

### 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).

### Follow us in CyberSpace!

SPAN is pleased to announce the official project website [www.span-europe.eu](http://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.

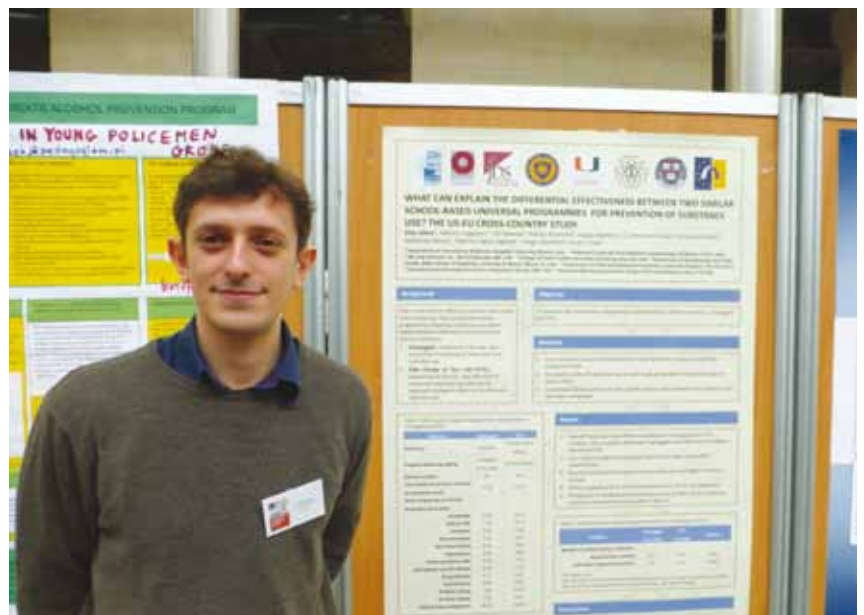


Visit the SPAN website at:

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The fourth annual **EUSPR conference** was held in November 2013, bringing together prevention scientists from across Europe. SPAN sponsored four pre-conference workshops on: Development and specification of novel behavioural interventions; Designing and Planning Research to assess causality in complex interventions; Real world complex intervention research – recruitment, retention and process evaluation; and Testing Mediating Mechanisms and Moderating Factors in Prevention Work. The workshops were booked out and highly rated by the participants.

As part of our commitment to build capacity, SPAN awarded 14 bursaries to young researchers and sponsored a poster competition. First place was awarded to Alessandro Coppo, second place Viveca Olofsson and third Martha Canfield, the posters can be found on our webpage.



Dr. Elias Allara presenting his poster at the EUSPR/SPAN event

## SPAN Update

### 2014 EUSPR conference and dedicated SPAN workshops

The fifth annual [EUSPR Conference](#) will be held in Palma, Majorca from the 16th to 18th of October 2014.

The conference will explore the latest findings, methodologies and controversies in the field, but also ask what are the expectations of society towards prevention? Where should our relative priorities lie – for example, on improving population health, saving money, reducing inequalities, or emphasising treatment and law enforcement responses? The conference will also examine the role of economic interests in prevention and how these may hinder or support prevention work.

SPAN will be collaborating with EUSPR to once again present pre-conference workshops on the 15th of October.

As part of the SPAN's aim to establish stronger links to professional networks, we will award bursaries to young prevention scientists to assist in covering travel and accommodation costs associated with conference/workshop attendance.

### SPAN Prevention Science Questionnaire update

As part of SPAN's aim to gain a deeper understanding of and to map existing prevention science education, research training and workforce needs across Europe, WP leaders have developed an online questionnaire that has been administered across Europe to institutions and individuals who form part of the broader prevention science network.

Over 150 questionnaires have been completed to date. An analysis plan is currently being developed and results will be reported in the summer.

For more continued updates check:

[www.span-europe.eu](http://www.span-europe.eu)

## Work Package Leader profiles

### David Foxcroft, England.

#### WP1 Leader: Management Group and Lead Principal investigator



David Foxcroft is Professor of Community Psychology and Public Health at Oxford Brookes University in the U.K. His work is focused on understanding (and improving) behaviour in context, especially how social structures (e.g. families, schools, communities, employers, regulation, government) can support improved health and wellbeing in communities and populations. A focus is the prevention of risk behaviours in children and young people. He was awarded the Tobler prize by the U.S. Society for Prevention Research for his research on preventing youth alcohol misuse, and he recently co-authored a prize winning book on Drug Policy and the Public Good (Oxford University Press). From 2014 he will be President of the European Society for Prevention Research (EUSPR).

### Kobie Mulligan, England.

#### Project Manager



Kobie is the Project Manager for SPAN, working to ensure a coherent approach across all work packages. She has worked as a researcher for over ten years in Australia, the United Kingdom and at a European wide level and has extensive experience in the fields of illicit drugs, European drug markets, alcohol research, and the criminal justice system (inclusive of law, prisons and human rights).

She has worked with Department of Health England, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research Education Centre in Australia (QADREC). In addition to research, Kobie also has experience teaching/lecturing, developing and coordinating post-graduate Higher Education (HE) courses in the areas of health, alcohol and drugs, youth substance use and sociology.

### Harrie Jonkan, The Netherlands.

#### WP 8 Leader: Website development



Dr. Harrie Jonkman studied sociology and educational studies and worked at the University of Groningen. In 2008, he joined the Verwey-Jonker Institute. His work focuses on the social and cognitive development of children and young people, social determinants of health, developmental and behavioral problems. In 2012 he received a scholarship as 'Distinguished Researcher' from the National Institute on Drug Abuse

(USA). In 2012 he finished his PhD study into the effects of the prevention strategy. At the Verwey-Jonker Institute he is involved in experiments and evaluations of social programs, longitudinal studies, and international comparative studies. He supports prevention work in different countries, works as a supervisor in steering committees of educational institutes and is advisor of the International Task Force on Prevention of the Society of Prevention Research.