



Living the Transatlantic Dialogue

CANADAMEETSGERMANY
ALUMNI FORUM e.V.



Canada Meets Germany Fact Sheet

Concept

Canada Meets Germany (CMG) is a unique transatlantic initiative: by (young) leaders for young leaders. It is an **inter-disciplinary network of young professionals** who have participated in two consecutive **annual study tours** alternating between both countries.

The study tours provide the participants with an opportunity to learn more about the **relationship between Canada and Germany** from experts in the fields of politics, diplomacy, the private sector and civil society. Institutions and companies hosting an event on the study tour, in turn, have the chance to meet with a **diversified group of future decision makers** and **architects of the transatlantic dialogue** from various professional fields.

Young Leaders

CMG participants are selected on the basis of their proven **leadership** abilities and a demonstrated interest in **intercultural relations** between Canada and Germany. They are committing to join two consecutive study tours and are contributing to the network activities.

The CMG network embraces emerging personalities and leading figures in politics, business, academia, technology and culture. Among the CMG alumni one finds **Members of (Provincial) Parliament** and **political advisors**, **university professors** and **directors of research institutes**, **partners of law firms** and **design directors of marketing firms**, **fundraising consultants** and **executives of NGOs**, and many more interesting profiles.

The CMG community spans a rich selection of industry branches from **automotive** to **pharmaceuticals and chemistry**, from **aerospace** to **banking and insurance**, from **information technology** to **consultancy**. CMG is represented at federal and provincial **governmental administrations**, at **embassies** and **parliaments**, at **international organizations** and **universities**.

While CMG members are recruited from a wide range of professions they **share a common vision in living the cultural dialogue** between Canada and Germany.

Potential of the Network

The CMG program offers its members the opportunity to **expand and diversify their professional networks**. Employers of CMG young leaders have benefitted in the past from the **access to future decision makers** in Canada and Germany in various fields. CMG has served as a **platform for business contacts and non-profit collaborations** for sponsors and stakeholders. Our success story includes the following CMG initiatives:

- Canadian provincial **business** department has been connected with the European **space industry**
- Canadian **investors** have been introduced to a German **technology incubator** initiative
- German and Canadian **law firms** launched a **transatlantic cooperation**
- Canadian professor has been invited to the **editorial review committee** of a German academic journal
- Canadian CMG alumnus provided **consultancy** for a German **NGO**
- CMG alumni regularly **sponsors** German-Canadian **professionals conferences** at the Canadian Embassy in Berlin



Living the Transatlantic Dialogue

History

- 2002** Marie Bernard-Meunier, then **Canada's Ambassador to Germany**, approaches **Atlantik-Brücke** to discuss the potential of a German-Canadian young professionals program
- Pilot project **Canadian German Young Leaders Forum (CGYLF)** launched with funding from the **Canadian Embassy in Berlin** and administrative support from the **Atlantik-Brücke in Berlin** and the **Foundation for the Study of Government Processes in Canada**
- Twelve young leaders meet on the **First study tour** to Canada
- 2002 – 2003** The young leaders, in close collaboration with the **Canadian Embassy in Berlin** and the **German Embassy in Ottawa**, develop a roadmap for the exchange program with emphasis on the study tour concept
- 2003** The project becomes the first Canadian-German initiative funded by the **European Recovery Fund (ERP)**
- The **institute for cultural diplomacy (icd)** assumes responsibility for organizing and implementing the study tour program
- 2003 – 2008** The **icd** is rebranding the CGYLF as **Canada Meets Germany – a forum for young leaders** and manages the study tour program with ERP funds from the **German Marshall Fund** and substantial financial and organizational support by the German and Canadian Embassies, private and institutional partners as well as CMG alumni
- 2009** Following the phasing out of the ERP seed funding the **CMG alumni** secure travel funds from the **German Federal Foreign Office** ensuring the continuation of the study tour program
- The alumni are founding the **Canada Meets Germany Alumni Forum (CMG-AF)** to channel the young leaders' interests and to lead the program into the future
- 2010 – 2012** The **CMG-AF** renews partnerships with stakeholders and supports several German-Canadian professionals conferences at the Canadian Embassy
- 2012** CMG-AF launches the new conference series **German Canadian Concourse**