

ASPEN ROMANIA MEMBERSHIP VISION

Aspen Romania aims to attract individuals, business and corporations of high reputation which through their tenure have demonstrated leadership, integrity and commitment to foster :

- **public policies based on non-partisan principles and timeless ideas**
- **enlightened leadership and open-minded dialogue**
- **success in business, leadership in life.**

The Aspen member must demonstrate the ability to balance conflicting values in order to find common ground while remaining true to Aspen's basic ideals.

The Aspen member must be ready to actively commit to supporting entrepreneurial, political and cultural leadership in Romania, as well as promoting a free exchange among different cultures, so as to identify and enhance common ideas, values and interests.

Background

A number of prominent figures in the political and commercial field in Romania agreed in early 2006 that it was an opportune time to set up an Aspen Institute in Romania. They believed that as Romania reached a critical level of political maturity and economic performance with its accession to the European Union, its intellectual, political and corporate classes were willing to transcend political and economic differences and to engage in intellectual dialogue at the national and international level. Accordingly they set in motion the procedures to found an Aspen Institute in Romania. The Aspen Institute Board of Trustees, including the Chairmen of the Aspen Institutes in Italy, France, Berlin, India and Japan, approved affiliation in August 2006.

Aspen Institute Romania was officially launched on 18th December 2006 in the presence of the Prime Minister of Romania, the Governor of the National Bank, the Ministers of Finance and Interior of Romania, and the Interior Minister and former Prime Minister of Italy Giuliano Amato, as well as representatives of Aspen US, Aspen France and Aspen Italy. And many distinguished businessmen and civil society personalities.

Its Mission

To contribute to the development of Romanian society as a full European Union member state through leadership development and informed dialogue among leaders.

Its Objectives

- To provide an independent and non-partisan intellectual hub and contemporary forum for discussion of issues impacting on Romania's development and modernisation;
- To contribute to the efforts of Romanian business to increase its efficiency and competitiveness;
- To contribute to the enhancement of Romania's influence and image in Europe and the region;
- to support the emergence of a national and regional network of a new generation of leaders.

Its Methods

Aspen Romania will pursue its objectives through the holding of seminars, policy programmes on issues of current interest such as energy security, the environment, healthcare, foreign policy challenges, and a leadership initiative programme to identify emerging leaders in Romanian society and in the region.

Its Membership

Members of Aspen are individuals and companies who are committed to pursuing the Aspen aims through their direct personal participation and financial support. All members of Aspen Romania are eligible to participate in seminars and policy programmes.

There are four categories of member:

- Founding members: those companies and individuals who pledged financial and political support at the outset and who continue to pay an annual membership fee;
- Associate members: those companies and individuals who have joined Aspen Romania subsequently and pay the appropriate annual membership fee;
- Affiliate *ex officio* members: the Presidents/Chairs of the partner Aspen Institutes;
- Honorary and Supporting members: prominent personalities in Romanian society who are willing to use their personal influence to promote Aspen Romania goals.

Annual Membership Fees

Corporate membership: (corporations and their representatives)	€15,000
Business membership (for enterprises with an annual turnover of up to €20 million)	€2,500
Individual membership	
- private sector entrepreneurs	€1,500
- personal continuity (for individuals whose companies are in Aspen)	€150
- non-profit sector	€150

Rights and Obligations of Membership

Rights

Being a Member offers you the right to participate in meetings of the General Assembly as well as all the Association's activities and programmes.

Every member has the right to elect and be elected to the leadership, the Executive Board, and other management and control bodies of the Association.

The General Assembly will meet at least once a year. The General Assembly is responsible among other things for setting the strategy and objectives of the Association, approving the Annual Report, electing the Executive Board and deciding upon new members.

Members will have the right to propose activities or events for the Association and to apply to participate in events organised by Aspen US and other Aspen partners.

Obligations

Aspen Romania members respect the Aspen values in their professional life and promote the objectives and activities of Aspen.

Members are expected to participate personally each year in some of the Aspen Romania events, seminars, and conferences. They are also encouraged to consider participation in events organised by Aspen US or other Aspen associations.

Membership is acquired upon payment of the appropriate fee in RON, US Dollars or Euros.