

EHF GASTEIN GAZETTE



NEW REALITY FOR HEALTHCARE STARTED; *'TIME TO CHANGE AND CHANGE IS GOOD'*

During the opening of the 16th edition of the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) the forum's President Prof. Helmut Brand stated that a new reality for healthcare has started. Ministers Georgiades (Greece) and Andriukaitis (Lithuania) highlighted the policy window and the need to make systems more resilient, but also shared their experienced difficulties in doing so. Mr. Lynch (Ireland) emphasised the need for collaboration as health should be an issue for all policy sectors.

The role of the European Semester in bringing down the costs of healthcare was highlighted by Director-General Paola Testori-Coggi, followed by an invitation to Ministers for Health to actively engage in the process. It was questioned however how transparency in the process could be improved, and in particular the role other ministers play in deciding what healthcare we can actually afford. In a provoking keynote Prof. Reinhardt highlighted the opportunity costs of innovation and questioned how much 'waste' there is

in developing new solutions with limited added value. Instead, Prof. Reinhardt argued, more emphasis should go to 'the production of health' and quit 'the medical arms race'. This message was very much in line with the governance frameworks currently set out by the World Health Organization and the European Commission, and the messages from the Ministries of Health from across Europe.

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by @YoungGasteiners



INVESTING IN HEALTH: REDUCING COSTS BUT NOT AT THE PRICE OF PATIENTS AND CITIZENS

Following the financial and economic crises, several Member States of the European Union reduced their budgets which led to a drop in health expenditure and new challenges. Ministers Arafat (Romania) and Szocska (Hungary) presented the situation and the effects on the health of their populations, and spoke openly about the actions and difficult decisions they had to make. Both emphasised the importance of the European Structural Funds as their only source for financing innovations. Ms. Bedlington from the European Patients' Forum suggested the impact of patient empowerment, which is believed to result in cost savings and resources optimisation.

“Resilience: is it becoming a new paradigm for health systems reform in the times of crisis? Probably, if based in governance”
- Matthias Wismar
([@matthiaswismar](#))

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH - TACKLING EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

The social costs of alcohol consumption (including crime, traffic accidents, family issues, absenteeism, unemployment, dependence on society, depression etc) were estimated to reach 155.8 billion Euros in 2010. It is also estimated as the number one risk factor of premature death in the age group of 15–59 years and the number 2 risk factor for various non-communicable diseases.

An interactive session dedicated to mental health and excessive alcohol consumption concluded that the EU can help to improve national mental health strategies – and to include mental health aspects in all policies.

YOUNG GASTEINERS STARTED FUTURE YESTERDAY

Sprenger (a mock European Parliament debate) and Director-General Paola Testori Coggi, the Young Gasteiners engaged in developing innovative concepts that help to make healthcare systems more resilient. These innovations will be presented in the so-called Dragons' Den session on Friday afternoon at 5pm in Kursaal B. Ideas for innovations were developed by Young Gasteiners who met in Brussels in a meeting hosted by the European Commission DG CONNECT.



REDNET PROJECT WINS THE EUROPEAN HEALTH AWARD 2013!

“Greek Minister of Health #EHFG2013: "It's time to change, and change is good!" Yes! Building resilience not resistance” - Kristine Sørensen
([@k_srensen](#))