

## 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](http://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.



Visit the SPAN website at:

[www.span-europe.eu](http://www.span-europe.eu)



Attending the SPAN network, Kick-Off Meeting, Oxford Brookes.

## SPAN begins!

Late February 2013 saw the official launch of the SPAN project, with delegates from partner institutions across Europe gathering in Oxford, England, to kick off the project and develop a detailed work plan for the next three years.

Professor David Foxcroft, Chair in Community Psychology and Public Health at Oxford Brookes, who is leading the SPAN project, said the future of prevention science, research and education would be given a tremendous boost by the launch of this international network of experts:

“We will develop a strong scientific base in this important field and build collaboration which has not existed across Europe in this area until now. We aim to strengthen science in this area, attract more young scientists to the field and make sure that the latest research is shared across Europe.”

## Upcoming events

### **EUSPR conference and dedicated SPAN workshops**

The fourth annual [EUSPR Conference](#) to be held in Paris this year from November 13-15, will focus on the important role of modifiers of prevention outcomes, and examine the best ways in which diversity can be incorporated into research and practice. Keynote speakers will present the latest findings from research investigating modifying factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, family and socioeconomic status.

SPAN will be collaborating with EUSPR to present two pre-conference workshops and parallel sessions: Development and Evaluation of Complex Preventive Interventions and; Testing Mediating Mechanisms and Moderating Factors in Prevention Work.

As part of the SPAN's aim to establish stronger links to professional networks, we have awarded 17 bursaries of up to €500 to young prevention scientists to assist in covering travel and accommodation costs associated with conference/workshop attendance.

### **SPAN Prevention Science Questionnaire: be part of the project!**

As part of SPAN's aim to gain a deeper understanding of and to map existing prevention science education, research training and workforce needs across Europe, WP leaders have developed an online questionnaire to be administered across Europe to institutions and individuals who form part of the broader prevention science network.

The questionnaire is available to complete online, and can be accessed by visiting the SPAN website directly: [www.span-europe.eu](http://www.span-europe.eu)

## Work Package Leader profiles



### **Peer van der Kreeft, Belgium, WP 3 leader: Mapping Prevention Science Education**

Peer is the leader of WP3 that aims to map the scope and focus of existing Prevention Science learning programmes, curricula, qualifications, pedagogies, learning outcomes and competencies currently being delivered across the tertiary education sector in Europe.

Peer, a social educator, has been the head of prevention at De Sleutel for 25 years until September 2011 when he was appointed as a full time lecturer/researcher at the [University College Ghent](#), Belgium. Internationally, Peer presided the EU Prevnet Network from 2002 - 2006, and has led the EU-DAP Drug Abuse Prevention Intervention group and the EU-DAP Faculty. He is also on the board of directors of EUSPR, the European Society for Prevention Research. He is an active contributor to networks such as the ICAA, the Pompidou group, UNODC, WHO & EMCDDA.



### **Matej Košir, Slovenia, WP 4 leader: Mapping Prevention Science workforce**

Matej is the leader of WP4 that aims to develop a robust understanding of the skills needs of current employers of prevention workers across Europe.

Matej is the Director of [UTRIP](#) in Slovenia. Previously he worked as a senior consultant and project manager at the Office on Drugs and the Ministry of Health; was a policy analyst at the Ministry of Interior; and was a member of the local NGO dealing with young people. Matej was national coordinator of the alcohol policy at the Ministry of Health. He is a member of core group in the Civil Society on Drugs (DG Justice). He is a member of the European Alcohol Policy Network (APN) and the newly established European association of researchers in the field of alcohol policy (AMPHORA).



### **Rosaria Galanti, Italy, WP 5 leader: Mapping Prevention Science Research**

Rosaria leads WP5, that aims to develop a detailed understanding of what current and previous funded RTD projects are delivered in the field of Prevention Science, and to develop a database of relevant events, conferences, researchers, public policy specialists

Rosaria is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the [Karolinska Institute](#) in Sweden. She has achieved her MD degree in Italy, pursued clinical work in the field of preventive and community medicine, and obtained a PhD degree in Cancer Epidemiology at Uppsala University. Rosaria conducts population based epidemiologic studies of tobacco use and prevention, especially among youths. She was the Swedish PI for the European Drug Addiction Prevention Trial (EUDAP). She is the director of two courses on methods of outcome evaluation of public health interventions.