

What is SPAN?

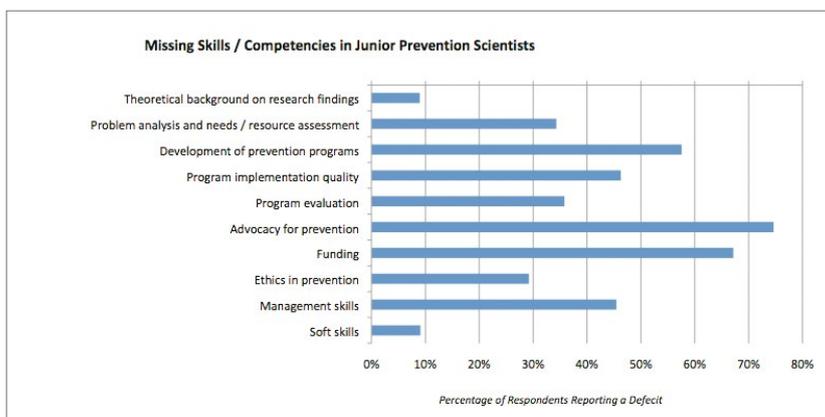
The Science for Prevention Academic Network (SPAN), consisting of experts from 32 European institutions across 25 countries, has been awarded a large grant (€595, 000) by the [European Commission Lifelong Learning Programme \(LLP\)](#). This grant enables the establishment of a network of prevention 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).

First results of SPAN Prevention Science Survey

Overall, 169 leading prevention researchers, educators or practitioners from 26 European countries have answered the SPAN questionnaire. One indication from initial analysis suggests that there is a need for prevention science education and training to be more practically orientated in future. When asked how adequately the prevention science workforce is prepared for its daily work, respondents reported on deficits in practical skills and competencies in areas such as development and evaluation of prevention programs and funding. Similar responses were received concerning employees as well as junior researchers.



Follow us in CyberSpace!

SPAN is pleased to announce the official project website 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.

We also have a Twitter account to help keep you up to date with news, events and conferences that are occurring within the prevention science sector, so be sure to follow us: @SPAN_eu

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



Visit the SPAN website at:

www.span-europe.eu

SPAN workshops

The fifth annual EUSPR Conference will be held in Palma, Majorca, from the 16th to 18th of October 2014. SPAN will be collaborating with the EUSPR to once again present two pre-conference workshops on the 15th October. The dedicated SPAN workshops are:

1. Prevention economics – cost effectiveness, using economic data in decision making, methodologies and;
2. Optimising behavioural interventions, the MOST model

As part of SPAN's aim to establish stronger links to professional networks, we will be offering between 10-15 bursaries of up to €500 to young prevention scientists (PhD Students, Post docs) to assist with EUSPR/SPAN workshop attendance. Further information as well as application form can be found on our website.

SPAN Update

The SPAN Survey on existing prevention science education, research training and workforce needs is now closed. Thanks to all who have participated! Currently, the data are being analysed with some first results reported here. For more continued updates check: www.span-europe.eu

The next stage of the project involves rolling out Work Package 6: developing a quality plan. Using the analysed data from the SPAN survey the quality plan will outline the tasks required to improve the integration of Prevention Science degree/quality assurance standards, methods and approaches in the field of Prevention Science Higher Education across Europe. This quality plan will build on existing Prevention Science Education and Training Research to make concrete recommendations about what individual institutions need to do to implement a consistent quality framework, which is underpinned by the European and Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

2013 bursary award winners for SPAN pre-conference workshops in Paris

As part of the fourth annual European Society for Prevention Research (EUSPR) Conference in Paris in November 2013, SPAN awarded 14 travel and subsistence bursaries of up to €500 to young prevention researchers. We are delighted to introduce some of the winners in this newsletter.

All bursaries reported high satisfaction with information content, contemporary relevance and diversity of topics covered by the conference and the workshops. They especially appreciated the opportunity to obtain feedback and new ideas for their own work and to establish professional contacts with experienced researchers. Overall attendance at the conference and the workshops was rated as highly valuable for developing the own career as well as for European prevention science in general.

Bursary recipient profiles



Kimberley Hill (United Kingdom)

Status: PhD Student

Study/Research discipline: Psychology and Public Health

PhD/Research topic: Alcohol Misuse in Young Adults

Attended workshop: Development and Evaluation of Complex Preventive Interventions

Statement: "During these events, I [...] was able to present my own research. This was an important

and rewarding opportunity, as I received positive feedback from related professionals about my work."



Martha Canfield (United Kingdom)

Status: PhD Student

Study/Research discipline: Psychology

PhD/Research topic: Alcohol and substance misuse amongst minority ethnic groups

Attended workshop: Testing Mediating Mechanisms and Moderating Factors in Prevention Work

Statement: "I found a great sense of encouragement to continue working on what I believe by winning the SPAN travel bursary award."



Angelina Brotherhood (Austria/United Kingdom)

Status: PhD Student

Study/Research discipline: Sociology and Public health

PhD/Research topic: Spaces/places of legal and illegal substance use

Attended workshop: Development and Evaluation of Complex Preventive Interventions

Statement: "Overall a very positive and inspiring experience."



Miranda Novak (Croatia)

Status: Research Associate/Post Doc

Study/Research discipline: Prevention of behavioural and mental disorders, mental health promotion

PhD/Research topic: Implementation quality, intervention research and evidence-based program

Attended workshop: Development and Evaluation of Complex Preventive Interventions

Statement: "I am glad that European prevention scientists are becoming more and more connected and supportive toward each other."