

Collaborative Solutions for the 3D Challenges of Democracy, Demographics, and Digitalisation at the European Health Forum Gastein 2024

- From 24 – 27 September, the hybrid **European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG)**, guided by the theme “Shifting sands of health”, will explore solutions for the complex interplay of democracy, demographics, and digitalisation in Europe's evolving health landscape.
- The EHFG 2024 is co-organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, in collaboration with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, and with support from the European Union.
- The EHFG 2024 will hold a consultation process with participants to collaboratively develop a priority letter on health to the next European Commission.

Media accreditation is now open – contact the press office at press@ehfg.org for your registration code.

For general enquiries, please contact info@ehfg.org.

3 July 2024, Bad Hofgastein, Austria – With trust in institutions declining, populations ageing rapidly, and digital advancements reshaping healthcare, Europe finds itself in a demanding phase of health policy.

The 27th [European Health Forum Gastein](#) (EHFG), taking place as a hybrid conference from **24 – 27 September 2024** in Bad Hofgastein, Austria, will address these critical challenges head-on. Under the theme "[Shifting sands of health – democracy, demographics, digitalisation](#)" the EHFG 2024 will bring together speakers and participants from across the spectrum of government, the European Commission, the World Health Organization, academia, industry, and civil society for a robust dialogue.

EHFG 2024 speakers include:

- **Johannes Rauch**, Federal Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Austria
- **Valentina Prevolnik Rupel**, Minister of Health, Slovenia
- **Eluned Morgan**, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Wales
- **Pamela Rendi-Wagner**, Director, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
- **Marco Marsella**, Director, Digital, EU4Health and Health systems modernisation, European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
- **Barbara Prainsack**, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Vienna



Shifting sands: A complex landscape

Democratic institutions are grappling with healthcare challenges such as overstretched systems and workforce burnout, failing to offer innovative solutions. Meanwhile, Europe is entering an era of profound demographic change. New highs in life expectancy coupled with changing fertility patterns will create a rapid expansion in the population share of older people. While Artificial Intelligence (AI) promises exciting possibilities for efficiency and preventive care, questions linger regarding equitable access, data privacy, and responsible regulation.

“While more than half of the world’s population is voting this year, democratic values are once again threatened all around the globe. Simultaneously our societies are growing older, challenging our healthcare systems as we strive to give our elderly the best care possible” said **Johannes Rauch, Federal Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Austria**. “It is important that we never forget that health policies are indeed social policies and that we keep adapting to the changes in our societies. Ensuring a healthy life for everyone, regardless of their socioeconomic background is the foundation of a peaceful society”.

The newly released EHFG 2024 programme offers a deeper dive into these challenges and explores potential solutions. Find further information about sessions and speakers [here](#).

#EHFG2024

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About the European Health Forum Gastein

The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) was founded in 1998 as a European health policy conference. It provides the platform for all stakeholders from the fields of public health and beyond. Over the past 27 years, the EHFG has established itself as an indispensable institution in the scope of European health policy. With its annual conference and other events and projects, it has made a decisive contribution to the development of guidelines and above all the cross-border exchange of experience, information, and cooperation. Leading European experts traditionally participate in the annual conference held in the Gastein Valley in the Austrian Alps in late September.



Co-funded by
the European Union

The European Health Forum Gastein has received funding under a project grant from the European Union's EU4Health programme 2021-2027. Views and opinions expressed in these documents are however those of the author only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.