

“European Health Care and Social Systems in Transition”
Annual Summer School during the European Forum Alpbach, Austria

The Summer School on “European Health Care and Social Systems in Transition” is part of the European Forum Alpbach, a two-week event with seminars, workshops and discussions on all aspects of society, which takes place annually during the last two weeks in August, <http://www.alpbach.org/index.php?id=267>. This year’s application process has closed but if you are interested in receiving more information on the summer school, please contact the course director, Dr. Viktoria Stein, Katharina.v.stein@meduniwien.ac.at

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Health is fundamental to human development, social and economic advancement, and active participation in one’s community and society. However, even in the most affluent countries health and social systems have not yet managed to eliminate inequalities and inequities in health. The recent economic crisis along with the ageing society, technological advancements, and an increase in chronic diseases put an ever-growing strain on the limited resources of the health and social care sectors. Over the past years, the health and social systems of the European countries have tried to live up to these challenges, their efforts resulting in a state of constant reform. In addition the expectations of patients have dramatically changed since the introduction of the first public health services more than a century ago, as have the surrounding conditions a health and social system has to take into account.

This summer school will address the hot topic of organizing and financing a health and social system, the influences and trends that have to be taken into account as well as ways of building a sustainable and equitable health and social system for the future. A special focus will be laid on the challenges faced by the former soviet health care systems. The key learning objectives are:

- To provide participants with an overview of the economic, financial and organizational concepts of health and social systems;
- To introduce participants to the diverse influencing factors and processes which form a health and social care system, such as social and epidemiological data, legal frameworks or drug authorization regulations;
- To understand and analyse the interrelationships of health and social systems and identify challenges on the local, national and European levels;
- To discuss possible solutions to previously identified problems by tapping the professional and systemic backgrounds of the participants.

REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT

The summer school is geared towards graduate and post-graduate students as well as young health professionals from all relevant backgrounds, including medicine, economics, law, public health and social security institutions. No limit on age or professional background applies.

The course is composed of lectures, case studies, group discussions and presentations and is designed to promote interaction among the participants and lecturers. The faculty consists

of European experts who provide first hand insights into their respective fields, basing their presentations on scientific and professional experiences. The course language is English and a high proficiency (European level C1) is necessary.