



## NTUA Road Safety Update - July 2015

National Technical University of Athens  
**Road Safety Update**  
 July 2015

### European Commission Interim Evaluation of Road Safety Policy 2011-2020

The Interim Evaluation of the road safety policy framework has been recently released by the European Commission, taking stock of action taken to date and assessing progress made towards the target of halving of the number of road deaths over the period 2011-2020. The main conclusions of this Interim Evaluation are:

- the policy framework remains relevant,
- the fatality reduction target is an important tool,
- **the target is still within reach, but will be a challenge,**
- more attention needs to be paid to vulnerable road-users and serious injuries,
- future challenges: an ageing population, distracting technical devices. [LINK](#)

The complete documentation of the European Commission Road Safety Policy Interim Evaluation is now available:  
 The Interim Evaluation Report and the Staff Working Document  
 The Support study and its Annexes by Jeanne Breen  
 Policy orientations on road safety 2011-2020 and Transport White Paper 2011

### ETSC PIN Report - Ranking EU Progress on Road Safety 2015

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) has recently released the PIN Annual Report at the PIN Annual Conference on June 18th, 2015 in Brussels. **In 2014, the worst annual reduction in EU road deaths since 2001 was observed.** 25,845 people were killed in the EU28 as a consequence of road collisions compared to 26,009 in 2013, representing a decrease of only 0.6%, compared with the decrease of 6.7% that is needed to reach the target for 2020 by equal annual reductions. Out of the 32 countries monitored by the PIN Programme, only 18 registered a drop in the number of road deaths between 2013 and 2014, 13 saw an increase while progress stagnated in one country. [LINK](#)

At this ETSC PIN Annual Report, it was also highlighted what the EU and member states need to do to get progress back on track to reach the EU's 2020 road fatalities' reduction targets. NTUA contributed actively to this ETSC PIN Annual Report.

### 5th International Symposium on Highway Geometric Design, Vancouver 2015

The 5th International Symposium on Highway Geometric Design organised by TRB (Transport Research Board), UBC (University of Columbia) and TRANSOFT took place with great success in Vancouver, on 22-24 June 2015. More than 300 road experts from more than 40 countries contributed to the discussions of more than 150 presentations on geometric design issues throughout the world, together with country reports featuring recent developments in **road design, policy and practices, design and research products.** [LINK](#)

NTUA presentations concerned:  
 Design Considerations of Modern Roundabouts  
 3D SSD Control on Left-turn Curves of Freeways Overlapped with Vertical Curves

### SiEBEN / NTUA - Road Safety and Tunnel Users, Athens 2015

A very interesting workshop targeting the **upgrade of road transport safety through the improvement of tunnel user behaviour** with new training technologies took place in Athens, on 16 June 2015. The workshop was organised by SiEBEN, Mediascape, SYNERGEIA and the Laboratory of Industrial Engineering of the School of Mechanical Engineering of NTUA and concerned very interesting presentations and discussions on the findings of the respective research project [safetunnel4t](#) [LINK](#) [LINK](#), funded by the Greek General Secretariat for Research and Technology. [LINK](#)

NTUA presentation concerned: 'Road Safety Infrastructure management' [LINK](#)

### 1st Congress of the European Academy of Neurology, Berlin 2015

The 1st Congress of the European Academy of Neurology took place with great success in Berlin, on 20-23 June 2015. More than 6.000 participants from more than 100 countries attended with an overwhelmingly positive feedback 8 Symposia, 25 Teaching courses, 23 Focused workshops, 5 Hands-on courses, 3 Interactive sessions, 5 Special Sessions and showed 1.546 posters, including 2 Scientific and 17 Industry Satellite Symposia. Few sessions concerned **cognitive impairment and driving.** [LINK](#)

NTUA presentations concerned:  
 Accident risk of drivers with cognitive impairments  
 Assessment of driving performance of drivers with cognitive impairments: which are the critical measures?  
 Cerebral diseases and distractibility while driving  
 Self-awareness of performance in cognitive testing: differences between healthy elderly and patients with Parkinson's disease (PD)  
 Self-assessment of change in driving in relation to current driving performance on a driving simulator in patients with various neurological conditions  
 Assessing incidental memory in cognitively intact individuals versus patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI)  
 The role of sleeping abnormalities on the driving performance of individuals with Mild Cognitive Impairment  
 Exploring indexes of driving performance in cognitively intact drivers and drivers with Parkinson's Disease (PD)

### National Conference of the Hellenic Neurological Society, Alexandroupolis 2015

The 27th National Conference of the Hellenic Neurological Society took place with great success in Alexandroupolis, on 6-9 June 2015. One of the conference sessions was **dedicated to neurological diseases and driving.** [LINK](#)

NTUA presentations concerned:  
 Relationship between sleep disorders and driving behavior of people with mild cognitive impairment  
 Self-awareness of cognitive performance: differences between healthy elderly and patients with mild cognitive impairment  
 Walking in a direct line as a prognosis indicator of fitness to drive in Parkinson disease patients

### National Congress on Psychological Research, Nicosia 2015

The 15th National Congress on Psychological Research organised by the Hellenic Psychological Society and the University of Cyprus took place with great success in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 27-31 May 2015. The theme of the conference was **'Psychology in Greece and the Mediterranean'** and included topics on driver psychology. [LINK](#)

NTUA presentation concerned: 'Neuropsychological factors in driving with or without distraction' [LINK](#)

### ETSC - Europe must boost safety for cyclists and walkers 2015

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) has just published the PIN Flash Report: 'Making walking and cycling on Europe's Roads Safer', with the contribution of NTUA. Around **138,400 pedestrians and cyclists lost their lives on EU roads between 2001 and 2013.** Deaths of unprotected road users have been decreasing at a slower rate than those of vehicle occupants. In the last ten years deaths among pedestrians decreased by 41%, those among cyclists by 37% and those among power two wheeler (PTW) users by 34% compared to a 53% decrease for vehicle occupants. Since 2010 the reduction in the number of pedestrian and cyclist deaths has slowed down markedly. The safety of unprotected road users should therefore receive special attention from policymakers at the national and European levels. [LINK](#)

### TIRF Road Safety Campaigns Report 2015

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) has recently released the report 'Road Safety Campaigns - What the Research Tells Us'. This report represents the first phase of a two-phase project that has been conducted by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) with funding from the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA). Road safety campaigns are **one of the most popular and flexible tools to encourage behaviour change and improve road safety.**

This very interesting report contains an overview of leading theories that provide the foundation for road safety campaigns. It is combined with a comprehensive summary of the research evidence related to the effectiveness of road safety campaigns generally, and examples of individual campaign evaluations from North America and Europe regarding drinking and driving, distracted driving, seatbelt use, speeding and vulnerable road users. It also highlights what is known about learning styles based on educational theories and shares recommendations to help communities develop effective road safety campaigns. [LINK](#)

### Road Safety & Simulation International Conference, Orlando 2015

The 2015 Road Safety & Simulation International Conference, organised by the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) will take place on **6-8 October 2015, in Orlando, Florida, USA.** The RSS series showcases advancements in traffic simulation and driving simulator technologies, introducing new initiatives and concepts that have emerged since the first RSS conference in Rome, Italy in 2007.

Under the auspices of the Southeastern Transportation Center, three world-class research centers will support the conference: Center for Advanced Transportation Systems Simulation and the Institute for Simulation and Training at UCF and UTK's Center for Transportation Research. These centers conduct sponsored research in driving simulators, traffic simulation, traffic safety, commercial vehicle operations, Intelligent Transportation Systems deployment, and congestion pricing; human factors; and comprehensive transportation safety, including surface modes, rail, and bicycle and pedestrian issues. [LINK](#)

### 2nd Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety, Brasilia 2015

The 2nd Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety hosted by the Government of Brazil will take place in **Brasilia, on 18-19 November 2015.** The conference was welcomed in the resolution entitled 'Improving Global Road Safety' by the UN General Assembly and the World Health Organisation (WHO) and is estimated to bring together over 1,500 participants from 150 countries. [LINK](#)

The first draft of the Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety is now available. [LINK](#)

### The combined effect of economic crisis, traffic and weather conditions on road safety in Athens 2014

A Diploma Thesis titled 'The combined effect of economic crisis, traffic and weather conditions on road safety in Athens' was presented by Eleni Ziaka in July 2014. Data was collected on a monthly basis for the period 2006-2011 in Attica for victims in road accidents (motorcyclists & pedestrians) including **rainfall and temperature, traffic volume and speed in selected arterials and police reports** (use of seatbelt and helmet, driving under the influence of alcohol and speed limit violations) and six lognormal regression models were developed. Results show that congestion is statistically significant in every model and speed is statistically significant only in models with seriously injured and killed people. Also, it was found that an increase in temperature and decrease in rainfall increases the number of casualties and especially the seriously injured and killed people. Moreover, influence of speed limit violations and driving under the influence of alcohol is statistically significant. Finally, it is seen that there is a decrease trend in the number of casualties during the economic crisis. [LINK](#)

### Assessing Selected Cognitive Impairments Using a Driving Simulator: A Focused Review - 2015

A paper titled 'Assessing Selected Cognitive Impairments Using a Driving Simulator: A Focused Review' co-authored by Vardaki Sophia, George Yannis and Sokratis Papageorgiou is now published in Advances in Transportation Studies. The paper offers a **focused review of studies investigating driving performance as assessed on simulators**, targeting cognitive impairments which are age-related or caused by neuro-degenerative disorders, including mild cognitive impairment (MCI), Alzheimer's disease (AD), Parkinson's disease (PD) and stroke. The paper references selected findings highlighting what they reveal about several key methodological issues: gauging task demands in relation to actual driving; how differences in cognitive ability affect performance, and how this varies for different driving tasks; issues related to scenario design, such as simulator limitations, scenario authoring and simulated driving tasks; the need to develop operational definitions and comparability; limitations that affect the generalizability of simulator studies; the simulator adaptation syndrome; the bias in performance assessment that can result when drivers have not adequately adapted to the simulator; and driving simulator validation. The issues covered would help readers recognize the many confounding variables and sources of measurement error that can flaw research of this type, and their implications for future investigations. [DOI](#)

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.