



## STAY ENGAGED: Upcoming events

**ReThink series**

**SOCIAL MEDIA IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**

WEDNESDAY, FEB 23 2022 ONLINE ON ZOOM  
12 PM US EASTERN / 6 PM CENTRAL EUROPEAN

**ERIK SHELLEY** THE U.S.  
Communications coordinator, Michigan United

**KRISTINA PAPCUNOVA** SLOVAKIA  
Communications and Fundraising specialist, Sapling

**EMIL METODIEV** BULGARIA  
Communications director, Roma Standing Conference

**KAROLY BEKE** HUNGARY  
Media expert and director, Csokonai

**MAROS CHMELIK** SLOVAKIA  
Moderator

90 MIN

ReThink is a GLC alumni online series facilitating learning and reflection across our alumni community.

GLC Professional Fellows alumni activities supported by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of the Educational and Cultural Affairs, Global Leaders Division.

PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS | ALUMNI NETWORK | GREAT LAKES COMMUNITY ACTION

February 23rd 2022

### Social Media in Community Organizing

Please join us in our alumni ReThink series event to learn how different organizations and alumni partners are using the Social Media in community organizing. Our guest speakers will share tools and practices, but we will be happy to hear from you, too. Please contribute questions and/or your experience on this subject. Looking forward seeing many of you at our event!

The event is hosted virtually by our Slovak partner Center for Community Organizing.

[Join Facebook event](#)

[Join Zoom event](#)

06

Days

03

Hours

33

Minutes

38

Seconds

## SUPPORT FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

**ReConnect series**



THURSDAY,  
MARCH 24TH  
2022

SAVE THE DATE  
AND STAY TUNED  
FOR DETAILS!

\* As we strive to keep our gatherings safe, please note we are only creating private Facebook events. If you can't access the events on Facebook, but would like to mark your participation there, please reach Elizabeth Balint or any country director.

Please don't share publicly the Zoom link to these events. You are however welcome to invite trusted colleagues and friends who might be interested.

## STAY ENGAGED: Partner event



The banner features a yellow background with a blurred image of a crowd. On the left is the European Union flag. In the top right corner are the logos for 'STORY OF CHANGE' and 'ECON EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZING NETWORK'. The main text reads: 'THE POWER OF ORGANIZING' in large white letters on a black background, followed by 'Stories of Community Organizing Campaigns From Across Europe' in smaller white text. To the right, it says 'STUDY RELEASE FEBRUARY 25, 10:00 AM CET ONLINE' and 'MEET THE AUTHORS'.

Our partners from ECON - European Community Organizing Network are inviting us to join a virtual event where they will release a new study: 'The Power of Organizing: Stories of Community Organizing from Across Europe'. The study documents the findings of community organizers working in Central and Southeastern Europe. Some of our GLC Professional Fellows alumni are featured in the publication.

[Join Facebook event](#)

[Register for Zoom event](#)

## STAY INFORMED: News Bites

### A Decade of Success

#### We are announcing a new call for fellows in February 2022

Our successful work after 10 years will continue as GLCAP/GLC was awarded with the FY 2021 Professional Fellows Program grant "Empowering Citizen-led Democracy" that will bring 28 professionals from Europe to the U.S. and will support 14 US mentors to



The graphic features a teal header with the American flag, the Professional Fellows logo, and the text 'FALL 2022 - Spring 2023 ANNOUNCEMENT'. Below the header are two photographs: one of a large group of people outdoors and another of a smaller group of people sitting together.

travel to Europe in 2022 and 2023. The application process for European fellows from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia will open by February 20th and we rely on our alumni community and friends of the program to promote it throughout their networks and support our recruitment efforts.

Elizabeth Balint shares about the new program: "This is such a great recognition for all the work that GLCAP, its 5-country partners in Europe and close to 100 US partners, and all the alumni community are doing around the world making a big difference to use community organizing and citizen engagement tools, to empower people from disadvantaged and/or minority and/or rural communities to have their voices heard. Thanks to EVERYONE involved in our past accomplishments and we ask for their continued involvement both in Europe and in the U.S. on recruitment, training, mentoring, participation in alumni activities, reunion and more..."



### **Welcome on board, Brittany!**

We are happy to welcome Ms Brittany Ford, who - as of the beginning of February 2022 - serves as International Program Specialist at Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP). She will now co-manage our GLC Professional Fellows Programs for GLCAP

together with Elizabeth Balint.

Brittany is a non-profit and government professional with expertise in immigrant and refugee integration, language access, policy analysis, and workforce development. Most recently, she was a Bosch Fellow with the Robert Bosch Stiftung in Berlin, Germany.

Some of us already met Brittany in informal conversation during our virtual alumni event 'Happy Hour' on February 7th 2022, dedicated to travelling. Recording of the event, as always, is available upon request to [v.petkov@proeuropean.net](mailto:v.petkov@proeuropean.net).

Warm welcome, Brittany! We're excited to work together!

### **We have met our 2021 fundraising goal: thank you to all contributors!**

We extend our warmest gratitude to all 74 alumni, mentors and friends of the program who contributed with donations to our 2021 fundraising campaign. We have met our fundraising goal and now have a fund to support strategic partnerships between Europe and the U.S. beyond the funding of the Professional Fellows program. The opportunity will be communicated soon, so stay tuned!

Suela Kocibellinj  
Klaudio Hyuseini

ALBANIA

SLOVAKIA

Edita Bednarova  
Daniela Minarova  
Karina Andrasikova  
Miroslav Ragac  
Veronika Strelkova  
Maros Chmelik  
Robert Furiel  
Chuck Hirt

Laura Stefanut  
Anda Serban

ROMANIA



**THANK  
YOU!**

HUNGARY

Aliz Pocsuvalszki  
Gabor Nagy  
Bendegúz Tikász

BULGARIA

Vladislav Petkov  
Kaloyan Damyanov  
Alexander Ivanov  
Georgi Nikolov  
Mircho Hristov  
Milena Dimitrova  
Milenko Milenkov  
Dobrina Kisova  
Emil Metodiev  
Ognyan Isaev  
Lilly Dragoeva  
Desislava Stoyanova  
Teodora Koleva  
Diana Nedeva  
Milena Nikolova  
Valentina Georgieva  
Kalina Hristova  
Dilyana Gyurova  
Julia Andonova  
Denitsa Lyubenova  
Silviya Bakalova  
Ashod Derandonyan  
Martin Svetoslavov  
Nevena Pashova  
Cafer Saatchi  
Vesy Deyanova  
Dimitar Bogdanov  
Mina Raduncheva  
Blazhka Dimitrova

THE U.S.

Elizabeth Balint  
Kerry Adkins  
Hannah Willage  
Adrienne Evans  
Paula Ross  
Blanca Surgeon  
Michael Tierney  
Hector Vaca  
Kristen Gerwin  
Sondra Youdelman  
Martin Swinehart  
Maria Bautista  
Louis Goseland  
Leah Torrey  
Dave Beckwith  
Ramon Perez  
Mark Poepelman  
James Field  
Kristin W  
Joanna Brown  
Mo George  
Kathy Woods  
Tom Muchmore  
Christine Doby  
Paul and Susan  
Longenecker  
Theresa Metzmaker  
Gabriel Silva  
Lew Finfer  
Al Kenab  
Martin Nagy



**STAY INSPIRED: Alumni stories**



## **Alumna Suela Kocibellinj awarded Mentor of the Year for 2021**

GLC Alumna Suela Kocibellinj (Albania, Spring 2018) received the award 'Mentor of the Year 2021' on January 27th 2022. The award was given as part of the Growpreneur Acceleration Programme.

Suela and two others were recognized for their outstanding dedication, commitment and contribution in mentoring young entrepreneurs and micro/small businesses in Albania in 2021.



## **Larisa Maria Nechita is doing an internship with European Commission**

GLC Alumna Larisa Maria Nechita (Romania, Fall 2018) is now finishing an internship with the European Commission at the Directorate-General for Interpretation. Larisa is in Brussels with her guide dog Tina.

Larisa's story was recently featured on the facebook page **sibian/că**. You can read it [here](#) - while it is in Romanian, Facebook provides a decent translation.

# **STAY REFLECTIVE: Long Read**

## **Getting Active: Meet Brian Silva, AU's New Director Of Outreach And Engagement**



Brian Silva is a U.S. mentor that has hosted a couple of our alumni over the years and contributed to a number of our engagement activities. He became Americans United's vice president of outreach and engagement last year. In this position, Brian spearheads efforts to organize AU members at the grassroots level to support church-state separation. He will also oversee AU's Summit for Religious Freedom later this year.

Read his interview in the February 2022 issue of CHURCH & STATE MAGAZINE.

[Read interview](#)

## STAY SUPPORTIVE: Fundraising

We use all donations to support strategic partnerships between Europe and the U.S. and further exchange of ideas, know-how and learning for social change. Your contribution matters!

Our common goal is to increase citizen empowerment and democratic processes in Europe through community organizing and other types of support for minority and disadvantaged communities.

[Donate here \(U.S.\)](#)

[Donate here \(Europe\)](#)

**GLC Alumni Network**

**Contact us:**

Vladislav Petkov  
International Alumni Coordinator  
v.petkov@proeuropean.net

Elizabeth Balint  
GLC Program manager  
glc\_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com

Brittany Ford  
GLCAP International Programs Specialist  
bbford@glcap.org

You receive this email because you are an alumna/us/i or a friend of the GLC Teach Democracy program. We would be sad to see you go, but you can always:

[Unsubscribe](#)



*The GLC Alumni Network is administratively managed in Europe by our Bulgarian partner Pro European Network.*



PROFESSIONAL  
FELLOWS

mailer lite