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1st Virtual Conference on Structural Integrity - VCSII**Preface**

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1. Preface

The First Virtual Conference on Structural integrity was organized by four active National Groups of the European Structural Integrity Society (ESIS): APFIE (Portuguese Structural integrity Society, Portugal), DIVK (Društvo za integritet i vek konstrukcija „Prof. dr Stojan Sedmak“, Serbia), GSEMM (Greek Society of Experimental Mechanics of Materials, Greece) and IGF (Italian Group of Fracture, Italy), under the aegis of ESIS.

These groups have decades of experience in the organization of “traditional” conferences, workshops and summer schools, included some really large events like ECFs (European Conferences on Fracture) with hundreds of participants.

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VCSI1 was organized with the aim to take advantages of the new technologies (web, YouTube channel, Telegram channel etc.), offering a low-cost event to the participants. An innovative and stimulant environment was created with the possibility to have the time to watch all the presentations (more than fifteen days) and prepare the discussion.

VCSI was held online on January 16, 2020 using a commercial meeting platform. More than sixty presentations were scheduled in five different sessions:

- Numerical modelling and computation (Chairman: Aleksandar Sedmak)
- Fatigue (Chairman: Luca Susmel)
- Experimental mechanics 1 (Chairman: Pedro Moreira)
- Experimental mechanics 2 (Chairman: Paulo Reis)
- Structural integrity of structures (Chairman: Stavros Kourkoulis)

Considering that all the participants had the possibility to watch the presentations before the conference, the online event was only focused on the discussion. The result has been really exciting, with a really interesting and vibrant discussion that lasted more than six hours.

All the presentations and the discussions are now available in a dedicated YouTube channel playlist in the IGF YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT1-2PyZ6QrLOo85GLteKsWPJFUrCOM7A>), offering the possibility to the fracture and structural integrity community to participate to the conference also in the next years.

Considering that this conference was a first experiment, the organizers and the participants declared to be enthusiastic of the result. Many organizational details still need to be optimized (e.g., a dedicated platform for the upload of the videos), but we can be sure that this VCSI1 will be only the first of a long series!

This volume collects the papers connected to many presentations, confirming the fracture and structural integrity community as a really active and vibrant “band of scientists”!