



HealthPros

International Training Network for
Healthcare Performance Intelligence Professionals

First ESR training week (29/10-6/11 2018)!

Finally, the HealthPros project really took off with all fellows meeting each other and the partners during the first HealthPros training week (including consortium meeting and Immersion community event (see below)). There are many EU projects, but only one HealthPros, and there are many ESRs, but only one group of HealthPros fellows, thus we will refer to them by name. Please have a look on our website where there's pictures and CV's, but also check out our fantastic group below!

From left to right: Armin, Nicolas, Bernardo, Frank, Sophie, Oscar, Erica, Thanthima, Kendall, Damir, Mircha and Pinar all had an interesting (and sometimes exhausting) 10 days.



They started the 29th of October with a warm welcome and introduction round and an interesting lecture including "a tour of

important people you have to know in Healthcare performance measurement and management, followed by welcome drinks. The week continued with a course on project management, career development and a lecture on Gender in research. The 2nd of November, there was also a course "Handling the media". During the weekend it was time to relax and visit the "Zaanse Schans".



And on the 5-6th of November their training week was finalized with the "World of Science" course.

Consortium meeting (1/11/2018)

The 1st of November we had the consortium meeting of the network. After an introduction and update on the recruitment and first deliverables, all fellows presented themselves and their projects to the whole consortium (including partner organisations) for the first time. It led to many interesting questions and ideas for collaborations and in general was a very interactive day, that was concluded with

a consortium dinner in the centre of Amsterdam.



First Dutch Immersion community event (2/11/2018)

The second of November the fellows started with a course "handling the media" while the partner organisations and the beneficiaries discussed several practical issues during the supervisory board meeting. After lunch, the first HealthPros Immersion community event was organized, where first 10 Dutch companies shortly presented themselves and the way they might collaborate with the network, after which the fellows also shortly pitched themselves and their research. After a short break, the speeddating sessions began, where in 6 sessions of ten minutes the companies and fellows had a chance to meet each other more closely and discuss possible collaborations. On the whole, a very successful afternoon. A first impression can be seen on the HealthPros website (Training>Immersion community).

Introducing...The team from Corvinus University in Hungary!



[Petra Baji](#)

Where were you born?

In Hungary.

What is your background?

I have a degree in economics (major in finance - actuary studies), but I did my Phd in health economics/health policy in Maastricht University (Netherlands) focusing on out-of-pocket payments and willingness to pay for health care services. Currently I am an Associate Professor at the Department of Health Economics.

When did you start working at Corvinus University of Budapest?

I started working at the Department of Health Economics, Corvinus University of Budapest in 2009, when I started my PhD research in an EC funded international research project (ASSPRO CEE 2007) led by Maastricht University.

What is the main focus of your research?

My research mainly focuses on health economic evaluation and stated preference methods to elicit preferences and willingness to pay for health care.

What is the added value of Marie-Curie European Training Networks in comparison to other types of (EU) research projects?

So far, we have been involved in various research projects funded by the EC, however HealthPros is the first project where we provide training for early stage researchers. The aim of the program is to train the first generation of professionals who can translate health care data to actionable knowledge. I am very excited to be involved in such a network and to engage PhD students in our research projects.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

I am a Principal Investigator at the project, and I am responsible for the coordination of the project in Hungary. Our department is the leader of WP4 "Immersion Community based PhD training".

What is the biggest challenge for HealthPros?

To reach outside academia and engage various for-profit, governmental and other non-profit organizations in our work and provide valuable input for them.



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What do you do in your free time?

I have a 1 year old son, so at the moment I am mostly engaged in various family activities. I also like to make photos and I do yoga.

Laszlo Gulacsi



Where were you born?

In Hungary

What is your background?

By profession I am a physician, having university degrees of programming mathematics, mathematical economics and sociology and health economics. I received PhD degrees in social medicine from the Medical University of Amsterdam, Corvinus University of Budapest, Semmelweis Medical University in Budapest and from the Debrecen Medical University. I am a Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Science since 2017. Currently, I work as a Vice-rector for Research, Professor and Head of Department of Health Economics, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary. (<http://hecon.uni-corvinus.hu>) I am a member of the Standing Committee of Pharmacy, Hungarian Academy of Science.

When did you start working at Corvinus University of Budapest?

More than 15 years ago, I was the founder of the Research Group in Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment at Corvinus University of Budapest, which later became the Department of Health Economics in 2013,

What is the main focus of your research?

My research focuses on disease burden and cost of illness studies in various acute and chronic diseases, pharmaco-economics; health insurance, quality improvement and pay for performance and on health service research, health policy and financing.

What is the added-value of Marie-Curie European Training Networks in comparison to other types of (EU) research projects?

Training and supervision of talented PhD fellows.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

I am a principal investigator in the project, supervising two PhD candidates.

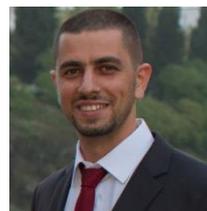
What is the largest challenge for HealthPros?

To engage the private and governmental sector in our research and produce outcomes useful to them.

What do you do in your free time?

Sports are a must at our Department, I like cycling, kayaking..., and I am a happy grandfather of 3 now.

Armin Lucevic



Where were you born?

In Belgrade, Serbia

What is your background?

I have BA diploma in Economics from University of Montenegro; MSc diploma in International Economy and Business from Corvinus University and MA diploma in Healthcare Management from University of Belgrade (Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Organizational Sciences).

When did you start working at Corvinus University of Budapest?

I have joined Department of Health Economics on 1st October 2018.

What is the main focus of your research?

My research focuses on building performance intelligence in contract arrangements between insurers and health care providers

What is the added-value of Marie-Curie European Training Networks in comparison to other types of (EU) research projects?

Each MSCA-ITN aims to train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers. In HealthPros, we are converting knowledge and ideas into products and services for healthcare market, where

standard theory of how markets work does not apply.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

I am a research fellow and a PhD candidate.

What is the biggest challenge for HealthPros?

To complete all required tasks for the given time frame, and make results visible and usable for companies and organizations outside of HealthPros network.

What do you do in your free time?

I like to spend time with friends, read and run

Oscar Brito Fernandes



Where were you born?

I was born in the North of Portugal, in Vila Nova de Famalicão, but was raised in Olhão, located in the South of

Portugal.

What is your background?

I hold a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Algarve, a master's degree in education with a specialization in training and lifelong learning from the University of Lisbon, and from the National School of Public Health, NOVA University of Lisbon, I hold a master's degree in healthcare management and also an advanced studies program in public health, with a specialization in health policy, management and administration.

I previously worked as a senior consultant to SMEs, as a biostatistics teacher at a university school in Coimbra, and later as a research fellow at National School of Public Health (NOVA University of Lisbon). My latest working experience before joining the HealthPros network was as a manager at Central Lisbon University Hospital Trust's clinical trials unit.

When did you start working at the Corvinus University of Budapest?

I started working at Corvinus University of Budapest in October 2018.

What is the main focus of your research?

Throughout the three years of the project I will be working on patient engagement in healthcare purchasing by insurers, focusing on patient's preferences and experiences of care, and hopefully, develop a business model that effectively involve patients in the financial decision-making of health insurance funds.

What is the added-value of Marie-Curie European Training Networks in comparison to other types of (EU) research projects?

This kind of projects have a highly competitive worldwide recruitment, so being selected is already a great honour as these are funded actions of great international prestigious and reputation. These projects allow one to develop personal and professional skills in an international context, not only within the academia, but also with businesses, SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond. Because of this cross-cutting approach, you can develop a wide international network to work with in the future. I should also stress that the budget available to be invested in training and research activities of the fellows is one of the major differentiating factors when comparing this type of research grants with others.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

I'm one of the 13 HealthPros fellows that were recruitment and am based at Corvinus University of Budapest, in Hungary. Within the consortium, I will be focusing on a specific research topic that will serve as the base for a customized PhD programme. With the support of my colleagues and supervisors, throughout the project I will be publishing original research papers in peer-reviewed journals, participate in conferences to discuss our findings, attend courses to further develop my research skills,



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and I will also take part in all the consortium initiatives to disseminate the networks' work to different audiences.

What is the biggest challenge for HealthPros?

I believe that HealthPros will help to build a great deal of knowledge on how to improve the use of available healthcare performance data to yield healthcare systems more patient-centric, where patients are and feel engaged in the decision-making, and contribute to achieving better health outcomes and better healthcare experiences. Nevertheless, one of the largest challenges will be on how to synthesize all the generated evidence and make it ready to be put into action by third parties worldwide.

What do you do in your free time?

Do PhD students have free time? Of course, they do. It is important to maintain a good balance between work and all other spheres of your life. That said, in my free time I try to discover Budapest, write poems, go to the cinema and the theatre, and try not to mess with my yoga practice (I'm just starting though!).

Prof. Niek Klazinga visited the Corvinus University of Budapest



Prof. Niek Klazinga (AUMC), the coordinator of the HealthPros program and the Honorary Professor of Corvinus University of Budapest visited the Department of Health Economics,

Corvinus University of Budapest on the 14th October 2018. Prof. Klazinga met the new fellows, Armin Lucevic and Óscar Brito Fernandes, as well as Andrea Bevíz, representative of Generali, the Hungarian partner institute, and with the colleagues at the Department of Health Economics discussed about the first research projects in HealthPros, namely patient reported experience measurement in Hungary.

The first HealthPros related papers:

Barbazza E, Bak Pedersen H, Birtanov Y, Huber M, Immonen K, Jakab M, Kluge K, Kringos D, Azzopardi-Muscat N, Rawaf S, Stavdal A, Tello J. Ten evidence-based policy accelerators for transforming primary health care in the WHO European Region. *Public Health Panorama* (2018); 4(4).

Tello J, **Barbazza E**, Kluge H. Accelerating primary health care on its fortieth anniversary: a must-do to extend coverage to quality services for advancing universal health coverage. *Public Health Panorama* (2018); 4(4).

Upcoming events:

8-12th April 2019

Spring Meeting, second training week ESRs and Mid term review in Denmark.

11-15th November 2019

Fall Meeting, third training week ESRs in Germany.

For more information on the network and topics/input for the next newsletter please contact the project manager (Laurian Jongejan);

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