



NTUA Road Safety Update - November 2013



Effect of GDP changes on road traffic fatalities 2013

A paper titled 'Effect of GDP changes on road traffic fatalities' co-authored by George Yannis, Eleonora Papadimitriou and Katerina Folla is now published in the Journal of Safety Science. This research aims to associate annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) changes with the related annual changes in road traffic mortality rates. Mortality rates and GDP per capita data for the period 1975–2011 are used from 27 European countries, for the development of mixed linear models. The results suggest that **an annual increase of GDP per capita leads to an annual increase of mortality rates**, whereas an annual decrease of GDP per capita leads to an annual decrease of mortality rates. These effects are statistically significant overall, and in different groups of countries (Northern/Western, Central/Eastern and Southern). A one-year lagged effect of annual GDP decrease was found to be significant in Northern/Western countries. [DOI»](#)

ETSC Lecture - Road Safety, Reliable Data, Effective Policies, Berlin 2013

The 15th European Transport Safety Lecture was organised by the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) together with its three founding members - the German Road Safety Council, the Dutch Safety Board and the British Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety and took place with great success on November 21st, 2013 in Berlin. Prof. Dietmar Otte from the Medical University of Hannover gave the Lecture on Road Safety: Reliable Data - Effective Policies, having attracted a large audience of more than 150 national and international road safety practitioners, technical specialists and decision makers. Response to the Lecture was given by European Commission Head of Road Safety Unit Mr. Szabolcs Schmidt and TU Delft Professor Fred Wegman. At the lecture and the vivid discussion followed there was focus to the need for **reliable and accurate data to be placed at the core of road safety policies**, serving to identify problems, risk factors, and priority areas as well as to formulate strategies, setting targets and monitor performance. [LINK](#)

This ETSC Lecture coincided with the **celebration of 20 years of ETSC**. On the occasion, ETSC Chairman Herman De Croo stated that "ETSC has marked 20 years of concerted advocacy efforts on road safety throughout Europe, acting as an established source of independent and impartial advice to policy and decision-makers in Europe". [LINK](#)

RACC - Reducing road accident victims in urban areas Conference, Barcelona 2013

The 20th Forum for Road Safety 'Reducing victims of road accidents in urban areas', organised by RACC, P(A)T and Generalitat de Catalunya took place with the participation of more than 200 road safety experts, decision makers and stakeholders, in Barcelona on 14 November 2013. The conference focused on a range of preventive, and corrective techniques applied to the management of public space, especially in the locations in which more accident and fatalities occur as well on the safety of vulnerable road users. Urban Authorities presented and discussed **the complexity of implementing measures addressing and balancing safety concerns** of the various different vulnerable road users. [LINK](#)

NTUA Associate Professor George Yannis made a key note presentation on Current trends in Urban Road Safety in Europe. [f](#)

SEE - Engaging Stakeholders towards Road Safety Conference, Ljubljana 2013

An international conference on "Engaging Stakeholders towards Road Safety", organised by ROSEE and SENSOR projects in the framework of the South East Europe transnational cooperation programme, was held on November 7th, 2013 in Ljubljana. This Conference brought together the most important stakeholders, experts and public authorities from the South-Eastern Europe region who are engaged in road safety. The aim of the conference was to **promote road safety in South East European roads** through standardised safety assessment of the road infrastructure, proposals for road safety investments, comparative evaluation of safety performance and user behaviour in SEE countries and the active promotion of safer road user behaviours. [LINK](#)

NTUA presentations concerned:

- Road Safety policy and data analysis in the South East European countries
- Behaviour - Speed Management - Vulnerable Road Users

AF CityPlan - International Conference on Safe Transport Infrastructure, Prague 2013

The 8th annual International **Conference on Safe Transport Infrastructure**, organised by AF CityPlan took place in Prague on 11-12 November 2013, with the participation of more than 120 road safety experts and stakeholders. In the conference several critical road safety issues found in the European Countries were presented as well as comparisons of the road safety performance of the Czech Republic with those of the 28 countries of the European Union. [LINK](#)

NTUA presentation concerned: 'ROSEE - A road safety initiative to improve infrastructure and behaviour in South East Europe'. [f](#)

EU Cross-Border Enforcement Directive 2013

The Cross-Border Enforcement Directive (2011/82/EU) of the European Commission, is now in force since November 7th, 2013. This Directive enables that EU drivers are identified and thus prosecuted for offences committed in a Member State other than the one where their vehicle is registered. **EU Member States will exchange information on drivers who commit traffic offences abroad**, including the four "big killers" that cause 75% of road fatalities - speeding, running traffic lights, failure to use seatbelts and drink driving. This information exchange will ensure that foreign offenders can be pursued and punished across borders. The Directive targets traffic offences with a critical impact on road safety, namely:

- Speeding or failing to stop at traffic lights,
- Driving under the influence alcohol or drugs,
- Failing to wear a seatbelt or a safety helmet (for motorcyclists),
- Illegal use of mobile phone while driving or of an emergency lane. [LINK](#)

WHO Interactive map of traffic death rate 2010

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a map based **interactive tool** with the estimated traffic death rate (per 100.000 population) for each country. This tool offers to the user the option to select the estimated traffic death rates by country, by region and for different income levels. [LINK](#)

BASt - Ageing and Safe Mobility Conference, Bergisch-Gladbach 2014

An International Conference on Ageing and safe mobility, organised by the Federal Highway Research Institute (BASt), the Forum of the European Road Safety Research Institutes (FERSI), the European Conference of Transport Research Institutes (ECTRI), the European Transport Research Alliance (ETRA), the European New Car Assessment Programme (Euro NCAP), the Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories (FEHRL) and the Human Centred Design for Information Society Technologies Network (HUMANIST) will take place in **Bergisch-Gladbach, on 27-28 November 2014**. The **abstract submission closing date is set to 15 January 2014**.

The Conference will focus on the road safety problems of elderly road users and it will aim at elaborating policy recommendations concerning implementation of available road safety evidence based research results. The four sections of the Conference are: Human Factors, Infrastructure, Vehicles engineering, Traffic Management Systems. [LINK](#)

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2013

The **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims** is observed on the third Sunday of November each year (this year on 17 November 2013) by an increasing number of countries on every continent around the world. This day adopted by the UN in 2005, is dedicated to remembering the many millions killed or injured in road crashes and their families and communities, as well as to pay tribute to the dedicated emergency crews, police and medical professionals who daily deal with the traumatic aftermath of road death and injury.

In Greece this year, Efhita Rhodes and SOS Traffic Crimes, members of FEVR (European Federation of Road Traffic Victims) and the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety, organised a series of events to commemorate this day [LINK](#), including the promotion of the special video translated in several languages. [LINK](#)

The 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 Yannis.