

The electric bicycle in urban travel

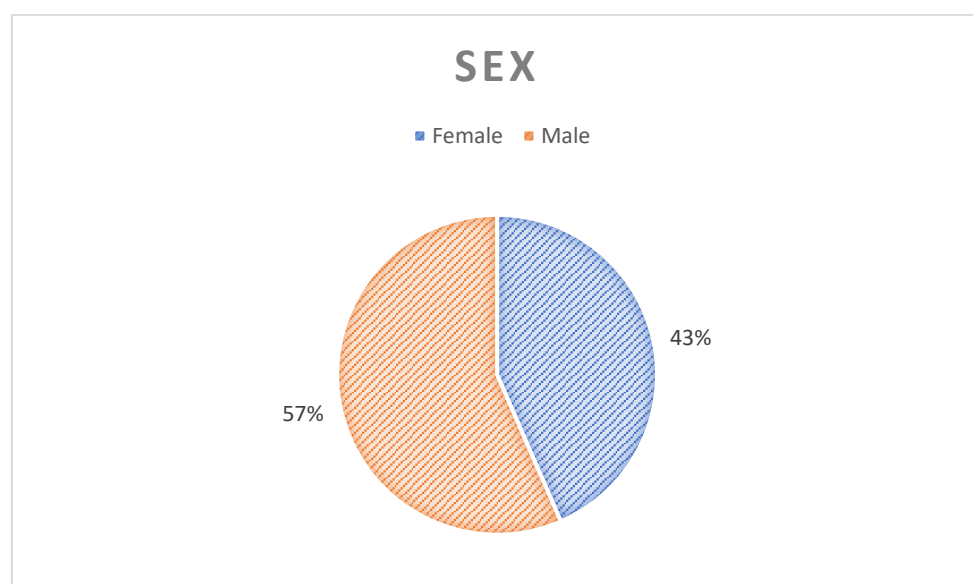
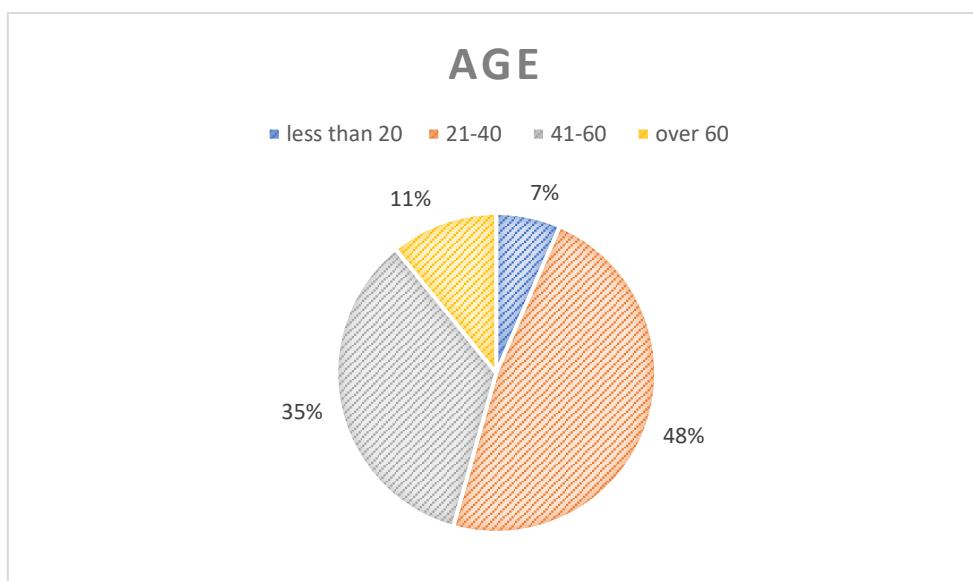
The results from end-user questionnaires



Krzysztof Winciołek

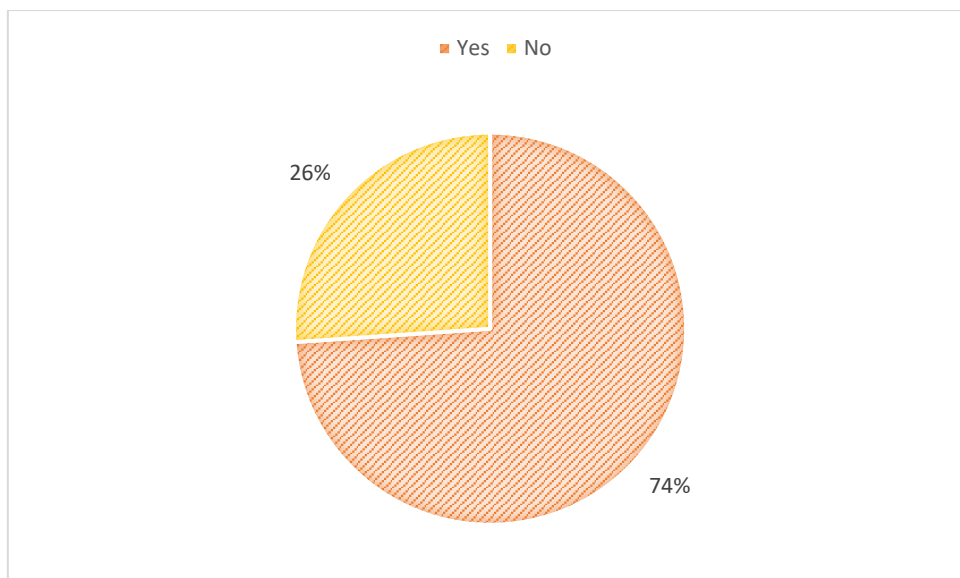
Within the framework of the BSR Electric project, financed by the European Baltic Sea Region Programme, surveys were carried out among the residents who had the opportunity to try out an electrically assisted bicycle. The aim of the survey was primarily to find out opinions on e-bikes, both before and after testing them. The survey showed how the inhabitants of Gdańsk perceive an electrically assisted bicycle. The questionnaire in paper form was anonymously filled in by people who had the opportunity to use an electric bicycle once or for several days.

The test sample was 48, and the test was conducted from September 2018. until June 2019. Importantly, the vast majority of respondents were riding an electric bicycle for the first time.



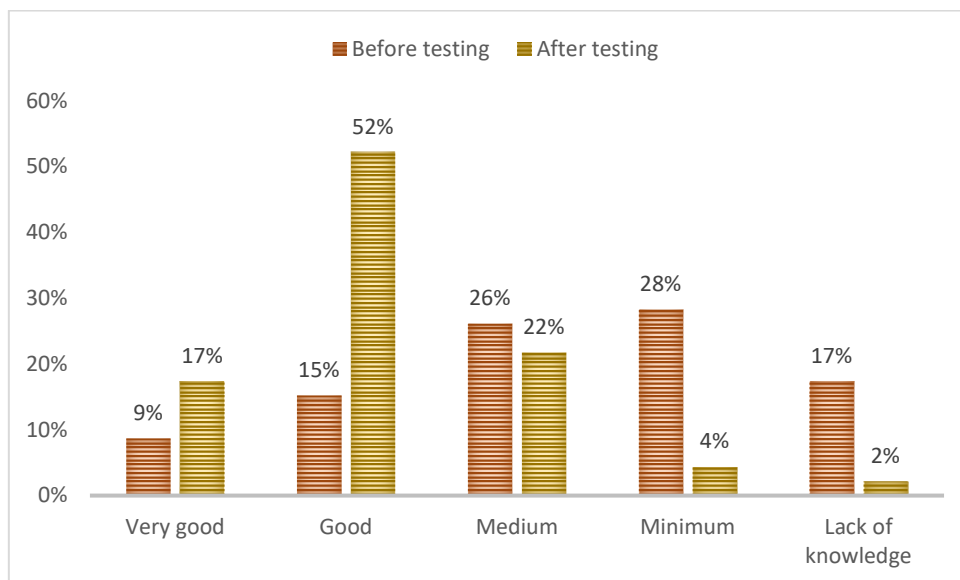
Almost half of the respondents were between 21 and 40 years old. A large group were also people aged 41-60 - 35%. 11% of the respondents were over 60 years old, while 7% were the youngest under 20 years old. A slightly larger group were men - 57%

- Did you ride an electric bike for the first time?

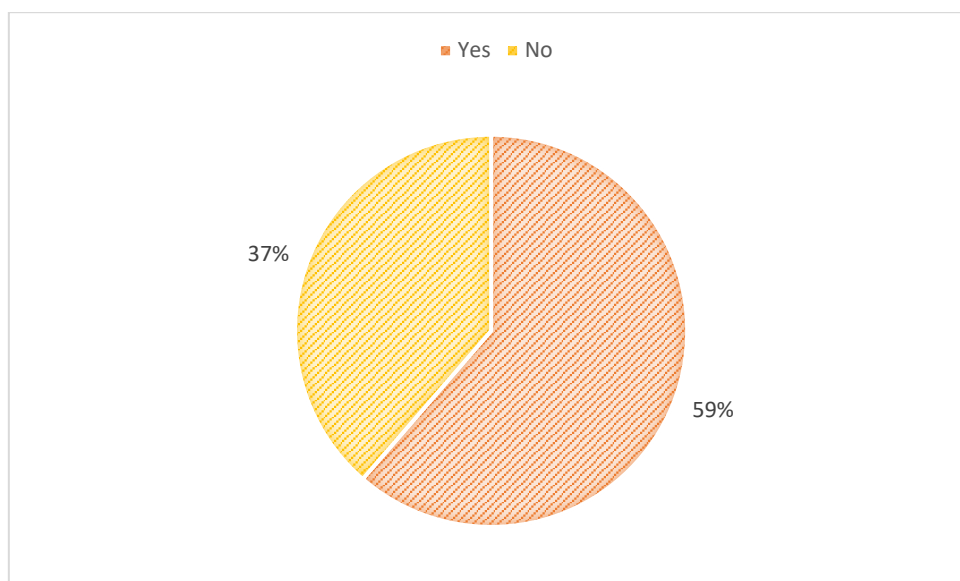


Whether people were using an electric bicycle for the first time was a very important information we wanted to obtain. It turned out that a significant number of people have never had the opportunity to ride an electric bike before. Only one in five people has ever been in contact with this mode of transport. E-bike is a relatively young form of mobility and is only just beginning to gain in popularity.

- How do you assess your general knowledge of electric bikes?

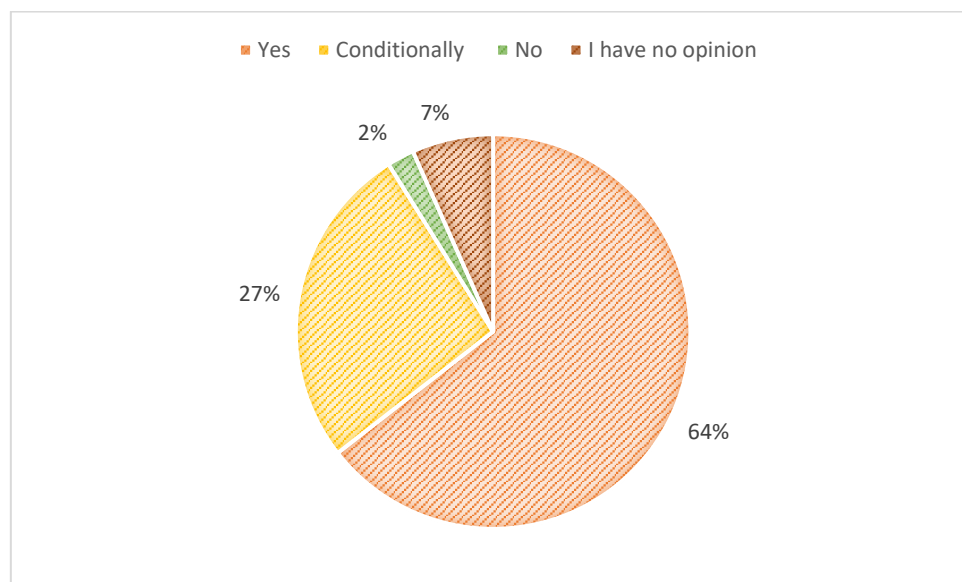


- Have you changed your opinion about this type of vehicle after testing an electric bicycle?



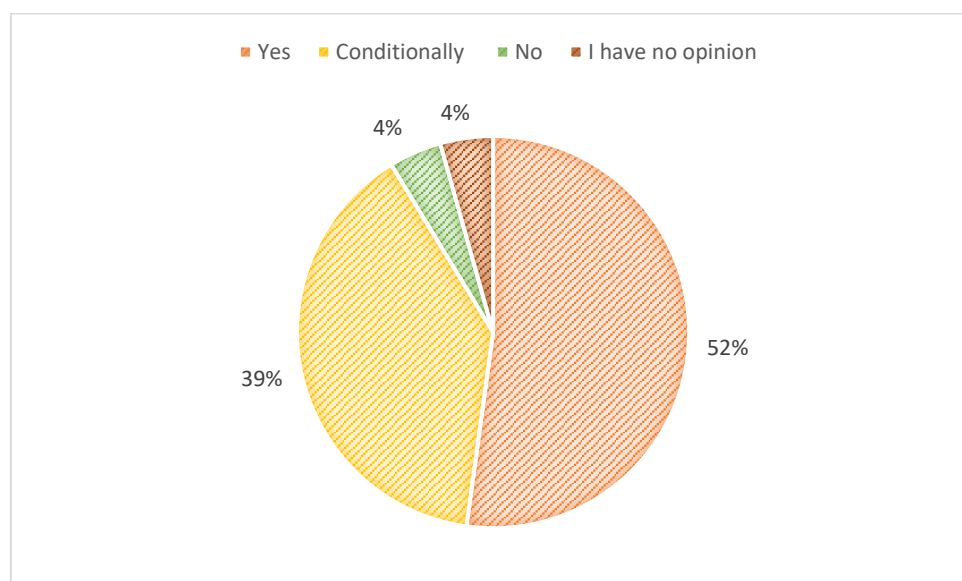
Before starting the tests, most of the respondents assessed their knowledge of electric bikes as average, minimum or indicated a complete lack of knowledge. They were then asked how they perceive their knowledge after travelling by this mode of transport. The knowledge of the electric bicycle was found to have increased significantly. Most of them indicated that their knowledge is good, which suggests that the electric single-track is not a complicated device, as initially thought.

- Do you think that the electric bicycle can serve as a basic means of everyday city travel?

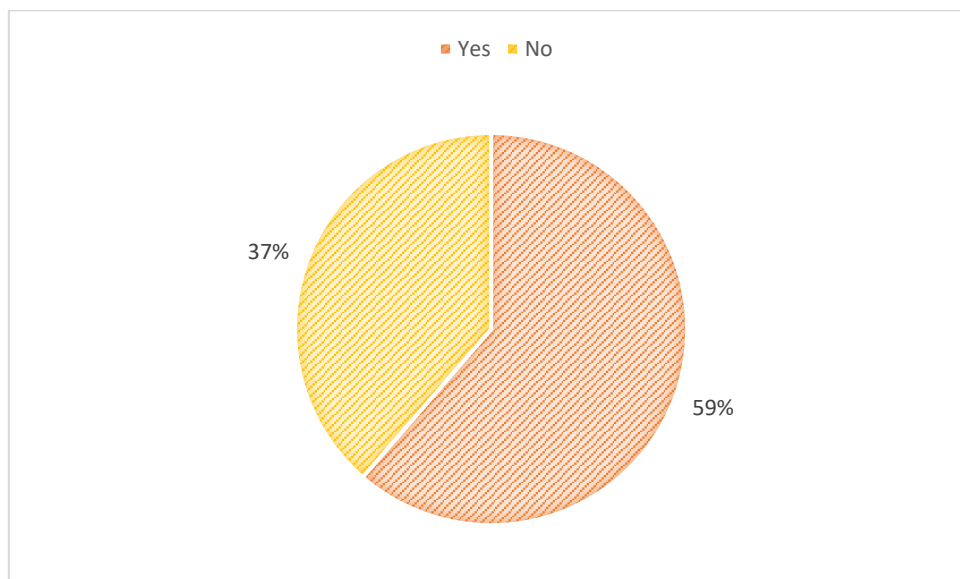


Nearly all respondents indicated that such a bicycle can serve as a basic means of everyday travel in the city, and 27% of them determined this, for example, from the weather or the daily schedule. Such a positive attitude to this type of mobility confirms our conviction that in the near future an electric bicycle will be able to replace cars on the streets of our city. The answers differed a little when asked directly about the desire to change the means of transport. However, the answers were still satisfactory. More than half of the respondents claim that the electric bicycle can serve as their primary means of transport.

- Do you think that the electric bicycle could serve as a basic means for **your** daily city tours?

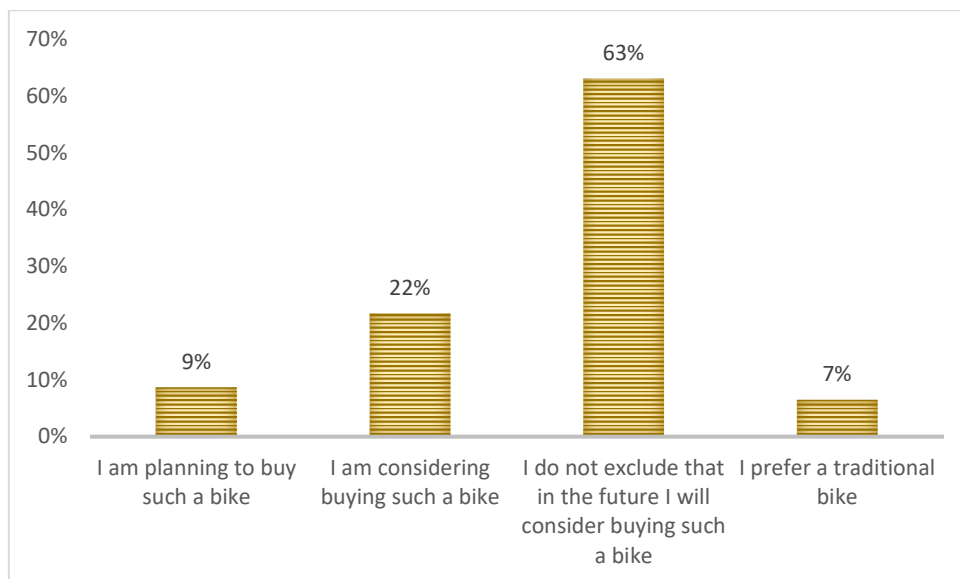


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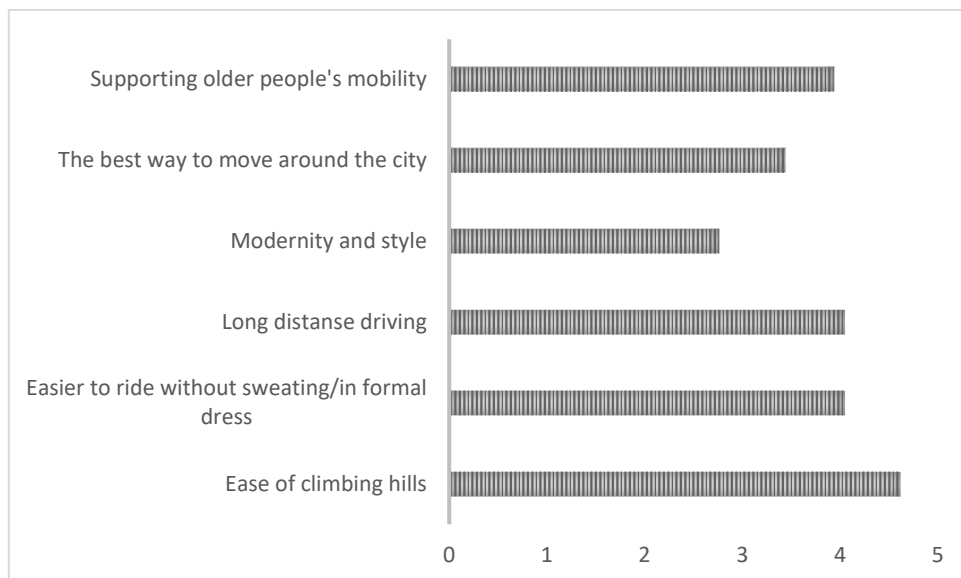
Moreover, more than half of the respondents declared that they had changed their opinion about this type of vehicle. The possibility of trying out the electric bicycle directly made it possible to see their potential and verify their opinion about them. Therefore, we encourage all those who have not yet had the opportunity to sit on the seat of the e-brewery so that they do not hesitate and test it on their own skin.

- Do you plan to buy an electric bike?

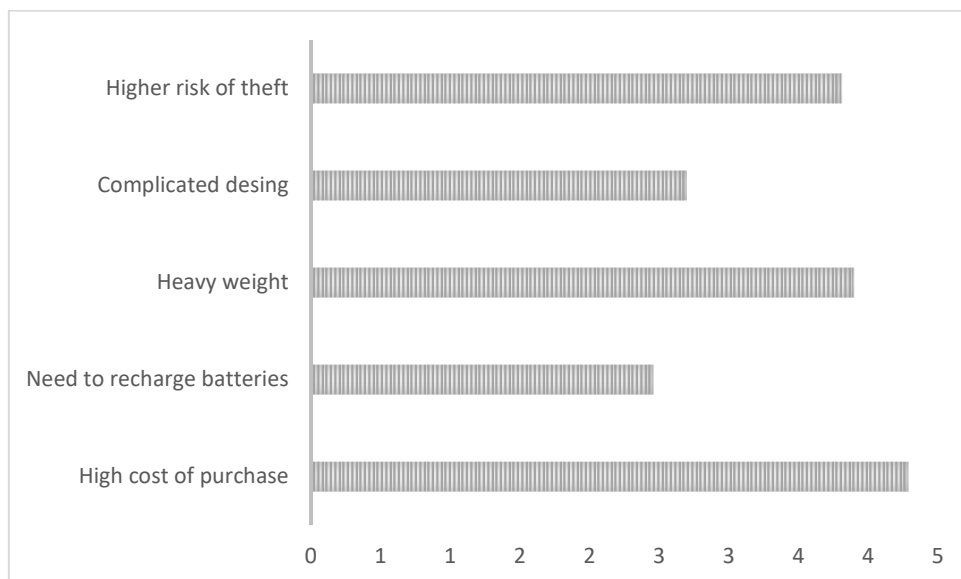


When asked about their willingness to buy their own electrically assisted bicycle, over 60% of people answered that they did not rule out such a purchase in the future. 22% of those asked will consider buying an e-bike, and 9% are already planning to do so. Only a small group of people indicated that they prefer the traditional bicycle, which is not electrically supported.

- Advantages of the electric bicycle



- Disadvantages of the electric bicycle



The biggest advantage of an electrically assisted bicycle indicated is the ease of climbing. Then they praised driving without sweating or in formal dress, the ability to cover longer distances and support the mobility of older people. An unquestionable advantage of electric bikes is also their modernity and style.

Among the defects that were indicated as the most important were high purchase costs, high weight and higher risk of theft. Complicated design and the need to recharge the batteries are negative features that the respondents indicated as less important.

The study revealed many interesting conclusions and convinced us that changing from a car or public transport to an electric bicycle is easier than to the traditional one. In this case, cyclists are willing to go on longer and more difficult routes. Ascensions no longer have to be an obstacle. People whose health does not allow them to travel by traditional bicycle around town will be positively surprised.

The electric bicycle does not ride alone, but only supports the cyclist and reduces physical effort. It is a muscular-powered vehicle, equipped with an auxiliary electric drive, which will not completely relieve us while driving, but will significantly help to speed up the vehicle to 25 km/h.