

Information sheet for participants:

E-biking in Switzerland (EBIS)

Contact address for questions: ebis-wwz@unibas.ch

Project leader: Prof. B. Hintermann, University of Basel; b.hintermann@unibas.ch

Prof. K.W. Axhausen, ETH Zurich; axhausen@ivt.baug.ethz.ch

Data Protection Officer ETH: Tomislav Mitar, tomlav.mitar@sl.ethz.ch

Please read the text below carefully and contact us if there is anything you do not understand or would like to know.

Information on the study

What is examined and how?

The study uses a smartphone app that records your location and recognizes which means of transport you are using. This travel data can be confirmed or adjusted by you and is regularly summarized to you by e-mail. The study also includes questionnaires on your (bicycle) mobility and socio-economic characteristics. Your data and those of around 3,000 other participants help us to better understand the mobility behavior of cyclists and e-bikers and to derive improvements for the cycling infrastructure in Switzerland. Another aim of the study is to estimate the potential for CO₂ reductions through e-biking in Switzerland.

Who can participate?

To participate in the study, you must:

- Be at least 14 years old
- Live in Switzerland
- Own a bicycle (with or without electric assistance) or use one at least two days a week
- Own a smartphone

What are my tasks during the study?

To participate in the study, you need to install the app, read emails, and fill in questionnaires. The main part is to validate the trip data in the app. In doing so, you can both confirm the recognized means of transport and indicate your activities between the routes. Please validate the journey data regularly and promptly in order to record it as correctly as possible.

The time required for the two to three surveys (depending on your study group) is about 15 minutes each. You will need a maximum of 5 minutes per day to validate your route data.

What benefits and risks can I expect?

Your participation in the smartphone study will give you an overview of your mobility behavior. There are no risks for you resulting from this study.

What are my rights during participation?

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You can cancel your participation at any time without giving any reason and without any disadvantage.

Data protection

With the help of the app, we collect your movement data. We carry out traffic analyses based on this movement data. This serves to derive mobility-related indicators (e.g. choice of means of transport, distances travelled). In addition, we collect data by means of surveys on your living and working conditions and aspects of transport.

All data collected during the study will be treated strictly confidentially and used exclusively for research purposes. The evaluation of the data is pseudonymised and the results are published in aggregated form, so that no conclusions can be drawn from the publications about individual persons.

If you agree at the end of the study, you can voluntarily continue to use the app for up to three months (90 days) after the end of the study and thus collect additional valuable trail data. After this period, we will block your access to the app and will not collect any further data points.

In the course of conducting the study, your personal data will be processed by the staff directly involved in the project. The members of the ETH Zurich Ethics Committee may view the original data for review and control purposes, but in strict compliance with confidentiality. Please read the data protection notice for more detailed information on data protection.

What are my rights to the data?

You can request information about the personal data collected from you at any time. You can also request that your data collected as part of the study be corrected, handed over to you, blocked for processing or deleted. You can withdraw your consent to the processing of your personal data at any time without giving reasons. To do so, please contact the person indicated above.

Are any health damages insured?

Any damage to health that arises in direct connection with the study and is due to demonstrable fault on the part of ETH Zurich is covered by ETH Zurich's business liability insurance (policy no. 30/4.078.362, Basler Versicherung AG). In addition, accident/health insurance (e.g. for the outward and return journey) is your own responsibility.

Who is funding the study?

This study is financed by research funds from the federal government (Swiss Federal Office of Energy) and the cantons of Aargau, Basel-Land, Basel-Stadt and Zurich.

Who approved the study?

This study was approved by the ETH Zurich Ethics Committee under application number 2022-N-54.