



## Dear Readers:

Welcome to the Summer 2021 Issue of the ICUAS Association Newsletter. The ICUAS 2021 Conference was completed successfully; we have started planning for ICUAS 2022, which will be in Dubrovnik, Croatia; as of July 1, there is a new Executive Committee for the ICUAS Association, and we are in the process of enhancing the Association's activities. We look forward to a busy and productive year without pandemic related challenges. It is time to go back to normal, although we may not be able to predict what this 'normal' will be.

## ICUAS 2021 REPORT

The Conference took place as planned, on June 15-18, 2021, in the same venue as in 2020, the Divani Caravel Hotel in Athens, Greece. ICUAS'21 was a hybrid conference, allowing for physical and virtual presentations and attendance. We capitalized on our prior experience to run a better meeting; we provided recommendations for video presentations; we used the zoom for business platform; each session was coordinated by the session chair and co-chair, and was monitored by a 'local person', a student volunteer, who was physically present in the meeting room; audio was handled properly. The technical sessions ran smoothly without interruptions, nor we faced any technical problems with audio/visual – it was an easy ride in the park!

We did face challenges despite the vaccination process as it was not clear until the last day who will be able to travel to Athens, from which country, and with what 'COVID-free proof' or certificate. Regardless, every time the Greek Government announced new measures, the Organizing Committee

communicated this information to all authors of submitted papers; this was repeated on a regular basis.

The Organizing Committee members, the Advisory Committee members in Greece, along with local and state authorities and the hotel management team worked relentlessly to make sure that safety was top priority. During the conference, every morning, each physical participant was offered a 'personal safety kit' with a mask, hand sanitizer, pen, notebook, and energy bar. Each participant was also given a self-test kit that was administered in a dedicated area next to the hotel reception lobby.

Arrangements with a collaborating medical lab were made through the hotel management for conference participants who needed a PCR test to fly back to their countries. The social agenda events took place in open space only – the roof garden pool of the hotel - with no more than 50 people present in a dedicated area. The conference was very successful even under such adverse conditions for a second year in a row.

After a very thorough and in-depth peer review process the committee accepted 205 papers that were all presented either physically or virtually. A full three-day highly technical program was composed. The technical program was composed of 36 technical sessions on: Fault Tolerant Control; FDI and Safety; Learning Methods; Path Planning; Sensor Fusion; Navigation; Control Design: UAS Applications; Reliability of UAS; Micro and Mini UAS; Autonomy; Neural Networks; Safety, Security and Reliability; Estimation and Bio-Inspired UAVs; See-And-Avoid Systems; Swarms; Technology

Challenges; Manned/Unmanned Aviation and UAS Testbeds; UAS Communications; Airspace Control and Management. **ICUAS'21** included five Keynote Lectures given by leading authorities in their respective fields.

We received close to 200 registrations. However, the conference was followed by at least 250 virtual attendees, in addition to the close to 70 physically present at the conference.

Last, but not least, we experienced the same feelings in 2021 as in 2020: The most unusual components of **ICUAS'21** were the obvious lack of live-networking, socialization and collegiality aspects, the vivid conversations among individuals, the technical discussions and the possible formation of new partnerships and teams for research and projects of common interest. For those of us who have participated for years in IEEE conferences, we always felt, and still feel, that these components remain an integral part of the overall conference.

## PLANNING FOR ICUAS 2022

**ICUAS'22** will take place for the first time in Croatia, in the world-famous city of Dubrovnik, on June 21-24, 2022. The venue will be the Valamar Lacroma Hotel and Resort.

History is alive in every part of Dubrovnik. This always alive city, the jewel of the Adriatic, represents the perfect

crossroads between the past, the present and the future; the whole city is a historic and modern museum! Its rich history, its geographic location, the mild climate, and its traditional hospitality make Dubrovnik the perfect venue for this international event. Dubrovnik is also a cultural destination as evidenced by the many festivals, prestigious art shows and exhibits, famous artists, open air events throughout the year, and its architectural treasures. Dubrovnik offers the ideal venue to mix business and pleasure.

The central theme of **ICUAS'22** is twofold: *aerial robotics*, and *guidance, navigation, and control of manned – unmanned systems*. However, there is an innovative aspect of **ICUAS'22**: it will include for the first time a **UAV Competition**. The Competition is student focused, offering unique opportunities for students to test and compare their skills with those of their peers, worldwide. It will be organized in two stages: simulation qualifiers and in person finals. The finals will take place during the conference, allowing for students to meet and participate in the conference. Details on how to be part of the UAV Competition may be found on the conference web.

We aim for a physical presence conference; we need to interact with each other and engage in stimulating conversations and discussions.

The deadline for paper submission is **February 1, 2022**. Mark your calendars, put the conference on your schedule!

## ICUAS ASSOCIATION INC., EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As of July 1, 2022, the Executive Committee is composed of the following members, all long-term contributors to the annual conference, organizers, and participants:

<b>Stjepan Bogdan</b>	University of Zagreb, Croatia
<b>David Casbeer</b>	AFRL, USA
<b>Mario Sarcinelli-Filho</b>	Federal University of Espirito Santo, Brasil
<b>Anna Konert</b>	Lazarski University in Warsaw, Poland
<b>Anibal Ollero</b>	Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
<b>Fulvia Quagliotti</b>	Emeritus - Politecnico di Torino, Italy
<b>Didier Theilliol</b>	University of Lorraine, France
<b>Nikos Tsourveloudis</b>	Technical University of Crete, Greece
<b>Youmin Zhang</b>	Concordia University, Canada
<b>Dawn Zoldi</b>	P3 Tech Consulting, President UAS Colorado, USA

We plan on enhancing the Association's activities, organize summer courses, offer short courses as part of the annual conference, organize (virtual and physical presence) panels on topics of interest, etc. We will keep you involved and updated. We also look forward to your input and feedback.

## CONTACT US

**For any information, feedback, membership, you may contact us as follows:**

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