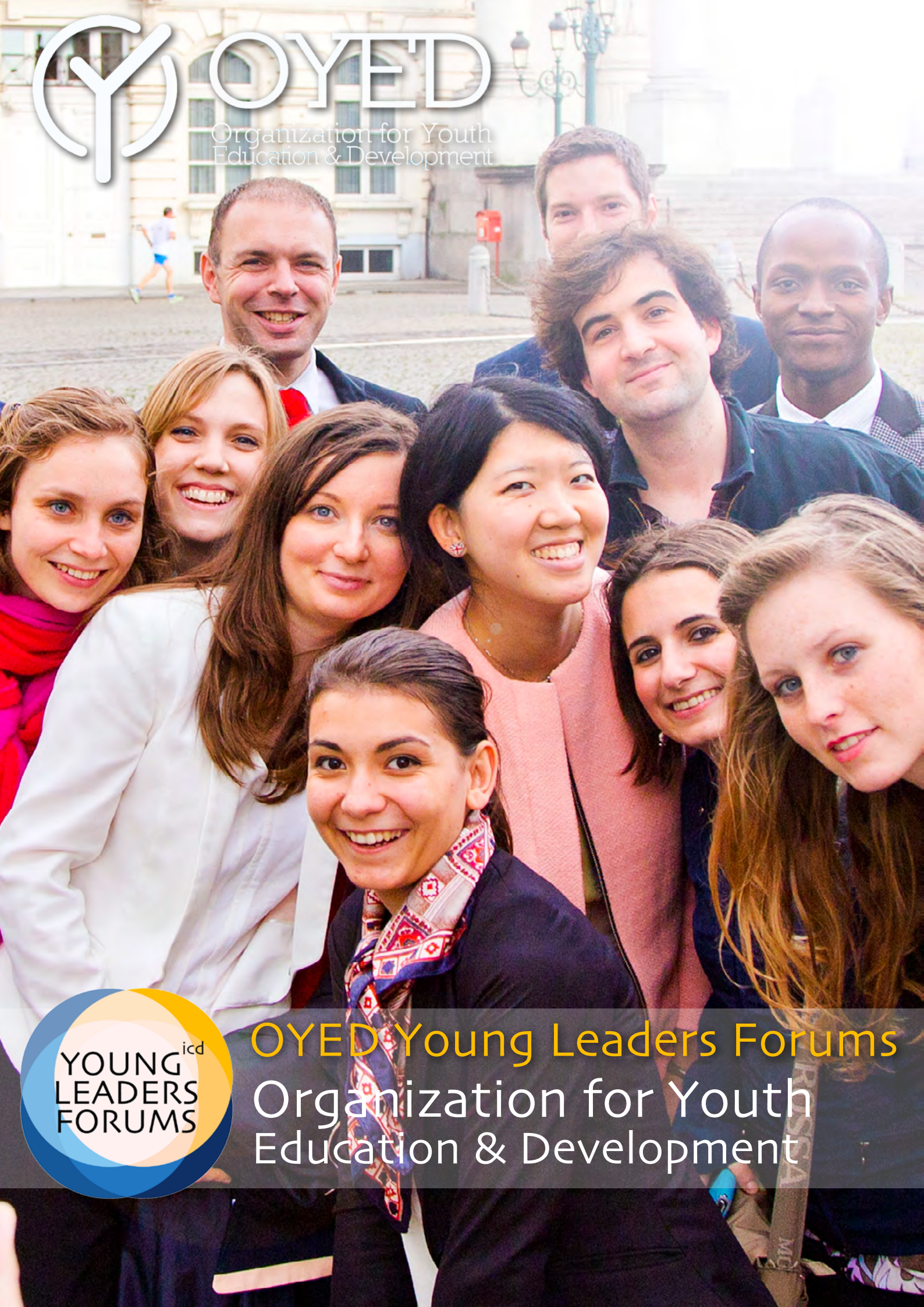




Organization for Youth  
Education & Development



OYED Young Leaders Forums  
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# Organization for Youth Education & Development

## OYED Young Leaders Forums



### Welcome to the OYED Young Leaders' Forums

The Young Leaders Forums are international networks of like-minded individuals who share an interest in strengthening intercultural relations within a region or country, or between particular regions or countries. The OYED's first young leader's forum was developed in 2003 and aimed to improve relations between Canada and Germany. Over the last decade we have developed a broad range of forums focusing on diverse bi- and multi-lateral relationships within and between Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America. Through these programs the OYED has become one of Europe's largest independent cultural exchange organizations, bringing together stakeholders from diverse cultural, academic, and professional backgrounds.

**The OYED has developed these Young Leaders Forums to bring together future leaders in politics, civil society, and the private sector, as well as other interested stakeholders. Each forum organizes regular Weeklong Seminars; academic and cultural programs.**

that provide participants with an opportunity to network with one another, learn more about the region or relationship in focus, explore the increasing importance of cultural diplomacy, and discuss how they can organize their own activity to support the forum goals. Individuals join a Young Leaders Forum by taking part in one of these Weeklong Seminars.

The overall goal of the ICD Young Leaders Forums is to provide a platform for the leaders of tomorrow to expand their personal networks and, by supporting them in the organization of leadership initiatives, help them become activists and ambassadors for stronger intercultural relations.

### The Aims of the Forums Are:

- To foster international networks of likeminded individuals who have an interest in supporting and strengthening intercultural relations within or between the countries or regions in focus.
- To give forum members a greater awareness of the history, development, and future of the field of cultural diplomacy and its application to the relationship or region in focus.
- To offer forum members access to a range of informed perspectives and insights on cultural, political, and economic issues in the relationship or region in focus.
- To support forum members with the organization of their own cultural exchange programs, known as leadership initiatives, that serve to strengthen intercultural relations at the local, national, and international levels.







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## Joining a Forum

The principal focus of the OYED Young Leader's Forum is to develop a network of young leaders with an interest in developing, supporting and sustaining intercultural relations.

As an independently developed and organized program, the YLF offers a unique opportunity for individuals, institutions, organizations and companies and their aspiring leaders to come together and foster intercultural relations. This in turn will develop a wider understanding of intercultural issues, and promote personal global peace and stability.

To join a forum you must take part in one of the Weeklong Seminars which will be held during the year.

Once individuals have taken part in the Weeklong Seminar and joined the USAME Forum they will have support in the following areas: Networking; Leadership Initiatives; and Academic Research.

## 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 nations, communities and groups.

- To educate, enhance, and sustain intercultural 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 intercultural relations.
- To support valuable contributions to civil society through „Leadership Initiatives“ that the young leaders will organize as part of the program.







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### Networking

Once individuals join the Forum they are invited to join the OYED Online Forum. This Forum represents the perfect location to network and share information on job and internship opportunities, related events, reunions, and to gain support for your leadership initiative.

### Leadership Initiatives

Program participants are encouraged to organize their own “leadership initiatives” after the program, which can help to spread the principles of cultural diplomacy much further. The ICD is able to support Forum members in the areas of research, marketing, event management, and audio-visual documentation, as well as general guidance.

### Academic Research

Once individuals join the Forum they are invited to join the OYED Online Forum. This Forum represents the perfect location to network and share information on job and internship opportunities, related events, reunions, and to gain support for your leadership initiative.





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## Forum List

### Thematic Forums

Cultural Diplomacy in the Global Economy  
Art as Cultural Diplomacy

### Europe

Cultural Diplomacy in Europe  
Europe Meets Russia  
The United States Meets Europe  
Europe Meets China  
Europe Meets Latin America

### Africa

Cultural Diplomacy in Africa  
Africa Meets China  
Ethiopia Meets the USA  
Africa Meets Europe  
Nigeria Meets the USA  
Africa Meets the USA  
Nigeria Meets China

### Asia

Cultural Diplomacy in East Asia  
Pakistan Meets the USA  
Europe Meets China  
Afghanistan Meets the USA

### USA

The United States Meets Europe  
Ethiopia Meets the USA  
Africa Meets the USA  
Afghanistan Meets the USA  
Nigeria Meets the USA  
Pakistan Meets the USA

### China

Europe Meets China  
Africa Meets China  
Nigeria Meets China

### Germany

Cultural Bridges in Germany  
Canada Meets Germany  
Germany Meets Greece  
Italy meets Germany  
Germany Meets Turkey  
Germany Meets Morocco  
The UK Meets Germany  
Germany meets Slovenia







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## OYED Young Leaders Forums



## About the Weeklong Seminars

Every 4-6 months the OYED will organize a Weeklong Seminar, which offers individuals the opportunity to join by participating in a 5-day program.

The Weeklong Seminar is an international and interdisciplinary gathering of students, young professionals, and cultural practitioners from across the world. The seminar provides an excellent 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, and experience the rich and diverse cultural life of a European/American capital.

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 European-Russian relationship.

In addition to the academic components, participants will take part in a range of social and cultural activities that will allow them to experience a European/American capital'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.

**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 (The ICD Advisory Board list can be found [\(here\)](#)).

## Seminar Methodology

The 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 Europe and Russia, 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 and 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 pose 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 OYED events, participants are able to see the cities from a different perspective.

**Leadership Initiatives** - Leadership initiatives are cultural exchange initiatives organized by members of OYED Forums with the support of the OYED. These initiatives are the foundation of the OYED'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 OYED will outline how it can help to support the realization of these initiatives through its network and resources.





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### Networking, Social and 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, helping to provide a more informal environment for the participants to get to know each other, and allowing the participants to see cultural exchange initiatives that are already being organized. The OYED 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:

**Embassy Receptions** - The OYED partners with embassies for every conference in order to offer evening receptions as well as lectures and events during the day. These receptions are held both at the ICD House, when in Berlin, and at various embassies, and offer the opportunity to network with foreign diplomats. Participants are able to fully immerse themselves in the culture of the host embassy through the traditional song and dance performances, traditional cuisine, and a uniquely international atmosphere.

**Film Nights** - In addition to running a weekly Film Night the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy often invites representatives of the film industry to participate in events. These individuals are then able to share their expertise and productions with the audience. It is through these Film Nights which the participants are able to visually and acoustically experience the cultures of others.

**Conference Concerts** - Conference Concerts are a way for participants to experience the culture and art of foreign countries. In the past, the OYED has sponsored world-renowned performers who have shared their artistic mediums and talents with the audience. These concerts vary in nature, and include: traditional dance, interpretive dance, violin concerts, choir performances, piano concertos, symphonies, hip hop and jazz performances, and more.

**Group Dinners** - Conference participants are able to dine with fellow participants and speakers at a wide assortment of restaurants, where they are exposed to new and exotic cuisines, including: German, British, Greek, French, Russian, Italian, Oriental, Baltic, African, Indian, Turkish, Latin American, Spanish, Mediterranean, Caribbean, and more.

**Parties** - The OYED hosts a large number of parties in different indoor and outdoor locations each year, to which all the conference participants are invited. These parties include themed evenings, embassy receptions, cultural celebrations, language exchanges, historical commemorations, film nights, conference concerts, boat parties and more. Each of these events allows the OYED participants to casually interact with fellow participants and speakers in a more relaxed and informal manner, as well as meet others from the international community.







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