

# **EUSPR Newsletter** January – April 2013

----- This update is for the members of the European Society for Prevention Research (EUSPR)------

# Follow-up to the EUSPR Conference 2012

The 3rd European Society for Prevention Research Conference and Members' Meeting took place on 6 - 7 December 2012 in Krakow. Selected presentations are now available on the EUSPR website: http://euspr.org/third-euspr-conference-67-december-2012/

#### Here is short summary of evaluation of the 2012 EUSPR Conference:

A short web survey was sent to attendees of the 2012 conference (110 registrations) asking them to reflect on the event and to report their preference for future programme activities. We received 37.2% responses. Regarding main conference activities more than 90% attendees stated that **number of plenary sessions** and **time allocated to parallel** sessions were 'about right'. **Time allocated to plenary sessions** and **number of parallel sessions** were also stated as 'about right' for more than 70% participants.

The conference incorporated a 'structured poster session' whereby a number of poster presenters were selected to talk about their work to the whole stream in a bit more detail. 84.8% of respondents preferred this format compared to a more traditional 'passive' poster session (6.1% 'no'; 9.4% 'about the same').

Respondents were asked to indicate which types of conference activities they would like to see at future events. Responses (in order of preference) included thematic debates; rapid presentations (e.g. 5x5 minute overviews of a prevention concept); expert discussion panels; conversations (e.g. one key-note speaker defends a theme and discusses with the audience).

Respondents were asked also to indicate *which types of special sessions they would like to attend at future events*. Responses (in order of preference) included pre-conference special interest meetings; grant research funding session; practitioner/researcher networking event; methodology workshops; and young/early career researcher event.

# **EUSPR** membership and membership renewal for 2013

We would like to encourage all EUSPR conference 2012 participants to register with the EUSPR. If you are aware of colleagues who attended the conference but are not yet members of the EUSPR, we would kindly ask you to forward them the link to our application form:

http://euspr.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/euspr form.doc

Additionally, we would be grateful if you could share the above link with any other colleagues you believe would be interested in joining the EUSPR.

Registration will ensure that interested professionals receive our latest announcements as well as reduced conference fees for the 2013 conference. Please see below for the full list of membership benefits.

For further information about joining the EUSPR please see the EUSPR website: <a href="http://euspr.org/membership">http://euspr.org/membership</a>

#### Membership Renewal for 2013

For existing members of the EUSPR, membership renewal fees for 2013 are now due. To continue being an EUSPR member you must now pay the membership fee.

Current EUSPR membership benefits include:

- Inclusion in the only European-wide network of prevention researchers and other experts
- Reduced EUSPR conference fees for the Paris Conference in November 2013
- Participation in EUSPR activities (training, research projects, etc.), including the preconference workshops at the Paris Conference in November 2013
- Eligibility for election to the EUSPR Board
- EUSPR newsletters
- Networking

As the Society develops, we hope to expand the range of benefits on offer. Membership fees will be used to cover the costs of development of the Society in its important first years, particularly with regard to administration costs, development of the website, and the organisation of the annual conferences.

Please note that existing members of the EUSPR do not need to resubmit the application form.

For details on how to renew your membership please see: <a href="http://euspr.org/membership">http://euspr.org/membership</a>

#### Save the date: EUSPR Conference 2013

# 4th International Conference and Members' Meeting

"Understanding differences in prevention outcomes"

Paris, France - November 13-15, 2013



It is well known that differences in health and wellbeing within and between populations are influenced by a range of biological and social factors. However, less attention has been given to identifying how differences in these factors may influence the experiences or outcomes of prevention work. Prevention interventions and policies may also inadvertently generate health and social inequalities by disproportionately benefitting some populations, to the disadvantage of others.

The development of frameworks such as PROGRESS Plus (Place of residence, Ethnicity, Occupation, Gender, Religion, Education, Socio-economic status, Social capital, Age, Disability and Sexual Orientation) has helped to provide a focus for research, but how do these factors influence intervention outcomes, and how do we design prevention policies and programmes which take them into account?

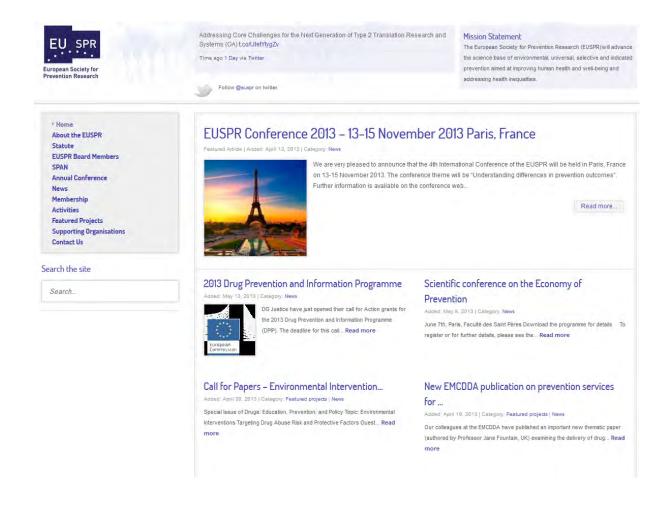
This year's EUSPR Conference will focus on the important role of modifiers of prevention outcome, and examine the best ways in which diversity can be incorporated into research and practice. Keynote speakers will present the latest findings from research investigating modifying factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, family and socioeconomic status. Delegates are also invited to submit abstracts for parallel sessions on these themes.

More details will be posted on the website when they become available but in the meantime please save the date in your diary. For further details please see: <a href="http://euspr.org/fourth-euspr-conference-1315-november-2013-paris-france-2/">http://euspr.org/fourth-euspr-conference-1315-november-2013-paris-france-2/</a>

We look forward to meeting you in Paris in November!

# Website update

We are very pleased to announce that the new EUSPR website is ready to be launched. The URL is the same <a href="http://www.euspr.org">http://www.euspr.org</a> but the new design provides increased functionality, and allows us to provide more frequent Society updates to members, and to link to the latest developments in European Prevention Research. We would encourage all Members to visit the site, to reciprocate links from their research group pages, and to submit articles and news for posting. As part of this work we also now have a Twitter account, so please follow us at @euspr



## Society news in brief

## **EUSPR** submission to EC COST programme

In April, Harry Sumnall submitted a proposal to the EC COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) programme to support the development of prevention research methodologies and training workshops. COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, allowing the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level. It is different from other funding programmes as it designed to support the development of research networks and harmonisation of approach rather than funding a specific project. Our proposal, submitted on behalf of a consortium of EUSPR members under the Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH) strand, is designed to find ways to share learning in research methodologies derived from nationally funded research projects, with the ambition of supporting applications for pan EU prevention trials and the secondary analysis of existing data sets. The scheme is highly competitive but this would be a fantastic development opportunity for the EUSPR if selected for support. For more information on COST-ISCH please see <a href="http://www.cost.eu/domains.actions/isch">http://www.cost.eu/domains.actions/isch</a>

### **EUSPR** member of Civil Society Forum on Drugs

We are pleased to announce that EUSPR has become a member of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSF) for the period 2013-2014. CSF serves as a platform for informal exchanges of views and information between the Commission and civil society organisations.

The overall objective of the CSF is to contribute to the work on monitoring the EU Drugs Action Plan and support the Commission's work to prepare the new EU drugs policy framework. It is a great opportunity for us to discuss relevant drug policy developments over the next two years and to ensure that prevention is central to EU drugs policy making.

This year's meeting will be held in June in Brussels. For more details please see <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/justice/anti-drugs/civil-society/index">http://ec.europa.eu/justice/anti-drugs/civil-society/index</a> en.htm

## EUSPR collaboration with the SPAN Project



The Science for Prevention Academic Network (SPAN) has been funded by the European Commission Lifelong Learning programme (LLP) to support the establishment of a network of prevention scientists and educators. The project brings

together experts from 32 European institutions to map the prevention science sector, improve education and training, build networks and run workshops with researchers, in particular young researchers.

The Science for Prevention Academic Network (SPAN) seeks to address some of the key education and training priorities for the European Prevention Science sector that EUSPR has identified as being critical for the development of the discipline; and complement/augment the core activities of the Society. We anticipate that SPAN will hold workshops and meetings as pre-conference sessions at the annual EUSPR conference. Many of the SPAN researchers are EUSPR members and the SPAN project lead, Professor David Foxcroft, is EUSPR President Elect.

SPAN is currently developing a web presence and the EUSPR will feature the latest SPAN activities on the new website.

# UNODC has published International Standards on Drug Use Prevention



Standards are intended to guide policymakers worldwide to develop programmes, policies and systems that are a truly effective investment in the future of children, young people, families and communities.

The global International Standards, published by UNODC, summarise the currently available scientific evidence and identify the major components and features of an effective national drug prevention system. The document describes interventions and policies reporting positive outcomes in terms of prevention of substance abuse by developmental stage (age). It also outlines some drug prevention issues that require further research.

The Standards build on and recognize the work of many other organizations, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Abuse, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, the World Health Organization, Mentor Foundation, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which have previously developed standards and guidelines on various aspects of drug prevention. Moreover, an extensive international group of experts, including Board members Angelina Brotherhood and Harry Sumnall, participated in the development of the document.

The documents are being translated into all UN official languages and are presently available in English from the UNODC website:

(http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/prevention/prevention-standards.html)

## European drug prevention quality standards:

#### A quick guide to improving prevention activities with EMCDDA Manual No 7



The European Drug Prevention Quality Standards (EDPQS) were published as a manual by the EMCDDA in November 2011, and launched at our Lisbon conference. The Standards are designed to support the development of evidence based prevention policy and practice. We are very pleased that learn that the EMCDDA has decided

to publish a short version of the Standards, targeted at newer EU Member States and those seeking candidacy in the next few years. Of course, this will also be a useful resource for International prevention professionals and those already working in European Member States. The EDPQS Partnership has just received further funding from DG Justice under the DPIP to develop the Standards into toolkits and training resources for different target audiences (see <a href="www.prevention-standards.eu">www.prevention-standards.eu</a>) For more details on the publication of this short version please visit the EMCDDA publications webpage <a href="http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications">http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications</a>

# North American drug prevention programmes: Are they feasible in European cultures and contexts?

A forthcoming Thematic Paper authored by the EMCDDA's Gregor Burkhart explores the generalisability and transferability of North American prevention programmes to Europe. Some commentators have argued that programmes developed in one cultural context, such as Canada or the USA, are unlikely to work, or be accepted, in Europe because most of the evidence for their effectiveness is from North America. Several previous reviewers have questioned whether this evidence is applicable to Europe (e.g. Cuijpers, 2003; McGrath et al., 2006; Faggiano et al., 2008).

After a discussion of why Europeans tend to resist using interventions developed in North America, the paper presents experiences of adapting and implementing four innovative and effective drug prevention programmes. It explores different practical aspects and personal accounts of how such programmes were implemented and evaluated in diverse European cultures and contexts. For more details on the publication of this short version please visit the EMCDDA publications webpage http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications

#### Please note...

#### **Call for Papers**

Special Issue of Drugs: Education, Prevention, and Policy

**Topic: Environmental Interventions Targeting Drug Abuse Risk and Protective Factors** 

Guest Editors: Karen Friend, Kristi Pettibone, Paul Florin, and Jamie Vela

**Background**: Illicit and prescription drug abuse, initiation and associated problems remain a critical public health issue worldwide. The World Health Organization recently reported that at least 15.3 million individuals have drug use disorders. Drug use problems are associated with significant health and social problems for both users and family members (WHO, 2013).

Unlike more traditional curricular approaches, environmental change strategies are population-based interventions that aim to change the context in which individuals make decisions (Pettibone, Friend, Nargiso, & Florin, 2012; Holder, 2002). These strategies are implemented to address public health problems such as substance abuse, HIV, and obesity and include policy, enforcement and communication campaigns. While a significant number of studies have examined a variety of environmental interventions to prevent alcohol and tobacco use and problems, there is a dearth of empirical evidence on how best to engage environmental strategies to target drug abuse and associated problems.

This special issue of *Drugs: Education, Prevention, and Policy* will examine environmental interventions targeting risk and protective factors that help to sustain or reduce drug use and associated problems. Manuscripts are encouraged to address a wide range of drugs of abuse (including illicit drugs and prescription medications), associated risk and protective factors, and innovative ways to intervene. Manuscripts should also include how to evaluate the effectiveness of these environmental interventions. Qualitative and/or quantitative approaches and a range of outcomes, including process, as well as short-, intermediate-, and long-term outcomes, can be considered.

**Submission Process:** Potential authors should submit a 1000 word proposal, including intervention(s) and evaluation. Guest Editors for the Special Issue will review the proposals and invite selected authors to submit a full manuscript, subject to peer review. We encourage submissions from a diverse range of authors, i.e., researchers, community practitioners and partners, policy makers, and students.

Submissions should be in English and proposals should clearly state the type of article proposed. We hope to include a variety of types of articles, as described in the *Drugs: Education, Prevention, and Policy* Instructions for Authors, available at the online submission portal (<a href="http://informahealthcare.com/loi/dep/">http://informahealthcare.com/loi/dep/</a>).

Proposals are **due by June 14, 2013**. Authors will be contacted about the status of their proposal by September 6, 2013. Requested manuscripts will be due by November 15, 2013, and decisions made by January 15, 2014. If requested, revised manuscripts will be due by March 1, 2014. Final decisions will be made by May 1, 2014.

Send proposal submissions and inquiries to the Special Issue Editors: Dr. Karen Friend (<a href="mailto:kfriend@pire.org">kfriend@pire.org</a>) and Dr. Kristi Pettibone (<a href="mailto:kristianna.pettibone@nih.gov">kristianna.pettibone@nih.gov</a>). Please share this call for proposals with interested colleagues.

#### References

Holder, H. D. (2002). Prevention of alcohol and drug "abuse" problems at the community level: What research tells us. *Substance Use and Misuse*, *37*(8-10), 901-921.

Levy, D. T., & Friend, K. (2001a). A computer simulation model for mass media interventions directed at tobacco use. *Preventative Medicine*, *32*(3), 284-294.

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World Health Organization (2013). Management of substance abuse. Retrieved from <a href="http://www.who.int/substance\_abuse/facts/psychoactives/en/index.html">http://www.who.int/substance\_abuse/facts/psychoactives/en/index.html</a> on January 5 2013

# 2013 DPIP Call for action grants

The 2013 DPIP Call for action grants has been launched and details are available on the DG JUSTICE EUROPA website at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/call\_just\_ag\_dpip\_2013\_en.htm

Deadline for applications to be submitted via PRIAMOS is: 11/07/2013 12:00 (noon) CET

#### The E-Newsletter

The EUSPR Newsletter is produced three times a year. If you have news and information that you would like to feature for the next issue then please contact us. We are very keen to include prevention news from outside the substance use field, so would encourage such submissions.