

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!

1 2 3 4 5 6

PEOPLE

FOUNDING FATHERS 09
EHFG & GASTEIN VALLEY 30
FROM THE EHFG BOARD 34
PEOPLE BEHIND THE FORUM.. 36
PARTICIPANTS 39
EHFG STAFF..... 40
ADVISORY COMMITTEE 43

LEGACY

GASTEIN - THE LEGACY 47
AN INCLUSIVE PLATFORM 48
YOUNG FORUM GASTEIN 50
CONTRIBUTING TO EUROPEAN
HEALTH POLICY..... 56
EUROPEAN HEALTH AWARD... 59

PLACES

OUR PLACE IN EUROPE 64
MAP LEGEND 66

TRIVIA

ABOUT YOU 70
ABOUT US 72

VOICES

THE EHFG PRESIDENTS 79
THE IDEA BEHIND IT ALL 80
WHERE WE ARE NOW 82
THE ROAD TO TAKE 84

TIMELINE

OUR PLACE IN TIME 88
IMPRESSIONS 90

LEGACY

GASTEIN - THE LEGACY 47
AN INCLUSIVE PLATFORM 48
YOUNG FORUM GASTEIN 50
CONTRIBUTING TO EUROPEAN HEALTH POLICY 56
EUROPEAN HEALTH AWARD 59



Gastein The Legacy

FOREWORD BY JOHN BOWIS *The EHFG legacy is a breath of fresh air – often quite literally as one breathes the pure mountain air, but also in terms of the forum it creates for fresh thinking on European health issues. Over the many years I have known it, the combination of an ongoing network of patients, professionals, policy-makers, scientists and academics and a programme of relevant and topical presentations and seminars has re-charged my policy-maker's batteries and opened my politician's eyes. One rarely comes away from the Gasteinertal without a better understanding of Europe's potential to change or influence health policy for the better. I have always left determined to find a way through the complexities of EU competencies and inter-departmental rivalries and to make a reality of our stated belief that health is a pre-requisite for economic well-being and that health can only be achieved if it is understood across every section of government and every Commission Directorate.*

The European Health Forum Gastein – an inclusive platform

What distinguishes the EHFG from other conferences?

“Gastein brings together the worlds of politics, academia, industry, and civil society to assess where everyone is equal. Ideas flow freely and while each of these groups has its own narrative, none is ever dominant.”

MARTIN MCKEE, LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

THE FOUR EHFG PILLARS

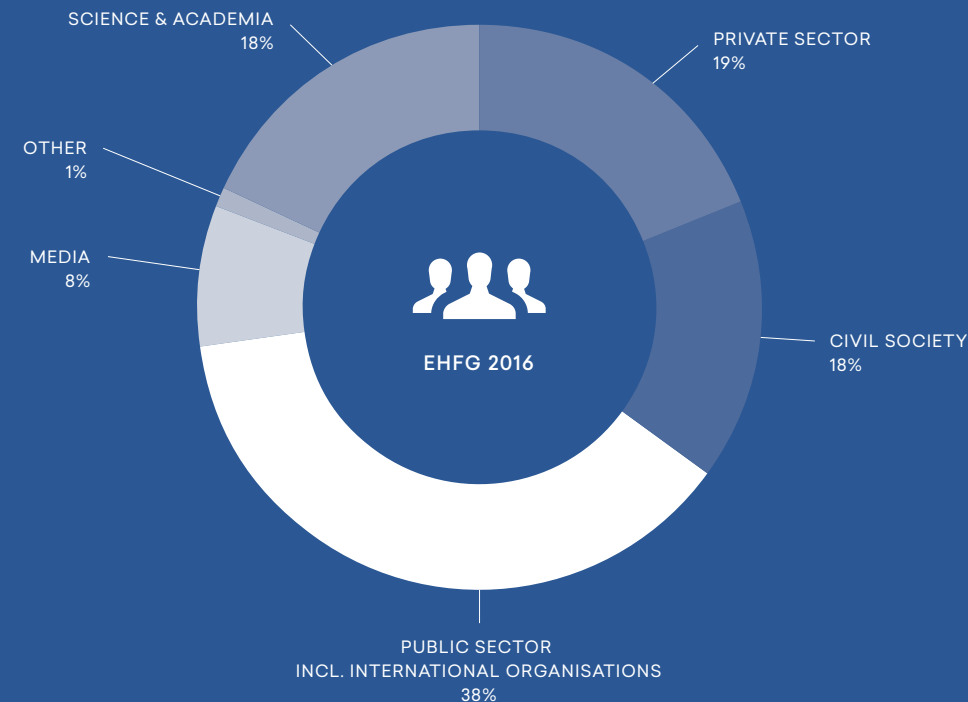
By Nicola Bedlington

As the EHFG celebrates its 20th anniversary, multi-stakeholder collaboration is widely recognised as a pre-requisite to advancing health policy, practice and innovation across all interest groups. While today numerous very powerful examples for this kind of collaboration exist, the EHFG was a trailblazer in this respect. From the onset, two decades ago, one of the organisation’s founding principles was that stakeholders from the four key pillars (public sector, private sector, science and academia and civil society) should have the opportunity during the EHFG to voice their perspectives and to engage in meaningful and honest dialogue to help shape and nurture policy at European and national level. This echoes the vision behind the EHFG: to address power relations between different sectors head-on through an inclusive platform respecting the expertise and experience of all.

This quintessential four-pillar approach is reflected in the Forum’s governance structures, and the planning and implementation of the EHFG sessions, but also the EHFG activities taking place throughout the year, such as the EHFG Health Futures project and the Gastein Outcomes event. Over the years, the WEHFG has become increasingly participatory, experimenting with interactive sessions that engage fully the audience and capture the diversity and richness of all Gasteiners, including, of course, Young Gasteiners – whose networking and exchange flourishes far beyond the autumn meeting.

The unique character of Gastein Valley, the location, its tranquility and charm creates an unusual atmosphere where you get to meet the individual, not only the official, the company representative, the academic or the NGO person – and thoughtful and thought-provoking conversations on how to move forward for better health happen during and between individual sessions.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE EHFG



OUR PRINCIPLE

We provide **the** forum for discussion to our key stakeholders to network, learn from each other, share the latest health policy developments in their countries and across Europe, and shape the future of health. We further consider the vertical organisation of societies and the EU by integrating **regional, national, European and international levels** and thus facilitating the exchange of views and experience amongst key actors and experts from the 28 EU members and the EEA countries, but also from the 52 countries of the WHO European region. The **unparalleled mix of participants** is especially critical to our event.

TIMELINE

2007: YOUNG FORUM GASTEIN INITIATIVE KICK-OFF

34 Young Forum Gasteiners build the fundament of the network. A closed meeting with EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection Markos Kyrianiou took place.

2011: 5TH ANNIVERSARY

As part of a pilot project, WHO Europe joined, sponsoring several scholars from Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The initiative expanded not just in numbers and countries represented, but also in tasks and responsibilities during the conference.

2013: THE INITIATIVE DEVELOPS FURTHER

For the first time, a number of NGO representatives joined as YFG scholars, representing the third of the EHFG participation pillars.

2016: 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The Young Forum Gastein offered its scholars a tailor-made programme including a skills-building workshop and a topical session on the future of public health training in Europe. Young Gasteiners had an informal meeting with Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, as well as the opportunity of careers talks and mentoring sessions.

2010: GROWING STRONG – 160 MEMBERS

71 young researchers & officials from 28 European countries attend the conference. A Young Forum Gastein networking workshop & specific working groups took place. Scholars met with EU Commissioner John Dalli and Director General for Health and Consumers Paola Testori Coggi.

2012: 30 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE YFG

Young professionals from 30 countries were awarded the scholarship. The mix was 43% policy-makers and 57% researchers, and 60% alumni vs. 40% newcomers.

2015: THE NEW MIX

76 scholars, representing 23 countries. 60% newcomers – 40% alumni. 46 females & 30 males. 32% policy-makers, 48% researchers, 8% working for NGOs, 12% classified themselves as "others".

2017

Young Forum Gastein

The Network

INVESTING IN A BETTER FUTURE FOR HEALTH

The Young Forum Gastein network celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016. The initiative was established by the Gastein Forum with the support of the European Commission in 2007. The project brings together promising young health professionals from different backgrounds and with diverse professional experience, to participate in learning and networking activities. In the framework of an engaging and dedicated programme, the scholarship offers a unique opportunity to:

- Learn about the latest health developments in Europe and across the world;
- Develop important public health competencies such as the ability to build alliances and partnerships, learn advocacy and persuasion skills and develop presentation and communication skills;
- Network and make new contacts with an enthusiastic young international, inter-cultural and inter-professional peer group, as well as senior experts in the sphere of health;
- Have privileged access to senior policy-makers and academics in special closed workshop sessions;
- Participate in tasks related to the EHFG, such as undertaking interviews, writing session reports, working on social media activities, or acting as speakers or session rapporteurs;

By becoming a part of the Young Forum Gastein Network our Young Gasteiners can draw on the support of around 400 members working all over the world, and receive year-round special opportunities to participate in workshops, summer schools and conferences.





Young Forum Gastein scholars of 2016

PROMOTING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

By Walter Baer and Kevin McCarthy

Right from the beginning in 2007, the Young Forum Gastein initiative, supported by the European Commission, was conceived for young officials and researchers from Member States. We welcome and are very much encouraged that this inspiring scholarship initiative still continues to offer a unique opportunity for young professionals to come to Gastein to learn and get to know like-minded people committed to a healthier Europe. By bringing together diverse views they gain valuable insight and mutual understanding between all actors is promoted.

We were both involved from the beginning and continue to follow the Young Gasteiners with great interest. It continues to be of particular importance to involve young professionals from Member States and beyond in the broad discussion about health policy issues in Europe, including their active involvement in the conference programme, such as speaker or rapporteur. It is a best-practice model of sustainable EU added value.

“There is literally nothing more important you can make out of a conference than establishing new connections which may enrich your professional and personal horizons. And this is what Young Forum Gastein does best.”

ALEXANDER NAWKA, ASSISTANT LECTURER AND CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST,
CHARLES UNIVERSITY, CZECH REPUBLIC | CO-FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE OF NEUROPSYCHIATRIC CARE, CZECH REPUBLIC

“For me, the Young Forum Gastein is the ultimate opportunity to engage with professionals from various other disciplines, all with a passion for health. It will be a great platform for me to further the debate with policy-makers, bridge gaps with other fields and across hierarchical levels, and work on multidisciplinary out-of-the-box solutions – all in order to leave no one behind.”

ARJAN VAN DER STAR, PHD CANDIDATE, KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SECTION ON SEXUAL & GENDER MINORITY HEALTH,
EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, SWEDEN

“As a Young Gasteiner, I have met brilliant and dedicated academics, policy-makers, healthcare professionals, and advocates. Sharing ideas with experts and my peers from all over Europe has inspired me to think outside the box, and from a more global public health perspective.”

MARIE DELNORD, EPIDEMIOLOGIST, FRENCH NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH INSERM, FRANCE





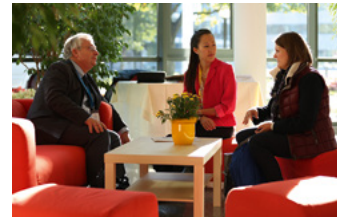
Skills-building workshop (EHFG 2016)



EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis & Young Gasteiners (2015)



YFG kick-off meeting (2015)



Mentoring session with Martin McKee



Closed workshop – career paths in international organisations



Public speaking and facilitation workshop (2016)

Contributing to European health policy since '98

CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR HEALTH IN EUROPE

By Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb

“So, what do you do all year long?” This is a question with which we meet quite frequently. One conference to organise – that is not that much, is it?

The answer, apart from purely logistical and organisational matters, is: We are working towards getting “it” right. From the very decision on the main theme for the next year to defining content tracks, from scanning the field for potential session organisers to providing support in the fine-tuning of individual sessions, to the final programme and the conference report after the event – we aim to process recent crucial developments in health and beyond, leave room for late-breaking topics at the time of the conference, and anticipate what needs to be tackled tomorrow. We are consulting, thinking and debating, making decisions – and revoking them at times – to create an environment in which our participants are truly at the pulse of European health policy.

It is our goal to help shape European health policy by providing a platform close enough to policy-making to help our participants move it forward, and at the same time detached enough to look at the bigger picture, leaving space for new ideas and opening eyes for yet unperceived or underexploited opportunities. When asked to demonstrate which debates the EHFG has contributed to, or even triggered, we turned to our long-known and trusted companions over the last 20 years who were actually part of those debates. Right at the start, triggered by the Kohll/Decker case, discussions at our Forum showed just how divided decision-makers were on the matter of cross-border healthcare. The patchwork of different views helped formulate future policy proposals and thereby contributed to the Directive published in 2011. Another major topic recollected by many as having taken momentum in the Gastein Valley was global health – in the European context. Health literacy was also showcased at an early stage in Gastein, and the relevant developments have accompanied us throughout the years, sparking many discussions. More recently, controversial debates on personalised medicine have taken place. In this context, it is worth mentioning that the EHFG offered an initial platform for dissemination of the ICPeMed Horizon 2020 project outcomes, which have advised European health policy-making since. Of late, there are new challenges that needed to be addressed, like the peaking migration crisis, which was prominently on the agenda in 2015. It was approached with a hands-on attitude, not



Christopher Fearné, Minister of Health of Malta and Tomáš Drucker, Minister of Health of Slovakia (EHFG 2016)

only looking at challenges, but also at chances – at the peak of a highly sensitive period. While decision-makers certainly do not leave the valley with ready-made solutions for major issues in health policy-making, they will hopefully have heard and discussed something new, which in turn will contribute to next steps or kick-start a new development. For the 2017 edition of our conference, being at the pulse of European health policy means facing up to heightened Euroscepticism, sometimes resulting in healthcare becoming a plaything of election campaign rhetoric – leaving frustrated and distrustful voters. Discussing health against this background now is in a sense perfect timing: It makes the look back at the past 20 years of EHFG, and thus of EU (health) policy, more meaningful – it reminds us of what has been achieved to date.

Even though the EHFG does not advocate a particular approach or direction of topics on the agenda, it is an intrinsic part of its legacy to provide a shared platform for those who work, to one degree or another, based on the same assumption: That there is the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration, across sectors, political responsibilities, generations and national borders, to achieve the optimum outcome possible for the health of European citizens: A better future for health in Europe.

Which policy debates did the EHFG most notably contribute to, or possibly even trigger?

The conference has addressed some of the fundamental and often rapid changes that national health policies have faced, and still face – health inequalities, free movement and increasing interactions between health systems, health in the context of economic governance, and the globalisation of health issues.

MARTIN SEYCHELL, DG SANTE, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health literacy, health diplomacy, sustainability of health systems, the impact of the economic crisis on health.

NICOLA BEDLINGTON, EUROPEAN PATIENTS' FORUM

What distinguishes the EHFG from other conferences?

What sets the EHFG apart is the sheer range of participants: representatives of all EU and EEA countries and many third countries, stakeholders representing healthcare professionals, patients, disadvantaged groups and industry, all ages from “Young Gasteiners” to professionals with life-long experience.

VYTENIS ANDRIUKAITIS, COMMISSIONER FOR FOOD & HEALTH SAFETY

The EHFG filled a very important vacuum in European policy-making by providing a privileged platform for debate on key European policy issues.

JOSEP FIGUERAS, EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY ON HEALTH SYSTEMS AND POLICIES

Why was it important to found a platform like the EHFG?

We live increasingly busy lives, with far too little time for reflection on the many changes in the world around us. Yet Gastein offers an opportunity to step back for a few days every year, to listen, to exchange ideas, to test theories, and to learn from each other in an environment that is intellectually stimulating, surrounded by mountains that inspire us to aim for higher things.

MARTIN MCKEE, LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

It enabled the uncomplicated interface between decision-makers in health and other actors, especially the European Commission. Policy ideas could be launched that over time found their way into the EC programme. That made it very special. We were able to use the EHFG to move health literacy and global health forward.

ILONA KICKBUSCH, GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE, GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

European Health Award

“The EHA has had an affirming, fertilising, sustaining and developmental effect and impact on our work. We have, in a sense, been empowered, we now have a more international focus, we open up new areas of activity and we use new structures to expand to new regions and countries.”

HEALTH WITH MIGRANTS FOR MIGRANTS IN EUROPE (MIMI) PROJECT, WINNER OF THE EHA 2015

TAKING INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES FORWARD

Since 2007, the EHFG explicitly honours noteworthy initiatives working on cross-border healthcare, by each year awarding a prize endowed with € 10.000. By 2017, 11 different winning projects will have been selected, totalling € 110.000 invested in healthcare projects that are innovative, transferable and sustainable. The very first award winner was selected by the EHFG Board, today the jury is comprised of an EHFG Board member and representatives from the four EHFG pillars – public and private sector, civil society, and science and academia – who make the decision. The award has gone to projects from a variety of different focus areas, ranging from migrant health to mental health, to health literacy.

This effort would have not been possible without the committed support of our partners, and particularly the Federal Austrian Ministry of Health, who has been involved with the prize from its inauguration on and FOPI, who has been supporting the initiative since 2012.

PAST AWARD WINNERS

- European Antibiotics Awareness Day project (2016)
- Health with Migrants for Migrants in Europe (MiMi) project (2015)
- EpiSouth-plus project (2014)
- Recreational Drugs European Network – ReDNet project (2013)
- European Health Literacy – HLS-EU project (2012)
- Child Safety Report Cards (2011)
- European Chronic Disease Alliance (2010)
- European Practice Assessment initiative (2009)
- Cooperation And Working Together renal project (2008)
- European Alliance Against Depression (2007)



Ingo Raimon, EHA Winner 2015 – MiMi Project represented by Ramazan Salman, Helmut Brand and Peter Brosch



Günther Leiner, Helmut Brand, Ingo Raimon, EHA Winner 2016 – European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) initiative, represented by Andrea Ammon & Giovanni Mancarella, and Pamela Rendt-Wagner



Günther Leiner and Ulrich Hegerl from the first EHA winning project - the European Alliance Against Depression



Imprint

PUBLISHED BY

*European Health Forum Gastein
Tauernplatz 1
5630 Bad Hofgastein
Austria*

—

*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*