

Karel Smerak, CFA (Czech Republic, living in Germany)



Karel combines 20 years of experience as a senior investment and management professional with background in psychotherapy and executive coaching. Karel has worked in a variety of contexts and with teams across multiple jurisdictions and hierarchical levels - at a U.S. based hedge fund, a leading investment bank, major listed corporations and one of Germany's largest privately held corporate groups. Prior to embarking on a career in the investment industry (and sometimes in parallel to it), Karel obtained a master's degree in Translation Science and Economics from Charles University in Prague, a master's degree in International Trade and European Integration at the Prague University of Economics, trained for 5 years in daseinsanalytische psychotherapy, obtained the CFA designation, trained in Network-Analytical Coaching with Simon Western and qualified as executive coach at INSEAD (ICC Coaching Certificate). Karel regularly lectures at the Prague University of Economics and is fluent in **English, German, Czech, Slovak** and **Spanish**.

In his coaching assignments, Karel combines a variety of approaches with an emphasis on systems-psychodynamics. He assists his clients in identifying the "issues behind the issues", in increasing their relational, existential and systemic awareness and ultimately supporting them in transforming their insights into actionable steps and effective change. Some of the key concepts underlying his work as a coach are purpose, meaning, relational and network analysis, leadership style, group dynamics, self in role, boundaries, systems and networks, diversity & inclusion, resistance to change, etc.

"Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom."