

# Socrates Seminar

## Aspen Institute Executive Seminar in Central Europe

The world requires more values-based change-makers who reflect on enduring values for the purpose of building a better society. Away from the demands of your daily routine, the Aspen Institute seminars convene executive and accomplished leaders in these text-based retreat seminars to discover new perspectives in dialogue and critical discussion on contemporary issues. The Socrates Seminars excel at encouraging values-based leadership through consideration and discussion of big current issues and ideas through expert-moderated dialogue.

- ◆ **Focus on the essence of leadership, not case studies or skill building format**
- ◆ **High-level expert moderators**
- ◆ **Respectful setting and retreat away from daily routine**



## PROGRAM FOR ACCOMPLISHED LEADERS

Aspen Seminars are for those who realize that one cannot lead others without leading oneself first. It is an opportunity to understand tensions between ideas and goods competing in a globalized world and discover how our choices and decisions are shaped. We believe that the best leaders are those who reject easy answers in favor of asking difficult questions, evaluating different positions, and making decisions from a place of humility, surety and self-awareness.

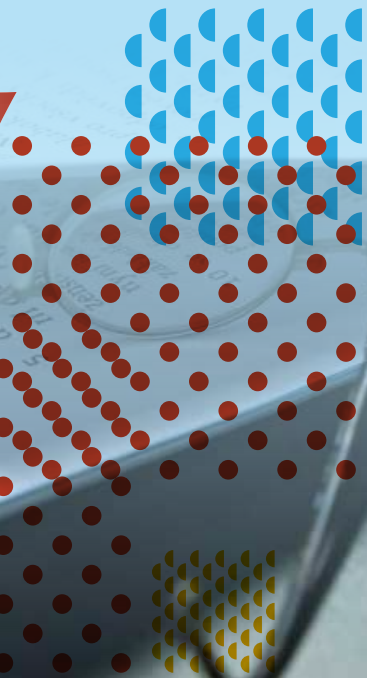
“The Seminar helped me to better understand my own government decisions and actions.”

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

The Seminar is a collaborative endeavor for participants from different fields to learn from one another. They are asked to contribute their understanding of and reactions to carefully selected readings, with the guidance of moderators who are experts in their respective sectors. Participants develop an understanding of the reading material and formulate responses to the contemporary issue that is selected as a topic of the specific seminar. The Program provides stimulating dialogue, values-based introspection, and dynamic debate that serves to enhance participants' leadership capabilities.

“As a CEO, taking time to sharpen the saw is critical. The Aspen Executive Seminar is the best whets-tone out there.”

**Reed Hastings**  
Founder and CEO, Netflix



# What makes the Socrates Seminar unique?

Why you should attend



1. The Seminar attracts leaders interested in critical problems facing the world.
2. It demonstrates and champions the Aspen method of moderated learning and bringing diverse views to the table.
3. The length is designed for optimal balance between serious content and interdisciplinary thought for busy professionals.
4. It creates a unique professional network and engages people with ideas to move into action.
5. By attending, you become a part of a diverse alumni network which has grown to over 7,000 emerging leaders from the US and abroad only in the Socrates Program, and even more within the other Aspen Seminars.

“An amazing and useful program. It offers an opportunity to look at important current problems outside of the toxic froth of the everyday routine.”

**Martin Kratochvíl**

**Jazzman, Composer and Film-maker**

# What are the objectives of the Seminar?

What you should gain

1. Meaningful conversations challenging you with in-depth debating experience that brings you to think out of the box
2. Feeling of empowerment to take action as a more effective leader
3. A sense of personal renewal that challenges your existing views and belief systems
4. Knowledge and moral fortitude to make sound decisions for the good of your organizations and society
5. A broader professional network with leaders from other disciplines and countries, chance to join our diverse and international alumni network



# Socrates Seminar in Central Europe:

**January 11 - 13, 2024**

## **The Future European and Global Architectures: The Nexus between Resilience, Security & Innovation**

We are now at pivotal time for European and transatlantic security as strategic competition continues to rise. Autocracies tout their own systems as “efficient”, and they use a broad array of tools to amplify fissures and undermine confidence within democracies. In addition, digital transformations are disrupting the foundations of diplomacy and defense. This Socrates Seminar will discuss ways to advance the development of a comprehensive and dynamic yet operational approach to resilience. Does liberal democracy deliver? How does Europe and North America respond to challenges in the context of wider systemic transformations? What are the opportunities and challenges presented by new technologies, and how the transatlantic community can improve its resilience and mobilize key resources in order to be competitive in this era of great security and technological challenges?

### **DAY 1**

(January 11)

Welcome dinner and networking

### **DAY 2 – 3**

(January 12-13)

Sessions 1-3 and other programming

### **MODERATOR**

#### **Ambassador Paula J. Dobriansky**

Ambassador Dobriansky is a foreign policy expert and former diplomat specializing in national security affairs, is a Senior Fellow at Harvard University’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and Vice Chair of the Atlantic Council’s Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security. She brings over 30 years of government and international experience across senior levels of diplomacy, business, and defense. She was Senior Vice President and Global Head of Government and Regulatory Affairs at Thomson Reuters and held the Distinguished National Security Chair at the U.S. Naval Academy. Her high-level government positions include Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, President’s Envoy to Northern Ireland, National Security Council Director of European and Soviet Affairs, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Academy of Diplomacy, Dobriansky also served on the Defense Policy Board, the Secretary of State’s Foreign Policy Board and as Chair of ExIm Bank’s Council on China Competition.

