

Dr. Jean-François Jenewein was at the beginning of our story

The name Jean-François Jenewein is one of the most outstanding and significant names of the European management and personnel consultancy. This extraordinary man surpassed others with his creativity, dynamism and positive approach to life, especially with his enthusiasm towards discovering new things. The vision of creating a strong personnel consultancy company, which would serve as a bridge between Austria, the European Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, with the aim to connect the local knowledge with the global reach was pushing him forward. He was an active inhabitant of picturesque Scheibbs and cosmopolitan Vienna, he was a proud Austrian and an enthusiastic European. Based on several years of genuine personal cooperation, we can proudly add that he was also a little bit Czech and Slovak at the same time.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

Dr. J. F. Jenewein



Dr. Jean-François Jenewein

- He was born in the Austrian Tyrol in 1945 to the family of a diplomat, who also worked in the inter-war period in Czechoslovakia.
- In 1970 he completed law studies at the University of Vienna, later he studied economics and corporate psychology.
- In 1977 he and his wife Rita founded the international consulting company Management Consulting Jenewein in Vienna, since 1989 with its own offices in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.
- Since 1985 he was the president of the Association of Austrian consultants in direction.
- Since 1990 he has worked in Czechoslovakia as an adviser on privatization and transformation of state-owned companies.
- In 1993 he became the first holder of the Europe Award awarded by the Austrian Chamber of Commerce.
- In 1995 he was personally honored by the Austrian President with the golden medal of honour of the Austrian Republic, and in the same year he was awarded by the European Parliament with the Ordre Européen du Mérite award for his commitment to European integration.
- In 2000 the Lower Austrian government awarded him with a golden badge for the establishment of a EURAS postgraduate studies at the University of Krems.
- In 2002 he died after a severe car accident.

Jean-François Jenewein and Management Consulting Jenewein

The significant shift of the Austrian economy caused by the change of the government in mid-1970s had an irreversible impact on J.-F. Jenewein's promising career. Until then the career path of the Vienna University law graduate in his thirties had seemed rather conventional. He had complemented his law degree with studies of economics and corporate psychology and since 1971 he had begun to work for two employers. His expertise was the development of directing, controlling, further training and strategic corporate planning, and he very quickly rose from the head of a department to a director in an Austrian company for corporate education.

The changes in the Austrian economy led to a vast inflow of foreign direct investments from the U.S.A. back then. Their arrival was associated with a massive boom in consulting services. As globalization was not a priority topic and American Executive Search companies had not yet started setting up their affiliates in Austria, which changed some years later, J.-F. Jenewein in 1977 understood the place, importance and especially the future of this type of business in a free market economy. After seven years of employment he became independent in 1977, and together with his wife Rita he established the company Management Consulting Jenewein focusing on Management and Personnel Consulting and Executive Search. It quickly became one of the leading companies in Austria.

Austria started to play a very important role in the field of personnel consultancy in that period. Several Austrian companies went not only beyond the borders of their own country, but also outside the European continent. Jenewein soon had affiliates in

many European countries, even in New York. After the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, as one of the first, he entered the markets of Central and Eastern Europe. During the preparation of Austria for joining the EU he set up an affiliate in Brussels and selected a special team of consultants for European affairs.

The talent and determination of J.-F. Jenewein provided him with the best conditions for development. Although from the beginning, he was focusing strictly on commercial companies and their transfer into a market economy, he gradually worked in strategic consulting, human resources and European affairs both state and non-governmental entities. He led many successful projects for many governments, he was a lecturer at universities, worked in public functions, and he was devoted to strategic lobbying for foreign and domestic investors.

Throughout his life J.-F. Jenewein had every right to be proud that he managed to achieve extraordinary success while not to denying the values of trust, the principles of fair play and integrity, which were very important to him. Interestingly, this world-renowned headhunter was a passionate hunter. Although behind this habit he often liked to travel to distant countries, his most favorite place was the town of Scheibbs, the birthplace of his wife Rita. He often went there to get energy and meet not only with his family, but also with friends, co-workers, and the local people. With the same ease and nature he wandered through a deep forest, enjoyed glass of wine in the Scheibbs' "heuriger", danced at the most prestigious Viennese elite ball or attended an official dinner organized by the Austrian President in honor of a major state visit.

JENEWEIN GROUP

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Jenewein Group CZ/SK

The company Management Consulting Jenewein was active in several countries in Europe and the world. However, from the perspective of our history, the establishment of a Czechoslovak company with offices in Prague and Bratislava is important. It was preceded with great deal of determination when two soon-to-be university graduates full of excitement about the Velvet Revolution at the end of 1989, knocked on the door of J.-F. Jenewein's Vienna office with the offer of cooperation exactly on the Three Kings Day in 1990. The human and kindhearted aspect of the personality of the very successful J.-F. Jenewein was confirmed by the fact that he received and heard out unknown young men even during the holiday.

One of these two students was Martin Křekáč, who is at the head of the current Czech-Slovak group Jenewein Group and as its chairman and owner he emphasizes that he is still thankful

to its founder J.-F. Jenewein for many things in his professional and personal life. They became not only business partners, but also close friends, and these bonds lasted until the death of J.-F. Jenewein in 2002.

With gratitude and humility Martin Křekáč appreciates the fact that he was given the space and confidence from J.-F. Jenewein, which he used to build a renowned company and earned a reputation of a recognized international as well as Czech-Slovak trademark in both countries. „His excellence lies in the fact that he gave us chances and distributed knowledge, not rigid patterns which would have tied our hands. I can remember thinking that if I had achieved only half of what he did, I know I would have been very pleased,” said Martin Křekáč. More than thirty-year-long successful history of the Czech-Slovak Jenewein Consulting Group is the fulfillment of these words and the legacy left by Dr. Jenewein.