ICASSI 2010 Poiana Brasov, Romania

Over 200 participants gathered expectantly for the 2010 ICASSI in the lovely alpine village of Poiana Brasov, Romania, 3 hours bus ride from the capitol, Bucharest. Located, in the heart of Romania, on a clear day, one could see the Carpathian Mountains from our balconies. The participants who stayed on sight were in the Alpin Hotel or Hotel Condor, and together each evening enjoyed delicious local cuisine from an elaborate buffet.

As traditional, a quality program for the children was provided, and classes were offered in English and German. In addition, an introductory class in Romanian/Hungarian was provided for the impressively large number of locals.

One hundred Romanians took advantage of quality, experiential training provided by a stellar faculty of practicing Adlerian/Dreikursian psychologists. In addition to the Romanian delegation, 8 Bulgarians, 1 from Ghana, 1 from Uruguay, 1 from Nigeria, 1 from Iran and 14 from Japan participated enthusiastically. The 24 countries from which the ICASSI participants traveled represented every continent except Antarctica! This was a milestone for ICASSI! The diversity was celebrated by all throughout the fortnight in skits, songs, committees, choirs, conversations, and meals!

The trek to the village for local food, shopping, banking, and bus rides began for many with a path through the goat pasture. A short bus ride to town provided folks a walk through medieval streets, buildings, towers, and around the city wall of Brasov. Weekend opportunities provided more exploration of the castles and walled cities of the Middle Ages.

On Saturday and Sunday folks were invited to visit Bran, where Dracula's castle was located, or to see Sibiu, a classic medieval town, or to enjoy Sighisoara, where the annual Medieval Festival provided shows,

theatres, and shopping galore, or to experience Sinaia, where Peles, the royal palace and gardens thrilled the visitors.

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Learned and engaging lectures at the opening sessions were provided by Eva Dreikurs Ferguson (USA), Betty Lou Bettner (USA), Yvonne Shurer (Switzerland), Hala Buck, (USA), Frank Walton (USA), Anthea Millar (UK), Paul Rasmussen (USA), Helmut Heuschen (Germany), Erika Echle (Switzerland), Joyce Callus (Malta), and Marion Balla (Canada).

Wisely planned coffee breaks followed the lectures, allowing time to process with colleagues the information presented. The variety of classes from first time teachers infused Adlerian/Dreikursian psychology into creative new uses and enhanced the participants' personal and professional growth.

Classes were experienced on Basic Adlerian Theory, Grief and Loss, Intergenerational Patterns, Conflict Resolution, Individual Psychology in the Workplace, Health, Trauma, Children's Behavior Problems, Clinical Intervention, Family Counseling, Social Interest, Encouragement, Self Awareness, Grimm's Fairy Tales, Lifestyle, Family Challenges, the Roots of Adlerian Theory, Youth and Children's Recreation, Groups, Dreams, Art Therapy, Couples Conflict, Being Single, Cooperation, Private Logic, Social Equality, Family Constellation, Self Awareness, and Clinical Topics from an Adlerian point of view.

The overwhelming impression of all foreigners was that the Romanian people were uncommonly friendly, helpful, and welcoming. The staffs of the hotels as well as the local representatives were extremely accommodating and friendly. Romanian participants sang, danced, helped, guided, and impressed their colleagues with their professional prowess and social interest throughout the institute.

For many participants, ICASSI, was a life changing experience. For others, the exposure to various cultures brought new understanding of our neighbors in the world. For young and old a comprehension of the joys of interacting with each other in a respectful and energetic environment embraced them. A snippet of how a peaceful, accepting world could be sent participants away with renewed hope for a world of cooperation for the betterment of all persons everywhere.