

SPAN 2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

The SPAN project has been operational since January 2013 and with less than twelve months of the project completed we have achieved some excellent targets.

The first few months saw the project draw together partners from across Europe to convene in Oxford for the official “Kick-Off” of the project. This two day meeting provided an excellent networking opportunity with hard work by all delegates ensuring that at the close of the meeting the SPAN project had a clear and structured path to progression within the first year.

The meeting in Oxford resulted in press releases for the project in several countries (UK; Ireland; Spain; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia) and signified the beginning of our efforts to disseminate information about our project.

Work Packages 3, 4 and 5 (Higher Education, Research and Workplace; Peer, Rosaria and Matej)) developed a comprehensive questionnaire designed to map existing prevention science throughout Europe. This questionnaire was trialled among our partner institutions and feedback was incorporated in to the final version. Comprehensive databases of RTD’s in each country were assembled, allowing us to draw from a wide pool for our sampling strategy.

The questionnaire was launched October 16 and is expected to continue rolling out throughout the remainder of the year and in to the first quarter of 2014, in order to ensure maximum response rates.

Work package 8 (Web development: Harrie) is ahead of schedule for the production of the SPAN website, with the website to be launched in two phases. The first phase (completed) provides an excellent platform for information pertaining to the project and includes full partner listings, work package outlines and goals for the future. Importantly, the website also acts as a medium within which to ensure dissemination of our project and its related products.

Work package 2 (Dissemination: Michal) has been hard at work developing the branding for the project , an integral element for the life of the project. This work package has seen not only the production and dissemination of our first press release, but has also produced our first E newsletter, developed a Twitter and LinkedIn account and worked in collaboration with WP 8 to place SPAN products on the Website. In addition to creating a strong cyber-space presence, we have developed visual products such as a banner/stand to be presented at conferences as well as postcards designed to be handed out in conference packs and disseminated among gatherings of prevention professionals.

WP 7 (Physical networking: Elisardo) has worked in conjunction with EUSPR to embed the SPAN project within the EUSPR 2013 Annual conference. This conference has dedicated sessions for PhD students and Early Career Researchers to present their work, ensuring that the SPAN focus on engaging young researchers / prevention professionals is achieved. In addition, SPAN offered two “pre-conference” workshops dedicated to prevention science: mediation analysis and evaluation of complex interventions.

As part of the SPAN initiative to link young researchers with industry professionals, SPAN awarded 14 young researchers from across Europe travel and subsistence bursaries to assist with attending the SPAN workshops. Recipients come from the UK; Romania; Italy; Hungary; Croatia and Austria.

The next twelve months of the SPAN project will see the finalisation of WP's 3, 4 and 5 with analysis of questionnaire data expected to produce a detailed and thorough mapping of Prevention Science across Europe.

We will also see the roll out of WP 6 (Quality plan; Roman) and the continuation of work packages 2 (dissemination) and WP 7 (physical networking) throughout the life of the project. Phase 2 of the website (WP8) is also expected to be completed within this time, with extensive content development.

There has been an exciting and extremely productive first year of the SPAN project and we are looking forward to moving in to our second year of working together in strengthening prevention science in Europe.

Kobie Mulligan
SPAN Project Manager

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