



Interreg

North-West Europe

# VR Cycling simulator to enhance societal engagement

Cycle highway academy Essen

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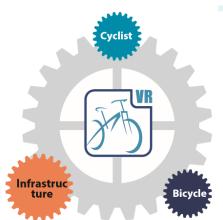




'Looking at the actual behaviour of cyclists will not only learn us more about their preferences

it also enables us to make the switch to customer friendly cycle policy'





"Design cycle infrastructure the way cyclists appreciates it the most"



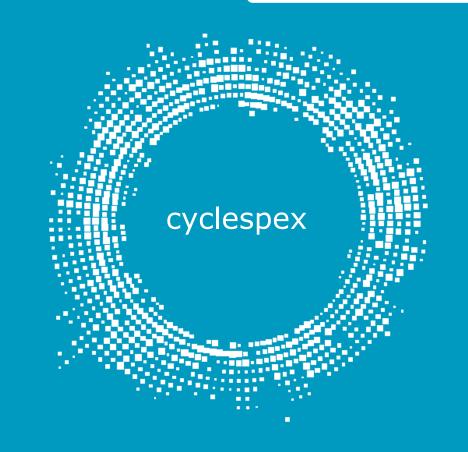


# Todays target

Interactive workshop about

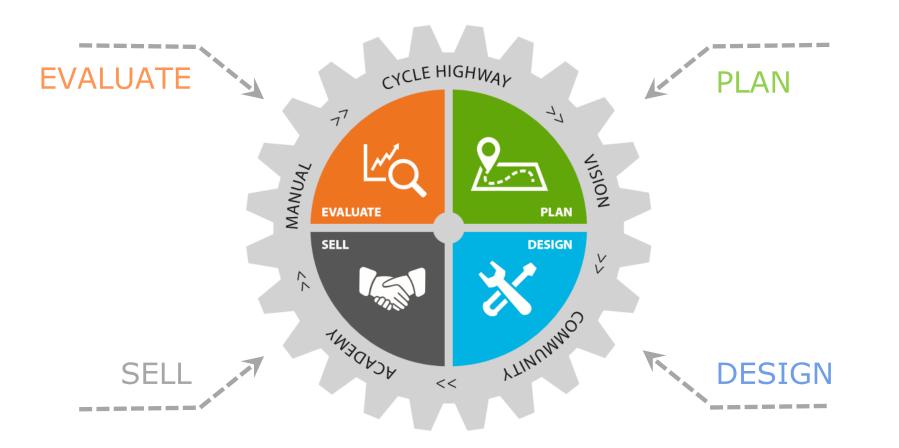
"Using Virtual Reality technology to sell and promote Cycle Highways"

- 1. Introduction on Cyclespex
- 2. Interactive discussion based on VR material
  - 3. Discussion



### Life cycle highway





## Question

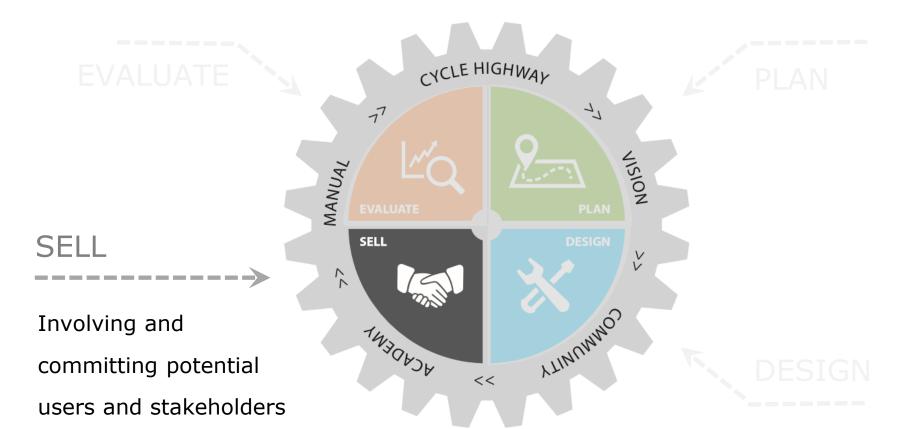
In which phase of a cycle highway project would VR be an appropriate tool to involve the (potential) enduser according to you?

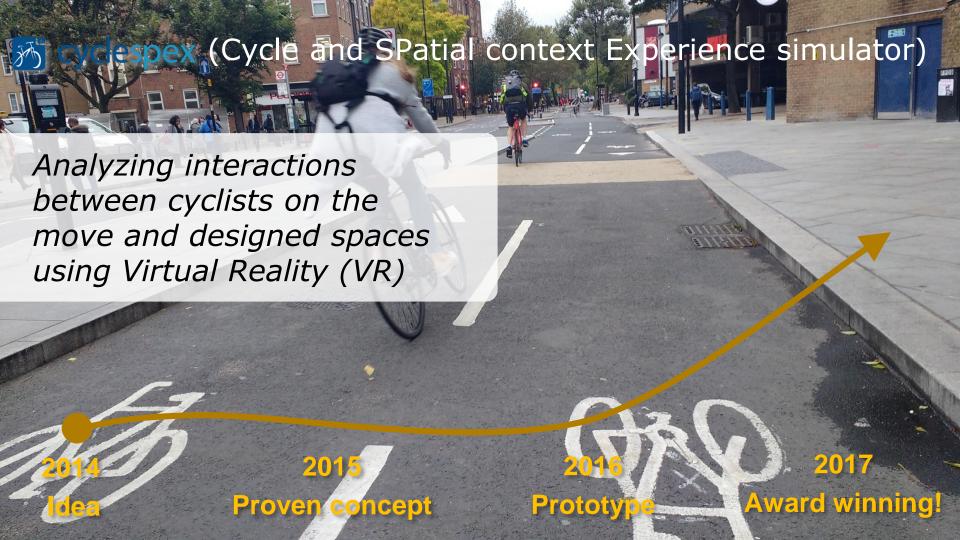
- 1. Planning phase
- 2. Design phase
- 3. Selling phase
- 4. Evaluation phase



### Life cycle highway









"Innovation is not always about thinking up something new, but about combining knowledge from various domains"

#### Game Architecture and Design



#### Spatial development





# Answer research questions

- Easily scenario construction and manipulative traffic
- Immersive and realistic virtual environments and cycling experience
- In-game questionnaires
- Tracking and logging cycling behaviour





# Engagement of people

- Reconsider communication strategies
- Actively inform and involve potential end-users & stakeholders
- Create commitment
- Smoothen decision making processes





# Design ex-ante evaluation

- Test on potential target groups
- Measure effect on appreciation and experience
- Evaluate behaviour
- Optimize before implementation









### Interaction

Three VR situations are shown of an access road in a ordinary city

- Look at the picture closely
- Three items are questioned with each situation





poorly separated lanes \* no greenery \* few cyclists and pedestrians

1. I would enjoy cycling in this environment

2. I would feel safe cycling in this environment

3. I find this environment aesthetically pleasing





well separated lanes \* no greenery \* few cyclists and pedestrians

1. I would enjoy cycling in this environment

2. I would feel safe cycling in this environment

3. I find this environment aesthetically pleasing





poorly separated lanes \* greenery \* many cyclists and pedestrians

1. I would enjoy cycling in this environment

2. I would feel safe cycling in this environment

3. I find this environment aesthetically pleasing







### Discussion

To which extent would you incorporate the results from the VR-study with potential end-users in the final design decision(s)?

### Stakeholder engagement

Smart and healthy cities, 2017





















### Statement

#### I would consider applying VR-technology ....

... when this contributes shortening the planning process

... when this contributes to a higher appreciation and commitment of the end-users to the end result

... when the ex-ante evaluation of the Cycle Highway design results in less modifications after realization

### Lessons learned

Smart and healthy cities, 2017

- 1. Citizens are more inclined to participate
- 2. VR functions as trigger to share experiences and opinions
- 3. Involving difficult to reach target groups (youth)
- 4. VR technology appeals to a broader audience than traditional research methods (surveys, peer groups)
- Clear results on effects of specific variables
   (traffic intensity, day/night difference etc.)
- 6. Improved VR technologies rule out former negative side effects on actual results (dizziness)



#### NHTV cycle Intelligence

Enhance a global shift towards active modes of transportation by supporting cities and professionals in built environment to get a grip on their cycling ambitions through applied science

> www.nhtv.nl www.shapingsociety.nl





Educate & enthuse new generation

research & innovate

politics & policy







prioritize & design



Promote & cooperate

test & implement





connect & facilitate

network & performance

monitor & evaluate

