



## NTUA Road Safety Update - July 2014



### Professor John Golias is the new Rector of NTUA 2014



Professor John Golias was recently elected as the new Rector of the National Technical University of Athens, heading nine Engineering Schools, more than 500 faculty members, 12.000 students and 4.000 researchers. It is **the first time that a Transportation Engineer is elected as NTUA Rector.**

Professor John Golias is the Director of Traffic Engineering Laboratory of NTUA and Dean of the School of Civil Engineering. He has been involved in all areas of transportation planning and engineering sector for more than 35 years through numerous research projects, engineering studies and committees in Greece and abroad and he is the author of a great number of published scientific papers, cited widely worldwide. He served also as Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games and Chairman of the Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engineers. Road accident analysis and road safety policy are among his key scientific areas. [LINK](#)

### Detecting Powered-Two-Wheeler Incidents from High Resolution Naturalistic Data 2014



A paper titled "Detecting Powered-Two-Wheeler Incidents from High Resolution Naturalistic Data" co-authored by Eleni Vlahogianni, George Yannis and John Golias is now published in Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour. During risky conditions, Powered-Two-Wheeler (PTW) drivers often alter their behavior from a regular driving pattern to an irregular chain of driving actions by braking, changing the throttle pressure, maneuvering and so on, or combinations of the above. However, both the actual and perceived thresholds of regular and irregular driving behavior differ among PTW drivers. A simple and flexible methodology is proposed in order to define PTW driving profiles by distinguishing between regular and irregular PTW driving behaviors using high resolution naturalistic data. "Irregularities" in driving behavior are consistently expressed as outlying values in the dataset of driving parameters. The detected irregularities are those that diverge from the centroid of the jointly considered driving parameters. These irregularities may be considered to define critical driving situations (incidents) that are further associated to typical driving events. Results indicate that the joint consideration of **variables which are directly connected to the mechanical characteristics of PTW, such as front and rear brake activation, wheel speed, throttle and steering, are adequate to distinguish the regular from irregular PTW driving behavior.** [DOI](#)

### World Bank - Transport for Health 2014



A Report on Transport for Health was recently published by the World Bank and the Institute for health metrics and evaluation. This Report contains data and analysis to quantify the health losses from road deaths and injuries worldwide, as part of the path-finding Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study. The Report's findings highlight the **growth in road deaths and injuries globally, and their substantial impacts on maternal and child health**, despite sustained reductions over the last three to four decades in high-income countries. This Transport for Health Report further reinforces the call for global action. [LINK](#)

### United Nations - Improving global road safety 2014



On 10 April 2014 the UN General Assembly adopted the "Improving global road safety" Resolution sponsored by the Russian Government. Among key decisions, the Resolution welcomes the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the Second Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in 2015, encourages the **inclusion of road safety in the post-2015 development agenda**, invites WHO to continue monitoring progress in the Decade of Action and requests organization of the Third UN Global Road Safety Week in 2015 on children and road safety. It backs calls for road safety to be considered in developing post-2015 global "Sustainable Development Goals" which are key to finance for road safety. [LINK](#)

### European Commission - first EU Transport Scoreboard 2014



The European Commission has published for the first time a scoreboard on transport in the EU. It compares Member State performance in 22 transport-related categories and highlights for most of these categories the five top and bottom performers. The Netherlands and Germany top the scoreboard with high scores in 11 categories, followed by Sweden, the UK and Denmark. The aim of this first EU Transport

Scoreboard is to give a **snapshot of the diversity of Member State performance in transport** matters across Europe and to help Member States identify shortcomings and define priorities for investment and policies. [LINK](#)

Road fatalities indicators can be compared with all other transport indicators of all EU countries.

### European Commission - Smartphone app for EU road traffic rules 2014



The new smartphone application 'Going Abroad' is now available after an initiative of the European Commission. This app provides **information on EU road traffic rules** and is available for iPhone and iPad, Google Android and Microsoft Windows phones in 22 languages. Apart from all important road safety information for all EU countries, the app also contains a road safety quiz and a memory game to entertain passengers during long car journeys. Of course the app should never be checked while driving; drivers should let the passengers do the job or take breaks from driving to stay both rested and well-informed. [LINK](#)

### FISITA World Automotive Congress - Maastricht 2014



The 35th FISITA Congress, organised by the International Federation of Automotive Engineering Societies (FISITA) and the Royal Institute of Engineers in the Netherlands (KIVI), took place on 2-6 June in Maastricht. [LINK](#)

A special session **"Towards a Global Strategic Research Agenda for Road Safety"** was organised by the PROS European research project on the 5th of June. [LINK](#)

### Congress of European Neurology - Istanbul 2014



The Joint Congress of European Neurology, organised by the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) and the European Neurological Society (ENS) took place on 31 May - 3 June, 2014, in Istanbul. This scientific meeting provided a platform for continuing education in all fields of neurology, covering a broad spectrum of topics with state-of-the-art lectures by acknowledged experts. [LINK](#)

NTUA contributed to the following road safety presentations:

- Predictors of driving performance in individuals with MCI: preliminary results
- Prediction of driving performance in patients with Parkinson's disease: preliminary findings on the role of the Comprehensive Trail Making test
- Reaction time to incidents as a function of age and neurological disease: preliminary findings from a large driving simulation experiment
- The relation between intentional and incidental memory in healthy young versus older individuals

### Greek Road Safety Inter-Ministry Committee 2014



According to the Prime Minister Decision nr. 1245/15-5-2014, the Greek Road Safety Inter-Ministry Committee is re-established. Under the new structure, the Inter-Ministry Committee is **chaired by the Prime Minister**, assisted by a Support Committee chaired by the Deputy Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Networks and the respective Secretariat. [LINK](#)

In parallel, the new National Road Safety Council has also been re-established, comprising representatives from all decision makers and stakeholders involved, as well as key road safety experts. [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](http://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.