



Aspen Institute | Germany

**Philosophy
and
Practice
– Aspen
Leadership
Seminar**

Our world has changed, and it requires more resilient, purpose-driven, and responsible leaders. It is time to engage with like-minded executives on the essence of values-based leadership in times of crises.

The Leadership Seminar

In an era of unprecedented global challenges and geopolitical upheaval, the Aspen Germany Leadership Seminar “Philosophy and Practice” is a cornerstone of the Institute’s efforts to create a safe space for meaningful dialogue about the essence of leading in times of crisis.

The seminar builds purpose-driven leadership that strengthens the individual’s moral compass and sense of responsibility throughout all sectors of society. By bringing together high-level leaders from politics, business, non-profit organizations, and academia, the participants learn to reflect upon challenges for their own leadership style. The essence of values-based leadership is developed through peer feedback sessions between the participants, thorough academic study with distinguished

moderators, as well as external input from high-level decision-makers making difficult decisions in our society today.

Moral dilemmas, questions about individual freedom, and societal turbulence are at the core of such contemporary leadership challenges. The seminar links philosophical discourse about values, freedom, and responsibility to the individual participant’s everyday decision-making and crisis management in a safe environment.

“The Seminar helped me to better understand my own government decisions and actions.”

Madeleine K. Albright,
Former U.S. Secretary of State



Shaping the Future of Leadership in Disruptive Times

Our world – after a period of relative certainty and stability – has returned to an era of unpredictability, heightened economic and societal tension, and global health emergencies. The reliability of information, integrity of liberal values, and structure of society as we know it is changing before our very eyes.

New challenges test our resilience and sense of responsibility – as individuals and as a society. They require us to reevaluate what constitutes values-based leadership at a time when values are under attack.

As new and growing challenges arise, so does the responsibility of leaders to make real-time,

momentous decisions that have life-changing impacts on the people they lead.

Through profound peer exchange before and after each session as well as frequent feedback discussions with our moderators and external decision-makers, seminar participants learn to reevaluate their own morals and values as leaders in changing times.

The seminar encourages the participants to be more perceptive to the challenges and opportunities of conflicting perspectives and strengthen their own ability to make decisions with conviction and clarity in disruptive times.

HALLMARKS OF THE ASPEN LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

-  In-depth reflection on timeless human values, pursuit of common ground, and cultivation of a richer understanding of the human condition
-  Focus on the essence of leadership
-  Diversity of participants and views
-  High-caliber moderators from the United States and Europe
-  Confidential setting and respectful atmosphere away from daily routine

“The Aspen Seminar provides a wonderful framework for personal growth. The facility, the moderators, and the content were well chosen. It’s an investment that will pay lifelong dividends.”

Michael Eisner, Former Chairman and CEO, Walt Disney Company



A Community for Life

Aspen Germany's Leadership Seminar gives high-level executives the opportunity to exchange ideas with peers from diverse professions and disciplines, with whom they might otherwise not have the opportunity to interact. The seminar allows the participants to engage in meaningful conversation while expanding their professional network.

Participants have the chance to join our diverse and international alumni network, consisting of almost 400 German Aspen alumni members and the worldwide Aspen alumni network. Our leadership alumni provide each other with long-term support as they continue to advance in their careers and have an impact on society.

The Aspen Institute Germany continues to engage bright minds and establish lifelong connections between participants and to our institution. Our exclusive alumni gatherings serve to keep our alumni in touch with each other and connected to the Aspen Community for life.

You will leave our Leadership Seminar with...



a refined personal compass to guide your actions and decisions;



a clear sense of your own values, driven by a feeling of empowerment to take action as a more effective leader;



an ability to think outside the box and challenge your existing views and belief systems;



a broader and more diverse professional network through one-on-one peer exchanges with leaders from other disciplines;



a greater focus and determination to tackle new challenges in your profession, a sense of personal renewal, and readiness to take on even more advanced leadership roles.





Motivation



Drive



Inspiration



Dedication



Heart

Rene Matschkowiak

A Clearer Sense of Self for a Resilient Organization

The Leadership Seminar responds to questions of ethical leadership and strives to make a purposeful contribution toward our participants' impact as leaders.

By developing creative thinking, navigating dissenting opinions, and encouraging candid dialogue, we strengthen our participants' values-based leadership mindset. Our participants have very diverse professional backgrounds and excel in their area of responsibility.

By interacting with participants of similar seniority in an open and dynamic setting – far away from one's regular business network and daily obligations – they engage in deep conversations with their peers and dive into a state of deep self-reflection.

Participants find themselves immersed in new perspectives and reconsider their own opinions. The experience allows them to approach problems from a new angle and better take divergent opinions into account.

Why the Aspen Seminar

While traditional leadership seminars mainly focus on skill-building and case studies, Aspen Germany's Leadership Seminar enables participants to reflect deeply on the foundations of their own decisions. As a non-partisan, non-profit convening platform, Aspen Germany is part of the global Aspen network and remains committed to building bridges between diverse stakeholders.

The Aspen Idea goes back to 1945, when Chicago businessman and philanthropist Walter Paepcke (1896–1960), son of German immigrants from Mecklenburg, arrived in the sleepy town of Aspen, Colorado. Against the background of the human and moral catastrophe of World War II, he dreamed of “a place where the human spirit can flourish”.

The seminar was inspired by the Great Books Seminar held by Mortimer Adler at the University of Chicago. According to Adler, philosophy is everybody's business and essential to what makes us human. The idea was for the seminar to improve society by fostering humanistic thought among important decision-makers.

In this spirit, Aspen Germany has been convening “Philosophy and Practice” Seminars since 2011. In a unique and confidential setting, high-caliber moderators from the United States and Europe create the best possible atmosphere to reflect on timeless human values, societal order, and the limits of power.

- TARGET GROUP** Participants include high-level decision-makers from business, politics, non-governmental organizations, and academia.
- REGISTRATION** To learn more, please contact us at leadership@aspeninstitute.de.
- READINGS** The readings consist of select Western and Eastern classical and contemporary texts. The Seminar is conducted in English.
- DURATION** The seminar takes place over three days, usually incorporating a weekend. Our participants are expected to take part for the duration of the seminar.
- COSTS** Seminar costs vary. We are happy to provide you with further details upon request. Please note that members of the Verein der Freunde des Aspen Instituts Deutschland e.V. / Friends of Aspen Germany receive a ten percent discount on the seminar fee.



“This exceptional seminar tackles leadership from a very unusual angle. It requires you to bring in your own personality and provides space to reflect more deeply on yourself and what really drives and motivates you. I felt indeed enlightened and richer, in knowledge, wisdom, perspectives – and new friendships.”

Dr. Julia Stamm,
Founder & CEO, The Futures Project

“The Aspen Seminar was one of the most worthwhile experiences I have had so far – be it the literature, our great moderators, the open and honest discussions, or the way that my thinking and my opinions were challenged.”

Roberta Ahlers,
Producer, Climaware, and Senior
Political Event Consultant at Rud
Pedersen Public Affairs Germany

“A truly unique way of reconnecting to what leadership is about – being principled and ethically grounded while making change happen. It creates an opportunity to reconnect to timeless philosophical wisdom in an extraordinary group of diverse and passionate people, and creates the space for a quality of dialogue we are missing so much in our daily responsibilities... .”

Dr. Friedrich Kuhn,
Global Head Transformational
Leadership, Egon Zehnder

YOUR CONTACT


Aspen Institute | Germany
Leadership Program
www.philosophy-practice.de

Friedrichstraße 60
10117 Berlin | Germany

Phone +49 (0) 30 804 890 0

Fax +49 (0) 30 804 890 33

 @aspen_germany

 @AspenGermany

 /aspen-institute-germany

 /AspenGermany

leadership@aspeninstitute.de

www.aspeninstitute.de