



## **Call for Abstracts for the EuroVelo & Cycling Tourism Conference 2025**

The European Cyclists' Federation, Hungarian Cycling Tourism Association, Centre for Development of Active and Ecotourism, Active Hungary and the City of Balatonfüred invite cycling and tourism professionals to submit an abstract for the [EuroVelo & Cycling Tourism Conference 2025](#) programme. The Call for Abstracts is open until **25 March, 23:59 CEST**.

Taking place from **24 to 26 September in Balatonfüred, Hungary**, the EuroVelo & Cycling Tourism Conference is the largest yearly professional event gathering all actors involved in the cycling and cycling tourism sectors. It stimulates knowledge and best practice transfer on EuroVelo, cycling tourism and cycle route networks at an international level.

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### Theme

#### **Cycling towards a sustainable future**

Cycling is a healthy and inherently sustainable means of transport and leisure. This is why it should be part of all strategies to reduce carbon emissions, as it helps meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Transport accounts for one-fifth of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, while the tourism industry represents 8.8% of global emissions (including direct and indirect emissions). More cycling and cycling tourism should be part of innovative approaches to make our societies more resilient and sustainable, in the present and the future.

Cycling and active travelling have numerous concrete social and economic benefits, too: they are positive for local communities, rural and urban alike, with a high return on investment for cycle route infrastructure and services. Even on longer distances and outside of cities, when mixed with public transport, cycling can be a game-changer for destination access and local mobility. And cycling brings joy to everyone, across generations.

The EuroVelo & Cycling Tourism Conference 2025 aims to bring together the international community to reflect and exchange ideas on common challenges, threats and opportunities related to sustainability, with a special focus on EuroVelo and cycle route networks.

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## Subthemes

### **Subtheme 1: Investing in cycling for sustainable economic development**

The development of cycling is inevitably linked to the availability of funding and investments. As funding sources for environmental actions increase, mapping them out and improving access becomes relevant for all actors involved in the development of cycling. Cycling is a growing business that gathers interest from public and private funding, including the industry. Demonstrating return on investment is crucial: only with clear data showing measurable results can we show the positive impact of cycle routes and cycling tourism on sustainable social and economic development, as well as on the environment.

#### **Priority topics**

1. Funding sources and schemes for cycling projects, including EU, national, private funding, and fundraising strategies
2. Stimulating socio-economic developments connected to cycling tourism, all year long
3. Measuring the economic impact of cycle routes and cycling tourism funding

## **Subtheme 2: Developing cycle routes to tackle climate change**

Cycle routes sometimes cross fragile ecosystems. In the current environmental crisis, destination and route managers have an extra challenge: prevent and adapt to natural disasters (e.g. flooding) and extreme weather (e.g. heatwaves) while offering a high-quality experience to visitors and residents all year long. Cycling tourism has its own carbon footprint, too, with access to the destination representing the largest share. Multimodality can be a solution, but it is complex to develop at a larger scale. Is it ever possible to combine nature protection and climate change mitigation with an increase in cycling levels?

### **Priority topics**

1. Measuring and addressing the environmental impact of cycling tourism
2. Resilient cycle routes and services: anticipate, manage, repair
3. Mixing cycling and public transport for more sustainable travel

## **Subtheme 3: Maximising social impacts through cycling**

While tourism is a key economy along the Balaton Lake, overtourism is a problem in the summer. Developing attractive cycle routes (including EuroVelo routes) and services is an innovative way to ease the pressure on towns like Balatonfüred and involve lagging areas in the tourism economy, ultimately benefitting both tourists and locals. The social aspect of cycling is also about inspiration, nudging, and actions that reduce social inequalities and promote inclusivity and the many benefits of cycling on physical and mental health. At all ages, cycling brings joy and happiness!

### **Priority topics**

1. Developing the attractiveness of lagging and rural areas with cycle routes for visitors and residents
  2. Overtourism and local negative perception of tourism: how can cycling be a solution?
  3. Inclusive cycling projects contributing to health, reducing social inequalities, connecting generations, engaging youth
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## Session formats

To make the EuroVelo & Cycling Tourism Conference an engaging one, four formats will shape the sessions.

- **Panel discussions:** moderated debates with about 4 experts around a given topic. Initial short presentations of 5 minutes are given by each speaker at the beginning of the session to frame the debate. The moderated discussion with all speakers follows. At the end of the debate a Q&A session with the audience takes place.
- **Lectures:** presentations from 4 to 5 experts around a given topic. After an introduction of the subject by the moderator, each speaker presents a case study in 15 minutes. After the presentations a Q&A session with the audience takes place.
- **Fast Pedal Talks:** 20 slides with mainly pictures are shown for 20 seconds each (total of 6 minutes and 40 seconds). This format keeps presentations concise and fast-paced, allowing for a lot of new ideas to be presented in a short period of time. After the presentations, speakers are available for direct and targeted Q&A.
- **Workshops:** interactive sessions around a specific topic that allow to introduce ideas or problems and brainstorm them or find solutions with a collective, hands-on approach.

Choose your preferred format when submitting an abstract. If your abstract is accepted, please note that the session format suggested by the hosts may be different from the preferred one.

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## Why submit an abstract?

There are many reasons why you should submit an abstract to feature in the programme of the EuroVelo & Cycling Tourism Conference 2025!

- You will be able to present your own ideas and best practices to an international audience of 300+ professionals in the cycling and tourism sectors, including public bodies, businesses and non-profit organisations
- You will increase the awareness of the exciting project(s) you want to present, and throw a spotlight on it
- You will meet many other inspiring speakers and attendees, growing your own network and learning from them as they will learn from you
- You will meet and network with businesses and stakeholders from Europe and beyond
- You can get feedback and identify partners to further develop your concept or idea
- If your abstract is selected, you will receive a 25% discount on the Conference ticket price

- ... And much more!
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## Who can submit an abstract?

The EuroVelo & Cycling Tourism Conference is a professional conference and not an academic one. This means that all professionals can submit an abstract and present their best practices and ideas. Contributions from the academic community are always welcome, but academics should be aware that we do not accept nor require papers, and no academic publications follow the event.

The same person or organisation can submit more than one abstract.

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## Before submitting an abstract

To maximise the chances that your abstract is successful, we recommend that you:

- Get familiar with the theme and subthemes of the Conference, carefully read the priority topics, and identify one that fits the idea/project(s) you would like to present
  - Identify a preferred format for your presentation
  - Write the abstract in English, keeping the maximum number of words in mind: 125 characters for the title, 2000 characters for the text of your abstract
  - Have a mugshot (jpg, png) ready for upload and a few biography lines in English (max 350 characters).
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## How to submit an abstract?

You can submit an abstract on the official website of the conference. Connect to the platform by clicking on the link below and fill in the form. You have time until **25 March 2025, 23:59 CEST** to finalise your submission. Partial or incomplete submissions will not be taken into consideration.

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT\*\*](#)

For any questions about the abstracts and the submission platform, please contact the organising team at [abstract@eurovelo2025balatonfured.com](mailto:abstract@eurovelo2025balatonfured.com).

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## Selection and next steps

Received abstracts will be evaluated by at least three reviewers appointed by the co-hosts according to the following criteria:

- Promotion of cycling and sustainable tourism
- Level of innovation and originality
- Prospect of transferability
- Alignment with the conference theme and subthemes

After the review, the Programme Team will build sessions on the topics around the conference theme and subthemes. Selected abstracts will be assigned to relevant sessions paying particular attention to geographical and gender balance. An International Programme Committee composed of selected experts advises the Programme Team along the process to ensure alignment with our sector's priorities.

All people who have submitted one or multiple abstracts will be notified by email of the selection or rejection of their abstract(s) in **June 2025**.

For accepted abstracts, please note that the session format may be different from the preferred one. The title of selected abstracts may be updated by the hosts, in coordination with the selected speaker, to better fit the programme of the EuroVelo & Cycling Tourism Conference 2025.

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### **We look forward to receiving your abstract!**

For any questions about the abstracts and the submission platform, please contact the organising team at [abstract@eurovelo2025balatonfured.com](mailto:abstract@eurovelo2025balatonfured.com).