EUSPR Early Careers Forum

ACTIVITY REPORT 2014/15

Prepared by Angelina Brotherhood

EUSPR Members’ Meeting, Ljubljana, 22\textsuperscript{nd} October 2015
EUSPR already undertook a number of activities to support ECRs, e.g.:

- Postgraduate Forum held at the EUSPR Annual Conference
- Travel bursaries to support ECRs to attend the pre-conference workshops, and thereby the Annual Conference (with support from SPAN)
- ECR Poster Prize (with support from SPAN)

- Potentially fragmented, low visibility
- Activities centred on the conference with little support available to ECRs between conferences.

OUR AIM: Explore ways to sustain and develop activities and create appropriate structures
A year in review

- **November 2014**
  - Discussion paper reviewed, actions approved by EUSPR Board

- **December 2014 – January 2015**
  - Online survey

- **June 2015**
  - Web page launched
  - EUSPR Members, conference attendees and survey respondents invited
  - Advertising via social media

- **September 2015**
  - Early-careers mailing list (via JISCmail)
  - Start of international collaboration

- **October 2015**
  - Official launch of the Early Careers Forum at the annual conference
  - Early-career events every day
Structure

The Early Careers Forum is a Technical Committee of the EUSPR in accordance with Article 26 of the society’s statute.

The Forum is currently being led by Angelina Brotherhood and Kimberley Hill:

Angelina has been a member of the EUSPR since 2010 and is serving on the Board of the EUSPR (until 2017). She is currently a doctoral student at the Institute of Sociology, University of Vienna, Austria, exploring why people consume certain substances in some places but not others. Previously she worked as a researcher at the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University, UK, where she is still a Visiting Research Fellow. She has also done consultancy work for the EMCDDA and the UNODC. Her research has focussed on the scientific evidence base for drug prevention as well as the mechanisms for implementing evidence-based policy and practice.

Kimberley has been a member of the EUSPR since 2011 and helped to facilitate previous early career events. Kimberley is a Chartered Psychologist and Lecturer in Psychology at The University of Northampton. She also sits on The University of Northampton’s Research Ethics Committee. Kimberley recently completed her PhD and Associate Lectureship at Oxford Brookes University. Her research focuses on the development of young people, promoting health and preventing health risk behaviours. This includes investigating the contexts in which social behaviours, such as excessive alcohol consumption, are conducted.

The Forum currently has a flat structure, with two co-leads in charge of managing the Forum. Regular or student members of the EUSPR are eligible to co-lead the Forum. Co-leads volunteer to take on this role and are approved by the EUSPR Board. Administrative support is provided through the EUSPR.

As the Forum grows, we envisage that special interest groups (e.g. around certain methods or activities) could form which would govern themselves. If you’re interested in setting up a special interest group within the Early Careers Forum, please get in touch using the contact details below.
Online survey

• **53 respondents**, mostly self-identified as being early-career, involved in prevention research (anyone could participate via a public-access URL)

• Sought to collect views to help decide:

  1. What **definition of ‘early career’** should be used to determine eligibility to join?
  2. Should the Forum be addressed to early-career researchers only, or target also early-career **practitioners and policy-makers** working in the prevention field?
  3. What are the key benefits that members would expect to obtain? What are the key needs that should be addressed? Should the Forum provide general support to ECRs, or be aligned specifically with the aims of the EUSPR (e.g. promote methodological skills relating to prevention science)? What should **be priority activities** of the Forum?
  4. Is there **any interest** in such a Forum? Who would participate in the Forum?

Q6 The Early Career Forum should offer activities...

- 40%: Initially for EC researchers only, later also for EC practitioners and policy-makers
- 34%: No preference
- 11%: For EC researchers ONLY (including students)
- 4%: For EC researchers, practitioners and policy-makers
- 11%: Other
Q3 What would you expect to gain from the Early Career Forum? (main motivation to join or important benefits)

- Information about prevention-related international funding/job opportunities...
- Networking with others specialising in prevention
- Networking with people outside own country
- Exchanging ideas and developing new projects
- Input to programme of EUSPR Annual Conference
- Showcasing own work
- Informal feedback on own work (e.g. research proposals, draft chapters or journal articles)
- Methodological support offered by experienced members of the EUSPR (e.g. for the...
- Financial support
- Other
Who can join?

• All early-career members of the EUSPR can join the Early Careers Forum. No additional fee.

• ‘Early career’ members include:
  ◦ Young preventionists (no more than 8 years since entering the prevention field through first job or commencing doctoral studies)
  ◦ Current Masters and doctoral students in a prevention-related discipline (full time or part time)

• ‘Senior’ colleagues are also encouraged to join the Early Careers Forum to offer advice and support

• Open to early-career researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners

• Sign-up as part of registration for EUSPR or via email to Stuart Smith (see website for details)
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Early Careers Forum

The Early Careers Forum offers early-career members of the EUSPR a dedicated platform for professional exchange and mutual support.

Download the promotional flyer

Official launch

The Forum started its work at the beginning of 2013 and will be formally launched during the Sixth EU-SPR, held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in June 2013. Thanks to financial support from the EU co-funded SPAN project, we will be able to include specially themed workshops, networking events, early-career parallel sessions, and special awards. The Conference will help to develop the Forum. Full details about the Conference including the early careers related activities can be found here.

Aims

The EUSPR’s Early Careers Forum has been established to facilitate networking and share learning among its members. It offers the first European and interinstitutional platform for early-career researchers, practitioners, and scientists.

The aims of the Early Careers Forum include:
- Networking opportunities with fellow early-career researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers across Europe
- Information concerning prevention-related funding and job opportunities, upcoming conferences and networking events
- A chance for early-career members to present and receive feedback on their work
- Methodological and professional development support

Activities

To achieve these aims, the Forum maintains a mailing list for its members and hosts a number of events at the EU-SPR, including:
- Mailing list (EUSPR-EC)
- Special networking event at the Annual Conference
- Early Career session at the Annual Conference

Mission Statement

The EUSPR (European Society for Prevention Research) will advance the evidence base of evidence-based, universal, selective, and indicated prevention aimed at improving human health and well-being and addressing health inequalities.
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Exploring opportunities for international collaboration

- Dialogue initiated by colleagues at the Early Career Preventionist Network (ECPN) US Society for Prevention Research

- Shared **learning**, e.g. recruitment and engagement strategies
- Shared **activities**, e.g. Webinars
- Shared **advocacy**, e.g. joint session at SPR 2016 in San Francisco

- Feedback & further ideas welcome
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**ECF at the EUSPR 2015 conference**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, 21 October 2015</strong></td>
<td>09:30-16:00</td>
<td>Pre-conference workshops: “Conducting systematic reviews”, “Writing for publication and publishing papers”</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, 22 October 2015</strong></td>
<td>12:00-13:45</td>
<td>Early Careers Forum Launch and Networking Event (pre-booking required)</td>
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<td><strong>Friday, 23 October 2015</strong></td>
<td>14:15-16:00</td>
<td>Post graduate and Early Career parallel session 1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, 24 October 2015</strong></td>
<td>10:00-11:45</td>
<td>Post graduate and Early Career parallel session 2</td>
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<td>13:00-13:30</td>
<td>Giving of this year’s Early Career Prize</td>
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Current status & next steps

- **A really good start** to the Early Careers Forum
  - Ideas put into practice, increased visibility/presence
  - 20+ members signed up; Launch event FULLY BOOKED
  - Thanks to Kimberley, Stuart, David, Rosaria and many others

- **Next steps / Potential future issues to be addressed**
  - Ensure that all interested EC’s within EUSPR are aware & join
  - Nourish the new structures (e.g. mailing list, decision-making)
  - Shared responsibility for content/activities (sub-leads)
  - Add 1-2 new activities over next year (e.g. webinars)
  - Funding of future activities (following end of SPAN project)
  - Administrative support
Thank you