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The 1<sup>st</sup> Mediterranean Conference on Fracture and Structural Integrity, MedFract1

Preface

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## 1. Preface

The Greek Society of Experimental Mechanics of Materials (GSEMM) and the Italian Group on Fracture (IGF) are, respectively, the Greek and the Italian branches of the European Structural Integrity Society (ESIS). Being both countries embedded in the Mediterranean Sea, and thanks to the warm friendship between the members of GSEMM and IGF, at the end of 2019 the two associations decided to organize together the “1<sup>st</sup> Mediterranean Conference on Fracture and Structural Integrity, MedFract1”, (Fig. 1) to be held in February 2020. The dates of the organization of this conference are quite important, as at the beginning of February 2020 the first problems with Covid-19 started to be evident in Europe, especially in Italy.

The event was organized in the wonderful Athens, the cradle of European civilization. The event was really successful, and it attracted researchers from numerous countries, in addition to Greece and Italy (about 60 researchers

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from 15 different countries). The only problem was Covid-19. At the end of February 2020, in the northern Italy all the airports were closed and for many Italian researchers it was simply impossible to join the MedFract1. At the last minute, the Chairmen organized a “blended” conference, partially in presence and partially online. The event was integrally streamed in the IGF Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GruppoItalianoFrattura/>) and two remote sessions were organized using a commercial platform and allowing participants to remotely join the conference. The experience was really interesting and it was among the first of the thousands of events that in the following months have been organized online. In addition, according to the IGF tradition, all the presentations were video-recorded and they are now available in the IGF YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/IGFTube>).

This volume collects the papers of many presentations, both in presence and remote. The number and the quality of the papers confirm that the fracture and structural integrity community is really active.

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**1<sup>st</sup> Mediterranean  
Conference  
on Fracture and  
Structural  
Integrity**

**MedFract1**

[www.medfract1.eu](http://www.medfract1.eu)

**February 26-28, 2020**

**Venue**  
National Technical University of Athens  
Central Library (ground floor)  
Zografou Campus

**Chairmen**  
Filippo Berto  
Giuseppe Ferro  
Francesco Iacoviello  
Dimitrios Karalekas  
Stavros Kourkoulis  
Dimos Triantis

 **Greek Society  
of Experimental  
Mechanics of Materials**

 **GRUPPO  
ITALIANO  
FRATTURA  
(IGF)**

Fig. 1. MedFract1 banner.