

EUROPEAN HEALTH FORUM  
GASTEIN

# Twenty Years

20TH ANNIVERSARY  
1998 – 2017

*Dear Gastein friends,  
dear participants,*

*We are proud and privileged to present you the 20 years anniversary publication of the European Health Forum Gastein. With this book, we want to mark this special occasion by looking back to the beginnings of the Forum and portraying its development, by paying tribute to its pioneers and supporters, and by highlighting what makes the EHFG unique. We are grateful for the selected contributions of some of the many individuals who have helped shape and steer the association and the event, and regret not to be able to give a voice to all of them on these pages. Join us on the walk down memory lane, enjoy the personal stories of the people who have been crucial for the EHFG, look over the timeline to find the major milestones of the last 20 years, learn some EHFG trivia and enjoy some photos of the last two decades. Most of all, this is a big thank you to all of you for helping to make the EHFG what it is today!*

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# People behind the Forum

## Secretary Generals



**CHRISTOPH KÖSTINGER**

Christoph was the first Secretary General of the EHFG from 1998 until 2002. Together with the executive committee, Christoph not only laid the organisational and financial foundations of the association and the yearly event, but they also secured the location Gastein. Within the first four years, the number of participants was doubled. After that, Christoph took over the management of the unique Gastein Healing Gallery, which he still runs now. Starting in 2014, he also took over the management of the health centre Bärenhof in Bad Gastein. Both businesses are essential for spa and rehabilitation therapies in the Gastein Valley.

**Looking at your time as at the EHFG – what are you most proud of?**

*“In my job as the first Secretary General, I managed to build the basis for the EHFG together with the executive committee. The first years required a tremendous effort and I am proud to say that we never ceased to believe in the idea and never thought of giving up. This has even more weight now – when looking back at 20 years of the EHFG.”*

**In your opinion, what makes the EHFG unique?**

*“What makes the EHFG unique is the combination of participants and the Gastein Valley. The spirit behind it has strengthened the event for all these years both from a content as well as from an informal perspective. The EHFG has from the outset placed particular focus on cross-border topics in European health policy. This approach distinguishes it from other conferences, integrating the European perspective but focusing on a single Member State only.”*

**FRANK BERNDT**

Frank joined the Gastein Forum in 2002 and held the position until the end of 2004. After the EHFG he successfully reoriented his career path into human resources. He currently lives in Stuttgart, Germany, where he leads the HR department of the Uckermärkische transport company.



**MATTHIAS SCHUPPE**

In 1999, Matthias joined the Gastein Forum as a Policy Officer responsible for programme development. From 2004 to 2012 he managed the day to day operations as Secretary General. Following a brief role as consultant to the European Public Health Alliance in Brussels, he joined the European Commission as Policy Officer in the health threats units in 2013. Currently he works on country knowledge as part of the team responsible for the State of Health in the EU cycle, a DG SANTE flagship initiative.

**Looking at your time at the EHFG – what are you most proud of?**

*“Taking the EHFG to the next stage of development, by building on the achievements of my predecessors, increasing participation to new benchmark levels and developing the financial basis of the organisation is what I am most proud of. This provided the sustainable foundation for launching the Young Forum Gastein and the European Health Award, which to this date are still EHFG signature initiatives.”*

**In your opinion, what makes the EHFG unique?**

*“Engaging representatives of the four pillars in cutting edge policy discussions remains one of the defining elements of the EHFG. This unique mix of stakeholders provides the mutually inspiring and innovative atmosphere, which is needed to tackle today’s complex health challenges.”*



**DORLI KAHR-GOTTLIEB**

Dorli has been in her position as Secretary General of the EHFG since 2012. She is responsible for the overall management of the association and the joint development of the association with the team, Board members and national & international partners. Dorli has been passionately involved in public health and health policy for the last 15 years, starting with her employment in the first Austrian Master of Public Health programme at the Medical University of Graz. This led to her initial contact with the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), where she was in charge of the coordination of the European Public Health Conference from 2006 onwards. Dorli holds a degree in Intercultural Competences and has been involved in intercultural projects and culture & health trainings.

*Looking at your time at the EHFG – what are you most proud of?*

*“I always feel proud when being reminded in meetings with colleagues in Brussels and beyond that the EHFG in its 20th year is known and seen as the major European health policy event. And I am proud of the EHFG team with all their enthusiasm and never-ending ideas to keep developing the EHFG further.”*

*In your opinion, what makes the EHFG unique?*

*“What makes the EHFG unique in my eyes are the candid debates about burning health policy issues facilitated in innovative workshop formats, but also the informal exchange between experts from the four EHFG pillars, all of this enhanced by the exceptional tranquillity and beauty of the Alpine setting.”*

## Participants



### YOU – THE GASTEIN COMMUNITY

It has been emphasised throughout the history of our organisation, and has thus naturally been highlighted in many of the contributions in this book, that the EHFG would not be what it is today, would not have achieved what it has, without its participants. This is a warm and heartfelt thank you from us to you, who keep discussing with us, opening our eyes to new topics, adding to the value of each and every session by providing valuable input. Thanks for criticising us, believing in us, testing us, challenging us, being loyal to us throughout the years. It is a great pleasure to be working with you – to the next 20 years of debating and shaping European health policy, to create a better future for health in Europe.

*“Like no other event in Europe, the EHFG is a unique place to discuss health policy. The rich mix of different stakeholders and the high quality of the participants provide a great opportunity to discuss health system policy and research and how they improve health outcomes for EU patients. It has been a tremendous learning experience to actively participate in the Forum and the discussions that are only possible there.”*

BORIS AZAÏS, MSD

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*info@ehfg.org  
www.ehfg.org*

## **ART DIRECTION & DESIGN**

*C RCL .  
www.wearecircle.at*

## **EDITORIAL TEAM**

*Lisa Bornscheuer  
Maria Dziubińska  
Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb*

## **ILLUSTRATION**

*Señor Salme  
www.srsalme.com  
Represented by Synergy Art*

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

*Gasteinertal Tourismus GmbH  
Anna Dziubińska  
Nadine Bargad  
Fabian Kapo  
Franz Pfluegl  
Andreas Steger*