



NTUA Road Safety Update - March 2012



National Technical University of Athens
Road Safety Update

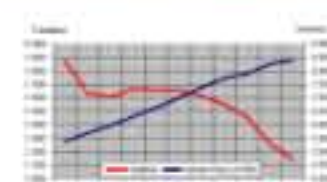
March 2012

EU progress in cutting road deaths falls to 2% in 2011



The European Commission has published road fatalities statistics based on provisional data for 2011 showing that EU progress in cutting road fatalities significantly **slowed last year (to -2%)** compared with a very promising EU-wide reduction throughout the last decade (on average -6%). Worse still, some EU Member States, like Germany and Sweden, who have very strong safety records, now show a significant increase in deaths. In other Member States, like Poland and Belgium – already lagging behind in road safety – the number of road fatalities went up. [LINK](#)

Road fatalities in Greece drop by 14% in 2011



According to ELSTAT provisional data, road fatalities in Greece in 2011 **decreased by 13,6%** in relation to 2010, with the deep economic crisis having an impact on this decrease. During the last decade, road fatalities in Greece have decreased by 42%, whereas serious injuries decreased by 50%. The rate fatalities per number of vehicles has decreased the same period by 63%. This rate is still high in comparison to the other EU countries, explained also by the the high increase of the vehicle fleet in Greece during the same period (58%). The significant increase in Police enforcement was found correlated to the road fatalities decrease. [LINK](#)

Transport Research Arena - Athens 2012



The fourth Transport Research Arena (TRA) Conference will take place in Athens, Greece, from 23rd to 26th of April, 2012. The main theme of TRA 2012 is Sustainable mobility through innovation. TRA 2012 seeks to reflect the multidisciplinary nature of the transport sector and, for this reason, addresses all stakeholders in both the public and private sectors and all professionals, regardless of their roles (researchers, practitioners, designers, constructors, operators, administrators etc.).

Several road safety sessions (thematic, special and strategic) are foreseen at the TRA2012 Conference, including the **Dacota Special Session** on the development of the European Road Safety Observatory and the Road Safety Challenges Strategic Session with key experts discussion. [LINK](#)

Reporting on Serious Road Traffic Casualties 2011



The International Road Traffic and Accident Database (IRTAD) of the International Transport Forum (ITF/OECD) published a Special Report on Serious Road Traffic Casualties aiming to identify and assess methodologies for **linking different sources of accident data** in order to develop better estimates of the real number of road traffic casualties. The report provides a number of recommendations on the use of police and hospital data, and makes suggestions for an internationally agreed definition of serious injury. [LINK](#)

HITE's position on road safety in Greece 2012



The Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engineers published recently its position towards road safety in Greece. This position paper contains an analysis of current road accident causes and problems in Greece and proposes **a set of six priority actions**: 1. operation of a central road safety authority, 2. enforcement intensification, 3. systematic monitoring, 4. road infrastructure management, 5. redesign of urban infrastructure and traffic, 6. promotion of safer driver behaviour. [LINK](#)

Investigation of the acceptance of a handbook for safe driving at an older age 2011



A research titled 'Investigation of the acceptance of a handbook for safe driving at an older age' co-authored by Sophia Vardaki and George Yannitsis from NTUA, was recently published in the International Journal of Injury Control and Safety Promotion. The handbook was developed with the purpose of **increasing elderly drivers' awareness** of their driving abilities and providing information about the effects of ageing on driving and about safe driving practices and compensation strategies. Binary logistic analysis was conducted to identify individual driver characteristics that might predict acceptance of the handbook by active older drivers in terms of reported increased awareness and intended repeated use. The findings of the research indicate

a quite positive attitude of elderly active drivers towards the handbook, as more than half of them reported that they had become more aware of changes in their driving after reading it. [DOI»](#)

This Road Safety Update aims to support frequently the Greek and the International Road Safety Community with current key road safety knowledge and data, which is gathered, analysed and organised within the research activities of the Department of Transportation Planning and Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens.

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About NRSO



The mission of the NTUA Road Safety Observatory (www.nrso.ntua.gr) is to support the Greek and the International Road Safety Community with current key road safety knowledge and data, which are gathered, analysed and organised within the research activities of the Department of Transportation Planning and Engineering of the School of Civil Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens, as well as within co-operations with various national and international road safety organisations.

The NTUA Road Safety Observatory has been developed within the framework of two European Union co-funded research projects, namely SAFETYNET - Development of the European Road Safety Observatory (2004-2009) and DACOTA - Road Safety Data Collection, Transfer and Analysis (2010-2012), with Scientific Responsible for NTUA, Professor George Yannitsis.