Press Release

Stiftung Kindergesundheit and Boston Scientific Foundation Europe Launch the ChildHealth Foundry

Application phase for first innovation challenge begins on November 24, 2026

Munich, November 10, 2026 – The ChildHealth Foundry is establishing a new innovation ecosystem dedicated to supporting healthy development and well-being for children and adolescents. Initiated by the Stiftung Kindergesundheit and Child Health Service gGmbH, the Foundry brings together entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, and healthcare stakeholders. They are united by a common goal: to help children and young people grow into healthy, resilient adults through innovative solutions and services.

The health of young people is a growing concern. Most children and adolescents do not get enough physical activity, while one in four shows signs of mental health challenges. At the same time, approximately one quarter of pediatricians are expected to retire within the next five years. Against this backdrop, greater investment from both industry and academia in innovative solutions for child and adolescent health is urgently needed.

The Stiftung Kindergesundheit and the Boston Scientific Foundation Europe aim to address these challenges through the ChildHealth Foundry. Adopting a cross-sector approach, the initiative seeks to strengthen collaboration among science, medicine, business, policymakers, and civil society. Its ambition is to accelerate the journey of promising innovations from development to sustainable real-world implementation.

“For nearly 30 years, the Stiftung Kindergesundheit has been committed to promoting healthy development among children and adolescents. With the ChildHealth Foundry, we are expanding this mission with an important new dimension,” says Prof. Dr. Berthold Koletzko, Chairman of the Foundation.

“The health of children and adolescents is one of the defining challenges of the future. The ChildHealth Foundry creates a space where innovative ideas can flourish and key stakeholders can come together,” says Jan Szemjonneck, Board Member of the Boston Scientific Foundation Europe. “We believe that promising ideas need the right support and environment to reach their full potential.”

What's Next?

A major milestone will be the launch of the ChildHealth Challenge on November 24, 2026. Entrepreneurs and startup teams are invited to apply with innovative solutions that improve the health and well-being of children and adolescents. The most promising teams will gain access to a network of experts, mentors, and investors.

The initiative will culminate in the ChildHealth Summit in May 2027, where the most promising innovations will be showcased to representatives from academia, healthcare, industry, and politics.

About the ChildHealth Foundry

The ChildHealth Foundry is an innovation ecosystem focused on child and adolescent health. It connects founders, investors, and experts, supports the development of new solutions, and fosters collaboration between healthcare, science, business, and society. The initiative is led by the Stiftung Kindergesundheit and Child Health Service gGmbH.

About Stiftung Kindergesundheit

Based at the Department of Pediatrics and the Pediatric Outpatient Clinic of Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU) Munich, Stiftung Kindergesundheit operates at the interface between science and practice. The foundation translates scientific evidence into practical applications through a wide range of programs and projects. Its evidence-based initiatives promote age-appropriate prevention and health education, supporting children and young people from pregnancy through adolescence.

The foundation was established in 1997 by Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. mult. Berthold Koletzko, a pediatrician affiliated with the Dr. von Hauner Children's Hospital at LMU Munich, who continues to serve as its Chairman.

About Boston Scientific Foundation Europe

The Boston Scientific Foundation Europe (BSFE) supports nonprofit organizations across Europe in leveraging digital innovation to improve equitable access to healthcare and enhance patient outcomes. Through financial support and targeted capacity-building, the foundation helps transform promising ideas into impactful solutions that reach

those who need them most. Since its establishment in 2018, BSFE has supported 36 nonprofit organizations and 44 digital initiatives.

Media Contact – Stiftung Kindergesundheit

Sonja Frank
Head of Science Communication and Media Relations
presse@kindergesundheit.de
Tel.: +49 89 5880 43386

Media Contact – Boston Scientific Foundation Europe

Christine Chapman
Communications Lead
BsciEuropefoundation@bsci.com