
The 6th Conference on Sustainable Urban Mobility - CSUM 2022

Skiathos, Greece

Summary report

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The 6th Conference on Sustainable Urban Mobility – CSUM2022 took place in Skiathos, Greece on 31 August – 2 September 2022. The theme of the Conference was: “Smart Energy for Smart Transport”. The Conference was organized by The University of Thessaly, Department of Civil Engineering, Traffic, Transportation and Logistics Laboratory (TTLog), in collaboration with Eindhoven University of Technology, Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Universidade do Porto, Université du Luxembourg, University of Hawaii at Manoa and University of Southampton.

The conference included lectures in 6 thematic tracks: 1) Electric and clean energy in transportation; 2) Emerging and innovative technologies in transport; 3) Active and non-motorized travel; 4) Equitable, just and inclusive transportation; 5) Sustainable and resilient supply chain; and 6) Urban planning and transport infrastructure. The versatile program of the conference enabled the exchange of research and good practices among researchers and practitioners in the field of transportation and mobility.

The division of the conference to thematic tracks was comfortable and allowed the participants to be involved in sessions that are of most interest to them, as lectures from different tracks were given simultaneously in different rooms. Nevertheless, each session included both physical and virtual presentations and it was often difficult to hear the virtual presentations clearly at the setting of the venue. Hence, in case of combining virtual presentations at a physical conference, I would recommend separating the virtual presentations into a separate session, and/or to minimize the number of virtual presentations. For those who made the way to Greece from abroad, it was at times frustrating to sit at the venue and listen to many zoom presentations.

Nonetheless, the presentations were versatile and interesting, while involving presenters from both academia and industry. Therefore, the content was diverse and enriching.

As part of thematic track number 3 (Active and non-motorized travel), I had the opportunity to present my research work, together with my supervisor Assoc. Prof. Pnina Plaut, on “Pedestrian movement and the built environment – A big data-based analysis”. The presentation provoked an interesting discussion about the use of big data for pedestrian and walkability research, as well as ideas and potential interesting collaborations for future work.

In addition to the professional part of the conference, the program included also social events of a welcome cocktail on the first evening and a conference dinner on the second evening. These events were organized very nicely and allowed further interaction of the conference participants in a more informal way. Moreover, the conference was held at Skiathos Palace Hotel, with amazing views of the beautiful Skiathos Island, and the hotel facilities were available for all the conference participants.

To conclude, I highly recommend participating in the future conferences organized by CSUM as I found it very enriching professionally, as well as fun and enjoyable socially. Moreover, presenting at this conference enabled the exposure of my work to researchers and practitioners from my field of study. This contributed to my work significantly in two main ways: first, I got important feedback on my work, including ideas for future work. Second, I was exposed to professionals from research institutes and laboratories from my research domain and established connections for future collaborations.