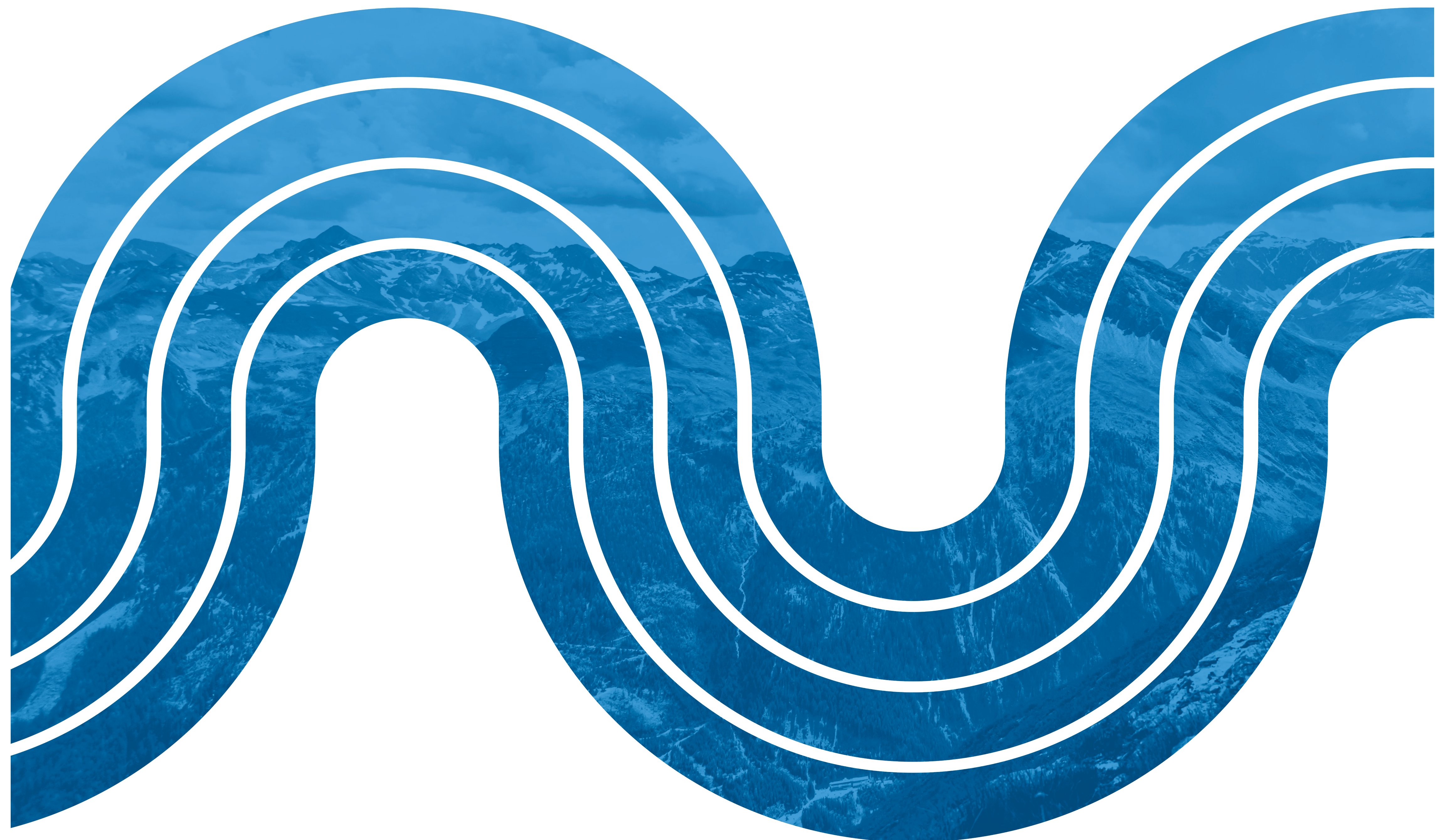




YOUNG FORUM  
GASTEIN

# YOUNG FORUM GASTEIN 2018

A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT





## INTRODUCTION

The Young Forum Gastein programme was spread out throughout the entire 2018, encompassing different health topics and including many participants from the public health sector all over Europe. With the EHFG2018 theme of sustainability and bold political choices, we worked on the same topic, approaching it from different levels.

The logistics, activities, prospects and evaluation report follow.

## CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT

This year saw a lot of changes, starting with the change in project manager, followed by the new Taskforce elections. The entire network was invited to vote for 12 applicants who presented their programmes, and new 5 representatives were selected after a 2-weeks vote. The new Taskforce members are: Karolina Mackiewicz, Damiët Onderstal, Sofia Ribeiro, Felix Gille and Damir Ivanković, and they will be functioning in their new role until 2020.



Sofia Ribeiro



Damiët Onderstal



Karolina Mackiewicz



Damir Ivanković



Felix Gille



Rafaela Tripalo

# YFG 2018 ACTIVITIES

## INSTITUTIONAL WORKSHOP AT THE EMA

The Young Gastein programme started in March with the **institutional workshop** organised in collaboration with the **European Medicines Agency (EMA)** in London. 15 Young Gasteiners had a session with 5 acclaimed professionals working at the EMA, where they discussed the future of the Agency, the potential ways it could go, the collaborations it should work on, and the sustainability strategies. After many fruitful hours of discussion, it was agreed that the YG will continue working with the EMA in the effort to tackle the potential future issues.



## HEALTH SYSTEMS WORKSHOP AT THE GÖG

In June, we brought the sustainable development discussion to a **health-system** level. The YFG organised a workshop in collaboration with Dr Michaela Told and the Austrian Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich – GÖG). The workshop took place at the GÖG/EHFG office in Vienna, hosting 14 participants from all around Europe (Serbia, Albania, Lithuania, Portugal, Luxembourg, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, the UK, Spain, Turkey, The Netherlands, Poland and Romania). In two days, the participants had an opportunity to practice health diplomacy with the support of Dr Told, discussing different strategies that can be employed in intergovernmental planning and discussions, both from the discussion and the role-play level. The second day started with a lecture given by Florian Bachner, a head of Health Economics Department at the GÖG, who presented the Austrian health system and its main challenges, finally posing a concrete question to the YGers – how to deal

with the issue of primary health care within such a system? The participants were then left to work together in groups to come up with a solution, all the while having support from the three Young Gasteiners who work in the Austrian health system. Finally, the groups presented their solution to the jury composed of the director of the Austrian Insurance Funds, Dr Joseph Probst, Florian Bachner, the EHFG Secretary General, Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb, and Dr Katharina Hawlik from the Austrian MoH. The winning group received a symbolic award.

A detailed report from the workshop can be found on the [EHFG blog](#).

## WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

Later in June, the EHFG organised a **workshop on moderation and facilitation**, which was held by David Rose in Brussels. There were 10 participants from our different partner institutions, including a Young Gasteiner, Petronille Bogaert from the Belgian Public Health Institute, SCI-ENSANO, and the YG project manager, Rafaela Tripalo.

We were also happy to continue our collaboration with the **European Centre for Disease Control**, and were able to send one Young Gasteiner, Belene Podmore from the LSHTM, to the summer school in Stockholm.

Furthermore, the EHFG has continued the very successful collaboration with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, this

year starting with the a Young Gasteiner, Ramona Ludolph from the WHO, who we were able to send to the **Observatory summer school in Venice**. This collaboration continued with two more significant events later this year.

## EHFG EP EVENT



The EHFG organised an event at the European Parliament hosted by Karin Kadenbach MEP, where the speakers reflected on the EHFG's 2018 theme, *Health and Sustainable Development – Bold Political Choices for Agenda 2030*. The Young Gasteiners based in Brussels were invited to attend the event, pose questions and report about the outcomes on different social media outlets.

## WHO HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL MEETING

In collaboration with the WHO Europe, three Young Gasteiners, Katarina Mackiewicz, Dimitra Panteli and Philip Hines, attended the **WHO high-level regional meeting** in Tallinn. They were expected to follow and report on sessions, producing reports on three blocks: invest, innovate and include. Their work was recognised with the highest acclaim, and it can be found on the links [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).





## THE EPH CONFERENCE

Around 30 Young Gasteiners participated at and discussed the new ideas and findings the **European Public Health Conference**, representing their respective organisations. The Young Gastein was present at a session, which was co-organised by the EUPHA, EUPHAnxt and Young Forum Gastein. The workshop was chaired by a Young Gasteiner from the EUPHA, Maaïke Droogers, and addressed the issues of financing, with very prominent speakers and a very fruitful discussion, moderated by a Young Gasteiner, Damir Ivanković. The Young Gasteiners met on the last evening of the event,



## CIVIL SOCIETY AND HEALTH: CONTRIBUTIONS AND POTENTIAL

In December, 8 Young Gasteiners were invited to a session at the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies headquarters, to discuss the influence and proceedings of an Observatory publication *Civil Society and Health: Contributions and Potential*. In a one-day session, the participants discussed different points of inclusion and influence of the civil society within the context of health. Monika Kosinska, Dr Matthias Wismar and Dr Scott Greer, the authors of the publication, spent hours in discussion with the young professionals, and in the end expressed an interest of bringing forward the collaboration, with the next session planned early in 2019.



# THE EHFG2018

## PARTICIPANTS

This year, we have managed to provide **69 full scholarships for the EHFG 2018**. In total, this year's YFG EHFG included 73 participants, 2 of them coming from the private sector, and 2 sponsored by ASPHER. There were 48 female scholars and 24 males in total, with 32 participants coming from the public sector, 28 from science and academia, 10 from civil society, and 2 from private sector. There were 42 newcomers and 31 alumni who have already participated at the Conference in previous years. The 73 participants were selected from 156 applications, and come from 26 European (EU and non-EU) countries.

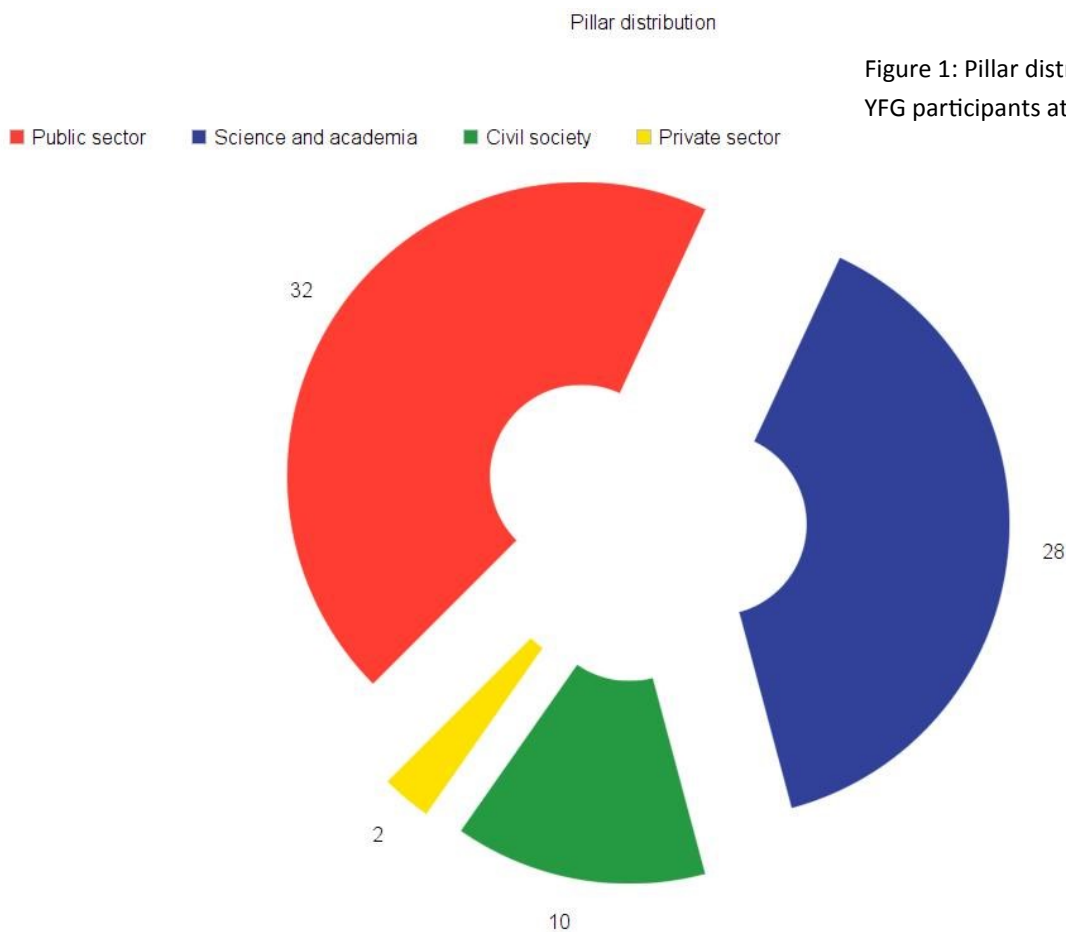
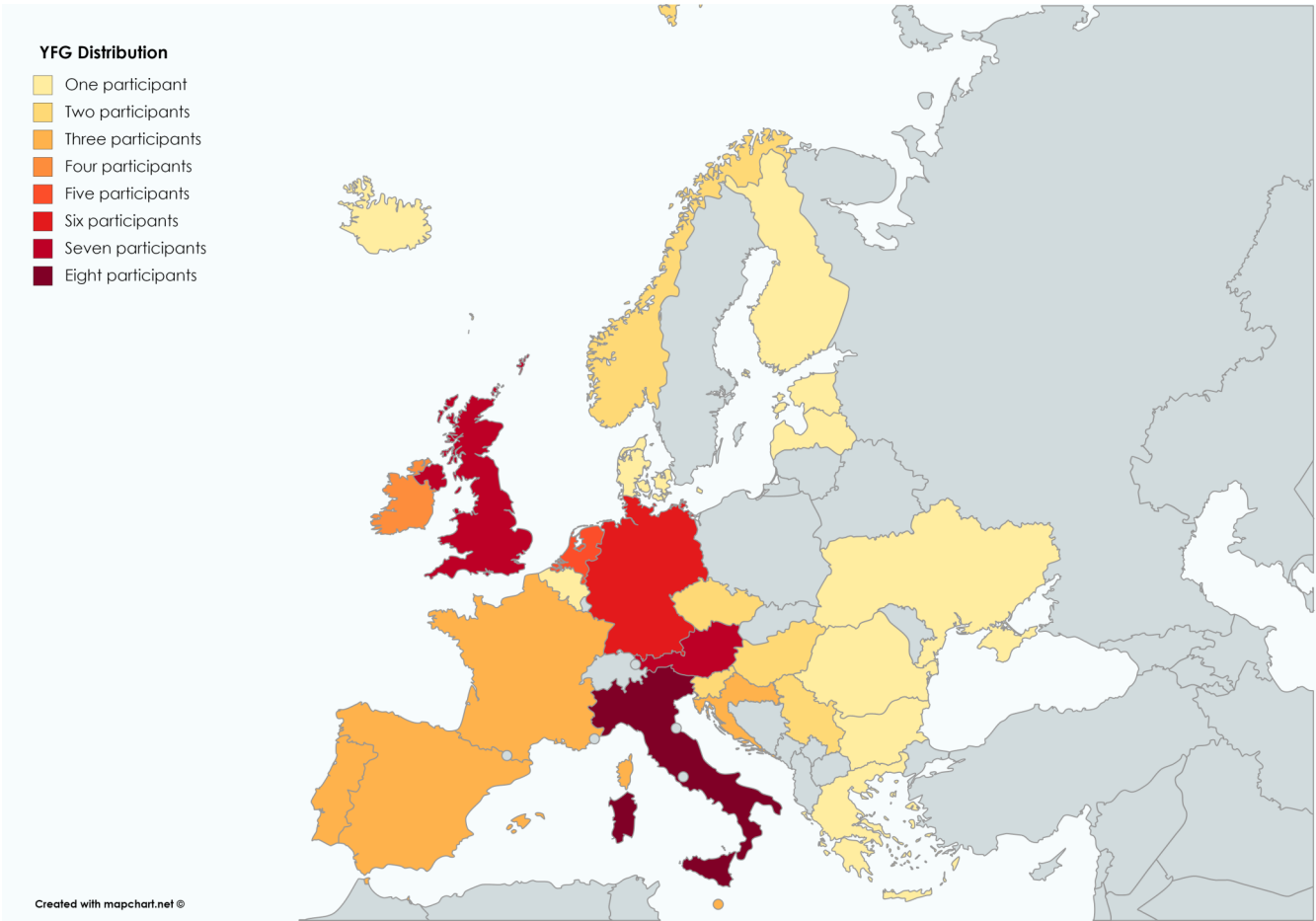


Figure 2: Countires of origin of the YFG scholars





## PROGRAMME

The YFG programme started a day earlier this year, meaning that all the participants arrived to the Gastein valley on Monday evening. With the full day on Tuesday, the participants were able to fully be at the main Conference programme that took place Wednesday-Friday. We organised two parallel workshops on Tuesday, one on moderation and facilitation with David Rose, and one on Health Systems with the Observatory. Tuesday night ended with a hike followed by a dinner at Kraftwerk restaurant in Bad Gastein. During the Conference, the YGers were able to attend an ASPHER workshop on public health accreditation, the workshop with Dr Jacqueline Bowman from Third-i BVBA, where they were given a chance to be guest editors at a scientific magazine, an elevator-pitch networking session, and for the first time at the EHFG, a **choir** that performed at the Thursday evening event. The choir was conducted by the YG project manager. As is the custom every year, the YGers covered all the Conference sessions, working on conference reports, blogs, conducting interviews and posting on social media. However, this year, for the first time, we organised a group of 8 Young Gasteiners who worked on a new task, whose goal was to produce comprehensive policy outcomes and recommendations from the EHFG2018. There are also included in the Conference Report. Finally, this year marked the first year of a new small project called *Tour de Gastein*, with two Young Gasteiners cycling more than 250km in two days, with the goal to arrive from Munich to Bad Hofgastein on their bikes, thus promoting healthy habits and directing the attention to a problem that is still not entirely in focus of many public health professionals: a healthy work : life balance. Their entire trip was recorded on the YFG and EHFG social media, bringing a lot of good (and healthy) publicity to the Conference.



## EVALUATION OF THE YFG AT THE EHFG 2018 IN A NUTSHELL

Overall the results of the evaluation of the YFG at the EHFG2018 are very positive and show that Young Gasteiners (YGers) really got a lot out of the YFG programme at the Conference. We also have a number of very helpful suggestions for future improvements and activities.

The participants of the survey were asked to complete questions about different aspects of the application and selection process, the information and organization prior to the Conference, as well as on the spot. Furthermore, the participants were asked to rate the workshops they participated at, the social events, and the overall satisfaction with the Conference.

The survey was completed by 53 participants, and the results follow.

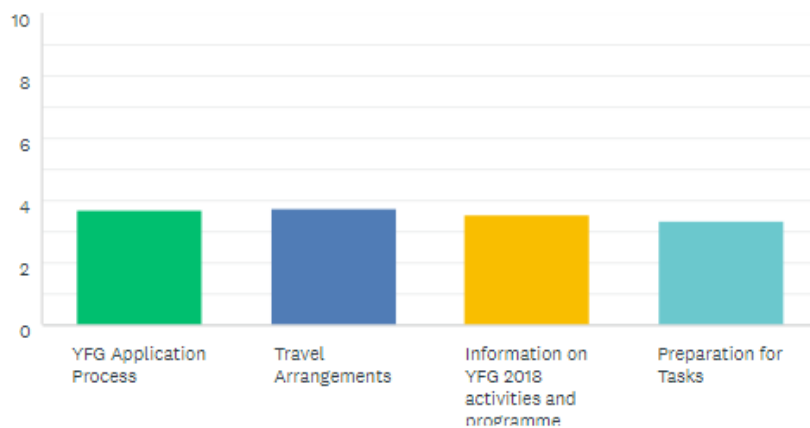


## Detailed Evaluation of the Young Forum Gastein at the EHFG 2018

### PREPARATION AND ORGANISATION

Overall, how would you rate the following organisational elements in the run up to the Young Forum Gastein?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 0



	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	SOMEWHAT GOOD	NOT GOOD AT ALL	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
YFG Application Process	69.81% 37	26.42% 14	1.89% 1	0.00% 0	1.89% 1	53	3.69
Travel Arrangements	84.91% 45	7.55% 4	7.55% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	53	3.77
Information on YFG 2018 activities and programme	56.60% 30	39.62% 21	3.77% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	53	3.53
Preparation for Tasks	43.40% 23	43.40% 23	11.32% 6	0.00% 0	1.89% 1	53	3.33

The introductory workshop was rated „very good” or „excellent” by 90% of the respondents. Five participants considered it as “somewhat good”.

## TUESDAY DINNER

How would you rate the Alpine Evening at Kraftwerk Cafe on Tuesday 2nd October?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 0



Excellent Very good Somewhat good Not good at all

	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	SOMEWHAT GOOD	NOT GOOD AT ALL	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Dinner	36.54% 19	42.31% 22	21.15% 11	0.00% 0	52	3.15

[Comments \(10\)](#)

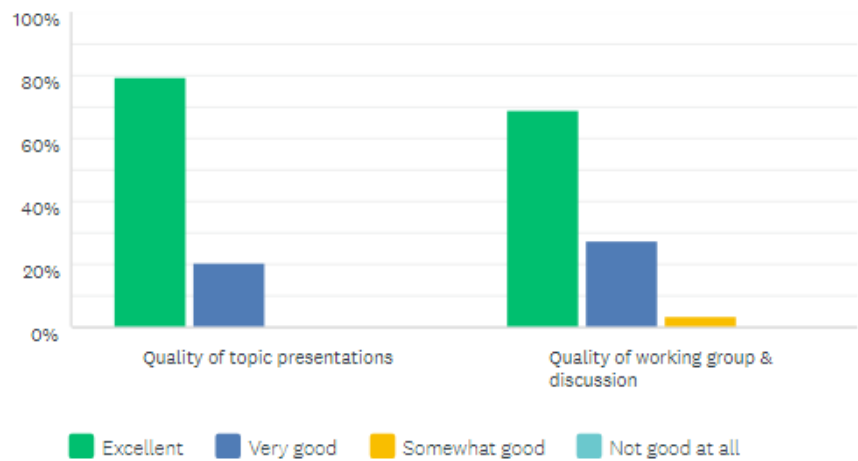
79% of all respondents rated the Evening Event at the Kraftwerk Cafe as “excellent” or “very good”. 11 participants considered it “somewhat good”. The biggest issue regarding the dinner was the hike, which was valued as excellent by some, but maybe too difficult for others. There were buses organised for the participants who weren’t able to take the hike. Also, some of the participants thought the food was too spicy, although they enjoyed it personally.



# SKILLS-BUILDING WORKSHOP

How would you rate the Skills-building Workshop with David Rose on Tuesday 2nd October?

Answered: 53    Skipped: 0



	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	SOMEWHAT GOOD	NOT GOOD AT ALL	TOTAL
Quality of topic presentations	79.31% 23	20.69% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	29
Quality of working group & discussion	68.97% 20	27.59% 8	3.45% 1	0.00% 0	29

## Quality of topic presentations

100% of respondents rated the quality of topic presentations as “very good” or “excellent”.

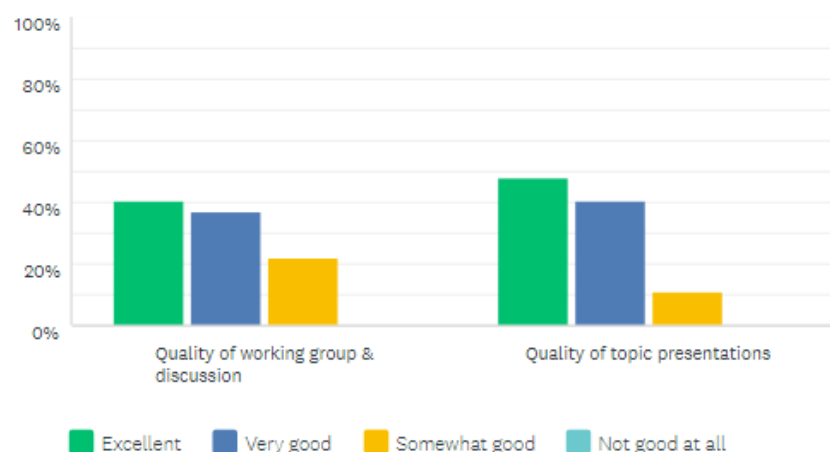
## Quality of working group & discussion

Also 98% of respondents rated the quality of working group & discussion as “excellent” and “very good”. Only one person considered it as “somewhat good”.

## HEALTH SYSTEMS WORKSHOP

How would you rate the Observatory Health Systems Workshop on Tuesday 2nd October?

Answered: 53   Skipped: 0



	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	SOMEWHAT GOOD	NOT GOOD AT ALL	TOTAL
Quality of working group & discussion	40.74% 11	37.04% 10	22.22% 6	0.00% 0	27
Quality of topic presentations	48.15% 13	40.74% 11	11.11% 3	0.00% 0	27

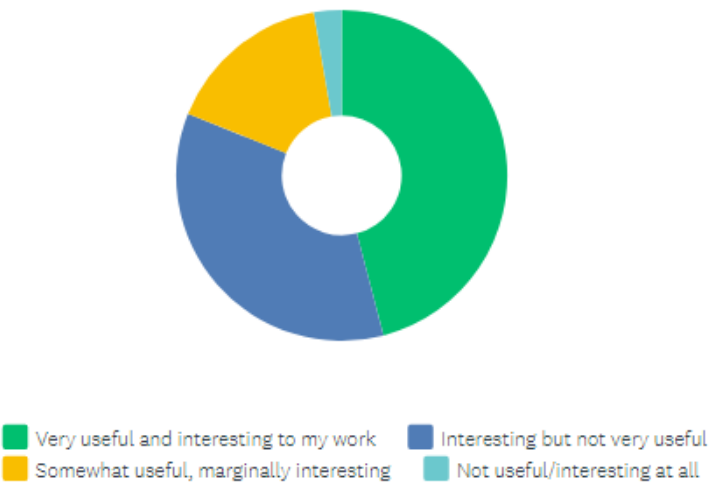
This workshop was a pilot in the EHFG (YFG) and the Observatory collaboration on the topic of health systems. It was held by Dr Ewout van Ginneken and a YG alumna, Dr Dimitra Panteli from the Observatory hub at the TU Berlin. The participants were mostly very satisfied with the workshop, stating that the time limitation was the only issue. We are planning on continuing with this project, possibly by organizing two-days-long workshops on specific health systems, using European countries both as our case studies and our hosts for this.



# NETWORKING ELEVATOR SESSION

How interesting and useful was the Networking Elevator Session to you?

Answered: 53    Skipped: 0



	VERY USEFUL AND INTERESTING TO MY WORK	INTERESTING BUT NOT VERY USEFUL	SOMEWHAT USEFUL, MARGINALLY INTERESTING	NOT USEFUL/INTERESTING AT ALL	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Elevator session usefulness	45.95% 17	35.14% 13	16.22% 6	2.70% 1	37	3.24

This is another new YG workshop that aimed at networking using pre-prepared topics and bringing about some concrete solutions. It was moderated by dr. Dimitra Panteli and dr. Ricardo Baptista Leite. 81% of the participants found it to be interesting and useful, whereas only one thought it was neither useful nor interesting.

# MENTORING SESSIONS

How interesting, useful and relevant were the Mentoring Sessions to you?

Answered: 53    Skipped: 0



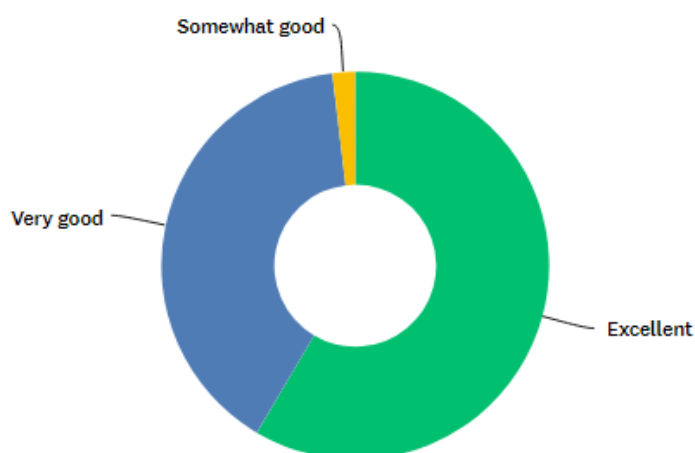
	VERY USEFUL AND RELEVANT TO MY WORK	RELEVANT BUT NOT VERY USEFUL	SOMEWHAT USEFUL, MARGINALLY RELEVANT	NOT USEFUL/RELEVANT AT ALL	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Relevance	72.50% 29	22.50% 9	5.00% 2	0.00% 0	40	3.67

96% participants found the **mentoring scheme** as “very useful and relevant to their work” or “relevant but not very useful”. Only two people found it “somewhat useful, marginally relevant”.

## WORKING GROUPS

Overall, how would you rate your experience of participating in the YFG Working Groups?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	58.49%	31
Very good	39.62%	21
Somewhat good	1.89%	1
Not good at all	0.00%	0
TOTAL		53

It is good to see that an astonishing 98% of participants had an “excellent” or “very good” experience in participating in their working group. Only one person considered his or her experience as “somewhat good” and nobody considered it as “not good at all”.

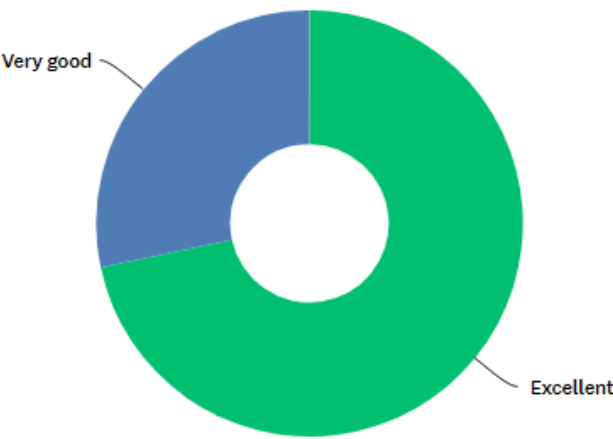


# OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Overall, how would you rate your experience at Young Forum Gastein 2018?

Answered: 53    Skipped: 0

Overall, how would you rate your experien



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	71.70%	38
Very good	28.30%	15
Somewhat good	0.00%	0
Poor	0.00%	0
TOTAL		53

Again, excellent feedback on the overall experience at the YFG 2018. 72% (n=38) of respondents rated their experience as “Excellent”, 28% classifying it as “Very Good”. There were 22 detailed comments, with everyone commenting on a very positive overall experience. The following bulleted comments broadly summarise the positive aspects as well as some of the suggestions for improvement.

*Really enjoyable, and very valuable professionally. I felt that the atmosphere was calmer this year, from start to finish. This gave more time to really engage in the sessions and get more out of the networking component of YFG. Thanks so much to all involved, and particularly to Rafaela for doing a fantastic job.*

*The YFG was certainly one of my highlights this year. The programme offers a truly unique experience characterized by highly motivated, inspiring and collaborative participants. The organization was outstanding, and Rafaela significantly contributed to making the YFG a great success for all participants by managing all requests in a competent and timely manner. Her warm-hearted nature further made participants feel at home in the YFG programme from day 1 of the application process. It is impressive how organizers and participants manage to keep the "Gastein spirit" up throughout the year and I cannot wait to see the Young Gasteiners and Rafaela again*

## COMMENTS

*Positive*

*Social events especially the choir were very appreciated :)*

*An amazing experience on all levels. I'm definitely inspired to attend future editions especially if there are facilities for parents to leave their children at childcare facilities (Kindergarten and Kinder Gasteiner :D ) especially for the social activities. I believe there would be a demand for this from all forms of participants, starting from Young Gasteiners to speakers.*

*This year really was exceptional! Thank you for all your hard work! :)*

*Thank you so much Rafaela and colleagues! This was an amazing experience that I will profit from for a long time. I hope I will have the opportunity to stay in touch and return one year.*

## COMMENTS

*Positive*

*Wonderful again! Thank you all so much for all the hard work! Everyone loved it :)*

## COMMENTS

*Suggestions for improvements*

*The Young Gasteiners should have some more visibility at the forum; as it was this year, we were somewhat "interns" helping with the media coverage, but it was not visible to other participants that we were actually there as "young experts".*

*I would like to be able to stand up a little more because I can't sit this long all day*



## PROSPECTS FOR 2019

- \* Continuation of the collaboration on the *Civil Society and Health: Contributions and Potential*
- \* Health Systems – case study workshop in Croatia (in relation to the Croatian presidency in 2020)
- \* Institutional workshop at EIU and Wellcome Foundation in London
- \* Summer schools and workshops (ECDC, Observatory, Brussels events)
- \* EHFG 2019 (at least 70 scholars)
- \* EPH Conference attendance

## CONTACT

Rafaela Tripalo  
European Health Forum Gastein  
Biberstraße 20, 1010 Vienna  
Austria

rafaela.tripalo@ehfg-org  
+43 660 475 4446