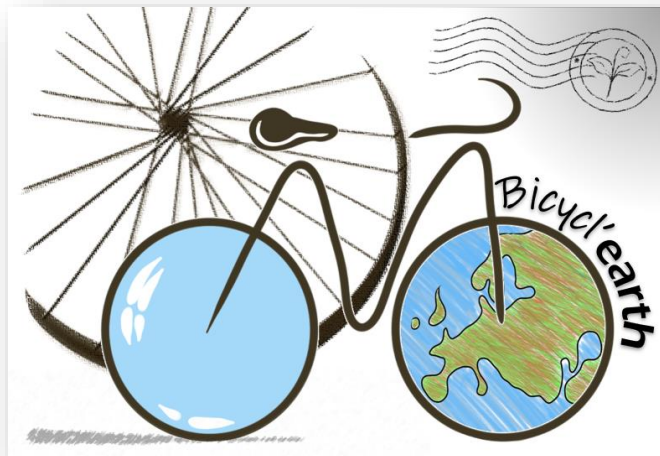


# Bicycl'earth

Ride a bicycle for the Earth!



## **Bicycl'Earth** rides through Europe to discuss about the planet of tomorrow.

**Bicycl'Earth**, is a project to ride by bike through Europe during a year, to meet the population and discuss the subject of the planetary upheavals that await us: global warming, the collapse of biodiversity, food resilience, geopolitical issues... It is a way to modestly collect a panel of opinions expressed on the world of tomorrow and to contribute to a sociological study on this subject.

This study, that is carried out by Bicycl'Earth Association, will contribute to university research.

It's also an environmental education project.



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## Why this project « Bicycl'Earth » ?

## Our engagement to the environmental cause

Many of us have traveled to discover countries, cultures and natural environments, often on foot or by bicycle. The incredible ecosystems discovered close to home or abroad have struck and amazed us by their beauty, but often with this observation: a balance weakened by uses or impacts of anthropic origin, direct or indirect.

Beyond our own experiences, there are the alerts of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) on the need to implement solutions on a massive scale and very quickly to try to mitigate the trend of the global warming climate, that have marked us deeply. According to scientists, “it is indisputable that human activities are causing climate change and making extreme weather events more frequent and more severe”, and this only by 2030 (*HOESUNG LEE, President IPCC, august 2021*). **It is therefore the planetary balance that is at stake**, with dreadful consequences: unprecedented droughts, mega fires, storms, floods, rising waters...

The scientific debate also bears on the proposal of **a period of geological time, called the Anthropocene, where human activities have strong repercussions on the ecosystems of the planet (biosphere) and transform them at all levels** (LAROUSSE) from the industrial revolution in the 18th century. If only the emergence of these proposals prove that we are at the dawn of a planetary upheaval which, if nothing is done to mitigate it, will have disastrous consequences for future generations: famines, migrations, wars...

This is why, with our the environmental sensitivity, the modest knowledge that we have thanks to our various professions in terms of waste management, water upstream and downstream of human uses, aquatic environments, we believe that **it is urgent to discuss about the subject of the future of our planet, without feeling guilty, and why not to highlight local solutions, for a more sustainable world.**

It is also interesting to "take the temperature" on a sociological level: how do the people feel about the challenges facing all of us, or what impact on social interactions, if there is...

It is in this context that we want to see what is happening around us, what are the opinions of the women and men we will meet, what positive actions are initiated to limit our ecological footprint. We could carry out a field survey with the people we meet, based on a set of simple and useful questions to understand better their understanding of this subject.



## *Bicycl'Earth* : the association

An association Bicycl'Earth has been created to carry out this survey and the discussion necessary for the environmental cause. The goal is to encourage and develop awareness of the evolutions of the ecological states of our natural heritage, in order to preserve it. To do this, it proposes to organize events, debates, surveys and environmental education actions, to raise awareness among society in favor of nature, environment and eco-citizenship.

To know more : [www.bicycleearth.fr](http://www.bicycleearth.fr).



### The cofounding members of *Bicycl'Earth*

The association was created by Marie-Laure, Julien (presented in the preamble), Bruno and Thomas. Members have joined us since the creation, to, together, support sociological research on environmental issues and work in favor of environmental education.

The co-founders are personally motivated in their commitment to the association by seeing:

- A strong action in the general interest to carry out a sociological survey on the subject.
- The opportunity to talk seriously about the human impact on our planet.
- To reflect on the place of each individual, each company and each policy in this reflection,
- Understand our responsibilities on our carbon footprint (negative and positive)
- The promotion of low carbon travel since the transport chosen to conduct the survey is the bicycle today called "muscular"! Questioning our modes of transport without making anyone feel guilty, but in full awareness of the environmental impact.
- And the meeting: sharing together on the subject, whatever our nationalities, it is proof of the importance and the transversality of the subject!





## Cofounding members



**Bruno** : co-manager of a company, the environment is an emerging subject, especially in the family. With his two daughters and his partner, today is to face new questions in a daily life that resembles a high-speed train: what is happening, why are we here without realizing it? account ? How do you respond to these environmental emergencies when you are caught up in the whirlwind of everyday life? As parents, this awareness can be disarming, let's talk about it!

**Thomas** : manager of a company and father of a little girl, he wonders with his partner about the environmental future and the living environment that we reserve for our children. Aware of climate change and its acceleration, he wants to act for future generations, every gesture counts. It is a challenge that he wants to take up both as a father but also as an entrepreneur and a player in our economy. At all levels, we must propose, share, move forward.



**Julien** has a technical profile with the knowledge of continental aquatic environments: he specializes in monitoring fish and clam populations in France, but has also been working on knowledge of the terrestrial fauna of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté for a few years. He has participated in the development of various technical protocols for scientific monitoring to measure the ecological status of waterways.

**Marie-Laure** : the first part of her career has been devoted to public service environment and land planning, including, in particular the management of drinking water, waste and wastewater treatment. Then, she worked for a few years for a national association promoting the commitment of young people to civic service.



Marie-Laure and Julien who will go around Europe by bike. This trip will support the survey for the "interview" part carried out directly with Europeans and will serve to promote the questionnaire in Europe. Sabine, a third traveler, will probably also go to Ireland in summer 2024 to continue the investigation.

It is useful to specify that the travel budget is not supported by the association (the trip is only financed privately).

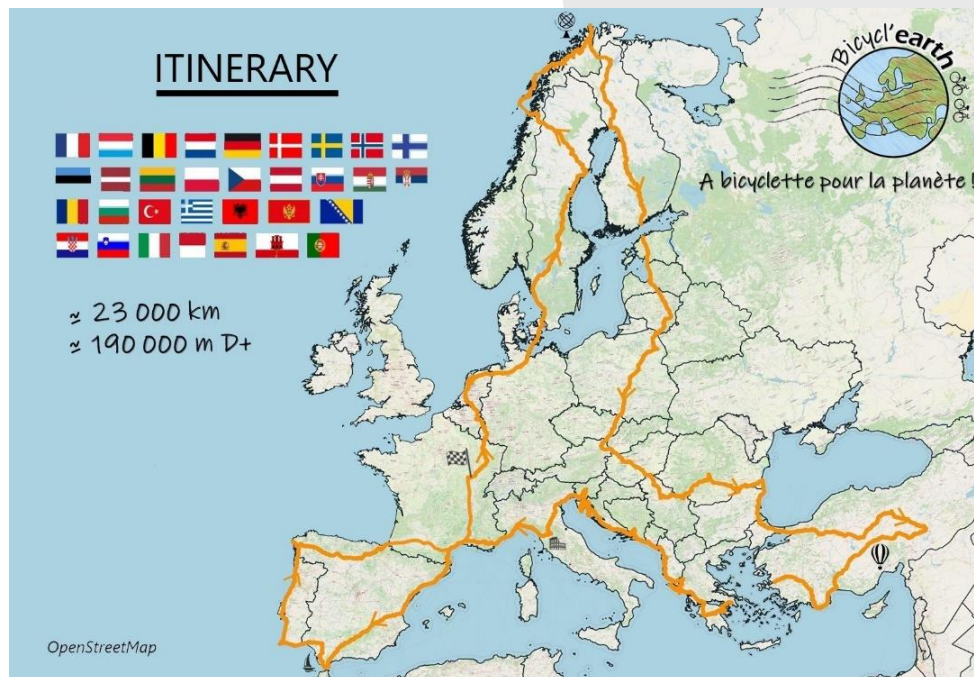




## The tour of Europe (depending on health or geopolitical context)

Itinerary : Departing from France, we will go towards Scandinavia to NordKapp, then south to the Black Sea, Turkey and along the European Mediterranean coast to the Iberian Peninsula. However, the time spent on our bikes, meeting people, the weather, but also the health context (COVID-19 pandemic) and geopolitics (war in Ukraine in particular) will certainly make this circuit evolve over time.

When ? This trip is planned from April 2023, for a period of at least 12 months (14 months max).



## The project in a few figures...

- ✓ **12 months**, 14 months max
- ✓ **About 23 000 km included the Iberian Peninsula** (subject to if the trip needs to stop before) and about 190,000 m D+
- ✓ Connecting **4 cardinal points of continental Europe**: Nordkapp in the North (Sweden), Turkey, Tarifa to the South (Spain) and Cabo Da Roca to the West (Portugal)
- ✓ **29 countries**: France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia , Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Portugal + 1 British Overseas Territory: Gibraltar + 1 principality: Monaco
- ✓ **1 ocean** : Atlantic, and **13 seas** : North Sea, Wadden Sea, Baltic Sea, Norwegian Sea, Barents Sea, Black Sea, Sea of Marmara, Mediterranean Sea, Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea, Adriatic Sea, Balearic Sea, Alboran Sea
- ✓ **15 gulfs**: Markermeer, IJsselmeer, Femsø Bælt, Kattegat, Gulf of Bothnia, Vestfjord, Gulf of Finland, Gulf of Riga, South Evia Gulf, Saronic Gulf, Ambracian Gulf, Ligurian Sea (open gulf or special sea only mentioned in specialized articles), Catalan Sea (open gulf or particular sea only mentioned in specialized articles), Gulf of Cadiz, Bay of Biscay
- ✓ **3 straits** : Øresund, strait of du Bosphore, strait of Gibraltar
- ✓ **10 largest lakes** : Vänern, Inari, Skagern, Storavan, Uddjaur, Päijänne, Saryar Baraj Gölü, Karakaya Baraj Gölü, Beysehir Gölü, Embalse de Vadomojon
- ✓ **20 largest rivers** : Meuse, Rhin, Weser, Kemijoki, Elbe, Daugava, Niemen, Dniestr, Danube, Büyük Menderes, Pô, Rhône, Ebre, Gualquivir, Guadiana, Tage, Douro, Garonne, Dordogne, Loire
- ✓ **A rich European biodiversity**: it is estimated that Europe is made up of 2,500 types of habitats and its biodiversity is made up of almost 200,000 species of animals and plants



## The sociological survey

In order to collect the impressions, the feelings of people of all ages, met on our way, we are building a sociological survey on key themes: Global warming, biodiversity, food...

The survey is currently being considered with the support and advice of researchers from the University of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (see below).

It will take two forms: interviews (semi-directive) and online questionnaires. The question of language being important in this work, analyzes can be made on the basis of recordings of the interviews, and the online forms will be translated in the different countries. The forms will also be available for people who have not been met: the idea in this case is to reach a greater number of people, including via social networks.



### Interviews for qualitative data

An interview guide created by researchers and members of the *Bicycl'Earth* association will make it possible to collect oral qualitative material, recorded directly from volunteers met during the trip across continental Europe. The interviews will be carried out by Marie-Laure and Julien who have been trained to do this with the advice of the researchers, as the trip progresses.

These interviews will then be transcribed by *Bicycl'Earth* to the laboratories. The transcriptions will then be formatted and processed, in particular by cognitive discourse analysis using software by the head of the study for the MSHE Ledoux (the Laboratory). These interviews will allow the analysis of "representation" data.

The results obtained will be interpreted jointly by the study partners, the MSHE and the LASA.

### Online questionnaires for quantitative data

The sociological survey will be supplemented by online forms, translated into the different languages of the countries crossed, to collect more quantitative and representative material if the number of respondents is sufficient. The forms will also be available for people who have not been met: the idea in this case is to reach a greater number of people, including via social networks.

## Scientific support and advice for *Bicycl'Earth* project

To carry out the sociological survey, *Bicycl'Earth* benefits from the support of 2 researchers and partners, the MSHE (House of Human and Environmental Sciences) and the LASA (Laboratory of Sociology and Anthropology) of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté.

### MSHE 2024-2028 research project, axis "Transitions - Collective action in changing territorial ecosystems", partner of *Bicycl'Earth*

The MSHE Claude Nicolas Ledoux, in Besançon, is a support and research unit (UAR3124) under the supervision of the CNRS and the University of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, hosted by the University of Franche-Comté. **Cyril Masselot** is a teacher-researcher, Head of the Observatory of Socio-Ecological Transition supported by the MSHE. He supports and advises the *Bicycl'Earth* team in Information and Communication Sciences.



### the Sociology and Anthropology Laboratory of the UFC (LASA-UFC) partner of *Bicycl'Earth*

**Simon Calla**, Doctor of Sociology and post-doctoral engineer-researcher, associated with LASA, within the University of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté. He supports and advises the *Bicycl'Earth* team in social sciences



## Environnemental education project *Bicycl'Earth*

*Bicycl'Earth* also proposes to animate an environmental education section, with the aim of raising awareness of the environmental cause for all, at all ages, and to support the evolution of our society towards a more respectful, united and sustainable world. This is why we propose to:

- At the end of the sociological study, present the results at a conference in the requesting structures: we have a few associations and local authorities which have already requested a presentation at public events;
- During the bike trip, schools will be partners of *Bicycl'Earth* to follow the progress of the project through regular videoconferences, so that students can also (between each video) reflect, understand environmental issues and act in their schools. *Bicycl'Earth* offers thematic sheets on the following themes, freely usable (and whose illustrations, of high quality, also come from partnerships):
  - o Global warming
  - o Loss of biodiversity
  - o Food
  - o Energy
  - o Water
  - o Waste...

## REMERCIEMENTS

We would like to warmly thank Simon Calla and Cyril Masselot who immediately showed optimism in this somewhat crazy project trip to talk about the environment! Thank you for your scientific support for the survey.

A big thank you to Jean-Marc Jancovici and Christophe Blain who did not hesitate to support us by allowing us to use images from the wonderful comics trip « Le Monde Sans Fin » (Dargaud Edition), to illustrate our remarks.



We thank Gilles Macagno, who gives us the possibility to use his fabulous drawings from « Questions de Nature » (scientific paper « BFC Nature », BFC Nature Edition) and [www.drosophile.fr](http://www.drosophile.fr) to illustrate our words during the survey, what a chance too for *Bicycl'Earth* !



All the people who help us promote the project, with enthusiasm! *Farand'Ouche*, *VEFO*, *Réseau Vallée de l'Ouche*, *mairie d'Agey*, *Barbirey-sur-Ouche*, *Velars-sur-Ouche*...

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