A drive mechanism for a vehicle propellable by muscle power is provided, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a first actuating element (104) which is movable by a stroke along a movement path, a first driving element (21), a first gearing comprising a driving shaft (107), and a first returning element (212), wherein the first driving element (21) is coupled between the first actuating element (104) and the driving shaft (107) in such a way that actuating element stroke induces a movement of the driving shaft in a first direction, and wherein the returning element (212) is coupled between the first actuating element (104) and the driving shaft (107) in such a way that it induces a movement of the driving shaft in a second direction opposite to the first direction.