

ICASSI 2012 Druskininkai, Lithuania

The 45th ICASSI in July, 2012 was held in the flowered, fountained resort town of Druskininkai in southern Lithuania. Lithuania is one of the three Baltic states in Western Europe, and had been the host for ICASSI 16 years before in the capital Vilnius. The location this year, near lakes, shops, a nature preserve, and a huge aqua park afforded participants relaxation amid a typical full schedule of educational activities, quality classes, entertaining mixers, special interest sessions and 10 stimulating lectures, which began each day.

Two major hotels housed the participants who came from out of town. Hotel Europa Royale, where the classes, meals and lectures were held and Pusynas, five minutes walk away, through parks and fountains. Approximately 250 participants from 23 nations engaged in dialog via classes in life style, work place, problem solving, encouragement, couples and individual counseling, supervision, trauma, stress reduction, early memories interpretation, and addiction.



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Whenever folks engaged in any activity, such as meals, elbow benders (having a drink at the bar), walks in the early morning, sing-alongs with the guitars, having a coffee, or a quiet conversation, they met friends (old or new) from many nations. ICASSI is an incredible opportunity to learn new languages, meet new cultures, share experiences, and chat about human behavior or personal stuff. Oh that international relations were as simple. Our agendas were to learn, open our minds, share what we knew, and ask professional questions. How could we in the people business lose??

Early morning lectures included demonstrations, lectures, and power point presentation in Care for the Caregiver, Marriage Therapy and Enrichment, Encouragement, Parenting, Humor, the Development of Adlerian Psychology, Trauma, Reflecting As If, the Crucial C's, and Directed Early Recollections. CD's of the lectures were offered, as were a fine selection of Adlerian/Dreikursian books and tapes at the Bookstore. (Some of us preferred the old fashioned method of note taking). Professionals from all walks of life and from countries around the world soaked up the knowledge that was freely shared.

Weekend trips to the village of Liškiava, the city of Vilnius, the castle at Trakai were embraced by ICASSI participants. River cruises were a favorite among the explorers who wanted to relax and learn about a Lithuania they hadn't known.



The traditional silent auction was filled with treasures from all countries represented and sold out. Eager buyers raised several thousand dollars for future scholarships.

A number of participants took advantage of the healthful body mud, natural mineral water, massage therapy, and other services for health, beauty, and relaxation, for which Lithuania is famous.

Children and youth learned encouragement and ways to contribute while the adults studied the same. They learned to work as a team and got inspired to make contributions to the greater good of ICASSI.

Some participants declared Druskininkai as one of the most beautiful settings for ICASSI—an ideal location to learn ways of cooperation and mutual respect as this world moves toward peaceful harmonious cohabitation.