

The 2021 European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) is set to discuss health at the heart of a resilient future for Europe, in revamped virtual edition

This year's virtual edition of the Forum introduces a new format rolling out 25 sessions, 3 plenaries, 2 press points and 19 networking lounges over 5 days (27 September – 1 October), to reflect on the lessons learned from COVID-19 and the opportunity for renewal and rebirth, with health at the core of a resilient future for Europe.

With more than 125 speakers, the EHFG 2021 is pleased to offer an exciting line-up of high-level speakers, including Health Ministers from Austria (Wolfgang Mückstein), Slovenia (Janez Poklular) and Latvia (Daniels Pavļuts); Hans Kluge, World Health Organization Regional Director for Europe, Andrea Ammon and Ahmed Oghwell Ouma, respectively heads of the European and the African Centres for Disease Prevention and Control. Sandra Gallina, Director-General of DG SANTE, and Members of the European Parliament Cristian-Silviu Buşoi and Brando Benifei have also confirmed their participation.

You can register for the online EHFG 2021 [here](#).

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15 September 2021, Bad Hofgastein, Austria – The 24th edition of the [European Health Forum Gastein](#) will be held under the main theme “Rise like a phoenix – Health at the heart of a resilient future for Europe” and will gather an unprecedented number of high-level [speakers](#).

The pandemic has clearly shown us that we cannot tackle such complex issues as one state or one region alone but needs to be handled in global cooperation. As a consequence, also health discussions cannot be limited to the regional level anymore but have to be conducted on a global level. To reflect this shift, the EHFG 2021 will embrace a more global dimension by placing European health policy discussions in the wider global health context. While the first plenary will have a fresh look at multilateralism, several sessions from the “Joining forces for health” thematic track will touch on the global dimension of key health challenges. These include pandemic response, global healthcare systems, and health diplomacy. This holistic approach will also be reflected in discussions beyond health in reference to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thus, the third plenary on “A new social contract for a resilient recovery”, as well as several sessions, will highlight the interconnectedness of health issues with environmental, societal, and democratic challenges.

The second plenary on “Co-creating a healthier Europe” will be held under the patronage of the Conference on the Future of Europe, and will be [broadcast live](#), enabling free and wide access for all citizens to join the discussion.

Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb, Secretary General of the EHFG said: *“I expect this year's Forum to play an important role in the discussions on how we can rise from the ashes as better health systems – and better societies. The involvement of civil society and single citizens will be paramount to re-balance powers and jointly shape the future of Europe. We pride ourselves to have created something of a landmark in the health policy landscape where those challenges health stakeholders face during the year are put on the agenda for discussion and an exchange of ideas. Frequently, they will feed into key policy*

discussions both on national and European levels. “As discussed in Gastein” - the EHFG is where the discussions begin. Join us!”.

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

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 digital format and has been extended from three to five days in its 2021 edition.