

Cycling habits in a Swiss and a Dutch urban school in 2020 and how schools can promote cycling



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1. Preface

1.1 Explanation of the choice of topic

Thirty-five thousand kilometers of bicycle-only roads with 23 million bicycles for 17 million inhabitants, making 4.5 billion bicycle trips per year (Netherlands Institute for Transport Policy Analysis, 2018). That is the Netherlands, the place where I grew up. So, obviously, I grew up with a lot of cycling. I went almost everywhere within a reasonable distance by bike and so did my friends. When I moved to Switzerland, I kept my cycling habit, soon to find out there were fewer cyclists on the roads than I was used to. I also noticed more hills and fewer bicycle lanes, making cycling harder. In addition, public transport seemed more frequent and was never late. Could this be the reason why fewer people use their bicycle in Switzerland? Nonetheless, I could not imagine that being a sufficient reason not to use a bicycle. To me, it just seemed much more convenient to use your bike to go to school, for example. With a bicycle, you do not have to wait at a bus stop, cycling is often faster on short stretches, and it is a good way to wake yourself up. So, when thinking about my personal benefits of cycling, I simply could not understand why there were not as many cyclists here as in the Netherlands. Therefore, I decided to write my matura paper about this topic.

1.2 Acknowledgments

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