**Collaborative Practice in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia**

Collaborative Practice, in Czech terminology „týmové řešení sporů“ belongs among alternative and out of court methods of dispute and conflict resolution. Collaborative Practice developed from the so called Collaborative Law (in Czech „právo spolupráce).

In the structured creative and principled process of Collaborative Practice clients‘ disputes are not solved only by advocates of the disputing parties (Collaborative Law) but also with the help and professional support of different specialists invited into the process, eg. health or child specialist, financial advisors, mediators or coaches.

Principles of Collaborative Practice and Collaborative Law (shortly only CL/CP) were brought to the Czech Republic by Eva Vankova and Marie Brozova who participated in the first European conference on Collaborative Law, held in Vienna in 2007. Inspired by the ideas and methods of CL/CP and under the support of the Czech Bar Association they formed the Working Group (Pracovní skupina pro právo spolupráce) which was active in 2008 -2010. in 2010 the newly established CLEAS group focused on commercial, business, civil and IT law. [www.právospolupráce.cz](http://www.právospolupráce.cz) .

The Working group in Brno, lead by Eva Vankova, in collaboration with Lenka Pavlova iniciated and organized the international conference „Resolving Disputes throught out of court methods“, which took place in Brno in 2009. In connection to the successful conference the representatives of the Brno Working group and the Union of Profesionals Mediators met at the Castle of Krtiny situated close to Brno odn December 2nd, 2009 and signed Memorandum on Cooperation

Memorandum on Cooperation opened the way to the establishment of a non – profit organization in the form of the so called public benefit organization - the European Institute for Reconciliation, Mediation and Arbitration.

The European Institute for Reconciliation, Mediation and Arbitration. shortly ESI, was established by the Fondation Agreement signed on the 21th December 2009 by both associations mentioned above, Union of Professional Mediators and the Czech Association of Woman Lawyers. In 2010 Czech founders were joined by colleagues from Slovakia – the Greak Catholic Faculty of the Presov University in Presov and the Association of Slovakian Mediators located in Brno. ESI in its training and educational activities supports the Collaborative Practice and promotes its publication. ESI is the quarantor of the professional training and education of lawyers and advocates and collaborative practionals in the Czech Republic as well as in Slovakia. ESI attempts to apply the principles of CL/CP in dispute resolution in the field of the family, commercial, consumer and admministrative law. More on the web: [www.esi-cz.eu](http://www.esi-cz.eu)

The principles of Collaborative law were introduces to in Slovakia,in 2010, by Eva Vankova and Lenka Pavlova, both of whom are ESI expert trainers. ESI supported the fondation of the EWLAS, the European Association of Woman Lawyers in Slovakia, which proceeds after ESI and Czech Association of Woman Lawyers in promotion and sustaining the Collaborative Practice and Collaborative Law in Slovakia. More on the web: [www.ewlas.sk](http://www.ewlas.sk) . The EWLAS together with the Slovak Bar Association organized the special training on Collaborative Law with William Hogg, CL practional and trainer from the U.K. Collaborative Practice and Collaborative Law in Slovakia are supported by the following advocates and mediators – Dana Baliova, Renata Dolanska and Beata Swanova.

Czech Working Group of CL/CP and ESI acvities helped the CL/CP methods to become the integral part of the voluntary education of law practionals and advocates and other specialists. At present the training of young advocates is lead by Dr. Anna Marova, one of the founders of CLEAS and the ESI collaborative expert and trainer. ESI offers special lectures, seminars, training workshops and round tables. It attempts to continue in promoting principles and rules of Collaborative Practice, although it would be difficult to say that the CL/CP are generally accepted by advocates.