



NTUA Road Safety Update - October 2015

National Technical University of Athens
Road Safety Update
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European Commission - Traffic Safety Basic Facts and Infographics 2015

The Road Safety Unit of DG Move of the European Commission published recently the **Traffic Safety Basic Facts** and the respective **Infographics** for key road safety issues in Europe, with the active contribution of NTUA, KfV and ERF.

The EU Traffic Safety Basic Facts are based on most recent disaggregate data for all EU countries from the CARE Database of the European Commission and concern **several key road safety issues** like road users safety (Children, Young people, Young drivers, Elderly, Pedestrians, Cyclists, Gender), vehicle traffic safety (Motorcycles and mopeds, Passenger cars, Heavy goods vehicles and buses), road infrastructure safety (Motorways, Junctions, Urban areas, Roads outside urban areas) and accident type (Single vehicle accidents, Seasonality).

WHO Global Status Report on road safety 2015

The World Health Organization (WHO) released the **Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015**, which highlights that road traffic injuries are a major global health and development problem. This Status Report presents information on road safety from 180 countries out of a total of 195 WHO Member States, covering 6.97 billion people or 97% of the world's population. It indicates that worldwide the total number of **road traffic deaths has plateaued at 1.25 million per year**, with the highest road traffic fatality rates in low-income countries.

This WHO Global Status Report is accompanied by:

- country profiles with detailed background road safety data and information,
- comparative data tables, each one with detailed data of a specific topic by country/area,
- infographics illustrating the main road accident safety causes,
- an interactive world map highlighting the main road safety indicators in each country,
- the respective press material and the data collection methodology.

NTUA has contributed actively to the country profile of Greece.

IRTAD Road Safety Annual Report 2015

The International Road Traffic and Accident Database (IRTAD) of the International Transport Forum (ITF/OECD) published recently the full version of the **Annual Report 2015**, which comprises a synthesis of the main trends and road safety indicators for the year 2013 and preliminary data for the year 2014. It presents longer-term trends in order to better understand the developments taking place in the different countries. The number of road fatalities fell by 4.3% between 2013 and 2012 in the 32 IRTAD member countries with verified data. The long-term trend shows a very **significant decrease of 42% between 2000 and 2013** in the IRTAD countries, however great disparities between countries persist. Detailed validated reports for each country are illustrated in the full version of the IRTAD Annual Report. NTUA has contributed to the detailed report for Greece.

ITF - Improving Safety for Motorcycle, Scooter and Moped Riders 2015

The International Transport Forum (ITF) has recently released a **Research Report on Improving Safety for Motorcycle, Scooter and Moped Riders**. This Report summarises the findings of the work of the Working Group on the Safety of Powered Two Wheelers set up by ITF in 2010 aiming to review **trends in powered two-wheeler crashes and examine the factors contributing to these crashes and their severity**. In this Report are presented in a consolidated way, a set of countermeasures targeting user behaviour, the use of protective equipment, the vehicles and the infrastructure and discussion on motorcycle safety strategies in the context of a Safe System approach. NTUA has contributed actively to the preparation of this Report.

ERF Position Paper - Traffic Signs in European Roads 2015

The European Road Federation (ERF) launched recently its Position Paper towards **Improving Traffic Signs in European Roads: "Improved Signage for better Roads"**. This Position Paper advocates for authorities to avoid or tackle the over-proliferation of traffic signs and to ensure that those installed display a clear message, in order to **achieve better road safety and traffic flow, and good use of public resources**. Road authorities need to set a multiannual maintenance action plan. The need to adapt to the needs of an ageing driver population, by introducing a minimum maintenance standards for safety critical signs under the Vienna Convention is highlighted. This position paper calls for all stakeholders involved to examine the benefits of greater harmonisation of signs within the Vienna Convention to maximise the safety benefits of new vehicle technologies as well as to provide for a more familiar environment for increasing cross-border traffic volumes.

FIA Save Kids Lives - A film by Luc Besson 2015

A film to raise awareness of the road safety crisis, directed by Luc Besson is now a part of the **#SAVEKIDSLIVES** campaign on road safety of the FIA and FIA Foundation, the international motoring federation. According to World Health Organisation figures, 500 children are killed each day in road crashes globally. In a bid to raise awareness of this road safety crisis, Jean Todt, President of the FIA, and Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Road Safety, turned to world renowned film director Luc Besson to deliver a potent visual message **highlighting the road dangers facing children around the world**. The film is a shocking wake-up call and was shot on location in South Africa and Paris demonstrating the dangers faced every day by children on their journey to school, whether caused by the lack of safe infrastructure in the townships of South Africa or by the heavy traffic of a major European city.

UCF - Road Safety & Simulation International Conference, Orlando 2015

The 2015 Road Safety & Simulation International Conference (RSS), organised by the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) took place with great success on 6-8 October 2015, in Orlando, Florida, USA. Under the auspices of the Southeastern Transportation Center, three world-class research centers supported the conference: Center for Advanced Transportation Systems Simulation and the Institute for Simulation and Training at UCF and UTK's Center for Transportation Research. More than 200 road safety scientists showcased and discussed **advancements in traffic simulation and driving simulator technologies**, introducing new initiatives and concepts that have emerged since the previous editions of the RSS conference.

NTUA presentations concerned:

- In-vehicle distraction and brain pathologies: Effects on reaction time and accident probability
- Cell phone use and driving performance of different age groups
- Comparative analysis of young drivers behavior in normal and simulation conditions at a rural road

21st IRTAD Meeting - Ljubljana 2015

The 21st Meeting of the **International Traffic Safety Data and Analysis Group (IRTAD)** organised by the International Transport Forum (ITF) took place in Ljubljana, on 12-13 October 2015.

NTUA presentations concerned:

- Distraction, Cognition, Behaviour and Driving Analysis of a large data set
- Bicycle Traffic Rules in OECD countries

International Conference on green accessible intelligent transport - Istanbul 2015

An international conference on Green Accessible Intelligent Transport (GAIT2015) - Turkey - EU partnership for sustainable transportation, organised by the European Commission and the Turkish Ministry of Transport, took place in Istanbul, on 8-9 October 2016. The plenary and discussion sessions of the conference were attended by more than 700 participants and raised important issues belonging to the daily lives of Turkish and European citizens, varying from accessibility of transport services to the **adaptation and mitigation challenges posed by climate change on the transport sector**.

NTUA presentation concerned: "Road safety in urban mobility policies"

Crete TEI - Road Accidents, Injuries and Rehabilitation Conference, Iraklion 2015

An international conference on road accidents, injuries and rehabilitation organised by the Health School of TEI of Crete and Hannover Medical School, took place with great success in Iraklion, Crete, on 22-23 October 2015. During this Conference, the results of the EU co-funded project "Reducing the Harm and the Burden of Injuries and human Loss caused by road traffic crashes and **Addressing Injury Demands through effective interventions**" (REHABIL AID) were presented and discussed together with the socio-economic aspects of road accidents in Europe. More than 200 road safety experts, professionals and stakeholders contributed and discussed state of the art developments for road accident and injury prevention and safety promotion in Greece, in Europe and worldwide.

NTUA presentation concerned: "Road infrastructure safety management"

MS Hannover - 7th Expert Symposium on Accident Research, Hannover 2016

The 7th International Expert Symposium on Accident Research (ESAR) will take place in **Hannover on 9-10 June 2016**. ESAR is organised by the Medical School of Hannover, the University of Technology of Dresden and the Federal Highway Research Institute of Germany and it is a scientific colloquium which can be seen as a platform for exchanges of information on accident research issues. Representatives from authorities as well as from medical and technical institutions will come together to discuss new research issues and exchange experiences on accident prevention and methodologies of accident reconstruction. The goal of ESAR is to give the opportunity to all kind of studies on Accident Investigation Methodologies, Accident Analysis, Active and Passive Safety, Injury mechanisms and Injury Prevention to an audience of experts from government, industry and other researchers from all parts of the world. The call for abstracts is now open until December 31st, 2015.

IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium, Gothenburg 2016

The Intelligent Vehicles Symposium (IV16) sponsored by the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society (ITSS) and organised by Chalmers University of Technology and SAFER Vehicle and Traffic Safety Centre will take place in **Gothenburg, on 19-22 June 2016**. Several technical sessions, workshops, poster sessions, exhibition, and technical visits will highlight the latest research and applications for Intelligent Vehicles and Vehicle-Infrastructure Cooperation. The final paper submission deadline is set for January 22nd, 2016.

Road fatalities by road type, Greece 2013

According to ELSTAT data, among the 879 persons killed in Greece in 2013: **415 were outside built-up areas and 464 were inside built-up areas**. 54% of road fatalities outside built-up area occurred on national roads. More than three quarters of road accidents and half of fatalities occurred inside built-up areas. However, accident severity is almost 4 times higher outside built-up areas in total.

Explaining the road accident risk: weather effects 2013

A paper titled "Explaining the road accident risk: weather effects" co-authored by R.Bergel-Hayat, M.Debbarh, C.Antoniou and G.Yannis is now published in Accident Analysis and Prevention Journal. This research is based on some case studies carried out within the data analysis and synthesis activities of the EU-FP6 project "SafetyNet - Building the European Road Safety Observatory", which illustrate the use of weather variables for analysing changes in the number of road injury accidents. Time series analysis models with explanatory variables that measure the weather quantitatively were used and applied to aggregate datasets of injury accidents for France, the Netherlands and the Athens region, over periods of more than twenty years. The main results reveal **significant correlations on a monthly basis between weather variables and the aggregate number of injury accidents**, but the magnitude and even the sign of these correlations vary according to the type of road (motorways, rural roads or urban roads).

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.