

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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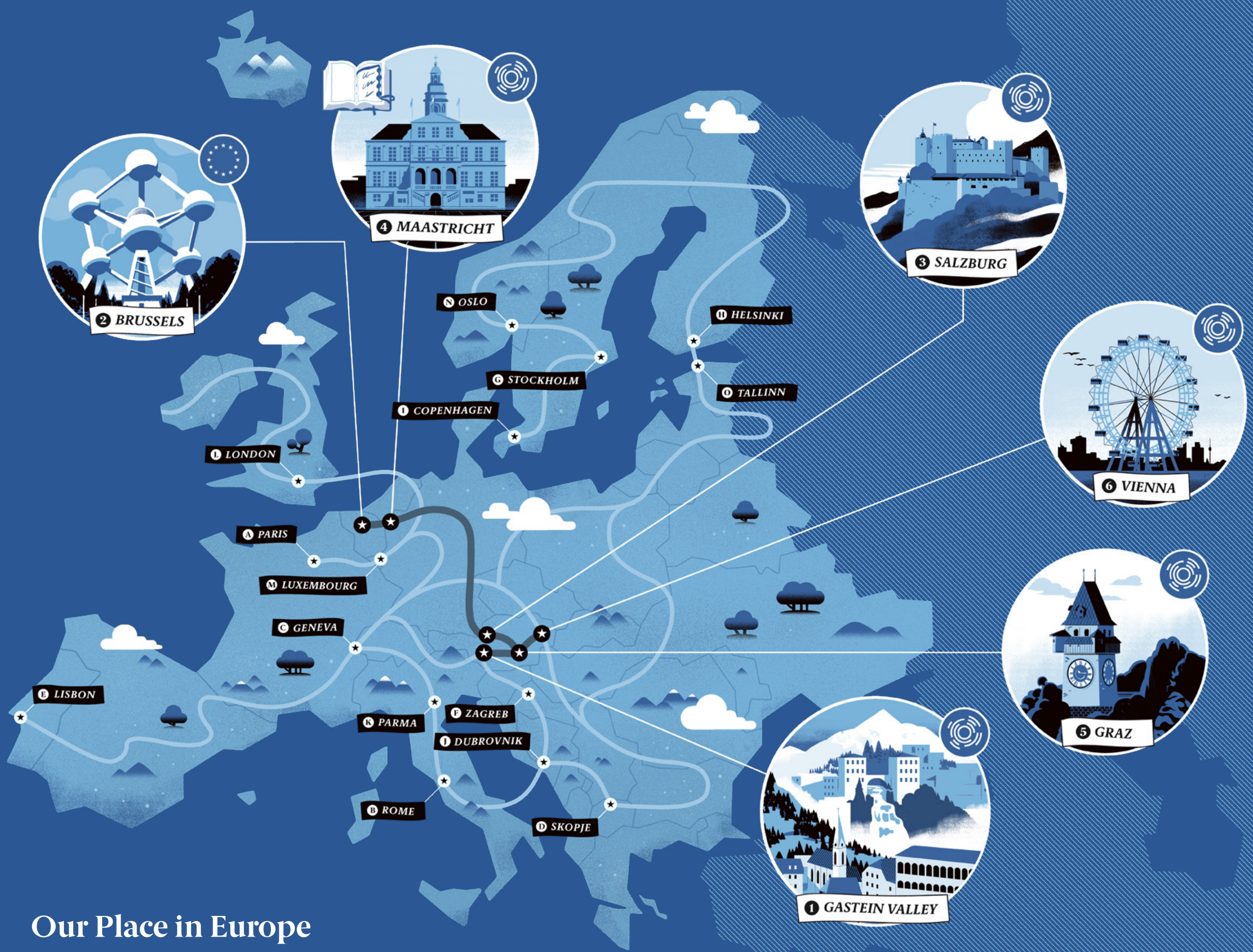
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## TIMELINE

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Our Place in Europe

# Map Legend

## 1 GASTEIN VALLEY

The Gastein Valley is where the EHFG takes place. It has a long-standing reputation as health resort and spa, already visited by personalities such as Bismarck or Elisabeth of Austria (Sisi). It is comprised of three distinct municipalities: Dorfgastein, Bad Hofgastein and Bad Gastein. **The EHFG Headquarters is in Bad Hofgastein.** With its unique scenery, the valley creates the perfect atmosphere for deceleration, enabling the conference participants to take a step back, explore new ideas and see familiar ones in a new light.

## 2 BRUSSELS

The **Brussels bubble** with its many European institutions is at the core of EU policies and politics, and thus also the centre for health in the EU. This great density is both advantage and disadvantage: A walk across the city takes you to the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and many of the EU's agencies, to name but a few examples. At the same time, the buzzing and high-paced environment might make a break from "business as usual" more than welcome.

## 3 SALZBURG

Most famously known for composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the Salzburg Festival and the musical film "The sound of music", Salzburg has also one of the best-preserved city centres north of the Alps and is UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is the location of the **second EHFG office**, with core staff members working from here since 2007.

## 4 MAASTRICHT

The Maastricht Treaty was signed here in 1992 by the then Members of the European Community, integrating Europe further by creating the three pillars structure of the European Union and leading to the creation of the single European currency. The second **EHFG President Helmut Brand** works from Maastricht.

## 5 GRAZ

Graz is the second-largest city in Austria, and seat of six different universities. Like Salzburg, its old town was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List, for the harmonious co-existence of typical buildings from different epochs. The current **EHFG Secretary General Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb** lives in and partly works from Graz.

## 6 VIENNA

The Austrian capital is home to nearly one third of the country's population, and has gained a reputation for both being the city of music and The City of Dreams, as home to the world's first psychoanalyst – Sigmund Freud. It continuously ranks high among the cities considered to be particularly livable. The Austrian Federal Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs, has its seat here, and its Director General and from 2017 on also **EHFG President Clemens Martin Auer** works in Vienna.

## A PARIS

The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948 at the Palais de Chaillot. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected and has been translated into over 500 languages. Its fourth column (articles 22–27) covers social, economic, and cultural rights, comprising also "the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being."

## B ROME

The **Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition** was adopted on 16 November 1974 by the World Food Conference, attended by representatives from 135 countries and several international organisations. It sought to remind the world that the access to adequate food is an essential factor in the full development of an individual's physical and mental faculties.

## C GENEVA

In 1981 the WHO defined the **Health For All** concept: "health is to be brought within reach of everyone in a given country. And by 'health' is meant a personal state of well-being, not just the availability of health services – a state of health that enables a person to lead a socially and economically productive life."

## D SKOPJE

The **Skopje Pledge** is the second document on cross-border health development in the SEE region. The signatories affirmed a continued cooperation beyond 2005 on the "Health development action for south-eastern Europe: The South-eastern Europe Health Network", of which the EHFG is a partner since 2011.

## E LISBON

The **Treaty of Lisbon** turned the EU into a consolidated legal personality and abandoned the three pillars structure the Treaty of Maastricht had introduced. It entered into force in December 2009, and is deemed to have enhanced the importance of health policy, stipulating that "a high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Community policies and activities."

## F ZAGREB

Following from the 2008 International Healthy Cities Conference in Zagreb, mayors and senior political representatives of European cities issued the **Zagreb Declaration for Healthy Cities**. It expresses their clear and strong commitment to strengthen and champion action on health, health equity, sustainable development and social justice on the local level. The WHO European Healthy Cities Network to date comprises of about 100 cities and towns from 30 countries.

## G STOCKHOLM

The **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants** is an international environmental treaty, signed in 2001 and effective from May 2004, aiming to eliminate or restrict the production and use of listed substances. As of April 2017, there are 181 parties to the Convention, including the EU. Notable non-ratifying states include the United States, Israel, Malaysia, and Italy. Stockholm (Solna) is also the seat of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

## H HELSINKI

The eighth **WHO Global Conference on Health Promotion** was held in Helsinki in June 2013. It defined the concept of Health in All Policies as "an approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health and health systems implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts, in order to improve population health and health equity."

## I COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen host the so-called UN city, comprised of nine UN agencies on two different campuses, among them the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe. Denmark's capital has been home to a number of international summits, among them the 2009 **United Nations Climate Change Conference**, which has by many been considered a disappointment, failing to radically name and tackle the problems it set out to address.

## J DUBROVNIK

The **Dubrovnik Pledge** was signed on 2 September 2001, and is the first-ever political document on cross-border health development in SEE. Its focus is on meeting the health needs of vulnerable populations in the SEE region, constituting a cornerstone agreement for cooperation and action on health.

## K PARMA

Parma is the seat of the **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)**, an EU agency that advised the European Commission and other EU institutions on all matters relating to possible food – and feed-related risks. It works on a variety of different areas, including animal health and welfare, plant protection and health, and nutrition.

## L LONDON

The **European Medicines Agency (EMA)** has worked to protect public and animal health by assessing medicines since 1995 and is based in London. With the impending Brexit, a number of European cities vie for becoming the agency's new site after its relocation

## M LUXEMBOURG

Amongst others, Luxembourg is the seat of the **European Court of Justice**, and has a special meaning for European health policy: it argued in the cases Kohll/Decker, that the freedom of the Internal Market was to be extended to the healthcare sector. Following this argumentation, there have been numerous legal decisions on matters of cross-border healthcare – something the Patient Directive aims to codify.

## N OSLO

The Oslo Ministerial Declaration, issued on 20 March 2007, is a statement on **global health as a pressing foreign policy issue** of our time, agreed upon by seven Foreign Ministers from Europe and beyond. The statement highlights that in today's era of globalisation and interdependence, there is an urgent need to broaden the scope of foreign policy.

## O TALLINN

The Tallinn conference (2008), organised by WHO/Europe, became a major turning point in the evolution of public health, and led to the adoption of the **Tallinn Charter: Health Systems for Health and Wealth**. Underlying the Charter is, amongst others, the core message that health systems involve more than health care, as effective health systems promote both health and wealth.

# Imprint

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