



NTUA Road Safety Update - April 2015

National Technical University of Athens
Road Safety Update
April 2015

UN/ECE Round Table on Power Two Wheeler Safety 2015

The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety of the United Nations - Economic Commission for Europe on the occasion of its 70th meeting has organised with great success in Geneva, on 23 March 2015 a Round Table on Power Two Wheeler Safety. Several international PTW safety experts contributed **state of the art developments from around the world on traffic safety** of motorcycles, scooters and mopeds, available at the UN/ECE website. [LINK](#)

NTUA Professor George Yannis made an invited presentation on 'Improved Safety of Motorcycles, Scooters and Mopeds' 

NTUA Civil Engineering School ranked 29th worldwide 2015

The Civil Engineering School of the National Technical University of Athens was ranked this year 29th among all Civil Engineering Schools worldwide and **8th in Europe**. This ranking is produced by the QS Organization based on the following criteria: Research, Teaching, Employability, Facilities, Internationalization, Innovation, Engagement and Access. NTUA road safety activities have contributed to this ranking. [LINK](#)

Professor Demetris Koutsouliannis, Dean of the Civil Engineering School said that this great improvement is the result of the systematic and collective efforts of all Faculty members for academic and research excellence. [LINK](#) [LINK](#)

NTUA/UOA - Cognition, Behaviour and Driving Conference, Athens 2015

A targeted Conference on Cognition, Behaviour and Driving will take place on **June 26th, 2015 in Athens** (NIMTS Hospital Amphitheater - Monis Petraki 10-12), co-organised by the Department of Transportation Planning and Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), the Department of Neurology, Psychiatry and Social Medicine, and the Department of Psychology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (UoA). The draft final programme of the Conference is now available. [LINK](#)

At this Conference, the results of the following two interdisciplinary research projects will be presented:

- DRIVERBRAIN - Performance of drivers with cerebral diseases at unexpected incidents, within the framework of the ARISTEIA research programme,
- DISTRACT - Causes and impacts of driver distraction: a driving simulator study, within the framework of the THALES research programme,

both granted through open and highly competitive procedures by the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs.

All presentations will be available in English language, however the working language will be Greek. Attendance is free, but registration is required on the basis of the first-come-first-served principle. [LINK](#)

European Commission - Road Infrastructure Safety Management Report 2015

The European Commission has recently released a 'Study on the effectiveness and on the improvement of the EU legislative framework on road infrastructure safety management', prepared by Transport & Mobility Leuven. The overall objective of this study was to assist the European Commission with the **evaluation of Directive 2008/96/EC on road infrastructure safety management and to investigate possible changes** in the light of new technological developments. The specific objectives of the study were:

- 1) To carry out an ex-post evaluation of the application of Directive 2008/96/EC. What were the main impacts of its application on road safety? What steps were taken to implement the Directive? What is the relevance of the Directive?
- 2) To provide a preliminary analysis of the possible areas of improvement with regards to road safety and the safety of road infrastructure in particular. [LINK](#)

NTUA Professor George Yannis contributed to the respective stakeholder consultation. [LINK](#)

European Commission online tool for all driving licenses models in the EU 2015

The European Commission has launched a new online search tool that displays most valid driving licence models issued in the European Economic Area (Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland) countries. The tool shows **pictures of the licence and other information** such as explanation of national categories, national codes and administrative validity of the document and will be particular useful for national authorities working on road side checks or dealing with the administrative exchange of driving licences. [LINK](#)

EuroRAP - How Safe Are You On Europe's Trade Routes? 2015

Benefit results of road improvement programmes are now available from EuroRAP. In terms of crash costs alone, more than 2% of European GDP is lost annually. The **expected Benefit-Cost ratio is 5** for applying EuroRAP recommendations across the TEN-T, as highlighted in a recent EuroRAP infographic. [LINK](#)

RTSA - Road Safety in Local Communities Conference, Kragujevac 2015

The Road Traffic Safety Agency of Serbia (RTSA) together with several Serbian and international road safety Governmental, Academic and other organisations organised with great success the 10th Jubilee International Conference on Road Safety in Local Communities, in Kragujevac, Serbia, on 22-25 April 2015. More than 150 national and international road safety decision makers, experts and stakeholders contributed to very fruitful discussion focussing **all five pillars of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020**. [LINK](#)

NTUA presentation concerned: 'Integrated speed management strategies in local communities in South East Europe' 

OSCE Road Safety Regional Conference, Pristina 2015

A Regional Conference on Road Traffic Safety and activities within the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, organised by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - Mission for Kosovo, took place in Pristina, Kosovo on 29 April 2015. More than 50 road safety decision makers, experts and stakeholders addressed all **current and future aspects of road safety in Kosovo**. 

NTUA presentation concerned: 'Monitoring Road Safety Policies and Performance' 

American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting, Washington 2015

The 67th AAN Annual Meeting organised by the American Academy of Neurology took place with great success in Washington, DC, on 18-25 April 2015. A special session on **driving performance** contained very interesting contributions. [LINK](#)

NTUA presentations concerned:

- City and rural driving performance in healthy controls, MCI, and AD patients: Preliminary results from a driving simulation experiment with the use of distraction
- Motor abilities and driving performance in Parkinson's disease (PD)
- Motorway driving performance in healthy controls, MCI, and AD patients: Preliminary results from a driving simulation experiment

FEHRL Infrastructure Research Meeting - Brussels 2015

The Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories (FEHRL) organised the FEHRL Infrastructure Research Meeting (FIRM15), which took place in **Brussels, on 22-23 April 2015**. This key event, gathered some 120 transport infrastructure innovation and research experts, including European and national policy makers, leading industry, standardisation agencies, SME's and the media. [LINK](#)

With the theme of "Innovative maintenance of Transport Infrastructure. Faster, cheaper, more reliable, safer, greener", FIRM15 featured multiple information sessions on the following themes:

- Infrastructure level: Engineering and technical solutions
- System level: operations including monitoring inspections
- Governance level: management and financial issues

All the presentations of the event are now available. [LINK](#)

ETSC PIN Annual Conference, Brussels 2015

The PIN Annual Conference, organised by the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), will take place in **Brussels on 18 June 2015**. At the 2015 Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) conference, ETSC will launch its latest annual report explaining why some countries are still reducing deaths, some stagnated, and several are going in reverse. What the EU and member states need to do to get progress back on track to reach the EU's 2020 target to cut road deaths by half over ten years will also be highlighted. During that event ETSC publishes the results of the Annual Report and awards the PIN Award to a high level policymaker responsible for the country's outstanding progress in road safety. [LINK](#)

EUSDR - First Danube Region Road Safety Conference 2015

The First Danube Region Road Safety Conference: "Towards an Increased Road Safety in the Danube Region, towards Zero Vision", organised by the EU Strategy for the Danube Region Programme (EUSDR PA1b), together with the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia, will take place in **Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 20 - 21 May 2015**.

Government authorities, policy makers, lead experts and international academia will gather in Ljubljana to discuss present and future road safety relevant challenges, solutions and best practices for the 14 countries of the Danube macro-region and beyond, including road safety soft and hard measures, improvement and development of road infrastructure, road safety management and human behaviour in traffic. [LINK](#)

Feasibility analysis of installing pedestrian bridges in major road axes in Athens

A Diploma Thesis titled 'Feasibility analysis of installing pedestrian bridges in major road axes in Athens' was presented by Natalia Vraka in March 2015. Sixteen hazardous road locations for the five year period 2007 - 2011, were identified through the Quality Control method, assessing accident data concerning pedestrians and traffic volume data regarding eleven central road axes of Athens with a high pedestrian traffic. Then, a before-and-after accident analysis method with a large control group was applied, which demonstrated a strong dissimilarity between the six examined pedestrian bridges. As a result, no clear conclusions could be drawn about the impact of pedestrian bridges in accidents frequency and severity. However, based on in situ observations made at the 16 dangerous road sections, the conclusion drawn was that there is **high potential for the construction of pedestrian bridges** in four of them, whereas in four others specific additional interventions would be needed. 

Current road safety trends in Greece - 2014

A paper titled 'Current road safety trends in Greece' co-authored by George Yannis and Alexandra Laiou is now published in Periodica Polytechnica. Greece has been for years among the worst performing countries in Europe in terms of road safety with one of the highest annual rates of fatalities per million inhabitants in the EU. However, a gradual decrease has been recorded over time. The bad performance of Greece in road safety is partially **due to institutional problems such as inefficient organization of public administration, lack of organized structures of the State** with responsibility for road safety, non-accountability of stakeholders in relation to the implementation of actions and inadequate funding for road safety. The most critical, road user behavior related, accident factors include speeding, low usage rates of seat belts and helmets, unorganized and unprotected traffic of vulnerable road users, drink-driving, use of mobile phones while driving and generalized aggressive driving. In Greece, a great potential for safety improvement exists, if serious effort for tackling the above major critical factors is made. [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 organized 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 is gathered, analysed and organized 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.