



## EEA GOOD PRACTICE CATALOGUE

**MUNICIPALITY:** Larnaka

**COUNTRY/REGION:** Cyprus

**POPULATION:** 62.997

### PRESENTATION OF LARNAKA

Larnaka is a city located on the south-eastern coast of Cyprus. Larnaka is the successor city of ancient Kition, one of the most important kingdoms of ancient Cyprus, birthplace among others of the ancient philosopher Xenon.

Nowadays, Larnaka is the third largest city of the island with a population of 62.997 inhabitants according to the Census of 2011 (including Aradippou and Livadia Municipalities). The International Airport, which is the main airport of Cyprus, is located in Larnaka. Larnaka covers an area of 32.5 km<sup>2</sup> and its Natura 2000 Saltlakes take up approximately 1/3 of this area (15 km<sup>2</sup>).

Larnaka Municipality Council have set the environmental challenges of our times at the top of their priorities. The Environmental Management Sector of Larnaka Municipality was formed in 2010 and its has since acquired defined responsibilities and authority. The Municipality's main environmental priorities are coastal management, the development of green spaces, the management of the protected areas, sustainable mobility and development, recycling and sustainable energy.



### TITLE OF THE GOOD PRACTICE

**Promotion of bicycle parking places and park-and-ride in New Building Permits.**

### CONTEXT FOR THE ACTION

#### Relevant Regulatory and Legal Framework

Since July 2011 following the Commandment of the Minister of Interior (Standards for the provision and the configuration of parking spaces) every development with an area larger than 1200 m<sup>2</sup> demands 5% of parking places designated for bicycles extra to the prerequisite car parks.

#### Detailed description of the action

The Technical Services of Larnaka Municipality are responsible for the examination of Building Permit Applications in Larnaka Municipality area. Within the framework of examining building applications, Town Planning officers promote the use of the bicycle and better conditions for cyclists through various interventions. Since the beginning of 2011 and at least half a year before the enactment of the relevant commandment of Minister of Interior, the Municipal Council have approved decisions made by the Town Planning Committee regarding:

- Spatial planning of bicycle parking places in apartment buildings, when possible (regardless of the area and/or the building factor).
- Spatial planning of bicycle parking spaces and availability of a specific number of bikes in accommodation units (hotels etc) in the city centre (regardless of the area and/or the building factor).
- Spatial planning of bicycle parking spaces and availability of a specific number of bikes in multi storey car parks; the bikes are available for free after you park your vehicle. Small scale park-and-ride schemes.

The interventions mentioned above are viewed positively by the developers. It is an ongoing procedure.



### Problems addressed

Larnaka Municipality has conducted several surveys over the years regarding mobility and traffic regulations in the City of Larnaka. It has been proved that the roads in the city are heavily loaded with automobile traffic, causing congestion, polluting the atmosphere, emitting noise and burdening public health. In order to overcome these problems, during the latest years, the efforts have been focused in promoting alternative means of transportation in Larnaka with emphasis on the bicycle. Larnaka is a city that is relatively flat with the elevations rarely exceeding 20 m above sea level in the municipality area, where the distances between different places are short. In addition to that the cycle path network is gradually being completed, connecting different areas of Larnaka with the city centre, the historic monuments and the exquisite environmental sites. Therefore Larnaka's topography and sustainable development works, defend the promotion of the bicycle use.

### Strategic and programmatic framework (Covenant of Mayors, Medeea, laws, etc.)

Larnaka Municipality is a Covenant of Mayors and a Pact of Islands signatory and has committed to develop and apply the Larnaka Sustainable Energy Action Plan aiming to achieve the sustainability objectives set by the EU for 2020 thus reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 20%.

### OBJECTIVES

The objective of this good practice is to encourage the use of the bicycle in Larnaka and to secure better conditions for cyclists.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

This initiative is part of the Municipality's series of actions to promote alternative mobility. The Municipality is in constant cooperation with the local Environmental Movements and Cycling Clubs, frequently organizing cycling events. The bicycles that are available at several points either by hotels or multi-story car parks are used regularly and so are the bicycle parking spaces. The current financial situation is expected to encourage the use of bicycles, therefore the demand for park-and-ride systems or for bicycle parking spaces is going to grow. As a result, traffic noise will be limited, emissions generating from road traffic will be reduced and the city will centre will appear more attractive to passersby. This initiative will be frequently evaluated by the Sustainable Energy Action Plan Monitoring Committee to ensure its good progress.

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[www.larnakaperivallon.blogspot.com](http://www.larnakaperivallon.blogspot.com)

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