



STAY ENGAGED: Upcoming events



17-20 November 2022, Pecs (Hungary)

GLC In-person International Reunion is CONFIRMED!

We can now confirm that an in-person international reunion will take place between November 17th and 20th 2022 in Hungary!

You can still express your interest to join by filling up [this short form](#) not later than August 10th 2022.

See details below!

CONFIRMED

GLC IN-PERSON INTERNATIONAL REUNION: 10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

17-20 NOVEMBER 2022 **PECS, HUNGARY**

EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST NOW!

PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS GLC Alumni Network GREAT LAKES CONSORTIUM FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT Great Lakes COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

[Express your interest here!](#)

STAY INFORMED: News Bites

A Decade of Success



We celebrate 10 years anniversary with a reunion in Hungary in November!

We can now confirm that an in-person international reunion will take place between November 17th and 20th 2022 in Hungary! As we have received an approval from the Department of State, we are excited

to see many of you and celebrate together the 10th anniversary of our GLC Professional Fellows Program!

So far, 58 people have expressed their interest to join and you can still do so by filling up [this short form](#) not later than August 10th 2022. This does not guarantee participation but we will contact those who have expressed interest first, once the venue is confirmed and official registration is open later in August. As always, we expect co-payment of \$100 by all participants, due in advance and non-refundable.

The preliminary plan for the reunion is for participants to arrive in Budapest on November 16th, where some joint activities will be also offered. On November 17th everyone will travel to Pecs for professional and cultural program on 17th, 18th and 19th of November. November 20th will be a departure day.

Hungarian alumni and country coordinators are working on the program and are open for support and suggestions from everyone, so that we can all leave with learning, contacts, ideas and inspiration, as we always have in previous reunions.

This will be the 6th in-person international reunion of alumni and mentors of the GLC Pro Fellows program. The first one took place in June 2014 in Bulgaria and was followed by events in Hungary (September 2016), Slovakia (June 2017), Romania (September 2018) and Bulgaria (June 2019). Due to COVID-19, in 2020 and 2021 we held our reunions virtually.

Outbound travels: U.S. mentors in Europe

As our 23 European fellows from the Spring 2022 delegation completed successfully their program in the U.S., it is now time for their mentors to travel to Europe.

Nelini Stamp (Working Families Party, PA) was the first mentor to undertake her outbound travel and to work with her mentee Ogla Popescu (Romania). The timing of the trip also allowed Nelini to join the Citizen Participation University 2022, which is traditionally taking place in Kunbábony (Hungary) and organized by our partners at European Community Organizing Network (ECON).

For her trip in Central and Eastern Europe Nelini says: "The pandemic tried to trick us into believing we would never see each other again but community always survives and thrives. Internationalism and international progressive and organizing collaboration will always lift my spirits."



Meanwhile, in this very moment, U.S. mentor Kalin Krumov (Pchela, CA) is



in Kardzhali, Bulgaria, working with his fellow Veselina Yurukova. Kalin is spending the last week of July with Veselina, exploring the potential for mobilizing small village communities around cultural projects and training young leaders.

15 more U.S. mentors have already planned their trips to Europe before

the end of the year. Stay tuned!

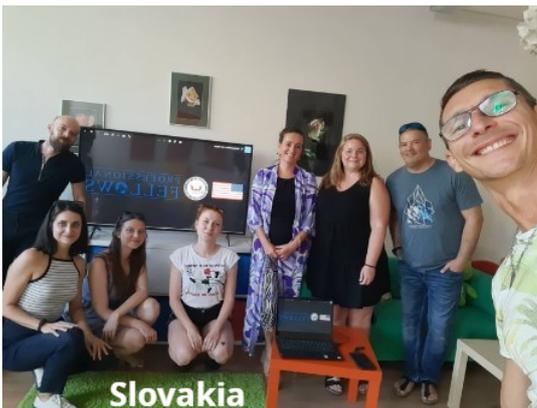
30 fellows finished their pre-program training and will form our next two delegations to the U.S.

30 future fellows from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia successfully completed their pre-program training. In May and June they spent at least 20 hours taking part in international and national training sessions as well as alumni program events. While international activities were always held virtually, some countries took the chance to organize training session in-person (see photos below).

We use the chance to thank all country directors, U.S. mentors and alumni who volunteered to support the learning process of our fellows!

18 of the 30 fellows are currently undergoing visa application process as they are expected to travel to the U.S. in the second part of September to form our Fall 2022 delegation. The other 12 will travel in the Spring of 2023.

Welcome to the GLC family, fellows!



We will support 6 trips across

the ocean to boost strategic partnerships

Six people, GLC alumni and mentors, are expected to travel across the ocean with the support of our Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program. In the debut round of the program, which was announced this spring, we have received an overall of 7 applications. The GLC Alumni Network Advisory Board, on a virtual meeting on May 30th, approved six trips to support strategic partnerships: 2 from Albania, 2 from Bulgaria, 1 from Romania and 1 from the U.S. These projects will be supported with up to \$1500 for transportation and related costs. Five of the six people are expected to travel by the end of 2022, but preparations are still on the way. We will keep everyone informed for the progress of the program.

The Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program is an alumni community initiative and is fully funded by the financial contributions of our GLC family and friends during our 2021 fundraising campaign. Thank you!



DAVE BECKWITH MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM 2022

STAY INSPIRED: Alumni stories



Local Democratic Hub launched in Hungary

A new program, called Local Democratic Hub, was launched in Hungary by our partners Civil College Foundation and led by our alumnus and country coordinator Peter Szabados. The hub brings together local politicians and community organizations to work on important issues that can be solved

locally. The first round of the program will engage 9 representatives from 6 local governments from Budapest and Pest counties. During the first meeting of the hub they began mapping the most important local issues.



First youth festival marks policy change in a small town in Bulgaria

In the fall of 2021 two Bulgarian alumni – Nevena Pashova (Spring 2015) and Georgi Nikolov (Spring 2018) – received a small grant by the GLC program for study visits between the youth communities they work with in

the small towns of Chepelare and Samokov, respectively. During these study visits, an idea was born: organizing the first youth festival in Chepelare. Less than an year later, and after follow-up trainings and consultancy, the festival took place in the beginning of July 2022.

Funded by the municipality of Chepelare, the fest marks a shift of policy and gives hope for more investments in young people by local authorities. More importantly, the fest empowers the local youth group in Chepelare which is already looking ahead at new initiatives. One of the youth leaders there – Kostadin Belenozov – is among our new cohort of fellows and is expected to travel to the US in the spring of 2023.

STAY REFLECTIVE: The Long Read



[Wordgathering: A Journal of Disability Poetry and Literature](#)

Interview with U.S. mentor Elizabeth L. Sammons

The new summer issue of the *Wordgathering: A Journal of Disability Poetry and Literature* features an interview with our U.S. mentor Elizabeth L. Sammons in which she talks about her childhood, her special relationship with literature, words and information, her connection to faith, among other topics.

We thought this interview might be a nice way to mark the anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act, which became law in July 1990.

Here is a teaser to the interview:

And I also sometimes would challenge people's words. I remember there was a certain agency I won't name that was talking about the burden of blindness and I said, "yeah i'm not going to say being blind is easy, but the word 'burden' is such a negative word, can you put this in different language?" They very quickly did so. So a lot of my reading and writing has been being a collector of information and kind of a watch person and a listening person to try to help people think about their language and be mindful of the way that they voice things.

[Read the full interview](#)



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GLC Alumni Network

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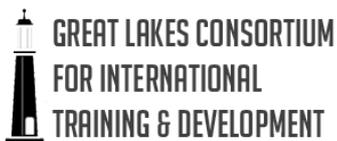
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The GLC Alumni Network is administratively managed in Europe by our Bulgarian partner Pro European Network.



PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS

