For over twenty years, the European Health Forum Gastein has worked to bring together its four pillars – public and private sectors, civil society, science & academia – to facilitate a frank but fair dialogue on health and policy by providing an impartial and inclusive platform for debate. Today, the EHFG remains the foremost European forum for health outcomes-oriented discussions that strive to inspire bold action, exploring future-facing topics in politically turbulent times and offering space for controversial conversations and out-of-the-box thinking from which creative restructuring and disruptive ideas may grow.

#EHFG2019: A healthy dose of disruption? Transformative change for health and societal well-being

In 2019, the EHFG aims to highlight ideas and debates that challenge the status quo and look beyond the classic spheres of health policy. We call on all partners and participants to contribute to a transformative vision for European policy and society that puts people’s health and well-being at the centre. While we have made considerable advances in health, there are a number of areas that seem to be at a stalemate despite ample evidence on how to move forward. Even where robust frameworks and roadmaps are in place, change often does not happen fast enough. The era of disruption is upon us and health actors need support to develop their capacity to navigate its challenges, and to embrace provocative action for change in domains where we are lacking momentum to expedite organic transformation. This is a time of new beginnings, with a newly elected European Parliament, a new European Commission and a newly elected Regional Director for WHO/Europe on the horizon. The question is therefore timely: how to catalyse transformative change and instrumentalise provocative action for climate, health and societal well-being?

HIGH-LEVEL SPEAKERS 2019

 Speakers may still be subject to change
In 2019, the EHFG will continue to look towards reaching the Goals laid out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Disruption and transformation | Sustainable development | Climate crisis | Health leadership | Innovation | Big data | Digitalisation | Health promotion | UHC | Social inclusion | Co-creation | Health inequalities | Cancer | Knowledge brokering | Patient safety | Youth activism | Health governance | Health workforce | SDGs | Capacity building | Homelessness | Housing and health | Outbreak surveillance | Air pollution | HTA | Artificial intelligence | Intersectoral action for health | EU health dossier | Community empowerment | Health determinants | Financial protection | Communicable diseases | CAR-T | Vaccines | Health information | Disease prevention | Nutrition and food systems | Patient blood management | Data ethics | AMR | Primary care | The Wellbeing Economy | HAI | Non-communicable diseases | Health literacy | Underserved communities
Innovations in technology, particularly in the digital and science space, have long promised to deliver revolutionary changes to the way we approach care and prevention – but have they? In 2019, sessions will not only explore new frontiers but critically interrogate the concept of innovation. We will discuss efficacy, implementation, interoperability and the ethical constraints of disruptive innovation, digital and otherwise.

Can predictive prevention change the game when it comes to how we design health services? Will CAR-T technology revolutionise cancer care? Can the application of digital data and tools transform the future of epidemiology and risk assessment? What does the advent of artificial intelligence mean for healthcare professionals and organisations? These and other questions will be at the centre of sessions in this track.

National healthcare systems are often perceived as a slow machinery resistant to dynamic change. Without a doubt, flexibility is needed to adapt systems to an era of disruption. What role can EU institutions and structures play to help Member States tackle universal challenges like patient safety, cancer care and health information in a transformative fashion? How can we safeguard the essential building blocks of robust health systems like primary care and the vaccine ecosystem, and ensure a thriving workforce?

After discussing recipes for health system reform and sustainability in 2018, we will this year explore how health systems can support instigators of change and put health professionals, policymakers, patients and people in a position to face emerging threats and engage with upcoming trends.
Future formulas

2019 marks a time of new beginnings for many players in the European health policy sphere. At the same time, political disruptions on the EU and global stage play a prominent role in daily discourse, and we are facing many unprecedented challenges and dilemmas for health and sustainability.

This track will connect the dots between research, evidence, advocacy, policy and innovation shining a spotlight on areas where the need to translate what we know into fresh approaches is evident – as well as those where a critical interrogation of the pros and cons of new developments in science, policy and regulation is needed. Sessions will explore issues including the Economy of Wellbeing approach, the debate around medical cannabis, patient blood management, why we need to look at the challenge of obesity with fresh eyes, and whether any reconciliation is possible between the growing influence of economic globalisation and advocacy for public (health) interests.

Transforming societies

Threats to health and well-being posed by issues such as the climate crisis, air pollution, social exclusion and catastrophic health expenditures exist at the centre of a complex interplay of economic, political and societal mechanisms. There is a clear need for extensive and congruent transformation to do justice to the challenges of sustainable development, to make universal health coverage a reality and to keep well-being, health and social prosperity for all at the forefront of policymaking.

Sessions at the EHFG 2019 will explore how we can transform the status quo through grassroots activism, novel tools, and empowering young voices in policy. In collaboration with community representatives and experts from fields like transport, housing, finance and environment, this track will look beyond health and explore global societal challenges like air pollution, inequality, homelessness, obesity, healthcare delivery to underserved groups and reaching the finish line on combating HIV.
GET INVOLVED

Reasons to attend

**NETWORK**
Reach all your stakeholders at one time – in a stunning environment. Discuss with senior experts & get a 360° view on major topics.

**THINK EUROPE**
Our focus is on health policy in Europe, at all political levels. Be at the heart of European health policymaking.

**INFLUENCE**
Leaders from all health stakeholder groups and beyond meet & debate at Gastein.

**CONTRIBUTE**
Share what is new in your field. And learn more. We report to key institutions, shaping future policies.

SESSION PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

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LET THE TRAIN TAKE THE STRAIN - TRAVEL GREEN TO THE EHFG 2019!

In connection with the EHFG's commitment to addressing the global climate crisis, we are encouraging our participants to choose climate-conscious options whenever feasible. We are happy to advise about international train travel to the conference - please get in touch! info@ehfg.org - www.ehfg.org