



# PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS

## ANNOUNCEMENT

For spring 2020  
U.S. host organizations  
and U.S. mentors



## Open Competition for U.S. Participation "SHAPING PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY"

Professional Fellows Program  
for Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and  
the United States of America.

[WWW.GLC-TEACHDEMOCRACY2.ORG](http://WWW.GLC-TEACHDEMOCRACY2.ORG)

## INVITATION



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

The program is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges. The Professional Fellows Program is organized by WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. - Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development (GLC) from Northwest Ohio in collaboration with Co-PLAN in Albania, Pro European Network (PEN) in Bulgaria, Civil College Foundation (CCF) in Hungary, The Resource Center for Public Participation (CeRe) in Romania, and Center for Community Organizing (CKO) in Slovakia and other local partners in the United States of America and in the selected countries in Europe.

## GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

This program is a two-way exchange opportunity involving professionals and leaders from the U.S. and selected European countries. U.S. mentors will share their professional expertise with the EU fellows of this program and travel for a two-week reciprocal visit to counterpart organizations for consulting. Mentors will conduct joint workshops in order to share experience and to promote mutual understanding and partnership between key professional groups in the United States and groups in the selected European countries. Our goal is that our partners from different parts of the world learn from each other first in the U.S. and in Europe afterwards that will contribute to positive change in both of their communities as a result of this exchange. European participants will be actively involved in organizing the U.S. mentors' visit to their organization and their country as well as assist in joint trainings with their U.S. mentors and other alumni.

## OBJECTIVES

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

**Build mutual understanding and create lasting and sustainable partnerships**

**EU fellows will learn U.S. practices in sustaining civic participation and advocacy with minority communities (including African-American, Latino, Native American, Roma, Disabled, LGBTQ and Homeless) in civil society and democracy.**

**Learn about the U.S. legislative system on different levels and examine the relationship between civil society and government, and learn methods to fight public corruption and develop accountability.**

**Gain a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, and people.**

**Develop enhanced leadership and professional skills**

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

*30 participants (from the five selected European countries) will be included in two delegations visiting the U.S.A:  
the first delegation between April 15-May 29, 2020, and  
the second delegation between October 7-November 19, 2020.*

## PHASES OF THE PROGRAM





We are looking for U.S. organizations that are interested in acting as volunteer hosts for 2-3 incoming professionals for a 4-week internship program at their U.S. workplace. They should be able to provide a professional development opportunity for up-and-coming and mid-level professionals from Central and Eastern Europe and help them learn American methods in shaping participatory democracy in marginalized or rural communities while comparing experiences. Host organizations are also asked to place the guests with volunteer host families where they will learn about American culture and family life and can become involved in volunteer activities in their host family's own community. U.S. host organizations will work closely with WSOS/ Great Lakes Consortium in planning and implementing the internship program.

Participation in this exchange from the U.S. side is a multi-phase program. 30 participants from five European countries are included in two delegations to visit the U.S. in 2020. We are looking for placement for the spring 2020 delegation with about 15 people who will be in the U.S. from April 15 – May 29, 2020. A portion of the spring 2020 fellows' visit consists of a **4-week internship experience between April 22-May 20, 2020 at various host sites across the U.S.** We are looking for new host organizations and U.S. mentors as well as some organizations who hosted our European fellows in the past 7 years. We will select the US host organizations based on the interest

and background of the top European applicants, and the activities that the US organizations are planning to do during the internship period, where the fellows are expected to contribute to and learn from.

European participants are professionals between 25 and 40 years of age, who are creative and innovative, have accomplishments in solving issues in marginalized or rural communities, and who can make a large impact with implementing new ideas and changes. Participants will have good organizational and management skills, be active members of their local community, be interested in long-term international cooperation, have good communication and presentation skills, and be receptive to modern technology. The internship experience will be tailored to the individual fellow's background and interest. All European participants speak English well and will be carefully selected by an international selection committee.

European applicants need to prepare a 2-3-month action plan to be implemented before the U.S. trip focusing on community organizing field experience. Based on this experience summarized in a report, the U.S. host organizations can design part of the fellowship program for the European participant based on the participants need and challenges during the field experiences.

Expenses for the European guests to arrive at the internship sites are paid by the grant (incl. international and in-country transportation, health insurance, and meals), but local host organizations are asked to arrange volunteer host families and local transportation for 4 weeks. Where public transportation is available from the grant we will reimburse the local transportation expenses for a monthly pass.

In addition to the mentorship of the European participants during their 4-week internship in the U.S., one representative from each of the selected U.S. host organizations interested in travelling will be also invited to travel overseas for a reciprocal visit for up to 2 weeks in November 2020 or February 2021 after the European Fellows' internship. In 2 groups at total of 15 U.S. mentors will have the opportunity to visit their fellows in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania or Slovakia (about one week in the fellow's country) to participate in seminars, workshops, visit fellows' organizations, provide on-site consultation and mentoring.

## COST

All expenses for up to the 2-week European trip for the selected U.S. mentors are covered by the grant (incl. international and local transportation, health insurance, hotels, meals, etc.), but they need to obtain a valid passport at their own cost. U.S. mentors do not need to speak a foreign language and there is no age limit, but applicants must have experience in working with marginalized or rural communities and be actively involved with their organization in welcoming the European participants during the 4-week internship, and mentor them afterwards.

## TO APPLY

1. Fill out the on-line **Registration Form** with your basic contact information and WSOS/GLC Project Manager will reach you to determine which category of mentors you belong to – (A) former mentor who was previously already in the program, (B) new mentor in former host organization, or (C) new mentor and/or new host organization to the program;
2. Based on this communication we will ask you to fill out the on-line application form (and/or e-mail us your latest bio with a photo, and your passport copy;
3. Other requirements depending on your type of application. (we may need a letter of support/interest from new organizations interested in hosting).

Complete this process by December 15, 2019

During December 2019 we will have a phone or Skype interview with the interested U.S. mentors

For any questions write an email to:

[glc\\_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com](mailto:glc_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com) or call Elizabeth Balint at 419-973-8007

**DEADLINE: December 15, 2019**