

### 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)



Prof Foxcroft, presenting at the European Conference on Addictions in Children and Adolescents in Győr, Hungary.

### Conference updates

David Foxcroft, SPAN Project Coordinator, disseminated the latest information about the SPAN initiative at a keynote invited talk to the European Conference on Addictions in Children and Adolescents, April 2015, in Győr, Hungary. The Conference was a joint effort of the National Bureau for Drug Prevention, National Institute for Family and Social Policy, Hungary, in cooperation with the Mayor's Office, City of Győr.

The Conference examined practice and research both locally and internationally, and addressed risk and protective factors, prevention systems, and family, school and community based prevention programmes.

The SPAN Management Board met with conference participants, providing further opportunities for networking and dissemination.



### **Roman Gabrhelik, Czech Republic.**

#### **WP6 Leader: Quality plan**

Dr. Roman Gabrhelik is head of the Primary Prevention Centre and the Treatment Centre at the Department of Addiction, 1st Medical Faculty, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. His work is focused on universal school-based interventions, targeting different risk behaviours in children and young people, and on studying the effectiveness of composite universal prevention programmes. He is

directly involved in the development of the National System of School-based Prevention of Risk Behaviour in the Czech Republic. Roman also works in the area of the application of eHealth and mHealth in treatment of tobacco dependence and in pharmacotherapy of methamphetamine dependence.



### **Elisardo Becoña, Spain. WP7 Leader: Physical Networking for Best Practice Exchange**

Elisardo Becoña is a clinical psychologist and Professor of Clinical Psychology at the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychobiology in the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. He is the Director of the Unit of Smoking Cessation and Addictive Disorders at this university.

His main area of expertise is in the field of addictive disorders, working in both prevention and treatment. Among his books published in Spanish are: "Bases científicas de la prevención de las drogodependencias" (2002) [Scientific bases of drug prevention], "Manual de intervención en drogodependencias" (2004) [Handbook of intervention in drug abuse] and "Trastornos adictivos" [Addictive Disorders] (2015). He is also a member of the European Institute of Studies on Prevention (Irefrea), an organization that develops projects on drug prevention in Europe.

### **Janet Misfud, Malta, WP 9 Leader: Quality Plan and Implementation**



Janet Misfud is an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Malta. Her research considers the treatment of epilepsy and the abuse of over the counter medicines, especially in sports. She is the Vice-President (Europe) of the International Bureau for Epilepsy, a member of the National Anti-Doping Commission and Medical Commission, Malta Football Association.

Janet is a board member of the Malta Council for Science and Technology and is the national co-ordinator for COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology. She has acted as peer expert evaluator for the EC DG Research and is a member of the exploitation board of FP7 project Desire: Development and Epilepsy. Janet is a member of the Centre for Freedom from Addiction, President's Foundation for Social Well-Being.

### **Michal Molcho, Ireland. WP2 Leader: Dissemination**



Michal Molcho is a lecture in the Discipline of Health Promotion, School of Health Sciences, in NUI Galway. She is a long-standing member of

the international Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) network, where she is a member of the study coordinator committee and the chair of the Policy Development Group. Previously, she was the chair of the Violence and Injury Prevention working group. Michal was a consultant for the World Health Organization Region for Europe, the Programme for Violence and Injury Prevention and is a member of the steering committee of the Irish safety alliance.

## SPAN Update

A meeting of the Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC) Expert Advisory Board was held in July in Bangkok, Thailand, and was attended by Prof David Foxcroft (SPAN Project Coordinator) and Dr Gregor Burkhart (SPAN Expert Advisor). At this meeting, the timelines for the development of UPC were discussed. The proposed curricula focuses on prevention science; physiology and pharmacology of substance use; and the settings for prevention – the family, the school, the workplace, the environment, and the media; establishing an infrastructure to support and sustain evidence-based prevention; ethics; promotion of quality standards for delivering prevention interventions and policies; and monitoring and evaluation. It is anticipated all trainees will take this curriculum.

These initiatives provide a great opportunity to extend the influence and reach of SPAN beyond Europe. Equally, SPAN's work in Europe can be informed by these initiatives and can assist in implementing the UPC in European settings, under the auspices of the EUSPR Committee on Education and Training.