
European Society for Prevention Research

Update - September 2010

This update is for the members of the European Society for Prevention Research which was founded in November 2009 in Rome.

The Editor is away...normal service will resume shortly...

The usual Editor of the update newsletter is on maternity leave: congratulations to Sara Sanchez who has a lovely baby girl.

This update is therefore a little bit later than promised, and a little briefer.

REMINDER: EUSPR Conference

Dear EUSPR Members:

I would like to remind you to register for the 1st European Society for Prevention Research Conference and Members' Meeting, which will take place on 10-11 November 2010 in Amsterdam during the [EUPHA](#) conference.

The recent report from the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health "Closing the Gap in a Generation" calls on all governments, WHO, civil society to come together in taking actions in order to reduce inequalities in health in a generation.

The conference aims to bring together researchers from both Europe and US, in order to highlight pioneer experiences in the development and evaluation of prevention projects targeting widespread determinants of health inequalities.

Join us during this historical first EUSPR meeting in Amsterdam to:

1. Provide input and influence the future directions of the Society
2. Contribute to the EUSPR-constitution and fundamental by-laws
3. Meet colleagues and form working groups on sub-themes
4. Vote for the members of the EUSPR Executive Board
5. Learn about the experiences during the development of the US-SPR
6. Meet the representatives of our US counterpart and US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to establish transatlantic contacts
7. Meet key speakers from US and Europe and exchange ideas about innovative approaches in Public Health relevant prevention

Conference fee: Regular: 30€ / Student: 20€

To register, please visit this [link](#) (deadline for registrations has been extended)

Further information and the conference programme can be found in [this leaflet](#). If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact barbara.zunino@oed.piemonte.it

We look forward to seeing you in Amsterdam!

FOCUS on...*Blueprints*

Blueprints for Violence Prevention is based at the Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado in the United States (US). The mission of Blueprints is to identify outstanding violence and drug prevention programs that meet the highest scientific standards for effectiveness. In this way, Blueprints serves as a resource for governments, foundations, businesses, and other organisations trying to make informed judgements about how to invest in violence and drug prevention programs.

Several criteria are used by Blueprints to identify outstanding prevention programs. The three most important criteria are firstly that there is evidence of effectiveness with a strong research design, typically randomised controlled trials (RCTs); second, that there are sustained effects over at least a year of follow-up; and third that findings are replicated across diverse settings. Blueprints also considers other criteria, including evidence of theoretical mediators, and cost-effectiveness.

Blueprints has evaluated over 800 prevention programs, and from that pool identified just 11 programs that meet their strict criteria for designation as a “model” program, and a further 19 have been designated as “promising”. Model programs have a high level of evidence supporting their effectiveness, whereas promising programs have good results from a small number of studies, but further evidence is required over longer follow-up periods or in different settings. Further information is available on the [Blueprints website](#).

How relevant is Blueprints for European prevention efforts? There is undoubtedly a need for a similar resource that looks at European prevention programs, or non-European programs implemented in European settings, but perhaps there is also a need to reflect the broader scope for prevention that characterises a more European perspective. As Ann Hagell notes, writing in a blog on the [Prevention Action](#) website:

“Apparently the majority of Americans believe that poor individual outcomes are driven by individual traits. Europeans, on the other hand, are more likely to think that poor outcomes are the result of injustice, discrimination, other societal factors, and bad luck.”

CONGRATULATIONS to...*John Ioannidis*

John Ioannidis has taken up a new post as the Head of the prestigious [Prevention Research Centre](#) at Stanford University. Previously at the Department of Medicine, University of Ioannina, Greece, John is well known for his provocative work showing that many early scientific findings are eventually found to be incorrect. His work has shown that around one third of highly cited clinical studies are later found to be incorrect and that beneficial effects initially found in clinical trials are often found in later studies to be smaller or even non-existent. This work reinforces the need for high quality replication studies, rather than relying on the results from single studies.

A good example of this phenomenon has been illustrated recently in a paper in *Prevention Science*. In an independent replication study using a randomised controlled trial methodology, Denise Gottfredson and a team from the University of Maryland and Rowan University, USA, found no effects of the popular, and previously positively evaluated, “All Stars” drug prevention program. Results showed no difference between the treatment and control students on any of the measured outcomes or mediators. Importantly, Gottfredson

and her team were able to show that poor implementation fidelity was not to blame, which is a typical explanation offered up when prevention programs turn out to be ineffective.

Gottfredson, D. C., Cross, A., Wilson, D., Rorie, M. & Connell, N. (2010) 'An experimental evaluation of the All Stars prevention curriculum in a community after school setting', Prevention Science 11 (2), 142-154.

Reading and Resources

The second issue of the EUSPR Corner now published in the European Journal of Public Health. **EUSPR— Preventing substance misuse in young people: emerging evidence for psycho-social developmental interventions** by David Foxcroft is listed under European Public Health News. [Read more](#)

Special issue on the challenges of implementation research in early childhood education in *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* issue Volume 25, Issue 3, Pages 267-408 (3rd Quarter 2010). The challenges of implementation research in early childhood education in parallel with prevention research are clear. Discussions and research examples are provided on ten key areas of implementation. [Read more](#)

The Healthy Nightlife Toolbox website (www.hnt-info.eu) has just been launched. It's an EU funded project and is designed for professionals to help guide (environmental) drug prevention work via a website that has been designed for local, regional and national policy makers and prevention workers. A relatively large amount of all alcohol and drug use takes place in recreational settings. This is why nightlife is an important setting for prevention. The core of the online Toolbox is formed by three databases (evaluated interventions, literature, and details of experts within the field) and a Handbook providing guidance on creating a healthy and safe nightlife.

Membership

EU-SPR Membership is open for researchers and practitioners in all areas of prevention, in particular those that target social and behavioural determinants of health. Specialists are welcome irrespective of whether their interest lays in the promotion of mental health, in cardio-vascular disease prevention, in prevention of violence and bullying, or of domestic accidents and injuries. As always, membership is reviewed by the [Steering Committee](#) before acceptance is granted and during the first year is free of charge. Visit www.euspr.org for details.

The Steering Committee is considering the possibility of charging membership fees and/or accepting donations from members in order to sustain the coordination of EUSPR over time.

Membership benefits could include:

1. Preferential access to available EUSPR grants for the participation of Master Courses organised with the support of the Society
2. Preferential access to traineeships (also for one's students) at EMCDDA and UNODC, related to the Master Programmes
3. More effective and coordinated access to and use of EU research and other funds
4. Timely information about and invitation to relevant ongoing scientific meetings in Europe via the EUSPR listserv

Upcoming Conferences

1st European Society for Prevention Research Conference and Members' Meeting: Can research on prevention contribute to the reduction of inequalities in health in Europe? November 10 to 11 2010, Amsterdam.

The recently formed European Society for Prevention Research intends to contribute to "Closing the Gap" by supporting and developing prevention research that focuses on interventions tackling health behaviour at the population level. Given the complexity of this challenge, the EUSPR aims to involve professionals from many allied public health disciplines, such as sociology, economics, psychology, anthropology, communication technology and medicine. The conference aims to bring together researchers from both Europe and the US, in order to highlight pioneer experiences on the development and evaluation of prevention projects targeting widespread determinants of health inequalities. [More details](#). *(NB there is now an open registration with no deadline; the stated 10th October deadline is now defunct).*

The US Society for Prevention Research 19th Annual Meeting: Prevention Scientists Promoting Global Health: Emerging Visions for Today and Tomorrow. May 31 to June 3, 2011, Washington, DC.

The SPR Annual Meeting provides a unique opportunity to advance this vision by providing a centrally integrated forum for the exchange of new concepts, methods, and results from prevention research and related public health fields; and by providing a forum for the communication between scientists, public policy leaders and practitioners concerning the implementation of evidence-based preventive interventions in all areas of public health. [More details](#).

The E-Newsletter

The EU-SPR Newsletter is sent six times a year. If you have information that you would like to feature for the November 2010 issue please [contact us](#).

For more information contact the European Society for Prevention Research by visiting www.euspr.org