

THE GASTEIN GAZETTE 2017

Health in All Politics
- a better future for Europe



PLENARY

By STAES ELIAS

This year's opening plenary session knew different highlights, starting with a piece of music, composed especially for the 20th edition of the EHFG. In his opening speech, the newly elected president Clemens Martin Auer told us about how the EHFG started 20 years ago and about the vision for the next 20 years of the Health Forum. After watching the Young Gasteiners visions for the future of health in the EU, the EFGH health futures project presented us with three scenarios for the future of health, followed by additional comments by the OECD. The panel that was convened next used the presented scenarios to start a discussion that passed through a variety of topics such as e-health, future-proofing health systems, health in all politics, ... concluding that a solidarity-based health system remains to be an important guaranty for a democratic society. Finally, the European Health Award for 2017 was awarded to the Gen-Equip project which provides free, online education in genetics to health professionals providing primary care.



DAY 1 @ EHFG2017



Welcome to the 2017 European Health Forum Gastein! We are in the midst of a medical revolution driven by exponential technology, from big data, artificial intelligence, biosensors, robotics, 3d printing to genomics, gene editing and stem cells.

Within the health policy arena, medical innovation usually consists of 2 categories: medical devices and new drugs. But if we place a magnifying lens on the future of healthcare, innovation has its roots in the convergence of key accelerating fields within precision medicine, regenerative medicine and e-health.

How do we prepare society for a time when financial differences could lead to biological ones, when the elitist minority can augment its human capabilities but the majority is left behind? Are we brave enough for the future we think we want? It is time for Europe to strategize on how to provide optimal preventive measures for the whole population, and fund disruptive medical innovation.

*Eleni Antoniadou
Gastein Gazette Editor,
President of the European Health Parliament*



The European Health Award for 2017 was awarded to the Gen-Equip project.



F1 TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS ADDING VALUE FOR BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE

By Mischa van Eimeren

A panel of experts from the WHO, European Commission, academia and the industry shared different methods to reduce obesity among the EU population. There was a common agreement that the solution mainly lies in radically transforming the rather complex food system in the EU. The industry stood alone in presenting education of consumers as the main answer to the problem at hand. Despite the general agreement between the panellists, all admitted that much more evidence and exchange of practices is needed before real change can occur. "But if society is truly committed, change will take place. Unfortunately that is currently not the case" concluded Prof. Corinna Hawkes, Director of the Centre for Food Policy, University of London City.



F2: MAKING CANCER CARE MORE EFFICIENT

By Felix Gille

Today, All.Can facilitated a workshop building on the All.Can policy report from January 2017, 'Towards sustainable cancer care: Reducing inefficiencies, improving outcomes.' All.Can member Kathy Oliver, International Brain Tumour Alliance, summarized that 'waste is not just money, but time, quality of life and missed opportunities for patients and their families'.

Following a group-discussion on multi-stakeholder involvement, participants proposed several ways forward to improve efficiency and outcome of cancer care. Among other measures, participants suggested to increase health literacy, to invest in personalized medicine, to collaborate in a trustworthy manner with patients at an early stage, and to improve communication and data use.

The workshop concluded in an expert panel discussion reiterating the need for patient centeredness, international collaboration, firm stakeholder involvement, and the absolute need to build relationships between stakeholders to join forces.



F3 NOBODY LEFT BEHIND

By Sandra van Oostrom and Stefanie Johner

There is a growing acknowledgment of the need to address health inequalities across different groups of underserved people, i.e. migrants, sex workers, LGBTs, people who inject drugs, prisoners, and homeless individuals. These people are at significantly higher risk of poor health and have a substantially greater risk of contracting infectious diseases than the general population. Yet at the same time, our healthcare systems are poorly designed to address their specific needs. As a result, they often experience severe inequities in access to care and poorer health outcomes. Therefore, in this parallel forum representatives and health policy experts provided a short overview of the purposes they have and the challenges they face. After the short presentations, the participants were encouraged to discuss (i) the main challenges and common needs in accessing healthcare for underserved people are, and (ii) the possible policy-making and practical solutions.



TWITTER CORNER...



Robert Madelin @eurohumph
#EHFG2017. Auer insists we need to protest more loudly against attempts to close down health policy at EU level.
#Health=BIGnotsmall

Petronille Bogaert @PetronilleBo
We need to go from service interaction to social interaction between patients and doctors. #EHFG2017 @YoungGasteiners

Francesco Florindi @francescoflo
There cannot be a healthy future of health without citizens/patients TRUST in health data management #EHFG2017

Alexey Kulikov @KulikovUNIATF
Local authorities are the ones in charge of making cities healthy. @CllrDesCahil shares experience from Cork City (Ireland). #EHFG2017 #NCDs

Elizabeth Kuiper @kuiper_em
#NewGame: in next 5-10 yrs, major innovations address unmet needs & improve people's lives, saving resources in HC systems #EHFG2017 @EFPIA

W4: POWER TO THE PEOPLE

By Petronille Bogaert
Power to the people. This is exactly what was done during the workshop on "Re-imagining health systems with people at their centre". The power was given to the EHFG attendees in the workshop to think about what defines people-centered care in different fields. Putting the ideas of the people around the table at the core of the discussion defines a real workshop.

Quote: "It's not in my name without me" Patience voice needs to be at every level.



W5: MAINSTREAMING MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES ACROSS SECTORS

By Filip Julius Lassahn

Mental health benefits from cross sectoral approaches on EU-, national, regional and macro-level. But mental health problems remain a large burden on society and individuals are still stigmatized. The workshop kicked off with powerful testimonies by relatives of affected persons and the scientific approach towards where normal unhappiness ends and mental disorder starts. There was a broad consensus that the knowledge is there and solutions do exist but have not yet been fully implemented. The given policy examples from EU Member States focus on comprehensive approaches to support families, interdisciplinary collaboration and raising awareness. The accent was put on the key role of doctors and the need to obtain better data and to measure the input, quality and outcomes of measures taken. And, as is often the case, money seems to be the key.



REMEMBER!

For more summaries, blogs, tweets and other information about this years EHFG visit the website www.ehfg.org or follow on twitter [@GasteinForum](https://twitter.com/GasteinForum)