



PROFESSIONAL  
FELLOWS

FALL 2022 – Spring 2023  
ANNOUNCEMENT



Open Application for European Participation in the  
“EMPOWERING CITIZEN-LED DEMOCRACY”  
PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

For Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania,  
Slovakia, & the United States

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



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM



This program is a two-way exchange involving **28 professionals from five selected European countries** and **14 mentors from the United States** who will effect positive change in their communities. European fellows and U.S. mentors will share professional expertise through in-person, virtual, and blended professional development program, including expenses-paid six weeks in the United States. The

two-week reciprocal visit will bring U.S. mentors to Europe to assist fellows on their six-to-nine-month individual project plan implementation and provide consulting and joint workshops. Fellows and their U.S. mentors will share experiences and promote mutual understanding and partnership between professional groups in the United States and their counterparts in the selected European countries.

The program is funded by the **U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Global Leaders Division** and is organized by the **Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development (GLC)**, a program of Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) of Northwest Ohio. The fellowship program is conducted in collaboration with CO-PLAN in Albania, Pro European Network Association (PEN) in Bulgaria, Civil College Foundation (CCF) in Hungary, CeRe in Romania, Center for Community Organizing (CKO) in Slovakia, and partners in the U.S. and Europe.

## GOALS OF THE PROGRAM



**We invite professionals** from any region of Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia to apply for participation in an expenses-paid 42-day fellowship in the United States with pre- and post-program opportunities and requirements. We encourage submissions by professionals who are emerging leaders in civil society who have demonstrated expertise pertaining to the **fellowship theme of governance, society, and citizen-led democracy**. Professionals should be actively involved in

programs and organizations related to this theme, including in non-governmental organizations (NGO's), civic education organizations, citizen advocacy groups, community activists, and community organizers. Professionals should work with **marginalized or rural communities**.

**The overall goals of the Empowering Citizen-led Democracy fellowship program are:**

1. To promote mutual understanding and lasting partnerships between emerging leaders from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and the United States.
2. To provide opportunities for non-U.S. and U.S. emerging leaders to collaborate and share ideas, approaches, and strategies regarding pressing challenges.

The fellowship program builds a global network of professionals and advocates for citizen-led democracy in the selected European countries.

## OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the leadership and professional skills of European participants and their U.S. mentors and counterparts
- Provide opportunities for European and U.S. emerging leaders to collaborate and share ideas, approaches, and strategies to pressing challenges
- Explore diverse community organizing methods for solving problems in communities
- Learn skills in community leadership development and gain hands-on experience at civil society organizations in the U.S.
- Build lasting and sustainable relationships between participants and communities
- Learn U.S. best practices in citizen-led democracy and advocacy for marginalized/underrepresented or rural communities, including African American, Latino/x, Indigenous, immigrant and refugee rights, people with disabilities, homeless communities, and LGBTQ+

## OUTCOMES

- To provide community leaders with enhanced technical knowledge, leadership skills, and professional connections to spark positive change in their communities
- Build enduring connections between young professionals from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and U.S. partners

**28 selected participants will be included in two delegations to the United States for the fellowship program:**

**First Delegation: September 23 to November 4, 2022**

**Second Delegation: Dates To Be Determined Spring 2023**

## CRITERIA

- Be age 25 to 40 at the time of application
- Citizen, national, or permanent resident of their home country (Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, or Slovakia)
- Live and work in her/his/their home country at the time of the application and during the preparation/pre-fellowship program process
- Have at least two years of professional experience at the time of the application
- Submit a complete application online with required attachment by the application deadline
- Able to receive a U.S. J-1 visa
- Committed to returning to her/his/their country after completion of the program
- Proficient in spoken and written English at the time of the application

## PHASES OF THE PROGRAM

**PHASE 1** Selected finalists and alternates must complete approximately 20 hours of virtual and in-person trainings and coursework. The content will be focused on community organizing, leadership development, citizen-led democracy, and will include networking opportunities. This training requirement will primarily be in the evenings and weekends. Trainers and participants will be from European and U.S. partners and experts on the topic areas. For both delegations, the virtual and in-person trainings and coursework will be during the same time period. Decision on participation in the fall 2022 or spring 2023 42-day fellowship for finalists and alternates will be based on completion and level of participation in the trainings and coursework.

**PHASE 2\*** The second phase is the six-week trip to the United States which includes a four-week internship at a U.S. organization, a one-week joint activity with all participants before the internship and a peer-to-peer joint learning activity after the internship. The internship experience will be tailored to the delegation members' background and interest. The joint program before and after the internship will feature workshops, group discussions, and other opportunities for interaction. Before the end of the internship – based on new ideas gained in the U.S. and in collaboration with their mentors – participants will prepare an Individual Project Plan that they will implement within six-to-nine months after returning to their home country.

In the U.S, fellows will do presentations at professional and community events and participate in volunteer service activities. The joint program will be organized in Toledo, Ohio, Chicago, Illinois, and Washington, D.C. Internship placements may include other communities across the U.S.

The 42-day itinerary will conclude with the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C., a three-day enrichment program hosted by the U.S. Department of State. Professional Fellows from around the world will have an opportunity to meet with government leaders and other program alumni, and to share experiences at the end of their visit to Washington, D.C.

**PHASE 3** The third phase will start with participants returning to their home country, where they will begin working on implementation of innovative ideas with their Individual Project Plans. Participants will be required to share their new experiences with their community members and cooperate closely with GLCAP/GLC partners in their country.

**PHASE 4** As part of the exchange, U.S. mentors who worked with fellows in the U.S. will travel to Europe for up to two weeks and spend approximately one week with each fellow in their home country. During this time, U.S. mentors will participate in seminars, workshops, visit fellows' organizations, and provide mentoring. Fellows are expected to cooperate with GLC in-country directors and partners in the preparation of these events, participate in workshops with presentations about the experience acquired during their U.S. fellowship, and encourage others to participate and benefit from their experience. Fellows are expected to be actively involved in the implementation of the U.S. mentors' visit to their organization, as well as assist in joint trainings with their U.S. mentors and other alumni.

**PHASE 5** Fellows will provide regular updates to country directors as well as GLC Staff in the U.S. on how the innovative ideas were implemented in their organizations and what impact this program made. Alumni success stories will be published, and each fellow is expected to contribute with an organizing story within six-to-nine months after their return.

**PHASE 6** Fellows will also be a part of their country's alumni network and will have a chance to participate in and contribute to alumni virtual and in-person activities in their country and internationally.

## **\*COVID-19 NOTICE**

In response to the ongoing global pandemic, the fellowship program is being planned as a hybrid, in-person, and blended program. The in-person, U.S.-based exchange is contingent upon favorable travel conditions. In the event there are travel restrictions or other factors which could adversely impact the health, safety, and welfare of program participants, host organizations, and local communities, this fellowship program may postpone or pivot the planned in-person U.S.-based exchange program to a virtual program, including a virtual internship. The fellowship program follows available national and local public health guidance when making decisions related to the program activities.

## SELECTION PROCESS

Participants will be selected through a competitive merit-based process. We would like to invite applicants between 25 to 40 years old who are creative and have new ideas, have accomplishments in solving issues in marginalized or rural communities, and who can make a large impact by implementing innovative ideas and changes. Participants need to display evidence of good organizational management skills, be active members of their local community, and are interested in **long-term** international cooperation. Applicants must have good communication and presentation skills and have computer and internet access and skills. Successful candidates should be emerging civil society leaders and professionals with volunteer experience or current employment related to the fellowship theme of governance, society, and citizen-led democracy. Selected participants will be encouraged to develop connections between their countries, the U.S., other European countries, and within their own country.

All selected participants must be highly proficient in written and oral English, self-directed, able to work effectively in a cross-cultural setting, and have demonstrated leadership abilities. Applicants should be genuinely interested in developing an individual project of their own selection in their workplace or community.

**Applicants and selected fellows must maintain regular email contact with GLC Staff and Country Directors during the entire course of the program.**

## TIME FRAME

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| <b>INFORMATION SESSIONS</b><br>(Applicants are expected to attend one of these sessions. It is highly recommended to attend the earliest session possible) | MARCH 2, 2022 ( <a href="#">sign up here</a> )<br>MARCH 7, 2022 ( <a href="#">sign up here</a> )<br>MARCH 15, 2022 ( <a href="#">sign up here</a> )<br>* All sessions are in English & are held 6:00-7:30 p.m. CET |
| <b>RECRUITMENT/APPLICATION DEADLINE</b>  | BY 5:00 P.M. CET ON MARCH 21, 2022   |
| <b>SELECTION PROCESS/ONLINE INTERVIEWS</b>   | MARCH 21 – APRIL 15, 2022  |
| <b>NOTIFICATION TO SELECTED PARTICIPANTS</b>   | BY APRIL 20, 2022  |
| <b>NOTIFICATION TO ALTERNATE CANDIDATES</b>  | BY APRIL 27, 2022  |
| <b>NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANTS WHO WERE NOT SELECTED</b>  | BY MAY 15, 2022  |
| <b>VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON PRE-FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR SELECTED PARTICIPANTS &amp; ALTERNATES</b>   | MAY 1, 2022 – JUNE 15, 2022  |

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| <b>CONFIRMATION OF FALL 2022 FELLOWS FOR TRAVEL TO U.S.</b>                                  | JUNE 15 – JUNE 20, 2022                               |
| <b>FALL 2022 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN U.S.: FIRST DELEGATION</b>                                | SEPTEMBER 23 – NOVEMBER 4, 2022                       |
| <b>ADDITIONAL ONLINE/IN-PERSON TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPRING 2023 FELLOWS, IF NEEDED</b> | SEPTEMBER 2022 – NOVEMBER 30, 2022                    |
| <b>CONFIRMATION OF SPRING 2023 FELLOWS FOR TRAVEL TO U.S.</b>                                | DECEMBER 10, 2022                                     |
| <b>SPRING 2023 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN U.S.: SECOND DELEGATION</b>                             | SPRING 2023 (DATES TO BE DETERMINED BY DECEMBER 2022) |
| <b>HOSTING U.S. MENTOR &amp; ORGANIZE A PROGRAM</b>  | 3-TO-6 MONTHS AFTER U.S. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM           |
| <b>IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT</b>   | 6-TO-9 MONTHS AFTER U.S. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM           |
| <b>ONLINE/IN-PERSON ALUMNI &amp; NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES</b>                                | ONGOING   |

## EXPENSES

All expenses of the U.S. program including visa, health insurance, transportation, accommodation (including four-week home stays with U.S. families, two weeks in hotels in double occupancy rooms), meals, and cultural programs will be provided. Participants need to have a passport before the application deadline that is valid at least six months after the program completion in the U.S. Participants need to cover their own expenses incurred within their own country (travel for trainings and interview, visa, and overseas travel preparation from and to the Embassy and the airport, meals or accommodation while visiting the Embassy, pre-departure or after arrival). Selected participants (and alternates) are required to attend the program-related activities (pre-departure orientation meetings, interview at the U.S. Embassy).

## TO APPLY

1. **To Apply:** You must first register your name, email, phone number, and country at: <https://glc-teachdemocracy2.org/application-form-europeans/>

Please register early to participate in the online information session before submitting your application. **Attendance is expected.**

2. Interested applicants will then need to fill out the **Online Application Form**, which is a multi-section form that you can save and continue later. Applications submitted late will not be considered.
  - **Submission of an Essay in English is required** on why and how you are working with minority/underrepresented or rural communities. List any field experience or success story that you may have in working with these communities. This required attachment should be emailed by the March 21, 2022 deadline to your country director listed at the end of this form. This should be no more than two typed pages, single-spaced. Please be ready to provide additional information on essay content if you are selected.
3. **After you are notified that you are selected as a finalist or alternate, we must receive a Letter of Acceptance or confirmation email from you within one week.**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
MARCH 21, 2022  
APPLY NOW**

Please send any questions in English to both Brittany Ford, U.S. GLC Staff, and your home country Director at the contact information below:

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|----------------|-----------------|--|
| U.S. GLC Staff | Brittany Ford   | <a href="mailto:bbford@glcap.org">bbford@glcap.org</a>                         |
| Albania        | Aida Ciro       | <a href="mailto:aida_ciro@co-plan.org">aida_ciro@co-plan.org</a>               |
| Bulgaria       | Vadislav Petkov | <a href="mailto:v.petkov@proeuropean.net">v.petkov@proeuropean.net</a>         |
| Hungary        | Peter Szabados  | <a href="mailto:info@cka.hu">info@cka.hu</a>                                   |
| Romania        | Alexandru Palas | <a href="mailto:alexandrupalas@cere.org">alexandrupalas@cere.org</a>           |
| Slovakia       | Miroslav Ragac  | <a href="mailto:fellowshipslovakia@gmail.com">fellowshipslovakia@gmail.com</a> |

