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2017 top German car-sharing cities: Karlsruhe remains first

In the new city ranking released by the German car-sharing association (bcs), Karlsruhe remains the German capital for car-sharing. Stuttgart and Freiburg are ranked second and third respectively. Cologne, finishing in the fourth place, is the first city with over 1-million inhabitants.

As in previous years, Karlsruhe is the 2017 leader of the German city ranking for car-sharing with 2.71 car-sharing vehicles for every 1,000 inhabitants. The city not only defended its top position but recorded the largest growth among all cities. Stuttgart follows in second place with 1.47 vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants, and Freiburg moved up 2 spots to the third position with 1.41. Heidelberg (1.27 vehicles), Munich (1.26 vehicles) and Göttingen (1.25 vehicles), which ended in the third place last year, as well as Frankfurt, which fell in the ranking.

Willi Loose, Managing Director of the bcs, explains the shifts in the ranking:

“Car-sharing coverage has improved in many cities since 2015. Cities fall in the ranking mostly because they have been overtaken by more dynamic cities in car-sharing, not due to a worsening of the global situation.”

The city ranking of bcs proves that car-sharing is by no means a phenomenon limited to large cities. Four cities with less than 250,000 inhabitants are in the Top 10 with Freiburg, Heidelberg, Göttingen and Tübingen.

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Loose sees therein an evidence of the efficiency of medium-size car-sharing companies in Germany:

"The fact that many smaller cities are leaders in car-sharing is due to medium-size companies, which have been building economically viable car-sharing services for years over there. These companies are crucial in ensuring that Germany is known worldwide as one of the car-sharing lead markets. "

Loose calls on cities and suburbs to support this achievement in turn:

"Station-based car-sharing systems, in particular, free households from the need to own their own car. They generate more frequent use of bicycles and public transport among customers, without any specific instruction or prohibition. Cities and suburbs should promote this by setting up car-sharing stations in public spaces."

Vehicles of station-based car-sharing providers are today more than 90 percent located on private land, unlike free-floating fleets of major car manufacturers. In city centres, there are often no remaining areas for the first to provide their customers with vehicles. That, Loose says, can and should change.

The Car-sharing Act of the Federal Government, which came into force in September 2017, has made it legally clear: municipalities can set up parking slots exclusively dedicated to station-based car-sharing providers on roads under their responsibility. Loose states:

"The legal instruments are here. Cities can make their car-sharing systems more visible."

Further information about German car-sharing, the 2017 City Ranking and previous rankings can be found at www.carsharing.de.

Brief information on the 2017 car-sharing city ranking: Every two years, the bcs lists the number of car-sharing vehicles in German cities and suburbs with more than 50,000 inhabitants. The survey is based on a query of the vehicle numbers for all car-sharing providers operating in Germany. Based on the results, the bsc calculates the number of car-sharing vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants. Thus, the supply of the car-sharing service is related to the respective city size.

Brief information about the bcs: The Bundesverband CarSharing e.V. (bcs) is the umbrella organisation of German car-sharing providers. It promotes car-sharing as a modern mobility service and seeks to connect it with public transport. The aim of the association and its members is to promote multimodal mobility, to reduce the car population, car traffic, and the environmental impact of private car use. The bcs represents the political interests of the industry nationwide and in relation to the countries. The association was founded in 1998. Currently, 135 car-sharing providers are members of the association.

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