

# “Sustaining Civic Participation in Minority Communities”

Professional Fellows from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia  
in the United States, September 29 - November 13, 2015

Funded by the U.S. State Department Bureau of the Educational and Cultural Affairs. Locally organized by WSOS and Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development.

September  
2015



PROFESSIONAL  
FELLOWS

**GREAT LAKES CONSORTIUM  
for International Training and  
Development (GLC)** — GLC is a  
program of WSOS Community Ac-  
tion Commission since 1999.

GLC is a collaborative effort of the  
Bowling Green State University,  
Lourdes University, The University  
of Toledo, and WSOS Community  
Action Commission.

**Debra Martin**  
U.S. Program Director

**Dr. Elizabeth Balint**  
Project Manager

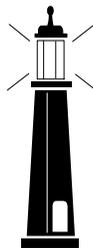
**Viktoriya Maryamova**  
Program Coordinator

**GLC Toledo Office**  
P.O. Box 352424  
Toledo, OH 43635  
Phone: 419-973-8007

**Email:**  
GLC\_teachdemocracy3@hotmail.com

**Website:**  
www.GLC-Teachdemocracy2.org  
www.glc-consortium.org

**Find us on**



WSOS Community Action Commission/ Great Lakes Consortium received a grant for “Sustaining Civic Participation in Minority Communities”, a two-way exchange with participants from four countries of Europe and their U.S. mentors. This program was started in September 2014 and will be completed in June 2016. The overall goal of this exchange is to provide a professional development opportunity for up-and-coming and mid-level professionals to gain knowledge of U.S. practices and create a forum for American and foreign participants to collaborate and share ideas; and build a global network of professionals. As a result of this exchange, European and United States participants will develop enhanced leadership and professional skills, build mutual understanding, and create lasting and sustainable partnerships.

*European fellows could learn U.S. practices in sustaining civic participation and advocacy in minority and disenfranchised communities (including African-American, Latino, Native American, Roma, disabled, homeless). They will explore diverse community organizing methods from across the U.S. (urban and rural areas) for citizens solving problems in their own communities, learn skills in leadership development, building community organizations and gain hands-on experience at civil society organizations. Through internship placements at state or local organizations, they gain experience and adaptable approaches that they can implement after their return. During the Spring 22 European fellows participated in the program and after their return welcomed their U.S. Mentors in their country.*

*U.S. Mentors also travel for a reciprocal visit to directly support follow-on projects and long-term collaboration. American and European participants of the program have an opportunity to share professional expertise and gain a deeper understanding of the societies, cultures and people of other countries. The first delegation with 7 U.S. Mentors traveled to Europe in June/July 2015 and stayed for about 2 weeks in Europe*

visiting Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia on tailored schedules with their fellows to contribute to trainings, workshops and consulting in order to complete some follow on activities.

*The second delegation with a total of 18 fellows from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia will visit the U.S. from September 29 –November 13, 2015 to participate in joint trainings, round-table discussions, site visits, and will have interactions with U.S. leaders. A tailored internship with mentoring, multicultural events, and participation in volunteer activities as well as in the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C. also included in the 6-week professional fellows program. Participants will prepare a 6-9 month individual and group Action Plan for follow on activities. They have various opportunities to experience the American family life and the diversity in the U.S. through staying with American host families during their internship in Chicago, Illinois; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Detroit, Michigan; and the rural areas of New Hampshire and Vermont, and Charleston, West Virginia.*

*The 2nd delegation of U.S. Mentors is expected to travel in February/March 2016 for 2 weeks to provide joint workshops with the alumni and on-site consultation to help implementing new projects. Web-based technology, social media, and public outreach efforts will strengthen the identity of the Professional Fellows Program and lead to wider networking and collaborative projects, and build a strong alumni network.*

*This program is a collaboration between WSOS/GLC and its overseas partners: 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 (CCO) in Slovakia, and many other the U.S. partner organizations involved in the joint program and the tailored internship, and follow up mentoring activities.*



## Participants from Bulgaria

### Antoaneta Nenkova

Sofia, Bulgaria

Email: [toni.nenkova@gmail.com](mailto:toni.nenkova@gmail.com)



Antoaneta Nenkova is a Journalist, a Member of the General Assembly and of the Board of Bulgarian Helsinki Committee. She has 15 years of experience as a Correspondent of the Bulgarian service of Deutsche Welle (DW) Radio in Sofia. The core goal of Bulgarian Helsinki Committee is to promote respect and protection of human rights, to lobby for legislative changes aimed to bring Bulgarian legislation in line with international human rights standards, to encourage public debate about human rights' problems and to promote the concept of human rights among the general audience.

In 2014 Mrs. Nenkova agreed to serve as a Country Expert for the project "Varieties of Democracy" (V-Dem), which advances the understanding of the historical process of democratization. V-Dem aims to produce better Indicators of Democracy and is collaboration among the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and the Kellogg Institute at the University of the Notre Dame in the U.S.

From 1992 Mrs. Nenkova is a part of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee - a non-governmental organization for the protection of human rights. Her main

responsibilities as a Senior Researcher and Coordinator of the Children in Institutions Projects of the BHC include monitoring, analysis and reporting on a variety of human rights issues. Related activities include organization and participation in a series of focus groups, conferences, public debates & events, seminars & trainings, exchange of experience, cross-border cooperation and consultancy. Mrs. Nenkova is also a member of the Working Group "Family and Deinstitutionalization" of the National Network for Children.

Mrs. Nenkova places a special priority to the rights' protection of the most vulnerable groups which live in Bulgaria: ethnic minorities, underprivileged groups, persons deprived of their liberty, children and women. The topics she has strong expertise are: Child Care Policy; Minority rights; Immigration; Integration and Educational Inclusion; Media

Freedom; Hate speech, Cultural Diversity. Most of her work as a researcher is on the field, where she meets (un)ordinary people. They are residents of psychiatrics, homes for abandoned children, social homes for adults, refugee camps and Roma ghettos.

Mrs. Nenkova holds her Master's Degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from the Sofia University. She is an Author of several publications amongst which are: "Children in institutions", volume 5: "Homes for Children with Special Needs". She is also author of many articles in the Bulgarian printed press and Radio broadcasts (Bulgarian National Radio, Deutsche Welle) on the Minority realities and Human Rights of the Disadvantaged Minority Groups in Bulgaria.

Mrs. Nenkova fluently speaks German, English and Russian. She received numerous awards: Winner of the USAID Media competition; Paniza Prize for Bulgarian Journalists and etc. She never traveled to the United States before.

In her free time Mrs. Nenkova enjoys the beautiful piece of Albinoni - The Adagio in G minor and extreme sports. She has two daughters, students in the Netherlands. When her family enjoys the time together in Bulgaria, they like skiing, snowboarding, surfing, paragliding.



*Toni Nenkova photos from her pre-departure fieldwork: her project team (on left) and one of the "one-to-one" interview (on right).*

## Antoaneta Bozhikova

Sofia, Bulgaria

E-mail: [a\\_bozhikova@yahoo.com](mailto:a_bozhikova@yahoo.com)



Antoaneta Bozhikova works as a Legal Counsel at the Technical University of Sofia since 2013. She is mainly responsible for all the contracts, which the University signs, Public procurement and an International relationships. For the last two years, Ms. Bozhikova is a volunteer in Gender Project Foundation, where she is working on projects dedicated to the empowerment of women in Bulgaria. Currently she is engaged in the “*Civil Discussion for Change*” project tackling the problems in within the legal system, electoral legislation, direct democracy and other issues.

Recently Ms. Bozhikova has been chosen to represent the project aims and goals in front of members of parliament and ministers. To prepare she will undergo special training on how to assert and defend thesis. From January 2015 Ms. Bozhikova committed herself to be part of Pro European Network, an

organization where Alumni from the Professional Exchange Programs are working together on a strategic planning and one of the main topics is Community Organizing.

Ms. Bozhikova has been involved with the non-profit sector since her high school years. At that time she got involved with Bulgarian Red Cross, where she became a volunteer, organizing different health campaigns and initiatives. While she went to her mandatory internship to the Ministry of Justice, Ms. Bozhikova was introduced to the social democratic political party. Then she started to follow this issue and received trainings in leadership such as

the “*Summer Academy for Social Democracy*” and “*Give Your Voice a Volume*”, both organized by Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Ms. Bozhikova also participated in C.H.A.R.M. project organized by C.E.G.A. foundation. Since then she was involved in variety initiatives on gender issues and political leadership. One of her recent activities related to volunteering in the mentoring program called “*Able mentor*” and for 4 months she worked as mentor of a young girl, who wanted to become a lawyer.

Ms. Bozhikova studied International law, EU law and American law at the Law Faculty of the University of National and World Economy. In 2012 she successfully graduated as Lawyer. She has been intrigued by the American judicial system which is very different from the Bulgarian one. She speaks English, Greek and little bit of Russian and German languages. Currently she is taking French language courses.

Ms. Bozhikova is a very active person - she likes hiking, jogging, fitness, dancing salsa and Zumba. She is open minded and a friendly person.

## Asen Yordanov Mitkov

Vidin, Bulgaria

E-mail: [asenmitkov9@gmail.com](mailto:asenmitkov9@gmail.com)



Asen Mitkov was born and raised in Vidin, north part of Bulgaria. He is experienced in social work, especially with Roma communities for more than 10 years in his town Vidin with his mission – helping others. Currently Mr. Mitkov is working in “*Centre Working with Street Children*” (CWSC), mainly with Roma children neglect and placed in social risk. The center provides day care, food and clothing, hygiene and health care, educational support and education, positive choices for their spare time, etc. for these kids.

Mr. Mitkov’s main role is to do the outreach work. He is mainly working in Roma neighborhood, where he detects children from minority who are poor, neglected or begging. Then he establishes initial contacts and searching for their family or relatives, informing them about the Centre, where the children could receive support,

maintaining contacts with children’s parents or guardians and ensures counseling and mediation.

Mr. Mitkov first experience comes from work in the non-profit organization DROM on a project, aiming the desegregation of students from minority. He was one of the team members who created the Vidin model of desegregation and integration. Mr. Mitkov’s specific role was to be one of the couches for students. Coach was the person who supported and motivated the students, visited schools, observed this whole process and resolved problems if happened.

Mr. Mitkov is studying his 1st year Social Pedagogy in the South-West University in Bulgaria. He fluently speaks Bulgarian, Romanes, little Russian and English.

Mr. Mitkov never traveled to the United States before. He is very keen to see examples and practices from social work, but he is also looking forward to get more acquainted with Community Organizing.

Mr. Mitkov is passionate for recording videos; he had take four months training course at the non-profit foundation “*Witness New York*”, was trained as camera man, and participated as volunteer in preparing documentary movie about the desegregation process in Vidin, Bulgaria. He likes cameras and spends his time shooting movies or works in parks and enjoys chatting with friends. Mr. Mitkov has two sons: the eldest is attending South West University while the younger has just graduated from secondary school. Mr. Mitkov enjoys spending time with his family and having joy outside Vidin.

## Blazhka Dimitrova

Sofia, Bulgaria

E-mail:

[blazhka.dimitrova@gmail.com](mailto:blazhka.dimitrova@gmail.com)



Blazhka Dimitrova is a Teacher in "Teach for Bulgaria" Foundation, part of multinational organization "Teach for All", since 2013. Her primary mission is to give a quality education to every child regardless of its social status. At the end of the 2013/2014 school year, the Foundation made a film about her and her students because of the enormous progress made in a year and the positive change in 12th grade's classroom.

Ms. Dimitrova teaches English, Theatre and Cinema, Professional and Personal development classes and frequently invites famous people and role models in the classroom, who share their life experience and the reasons for their success.

Ms. Dimitrova is dedicated to volunteering. She is working together with her students on a "Volunteer club" at her school. During the last year Ms. Dimitrova has been working as a Mentor

to disadvantaged youth for "Step for Bulgaria" Foundation. She meets with her Roma student every week and they set goals for themselves, plan future steps to success. Ms. Dimitrova is also volunteering as Trainer and Leader in "The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award", a personal growth program for young people that combines practical experience and skill development.

Ms. Dimitrova holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Then she studied Master's program in National Security and Defense at the Military Academy "G. S. Rakovski". She also finished a

postgraduate qualification in English Literature and Pedagogy as a part of her teacher-leaders program in the "Teach for Bulgaria". During her student years Ms. Dimitrova worked at a radio as a co-host in the morning show and an author of articles. During these years she became more familiar with children's rights through her internship in the Ombudsman's Office and then through her internship in the Institution of Modern Politics, where she spent months of hard work into creating an Internet site, containing all of the children's rights and responsibilities, described in understandable language.

Ms. Dimitrova loves learning new languages. She fluently speaks English, basic Spanish and French. She believes that the U.S. Fellowship Exchange Program will give her a lot of practical experience to apply in her work and through that to achieve a positive change for the community with and in which she works.

In her spare time Ms. Dimitrova likes to go to the theater and to cook. She created a web site in which can be found more than 40 of her favorite recipes.

## Diana Nedeva

Sofia, Bulgaria

E-mail: [nzd@abv.bg](mailto:nzd@abv.bg)



Diana Nedeva is a Projects coordinator, volunteer and trainer. She is working on different projects with focus on empowerment, anti-discrimination, life-long learning, human rights, and global education. Ms. Nedeva works with several NGOs in Bulgaria. Her main occupation is at Caritas Sofia, where she implements projects for refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants whose life are very challenging.

Ms. Nedeva is part of a team organizing global education trainings for youth leaders, teachers and students. She leads trainings on specific topics that are globally spread, but have connection with the daily life of the local people in Bulgaria.

Ms. Nedeva started volunteering 6 years ago, and she is actively promoting volunteering as one of the best ways to discover what is interesting for you, find inspiration, learn how to achieve your

goals and find out how you could help others. In 2012 Ms. Nedeva was an EVS (European Voluntary Service) volunteer in Germany, and her main tasks were preparing, implementing and reporting training courses and youth exchanges with main topics like anti-discrimination, racism, xenophobia; inclusion and equality.

One of the methods she used is Forum theatre, very powerful tool for social change in her opinion. That is why at the moment she is part of such group which is planning to work with different minority groups in Bulgaria using this as their main method.

Ms. Nedeva graduated with degree in Public Administration in Sofia. Since 2011 she is participating in different trainings, and currently is one of the participants in Training of trainers (10 months) organized by SALTO working on developing her skills as a trainer. Her training practice project (which she organizes together with 3 other participants within TOT) is for youth and social workers, who want to develop their competences in empowering young people to become aware of more opportunities, and act on their dreams and visions of their own futures.

This will be her first opportunity to visit the U.S. Ms. Nedeva is very excited about the project and eager to know more about creating and supporting the leadership in the different minority communities, how to facilitate coalitions in the community organizing processes and improve her knowledge about organizing campaigns.

In her free time Ms. Nedeva loves to dance tango, play board games, participate in theatre courses, and do yoga.

## Stoyan Pavlov Pazardzhik, Bulgaria

E-mail: [stoian.pavlov@abv.bg](mailto:stoian.pavlov@abv.bg)



Stoyan Pavlov has been working as an Assistant Director and teacher of visually impaired children at the Resource Center for Support of integrated education of children with special educational needs in Pazardzhik.

Since 2012 Mr. Pavlov is the Secretary of the National Association of Resource Teachers in Bulgaria, a professional community of experts, working with children with disabilities integrated into mainstream education. In this capacity, he took part in debates and discussions concerning the educational policies of the government for children with disabilities.

Mr. Pavlov was the National coordinator of the protest actions against the Commission for Education of the 43rd National Assembly. He participated in the drafting of a new law for education in the section training of children and students with special educational needs.

Mr. Pavlov has 18 years of experience to work with children and young people with disabilities and people from minorities. He started as a volunteer in homes for children with disabilities. Later as a Consultant, he took part in the closure of the State Agency for Child Protection and in the establishment of new services that enable the normal life and childhood for all

children. In 1997 he was an educator in a Daycare Center for Children with disabilities. In 1999 he became a Director of that Center, which he managed for about two years.

Mr. Pavlov worked on several projects in creating a supportive environment for young people with disabilities and working with their families. Since 2001 he was a social worker and supported families mainly of Roma origin from the Pazardzhik region. He participated in the establishment of the first child protection services in Bulgaria.

During 2001-2006 Mr. Pavlov worked in a Special School for Children with mental retardation. Then in 2006 he became a special educator in the team of the newly opened Resource Center for Integrated Education of Children with Special Educational Needs Pazardzhik.

Since 2010 Mr. Pavlov has been working as an Assistant Director in charge of the educational activities and a teacher of visually impaired children. He

also participates in the implementation of several international projects. He is a Certified Practitioner of the intensive communication methods, which aims to develop the communication with children with severe disabilities and at a low stage of development, to the Institute of intensive communication - Britain.

Mr. Pavlov graduated with degree in Pedagogy of visually impaired children from the Sofia University. He was elected for the Chairman of the Association of the school board of the Resource Center Pazardzhik. Mr. Pavlov finished a course on the use of drama and game in a resource office and classroom in Dublin, Ireland. He starts to prepare a doctoral dissertation on the education of children with mental disabilities in mainstream schools. Mr. Pavlov is a trainer of teachers and professionals working with children with disabilities and with minorities.

Mr. Pavlov never visited the United States before. By participating in the Professional Fellowship Program, he hopes to improve his skills for working with students from different minorities and to increase his skills in relation to developing a supportive environment for people with disabilities. He also interested in the government policy of the USA in the area of inclusive education, as well as the local practices.

In his free time, Mr. Pavlov works in theater, playing the guitar and singing, listening to music and read books. He is married and has a 14 years old son.



*Photos from Stoyan Pavlov's pre-departure fieldwork: work with parents on organizing support groups and how to support families, and work with children on prevention of dropping out of school.*



## Participants from Hungary

### Agnes Molnar

Debrecen, Hungary

E-mail:

[agnes.molnar1008@gmail.com](mailto:agnes.molnar1008@gmail.com)



Agnes Molnar is a Youth leader and Charge d'affaires at the Opera Cultural Association from March 2015 working as an employee, and previously for 5 years, she worked as volunteer here. Ms. Molnar responsibilities are managing projects, writing applications, coordinating volunteers, and organizing events. She maintains the on-going civic initiatives in the organization and keep the cooperation between local, informal groups and the Opera. The Opera Cultural Association (OCA - the name stands for the latin word: opera, that means operating) is a youth organization, the main aim is to provide democratical tools and western perspective for youngsters through advocacy, communication and art.

Formerly for 1.5 years Ms. Molnar worked as an International Coordinator at the National KID Association. Her tasks included writing applications for grants, contacting with other european partners and informing member organizations about the international possibilities within the National KID Association (KID stands for Komplex, Integrated, Differentiated and it is an umbrella association).

Ms. Molnar has been part of many initiations in Debrecen. As a native of the city, she just started to support unemployed, alternative-thinking people to implement their projects through the Opera Association. She started to organize skateboarders for the issue: having a skatepark. She also started to work with blind and visually impaired people for integration, she was part of the proceed of involving local groups to the online radio (Opera- owned Sub

Radio) for starting radio shows in locally useful topics they're specialized in.

Ms. Molnar had join community organizing 1 year ago with 3 others from the Opera through the Civil College Foundation. They participated on the trainings, and after they started to develop the organization structurally. Now, she is the leader of the civic workgroup where the main aim is to create a local community. It contains people who has visions about the city of Debrecen, which is different from the majority's. These partners are mainly part of a subcultural group and they suffer from social justice problems just because they have different thoughts about democracy than the present major ideology of the government. She thinks that the young people of the middle-class are sliding down, socially and economically. They marked and prejudiced by outfit, taste and social position not by their values or knowledge. Ms. Molnar observed that Hungarian people are not opened for "the other", racism, intolerance and inequality are common phenomens in the everyday life. The Opera try to ensure people that a different life is not a crime, just another way. In Hungary it is a real problem and community organizing is one of the ways to solve it.

Ms. Molnar has been on various youth seminars in France and in Austria. She has participated in several developer

trainings, like communication, conflict, sustainability etc. At the National KID Association and Opera Cultural Association Ms. Molnar also gained experience in organizing trainings and assisted in the creation of the materials. She present her organization on every national or local youth event as a participant or an organizer too. She has contacts for local organizations, decisionmakers, media people, university people, multi firms, informal groups and art groups in the city of Debrecen.

Ms. Molnar graduated as an Aesthetician, with her MA Degree from the Faculty of Humanities in Debrecen. She researched the local subcultural groups, places and cultural development of Debrecen from the 60's. Her thesis will be the base of an exhibition in the Rock Museum of Debrecen. She also plans to explore the present status of these groups theoretically. She speaks English fluently, and French advanced.

Ms. Molnar has been 5 times in the U.S. The first time - a folk dancer with a group, and the other 4 times - visiting her mother, who is now living in the U.S. as a citizen. She get several times the offer to move out, but she was more intended to work with community in Hungary. After the community organizing trainings and meetings with the American professionals she has the belief that this method is the most suitable for the activities of the Opera, projects and mentality. She would like to use the method at the Opera Cultural Association.

Ms. Molnar loves travelling, making valuable friendships and thinking about projects. If she has no tasks to do she mostly writes articles about local events, things to the website of the Opera ([www.sub.hu](http://www.sub.hu)) She do not have a lot of free time, but when it happens, she is mainly with her 7 year old little sister.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

*To David Gustafson, Program Officer at the U.S. Department of State!*

## Anett Csordas

**Budapest, Hungary**

E-mail: [anett.csordas@gmail.com](mailto:anett.csordas@gmail.com)



Ms. Csordas works as a Director at her own Association “Lépjünk, hogy Léphessenek!”, which is a non-profit organization. The Association supports children, affected by cerebral palsy and their families in the first place by organizing courses and trainings for parents throughout the country.

In addition Association cooperates with other organisations in order to help in the creation of a better health care system to make the life easier for those families, who have to nurse their handicapped children at home because of the lack of the adequate institutional care, moreover because of a bigger part of these families live under the bare necessities. What makes the association special is that it was founded and operated by affected parents in the country. The association organized several actions and demonstrations to put these problems into focus. Ms. Csordas was among the organizers of Rehab Critical Mass which was held in

Hungary at the first time in 2014. This movement represents the social equality of disabled and handicapped people and attracts attention to their difficult situation.

Ms. Csordas graduated twice from the Juhasz Gyula Teacher Training College at Szeged, first as a Hungarian Cultural Manager in 1995 and as a Director of Education in 1999. In 2000 she earned the title - Director of Drama Playing at The Hungarian Drama and Theatre in Education Association. Then in 2004 she complete her Degree as a Specialist in Drama Playing from the University of Theatre and Film Arts.

Until 2005 Ms. Csordas had been working as a Director of a Basic Art School in the field of drama pedagogy.

But after the birth of her handicapped son, her interests were turned toward social and handicapped issues. The difficult life of a family raising a disabled child, encouraged her (in colobaration with several other parents with the same situation) to found her association to make this situation better.

It is her first opportunity to visit the United States with this exchange program. Ms. Csordas would like to get to know succesfull organisations dealing with the situation of handicapped people. She would like to gain experience in community organisation and learn how to achieve goals and aims that an organizations has planned itself before. As an actual plan, she want to found an inclusive school in Hungary and a rehabilitaion center where people affected by cerebral palsy in any age from 0 to 99, can receive supplies and support even if their financial status would not let them take part in it.

Ms. Csordas in her free time she likes visiting theatre and travelling or leading her own cooking school. She is a mother of a special needs boy and 21 year old girl who is a student at the University.

## Monika Balint

**Budapest, Hungary**

E-mail: [monika.balint@gmail.com](mailto:monika.balint@gmail.com)



Monika Balint is a Sociologist and Social Activist. She has been developing participatory and community artworks in Hungary and in other European countries. Community research and community work have been her center of interest for the past ten years.

Ms. Balint started working as a Community Organizer in September 2014 with the “*Workfare Movement for the Future group of Hungarian Anti-Poverty Foundation*” (Group). The main goal of the Group is to represent the interests of the workfare workers (called public workers in Hungarian), who want to be treated as any other workers, with all those rights and entitlements that the national law on work provides to ordinary workers. The Group operate mainly in Budapest and has a growing number of activists and alliances with other non-profit organizations all over

the country.

Ms. Balint lives in the VIII. district of Budapest, which has become the geographical field of her work and research since 2006. Most of the members of the Workfare Movement for the Future Group also live in this part of Budapest, and the meeting place of the Group is also based here. She has a wide range of connections with local non-governmental and also governmental organizations. As a Project Manager she led the project Magdi as between 2008 and 2010 and was a member of ZöFi - Hungarian Young Greens, developing

dozens of programs for the local community in the Magdolna Quarter of the district, winning a SocialMarie (social innovation prize in 2010).

Ms. Balint has developed strong skills in areas where organizing, non-profit management and excellent interpersonal communication are required. She also took leading position in organizing the network of the local civil organizations to develop action plans for the Magdolna Quarter and the Civil Strategy of the district. Ms. Balint is going to defend her Ph.D thesis in Social Communication this year. Also she has experience in making participatory action research.

As a local inhabitant Ms. Balint does voluntary work for local NGO’s like the Nap Club Foundation, and with her family is a member of the Leonardo community garden. She is also doing voluntary work for the Social Innovation Foundation.

Ms. Balint has one daughter and in her free time, she likes spent time with her daughter.

## Istvan Tamas Szenttamasi

Miskolc, Hungary

E-mail: szentom@gmail.com



Istvan Tamas Szenttamasi is working as a Regional Social Cooperative Advisor at the National Employment Public Non-profit Ltd. He is responsible for supporting social cooperatives with consultancy in North-Eastern Hungary, and he plays an important role in building and sustaining social economy in several underserved and minority communities in one of the most disadvantaged and depressed regions of Hungary.

Formerly Mr. Szenttamasi had been working as a Project Manager at the Miskolc Gallery and Municipal Museum of Fine Arts in Miskolc. He was responsible for several EU funded talent improvement and training projects. The main goal of these projects was to fight against the extremely high unemployment and emigration rate in the region through training young people, supporting their plans related to further education or employment, and through strengthening creative industries and the local identity in the city.

In 2008 Mr. Szenttamasi worked at the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Institution of Pedagogy, Education and Culture, where he gained remarkable project management and leadership experiences. He had been working in several EU funded social development projects aiming to help disadvantaged and minority communities by providing

them trainings on community enterprises, community work, local tourism and hospitality, local heritage conservation etc. He also had been responsible for cross-border cultural cooperation projects at the institution.

In 2011 Mr. Szenttamasi joined the Kék Vonal (Blue Line) Child Crisis Foundation. As a Project Manager he was responsible for launching and running the Kék Vonal Computer Clubhouse of Miskolc in the Avass district, one of the most underserved neighborhoods of the city. The clubhouse was opened and operated as the first Hungarian member of the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network. As the leader of the clubhouse he acquired his first experiences about community work and community organizing, that made him committed to community issues.

In addition Mr. Szenttamasi does volunteer work in two civic organizations, the North-Eastern Passage Association and the Living Land Social Cooperative. Both organizations support community based grassroots initiatives, like social cooperatives or social enterprises, since the disadvantaged groups and neighborhoods of the region

can hardly count on external help from the local or national government.

Mr. Szenttamasi studied cultural anthropology (MA), pedagogy (MA) and philosophy (MA) at the University of Miskolc, where he participated in several research projects aiming to discover the problems of the Roma minority and other disadvantaged communities of the region. He also participated in a one-semester-long applied anthropology training in Granada (Spain) that made him completely committed to his profession. He was graduated from the Faculty of Arts of the University of Miskolc in 2008. He has been working with minority groups, mainly with the Roma, for many years. He is fluent in English language and a basic user of Spanish.

It is his first trip to the United States, and Mr. Szenttamasi has great expectations related to this program. He would like to learn more about the methods of community organizing in peripheral minority communities, since he believes that it can increase the effectiveness of his daily job and volunteer activity. He also would like to have many experiences about the operation of community based enterprises and social economy in the USA, which might be applicable models in Hungary.

Mr. Szenttamasi is a proud father of two children. He loves to be with his family when he is out of work. In his spare time he likes learning foreign languages; he also likes reading, fishing, cycling, hiking and camping and almost everything what one can do in the nature.



*Photos from Istvan Tamas Szenttamasi's pre-departure fieldwork in the Roma community of Pere: (on left) door-to-door interviews with Mrs. Gaborne Ferencsak (Zsuzsa), local activist, (on right) One-on-One interview with a single mother Eniko Barna.*



## Participants from Romania

### Alexandrina Dinga

Iasi, Romania

Email:

[alexandrina.dinga@gmail.com](mailto:alexandrina.dinga@gmail.com)



Alexandrina Dinga is a Project Manager of the “*For the Better*” Association, a non-governmental organization founded in 2009. The Association go a long way towards sustainable development of the local community, whose projects, through a holistic approach - environment, economy and social - encourage the consumption of seasonal and local products, develop practices of reduce and reuse, support disadvantaged groups, promoting a social and environmental responsible behavior.

Within Association, Ms. Dinga coordinates a project “Water without plastic” with the support of EEA Grants. The purpose of this project is to inform and sensitize people on the importance of reducing the consumption of bottled water in PETs. Furthermore, between Sept. 2013 – Sept. 2014, she coordinated the action “*Neighborhoods for people*”, where she organized consultative and informative meetings with citizens of 5 neighborhoods of Iasi.

This action was a part of the “*Educational and participatory tools for sustainable development*” project, started in June 2013 with financial support of the Swiss grant. The action identified in the meetings with citizens their lack of community involvement, a bad city management issues and an abusive decision of the Mayor to cut all the trees in the center of the city (without a public consultation). It also encouraged Ms. Dinga, and other friends of her, to start a new organization willing to act in the

area of active citizenship and good governance.

Currently, Ms. Dinga is the President of a CIVICA Association - newborn association - where she and her colleagues are doing voluntary work to build the association, to attract resources for developing a program of community organizing. She wants to dedicate her next years to develop CIVICA Association, enjoying an active community and a better managed city.

Ms. Dinga is also one of the co-founders of the Iasi Community Foundation, founded in 2012, where she currently has an advisory position after being involved in its Board for two years. As an activist, she coordinates a group of civic initiative “Iasi loves linden trees” to determine the mayor to replant the trees that were cut in the center of Iasi. Ms. Dinga had also worked in the private sector for almost 3 years, but NGOs drew her more because she feels like there is more freedom, and she can actually develop the projects that she believes in.

Ms. Dinga is licensed in Ecology and Environmental Protection. She holds two Master’s Degrees: one in Biodiversity and Ecosystem productivity and another in Communication, Creativity and Social Skills in Organizations. She is an Accredited Trainer and Project Manager with approximately 6 years of experience

in the non-governmental environment (3 years as a volunteer and 3 years as an employee), project management, communication and strategy application, implementation of the informational and awareness campaigns. Ms. Dinga is a native Romanian speaker and B1 level English - speaking, understanding, writing and reading.

This is going to be her first visit to the U.S. With the help of this fellowship, Ms. Dinga aims to identify best methods for mobilizing and involving citizens in solving community problems, by identifying the needed resources for them, to learn more about the community organizing, but also methods of public participation, advocacy campaigns, fundraising. A short term target is to use this knowledge to assist the citizens from two marginal neighborhoods of Iasi (Dacia and Frumoasa) to organize and solve local problems and a medium term target is to develop a program of community organizing in Iasi, at the CIVICA Association. Ms. Dinga is also interested in learning more about community organizing, the development of advocacy, fundraising and community mobilization tactics.

Ms. Dinga’s pre-departure field work activity will take place in Dacia and Frumoasa neighborhoods, and the target group consists of their citizens in general. She had already held one consultative meeting with the citizens from the two neighborhoods and several informative meetings. She wants support/assist the formation of two civic initiative groups in these districts, their citizens being able to be involved in solving the problems they face.

Ms. Dinga’s hobbies are: reading, traveling, sometimes hiking on the mountain, and tea stories with her friends.



**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PROJECT ADVISORS AND SUPPORTERS:**

*David Beckwith, Christine Doby, Chuck Hirt,  
Peter Ujvagi and Martin Nagy!*

## Ciprian Galusca

**Bucharest, Romania**

Email: [ciprian.galusca@gmail.com](mailto:ciprian.galusca@gmail.com)



Ciprian Galusca is currently working as a volunteer for “*Poiana Lui Iocan*”, a small Romanian non-governmental organization. The NGO, founded in 2013, aims to help Bucharest to become a happier city, a safer city, and eventually a city where its citizens live better lives. “*Iocan’s Clearing*” project focused around a two-week installation that aimed to promote youth participation in urban design was an opportunity for Mr. Galusca to collaborate with the team of Volunteer Studio (UK) for the project that took place in Bucharest, Romania, but also to work with a network of civic and youth organizations based in Bucharest.

Mr. Galusca worked as a News Reporter for a local daily newspaper in Bucharest. He started in the media with an internship, when he was in his second year of his University studies. Between 2007 and 2013 Mr. Galusca worked as a reporter and news editor for “*Ziarul*

*Ring*” and in this period of time his main interests were public policies, third sector economy and public infrastructure in Bucharest.

Currently Mr. Galusca is working on his final paper for a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology at the Bucharest University, Faculty of Sociology and Social Services, graduating on June 15, 2015. He also participated on trainings for project management offered by the Faculty of Sociology and Social Services, in which the focus of the experience was to develop a strategic way of thinking for the students. Mr. Galusca is a native Romanian speaker and B2 level English - speaking,

understanding, writing, and reading. He also has basic knowledge in Spanish, can understand and speak a bit of French and some of Italian language due to similarities with Romanian.

This is going to be his first visit to U.S. With the support of this fellowship Mr. Galusca would like to be more efficient in mobilizing & empowering people and resources from Bucharest’s minority communities in addressing the problems that they have and to see practical examples from civic organizations in the U.S. Mr. Galusca special interests are small minority groups and topics like advocacy, campaign planning (e.g. empowerment) and fundraising.

Mr. Galusca’s pre-departure field work is going to be in Coltei neighborhood (close to the city center in Bucharest), target group being the Roma youngsters. He has already started to interact with children and youngsters as well. The next step would be to start working with them on their basic needs.

Mr. Galusca hobbies are sports (soccer), computer games, geography and meeting new people.

## Florin Nasture

**Bucharest, Romania**

Email: [fnasture@yahoo.com](mailto:fnasture@yahoo.com)



Florin Nasture is appointed as a Deputy Director of the National Center of Roma Culture. Working for the government is something new for him because before Mr. Nasture used to work only for NGOs either as a Specialist on community development, or as a Project Manager. He is still working as a Community Facilitator in communities such as Jilava, Toflea, Fetesti, and Buzau. His perspectives of the social development he got it during his training organized by *Pakiv European Roma Fund* for 10 months in 6 countries in Europe. From the position of Country Facilitator for REF, Mr. Nasture provided support in elaboration and implementation of projects funded by *Roma Education Fund* and for 5 years (2005-2010) his role was to work local NGOs, schools, communities. Then as Manager (2010-2012) of a 5 million Euro project, Mr. Nasture applied this perspective in working with 50 schools

and 50 communities empowering Roma parents in the framework of 50 Local Action Groups. In 2014 he worked as a Community Development Specialist for United Nation Development Program, working to mobilize community members and all local resources in order to empower the disadvantaged local Roma communities in the area of Braila and Galati cities.

Mr. Nasture has a long standing experience as a Trainer delivering trainings as part of different projects implemented by organization such as *Agentia Impreuna*, *O Del Amenca*, *Ograda Noastra* (Republic of Moldova), *Roma Education Fund*, *Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe* and

*Council of Europe* in the area of community mobilization and development, conflict resolution and mediation, democratic participation, project management and education. Also, he was a Trainer in a long term training “*Support for the Implementation of Roma Strategy*”.

Mr. Nasture is Roma from Romania who holds a PH.D. in Political Science from the National School of Public Administration in Bucharest. Previously he combined working practice with personal development graduating with Master’s Degree of Art in Social Development Practice at the Metropolitan University of London, and with Master’s Degree in Strategic Development at the University of Bucharest.

Mr. Nasture has never travelled to the United States. During the fellowship trip, he would like to gain knowledge and practical experience in church based community organizing so he can improve what he is doing in Roma communities and start some actions in the field of Evangelical movement in Roma communities.

## Gabriela Anghel

Bucuresti, Romania

Email: [gabriela@fundatiapact.ro](mailto:gabriela@fundatiapact.ro)



Gabriela Anghel is Community Facilitator within Partnership for Community Action and Transformation (PACT) Foundation, working in two villages from Braila County, Romania. PACT Foundation is doing community development in the South of Romania and was founded 13 years ago. The main purpose is to develop community based organizations by using complex methods of training, community facilitation, consultancy and small non-refundable grants (seed funding). The beneficiaries are people living in rural areas or in small urban areas, of various ages, backgrounds of education, different social status, different religions and ethnicity.

Along with her role as a Community Facilitator, Ms. Anghel is working as a second community organizer in Corbeni village, in Arges County within the context of the project called "Our community, our decisions" financed through EAA Grants. In this project the beneficiaries are citizens from 5 rural communities: they will be trained, assisted through a participatory approach on how to identify, document and advocate a specific community issue in order for that to be solved by local

authorities.

Ms. Anghel worked in the non-governmental field since 2003 still in high-school, doing volunteering activities in different NGO's working with different types of beneficiaries. Starting with her freshman year, she became involved as a volunteer in a student organization "Volunteer for Ideas and Projects", where she worked in the Public Relations and Human Resources Department in her first year. Later she became a Project Manager of the "Student of the Year" project that recognized the best students in 5 different fields and rewarding them with 2,000 euro. During that period she gained skills in coordinating a team, motivating people, organizing events, planning and project management.

As a student of the Social Assistance Faculty, Ms. Anghel was a member of the Faculty Council, where she represented students' interests. In that

period she learned how to advocate for the rights and mobilize people in order to resolve their problems.

Ms. Anghel graduated in Public Policies in Social Administration (2009) from the Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance at the Bucharest University. She also has a Master's Degree in Anthropology from the National School of Political and Administrative Sciences (2012). Ms. Anghel took part in a Project Management Training (2010), in the Citizen Participation University organized by Civil College Foundation (2014), and other different trainings in community development. She has skills in non-formal education, research, coordination and participatory methods.

Ms. Anghel is a native Romanian speaker and has a good level of English - speaking, understanding, writing, and reading. She also has basic French, Spanish and Italian knowledge and speaks a little in all the 3 languages.

This is going to be her first visit to the U.S. With the support of this fellowship Ms. Anghel would like to gain practical experience about the process of creating self-organizing communities and to learn about different methods of developing leadership skills among people and empower them.

Ms. Anghel hobbies are travelling, reading, doing different creative activities, sports and dancing.

### OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR U.S. PARTNERS AND INTERNSHIP HOSTING ORGANIZATIONS IN:



#### *Illinois, Chicago:*

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; Jane Addams Senior Caucus; Go Bronzeville; Illinois Coalition of Immigrants and Refugees Rights; Service Employees International Union; Access Living Chicago; Community Renewal Society

#### *Michigan, Detroit:*

Michigan United

#### *Minnesota, Minneapolis:*

Neighborhood Organizing for Change

#### *New Hampshire & Vermont:*

United Valley Interfaith Project

#### *West Virginia, Charleston:*

Step by Step



## Participants from Slovakia

### Dana Trombitasova

Revuca, Slovakia

E-mail:

trombitasova.dana@gmail.com



Dana Trombitasova is a Coordinator for International Activities working for Agency for Development of Gemer region in Hnusta, south of Slovakia. The focus of agency's actions is on initiation, realization and coordination of strategic activities for multilateral and dynamic development of Gemer region. The Gemer region in one of the poorest regions in Slovakia with the highest unemployment rate.

Ms. Trombitasova has been working mainly with young people and youth workers from Gemer region focusing on rising public awareness by organizing, mediating and providing information about trainings, seminars, workshops, conferences, exhibitions and presentations of regional projects. She is a Co-writer and Project Manager of international training and networking course for youth workers with a name SigNature. The main aim of the project is to provide greater understanding of interconnections between formal and non-formal education by using natural resources and activities in nature as a non-formal learning environment within the educational process.

Ms. Trombitasova works closely with

Roma youngsters while helping them to be easier included into educational process by using non-formal educational tools. As the coordinator of international projects brings closer opportunities of trainings, education and volunteering service abroad to Roma youngsters in order to broaden their horizons and to develop their soft skills and communication in foreign language to rise their chances on a labor market.

As a volunteer Ms. Trombitasova was working with normal and disabled kids in kindergartens providing animotherapy with ponies. She participated on various international trainings and networking courses for youngsters and youth workers focusing on democracy, ecology and sustainability and project writing by using non-formal educational tools and methods. She also has participated on Global Community Development Project in Sri Lanka, where she was working for 2 months as a volunteer for Sri Lanka's NGO. Her tasks were management and

marketing of community projects, organizing events for under-privileged kids, fundraising, donation activities and direct work with under-privileged schools and communities.

Ms. Trombitasova has a Master's Degree in Tourism from the University of Matej Bel in Banska Bystrica, and a Bachelor's Degree in Management from the University of Presov in Presov. She has spent one semester in Spain, where she was studying subjects of EMTM - Erasmus Mundus Tourism Management program. During her studies she participated in various trainings and seminars regarding to leadership skills, communication skills, entrepreneurship and start-ups.

Ms Trombitasova is fluent in English, can communicate in Spanish, understands German and has basic knowledge of Polish and Russian language. She is a proactive and communicative person with can-do attitude and sense for detail, who wants to help to improve life in her region and see results of her actions.

This will be her first trip to the United States. While on a trip, Ms. Trombitasova would like to gain new knowledge and skills related to community organizing to be able to use this method in a proper way in work with communities in her region. She considers the right way how to achieve it to learn from successful community organizers who have visible results in the U.S.

Ms. Trombitasova is fascinated by success and power of bottom-up actions. She would like to work more with young leaders from Roma minority, and gain new knowledge and experience in organizing of community to be able to create sustainable projects where members of community will point out their problems and become to be active and creative in finding solutions.

In her free time, Ms. Trombitasova likes being in the nature by hiking, jogging, cycling, skiing and rock climbing. She likes to relax with good book. She also enjoys traveling, get to know new cultures and to learn foreign languages.



*Photo from Dana Trombitasova's pre-departure fieldwork: leading a meeting with young students in school Gymnazium Mateja Hrebendu.*

## Robert Furiel

Spisska Nova Ves, Slovakia

Email: [r.furiel@gmail.com](mailto:r.furiel@gmail.com)



Robert Furiel was involved in the Slovak LGBT (*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender*) activism since the days of his secondary school. In his last school year and in the first years at the University. His involvement and a fortunate set of events made him one of the founding members of the “*Duhovy PRIDE Bratislava*” (Rainbow PRIDE Bratislava), the first Slovak march for human rights of the LGBT people. For three years he was gathering experience and helping the topic of LGBT reach the mainstream media in the Slovak Republic.

Shortly after returning to Slovakia from the Czech Republic, Mr. Furiel founded the “*PRIDE Duhove Kosice*” (PRIDE Rainbow Kosice), a march for visibility and human rights of LGBT people in Kosice, the second biggest city and the whole region of Eastern Slovakia. For its third year, Mr. Furiel wants to bring the event even

closer to the community of LGBT people in this part of the country. Originally skilled in “hard” areas such as project management, strategic management or grantwriting, he sees this educational programme as an opportunity to gain experience with more “soft” skills, mainly the community organising and community development. Too often, he saw that projects and events were organised without having the community in mind or being of any benefit to the community. He hopes.

Mr. Furiel has spent eight years studying law and attended seminars and workshops on topics ranging from project management, individual fundraising, theatre of the oppressed or

appreciative inquiry. He founded and runs his own NGO “Sapling” with the mission to teach and develop young LGBT leaders. Even though Mr. Furiel did not finish his legal studies at the Faculty of Law of the Charles University in the Czech Republic, he left a mark there. For three years, he was involved in the LGBT student’s organisation, “Charlie”, which he even presided for one year. In “Charlie”, he focused on organisational development and organising community social events.

This will be his first trip to the United States. Mr. Furiel is excited and eager to find out more about LGBT community organising in rural areas with the focus on co-existence with religious communities. He also likes to meet new people and learn from them - something he expects to be doing almost all the time during his visit.

Mr. Furiel is a non-smoker. He is proficient in English and Czech language and has a basic knowledge of German language.

In his free time Mr. Furiel loves reading, walking in the nature and good food.

## Zuzana Balazova

Skalica, Slovakia

E-mail:

[zuzanabalazova79@gmail.com](mailto:zuzanabalazova79@gmail.com)



Zuzana Balazova is a Social Worker in the Primary School, where she is implementing an inclusive education program started in September 2014 and will end in June 2015.

In 2014 Ms. Balazova founded a non-profit organization “*Roma Advocacy and Research Centre*” (RAVS) in Skalica. She is a Chairwoman of RAVS and most of the projects issues are focused on the work in Roma community with main aim to improve quality of life in Romani settlements, and to engage Roma from this settlements in the public life in the town. In 2011-2015, Ms. Balazova cooperated with Centre for the research of ethnicity and culture (CVEK), an Independent Research Institute, dealing with the minority issues and human rights in Slovakia.

In 2009, Ms. Balazova worked with “*People in Need Slovakia*” on the project

concerned with employment of Roma from social marginalized settlements. In 2007-2008 she worked for the *Milan Simecka Foundation* who was at the time monitoring how the Slovak government was fulfilling its program of Roma integration. In 2006 she participated in political leadership program of National Democratic Institute.

With other program graduates Ms. Balazova founded the *Roma Public Policy Institute* (RPPI), which promoted policy solutions in such critical areas as education and housing issues. In 2001-2003 she worked as teacher in primary school in Skalica teaching German language and History and being a first

Romani teacher in the town.

Currently Ms. Balazova is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Saint Elisabeth in Bratislava. She received her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Constantine, the Philosopher in Nitra, in 2006. Also, as a member of the New Roma Generation NGO, she participated in drafting proposals of state minority policies.

Ms. Balazova has been in United States as Roma delegate from Slovakia in ACYPL program in 2012.

Ms. Balazova would like to continue working with Romani communities, especially with youth and women. She would like to educate next Romani generation how to come out from poverty and to become equal partner for majority in Slovak society. She wants to be positive role model for youth and she likes to help. She has very strong empathy, organizational skills and flexible mind.

In her free time, Ms. Balazova loves to learn and read books, walking with her dog and spending time with her family.

## Peter Huray

Zemplínske Hamre, Slovakia

E-mail: peter.huray@gmail.com



Peter Huray is involved in active long-term internship in the non-governmental organization "Society for Territorial Progress" (STEP) based in the eastern Slovakia, and whose aim is to provide activities for local young people to develop territorial progress. The organization is active in the organizing the youth projects using Non-Formal Education (NFE) methods. Mr. Huray has started as a member at regular activities, and after attending several international projects (exchanges, trainings and seminars) he has developed into the local Youth Leader in this community of young people.

Mr. Huray is responsible for development and coordination of national and international youth projects, where organizing youth exchanges and training courses using NFE methodologies. He is also youth leader in the community. He is passionate about youth work, to devote young people actively and support their active growth, to be present at their life steps, to lead them in their development. Communicating within the people from the community is crucial for him and being close to its members is one of his

crucial attitudes towards his work as a youth leader and project coordinator.

Mr. Huray is native from east part of Slovak Republic, from little village called Zemplinske Hamre. He is a student of the Masaryk University in Brno in Czech Republic the Faculty of Economics and Administration. He is enrolled in studies with Master's Degree programme of Economy and Management in Business Management. Mr. Huray is at the final year of study focusing on defending the diploma thesis and to pass the final exams to achieve graduation with Ing. Degree in Economics. During his studies, he spent one semester in Spain, as a part of an Erasmus international exchange programme for university students.

Mr. Huray was admitted to studies at the "Universidade da Coruna" in the Coruna city, active in the studies related with home institution. He also

had 6 months university internship in Ankara, Turkey, where he was involved in the non-governmental organization called "Mutlu Birey" aimed on working with disabled young people by Down syndrome. His role was to develop and coordinate projects aimed on education of this target community. These projects were aimed on educating these people by using of non-formal learning methods with providing them soft skills.

Mr. Huray is fluent in Slovak, Czech and English language, speaks French on the intermediate level, and speaks Polish on basic level.

Mr. Huray has never been in United States before, but he is really motivated to participated in the Professional Fellows Program to learn more about community organizing in the U.S. He would like to exchange best practices with experts involved in the U.S. and would like to get deepen into the culture, social habits and community work. He sees this fellowship program as a great opportunity to improve himself and to learn a lot of new things and ideas that he can implement in his community after return.

Mr. Huray is 25 years. He is communicative, sociable and proactive person, who likes challenges and personal development. He likes to be in the centre of action.



**Our Special Thank You To  
the U.S. Mentors, their organizations and all U.S. host families  
for welcoming the European fellows and working with them in  
the United States in September-November 2015:**

*To Host Families: Carole Bekken, Carol Lee Lopez and her husband, Father Larry Dowling, Fatou-Seydi Sarr, Gisela Jones, Hannah Willage and Zach Schroeder, Jeanne Mayer, Jeff Pinzino, Katrina Pavlik, Leah Torrey, Marc and Debora Willage, Mark Fick and Roshani Saraiya, Mike and Lois Neaton, Mrs. Tsetsa Pachova, Rachel Ramirez, Regina McGraw, Rod and Barb Wendt, Rodney Estvan, Romy Gringas and Tracy Koogler!*

*To U.S. Mentors and Leaders at Host Organizations & Other Partners: Amber Smock, Amy Peterson, Deb Martin, Branden Snyder, Cris Doby, Christopher Patterson, Chris Nemeth, Romy Gringas, Jaquie Algee, Jeff Pinzino, Jim Field, Leah Torrey, Lori Clark, Michael Tierney, Mike Griffin and Anthony Shields, Terri Laeng, Ronnie M. Harris and Rebecca Noble, Peter Ujvagi, Ramon Perez and Dave Beckwith, Sarah Jane Knoy, Tara Parrish and many, many others!*

## ITINERARY \*

### Tuesday, September 29

#### Detroit, MI

*Afternoon:* Welcome and pick-up at Detroit Airport by **Elizabeth Balint** in 3 groups; drive to hotel in Romulus; Arrival and check-in for 1 night;  
**4:30PM** Orientation at the hotel;  
**6:00PM:** Welcome to the U.S. dinner meeting with **Cris Doby**, GLC Project Advisor.

### Wednesday, September 30

#### Detroit, MI / Maumee, OH

**7:00AM:** Breakfast at the hotel;  
**8:00AM:** Check-out from hotel;  
 Pick-up by a Lakefront Lines bus and drive to Forgotten Harvest, a local food bank;  
**9:00-11:30AM:** Meeting about Social Enterprise Development organized by **Romy Gringas**, Managing Partner; Gingras Global, LLC; Gingras Global Groups, L3C;  
*Presentations:*  
 - “Insights on social enterprise in the Detroit and broader market” by **Romy Gringas**;  
 - “Insights on of hiring women from the homeless shelter for the business” by **Amy Peterson**, Rebel Nell, L3C;  
 - “For-profit Food Businesses developing out of Forgotten Harvest” by **Chris Nemeth**, Forgotten Harvest;  
**11:30AM:** Departing by bus to Eastern Market (2934 Russell St., Detroit, MI);  
**12:00-1:30PM:** Lunch;  
**1:30PM:** Travel to Renaissance Center in Downtown Detroit; ride on Detroit People Mover; free time in the Renaissance Center;  
**3:15PM:** Departure by bus to Toledo, hotel in Maumee;  
**4:30PM:** Check-in to Hotel in Maumee for 4 nights;  
**5:30PM:** Dinner at the Hotel;  
**6:15PM:** Departure from hotel to downtown Toledo Valentine Theatre;  
**7:00PM:** Enjoy Toledo Opera dress rehearsal performance “Puccini: Madame Butterfly”

**11:00PM:** Return to hotel;

### Thursday, October 1

#### Maumee, OH

**7:30AM:** Breakfast at the hotel;  
**8:00-8:45AM:** Meeting at the Hotel Conference Room  
*Discussion topics:* (1) Orientation with **Elizabeth Balint** continues; (2) Select video project leaders and share tasks; (3) Outreach to the U.S. Host organizations, US Mentors and Host families;  
**8:45-9:30AM:** Introductions with **Dave Beckwith**, U.S. Mentor “Why you became or want to become an organizer?”; Short introduction in preparation for the fellowship  
*Meeting with:* **Terri Laeng** (WSOS);  
**10:00-12:00Noon:** Joint training and sharing experience with **Ramon Perez** and **Dave Beckwith** on door knocking, one-on-ones interviews and practice skills related to the different types of listening activities and building relationships;  
**12:00-1:30PM:** Lunch on your own;  
**2:00-4:00PM:** Learning about the governance in the U.S. with **Peter Ujvagi**, former Ohio State Rep., President of Toledo City Council, Administrator of Lucas County;  
*Discussion topics:*  
 - different levels of government;  
 - checks and balances of power;  
 - election and power;  
 - relationship between elected officials and community organizations;  
**4:15-5:00PM:** Get ready for Friday (next day) activities. Planning and preparation for the cultural night;  
**5:30PM:** Dinner at the hotel;  
 Go to the shopping mall and/or shopping for Friday evening programs;  
**9:00PM:** Return to hotel;

### Friday, October 2

#### Maumee / Toledo, OH

**7:30AM:** Breakfast at the hotel;  
**8:00-9:00AM:** Introductions with

**Dave Beckwith** continues;

**9:00-9:30AM:** Training workshop on “What is community organizing?” - definition and highlights;  
**9:45-11:45AM:** Discussion of pre-departure fieldwork experience in 3 groups with **Dave Beckwith**, **Martin Nagy** and **Elizabeth Balint**;  
**11:45AM-1:15PM:** Lunch on your own;  
**1:15-3:00PM:** Training continues; Reports from each group;  
**3:15PM:** Depart to Toledo Museum of Art with **Martin Nagy**;  
**5:30PM:** Return to hotel and get ready for Cultural Night program;  
**7:00PM: Cultural Night** at the hotel with GLC Board members and local partners;

### Saturday, October 3

#### Maumee / Toledo, OH

**7:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;  
**10:30AM:** Pick-up and drive to Inverness Club of Toledo for the **25th Anniversary of the Toledo-Szeged Sister City luncheon**;  
*Meeting with:* Community leaders and members interested in international collaboration;  
*Afternoon:* (Optional) Visit the Toledo Zoo or shopping or have free time;  
**7:00PM:** Joint dinner;

### Sunday, October 4

#### Chicago, IL

**7:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel and check-out;  
**8:00AM:** Departure to Chicago from Maumee hotel;  
*On road:* Stop and visit Michigan City Lighthouse Outlet Mall for shopping; free time on your own;  
**12:30PM:** Lunch at Ryan’s All You Can Eat Buffet;  
**2:00PM:** Continue travel to Chicago;  
**3:30PM:** Check-in to hotel for 3 nights  
**6:30PM:** Depart to the Mercury Theater Chicago for performance “RING OF FIRE”, the music of Johnny Cash;

## ITINERARY \*

### Monday, October 5

#### Chicago, IL

**7:30AM:** Breakfast on your own;  
**8:15AM:** Travel on your own to Jane Addams Senior Caucus meeting room;  
**9:00-11:30AM:** Training on community organizing with local trainers and US Mentors **Jim Field** and **Rachel Ramirez** (CHH);  
**12:00-1:00PM:** Lunch on your own;  
**1:00-4:30PM:** Grassroots Fundraising training with **Jeff Pinzino** (ICIRR);  
**Evening:** Free time to enjoy Chicago;

### Tuesday, October 6

#### Chicago, IL

**7:30AM:** Breakfast on your own;  
**8:15AM:** Travel on your own to Jane Addams Senior Caucus meeting room;  
**9:00-10:00AM:** Preparation for the internship and staying with host families with **Elizabeth Balint** and **Deb Martin** (WSOS);  
**10:15-11:30AM:** Planning of the video project and reporting expectations - Group discussion with project leaders;  
**11:30-1:00PM:** Lunch on your own  
**1:00-2:30PM:** Training on "Turn-out organizing" by **Lori Clark** (JASC)  
**3:00PM-5:00PM:** Meeting with alumni US Mentors; share experience and planning of the February 2016 delegation;  
**Evening:** Free time to enjoy Chicago

### Wednesday, October 7

#### Travel day

Travel to internship locations to different U.S. destinations;

### Thursday, October 8 -

#### Wednesday, November 4

Individual 4-week Internships at the U.S. Community Organizations;

\*\*\*\*\*

### Wednesday, November 4

#### Travel day

**Morning:** Travel from the internship

location to Washington, D.C.;  
**Afternoon:** Individual arrival and check-in to Hotel in Washington, D.C./ US Capitol for 5 nights;  
**6:30PM:** Joint dinner with Elizabeth Balint and others;

### Thursday, November 5

#### Washington, D.C.

**7:30AM:** Breakfast at the hotel  
**8:00-11:30AM:** in the hotel conference room: Peer-to-Peer Workshop I on experience learned  
**11:30-2:00PM:** Lunch on your own;  
**2:00-5:00PM:** in the hotel conference room: Peer-to-Peer Workshop 2  
**Evening:** Dinner and free time to enjoy Washington, D.C.;

### Friday, November 6

#### Washington, D.C.

**7:30AM:** Breakfast at the hotel;  
**8:00-11:30AM:** in the hotel conference room: Peer-to-Peer Workshop 3  
**11:30-2:00PM:** Lunch on your own;  
**2:00-5:00PM:** Peer-to-Peer Workshop 4 and working on the video project  
**Evening:** Dinner and time for rest;

### Saturday, November 7

#### - Sunday, November 8

#### Washington, D.C.

**Morning and Afternoon:** Sightseeing in Washington, D.C.  
 Small group activities and completing video project;  
**12:00-1:30PM:** Lunch on your own;  
**7:00PM:** Dinner and time for rest;

### Monday, November 9

#### Washington, D.C.

**7:30AM:** Breakfast at the hotel;  
**8:00-11:30AM** in the hotel conference room: Presenting follow on activities and action plans;  
**11:30AM:** Check-out from hotel/ move the luggage to the storage room; Lunch on your own;  
**2:00-4:00PM:** Final Evaluation with Elizabeth Balint; Submitting written

forms and testimonials;  
**4:00PM:** Presentation of the GLC Certificates;  
**5:00PM:** Move-in to the Liaison Hotel; check-in for 4 nights; register for the Professional Fellows Congress  
 Dinner on your own;

### Tuesday, November 10

#### Professional Fellows Congress Day 1

All activities organized by the Professional Fellows Congress;  
 Dinner on your own;

### Wednesday, November 11, 2015

#### Professional Fellows Congress Day 2

All activities organized by the Professional Fellows Congress;

### Thursday, November 12, 2015

#### Professional Fellows Congress Day 3

Congress Closing and other activities organized by the Professional Fellows Congress;  
**Evening:** Complete fill-out on-line evaluation forms of the Congress; Joint dinner;

### Friday, November 13

#### Travel day

**8:00AM:** Breakfast with Professional Fellows Congress partners; Packing to return home or stay for extended visits on your own;  
**11:30AM:** for Prof. Fellows returning to Europe: Check-out from hotel and store the luggage in the hotel lobby;  
**12:30PM:** Travel together with Elizabeth Balint by bus to the airport; Check-in for individual flights.

**Have a safe trip home!**