

What is SPAN?

The Science for Prevention Academic Network (SPAN), consisting of experts from 32 European institutions across 25 countries, has been awarded a large grant (€595, 000) by the [European Commission Lifelong Learning Programme \(LLP\)](#). This grant enables the establishment of a network of prevention scientists and educators across Europe, who aim to:

- Improve the integration of prevention science in the higher education sector and to improve skill mobility across Europe;
- Develop and share best practice in prevention science education training and workforce and;
- Support the development of innovative ICT based content for prevention science.

The SPAN project will map the prevention science sector, improve education and training, build networks and run workshops with researchers, with a particular focus upon young researchers. In addition, the project will contribute to the integration of prevention science in higher education across Europe and will provide recommendations on how best to align prevention science with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

Follow us in CyberSpace!

SPAN is pleased to announce the official project website www.span-europe.eu

On this website you will be able to find more detailed information pertaining to the project, work packages, aims and deliverables. The website will continue to be developed throughout the life of the project and will be updated regularly with press releases, e-Newsletters and project publications.

We also have a Twitter account to help keep you up to date with news, events and conferences that are occurring within the prevention science sector, so be sure to follow us: @SPAN_eu

You can also join/connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) by scanning this QRcode.



SPAN members at the annual meeting, 2014, Palma de Mallorca.



Project coordinator Prof David Foxcroft with SPAN young researchers.

Visit the SPAN website at:

www.span-europe.eu

SPAN workshops

For the second year, the SPAN network hosted pre-conference workshops, in collaboration with the EUSPR conference. The workshops, held in Palma, Majorca, on October 2014, proved to be very successful. This year the workshops focused on:

- Economic analysis and the cost effectiveness of prevention – Introduction to Economic Evaluation of Health Care Interventions (Dr Claire McKenna and Ms Rita Faria).
- Optimising behavioural interventions – the MOST model and understanding effective prevention programme components (Prof Linda Collins and Prof Fabrizio Faggiano).

SPAN continued its support of young researchers by awarding travel and subsistence bursaries to attend the workshops and sponsored a poster competition at the 2014 EUSPR conference. Posters can be found on the SPAN website www.span-europe.eu.

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This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

SPAN Update

After the completion of the survey on existing education, research training and on workforce needs in the field of prevention science, the project now moves to analysis of the survey data and to the development of a pan-European training programme. SPAN has also developed a quality plan that will provide concrete recommendations to institutions to assist in the implementation of such a programme.

The next step of the project will be the implementation of these recommendations. All participating institutions will develop internal quality assurance procedures, create credit allocations for existing programmes at their institutions, validate them according to their national and/or institutional rules and monitor credit allocations of individual courses to evaluate whether estimated workloads are realistic. Upon completion of the actions for quality control in the participating institutions, the project will produce a pan-European Prevention Science ECTS framework.

SPAN supporting emerging prevention scientists

SPAN awarded 17 travel and subsistence bursaries of up to €500 to young prevention researchers from 11 countries in the EU to attend SPAN workshops and the 2014 EUSPR conference and networking events.

All bursary winners appreciated the opportunity to discuss new ideas with experienced prevention scientists who work in different fields and the opportunity to establish professional contacts. The content of the conference and workshops was deemed highly valuable in regard to their own work. Bursary winners gained new insights into research opportunities in the EU and into new trends in research in the field of prevention science. We are delighted to introduce some of the winners in this newsletter.

Bursary recipient profiles



Stefanie Helmer (Germany)

Status: PhD Student

Study/Research discipline: Public Health

PhD/Research topic: Internet-based social norms intervention for the prevention of substance use among European students

Attended workshop: Optimising behavioural interventions – the MOST model and understanding effective prevention programme components

Statement: “As I am working on an intervention that is already well known in Britain, it was interesting to talk to people who already worked in this field. Many of the talks/presentations were quite inspiring for me. Moreover, I am thinking about including the MOST model in future research proposals.”



Kimberley Hill (United Kingdom)

Status: PhD Student

Study/Research discipline: Psychology

PhD/Research topic: Understanding Alcohol Misuse in Young Adults: An Ecological Approach to Cognition

Attended workshop: Economic analysis and the cost effectiveness of prevention – Introduction to Economic Evaluation of Health Care Interventions

Statement: “I attend this conference each year and always find it relevant to my work, with valuable networking opportunities with those at the cutting edge of prevention science.”

Lenka Cablova (Czech Republic)

Status: PhD Student

Study/Research discipline: Psychology

PhD/Research topic: Parental styles and alcohol use among children and adolescents

Attended workshop: Optimising behavioural interventions – the MOST model and understanding effective prevention programme components

Statement: “The conference showed me the research opportunities, new trends and broadened my horizons in this area.”



Bruno Jose de Oliveira Carraça (Portugal)

Status: PhD Student

Study/Research discipline: Psychology

PhD/Research topic: Mindfulness based interventions

Attended workshop: Economic analysis and the cost effectiveness of prevention – Introduction to Economic Evaluation of Health Care Interventions

Statement: “It is very interesting to learn how to design and test a prevention program in terms of cost-effectiveness.”