



STAY ENGAGED: Upcoming events



U.S. MENTORS FORUM
GROWING OUR US MENTORS' NETWORK

**TUESDAY
DEC 6 2022
12 PM EST**

 zoom  60 MIN

INPUT AND UPDATES FROM:

 CRIS DOBY OH	 LOUIS GOSELAND KS	 LUCA CIUBOTARU ROMANIA
 MD GEORGE NY	 VLADISLAV PETKOV BULGARIA	 DENITSA LYUBENDVA BULGARIA
 LEAH TORREY NC	 MONIKA BALINT HUNGARY	 MIROSLAV RAGAC SLOVAKIA

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

December 6th 2022

US Mentors Forum: Growing Our US Mentors' Network

In our annual US mentors forum, we invite all US mentors to get updates on the GLCAP Professional Fellows program and some relevant developments and achievements of our fellows.

This year we would also like to explore ways to expand and strengthen the amazing network of US mentors built within the last 10 years.

European fellows are welcome, but the event is specifically targeting US mentors.

[Zoom link to the event](#)

[Link to Facebook event](#)

03 02 26 40

Days

Hours

Minutes

Seconds

Launch: December 8th 2022

Search Inside Yourself: Mindfulness and Emotional Intelligence Course

Originally developed at Google, Search Inside Yourself (SIY) takes an evidence-based approach that

EXCLUSIVE ALUMNI COMMUNITY OFFER:

SEARCH INSIDE YOURSELF



MINDFULNESS & NEUROSCIENCE-BASED EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE COURSE

- DEC 8TH 2022**
6 PM CET / 12 PM EST
- DEC 15TH 2022**
6 PM CET / 12 PM EST
- JAN 12TH 2023**
6 PM CET / 12 PM EST
- JAN 19TH 2023**
6 PM CET / 12 PM EST
- JAN 26TH 2023**
6 PM CET / 12 PM EST



TAMAS AVAR
HUNGARY, SPRING 2012

Organizational development consultant and optimal human performance coach. Senior consultant at HR Partner Consulting (Hungary). Certified trainer on Search Inside Yourself.

THIS IS NORMALLY A PAID COURSE, WHICH TAMAS WILL MAKE PRO BONO FOR OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY.

*All sessions expected to last 2 hours. Participation in all sessions is recommended.



combines neuroscience, mindfulness, and emotional intelligence.

Through these disciplines, it helps participants to integrate key building blocks that can be applied at work and in life. The program includes live training and practice, and as a result you can expect to learn about Leadership, Motivation, Empathy, Self-Management, Self-Awareness.

The course will take place in 5 sessions in December and January, 2 hours each. Participation in all sessions is recommended.

European alumni and US mentors are both welcome!

The course will be led pro bono by our alumnus Tamas Avar (Hungary, Spring 2012), who is a certified trainer for this course.

[Zoom link to the event](#)

[Link to Facebook event](#)

05 02 26 40
Days Hours Minutes Seconds

GROWING TOGETHER: *ReThink series*

 zoom  90 MIN

MONDAY, DEC 12TH 2022

THE FIRST ROUND OF THE DAVE BECKWITH MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

6 PM CET / 12 PM EST



09 02 26 40
Days Hours Minutes Seconds

STAY INFORMED: News Bites

A Decade of Success



We celebrated the 10th anniversary of the program with a successful in-person reunion in Hungary

Over 70 European alumni and US mentors got together in Hungary to reconnect, learn from each other and collectively celebrate the 10th anniversary of the GLC/GLCAP Professional Fellows Program in November.

The reunion started with an official ceremony in Budapest on November 16th, which was attended by numerous alumni, mentors and friends of the program, along with representatives of the US Embassy and the Bulgarian embassy in Hungary and partners from the civil society.

We then travelled south to Pecs, where for three days reunion participants experienced numerous plenary sessions, workshops and working meetings, but also found time to explore Pecs and have fun! Many even joined a protest.

We are extending our gratitude to every participant who found the time to join the reunion, to all speakers, panel members, moderators and workshop leaders and to the Hungarian alumni team of Civil College Foundation who did an amazing job hosting this complicated event!

This is the first in-person international reunion we were able to organize since 2019, as our plans were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic multiple times. However, it was worth the wait!



The reunion also served for important recognitions

As some of our alumni and mentors have stayed actively engaged in the program since the beginning, some recognitions were also in place.

Emil Metodiev (Bulgaria, Spring 2012), Maros Chmelik (Slovakia, Spring 2013) and Vladislav Petkov (Bulgaria, Fall 2013) were the European alumni who received 'A Decade of Leadership' award for their long-standing contribution to the program. US mentor Lew Finfer was given the same recognition on the American side.

The reunion was also a perfect occasion for the Spring 2022 delegation to receive their long-awaited certificates. The present fellows from this cohort received their certificates by the Cultural Attaché at the US Embassy in Budapest Mr Shawn Kobb.

The immense contribution to the program of Dave Beckwith, whom we lost earlier this year, was also recognized with a minute of silence.

There is however no certificate or award that can do justice to the contribution of Elizabeth Balint to this program. It was humbly marked with flowers and standing ovations by the whole alumni family.





The success of our program lays within the achievements of our alumni

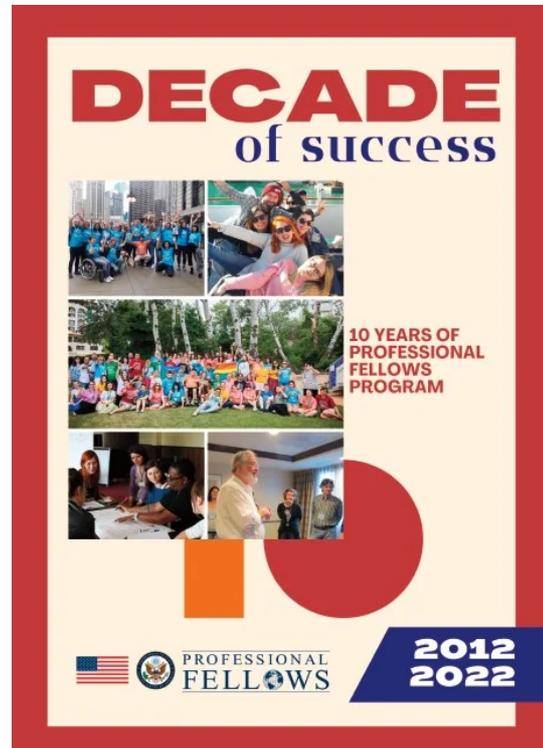
During our in-person reunion in Hungary, we also presented the publication 'Decade of Success', which showcases a small fraction of the achievements of our 300+ European alumni.

53 short stories of success are featured in the publication, which only serve as an example of the amazing work our alumni are doing in different fields, levels and with different communities, creating positive change. The publication also features an overview text for each of the five European countries in the program and a review of all European delegations that travelled to the US since 2012.

The work on the publication was coordinated by Slovak country director and GLC alumnus Miroslav Ragac.

[Download 'Decade of Success' publication](#)

At the reunion, we also presented five posters, which give a glimpse of the collective power and resilience of the national alumni networks in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. You can see the posters [here](#).



Fundraising: put something into Dave Beckwith's hat

US advisor and friend of the program Peter Ujvagi borrowed Dave Beckwith's hat and brought it to the Reunion in Hungary to remember Dave and his contribution to this program. Peter reminded everyone



how through supporting Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnership Program we will be able to keep his legacy and continue spreading and supporting community organizing through our alumni exchange programs. With this hat as symbolic gesture Peter Ujvagi encouraged all of us from the GLC community in Europe and the US to make a donation to the program, however small it is.

You can put some money in Dave's hat [here](#). Thank you to those who already did:



STAY SUPPORTIVE: Fundraising



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.

UPDATE YOUR INFO HERE



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 donate!

DONATE HERE

STAY INSPIRED: Alumni stories



The Slovak president



Sofia hosted a European

attended CKO's Human Forum

The president of Slovakia Ms Zuzana Čaputová - on the photo with our very own Maros Chmelik - attended this year's 9th edition of the Human Forum. [The Human Forum](#) is an initiative of our Slovak partners Center for Community Organizing (CKO), which addresses issues around democracy, participation and opposing the extreme right. This year, the program of the forum also included two US mentors, on their outbound visits to Europe - Andre Stoner and Adrienne Evans.

meeting on inclusive education

The European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education held its [bi-annual meeting in Sofia](#), Bulgaria, earlier in November. Our alumnus Kaloyan Damyanov (Fall 2012) - who serves as a country coordinator in Bulgaria for the agency - had an important role in hosting the event.

On the photo: Kaloyan (right) with the Chair of the Agency, the Bulgarian Minister for Education and Science and others.



Two of our alumni attended a workshop on entrepreneurship in Armenia

In the beginning of November two of our alumni had the possibility to participate in the Executive Entrepreneurial Leadership Workshop, organized by the American Councils for International Education with trainers from the National Center for Resource Development in the US. Richard Fekete from

Slovakia and Dilyana Gyurova from Bulgaria were among the 33 international participants that enjoyed not only the workshop but also the warm hospitality of the Armenian hosts from the American Council Yerevan.

The workshop days flew really fast, Dilyana reported, around hot topics such as the Entrepreneurial Mindset, networking, the importance of the One Pager and Customer Development. The group benefited not only from the knowledge and experience of the US trainers, but also from the interaction within the group as some of the participants are successful entrepreneurs with a lot to share.

Dilyana shares also: "For me, as a typical NGO activist, who is quite new to the world of business, the workshop was really precious in opening the door to the entrepreneurial ways of thinking which of course differ from the classic non-profit perceptions that I'm used to. Some examples and exercises I am definitely taking back home with big ideas on how to integrate them in my work".

STAY REFLECTIVE: The Long Read



By Elizabeth Balint and Deb Martin

Preface to the publication 'Decade of Success'

In 2012, GLCAP, through its GLC program, began operating the U.S. Department of State's Professional Fellows program. This program is designed to provide opportunities for young professionals to collaborate and share ideas with U.S. partners, build lasting relationships and make positive changes in their communities and societies. Our program focuses on human rights and social justice, ensuring that all voices are heard in minority and rural communities through community organizing, advocacy and civic engagement.

During our 10-year operation of the program, we have hosted 16 delegations totaling 300 young professionals from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. The fellows work with host organizations across the United States to complete a 3-4 week in-person internship.

Upon their return, these young changemakers work to expand and strengthen community organizing, social services, education and community development practices. The advances in policies, attitudes, and mindset they have been able to facilitate on both the local level and national level are very impressive. This booklet includes 50+ diverse members of our alumni network with highlights of their achievements in Roma, disabled, LGBTQ+, immigrant, or rural communities, impacting hundreds or thousands of people.

This program would not be possible without the support of our many partners in the program, and we want to thank each of them for their invaluable contributions, including the U.S. Department of State and its embassies for their continued funding and support of the program; our host organizations, mentors and host families, many of whom have hosted multiple guests over many years; our in-country partner organizations in the 5 countries; and our program advisors and many volunteers.

Most of all, we would like to congratulate and give a huge thank you to all members of GLC Alumni Network, who left jobs, family and other responsibilities to come to the U.S. and have committed themselves to making a difference in their countries, often on a volunteer basis. We have gained significant learning and inspiration from you and wish you much continued success.

[Download the 'Decade of Success' publication](#)



[SUPPORT](#)

GLC Alumni Network

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Democracy program. We would be sad to
see you go, but you can always:

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



PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS

