

THE GASTEIN GAZETTE 2016

Demographics & Diversity in Europe New Solutions for Health

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PLENARY

By Andrius Kavaliunas

We encounter unforeseen challenges nowadays – refugees, migrants, minorities, vulnerable populations, Brexit. But there is also a new diversity – those groups of society who benefit and those who suffer from globalisation. These different diversities confront us with issues regarding protection and have a lot to do with health. According to Helmut Brand, we may see shifted values in Europe. The audience vote concluded that the most important cause of an unfavourable view towards the EU was insufficient knowledge about it.

This was also highlighted by Nick Fahy, who supplied the key for understanding Brexit – it is people's education. Brexit was not about the EU, it was actually a vote against globalisation. So how to respond? The EU is challenged not only to build bridges and roads, but communities, jobs and trust. And a shock like this may also create opportunities. Zsuzsanna Jakab added that the most important issue now is to address what is most important to people, and that is unemployment and social inequalities. Martin Seychell returned to the crisis question – everyone agrees about the model (e.g., social welfare state), the disagreements exist on how to achieve this. So is it really a crisis? The EU orchestra can be conducted in a better way, but it is important to focus on tools, rather than traditional policy.

What Europe needs more of is solidarity, Josep Figueras summarised the opinions of the audience.

DAY 1- EHFG2016

Welcome to the 2016 European Health Forum Gastein! A crucial and underestimated problem was the highlight of the first day of the Forum: the fragmentation of healthcare systems across Europe. The invisibility of this problem the past century has resulted in unintentionally disincentivising Europe to strategise on how to provide optimal care for the whole population, and instead having narrowly-focused services with staggering unjustness in costs that led to worsening inequalities. It is time for Europe to strategise on how to provide optimal preventive measures and self-care practices for the whole population, and promote a change in mentality by funding healthy innovation in order to fight health inequalities.

Eleni Antoniadou
Editor & President of the European Health Parliament



THE NEW EHFG LOGO

The EHFG President Helmut Brand welcomed everyone to the EHFG2016 introducing the new logo, which represents the forum set-up and all the flag-colours of Europe. A new look, but the same core mission: Working towards a better future for health in Europe!



**EUROPEAN
HEALTH FORUM
GASTEIN**

F1: LIFE-COURSE AND INTER-SECTORAL APPROACHES TO PUBLIC HEALTH

By Lena Lepuschütz

"Act early, Act on time, Act together"

A distinguished panel highlighted the need for a life-course approach to public health. This requires actions that are taken early, appropriately to transitions in life and together as a society. Crucial early interventions include minimising childhood exposure to poverty and recognising education as an important social determinant of health. Critical points calling for intervention are phases of transition such as adolescence or moving from work to unemployment. A successful implementation of a life-course approach to further health and well-being will require inter-sectoral collaboration and strong civil engagement.



F2- Guiding patients to the "Best Point of Service"

By Clemens Sigl

Information and guidance systems can help to get people in the right time to the right place (Best Point of Service). But what about unintended outcomes like lower equity in access and an even higher number of patient admissions instead of a lower one? The panel of the session emphasised that such information systems need to be goal-oriented, assure shared decision-making with clear responsibilities, the possibility for the patient to access personalised information, while also taking into account the risk awareness of the staff providing information.

F3- "Healthy" innovation: putting patients before profits

By Tatiana Turcanu

There is an inter-sectoral consensus that there is a need for new innovative drugs and medicinal products, in order to sufficiently address unmet medical and public health needs. However, deciding on the prioritisation on which diseases to address is proving to be challenging. We need a new model and include risk sharing. It is not about socialising risk and privatizing profit. We need to work in public-private partnerships. We need to continue this debate to recognize that both sides need to find in the middle, where there is benefit for both.

W5- HEAR TODAY, HERE TOMORROW

By Katrin Berkemeyer

Hearing loss is associated with cognitive decline, increased social exclusion, higher frequency of falls, tiredness and diabetes. Most of these associations can be eliminated by the use of hearing aids; however, hearing aids are not yet frequently used due to stigma, low political and societal awareness and the lack of high quality research in the field. The potential solutions that were identified in this interactive session were to increase screening for hearing loss to improve early detection and to put hearing loss on the health promotion agenda and address it in coherence with similar challenges of ageing, such as low physical activity, social exclusion and loneliness, frailty and overall well-being.



W4- WORK & HEALTH

By Alessandra Lafranconi

The EU OSH strategic framework 2014–20 is an instrument that works in synergies with other policy areas, in particular public health, education, research and equality. EU funds (such as the European Social Fund, Horizon2020 and the Regional Development Fund) are of enormous assistance to the project of having an Europe worthy of social triple A rating. The Commission is open to constructive ideas from both groups and individual voices on health and safety at the workplace.

The Healthy innovation session explored an array of topics linked to affordability of medicinal products, criteria of the real added value of drugs and ways to ensure patient's safety. Most importantly, we need to rethink and redefine innovation in healthcare from novel drugs to novel stem cell therapeutics, and ensure the development of high quality and assessment standards.



EUROPEAN HEALTH AWARD 2016

We would like to congratulate the project "[European Antibiotics Awareness Day](#)" which was awarded the 2016 European Health Award in an Award Ceremony during the Opening Plenary of the European Health Forum Gastein 2016!

The project "[European Antibiotics Awareness Day](#)" is a health initiative coordinated by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), which aims to provide a platform to support national campaigns on the prudent use of antibiotics. The goal of EAAD is to provide the participating countries with evidence-based tools, as well as technical and political support for their campaigns.

REMEMBER!

For more summaries, blogs, tweets and other information about this year's EHFG visit the website www.ehfg.org or follow us on Twitter [#ehfg2016](https://twitter.com/ehfg2016)

YOUNG GASTEINER NEWS

Don't miss the Young Gastein poster competition at the Conference Centre Foyer on Thursday at 11:30! The three winning posters are

Poster 4: E-Newborn Project in Croatia - From Fragmentation to Integration - Ivankovic Damir

Poster 5: Ageing Trajectories of Health: Longitudinal Opportunities and Synergies - Kamenov Kaloyan

Poster 6: Nutrition & Physical Activity Inequalities in the EU - Lafranconi Alessandra

Guilherme M Ferreira @GuiMFerreira: There is the need to increase health literacy of policy-makers to achieve better health results
M.Kökény @WHO_Europe

Francesco Florindi @francescoflo: Debate on sustainability in cancer can't involve only Health Ministries, let's involve Finance Ministries
@LieveWierinck @EU_CanCon #ehfg2016

Peter Grabitz @petergrabitz
We need to have a look at the incentives for producing drugs!