

Leaders to Follow

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International Leadership Institute
Providing Leadership Development Services and Programs
in the US and Europe since 1985

Czech Republic Joins the European Union

On May 1, 2004, the Czech Republic became an official member of the European Union, along with nine other countries, bringing EU membership to 25 countries, with some 450 million people. This historic moment marks the result of over a decade of Czech political efforts to become part of mainstream Europe and to leave behind the legacy of isolation, fear, and a low standard of living bred by Communism.

We at the Institute applaud this move and congratulate the Czechs on setting a course for economic integration and shar-

ing of responsibility for the future of Europe. Yet we believe this step is not the crucial one needed to bring the Czech Republic into full flower as a nation and into the fulfillment of its own heritage.

Open Borders

True, the borders of Europe will be opened for the Czechs to travel without a visa and eventually to work in other EU countries without special permits. The blending of European economies can only help the Czechs, who in 2003 had an estimated GDP per person (gross domestic product divided by the number of inhabitants) of \$15,300 compared with a US average of \$37,600.

But Americans have learned that economic prosperity is only one measure of success in life, and is quite vulnerable to the winds of fortune. Recession, depression on a national level—unemployment, illness on a personal level—can start a country or family on the downward slope of economic want. What can a person possess that can't be taken from him or her?

Lasting Security

We believe that the only lasting security in life comes from dedi-

cating one's life to God, through Jesus Christ. Jarda is currently in studies as preparation for ordination into the International Communion of Christian Churches (ICCC), while Sara is entering her 8th year of teaching and administrative work at Providence, a private Christian school in Jacksonville.

Our principal commitment as an Institute since 1989 has been to helping the emerging economies of Eastern and Central Europe to acquire business know-how and contacts to succeed in business in an increasingly competitive world economy, especially with American firms.

Business Leadership Forum: USA

Executive Education programs (**Back in Business** and **Doing Business in the USA**) have been quite successful in this regard, with more than 350 Central European executive participants and 800 American business advisors to date, and some significant results. Additionally, we have identified future leaders (young people) and helped them develop their vision and their English skills through the American English Language Immersion Programs in the United States. More than 120 students have taken part in these programs. *To page 2*

The International Leadership Institute

- WAS FOUNDED IN 1985 IN PRINCETON, NJ
- REMAINS DEDICATED TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- HAS RUN MORE THAN 40 EXECUTIVE EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN THE US, FOR EUROPEAN CLIENTS
- HAS PARTNERED WITH THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA, THE JACKSONVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND MORE THAN 700 OTHER BUSINESSES, UNIVERSITIES, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



www.hrad.cz/cms/cz/prezident_cr/klaus.shtml



Leaders to Follow

CR joins European Union *continued from page one*

As well, since 1996 we have been working with the U.S. Department of State to deliver executive and professional training programs through the Agency for International Development; to date we have run programs for executives and professionals from Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia

Yet we don't believe that all our work in East Central Europe has been accomplished. In fact, the shape and substance of our new mission has still to be determined.

How can we help?

To pinpoint the needs that we can try to meet in the Czech Republic, the Institute has sponsored several missions and programs in 2002–2004. For example, in the fall of 2002, Jarda took a group of fellow church members from Christ the Redeemer Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, cathedral church for the International Communion of Christian Churches (ICCC), for a short tour of Bohemia, beginning in Prague.

They met with Tomas Dittrich of *Zivot Viry* and other committed Czech Christians, to assess the needs and opportunities for evangelism. In the fall of 2003 and spring of 2004, Jarda and Sara hosted two groups of Jarda's high-school classmates in Florida. These experiences have shown the Institute that the need is great for ideas and philosophies that will bring meaning to life, and supply answers to the "big questions" of why people exist and what they should do to live a life of purpose.

Jarda and Sara will spend the month of July in the Czech Republic, to begin planning for the Institute's relocation of its headquarters there in the next few years. The Institute will maintain offices in the United States, in a location yet to be determined—Oregon, Washington, New York and Vermont are being considered, along with Florida, the home of the ICCC.

Great change

Great changes are afoot, changes that will shape and mold the future of the Czech Republic. The International Leadership Institute has dedicated the past 15 years of its 19 years of existence to make available the help and support we perceive as being crucial for the people of the Czech Republic, in business and education.

We are now adding the spiritual aspect of life to our mission, in the hopes that we can share what we consider to be the best news we ever received—that God loves us and cares for us.

For those who have been praying for us, thank you—for those we have yet to meet, we thank God for giving us such a wonderful chance to offer something to help Czechs find a life of purpose and meaning.



Rev. Jarda and Sara Tusek,

Easter 2004

Christ the Redeemer Church

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

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