

## **VELORECICLA ASSOCIATION**

"Velorecicla" is a non-profit organization created in Agres, small town of Alicante, (Spain) in 2021 that is mainly dedicated to collecting used bicycles, to repair them, put them into operation and donate them to entities that work with people without resources and/or at risk of social exclusion

In this way, Velorecicla contributes to the reduction of waste, giving a second life to bicycles that are destined to become garbage, collecting them, repairing them, refurbishing them, reusing them and donating them to people who need them.

Velorecicla wants to contribute to spread in society a culture of the use of bicycles both as a clean, silent and ecological transport element, as well as a sporting one, besides contributing to spread in society a culture of cooperation with a solidary and altruistic purpose.

Thus, our main objectives are recycling, health and environmental care and social aid, through the use of bicycles.

### **How did the idea of creating the organization begin?**

We have always been passionate about the world of bicycles and bicycle touring. We are also people of solidarity who had previously worked in several NGO's, and we like to be able to do our bit to help others. In addition, we have strong environmental values. We joined these 3 values and the idea of creating an association that recycles and reuses bicycles, so that people who can not have this means of transport can use them. In addition, we encourage the use of bicycles in the population as a means of sustainable transport, as a way to take care of health by promoting this sport and as a way to protect the environment.

### **What are the main objectives of the organization?**

The main objectives of the organization are:

- To reduce the amount of waste generated in our society, giving a second life to bicycles that are destined to become garbage.
- To make bicycles available to people who may need them, but due to their social or economic circumstances cannot have access to this means of transportation.
- Promote the use of bicycles as a sustainable sport that can help to maintain a healthy life for people and respectful with the environment.
- Contribute to spread in society a culture of bicycle use both as an element of clean and environmentally friendly transport and leisure.

### **Can you tell us about some of the initiatives or projects you carry out?**

Velorecicla's main project is to collect unused bicycles, refurbish them in order to donate them to people at risk of exclusion who may need them.

However, Velorecicla is developing other parallel projects that combine sport and environment such as "**Bici Escuela Itinerante Velorecicla**" and the Campus "**Muévete Rebiciclando: week of sport and recycling on pedals**".

### **Project "Bici Escuela Itinerante Velorecicla".**

The Bici Escuela is an initiative created and designed to provide a service of extracurricular sports activity, which aims to educate and train children, based on physical activity and sports fun through cycling, which is developed mainly in villages at risk of depopulation.

#### **How did this initiative come about?**

It was created primarily to provide a sports service in rural areas where there is less infrastructure, fewer services and where children have fewer opportunities for this type of activity.

#### **What are the main objectives of this initiative?**

To improve the motor development of children, encourage the development of social values and create an ecological conscience.

#### **Who are the target groups in this initiative?**

From 3 years old, no age limit.

#### **What challenges emerged during the implementation of this initiative?**

The small population in rural areas makes the implementation of the activities more difficult, however, we have had a good response.

#### **How are they addressed?**

We try to make the objectives widely known, make the prices accessible, and accommodate the schedules to the needs of the families.

#### **What is the impact of the initiative on the target groups and how do you measure this impact if you measure it at all?**

The results are very positive, as more and more children are using bicycles.

#### **Are there partners involved in the initiative? Where is the funding coming from?**

City councils and some private companies collaborate by providing space, donating material, etc., which helps us to keep prices affordable for families. Most of them are local organizations.

#### **How can this program be sustainable?**

It is possible thanks to the volunteers of the organization and the economic collaboration of the organizations and families.

## **Campus "Muévete Rebiciclando: week of sport and recycling on pedals".**

This initiative, which took place during the summer of 2022, aimed to teach children and adolescents to reuse and recycle materials and garbage from our environment, and use it to develop a healthy life through sports and physical activity.

The activities were developed around the use of bicycles as the main sustainable sport to be promoted, using several of the refurbished and restored bicycles from the refurbishing workshop of the Velorecicla association.

Velorecicla carried out a series of activities around recycling, physical activity and sports, care for the environment, bicycle touring, etc.

The particularity or uniqueness of this project was the realization and promotion of sports activities with recycled materials, such as, for example, the refurbished bicycles of the association, as well as the materials built by the participants during the different workshops, such as baseball bats with reused plastic bottles, golf clubs with broomsticks, boomerangs, etc.

### **How did this initiative come about?**

It was thanks to a grant from the Department of Education, Culture and Sport of the Generalitat Valenciana, for singular sports projects.

### **What are the main objectives of this initiative?**

- To promote physical activity and sports through the use of bicycles as a natural way to take advantage of our free time.
- To promote the use of bicycles as a clean, ecological, silent and sustainable sport.
- Encourage sustainable mobility through the use of bicycles.
- Promote environmental values and care for the natural environment.
- To teach the importance of reusing materials, recycling and reducing waste generation to take care of our environment.

### **Who are the target groups in this initiative?**

Children between 6 and 14 years old.

### **What challenges emerged during the implementation of this initiative?**

The small population in rural areas made the implementation of the activities difficult, however, we had a good response.

### **How are they addressed?**

Thanks to the subsidy granted by the Department of Education, Culture and Sport of the Generalitat Valenciana, for singular sports projects we have been able to address these challenges.

**What is the impact of the initiative on the target groups and how do you measure this impact if you measure it at all?**

It has created a greater environmental awareness in children and young people and increased the use of bicycles among them. The families have been very happy with the initiative and the children were also very satisfied with the activity.

**Are there partners involved in the initiative? Where is the funding coming from?**

As in the project, "Bici Escuela Itinerante Velorecicla", the city councils and some private companies collaborated by giving space, donating material, etc., which helped us to make prices accessible to the families. Most of them were local organizations.

**How can this program be sustainable?**

Thanks to the volunteers of the organization and the economic collaboration of the organizations and families, and above all thanks to the subsidy granted by the Department of Education, Culture and Sport of the Generalitat Valenciana, for singular sports projects.

**Links:**

\* Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/veloreciclaONG>

\* Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/velorecicla/>

\* YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRW27iiA4V2-ipAMW6arFIg>

\* Web page

<https://velorecicla.amics.eu/>