

A Book Critique

 **Dr. Alexandros K. Chatzidouros: Public Transportation Systems, “Patakis”** Publications. ISBN 978-960-16-4125-6

In Greece, clung as we were to the “luxury” of the house in the suburbs and the car which our finances allowed us, we stubbornly refused to learn by and build on the good examples of Europe regarding public transport, walking and cycling. Now, despite the recession, we continue to be uninterested in the large shift of this last decade in the choices of the advanced countries as far as habitation and urban transport are concerned.

However, the new generation, sensitive to the threat of climate change but also giving priority to a better quality of life and a healthier environment geared towards a normal city, with its centre, the dense population, the public transport, walking and bicycle. The urban regeneration projects, the upgrading of alternative means of transport, are developments that encourage this change of direction. Another parameter of growing interest is the increased socialization opportunities when densities are high.

The above facts show that public transport is a very modern issue and a book on public transport, as this one, is very interesting, since it refers perhaps to the most important public work, which stretches across the city, connecting it more to its living environment and giving it hope to become more human, more gentle and more productive.

The book “Public Transportation Systems” covers a large part of the issues associated with that kind of public transport which is no more a welfare benefit for low incomes but an attractive and effective everyday tool for every resident, regardless of income, education and car ownership. This is the reason that the chapter about “Quality” has a special place in the book, without underestimating other dimensions of public transport also analyzed in detail, such as the cost of operation, routing, pricing, etc.

The current stagnation due to the recession should not prevent us from realizing that the issue of designing new public transport lines, mainly on a local scale, will occur more and more intensely in a few years, because urban societies will not commit suicide, but they will make the logical choice towards sustaina-

bility instead. This book, therefore, will be a useful asset to the young future engineer or economist helping them meet future design challenges, which may have more to do with public transport than with the car.

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