



NTUA Road Safety Update - March 2016

National Technical University of Athens
Road Safety Update

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EU road safety statistics call for fresh efforts to save lives on EU roads 2015

The European Commission has published the most recent statistics on road fatalities, based on provisional data for 2015 road deaths in Europe, confirming that **European roads remain the safest in the world** despite a recent slowdown in reducing road fatalities. 26.000 people lost their lives on EU roads last year, 5.500 fewer than in 2010. There is however no improvement at EU level compared to 2014.

In addition, the Commission estimates that **135.000 people were seriously injured** on EU roads. The social cost (rehabilitation, healthcare, material damages, etc.) of road fatalities and injuries is estimated to be of at least €100 billion. The country-specific statistics reveal that the number of road fatalities still varies greatly across the EU, though this gap is becoming smaller every year. It is the first time ever that all EU countries present a rate of fatalities per million population of less than 100. [LINK](#)

Greece's impressive road fatalities drop is stalled in 2015

According to provisional data from the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), the number of road fatalities in 2015 shows a slight annual increase of 1,3%, whereas injury accidents show a slight decrease of -1.1%. This road fatalities increase is observed for the first time since 2004, **ending an impressive 49% road fatalities decrease in the economic crisis period 2008-2014** (-23% in injury accidents).

Greece has reached a point where there is great need for extra effort to further improve road safety in the Greek roads, with systematic actions from the Authorities and serious engagement from the society despite the continuous economic and social crisis in Greece. [LINK](#)

NTUA Civil Engineering School ranked 8th in Europe 2016

The Civil Engineering School of the National Technical University of Athens was **ranked this year 8th in Europe** and 33rd worldwide among all Civil Engineering Schools. This ranking is produced by the QS Organisation based on the following criteria: Research, Teaching, Employability, Facilities, Internationalization, Innovation, Engagement and Access. NTUA road safety activities have contributed to this ranking.

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

European Commission new enforcement and road safety rules 2016

The European Commission has adopted a series of **rules applicable to road hauliers and road passenger transport operators**. They include a common classification of serious road safety infringements under transport legislation, as well as new specifications for smart tachographs (the device that records driving times of lorry, bus and coach drivers), making the best use of new digital technologies such as Galileo. The objective is to enhance road safety, contribute to a fairer competition between road transport operators and to facilitate a consistent enforcement of EU rules across borders. [LINK](#)

ETSC - How safe are new cars sold in the EU? - 2016

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) has just published the 30th PIN Flash Report 'How safe are new cars sold in the EU?'. In the last decade the long term road safety trend has been positive across the EU countries, and although the reduction in deaths may be a result of many factors, including better enforcement, changing behaviour and safer infrastructure, there is little doubt that **improved vehicle safety standards since the late 1990's have played an important role**. One important indicator of the level of vehicle safety in Europe overall is what proportion of the number of tested vehicles actually sold meet Euro NCAP's highest safety ratings. The last assessment of the progress of the Euro NCAP programme carried out by ETSC in 2009 found that there were very significant differences between the average Euro NCAP rating of new cars sold in Eastern and Central European countries, compared to their Western European counterparts. [LINK](#)

ETSC new film on Seat Belt Reminder Systems Importance 2016

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) has released a new film that is calling the European Commission to require the fitting of Seat Belt Reminder Systems in all passenger seats in new cars when it reviews vehicle safety regulations later this year. The short video highlights the **critical importance of seat belt wearing to prevent serious injury and death** and cites research showing that up to a quarter of rear seat passengers are still failing to belt up. Seat Belt Reminder systems are already required on drivers' seats thanks to the last update to vehicle safety regulations in 2009. The film features experts in vehicle safety, post-collision rehabilitation and police enforcement. [LINK](#)

PIARC Road Network Operations and ITS Manual 2016

The World Road Association (PIARC) has recently launched the electronic manual on Road Network Operations & Intelligent Transport Systems. The manual is a comprehensive, regularly updated handbook helping practitioners to alleviate road congestion, a major worldwide issue that directly affects the economies of many nations.

Road Network Operations (RNO) concern the methods at the disposal of road authorities and highway infrastructure operators that contribute to **safer and more efficient travel** for road users and for society as a whole. Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) concern a wide range of services that use information and communications technology that can improve transportation and mobility. [LINK](#)

Road Safety & Tourism Workshop in Peloponnese 2016

A Workshop on Road Safety and Tourism in Peloponnese, organised by the Greek Society of Regional Scientists and Make Safe Roads Hellas, took place with great success on 19 March 2016, in Vrachati Corinthias, Greece. The aim of this workshop was to emphasize on the necessity of **regional level planning for road safety**, with particular focus to touristic periods and related vulnerable road users and tourist industry professionals. More than 80 key decision makers and stakeholders from the regional tourist and road safety sectors contributed and discussed problems and solutions for the upgrade of road safety in tourist areas in Peloponnese and in Greece in general. [LINK](#) All the presentations are now available. [LINK](#)

NTUA presentation concerned: 'Road safety in Greece and at its touristic areas' [LINK](#)

ETSC Safe & Sober Campaign Workshop, Athens 2016

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), together with the Road Safety Institute 'Panos Mylonas' organised a round-table event under the auspices of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks and in cooperation with the Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engineers in order to raise awareness amongst policy makers, the private sector and key opinion leaders of how to strengthen a systemic approach to reduce alcohol misuse in road transport, especially in poorly-performing EU Member States. The Workshop took place with great success on 21 March 2016 in Athens and NTUA Professor George Yannis coordinated the presentations and discussions among the more than 130 road safety decision makers, stakeholders and experts. During the conference the **innovative system alcohol interlock was presented** that does not allow the vehicle to start if the driver is found under the influence of alcohol. [LINK](#)

Transport Research Arena, Warsaw 2016

The Transport Research Arena 2016 (TRA 2016) will take place in **Warsaw, Poland - 18-21 April 2016**. TRA is the major European conference on transport research, supported by the European Commission (EC), the Conference of European Road Directors (CEDR) and the four European Technology Platforms on surface transport: the European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC), the European Rail Research Advisory Council (ERRAC), WATERBORNE TP, and the Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration (ALICE).

TRA 2016 Conference will contribute to innovation in sustainable mobility for Europe, by bringing together all the stakeholders of the transport system. The main theme of TRA 2016 is – MOVING FORWARD Innovative Solutions for Tomorrow's Mobility. TRA 2016 seeks to reflect the multidisciplinary nature of the transport sector and, for this reason, addresses all stakeholders in both the public and private sectors and all professionals, regardless of their roles (researchers, practitioners, designers, constructors, operators, administrators, policy makers etc.). [LINK](#)

VTI Road Safety on Five Continents, Rio de Janeiro 2016

The conference Road Safety on Five Continents (RS5C) will take place in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 17-19 May 2016**. The RS5C is one of the premier and most prestigious international conferences in the road safety area and is organised by VTI in close cooperation with the Brazilian National Association for Transportation Research and Education (ANPET) and in association with Transportation Research Board (TRB), Forum of European Road Safety Research Institutes (FERSI) and European Conference of Transport Research Institutes (ECTRI). [LINK](#)

ETSC - Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) Annual Conference 2016

The European Transport Safety Council's (ETSC) tenth edition of PIN Annual Conference will take place on **20 June 2016, in Brussels**. During the conference, ETSC will launch its latest annual report explaining why some countries are still making progress, some are stagnating, and some are going in reverse. Also what needs to be done by the EU and member states to get progress back on track to reach the EU's 2020 target to cut road deaths by half over ten years will be highlighted. The discussion will focus on vehicle safety and traffic rules enforcement in the EU. [LINK](#)

5th International Conference on Driver Distraction and Inattention - Paris 2017

The 5th International Conference on Driver Distraction and Inattention organised by IPSTTAR, ARRB Group and SAFER will be held on **20-22 March 2017, in Paris**, aiming to bring participants up-to-date on recent developments and trends in the field of inattention and distraction in driving, and to bring together researchers and practitioners. DD2017 conference topics include theory, measurement, effects, crash risks, and prevention/mitigation related to driver distraction and inattention. [LINK](#)

Deadline for abstracts submission is set for May 16th, 2016.

Relating traffic fatalities to GDP in Europe on the long term - 2016

A paper titled 'Relating traffic fatalities to GDP in Europe on the long term' co-authored by Costas Antoniou, George Yannis, Eleonora Papadimitriou and Sylvain Lassarre is now published in Accident Analysis & Prevention. The objective of this research is to correlate traffic fatalities to GDP in Europe in the long term, with emphasis to turbulent financial situations. For this analysis, time series of the number of fatalities and GDP in 30 European countries for a period of 38 years (1975-2012) were exploited. This process relies on estimating long-term models (as captured by long term time-series models, which model each country separately). Based on these developments, utilizing state-of-the-art modelling and analysis techniques such as the Common Correlated Effects Mean Group estimator (Pesaran), the long-term elasticity mean value equals 0.63, and is significantly different from zero for 10 countries only. When we take away the countries, where the number of fatalities is stationary, the average elasticity takes a higher value of nearly 1. This shows the **strong sensitivity of the estimate of the average elasticity over a panel of European countries and underlines the necessity to be aware of the underlying nature of the time series**, to get a suitable regression model. [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 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.