**Facts and Figures**

**JULY 2022 – DECEMBER 2023**

- **22,658** Participants
- **135** Total Number of Events (58 in-person events)
- **135** Media Appearances
- **126** Members of the Friends of Aspen Germany
- **837** Speakers (52% female)
- **1,061** Instagram followers
- **2,313** Facebook followers
- **4,772** LinkedIn followers
- **3,035** Twitter followers
- **15** Podcasts
- **30** Publications
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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
As we confront rising geopolitical tensions, the challenge is to ensure that our societies 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 on-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.

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 – and a renewed urgency to expand 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.”

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 speak up about their dissatisfaction. This suggests that our disaffection 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 new 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 value-oriented 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 these 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 and contradiction engage in “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 skills 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.

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 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 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.

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, and conflict resolution. By helping people confront important issues, including groups that are not typically part of policy discussions, we allow people to build new connections, speak with decision makers, and feel their voice has an impact.

Among the 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
**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. Unlike many other Think Tanks of the day, which based their operations in Bona 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 peace and security, 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, enabling dialogue, understanding, and trust — being part of this mission fills me with great joy, pride, and gratitude.”

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

“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

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Aspen Germany’s 50-Year-Anniversary

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 grown 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 highlights 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!
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 realignment and close coordination between the United States and Europe on security. Strong U.S. support for Ukraine has corresponded with a German Zockerende: Germany has committed to meeting the two percent defense spending threshold by 2024 and has emerged as the top military ally in NATO. 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-cooperating” 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 U.S.-EU 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 unstable. 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 in November 2023.

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 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 its commitment to building connections and public-facing efforts. Aspen Germany’s America’s Choice podcast, co-hosted by Stormy-Anika Middel, 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

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. Public discussions, a scenario planning process to develop concrete ideas aimed at making the cities of tomorrow more sustainable, inclusive, innovative, and resilient.
"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

“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
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. Following three 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).
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.

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.

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

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

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.

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
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 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.

“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

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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 Ibara, Paige Alexander at the Future Cities workshop and panel discussion in Atlanta

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

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

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Harvesting Solutions: Transatlantic Perspectives on Sustainable Agriculture

The U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture

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 (BMWi).

Spotlight

“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 Knowler, Member of the Board of Trustees
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 Industrialization 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.

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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.

Aspen Germany was privileged to gain first-hand insights into these issues from leaders in the technology industry, hosting Jack Kravczyk, 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 Action (BMWK), as well as Dr. Saugretta Mahapatra, Research Fellow at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) to this event.

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“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
Stronger Together: Towards a Transatlantic Trade and Tech Alliance

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

“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

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

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

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
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 on 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. 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.

“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.

“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.
As a result, the EU is facing several internal challenges: upcoming elections, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has had a profound impact on Europe, signifying a pivotal moment, a Zeitmende, in security and defense. 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.

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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
"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

“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 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.

“Advancing the Green Agenda: Insights from the Western Balkans”

“Green Agenda for the Western Balkans”

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

Meeting with
Dr. Stevo Pendarovski
at the 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

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.

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 Odessa, 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.

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.

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

“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.

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.

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

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 34 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 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.
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 was 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 the “Zeitenwende”. The Public Program was also honored to welcome Dr. Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, Mißl 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 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 Allied 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, 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 Mehnert. 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 topics. The Public Program organized two events addressing the war between Israel and Hamas. At its International Press Roundtable on November 15, 2022, 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 was the topic 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.
“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

“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

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Max Quiering,
Student Assistant, Public Program
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 building space for often silent voices. A big thank you goes to Tommy Loper, Felix Nissen, Heather Snn, Pallav Patiaukar, 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
How Europe Can Weather the Storm: Insights from Aspen Young Leaders

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.

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.

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 instills values of empathy, compassion, and active citizenship. Empowering young people with these skills will result in nurturing future agents of positive change.

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?

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

Beatrice Graupner
Policy Officer European Public Policy, ADAC e.V.

Adnan Ćerimagić
Senior Analyst, European Stability Initiative (ESI)
“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 Roso,
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 Yakovleva,
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 Lehwalder,
Member of the Management Board

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 (Balth Gedike, 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 fifth 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 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 Darraji, 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 evening 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.
“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

Discussions at the Leadership Seminar in October 2022
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.

“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

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.

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

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.

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- Aspen Institute Romania
- Aspen Institute UK
- Atlantik-Büro e. V.
- BerlinDialogue
- Clearview Farm

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*including financial support exceeding 500 EUR

*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)

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<th>INCOME</th>
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<td>Operational Expenses</td>
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<td>Project Expenses*</td>
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*PROJECT EXPENSES (excluding personnel) | 93 | 214 |
| thereof | | |
| Digital Program | 14 | 12 |
| Conferences, Digital Dishes, Workshop Series |
| Europe Program | 41 | 91 |
| Southeast Europe Conferences, Background Briefings |
| Leadership Program | - | 16 |
| Leadership Seminars, Alumni Events |
| Young European Leaders Seminar |
| Public Program | 16 | 24 |
| PP-Lectures, -Interviews, -Discussions |
| Brown Bag Lunches |
| Transatlantic Program | 23 | 71 |
| Laboratories of Democracy – Exchange Program |
| US German Forum Future Agriculture, Cities Project |

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.

Christina Lahr, Director Finance and Personnel, since September 2018
Pia Parzinger, Project Assistant, since September 2023
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

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Board of Trustees and Membership Meeting in December 2023
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),
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Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft,
since 2015

“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

“"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

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Britt Eckelmann,
Member of the Management Board
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 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

Members of the Board of the Friends of Aspen Germany

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

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Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, (Deputy Chairman), Founder and CEO, Losemann Legal Tax GmbH, since 2011

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

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

Cecilie Rohwedder, Contributor, Wall Street Journal, since 2014

Erik Hotmire, 2014–2023

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, in collaboration with the French Ministry of Defence, and a delegation each from France and Germany, representing the national think tank, political and economic landscape.

**August 24, 2022 | Online**  
Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Matt Petersen, President & CEO, Los Angeles

**September 7, 2022 | In-Person**  
Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project: “Fit for Future? A Sustainable Path Towards Urban Construction and City Planning” with Hanna Strainmüller, Member of the German Bundestag (Alliance 90/The Greens), Prof. Dr. Philipp Böttcher, Managing Partner, Art-tech, 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 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 Arber Fetahu, Research Fellow, Group for Legal and Political Studies, GLPS, and Dr. Friederike Jorgens, Deputy Head of Division 209 Western Balkans, German Federal Foreign Office.

**September 9, 2022 | In-Person**  
Exclusive Roundtable Discussion: “Zeitverwandelt, Modem 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**  

**September 22, 2022 | Online**  
Podcast America's Choice: “The Midterms 2022: Positions and Perspectives” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, Dr. Johanns Thünin, Deputy Head of Research Division, Research Division “The Americans”, 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), Member of Court, University of Edinburgh, and Dr. Matthias Voelkel, CEO, Börse Stuttgart.

**October 6 – 9, 2022 | In-Person**  
Leadership Seminar “Philosophy and Practice” with moderators Dr. Carol Glick, George Sansom Professor of History, Columbia University, and Ruth Girardet, Member of Court, University of Edinburgh.

**October 13, 2022 | In-Person**  

**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, Inke Kügeler, Board Member, BundeswehrGrüne e.V. and Lawyer, Bundeswehr, and Matthias Wachter, Head of the Department International Cooperation, Security, Raw Materials and Space, BDI e.V.
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 Imperatives 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 Brček, Liza Gashi, Miroslav Gačević, Artur Kuko, Aleksandar Mašković, Filip Tosevski.

November 28, 2022 | Online

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 Capito (Democrat), Member of the Kansas House of Representatives; Senator Russ Goodman (Republican), Member of the Georgia State Senate; Assemblywoman Donna A. Lapardo (Democrat), Member of the New York State Assembly, and Elfrid Pasbrig MdL (SPD), Member of the State Parliament of Saxony-Anhalt.

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 Poupard, then Chargé d’affaires 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

December 19, 2022 | Online

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, Atlantic-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/John Hopkins University, Sahine Jos-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 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 Amy Kyri, 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, Atlantic-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Elnar Thervell, 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

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’s politician and former Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand.

February 22, 2023 | Online
Future 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

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. Hafey, Senior Lecturer, MIT Sloan School of Management.

March 16, 2023 | Hybrid

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 Landtag.

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 Friedlander, CEO, Atlantic Briecée, and Dr. Stormy-Anika Milder, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guests Bastian Braun, U.S. Coordinator, T-Online, and Johanna Robt, U.S. Coordinator, ZEIT Online.

March 29, 2023 | Online
U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Intro to Agricultural Policy in Germany” with Prof. Dr. Stephan Cronin-Tauhadel, 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 Rabet, 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 Dormeier, Head of Research Unit German Economic Society, 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, Atlantic-Briecée, and Dr. Stormy-Anika Milder, 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 Dimtho, 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, Prof. Dr. Paolo Grilli, Chairman, Italy and Corporate Investment Bank EMEA, JP Morgan U.K., and Dr. Marco Buti, Tommaso Padov-Schlopp Chair of economic and monetary integration, European University Institute; followed by a panel discussion chaired by Dr. Stormy-Anika Milder, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany with Guenther Wolf, Director and CEO, German Council on Foreign Relations, Daniel Gross, Professor, Institute for European Policy Making, Universita Bocconi, Michele Valentini, President, Villa Vigoni, and Aurelio Regina, Delegate for Energy, Confindustria. Closing remarks by Jean-Claude Trichet, Honorary Governor, Banque de France and Armando Varrichio, Italian Ambassador to Germany.

May 8, 2023 | Online
U.S.-German Forum Future Agriculture: “Digital Workshop on Transatlantic Technologies 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 Nueck, 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 Federal Foreign Office, moderated by Dr. Stormy-Anika Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, and Dr. Claudia Schmucker, Head of Geoeconomics Program, DGAP, with guests Stefan Rosenhoff, MdB, CDU, Anabel Gonzalez, Deputy Director General, WTO, Ignacio Garcia Berceo, 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 “A Green Crescent of the EU-Enlargement – How to Boost the Process?” in cooperation with the German Foreign Office with Ambassador Catarina Cullas, Director for Relations with EU Member States, Cross-Border and Regional Cooperation, EU External Affairs, German Federal Foreign Office, Stela Lessiuc, State Secretary for European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania, and Professor of European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, and Milena Lazarev, 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 Landtag.

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. Mario-Agnes Struck-Zimmermann, MdB, Chair of the Defense Committee, and Prof. Dr. Carlo Musala, 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 Landtag.

May 26, 2023 | Online
Podcast America’s Choice: “After the G-7 Summit: Where to Go from Here” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Anika 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 Raemesh Alkahi (Democrat), Member of the Tennessee State Senate, Representative Edward DeLaney (Democrat), Member of the Indiana House of Representatives, Jochen Ort Mill (SPD), Member of the State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia, Andreas Sturm Mill (CDU), Member of the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg, and Representative Steven ukran (Democrat), Member of the Massachusetts General Court.

May 6–8, 2023 | In-Person

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 Both (SPD), Chair of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee, Violan von Crumon-Taubadel (Alliance 90/The Greens), MEP, and Dr. Stormy-Anika 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: “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. Bolen, 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
Future Cities – A Transatlantic Townhall Project: “Urban 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-Sadiku, moderated by Helmut Kranzmuier, 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 Landtag.

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 Moderacy and supported by Microsoft, DLG e.v. and Bayer Cropscience, moderated by Heike Zeller, Owner, aHEU, with Prof. Dr. Harald Grote, 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. Bolen, 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 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 Landtag.
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, MB, 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 Malito, 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 Scherer, Executive Director and Head of the European Security and Defence Programme, International Institute for Strategic Studies-Europe (ISS).

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 hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner, Amika Milden, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guest Doris Simon, Correspondent of the SFBTV and Canada, Deutschlandradio (DRP), in Washington, D.C., and Sarah Wagner, Deputy Director and Program Officer, Atlantic Academy Rhineland-Palat.

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 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: “Pitch to Asia Reloaded: Bilanz von Bidens China-Politik” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, and Dr. Stormy-Anikka Mildner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Germany, joined by guest Matthias Naß, Chief International Correspondent, Die Zeit.
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 Krausz, Senior Director of Product Management, Google Bard.

November 6, 2023 | Online
Podcast America’s Choice: “One Year to the U.S. Election” with hosts Julia Friedlander, CEO, Atlantik-Brücke, 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 Greinberger, Director for Cyber Foreign and Security Policy, German Federal Foreign Office, Josip Brkić, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lila Gashi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Kosovo, Fatmir Isäki, 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 Giardner, Member of the Court, The University of Edinburgh.

November 13 – 18, 2023 | In-Person
Transatlantic Agriculture Dialogue Tour: “Meat 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

November 17, 2023 | In-Person
Digital Disk: “Elections in Times of Disinformation – How Do We Protect Our Democracies in the Digital Space?” with Harma Müller, Head of the Department of Political Models of Order, Disinformation, Hybrid Threats, Federal Ministry of the Interior and for Home Affairs, Tobias Bachler, 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/EEU.

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 Foreign Affairs, Tobias Bacherle, Member of the German Bundestag, Germany Correspondent, Radio France Internationale.

November 29, 2023 | In-Person
AFTech Dialogues: “Bringing AI Regulation – Towards A Global Governance for Ethical AI” organized by Aspen Institute Germany in cooperation with Microsoft Germany, with Marco-Alexander Brent, Deputy Director General AL Data, Tech, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), Dr. Robert Killian, 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. Sangranda 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 Legislative Dialogue: “Building Digital Infrastructure for Government Services and Administration” with Ellen Demuth M.D. (CDU), Member of the State Parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate, Senator Io Watson, Member of the Tennessee Senate (Republican), and Representative Jennifer Parenti, Member of the Colorado General Assembly (Democrat).

December 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 5, 2023 | In-Person
Global Threats Series: “China’s Role in International Politics as a Challenge for the Western World” with Felix Lec, 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. Maite Hauschild, Head of Division EBS EU Enlargement, Southeastern Europe, Turkey, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), Janis 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 Redeker, 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 Goldswurm, 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, Katerina Kruc, Regional Public Policy Lead Central and Eastern Europe, Meta, Ambassador Andreas Könne and Martin Sielmann, Head of Media and Public Relations of the German Embassy to the Czech Republic, Monika Ladznanowa, Head of the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic, Natalia 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.

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 Lec, 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. Maite Hauschild, Head of Division EBS EU Enlargement, Southeastern Europe, Turkey, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), Janis 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 Redeker, 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 Goldswurm, 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, Katerina Kruc, Regional Public Policy Lead Central and Eastern Europe, Meta, Ambassador Andreas Könne and Martin Sielmann, Head of Media and Public Relations of the German Embassy to the Czech Republic, Monika Ladznanowa, Head of the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic, Natalia 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.