

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).

SPAN final conference

On 2nd of March, SPAN will hold its final event in Brussels. The unequal distribution of health outcomes across Europe poses a challenge to the EU's fundamental objective of solidarity and cohesion. Alarming, 97% of health spending across Europe goes on treatment as compared to only 3% on prevention. Whilst Prevention Science is a relatively new field of study, it is one which is growing in importance. The increasing number of fiscal, environmental and social pressures facing the EU is forcing policy makers to search for more effective and efficient solutions. Prevention Science has the potential to be a part of this solution mix.

The half-day conference focuses on recommendation for future action, will bring together experts in Prevention Science and will present the learning that was gained through the SPAN project. The conference will present an analysis of the requirements of those working and studying in the prevention science field; an analysis and proposal for the implementation of a post - graduate level curriculum in prevention science; and an explanation on how the curriculum is designed to meet the needs of prevention researchers and practitioners, and the estimated health gains that would follow from implementing such a curriculum. The presentations will be followed by response from policy makers and a panel discussion. Among the speakers are Prof David Foxcroft, Prof Rosaria Galanti, Prof Janet Mifsud, Dr Roman Gebrhelik, Mr Matej Kosir and Mr Peer van der Kreeft.

Follow us in CyberSpace!

For more details on the SPAN project please check our 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.

You are also welcome to follow us on Twitter @SPAN_eu and join our discussion:

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



Visit the SPAN website at:

www.span-europe.eu



EUSPR conference

The sixth annual EUSPR conference was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in October 2015, bringing together prevention scientists from across Europe. Three pre-conference workshops were held:

1. Introduction to systematic reviews (Drs Geoff Bates & Angelina Brotherhood).
2. Analysing longitudinal data with hierarchical linear models and identifying subgroups in prevention research. (Dr Ferdinand Keller).
3. Writing for publication and publishing papers (Dr Kimberley Hill).

SPAN awarded travel and subsistence bursaries and sponsored a poster competition. First place was awarded to Boris Chapoton (France), second place to Dijana Jerković (Croatia) and third place to Milica Vasiljevic (UK).

2015 bursary award winners for SPAN pre-conference workshops in Ljubljana

SPAN awarded 35 travel and subsistence bursaries of up to €800 to young prevention researchers from 10 countries.

All bursary winners appreciated the opportunity 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.



Lindsay Sullivan

Status: PhD student

Study/Research discipline: Health Promotion

PhD/Research topic: An Evaluation of a Concussion Education Programme for Youth Gaelic Games Athletes and Coaches

Attended workshop: Writing for Publication and Publishing Papers

As an early career stage researcher, it was extremely helpful and encouraging listening to academics and researchers share their publishing experiences and

advice on how to get published. All of the speakers were more than willing to answer any questions participants had and provided extremely in-depth responses. The workshop also provided the opportunity to get feedback on and discuss a paper that was in progress. This was a great component of the workshop, as it not only provided us with valuable feedback on our own papers, but also allowed us to share our publishing experiences with researchers at similar stages in their career. I found this workshop very beneficial and have incorporated the feedback and advice I got from the workshop into my writing.



Arunas Ziedelis

Status: PhD student

Study/Research discipline: Psychology

PhD/Research topic: Determinants of work engagement in nursing

Attended workshop: "Conducting systematic review", 16/03/01, Brussels

Short Statement: So far I haven't been in any workshops organized by SPAN, and the one in

Brussels will be the first for me. Currently I am working on my doctoral work in the field of work engagement promotion and burnout prevention and hoping that this workshop will be useful.



SPAN Update

In October 2015, EUSPR, with the support of SPAN, the EUSPR Early Career Forum was launched. The Early Careers Forum has been established to facilitate networking and shared learning among those members of the EUSPR who are still in the early stages of their career. It offers the first European and interdisciplinary platform for early-career researchers, practitioners and policy-makers interested in prevention research. The forum offers early-career members of the EUSPR a dedicated platform for professional exchange and mutual support. The forum was set to serve the career development needs of: researchers, policy-makers and practitioners who entered the prevention field within the last 8 years; current students of a prevention-related discipline at Masters or doctoral level; and senior colleagues interested to support early-career activities. The next workshop for the Early Career Forum will be held in Brussels, on March 1st, focusing on conducting systematic reviews.