

## Events and media access

The Institute organizes many events involving the entire Aspen community in Italy and abroad. The following is a brief overview of these activities, with details of the extent of media access permitted in each case.

### International Conferences

The Institute's International Conferences periodically focus on issues that are essentially geopolitical in nature. Topics of particular note discussed during Conferences held both in Italy and overseas have included:

- breathing new life into 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;
- an analysis of the major international structural imbalances and opportunities for improving global economic governance; and
- the geopolitics of energy.

All topics discussed are considered in the context of the complex and delicate link between security and the economy.

#### *Media access*

Conference proceedings are held behind closed doors. Members of the press may only attend in a strictly personal capacity. Press briefings are, however, usually held during Conferences with a view to arousing media interest in some of the proposals and analyses that have emerged during the discussions.

### National Conferences

The Institute's National Conferences are testament to its commitment to revitalizing Italy's image abroad, as well as coming up with proposals and mechanisms that help improve the cohesion and dynamism of an Italian economy increasingly called upon to compete in a global market. Some of the more noteworthy topics discussed include:

- research, innovation, and technology;
- social integration, security, and immigration;
- the "Made in Italy" label;
- federalism and fiscal federalism;
- the Italian health system;
- public investment to bolster the real economy; and
- reform of the public administration and regulatory simplification.

#### *Media access*

National Conferences are held as closed-door sessions, which sometimes conclude with a press briefing. In other cases, the Institute permits exclusive coverage of the proceedings by Italian newspapers and television networks.

## **Roundtable discussions**

Aspen roundtables provide Institute members with an opportunity for in-depth and broad-ranging analysis of individual topics of strategic national and international significance. The sessions generally take place over lunchtime, but are at any rate kept brief. In recent years, this successful format has become an increasingly important fixture in the Institute's program of events. Indeed, the topical nature of the issues discussed and the short format of the meetings continue to attract representatives from the business, institutional and academic spheres. Some of the key topics debated have included:

- the role of banking foundations in Italy;
- the importance of corporate social responsibility;
- economic information, the market and business in Italy;
- growth in Italy's *Mezzogiorno*;
- banks and the national interest;
- Italy's identity, culture and language;
- energy security and alternative resources;
- striking new balances between the State and the market; and
- the evolving relationship between the Italian research and business spheres.

## ***Media access***

Media representatives who participate are bound by strict confidentiality and take part solely in a personal capacity. The proceedings of roundtable sessions are not made public.

## **Aspen Seminars for Leaders**

The Aspen Seminars for Leaders – a European take on the Aspen Executive Seminar program in America – consist of a series of seminars held at the same time on different topics, and are combined with communal activities and further opportunities for analysis and debate. The number of participants is limited to around 30 highly-qualified national and international professionals. An informal atmosphere is maintained and working sessions take place behind closed doors. In keeping with the Socratic methodology utilized in the Aspen Seminars, discussion is led by one or two moderators, whose responsibility it is to facilitate the dialogue and sharing of experiences. Pre-prepared speeches by *initial commentators* provide participants with diverse and innovative perspectives, geared to ensuring a varied, frank and open exchange of views.

An important element of the Seminar methodology are the readings, comprising a selection of carefully chosen texts that in some cases include the writings of classical authors. Although these might at first glance appear to be remote from the realities of today, the readings spark discussion and an interest in delving into and debating the topic at hand. Far from being removed from the day-to-day experiences of today's managers, these texts and the discussion they engender contribute to enhancing ability of the participants to analyze and deal with increasingly complex and global situations.

## ***Media access***

The Aspen Seminars for Leaders are held behind closed doors. Participation of members of the press is on a strictly personal basis. In some cases, the Institute permits exclusive coverage of the proceedings by Italian newspapers and television networks.

## **Presentations of Aspenia**

The Institute's Aspenia journal, a forum for transatlantic dialogue, reflects the fruitful contacts established by Aspen over the years and represents a point of encounter between the business community and other spheres of activity. Aspenia has published articles on many strategic international issues, often foreshadowing great political and economic changes and making sense of the post-Cold War transformation of the Western world. Indeed, none of the major issues of recent years have escaped the attention of Aspenia, with the journal focusing particularly on the shockwaves produced by the two great historic turning points of 1989 and 2001, as well as the emergence of new powers on the world stage.

### ***Media access***

New editions of Aspenia are launched with panel debates that are open to the media. These events feature prominent speakers and attract much media interest.

## **National Interest Project**

The main focus of the **National Interest Project** is to showcase Italian identity, culture and language, as well as Italian success stories. Whilst aware of the limitations and weaknesses that beset the country, the Institute aims through this initiative to highlight Italy's all-too-often "forgotten side", namely, its (many) strengths.

Alongside the Institute's traditional offering of roundtable discussions and conferences, activities conducted under the National Interest Project include:

- highlighting the contribution of Italians abroad, through meetings and events of the "Italian leaders abroad" group, which pools together the wealth of diversity of the various participants. The FORUM section of the Institute's website provides a virtual community where group members can share the benefit of their experiences;
- undertaking specific research or publishing significant studies and analyses carried out by others;
- making documents of special interest available on the Institute's website, with the aim of highlighting the contributions of leading Italian figures; and
- focusing attention on positive press coverage of Italy in 53 of the most important newspapers in the US, Britain, Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland, Australia, southern and northern Africa, and Central and South America, as well as daily English-language papers published in Russia, China, Japan, India and the Middle East.

### ***Media access***

The proceedings of conferences, seminars and roundtable discussions organized under the National Interest Project are held as closed-door sessions. In order to call media attention to certain strategic issues, the Institute may on occasion convene a press conference, or permit exclusive coverage of the proceedings by Italian newspapers and television networks.

## **Aspen Seminars on Values and Society**

2007 saw the inauguration in Italy of the *Aspen Seminar on Values and Society*, based on the widely-acclaimed cornerstone program of the Aspen Institute in the United States founded in 1951. Held in English and in collaboration with The Aspen Institute, the Seminar is one of the Aspen Institute Italia's events also open to non-members. Participation is by invitation only and on payment of a fee. The Seminar focuses on the following five topic areas with sessions dealing with each:

1. human nature and society;
2. social conflict;
3. differences within and between societies;
4. the limits of rules; and
5. leadership and civil society.

### ***Media access***

The Seminar is held in closed-door sessions with no media access or briefings.

## **Friends of Aspen**

The Friends of Aspen participate in and provide impetus for the Institute's activities through several specific initiatives, including two yearly events (the group's Annual Meeting and Annual Conference). Topics discussed by the group have included:

- improving the efficiency of public and private organizations and competitiveness;
- increasing the transparency of dealings with the public administration;
- corporate ethical and social values;
- education, training and recognizing merit;
- filling the leadership void that characterizes Italian society; and
- the importance of defining Italy's identity and an Italian national interest capable of holding its own within Europe.

### ***Media access***

Friends of Aspen meetings are held as closed-door sessions with no media access or briefings.

## **Aspen Junior Fellows**

Aspen Junior Fellows conferences and meetings focus on strategic issues for today's society, looked at from the point of view of younger generations. The dialogue that takes place at these events between leaders and esteemed experts provides Aspen Junior Fellows with an opportunity for growth and development.

The topics discussed have included:

- ethics, values and social responsibility from the point of view of younger generations and globalization;
- building and enhancing skills and recognizing merit;
- innovation and talent as competitive resources;
- the balance to be struck between solidarity and competition in a market economy;
- intercultural dialogue and managing cultural diversity within globalized businesses; and

- the role of the State, administrative efficiency, public-private partnerships, and the principle of subsidiarity.

***Media access***

The Institute occasionally permits exclusive coverage of the proceedings of Aspen Junior Fellows events by Italian newspapers and television networks.