



Aspen Institute) Germany

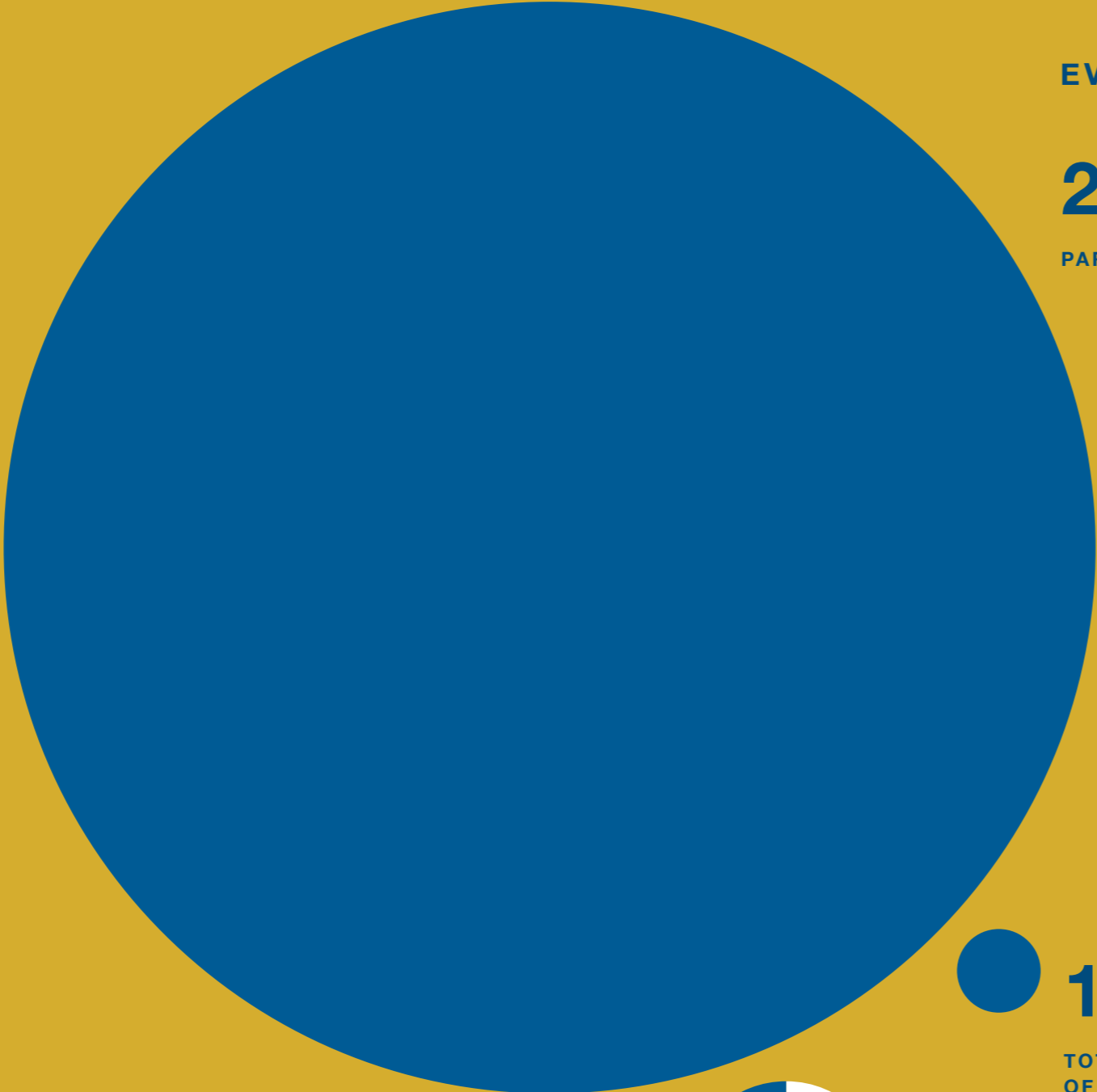


In Review

JULY 2022 – DECEMBER 2023

Facts and Figures

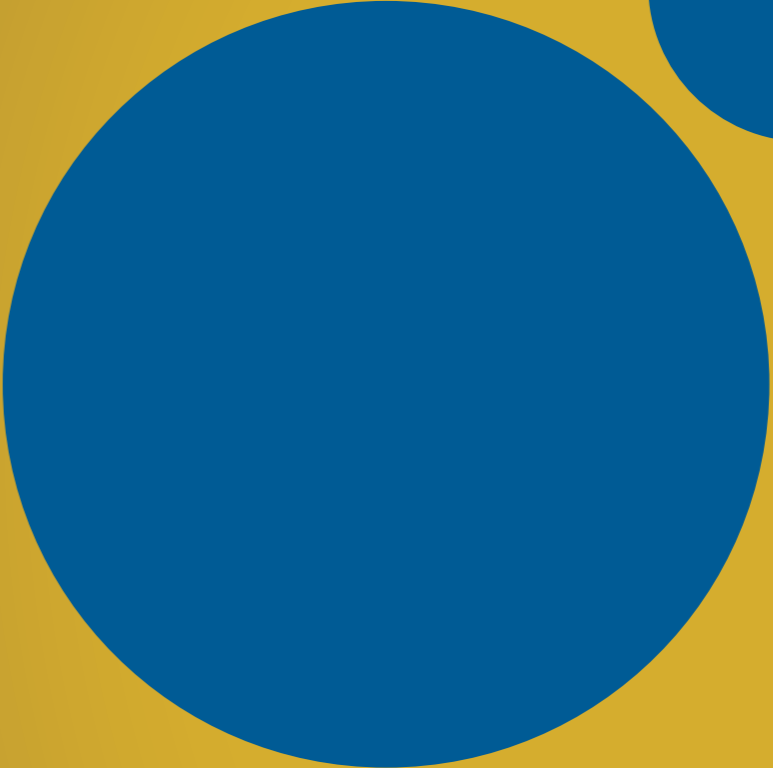
JULY 2022 – DECEMBER 2023



EVENTS:

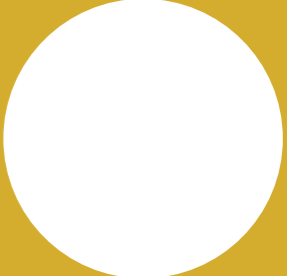
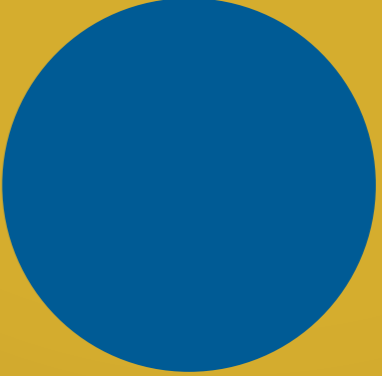
22,658

PARTICIPANTS



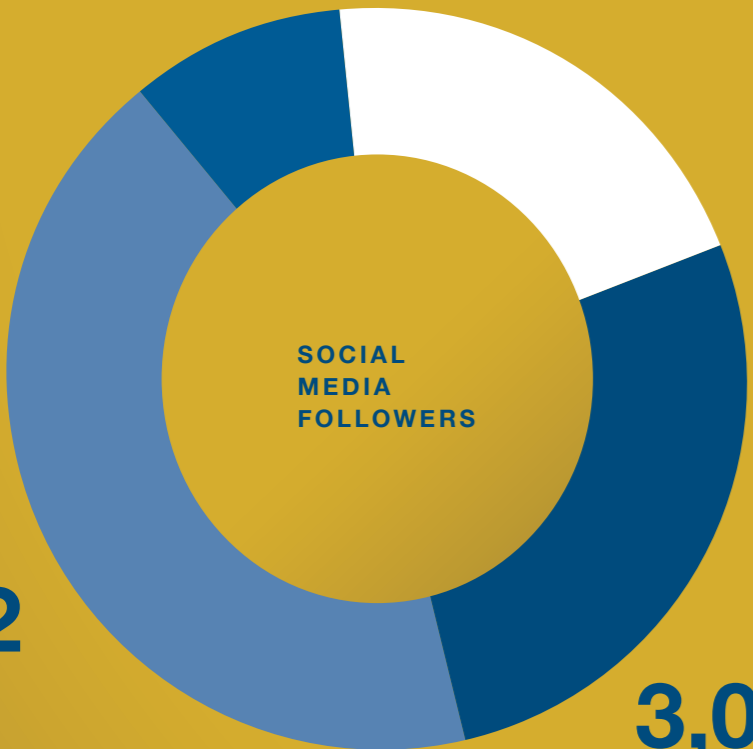
15

PODCASTS



837

SPEAKERS (52% FEMALE)



1,061

INSTAGRAM

2,313

FACEBOOK

4,772

LINKEDIN

3,035

TWITTER

Contents

- 2** Aspen Germany – Champion of Leadership and Dialogue, by *Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner*, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany
- 5** Empowering Leadership in Transatlantic Communities, Three Questions to *Eckart von Klaeden*, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Aspen Institute Germany
- 7** Mission and Programs
- 8** Spotlight: Aspen Germany’s 50-Year-Anniversary
- 10** Transatlantic Program
- 14** Spotlight: Subnational Leadership on Structural Transformation, Aspen Germany’s Laboratories of Democracy Initiative
- 16** Aspen Visions: Expectations of the Next Generation: How to Shape a Better Future
- 18** Spotlight: Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project
- 20** Spotlight: Harvesting Solutions: Transatlantic Perspectives on Sustainable Agriculture, The U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture
- 22** Digital Program
- 26** Spotlight: Stronger Together: Towards a Transatlantic Trade and Tech Alliance, German-American Trade and Tech Conference 2023
- 28** Spotlight: In the Eye of the Storm: Strengthening Democratic Resilience Online, Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars
- 30** Europe Program
- 34** Spotlight: Advancing the Green Agenda: Insights from the Western Balkans
- 36** Aspen Visions: Dreams of Tomorrow: Ukraine’s Path Forward
- 39** Aspen International Partners
- 40** Public Program
- 44** Spotlight: Democracy Forward: Inspiring Change in Today’s World
- 46** Aspen Visions: How Europe Can Weather the Storm: Insights from Aspen Young Leaders
- 48** Leadership Program
- 52** Communications
- 54** Benefactors, Partners, and Supporters
- 56** Finance Overview
- 57** Five Reasons to Support Aspen Germany
- 60** Board of Trustees
- 62** Management Board
- 64** Friends of Aspen Germany
- 66** Friends of Aspen Germany in the United States
- 68** Chronicle of Events
- 80** Imprint

Aspen Germany: Champion of Leadership and Dialogue



Dear friends of the Aspen Institute Germany,

We live in turbulent times – times in which multiple crises threaten to tear our societies apart. Times in which new fractures put at risk the very foundations of democracy. Times in which empathy and solidarity seem not to come naturally anymore.

Our Institute was founded to bridge divides and foster exchanges. In our early years, the Aspen Institute Germany worked in a divided Berlin to bring leaders together and build lifelong relationships to drive progress on critical issues. As we address today's challenges, we are proud to draw on our rich history and expertise to have a robust impact across our programs. As we celebrate and reflect on Aspen Germany's 50th anniversary, I am confident our approach is highly relevant to advance open, just and sustainable societies – in Europe, across the Atlantic, and around the globe.

Principled leadership, shared values, and mutual commitment – these have historically grounded transatlantic relations throughout Aspen Germany's 50 years of work. Yet, the past decade has reminded us we cannot take this for granted. Even as the importance of EU-U.S. partnership is reaffirmed by current geopolitical and geo-economic threats, we see rising skepticism and isolationism. We share the concerns of many committed transatlanticists that current trends could undermine our societies' ability to respond to challenges and secure our future. Looking back on 2022 and 2023, I am proud that our team continued to deliver excellent programming that was responsive to current developments.

Facilitating dialogue and building resilient networks is part of Aspen Germany's *raison d'être*. As transatlantic relations show signs of fraying, Aspen Germany is scaling up its programming to empower Europeans and North Americans to articulate new visions for a reinvigorated transatlantic partnership. Our work strikes at root causes of disengagement by generating goodwill and mutual understanding, giving each side a renewed stake in the other's success. Our third Labs of Democracy cohort exemplified this approach: U.S. and German state legislators shared approaches to revitalization and structural transformation of post-industrial areas, an issue facing both of our societies. In 2024–2025 we are excited to expand our impact by including Canadian legislators for our fourth and fifth cohort.

Oftentimes, I find the best exchanges can happen with a change of scenery. Capping a year of virtual

discussions, our state legislators traveled to Philadelphia, while our U.S. German Forum Future Agriculture project brought 16 farmers from eastern Germany and the U.S. Corn Belt together to produce policy recommendations for a more sustainable agriculture. Our work with local leaders also extended to urban issues through the Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project, which addressed sustainability and resilience in an Atlanta workshop and Berlin conference. I left these events convinced that we can cultivate transatlanticists in leaders at every level.

“Facilitating dialogue and building resilient networks is part of Aspen Germany's *raison d'être*.”

Wherever we work, the art and science of convening relevant decision makers remains essential. As we witness re-emerged ethnic and border tensions and ongoing economic and migration crises, the Western Balkans stands at the heart of Aspen Germany's Europe program. Bringing together representatives from governments, business, think tanks, and other civil society organizations, the Aspen team commenced the Aspen Western Balkans Initiative: Engagement for Progress and Stability in early 2023. Part of this initiative is a foresight process and a strategic outlook, “Future of the Western Balkans in 2043,” to develop long-term strategic approaches. As a platform for dialogue, we fostered constructive exchanges across dividing lines, asking not only what has gone wrong, but also what positive futures we can and should work towards.

In a rapidly changing world, with increasing uncertainty, leaders need to meet many new demands. What makes a good leader? After a short pause during the COVID-19 pandemic, we re-convened our Leadership Seminar Philosophy and Practice in fall 2022, with subsequent seminars in 2023. Building on a rich tradition, we addressed challenges to values-based leadership and explored concepts of human nature, the individual and the society, possibilities of order, and limits of rule. Our discussions on integrity, self-awareness, courage, respect, empathy, and solidarity were not only insightful but also fruitful, as we built new networks and friendships.

This year, digitization and AI have been front of mind. The popularization of ChatGPT has opened our

eyes to the dramatic impacts of new technologies. These awe-inspiring AI tools challenge our societies to appropriately regulate their use – and affirm the importance of our Digital Program with its five core focus areas: Digitalization and Democracy, Digitalization and Ethics, Digitalization and European Sovereignty, Geopolitics and Digitalization, and Digitalization and Transatlantic Relations. In December 2022, we launched the German-American Trade and Tech Dialogue, which grapples with the central issues of the transatlantic trade and tech agenda: AI ethics, tech regulation, digitized democracy, tech and trade trends, and sustainable supply chains. Following our Berlin conference in February 2023 with over 700 attendees, these discussions have continued with an off-the-record workshop series with high-level representatives from business, government, and civil society. In addition, our project “Disinformation and the Role of Influencers in Times of Conflict” facilitated discussions between influencers, government, social media platforms, and civil society experts. The “Digital Dish” series has served a similarly productive role as a platform for in-depth, off-the-record exchanges. These formats have been a refreshing source of clarity, cutting through the noise to connect decision makers and opinion leaders with experts, ethicists, and members of the public.

Our work is not only to engage expert communities, but also the broader public. Our Public Program spent this year creating open and accessible platforms for expert analysis, freely available to the public, on topics such as the Future of Ukraine, an Ambassadors’ Talk on Indian-German relations, and more. I am frequently encouraged by the insightful questions we receive from public participants that show there is an appetite for publicly accessible discussions on global issues. As we confront rising geopolitical tensions with implications for every part of our societies, I am deeply appreciative of our events that educate and inspire the public with multi-disciplinary dialogues.

Reflecting on the past two years, I have immense gratitude for the many partners, supporters, colleagues, and alumni who have helped our work. Members of the board continue to guide the Institute’s mission and values, and I have appreciated their thoughtful stewardship. Our friends and supporters have played a significant role in expanding our work this year to meet the challenges facing our societies. I look forward to celebrating and deepening these partnerships in 2024, when we mark our 50th anniversary. Lastly, we could not have the same impact without my fantastic team, whose dedication, passion, and expertise are crucial to the excellent programming our Institute produces. I am thankful our Institute can depend on and work with so many who share our commitment to values-based partnerships in Europe and across the Atlantic. Aspen Germany is truly a special place due to the exceptional people who make up our Aspen family, and I hope to see many of you at events and gatherings in the coming year.

“I am thankful our Institute can depend on and work with so many who share our commitment to values-based partnerships in Europe and across the Atlantic.”

Looking to the future, I am excited to expand the scope and impact of our programming. In five decades of conferences, debates, workshops, exchanges, seminars, summits, and publications, Aspen Germany has always served as a non-partisan convening platform and partner for the global Aspen network, which has colleagues in 17 countries. I am proud to lead our Institute into its sixth decade with an unwavering commitment to our values – free and open societies, and the idea of the transatlantic relationship – and a renewed urgency to expand our impact in the face of a more uncertain global outlook.

Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner
Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany

Empowering Leadership in Transatlantic Communities

Three Questions to Eckart von Klaeden, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Aspen Institute Germany and Vice President, Head of External Affairs, Mercedes-Benz Group AG



The purpose of the Aspen Institute is to ignite human potential to build understanding and create new possibilities for a better world. How can that be achieved?

We at Aspen Germany are conveners, facilitators, educators, and action-takers who believe conversations between people with diverse perspectives can spur important progress. Above all else, our work empowers

people to share their ideas and take action in their own communities, organizations, and societies.

This mission is deeply rooted in our history. From our founding years in a divided Berlin to initiatives on the Western Balkans, our work brings influential stakeholders into the same room for direct exchanges. These conversations are increasingly important, as experts say social media algorithms reduce our

exposure to differing viewpoints. We address these issues through expert discussions that inform decision makers and the public: for instance, the 2023 German-American Trade and Tech Conference that brought together leaders from government, civil society, business, academia, and journalism to discuss transatlantic relations. I am excited that our programs are growing and will reach new audiences in the coming years to cultivate knowledge, create mutual understanding, and build interconnected and empowered transatlantic communities.

Trust in the core foundations of our societies is decreasing. What can we do to rebuild trust and how can Aspen Germany help?

Surveys show that people – especially young people – are less likely to trust democratic institutions or even peers in their community. This suggests that disillusionment in our political systems is rooted in social mistrust and a deeper sense of isolation.

Our Institute invites people into conversations on important issues, including groups that are not typically part of policy discussions: for example, our Forum Future Farming dialogue between German and American farmers, experts, and policy makers. We create opportunities for dialogue and cooperation, such as through our Labs of Democracy project with German and U.S. state legislators. By helping people engage on sensitive issues – especially involving serious differences that typically drive people apart – we allow people to build new connections, speak with decision makers, and feel their voice has an impact.

The issue of trust not only relates to individuals, but also to institutions, which must become more agile, accessible, and connected. Here too, our Institute drives progress by convening decision makers across disciplines, creating opportunities for exchanges of ideas and information between public institutions. I strongly believe that these newfound connections can spur partnerships that deliver visible progress on important social outcomes – and ultimately rebuild trust in our societies.

A central mission of Aspen Germany is to foster values-based leadership. In your view, what makes a good leader?

In 50 years of leadership programming, our Institute has identified essential qualities of good leadership.

First and foremost, good leaders align their vision and actions with their values. This begins with a clear understanding of one's own values and their social

context. Oftentimes this requires dedicated reflection; a good leader seeks out opportunities to study past examples and exchange best practices with peers. Even as they take on new perspectives, values-based leaders remain in touch with their core values and aware of how they accord with their actions.

These reflections should encourage leaders to be thoughtful about their responsibility to encourage their organizations to prioritize having a positive social impact. Leaders can create a culture that prioritizes integrity and social responsibility. In doing so, leaders not only improve their own organization, but also contribute to more just and sustainable societies.

Lastly, the best leaders want to be a part of solutions, especially on issues with broad implications for our society. As such, leaders must engage with people with diverse perspectives, recognizing that the best ideas come from a multitude of voices. Leaders who seek out good-faith debate will often find themselves “leading from behind” by empowering others and collaborating to make a difference.

Decision making during crises is characterized by uncertainty, risks, and time pressure. How does the Aspen Leadership Seminar transform leaders?

Though we see many positive examples of leadership today, we should also recognize that the demands placed on leaders are rising as our world becomes more complex and interconnected, and less predictable. Our Aspen Leadership Seminar responds by exposing leaders to philosophies of leadership that can transform their approach and produce new skillsets that are relevant in times of crisis.

Drawing on 75 years of Aspen leadership seminars in the United States and around the world, we challenge senior leaders to develop their own values-based leadership practices. We infuse our seminar with rich texts that blend classics with modern thinkers, inviting participants to engage in academic study, intensive discussion, personal reflection, and peer feedback. Discussions give rise to important questions: in an urgent situation, how can one make decisions in alignment with core values, and how can one inspire others to do the same? By facilitating candid dialogue, we give leaders tools and perspectives to grapple with these questions and put newfound approaches into practice.

Mission and Programs

Igniting Human Potential to Build Understanding and Create New Possibilities for a Better World

The world is in disarray. All around the globe, democracies are under threat from within and from outside. According to the V-Dem Institute, 72 percent of the world's population lived in autocracies in 2022, an increase of 46 percent from ten years ago.

In the light of these developments, institutions such as the Aspen Institute Germany are more important than ever. The Institute aims to support positive change by promoting values-based leadership, constructive dialogue among conflicting parties, and Euro-Atlantic cooperation. Addressing the most pressing issues of our time, the goal of the Institute is to contribute to open, just, democratic and sustainable societies. Aspen Germany strives to ignite human potential to build understanding and create new possibilities for a better world.

Through formats like panel discussions, brown bag lunches, and exchange programs, Aspen Germany facilitates the collaboration of experts and decision makers from academia, business, government, culture, media, and civil society. The Institute establishes a trustful and non-partisan platform for the purpose of exchanging ideas and conducting analyses, to address both regional and global challenges, and craft forward-looking solutions.

The history of the Aspen Institute started in 1949, when Chicago businessman and philanthropist Walter Paepcke founded what is now the Aspen Institute. As the first institute abroad, Aspen Germany was founded in 1974 during the Cold War. While being part of the international Aspen network, Aspen Germany is an independent non-profit organization, constituted under German law, and acts in an impartial and independent way.

Aspen Germany's work is organized into five programs.

The **TRANSATLANTIC PROGRAM** facilitates an open and values-based conversation on key challenges affecting the transatlantic partnership, aiming to enhance mutual understanding, develop collaborative solutions, and establish new transatlantic networks. Aspen Germany prioritizes reinforcing transatlantic cooperation at subnational levels, engaging in discussions about shared

challenges crucial for the global future, and involving representatives from younger generations.

At the heart of the **EUROPE PROGRAM** stands the analysis of the future of Europe. An important focal point are questions around the EU's goal to strengthen European sovereignty (in all relevant issue areas ranging from security and defense to trade and to the green transition). EU enlargement, its prospects and challenges, serves as another focal area of the Institute's work. In addition, Aspen Germany has been a hub for projects on the Western Balkans for more than a decade. As such, the Europe Program promotes a comprehensive dialogue in support of regional cooperation and the transformation processes necessary on the road to Euro-Atlantic integration.

Within the **DIGITAL PROGRAM** Aspen Germany strives to facilitate a holistic understanding of the opportunities and challenges of digitalization and its impact on individuals, society, and the economy. To this end, it offers stakeholders from different areas a platform for constructive dialogue. The program is organized in five clusters: Digitalization and Democracy, Digitalization and Ethics, Digitalization and European Sovereignty, Digitalization and Geopolitics, and Digitalization and Transatlantic Relations.

The **PUBLIC PROGRAM** serves decision makers and a broader audience as a forum for open and constructive dialogue on a variety of current issues. It concentrates on global topics relevant on both sides of the Atlantic, emphasizing the strengthening of democracy through open conversation and political education.

Aspen Germany's **LEADERSHIP PROGRAM** and its flagship seminar, Philosophy and Practice, is an important cornerstone in the Institute's efforts to create space for an open, constructive and meaningful dialogue about the nature of leadership. Liberal values in Western societies are increasingly facing headwinds and resistance. While decision makers are under pressure to find resilient and sustainable solutions, empathy, solidarity, and resilience are being put to the test in many societies. The Leadership Program aims to strengthen the moral compass and sense of responsibility of individuals in society.

Aspen Germany's 50-Year-Anniversary

Spotlight

On July 10, 1974, a letter was sent from a young Richard von Weizsäcker to an American journalist, named Shepard Stone, who had recently resettled in West Berlin. In this letter, the parliamentarian who would later become both Mayor of Berlin and Federal President, gave his approval to the foundation of the Aspen Berlin Association, expressing his delight that Stone's plans of bringing the Aspen Idea to Cold War Berlin were finally taking shape. With this ground-breaking moment, alongside the approval of the other Board and Trustee Members, the Aspen Institute Germany was born.

Unlike many other Think Tanks of the day, which based their operations in Bonn or Munich, Aspen saw divided Berlin as the perfect hub for promoting an open society following the horrors of World War II. It would follow the same philosophy as the original Aspen Institute but would place a large emphasis on both European and worldwide issues.

Half a century later, Aspen Germany sits at the heart of a united Berlin as an unwavering force for promoting values-based leadership, a strong and open society, constructive dialogue, and transatlantic cooperation. It is in this spirit that we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary.

2024 will be an opportunity for us to draw on both our past and present. Firstly, we look forward to hosting our first Gala since the pandemic, which will present the Shepard Stone Award to an impressive transatlantic duo and bring together many of Aspen's faces, both old and new. Secondly, our Public Program will be organizing events series to reflect on current world issues and the challenges to our democratic societies. Finally, we will be releasing a special publication in September, which will not only charter Aspen's history and traditions but will showcase the values that serve as our *raison d'être*.

Today, open, free and democratic societies are increasingly under threat. We will thus use our anniversary year to emphasize five aspects that we hold crucial to our mission:

At the heart of Aspen Germany's ethos is **FREEDOM**, which is being challenged across the world, including limitations on speech, the press, and academia. In the spirit of healthy democracy, we stand up for a society where all can express their views and fight for necessary change.

We believe in **RESPECT, EMPATHY, AND COMPASSION**. Bringing together conflicting parties, we create an environment where individuals can engage in lively debate but equally emphasize empathy and listening to opposing opinions, promoting respect for the "other" in the political sphere.

We fight for the values of **PLURALISM, DIVERSITY, AND BELONGING**. Standing up for an open society, the Institute strives for open dialogue between diverse individuals, while promoting a democratic community where all, regardless of one's gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, heritage, or background, are accepted in society.

The notions of **JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW** represent core elements of our work, standing up for the norms established in the wake of World War II. Indeed, 2024 is the year where these values will be tested, particularly in light of the upcoming European and U.S. elections.

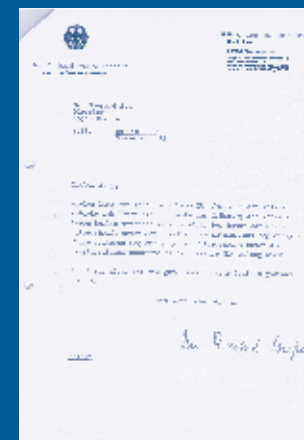
Finally, the Aspen values encompass **PEACE AND SECURITY**, which have proven closer to home than ever expected. Russia's invasion of Ukraine was not only a wake-up call for the West in terms of protecting its citizens, but it highlighted the importance of peace as the basis for promoting all the values we hold dear to our liberal, democratic society.

It is in this spirit that we celebrate 50 years of Aspen Germany!

"Working towards more resilient, open, just, and sustainable societies, building communities and fostering belonging, enabling dialogue, understanding, and trust – being part of this mission fills me with great joy, pride, and gratitude."

Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner,
Executive Director,
Aspen Institute Germany

Shepard Stone Award 2019



Letter from former German Federal President, Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker (then Member of the Bundestag), giving his consent to the foundation of the Aspen Institute Germany in 1974

(from left to right) Shepard Stone, Richard Löwenthal, Willy Brandt, and Marion Gräfin Dönhoff



Exterior of the former home of Aspen Germany in Schwanenwerder, West Berlin

"Since 1974, when Germany was still divided and the Cold War was raging, the Aspen Institute Germany has been working to uphold the ideal of a free and open society. Given today's global challenges, it seems more important than ever that we promote constructive dialogue among various stakeholders and strengthen the Euro-Atlantic cooperation."

Eckart von Klaeden,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees,
Aspen Institute Germany

Transatlantic Program



Amidst a pro-transatlantic administration led by President Joe Biden and alignment among transatlantic partners on Ukraine over the past two years, there has been a notable resurgence in the transatlantic relationship. This comes on the heels of a significant strain during the Trump era, which tested the bonds between these partners. However, uncertainty lies ahead as Europe and the United States face multiple geopolitical crises and seek to resolve internal irritants ahead of important elections in both regions in 2024.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 was a pivotal moment, initiating a broad readjustment and close coordination between the United States and Europe on security. Strong U.S. support for Ukraine has corresponded with a German *Zeitenwende*. Germany has committed to meeting the two percent defense spending threshold by 2024 and has emerged as the top military supporter of Ukraine in Europe. However, as the war enters its third year, European

allies are concerned about U.S. involvement, as Republicans show signs of resistance to continued aid for Ukraine. The Hamas terrorist attack on Israel in October 2023 and the Israel-Hamas war that has followed have also emerged as a geopolitical challenge. Transatlantic leaders are committed to preventing a larger-scale conflict in the region but face the dual challenge of supporting their allies in Ukraine and Israel simultaneously. Support for Israel contrasts with criticism over the impact of Israel's retaliation on Palestinian civilians, raising concerns about potential shifts in geopolitical allegiances.

In 2022–2023, the United States took an assertive stance on China, pressuring the EU, traditionally more reliant on China, to implement stricter measures. While there was initial misalignment, leaders' statements in 2023 indicate a move towards a “de-risking” strategy rather than a complete “de-coupling.” The challenge for transatlantic partners is finding a balance

between economic interests and addressing shared concerns about strategic competition, human rights, technology, and global issues like climate change.

Amid interconnected crises, a proactive and values-driven approach is crucial for addressing major geopolitical issues. Leveraging their shared history and common values, the transatlantic partnership is well-equipped to tackle challenges like climate change, polarization, and AI threats. A notable initiative introduced in the early Biden administration, the EU-U.S. Trade and Technology Council (TTC), actively addresses challenges by endorsing the Declaration on the Future of the Internet (DFI) and developing a roadmap for AI cooperation, despite persistent challenges. In the initial stages of President Biden's administration, partners reached resolutions on the Boeing-Airbus dispute and temporarily suspended tariffs on steel and aluminum. These early successes in eliminating trade irritants have not been

fully sustained, however. The aim to find a final solution on steel and aluminum via a Global Agreement on Sustainable Steel and Aluminum took a back seat to the wars in Israel-Palestine and Ukraine at the most recent EU-U.S. Summit in October 2023.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the United States' foremost climate legislation passed in 2022, exemplifies internal challenges impeding shared objectives. Despite being lauded as the most significant U.S. climate legislation ever passed, it has caused frustration among European partners due to perceived protectionist measures, especially against foreign producers of cars and batteries. In response, the United States and the EU have jointly advocated for a critical minerals agreement to support supply chains for electric vehicle battery production and alleviate the IRA's adverse impacts on European producers.

With the EU Parliament and U.S. elections in 2024, the future of the relationship is unsteady. In the EU, economic challenges are poised to influence the elections amidst an economic downturn, while in the United States deep polarization will likely focus attention on issues like abortion, immigration, and cultural topics. The outcomes have the potential to reshape the partnership's trajectory, underscoring the importance of comprehensive transatlantic

safeguards. The pivotal question for 2024 is whether current administrations can address internal issues, enact robust legislation for shared goals, and strengthen partnerships across government levels.

Against this backdrop of global challenges and an uncertain future, the Aspen Institute Germany's Transatlantic Program contributes to securing the future of the transatlantic relationship and fostering mutual understanding. The program facilitates open, values-based dialogue on key challenges for the transatlantic relationship. By directing its attention to the subnational level, engaging a diverse array of stakeholders, and addressing topics that require increased dialogue for transatlantic progress, the program is establishing guardrails for the future of the transatlantic relationship.

Aspen Germany's Laboratories of Democracy Initiative has been instrumental in nurturing transatlantic relations at the subnational level. This initiative facilitates values-based dialogue and idea exchange among state legislators from the United States, Germany, and Canada, focusing on digitalization, climate and energy, structural change, critical infrastructure, and social cohesion. Aspen Germany continued its virtual event series, State-to-State: German-American State Legislator Dialogue

with its project partner, the American Council on Germany, in 2022 and 2023. The series has convened state legislators from Germany and the United States for ten in-depth discussions with a broader audience on shared transatlantic challenges such as affordable housing, education, and digitalization in public administration.

Recognizing the increasing role of cities in transatlantic affairs as hubs of innovation and progress, Aspen Germany's Future Cities: A Transatlantic Townhall Project seized this opportunity by bringing together stakeholders from politics, culture, sports, art, health, media and other urban sectors from Berlin, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. From 2022 to 2023, the project facilitated a scenario planning process to develop concrete ideas aimed at making the cities of tomorrow more sustainable, inclusive, innovative, and resilient.

In 2022 and 2023, the Transatlantic Program intensified its focus on agriculture, a pivotal area for tangible transatlantic advancements. The U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture convened U.S. and German farmers, researchers, and business stakeholders, fostering dialogue on shared agricultural challenges. A complementary initiative, the Transatlantic Agriculture Dialogue Tour, brought a smaller group of U.S. farmers to Germany for farm visits, policy meetings, research institute engagements, and attendance at Agritechnica, the world's largest agricultural machinery trade fair, in November 2023.

The Transatlantic Program prioritizes engaging diverse stakeholders in its projects, reflecting in both closed-group initiatives and public-facing efforts. Aspen Germany's America's Choice podcast, co-hosted by Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, and Julia Friedlander, CEO of the Atlantik Brücke, provides monthly insights into U.S. political developments. Ad hoc public events, collaborations, and commentary contribute to Aspen Germany's commitment to fostering a resilient transatlantic partnership amid geopolitical uncertainties and the 2024 elections.

“It is my deep belief that many of our most urgent challenges such as the climate crisis can only be tackled successfully if Germany, Europe, and the United States work together. At Aspen Germany, I can contribute to promoting transatlantic cooperation on these issues.”

Wiebke Wartenberg
Senior Program Officer, Transatlantic Program

Transatlantic Program

PROJECTS AND EVENTS



(from left to right) Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook, Alexander Cox, Dr. Mohamed Attia, and Dr. Julia Epp at a panel during the Future Cities Conference

“Throughout my journey at the Aspen Institute Germany, one aspect continues to captivate me – the incredible power of dialogue. Embracing diverse perspectives sparks a constant stream of ideas, fostering transformative change that shapes our shared experience.”

Annika Mattes
Junior Program Officer, Transatlantic Program



Participants of the Laboratories of Democracy cohort 2023 at their meeting with Pennsylvania House Speaker Joanna McClinton



Participants of the Laboratories of Democracy cohort 2023 in the North Rhine-Westphalian State Parliament



Participants of the U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture at a farm visit in Illinois

“There is nothing like seeing the sparks of innovation, the new professional contacts and friendships that are made, and the new perspectives that are gained through our role as a convening platform for people from all walks of life and fields of expertise. These experiences keep me motivated, knowing that by working together we can make a real difference in solving the big challenges we face.”

Katja Greeson
Program Director, Transatlantic Program



Erin Bromaghim, Deputy Mayor of International Affairs, City of Los Angeles at the final Future Cities conference



Members of the Laboratories of Democracy cohort 2023 during a closed-group meeting



Members of the Laboratories of Democracy cohort 2023 during their visit to the Thyssenkrupp steel factory



Katja Greeson,
Program Director,
since September 2022



Wiebke Wartenberg,
Senior Program Officer,
since February 2017



Emilie Schreier,
Program Officer,
since August 2021



Annika Mattes,
Junior Program Officer,
since April 2023



Julian Mench,
Junior Program Officer,
since October 2023



Tobias Röttger,
Program Assistant,
since February 2023



Nicholas Kessler,
Program Assistant,
since November 2023



Avi Shapiro,
Research Assistant,
October 2023–January 2024



Philip Lott,
Program Officer,
June 2022–July 2023



Elisabeth Haas,
Junior Program Officer,
June 2022–September 2023



Lennart Nientit,
Program Assistant,
July 2022–August 2023



Gina Stapper,
Program Assistant,
June 2023–December 2023

Subnational Leadership on Structural Transformation

Aspen Germany's Laboratories of Democracy Initiative

Spotlight

From May 9 to 13, 2023, and from June 20 to 24, 2023, Aspen Germany hosted U.S. and German state legislators as part of its Laboratories of Democracy program. The participants met in Düsseldorf and Harrisburg to exchange ideas and best practices on structural transformation and the revitalization of post-industrial areas.

The transformation and decline of entire industries are a shared challenge across the Atlantic. Jobs will be lost, and new jobs will be created, requiring new skills and training. The transformation will also threaten social foundations and the prosperity of rural areas, where unemployment leads to an exodus of skilled workers and young people as well as a decline of infrastructure.

During their visit to Düsseldorf, the 2023 cohort learned more about North Rhine-Westphalia's role as the very heart of German heavy industry and how the decline has meant a drastic change for the region. The state legislators engaged in discussions with representatives of the state government and experts on structural change and toured best practices in the region. Among the highlights were meetings with Nathanael Liminski, Minister for Federal, European, International Affairs, and Media of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and Head of the State Chancellery. Further highlights were a trip to Europe's largest steel mill at ThyssenKrupp Steel and a tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zeche Zollverein coal mine.

The trip to Pennsylvania illustrated the parallels of structural change on the other side of the Atlantic. Highlights included meeting Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis, as well as a tour to the historic No. 9 Mine

“It is the challenge and the duty of non-governmental actors and organizations to foster the transatlantic friendship because the latter one is at risk. A new generation of political actors find it difficult to explain the validity, historicity, and unconditionality of these relations in a cohesive fashion. Yet we need those relations, perhaps more than ever since the end of the Cold War.”

Prof. Dr. Jessica Gienow-Hecht,
Shepard Stone Foundation

to understand the mining industry's rich history in the region. Following these visits, the multi-partisan group of state legislators developed joint policy recommendations on structural change for the state level and for transatlantic cooperation.

With funding for the project having been granted for a further two years, the 2023/2024 exchange on critical infrastructures has just started and will also include legislators from Canadian provinces. This project is supported by the Transatlantic Program of the Federal Republic of Germany and funded by the European Recovery Program (ERP) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK).

“America has been Germany's most important partner since the Second World War. Despite all the conflicts and crises, the commonality of democratic values has never been called into question. However, the right-wing populist parties on both sides of the Atlantic are doing just that, making Aspen Germany all the more important as an influential voice for common values and interests”

Dr. h.c. Karsten Voigt,
Member of the Board of Trustees



Participants of the Laboratories of Democracy cohort 2023 at the Pennsylvania State Capitol



Participants of the Laboratories of Democracy cohort 2023 at the state parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia



Members of the Laboratories of Democracy cohort 2023 during their visit to the "Fortuna" gas power plant



The Laboratories of Democracy cohort 2022 with Governor Phil Murphy in Trenton, New Jersey

“I am happy to be able to participate in the fostering of transatlantic relations, through my work at Aspen and bring together people from different horizons and political affiliations.”

Julian Mench,
Junior Program Officer,
Transatlantic Program

Expectations of the Next Generation: How to Shape a Better Future

ASPEN VISIONS



Frances Eden

Master Student of International Relations and Diplomacy at Leiden University

Intern at Aspen Germany from April to July 2023



Moritz Ludwig

Master of Public Policy Student at Georgetown University

Intern at Aspen Germany from January to March 2022

What is the next generation’s outlook on the future? Amid security threats, economic crises, and societal unrest, the next generation of policy leaders undoubtedly has a mountain to climb. Two former Aspen Germany interns share how they cope with these turbulent times, what gives them hope for a brighter future, and how young people can make an impact.

As the world faces countless crises, how do you maintain optimism and hope for a greater tomorrow?

Moritz: Experiencing multiple overlapping crises, it is crucial to also recognize successes and opportunities for overcoming challenges. While not every issue will be resolved quickly, many passionate and dedicated people work on finding sustainable and equitable solutions. Seeing politicians and peers striving for a better tomorrow helps me to stay optimistic and to believe in my ability to create impact.

In the face of uncertainty and adversity, what core values or principles guide your vision for a better future?

Frances: In navigating through uncertain times, my vision for a better future builds on core values and principles, such as equality, respect, honesty, empathy, and fairness. Embracing these values can help us build partnerships, foster an open and constructive dialogue, and guide us while trying to overcome some of the challenges we face.

“I believe that everyone has the ability to bring positive change.”

What is your greatest source of inspiration and what continues to fuel your dedication to global issues and policy work?

Moritz: In our globalized and interconnected world, international and domestic policy issues are heavily intertwined. I find it inspiring that people around the world strive for similar goals and find ways to work together, bilaterally and multilaterally. This inherently human trait to overcome differences, find common ground, and foster mutual understanding despite cultural differences encourages me.

What message or piece of advice would you like to share with other young professionals who are aspiring to make a meaningful impact on the world in the current global context?

Frances: Trying to maintain a positive outlook is crucial. It’s easy to get overwhelmed by current global challenges. I believe that everyone has the ability to bring positive change, no matter how large or small. It’s important to be patient and to embrace the challenges coming your way. Speak up against injustices, empower others, and try to follow your own path to make a meaningful impact.

“It is crucial to also recognize successes and opportunities for overcoming challenges.”

Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project

Spotlight

From 2022 to 2023, the Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall project brought together 15 city representatives from Berlin, Los Angeles, and Atlanta with the goal of strengthening transatlantic relations and contributing to the sustainable and future-oriented development of the cities involved.

Cities are not merely geographical entities; they symbolize innovation, progress, and change, but also bear great responsibility in addressing pressing global challenges such as climate change, social justice, inclusivity, mobility, health, and the future of work.

They also play a pivotal role in transatlantic relations. This became particularly evident during the presidency of Donald Trump, when fostering connections beyond the federal level was critical for maintaining strong transatlantic ties.

At the heart of the project stood a scenario planning exercise, in which participants created three future scenarios to envision the cities of 2040: Scenario Red: cities struggling with unsustainable development and governance stagnation; Scenario Green: thriving cities with innovative governance and reduced inequalities; Scenario Blue: cities balancing collapse and sustainable growth. This exercise empowered participants to develop ideas on how to achieve a green scenario and provided fresh perspectives on addressing pressing challenges.

In-person workshops, hosted by participating cities, served as fora for dynamic discourse led by distinguished speakers like Erin Bromaghim, Deputy Mayor for International Affairs in Los Angeles. The project culminated with a conference in Berlin, focusing on smart cities, climate change, and social justice. These topics were discussed by experts and decision makers, including Florian Hauer, State Secretary for Federal, European, and International Affairs and

“With its great diversity in projects, the Aspen Institute Germany enables meaningful dialogues around the most relevant, future-oriented topics. Through its high reputation, the Aspen Institute attracts the participation of relevant contributors across sectors and also across generations.”

Britta Weber,
Member of the Board of Trustees

Plenipotentiary of the State of Berlin to the Federal Government, Nina Hachigian, Special Representative for City and State Diplomacy at the U.S. Department of State, and Norbert Gorißen, Deputy Special Envoy for International Climate Action, Federal Foreign Office.

The project produced several publications, each providing insights into the future of cities, including their role in the transatlantic context, social inequality, and youth empowerment. The project was concluded with the release of a podcast featuring Dr. Niklas Kossow, Team Lead for Transformation City at CityLAB in Berlin, and Vishaan Chakrabarti, Founder and Creative Director of PAU in New York, which offered a comprehensive reflection on the project’s outcomes and core themes.

The project allowed participants to transcend traditional thinking, fostering an environment where assumptions were challenged and creativity was embraced – all with the goal of making cities more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable. The Stiftung Deutsche Klassenlotterie kindly sponsored the project.

“The Aspen Institute Germany is well positioned as a platform to foster the Aspen values in an increasingly complex world. Aspen Germany provides an opportunity to reflect and discuss current topics to enhance a strong open society and to stress values-based leadership.”

Helmut Kranzmaier,
Board Member of the Friends of Aspen Germany

Florian Hauer, State Secretary for Federal, European and International Affairs, Plenipotentiary of the State of Berlin to the Federal Government, giving the Opening Keynote at the final “Future Cities a Transatlantic Townhall” Conference



(from left to right) Clyde Higgs, Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Anna Roach, Vanessa Ibarra, Paige Alexander at the Future Cities workshop and panel discussion in Atlanta



Future Cities project members and stakeholders at a Future Cities discussion in Los Angeles



Dr. Lynn Paxton, District Health Director, Fulton County Board of Health, at the Future Cities workshop and panel discussion in Atlanta

Harvesting Solutions: Transatlantic Perspectives on Sustainable Agriculture

The U.S.-German Forum
Future Agriculture

Spotlight

From January to September 2023, Aspen Germany convened 16 farmers and agriculture stakeholders from the United States and Germany to exchange ideas and develop recommendations on climate change and arable farming as part of the first cohort of the U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture.

The United States and Germany face similar challenges related to agriculture and rural regions. The sector is confronted with the challenge of feeding a growing global population while simultaneously navigating the impacts of climate change, declining biodiversity, supply chain disruptions, trade disputes, and labor shortages. The inherent links between agriculture and the economic and social well-being of rural areas mean that structural changes in the sector have a profound impact on rural populations. Agriculture has long been a key issue for the transatlantic partnership. With sectors that play an important role in global agricultural trade, Europe and the United States are central to shaping an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable agricultural future.

The U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture aims to provide a platform for transatlantic dialogue on common challenges and invest in transatlantic exchange in rural areas. In its first year, the project brought together farmers and other agricultural actors from the Corn Belt in the United States Midwest and from eastern Germany. The group met for eleven virtual workshops, during which they developed policy recommendations on climate change and arable agriculture. Participants met in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, in June 2023,

during which the group met with local farms, agricultural researchers, policy makers, and businesses. Highlights included tours of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's exciting research on genetic editing of photosynthetic processes, agrivoltaic farming, and use of robotics as well as a visit to a local farm for a dinner hosted by the Champaign County Farm Bureau.

“What I find most inspiring is to exchange with all the people working with and for Aspen and through this expanding my own transatlantic knowledge and experience.”

Gina Stapper,
Student Assistant,
Transatlantic Program

The project is supported by the Transatlantic Program of the Federal Republic of Germany and funded by the European Recovery Program (ERP) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK).

Participants of the U.S.-German
Forum Future Agriculture in front
of the Illinois State Capitol Building



Juliane Horsch (left)
and Chandler Bruns



Participants of the Transatlantic
Agriculture Dialogue Tour



“In the current extremely adverse geopolitical landscape, the Aspen Institute facilitates the ability for transatlantic partners to jointly tackle shared challenges and exchange best practices.”

David Knower, Member of the Board
of Trustees

Participants of the U.S.-German
Forum Future Agriculture
at Clearview Farm



Digital Program



The Fourth Industrial Revolution – digitalization – is gaining speed. The years 2022–2023 were particularly pivotal with many groundbreaking developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI). It is not the first time that technological innovations deeply impact the economy and society of countries around the world. In the late 18th and early 19th century, mechanization was the reason why industry began to replace agriculture as the backbone of economies

and societies. During the Second Industrial Revolution in the late 19th and early 20th century, technological advancements opened new ways of communication and massively changed mobility. The Third Industrial Revolution of the 1960s witnessed the rise of electronics, telecommunications, and computers. The Fourth Industrialization, however, is different. It is a new chapter in human development, representing a fundamental change in the way

we live, work, and relate to one another. Coming with many opportunities but also a myriad of challenges, it requires new regulatory frameworks both nationally and internationally.

Aspen Germany’s Digital Program seeks to advance a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities posed by the digital age in the following five clusters.

Digitalization and Democracy: Digitalization has a huge impact on democracy. On one hand, it enables civic participation and political discourse through platforms and online tools, increases transparency and accountability, and improves access to public services. On the other hand, digital advancements do not automatically lead to better governance. In countries with autocratic tendencies, it can give governments tools for further oppression and persecution. Mis- and disinformation as well as cyberthreats pose new challenges to governments around the world.

“The digital program addresses the most pressing issues of technology, politics, and society – from AI regulation to disinformation and cybersecurity, but also far-reaching questions on the future relationship between society and digital technologies.”

Elisabeth Nöfer,
Program Officer, Digital Program

“While AI-regulation seems to be a new topic since Chat-GPT exploded, Aspen Germany has been leading discussions on this issue for several years. It is a joy to be at the forefront of these debates, bringing together tech experts, government leaders, and policymakers to ensure that disruptive technologies, like AI, are a net benefit for our future.”

Molly Hall,
Program Officer, Digital Program

To address these challenges, Aspen Germany brought together a group of 16 social media influencers and content creators from Germany and eastern Europe in 2023. A Spotlight article in this annual report provides further insights into the project Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars.

The Digital Program also hosted the event series Democracy 2.0: Strengthening Liberal Values in the Age of Digital Disruption in cooperation with Microsoft Germany. The opening workshop discussed “Digital Operations in Wartime,” with a focus on hybrid threats. A second workshop centered around “(Dis-)Information Warfare? Democratic Responses to Digital Authoritarianism,” welcoming, among other experts, Dr. Johannes Dimroth, Deputy Head of the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government.

Digitalization and Ethics: The extensive use of sensitive and personal data to fuel AI applications has raised concerns about privacy violations and potential biases in decision-making. Establishing clear ethical frameworks is crucial to ensure that AI aligns with human values and societal well-being, addressing broader issues of fairness, inclusivity, and responsible innovation in the digital realm.

Aspen Germany was privileged to gain first-hand insights into these issues from leaders in the technology industry, hosting Jack Krawczyk, Senior Director of Product Management for Google Bard, in cooperation with Google, as well as Dr. Jade Leung, Governance Lead of OpenAI, in cooperation with the German Marshall Fund.

Aspen Germany also launched the new project AITech Dialogues: AI for Sustainable and Just Societies in cooperation with Microsoft Germany, to address existing and emerging AI technologies, particularly regarding ethical considerations and the governance required.

European Sovereignty and Digitalization: With legislative efforts like the AI Act, the EU has sought to assert itself as a key player in establishing ethical and transparent digital practices, robust regulatory frameworks, and a competitive digital economy.

The EU’s digital policy was a recurring theme in Aspen’s Digital Dish Series, a collaboration with Telefónica Germany. The discussion rounds welcomed, among others, Dr. Daniela Brönstrup, Head of Digital and Innovation Policy Department, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection, and Bernard Kuiten, Director a.i. Information and

External Relations Division, World Trade Organization.

Digitalization and Geopolitics: The competition between democracies and autocracies for key technologies and data has a massive impact on the geopolitical and geo-economic environment. The strategic use of digital technologies, such as cyber capabilities and influencing narratives in the digital space, have become integral components of a nation’s geopolitical toolkit.

How the EU, the United States, as well as emerging economies such as India and China, regulate AI and strive to export their values via technological standards stood at the center of the inaugural event of the AITech Dialogues series in the fall of 2023. Aspen Germany was honored to welcome Marco-Alexander Breit, Deputy Director General AI, Data, Tech at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), as well as Dr. Sangeeta Mahapatra, Research Fellow at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) to this event.

Digitalization and Transatlantic Relations: Digitalization – its opportunities and challenges – is also an important topic for the transatlantic partnership. The U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council exemplifies a new, collaborative dynamic, boosting cooperation in addressing the multifaceted dimensions of the digital landscape based on shared values and mutual interests.

To accompany the TTC, Aspen Germany initiated the German-American Trade and Tech Dialogue in December 2022, a strategic forum addressing the transatlantic trade and tech agenda. A Spotlight article in this annual report provides further insights into this important project.



The Aspen Germany team at the German-American Trade and Tech Conference 2023



(from left to right) Andreas Mundt, Dr. Julia Pohle, Dennis Kaben, Michael König and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner at a Digital Dish event



Socializing at a dinner event during the German-American Trade and Tech Conference



Participants of an Oxford Style Debate during the German-American Trade and Tech Conference

“At the Aspen Institute Germany, the emphasis on constructive dialogue during global challenges is truly inspiring. In these crucial geopolitical times, the mission to address conflict, climate change, health crises, and digital transformation is necessary and impactful. A commitment to positive change defines the essence of the work of so many inspiring people at the Institute.”

Emma Bossert, Student Assistant, Digital Program



(from left to right) Dr. Guido Brinkel, Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Dr. Johannes Dimroth, and Dr. Eva Flecken at a Democracy 2.0 event



(from left to right) Juan Luis Redondo Maillo, Catarina dos Santos, Steven Heckler, Sarah Bäumchen, Antonia Hmadi, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner at a Digital Dish event



(from left to right) Rupert Schlegelmilch, Dr. Tobias Lindner, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner during a panel at the German-American Trade and Tech Conference



Participants of the Influencer project at Radio Free Europe in Prague



Molly Hall, Program Officer, since August 2023



Elisabeth Nöfer, Program Officer, February 2023–December 2023



Driss Köhler, Junior Program Officer, since August 2022



Emma Bossert, Program Assistant, since October 2023



Pablo Maristany de las Casas, Program Assistant, since October 2023



Selina Neumann-Wengler, Program Assistant, August 2023–December 2023



Eva Mattes, Program Officer, July 2021–May 2023



Dominik Rehbaum, Program Officer, May 2022–November 2022



Lena Bühring, Program Assistant, November 2022–March 2023

Stronger Together: Towards a Transatlantic Trade and Tech Alliance

German-American Trade
and Tech Conference 2023

Spotlight

February 14 to 15, 2023, Aspen Germany hosted the first German-American Trade and Tech Conference in Berlin, which brought together over 700 guests and more than 50 speakers from Germany, Europe, and the United States to discuss the transatlantic policy agenda on trade and technology issues.

After four years of transatlantic relations during the Presidency of Donald Trump, which were characterized by numerous trade conflicts, President Biden made considerable efforts to revitalize the EU-U.S. partnership. One of the successes was the establishment of the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) in 2021. At the heart of this new institution stand issues such as sanctions, export control, AI regulation, and supply chain resilience. Nonetheless, tensions persist, especially regarding U.S. industrial subsidies and the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. With the 2024 U.S. elections approaching, efforts are needed to address conflicts and ensure the future resilience of transatlantic relations.

Against this backdrop, the German-American Trade and Tech Dialogue (GATTD) aims at strengthening the transatlantic partnership by bringing together political decision makers, business leaders, academics, and civil society representatives. As the cornerstone of the project, the Conference titled "Stronger Together: Toward a Transatlantic Trade and Tech Alliance" served as a multi-stakeholder exchange forum designed

to foster understanding, trust, and good faith between stakeholders from both sides of the Atlantic.

Distinguished speakers such as Dr. Jörg Kukies, State Secretary, Federal Chancellery of Germany, Tony Fernandes, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Trade Policy and Negotiations, U.S. Department of State, Angela Ellard, Deputy Director-General, WTO, and Rupert Schlegelmilch, Director, DG Trade, European Commission, joined the day-and-a-half-long event to convene in a variety of formats. The conference contributed to advancing discussions in several trade and tech fields, including sustainable trade, standardization, the regulation of new technologies, cyber security, export controls, and supply chain security.

Aspen Germany would like to thank its co-hosts, the Heinz und Heide Dürr Foundation and the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg at the Federal Government, for their generous support of this conference. This conference has also been generously supported by our distinguished partners, Robert Bosch GmbH and the U.S. Embassy Berlin, our main partners, Aurubis AG, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, United Parcel Service Deutschland S.à r.l. & Co. OHG, Google Deutschland GmbH, and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, our partners, AUMA e.V., DIN e.V., and IBM Deutschland GmbH, our institutional partners, Aspen Digital and Berlin Dialogue, and our media partners, Internationale Politik Quarterly, Tagesspiegel Background Cybersecurity, and Politico.

"In an era of geopolitical uncertainty, Aspen Germany stands resolute, driven by the imperative to forge a path towards a more interconnected and resilient global community. Our mission: to build bridges, spark dialogue, and foster collaboration across borders."

Driss Köhler,
Junior Program Officer, Digital Program



(from left to right) Marie-Christine Knop, Dr. Nikolas Kneßels, and Marie-Christine von Hahn



Opening keynote
at the German-American Trade
and Tech Conference 2023



Conference speakers in an Oxford
Style Debate



(from left to right)
Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar, Barbara Kluge,
Sandra Joyce, and Johannes
Steger in a panel discussion

**"In these uncertain times,
Aspen's mission remains ever
more relevant. It boils down
to supporting one another's
democracies through dialogue
and exchange. We must hold
steadfastly to our partners
in 2024 – it is a decisive year."**

Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann,
Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees

In the Eye of the Storm: Strengthening Democratic Resilience Online

Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars

Spotlight

From February to December 2023, Aspen Germany convened 17 social media influencers and content creators from Germany, Ukraine, Romania, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Latvia. Participants met in Berlin, Prague, and online to develop recommendations to policy makers, social media platforms, and influencers how to better counter disinformation.

In today's information landscape, social media influencers play a crucial role as opinion leaders, increasingly also beyond the commercial marketing sector. Influencers, or as they often prefer, content creators, have a wide reach and credibility with their followers. This comes along with a certain responsibility, especially in times of heightened tension when uncertainty among users about the veracity of online information abounds.

Malicious foreign and domestic actors are exploiting this situation to undermine trust and cohesion in liberal democracies: The COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war against Ukraine and, more recently, the war between Israel and Hamas have been accompanied by targeted disinformation campaigns. In this situation, politically interested influencers are close observers of trends, dynamics, and narratives in social media and have developed particular expertise in this regard.

For this reason, the project brought together influencers and stakeholders from politics, business, government, research, and think tanks to raise awareness of the nature and spread of disinformation, focusing on Central and Eastern Europe as a region plagued by significant contestation.

In the immediate aftermath of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the selected influencers engaged in four digital workshops and two study trips to Berlin and Prague to explore their roles in times of conflict, the responsible handling of information, and countering

misinformation and disinformation. Related challenges such as AI-generated fakes, hate speech, and exposure to disturbing online content were also discussed.

The diverse participants from six countries with different social media use and professional backgrounds grew together quickly and built a strong bond. They discussed how they could help mitigate the problem and, on this basis, developed recommendations for policy makers, social media platforms, and other influencers. Through the online meetings and visits during the study tours, the project has promoted cross-border cooperation and expanded the network of like-minded people from different sectors and European regions who are actively contributing to a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach in the fight against disinformation.

The project was supported by the German Federal Foreign Office and realized in cooperation with Aspen Central Europe, Aspen Kyiv, and Aspen Romania.

“Aspen Germany plays a major role in connecting diverse leaders from all over the world to reflect on their own purpose-driven leadership. Having experienced this myself, this is a truly powerful approach to build future leaders who are driven by common values and who want to make a difference.”

Dr. Virginia Bastian,
Member of the Board of Trustees

“In a world where disinformation can spread as quickly as truth, the work we do at the Aspen Institute is more critical than ever. As part of the digital team, I'm proud to contribute to our mission of building democratic resilience by tackling the complex challenges of disinformation. It's incredibly rewarding to be at the forefront of efforts that not only identify but also counteract the forces that undermine public discourse and trust.”

Selina Neumann-Wengler,
Program Assistant, Digital Program



(from left to right)
Dr. Stormy-Annika
Mildner, Jakub Gulab,
Yuliia Yanchar



Influencer cohort 2023 at the
Federal Press Office (BPA)
in Berlin

Participants of the Influencer
project in Berlin



“In our divided and disjointed world, the Aspen Institute Germany provides a forum to debate and disentangle the dramatic challenges before our democracies. Its ability to convene diverse groups of enlightened, level-headed thinkers creates a much-needed respite from the shrill, partisan, and destructive discourse around us.”

Cecilie Rohwedder,
Member of the Board of Trustees

Europe Program



Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has had a profound impact on Europe, signifying a pivotal moment, a *Zeitenwende*, in peace and security. Twenty years after the end of the tumultuous Yugoslav Wars, Europe is once again grappling with a war, and leaders are challenged with safeguarding the vision of Europe as a secure, sustainable and value-driven community rooted in the principles of human rights, democracy, and freedom.

As a result, the EU is facing several foreign policy challenges: a changing geopolitical environment, a reorientation of China policy, new security challenges, and securing the future of transatlantic relations. At the same time, the EU is facing a number of internal challenges: upcoming elections, right-wing populist tendencies in some EU countries, completing the single market, EU enlargement, as well as decision-making on foreign and security policy issues.

From 2022 to 2023, Aspen Germany's Europe Program pursued three focal areas: First, it addressed questions around the EU's goal to strengthen European sovereignty, touching upon all relevant issue areas ranging from security and defence, to trade, and to the green transition. In July 2022, Aspen Germany organized a digital Franco-German Dialogue together with

the Aspen Institute France on the future of Europe, with a focus on EU foreign policy amidst a contested geopolitical environment, EU climate policy and energy transition, as well as EU trade policy. In May 2023, Aspen Germany convened the expert conference "Global Trade in Troubled Waters" in cooperation with the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP). How to improve

"In a world of complex challenges, Euro-Atlantic cooperation stands as a beacon of hope and stability. Our joint commitment to democratic values, security, and prosperity forms the cornerstone of a more peaceful and resilient global order."

Dr. Jana Hecker,
Member of the Board of Trustees

the effectiveness of the European Single Market stood at the center of a digital conference, which Aspen Germany conducted in partnership with the Aspen Institute Italy in May 2023.

EU enlargement and its prospects and challenges served as the second focal area of the Europe Program. In May 2023, the Aspen Institute Germany, in cooperation with the German Foreign Office, organized a panel discussion titled "Zeitenwende of the EU Enlargement – How to Boost the Process?" with a focus to the new impetus to the EU integration process and the effect of new candidate countries on enlargement.

Third, the Institute continued to enact numerous projects on the Western Balkan region, striving to support a multi-level dialogue of political and civil society representatives from the region. Therefore, since 2009, the Regional Dialog of the Aspen Institute Germany has brought together high-level decision makers, politicians, diplomats, and civil society experts from the Western Balkans as well as from the United States, Germany, the European Union, and other international and regional organizations to discuss the region's current and future challenges.

As one of its milestones, the Europe Program organized the "Aspen Western Balkans Stakeholder Forum 2022", funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. In June 2022, Aspen Germany organized a conference on "Democratization and the Role of Parliaments in the Western Balkans". In October 2022, Aspen Germany convened a stakeholder forum on the "Green Agenda" in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia, attended by high-level participants from the Western Balkans, Germany, the EU, the United States, as well as international and regional organizations. The conference included a dinner with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Bujar Osmani and a meeting with the President Dr. Stevo Pendarovski. At the end of 2022, a high-level working group and a public discussion on "The EU's Geopolitical Awakening – New Impetus for the EU

Integration Process of the Western Balkans" took place in Berlin. Aspen Germany was delighted to welcome Manuel Sarrazin, the Federal Government Special Representative for the Countries of the Western Balkans, together with high-level representatives from the Western Balkans. Subsequently, the Institute published an edited volume containing a set of policy recommendations for the Western Balkans Green Agenda.

The current project, Aspen Western Balkans Initiative: Engagement for Progress and Stability, is planned to run from April 2023 to December 2024. The objectives of the project are to promote dialogue and cooperation in the region, develop concrete recommendations, and draw public attention to the enlargement and reform process. The project includes the organization of three conferences. The first international conference took place in Montenegro in December 2023 and focused on the intersection of democracy and digitalization. The conference included a dinner and welcoming remarks by Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Filip Ivanović. The second conference will take place in 2024 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and will be dedicated to reconciliation. In addition, a third conference is planned for 2024, which will be held in Berlin and will focus on the topic of EU enlargement.

Furthermore, a vision for the year 2043 for the region of the Western Balkans was developed. For this purpose, a foresight process for the region took place at the beginning of the project in 2023 under the title, "Future of the Western Balkans in 2043", and developed long-term strategic approaches to reach the stated goals. A high-level working group meeting was organized in Berlin in 2023, bringing together government representatives and experts from the Western Balkans, Germany, and the EU. The working group was accompanied by a public event on "Digital Transformation and its Pitfalls: Cybersecurity, Hate Speech, and Disinformation in the Western Balkans" with Dr. Regine Grienberger, Cyber Ambassador, German Federal Foreign Office, and high-level

representatives from the Western Balkans. A working group with a public event is also planned for this year.

In 2022, Aspen Germany co-organized the Civil Society Forum as part of the Berlin Process. Together with the Southeast Europe Association, Aspen Germany hosted the Civil Society & Think Tank Forum 2022, a conference in Berlin with more than 100 participants. Supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, this conference allowed civil society representatives from the Western Balkans to present policy suggestions to stakeholders from the region and other European countries. These recommendations were developed during a preparatory workshop.

Another focus in 2023 was on Bosnia and Herzegovina. An international conference was organized together with the Southeast Europe Association titled "New Government, New Reform Efforts?", which was generously supported by the German Federal Foreign Office. A wide variety of participants were able to examine ways to overcome structural problems within Bosnia and Herzegovina and to support the reform process. The conference also emphasized the role of civil society and explored ways to provide necessary support.

In addition, Aspen Germany also conducted several roundtable discussions throughout 2022-2023. One of these events was "Evaluating Kosovo's Position in the Dialogue with Serbia: What is at Stake?" in cooperation with the Kosovo Think Tank "Group for Legal and Political Studies".

At the end of 2023, Aspen Germany also restarted its quarterly background discussions on the current situation in the Western Balkans between representatives of the German Government and staffers of the German Bundestag. Government representatives shared their assessments of the situation in the region from the perspective of their respective divisions and present the priorities, initiatives, and challenges. These discussions will continue in 2024.

Europe Program

PROJECTS AND EVENTS



Meeting with the Committee on European Union Affairs, Working Group Western Balkans 2023



Conference "Digitalization and Democracy"

"Aspen Germany is the meeting point of innovative thinking and real-world change, and nowhere is this more evident than in our Europe Program. Our commitment to fostering inclusive dialogue across the continent is not just a mission; it's essential for progress."

Kilian Kurtenacker,
Program Assistant, Europe Program

(from left to right) Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner and Manuel Sarrazin at the discussion "The EU's Geopolitical Awakening – New Impetus for the EU Integration Process of the Western Balkans?"



(from left to right) Filip Tosevski, Josip Brkić, Liza Gashi, Manuel Sarrazin, Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Aleksandar Mašković, Miroslav Gačević, Artur Kuko at the discussion "The EU's Geopolitical Awakening – New Impetus for the EU Integration Process of the Western Balkans?"



"What particularly fascinates me about the Europe Program, especially in relation to our Western Balkans projects, is bringing together diverse participants from very different fields and backgrounds. Bringing them all into a common and respectful discussion is incredibly exciting, productive and important. I am delighted when networks and, in the best case, even new projects and initiatives are created at our events."

Tina Bories,
Senior Program Officer, Europe Program



(from left to right) Josip Brkić, Liza Gashi, Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Dr. Regine Grienberger, Fatmire Isaki, Adia Sakiqi at the discussion "Digital Transformation and Its Pitfalls: Cybersecurity, Hate Speech, and Disinformation in the Western Balkans"



Foresight Process "Future of the Western Balkans in 2043"



Dr. Filip Ivanović at the conference "Digitalization and Democracy"



Civil Society & Think Tank Forum 2022



Tina Bories,
Senior Program Officer,
since August 2018



Kilian Kurtenacker,
Program Assistant,
since April 2023



Aineias Engstrom,
Program Assistant,
September 2022–
January 2023



Maxim Benke,
Program Assistant,
April 2022–
December 2022



Saskia Kawczynski,
Program Assistant,
August 2022–
December 2022

Advancing the Green Agenda: Insights from the Western Balkans

Spotlight

From October 4 to 7, 2022, the Aspen Institute Germany held a high-level conference on the topic “Green Agenda for the Western Balkans” in Skopje, North Macedonia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia. The conference took place in the framework of the Western Balkans Stakeholder Forum 2022 and was kindly supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.

In November 2020, leaders from the Western Balkans had signed the “Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans”. They recognized the European Green Deal as a strategic response to the climate emergency and emphasized the need for regional countries to lay the groundwork for a significant transformation to address sustainability and resilience challenges. The Sofia Declaration served as a formal endorsement of the Green Agenda, structured around five pillars: climate, energy, and mobility, circular economy, depollution, sustainable agriculture and food production, and biodiversity.

However, the execution of these measures frequently falls short, primarily due to the (perceived) financial, economic, and social burdens associated with transformation processes, conflicting interests among societal actors, and information disparities among decision makers. Nevertheless, embracing a sustainable transition becomes imperative to effectively address the climate crisis and its repercussions. It is also crucial for ensuring future economic development and bolstering competitiveness in the Western Balkans.

To foster continued and enduring discussions, Aspen Germany’s conference was convened to bring together high-level participants from the Western

Balkans, Germany, the EU, the United States, as well as international and regional organizations. The event was opened by Minister of State for Europe and Climate Dr. Anna Lührmann, German Federal Foreign Office, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Bujar Osmani, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia, joined by Majlinda Bregu, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council. This collaborative effort aimed to facilitate ongoing dialogues that would contribute to the implementation of the Green Agenda across the region.

In addition to the conference, the Institute sought to incorporate diverse perspectives by engaging civil society experts and academic researchers. Their valuable insights were instrumental in developing a publication that presented policy recommendations aligned with the pillars of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. This inclusive approach ensured a comprehensive and well-rounded exploration of the challenges and opportunities associated with the region’s commitment to sustainability and resilience. The publication was released at the beginning of 2023 and can be found on the website of the Aspen Institute Germany.

“Aspen Germany is the perfect bridge builder. It brings people together – with its impressive array of fascinating programs revolving around the transatlantic partnership and the future of Europe.”

Dr. Peter Wittig,
Member of the Board of Trustees

Participants of the conference
“Green Agenda for the
Western Balkans”



Meeting with
Dr. Stevo Pendarovski
at the conference
“Green Agenda for the
Western Balkans”



(from left to right)
Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner,
Bujar Osmani, Dr. Anna Lührmann
at the conference “Green Agenda
for the Western Balkans”



Conference “Green
Agenda for the
Western Balkans”

“A highly motivated, dedicated staff and a “Power” Director: Berlin can call itself lucky to have the Aspen Institute as one of its greatest international assets. Thank you guys!”

Prof. Dr. Hildegard Boucsein,
Shepard Stone Foundation

Dreams of Tomorrow: Ukraine's Path Forward

ASPEN VISIONS



Yulia Tychkivska

Executive Director,
Aspen Institute Kyiv



Natalie Jaresko

Chair of the Board of Trustees,
Aspen Institute Kyiv

Two years after Russia launched its brutal invasion of Ukraine, conflict, pain, and suffering still afflict the country and its society. Nonetheless, Ukraine stands resilient, its people holding onto visions of a brighter tomorrow. Yulia Tychkivska and Natalie Jaresko from the Aspen Institute Kyiv offer a unique perspective on the current state of the nation and share their vision for a better future.

How are the Ukrainian people coping with the terrible consequences of the war? What drives their resilience and determination in the face of adversity?

As Ukrainians, we grapple with the repercussions of the ongoing war on a daily basis, fully cognizant that the journey toward recovery will span decades. Our resilience stems from a profound awareness of the existential gravity of this conflict. Every Ukrainian senses that the genocide orchestrated by the Russian Federation is a direct affront to their personal identity. Consequently, we find ourselves compelled to remain vigilant at every moment, steadfastly dedicating our efforts to safeguarding our homes, our nation, and the principles we hold dear.

“Ukraine sincerely strives to be a reliable partner for the entire civilized world, and we will become one.”

Despite the challenges, what positive developments have you witnessed in Ukraine's social, economic or political landscape? How do these give hope for the future?

Adversity has a unique way of bringing out both the best and the worst in people, and our experiences during the first year of the war underscored this truth. It was a period marked by extraordinary unity across society, transcending geographical boundaries. We witnessed a cohesive spirit in political decision-making, unwavering support for internally displaced individuals, and a collective backing of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Notably, our nation showcased an exceptional ability to mobilize financial resources, rapidly contributing to the procurement of essential equipment such as safelights, weapons, and drones.

We have been able to preserve the freedom of the press and the free exchange of ideas. At the same time, we have made great progress towards European integration and NATO membership by implementing important reforms. Ukraine sincerely strives to be a reliable partner for the entire civilized world, and we will become one.

Remarkably, the financial reports for 2023 reveal a twofold increase in donations made by Ukrainians to support the Armed Forces compared to the preceding year, showcasing the enduring commitment of Ukrainians to the cause. From an economic standpoint, the resilience of certain small and mid-sized Ukrainian enterprises is noteworthy, particularly those courageous enough to invest during uncertain times. However, the prosperity is markedly contingent on location. In cities like Odesa, Zaporizhia, or Kharkiv, which endure daily bombings, the landscape changes dramatically. Regrettably, some Aspen alumni managing substantial enterprises in these regions have faced profound losses, underscoring the stark disparities in economic fortunes depending on the impact of the conflict. Despite those challenges most Ukrainians now understand that it is a war for our survival and we have to win it.

“Now, more than ever, Ukraine urgently requires assistance from the democratic world.”

What role are civil society and organizations like the Aspen Institute playing throughout the conflict?

In our contemporary history, the pivotal role of civil society has been undeniable. From the Revolution of Dignity to the aftermath of the full-scale Russian invasion, civil society has been a linchpin in various facets, ranging from sustaining livelihoods to fundraising for the armed forces.

Speaking of Aspen Kyiv, our organization plays a vital role in Ukraine's tumultuous times, facilitating dialogue for leaders, conducting seminars on social contracts and governance, addressing cybersecurity challenges, and fostering community support. Amid the ongoing conflict, we continue to inspire, support displaced teenagers, and represent Ukraine internationally through virtual and in-person Aspen events.

“As we strive to triumph in this war, envisioning a future where we seamlessly integrate into the European family is paramount.”

What can people worldwide do to support the Ukrainian people?

Now, more than ever, Ukraine urgently requires assistance from the democratic world. As time progresses, external weariness towards the Russian-Ukrainian war grows, while Russia efficiently mobilizes an authoritarian coalition. Procuring crucial components from China, launching North Korean missiles at our cities, and deploying Iranian drones nightly illustrate the severity. Amid competing global priorities, it is imperative not to lose sight of the Russian war in Ukraine, as its repercussions impact global security infrastructure. Timely aid to Ukraine is not only a humanitarian necessity but also a proactive measure to prevent the need for direct involvement in the war later.

Looking ahead, what is your vision for Ukraine in 5–10 years?

We must forge a future Ukraine that honors the sacrifices of our military. We need to build an even better democracy with strong rule of law and inclusivity traits that reflect the values for which we have all been fighting. We possess valuable assets and intellect to contribute globally. First, a robust security component with arms production and one of Europe's strongest armies. Second, we boast immense potential in digitalization and IT. Third, our agricultural capabilities are unparalleled. Fourth, our critical rare earth mineral resources, including titanium, lithium, and others, are critical to global efforts to green and digitize the global economy. As we strive to triumph in this war, envisioning a future where we seamlessly integrate into the European family is paramount. I am confident that, alongside Aspen Germany, we will embark on numerous collaborative projects, solidifying our position as a significant contributor to shared goals and prosperity.

Aspen International Partners

Aspen Germany is proud to be part of a global network of Partner Institutes which share an unwavering commitment to non-partisan dialogue and values-based leadership. The community extends across six continents, uniting 14 Institutes across 17 countries, including in Central Europe (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia), Colombia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Romania, Spain, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Further cooperation occurs with the Aspen Initiative Africa, which sits steadfast in Nairobi, Kenya, furthering the Aspen mission across the African continent. Exchanges are organized both bilaterally and by the Aspen International Partners Team in Washington D.C., led by Elliot Gerson, Executive Vice President for Policy and Public Programs and International Partners, Jonathon Price, Director for International Partners, and Sophia Wallace, Program Associate for International Partners.

The Partner Institutes coordinate among their Leadership Programs, enriching their seminars with increasingly international cohorts. Most notably, the highly successful Democracy Forward Workshop, hosted in Berlin in late

2023, brought together nearly 40 young leaders from 21 countries in diverse discussions, building consensus among the issues facing democracy worldwide. Aspen Germany's Public Program has also worked closely with Ananta Aspen Centre (India), Aspen UK, and Aspen New Zealand in the organization of three thought-provoking Ambassadors Talks, as well as with Aspen Institute Italia in a fascinating conference on the competitiveness of the EU. Most recently, the Digital Program collaborated with Aspen Central Europe, Aspen Kyiv, and Aspen Romania on its flagship Influencers project, including on a trip to Prague, where participants were kindly hosted by the Aspen Central Europe team.

Fostering these partnerships is evocative of Aspen's global impact and outreach, united in the common goal of solving political and social challenges through dialogue. Accordingly, two International Committee Meetings are organized annually, bringing together the leaders of all Aspen International Partners for cross-cultural exchange, with the most recent gatherings held in Rome in March 2023 and New York in November 2023.



Public Program



Since February 24, 2022, the worst war since the end of World War II has been raging on the European continent. Shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz spoke of a *Zeitenwende*. However, Russia's war against Ukraine is not the only driver of the new geopolitical environment and the readjustment of European and German foreign and security policy. The rivalries between Western democracies and autocratic regimes are intensifying. According to the Conflict Barometer of the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, the number of violent crises in the world increased from 164 to 174 in 2022. In early October 2023, the brutal attacks of Hamas on Israel shocked the world. This marked the beginning of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War fifty years ago, costing the lives of thousands of people.

Pandemics, wars, the climate crisis, economic downturns, increasing income inequalities and poverty – democracies have

to prove themselves in extraordinary times of crisis. They have to defend against radical fragments of the population, especially right-wing populism, while managing huge economic and social disruptions, including the green transition and the digital revolution. In many countries, trust in democracy and public institutions is eroding. According to a 2023 study of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), satisfaction with the functioning of democracy in Germany, for example, is stable. However, the report also gives cause for concern: just over 50 percent remain dissatisfied with democratic institutions. The survey also shows that skepticism about democracy is greatest among people of a low level of education and low income. Furthermore, there is a distinct east-west divide with significantly lower level of approval in eastern Germany.

In the light of these developments, institutions like the Aspen Institute Germany are more important than ever. The mission of Aspen Germany is to provide orientation

in these challenging times: with its event series and additional meetings, the Public Program aims to give room for decision makers and the wider public to engage in an open, constructive dialogue on a wide range of topical issues. The goal of the Aspen Institute is to encourage both a better understanding of political issues and a greater willingness to participate in the political process.

In 2022-2023, one of the flagship event series of Aspen Germany's Public Program was the Global Risk Series. Aspen Germany welcomed experts from diverse disciplines, discussing topics such as the risks of cryptocurrencies, the vulnerability of critical infrastructures in Germany and Europe, and China's challenging role in global economics and politics. Aspen Germany was particularly honored to welcome Dr. Jörg Kukies, State Secretary in the German Federal Chancellery, as a guest speaker at an exclusive Fireside Chat on October 25, 2023. He talked about economic and energy security and his role in searching for new international partners

to diversify Germany's economic relations and reduce one-sided dependencies.

High on Aspen Germany's agenda was Russia's war on Ukraine. On the anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Institute brought together six renowned correspondents from international media outlets in a virtual International Press Roundtable to analyze Western media's portrayal of the war. In September 2022, the Public Program hosted Oleg Ustenko, Economic Advisor to the Ukrainian President, for an exclusive discussion about the impact of the war on the Ukrainian and Russian economies. Another highlight was a panel discussion addressing the future peace and security architecture in Europe, co-hosted with Aspen Kyiv at the Ukraine Embassy in Berlin on June 10, 2023.

The "*Zeitenwende*" also stood at the center of several events, most notably in the Global Threats Series such as on November 7, 2022, when distinguished experts discussed the German and European military budget and defense capabilities. In addition, Aspen Germany were honored to have had Dr. Benedikt Franke, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the Munich Security Conference (MSC), as a guest speaker at our Fireside Chat on March 20, 2023, where he gave exclusive insights into the organization of the MSC in the face of *Zeitenwende*. The Public Program was also honored to welcome Dr. Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, MdB and Chair

of the Bundestag Defense Committee, and Prof. Carlo Masala, renowned political scientist and defense expert, at Aspen Germany's summer reception 2023 to talk about what has become of the *Zeitenwende* since 2022.

On February 19, 2023, Aspen Germany co-hosted an exclusive side event at the Munich Security Conference together with BerlinDialogue and the American Council on Germany titled "The Russian-Ukraine War and European Security. Defense and Deterrence 2023". The exclusive event brought together security policy experts from the United States and Europe to discuss the current state of the military and political situation and the future of European security.

Paying tribute to the importance of the transatlantic relationship for the Aspen Institute Germany, the Public Program organized events to complement the activities of the Transatlantic Program. A highlight was the reception in honor of U.S. Ambassador Dr. Amy Gutmann on September 8, 2022, hosted at the Allianz Forum. Ambassador Gutmann gave an inspiring keynote about the defense of democracy within the transatlantic relationship and engaged in a discussion with three young leaders. In addition, the Public Program organized an International Press Roundtable one day after the U.S. midterm elections in November 2022, discussing the election results with correspondents from major international newspapers. Moreover,

"My work brings me together with people from different areas of society who discuss and learn about current political and social challenges. They are united by the goal of strengthening a value-based society and a resilient democracy – that is exactly what I am passionate about."

Monika Kreutz,
Program Director, Public Program

in summer 2023, Aspen Germany co-hosted a public policy seminar honoring late U.S. President George H. W. Bush.

Aspen Germany is part of the International Aspen Institute family. To strengthen cooperation with its partner Institutes, the Public Program team initiated a new event series: the Ambassadors' Talks. On February 20th, 2023, Aspen Germany and the Aspen Institute New Zealand hosted a virtual Ambassadors' Talk on "German-New Zealand Ties Amid Changing Geopolitical Realities". The event featured New Zealand's Ambassador to Germany Craig Hawke and German Ambassador to New Zealand Nicole Menzenbach. On September 21, 2023, Aspen Germany, in cooperation with Ananta Aspen Centre, hosted a virtual Ambassadors' Talk on Indian-German Relations following the G20 Presidency of India with Indian Ambassador to Germany Parvathaneni Harish and German Ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann.

Aspen Germany also remained committed to addressing complex and highly sensitive international issues. Thus, the Public Program organized two events addressing the war between Israel and Hamas. At its International Press Roundtable on November 21, 2023, Aspen Germany brought together four renowned international journalists to share their assessments about how the German government and society have reacted to the war. In addition, the Institute was honored that Dr. Carsten Siebert, Chancellor of the Barenboim-Said Akademie, and two of his students joined the Institute's Board of Trustees dinner to speak about the importance of empathy and dialogue between conflicting parties as well as the promotion of peace in the Middle East.

How to bolster democracies against internal and external threats stood at the center of the Global Young Leaders Workshop "Democracy Forward: Inspiring Change in Today's World" that was held in cooperation with the Aspen International Partners in Berlin at the end of 2023. More can be read about this truly exciting experience in the Spotlight article in this annual report.



(from left to right) Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Yuliya Tychkivska, Michael Roth, Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, and Ambassador Oleksii Makeiev after the panel discussion “The Architecture of Values and Security for the Up-coming Euro-Atlantic Area” in the Ukrainian Embassy

Ambassador Dr. Amy Gutmann at the Social Reception in her honor

“A free and open society would not be possible without democracy. It is therefore even more important that institutions such as the Aspen Institute are vehemently committed to ensuring that we can continue to shape democracy in a resilient way in the future. It is a real privilege to be able to contribute to this through my work.”

Max Quiering,
Student Assistant, Public Program



(from top left to bottom right) Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Emilie Schreier, Joanna Kakissis, Mathias Bölinger, Steffen Schwarzkopf, Katrin Eigendorf, Olga Rudenko, and Emma Graham-Harrison at the International Press Roundtable “One Year of Russia's War Against Ukraine”



(from top left to bottom right) Sam Jones, Pascal Thibaut, Sophie von der Tann, and Steven Erlanger at the International Press Roundtable “Germany's Reaction to the War between Israel and Hamas”

“In times of great polarization, working at the heart of non-partisan politics allows me to offer both new ideas and a platform for diverse voices for a values-based dialogue.”

Emilie Schreier,
Program Officer,
Transatlantic Program (formerly Public Program)

“In times of global conflict and increasing authoritarianism, Aspen’s voice and ability to bring people of different cultures and political positions together for dialogue is more necessary than ever!”

Rüdiger Lentz,
Member of the Board of Trustees



Dr. Jörg Kukies and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner at the Fireside Chat “Behind the Scenes of the Federal Chancellery”



Dr. Benedikt Franke at the Fireside Chat “Behind the Scenes of the Munich Security Conference”



Monika Kreutz,
Program Director,
since December 2018



Sinu Krohner,
Junior Program Officer,
since September 2023



Max Quiering,
Program Assistant,
since October 2023



Duncan Gordon-Forbes,
Program Assistant,
January 2023–September 2023



Hannes Remmert,
Junior Program Officer,
July 2022–April 2023

Democracy Forward: Inspiring Change in Today's World

Spotlight

40 young leaders from 21 countries, 13 Aspen International Partners and one Aspen Initiative, four impactful days in Berlin – from November 30 to December 3, 2023, the Aspen Institute International Partners, together with Aspen Germany and Aspen United States, co-hosted the Democracy Forward 2023 Global Changemakers Workshop in Berlin.

The participants came to Berlin with highly diverse backgrounds, not only in terms of their professions (politics, business, law, journalism, and academia) but also regarding the countries and regions they came from: Mexico and Colombia, the United States, western, central, southern, and eastern Europe, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Japan, and even New Zealand. Thanks to the highly diverse perspectives the participants brought to Berlin, the discussions about global challenges to democracy and solutions were multifaceted, insightful, and creative.

Following the tradition of the Aspen Leadership Seminars, the workshop linked philosophical discourse about values, freedom, and responsibility to the contemporary challenges testing our democratic systems and values as well as the individual participant's everyday decision-making. Another component of the workshop was a geopolitical simulation based on the 2024 G20 Rio de Janeiro summit. In this exercise, the participants were able to strengthen their capacity to build consensus among diverging perspectives and to practice holding space for often silent voices. A big thank you goes to Tommy Loper, Felix Nissen,

Heather Sonn, Pallav Patankar, Nicole Galindo Sánchez, and Patricia Zalamea for their successful moderation of the Philosophy and Practice sessions, the simulation, and the panel discussions.

Furthermore, the workshop program included exciting discussions with Tobias Lindner, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, and Cara Seeberg, former President of Volt Berlin. A further highlight was an inspiring conversation with President of the National Unity Platform, Bobi Wine – Ugandan Afrobeats musician, democracy activist, MP, opposition leader, and presidential candidate in 2021 – recounting efforts to fight for democracy under an oppressive regime.

The program was complemented with powerful off-site visits, including a dinner at the Bundestag and an emotionally moving tour at the Gedenkstätte Berlin-Hohenschönhausen, a former Stasi Prison during the Cold War. This visit served as a poignant reminder of the consequences when an oppressive regime suppresses democratic norms.

The purpose of the Democracy Forward 2023 fell squarely into one of the central missions of the Aspen Institute International Partners: empowering young leaders to help restore and sustain democracy worldwide. Bringing together so many young democratic leaders representing diverse perspectives from the whole globe was a truly unique experience, and we thank Jonathan Price, Sophia Wallace, and Sascha Shroff from the Aspen Institute International Partners for turning the vision of a Changemaker seminar into reality.

“Bringing people from different areas of society and different countries together is an important mission of Aspen Germany which is more than necessary in these challenging political times.”

Sinu Krohner,
Junior Program Officer, Public Program

Bobi Wine at
a conversation
and dinner



Participants of the
Democracy Forward
Workshop during the
G20 Simulation



Participants of the
Democracy Forward
Workshop during the
G20 Simulation



Meeting of the participants
with Dr. Tobias Lindner in the
Federal Foreign Office

How Europe Can Weather the Storm: Insights from Aspen Young Leaders

ASPEN VISIONS



Beatrice Graupner

Policy Officer European Public Policy, ADAC e.V.



Adnan Ćerimagić

Senior Analyst, European Stability Initiative (ESI)

With war at its doorstep, increasing political radicalization, and societal fragmentation, Europe is undoubtedly caught in an era of turmoil and uncertainty. What does the future hold for the continent? And how can every one of us play a part in contributing to a better future?

The Aspen Young European Leaders Seminar brings together people with diverse backgrounds from across Europe to reflect on leadership in today’s age, share experiences, and engage in thought-provoking discussions on visions to tackle Europe’s challenges. Two former participants share their lessons from the seminar, discuss how they incorporate leadership into their daily lives, and why Europe needs young leaders to step up more than ever.

As young leaders, your perspectives carry a unique weight in shaping the narrative of Europe’s future. What are the biggest challenges the continent has to address?

Beatrice: We face a multitude of challenges inter alia poverty, inequality, political instability, climate change, inadequate healthcare, and limited access to education. These issues will impact future generations and perpetuate a cycle of limited opportunities, ultimately hindering growth. Addressing these topics is crucial to creating an equitable future.

“Only collaborative networks where individuals can share and test their ideas are able to generate ideas big enough to have a positive impact.”

In what ways do you believe diverse voices contribute to more robust solutions for Europe’s challenges?

Adnan: Take the EU enlargement debate. For a decade, the dominant voice was one negatively framing the EU’s enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe. This paralyzed any serious EU enlargement to the Western Balkans and made the EU hesitant to extend that offer to Ukraine. Result? A brutal war with devastating consequences.

How can platforms like the Aspen Young Leaders Seminar play a role in cultivating a network of empowered individuals who can collectively shape the future of Europe?

Adnan: Only collaborative networks where individuals can share and test their ideas are able to generate ideas big enough to have a positive impact. As young professionals, we tend to rely on networks built during our education and short careers. Those of us recognized by the Aspen Institute as Young Leaders had a chance to add a meaningful, collaborative new network.

How can more young people become a catalyst for positive change in their respective communities?

Beatrice: We need to amplify their voices by creating platforms and involving them in decision-making processes. I strongly believe that fostering a culture of responsibility and volunteerism instils values of empathy, compassion, and active citizenship. Empowering young people with these skills will result in nurturing future agents of positive change.

Leadership Program



The last 18 months have proven to be yet another turbulent period for liberal values and democracy. As countries moved on from COVID-19, the values that define liberal societies continue to be challenged by attacks on democracy, freedom of expression, and the international order, with global developments surrounding war, conflict, and humanitarian crises having a sizeable impact on the stability of the world. From the unrelenting war waged by Russia in Ukraine to the heinous attacks carried out by Hamas on Israel, it is at times like these when decision makers and leaders must find a way through these struggles, evaluating their philosophies and values to ensure the resilience of liberal democracy.

Against this backdrop, Aspen Germany's Leadership Program has never been more relevant. With the world experiencing a period of acute unpredictability, the Leadership Program seeks to foster values-based leadership among both emerging and experienced leaders

in politics, civil society, business, academia, and the arts. It provides decision makers with the space to engage with a diverse group of leaders on the ethical dilemmas and questions which characterize the contemporary challenges of leadership, allowing them to develop innovative solutions and critically reflect on their own perspectives and moral standards.

At the heart of the Program is the flagship "Philosophy and Practice" Leadership Seminar, which provides participants with the opportunity to delve deep into the works of inspiring philosophers, while simultaneously engaging in discussions on how philosophical theory can be put into constructive and meaningful leadership practice. Guided by the expertise of renowned moderators (Ruth Girardet, Prof. Dr. Carol Gluck, and Dr. Leigh G. Hafrey) and hosted in the beautiful setting of Gut Klostermühle, participants enjoy an exclusive and peaceful environment away from the travails of everyday life,

where they can properly reflect on the issues at hand. Separately, Aspen Germany has a Leadership in Times of Crisis event series, which addresses emerging crises and invites important leaders to share their experiences of handling troubling situations.

In October 2022, Aspen Germany was delighted to return to Gut Klostermühle for its first in-person Leadership Seminar since the pandemic, once again bringing together individuals from politics, business, academia, and culture, to tackle contemporary issues on leadership and reflect on their role as a leader. At the same time, Aspen Germany took this opportunity to take stock of the Program and revitalize the Leadership agenda, introducing a modernized social media appearance and launching a series of video interviews with participants. Building on this in March 2023, the interviews have since sought to give the participants a voice publicly, allowing them to verbally reflect on the meaningful journey they embark upon during the three days.

"Aspen Germany provides a unique environment for diverse individuals to both engage in crucial discussions and simultaneously reflect on their own philosophies. As we enter our fiftieth anniversary year, it is this engagement with values which sets us apart from other Think Tanks and has become all the more crucial in these challenging political times."

Tom Rose,
Program Assistant,
Public and Leadership Program

"At Aspen I can learn, grow, lend a supporting hand, and be creative – just like democracies do. It is the freedom and spirit of the team that reflects how democracies should be and what it takes to help democracies thrive."

Oleksandra Yakovlyeva,
Program Assistant, Leadership and Public Program

"The Aspen Institute has a strong history as a forum which connects leaders across society, and across boundaries. It creates the foundation for lasting networks, deeply rooted in common values."

Margit Lehwald,
Member of the Management Board

In November 2023, the Leadership Program welcomed a particularly diverse cohort, including participants from Germany, Ukraine, the United States, the United Kingdom, Kosovo, Italy, and Romania. This extremely diverse group provided an excellent basis for discussion, allowing each participant to share their own personal perspectives and contribute in a unique way to the sessions. Indeed, this combination of a diverse cohort acted as a perfect backdrop for participants to discuss, exchange, and reflect on their own philosophies and leadership styles.

As part of the Leadership in Times of Crisis series, Aspen Germany's Leadership Program organized an insightful online event on December 19, 2022, titled "Women Leading to Learn: Education and Rights under Taliban Rules," which addressed the discrimination of women in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover in August 2021. Featuring Pashtana Durrani, a leader in the Afghan human rights field who

had developed digital solutions to the crisis in women's education, participants were able to gain a unique perspective on the disproportionate impact the events in Afghanistan have had on women. It was a highly informative and moving event, where participants could gain insight into the challenges faced by individuals seeking to continue leading despite extremely difficult circumstances.

Separately, the Leadership Program has been able to strengthen Aspen Germany's ties to its partner Institutes. As part of the Aspen Young European Leaders Initiative, Aspen Germany was fortunate enough to send both Aspen staff and members of the Friends of the Aspen Institute to two seminars in Romania (September 2022) and Wales (October 2023). Hosted on behalf of Aspen Kyiv, the most recent seminar focused on the topics of citizenship and belonging, particularly in the context of Russia's war on Ukraine. Selected texts included both traditional philosophers such as Aristotle,

as well as more contemporary figures' works including Robert Schuman and Sanna Marin. Moreover, we were delighted to take part in Aspen International Partners' Moderator Workshop in October 2023, hosted near Bucharest, Romania, which allowed participants to move on from pure text-based dialogue and explore the Aspen mission and style of moderation on a deeper level.

The Leadership Program is a microcosm of the principles Aspen Germany stands for, namely bringing diverse people together to tackle the pressing issues facing liberal societies across the globe. In this spirit, the Program looks forward to hosting another Leadership Seminar at Gut Klostermühle, which is scheduled to take place between April 11 to 14, 2024.

Leadership Program

PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Prof. Dr. Carol Gluck and Ruth Girardet at the Leadership Seminar in November 2023



“Values-based leadership means leading and making decisions according to a set of core values and principles. Knowing oneself and one’s own core values and principles is one of the qualities required to accompany and facilitate the diverse upcoming transformation processes.”

Eva Deininger,
Board Member of the Friends of Aspen Germany



Dr. Leigh G. Hafrey at the Leadership Seminar in March 2023



Discussions at the Leadership Seminar in October 2022



Cohort of the Leadership Seminar November 2023

Discussions at the Leadership Seminar in November 2023



Participants of the Leadership Seminar in October 2022



Alexandra Dinkler,
Program Officer,
since January 2016



Tom Rose,
Program Assistant,
since November 2023



Oleksandra Yakovlyeva,
Program Assistant,
since October 2023



Marco Sibona,
Program Assistant,
February 2023–May 2023



Marlies Murray,
Junior Program Officer,
June 2021–November 2022

Communications

In an era dominated by digital advancements, the Aspen Institute Germany recognizes the imperative need for a dynamic online presence. While the essence of the Institute’s work remains steadfast, a continuous evolution in our digital approach is crucial. The Aspen Germany website, serving as our digital flagship, goes beyond merely informing the public about events; it strives to be a comprehensive and dependable source covering a spectrum of Aspen-related topics and more.

At the core of the website lies an exploration of the Institute’s heritage, delving into the origins of its values and core principles. Simultaneously, it sheds light on what defines Aspen Germany today – the dedicated, engaged, and creative team, as well as the support from our esteemed board members.

A regular newsletter complements the website, keeping subscribers updated on programs, projects, events, and publications. Expanding our reach, Aspen Germany actively engages on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X. Through these platforms, we share event updates, publications, and insights into political and economic shifts, including series like “What’s New in Washington” and “Digital Radar”. Our sets of publications provide more in depth analysis of current developments: For example, an edition of “Spot On” evaluated the progress of Joe Biden’s Green Energy Policy and one of our “In a Nutshell” opinion pieces took a closer look at the state of the EU’s enlargement process in the light of the Russian War on Ukraine.

As the digital landscape evolves, our commitment to accessibility remains. Aspen Germany invites you to explore our diverse programs and initiatives, gaining valuable insights into our impactful contributions.

“Open societies need open minds – now more than ever. Here at Aspen, they can come together and inspire each other to help democracy thrive.”

Kathrin Finke,
Office and Communications Manager

Subscribe to the newsletter by scanning this code:



Follow us!

-  @AspenGermany
-  @Aspen Institute Germany
-  @aspen_germany
-  @AspenGermany

Communications Team



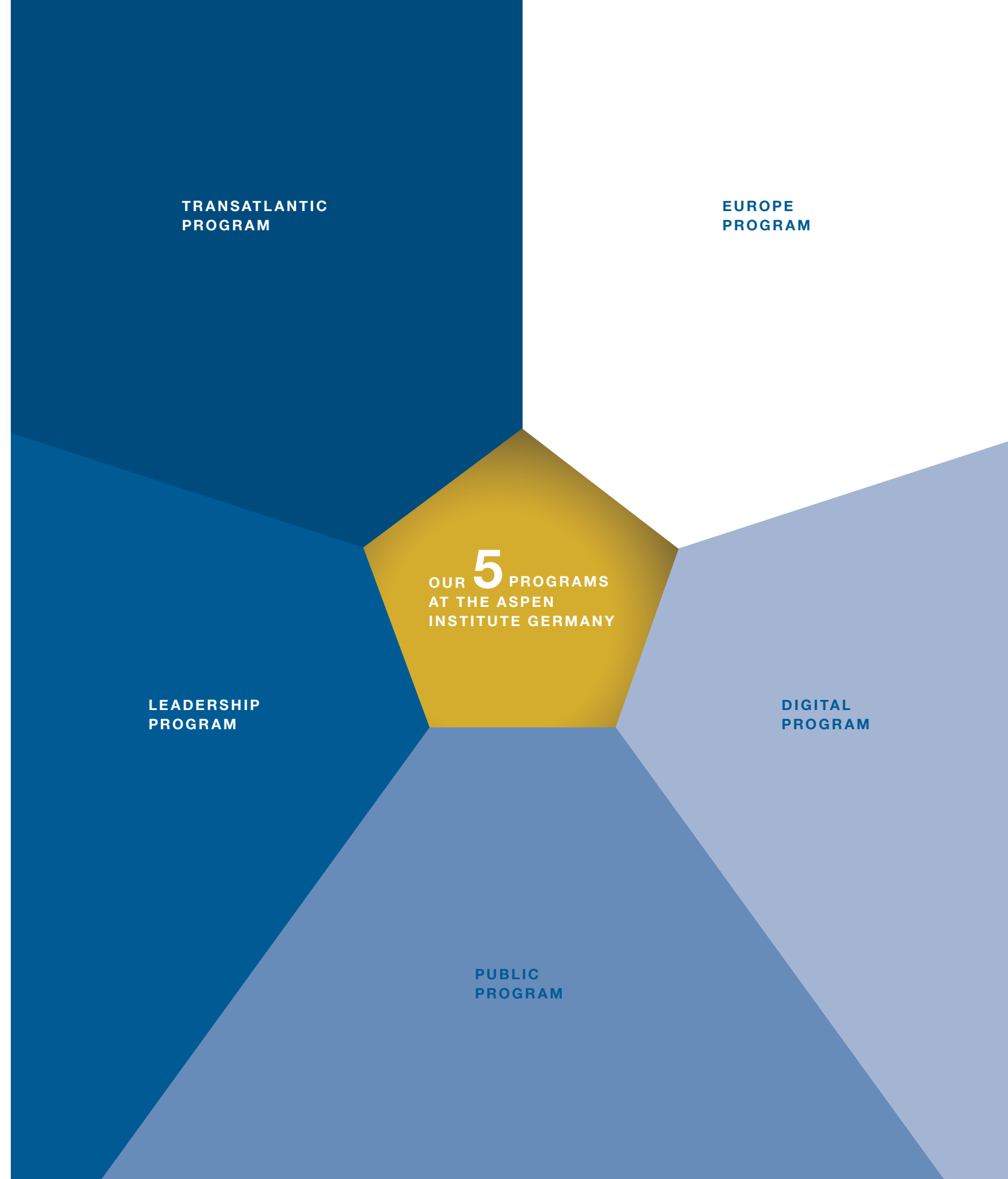
Kathrin Finke,
Office and
Communications Manager,
since November 2023



Melanie Schiffner,
Office Manager,
January 2022–
December 2023



Jahongir Zaynobiddinov,
Contact Manager,
October 2022–
September 2023



Benefactors

JULY 2022 – DECEMBER 2023*

The Aspen Institute Germany thanks the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government for its generous grant in support of the Institute's work.

Companies

Adalan AI
Aurubis AG
Bayer AG
Facebook Germany GmbH (Meta)
Google Germany GmbH
IBM Deutschland GmbH
Mercedes-Benz Group AG
Microsoft Deutschland GmbH
Robert Bosch GmbH
Telefónica Germany GmbH & Co. OHG
United Parcel Service Deutschland S. à. r.l. & Co. OHG

Foundations & Non-Profits

Aspen Institute Italia
Ausstellungs- und Messe-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft e.V.
BerlinDialogue
DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e.V.
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
Grupi Per Studime Juridike
Heinrich Böll Foundation
Heinz und Heide Dürr Stiftung
Shepard Stone Foundation
Sicherheitsnetzwerk München e.V.
Stiftung Deutsche Kassenlotterie Berlin
The Aspen Institute

Private Supporters

Dr. Carl Albrecht Clausen
Margit and Steven Disman
Ulrich Plett

Public Institutions

Embassy of the United States of America in Berlin
Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK)
German Federal Foreign Office
Press and Information Office of the Federal Government

Supporting Members of the Board of Trustees

Dr. Virginia Bastian
Dr. Jana Hecker
Erik Hotmire
David Knower
Cecilie Rohwedder
Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann
August von Joest
Britta Weber
Dr. Peter Wittig

Friends of Aspen Germany Corporate Members

APUS Partners GmbH
Axel Springer SE
Deutsche Bank AG
Egon Zehnder International GmbH
GÖRG Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten mbB
Mercedes-Benz Group AG
Robert Bosch GmbH
Rud Pedersen Public Affairs Deutschland GmbH
Syngenta Agro GmbH

* including financial support exceeding 500 EUR

Partners and Supporters

JULY 2022 – DECEMBER 2023*

Companies

adelphi consult GmbH
Agrargenossenschaft Trebbin eG
Allianz SE
B. Braun SE
Backfabrik Beteiligungsgesellschaft mbH
Bayer AG
Champaign County Farm Bureau
Comcast Technology Center
Deutsche Bank AG
Dussmann das KulturKaufhaus GmbH
Fuchs und Cie. GmbH
GÖRG Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten mbB
Hertie School gGmbH
Internationale Politik Quarterly
Klim GmbH
KPMG AG
Liberty Bell Center (U.S Department of the Interior)
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator
Mercedes-Benz Group AG
No. 9 Coal Mine and Museum
POLITICO
Reachbird solutions GmbH
Rückel & Kollegen – Rechtsanwälte
Stadtwerke Düsseldorf AG
Stadtwerke Rostock AG
Tamaqua Train Station Restaurant
ThyssenKrupp AG
Verlag Der Tagesspiegel GmbH (Tagesspiegel Background Cybersecurity)

Foundations & Non-Profits

Agritechnica 2023
American Academy in Berlin
American Chamber of Commerce in Germany
American Council on Germany
Amerikahaus München
AmerikaHaus NRW e.V.
Aspen Institute Central Europe
Aspen Institute Italia
Aspen Institute Kyiv
Aspen Institute Romania
Aspen Institute UK
Atlantik-Brücke e. V.
BerlinDialogue
Clearview Farm

Deutsche Atlantische Gesellschaft e. V.
Deutsche Landwirtschaftsgesellschaft e. V. (DLG)
DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e. V.
Friedrich Ebert Foundation
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
George & Barbara Bush Foundation
German American Exchange e. V.
German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)
German Marshall Fund of the United States
Group for Legal and Political Studies (GLPS)
Hanns Seidel Foundation
Heinrich Böll Foundation
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Landesbauernverband Brandenburg e. V.
Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft e. V.
The Aspen Institute
UNESCO-Welterbe Zollverein

Private Supporters

Senator Dave Argall
Johann-Georg Jaeger
Dr. Gitta Hildegard Schneider-Sickert

Public Institutions

Albrecht Daniel Thaer-Institut für Agrar- und Gartenbauwissenschaften
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Washington, D.C.
Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Action and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia
NJ Board of Public Utilities
Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the Federal Government
State Chancellery of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg
State Parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia
Stevens Institute of Technology
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

*including financial support up to 500 EUR, in-kind contributions as well as any other contribution and support within project partnerships

Finance Overview

Aspen Institute Germany – Financial Key Figures (in TEUR)

	2021	2022
INCOME		
Governmental Grants	755	785
Corporations and Foundations	66	156
Individuals	366	318
EXPENSES		
Personnel Expenses without project expenses	387	371
Operational Expenses	205	247
Project Expenses*	590	633
*thereof direct personnel	497	419
*PROJECT EXPENSES (excluding personnel)		
thereof	93	214
Digital Program		
Conferences, Digital Dishes, Workshop Series	14	12
Europe Program		
Southeast Europe Conferences, Background Briefings	41	91
Leadership Program		
Leadership Seminars, Alumni Events	-	16
Young European Leaders Seminar		
Public Program		
PP-Lectures, -Interviews, -Discussions	16	24
Brown Bag Lunches		
Transatlantic Program		
Laboratories of Democracy – Exchange Program	23	71
US German Forum Future Agriculture, Cities Project		



Christina Lahr,
Director Finance
and Personnel,
since September 2018



Pia Parzinger,
Project Assistant,
since September 2023

Five Reasons to Support Aspen Germany

1 Strengthen Transatlantic Cooperation

While being of undisputable importance for Germany and Europe, the transatlantic partnership has been put to the test in the recent past. Now, that Europe's security is seriously threatened, the partnership is closer than ever before. But this partnership should not be taken for granted. Aspen Germany's mission is to bring together leaders from government, civil society, and business on both sides of the Atlantic to address major challenges and find joint solutions.

2 Engage in Expert Conversations

The Aspen Institute Germany convenes thought leaders from across society and creates a space for serious dialogue to address national and global challenges. You can be part of informal, off-the-record conversations with exclusive guests, exchange ideas at large conferences, and address important problems in exciting workshops. Recent speakers include U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, U.S. Ambassador to Germany Amy Gutmann, Jörg Kukies, State Secretary in the German Chancellery, Bettina Stark-Watzinger, German Federal Minister for Education and Research, and U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai.

3 Access Aspen's Global Network

Aspen Germany is part of a global network with Aspen partners in Colombia, the Czech Republic, France, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Romania, Spain, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States. As part of this network, Aspen Germany has access to and works with some of the most talented, inspiring individuals around the world to address today's toughest questions.

4 Foster a Culture of Leadership Based on Enduring Values

A just society needs good leaders. But how does one become an authentic and credible leader, living a life congruent with one's personal beliefs and values? While this inside-out process is a long journey, Aspen Germany offers you support. Through the Leadership Seminar, it strengthens leaders from all kinds of backgrounds for the good of their organizations and society.

5 Invest in Constructive Dialogue and Mutual Understanding

Nowadays, constructive dialogue is hard to come by. Contributing factors are diminishing public confidence in governments and the media, growing snap judgment, and polarization. Aspen Germany's mission is to enable exchanges among conflicting parties, bring together opposing views, and work toward finding common ground.



Aspen Germany Team at the Institute



Aspen Germany Team at the Summer Party 2023

Aspen Germany Team at the Social Reception in Honor of U.S. Ambassador Dr. Amy Gutmann



(from left to right) Kilian Kurtenacker, Annika Mattes, Tina Bories, Avi Shapiro, and Frances Eden



Aspen Germany Team at the Future Cities Conference 2023



Aspen Germany Team



Board of Trustees

With the extraordinary expertise that each individual trustee brings, the trustees have a decisive influence on program development and represent the Aspen Institute Germany to the public and within the international Aspen network. The Board of Trustees ensures the proper management of the Aspen Institute Germany and audits the annual financial statements. The trustees are given the opportunity to discuss critical issues with each other and with high-ranking political decision-makers. Aspen Germany is indebted to the Trustees not only for their advice, but also for their generous financial support.

Board of Trustees



Eckart von Klaeden, (Chairman of the Board of Trustees), Vice President, Head of External Affairs, Mercedes-Benz Group AG, since 2010



Kim Larsen, (President of the Friends of Aspen Germany in the United States), Principal, Bressler, Amery & Ross, since 2022



Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann, (Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees), Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees, Peter-Dussmann Stiftung, since 2015



Rüdiger Lentz, (Chair, Shepard Stone Foundation), Founder and CEO, BerlinDialogue, since 2023



Dr. Virginia Bastian, Global Head of Talent & Development, Deutsche Bank AG, 2021–2024



Cecilie Rohwedder, Contributor, Wall Street Journal, since 2014



Elliot Gerson, (Ex-Officio non-voting member), Executive Vice President, The Aspen Institute, since 2013



Dr. h.c. Karsten Voigt, Former Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation, since 2000



Dr. Roland Hoffmann-Theinert, (Chairman of the Friends of Aspen Germany), Partner, Lawyer & Notary, GÖRG Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten MbB, since 2010



Dr. Peter Wittig, Senior Advisor Global Affairs, Schaeffler AG, Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, Washington D.C., since 2022



David Knower, Partner and General Manager, Cerberus Deutschland Beteiligungsberatung GmbH, since 2012



Britta Weber, General Manager, UPS Italy, since 2021



Catherine von Fürstenberg-Dussmann at Aspen Germany's Summer Reception



David Knower at discussion with Dr. Benedikt Franke



Eckart von Klaeden at Aspen Germany's Summer Reception



Board of Trustees and Membership Meeting in December 2023

Former Members



Prof. Dr. Volker Berghahn, Seth Low Emeritus Professor of History, Columbia University, 2001–2022



Erik Hotmire, 2022–2023



Dr. Jana Hecker, Managing General Partner, Einstein Industries Ventures GmbH, 2021–2022



August von Joest, CEO, von Joest Asset GmbH, 2015–2022

Board of Trustees, Honorary Members

Georges Berthoin, Honorary President, European Movement International

Walter Momper, Former Governing Mayor of Berlin

Dr. Hildegard Boucsein, EU-Center Senior Advisor, Texas A&M University

Edzard Reuter, Former Chairman, Shepard Stone Foundation

Charles King Mallory IV, Senior Researcher, RAND Corporation

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Werner Weidenfeld, Professor em., Ludwig Maximilian University Munich

Prof. David Marquand, Former Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford University

Management Board

The Management Board represents the Aspen Institute Germany legally and advises the Executive Director in the areas of fundraising, finance, and strategy. The Institute owes a great debt of gratitude to the members, who devote a considerable amount of time to serving the Institute and provide very close support for the Institute’s substantive work.

Members of the Management Board



Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner,
(Chairwoman of the Management Board),
Executive Director, Aspen Institute
Germany, since 2021



Margit Lehwalder, Group Head of HR,
Union Asset Management Holding AG,
since 2022



Britt Eckelmann, Managing Shareholder,
Silver Construction Engineering GmbH,
since 2017



Ulrich Plett, (Treasurer),
Wirtschaftsprüfer, UPW7 GmbH
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft,
since 2015



Prof. Dr. Gunther Hellmann,
Professor of Political Science, Goethe
University Frankfurt, since 2015

“We live in disruptive times that threaten our democracies. To face these challenges positively and constructively, we need to focus on our area of impact and create good examples. Aspen Germany facilitates this through open and trustful exchanges at our Public Program events or the leadership seminars that give the participants the chance to step back and reflect on their perspectives. Aspen inspires and reassures!”

Britt Eckelmann,
Member of the Management Board

“Aspen provides for a network of outstanding expertise which is especially important at a time when the future of transatlantic relations is, yet again, at a crossroads with the upcoming presidential elections.”

Prof. Dr. Gunther Hellmann,
Member of the Management Board

“Aspen Germany makes it possible for me to take a deep dive into various matters of actual and conflicting interest through participating at the different Aspen event formats like conferences, round tables, breakfast meetings, or seminars.”

Ulrich Plett,
Member of the Management Board



Britt Eckelmann at Membership Meeting of the Association of Friends of the Aspen Institute



Arno Heuermann,
Ulrich Misgeld,
Jan Losemann,
Eva Deininger,
Helmut Kranzmaier
at Membership Meeting of the Association of Friends of the Aspen Institute



Katja Greeson and Prof. Gunther Hellmann during interview

Friends of Aspen Germany

The Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts e.V. (Friends of Aspen Germany) was founded in 1989 with the aim of not only financially supporting the work of the Aspen Institute Germany, but also actively working for the realization of a free, just and diverse society. The realization of these goals takes on new importance in the current tense global political environment. More than ever, it is important to promote dialogue between Germany, Europe, and the United States and to strengthen the democratic resilience of our societies. The members of the Friends of Aspen Germany are sending a visible signal to the public that they want to play an active role in shaping this process. Aspen Germany is very grateful for this and for the financial support, as it lays the essential foundation for the Institute to drive change through dialogue, leadership, and action.

In particular, the members of the Board of the Friends of Aspen Germany work tirelessly to recruit new members, promote the Aspen Leadership Seminar, and most notably, make their mark on the Public Program. It is therefore highly gratifying

that Jan Losemann as vice-chairman, Helmut Kranzmaier, and Arno Heuermann have made themselves available for a further term of service and were unanimously confirmed at the annual general assembly on May 23, 2023.

“The Aspen stands as a beacon of intellectual leadership, unwavering in its commitment to explore uncharted territories of thought and boldly engage in the discourse of new frontiers.”

Dr. Roland Hoffmann-Theinert,
Chairman of the Friends of Aspen Germany

“I have been associated with Aspen for over 25 years. The personal encounters at meetings and events give me important insights into national and, above all, international developments.”

Ulrich Misgeld,
Treasurer of the Friends of Aspen Germany

Aspen Institute Germany Team with Dr. Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann and Prof. Dr. Carlo Masala at Aspen Germany's Reception Party 2023



“Aspen Germany is a place where I meet friends, especially in difficult times for democracy. Who can make a difference if not us?”

Jan Losemann,
Deputy Chairman of the Friends of Aspen Germany

Eva Deininger at Membership Meeting of the Association of Friends of the Aspen Institute



Dr. Roland Hoffmann-Theinert, Eva Deininger, Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Jan Losemann at Social Reception in Honor of Ambassador Amy Gutmann

Members of the Board of the Friends of Aspen Germany



Dr. Roland Hoffmann-Theinert, (Chairman), Partner, Lawyer, and Notary, GÖRG Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten MbB, since 2010



Eva Katharina Deininger, Founder and Managing Director, xtracake GmbH, since 2018



Jan Losemann, (Deputy Chairman), Founder and CEO, Losemann Legal Tax GmbH, since 2014



Arno Heuermann, Founding Partner and COO, Catenion GmbH, since 2011



Ulrich Misgeld, (Treasurer), Member of the Board, April Foundation, since 2016



Helmut Kranzmaier, Managing Partner, HELUMA Ventures, since 2014

Friends of Aspen Germany in the United States

The entity Friends of Aspen Germany in the United States was set up in 2014 by enthusiastic American supporters of Aspen Germany and is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that can receive tax-exempt donations in the United States. With their contributions, members not only financially support the work of the Institute, but also provide their expertise and contacts, not least to attract new members and build an indispensable and very valuable network in the United States to support the mission and program of Aspen Germany.

“The Aspen Institute Germany builds genuine transatlantic connection. It is a vibrant platform for discussion of vexing issues and critical support for the all-important next generation of leaders.”

Kim Larsen,
President of the Friends of Aspen Germany in the United States

Members of the Friends of Aspen Germany in the United States



Kim Larsen (President since 2022), Partner, Stinson LLP, since 2015



Werner Hein Senior Counsel, Mayer Brown LLP, since 2014



Erik Hotmire, 2014–2023



Cecilie Rohwedder, Contributor, Wall Street Journal, since 2014



Fred Reinke, Partner, Dentons US LLP, 2014–2022

“Aspen Germany continues to exhibit leadership in fostering constructive dialogue around the biggest issues that impact human flourishing.”

Erik Hotmire,
Friends of Aspen Germany in the United States

Cecilie Rohwedder during an interview



Aspen, Colorado



Kim Larsen during a Board of Trustees Meeting

Chronicle of Events

JULY 2022 – DECEMBER 2023

2022

JULY 2022

July 5, 2022 | Online

Exclusive Roundtable Discussion: “Franco-German Dialogue: The Future of Europe in a Contested Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Environment” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany and Institut Aspen France, in cooperation with Fondation Prospective et Innovation, with Jean-Pierre Raffarin, former Prime Minister of France, and a delegation each from France and Germany, representing the national think tank, political and economic landscape.

July 21, 2022 | Online

Exclusive Breakfast Discussion moderated by Matt Petersen, President & CEO, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) and Participant of Aspen Germany’s Future Cities Project with Kevin de León, Councilmember, Los Angeles City Council and former President pro Tempore, California State Senate.

AUGUST 2022

August 24, 2022 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “Transatlantic Energy Policy: A New Rift or Common Approach?” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Dr. Sonja Thielges, Research Group Leader, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), and Dr. Guntram Wolff, Director and CEO, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP).

August 29, 2022 | Online

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Online Discussion on Transatlantic Cooperation on Climate and Energy” with the German and U.S. state legislators of the 2022 cohort.

SEPTEMBER 2022

September 7, 2022 | In-Person

Roundtable Discussion: “Evaluating Kosovo’s Position in the Dialogue with Serbia: What is at Stake?” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with the Kosovo Think Tank Group for Legal and Political Studies with Arbër Fetahu, Research Fellow, Group for Legal and Political Studies, GLPS, and Dr. Frédéric Jörgens, Deputy Head of Division 209 Western Balkans, German Federal Foreign Office.

September 7, 2022 | Hybrid

Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project: “Fit for Future? A Sustainable Path Towards Urban Construction and City Planning” with Hanna Steinmüller, Member of the German Bundestag (Alliance 90/The Greens), Prof. Dr. Philipp Bouteiller, Managing Partner, Artprojekt, Andreas Gebhard, Founder & CEO, re:publica and Chairman, Foundation Board of Stiftung Zukunft Berlin, Elisabeth Mansfeld, Head of Programme Cities, Alfred Herrhausen Gesellschaft, and Dr. Tillman Prinz, Secretary General, Federal Chamber of German Architects.

September 8, 2022 | In-Person

Exclusive Discussion: “Zeitenwende, Midterm Elections and the Transatlantic Relationship – United States and Germany in the Age of Change”, organized by the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with Allianz SE, with Dr. Amy Gutmann, U.S. Ambassador to Germany.

September 9, 2022 | In-Person

Exclusive Breakfast Discussion: “Transatlantic Trade, Supply Chain Security, and Sustainability” with Laure Lane, Executive Vice President and Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, United Parcel Service (UPS).

September 13–17, 2022 | In-Person

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Meeting of 2022 Cohort in New Jersey” with 14 American State Legislators and Representatives of the German Landtage.

September 21, 2022 | Online

Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project: “Online Scenario Workshop 2” with representatives from politics, culture, sports, art, health, media from Berlin, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.

September 21, 2022 | Online

Exclusive Discussion: “Financing the War: Russian Fossil Fuels” with Oleg Ustenko, Economic Advisor to the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

September 22, 2022 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “The Midterms 2022: Positions and Perspectives” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Cecilie Rohwedder, Contributor, The Wall Street Journal (WSJ), and Dr. Johannes Thimm, Deputy Head of Research Division, Research Division “The Americas”, SWP.

OCTOBER 2022

October 4–7, 2022 | In-Person

Western Balkans Stakeholder Forum “Green Agenda for the Western Balkans” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia and funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, with high-level participants from the Western Balkans, Germany, the EU, the United States, as well as international and regional organizations.

October 5, 2022 | Online

State-to-State: German-American State Legislator Dialogue: “State Leadership on Affordable Housing and Sustainable Urban Development”, organized by the Aspen Institute Germany and the American Council on Germany with Dr. Anke Frieling, MdHB (CDU), Hamburg Parliament, Delegate Marvin E. Holmes (D), Maryland House of Delegates, and Mathias Schulz MdA (SPD), Berlin House of Representatives.

October 6–9, 2022 | In-Person

Leadership Seminar “Philosophy and Practice” with moderators Dr. Carol Gluck, George Sansom Professor of History, Columbia University, and Ruth Girardet, Member of Court, University of Edinburgh.

October 13, 2022 | In-Person

Exclusive Breakfast Discussion with Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Republic of Kosovo.

October 13, 2022 | In-Person

Global Threat Series: “Playing With Fire? Crypto Currencies and the Financial Market Stability” with Dr. Lennart Ante, CEO & Co-Founder, Blockchain Research Lab, and Dr. Matthias Voelkel, CEO, Börse Stuttgart.

October 19–20, 2022 | Online

Civil Society and Think Tank Forum 2022: “Digital Preparatory Workshop” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany with the Southeast Europe Association and with generous support from the German Federal Foreign Office, with civil society representatives from the Western Balkans.

October 20, 2022 | In-Person

Digital Dish: “The New Geopolitics of Global Supply Chain Resilience” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany and Telefónica Germany, with Andreas Audretsch MdB, Vice-Chairman, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens, Bernard Kuiten, Director, a.i. Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization, Simone Menne, President, American Chamber of Commerce in Germany e.V., and Dr. Klaus Wiener MdB, Member of the Economy, Environment and Finance Committees.

NOVEMBER 2022

November 1–2, 2022 | Hybrid

“Civil Society and Think Tank Forum 2022” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany with the Southeast Europe Association and with support from the German Federal Foreign Office, with more than 100 participants from civil society organizations from all the Western Balkans.

November 7, 2022 | In-Person

Global Threat Series: “Bringing a Knife to a Gun Fight?” with Elmar Brok, Senior Fellow, Aspen Institute Germany, Imke Kügele, Board Member, BundeswehrGrün e.V. and Lawyer, Bundeswehr, and Matthias Wachter, Head of the Department International Cooperation, Security, Raw Materials and Space, BDI e.V..

November 9, 2022 | Online

International Press Luncheon: “The 2022 Midterm Election – A Scheduled Shake-up?” with Alistair Dawber, Washington Correspondent, The Times and The Sunday Times, United Kingdom, Steven Erlanger, Chief Diplomatic Correspondent in Europe, The New York Times, United States; Rieke Havertz, U.S. Correspondent, DIE ZEIT, Germany, and Paolo Mastrolilli, U.S. Bureau Chief, La Repubblica, Italy.

November 10, 2022 | In-Person

Democracy 2.0 Event: “Digital Operations in Wartime – Empowering Democratic Societies in a Digital World” with Dr. Regine Grienberger, Director for Cyber Foreign and Security Policy, Federal Foreign Office, Kevin Leiser MdB, Member of the Defense Committee and Deputy Member of the Digital Committee, Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar, Director of the Digital Society Institute, ESMT Berlin, and Ralf Wiegand, National Security and IT-Compliance Officer, Microsoft Deutschland GmbH.

November 10, 2022 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “Biden’s Halftime: What the Outcome of the Midterms Means for the United States” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Dr. Meike Zwingenberger, Chief Executive Officer, Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations, and Julian Heißler, U.S. Correspondent, Wirtschaftswoche in Washington, D.C..

November 21, 2022 | Hybrid

Future of Food and Farming: “Essen – zu welchem Preis?” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany, Berlin Dialogue, and the Center for Liberal Modernity and supported by Microsoft, DLG e.v. and Bayer Cropscience.

November 21, 2022 | Online

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Digital Workshop to Finalize the Policy Recommendations on Climate and Energy” with the German and U.S. state legislators of the 2022 cohort.

November 23, 2022 | In-Person

Digital Dish: “Competition and Regulatory Challenges in Digital Markets” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany and Telefónica Germany, with Andreas Mundt, President, German Competition Authority, Michael König, then Adviser Digital Markets Act, European Commission, Dr. Julia Pohle, Research Fellow in the group ‘Politics of Digitalization’, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), and Dennis Kaben, Legal Director, Google Germany GmbH.

November 23–24, 2022 | In-Person

Western Balkans Working Group, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, with high-level government representatives from the Western Balkans, select experts, and decision makers from the German government.

November 24, 2022 | In-Person

Western Balkans Panel Discussion: “The EU’s Geopolitical Awakening – New Impetus for the EU Integration Process of the Western Balkans?” with Manuel Sarrazin, Federal Government Special Representative for the Countries of the Western Balkans, Germany, and high-level representatives from the Western Balkans: Josip Brkić, Liza Gashi, Miroslav Gačević, Artur Kuko, Aleksandar Mašković, Filip Tosevski.

November 28, 2022 | Online

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Digital Workshop to Finalize the Policy Recommendations on Climate and Energy” with the German and U.S. state legislators of the 2022 cohort.

November 30, 2022 | Online

State-to-State: German-American State Legislator Dialogue: “Food for Thought: How States Can Contribute to Achieving a Sustainable Agricultural Future” with Representative Sydney Carlin (Democrat), Member of the Kansas House of Representatives, Senator Russ Goodman (Republican), Member of the Georgia State Senate, Assemblywoman Donna A. Lupardo (Democrat), Member of the New York State Assembly, and Elrid Pasbrig MdL (SPD), Member of the State Parliament of Saxony-Anhalt.

DECEMBER 2022**December 1, 2022 | Online**

German-American Trade and Tech Dialogue: “Inaugural Workshop” with transatlantic policy makers and business, academia, and civil society representatives.

December 5, 2022 | In-Person

Exclusive Dinner: “Board of Trustees Dinner” with Isabelle Poupert, then Chargée d’affaire a.i. of Canada in Germany.

December 8, 2022 | Hybrid

Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project: “Smart Solutions: Technology and the City in a Post-COVID World” with Erin Bromaghim, Deputy Mayor for International Affairs, Los Angeles, and Stefan Schneider, then German Consul General, as well as selected stakeholders on-site in Los Angeles and virtual participation from Berlin and Atlanta.

December 14, 2022 | Online

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Digital Workshop to Finalize the Policy Recommendations on Climate and Energy” with the German and U.S. state legislators of the 2022 cohort.

December 19, 2022 | Online

Leadership in Times of Crisis: “Women Leading to Learn: Education and Rights under Taliban Rules” with Pashtana Durrani, Executive Director and Human Rights Activist, LEARN Afghanistan.

December 20, 2022 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “New Trade Dispute among Friends? Why U.S. Investments in Future Technologies Alarm the EU” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Heike Buchter, U.S. Correspondent, DIE ZEIT, and Dr. Laura von Daniels, Head of Research Division, Research Division “The Americas”, SWP.

2023**JANUARY 2023****January 26, 2023 | Online**

Podcast America’s Choice: “After the Chaos in Congress: The State of the Republican Party” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Kerstin Klein, Correspondent, ARD studio in Washington, D.C., and Dr. Philipp Adorf, Research Associate, Institute for Political Science and Sociology at the University of Bonn.

January 31, 2023 | Online

Panel Discussion: “Inflation Reduction Act: The Road to Protectionism or a Driver of Transformation?” with Michael Froman, then Vice Chairman, Mastercard Inc., and former U.S. Trade Representative, Dan Hamilton, President, Transatlantic Leadership Network, Brookings Institution/Johns Hopkins University, Sabine Jost-Heil, Senior Manager Trade and Industrial Policy, Political Intelligence, Mercedes-Benz Group AG, and Dr. Laura von Daniels, Head of Research Division “The Americas”, SWP.

FEBRUARY 2023**February 8, 2023 | Online**

Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project: “Online Scenario Workshop 3” with representatives from politics, culture, sports, art, health, and media from Berlin, Atlanta, and Los Angeles, and with architect Anny Kyrii, Deputy Chairwoman, Architectural Chamber of the National Union of Architects of Ukraine and Head, Foundation of Ukrainian Architectural Chamber.

February 13, 2023 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “One year after the Russian invasion: The Ukraine war and its consequences” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Elmar Theveßen, Studio Director, ZDF Washington, D.C., and Dr. Liana Fix, Fellow for Europe, Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C.

February 14–15, 2023 | Hybrid

German-American Trade and Tech Conference 2023: “Stronger Together: Towards a Transatlantic Trade and Tech Alliance” in Berlin with over 50 international speakers from politics, business, academia, and civil society and more than 700 guests.

February 16–17, 2023 | Hybrid

Munich Cyber Security Conference 2023: “Cyber Security: Who is in Charge?” organized by the Security Network Munich in cooperation with the Aspen Institute Germany, with speakers from top-level industry management, academia, and politics.

February 19, 2023 | In-Person

Munich Security Conference Exclusive Side Event: “The Russian-Ukraine War and European Security. Defense and Deterrence 2023” organized by BerlinDialogue, the Aspen Institute Germany, and the American Council on Germany.

February 20, 2023 | Online

Ambassadors’ Talk: “German-New Zealand Ties Amid Changing Geopolitical Realities” with Craig Hawke, New Zealand’s Ambassador to Germany, and Nicole Menzenbach, German Ambassador to New Zealand, moderated by Sir Don McKinnon, New Zealand politician and former Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand.

February 22, 2023 | Online

Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project: “Online Scenario Workshop Interim Session” with representatives from politics, culture, sports, art, health, and media from Berlin, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.

February 27, 2023 | In-Person

“Café Kyiv – We Choose Freedom!” hosted by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung with support of the Aspen Institute Germany and several other partner organizations.

February 27, 2023 | Online

International Press Luncheon: “One Year of Russia’s War Against Ukraine” with Emma Graham-Harrison, Senior Affairs Correspondent, The Guardian, Katrin Eigendorf, International Reporter in Ukraine, ZDF, Joanna Kakissis, International Correspondent Ukraine, NPR, Steffen Schwarzkopf, War Reporter in Ukraine, WELT TV, Olga Rudenko, Editor-in-Chief, Kyiv Independent, and Mathias Bölinger, Kyiv Correspondent, Deutsche Welle.

February 28, 2023 | Online

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Introductory Meeting of the 2023 Cohort” with 16 participants working in arable agriculture in eastern Germany and the Corn Belt in the U.S. Midwest.

MARCH 2023**March 9–12, 2023 | In-Person**

Leadership Seminar “Philosophy and Practice” with moderators Prof. Dr. Carol Gluck, George Samson Professor of History, Columbia University, and Dr. Leigh G. Hafrey, Senior Lecturer, MIT Sloan School of Management.

March 16, 2023 | Hybrid

Future of Food and Farming: “Artenretter Ackerbau? Der Weg zu einer nachhaltigen Landwirtschaft” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany, Berlin Dialogue, and the Center for Liberal Modernity, and supported by Microsoft, DLG e.v., and Bayer Cropscience, moderated by Heike Zeller, Owner, aHEU, with Dr. Bettina Hoffmann, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, and David Spencer, Plant Biologist, RWTH Aachen University.

March 20, 2023 | In-Person

Exclusive Discussion: “Behind the Scenes of the Munich Security Conference” with Dr. Benedikt Franke, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Munich Security Conference.

March 21, 2023 | Online

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Virtual Kick-off Meeting of the 2023 Cohort” with 16 American state legislators and representatives of the German Landtage.

March 22, 2023 | Online

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Intro to Agricultural Policy in the USA” with Dr. Jonathan Coppess, Associate Professor and Director of Gardner Agriculture Policy Program, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

March 24, 2023 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “U.S. Southern Border Crisis and No End in Sight?” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Bastian Brauns, U.S. Correspondent, T-Online, and Johanna Roth, U.S. Correspondent, ZEIT Online.

March 29, 2023 | Online

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Intro to Agricultural Policy in Germany” with Prof. Dr. Stephan Cramon-Taubadel, Chair of Agricultural Policy, Georg-August-University of Göttingen.

APRIL 2023**April 3, 2023 | In-Person**

Global Threats Series: “Critical Infrastructures under Attack” with Prof. Dr. Christoph Meinel, CEO and Scientific Director of the Hasso Plattner Institute for Digital Engineering gGmbH (HPI), University of Potsdam, and Dr. Bernhard Rabert, Business Manager Political Relations and Government Sales, OneFiber.

April 3, 2023 | Online

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Germany 101 – Exploring Subnational Governance in Germany” with Dr.-Matthias Diermeier, Head of Research Unit Democracy, Society, Market Economy, German Economic Institute.

April 4, 2023 | Online

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “United States 101 – Exploring Subnational Governance in the United States” with Dr. Philipp Adorf, Research Associate at the Institute for Political Science and Sociology, University of Bonn.

April 11, 2023 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “Markets between Inflation and Bank Failures” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guest Stefan Eich, Assistant Professor of Government, Georgetown University, and Richard B. Fisher, Member in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Princeton University.

April 13, 2023 | Online

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Digital Workshop on Sharing Best Practices for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Regions” with 16 participants working in arable agriculture in eastern Germany and the Corn Belt in the U.S. Midwest, and other stakeholders.

MAY 2023**May 2, 2023 | In-Person**

Democracy 2.0: “(Dis-)Information Warfare? Democratic Responses to Digital Authoritarianism” organized by

Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with Microsoft Germany, with Dr. Johannes Dimroth, Deputy Head, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government, Dr. Eva Flecken, Director, Media Commission Berlin-Brandenburg (mabb), and Dr. Guido Brinkel, Head of Regulatory Policy and Director Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Germany.

May 2, 2023 | Online

Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars: “Welcome Event” with social media influencers and content creators from Germany, Ukraine, Romania, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Latvia.

May 4, 2023 | Online

German-American Trade and Tech Dialogue: “Second Virtual Workshop” with transatlantic policy makers as well as business, academia, and civil society representatives from Germany, Europe, and the United States.

May 4, 2023 | Online

Conference: “Rethinking EU Competitiveness in the Changing Geopolitical World” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany and Aspen Institute Italia, chaired by Marta Dassù, Senior Advisor European Affairs, Editor Aspenia, Aspen Institute Italia with Prof. Vittorio Grilli, Chairman, Italy and Corporate Investment Bank EMEA, JP Morgan U.K., and Dr. Marco Buti, Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa Chair of economic and monetary integration, European University Institute; followed by a panel discussion chaired by Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany with Guntram Wolff, Director and CEO, German Council on Foreign Relations, Daniel Gros, Professor, Institute for European Policy Making, Università Bocconi, Michele Valensise, President, Villa Vigoni, and Aurelio Regina, Delegate for Energy, Confindustria. Closing remarks by Jean-Claude Trichet, Honorary Governor, Banque de France and Armando Varricchio, Italian Ambassador to Germany.

May 8, 2023 | Online

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Digital Workshop on Transatlantic Collaboration for a Sustainable & Climate-smart Agriculture” with 16 participants working in arable agriculture in eastern Germany and the Corn Belt in the U.S. Midwest, and Joseph Glauber, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and Prof. Dr. Christine Wieck, Professor for Agricultural and Food Policy, University of Hohenheim.

May 8, 2023 | In-Person

Expert Conference: “Global Trade in Troubled Waters” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany and the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), moderated by Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, and Dr. Claudia Schmucker, Head of Geoeconomics Program, DGAP, with guests Stefan Rouenhoff, MdB, CDU, Anabel Gonzalez, Deputy Director General, WTO, Ignacio Garcia Bercero, Head of Multilateral Affairs, Strategy, Analysis, Evaluation, DG Trade, European Commission, Abraham L. Newman, Professor, School of Foreign Service and Department of Government, Georgetown University, H.E. Harish Parvathaneni, Ambassador of India to Germany, José Luis Cancela, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the WTO, Sarah Bäumchen, Member of the Executive Board, German Electro and Digital Industry Association.

May 9, 2023 | Hybrid

Panel Discussion: “Zeitenwende of the EU-Enlargement – How to Boost the Process?” in cooperation with the German Foreign Office with Ambassador Catalina Cullas, Director for Relations with EU Member States, Cross-Border and Regional Cooperation, EU External Affairs, German Federal Foreign Office, Stela Leucă, State Secretary for European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, and Milena Lazarević, Programme Director, European Policy Centre.

May 9–13, 2023 | In-Person

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Meeting of 2023 Cohort in Düsseldorf” with 16 American state legislators and representatives of the German Landtage.

May 10, 2023 | In-Person

Public Policy Seminar: “A World Transformed: Exploring U.S.-German Relations Then and Now” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, the George & Barbara Bush Foundation, Atlantik-Brücke, Deutsche Bank, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and the Munich Security Conference.

May 23, 2023 | In-Person

Summer Reception of the Aspen Institute Germany and the Association of Friends of the Aspen Institute with Dr. Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, MdB and Chair of the Defense Committee, and Prof. Dr. Carlo Masala, Professor of International Politics, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, University of the Bundeswehr Munich.

May 24, 2023 | Online

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “First Digital Workshop to Develop Recommendations on the Topic of Climate” with 16 participants working in arable agriculture in eastern Germany and the Corn Belt in the U.S. Midwest.

May 25, 2023 | Online

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Third Online Discussion on Structural Change and the Revitalization of Post-Industrial Spaces” with 16 American state legislators and representatives of the German Landtage.

May 26, 2023 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “After the G7-Summit: Where to Go from Here” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Ulrike Franke, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) and Roland Nelles, Chief Correspondent and Bureau Chief, Der Spiegel in Washington, D.C.

May 31, 2023 | Online

State-to-State: German-American State Legislator Dialogue: “Addressing Educator Shortages and Pandemic-related Learning Loss” with Senator Raumesh Akbari (Democrat), Member of the Tennessee State Senate, Representative Edward DeLaney (Democrat), Member of the Indiana House of Representatives, Jochen Ott MdL (SPD), Member of the State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia, Andreas Sturm MdL (CDU), Member of the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg, and Representative Steven Ultrino (Democrat), Member of the Massachusetts General Court.

May–June 2023 | Online

Future of the Western Balkans in 2043: Three preparation meetings for the Foresight-Process.

JUNE 2023**June 5, 2023 | Online**

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Fourth Online Discussion on Structural Change and the Revitalization of Post-Industrial Spaces” with 16 American state legislators and representatives of the German Landtage.

June 5, 2023 | In-Person

Global Threats Series: “Democracy in Danger” with Prof. Benjamin Carter Hett, Professor for History at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

June 6–8, 2023 | In-Person

Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars: Study Trip to Berlin with social media influencers and content creators from Germany, Ukraine, Romania, Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Latvia, and with Yuliya Bidenko, Visiting Researcher ‘UNET’, Centre for East European and International Studies, Christiane Hoffmann, First Deputy Spokesperson of the Federal Government, Federal Press Office, Maryna Hovorukhina, Strategic Communications Expert, Swantje Kortemeyer, Deputy Head of Department of Strategic Communication, German Federal Foreign Office, Friederike Moraht, Editor, Tagesspiegel Background, Melanie Ohnemus, Government Relations & Public Policy Manager, DACH, TikTok, Heather Danielle Thompson, Manager of Digital Democracy, Democracy Reporting International, Valerie Scholz, Co-Founder, Facts for Friends; Hannah Knox, Desk Officer, and further colleagues in Community Management and Social Media, Federal Press Office.

June 7, 2023 | Online

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Second Digital Workshop to Develop Recommendations for Action on the Topic of Climate” with 16 participants working in arable agriculture in eastern Germany and the Corn Belt in the U.S. Midwest.

June 10, 2023 | In-Person

Panel Discussion “The Architecture of Values and Security for the Upcoming Euro-Atlantic Area” with Michael Roth (SPD), Chair of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee, Viola von Cramon-Taubadel (Alliance 90/The Greens), MEP, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, followed by an informal meeting of Ukrainian and German stakeholders, as part of an event hosted by the Aspen Institute Kyiv, in partnership with the Aspen Institute Germany and the Ukrainian Ambassador to Germany.

June 14, 2023 | Online

Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project: “Online Scenario Workshop 4” with representatives from politics, culture, sports, art, health, and media from Berlin, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.

June 16, 2023 | In-Person

Exclusive Roundtable Discussion with H.E. President of Kosovo Dr. Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, moderated by Helmut Kranzmaier, Board Member, Association of Friends, Aspen Institute Germany and Partner, Bridgemaker.

June 20–24, 2023 | In-Person

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Meeting of 2023 Cohort in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania” with 16 American state legislators and representatives of the German Landtage.

June 21, 2023 | In-Person

Future of Food and Farming: “Klima wandelt Landwirtschaft – Herausforderung und Chance” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany, Berlin Dialogue, and the Center for Liberal Modernity and supported by Microsoft, DLG e.v. and Bayer Cropscience, moderated by Heike Zeller, Owner, aHEU, with Prof. Dr. Harald Grethe, Director, Agora Agrar, and leading experts and decision makers from civil society, politics, and industry.

June 25–26, 2023 | Hybrid

International Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina “New Government, New Reform Effort?” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany and the Southeast Europe Association and funded by the German Federal Foreign Office with high-level participants from the Western Balkans, Germany, the EU, as well as international and regional organizations.

June 26, 2023 | Hybrid

Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project: “Responsive and Responsible Cities: Implementing Urban Futures” in Atlanta and virtual guests from Berlin and Los Angeles, with Janean Lewis, Senior Policy Advisor to Mayor Andre Dickens, Youth Development & Education, Chief Policy Office, City of Atlanta, Erica J. Bolden, Head of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and People Analytics, Mercedes-Benz USA, Paige Alexander, CEO, The Carter Center, Clyde Higgs, President & CEO, Atlanta BeltLine Inc., Vanessa Ibarra, Director, Mayor’s Office of International & Immigrant Affairs, City of Atlanta, and Anna Roach, Executive Director & CEO, Atlanta Regional Commission.

June 27–July 1, 2023 | In-Person

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Meeting of 2023 Cohort in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois” with 16 participants working in arable agriculture in eastern Germany and the Corn Belt in the U.S. Midwest.

June 29, 2023 | Online

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Fifth Online Discussion on Structural Change and the Revitalization of Post-Industrial Spaces” with 16 American state legislators and representatives of the German Landtage.

JULY 2023

July 3, 2023 | In-Person

Digital Dish Series: “Charting the Course? Europe’s Quest for Digital Sovereignty in the Changing Geopolitical Order”, organized by the Aspen Institute Germany and Telefónica Germany, with Sarah Bäumchen, Member of the Executive Board, German Electro and Digital Industry Association (ZVEI), Catarina dos Santos, MdB, CDU, Steven Heckler, Deputy Head of Digitalization and Innovation, Federation of German Industries (BDI), Antonia Hmaid, Analyst, Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), and Juan Luis Redondo Mañillo, Director Digital Public Policy, Telefónica S.A..

July 4, 2023 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “Before the NATO Summit: The Global Security Situation and Alliance Unity” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guest Dr. Ben Schreer, Executive Director and Head of the European Security and Defence Programme, International Institute for Strategic Studies-Europe (IISS).

July 5, 2023 | Online

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Third Digital Workshop to Develop Recommendations for Action on the Topic of Climate” with 16 participants working in arable agriculture in eastern Germany and the Corn Belt in the U.S. Midwest.

July 5–6, 2023 | In-Person

Foresight-Process “Future of the Western Balkans in 2043” funded by the German Federal Foreign Office with experts and thought leaders from the Western Balkans and the European Union.

July 20, 2023 | Online

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Sixth Online Discussion on Structural Change and the Revitalization of Post-Industrial Spaces” with 16 American state legislators and representatives of the German *Landtage*.

AUGUST 2023

August 4, 2023 | Online

Laboratories of Democracy Initiative: “Final Online Discussion on Structural Change and the Revitalization of Post-Industrial Spaces” with 16 American state legislators and representatives of the German *Landtage*.

August 8, 2023 | Online

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Fourth Digital Workshop to Develop Recommendations for Action on the Topic of Climate ” with 16 participants working in arable agriculture in eastern Germany and the Corn Belt in the U.S. Midwest.

August 14, 2023 | Online

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Fifth Digital Workshop to Develop Recommendations for Action on the Topic of Climate” with 16 participants working in arable agriculture in eastern Germany and the Corn Belt in the U.S. Midwest.

August 22, 2023 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “Politicized and Polarized: On the State of U.S. Democracy” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Doris Simon, Correspondent for the U.S. and Canada, Deutschlandradio (DLF) in Washington, D.C., and Sarah Wagner, Deputy Director and Program Officer, Atlantic Academy Rhineland-Pfalz.

August 23, 2023 | Online

Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars: “First Digital Workshop: Dealing with Online Attacks, Hate Speech, and Shitstorms” with social media influencers and content creators from Germany, Ukraine, Romania, Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Latvia.

SEPTEMBER 2023

September 5, 2023 | Online

Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars: “Second Digital Workshop: Generative AI & the Effects on Disinformation” with Lena-Maria Böswald, Digital Democracy Programme Officer, Democracy Reporting International, Max Mundhenke, Associate and Crisis Communicator, Brunswick Group, and social media influencers and content creators from Germany, Ukraine, Romania, Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Latvia.

September 12, 2023 | Online

German-American Trade and Tech Dialogue: Third Workshop on “Climate, Energy, and Green Industrial Policy – Cooperation and Conflict in the Transatlantic Partnership” with Rupert Schlegelmilch, Director at DG Trade, EU Commission, Tony Fernandes, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Trade Policy and Negotiations, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S.

Department of State, Dr. Christian Forwick, Sub-Division Head for External Economic Policy, Trade Policy, Americas, German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), and Peter Rashish, Vice President and Director of the Geoeconomics Program at Johns Hopkins University’s American-German Institute.

September 13, 2023 | Online

State-to-State: German-American State Legislator Dialogue: “Structural Change and Revitalization in Post-Industrial Regions” with Senator Dave Argall (Republican), Member of the Pennsylvania State Senate, Wibke Brems MdL (Alliance 90/The Greens), Chair of the Green Party in the State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia, and Romina Plonsker MdL (CDU), Member of the State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia.

September 19, 2023 | In-Person

Digital Dish: “The Ethical Dimension of AI: Where Will this Journey Head to?” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany and Telefónica Germany, with Dr. Daniela Brönstrup, Head of Digital and Innovation Policy Department, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection (BMWK), Prof. Dr. Joanna J. Bryson, Professor of Ethics and Technology at the Hertie School, and Ana Chubinidze, Founder and CEO, AdalanAI.

September 21, 2023 | Online

Ambassadors’ Talk: “Indian-German Relations” with Parvathaneni Harish, Indian Ambassador to Germany and Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India.

September 27, 2023 | Online

U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Harvesting Sustainable Solutions: Transatlantic Solutions on Climate-smart Arable Farming” with 16 participants working in arable agriculture in eastern Germany and the Corn Belt in the U.S. Midwest.

September 29, 2023 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “Pivot to Asia Reloaded: Bilanz von Bidens China-Politik” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guest Matthias Naß, Chief International Correspondent, Die Zeit.

OCTOBER 2023

October 4, 2023 | Online

Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars: “Third Digital Workshop: What to Do against Disinformation? Approaches from the Individual to the EU-Level” with Lutz Güllner, Head of the Strategic Communication Division, European External Action Service (EEAS), and social media influencers and content creators from Germany, Ukraine, Romania, Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Latvia.

October 6, 2023 | In-Person

Discussion: “Ethical Safeguards and Regulatory Frameworks for Frontier AI Models” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with the German Marshall Fund, moderated by Astrid Ziebarth, Senior Fellow Tech & Society, German Marshall Fund, with Dr. Jade Leung, Governance Lead, OpenAI.

October 12, 2023 | Online

Future of Food and Farming: “Grüne Felder, rote Zahlen: Wirtschaftlichkeit in der Landwirtschaft?” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany, Berlin Dialogue, and the Center for Liberal Modernity, and supported by Microsoft, DLG e.v. and Bayer Cropscience, moderated by Heike Zeller, Owner, aHEU; with Prof. Dr. Alfons Balmann, Director and Head of Department, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies, Karin Gundel Gonzalez, Bayer CropScience Germany, Johannes Schätzl, Member of the German Bundestag (SPD), and Theresa Schmidt, Federal Executive Board, Bund der Deutschen Landjugend (BDL).

October 12, 2023 | Hybrid

Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project: “Closing Conference” with more than 80 high-level participants from Germany, Europe, the United States, and other parts of the world.

October 17, 2023 | Online

Podcast America’s Choice: “The Future for AI-Regulation: Prospects in the USA” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Katharina Wilhelm, Director, ARD’s Los Angeles studio, and Martin Wegele, Senior Manager, Government and Regulatory Affairs, Europe at IBM.

October 25, 2023 | In-Person

Fireside Chat: “Behind the Scenes of the Federal Chancellery” with Dr. Jörg Kukies, State Secretary at the Federal Chancellery of Germany.

October 25, 2023 | In-Person

Discussion: “Generative AI, Google Bard, and the Future of AI Governance” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany, in cooperation with Google, with Jack Krawczyk, Senior Director of Product Management, Google Bard.

NOVEMBER 2023**November 6, 2023 | Online**

Podcast America’s Choice: “One Year to the U.S. Election” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Juliane Schäuble, U.S. Correspondent, Tagesspiegel, and Kai Whittaker, Member of the German Bundestag (CDU/CSU) and Deputy Chair, German-American Parliamentary Group.

November 7–8, 2023 | In-Person

Western Balkans Working Group funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, with high-level government representatives from the Western Balkans, select experts, representatives from the EU, the German Government, and the Bundestag.

November 8, 2023 | In-Person

Western Balkans Panel Discussion: “Digital Transformation and Its Pitfalls: Cybersecurity, Hate Speech, and Disinformation in the Western Balkans” with Dr. Regine Grienberger, Director for Cyber Foreign and Security Policy, German Federal Foreign Office, Josip Brkić, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liza Gashi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Kosovo, Fatmire Isaki, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, North Macedonia, and Adia Sakiqi, Albanian Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany.

November 9–12, 2023 | In-Person

Leadership Seminar “Philosophy and Practice” with moderators Prof. Dr. Carol Gluck, George Samson Professor of History, Columbia University, and Ruth Girardet, Member of the Court, The University of Edinburgh.

November 13–18, 2023 | In-Person

Transatlantic Agriculture Dialogue Tour: “Meeting in Germany” with a select delegation of U.S. agricultural practitioners and policy makers, research and industry organizations, and practitioners in the Berlin-Brandenburg region.

November 15, 2023 | In-Person

Transatlantic Agriculture Dialogue Tour: “Breakfast Roundtable: Transatlantic Perspectives on Fostering a Culture of Innovation in Agriculture” with Robert Gerlach, CEO & Co-Founder, KLIM GmbH, Astrid Jakobs de Pádua, Agriculture Minister, German Embassy Washington D.C., and Nicolas Rubio, Agricultural Counselor, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, U.S. Embassy Berlin.

November 17, 2023 | In-Person

Digital Dish: “Elections in Times of Disinformation – How Do We Protect Our Democracies in the Digital Space?” with Hanna Müller, Head of the Department of Political Models of Order, Disinformation, Hybrid Threats, Federal Ministry of the Interior and for Home Affairs, Tobias Bacherle, Member of the German Bundestag, Chairman of the Committee on Digital Affairs, and Sabine Frank, Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy, YouTube DACH/CEE/EEM.

November 21, 2023 | Online

International Press Roundtable: “Germany’s Reaction to the War between Israel and Hamas” with Steven Erlanger, Chief Diplomatic Correspondent, the New York Times, Sophie von der Tann, Correspondent for Israel and the Palestinian Territories, ARD, Sam Jones, Berlin Correspondent, The Financial Times, and Pascal Thibaut, Germany Correspondent, Radio France Internationale.

November 29, 2023 | In-Person

AI Tech Dialogues: “Bridging AI Regulation – Towards A Global Governance for Ethical AI” organized by Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with Microsoft Germany, with Marco-Alexander Breit, Deputy Director General AI, Data, Tech, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), Dr. Robert Kilian, Member of the Board and Co-Head of the AI Regulation Taskforce, German AI Association (KI Bundesverband) and CEO and Managing Director, CertifAI, Rebecca Arcesati, Lead Analyst, Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), Dr. Sangeeta Mahapatra, Research Fellow, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), and Dr. Guido Brinkel, Head of Regulatory Policy and Director of Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Germany.

November 30, 2023 | Online

State-to-State: German-American State Legislator Dialogue: “Building Digital Infrastructure for Government Services and Administration” with Ellen Demuth MdL (CDU), Member of the State Parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate, Senator Bo Watson, Member of the Tennessee Senate (Republican), and Representative Jennifer Parenti, Member of the Colorado General Assembly (Democrat).

November 30–December 03, 2023 | In-Person

Global Changemakers Workshop: “Democracy Forward: Inspiring Change in Today’s World” organized by the Aspen International Partners in collaboration with the Aspen Institute Germany, with 40 young global leaders.

DECEMBER 2023**December 5, 2023 | In-Person**

Global Threats Series: “China’s Role in International Politics as a Challenge for the Western World” with Felix Lee, journalist at China.Table Professional Briefing, awarded book author, and China expert.

December 5, 2023 | In-Person

Background Discussion: “The Current Situation in the Western Balkans” with Dr. Malte Hauschild, Head of Division EB5 EU Enlargement, Southeastern Europe, Turkey, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), Jannis von Oy, Head of Division 212 Bilateral Relations to the Countries of Central, Southeastern and Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, German Chancellery, and Dr. Niels von Redecker, Head of Division 209 Western Balkans, German Federal Foreign Office.

December 6–8, 2023 | In-Person

Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars: Study Trip to Prague in cooperation with the Aspen Institute Central Europe with social media influencers and content creators from Germany, Ukraine, Romania, Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Latvia as well as with Jeffrey Gedmin, then Acting President and CEO, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Dr. Detmar Doering, Former Head of the Central Europe/Baltic States Office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Kateryna Kruk, Regional Public Policy Lead Central and Eastern Europe, Meta, Ambassador Andreas Künne and Martin Sielmann, Head of Media and Public Relations of the German Embassy to the Czech Republic, Monika Ladmanová, Head of the European Commission

Representation in the Czech Republic, Natália Tkáčová, Project Coordinator, Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI), Lukáš Vlček, Chairman of the Standing Commission on Hybrid Threats and Martin Exner, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Security, as well as Members of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

December 11–14, 2023 | In-Person

Conference “Digitalization and Democracy” organized by the Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, and funded by the German Federal Foreign Office with high-level participants from the Western Balkans, Germany, the EU, the United States, and international and regional organizations.

Imprint

© 2024 Aspen Institute Germany

Aspen Institute Deutschland e. V.
Friedrichstr. 60
10117 Berlin
Deutschland

www.aspeninstitute.de

Responsible Editors:

Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner
Executive Director and Chairwoman
of the Management Board

Driss Köhler
Junior Program Officer, Digital Program

Design and Layout:

designbysoapbox.com

Print:

H. Heenemann GmbH & Co. KG.

No part of this report may be reproduced in any form without the express prior written permission of the publisher.

The Aspen Institute Germany is an independent, non-partisan, and non-profit institute. Its role is limited to that of an organizer and convener. Aspen Germany takes no institutional position on policy issues and does not represent the U.S. or German government. All statements of facts and expressions of opinion contained in Aspen Germany publications are the sole responsibility of the author.

Photo Credits:

Page 9: Center right: Horst Urbschat,
center left: eventfotografen.berlin

Page 12: Top left: Lukas Schramm

Page 13: Lukas Schramm, right: Thyssenkrupp

Page 15: Top center: Bernd Schälte

Page 19: Top left: Lukas Schramm, top and bottom right:
Cindy Brown, bottom left: Mik Milman

Page 24: All: Christian Kruppa

Page 25: Top and center right: Christian Kruppa,
right: Ondřej Besperát

Page 27: All: Christian Kruppa

Page 29: Top left: Ondřej Besperát

Page 32: Top right and bottom left: IGOR MILIĆ, center
and bottom right: Marius Schwarz/Christian Kruppa,
bottom center: Christian Kruppa

Page 33: Left: Christian Kruppa,
right: Christian Lietzmann

Page 35: Center and bottom: Robert Atanasovski

Page 42: Top left: Aspen Institute Kyiv/Pavlo
Slobodnychenko, top right: Christian Kruppa, center and
bottom: Konstantin Gastmann/eventfotografen.berlin,

Page 45: Top, bottom left, and center: Konstantin
Gastmann/eventfotografen.berlin

Page 51: Top left: Rene Matschkowiak

Page 51: Top and bottom left: Rene Matschkowiak

Page 59: Konstantin Gastmann/eventfotografen.berlin

Page 61: Top row: Konstantin Gastmann/
eventfotografen.berlin

Page 63: Left and top right: Konstantin Gastmann/
eventfotografen.berlin

Page 65: Top left and right: Konstantin Gastmann/
eventfotografen.berlin, bottom: Christian Kruppa

