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# International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEA)

## The Concept of the ILEA—Budapest, Hungary

**A**s we approach the 21st century, it has become imperative that we develop and implement an international training program to confront the global challenges facing us with the escalation of international crime and terrorism. For the first time in history we must prepare, enable and empower police officers with little or no experience, to operate within a democratic framework in which they must both maintain social order and preserve civil and human rights. It is imperative that the brotherhood of law enforcement professionals be willing and able to stem the corrosive tide of organized crime.

In mid-1994, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Louis J. Freeh and a delegation of top United States law enforcement professionals traveled throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The purpose of the trip was to meet law enforcement colleagues in the region and discuss methods to attack transnational criminal activity. Mutual assistance and training were quickly identified as two areas that would have an immediate, significant impact. It was in this context that the concept of an International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) facility for the region was first developed.

The ILEA initiative is a multi-national effort organized by the United States, the Government of Hungary, and other international training partners. United States federal law enforcement agencies and the Department of State (DOS) are engaged in a cooperative effort to provide assistance to our police colleagues in the emerging democracies. These law enforcement agencies are the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), United States Secret Service (USSS), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (BATF), United States Customs Service (USCS), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Department of State Diplomatic Security Service (DS), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). Other countries engaged in this international partnership by providing instructors for ILEA programs including Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Russia, Hungary and the Netherlands. In addition, representatives from the European Union and the Council of Europe have participated in the development and operation of the ILEA.

The partnership developed between the law enforcement agencies of the United States and the Hungarian National Police, serves as a model for international law enforcement cooperation. As full partners in the ILEA initiative, both countries contributed financial and personnel resources to ensure that the ILEA would be successful.

## ILEA Facilities

The site chosen for the ILEA was an existing training and education center for the Hungarian National Police (HNP). The facility was built in 1910 as a military post for Hungarian Cavalry Units. Experts in the design of classroom and dormitory facilities were utilized to create a plan for optimum use of existing facilities. The plan called for a comprehensive renovation of a classroom building and two dormitories.

Approximately \$2.5 million (US dollars) was furnished by the DOS and the FBI, with an additional \$500,000 (US dollars) furnished by the government of Hungary to accomplish the extensive renovation. The buildings identified for the ILEA, although structurally sound, were in need of renovation to bring the facility up to a more modern standard. An agreement between the Hungarian Ministry of Interior, HNP, DOS and the FBI was signed regarding the development of the ILEA and was subsequently authenticated by an exchange of Diplomatic Notes between Hungary and the U.S.

## The ILEA International Curriculum Committee (ICC)

Curriculum development for the ILEA project has, and continues to be, a needs-driven process. In February 1995, the first meeting of the ICC was convened at the future site of the ILEA in Budapest, Hungary, to develop curriculum for the program. In attendance at this historic meeting were police officials from the participating countries of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Russia, Slovakia, and Ukraine as well as the potential partner countries of Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Italy, and Great Britain. Also participating in the meeting were representatives from the United Nations Crime Prevention Bureau of Vienna and the European Union (Eurocustoms). The U.S. delegation included representatives from the FBI,

DEA, and the U.S. Department of Treasury. The ICC was co-chaired by the University of Virginia (UVA) and John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

The ILEA curriculum evolves through biannual ICC meetings, which are scheduled in Budapest and in the United States. At these meetings, the ICC receives input on crime problems and training needs from the countries attending the next session and receives a critique of the course from the countries attending the current session. The makeup of the ICC varies from meeting to meeting, but has always included a representative number of European participants.

## The International Faculty

No permanent instructional staff is present in Budapest.

Lecturers for the various courses are primarily practitioners who come to Budapest to present their area of expertise and then return to their home country. Law enforcement professionals from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Russia, Hungary, and the Council of Europe representatives from Belgium and France, have collaborated to ensure that the ILEA program is relevant to the needs of the international law enforcement community.

## ILEA Management

The overall management structure of the ILEA is composed of an on-site program manager from the FBI, a deputy program director from the USSS, a senior Hungarian police liaison officer who serves as a deputy, and two contract support employees (Hungarian citizens). An ILEA steering committee, located in Washington, D.C., provides policy guidance, and the International Training Section at the FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia, provides operational support. Supporting the ILEA program manager is a class coordinator, who is a federal law enforcement official chosen on a rotating basis from one of the agencies participating in the ILEA program. Assisting in the overall ILEA management effort is the input generated from the regular meetings of the ILEA ICC.

The ILEA program manager is a FBI agent assigned to Budapest on a term assignment. The ILEA steering committee is composed of members from all participating law enforcement agencies, chaired by a representative from DOS. The committee is charged with the responsibility of



establishing and reviewing ILEA policies and procedures, prioritizing requests for use of the facility, and addressing any issues and problems that may arise. The rules established to govern committee operations provide equitable representation for all agencies and countries involved. In addition to the steering committee, an executive policy board was created. This board is composed of cabinet level officials from DOS, the Department of Treasury and the Department of Justice. Because of the international nature of ILEA operations, the makeup of the ILEA steering committee has provisions for an international component, possibly staffed by representatives from the embassies of countries who are active partners in the ILEA initiative. The current management structure provides a flexible, adaptable mechanism and process to address and resolve issues related to ILEA activities.

### ILEA Funding

To operate the ILEA, the FBI utilizes two separate DOS funding agreements: Freedom Support Act (FSA) funds and Support for Eastern European Democracy (SEED) Act funds. The FBI is reimbursed through DOS in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Interagency Agreement between DOS and the FBI.

It is the FBI's understanding that funding for ILEA, Budapest falls under the Foreign Assistance Act which specifies the amount of aid individual countries will receive under that Act. In this case, DOS funding for ILEA is limited to those countries comprising the Russian Federation and Newly Independent States.

The following is a list of countries eligible to receive FSA and SEED funds:

#### FSA

Armenia	Moldova
Azerbaijan	Russia
Belarus	Tajikistan
Georgia	Turkmenistan
Kazakhstan	Ukraine
Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan

#### SEED

Albania	Lithuania
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Macedonia
Bulgaria	Poland
Croatia	Romania
Czech Republic	Serbia-Montenegro
Estonia	Slovakia
Hungary	Slovenia
Latvia	

### Student Selection

The comprehensive student selection process for the ILEA eight-week program involves the vetting of prospective stu-

dents within their own organizations, according to the criteria established by the first ICC. These criteria are:

- Be nominated by their country without regard to race, color, or sex.
- Be at least 25 years of age.
- Be a regularly appointed, full-time law enforcement officer with a minimum of five years of substantially continuous law enforcement experience, who agrees to remain in law enforcement a minimum of three years after graduation.
- Be in excellent physical condition, certified for strenuous physical exertion and regular participation in physical training and defensive tactics.
- Be of good moral character and reputation and outstanding in the law enforcement profession.
- Have at least a high school equivalency, with some level of university experience desirable. The candidate should show aptitude and interest in academic achievement.
- While no regular background investigation is possible, records are reviewed to ensure there is no information, which would preclude acceptance.

### ILEA Eight-Week Program

The opening of ILEA in April 1995 was an important step toward establishing a mechanism for regional law enforcement training in Eastern Europe. The ILEA is similar to the domestic FBI National Academy (FBINA) program in the United States, conducted with simultaneous translation to eliminate an Academy requirement for students to speak English.

The ILEA program is an eight-week personal and professional development program, conducted for up to 50 students in each of five sessions per year. The focus for this program is not on technical skills, but rather on leadership, personnel and financial management issues, human rights, ethics, the rule of law, management of the investigative process, and other contemporary law enforcement issues. At ILEA, police officers from Eastern Europe, Russia and the Baltic States are trained in techniques used to combat modern criminal activity, including organized crime and terrorist groups. As of June 19, 2001, 31 sessions will have been provided to a total of 1,396 students representing 25 countries, with the largest number of students coming from Hungary.

The ILEA facility also hosts specialized training and seminars sponsored by various U.S. law enforcement agencies. By June 2001, an additional 4,384 law enforcement officials, representing 26 countries, have attended the specialized training. 🏠