



## STAY ENGAGED: Upcoming events



**GLC IN-PERSON INTERNATIONAL REUNION: 10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY**

**16 NOVEMBER 2022**                      **BUDAPEST**  
**17-20 NOVEMBER 2022**                      **PECS**



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

16-20 November 2022, Pecs (Hungary)

### GLC In-person International Reunion: 10 Years Anniversary

Our first international in-person reunion since the pandemic, is in the making! Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the GLC Professional Fellows program, the event will include a series of events in Budapest (November 16th 2022) and Pecs (between November 17th and 20th 2022)!

**The registration for the international reunion is now closed!**

Stay tuned for news.

15 06 15 45

Days                      Hours                      Minutes                      Seconds

**U.S. MENTORS FORUM**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**TUESDAY DEC 6TH 2022 12 PM EST**

 zoom     **60 MIN**



35 09 15 45

# GROWING TOGETHER:

*ReThink series*

zoom

90 MIN

**MONDAY,  
DEC 12TH  
2022**

**THE FIRST ROUND OF THE DAVE BECKWITH  
MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM**

41

09

15

45

Days
Hours
Minutes
Seconds

## STAY INFORMED: News Bites

### A Decade of Success

#### Recruiting US mentors to host European fellows: Spring 2023

We are looking for U.S. professionals in community organizing and advocacy to host 2 European Fellows from our Spring 2023 delegation. Hosting is for four weeks with approximate dates May 5th through June 1st 2023.

The Spring 2023 European Fellows are from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia and include mid-career professionals who focus on gender equity and women's issues, youth empowerment, minority and rural education, healthcare access, immigrant and refugee rights, and LGBTQ+ youth organizing.

Those selected to be U.S. Mentors will have the opportunity for an expenses-paid reciprocal trip to Central and Eastern Europe. They will also gain access to the GLC international alumni network of more than 130 U.S. Mentor and 300 European Fellow alumni.

U.S. Mentors are expected to find and coordinate U.S. host families for their European fellows. Stipends for food and transportation will be provided to European Fellows.

The GLC Professional Fellows Program is supported and funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Please reach out to GLC Program Staff Brittany Ford [at bbford@glcap.org](mailto:bbford@glcap.org) with any questions or concerns.



RECRUITING U.S. MENTORS

For European Fellows from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania & Slovakia

SPRING 2023 PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM: EMPOWERING CITIZEN-LED DEMOCRACY

PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS

SPRING 2023 DELEGATIONS

[Read full announcement and apply](#)



## Fall 2022 delegation is now back together in Washington, D.C.

The GLC/GLCAP Professional Fellows Fall 2022 delegation has now come back together in Washington, D.C. After spending 4 weeks in their placements across the U.S., our fellows from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia are

back together and spent Friday, October 28th for peer learning and sharing experience.

As of November 1st, the delegation will join their peers from other Professional Fellows programs during the Congress “The Power of Purpose: Global Leaders Navigating a Reconnected World”. The three-days event will mark the end of our program on November 4th.

Read more about the program, our 15 fellows and their US hosting organizations in our [special newsletter](#).

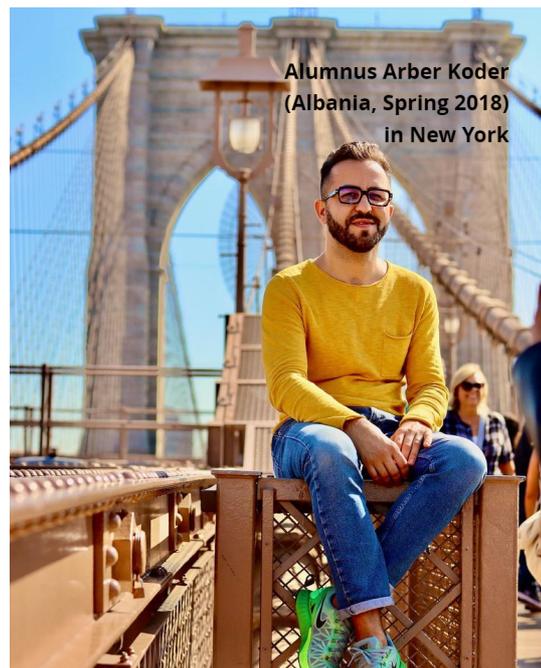
[Access Fall 2022 Delegation Special Newsletter](#)

## Three more successful trips concluded under the Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program

Three more European fellows completed successfully their trips to the U.S. in October 2022 under our [Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnership program](#).

Alumnus Arber Kodra (Albania, Spring 2018) returned to New York, NY, where he initially did his placement back in 2018, to learn and work on LGBTIQ-related issues.

Brejdon Xhavara (Albania, Spring 2019) travelled to Orlando, FL, to boost his community media competencies and produce a documentary.



Alumnus Arber Kodra  
(Albania, Spring 2018)  
in New York

Dilyana Gyurova (Bulgaria, Spring 2015) spent a week in Charleston (WV) and a week in Rochester (NY) to learn about organizing around education. Read a testimony of Dilyana below in the newsletter!

With these three trips, the pilot edition of our program has now successfully supported an overall of five trips to enhance strategic partnerships between Europe and the US. We are looking forward to support more initiatives next year if we are successful in our [fundraising campaign](#). See more details on supporting these efforts below in the newsletter.

We will also hear from people who benefited from this program during our in-person reunion in November and at our special virtual ReThink event 'Growing Together' on December 12th 2022, 12 pm US EST / 6 pm CET. Save the date!



## **DAVE BECKWITH MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM**

**The program was piloted in 2022 and we have already supported 5 people who travelled on it:**

				
<b>Arber Kodra (Albania) in New York, NY</b>	<b>Brejdon Xhavera (Albania) in Orlando, FL</b>	<b>Dilyana Gyurova (Bulgaria) in Rochester, NY</b>	<b>Krasimir Chervenkov (Bulgaria) in Columbus, OH</b>	<b>Leah Torrey (US) in Budapest, Hungary</b>



### **GLC/GLCAP Professional Fellows program pioneers reflected on the program 10 years later**

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the GLC Professional Fellows

Program, we wanted to hear from the pioneers of the program who first travelled to the US and Europe, respectively, back in 2012. We had the chance to do that during our special ReConnect virtual event, which took place on October 12th 2022.

During the event we heard from Marton Gosztanyi (HU), Veronika Strelcova (SK), Maryana Borisova (BG), Tamas Avar (HU) who were all part of our first European delegation to the U.S. in the spring of 2012. US mentors Juli Bertalan and Luke Allen also shared their reflection 10 years after hosting in the US and/or being part of the first outbound delegation to travel to Europe.

Other 2012 pioneers also joined the event, including Emil Metodiev (BG), Lavinia Chiburte (RO), Sondra Youdelmand and Mo George (US). A special video message was also sent by our Slovak alumnus Martin Micek.

Recording of the event is available upon request to [v.petkov@proeuropean.net](mailto:v.petkov@proeuropean.net).

**In November: we launch  
recruitment for European  
fellows for two more  
delegations**



We can now confirm the GLC/GLCAP Professional Fellows program will have two more delegations in 2023 and 2024.

We expect to launch our recruitment efforts for participants from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia later in November. We will be recruiting for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 delegations, with the expectations to include an overall of 21 European fellows.

Keep an eye for the announcement, which we will also promote with a special newsletter. As always, we rely on our alumni community to spread the word among civil society professionals who might be a good fit for the program.

The GLC Professional Fellows Program is funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Global Leaders Division.

## STAY SUPPORTIVE: Fundraising

**TWO WAYS  
TO SUPPORT  
OUR PROGRAM  
FOR ITS 10TH  
ANNIVERSARY**

# Two ways to support our program for its 10th anniversary

In 2022, the GLC/GLCAP Professional Fellows program is marking its 10th anniversary. The first delegation of European fellows travelled to the US in the Spring of 2012. During our 10-year operation of the program, 16 delegations totaling 300 young professionals from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia took part in the program, with another 130+ US mentors making outbound trips to Europe.

Our programs have built lasting relationships between people and organizations in Europe and the US and have made positive changes in their communities and societies. We are excited to keep this work going and further enhance and sustain networks of people, knowledge and resources. You can still contribute to this change!

We are reaching out to all members of our alumni community and friends of the program and asking you to support us in two ways:



## 1. UPDATE YOUR INFO

We would like to know where all of our alumni are, what are they working on and how to reach them. This will allow us to keep you updated about possibilities within and around our program, offer networking and partnership possibilities within and across countries and offer relevant content and resources in our communication.

Take 3 minutes and fill up our [contact-making form](#) so we are up-to-date even 10 years later.



## 2. DONATE

This year, we are fundraising for 2023's edition of the Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships program. The program was named after our beloved program advisor and friend Dave Beckwith, whom we lost in the spring of 2022. This is an alumni-only program, which financially supports trips across the Atlantic to enhance strategic partnerships between people and organizations.

Help us continue these efforts in 2023 and beyond: please

UPDATE YOUR INFO HERE

DONATE HERE

## STAY INSPIRED: Alumni stories



### **US Mentor Lew Finfer honored for his contribution to community organizing**

Our long-time US mentor and friend of the program Lew Finfer is leaving his post as senior issues adviser at Massachusetts Communities Action Network. His immense contribution to community organizing in the last 55 (!) years were recognized during a special event on October 22nd 2022, in Boston. The event was attended by four of our European fellows, who were placed in different organizations in Boston (on the photo).

Lew will travel to Europe in November on our program and will take part in our in-person reunion.

Read more about him in the Long Read section below.



### **Bulgarian alumni and LGBTI activists host annual ILGA-Europe conference in Sofia**

Bulgarian alumni Lilly Dragoeva, Dimitar Bogdanov (Fall 2017), Denitsa Lyubenova (Spring 2017) and Simeon Vasilev (current fellow, Fall 2022) made a milestone as their respective organizations Bilitis, GLAS and Deystvie co-hosted the annual ILGA-Europe conference 2022.

The conference brought together in Sofia, Bulgaria, over 300 LGBTI activists from Europe, Central Asia and beyond from October 19th to October 22nd 2022.

ILGA-Europe is an advocacy group promoting the interests of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people, at the European level. Its membership comprises more than 500 organisations.



### **Alumna Raluca Negulescu launches NABU app with books for children**

Our alumna Raluca Negulescu Balaci (Romania, Spring 2013) and executive director of UiPath Foundation, presented the NABU app in October 2022. The app gives free access to over 100 digital bilingual books for children. The books are available in Romanian and English, organized at levels of reading fluency and tackle current and relevant topics in a multicultural society. They can be downloaded and read offline, in case there is no internet at home.



### **Two US mentors visited Bulgaria outside of our program**

Two US mentors visited Bulgaria in October 2022 and while the trips were not part of our program, they did showcase the sustainable relationships and shared issues our alumni community works on. Jay Gilliam who hosted our fellows in 2017, was in Sofia as a USAID delegate at the ILGA-Europe conference (see above) and got to reconnect with Bulgarian LGBTI activists he met on his previous trips. Kathy Wood (Gallaudet University, center in the photo) is in Sofia for a couple of weeks on a Fullbright program to continue her long-term partnership with the Bulgarian Deaf community.

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## **STAY REFLECTIVE: The Long Reads**



**Dilyana (right) with US mentor Eamonn Scanlon in Rochester, NY**

### [Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program](#)

#### **Bulgarian alumna Dilyana Gyurova: Organizing doesn't happen in one day, week, month or even year**

*My first participation in the Professional Fellows Program was in 2015 with a focus on Community Organizing with minority groups which back then was relevant to my job. In 2019 as a volunteer, I joined a school board in Sofia and it didn't take me a long time to realize that parts of what we are trying to achieve through our work for the Board and for the school is pure organizing.*

*The announcement of the Dave Beckwith Strategic Partnership Program came in a moment when I was particularly enthusiastic about some successful campaigns that we've conducted and also very motivated to work on some others that are still to be developed. So, it was a very natural thing for me to apply and I am very thankful to Elizabeth Balint, Vladi Petkov and many fellow alumni who supported me in the search for the right partners in the U.S. to help me deepen my perspectives on Organizing in the field of Education.*

*This October I spent two very dynamic and inspiring weeks in two different states with amazing people doing advocacy work, youth organizing and organizing with parents and I believe I will be processing those impressions for a long time.*

*In my first week I was working the closest with Liz Brunello from AMSC and also a bit with Jenny Anderson with whom we have very similar profiles when it comes to organizing in education specifically. I had deep and profound conversations with both of them discussing common situations and issues in the field of education in Bulgaria and in West Virginia, including with some explanations about the wider context and the general situation. I do have the feeling that this particular exchange was helpful for both of them, too. In my second week I was with The Children's Agenda in Rochester, NY.*

*Another personal highlight that is not related to Organizing was my visit to the opera in Toronto as a small tribute to Dave Beckwith whom I remember as a*

devoted opera man.

*I am going back home with a lot to share on different levels and with more ideas about how to strengthen our work which I can't wait to start discussing with my colleagues within the School Board.*

*I know one thing for sure – Organizing doesn't happen in one day, week, month or even year. It is a process and a way of thinking based on shared values and interests and anchored in skills and strategies. Our mentors and colleagues in the U.S. show us how they do it and it is our turn to start showing them how we can do it in our specific situations.*



By Joan Vennoch Globe Columnist, Boston Globe

### **Lew Finfer, a quiet leader for social and economic justice in Boston**

When Lew Finfer's daughter, Sophia, was 5, someone asked her if she knew what her father did for a living. "He's a community agonizer," she said.

Nearly three decades later, her answer lives on as both a family joke and an apt description of Finfer's career as a community organizer. Because anyone who does it knows the job of organizing people around a common cause can also require a great deal of agonizing to make that happen.

At the end of the year, Finfer, 72, is leaving his post as senior issues adviser at Massachusetts Communities Action Network — a group he led as director from 1985 to 2021. MCAN is just one of many groups he has worked with since he first came to Massachusetts in 1968 to attend Harvard. He still plans to work on projects he believes in. But his official departure from MCAN is a good time to celebrate the influence of a quiet leader who spent the past four decades orchestrating some of Boston's biggest campaigns for social and economic

justice — from rent control and home ownership programs to increasing the minimum wage and mandating family and medical leave.

[Read full article](#)

## STAY FUN: Happy Halloween!



Group photo of the Fall 2013 delegation, which celebrated Halloween together in Washington, D.C. after successful peer-learning sessions. This memorable night included a horror wedding, a lot of laughter and late-night dancing at a gay club in downtown D.C.

We wish everyone a great Halloween that is as much fun as the one this delegation had some 8 years ago!



SUPPORT

### GLC Alumni Network

**Contact us:**

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Elizabeth Balint, GLC Program manager at [glc\\_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com](mailto:glc_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com)

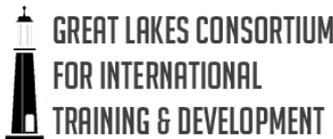
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*The GLC Alumni Network is administratively managed in Europe by our Bulgarian partner Pro European Network.*



PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS

