



After the collapse of state-sponsored communism in East and Central Europe in 1989 and 1990, the International Leadership Institute began to develop and implement US-based programs for East and Central European business and professional leaders, starting with programs tailored to the needs of executives in Czechoslovakia.

The first ILI Executive Education programs (“**Business Leadership Forum: USA**”) were developed in 1991 in cooperation with the World Trade Center, Chattanooga, TN and Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA. These programs focused on professional development opportunities for Czechoslovak business and government leaders, giving them insight and practical experience of how successful business is conducted in a free-market economic system in a political democracy. The inaugural ILI “**Business Leadership Forum: USA**” programs were delivered in the tri-state area of GA, TN, and AL, giving executive participants the chance to learn business principles and practices in both academic and “real-world” settings through internships in US-based businesses.

In 1993, ILI relocated to North Florida, with offices in Ponte Vedra Beach. In cooperation with many organizations, including the University of North Florida, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, and the United States Department of State Agency for International Development (USAID), ILI worked with executive and professional leaders taking part in the “**Business Leadership Forum: USA.**” These participants were from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Croatia, Switzerland, and Ukraine.

At the same time, ILI worked with young people through the **American English Language Institute**, helping them develop their skills and performance in American English. These programs included career and leadership development components to help these young people assess their accomplishments, interests and goals as they planned their futures. The AELI has assisted young people from the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Germany, Slovakia, Vietnam, and South Korea in their efforts to improve their abilities in American English.

Over these 25 years, ILI has conducted **Travel-and-Learn** programs to help participants better understand the history, geography, and social settings of the countries they are visiting. T-and-L programs in the US took participants to Florida, Maine, New York, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, Utah and 10 other states ; in Europe, T-and-L participants visited the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Participants from Japan, China, Central Europe and the US took part in these programs.

The International Leadership Institute, working with leaders since 1985

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In addition, ILI has offered Business Mission programs for Americans interested in doing business in Central Europe and for Central Europeans interested to learn about American business opportunities. And ILI has hosted European and American reunions for hundreds of participants from all its programs, bringing people together to consider what they gained from their programs and to keep their professional contacts active.

From 2010-2013, ILI had its offices in Prague, Czech Republic. In those years, ILI offered career development programs (“Your Next Job,” “Looking Ahead,” and “Redirect”) to people living in or near Prague. Participants in these career programs were from Britain, France, the US, the Czech Republic, Russia, Latvia, and South Korea. The AELI was also active, with students from Vietnam, the Czech Republic and South Korea working to improve their English skills.

In all these activities, ILI has offered a tailored approach to leadership development, matching the abilities and needs of individual participants to the educational experience provided. Nearly all ILI seminars and courses have no more than 12 participants, making it possible for ILI instructors to adjust the pace and content of the programs according to the capabilities and interests of the participants.

In every ILI program, it can be said that participants shape the program to suit their particular circumstances. The greatest reward for ILI from all these programs has been to see how each individual participant has used the resources provided to shape and change his or her future. It is the mark of a leader, ILI believes, to recognize opportunities and act on them to achieve his or her goals.

During 2016, Jaroslav Tusek, President & CEO of the International Leadership Institute, will be writing the *Leadership Handbook for 21st Century Leaders* on what ILI has done in the past 25 years. A major part of this book will be based on input from past participants as to how they have benefitted from their ILI programs. Selected participants will receive a request to respond in January 2016; the results will be compiled and included in this new book.

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