



Project

Aspen Mediterranean Initiative

in collaboration with

Aspen Institute Italia, The Aspen Institute (USA), and Aspen Institute España

The “Arab spring” of 2011 has posed a series of challenges and raises the prospect still of very uncertain outcomes for the region. Without doubt, however, it does offer some real opportunities for positive change in relations between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean. With a view to contributing constructively to that end, Aspen Institute Italia has undertaken, in collaboration with various Italian and international partners, to help seize these opportunities, by promoting the emergence of a new generation of leaders in the Mediterranean.

Goal of the Project

The Project is aimed at young up-and-coming generations in countries on the southern shores of the Mediterranean, especially in the fields of business, energy and the media. The goal is to develop open and interactive methods for training and fostering professional growth.

The Project represents an opportunity for young leaders in the Mediterranean to interact with young Italian, European and American leaders, enabling them to share their experiences and identify priorities and best practices. They will be assisted in these efforts by a moderator and gain the benefit of the experience of more senior participants (members of the Aspen network) willing to share their expertise and engage with younger people with a view to developing ideas and projects.

Concrete proposals for the development of projects of particular interest will be an integral part of the Project’s activities. In addition, a special emphasis will be placed on opportunities for job creation, issues relating to energy and the environment, and the communications sector.

To this end, *Seminars* will be held for young representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia.

Participants will be selected on the basis of recommendations received from private stakeholders and public institutions taking part in the Initiative, as well as from the various Aspen Institutes around the world. The CVs submitted will then be reviewed and successful candidates will be chosen with a view to ensuring a balanced geographic, professional and gender mix.

Partners

- *Aspen Institute Italia* - in conjunction with the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- *The Aspen Institute (USA)* – in conjunction with the “US-North Africa Partnership for Economic Opportunity” (NAPEO), run jointly with the US State Department.
- *Aspen Institute España*

Method employed

The seminars will be conducted in accordance with the traditional Aspen methodology.

Participants

The number of participants per group will be 30-35 persons and will be drawn from:

- 1) *young leaders from the Maghreb*, aged between 28-40 years, together with a few older individuals. Participants must be engaged in sectors relevant to the issues to be dealt with and candidates must have an excellent command of English. It is estimated that around a dozen representatives from each country and relevant sectors will be included.
- 2) representatives of the Aspen network.
- 3) representatives of public institutions participating in the Initiative.
- 4) representatives of private stakeholders participating in the Initiative.