SUSTAINING CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES
ANNOUNCEMENT FOR U.S.A. MENTOR CANDIDATES

AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR BULGARIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA & THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

www.glc-teachdemocracy2.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE U.S. ORGANIZATION:

During their 4-week internship placement at national, state or local hosting organizations across the U.S, European participants should be able to:

- 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, LGBTQ and Homeless) in civil society and democracy
- Learn about the U.S. legislative system on different levels and examine the relationship between civil society and government, and learn methods to fight public corruption and develop accountability
- gain a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, and people

OPEN COMPETITION FOR U.S. 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," Professional Fellows exchange program for Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and the United States of America.

INVITATION

Organizations and individuals, who are actively involved in the legislative process and/or in policy-making through their work in government, civic education organizations, citizen advocacy groups, community activists, or community organizers working with minority populations, are invited to apply for participation as a U.S. host organization and/or as a U.S. mentor. We encourage professionals and their organization to submit their application to take part in an exchange program with matching participants from four Central and Eastern European countries.

U.S. PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS CONGRESS

OBJECTIVES CONTINUED:

- develop enhanced leadership and professional skills;
- observe the role of their U.S. counterparts and gain in-depth knowledge and experience in community organizing as well as adapt other approaches that they can implement after their return.

email: glc_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com Dr. Elizabeth Balint, Toledo, Ohio, U.S.A. Project Manager

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program is a two-way exchange opportunity involving professionals and leaders from the U.S. and selected European countries. U.S. mentors will share their professional expertise with the EU fellows of this program and travel for a two-week reciprocal visit to counterpart organizations for consulting. Mentors will conduct joint workshops in order to share experience and to promote mutual understanding and partnership between key professional groups in the United States and 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. The Professional Fellows Program is 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 European participants will be included in 2 delegations visiting the U.S.: The 1st delegation program in the U.S.A. will be from April 19-June 2, 2017 and the 2nd will be in the U.S.A from October 4-November 17, 2017.

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Determine which category of mentors you belong to – (A) former mentor already in the program, (B) new mentor in former host organization, or (C) new mentor and/or new host organization to the program;
2. Fill in the application form accordingly;
3. E-mail the bio page of your passport/scanned in JPG or PDF;
4. Other requirements depending on your type of application.

- ✓ Send all of the above documents by December 15, 2016 to glc_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com.

- ✓ During December/January we will have a phone or Skype interview with the interested U.S. mentors

QUESTIONS:

For any questions write an email to: glc_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com or call Elizabeth Balint at 419-973-8007.

THE PROGRAM PHASES

We are looking for U.S. organizations that are interested in acting as volunteer hosts for 2-3 incomir professionals for a 4-week internship program at their U.S. workplace. They should be able to provide professional development opportunity for up-and-coming and mid-level professionals from Central and Easte Europe and help them learn American methods in sustaining civic participation in minority communities whi comparing experiences.

Host organizations are also asked to place the guests with volunteer host families where they will learn abo American culture and family life and can become involved in volunteer activities in their host family's ov community. U.S. host organizations will work closely with WSOS/ Great Lakes Consortium in planning ar implementing the internship program.

Participation in this exchange from the U.S. side is a multi-phase program. 36 participants (9 from each selected European country) are included in two delegations: the first delegation will be from April 19 – June 2 2017 and the second delegation will be from October 4 – November 17, 2017. A portion of fellows' visit consists of a 4-week internship experience between April 24-May 22 or October 11-November 8 at various ho sites across the U.S. . European participants are professionals between 25 and 40 years of age, who are creative and innovative, have accomplishments in solving issues in minority communities, and who can make a large impact with implementing new ideas and changes. Participants will have good organizational and management skills, be active members of their local community, be interested in long-term international cooperation, have good communication and presentation skills, and be receptive to modem technology. The internship experience will be tailored to the individual fellow's background and interest. All European participants speak English well and will be carefully selected by an international selection committee.

THE PROGRAM PHASES CONTINUED

European applicants need to prepare a 3-5-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. Based on this experience summarized in a report, the U.S. host organizations can design part of the fellowship program for the European participant based on the different field experiences. Expenses for the European guests to arrive at the internship sites are paid by the grant (incl. international and in-country transportation, health insurance, and meals), but local host organizations are asked to arrange host families and local transportation for 4 weeks.Where public transportation is available from the grant we will reimburse the local transportation expenses for a monthly pass.

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
TRNAVA, SLOVAKIA

TURDA, ROMANIA;
PLOVDIV, BULGARIA

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

DEADLINE:

The Application Form has to be submitted by December 15, 2015 to Dr. Elizabeth Balint, WSOS/GLC Project Manager, Toledo, Ohio U.S.A. via email: GLC_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

GLC will acknowledge the receipt of your application. Pre-selected applicants/organizations will be invited for a phone/or Skype interview with GLC Project Advisors to help GLC Selection Committee match European applicants with interested U.S. partner organizations for internship sites.

THE PROGRAM PHASES CONTINUED

In addition to the mentorship of the European participants during their 4-week internship in the U.S., or representative from each of the selected U.S. host organizations interested in travelling will be also invited travel overseas for 2 weeks in June/July 2017 or February/March 2018, after the European Fellow internship. In 2 groups 16 U.S. mentors will have the opportunity to visit their fellows in Bulgaria, Hungar Romania and Slovakia to participate in seminars, workshops, visit fellows' organizations, provide on-si consultation and mentoring. They will share their professional expertise with Euroopean fellows and travel f a reciprocal visit to their counterpart organizations for consulting. Our goal is that our partners from differe parts of the world learn from each other and contribute to positive change in their communities as a result this exchange. European participants will be actively involved in organizing the U.S. mentors' visit to the organization for a couple of days, as well as assist in joint trainings with their U.S. mentors and other alumn

COSTS

All expenses for the 2-week European trip for the selected U.S. mentors are covered by the grant (inc international transportation, health insurance, hotels, meals, cultural programs etc.), but they need t obtain a valid passport at their own cost. U.S. mentors do not need to speak a foreign language an there is no age limit, but applicants must have experience in working with minority communities and b actively involved with their organization in welcoming the European participants for the 4-week internshi