

## The 2021 European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) opens first time 5-day edition to discuss new EU health visions and global health order beyond COVID-19

- *Kicking off today and running through Friday (27 September – 1 October) in a first time 5-day edition, with 25 sessions, 3 plenaries, 2 press points and 19 networking lounges, the EHFG 2021 is ready to engage in thought-provoking discussions on how health can rise like a phoenix from this crisis and how we can drive forward holistic action for more solidarity and equity within Europe and globally.*
- *The 24th EHFG edition offers an exciting line-up of high-level speakers spanning the EU and global health spectrum and beyond, as well as a plenary session taking place as an event in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe entitled “Co-creating a healthier Europe”, which will be [broadcast live](#) and free for all to access.*

27 September 2021, Bad Hofgastein, Austria – Health is having a rare moment in the political spotlight. In its second digital edition, the [European Health Forum Gastein](#) explores new ways forward for health to be at the centre of European policymaking to achieve a better future for its citizens. Under the main theme “Rise like a phoenix – Health at the heart of a resilient future for Europe”, stakeholders from all corners will exchange views on how we can rise from the ashes as more resilient, smarter, and more equitable societies. The Forum has once again stepped up its efforts to provide a unique line-up of more than 125 speakers, including Health Ministers from Austria (Wolfgang Mückstein), Slovenia (Janez Poklutar) and Latvia (Daniels Pavļuts); Hans Kluge, World Health Organization Regional Director for Europe; Andrea Ammon and Ahmed Ogwell Ouma, respectively heads of the European and the African Centres for Disease Prevention and Control; Former Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti, now Chair of the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development; Sandra Gallina, Director-General of DG SANTE; and various members of the European Parliament.

While the path to recovery holds many challenges, it also offers unique opportunities for renewal and rebirth. This year’s EHFG programme demonstrates that recovery does not start after the COVID-19 response, but with it. While it might still be too early to come up with sound solutions for every challenge we will face, now is the opportunity for EU and global health stakeholders to come together and reflect on how to build forward stronger and fairer around core values such as sustainability, solidarity, and partnerships. Key topics such as reviving talks on a fairer vision for multilateralism, a new social contract and strengthened democracies will be tackled. Beyond these overarching themes, the Forum aims to broach discussions on more technical issues, such as new medicine pricing models, the new European Health Emergency and Response Authority HERA and digital health.

Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb, Secretary General of the EHFG said: “As is usual for the “Gastein discussions”, we aim to bring all relevant stakeholders to the table. With the second digital edition we would like to give our participants the opportunity to follow this event more broadly and make sure the conversation goes beyond health experts – and beyond Europe. That way, we hope to empower all actors to use their voice to share their vision on how we can ensure health is at the heart of a resilient future for Europe”.

The full programme, outlining the different sessions, speakers and conference details, is available [here](#).

For any questions, please contact the press office at [press@ehfg.org](mailto:press@ehfg.org) or +32 2 321 90 16.

#### About European Health Forum Gastein

The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) was founded in 1998 as a European health policy conference. It aims to provide a platform for all stakeholders from the fields of public health and beyond. Over the past decade, the EHFG has established itself as an indispensable institution in the scope of European health policy. It has made a decisive contribution to the development of guidelines and above all the cross-border exchange of experience, information, and cooperation. Leading experts traditionally participate in the annual conference held in the Gastein Valley in the Austrian Alps in late September/early October. Since 2020 and due to COVID-19, the conference is being held in a fully virtual format and has been extended from three to five days in its 2021 edition.