

# GLCAP / GLC SPRING 2022 PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM FOR ALBANIA, BULGARIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA AND SLOVAKIA



**MAY 15TH - JUNE 12TH 2022**



**PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS**

GLC is a program of Great Lakes Community Action Partnership since 1999. GLC is a collaborative effort of the Bowling Green State University, the Lourdes University, University of Toledo and Great Lakes Community Action Partnership.

Debra Martin  
Program Director  
[Dcmartin@glcap.org](mailto:Dcmartin@glcap.org)

Dr. Elizabeth Balint  
Project Manager  
[EeBalint@glcap.org](mailto:EeBalint@glcap.org)  
419-973-8007

Brittany Ford  
International Program Specialist  
[bbford@glcap.org](mailto:bbford@glcap.org)  
419-341-2499

Nadine Thompson  
Program Assistant  
[nethompson@glcap.org](mailto:nethompson@glcap.org)

GLC Toledo Office  
P.O. Box 352424  
Toledo, OH 43635

Website:  
[www.glc-teachdemocracy2.org](http://www.glc-teachdemocracy2.org)

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

GLCAP (formerly known WSOS) received the FY 2019 Professional Fellows –Renewal grant from the U.S. Department to manage a two-way Governance and Society Program entitled 'Shaping Participatory Democracy' for emerging leaders from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and the United States between September 2019 and December 2021. Due to pandemic the deadline was extended until December 2022.

## ORIGINAL PLAN

The program goal is to develop the capacity of program participants to be strong advocates for participatory democracy in Eastern Europe by enhancing skills related to community organizing, citizen engagement, community-led development, and advocacy. A special emphasis is placed on participants who are from and work with marginalized and rural communities. Originally the plan was to bring two groups of European fellows (a total of 30) to spend approximately 6 weeks in the United States for individually-tailored fellowship placements with civil society organizations, related programming, and participation in the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C. As a follow up U.S. mentors travel to overseas was included in the original plans to spend up to two weeks at the countries of their fellows whom they hosted conducting joint-trainings and working with their foreign counterparts in their workplaces and communities.



# CHANGING PLANS/ VIRTUAL COMPONENT

The specific objectives of this program:

(1) Strengthen the leadership and professional skills of international and U.S. participants; (2) Develop new approaches to solve problems; (3) Build lasting and sustainable relationships between participants and communities.

Expected outcomes/Results: (1) Enduring connections between Albanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovakia and American young professionals; (2) Increased appreciation for individual leadership in effecting positive change particularly around minority rights; (3) Enhanced understanding of the U.S. legislative process and its role in civil society.

Due to the pandemic the original plans had to be changed and GLCAP and its partners had to find innovative solutions to overcome the challenges that prevented any international travels for a much longer period of time than we anticipated at the beginning.

After the European participants for the spring 2020 program were selected and approved for the U.S. visa and many also had the tickets, we had to cancel the travel due to COVID-19 restrictions and the program had to be delayed. At the same time we continued selecting the fall 2020 delegation with the hope that the situation will be better by October 2020 and they may be able to come together with the spring 2020 delegation. Unfortunately this was not the case and the in-person program had to be further delayed until 2022. This extra year forced us to adjust our plans and introduce a Virtual Fellowship to our participant to with professional training, skill building, networking and alumni engagement opportunities as well as a with short virtual internship opportunity at U.S. hosting organizations.

The virtual program with a minimum of 40 credit hours became a pre-requisite of the delayed U.S. trip started on August 31, 2020 and completed with a Grand Finale event on May 27, 2021. From the 34 fellows who started the journey 29 completed the virtual program and enjoyed the “on-boarding” experience to become a PFP alumni and received a virtual program certificate.

**“Leading Change”** an online leadership training by Dr. Deidre Combs was also was offered as an optional opportunity for our fellows by the U.S. Department of State. Those who completed the assessment test at the end of the training received a certificate and we recognized those fellows with 5 extra credits that 26 of 29 fellows received.

**Virtual Professional Fellows Congress** was organized by ACYPL supported by the U.S. Department of State with two “live” online events in November 2020 to connect the fellows from others around the world. This was a great networking opportunity. About 10 fellows participated in one or both days (without extra credits).

Based on the overall 9-month virtual experience each fellow was asked to share a testimonial on their overall experience that is published for further review before we develop another virtual fellowship program. This first virtual fellowship proved that this could be a good preparation for the actual U.S. experience, but this cannot replace the actual experience of traveling to the U.S. in- person, work for 4 weeks with a U.S. host organization and build in-person connections with Americans as well as with European peers in the group.



# SPRING 2022 TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES

12 months passed since the Grand Finale of the virtual fellowship before the in-person travel was possible. During these months most of the fellows continued showing interest in participating various alumni activities in-person in their own country and virtual programs with international participation. They also kept connections with their US mentors.

While we invited all 29 virtual fellows to join to the spring 2022 in-person travel to the US from May 15-June 12, 2022, only 23 of them were ready and/or able to benefit from this delayed opportunity. (Some changed jobs, others have continuing education related limitations, family or medical issues, or some are not vaccinated and cannot meet the CDC guidelines related to US entry requirements.)

Due to budget limitations( as the grant was extended with 12 months without additional funding) we needed to implement a shorter program for spring 2022 and we had to increase COVID-19 related additional measures to keep everyone safe.

Since all fellows already completed the 40 hours virtual program we reduced the time to 4-week in-person tailored internship at U.S. host organizations so fellows could gain practical experience from the every day activities at a civil society organization. Most fellows will be able to do their internship with the same organization where they had one year ago a virtual internship, but in cases where the fellow changed jobs and/or where the original host organization was not available we arranged a new U.S. Partner. European fellows are expected to learn new ideas and methods/tools that they are interested to introduce and/or implement in their home countries after their return. They will work with they U.S. mentors to create their Individual Project to complete in 6 months after returning home and in which U.S. mentors will help during their visiting Europe. During the internship fellows will plan their U.S. mentor's trip to Europe for the fall of 2022 (if the conditions will be safe to travel, by now also because of the war in Ukraine). This delegation will not have an opportunity to participate in an in-person Professional Fellows Congress, so they will not travel to Washington, D.C. either.

European will travel directly to their U.S. host organizations (23 fellows are placed in 13 states 19 host organizations) and return to Europe after 28 days (unless they decided to benefit from the extended stay opportunity that the J-1 visa allows on their own expenses for an additional up to 30 days travel in the U.S. after this program is completed.

Fellows will stay at volunteer host families arranged by the hosting organizations and will have an opportunity to learn about the American family life, traditions etc. Fellows will participate in weekly program assessment/reporting virtual meeting and both the arrival orientation and the program closing activities will be on-line with everyone involved. European fellows will contribute to their host communities through a volunteer community service experience, and they also offer presentations at community programs or at schools so more American can learn about their country, culture, their work, issues etc.

We thank All European Fellows, U.S. Partners, Country Directors and GLC Advisors for their involvement and support to this program as we needed to come up with innovative ideas for virtual learning and networking opportunities to make these 9 months of on-boarding experience useful and interesting for everyone involved.





**Ardit Vranici**  
Tirana, Albania  
ditiv@live.com

**Internship:**  
Rural Community Assistance  
Corporation (RCAC)  
Santa Fe, NM

Ardit Vranici is Head Officer of European Integration and Foreign Assistance at Dibër Municipality Albania, since 2017. During this time, he has written and implemented projects in the field of Youth, Disability and Tourism which were supported by different donors in Albania. He has been part of different trainings supported by EU Delegation in Albania, especially from "EU for Municipality Project" in the field of Fundraising and Local Self-government. In November 2019, he was part of a study tour for one week in Czech Republic with a focus on Local Self-government Fundraising, supported by TAIEX Program.

In 2019 based on his study taken for rural youths about "Entrepreneurship Intention" and based on the needs of the community, he co-founded the "Youth Entrepreneur Club" NGO.

Mr. Vranici has taken different initiatives with YEC like: Information Sessions about different programs supported by different donors in the field of Entrepreneurship; Advice about entrepreneurship initiatives; Trainings about soft skills; Business plan writing and management; Active support for new start-ups for their first two years.

He and the NGO he is part of, has had a direct impact in creation of many new start-ups in different fields like tourism, textile, agriculture etc.

Elona Xhepa works in Tirana, Albania, as a National Trial Monitoring Officer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a security oriented inter-governmental organization. Her work focuses on the monitoring of trials of serious corruption and organized crime cases before the Albanian Special Courts for Corruption and Organized Crime.

Ms. Xhepa has a strong history of involvement in human rights issues working with grassroots and community charities, and organizations in the Balkan region. She has been working as a lawyer in Albania during the last nine years and has held different positions. From working for several years in the civil law consulting sector, to the more recent years when she has been involved in the reforming of the country's justice system. As part of her current role, upon monitoring trial hearings and accessing case files, Ms. Xhepa is engaged in providing legal analysis of the findings comparing the level of compliance with Albanian legislation as well as case law from the European Court of Human Rights.

Ms. Xhepa obtains a Bachelors' Degree in Law from the University of Tirana in Albania, an LLM Master of Laws from the University of South Wales in the United Kingdom and has studied Political Science for one year as undergraduate exchange studies part of her first degree at the University of Montana in the United States of America.



**Elona Xhepa**  
Tirana, Albania  
elona\_xhepa@yahoo.com

**Internship:**  
Integrity Initiatives  
International (III)  
Boston, MA





## Gertjana Hasalla

Elbasan, Albania

[g.hasalla@live.com](mailto:g.hasalla@live.com)

**Internship:**  
**Women of Toledo (WOT)**  
**Toledo, OH**

Ms. Gertjana Hasalla started working with the Woman Forum Elbasan since April 2014, firstly as a volunteer showing commitment and contributing greatly to the better organization of activities. In 2015 she started coordinating projects in the field of environment, awareness raising and media campaigns on domestic violence and gender-based violence prevention. She is a self-driven individual with a great interest in women's rights, community organizing and leadership and is well-known in the community for her work on raising awareness against DV and GBV. Since February 2022, she started working for a national organization in Tirana called the **Centre for Labour Rights (CLR)** as a programme manager. In 2016 she was recognized by the Embassy of Sweden in Tirana as a young successful professional from the NGO field and in 2017 she was chosen by the Embassy of the United States of America in Tirana to be part of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), to learn more on the Role and Importance of Women NGOs.

Skilled in Language Development, Translation, Communication, Lecturing, and Academic Writing. Strong media and communication professional with a Master's Degree focused in Language Interpretation and Translation from University of Tirana. Besides the engagement with civil society, she is also actively engaged in teaching English for Specific Purposes at "Aleksander Xhuvani" University in Elbasan.

Her expectations from the program, to improve her effectiveness as a community leader, include gaining knowledge and skills on Leadership development; Diversity – the ability to interact with people from diverse backgrounds; Community involvement.

Klaudio Hyseni is the Executive Director of "Durrës Active" Center since May 2019. Its mission is to inspire and empower citizens towards activism by improving their lives through economic, political, environmental and social change. This is done by acting to better democracy standards, active citizenship, strong communities, equal opportunities, solidarity, volunteerism and the indisputable force of debate.

Its core values are: to promote democratic values and the rights of citizens; to create social mobility as a necessary tool for social change; to establish links and facilitate cooperation between institutions and stakeholders; to strengthen democracy at local and national level, including citizens.

Mr. Hyseni mostly works with the youth of Durrës City because it is one of the most vital parts of the society. He has volunteered at Student Government in high school and the Student Government at the Faculty of Social Science. He is ongoing with grassroot activism and, in collaboration with other activists, has started several movements such as, 'Bicycle Durrës' for cyclist rights, 'Durrës Active for a Clean Coast', the website [jamvullnetar.al](http://jamvullnetar.al) a platform for volunteering, etc. He has been elected as Bicycle Mayor of Durrës and represents the city to a global network "BYCS", a Dutch NGO for international cyclist lobbying.

Mr. Hyseni has a Master's Degree in Sociology from the University of Tirana, and a Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of "Aleksander Moisiu Durrës" in Albania. He speaks English and Italian, and has basic knowledge in Spanish and German.



## Klaudio Hyseni

Durres, Albania

[klaudio2005@hotmail.com](mailto:klaudio2005@hotmail.com)

**Internship:**  
**Action North Carolina**  
**(ACTION NC)**  
**Charlotte, NC**



## Kreshnik Hoxha

Tirana, Albania

nikuhoxha@gmail.com

Kreshnik Hoxha is an independent psychologist, activist and health advisor in the LGBT community in Albania. In the past two years he has been a Project Coordinator for Albanian Gay Lesbian Association (AGLA), the first LGBT Organization in Tirana, Albania under the project "Scaling up and ensuring the sustainability of the national response to HIV/AIDS and STI among the vulnerable population".

Prior he has worked for three years as a coordinator of public and international relations at the Order of Physicians.

He has been also involved in several social projects concerning marginalized groups such as Roma, poor families and youth in the past decade.

Mr. Hoxha has completed a Master's Degree in Organizational Psychology at the University of Tirana. He speaks fluent English both written and spoken, and has good knowledge of Italian, Spanish and German.

**Internship: FIERCE & Mothers on the Move  
New York City, NY**

## IN MEMORY OF DAVE BECKWITH



David L. Beckwith, a community organizer, mentor, advisor and friend of the GLC Professional Fellows program, died Feb. 22 2022 in his South Toledo home at age 71.

Dave was one of the people without whom our program would not even exist. His expertise was an immense benefit to the program, while he touched professionally and personally so many of us.

The GLC community launched a number of initiatives to commemorate Dave and his impact on all of us. We are building a video archive of him and launching a partnership program on his name, while also holding a special online event to recollect our nice memories of him, which took place on April 19th. None of this will be enough to fill the void he left in many of us, but it will hopefully help us continue the good fight, just as he would want us to. Dave will be forever missed!

## Fellows from BULGARIA



### Atanas Atanasov

Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria  
atanasov.eu@outlook.com

**Internship:**  
**Step by Step**  
**Charleston, WV**

Atanas Atanasov, has been working in Veliko Tarnovo as a local community development expert at the Amalipe Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance since 2018 but has been a volunteer at the Amalipe Center since 2014. Amalipe Center is a non-governmental organization that works for the equal integration of Roma in Bulgarian society. His work consists of building supervision of educational mediators and building good relationships between Roma community and institutions such as schools, municipalities, social institutions, and others.

Atanas has participated in various advocacy meetings at the national and international levels such as: "Raising participation of Roma and minority youth in European Parliamentary Election" in Brussels, Belgium, "Be the Change! Youth Exchange for Young Entrepreneurs" Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria. Atanas has also participated in numerous campaigns related to tolerance, traditions, folklore, and education of Roma children. One of them is the "Old equipment for a new beginning" campaign, in which people from all over the country joined in and donated their old and some new devices for children who needed distance learning devices during the pandemic.

Atanas is a student at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria, majoring in Marketing. He believes that real integration is possible through the inclusion of Roma in the country's economic processes.

Julia Andonova started her experience as an outreach worker, working with injecting drug-addicted users. Apart from that she also works night shifts at the organization's Crisis Center for Victims of Domestic Violence and Trafficking of Human Beings. As a volunteer at the Bulgarian Youth Red Cross, she participated in a series of community development educational modules. She has been involved in Bulgarian Red Cross volunteer initiatives from the age of 15.

Currently, Julia Andonova is a part of the management team of PULSE Foundation and is responsible for communications, donation and fundraising programs, networking, international relations, organization partnerships, and more. PULSE Foundation is one of the leading organizations in Bulgaria, committed to protecting human rights, providing direct support, and activating the community against violence and discrimination in all its forms. Julia Andonova is one of the key speakers of the organization and she expresses the organizational position on many related issues.

Julia Andonova has a Master's Degree in Practical Philosophy from the Neofit Rilski Southwestern University, Blagoevgrad. She also successfully graduated from the Leadership and Management Skills Program at the Dimitar Panitza Bulgarian Politics School towards NBU, as well as the London School for PR.



**Julia Andonova**  
Pernik, Bulgaria  
andonova.j@gmail.com

**Internship:**  
**Oak House**  
**Port Clinton, OH**





## Radoslav Atanasov

Varna, Bulgaria

[radoslav.atanasov92@gmail.com](mailto:radoslav.atanasov92@gmail.com)

Radoslav Atanasov is one of the first Volunteers and Mentors of the Social Teahouse NGO in Varna. The NGO main activity is supporting marginalized youth including from minority communities raised without parents via mentorship, training, learning activities and youth exchanges. In addition his responsibilities include training new volunteers, managing the volunteer group and regularly organizing different learning events for the children. Moreover, he has shown interest in various charities from a young age, and he was part of a group helping stray pets.

Mr. Atanasov obtained his Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Worms in Germany in 2017. During his study years, he has worked as an assistant teaching students about academic research. Mr. Atanasov enjoys learning new languages he knows German and Spanish at an intermediate level, and Russian at an elementary level.

**Internship:**  
**Alliance for Retired Americans**  
**Bloomington, IL**

Veselina Yurukova is a founder and Project manager of the Omega Association a non-profit organization set up in Kardzhali, Bulgaria in July 2012. Ms. Veselina Yurukova has a Master's Degree of Business Administration from the Plovdiv University, The Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences. She is currently working towards obtaining a Master's Degree in Political Management from the Sofia University.

Veselina has worked as a Council member at the Municipality of Kardzhali and the Political Youth Organization of GERB since 2011. Since 2013 she has been an associate of 3 Bulgarian MEPs in the European Parliament. Her work focuses on the empowering of local youth and on the participation of young people in social, political and civic decisions and activism in particular.

Through involving young people into these processes they become aware of the problems of the local community and they can manage different situations through dialogue with the policy makers or using the instruments of the democratic principles. Making young people part of the decision making process motivates them to stay and try to change their community improving the living conditions for everyone. The community in Kardzhali region is heterogeneous and consists of minority ethnic groups, culture and religion which makes working in such conditions a challenge for everyone who wants to preserve the spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue.

Through the years she has successfully implemented several youth projects of Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Erasmus+ Programme, Supporting Youth Policy Reform and other youth ideas and initiatives, together with the volunteers of the organization for youth activism.



## Veselina Yurukova

Kardzhali, Bulgaria  
[yurukova.v@gmail.com](mailto:yurukova.v@gmail.com)

**Internship:**  
**BG PCHELA - Bulgarian**  
**Education and Cultural Society**  
**Los Angeles, CA**



## Eva Toth-Kallo

Budapest, Hungary

[kalloevi@gmail.com](mailto:kalloevi@gmail.com)

**Internship:**  
Ecology Center  
Ann Arbor, MI

Eva Toth-Kallo works at Greenpeace in Budapest in fundraising and community organizing. Her specialty area is the organization of campaigns for community issues. During the past few years Ms. Toth-Kallo has learned a lot from civil non-professional communities and she has attended Human ecologist course, several trainings at Civil College Foundation, Greenpeace and other NGOs.

The name of their local community "Trees of Római" has been developing for more than 6 years due to a dangerous and environmentally damaging flood protection development at the Római Banks of the Danube. The civil group wants to stop this investment managed by real estate speculators, which has a negative effect on their quality of life and environment.

Ms. Toth-Kallo graduated from the Budapest Business School, Faculty of Commerce, Catering and Tourism in 2009, as a Bachelor of Science in Economics. She can speak English fluently and has basic language skills in Spanish.

Kristof Szollossy works at Good Issue Ltd. in Budapest as a project manager. His projects involve energy and climate issues, such as a campaign for motivating selective waste collection. He is working with two districts of Budapest on their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP). These action plans are put together by involving the community in the process and Mr. Szollossy's responsibilities include informing the public about the possibilities of participation and writing the reports on the effects and results of the test projects that were requested by the residents while also helping with implementing them.

Previously Mr. Szollossy worked at the Center for Independent Journalism where he helped with their Roma journalist program and helped organizing round-table discussions and conferences regarding the situation and opportunities of minorities especially in journalist training. He also worked as a communication consultant for the Open Circle Association. The Association works with the youth by performing semi-written dramas that involve the classmates and revolve around themes like (cyber)bullying, leadership, education and other things that are important for the given age group (they work with children from kindergarten to high school).

Mr. Szollossy is also a volunteer at the City and River Association where they have projects linked to the Danube by which they try to show people how the river banks can be used apart from highways on both sides of the city.



## Kristof Szollossy

Budapest, Hungary

[szollossy.kristof@gmail.com](mailto:szollossy.kristof@gmail.com)

**Internship:**  
Detroit Action  
Detroit, MI



## Nora Kiss

**Budapest, Hungary**  
**kiss.nora@me.com**

**Internship:**  
**Women of Toledo (WOT)**  
**Toledo, OH**

Nóra Kiss works for the mayor of the local government of the Second District of Budapest as a senior consultant. She is working on projects related to cultural issues, community building, inequality and social responsibility.

Ms Kiss is in charge of strategic planning. She monitors trends in Hungary and implement international best practices into the district's future planning. Her focus is on the identity-shaping role of the culture so she is cooperating organically with cultural opinion leaders. She is working on an outdoor exhibition project about the local history of the area.

Ms. Kiss is committed to inspire dialogues so she initiated a series of talk shows which intended to fill a gap in Hungarian public life. In this program the thematic occasions that occur every month, experts and public figures like actors, musicians and influencers talk about gender roles, domestic violence or abuses at work.

Ms. Kiss has graduated in Pedagogy at University of Szeged and holds an MA diploma in Sociology at Eötvös University. As a lifelong learner she is about to finish her MA Minority Studies. She speaks English fluently and has basic language skills in French.

Ms. Kiss has experience in working at government, cultural institutions and local government sectors as well.

Zsuzsanna Gutjahr is working as a Coordinator for C8 Civil Society and for Harmonium Association. Both organizations are focusing on working for solidarity, sustainability and civic participation. The C8 is a new NGO which works for the change in VIII district of Budapest to improve the life of the poor and disadvantaged groups like Roma and youth. From 2010 Ms. Gutjahr has been mentor of youth programs and project managers of educational development programs. Her tasks include trainings, workshops and network organizing, both in countrywide programs and in programs focusing on VIII district.

Ms. Gutjahr is now an external committee member of Józsefváros local Council and represents the C8, and she is Coordinator of "engagement and growth group" at C8. In the previous year, Ms. Gutjahr has started to work intensively on „clean election” program as a coordinator. The campaign was initiated by four NGOs in order to curb election fraud in Hungary. As part of the project, 20 online day-long workshops were organized, where activists about the theoretical background and practical execution of election manipulation were trained. The campaign was independent, called attention to attempts at fraud coming from any political side, and assisted the victims' cases with no regard to their ballot.

Ms. Gutjahr studied Civil and Community Development, MA specialization at the Eötvös University between 2010-13. She graduated as a Teacher from the Teacher Training College of Eger in 1997. Also she participated in several international and local trainings to become a Trainer and Mentor.



## Zsuzsanna Gutjahr

**Budapest, Hungary**  
**zsuzsanna.gutjahr@gmail.com**

**Internship:**  
**Massachusetts Communities**  
**Action Network (MCAN)**  
**Dorchester (Boston), MA**





## Alexandra Tomescu

**Bucharest, Romania**  
**ale.tomescu@gmail.com**

**Internship:**  
**Detroit Action**  
**Detroit, MI**

Alex Tomescu has been working since 2012 for different local non-profit organizations, such as A.R.T. Fusion, One world Romania and 4Change Association. Alex traveled a lot to different areas from Romania, Europe, Asia, and Africa to conduct local projects. The projects they have been involved in are aimed at sustainable development of the region, especially through empowering and training the locals in order to identify what needs they have and how to address them locally. Most of Alex's professional activity is in rural, vulnerable communities, working as a community facilitator and have a long-term involvement in different communities, where they are supporting the community by developing social services, trainings, fundraising and capacity building activities. Alex has also been volunteering in various projects throughout the years, mainly with Roma communities and women in rural areas that have been victims of domestic violence. They have been collaborating with relevant NGOs and local institutions since 2018 in an advocacy campaign to support the ratifying and implementation of the Istanbul Convention, which addresses gender-based domestic violence. Alex is also passionate about climate justice and is working since 2018 with communities across the Danube River in Romania.

Alex graduated from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies with a Cybernetics degree and started to work in civil society since 2012 when they became a Theatre of the Oppressed facilitator. Ever since, Alex trained many groups and empowered rural communities to identify local issues, stand up for their needs and organize local campaigns.

Bogdan Tomozii is one of the founding members of the the Active Development Association, A.D.A Bacau which aims to create opportunities for young people from rural areas and from vulnerable discriminated minorities. He is also involved in environment education and citizenship education by raising awareness about the importance of preserving our community green areas for a healthy lifestyle. As Vice-President he works as Volunteer Coordinator and Logistical Officer in since 2012. He is especially fond on projects related to nature conservation trying to solve environmental problems in the rural areas. He is involved in organizing a non-formal education summer festival "Days of Gheraiesti Park", a long term campaign born 6 years ago from the necessity of raising awareness about the slow distruction of one of the most appreciated nearby city green areas, the Gheraiesti Park, Bacau.

Bogdan has been a volunteer for already more than 10 years, working with nature conservation organizations and being involved as a consultant in raising awareness on local environment issues and training the representatives of local communities in solving the specific problems.

Bogdan has a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the University of Bacau, and Ph.D. Degree in Biology/Entomology from the University "Al. I. Cuza" in Iasi. He is also a certificated Trainer and Youth worker. He is fluent in English and has basic language skills in French and German.



## Bogdan-Ionut Tomozii

**Bacau, Romania**  
**bogdantomozei@yahoo.com**

**Internship:**  
**Communities United**  
**Chicago, IL**



## Gabriela Anghel

**Bucharest, Romania**  
**[gabrianghel@gmail.com](mailto:gabrianghel@gmail.com)**

**Internship:**  
**Citizen Action of New York**  
**Albany, NY**

Gabriela Anghel began her volunteer work for a neighborhood initiative group in Bucharest in 2015. Floreasca Civica, the group for whom she volunteers, is an informal initiative created by volunteers with the mission to take actions against the public institutions which allow and encourage real estate developments on the green spaces between old buildings or in parks and, at the same time, to increase people's participation in the decision-making process.

In her work, she combines community organizing with monitoring the public agenda and the activities of the Municipality. She organizes public meetings in her neighborhood and brings people who deal with the same issues together. She often participated in the City Council Meetings advocating for her community. In the last 2 years, her main focus was political community organizing. In 2016 and 2020, she volunteered in organizing The Candidates' Forums for the local elections in Bucharest, which was organized entirely by citizens. Then, in 2019, she organized a public meeting between the community and the candidates of the six main political parties for the EU Parliament.

Gabriela has a Master's Degree in Communication at the University of Bucharest, completed a Master program in Political Theory at the Università degli Studi di Cagliari as an Erasmus Student and holds a BA in Political Sciences at the University of Bucharest. She works for a nonprofit in Bucharest facilitating access to tech tools for more than 4000 Romanian non-profits.

Ioana Dumitrescu works in community organizing as part of the Romanian NGO MozaiQ, in Bucharest. Her journey in the field of Human Rights began as a volunteer in the NextGen program - a rigorous six month 'activist-in-training' informal bootcamp and her first international experience came upon attending and graduating the Activist Academy organized by IGLYO in Portugal in 2019.

The projects she has been involved are aimed at the sustainable development of the LGBTQIA+ community, especially through building social groups in major Romanian cities, offering special care to the needs of a diversity of groups inside the community as well as creating leadership in six under-represented categories (Roma, Transgender, Sex Workers, Seniors over 45, Women and PLHIV), increasing the visibility of the community in the public sphere, engaging with the alternative culture scene while organizing the community through the creative use of entertainment (e.g. the Pride/History Month array of events), empowering and training members in self-representation and advocating for equal rights and protection for LGBTQIA+ people.

Since 2020, Ioana has been a key part of numerous projects, taking on roles such as communications specialist, event organizer, volunteer coordinator and has been elected vice president of MozaiQ.

Ioana graduated from the Bucharest Spiru Haret University, Faculty of Journalism, Communications and Public Relations in 2011, with a Bachelor in Communication Science.



## Ioana Dumitrescu

**Bucharest, Romania**  
**[dumitrescuioana30@yahoo.com](mailto:dumitrescuioana30@yahoo.com)**

**Internship:**  
**FIERCE & Mothers on the Move**  
**New York City, NY**



## Loredana Gabriela Pana

Bucharest, Romania

loredana.pana90210

@gmail.com

**Internship:**  
**Environmental League of**  
**Massachusetts (ELM)**  
**Boston, MA**

Loredana Gabriela Pana has 12 years of experience in NGOs that deal with social, humanitarian, cultural, educational, and environmental projects in Romania. Since 2015, she has been working for the Ecopolis association, based in Bucharest, but she travels a lot to Danube Delta to carry out local projects. The projects she has been involved in are aimed in sustainable development of the region, especially through empowering and training the locals to identify alternative sources of income, with a low environmental impact. Most of her professional activity is in rural, vulnerable communities, working as a project manager or community facilitator. In 2018 she started a project to transform a building into a Community Center and created the Summer School for Arts and Crafts, a multiannual program of documentation, conservation, and theoretical and practical learning on the deltaic intangible cultural heritage. In 2019 she organized the second edition of the summer school and two medical caravans at the Community Center - gynaecological and dental for children.

Since last year, Loredana has started a collaboration with Greener Association (Mai Mult Verde) and coordinates ecological education projects in areas affected by environmental pollution. Founded in 2008, Greener Association has been carrying out projects in environmental protection that are in line with its mission: building and strengthening the volunteering for nature culture in Romania.

Loredana has an MA in Risk Groups and Social Support Services within the Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance at the Bucharest University in 2017. She spent the last year of the MA program in Berlin, at the Alice Salomon University, with an Erasmus scholarship. She also has a BA in Journalism, and after 3 years in the media, she started her activity in non-governmental organizations.

Olga Popescu has dedicated her time to the non-profit sector in Romania, for the past 5 years working as a media officer, communication specialist, researcher, and finally found a true calling as an organizer at Declic NGO. Since embarking on big organizing with a community of now 800k people of all backgrounds, she has put together protests, flash-mobs, photo opportunities, canvassing, direct actions in a series of institutions, informative campaigns via mail, and a massive concert to encourage voting. There is a varied array of themes she has worked on: from the climate crisis, fighting for an inclusive society and fundamental rights, all the way to anti-corruption. Declic brings innovative strategies when organizing events in order to attract people, the media, and politician's attention, and make the issue more visible to the public.

Olga Popescu is part of a progressive movement and knows how hard it is to change people's opinions on delicate issues, so she approaches the actions she organizes with an out-of-the-box attitude and tries to make them as creative as possible. In June, she went with a beaver mascot in the Parliament to explain to legislators why rivers need protection. In December, volunteers carolled the Constitutional Court demanding social justice.

She is sociable and upbeat, so constantly communicating with volunteers and community leaders is a delight to her. As an energetic person, she believes offline events are the key to making issues truly known to the public and thus bringing the change she wants to see in society.



## Olga Popescu

Bucharest, Romania

olga@declic.ro

**Internship:**  
**Working Family Party**  
**Philadelphia, PA**





## Petra Iuliana Pintelei

Bucharest, Romania  
petra.ip594@gmail.com

Petra Iuliana Pintelei is a public servant in the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities, Child Protective Services and Adoption, as well as the President and Founder of the Starlight Petra organization based in Bucharest. Both her job and NGO work require her to lobby and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and together with them in order to encourage combating bullying, discrimination and to provide opportunities to work and integrate in society. She is working in the state office since 2016 and her organization started in 2013.

Petra has been volunteering with various charities throughout the years, mainly with Light-Into-Europe, a British organization who started the guide dog program in Romania and has contributed with advocacy speeches in the European Parliament and other European institutions.

Petra has a Master's Degree in Diplomacy from the Faculty of History at the University of Bucharest, and has graduated in 2018.. She is fluent in English, Spanish and Turkish, can speak Russian.

**Internship:**  
Source America  
Vienna, VI

# THANK YOU



TO OUR GLC PROJECT ADVISORS:  
**CRIS DOBY, SONDR  
YOUDELMAN, MO GEORGE,  
MARTIN NAGY AND CHUCK HIRT!**



TO OUR COUNTRY DIRECTORS IN EUROPE:

**ENKELA PORO & AIDA CIRO IN ALBANIA  
VLADISLAV PETKOV & EMIL METODIEV IN BULGARIA  
PETER SZABADOS & MONIKA BALINT IN HUNGARY  
ALEXANDRU PALAS & ANDA SERBAN IN ROMANIA  
MIROSLAV RAGAC & MAROS CHMELIK IN SLOVAKIA**





**Andrej  
Navojsky**

**Bratislava, Slovakia**

**andrej.navojsky  
@gmail.com**

**Internship:  
Action North Carolina  
(ACTION NC)  
Charlotte, NC**

Andrej Navojsky is a Senior Trainer and Curriculum Designer in the field of intercultural, anti-discrimination and diversity education working for the Milan Simecka Foundation (MSF) since 2012. MSF is one of the oldest NGOs in Slovakia which focuses on: education projects dealing with diversity and sensitive issues of the past, active citizenship projects, inclusive measures in schools and municipalities and organising fjužn festival aimed at new minorities living in Slovakia.

Mr. Navojsky main focus is on both formal and non-formal education. His recent projects dealt with tackling extremism and radicalization amongst youth through artistic methods such as Theatre of the Oppressed, video and visual arts (project "Students against extremism"); mainstreaming issues of identity, prejudices and diversity into primary school curriculum (project "Diverse schools"); Forum theatre play with the small community of refugees, migrants and expats living in Slovakia (project "Through theatre towards openness").

Mr. Navojsky also collaborates with other Slovak NGOs as a Mentor, Consultant and Trainer. He recently finished his work for Mareena as a Coordinator of community activities for refugees and as a Facilitator and Mentor in the European project "Unity in Community" that aims at fostering active citizenship and community organizing among people with the refugee and migrant background. Mr. Navojsky is a mentor for teachers in primary schools for the organization Indicia.

Mr. Navojsky holds a diploma in History and Pedagogy and graduated with his Master's Degree from the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. He speaks English, Czech and Polish languages. In June 2022, after his return from the US internship, Mr. Navojsky will join National institute for education as a curriculum designer for primary schools.

Jan Galik is a community organizer and activist, his main focus is organising cultural events and community activities with the goal to strengthen civic society and the participation of communities on local issues, but also greater challenges that we face as a society. He works with many cultural institutions and community organisations. Over the past 10 years he organised exhibitions, workshops, festivals, community gatherings and discussions. In 2015 he founded a grassroots organisation called KLUB in Košice, Slovakia. It's the first of its kind in Slovakia - a non-formal community without any state funding or grants. Working closely with disadvantaged groups and minorities such as the Roma population, homeless people and the LGBT community bringing art, activism and social work together to spread the values of solidarity and equality.

He is one of the founders and coordinators of Za slušné Slovensko - a civic movement that was formed after the murder of investigative journalist Jan Kuciak. A grassroots movement that organised the biggest protests in the history of Slovakia demanding a better government and changes in the police department. As a result, huge political changes happened. Over the two and a half years in this movement he organised many protests, discussions, wrote many articles and travelled around Slovakia many times spreading the ideas of a civic society being one of the pillars of a truly free and democratic country. He worked with the European youth exchange program focusing on social entrepreneurship and social change.



**Jan Galik**

**Kosice, Slovakia**

**jan.galik@gmail.com**

**Internship:  
United Vision for Idaho  
Boise, ID**



## Ondrej Druga

Banska Bystrica,  
Slovakia

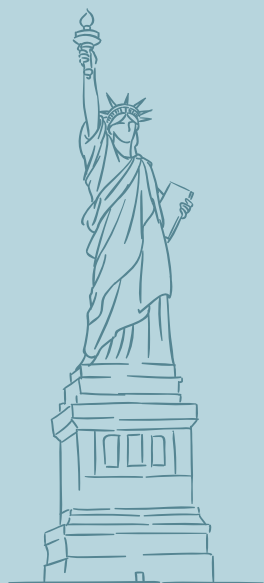
ondrejdruga@gmail.com

**Internship:**  
Faith in Indiana  
Indianapolis, IN

Ondrej Druga is a community organizer focused on community organizing in Christian and religious communities of the Banská Bystrica region. Ondrej is also a leader of an initiative Christians against hate (Kresťania proti nenávisti) that he had founded in early 2020 to mobilize Christian community to combat hate and racism in the country.

He is active also in deradicalization and anti-fascist activities: in 2017 he cooperated with a civic platform Nie v našom meste/ Not in our town by organization of anti-fascist and anti-extremist discussions. In this year the regional elections took place when the most known Slovak neo-Nazi politician – Marian Kotleba – was one of the strongest candidates for Banská Bystrica region president. During the 2020 parliamentary election in Slovakia Mr. Druga initiated and co-organized the campaign Kresťania proti nenávisti / Christians against hate. The reasons for this activity were similar – the Kotleba's neo-Nazi party was one of the strongest parties in January, inter alia thanks to the big support from Slovak Christians.

During the summer 2020 he started to contact and network active religious leaders in Banská Bystrica, what subsequently culminated by establishing of Christian Platform of Banská Bystrica. The main goal of this initiative is to network active people from faith communities and activate more of them in the social justice issues. The first issue is the activity for opening a low-threshold shelter for homeless people. Besides that, they started to organize another two housing issue campaigns – organization of municipal social housing clients and housing issues of young people in Banská Bystrica.



# THANK YOU

TO **LINNEA ALLISON**, PROGRAM OFFICER AT THE US  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND  
THE **U.S. EMBASSIES** IN 5 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES:  
TIRANA, ALBANIA; SOFIA, BULGARIA; BUDAPEST,  
HUNGARY; BUCHAREST, ROMANIA  
AND BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

AND OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS IN EUROPE:

ALBANIA



BULGARIA



HUNGARY



ROMANIA



SLOVAKIA



CENTRUM  
KOMUNITNEHO  
ORGANIZOVANIA



# THANK YOU

TO US MENTORS AND TRAINERS FROM  
13 STATES AND 19 ORGANIZATIONS FOR  
SHARING THEIR TIME AND KNOWLEDGE,  
AND WORKING WITH OUR FELLOWS

Kalin Kroumov

Adrienne Evans

Maria Degillo

Louis Goseland

Rev. Andre Stoner

Lewis Finfer

Ellen Macaulay

Ian Lynch

Mackenzie Munro

Joanna Velazquez

Blanca Surgeon

Mustafa Sullivan

Wanda Salaman

Mo George

Gabriel Silva

Hector Vaca

Nina Corder

Kristen Gerwin

Nelini Stamp

Amy Stapley

Michael Tierney

BG PCHELA - Bulgarian Education and  
Cultural Society

United Vision for Idaho

Communities United

Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans

Faith in Indiana

Massachusetts Communities Action  
Network

Environmental League of Massachusetts

Integrity Initiatives International

Ecology Center

Detroit Action

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

FIERCE

Mothers on the Move

Citizen Action of New York

Action North Carolina (ACTION NC)

Women of Toledo (WOT)

Oak House

Working Families Party

SourceAmerica

Step by Step

Los Angeles, CA

Boise, ID

Chicago, IL

Bloomington, IL

Indianapolis, IN

Dorchester, MA

Boston, MA

Boston, MA

Ann Arbor, MI

Detroit, MI

Santa Fe, NM

New York, NY

New York, NY

New York, NY

Albany, NY

Charlotte, NC

Toledo, OH

Port Clinton, OH

Philadelphia, PA

Vienna, VI

Charleston, WV



# THE LONG ROAD AHEAD VIRTUAL TRAINING



# THANK YOU

to US Trainers and GLC Advisors who helped us to complete 6-month virtual training "Long Road Ahead" (LRA) as part of the Virtual Professional Fellows Program.

LRA training series were focused on community organizing and governance.

We appreciate the interest and the dedication of our Professional Fellows to explore new online teaching tools and their active participation to the LRA training and in all other extra-curricular and alumni engagement opportunities during the 9-months while their U.S. travel was delayed multiple times due to the pandemic.

THANK YOU TO Country Directors and the U.S. and European Alumni for additional support!

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL PH

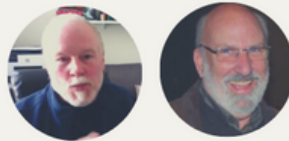


**AUG 31ST 2020**

Intro, elevator pitch, community interventions with **Deb Martin, Dave Beckwith and Martin Nagy**

**SEPT 29TH 2020**

History and principles of community organizing with **James Field and Chuck Hirt**



**OCT 7TH 2020**

Community organizing cycle and entering the community with **Hector Vaca**



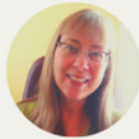
**OCT 29TH 2020**

Listening to the community and one-on-one with **Louis Goseland**



**NOV 9TH 2020**

Leadership building and cutting an issue with **Sarah Jane Knoy**



**NOV 24TH 2020**

Governance, political system and political organizing with **Paula Hicks-Hudson and Louis Goseland**



**DEC 9TH 2020**

Power with **Brian Silva**



**JAN 14TH 2021**

Reflection on field work and community organizing experience

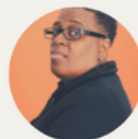


**JAN 25TH 2021**

Campaigning with **Lew Finfer**

**FEB 9TH 2021**

Campaigning: Direct Actions with **Mo George**



**FEB 24TH 2021**

Community meetings with **Leah Torrey**



**MARCH 18TH 2021**

Cultural differences and closing

# SPECIAL THANKS

to all host families from 13 states who offered to host the spring 2022 delegation in their home during the U.S. fellowship:

## **California**

Todor Trenkov

## **Idaho**

Karen Evans

## **Illinois**

Joe and Yerandi Maigua,  
Hannah Willage & Zack Schroeder,  
Louis Goseland

## **Indiana**

Victor & Nancy Myers

## **Massachusetts**

Lew Finfer & Judy Shea,  
Pamela Pierce,  
Sydney Hanlon,  
Diane Gantman & Bob Weiss

## **Michigan**

Bryan & Layale Weinert,  
Joanna Velazquez

## **New Mexico**

Blanca Surgeon

## **New York**

Wanda Salaman  
Rosemary Rivera & Jasmine Gripper

## **North Carolina**

Betsy Rosen & Liam Stokes,  
Alexis Gordon  
Ann Primacio

## **Ohio**

Carol LaBounty,  
Kristen & Doug Gerwin

## **Pennsylvania**

Nelini Stamp

## **Utah**

Amy Stapley

## **West Virginia**

Michael Tierney, Mary Tierney,  
Marcell St. Germain





# GLCAP / GLC SPRING 2022 PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM FOR ALBANIA, BULGARIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA AND SLOVAKIA

MAY 15TH - JUNE 12TH 2022

ALBANIA



**Ardit  
Vranici**



**Elona  
Xhepa**



**Gertjana  
Hasalla**



**Klaudio  
Hyseni**



**Kreshnik  
Hoxha**



PROFESSIONAL  
FELLOWS

BULGARIA



**Atanas  
Atanasov**



**Julia  
Andonova**



**Radoslav  
Atanasov**



**Veselina  
Yurukova**



**Eva Toth-  
Kallo**



**Kristof  
Szollossy**



**Nora  
Kiss**



**Zsuzsanna  
Gutjahr**

HUNGARY

GREAT LAKES CONSORTIUM  
FOR INTERNATIONAL  
TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Great Lakes  
COMMUNITY ACTION  
PARTNERSHIP



**Andrej  
Navojsky**



**Jan  
Galik**



**Ondrej  
Druga**

SLOVAKIA



**Alexandra  
Tomescu**



**Bogdan-Ionut  
Tomozii**

ROMANIA



**Gabriela  
Anghel**



**Ioana  
Dumitrescu**



**Loredana  
Pana**



**Olga  
Popescu**



**Petra Iuliana  
Pintelei**