

Preface

Over the last decades it has been widely recognized that prevention of failure of engineering structures necessitates the involvement of considerable expertise and, often, might demand a multi-disciplinary and multi-scale approach in terms of both, size and time. ICEAF VI has been the sixth event of a biennial conference series which commenced in Patras in May 2008, gathering high-level scientists and researchers from all over the world, to present their latest scientific and technological research achievements related to prevention of engineering structures from failure and discuss with an audience of international experts. Particular attention was given at offering the opportunity to young researchers, from Greece and from around the world, to present their work to an audience comprising of internationally recognized experts. The scientific responsibility of the ICEAF VI Conference was undertaken by the Laboratory of Technology & Strength of Materials (LTSM).

Unlike to all previous ICEAF conferences, this year, the conference, which was held on June 23–25, 2021, took place for the first time explicitly online due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The conference, in the fully virtual format implemented, has been for us a positive experience and offered us the great pleasure of meeting you. We are also particularly happy that your overall assessment of the Conference has been very positive. We want to thank all of you for your kind words but also for your suggestions and remarks, with the promise that we will do our best to keep improving. Obviously, we do not ignore that virtual conferences do not offer the opportunity and pleasure of physical face to face meetings, networking and socializing and we are looking forward to the next conference of this series which will be again, as usually, an in person gathering.

The sixth ICEAF VI Conference has been made possible thanks to the hard work of a number of people and we would like to cordially thank all of them. Many thanks are due to our Keynote speakers, the members of the International Scientific Committee and of course to the members of the local Organizing Committee, as well as the administration staff of the conference; they all did an excellent job! Last but not least, we would like to particularly thank you for attending and contributing to the 6th International Conference of Engineering Against Failure (ICEAF VI) 2021. We sincerely hope that the experience was pleasant and fruitful for you.

With the successful completion of ICEAF VI and the increasing signals that we are close to mastering the pandemic, planning for the next event can proceed with confidence; it will be held in the beautiful island of Spetses, Greece in early summer 2023. Soon, I will come back to you with more information about our next gathering and we are really looking forward to seeing you again in person.

The Conference Co-Chairmen

Spiros Pantelakis, George Lampeas and Konstantinos Tserpes