation System of Warsaw: Sustainable Development Strategy up to the year 2015 and successive years".

The reason for introducing municipal bike rental service Veturilo was the need to reduce vehicle traffic and to create conditions for switching from private cars to clean and ecological mode of transport, complementing public transport in the central part of the city. Due to its large popularity and thanks to the financial support from the Warsaw's districts, the system was expanded to cover also non-central areas. Today, Veturilo bikes are available in 15 districts.

Warsaw's cycle routes network covers a total length of 457 km. It is complemented with one-way streets, where cyclists are allowed to ride both ways and streets, where speed limit for cars doesn't exceed 30 km/h.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The bike rental service is available since August 2012. The cycling season lasts from the 1st of March till the 30th of November. 3 000 bikes located in over 200 stations are at citizens' disposal. Except for the traditional, single-track bikes for adults, from 2015 the users can also rent tandem bikes and small bikes for children from 4 to 6 years old (Veturilko).

An unquestionable advantage of the system is that it is user-friendly. In order to rent a bike, a person needs to register in the system and make the initial payment of 10 PLN (approx. 2.5 EUR). The bikes are electronically locked to the station and are released after pressing the "rental" button at the terminal. To return the bike it is enough to enter it into electric lock. Closing the lock is confirmed with a beep and the system registers the vehicle return.

The bikes are also equipped with a clamp with digital lock, which can be used to secure the bike during a stop outside the station or when there are no free bike stands available at the station.

Additional facility for the user is the special mobile phone application (Nextbike), which helps to find the nearest bike rental station, check the number of available bikes and rent a bike.

The cost of renting a bike varies depending on the time of rental. For up to 20 minutes it is free of charge. After that time, following fees are charged: from 21 to 60 minutes - 1 PLN (approx. 0.25 EUR), second hour - 3 PLN, third hour - 5 PLN, fourth hour and each subsequent - 7 PLN.



FINANCING SCHEME

The project was funded from the municipality's own budget. The contract signed with the system operator (Nextbike company) on the 15th of May 2012 is binding until the end of 2016. It covers the service of launching, handling and maintenance of the Veturilo bike rental system in a way that would enable each user to rent a bike for a fixed price. The contract determines provider's monthly fee, which is paid out regularly during the contract's duration. The revenues from the system's operation (i.e. charges paid by Veturilo users) go to the municipality's budget and are used to finance further investments in cycling infrastructure.

PROJECT RESULTS

In the period from the 1st of August 2012 till the end of cycling season in 2015 the system registered nearly 375 000 users and a total of 6.7 Mio bike rentals. These numbers indicate that the Warsaw's public bike is one of the seven biggest bike rental systems in Europe.

An average time of single bike rental is 27 minutes. In 2015 a record number of rentals was achieved on the 11th of April and reached 15 955 rentals. The most active system user rented a bike 1 101 times, which gives approx. 4.4 rentals per day.



Photo: Municipal Roads Administration, Warsaw

Implementation of the Veturilo system contributed to reduction of negative environmental impact of the Warsaw's transport system, including reduction of low-stack emissions.

DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS

In September and October 2015 the municipality carried out public consultations aiming to learn more about inhabitant's expectations towards further development of the public bike system. The feedback gathered will be used to develop relevant development concept.

In 2016 Warsaw plans construction of approx. 75 km on new cycle routes, which will increase the comfort of both Veturilo system users and other cyclists. Majority of the new routes will be built in connection with the implementation of the participatory budget for 2016, which will be used to finance 42 projects supporting cycling selected by the citizens. It is also worth to mention that the city budget for 2016-2017 foresees approx. 130 Mio PLN (approx. 30 Mio EUR) for investments in cycling infrastructure.

Moreover, within the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) instrument financed from the EU funds and included in the Regional Operational Programme for Mazowieckie Voivodeship, it was planned to construct new and modernise existing cycle routes serving communication purposes - both in Warsaw and in several neighbouring municipalities. The investment shall be completed by 2023. The expansion of the cycling system means the development of the coherent cycling network and the construction of the accompanying infrastructure, e.g. bike parks.

MORE INFORMATION

www.veturilo.waw.pl

www.transport.um.warszawa.pl/ruch-rowerowy/veturilo