

EHF GASTEIN GAZETTE



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by @YoungGasteiners

ELECTING HEALTH – The Europe We Want! A new Social Model for Health

The 17th European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) was opened by Professor Helmut Brand, President of the International Forum Gastein. He revealed that recent EU elections had introduced Eurosceptics in parliament but promisingly the number of citizens that agreed their vote counts in Europe has risen from 29% to 42%. The former Prime Minister of Greece, George Papandreou, delivered the keynote speech urging a more coordinated European response to crisis within member states to prevent economic and social

contagion. He called for the European Union to be 'a force that humanises our society and not a fearful follower of global trends'. The social model as a core foundation of the European Union was also emphasised by Austrian Health Minister, Sabine Oberhauser who dreams of a 'social union' and Europe being 'a place where we can all learn from each other'. As an example of this she reaffirmed her commitment to ban smoking in Austria and follow the lead of Ireland in this tackling this important public health challenge.

Martin Seychell (DG SANCO) highlighted the necessity of a paradigm shift from perceiving health as an item of expenditure to viewing it as a driver of economic growth. Supporting his view former MEP John Bowis (UK) wants to speak to Ministers of Finance not Health Ministers to convince them to invest in health. Good governance and health as a political choice were also stressed by Alojz Peterle (MEP Slovenia) and Dr Agis Tsouros (WHO Europe) respectively.
<http://www.ehfg.org/>



BALANCING CARE COORDINATION AND PATIENT CHOICE

Dr Clemens Martin Auer (Director General of the Federal Ministry of Health in Austria) introduced the present Austrian primary care system and the future policy options. Dr Ellen Nolte (Director of the Health and Healthcare research team at RAND Europe) introduced the most important evidence about patient choice and continuity of care in case of primary care settings. An interactive voting system gave presenters and the invited health professionals immediate feedback on pre-planned questions.

INVESTIGATING LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES

What makes a good Public Health leader? Forum 1, sponsored by the Ministry of Health of Taiwan, actively tried to answer this prominent question. Leadership was defined as the power and the process of change. A clear vision of public health was considered necessary, as well as the need to take clear and unpopular decisions. Motivation, effectiveness and goal-oriented were qualities that the speakers considered essential for public health professionals. It was considered crucial for public health leaders to receive more training in leadership topics.

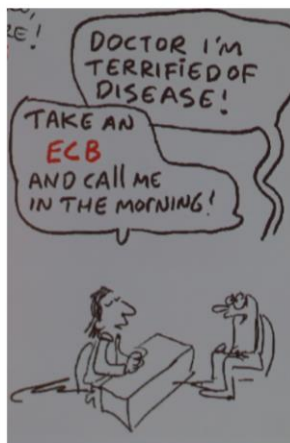
The workshop on hearing loss helped to increase awareness of how all patient groups especially vulnerable citizens like children and the elderly can be affected.

EU HEALTH POLICY FOR THE FUTURE

Global health was analysed from the European perspective at this session. International cooperation is in our foreign policy and indispensable for more efficient epidemic approaches, technical advice and setting standards in global health. EU health policies therefore need to be internationalised.

Healthcare partnerships in Austria were discussed at an evening workshop which included the key roles played by Pharmig and the main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions.

“#EHFG2014 M.Seychell DG SANCO: What Europe do we want? When we asked citizens, we see that HEALTH is one of the top concerns @EU_Health” - Ann Marie Borg (@AnnMBorg)



“#NHSAnnualReview2014 delegates see also: EU in need of 'sustainable & patient-centred' health policies #ehfg2014 <http://goo.gl/MqguxY>” – Edward Harkins (@EdwardHarkins)