

#6.#BIKEYGEES

BIKEYGEES Since 2015, Germany

<http://bikeygees-berlin.org/>

All information in this entry is sourced from the link above and contact mentioned in the document.

Topic relevance

INCLUSION / PLAYING TOGETHER / GETTING OPPORTUNITIES / BIKE

Factor of success **CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

Type **INITIATIVE/PROJECT**

Language English, German

Target population

Women living in Berlin, Germany.

Further information / Contact

www.bikeygees.org

www.facebook.com/bikeygeesberlin/

Twitter@bikeygees

Contact, Annette Kr ger & Dr. Anne Seebach, Founders

Synthesis of the good example

#BIKEYGEES is a Berlin-based project for education and integration, where women offer open bike trainings for (refugee) women and girls who newly arrived to the city and do not know how to bike. The lessons do not only include practical cycling lessons, but also theoretical classes about German traffic rules and basic bike repair workshops. It is a comprehensive approach that aims to share empowerment, independence, CO2-neutral transport, fresh air and exercise, joy, and mutual success stories with its volunteers and participants. It also combines physical activity, relaxation, and active and fun use of a newly acquired language. Its common goal is to foster a sense of community and friendship. The organisations helps refugee women to help dissolving barriers between people.

Context and approach

Cycling is one of the basic building blocks of (re)gaining individual mobility for refugees and newcomers to Berlin. Women in particular need this support. Many newly arrived women have to walk to get around. They feel isolated in their accommodation. Cycling is an obvious way to explore their new environment. It is important, quite apart from any intercultural benefits, to consider cycling as a sustainable approach to ensuring mobility and independence. This initiative is designed to strengthen the prospects and hopes of those who have lost not just their home, but also in many ways their independence.

Highlights and outcomes

It is a good example of the rapid growth of a local initiative, which bases its success on having a clear objective: teaching refugee women how to ride a bike. It offers higher mobility, empowerment and inclusion in the society for refugee woman, encourages friendships, and helps to close the gap between newcomers and locals. This good example will help you to understand how: cover the gap of inclusive and accessible programs for refugee and newly arrived young people / promote and implement effectively a local initiative of integration of refugees through sport / make quick and visible changes (volunteering based)/raise awareness of cultural differences / establish links between refugees and the community and dissolve barriers.

Information about project/organisation's holder

#BIKEYGEES is an initiative kicked off in September 2015 as a grassroots project to empower female refugees. Since then, they have grown to an official NGO fostering the education and integration of women. They are funded mainly by donations and function on the support of a large number of volunteers.