



**INAUGURATION  
OF THE SEAT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF  
THE  
SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE HEALTH  
NETWORK (SEEHN)  
SKOPJE, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
7 MARCH 2013**



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## **European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG)**

### **Round-Table Event at the Inauguration of the Seat of the SEEHN Secretariat**

- Minister Todorov, Madame Regional Director, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for inviting us to this inauguration event and our congratulations to the Network on the establishment of your new secretariat seat here in Skopje.
- As you will know, the EHFG signed a Memorandum of Understanding this time last year in Brussels (14 March 2012) to formalise our cooperation with the SEEHN, with the aim in particular of involving SEEHN members in information sharing and exchange with our delegates during our annual conference in October, and where possible in other activities throughout the year.
- We would like to formalise this cooperation by officially offering a number of free registrations to SEEHN members to attend the EHFG from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October 2013, where the theme of the conference will be *Resilient and Innovative Health Systems for Europe*. We have also had some encouraging talks with other organisations about the possibility of them covering travel costs for a number of members of the Network. We will coordinate a concrete offer through the SEEHN secretariat in the forthcoming months before the next SEEHN meeting.
- I would also like to highlight another initiative we operate, called the Young Forum Gastein. Every year the European Commission and the World Health Organisation fund approximately 70 young researchers and policymakers in the early years of their career from across Europe and beyond to attend the EHFG. The scholarship covers conference fees, travel and accommodation costs. We would welcome the opportunity to circulate throughout the SEEHN the call for newcomers to apply for the Young Gastein initiative when it is launched in mid-March 2013, and would encourage ministries of health and research institutes in the SEE countries to nominate suitable candidates.
- We look forward to deepening our cooperation with the SEEHN this year and helping to promote its activities to improve health in the South-eastern European region.

Louise Boyle  
Policy Officer

European Health Forum Gastein