



## PRESS RELEASE

### European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) 2023: Health systems in crisis – countering shockwaves and fatigue

- Kicking off today and running through Friday (26 – 29 September) the hybrid EHFG 2023 offers four action-packed days with over 25 sessions, three plenary discussions, three press conferences, and ample networking opportunities.
- The EHFG 2023 gathers over 1,400 representatives from science and academia, civil society, industry, and government, to explore how crises can help catalyse the development of new approaches to health system challenges.
- The [Women in Global Health Austria Chapter](#) will officially launch today, in the framework of the EHFG 2023. The initiative aims to create an engaged female community working in the health sector across Austria, jointly aspiring to achieve gender equality in global health leadership.

[Register here](#) to follow the EHFG 2023 online.

26 September 2023, Bad Hofgastein, Austria – Health systems in Europe were facing significant problems pre-COVID, from underfunded primary and social care to workforce shortages and inequities in access to care, while addressing growing challenges such as ageing populations and the rise in non-communicable diseases. The ensuing permacrisis – including an ongoing pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis, and the climate emergency – have only exacerbated the situation, stretching health systems, and in particular the health and care workforce, to their limits.

The 26<sup>th</sup> European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG), co-organised with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, and in collaboration with the European Commission and – for the first time – the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, seeks to discuss solutions to the shockwaves that have hit health systems and explore countermeasures to safeguard the fatigued social and health workforce.

The [2023 EHFG programme](#), built on three topic tracks, “Innovation for a resilient future”, “Building shockproof health systems”, and “Health policy at a crossroads”, features a diverse range of speakers, including the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety **Stella Kyriakides**, the Regional Director for WHO/Europe **Hans Henri P. Kluge**, as well as ministers and high-level representatives from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, and Malta. Other exciting speakers include **Sara Cerdas**, Member of the European Parliament, and **Ran Balicer**, Chief Innovation Officer and Deputy Director General of Clalit Health Services, Israel. The complete speaker line-up can be found [here](#).

"As the world continues to grapple with various crises, it is imperative that we come together to address the impact on our health systems," stated EHFG President, Clemens Martin Auer. "The EHFG 2023 will provide a unique opportunity for stakeholders to explore innovative solutions, share best practices, and chart a course towards more robust and adaptable health systems."

The EHFG takes place as a **hybrid event** between 26 – 29 September in Bad Hofgastein, Austria. The complete 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 +43 664 5438 701.

#EHFG2023

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#### 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 26 years, the EHFG has established itself as an indispensable institution in the scope of European health policy. With its annual conference and other events and projects, it has made a decisive contribution to the development of guidelines and above all the cross-border exchange of experience, information, and cooperation. Leading European experts traditionally participate in the annual conference held in the Gastein Valley in the Austrian Alps in late September.