

icd - institute for cultural diplomacy



icd
**ITALY
MEETS
GERMANY**

Italy Meets Germany
A Forum for Young Leaders
(Berlin; September 23th-27th, 2013)







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Welcome

Italy Meets Germany: A Forum for Young Leaders (IMG) is a network of students and young professionals who have an interest in exploring and supporting Italy - German Relations. Participants join the forum by taking part in an IMG Weeklong Seminar, following which they are encouraged to conduct their own research and organize their own activity in the field. ICD Weeklong Seminars are targeted at students and young professionals with an active interest in Italy and Germany.

In addition to looking in greater detail at the history and development of cultural diplomacy, this IMG Forum will focus on the following theme:

“Common Strategies and Bilateral Relations in the New Era of Diplomacy”

About the IMG Forum

The IMG Weeklong Seminar is an international and interdisciplinary program, gathering students, young professionals, and cultural practitioners from across the world. The seminar provides an opportunity for young people to expand their knowledge of current and future developments in these fields, meet with current and former key players and build sustainable networks with each other.

The program will consist of speeches, panel discussions and seminars held by leading figures from the fields of politics, economics, diplomacy, academia, civil society, and the private sector. Speakers will offer a range

of perspectives on current and conceptual issues within an international context, and the current and future potential of the relationship between Italy and Germany.

In addition to the academic components, participants will take part in a range of social and cultural activities that will allow them to experience Berlin's unique cultural landscape. These activities will include group dinners and drinks, trips to artistic performances, concerts, and literary readings, and visits to important cultural and artistic landmarks.

Speakers

The speakers during the forum will include leading figures from the fields of politics, diplomacy, academia, civil society and representatives from the private sector.

Participants

The participants will include students and professionals with an active interest in Cultural Diplomacy and issues regarding Italy and Germany.

Lectures & Discussions

A range of lectures will be held by experts from the fields of politics, economics, diplomacy, academia, civil society, and the private sector. These components will inform the participants about key perspectives related to the themes of the Weeklong Seminar, raise their awareness of other salient issues in Europe and introduce them to the field of cultural diplomacy. Each lecture will be followed by a question and answer session with the speaker.



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Networking, Social & Cultural Activities

Each Weeklong Seminar will include social and cultural activities for the participants. These components give participants the opportunity to see a different side of the city, help to provide a more informal environment for the participants to get to know each other, and allow the participants to see cultural exchange initiatives that are already being organized.

The ICD offers an expansive social agenda including: interactive panel discussions, roundtable discussions, workshops, debates, parties, film nights, conference concerts, embassy receptions, group dinners, and visits to cultural and historical sites.

Certificate of Attendance - All weeklong seminar participants will be awarded an official certificate of attendance upon completion of the program, which will provide details of the speakers who took part and the topics discussed. Each certificate will be signed by members of the ICD's Advisory Board.

Seminar Objectives

IMG Weeklong Seminars are weeklong interdisciplinary programs that include the following components:

Lectures & Discussions - A range of lectures will be held by experts from the fields of politics, economics, diplomacy, academia, civil society, and the private sector. These components will inform the participants about key perspectives related to the themes of the Weeklong Seminar, raise their awareness of other salient issues in

Italy and Germany, and introduce them to the field of cultural diplomacy. Each lecture will be followed by a question and answer session with the speaker.

Workshops & Role play - The timetable of each Weeklong Seminar will include interactive workshops that offer participants the opportunity to take part in structured discussions on subjects related to the Seminar themes. Workshops provide a valuable counterbalance to lectures by providing an opportunity for participants to express their own opinions and learn from each other.

Round Table Discussions & Debates

These discussions offer a more intimate setting for speakers and participants to converse and debate openly. They also allow the participants to interact more directly with the speakers and their fellow participants in a more neutral, equal, and interactive manner. Not only are participants able to ask questions to the speakers in these discussions, but the speakers may also pose questions to the participants, all while enjoying a more comfortable, informal, and interactive setting.

Group Visits

During the ICD events, participants are able to see the cities from a different perspective. They will be able to experience all that Berlin has to offer, as well as partake in visits to top Berlin organizations, including: the German Foreign Office, European House, the Olympic Stadium, City Hall, the House of World Cultures, Parliament, the Philharmonic, and various embassies throughout the city.





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Leadership Initiatives

Leadership initiatives are cultural exchange initiatives organized by members of ICD Forums with the support of the ICD. These initiatives are the foundation of the ICD's work, because they allow the principles of cultural diplomacy to be spread beyond the members of the Forum. At the beginning of the Weeklong Seminar participants will be given guidance on how to plan, develop, and execute leadership initiatives that have a constructive, sustainable influence on intercultural relations. The participants will then have the opportunity to present their projects to the group at the end of the weeklong seminar. In addition, the ICD will outline how it can help to support the realization of these initiatives through its network and resources.

Joining the Forum

The principal focus of Italy Meets Germany: A Forum for Young Leaders (IMG) is to develop a network of young individuals committed to building and sustaining lasting ties within Italy and Germany as well as between the two countries and the rest of the world in the fields of politics, academia, science, media, business and culture, thereby strengthening the Italy - German Relationships. The network is supported through a diverse range of ongoing activity and is highlighted each year by weeklong seminars for new members to join.

As an independently developed and organized program, IMG offers a unique opportunity to come together and foster wider, deeper Inter- and Intra-Italy - German relations on a business, cultural and political level. This in turn will develop a wider understanding of

intercultural issues, promote personal growth, and contribute to the creation of innovative policy-oriented solutions to issues affecting the region.

Forum Objectives

To establish a long-term, interdisciplinary network of young leaders that contributes on both a professional and personal level to dialogue and exchange between Italy and Germany and between the two countries and the rest of the world.

To educate, enhance, and sustain the Italo- German relationship through the empowerment of the participants.

To strengthen professional, economic, cultural, political, and scientific cooperation through close personal and professional relationships. To provide the participants with fresh insights and new perspectives to deepen their understanding of the economic, political, cultural, religious, and social frameworks of the two countries.

To support and inspire valuable contributions to civil society in both Italy and Germany through "Leadership Initiatives" that the young leaders will organize as part of the program.

Seminar Overview

Bilateral relations and common strategies will be the main focus during the Italy meets Germany Seminar. The ICD would like to examine the prospects for collaboration and for strengthening strategy policies between Italy and Germany. The meeting will be an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations and how it can shape the new era of diplomacy.

"Cultural Diplomacy & Bi-lateral Relations: Case Study of Italian German Relations – A Historical Overview"

Corrado Lampe





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Gross roots level relations as a strategy for mutual relations

Italy and Germany supported the idea of Europe as a unique entity before other nations, evidence of which is found in past scripts of Friedrich Nietzsche or Giuseppe Mazzini. As engaged political actors, Italians and Germans have both witnessed the first steps of European Community since its initial conception in the 1950s. Recent history illustrates that the two countries share a kind of common political passage: a process of unification at the end of the nineteenth century, allies during World War II, the fall of a Monarchy and the birth of a Republic, etc.

On the other side of World War II, both countries saw a so called “capitalistic” economic acceleration after the forced and necessary period of reconstruction under the control of the allies. The economic boom allowed them to flourish for almost two decades, and facilitated a period in which Italy and Germany again returned to an important and strategic position within the continent.

Building strategies upon differences

Germany certainly reaffirms its stability thanks to its economical development and the lowest unemployment rates in Europe; Italy’s recent political concerns are obstructing any decisions concerning solutions on very high public debt and outflow of younger generations in search of opportunities abroad, especially in Berlin. Former lines of bilateral cooperation between the two countries need to be revised as the Italian economic situation is steeply decreasing into recession and the strategic sectors, such as energy, transport and new technologies, are highly suffering from financial cuts in Italy. Easily implemented solutions which would satisfy everyone are hard to find and foreign aid is crucial for the execution of reformation. From this perspective, Germany could play an important role as an investor in the developing sectors of Italian industry, speeding the GDP and unemployment rates and increasing productivity. Italy possesses such assets which are not easily found in Germany, from fashion and food industry to tourism in fascinating locations.



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