

International Center of Experimental and Applied Hypnosis (ICEAH - PRAGUE)

By Petr Živný

The International Center of Experimental and Applied Hypnosis (ICEAH) was founded in the year 2000 by Vladimir Leonidovic Raikov, M.D. and Petr Živný, Ph.D. ICEAH promotes scientific research, development and dissemination of hypnotic techniques in collaboration with specialists from the USA, Russia, Italy, Germany, France, Poland, Switzerland, and, Israel. ICEAH also collects and evaluates results of scientific research data and rehabilitation, promotes the creation of groups of psychologists and physicians who are interested in hypnology. It uses the same ethical guidelines as the European Society of Hypnosis (ESH). The board of Directors is comprised of the following people: Petr Zivny (President), +Vladimir Leonidovic Raikov (Past-President), Petra Veselá (Secretary), Maximilán Kašparů, Stanley Krippner, Vincenzo Santoro, Brice Lemaire, Igor Ivanovic Razygrajev, Yevgeny Aleksandrovich Kiselev, Abram Hirshfeld, Tatyana Vladimirovna Medvedeva and Ela Barr.

ICEAH organizes seminars, workshops, conferences, and offers courses for the training of new hypnotherapists. It also posts clinical cases online (YouTube). Members of ICEAH are outstanding in three categories: Ordinary Members: are graduates in psychology and medicine. Extraordinary Members: are

undergraduates in the above disciplines. Supporting Members: are any persons, associations, institutions or others wishing to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the ICEAH.

The oldest roots of hypnosis in Czechoslovakia go back to the psychiatrist, Professor Dr. Jaroslav Stuchlík (1890-1967). He worked as the head of the Neuropsychiatric Department of the state hospital in Košice. Later, he headed the Psychiatric Clinic in Pilsen. In the field of Psychohygiene, he achieved recognition not only in Czechoslovakia, but also abroad. He was a member of many international societies, including the Czechoslovak Psychological Society. By the 1970s, the subject "Autoregulatory techniques and hypnosis with practical research" was taught at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague. Teaching was provided by prof. Dr. Miloš Machač, DrSc and prof. Dr. Helena Macháčová, MD, CSc. An important Czech hypnologist was also Prof. Dr. Jiří Hoskovec, CSc. From 1992 until present, the author has been teaching this subject at Charles University in Prague. In the winter semester, lectures for Erasmus psychology students are held in English, in the summer semester for Czech and Slovak students in Czech. In each semester, the course is comprised of 24 hours of theory and practical exercises. There is an extraordinary interest in these university lectures, as twice as many students apply than can be included in the course.

In the 1970s, regular Hypnosis I and Hypnosis II courses began to be taught at the Psychiatric Hospital in Kroměříž. The courseware was originally developed by Prof. Dr. Stanislav Kratochvíl, CSc (1932-1924). These courses were taught by various experts in the field including; Professor Dr. Milan Bouchal, CSc., Professor Dr. Mojmír Svoboda, CSc. (Brno), Dr. Karel Balcar CSc. (Prague). Professor Dr. Jaroslav Maxmilián Kašparů, Ph.D., Dr. Marie Pečená, Dr. Blanka Čepicka. From 2017 until today, hypnosis courses in Kroměříž are led by Dr. Lenka Gazdová together with Dr. Barbara Koláčková and Dr. David Unger. The course is held under the auspices of the Hypnosis Section of the Psychiatric Society of the Czech Psychotherapeutic Society of Jan Evangelista Purkyně (<http://www.hypnosekce.cz/>). The course is accredited by the Association of Clinical Psychologists of the Czech Republic (AKP) and the Czech Medical Chamber (ČLK). Authors of professional publications on hypnosis such as Jiří Hoskovec, Stanislav Kratochvíl, Miloš and Helena Machač studied with Professor Ernest Hilgard at Stanford University in the USA, where they underwent professional training and collaborated on professional research. Hypnosis had its own good tradition in Czechoslovakia. Even during the Socialist regime (1948-1989), when psychoanalysis was prohibited to be used, the study and application of hypnosis was allowed. This country was the crossroads of Western and Eastern culture and science. Today, ICEAH continues in this tradition.

Unfortunately, only two delegates from the Czech Republic attended the last European Society of Hypnosis (ESH) congress in Antalya, Turkey in 2023. Only three Czech colleagues took part in the International Society of Hypnosis (ISH) Congress in Krakow, Poland in

2024. That is a very small number. Therefore, one of the tasks of ICEAH is to inform the scientific public in time about planned events, such as our XVII ESH Congress in Glasgow in 2026 so that as many hypnosis practitioners as possible can attend. We greatly appreciate that ICEAH was officially recognized and allowed to join ESH. It means the possibility of greater connection and establishment of contacts and expansion of future scientific research in the field of hypnosis in Europe.

For more informations: www.iceah.net



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