

EVALUATION SUMMARY



Bureau Of Educational And Cultural Affairs Office Of Policy And Evaluation

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX)

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the program on the personal and professional lives of American high school students and young professionals who participated in the program.

Key Findings

- **Personal and Professional Benefits**
 - 75 % of alumni surveyed stated participation in the program had been extremely helpful in their personal lives
 - 55 % stated the CBYX had been extremely helpful in their professional lives
 - 92 % reported they would not have had an international exchange experience without the benefit of the CBYX
 - 63 % undertook higher education in a Germany-related or international field upon completion of the program
- **Changes in Impressions and Knowledge**
 - 84 % of alumni surveyed stated that their impressions of Germany changed for the better as a result of the program
 - 81 % reported they had advanced knowledge of Germany upon completing the program
- **Maintained Contact with Germany, even 15 years after participation in the program**

In the year prior to being surveyed:

 - 71 % of alumni surveyed reported they kept abreast of issues related to Germany
 - 38 % reported they had business or professional contact with Germany, 79% had personal contact with Germany, 60% had corresponded with their host family, and 24 % had visited Germany for pleasure
- **Other findings are provided in the full report, including that 25 percent of alumni are now either managers, directors or vice presidents, or business owners**

Project Information: T.E. Systems, Inc. conducted the evaluation from January 1999 to June 1999. Data collection took place in the United States. The survey was mailed to 921 American alumni and put on a website. In all, 275 responded to the survey for a response rate of 28 percent.

Program Information: The goal of the [Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange](#) is to foster mutual understanding and long-lasting friendships between future leaders of the United States and Germany by providing one-year study abroad opportunities for high school students and young professionals. Jointly established by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag, the CBYX was established in 1983 in celebration of 300 years of German settlement in the United States as part of President Ronald Reagan's Youth Initiative. From 1983 to 1999 the CBYX exchanged over 5,000 students and young professionals.

Contact Information: For more information regarding this evaluation, or to request a copy of the 63-page report, please contact the Office of Policy and Evaluation at (202) 632-6325, by email at ECAevaluation@state.gov, or by mail at State Annex 5, 2200 C Street NW, Washington, DC 22301.