

# ***The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy***

In the current increasingly globalized world, individuals, corporations and governments from across the globe are becoming more integrated than ever before and have the ability to exchange information faster and more efficiently; Thus, inter-cultural relations have become increasingly important in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Cultural diplomacy has long been recognized as a prime instrument to promote international links and understanding between countries and peoples; The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy was founded with this aim in mind.

The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD) was founded in 1999 with the particular goal of promoting global peace and stability by strengthening and supporting intercultural relations at all levels. The ICD is an international, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization with its headquarters in the highly international and cultural capital of Germany, Berlin. The ICD believes that inter- and intra-cultural relations can be strengthened, maintained and promoted through dialogue and so its focus has been to bring individuals from all walks of life together in order to begin this dialogue. This kind of dialogue thus leads to a better understanding and greater trust between cultures, preventing misunderstanding, improving communication and cooperation and helping to reduce the likelihood of socio-cultural conflicts.

The role of the ICD is to extend research, programs and practices in the field of cultural diplomacy. The ICD aims to create an international platform for exchange in order to sustain inter-cultural dialogue at all levels, as well as supporting cultural diplomacy as an academic discipline from which we all can learn. Over the past decade, the ICD has developed into one of Europe's largest and most influential cultural exchange organizations and hosts numerous international events, conferences and seminars with a focus on facilitating interaction and dialogue between individuals of cultural, academic and professional backgrounds across the globe.

Since it was founded in 1999 the ICD has had major accomplishments in the field of Cultural Diplomacy. The ICD has been successful in encouraging academic research in the field of cultural diplomacy. The most important means to encourage further academic research in the field of cultural diplomacy has been to engage students with this topic. In 2011, the Academy for Cultural Diplomacy successfully developed the first ever MA and PhD graduate programs in the field of cultural diplomacy in partnership with [the Furtwangen University](#), [the University of Siena](#), and [the Babes-Bolyai University](#), and [the University of Bucharest](#). These programs have been highly popular and have helped in raising awareness of cultural diplomacy for the younger generation and beyond.

In addition, The ICD has raised awareness of cultural diplomacy and soft power through holding numerous international conferences and seminars across the globe, bringing together renowned speakers from politics, diplomacy, academia and the arts to discuss and debate themes related to cultural diplomacy. ICD conferences and seminars have also been successful in engaging politicians with the concept of cultural diplomacy by holding panel discussions, question and answer sessions, and by allowing participants to present their own

papers related to cultural diplomacy. This has allowed participants and speakers to communicate and spread their own ideas related to cultural diplomacy, thus allowing a mutual understanding of the concept.

The ICD promotes cultural diplomacy through its distinct institutions, focused on strengthening intercultural understanding within a specific field: The ICD House of Arts & Culture, the Academy for Cultural Diplomacy, the Organization for Youth Education and Development and the Inter Parliamentary Alliance for Human Rights & Global Peace.

[The ICD House of Arts & Culture](#) hosts all of the activities of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, ranging from academic programs and research to intensive cultural exchange.

[The Academy for Cultural Diplomacy](#) is the academic department within the ICD, which works to analyze and raise awareness of the practice of Cultural Diplomacy by governments and non-state actors, and to explore new strategies for the strengthening of intercultural relations in general.

[The Organization for Youth Education & Development \(OYED\)](#) places an emphasis on youth empowerment and education, with the belief that improving opportunities for education and youth advancement across the globe will contribute to a more stable global society.

[The Inter Parliamentary Alliance for Human Rights & Global Peace](#) was established to raise awareness of the universality of fundamental human rights, to promote social and economic development in developing countries across the world, and to strengthen intercultural relations between peoples and their communities at all levels in order to achieve global peace and stability.