



Road Safety Exchange  
Kick off Meeting  
Athens, 10 June 2019

# Motorcycle Safety in Greece

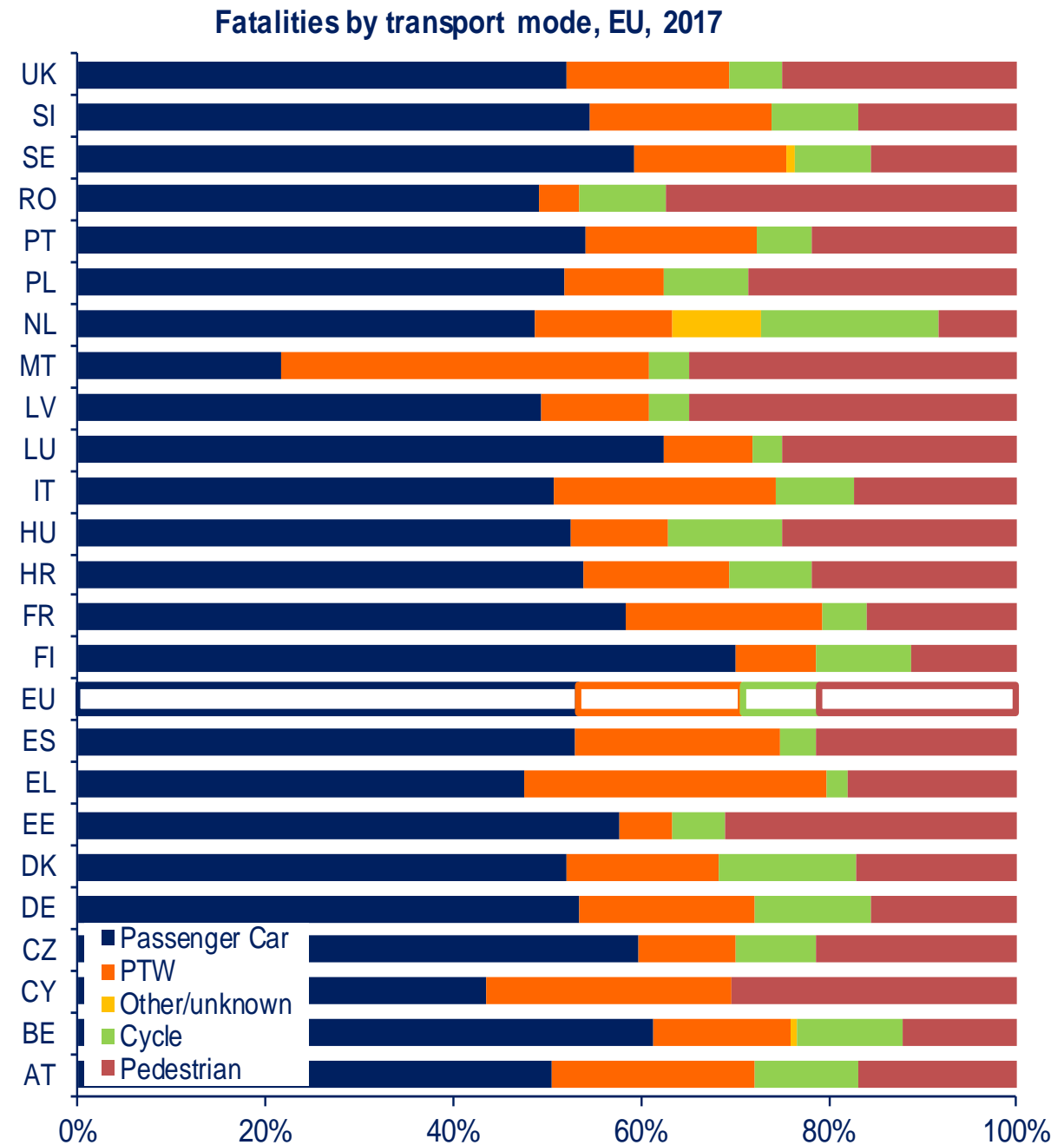
**George Yannis**, Professor  
**Katerina Folla**, Research Assistant



Department of Transportation Planning and Engineering,  
National Technical University of Athens, Greece

# Fatalities by Transport Mode in the EU

- Most fatalities in the EU concern **passenger cars** (53%).
- **PTW fatalities** in the EU account for 17%.
- **Greece** has the highest percentage of PTW fatalities in the EU (32%).

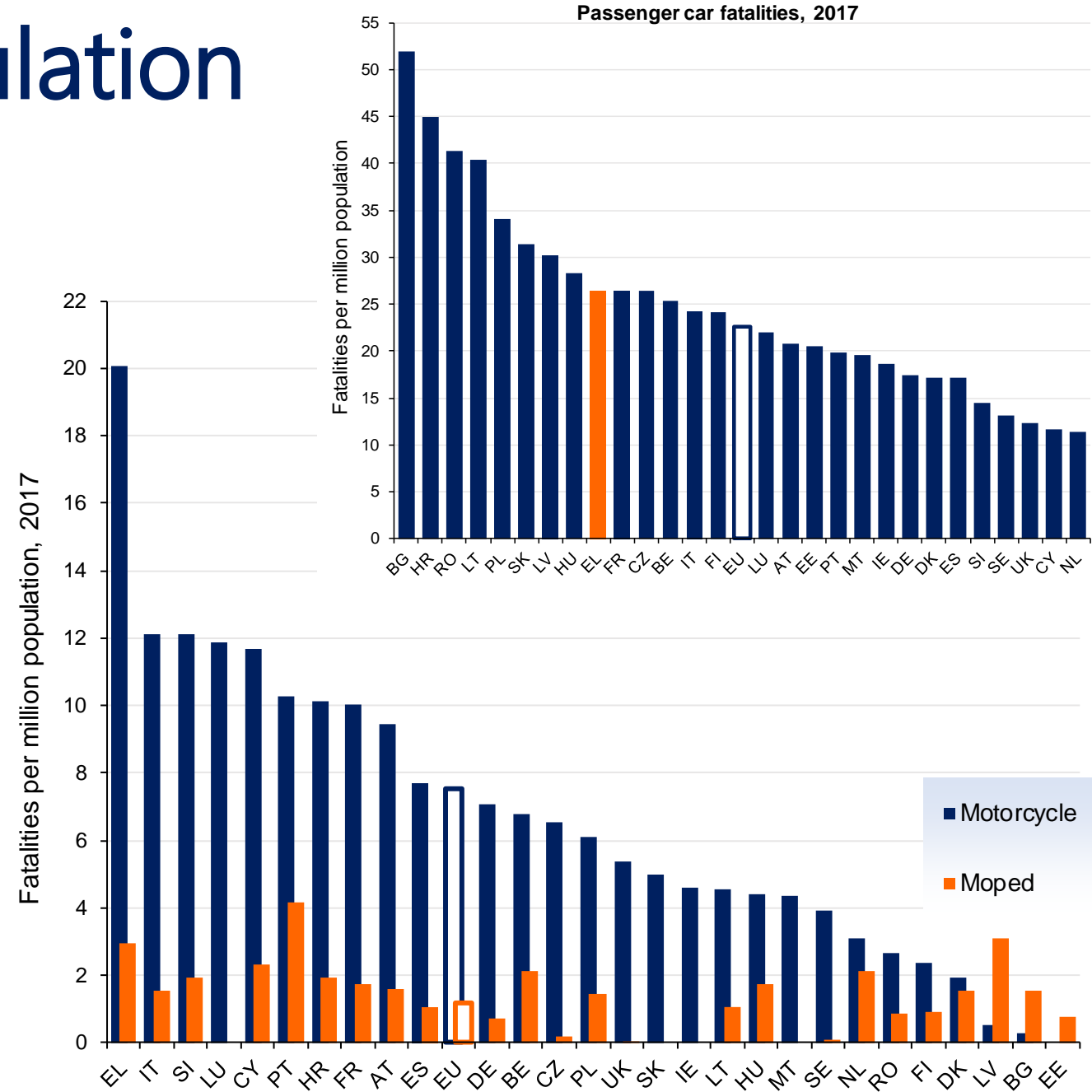


Source: CARE database  
Processing: [NTUA - Road Safety Observatory](#)



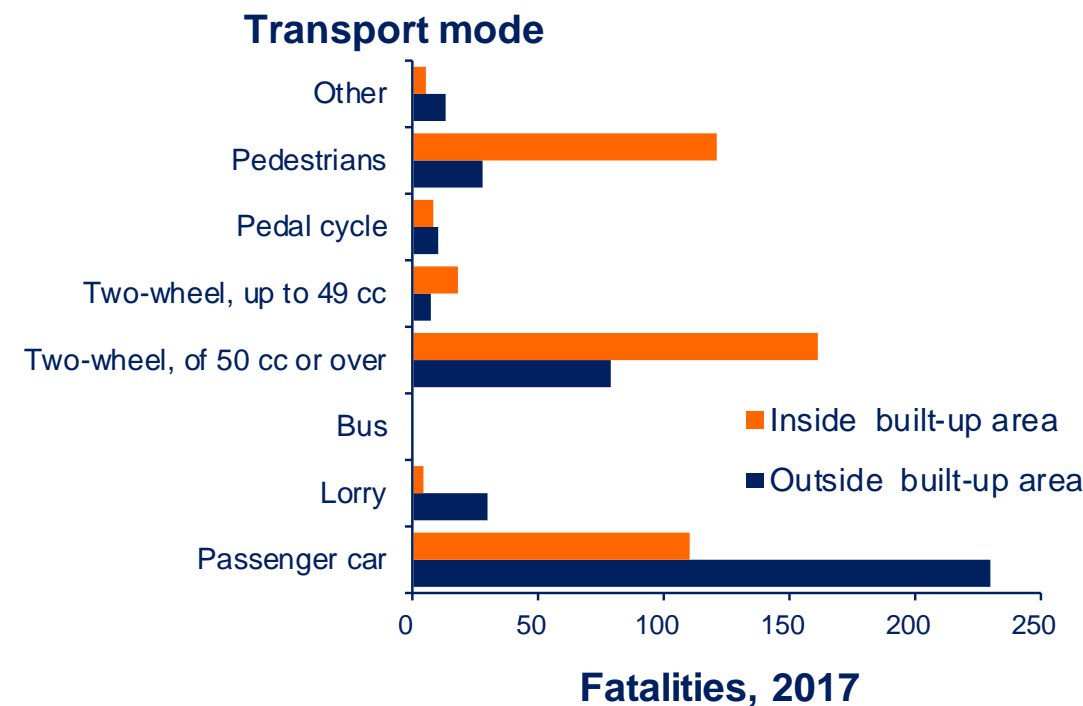
# PTW Fatalities per population

- **Motorcycles and mopeds** are preferred by a large part of population in Greece, especially during summer months.
- The proportion of motorcycles in the total vehicle fleet was **19%** in 2018, while mopeds represented another **12%**.
- In 2017, Greece had the **highest motorcyclist fatality rate** in the EU (20 fatalities per million population), while the EU average was about 8.



# Fatalities by Transport Mode in Greece

- **41%** of fatalities are passenger car occupants.
- Almost **32%** of fatalities are power two wheelers.
- Most car occupant fatalities occur outside built-up areas, while most **motorcycle** and pedestrian fatalities occur **inside built-up areas**.



Transport mode	Fatalities			
	Inside built-up area	Outside built-up area	Total	%
Passenger car	110	230	340	41%
Lorry	4	30	34	4%
Bus	0	0	0	0%
Two-wheel, of 50 cc or over	161	79	240	29%
Two-wheel, up to 49 cc	18	7	25	3%
Pedal cycle	8	10	18	2%
Pedestrians	121	28	149	18%
Other	5	13	18	2%
Unknown	2	0	2	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Transport mode	Road Accidents*		
	Inside built-up area	Outside built-up area	Total
Passenger car	8.263	2.050	10.313
Lorry	808	529	1.337
Bus	316	48	364
Two-wheel, of 50 cc or over	6.063	678	6.741
Two-wheel, up to 49 cc	402	99	501
Pedal cycle	216	40	256
Pedestrians	1.951	74	2.025
Other	105	151	256
Unknown	341	32	373

Transport mode	Fatalities per 100 accidents		
	Inside built-up area	Outside built-up area	Total
Passenger car	1,3	11,2	3,3
Lorry	0,5	5,7	2,5
Bus	0,0	0,0	0,0
Two-wheel, of 50 cc or over	2,7	11,7	3,6
Two-wheel, up to 49 cc	4,5	7,1	5,0
Pedal cycle	3,7	25,0	7,0
Pedestrians	6,2	37,8	7,4
Other	4,8	8,6	7,0
Unknown	0,6	0,0	0,5



# PTW Accident Risk, Greece 2003

- Accident risk of **young drivers** is 4 times the average for car drivers and 5 times the average of PTW riders.
- Drivers **>65 years old** are at increased risk, especially when riding mopeds or motorcycles.
- Accident risk of PTW decreases with **vehicle age**.
- Accident risk outside built-up areas at **nights or at weekends** is much higher, especially for PTW's.

Number of road fatalities per million vehicle-kilometres

Vehicle type	Driver's age							Total
	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	>65	
PTW < 50 cc	54,7	26,7	18,4	45,3	42,5	26,6	357,8	40,1
PTW > 50 cc	-	202,0	62,3	59,5	30,1	141,9	115,4	77,8
Passenger car	-	25,2	7,7	6,3	5,3	6,5	11,5	8,0
Total	-	40,6	11,9	9,3	6,3	7,9	17,0	11,8

Vehicle type	Vehicle Age					Total
	< 1 year	1-2 years	3-5 years	6-10 years	> 10 years	
PTW < 50 cc	52,5	32,8	28,0	31,1	12,2	40,1
PTW > 50 cc	101,3	84,1	62,1	63,4	38,3	77,8
Passenger car	8,5	8,3	4,5	5,6	13,3	8,0
Total	15,3	13,8	7,6	7,4	14,3	11,8



# Helmet Use Rate, 2009

Driver	Male			Female			Total
	16-24	25-54	>55	16-24	25-54	>55	
Yes	61%	79%	67%	44%	82%	100%	75%
No	39%	21%	33%	56%	18%	0%	25%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

➤ **75%** of motorcycle riders use their helmet.

➤ **Young females** (16-24) have lower helmet use rates than young males, while the opposite is the case for the other age groups.

➤ Only **41%** of motorcycle passengers use their helmet inside built-up areas.

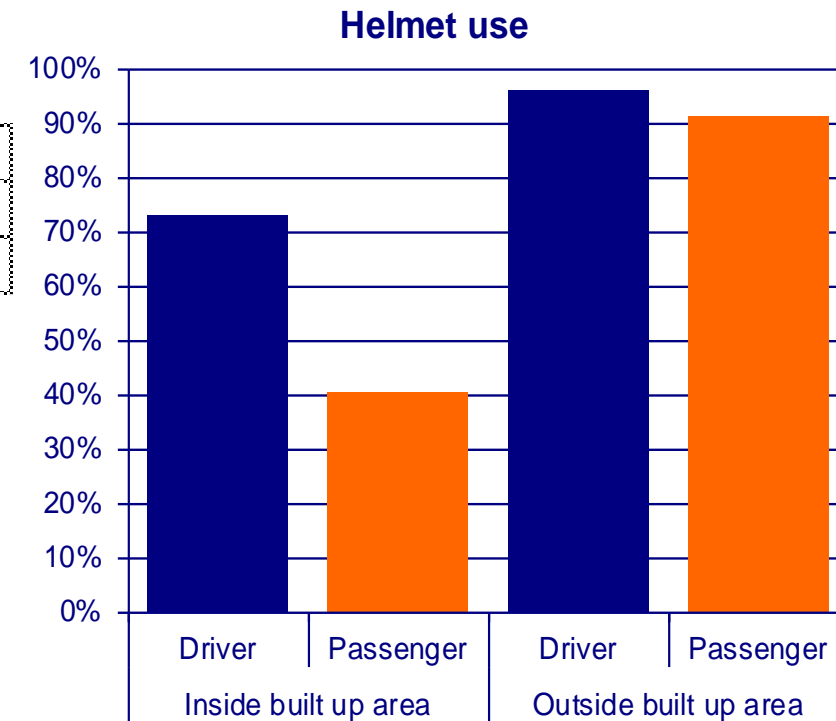
➤ More than **90%** of riders use their helmet outside built-up areas.

	Inside built up area		Outside built up area	
	Driver	Passenger	Driver	Passenger
Yes	73%	41%	96%	91%
No	27%	59%	4%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Driver	Power Two Wheel		Total
	Large	Small	
Yes	80%	72%	75%
No	20%	28%	25%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: [NTUA, 2009](#)

Processing: [NTUA - Road Safety Observatory](#)



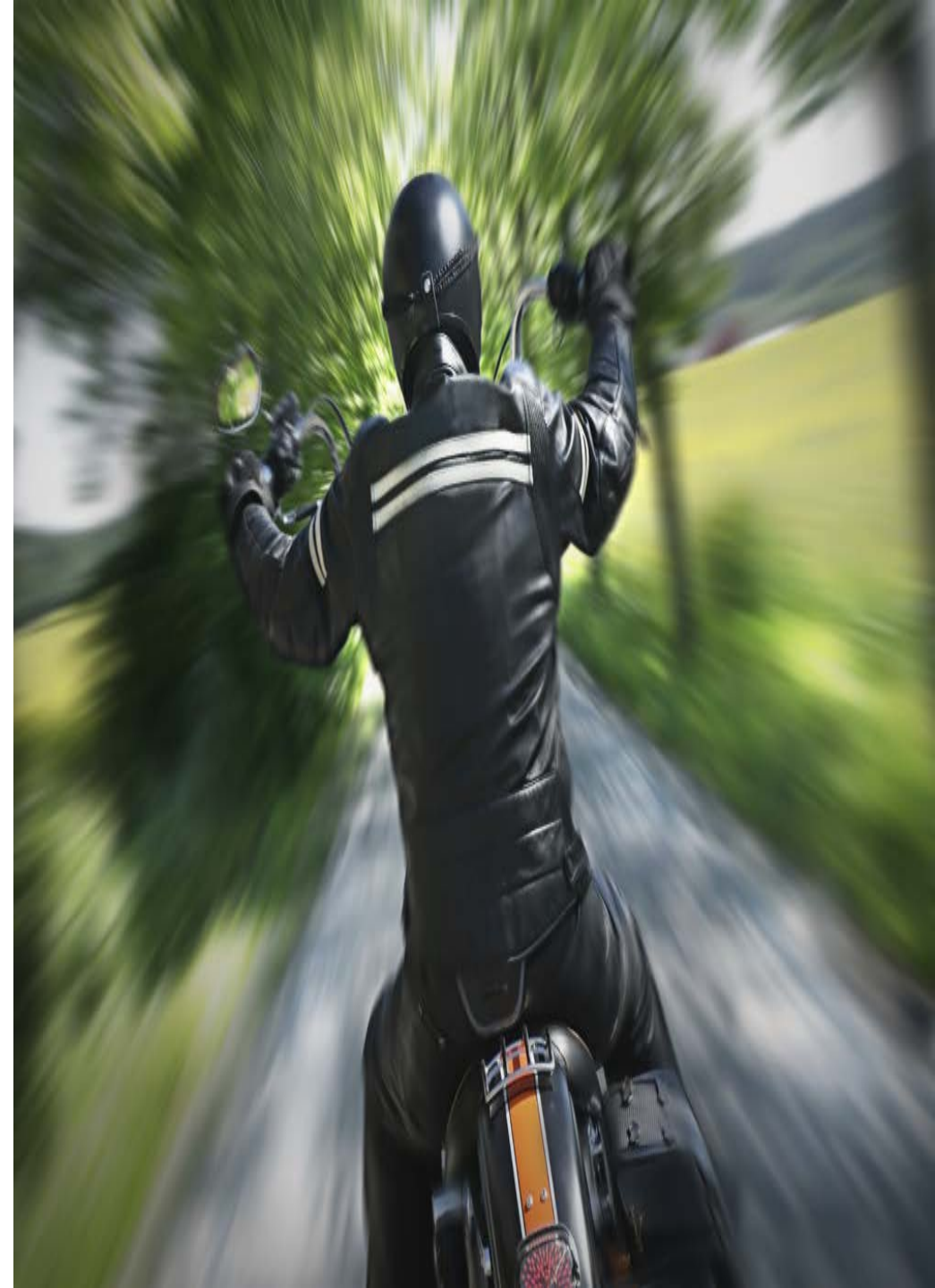
# Identification of Problems and Causes

- **High number** of PTW
- **Inappropriate behaviour** of drivers and PTW riders
- **Low** helmet use
- Motorcycle riders **more risky** than moped riders
- Lack of **targeted road safety measures** and programmes for PTW safety



# Selection of Necessary Interventions

- **Enforcement intensification** for:
  - riders speeding
  - helmet use
  - appropriate behaviour of drivers
- **Targeted campaigns** for (especially for helmet use):
  - young and novice riders
  - for drivers
- **Target setting** and selection of specific measures
- Systematic **monitoring** of the measures implementation and of the targets
- Strengthening **road safety management** within the local Authorities





# Selection of Infrastructure Interventions

- Introduction of **PTW waiting zone** at signalized intersections
- Comprehensive implementation of high quality **road markings and traffic signs**
- Improvement of **pavements quality** (eliminate potholes)
- Improvement of **lighting**
- **Guardrails** for preventing illegal crossing by pedestrians and use of the sidewalks by PTW



# Conclusions

- The rate of PTWs' fatalities in road accidents is especially high in Greece, leading to the **high need for further measures** to be taken.
- An **integrated action plan** with aim to reduce PTW accidents includes measures such as:
  - Systematic traffic law enforcement
  - Improvement of road infrastructure.
  - Improvement of driving licence system
  - Reduction of the cost for acquiring protective equipment
- Development of **road safety culture** not only for drivers and riders, but also for the Authorities involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of road safety policies.



# The key one measure

- Greece road safety performance is much **closer to the EU average** if we do not take into account Power Two Wheelers
- If **helmet use is increased to 95%** for both riders (mainly through enforcement), the estimated annual road fatalities save can be up to **150 riders** (out of 250 in 2017), leading Greece performing better than the EU average and overall to **less than 500** road fatalities annually





Road Safety Exchange  
Kick off Meeting  
Athens, 10 June 2019

# Motorcycle Safety in Greece

**George Yannis**, Professor  
**Katerina Folla**, Research Assistant



Department of Transportation Planning and Engineering,  
National Technical University of Athens, Greece