

## Aspen Institute Italia

Aspen Institute Italia is a private, independent, international, nonpartisan and nonprofit association that encourages a free exchange of opinions about knowledge, information and values.

The Aspen Community is made up of Sustaining Members, Ordinary Members, Friends of Aspen, Aspen Junior Fellows and the Former Aspen Junior Fellows, who all offer their vast resources to the Institute. Independent but coordinated offices - in the US, France, Germany, Japan, India, Romania, Spain and Czech Republic - form the Aspen international network.

The Aspen Institute was founded in the United States in 1950, upon the initiative of a group of intellectuals and businessmen. The aim was to relaunch a dialogue that would encourage decision makers to share knowledge and values in the complicated international context that was just emerging from the devastation of World War II. In Italy, the Institute was established in 1984. Over the years, it has focused especially on Transatlantic relations - an issue that continues to take priority. The Aspen Italia headquarters is in Rome and offices operate out of Milan and Venice.

In 2009, the Institute produced a film on its 25-year history with interviews with founder Francesco Cossiga, Chairman Giulio Tremonti, Honorary Chairmen Cesare Romiti and Carlo Scognamiglio, former Chairmen Giuliano Amato and Gianni De Michelis and with the current President of The Aspen Institute USA, Walter Isaacson.

### **Mission and methodology**

Aspen Institute Italia's 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 method" foresees open debate, in a reserved setting, so as to favor interpersonal relations and encourage effective and informative dialogue on the selected topics. Around the Aspen table, leaders from spheres of influence such as industry, economics, finance, politics, and culture freely exchange points of view, off the record and behind closed doors. The goal is not to reach foregone conclusions, or spout reassuring platitudes, but to highlight the complicated reality of today's world, and to encourage that intercultural dialogue from which universal ideals and values can emerge, to inspire a modern, well-informed leadership.