

## NTUA Road Safety Update - March 2015



National Technical University of Athens  
Road Safety Update

March 2015

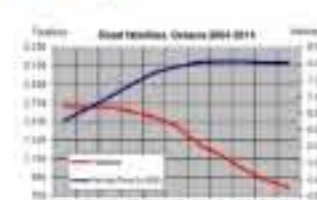
### EU road safety statistics show small improvement for 2014



The European Commission has published the most recent statistics on road fatalities, based on provisional data for 2014 road deaths in Europe. The number of road fatalities has **decreased by approximately only 1% compared to 2013**; the decrease rate has slowed down in 2014 following on the 8% decrease in 2012 and 2013. The average EU fatality rate for 2014 is expected to be 51 road deaths per million inhabitants. Country by country statistics show that the number of road deaths still varies greatly across the EU, from less than 30 (Malta, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom) to above 90 (Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania) deaths per million inhabitants. [LINK](#)

In the respective accompanying European Commission road safety statistics report, the basic safety trends, statistics and challenges in the EU 2010-2014 are highlighted, with focus on pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. [LINK](#)

### Greece presents an impressive 5-year drop of 46% in road fatalities in 2014



According to provisional data from the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), the number of road fatalities in 2014 continued to decrease significantly (-9%), whereas serious injuries decreased by 17%. **Road fatalities in Greece have decreased by an impressive 46% since 2009**, whereas injury road accidents decreased by 21%.

The rate fatalities per number of vehicles (72 fatalities per million inhabitants) has also decreased in the same period by 46% making Greece to advance several steps among the EU countries, getting for the first time closer to the EU average (52) than to the least performing EU countries (90-105). This impressive decrease can be attributed to the joint effect of: a) more systematic initiatives from the Authorities (intensification of enforcement, construction and upgrade of 2,500 km of motorways, urban mobility plans) and several stakeholders (new vehicles, campaigns, training and monitoring) and b) the deep economic crisis, which brought new traffic patterns (less veh-kms, less risky drivers) and less speedy and aggressive driver behaviour. [LINK](#)

### NTUA / HITE - 6th Pan-hellenic Road Safety Conference, Athens 2015



The National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and the Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engineers organised the 6th Pan-Hellenic Conference on Road Safety, which took place with great success in Athens at the Amphitheater of the Ministry of Infrastructure, on 12-13 March 2015. The main objectives of the conference were to explore and assess the level of road safety in the country and **the efforts and innovations implemented to improve the road safety** of drivers, vehicles and pedestrians in Greece. More than 300 road safety experts and stakeholders participated at the 8 sessions with 35 oral and 24 poster presentations. [LINK](#)

The Conference Proceedings and the respective presentations are available at the Conference website. [LINK](#)

NTUA presentations concerned:

- Road Safety Patterns in South-East European Regions
- A Speed Management Strategy for the Peloponnese
- Forecasting the number of road traffic fatalities in Greece
- Road Safety Management in Greece
- Exploratory analysis of the effect of distraction on driving behaviour through a driving simulator experiment
- Driving performance profiles of drivers with brain pathologies in rural roads
- Comparative analysis of factors affecting driving under the influence of alcohol of car drivers and motorcyclists
- Investigation of the relationship between working memory and Parkinson's disease in a driving simulator
- Investigation of the impact on road safety of increasing the speed limit on motorways
- Safety Practices of Nursery School Travel: Preliminary Results from Iloupoli
- A review of the impact of traffic volume on road accidents
- Identification of potential hazardous locations on existing roads as related to road alignment
- Investigation of the influence of the road grade in determining the Stopping Sight Distance
- Safety considerations in road infrastructure design
- Road accident data analysis: from correlation to causation and policy support

### ETSC - Ranking EU progress on improving motorways safety 2015



The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) has just published the PIN Flash Report 'Ranking EU progress on improving motorways safety', with the contribution of NTUA. Motorways are the safest roads by design and regulation. Nevertheless in 2013, around 1,900 people were killed on the motorway network in the EU, representing 7% of all road deaths. **Nearly 27,500 people have died on motorways in the EU in the last ten years 2004 to 2013**. Nevertheless progress has been made. Across the EU the number of people killed on motorways was cut by 49% between 2004 and 2013 (compared to 44% on the rest of the road network). Over the same period, the length of the motorway network increased by about a quarter. [LINK](#)

### TISPOL New three-year Strategic Plan 2015



A NEW three-year strategic plan has recently been published by TISPOL. The plan sets out how TISPOL will play its part in **reducing deaths, serious injuries and crimes on Europe's roads**, and in so doing will be the most effective police road safety network in the world. Four strategic objectives form the centrepiece of the plan:

- A safer road network for all users
- Detecting and preventing crime on the road network within Europe
- Engaging in effective partnership activity
- Ensuring an efficient organisational and financial plan

These objectives are underpinned by TISPOL's values of service, professionalism, integrity, compassion, equality and fairness. [LINK](#)

### Global NCAP - Millions of new cars worldwide fail UN safety standards 2015



The Road Map for Safer Cars 2020 has recently been published by Global NCAP with ten key recommendations for safer cars. Millions of new cars sold in middle and low income countries fail to meet the UN's basic safety standards for front and side impacts revealed international automotive safety watchdog Global NCAP. A package of minimum safety regulations for adoption by the end of the UN Decade, measures to promote a market for safety among car buyers in the rapidly motorising countries, policies to sustain the safety of the vehicles once in use, and a proposed industry voluntary commitment to implement minimum occupant safety standards to all new passenger cars are included in the Road Map. If this Road Map is followed by 2020, **all new cars in the world would pass the minimum UN standards for crashworthiness and crash avoidance**. This would spread the advances in automotive safety technology across all countries, mitigate the risks of rapid motorisation, and help achieve a world free from many avoidable and unnecessary road traffic fatalities. [LINK](#)

### Hellenic Institute of Transport - Safe School Transport Workshop 2015



A workshop on 'Safe School Transport: New technologies pave the way for optimizing the organization and upgrading the safety of school transport system', organised by the Hellenic Institute of Transport of the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) took place in Thessaloniki, on March 27th, 2015. The event was organised under the framework of the project **'Integrated System for the Safe Transport of Students'** - i-student trip. [LINK](#)

### IOAS/HITE Road Safety Week 2015



The 8th Road Safety Week organised by the Road Safety Institute 'Panos Mylonas' and the Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engineers on 16-23 March 2015, under the framework of UN activities for Road Safety 2015, with focus to **children traffic safety**. Most of the activities of this year's road safety day took place in Athens and in Patras and were devoted to children with the interactive traffic education program 'On the Road to Safety'. [LINK](#)

### Akis Theofilatos obtained the NTUA Thomaidion Award 2015



Akis Theofilatos, NTUA PhD Candidate and Researcher at the Department of Transportation Planning and Engineering in the School of Civil Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens, obtained the **NTUA Thomaidion Award 2013 for the publication of the paper titled "Pedestrian Gap Acceptance for Mid-Block Street Crossing"**, co-authored by Prof. George Yannis and Dr. Eleonora Papadimitriou in the Journal of Transportation Planning and Technology. [DOI](#)

### Investigation of the effect of vehicle collision type on road accident severity in Greece - 2015



A Diploma Thesis titled 'Investigation of the effect of vehicle collision type on road accident severity in Greece' was presented by Olga Reizopoulou in March 2015. Appropriately processed data for the period 2007-2011 in Greece were used from the ELSTAT datafile based on Traffic Policerecords and special log-rate analysis models were developed. Severity has been chosen to be expressed as the rate of number of persons killed and seriously injured divided by the number of slightly injured persons. The analysis led to the investigation of the impact on accident severity of the area type and the vehicle type involved. It appears that **the severity is higher for passenger car and motorcycle occupants**, while the vehicle type of the opponent car that affects more the severity is passenger car and truck. This impact is higher outside urban areas. [LINK](#)

### Investigating the self-reported behavior of drivers and their attitudes to traffic violations 2013



A paper titled 'Investigating the self-reported behavior of drivers and their attitudes to traffic violations' co-authored by Sophia Vardaki and George Yannis is published in the Journal of Safety Research. A sample of 601 Greek drivers participating at the SARTRE 4 pan-European questionnaire-based survey is exploited. The findings indicate that **differences in attitudes and behaviours may be attributed to factors such as age, gender, and area of residence**. The research findings also provided some insight about the current level of drivers' attitudes to traffic violations, especially those that negatively affect traffic safety. The pattern of their views on violations may form the basis of risk behavior-related interventions tailored to the identified groups, aiming at informing, educating, and raising the awareness of the public. [DOI](#)

### IJT - Special Issue on Road Safety in Europe 2015



The International Journal of Transportation, published online by the Science and Engineering Research Support Society (SERSC) has just announced a call for papers for the **Special Issue on Road Safety in Europe**, with Guest Editors NTUA Professors George Yannis and Constantinos Antoniou. This Journal provides a chance for academic and industry professionals to discuss recent progress in the area of Transportation. The merit of this journal is to expedite the review process in order to deliver emerging issues timely. The deadline for paper submission is end of April 2015. [LINK](#)

This Road Safety Update aims to support 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.