CALL FOR PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS

European Student Cycling Challenge - Cycle2Connect 2026–2027

Call for participation and selection of students for the final event in Ljubljana (10 June 2027).

1. Purpose of the Call

This call explains the rules for participation, how students collect cycling kilometres, and how they qualify for the final event of the European Student Cycling Challenge Cycle2Connect.

The final event will take place in June 2027 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The event is part of the project *Cycle2Connect – European Student Cycling Challenge: Connecting for Sustainable Mobility*.

2. What do you get if you qualify?

A) International participants

(students from partner countries CYCLE2CONNECT)

Students who qualify for the final event in Ljubljana based on the highest number of collected kilometres will receive:

- travel to and from Ljubljana
- 3 - 4 nights of accommodation in a hotel in Ljubljana
- meals during the event
- a city bike and helmet for the event
- participation in the European Student Cycling Challenge final event
- an official event promo kit (t-shirt, race number, etc.)
- participation in educational workshops
- a guided tour of Ljubljana
- international networking and social programme
- the opportunity to participate in any route of the Maraton Franja BTC City 2027

All costs for accommodation, meals, and organisation of the final event are covered by the Cycle2Connect project.
The organiser also provides insurance during the cycling event.

B) Students from Slovenia

In Slovenia, four teams will be formed:

- students from the University of Ljubljana (host city)
- students from the University of Maribor
- students from the University of Primorska
- students from other Slovenian universities and higher education institutions

Students who qualify for the final event in Ljubljana based on the highest number of collected kilometres will receive:

- a city bike and helmet for the duration of the event
- meals during the event and workshops
- participation in the European Student Cycling Challenge final event
- participation in educational workshops
- organised side programme
- an official event promo kit (t-shirt, race number, etc.)
- free participation in any route of the Maraton Franja BTC City 2027

C) Other participants – students who collect kilometres

All students are invited to collect kilometres, even if they are not from partner countries.

All students who participate in collecting kilometres will receive a 30% discount on registration for the Maraton Franja BTC City 2027.

3. Period for collecting kilometres

Kilometres can be collected during the official period:

From 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2027

Only cycling activities as part of daily mobility are counted (e.g. commuting to university or school, leisure rides, and other daily activities).

4. How to collect kilometres

Students must record their kilometres only through the official app:
Cycle2Connect

The app includes:

- GPS tracking of cycling activities
- display of individual kilometres
- display of university team or sports organisation kilometres
- separate rankings for men and women
- daily overview of activities and statistics
- personal data protection in line with GDPR

Kilometres recorded outside the app will not be counted.

5. Ranking and selection of participants

For each university or sports organisation, two official rankings are created:

🏅 **Men’s ranking**
🏅 **Women’s ranking**

The rankings are based on:

- total kilometres recorded in the period from 1 May 2026 to 31 March 2027
- valid and verified rides recorded through the official app

Selection quotas per university/sports organisation

Each university or sports organisation will have:

- 3 top-ranked men
- 3 top-ranked women
- 1 team leader

Each university or sports organisation will have the following team at the European Student Cycling Challenge 2027:

- 6 participants (3 men + 3 women)
- 1 team leader

Note:
Participants who identify as a third gender/non-binary will be able to select the gender option “other” in the mobile application. For the purpose of team allocation and quota fulfilment, they will be included in the men’s category.

6. Conditions for participation

To participate, a student must:

- be enrolled in a university or higher education institution of a project partner and have a valid student status in the academic year 2026/27 (students who completed their studies in 2026 are also eligible)
- use the Cycle2Connect mobile app
- join only one group in the app (their university or sports organisation)
- follow safe cycling practices
- ride a bicycle in accordance with national traffic laws and regulations

7. Qualification for the final event – Ljubljana 2027 and announcement of results

Selected students will gain the right to participate in the final event of the European Student Cycling Challenge in Ljubljana, with organisational and accommodation costs covered.

Final selection results will be published in the Cycle2Connect mobile app, on the project website, and officially communicated to universities or sports organisations no later than **10 April 2027**.

8. University / sports organisation team at the final event

Each university or sports organisation will be represented by a team of 6 participants (3 men and 3 women).

Teams will take part in a team cycling event on city bikes over a distance of 2.5 km in the city centre of Ljubljana, and must ride and finish together as a team.

All team members:

- ride as representatives of their university or sports organisation, not individually
- must wear matching shirts representing their university or organisation
- take part in the accompanying programme and educational workshops

9. Awards for the best teams at the final event

At the final European Student Cycling Challenge in Ljubljana, the following teams will be awarded:

🥇 **1st place team – Gold medal**

- symbolic award
- a certificate for the university or sports organisation

🥈 **2nd place team – Silver medal**

- symbolic award
- a certificate for the university or sports organisation

🥉 **3rd place team – Bronze medal**

- symbolic award
- a certificate for the university or sports organisation

10. Educational workshops after the final event (mandatory part of the project)

As part of the Cycle2Connect project, educational workshops will be organised after the final event in Ljubljana. The workshops are intended for all participants who took part in the final event.

The workshops will take place on the day after the cycling challenge (in the morning, in Ljubljana).

The workshops will cover the following topics:

- sustainable mobility and the environmental impact of cycling
- healthy lifestyle and physical and mental well-being
- safe cycling and urban mobility
- intercultural cooperation and connecting European students
- exchange of experiences between universities

Participation in the workshops is mandatory for all selected team members.

11. Responsibilities of university partners / sports organisations

Each university or sports organisation must:

- designate a team leader
- promote the mobile app and the challenge among students throughout the year
- verify the identity of the top-ranked students
- support travel logistics
- provide a contact person for communication
- arrange travel insurance

12. Rules and disciplinary measures

- the average speed of a single ride must not exceed 30 km/h
- recording false rides is prohibited

- recording rides using motor vehicles is prohibited
- all rides must be genuine and in line with the rules of the call
- the organiser reserves the right to disqualify participants