




# Bicycle theft in the Netherlands

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**16,8 million  
inhabitants  
19 million bikes**

# Massive but decreasing

- Maybe around 1 million bike stolen end last century/beginning of this one
- Now estimated at 500.000
- Result of specific anti-bicycle theft measures and specific measures against repeat criminals

# Campaigns and action

- 2003 National awareness campaign Cyclists' Union, local benchmark was developed
- 2008 National action plan ministry, police, justice, cities, manufacturers, shops, Cyclists' Union: integral policies against theft
- National centre of expertise and advice

# Instruments

- Uniform system of frame numbers has been developed by manufacturers (about 90% of bikes)
- National bicycle theft register since 2008 (about 50.000 new stolen bikes registered each year on basis of bikes reported stolen to police), to be used by police and by people buying a second-hand bike

# What cyclists should do

- Always lock your bike, use two locks, attach your bike to an object
- Register unique characteristics (frame number/chip)
- Always report theft to the police
- Don't buy a stolen bike

# What policy makers and police can do

- Build sufficient bicycle parking facilities with good possibilities to lock your bike
- Analyse the locations where bikes are stolen
- Find out who is stealing (criminal gangs, drug addicts, individuals)
- Prevent, control and repress

# Perspectives?

- Use of chip has been stopped by manufacturers (too expensive and vulnerable)
- No legal obligation for frame number despite earlier promise, so no closed chain of registration and identification
- Further decrease will not be easy
- Keep saying that bicycle theft is not normal
- Is voluntary use of chip with GPS-function alternative?



# Grazie

