



OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ Develop enhanced leadership and professional skills and effect positive change in workplaces and communities;

build mutual understanding and create lasting and sustainable partnerships. EU fellows will learn U.S. practices in sustaining civic participation and advocacy with minority communities (including African-American, Latino, Native American, Roma, Disabled, and Homeless) in civil society and democracy;

- ❖ explore diverse community organizing methods for citizens solving problems in their own communities;
- ❖ learn skills in community leadership development and gain hands-on experience at civil society organizations in the U.S.

OPEN COMPETITION FOR PARTICIPATION

WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. - Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development in collaboration with C.E.G.A. Foundation in Bulgaria, CCF in Hungary, CeRe in Romania, and CKO in Slovakia announce an Open Competition for Participation in: "SUSTAINING CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES" an exchange program for Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and the United States of America.

INVITATION

We invite professionals between the age of 25-40, from any region of Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia, to apply for participation in a 42-day fellowship in the U.S.A. We encourage submissions by professionals fluent in English and actively involved in programs related to citizen participation and advocacy (NGO/civil society development), civic education organizations, citizen advocacy groups, community activists and/or community organizers who work with minority groups. **The overall goal** of the program is to provide a professional development opportunity for mid-level emerging leaders and build a global network of American and foreign professionals so that they can collaborate and share ideas and strategies in an interconnected environment.



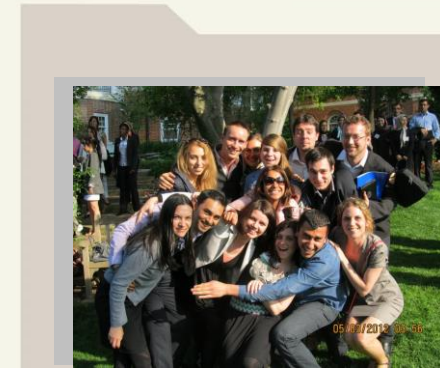
U.S. PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS CONGRESS

OBJECTIVES CONTINUED:

- ❖ During their 4-week internship placement at national, state or local organizations across the U.S., European participants will observe the role of their U.S. counterparts and gain in-depth knowledge and experience in community organizing as well as adaptable other approaches that they can implement after their return.

THE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program is a two-way exchange involving professionals and leaders from the U.S. and selected European countries who will effect positive change in their communities. U.S. mentors will share their professional expertise with fellows of this program and travel for a two-week reciprocal visit to their counterpart organizations for consulting and jointly conduct workshops to share experience and to promote mutual understanding and partnership between key professional groups in the United States and counterpart groups in the selected European countries. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Office of Citizen Exchanges, Professional Fellows Division, organized by WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. - Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development (GLC) from Northwest Ohio in collaboration with Creating Effective Grassroots Alternatives Foundation (C.E.G.A) in Bulgaria, Civil College Foundation (CCF) in Hungary, The Resource Center for Public Participation (CeRe) in Romania, and Center for Community Organizing (CKO) in Slovakia and other local partners in the United States of America and in the selected countries in Europe.



**36 participants (9 from each selected European country) will be included in 2 delegations visiting the U.S.A.:
1st delegation - between April 21-June 5, 2015, the 2nd delegation - between October 9- November 20, 2015**

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Fill in the application form;
 2. Send letter of support from your organization or community group you are working with;
 3. Send the bio page of your passport/scanned in JPG or PDF;
 4. Other requirements in application.
- ✓ Send all of the above documents by the 15th of November 2014 to glc_teachdemocracy3@hotmail.com;
 - ✓ During the month of December, be prepared to be part of an online or face to face interview;
 - ✓ Selected participants will be asked to elaborate pre-departure action plan.

QUESTIONS:

For any questions about the application and selection process, write an email to:
glc_teachdemocracy3@hotmail.com

THE PROGRAM PHASES

Participation in this exchange from the European side is a multi-phase program.

1/ Applicants need to prepare a 5-month action plan to be implemented before the U.S. trip focusing on community organizing field experience – either participating in alumni organizing activities, or by designing a program in their own minority community connected to their current work or volunteer involvement. This experience needs to be summarized in a report before arriving to the U.S., so that the U.S. host organizations can design part of the fellowship program for the European participant based on the different field experiences.

2/ The second phase is the 6-week U.S. trip which includes 4-week internship at an American organization, 1 joint week with all participants before the internship, and 1 joint week after the internship. The internship experience will be tailored to the delegation members' background and interest. The joint program, before and after the internship, will feature workshops, group discussions, site visits, mentoring, and other opportunities for interaction. Participants will prepare their 6-9 month Action Plan to implement new ideas gained in the U.S. and to share experience with others after their return. They will do presentations at professional and community events, and participate in volunteer service activity. The joint program will be organized in Toledo (Ohio), Chicago (Illinois) and Washington (D.C.), but internship placement may include other communities across the U.S. The Professional Fellows Congress is an enrichment program that will be also included in the itinerary. Professional Fellows Program participants from different U.S. State Department exchanges will have an opportunity to meet with government leaders and other program alumni and share experience at the end of their visit in Washington D.C.

3/ The 3rd phase of the project will start when participants return to their home country where they will work on the implementation of new methods and continue their previous projects or start another one that they designed with their U.S. mentor during their U.S. visit. Participants will be required to help others with their new experience after they return, cooperate closely with the WSOS/GLC partners in their country, join in and participate in the Alumni programs in each country.

THE PROGRAM PHASES CONTINUED

4/ As part of the exchange, delegations from the U.S. will visit Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia for about 2 weeks to participate in seminars, workshops, visit applicants' organizations, provide on-site consultation and mentoring. Applicants are encouraged to cooperate with GLC in-country Program Directors and partners in the preparation of these events, participate in the workshops with presentations about the experience acquired during the U.S. fellowship, and encourage others to join in and benefit from this experience. European participants will be actively involved in organizing the U.S. mentors' visit to their organization for a couple of days, as well as assist in joint trainings with their U.S. mentors and other alumni.

5/ Upon their return fellows will become part of the alumni network in their country and will participate in learning circles for peer to peer learning and sharing of experiences and working in close cooperation with the GLC Country Director in their own country.

6/ Alumni will provide regular updates to the GLC Country Directors as well as the GLC Project Manager in the U.S. through on-line communication on how the new ideas were implemented in their organizations and what impact this program made. Alumni success stories will be published before the end of the grant period and each fellow is expected to contribute with an organizing story within 6-9 months after their return.



PICTURES FROM WASHINGTON D.C, DETROIT, CHICAGO AND NEW YORK

https://www.facebook.com/pages/GLC_Teach-Democracy



The Application Form has to be submitted by November 15, 2014 in two ways: a hard copy of the complete application and attachment by mail at the Country Director listed on the form; in addition please e-mail a copy of your application to: Dr. Elizabeth Balint, WSOS/GLC Project Manager in Toledo, Ohio U.S.A., E-mail: GLC_teachdemocracy3@hotmail.com and please copy this e-mail also to the Country Director in your country.

BG – emil@cega.bg

RO - nicoleta@ce-re.ro

HU - matev@kkapcsolat.hu

SK - strelcova@gmail.com

Pre-selected applicants will be invited for an interview with GLC in-country Program Director and other collaborating partners.

Additional on-line interview by members of the Selection Committee may be also scheduled on Skype as needed. Recommendations from in-country Program Directors will be reviewed by the WSOS/GLC Selection Committee in Toledo, U.S.A. GLC will finalize the selection of participants and alternates in cooperation with the U.S. Embassies in each country and start the J-1 visa process.

SELECTION PROCESS

Participants will be selected through a competitive merit-based process. Applicants with previous community organizing training and practical experience will have an advantage since they are more prepared to be effective during the U.S. fellowship. The applicants should submit a letter of support from the organization and/or community group they represent, showing interest in assisting the fellow before and upon his/her return in implementing a community organizing project in minority communities. We will select applicants who are creative and have innovative ideas, have accomplishments in solving issues in minority communities and who can make a large impact with implementing new ideas and changes. Participants need to display evidence of good organizational and management skills; they should be active members of their local community, interested in long-term international cooperation, have good communication and presentation skills and be receptive to modern technology. Successful candidates should be mid-level emerging civil society professionals with experience and current employment related to the designated project area. In order to establish a successful cooperation and communication with U.S. counterparts, all selected participants must be highly proficient in written and oral English, self-directed, able to work effectively in a cross-cultural setting, and have demonstrated leadership abilities. WSOS/GLC Project Manager from the U.S. will contact the applicants by e-mail during the selection process and also during the preparation for the visit to United States, so applicants need to maintain one regular email connection with GLC and their Country Director during the whole program.

COSTS

All expenses of the U.S. program including visa, health insurance, transportation, accommodation (4-week home stays with American families, 2 weeks in hotels with double occupancy rooms), meals, and cultural programs will be covered. Participants need to have a valid passport issued no later than December 1, 2014. Participants need to cover their own expenses incurred within their own country (travel for interviews, visa and overseas travel preparation from and to the Embassy and the airport, meals or accommodation while visiting the Embassy, pre-departure or after arrival). Selected participants (and alternates) are required to attend the program related activities (orientation meetings, interview at the U.S. Embassy), follow-on workshops in each country.

Application Deadline: November 15, 2014

For any questions related to the program, please send an email to: glc_teachdemocracy3@hotmail.com or to the country director in your country