



CZECH-GERMAN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

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Partners of the Program

The **German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)** is Germany's national foreign policy network. As an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organization, it actively takes part in the political decision-making process and promotes the understanding of German foreign policy and international relations.

The **Association for International Affairs (AMO)** is a Czech independent non-governmental organization that promotes international cooperation, conducts research, and hosts educational programs in the fields of international affairs and Czech and European foreign and security policy.

The **Robert Bosch Stiftung** is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company. It represents the philanthropic and social endeavors of Robert Bosch and fulfils his legacy in a contemporary manner. It works predominantly in the fields of international relations or health and education.

The **Czech-German Fund for the Future** is to support the understanding between Czech and Germans in various ways, increase the number of bilateral meetings and expand co-operation through support of joint projects, thus actively contributing to the renewal and strengthening of Czech-German relations.



Robert Bosch Stiftung



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Two decades after the fall of the Iron Curtain and Europe's reunion, members of the European Union face new challenges associated with the further perspectives of the integration process as well as with providing a strong common position in the globalized world. Although for every nation this task is defined by its geographical and historical specifics, there are many aspects and trends connected to the integration process, which are similar across the European Union. In its centre, the relations between the Czech Republic and Germany play an important role. They are determined by the complicated, common history of the two neighboring countries as well as by their many common grounds in economy, society and culture.

The **Czech-German Young Professionals Program** brings together twelve future leaders from Germany and the Czech Republic for one year. During four program units the participants have a unique opportunity to discuss relevant economic, political and social issues with distinguished experts and to get to know practical approaches towards these aspects in both countries. The program enables participants to enhance their insight knowledge and to learn more about the contemporary situation in the neighboring country. They can thereby obtain practical impulses for their professional conduct and future tasks.

The **Czech-German Young Professionals Program** represents an outstanding platform, which brings emerging leaders from both countries into a common and durable network.

The theme of the program year 2009/2010 is:

Society in Change: Innovation and Development for a Better Future?

“Innovation” and “Development” have always been crucial for social and economic processes in Europe. In times of crisis of the Western system they have become omnipresent magic formula. They promise simple solutions as well as unlimited possibilities of growth. But is innovation as powerful as people hope it might be? Is every claimed innovation really new? And how can we know if its long-term consequences are as good as we hope?

The Czech Republic and Germany are important contributors to innovation thereby influencing the future economic, social and cultural performance of Europe. During the year-long program, the participants will meet significant examples of innovations in different areas: technical and scientific innovation, approaches to sustainability, new forms of civil society activities and communication. Besides, they will discuss with experts what real innovation actually is and which effects it might have on our future.

The program is funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Czech-German Fund for the Future and organized by AMO and DGAP.

Who can apply?

Anyone who is a young professional with a strong interest in international and European affairs and works in one of the following fields: politics, public administration, media, the non-governmental sector and business. Knowledge of English and a desire to learn more about the contemporary state of the Czech-German relations are crucial.

How to apply?

Please send a cover letter explaining your interest in attending the program (approximately two pages) along with the CV in table form.

German applicants send their application files to DGAP, Berlin:

Dr. Jennifer Schevardo (schevardo@dgap.org)

Czech applicants send to AMO, Prague:

Václav Bacovský (vaclav.bacovsky@amo.cz)

Applications in English must be submitted by 9 October, 2009.

Six applicants from each country will be selected.

Program's Timeline

- Opening and first unit: Prague, November 26 – 29, 2009
- Second unit: Ruhr area, January 21 – 24, 2010
- Third unit: Ostrava, March 25 – 28, 2010
- Fourth unit and closure: Berlin, June 27 – 30, 2010

Please note that the participants are expected to attend all units of the program in full length.

For more information see: www.cgyp.eu