

# LEADERS TO FOLLOW

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE: PROVIDING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS IN THE US AND EUROPE  
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## ILI LOOKS AT 20 YEARS OF CHANGE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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### INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

- WAS FOUNDED IN 1985 IN PRINCETON, NJ
- DEDICATED TO HELPING PEOPLE DEVELOP AND USE LEADERSHIP SKILLS
- OFFERS PERSONALIZED & EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP, CAREER, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN THE US AND IN EUROPE
- HAS RUN MORE THAN 90 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 780 OTHER BUSINESSES, UNIVERSITIES, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Over the past two decades, the International Leadership Institute has been working with people, companies and institutions in the Czech Republic as the country and society have gone through many changes. Here are some of the most important ones.

### *Political Change*

- “Czechoslovakia” (*Československo*) became two sovereign countries in January, 1993: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. This amicable split was nicknamed “the velvet divorce” as a play on the “velvet revolution” of 1989 that removed the Communist party from its dictatorial power.
- In January 1999, the Czech Republic became a member of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The irony of a former Warsaw Pact member state being in partnership with the “Free World” was not lost on the Russians, who registered some protests at the time.
- On May 1, 2004, the Czech Republic became a member of the European Union. This membership has brought the country into the fold of Europe, as Czech citizens now have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as all 27 EU member states. ([http://europa.eu/abc/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/index_en.htm))

*Some things don't change: St Vitus Cathedral at Hradcany Castle complex, seat of the government for over 1000 years*



- By joining the EU, Czech citizens are part of a political, economic, educational and social union that has 495 million inhabitants — the world's third largest population after China and India.

### *Economic Change*

- According to the US Department of State, the “Czech Republic became the first post-communist country to receive an investment-grade credit rating by international credit institutions.”
- “Successive Czech governments have welcomed U.S. investment in addition to the strong economic influence of Western Europe and increasing investment from Asian auto manufacturers. Inflows of foreign direct investment in 2008 were roughly \$10.73 billion.”
- “By U.S. Embassy estimates, the United States is among the top five investors in the Czech Republic since the revolution.” (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3237.htm>)

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## 20 YEARS OF CHANGE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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### Economic Change-cont.

- Membership in the EU has made the Czech Republic a world leader in production (Gross Domestic Product), as noted on the chart to the right.
- According to the World Bank, "Gross income per capita in terms of purchasing power for Czechs in 2009 was \$23, 610 (US dollars), #60 in the world."
- For comparison, the same measure rates the US #15 at \$45,640; Norway #8 at \$54,880; Switzerland #14 at \$46,990. For further comparison, the equivalent Czech figure in 1990 was \$2,563. (Figures from World Bank)

#### 2006 Gross Domestic Product

##### Figures in billions euro

Country	GDP
<i>EU-27</i>	12276.2
<i>US</i>	10094.5
<i>Japan</i>	3197.6
<i>China</i>	1787.3
<i>Russia</i>	610.6

is no official apparatus for choosing a career, finding a job or advancing your career.

In the US, people find assistance in the immense tasks of career development through college and university career services centers, state, regional-and city-level job centers( employment and unemployment offices) and private businesses such as ILI.

Naturally, we've been trying to fill this particular gap while living in Prague, by offering the "21st Century Jobs Seminar" and the "Looking Ahead" introduction to career de-

velopment. We've found that our participants are excited at the idea that they can manage their own careers with some planning and determination.

### Social Change

Here it's more difficult to provide facts and figures. In the 20 years that ILI has been working with Czechs, providing executive education programs in the US, American English language immersion programs in the US, Travel-and-Learn programs in the US, and (since August 2010) career development programs in Prague, we have seen quite breathtaking change in people's attitudes, aspirations and accomplishments.

One area of change is employment. Whereas under the state-planned economy of the Soviet era people were placed into jobs, and unemployment was a crime, Czechs now have the burden of finding and keeping a job in the same way as all citizens of an advanced industrialized free-market economy operating in a democracy. There

#### ILI Publications

##### Newsletters at [www.ili.cc](http://www.ili.cc):

- *Leaders to Follow*
- *Servant Leaders*
- *Careers*
- *continuous conversion*
- *A Lesson on English*

##### Blogs:

- [jbt-yournextjob.blogspot.com](http://jbt-yournextjob.blogspot.com)
- [englishinprague.blogspot.com](http://englishinprague.blogspot.com)
- [praguepies.blogspot.com](http://praguepies.blogspot.com)

##### Books at [www.ili.cc](http://www.ili.cc):

- *21st Century Jobs*
- *Three Things You can't Do in Prague*
- *Three Things that Last Forever*



Jarda with our Czech friends

Other areas of change include the secularization and commercialization of Czech culture, as the products and attitudes of the worldwide consumer culture become commonplace here. For more information on our observations of religious life, you can read *Servant Leaders* and *continuous conversion*, two additional ILI newsletters available on our website for free.

### Permanent Change

The Czech Republic is part of the bigger world, which is tied together by the Internet, cell phones, Skype, Twitter, Facebook and so on. These instant telecommunications mean that what happens anywhere is known and reacted to everywhere. We don't know much for sure, but we do know that the 21st century will be turbulent, and the Czech Republic is in for more change.