

# **“Sustaining Civic Participation in Minority Communities”**

## **Professional Fellows from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia in the United States, April 18 - June 2, 2017**

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

*April 2017*



**PROFESSIONAL  
FELLOWS**

**GREAT LAKES CONSORTIUM  
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program of WSOS Community  
Action 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,.

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**Dr. Elizabeth Balint**  
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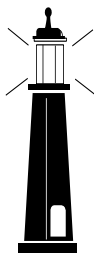
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*WSOS Community Action Commission/ Great Lakes Consortium received a renewal grant for “Sustaining Civic Participation in Minority Communities”, that allowed us to continue our exchanges from September 2017 through December 2019. This two-way exchange will include at least 36 participants from four countries of Europe and for 14 U.S. mentors.*

*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 U.S. participants will develop enhanced leadership and professional skills, build mutual understanding, and create lasting and sustainable partnerships.*

*European fellows will learn U.S. practices in sustaining civic participation and advocacy in minority and disenfranchised communities (including African-American, Latino, Native American, Roma, disabled, unemployed and homeless). They will explore diverse community organizing methods from across the U.S. (urban and rural areas) for citizens solving problems in 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 will gain practical experience, new ideas and adaptable approaches that they can implement after their return.*

*U.S. Mentors will travel for a reciprocal visit to directly support follow-on projects and long-term collaboration. American and European participants of the program will 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 a total of 21 fellows from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia visit the U.S. from April 18-June 2 2017 to participate in seminars, round-table discussions, site visits, and will have interactions with U.S. leaders. A 4-week tailored internship with mentoring, multicultural events and participation in volunteer activities as well as in the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C. will be also included in the 6-week professional fellows program. Participants will prepare a 6-to-9 month individual Action Plan for follow on activities. They will 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), Port Clinton (Ohio), New York City, Albany and Rochester (New York), Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), Charlotte (North Carolina), Albuquerque (New Mexico), Silver Spring (Maryland), Charleston (West Virginia), and in Washington, D.C.*

*A second European delegation is expected in the U.S. from October 4-November 17, 2017. The Out-Bound component is scheduled for summer 2017 when American Mentors who hosted the spring 2017 fellows will travel to Europe (for up to 2 weeks for each mentor) 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 alumni and international networking and collaborative projects.*

*This program is a collaboration between WSOS, Action Commission & GLC for*

*International Training and Development 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.  
 15 U.S. host organizations are involved and some other partners in the U.S. who are involved in the joint program and the tailored internship, and follow up mentoring activities.  
 Thank you all your support and contributions to this program.

## The US Mentors delegation in Europe in February-March 2017:



*Bulgaria: Michael Tierney, Trinity Dix, Emily Terrana and Jeffrey Bartow meeting with alumni in HOPE restaurant in Sofia.*



*Hungary: Thomas Wilson and Candace Coleman with Peter Galgoczi (in a middle) and other alumni visiting local Community in Pecs.*



*Romania: Ronnie Matthew Harris (on right) with alumni visited Tei Community Centre in Lacul Tei neighborhood.*



*Romania: Michael Tierney, Anthony Shields and Mike Griffin meeting with alumni after Black History Month presentation in Bucharest.*



*Slovakia: Blanca Surgeon travel to Cigeli, Prievidza and Bojnica with Edita Bednarova (Prievidza, Slovakia) and Boglarka Dombi (Szeged, Hungary).*



*Hungary: Brock Grosso and Erik Shelley (on right) with Lilla Matyas and Bence Pal (on left) having a Hungarian dinner in Budapest.*

# “Sustaining Civic Participation in Minority Communities”

## Participants of the Spring 2017 European Delegation from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia in the United States, April 18 - June 2, 2017



PROFESSIONAL  
FELLOWS



Milena Dimitrova



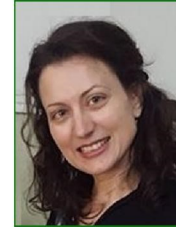
Teodora Koleva



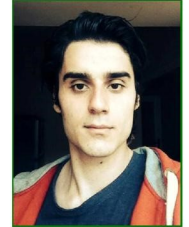
Denitsa Lyubenova



Ashod Derandonyan



Slavina Y. Lozanova



Boris Bandev

**SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS**



Eszter Dancsa



Daniel Danyi



Eva Maria Toth



G. Bendeguz Tikasz



Szilvia Szenasi



Anda-Ilona Serban



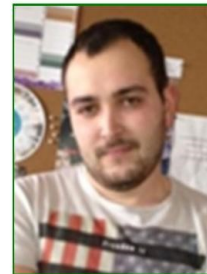
Alexandru Palas



Dani Prisacariu



Ioana-Irina Urs



Fanel Petrescu



Raluca Onufreiciuc



Miroslav Olah



Jana Bayerlova



Peter Lenco



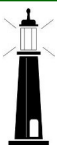
Jozef Kakos



Richard Fekete



Karina Andrasikova



*The Program is funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges, Professional Fellows Division. Locally organized by WSOS Community Action/Great Lakes consortium for International Training and Development.*



## Participants from Bulgaria

### Ashod Derandonyan

Sofia, Bulgaria

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Ashod Derandonyan is a local TED Edition Speaker in Bulgaria and is a recognized defendant for the rights of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in the country. He has project management experience for more than a decade with running nationwide projects within the sphere of e-government and public libraries under the United Nations Office in Bulgaria.

Currently, Mr. Derandonyan is focusing on to provide in Bulgaria a video relay sign language interpretation service which has been launched in May 2016. Since then, the service gained popularity among deaf people in Bulgaria and is now used on a regular basis by almost 800 people. The second service has been launched in November 2016 and includes manual speech-to-text reporting in education aimed at deaf school children and university students. Now, the project is in its pilot phase.

Mr. Derandonyan is one of the leading social entrepreneurs in Bulgaria. In 2013 Mr. Derandonyan came back from Canada where he had lived for 3 years. As a Hard of Hearing person himself, he has first-hand experience of the challenges which deaf people face in the mainstream society in Bulgaria, he wanted to implement some of the practice from Canada. He soon realized that the Bulgarian reality is very different. The Bulgarian governmental policies aimed at deaf people, as well as other minority groups, are focused on helping them as people who are



incapable and incapacitated. In fact, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Bulgaria were deprived from the opportunity to realize their civil rights. As a result, many deaf people view themselves as disabled, less able, and do not strive to fulfill their potential.

In 2014 Mr. Derandonyan started the "Listen Up" campaign, and later he established the Foundation "Listen Up". He dedicated his work and his time to the cause of providing equal access to information and communication for deaf and hard of hearing people in Bulgaria, and thus granting them equal opportunities for education and career, and for a happy and fulfilling life. Now, Mr. Derandonyan is the leader of young people, both Deaf and hearing, at the Foundation. At the end of 2015 Bulgarian "Listen Up" Foundation got the First place Award for the most innovative social entrepreneurship project.

Volunteerism is a vital part of Mr. Derandonyan life. For instance, he is an English language teacher for Deaf youth, and he, himself is trying to explain the specifics of learning a foreign language if one is Deaf. Mr. Derandonyan is a very good motivator to the young Deaf people as they now started believing that

they can do anything, but hear.

Mr. Derandonyan is the only Deaf graduate from the American University in Bulgaria, a top university in the region, offering accredited U.S. Liberal Arts education. He graduated with a Major in Business Administration and Minor of Applied Economics. He speaks Armenian, English and has basic understanding of French and Spanish languages.

Mr. Derandonyan has visited the U.S. while involved with the trainings under the Global Libraries Program, run by the "Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation".

He would like to apply his U.S. experience to the cause of the Deaf community in Bulgaria. He is very interested in learning about U.S. practices on organizational development, fundraising activities, and motivational speech practices for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

Mr. Derandonyan loves meeting Deaf youngsters and assist them in their development. In his spare time he likes to do swimming, reading, mountain hiking, cooking and networking.

While in the U.S. his internship placement is at the "National Association for the Deaf" in Silver Spring, Maryland.



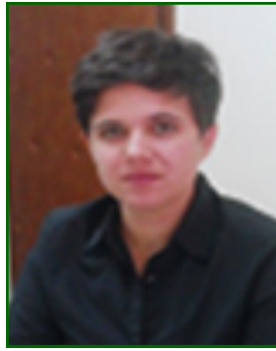
**OUR SINCERE THANK YOU  
TO THE DRIVERS, ESCORTS, VOLUNTEERS AND OTHER  
PARTNERS ASSISTING TO THIS PROGRAM IN 9 STATES AND  
15 ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES!**

## Denitsa Lyubenova

Sofia, Bulgaria

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Denitsa Lyubenova is working as a Lawyer at Youth LGBT Organization DEYSTVIE. She is one of the founders of DEYSTVIE established in 2012, and throughout the years developed a Legal Defense Program which made it the first LGBT organization in Bulgaria having Defense Program and a team - the human rights experts and lawyers.

The DEYSTVIE organization has done numerous activities: the annual Sofia Pride March, Sofia Pride Films (5 editions of a film festival), pro bono legal aid program of LGBTI people, public bodies and the private sector, advises of administration, as well as actions supporting and educating youth LGBTI and their families. The process of acquiring equal rights for LGBTI people in Bulgaria turned to be slow.

Ms. Lyubenova has experience as a non-formal trainer though the international projects on topics connected with human rights, LGBTI rights, discrimination, ecological problems, etc. She was a volunteer in different organizations for the last 12 years.

Ms. Lyubenova gives legal advises

and representation before national courts, CEC, the ECtHR and before the Commission against Discrimination to LGBTI people. She writes statements on legal acts and future legislation. She participated as an LGBTI Rights Expert at a working group with the Ministry of Justice on the transposition of the Istanbul Convention on domestic violence and violence against women.

Ms. Lyubenova presents the issues of LGBTI before national and local governments and an international organizations. Most of the court cases she deals with can be defined as strategic litigation. Although, she is concentrating on the legal side of the LGBTI issues and work, and she is the moving force of each initiative of the organization which deals with community organizing and visibility.

Mrs. Lyubenova holds two MA's Degrees. First is a Master's Degree at

Law from the University of National and World Economy in Sofia, Bulgaria and second is a Masters' Degree at Public International Law from the Utrecht University in Netherlands. She was also an Erasmus student in University of Malaga in Spain. She speaks good Spanish and has basic knowledge of German languages.

Mrs. Lyubenova has never been in the U.S. before. She is interested in gaining knowledge of the U.S. practices in community organizing, visibility issues, SOGI hate crimes, and marriage/partnership equality issues, and compare what she will learn to these existing in Bulgaria. She also would like to gain more experience in the field of advocacy and legal work on LGBTI issues throughout her internship.

In her free time, Ms. Lyubenova likes to read at home, but also to go surfing, snowboarding, hiking and travelling in general.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at the "Human Rights Campaign" in Washington, D.C.



*February 2017, Sofia, Bulgaria: Meeting at the C.E.G.A. Foundation Office with U.S. Mentors Michael Tierney, Jeffrey Bartow, Trinity Dix, Emily Terrana, selected fellows for Spring 2017 delegation and some alumni and participants of Fall 2016 delegation.*

## Milena Dimitrova

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Milena Dimitrova is a Training specialist in the “Teach for Bulgaria”, non-government organization, a part of the global network “Teach for all” whose mission is to provide a high quality education to the students who don’t have opportunity to receive a good education, because of the region they live and the socio-economical status of their families.

Ms. Dimitrova spent last 6 years in different functional roles in Teach for Bulgaria. First she was a teacher for 2 years, after that she became a summer intern as Assistant-Tutor for 5 weeks, then Teacher Tutor, and now she is Training specialist. As a training specialist she is responsible for teacher’s training and designs training experience for teachers at Teach for Bulgaria. These trainings are connected with the long term vision for success of the organization. In addition, Ms. Dimitrova manages logistics, communication and partnerships with external contractors, budget planning and payments, staff and external trainers on-boarding and support, quality control of the training planning and execution.

From November 2015 till May 2016 Ms. Dimitrova has been a Volunteer Organizer and Executive in Saturday school for the poorest and biggest Roma community Faculteta in Sofia. The school was designed as weekly classes with 60 kids (6 to 17 years old) who dropped school or were in risk of dropping. This experience resulted that she and some other Teach for Bulgaria alumni started a school in the same community. They realized that there are about 20,000 children in Faculteta and only one school for 1,000 students. All other kids have to travel outside the community, and were discriminated because of their Roma background.

As a pre-departure field work Ms. Dimitrova and 3 other volunteers organized a few meetings in the neighborhood with the parents of kids from the Saturday school and some other organizations, which are worked with the same community. Also they founded and register a new non-government



organization called “Sofia Start Academy”.

Ms. Dimitrova has a long history of volunteering. She has been doing volunteering for Cultural Center “Svetlina” (from 2006 to present), CEGA Foundation Volunteer Network (from 2008 to present), and Teach for Bulgaria (January to July, 2011). She participated in the training courses and exchanges connected with the topics of human rights, forum theater, local campaigns organization and working with vulnerable children. As volunteer she had the chance to visit and learn from different European countries and organization.

Ms. Dimitrova earned her Bachelor’s Degree in “Bulgarian Philology” and then Master’s Degree in “Diplomacy and

International Relations” from the Plovdiv University in Bulgaria. She fluently speaks English.

This will be her first travel to the United States. One of the reasons Ms. Dimitrova join the Professional Fellows Program is that she sees the need of educational and organizing opportunities in the Roma community she works with. She wants to learn methods of Community Organizing in the United States in order to implement her new knowledge to engage, motivate and empower the Roma parents she works with in Sofia.

Ms. Dimitrova hobbies are volunteering in various initiatives, doing handmade stuff and gardening. Also she likes extreme sports - skiing and mountain bike.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at the “Philadelphia Education Fund” in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



*Photo from Milena Dimitrova’s pre-departure fieldwork: Volunteer team and most of the kids who helped find all the students from project signed list.*

## Teodora Koleva

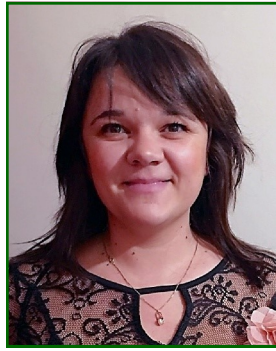
Sofia, Bulgaria

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Mrs. Koleva works in the area of social inclusion and prevention of risk behaviours among vulnerable groups more than 12 years. Her professional background includes experience related both to the NGO sector (with marginalized groups and communities) and to the public sector and national authorities. She works with the key stakeholders: NGOs, state officials, donors and businesses.

Mrs. Koleva holds the position of an Executive Director at "Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion" (FSCI) since 2008 when the NGO was established. She was hired as an Expert to develop the humanitarian work of an UK based charity called "The Trussell Trust" in Bulgaria which resulted in the creation of an independent Bulgarian NGO.

Mrs. Koleva is responsible for overall organizational development and management of the staff in 6 cities and about 10 projects, including 2 social businesses for young adults, who are on "the exit" of the care system. The organization creates models for inclusion



of groups and communities at high risk of ultimate poverty, victimization and dropping out of education system and labour market in Bulgaria.

The Program of FSCI create various opportunities for breaking the cycle of marginalization. The main focus of work is put on the young state care leavers and Roma. FSCI started replicating the model of work with young people leaving state care in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia under which Mrs. Koleva works closely with an international team.

Mrs. Koleva holds two Master's Degree in Psychology majoring in "Clinical and consultative Psychology" and in "Developmental Psychology", both obtained from the Sofia University of "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2001. Her

professional development and responsibilities require lifelong learning and in the last years she has been developing her capacity in the area of organizational development. Mrs. Koleva is a certified consultant of organizational development and management of human resources with some basic experience in group dynamic. She is fluent in English language.

It is her first trip to the United States. Mrs. Koleva believes that through the Professional Fellows Program she will gain cross-cultural experience, new knowledge and a different perspective in the work with marginalized people including minority groups. She thinks that networking and mentorship will add significant value to her work.

Mrs. Koleva has two children. In her free time she enjoys her family, likes walking and swimming.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at the "United Way of Ottawa County" in Port Clinton, Ohio.

## Boris Bandev

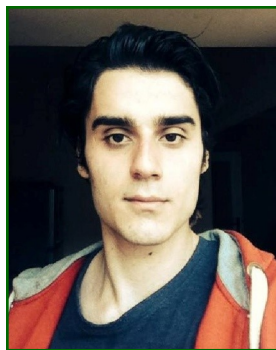
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Sign Language Interpreter

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Boris Bandev is currently a sign language Interpreter at Foundation "Listen Up" where he has been working more then 1 year. His main responsibility is to spread awareness about sign language and provide and improve sign language services. "Listen Up" aims to provide equal access to information and education through technology - real-time sign language translation application and speech-to-text transformator. Their target groups for the social services are primarily young deaf people, who are currently under some form of education and their social services aim to make education more accessible.

Mr. Bandev has strong interest in working with minority groups - he has conducted non-formal groups in Roma



communities. He taught a group of Roma youngsters from impoverished families leadership skills and motivational speaking. His experience with working with the deaf community has been natural since his birth because his parents are deaf. He has organized sign language workshops also volunteered in specialized educational institutions for Deaf children.

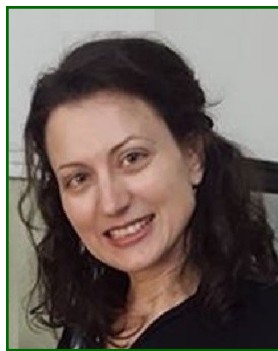
Mr. Bandev currently is a university undergraduate student in his first year of Marketing studies. Besides his own

language, he is fluent in English, knows French, Spanish and a bit of American Sign Language.

Mr. Bandev has never been in the United States before. He believes that participating for 3 weeks in the Professional Fellows Program as a sign language Interpreter for Ashod Derandonyan will be a great opportunity to improving the deaf community's potential, and the skills obtained on this program would be a great way to build meaningful relationships with the Deaf youngsters. In his free time, Mr. Bandev likes to do drawing, meditating, and listening to classical or indie-rock music.

While in the U.S. He will assist Mr. Derandonyan at the "National Association for the Deaf" in Silver Spring, Maryland).

**Slavina Lozanova**  
**Sofia, Bulgaria**  
**Sign Language Interpreter**  
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Slavina Lozanova is a certified bilingual sign language Interpreter and a Teacher of English as a foreign language to Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. She has been working as a communication support worker for Deaf and Hard of Hearing college students at the "Association of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children" for 4 years. Her main activities include instructing and managing students with various degrees of hearing loss during their study through natural languages or sign systems, lip reading, finger spelling in accordance to students' educational and communication needs; tutoring and support on school subjects; Bulgarian Sign Language interpretation for academic purposes and out-of-school activities.

Ms. Lozanova graduated with her Master's Degree in Speech and Language Pathology and Deaf Education in 1997. Since then she has been expanding her expertise into the fields of sign language communication and sign language interpretation. She holds a Ph.D. Degree in Semiotics, with a focus on Bulgarian Sign Bilingualism. In addition to her scientific interest in Sign linguistics, she has been involved in many European projects, under the Youth in Action program of the European Commission, as a leader of

Bulgarian deaf groups and/or English-Bulgarian sign language interpreter.

Ms. Lozanova is a Manager of the Assist NET International consultancy consortium. She gained excellent organizational skills to manage and coordinate a significant number of people coming from different and sometimes conflicting backgrounds. She has experience in a variety of relevant projects such as: (1) Eurosigns project: European Sign Languages for the Deaf (Leonardo Da Vinci), (2) Deaf Port project: European Language Portfolio for the Deaf (KA2 Languages), (3) ELTACS project: European Language Teaching Assessment and Certification Scheme (KA4), (4) SignLanguage@School for bilingual education for the Deaf (Comenius project), and (5) Signs for Handshake project (Strategic partnership).

Ms. Lozanova experience also includes lecturing at Bulgarian Universities: Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Department of Special Education, The South-West University "Neofit Rilski", The Faculty of Public Health and Sport, Department

of Logopedics, Blagoevgrad and The New Bulgarian University, The Health Department, Speech and language Therapy Programs.

She also taught variety of courses - "Deaf education", "The Psycholinguistics and language development", "An Alternative Communication Therapy", "Bulgarian Sign language", Manual communication of people with hearing loss, and "Developmental communication disorders".

Ms. Lozanova visited the United States before. She volunteered for 3 months as an Assistant Therapist for Speech and Language Pathology Department, St. Luke's Hospital in Pennsylvania, USA.

Participation in this fellowship program for 3 weeks will provide her another opportunity to explore the process of an inter-linguaging and Sign language interpretation in multilingual environment while acting as a sign language Interpreter in the last 3-week for Ashod Derandonyan, who is one of the participants in this program.

While in the U.S. she will assist Mr. Derandonyan at the "National Association for the Deaf" in Silver Spring, Maryland.

**OUR SINCERE THANK YOU  
 FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO OUR DELEGATION:**



**TO THE UNITED STATES EMBASSIES IN EUROPE  
 IN BULGARIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA AND SLOVAKIA,  
 AND TO THE GLC COUNTRY DIRECTORS:  
 EMIL METODIEV FROM BULGARIA,  
 MATE VARGA FROM HUNGARY,  
 VLAD CATUNA FROM ROMANIA  
 AND VERONIKA STRELCOVA FROM SLOVAKIA!**



## Participants from Hungary

### Szilvia Kissne Szenasi

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Szilvia Kissne Szenasi is a Chief Executive Officer of Uccu Roma Informal Educational Foundation since May 2016. Before becoming a leader she was a volunteer moderator in the organization for 3 years.

The main mission of Uccu Foundation is to create and strengthen a cultural dialog between Roma and non-Roma in the society, to decrease discrimination and eliminate stereotypes towards the Roma communities among students between the ages of 10-20 years. The Foundation's goals are to provide informal educational opportunities for young people and change their attitude towards the Roma society, by offering them a platform for dialogue. The other main pillar of the Foundation is the leadership and empowerment of young Roma in Hungary.

Mrs. Szenasi began her career at the Family Support and Child Welfare Service of Kerepes as a family caregiver, where the major part of her work was carried out among the Roma population in villages. She did mainly community-work, organizing, transmitting between the Roma families and majority community in the villages. Since 2005 Mrs. Szenasi worked at the Centre of XII District Family Support and Child Welfare in Budapest. At the Center she had the opportunity to attend a family-therapy training, and could integrate the narrative therapy technic into her work, which is applied in the method of psychotherapy that is very useful for family care process. Mrs. Szenasi used this method mainly at disadvantaged Roma families, who are motivated to be integrated and to able to adapt to the expectations of their environment, at the same time preserving their Roma identity.

At the same time, for 2 years, Mrs. Szenasi taught social assistants for social work in adult education. In 2013 as a volunteer she joined to the Uccu Foundation, where she become more familiar with other training-techniques. Her task was to hold informal educational sessions in public schools.

She provided real information to the classes of non-Roma students about the Roma minority group in a playful way. In addition she represented the Uccu Foundation on national and international forums, events and conferences. Currently Mrs. Szenasi is responsible for ensuring the professionalism and financial functioning of the Uccu Foundation. She successfully develops new workshops and organizes trainings for Uccu volunteers.

Mrs. Szenasi graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences at ELTE University, majoring in Social Work in 2007. During her studies she had focused on community work and the situation of disadvantaged and unemployed people. She studied English while participating in the Roma English Language Program

at the Central European University, and has used of English language regularly in her everyday work at Uccu Foundation.

Mrs. Szenasi has never been in to the United States before. She would like to improve her skills and learn more about the community building and the possible ways of improving her Roma volunteers' work. She hopes that gained knowledge will help to build a bridge between Roma minority and the majority community through informal education workshops in Hungary, one of the most important mission in her work.

In her free time Mrs. Szenasi plays music. She comes from a Hungarian Roma Musician family, had studied at Conservatory as a cellist, believed that music is an important part of the Roma identity and traditions.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at the "Civic Engagement Table" organization in New York City, New York.



**December 15, 2016, Budapest, Hungary: Recruitment workshop for spring 2017 applicants. People arrived from Budapest, Szeged, Debrecen and other cities.**

**Daniel Danyi**  
**Veszprem, Hungary**  
 E-mail: [poezis@gmail.com](mailto:poezis@gmail.com)

Daniel Danyi started work in 1999 as professional and volunteer Translator and Interpreter for many NGO's and civil causes in Hungary. He has retained a firm stance on social equality and political as well as direct action. He is currently working as a Literary Translator of English and Hungarian texts, freelance since 2001. Mr. Danyi has also interpreted at the Green Academy Summer University for 4 or 5 years, where Hungarian and international NGO's and activists share their ideas and conduct workshops. Through the marginal role of interpreter Mr. Danyi had interacted with a major portion of the progressive Hungarian NGO and grassroots scene. His regular clients include DemNet, Okotars, HAPN, etc.

Mr. Danyi knowledge is not only received and theoretical, but also hands-on. Currently he is working with Újraosztás (Redistribution), a Facebook group of local volunteers performing a monthly food surplus collection and



cook-up for local homeless and needy people in the central town of Veszprém, an operation organized after the Food Not Bombs tradition imported from Budapest. Mr. Danyi has volunteered with FNB Budapest for several years previously. The Újraosztás group is ready to progress beyond its present activity, and this is the most direct reason he would participate in this program, to acquire applicable method. He will have discussions with active group members in this matter as pre-departure field work.

Mr. Danyi started his education at American International School of Budapest, an elementary but formative experience. Instead of pursuing academic

goals as an English and Communications major, he found more interest with practical projects: college radio, deejaying and poetry performance, and activism against racism, homophobia and all manner of oppression. Mr. Danyi has supported the Budapest visit of a contingent from New York grassroots homeless advocate group Picture the Homeless, and the subsequent formation of "A Város Mindenkié" ("The City Belongs to All"), which brought a small but important change to Hungarian advocacy and organizing.

Mr. Danyi has traveled to the United States in the early 1990's on family vacation, and recently as an air transfer passenger to Guatemala, again on vacation. He is an avid reader, his hobbies include long distance running, music and vegetarian cooking.

While in the U.S. his internship placement is at the "Picture the Homeless" organization in New York City, New York.

**Bendeguz Gaspar Tikasz**  
**Debrecen, Hungary**  
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Bendeguz Gaspar Tikasz has been working as a volunteer for the Debrecen Bike Maffia (DBM) and "Nativ" (subgroups of Opera Cultural Association) since September 2015. The DBM makes hot meals from donations and brings it to homeless people.

The Nativ is a group of young people with the aim of developing the social life of the city of Debrecen. They try to popularize green thinking between the inhabitants and the decision makers, provide cultural opportunities for the youth, even if they come as an audience or as an artist. These activities are good and helpful for the city as it is for youth on the first visible level, and is a way for the group members to stop sinking down in the society.

Mr. Tikasz's goals are to move for widest spectrum, from creating flyers through research and planning to interviewing and holding of meetings. Previously, in his high school years, he



was a volunteer at the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, which helps poor people, children in rural areas, elderly people and survivors of natural disasters.

Mr. Tikasz is currently working on his Ph.D. in Philosophy in the Doctoral School of Human Sciences at the University of Debrecen. His research is focusing on the money and wealth's influence on the social goods and society. He made his BA and MA degree on the same field at the same University. In 2010 he spent a semester studying at the Queen's University Belfast (Northern Ireland) under an Erasmus scholarship, and thanks to that, he speaks English fluently. Lately at home, Mr. Tikasz started learning Spanish just for his own

benefits.

Mr. Tikasz has never visited the United States before. During the Professional Fellows Program, he would like to learn and gain practical experience about campaign planning, conflict management and fundraising. It is a big opportunity for him, but also his new knowledge would be an even more important for the "Nativ" because this group has the big problems on these fields. After his return, Mr. Tikasz would like to make his group better, stronger and more efficient.

In his free time Mr. Tikasz likes to read, and he is a big fan of Kurt Vonnegut, an American writer.

While in the U.S. his internship placement is at "The Resurrection Project" in Chicago, Illinois.

## Eva Maria Toth

Budapest, Hungary

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Eva Maria Toth is a Person-Centered Consultant working for the Budapest Methodological Center of Social Policy and Its Institutions (BMSZKI) since 2016. Her job is a case social work in Temporary Accommodation (257 people). She gives social and mental help support for 20 people, and indirect help to the rest of them. She facilitates their everyday life, gives therapies as needed, and constantly initiates cooperation with similar institutions and child protection services. She is active in starting and running new projects. Previously in 2015, Ms. Toth worked as Autogen Training Teacher for adults, children, adolescents and women in pregnancy.

In 2013 Ms. Toth began her career as an Addiction Counselor for individuals and families. As a volunteer storyteller she had been visiting one of the children home's throughout the year, to tell stories and rhymes in candlelit rooms for children living in state care in Budapest. She has also experience being a pen-pal with a prisoner to giving mental support

during his serving of sentence. Ms. Toth volunteered in Canada for 6 months, helping in a Day Care Center for a Montreal homeless society in a daily life/work. During this period she visited New York as a tourist.

Ms. Toth significant job experience was 8 years of work for the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta as a social and mental hygienist colleague of a low-threshold daily service (started in 2007), where she worked with homeless and poor people, and families.

Ms. Toth highest Degrees are her MA in Social Work (2007) and BA in Theology (2008). In 2005 she studied Pedagogy as a scholar in Oslo, Norway. She is still involving at the "Tale and Art" therapy. She is going to receive a

degree as a Family Therapist in 2017, and already has an effective practice. She fluently speaks English language.

This is going to be her second trip to the United States. Ms. Toth would like to gain practical experience in community organizing, so she can do better in different organizations, where she is currently involved, including how to motivate people and make them believe in themselves, how they can discover and use their own resources to build power in minority communities, and how to raise funds in the community for different causes.

In her free time, Ms. Toth loves to do outdoor sports as caving and biking. With her husband they love to do self organized, international long bicycle tours. Since 2007 they are regular volunteer hosts for cyclist.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at the "Action North Carolina" in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## Eszter Dancsa

Budapest, Hungary

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Eszter Dancsa works as a volunteer for "Lépjünk, hogy léphessenek!" ("Go to interact!") Association that supports children with cerebral palsy and is only one in Hungary. Ms. Dancsa makes assessments and does communication workshops for non-verbal children. Her special field is an assistive technologies. She has been working on the field of disability in the past 2 years, and she is a part of the minority community that fights for equal access for people living with disability.

Besides the CP work Ms. Dancsa was one of the pioneers, who introduced eye-controlled assistive technologies in Hungary, cooperating with hospitals, special schools and families regarding traumatic injuries, stroke, multiple sclerosis, ALS and some rare diseases like Rett syndrome.

Ms. Dancsa gained a Bachelor's

Degree in English Studies from the Karoli Gaspar University of the Hungarian Reformed Church. Currently she is doing a BA's Correspondence course in Psychology as a second Degree at the University of Szeged. Ms. Dancsa is fluent in English and understands and speaks German language on an intermediate level.

Thirteen years ago Ms. Dancsa had visited the United States on a short trip as a child for a first time. Now she is ready to return with a mature attitude and willingness to learn and broaden her

professional skills and experience. She is interesting to see how integrated school system practically work, and have a view on the needed preceding steps. With the experiences and methods learned during the program, Ms. Dancsa would like to play an active part in establishing the first integrated school in Hungary, providing not only education but also future perspectives: independent living skills, economic self-sufficiency, emphasizing ABILITY and not disability.

In her free time Ms. Dancsa loves cooking and sports - swimming, long distance running, yoga exercises. This year she would like to learn how to play the accordion.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at the "Parents Reaching Out" in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



## Participants from Romania

### Alexandru Palas

**Bucharest, Romania**

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Alexandru Palas is a Founding member, and currently a Board member of "MozaiQ", a community-based LGBT organization that aims at improving the quality of life for LGBT people through community building, cultural events and service provision. He is actively involved in improving internal communication with the membership and in planning a new community outreach plan for 2017. He is also involved in drafting new project proposals to broaden the reach of MozaiQ in the LGBT community. Two of them aim at providing counseling services to HIV-positive LGBT people, who suffer from chronic neglect from state sponsored social services, and to develop a human resources network that would improve employment in the LGBT community. In the past few months Mr. Palas took part in a community organizing project regarding



the Parliamentary elections, in which his main role was to develop and deliver a training session on community organizing techniques.

In the past Mr. Palas has done volunteer work for the biggest LGBT collective blog in Romania. Organizing community meetings was part of his responsibilities. As part of his pre-departure action plan, Mr. Palas will continue his work with the LGBT community in Bucharest, in an effort to uncover new issues to be tackled, to redefine the political campaign, and to develop new leaders.

Mr. Palas is an undergraduate student

at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Bucharest. He is fluent in English, and he is intermediate in German and has some knowledge of French languages.

Mr. Palas would like to use his first trip to the United States to learn more about community organizing and to obtain first-hand experience within established organizations with a history of community building. He also wants to get a chance to improve the organizing methods he already applied, to develop his training skills, and to acquire a better understanding of how different non-governmental organizations function.

In his spare time, Mr. Palas hobbies include reading, playing tennis - squash and table tennis.

While in the U.S. his internship placement is at the "GLSEN" organization in New York City, New York.

### Ioana Irina Urs

**Cluj-Napoca, Romania**

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Ioana Irina Urs is an NGO buff, who works for United Way Romania at the Cluj-Napoca Office, and also has established her own NGO "Thesaurus". The former allows her to design and finance programs for the Roma minority among other projects. In addition, she has helped Roma minorities directly, through English classes that aim at helping the participants become more empowered by gaining equal employment opportunities.

Ms. Urs has been working with disadvantaged groups for 10 years. She has been volunteering at 2 orphanages and 2 youth centers, where the Roma and Hungarian minorities were together with Romanian children. The activities for kids include English through games, trips to museums, petting zoos, adventure parks, tourist sites in nearby counties, etc. Ms. Urs has also worked at getting them to collaborate more and to



organize as one voice. In 2015, she officially started working with the Roma communities from "Pata Rât", the poorest area in her city, in which 2,000 Roma people were living in extreme poverty conditions (no running water, no electricity, and no houses). The project helped them feel as benefactors, instead of beneficiaries - related to the community they lived in.

Ms. Urs earned her diploma majoring in English and Italian. She helps the Roma community by teaching English, doing what she knows the best. In addition Ms. Urs speaks a bit of French and Spanish languages, which she got

the chance to learn and use it.

Ms. Urs traveled to the United States on summer 2003, with a J-1 visa, and she worked as a food vendor for a small business in Minnesota for 3 months. She loved the open-mindedness of the people and the fairness with which everyone was treated.

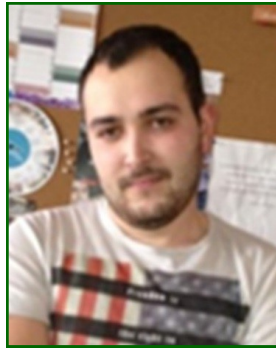
She believes the Professional Fellows Program will help her fulfill her dream of being able to unlock the inherent value of human beings (especially for those in difficult situations - the Roma minority) by helping their community to be organizing, to join resources and become more than the sum of its parts. She believes that by doing this, there will be huge benefits for everyone.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at "The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless" in Chicago, Illinois.

## Fanel Petrescu

### Bucharest, Romania

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Fanel Petrescu is a Project Assistant at the "Impreuna Foundation", where he started as a volunteer. He is currently working in Poiana Negustorului, a Roma community from Bacau County where, by using tools as community organizing in order to help on improving the situation of the community. Mr. Petrescu choose this community mainly because of the big number of Roma people present there and because his other organizational activities are taking place in Bacau county.

Mr. Petrescu has 5 years of experience in working with Roma communities in Romania being actively involved in various projects. He was mainly part of the staff teams in projects for Roma children as "*What do you want to be when you grow up? - Come to school!*". The Campaign implemented by UNICEF Romania, which aimed at fostering Roma role models among Roma children. The goal of the program was to raise awareness about the value of education and increase the self-esteem of

the Roma and Non-Roma children and parents by present Roma role models who succeeded in life through education. In this project he organized and conducted the meetings with students and parents in over 100 schools. He also was a part of the Project "Youth Involvement Academy" which aimed to stimulate the participation of Roma and non-Roma youth in the decision-making process at local level, and to develop public participation skills. The project took part in 15 Roma communities from three Romanian counties.

Mr. Petrescu coordinated the project "Big Brother: Mentorship for Roma youth" which aimed to increase the educational performances and self-esteem of 120 Roma students: on this Project 20 Roma students acted as

Mentors for 100 Roma high-school students.

Mr. Petrescu is a graduate of the Faculty of Political Sciences and also holds an MA's in Human Resources Management of the Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance from the Bucharest University. He fluently speaks English language.

This will be his first time to visit to the United States. Mr. Petrescu is very interested in gaining practical experiences in community organizing and youth engagement for his daily organizational activities. He believes that the situation of Roma community from Romania could improve by using different tools and methods of community organizing.

Mr. Petrescu list of the hobbies include traveling, hanging out with friends, and he is also enjoying cars.

While in the U.S. his internship placement is at the "Metro Justice" organization in Rochester, New York.

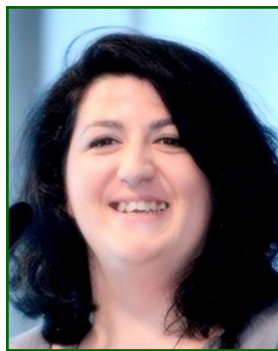


**December 10, 2016, Bucharest, Romania: Recruitment workshop at American Corner in Bucharest with 25 participants from different cities in Romania - Bucharest, Cluj, Sighisoara, Constanta and others.**

## Anda Ilona Serban

**Bucharest, Romania**

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Anda Ilona Serban is the Advocacy and Program Manager at the United Way Romania Foundation (UWRo), an NGO affiliated to the United Way Worldwide. UWRo which has a focus on 3 main areas: education, financial stability and health, acting as a community convener and helping disadvantaged people to break the poverty circle and become active members of the community.

Since August 2015 when she joined UWRo as Advocacy and Fundraising Coordinator, Ms. Serban managed the relationship and activity of the organization within various coalitions and federations, such as National Coalition for Education and the Anti-Poverty Coalition. She also acted as a grant-seeker, being responsible for identifying grant opportunities and tailoring programs, being able to raise more than \$2 million for United Way Romania through grants. In January 2017, due to the great achievements and proven leadership skills, Ms. Serban was promoted as Advocacy and Program Manager.

Ms. Serban holds two Bachelor's

Degrees in Sociology and Political Science, and a Master's Degree in Security Studies. She also attended the courses of a Master of Science in Project Management taught in English, and she intend to graduate with a thesis on Project Management in the NGO field.

In 2013, Ms. Serban was awarded a sponsorship by the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a research on disarmament education, a joint study in collaboration with academic centers and NGOs from the USA, Japan and Austria. As a volunteer she coordinated several international programs on peace and disarmament, and attended various conferences, including the NPT Review Conference in New York in 2015, as part of the ICAN delegation.

Ms. Serban believes that each community has its own needs, and each

issue has a best solution. In order to be able to clearly identify the needs of a community and to seek for the best solution, she considers the need to have all the necessary tools, including the skills for community organizing. Ms. Serban trusts that the Professional Fellows Program will render with great skills and experiences.

For the pre-departure activity Ms. Serban chose to work with community from Baicoi, a small city, less than 100 km of Bucharest, a community, where she already identified the wish for involvement and the lack of tools. In consequence, Ms. Serban hopes the experience gathered during the Professional Fellows Program will help her organize the community.

Ms. Serban is a dog lover. Also her hobbies include watching the winter sports, board games and anything peace-related.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at the “Alliance for Quality Education of New York” in Albany, New York.

## Raluca Anica Onufreiciuc

**Iasi, Romania**

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Raluca Anica Onufreiciuc is a Romanian Lawyer at the “Bucharest Bar” from 2013. She has been volunteering since 2008 being actively involved in different educational youth projects at local and national level in AIESEC Romania. As an alumna, she has continued to support and stay close to the organization and together with a group of AIESEC alumni teamed up in Romania “21 Think Tank”.

In 2015, Ms. Onufreiciuc decided to join CIVICA Association's team and be part of the project “They Represent Us”. The team's vision was to build an online platform which would allow the local community to clearly see the background of every local councilor and evaluate in which way their actions, measures and decisions are valuable to the community. By demanding transparency, CIVICA is

willing to increase public engagement and participation through an open local governance.

Ms. Onufreiciuc graduated with her Bachelor's Degrees in Law and in Business Administration in 2012. She continued her studies with a Master's Degree in Judicial Career (2012-2013) and European policies and European Union's Law (2014-2016). Last year, Ms. Onufreiciuc had the opportunity to be part of a practical study-visit to EU's institutions. She fluently speaks Spanish and French, and has basic of Italian

languages.

Ms. Onufreiciuc has never been to the United States before. She is interested in finding out more about the American models of community organizing and learn best practices of how citizens manage to work with the local government. Ms. Onufreiciuc would like to use her U.S. experience for increasing transparency, trust and responsibility in the relation between local authorities/representatives and citizens, especially youth.

On Ms. Onufreiciuc's list of hobbies, there is always room for more reading, jogging and classical music.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at “The Resurrection Project” in Chicago, Illinois.

## Dani Prisacariu

**Bucharest, Romania**

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Dani Prisacariu is a Human Rights Activist and Trainer working to advance LGBTQI and youth rights through an intersectional framework.

Dani started activism in high-school first with environmental and animal rights, and then with grassroots feminist and anti-racist direct action and events. Soon she joined “ACCEPT” Association, which is the oldest LGBTQI organization in Romania, and where Dani started doing cultural advocacy through organizing the first LGBT History Month event in Bucharest, and after the PRIDE Festival and march. Dani continued to do this work for the next five years, while, in addition, contributing to the organization’s work on hate crimes, hate speech and education. Dani coordinated projects related to community empowerment and capacity building of volunteers, and on combating bullying and creating inclusive education in high-schools for LGBTQI youth.



In 2012, Dani initiated “Gender Talk”, a group focused on empowering youth and providing support to trans and gender diverse youth.

Mx. Prisacariu has also been involved in international youth work through IGLYO (The International LGBTQI Youth and Student Organization), where she served as a Co-Chair for 2 years. In the past 3 years Dani focused on developing as a Trainer and Facilitator, and started working as freelance Trainer. Dani completed “TRAYCE” (Council of Europe long term training of trainers in youth field), and then joined the “Training Pool of the Council of Europe”, and the “Training Pool of Romanian Erasmus & National Agency”.

Mx. Prisacariu studied Sociology at the University of Bucharest, and continued her education through 1 year of self-directed learning in the Alternative University in Bucharest. Dani fluently speaks English, and speaks

French and Spanish languages on intermediate level.

Mx. Prisacariu’s motivation to participate in the Professional Fellowship Program is to develop the initiative “Gender Talk” to be fully community led and inclusive of as many trans and gender diverse voices as possible. For now the group is acted only as a support network, and after this fellowship, Dani wants to develop and organize it more to develop advance processes of community led advocacy and awareness raising on trans and gender diverse issues.

Besides training and activism, Dani takes great joy in yoga and meditation, vegan cooking and holistic body healing. These personal interest connects Dani back to the communities, as Dani believes that self care of activists should be a transversal priority in all their work.

While in the U.S. Dani is placed at FIERCE in New York City, New York.



**Photos from Dani Prisacariu’ pre-departure fieldwork: Some “Gender Talk” members with Riley J. Dennis, a famous Trans YouTube from the U.S. who was visiting Romania (on left) and “Gender Talk” members at one of the other community meetings (on right).**



## Participants from Slovakia

### Miroslav Olah

Coltovo, Slovakia

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Miroslav Olah is a Social Worker for four years and has worked in different parts of the Gemer region: Rimavska Sobota, Gemer, Krasnohorske Podhradie and Rakytinik.

Currently Mr. Olah is working for the Municipality Coltovo, through the Implementing Agency of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. This organization is funded by the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic until 2020. As part of its priorities to increase employment of young people who are unemployed and do not continue their education or training in the labor market, long-term unemployed, low-skilled, individuals or groups at risk of discrimination, poverty or social exclusion, marginalized groups. Furthermore, it contributes to improving access to the labor market, and increasing interregional labor mobility, promoting self-employment and activities in rural areas.

Mr. Olah has devoted his activities to the Roma issue after completing a High School diploma. He started to organize multi-cultural festivals and other



humanitarian work. He also worked as a lecturer in the subject of counseling and motivation for long-term unemployed people. In addition, Mr. Olah dedicated his time for Roma children working as an Assistant Teacher at a local primary school.

Mr. Olah himself comes from at risk group of discrimination, and had been long-term unemployed. In the past to be able to continue to study, he often did go abroad to work, or to play on the street as a street musician, particularly in German-speaking countries. Recently he spent some of his nights in Denmark to help as a volunteer for a local organization Kirekens Korshaer in Copenhagen that dealt with drug addicts and homeless people.

Mr. Olah wants to continue working with the Roma. For him each project is a challenge. and he begins it with great

enthusiasm. He would like to help the Roma people in his community to develop it in each direction, and make it stronger than before.

Mr. Olah successfully completed undergraduate studies in the field of Social Work in Roma communities at Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. His mother language is Hungarian, and he very well speaks Slovak, Roma, German, Danish and English languages.

Mr. Olah knows Europe very well but he never traveled to the United States. He is looking forward to learn more about the diversity in the U.S. and how disadvantaged groups are engaged and motivated to do community organizing.

Mr. Olah has two children. He lives a happy life with his family, likes to read, to travel and wants to continue to learn. His work is his hobby as it helps others.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at the “Action North Carolina” in Charlotte, North Carolina.



**November 16, 2016, Kosice, Slovakia: Recruitment workshop for people interested in the Spring 2017 Professional Fellows Program. This program is organized in cooperation with “SPOTS”, community spaces in Kosice. 3 Professional Fellows alumni joined to this meeting and spoke about their previous experience with the Professional Fellows Program.**

## Karina Andrasikova

Bratislava, Slovakia

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Karina Andrasikova works as a Social worker and Program Coordinator for NGO “Mládež Ulice” (Youth of the Street) since 2012. “Mládež Ulice” provides a low threshold program and street-work on the streets, in the communities and neighbourhoods in Bratislava for children, youth and family.

“Mládež Ulice” grass-root outreach work in community include free time activities, social services, preventive, educational activities, social skills developing activities, pre-school preparation, school preparation, community work for kids and youth from neighbourhood and social excluded communities from Bratislava. “Mládež Ulice” in cooperation with Family Centre “Ráčik” and NGO “Varianty” established a new NGO “Stará Jedáleň” (Old dining room) with an aim to open a neighbourhood community centre in the Raca district of Bratislava.

Ms. Andrasikova also works in NGO “Prima” as a street-worker with drug

addicted people and sex-workers within harm reduction philosophy. She has experience in youth work, community work and outreach work for 9 years with target groups of youth, drug addicted, sex-workers and homeless people in several organizations. She has an accredited training in art therapy. She also provides art therapy trainings and art therapy sessions on how to be a leader for youth, homeless women, in Romani settlements, etc.

Ms. Andrasikova studied an Applied Social Work at the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra, Slovakia. Currently she studies Psychology with specialization in Art Therapy at the University of South

Bohemia in Czech Republic. During her studies she was an intern in House of Hope, Centre for Girls, Eldoret, Kenya.

Ms. Andrasikova is excited to be a part of this Professional Fellows Program, and visit and learn from community projects in the United States and to be inspired to do new things at home. In her opinion, exchanging good practices and skills is a way how to build better services at her projects. She fluently speaks English and Czech languages.

Ms. Andrasikova loves travelling, reading books, theatres, movies and music, meeting new people. In her free times she likes to paint and be a part of art activities, and hiking or swimming.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at the “WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition” in Charleston, West Virginia.

## Jozef Kakos

Bratislava, Slovakia

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Jozef Kakos is Deputy Director of Depaul Slovakia which is based in Bratislava. Depaul Slovakia is an organization that works with homeless people and provides services for all homeless people including people addicted to drugs and alcohol or with mental or physical disability.

Mr. Kakos responsibilities include the preparation and implementation of a long-term strategic framework for addressing homelessness in Bratislava, monitoring outputs and outcomes, and managing service delivery improvement projects. He brings his frontline experience in shelters and schools to his policy and governance work.

During his professional life he was a project manager of various projects - humanitarian aid in Slovakia after flooding, integration project with refugees in Slovakia and educational project for children between 12 to 18

years about life of refugees in Slovakia.

Mr. Kakos was also active in Slovakian Scout for 15 years and for 5 of them as a Scoutmaster. During his university studies he coordinated the University Pastoral Centrum and did volunteering for 6 years.

Mr. Kakos studied at Faculty of Philosophy of University of Trnava in Slovakia graduating with Master's Degree in History in 2007. Mr. Kakos speaks fluent English and Czech, and basic level Russian and Croatian languages.

Mr. Kakos had traveled to the United States twice. For the first time, he spent summer of 2006 in the U.S. with “Work

and Travel” program during his university studies, and last year he participated in a leadership program provided by the Institute of Global Homelessness and stayed in Chicago for 5 days.

Mr. Kakos is interested in organizing community of homeless people, and how to empower them to speak-up about problems and issues of their life. He also wants to learn new things, and learn about new ideas. He wants to transfer new ideas to the field work with homeless people in Bratislava.

In his free time Mr. Kakos spends a lot of time with his wife and two children. He likes various sports - swimming, running, cycling and table tennis. He also enjoys reading books.

While in the U.S. his internship placement is at “The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless” in Chicago, Illinois.

## Jana Bayerlova

Presov, Slovakia

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

Since 2013 Jana Bayerlova works as Project Coordinator for the Equal Chances Association (ECHA) based in Presov in Slovakia, whose mission is to overcome the educational gap between Roma and non-Roma children. ECHA believes that all children have a right to a quality and accessible education that suits their needs.

Ms. Bayerlova is responsible for implementation of several programs focused on inclusive preschool education developed by Roma Education Fund. She leads a team of mediators directly in local communities. Within ECHA she contributed to the development of a qualitative approach to understand the perspective of Roma mothers and helps them to develop their unique skills as parents and educators. Besides that Ms. Bayerlova is in charge of office management, projects documentation and communication with international



partners. Her first professional experience related to education comes from her six months internship in Nigeria. Ms. Bayerlova worked as a volunteer for NGO "Compassion Center" in Port Harcourt while writing her Master's Thesis and a blog. Then she improved her organizational and communication skills further working as a Social Field Worker for Municipality of Presov.

Ms. Bayerlova graduated in Social Anthropology and acquired her Master's Degree from the University of Pardubice in Czech Republic. As a part of her studies she spent one semester at the

Bristol University in England. She speaks fluent English and basic French.

This will be her first visit to the United States. Ms. Bayerlova would like to gain experience related to inclusive education in socially disadvantaged regions and learn from example of advocacy activities. She is interested in community organizing as a tool for understanding community needs. Her organization is currently replicating successful preschool methodology into new locality, where she sees an opportunity to apply the knowledge gained during the internship.

Ms. Bayerlova enjoys diversity and communication with people. Her hobbies are hiking, discovering new places. She also likes movies and good food.

While in the U.S. her internship placement is at the "United Way Ottawa County" in Port Clinton, Ohio.

## Peter Lenco

Bratislava, Slovakia

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

Peter Lenco works at the "Children of Slovakia Foundation" in its Educational Centre since 2013. He is responsible for developing and managing programs with a special focus on program "Communities Friendly to Children and Young People". He also took part in the advocacy activities of the organization that included creation of an umbrella organization for the rights of children and young people named "Coalition for Children". The community he is currently working with the most is in Sliac, a town in the central part of Slovakia.

Mr. Lenco has experience of working in public administration. He worked as a Director of Department for National Youth Policy and Youth Work Development at the Iuventa - Slovak Youth Institute, an organization of the Ministry of Education. He also worked as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Education at the University of Trnava after completing his Doctoral studies in 2011, contributing to preparation of future youth workers and educators in the area of out-of-school time education. He has experience in working with



young people, and is involved in various research activities.

Mr. Lenco is the most active in the non-governmental sector. His home organization is "eRko" - Christian Children Communities Movement - where he helped with training of children and youth groups leaders and workers, and preparation of various methodological materials. For several years, Mr. Lenco was assisting to a program "Volunteers for Africa". Also he has experience of working and cooperating with other NGOs like Open Society Foundation, Stopka, National Youth Council of Slovakia, etc. Mr. Lenco was recognized for his work as Social Innovator by Pontis Foundation in cooperation with Ashoka in 2014.

This is his first visit to the United States. Mr. Lenco is interested in all aspects of system of working with

children and young people at community/municipality level. He would like to learn what services and activities are provided, who are the main actors, what are their roles, and how they are being prepared for their work.

Mr. Lenco is interested in mobilizing, networking and setting cooperation of various actors in the community including municipality and children and young people themselves. He is also interested in methodology and approach of Collective Impact. This experience could enrich and will be used in his field work: he is working as a consultant, trainer and facilitator with several communities within the program "Communities Friendly to Children and Young People".

In his spare time Mr. Lenco likes to read books and visit theatre. Also he likes to go hiking and take photographs.

While in the U.S. his internship placement is at "Philadelphia Education Fund" in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## Richard Fekete

Bratislava, Slovakia

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Richard Fekete works as a freelance Marketing Consultant. He has done qualitative research, strategic planning or business consulting. He had worked for several advertising and media agencies as a strategic planner, idea maker or as a creative director.

Mr. Fekete was a founding member of the Liberal Party SaS and a team leader for personal freedom team there. He ran for the European Parliament member in 2009, and National Council member in 2010 and 2012 but was not elected.

After leaving politics Mr. Fekete became a Director of the Slovak Greenpeace office. He had volunteered in many organizations and for various topics, also worked for organizations as "Free Animal", "Greenpeace", in the Psychiatric Patient's Day Center, and for local "PRIDE" events. At the "PRIDE BRATISLAVA" he was the Executive Director responsible for the security and marketing in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

On the basis of other activities in 2012 Mr. Fekete had been involved with NGO "Saplinq" and became a Coordinator for a LGBTQ youth support and community group in Bratislava called "Freeq". Took part with the Slovak queer teen group in youth exchange within the Erasmus+ program in 2015 to Sweden, and in 2016 to Israel as a group leader. "Saplinq" is a Slovak NGO with the aim to develop young LGBTQ leaders and LGBTQ youth



communities. This NGO organizes workshops and discussions for young people on topics related to LGBTQ identity, both trying to educate broader public and creating community spaces for LGBTQ youth.

Currently Mr. Fekete works with LGBTQ youth of age 15 to 25, and wants to network them. This has three aims: 1. Inclusiveness: Peer-to-peer help with coming out in school/home. 2. Self-confidence: Solve problems with self-identification and acceptance. 3. Community: Problem to find same queer peers and activities else than in gay bars/hookup apps. Topics and causes that matter to Richard are: Civil Rights and Social Action, Human Rights, LGBTI Rights, Politics, Animal Welfare, Arts and Culture. His hobbies: theatre, hi-tech, sci-fi, dogs.

Mr. Fekete is a Psychologist. He earned his Master's Degree from the Comenius University, Bratislava, Faculty of Arts, Department of Psychology. As part of his studies Mr. Fekete spent two semesters at the University of Warwick, England. His language skills beside English and Slovak include Czech, good verbal Hungarian, intermediate Russian

and basic German languages.

Mr. Fekete visited the United States in 1994 as part of Cultural Exchange Student Program called Camp America. He worked in the kitchen and as a day camp Counselor in Kennolyn Camps, California. Then he traveled across the U.S. for few weeks.

This Professional Fellows Program is a great importance to him as given opportunity to learn how to cooperate with local government and schools and to support the LGBTQ youth and their own community groups to create safe, accepting and inclusive environments for all young people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Mr. Fekete would like to gain practical experience of various approaches and methods of community organizing and citizen's participation in community organizing. He would like to learn more about how to mobilize people and motivate them to get involved, how to become visible and active. Mr. Fekete is also interested in ways to deal with bullying, homophobia, transphobia and other oppressions within the LGBTQ community in school.

While in the U.S. his internship placement is at the "FIERCE" organization in New York City, New York.

*Photos from Jana Bayerlova's pre-departure fieldwork: Community meeting with 17 participants (parents and their children), 3 community leaders and ECHA representatives in Community Center "Stara Tehelna" on January 23, 2017.*



## ITINERARY \*

### Tuesday, April 18

#### Detroit, MI / Maumee, OH

**1:21PM:** Group 1 (9 people):

Delegation from Bulgaria & Hungary:

Arrival to Detroit Airport; Welcome by **Elizabeth Balint** and **Martin Nagy**; Drive to the Staybridge Suites Hotel in Maumee; Check-in for 3 nights;

**4:10PM:** Group 2 (12 people):

Delegation from Romania & Slovakia:

Arrival to Detroit Airport; Welcome by **Martin Nagy**; Drive to the Staybridge Suites Hotel in Maumee; Check-in for 3 nights.

For Group 1:

Distribution orientation materials; Discussion with **Elizabeth Balint**;

**5:00PM:** Meeting with **Bill Hilt**, President of World Affairs of NW Ohio & Educator;

**Evening:** Welcome and supper at the hotel; Waiting for the 2nd group arrival;

### Wednesday, April 19

#### Maumee, OH

**7:15AM:** Breakfast at the hotel;

**8:30AM:** Arrival Orientation at the hotel conference room with **Elizabeth Balint**;

*Discussion topics:*

- Goals of the program, professional and cultural activities, safety and financial and other questions;
- Preparation for planning the video project, create the teams and assign tasks; photo/video documentation;
- Progress and comments on "Leading Change" Pre-departure leadership training module;
- Social media tools, working with the media.

**10:00AM:** Meeting with **Cris Doby**, U.S. Mentor and GLC Advisor;

*Discussion topics:*

- Short introduction "Why you became or want to become an organizer?";
- Learn more about each other in the group;
- Organizing stories from the European delegation about their pre-departure fieldwork activities, accomplishments and challenges;

**12:00-1:30PM:** Joint lunch at a nearby restaurant;

**1:30-4:00PM:** Presentation & discussion led by **Cris Doby**;

*Discussion topics:*

- Principles and history of community organizing;
- Reflections and overcome on challenges during the field work, preparation for the U.S. internship activities and working with minority communities (door knocking, one-on-one, etc);

- How to continue the pre-departure field work and plan follow on activities using U.S. experiences;

**4:00-5:30PM:** Preparation for the Welcoming Reception, learning about silent auction, arranging the tables, and the room, and getting ready with some international salads/appetizers/sweets for the event.

**6:30-8:30PM:** **Welcome Reception** at the Conference room with **Peter Ujvagi**, Toledo City Councilman, and NW Ohio community partners; Small group discussions in World Café style organized by the delegation; Sharing some European cultural traditions with local partners;

### Thursday, April 20

#### Toledo, OH

**7:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;

**8:30-9:30AM:** Travel to downtown Toledo, Visit City of Toledo offices, One Government Center;

**9:30-11:30AM:** Meeting at the City of Toledo to learn about U.S. governance and legislative processes; Meeting organized by **Peter Ujvagi**, Toledo City Councilman;

*Discussion topics:*

- Different levels of government, role and responsibilities;
- Checks and balances of power;
- Election and power;
- Role of local (city and county government) with focus related to minorities including social services and education; Sources of income/taxes of local government;
- Transparency & accountability in local government, young people involvement in politics;
- Elected officials and community organizing;

- Neighborhood organizing and how the power of the people can influence local decisions, examples from decision making process;

- Relationship between elected officials and community organizations, examples of partnership & challenges;

**12:00-2:00PM:** Joint lunch;

**2:00PM:** (Optional) Visit the Toledo Museum of Art - tour of the museum with **Martin Nagy**;

Sightseeing in Toledo;

**5:00PM:** Return to hotel in Maumee;

**6:00PM:** Joint supper & discussion; More discussions on the video project and free time;

### Friday, April 21

#### Maumee, OH / Chicago, IL

**7:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;

Packing and check-out from hotel;

**Note:** Store luggage by 11:30AM at the hotel conference room;

**8:30-10:45AM:** Orientation continues; Meeting with **Elizabeth Balint** and preparation for the 4-week internship experience;

*Orientation topics:*

- Volunteer service, outreach to the U.S. communities with presentations, media, etc;

- Expectations and tasks during the internship & monitoring, reporting & planning follow on activities;

- Preparation for staying with host families

- Planning for the peer-to-peer learning in Washington, D.C.;

**10:45AM-12:45PM:** Lunch break;

**1:00PM:** Charter bus departs from the hotel in Maumee, OH to Chicago, IL;

**5:00PM:** Arrival to the hotel in downtown Chicago; Check-in to hotel for 3 nights;

**6:30PM:** Joint dinner at the nearby restaurant;

### Saturday, April 22

#### Chicago, OH

**7:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel and free time; (Optional) Sightseeing on your own in Chicago downtown;

**5:00-8:00PM:** Meeting with Chicago Partners; Birthday celebration and Chicago pizza party at the hotel

## ITINERARY \*

(Hungarian group is taking the lead with their room mates);

### Sunday, April 23

#### Chicago, IL

**Morning:** Breakfast in the hotel;  
Sightseeing and cultural activities in Chicago on your own;  
**6:00PM:** Farewell Dinner with the Chicago Mentors & group at a nearby restaurant;

### Monday, April 24

#### Travel day

**Morning:** Breakfast in the hotel;  
Travel to internship sites across the United States;  
*For these who have internship in Chicago:* Meet and move-in with host families; accommodation in the hosting organizations;

### Tuesday, April 25 –

#### Thursday, May 18

Tailored internships at 15 U.S. Host Organizations;

\* \* \* \* \*

### Friday, May 19

#### Travel day/ New York City, NY

**Morning:** Travel to New York City from different internship locations;  
Check-in to hotel in downtown for 6 nights;  
**6:00PM:** Re-unite at the hotel with the delegation and meeting with **Elizabeth**

**Balint**; Sharing experiences of the internships, discuss the progress on the video project and plans to finish it;

### Saturday, May 20

#### New York City, NY

**Morning:** Breakfast in the hotel;  
Sightseeing on your own and free time;  
**Afternoon:** Lunch on your own;  
**Evening:** Return to hotel; Joint dinner;

### Sunday, May 21

#### New York City, NY

**Morning:** Breakfast in the hotel;  
Sightseeing on your own and free time;  
**Afternoon:** Lunch on your own;  
(Optional) Cultural activities to be organized;  
**6:00PM:** Return to hotel; Joint dinner;  
(Optional) Group work on the video project;

### Monday, May 22

#### New York, NY

**7:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;  
**8:30AM-5:00PM** Program at the hotel meeting room;  
**8:30-9:30AM:** Meeting & discussion with Elizabeth Balint:  
- Report on the individual project planning for follow on activities;  
- Review of possible collaboration with the U.S. and European partners;  
**9:45AM-12:30PM:** Peer-to-Peer Learning Part 1 facilitated by **Sondra Youdelman**, US Mentor and Trainer;  
Sharing U.S. internship experience on

a variety of subjects based on the experience and interest of the participants;

**12:30-2:00PM:** Lunch break;  
**2:00-4:00PM:** Peer-to-Peer Learning Part 2 with Sondra Youdelman, US Mentor and Trainer;  
**4:15-5:00PM:** Updates on the video project any additional help needed;  
**Evening:** Time open to work more on video project or (optional) other free time activities and time for rest;

### Tuesday, May 23

#### New York City, NY

**7:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;  
**8:30AM-5:00PM:** Program at the hotel meeting room;  
**8:30-9:30AM:** Meeting with **Elizabeth Balint** in preparation for final activities in Washington, D.C.: - evaluations, feedback & suggestions;  
- Professional Fellows Congress;  
**9:45AM-12:30PM:** Peer-to-Peer Learning Part 3 facilitated by **Sondra Youdelman**, US Mentor and Trainer;  
**12:30-2:00PM:** Lunch break;  
**2:00-4:00PM:** Peer-to-Peer Learning Part 4 with **Sondra Youdelman**;  
**4:15-5:00PM:** Updates on the video project any additional help needed;  
**6:00PM:** Dinner at the hotel provided by the hotel management;  
**Evening:** Time open to work more on video project or (optional) other free time activities and time for rest;

### Wednesday, May 24



### SPECIAL THANK YOU TO HOSTING FAMILIES FOR WELCOMING PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS TO YOUR HOMES, PROVIDING CARE AND ASSISTANCE DURING THEIR INTERNSHIP TIME!

*Alan Reiff (Queens), Ann O'Brien, Carol & Jon Bjornson (Philadelphia), Barbara Raimondo (Washington Grove), Candace Gorman & Chris Ross, Hannah Willage & Zach Schroeder, Jose Munoz, Marc & Debora Willage, Rene Heybach (Chicago), Deborah Brown (Newburgh), Denise Young (Rochester), Ellen Muller, Michelle Burger, Judy Levin & Charles Komanoff (New York City), Fran Rolan (Brooklyn), Francis King (Marmet), Giovanna Gomez, Betsy Rosen, Hector Vaca, and Rachel Kubie (Charlotte), Kristen and Doug Gerwin, Ed & Shirley Carlson (Port Clinton), Mark & Elizabeth Emanatian (Troy), Michael Crowell (Ronkonkoma), Wendy & Edward Ford-Licon (Albuquerque) and others.*

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### New York City, NY

**7:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;

**8:30AM-5:00PM:** Program at the hotel meeting room;

**8:30-9:30AM:** Meeting with Elizabeth Balint in preparation for final activities in Washington, D.C.:

- Planning of US Mentors visit to Europe, itinerary, budget;

- Alumni follow on programs;

- The U.S. Embassy activities and opportunities, small grants;

**9:45-12:30AM:** Peer-to-Peer Learning Part 5 facilitated by **Sondra Youdelman**, US Mentor and Trainer;

**12:30-2:00PM:** Lunch break;

**2:00-4:00PM:** Peer to Peer learning Part 6 with **Sondra Youdelman**;

**4:15-5:00PM:** Updates on the video project any additional help needed;

**6:00PM:** Dinner at the hotel provided by the hotel management;

**Evening:** Time open to work more on video project;

(Optional) Birthday party, Romanian group is taking the lead with their room mates);

### Thursday, May 25

#### New York City, NY / Washington, D.C.

**7:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;

**8:30AM:** Check-out from the rooms and store your luggage to the hotel conference room;

**9:00-11:45AM:** Peer-to-Peer Learning Part 7 with **Sondra Youdelman** at the hotel meeting room;

**11:45AM-12:45PM:** Lunch on your own in local restaurant;

**1:00PM:** Departure with Charter bus from the hotel in New York and travel

to Washington, D.C.;

**5:00PM:** Check-in to hotel in Washington, D.C. for 4 nights;

**Evening:** Sightseeing and/or Cultural programs on your own;

### Friday, May 26

#### Washington, D.C.

**7:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;

**8:30AM-12:00PM:** Final overall program evaluation of U.S. fellowship experience with Elizabeth Balint and the U.S. Department of State Program Officer; WSOS/GLC certificates presentation ceremony;

**12:00-1:30PM:** Lunch break;

**1:30-3:00PM:** Time open to review and/or finish the video project;

**3:00-6:00PM:** Free time;

**6:30PM:** Joint Dinner with **Deb Martin** from WSOS in nearby restaurant;

### Saturday, May 27 –

#### Sunday, May 28

#### Washington, D.C.

#### Memorial Day Weekends

**Morning:** Breakfast in the hotel;

Sightseeing tour and cultural programs to be organized;

**Afternoon:** Lunch on your own in local restaurant;

**Evening:** Joint dinner at the hotel;

(Optional) Birthday party organized by the Bulgarian delegation and their roommates on Sunday evening;

### Monday, May 29

#### Washington, D.C.

#### MEMORIAL DAY

**Morning:** Breakfast in the hotel;

**11:00AM:** Check-out from the hotel;

Store luggage in hotel storage room provided;

(Optional) Participate in one of the **Memorial Day's celebration event** in Washington, D.C.;

Lunch and free time;

**2:30PM:** Meet at the hotel lobby to move to the Georgetown Hotel with group transportation, check-in for 4 nights to participate in the Professional Fellows Congress; joint check-in requested;

**3:30PM:** Congress registration; Pick-up materials for Congress programs;

**6:00-7:30PM:** "Getting to Know You" - Ice Breaker with ice cream social;

**Evening:** Dinner on your own in local restaurant and free time for rest;

### Tuesday, May 30

#### Washington, D.C.

#### Professional Fellows Congress Day 1

**7:00AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;

**8:00AM:** Departure to FHI360 Conference Center;

**8:30AM-5:00PM:** Congress activities on separate schedules (incl. lunch);

**6:00PM:** Return to Georgetown Hotel;

**Evening:** Dinner on your own; Free time for rest;

### Wednesday, May 31

#### Washington, D.C.

#### Professional Fellows Congress Day 2

**7:00AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;

**8:00AM:** Departure to FHI360 Conference Center;

**8:30AM-5:00PM:** Congress activities



## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PROJECT ADVISORS AND SUPPORTERS:

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

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on separate schedules (incl. lunch);  
**6:00PM:** Return to Georgetown Hotel;  
**6:30PM:** Joint WSOS/GLC dinner and final celebration with **Tara Parrish** and **Elizabeth Balint** at a nearby restaurant;

### Thursday, June 1 Washington, D.C. Professional Fellows Congress Day 3

**7:00AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;  
**8:00AM-5:00PM:** Congress activities on separate schedules (incl. lunch);  
**Afternoon:** Video project presentations by each delegation: *"Impacting the Future: It Starts With US"*  
**4:45PM:** *"Closing Thoughts and Country Roll Call"* presented by the US Department of State ECA Representative;  
**6:00PM:** Reception at the US Department of State; recognition of Alumni Impact Award winners;  
**8:00PM:** Return to Georgetown Hotel; Evaluation on Congress experience via Internet;

### Friday, June 2 Washington, D.C. Professional Fellows Congress Closing Day/ Travel Day

**7:00-8:30AM:** Breakfast in the hotel;  
**8:30-10:00AM:** Completing Congress Evaluation;  
 Presentation of Professional Fellows Congress and U.S. Department of State certificates;  
 WSOS/GLC closing activities and final good byes;  
**11:00AM:** Check-out from hotel (store



luggage in room provided);  
**11:00AM-1:15PM:** Free time for last minute sightseeing and travel preparations;  
**1:40PM:** WSOS/GLC group departure - travel together with Elizabeth Balint to the Dulles Washington airport with pre-arranged transportation;  
**2:40PM:** Check-in for flight DL 9385;  
**5:40PM:** Flight departure;  
*For those with extended stay in the U.S.:* Individual travel on your own;

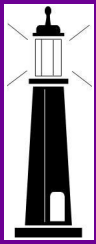
**We hope you enjoyed your  
 fellowship program in the United  
 States. Have a safe return home!**

\* Itinerary as of April 15, 2017 — subject to change without further notice

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO

**LINNEA ALLISON, Program Officer  
 at the U.S. Department of State  
 Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs,  
 Professional Fellows Division!**





**Our Special Thank You to the U.S. Mentors and Leaders in 15 Host organizations for welcoming the European Professional Fellows, providing 4-weeks community organizing experience and working with them in the United States, April 24– May 19, 2017:**

**Illinois, Chicago**

- **The Resurrection Project (RP):** Jose Munoz will work with Gaspar Bendeguz Tikasz from Hungary and Raluca Onufreiciuc from Romania;
- **Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH):** Rachel Ramirez and Jim Field will work with Ioana-Irina Urs from Romania and Jozef Kakos from Slovakia;

**Maryland, Silver Spring**

- **National Association for the Deaf (NAD):** Howard Rosenblum will work with Ashod Derandonyan from Bulgaria;

**New Mexico, Albuquerque**

- **Parents Reaching Out (PRU):** Lisa Rossignol will work with Eszter Dancsa from Hungary;

**New York, Albany**

- **Alliance for Quality Education of New York (AQENY):** Jasmin Gripper will work with Anda Ilona Serban from Romania;

**New York, Rochester**

- **Metro Justice (MeJu):** Eamonn Scanlon will work with Fanel Petrescu from Romania;

**New York, New York City**

- **FIERCE:** Mustafa Sullivan will work with Dani Prisacariu from Romania and Richard Fekete from Slovakia;
- **GLSEN:** Noreen Giga and Joe Kosciw will work with Alexandru Palas from Romania;
- **Picture the Homeless:** Monique George will work with Daniel Danyi from Hungary;
- **The New York Civic Engagement Table (NYCET):** Melody Lopez will work with Szilvia Szenasi from Hungary and Peter Nemeth from Slovakia;

**North Carolina, Charlotte**

- **Action North Carolina (ANC):** Hector Vaca will work with Eva Maria Toth from Hungary and Miroslav Olah from Slovakia;

**Ohio, Port Clinton**

- **United Way Ottawa County (UWOC):** Kristen Gerwin will work with Teodora Koleva from Bulgaria and Jana Bayerlova from Slovakia;

**Pennsylvania, Philadelphia**

- **Philadelphia Education Fund (PHED):** Nancy Peter, Kim Stephens and Michael Sharkey will work with Milena Dimitrova from Bulgaria and Peter Lenco from Slovakia;

**West Virginia, Charleston**

- **WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition (WVHKFC):** Carey Jo Grace will work with Karina Andrasikova from Slovakia;

**Washington, D.C.**

- **Human Rights Campaign (HRC):** Jay Gilliam and Jean Freedberg will work with Denitsa Lyubenova from Bulgaria;

