BIKE BUS
ACCELERATOR

MOVED BY
SHIMANO

SUPPORT PACKAGE 2026

Applicant Support FAQs

Whether you start or grow, we give you a push.



www.bikebusaccelerator.com

22 Oct – 19 Nov 2026	Up to €500	Up to €1000	From 1 Dec 2026
APPLICATIONS OPEN	START PACKAGE	GROW PACKAGE	YOU'LL HEAR FROM US

Everything you need to know before you apply for a START or GROW Support Package, from who can apply to how decisions are made.

Eligibility

What counts as a Bike Bus?

A group of children and adults traveling together to and/or from school primarily by bike. The Bike Bus operates on a predefined schedule and route with a fixed departure point, intermediary stops, and school destinations.

What does not count as a Bike Bus?

A family cycling to school alone, children cycling independently, or a group without bicycles (like a walking school bus).

I don't run a Bike Bus yet, can I still apply?

Yes, the Support Package programme is ideal for people who want to start a Bike Bus. Head to the 'START - I want to start a Bike Bus' application option at **www.bikebusaccelerator.com**.

I already run a Bike Bus, can I still apply?

Yes, the Support Package programme is ideal for people who already run a Bike Bus or buses. Head to the 'GROW - I already run a Bike Bus' application option at **www.bikebusaccelerator.com**.

Is there a minimum age to apply?

Applicants must be 18+ years of age at the time of application.

Who can apply for the Support Packages?

Anyone who wants to start running a Bike Bus or already runs a Bike Bus(es) is eligible to apply for the Support Packages for example PE teachers, parents, school staff, Bicycle Mayors, community organisers.

I have received a grant from another organisation, can I still apply?

Yes you can apply.

How much own-funding do applicants need?

There is no requirement for applicants to have their own funding / match funding as part of this Support Package application.

I run a Bike Bus as a for-profit venture, can I apply?

Yes you can apply. The delivery model of Bike Buses differs throughout European countries and the Support Package wants to support as many Bike Buses as possible.

What geographical locations are eligible for the Support Package?

- Applications are open to everyone around the globe for practical tools and expert guidance support.
- Equipment and funding based support is only eligible where the Bike Bus will be delivered in a European Country (as recognised by the United Nations). This includes the United Kingdom for example.
- We encourage everyone to submit an application irrespective of location so that we can assess the scale of the bike bus need and plan for future rounds.

Application

Do I or my school / organisation need to apply?

Yes, everyone who wants to be eligible for the Support Package programme must apply through **www.bikebusaccelerator.com** within the application open dates of 22 October – 19 November 2026.

Am I able to apply for both the START and GROW Support Package?

No, applications must be submitted for 1 of the packages only, either START or GROW. Where a START application is successful in this round, the applicant will be eligible to apply for a GROW package in a future Support Package round.

Can more than one person from the same Bike Bus apply?

Applications will only be accepted from 1 person representing a Bike Bus. I.e. 2 individual people cannot apply from the same Bike Bus to increase the chances of success or receive more than 1 support package.

I run more than one Bike Bus. Can I apply for more than one Support Package?

No, only one application per person is allowed.

I want to apply in conjunction with another Bike Bus leader, who submits the application?

The applicant who will be the direct connection and correspondent with Bike Bus Accelerator and the Support Package process should be the main name on the application. There is an option to inform us that a co-organiser is in place and an opportunity to add additional names at a later stage.

How do I apply for the Support Package?

All applications must be submitted through **www.bikebusaccelerator.com** using either the START or GROW application form.

What is the deadline for making an application?

The application open dates are 22 October 15:00 CET – 19 November 23:59 CET 2026. Any applications received after the deadline will not be included in this Support Package programme but may be considered for future rounds.

What documents do I need to make an application?

The Support Package application only requires you to complete the application form. This has purposefully been kept as simple as possible for applicants to apply. If your application is successful, you will be contacted with additional information and documents as part of the agreement process.

What makes a great application?

Providing clear and accurate information to all the questions asked in either the START or GROW application forms. Thorough information detailing what is stopping your Bike Bus from starting or growing by demonstrating motivation, need, feasibility, expected impact, potential to continue and inclusion.

What are common mistakes made by applicants?

Not providing all the information requested which limits the criteria checkers ability to assess the application against the Criteria Assessment framework.

What proof do I need to provide for the legitimacy of my application?

No documentation is required to submit an application. If your application is successful, you will be contacted with additional information and documents as part of the agreement process.

What language must the application be written in?

All applications must be written in English. The use of a language converter is acceptable.

Are there reporting or follow up requirements?

All successful applicants will be required to agree to a code of conduct, a Memorandum of Understanding and a sharing of information for reporting and evaluation purposes.

Support Package

What are the Support Packages to apply for?

Support is offered through 2 options at **www.bikebusaccelerator.com**.

- **START - I want to start a Bike Bus** for those who want to establish a new Bike Bus.
- **GROW - I already run a Bike Bus** for those already running a Bike Bus who want to strengthen, develop or sustain it.

How much support is available?

START

I want to start a Bike Bus

Up to €500

of tailored support per selected initiative

GROW

I already run a Bike Bus

Up to €1000

of tailored support per selected initiative

How many Support Packages will be funded?

Up to 40 Support Packages will be funded.

What is the split between START and GROW funding?

START x 30 / GROW x 10.

What is the total Support Package funding available for the project?

A maximum allocation of €25,000.

What does 'tailored support per selected initiative' mean?

Rather than offering everyone the same support, the Bike Bus Accelerator asks applicants: what is stopping your Bike Bus from starting or growing? Selected initiatives are then matched with the support that best fits their needs. Support can include the Bike Bus toolkit, equipment, practical guidance, peer support from an experienced Bike Bus leader, expert advice, communications and recruitment help, or financial support for a specific need.

Where can I get more information on the Support Packages?

For any information / questions not answered on **www.bikebusaccelerator.com** and this FAQ document, please email **bikebusaccelerator@bycs.org**.

What must Support Packages be used for?

Support packages must be used primarily for the purpose described in the application under the Bike Bus Accelerator programme, with occasional flexibility for broader use where a genuine benefit for increasing children safety and frequency of cycling.

What can't Support Packages be used for?

Support packages cannot be used solely for activities outside of the Bike Bus Accelerator programme or for the purpose of individual financial gain.

How quickly after receiving the Support Package must it be used?

Successful applicants have a maximum of 3 months from receiving the support package to it being used for the first time.

The Support Package describes tailored support, e.g. equipment. How would this be received?

Equipment based Support Packages will come in a number of different ways e.g. sent directly, collection via a voucher depending on the agreed Support Package. This will be agreed with the successful applicant.

The Support Package describes tailored support, e.g. funding. How would this be received?

Funding based Support Packages will be directly from the Bike Bus Accelerator programme. This will be agreed with the successful applicant.

Assessment

How are applications assessed?

All applications are assessed against a demonstration of benefit criteria and eligibility.

Motivation **Need** **Feasibility** **Expected impact** **Potential to continue** **Inclusion**

If more information is needed to make an assessment decision, the applicant will be contacted directly.

Decision

How and when will applicants know if they have been successful?

All applicants will be notified if they have been successful or unsuccessful from 1st December 2026 onwards.

If I am successful do I need to confirm anything?

Successful applicants will be required to accept the terms and conditions for receiving the support package. This will be handled individually with all successful applicants.

If I am successful will I be obligated to fulfil any branding, data, case studies requirements as part of the Support Package?

Everyone will be asked to agree to a code of conduct with the aim of setting clear expectations from both party sides. This will include expectations on safety and social principles, along with engaging with reporting mechanisms (app), social media channels and research project to help understand what is working to help increase bike buses and safer cycling for children, demonstrate the project's impact and improve future bike bus activities and growth.

If I am unsuccessful can I reapply?

Unsuccessful applicants can reapply for future support package rounds but not for this round.

If I am unsuccessful will I be told why?

We aim to provide brief feedback to support your application for future support package rounds however this will depend on the amount of applications received.

How will I receive my Support Package?

For successful applicants, the method of receiving a support package will differ depending on the tailored support requested. This will be discussed and agreed directly with the successful applicants.

Contact

What if my question is not answered in this FAQ?

Please email **bikebusaccelerator@bycs.org** with your question.

Can I follow Bike Bus Accelerator on social media?

Yes, check out our Instagram page @bikebusaccelerator.

Whether you start or grow, we give you a push.

www.bikebusaccelerator.com · bikebusaccelerator@bycs.org