



Aspen Institute Italia is an international non-profit association dedicated to an in-depth discussion and a high level exchange of information and values. Its mission is to internationalize the country's entrepreneurial, political and cultural leadership, as well as to promote the free exchange of ideas and beliefs, in a search for common values, knowledge and interests. Programs focus on the problems and challenges facing today's decision-makers in politics, economics, academia and the media, with particular attention to the business world. The Aspen Institute Italia community is made up of Sustaining Members, Ordinary Members, Friends of Aspen, Aspen Junior Fellows and Former Aspen Junior Fellows.

Sustaining Members The Sustaining Members finance the Institute's activities, through annual dues that are the same for all the member businesses, firms and associations, from Italy and abroad. They participate in the Institute's activities not only by contributing ideas in the various scheduled programs, but by financing specific events on themes of particularly relevant strategic interest. Membership follows approval by the Executive Committee, and Sustaining Members are represented on the General Council by their Chairmen, Managing Directors or Directors General.

Ordinary Members The Ordinary Members are Italian and international figures from the worlds of academia, politics, culture and the media. They are invited by the Executive Committee to join the Association in recognition of their high academic standing or professional qualities. They offer, free of charge, their knowledge and expertise to the Institute, thereby furthering its intellectual ideals, and contributing to its diverse programs. Among other things, Ordinary Members participate in working groups and task forces set up by Aspen Italia to deal with specific problems on the international political and economic scene.

The Friends of Aspen group is made up of small companies and organizations represented by their Chairmen, Managing Directors and Directors General, and leaders of industry groups and of regional and local government. The group was established in 1995 to extend the Aspen family to a select base of entrepreneurs and leaders of local associations and institutions. Members of the Friends of Aspen have access to a specific program of initiatives and can also participate in a select range of Institute events. The group is committed to making an original contribution to the activities of the Institute.

The Aspen Junior Fellows are an international network of young and potential future leaders. Set up in 2001, to lend strength and continuity to a project launched in 1999 – Aspen for a New Leadership – the group now counts 80 members, from Italy and abroad. The Aspen Junior Fellows work in many different sectors including business, academia, research, local government, media and the arts. A Junior Fellow must be nominated by an Institute Board Member to join the group: Aspen Junior Fellows must be between 25 and 33 years of age and meet certain other requirements. Membership lasts five years at most and must be forfeited once a member has turned 35.

To add value to the initiative that brought young leaders together as Aspen Junior Fellows, and to maintain contact with those young leaders as they grow out of the AJF, a new group has been formed: **Former Aspen Junior Fellows**. Currently with more than 100 members, the "Formers" hail from different backgrounds and countries, and operate in such diverse sectors as business, academia, public administration, politics, media, art and culture.

International Programs

International Conferences offer Institute members a long-term strategic approach to topical global issues. Members come face-to-face with outside political leaders, economic and financial experts and academics in a closed-door setting which ensures free and frank discussion. Essays and papers written specifically for the conferences help trigger in-depth debate amongst varying schools of thought and enrich the scientific and cultural backdrop of the discussion.

The Institute's International Conferences, organized periodically, focus on essentially geopolitical issues, and particularly: Transatlantic relations; the political and economic future of Europe; the political and economic evolution of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries from the perspective of their relations with Europe and the United States; major international structural imbalances and opportunities to improve economic global governance; the geopolitical role of energy

With each topic, discussion tends to focus on the complex and delicate link between security and the economy. Holding these conferences regularly has enabled the Institute to create a network of experts that follow up on developments in the various areas in a competent and in-depth manner.

The Institute periodically organizes also **workshops** with shorter durations on more specific issues with authoritative international guest speakers.

National Programs

Italy, its difficulties and aspirations, and its points of excellence and reforms to be accomplished are some of the pressing issues that Aspen Institute Italia addresses in its **national conferences**. Held as a half-day debate in closed-door session, the conferences provide a forum for leaders from the worlds of politics, business, academia and the media to discuss issues strategic to the country's economy as a whole and to Italian industry, society and culture. One of the key aims of the conference programs is to develop proposals and mechanisms that will enable an economy called on to compete in a global market to become more cohesive and dynamic. The events provide a vehicle to bring innovative analytical perspectives and ideas for resolving Italy's most complex economic and political issues to the attention of the Aspen Community, thus also making a valuable contribution towards revitalizing the country's image abroad. Some of the more important issues impacting on the competitiveness of the country which are periodically examined include: research and technological innovation; the labor market and competitiveness; social integration, security, and immigration; institutional reforms for the modernization of the country; ensuring sustainability, quality and accountability through welfare governance; public sector reform and regulatory simplification; the banking and industrial system; the internationalization of Italian firms.

Articles and papers written specifically for presentation at the conferences help to add depth to the debate between varying viewpoints and enrich the scientific and cultural backdrop of the discussion.

Roundtable Discussions, generally held as lunchtime – or at any rate brief – sessions, offer the Aspen Community an opportunity for in-depth and cross-cutting analysis of a single topic of strategic national and international interest. Over the years, this successful format has become an increasingly important in the Institute's program of events.

Aspen Seminars for Leaders

Given today's complex and globalized world, our leaders need a "wider knowledge base". Faced with a quantitative and qualitative growth in knowledge, the Aspen Seminars for Leaders - the European version of the Aspen Executive Seminar program in America - represents a unique tool for increasing skills and knowledge and offers the breadth of perspectives needed to face the strategic challenges posed by a hypercompetitive world.

Aspen Institute Italia Seminars

2007 saw the inauguration in Italy of the Aspen Seminar on Values and Society, based on the widely-acclaimed Aspen Seminar program that has been a cornerstone of the Aspen Institute tradition in the United States since the early 1950s.

Over the past few years, the Institute has expanded the initiative, and there are currently three different Aspen Institute Italia Seminars offered: The Aspen Institute Italia Seminar on Values and Society; The Aspen Institute Italia Seminar on Leadership, Globalization and the Quest for Common Values; The Aspen Institute Italia Seminar “The Enlightenment and the Transatlantic Link: Common Roots and Today’s Challenges”.

In addition, “*The Aspen Institute Italia Great Conversation*” is organized using the same model as the seminars, however it is limited to a single debate session.

Friends of Aspen Programs

The Friends of Aspen participate in and contribute to enhancing the Institute's activities through several specific initiatives, including two yearly events (the group's Annual Meeting and Annual Conference) during which the group holds closed-door debates with Institute members and representatives from the institutional, business and academic spheres.

As for the topics debated, several issues have called for in-depth examination ever since the group's inception, including: improving the efficiency and competitiveness of public and private institutions and organizations; increasing the transparency of dealings with the public administration; corporate ethical and social values; issues relating to education, training and meritocracy; filling the void of leadership that characterizes Italian society; defining Italy's identity and the Italian national interest, to be promoted within a European context.

Aspen Junior Fellows Programs

The Aspen Junior Fellows' conferences and meetings focus on the fundamental values and strategic themes of today's society, **but from the point of view of younger generations**. By meeting with top leaders and experts at these events, Aspen Junior Fellows gain valuable experience and knowledge that will serve them in their own development as tomorrow's leaders.

Debates focus on different specific topics on every occasion, but tend to pay special attention to such overriding issues as: ethics, values and social responsibility from the global point of view of future leaders; the importance of competence and skill, and of recognizing merit where due; innovation and talent as a tool for competition; the balance between solidarity and competition in the market economy; comparing and managing different cultures in global business; the role of the State, efficiency in administrative action, public-private collaboration, subsidiarity.

The “National Interest” initiative

The main focus of the "National Interest" initiative is to showcase Italian identity, culture and language, as well as Italian success stories. While aware of the limitations and weaknesses that beset the country, through this initiative the Institute aims to highlight Italy's (many) strengths, which are all-too-often the “forgotten side” of Italy, little-known abroad and at times not sufficiently appreciated at home. The initiative's ultimate goal is to establish a virtuous cycle of reflection and action capable of involving a vast range of people from institutions, the mass media, business and the academic world - sharing their contributions with as broad an audience as possible.

Alongside the traditional offering of roundtable discussions and conferences, activities conducted under the “National Interest” initiative include: the activities of the “Italian talent abroad” group, which highlights the wealth of diversity of the participants, whose ages vary widely and who come from a vast range of professional backgrounds, sectors and geographical areas; undertaking specific research or publishing

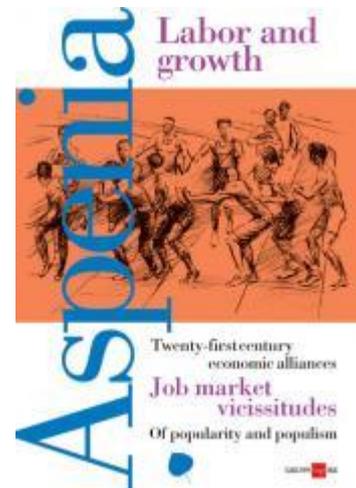
studies and analyses carried out by third parties which are relevant to and in keeping with the objectives of the initiative; developing specific projects to mark the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy; accurately gauging how Italy is depicted abroad focusing on two specific areas of interest: Italy's success stories and Italian contributions to research.

Aspenia

Aspenia, Aspen Institute Italia's prestigious journal on international affairs, is published four times a year. Founded in 1995, Aspenia has become a front runner in Italy and abroad, serving as a reference point for the exchange of ideas on long-term strategic issues.

The Institute's Chairman, Giulio Tremonti, describes Aspenia thus: "A forum for transatlantic discussion, the journal reflects the fruitful relations that Aspen has established over the years and represents a meeting place between the business community and other worlds."

Aspenia is the only Italian journal to regularly address issues of transatlantic interest, offering significant political commentary on US-European relations. Its success comes from the adoption of a multidisciplinary approach to problems and from the long list of prestigious figures it counts among its authors. These contributors include: Giuliano Amato, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Lawrence Freedman, Francis Fukuyama, Bob Geldof, Timothy Garton Ash, Bronislaw Geremek, Anthony Giddens, Robert Kagan, Charles Kupchan, Gilles Kepel, Arrigo Levi, Kishore Mahbubani, Mario Monti, Condoleezza Rice, Jeffrey Sachs, Paolo Savona, Joseph Stiglitz, Strobe Talbott and Giulio Tremonti.



Aspenia online

Aspenia online is a forum where the major themes of current international affairs can be developed in a flexible fashion and in an agile editorial format. Our authors include top experts and leaders in foreign affairs, economists and policy makers, along with young emerging voices in these fields.

The articles are published in either Italian or English, allowing us to select content from the best of two worlds. English as a working language has become second nature to our authors and prospective readers, therefore we have decided to disregard language differences by treating them as a fact of (global) life, not a hindrance.

Aspenia online was the recipient of the 2013 Amerigo Award, fifth edition, web site section. The award is presented by the **Amerigo Association**, located at the US Embassy in Rome, and is a moral recognition for journalists and publications that strive to explain issues pertaining to the United States to an Italian audience.

