



ILEA Memories

While serving as the Deputy Director at ILEA Budapest, I often observed the deep affection that participants had for the opportunity to attend courses at ILEA. After the completion of a core course, those participants who had been so homesick after week 4, hugged their classmates with emotional, said emotional farewells, and appeared to be in no rush to board the bus that would take them home.

My favorite memory was a group of West Africans who had come for a specialized course in the fall, who had never experience temperatures much below 25C, but who so treasured their time in Budapest that they were diligently collecting seeds so that they could plant ILEA gardens in their home countries.



Now that I have retired from Diplomatic Security and begun part-time work for Diplomatic Security as a recruiter for new special agents and an instructor in the Anti-Terrorism Assistance program, I am constantly meeting people who over the years have come to ILEA as an instructor and told me about how much they enjoyed their time in Budapest. They remember how helpful the staff was and because of his role in helping with logistics, they inevitably say how much Attila helped them. We always conclude the conversation with talking about how much we wish we could go back to ILEA.

This summer I actually did have the opportunity to return. My wife and I planned our Danube river cruise so that we could spend time in Budapest and we were able to stay in the apartments near the tactical house. While posted at ILEA we lived in Pest so it was a different experience actually living at the ILEA compound. The first night there was a problem with the hot water, and who of course stayed up late at night working with the plumber to fix the problem? It was Attila of course.

The biggest surprise was seeing the new clubrooms in the basements of the A and B buildings. These rooms were so warm and inviting and served as a great place to continue the festivities after the Ukrainian National Dinner, which we attended.

I thought that my ILEA experience would end when I left Budapest to teach a course in Sarajevo, but in a highly fortuitous circumstance, I learned that an ILEA reunion could be held in Sarajevo while I was teaching my course. Several of the Bosnian officers in my course were ILEA grads, and with great anticipation we went to the reunion held at the American Ambassador's residence on Sept. 29.



Having previously attended ILEA reunions in Ljubljana, Belgrade, and Skopje I had high expectations that this would be another wonderful evening where I would see my old friends and where the American Ambassadors could see how valuable the ILEA program was in building relationships with the participating police forces and learn how valuable ILEA training was for those who attended.

That night, as I had come to expect, the ILEA alumni showed up early and soon the residence was packed with cheerful attendees. The evening was fun, filled with enthusiasm, tasty Bosnian food was served, but most importantly it gave all of us a chance to reflect upon how much we appreciated ILEA and the wonderful staff and instructors who make it such a special place.

Since I retired in 2013, people often ask me what was the best job I had in the State Department and without hesitation I tell them it was being the Deputy Director at ILEA Budapest. And what was the highlight of our 2014 European vacation? It had to be visiting ILEA and reuniting with my former ILEA colleagues and participants.

*Two former ILEA Deputy Directors:
Tom Stocking and Steve Sekellick*

ILEA Budapest New Focus for 2016

As ILEA Budapest enters its third decade of training law enforcement personnel, it is important that the curriculum offered expands to new audiences and covers new subjects. With this in mind, ILEA Budapest will pilot a series of five courses with a focus on anti-corruption, and put new focus on training higher level law enforcement officials from the region.

The five anti-corruption courses will be offered to the same four countries in 2016, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Serbia, and Ukraine. They will cover such topics as leadership, trafficking in persons, financial crimes, and public corruption. There will also one session specifically for prosecutors and judges. All five of these sessions will approach their subject with a targeted focus on anti-corruption efforts in these areas.

As the police forces of Eastern Europe modernize their techniques and procedures, ILEA Budapest is looking to expand our training from investigators to include higher level officials, such as prosecutors and judges. For 2016, ILEA will offer two courses only for these two groups.

If both of these initiatives are successful they will be regular features of the ILEA schedule and be offered to different countries each following year.



Julianne Blenkle Class Coordinator of Session 27

One of the most memorable times I have had while with the DEA was being a part of ILEA Session 27 (21 August 2000 through October 13) as the class coordinator. My supervisor at the time assisted me in this TDY since we had just completed a wiretap investigation and felt I would enjoy it. I had never heard of ILEA and certainly had no idea what to expect.

The law enforcement attendees represented Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, and Russia. Although I don't speak Hungarian, Moldovan, Montenegrin, or Russian there were a couple students who spoke amazing English. For these few, I am grateful. As for communication with the other students, I used my barely passible French and a lot of hand gestures when the interpreters weren't around. You would be surprised how far hand gestures go when you need to get your point across.

The instruction ranged from firearms to narcotics to bombings. I sat in the instruction myself and learned a few things – thank you Skip from the FBI. His presentations were some of the most interesting I heard.

The time at ILEA made me realize that no matter where we are, as members of law enforcement, our concerns are the same. Fight the criminal element, watch our colleagues' backs, and get home to our families safely.

I have remained in email contact with Lt. Gosi and through her with Attila Tilimon. I have returned to ILEA twice since then. It is always good to see everyone (Hajni and Ati) and see the changes in the campus. Of course, there have been some losses and the memories of these individuals will remain with us.

I found this to be a great opportunity to network but really to make friendships with my law enforcement colleagues. I would recommend that anyone, if given the opportunity, participate in ILEA either as a class coordinator or an instructor.

Our ILEA friend, State Secretary Krisztina Berta



The shocking news was spreading last Tuesday in the morning like the wildfire about your sickness then in the afternoon about your death.

Here at ILEA we are still questioning, why and how it could have happened. We all agree strongly that it is unbelievable, unacceptable and unexplainable. Un and un and un...

My first memories date back to 1978 when you taught me at the Police College. You were a brand new instructor, just graduated from the University of Law. We all loved your lessons, your style of speech, and speaking rhythm.

Several years later, in 1997 we spent four weeks at the Garda Síochána College in Templemore, Ireland on a "Special Program of English Language Training and Policing and Human Resources Studies". 14 of us attended a European Union Law Enforcement Training in 1996 in Budapest, and represented the Police Forces. You as the deputy head of the International Affairs represented the Ministry of Interior.

The next memory is linked already to ILEA. Everybody knows how important, and many times, how urgent it is to prepare and send the Letter of Invitations and the visas for our participants. As the Head of the Consul Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs you helped immensely with these requests.

You were always our well received, distinguished guest whenever you gave a speech to the graduates, or addressed to the Women in Law Enforcement specialised course, or when you attended the 20th Anniversary and had great conversations with the current and previous American management and the staff.

If I may, among all moments and memories, I'll always treasure and remember fondly when you said good bye to Penny Hoback, our previous ILEA director. You received John Terpinas, Penny's successor in your office at the same time. This friendly meeting was not formal, not worried about protocol, not worried about the time, or how many projects and partners are still waiting for you on that day.

These moments were so human... just chatting, talking about personal and private life matters, like family, summer break, wishing all the best to the incoming and outgoing director... only you and your American partners, friends.

Rest in peace.

11/24/15
Lt. Col. Hajni Gősi



Do you have any news to share? Any exciting stories to tell? Have you celebrated any awards or promotions? If so, we would like to hear from you. Please contact us (ilea@ilea.hu), and we will share your news in our Alumni Newsletter. Don't worry about your English ability, we can help!



“The ILEA visit is a milestone for some of our students”

Every year, a small group of graduating students from the University of New Hampshire visit ILEA. The 10-15 exchange students spend an entire semester at the Hungarian Corvinus University of Budapest. As a part of their field studies, they visit several Hungarian Law Enforcement and Ministry of Interior institutions, including ILEA. This time we asked their Hungarian program coordinator, Ildikó Kányva, about the history of this tradition and their experiences.

How did you get in touch with ILEA and why did you decide to include our Academy into the exchange program of the University of New Hampshire?

We are in contact with more than three hundred foreign universities, and at most of them there is a faculty of law. It means that exchange students from these universities can simply join our English language instructions. This is how the traditional exchange program looks like. With the University of New Hampshire it is a bit different. Instead of a faculty of law, they need to be provided with a Justice Studies Program. While putting together the schedule of the students, we tried to find places to visit, that can fit the goals of the program. Every Wednesday the students have a study tour, and in the framework of these tours they visit prisons, courthouses, police headquarters, and the U.S. Embassy and that is how we found ILEA. We were happy to find ILEA, because some of these students become law enforcement agents after the graduation. Another important factor is that the students get credits for these study tours, so while selecting to which institute to bring the students we had to take into consideration what level we can provide the tour. It needed to reach the level of the credit.

Are there any selection criteria for the students who can participate in this program?

Since it is a special program, we select the students very

carefully. We have limited accommodation at the Corvinus University, so the students have to apply for the program, and we always pick the best senior ones.

Do they use somehow in their studies what they learned at ILEA?

Yes. After every visit, they talk about their experiences and compare what they heard at ILEA with the information they learn in the class. They analyze the whole visit.

What do they like the most about the ILEA visit?

In some years, the students can meet real agents from the FBI or other U.S. law enforcement agencies. They always take the opportunity to talk to them. This is a great experience for them and they are always looking forward to come here and meet real experts. They are also very impressed by the way police officers from different countries work and learn together here. They are very eager to learn about cultural differences among the countries and different techniques they use in solving criminal cases. In addition, I think an important factor is that whenever we come here we feel very welcomed. It is also very impressive for the students, because some other police institutions we visit are not as friendly as ILEA. These students have to make their decision about which profession to choose soon. For some of them the ILEA visit and the opportunity to talk to law enforcement agents here is a milestone, because it helps them make the final decision about their future.

Do you know of any particular case when ILEA helped someone make this decision?

I remember a boy from a couple years ago. He was really eager and impressed by the ILEA tour. It is probably not only because of the visit, but now he is a police officer.

