



An Exchange Program for Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and the United States of America



**APPLICATION OPEN FOR EUROPEAN CANDIDATES: FALL 2023 AND SPRING 2024**

**DEADLINE: JANUARY 31ST 2023**

## STAY ENGAGED: Upcoming events

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH 2023**  
6 PM CET / 12 PM EST

**WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:**  
**PONSELLA HARDAWAY,**  
**RONNIE MATTHEW HARRIS**  
**JAQUIE ALGEE**

ONLINE ON ZOOM

SAVE THE DATE AND STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS

PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS | GLC Alumni Network | GREAT LAKES CORPORATION FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT | Great Lakes Professional Training & Development

February 20th 2023

### Marking Black History Month

On Monday, February 20th 2023, we are marking Black History Month 2023 to highlight and celebrate the contribution of our African-American US mentors to the GLC Professional Fellows Program, and to social change more broadly.

Three special guests are confirmed at this point: our US mentors Ponsella Hardaway, Ronnie Matthew Harris and Jaquie Algee.

Stay tuned for more details on this program.

[Zoom link to event](#)

[Link to Facebook event \\*](#)

24 05 39 44

Days

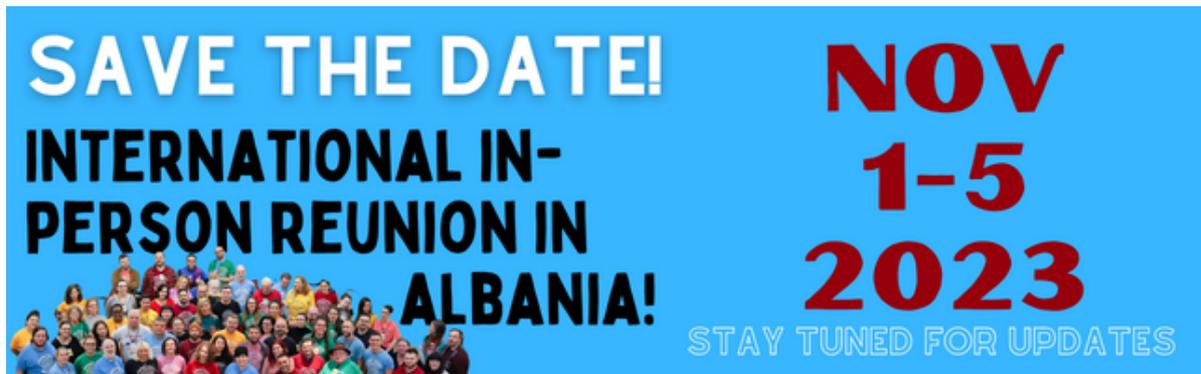
Hours

Minutes

Seconds

\* As we strive to keep our gatherings safe, please note we are only creating private Facebook events within the FB group 'GLC Pro Fellows Alumni Network'. You won't have access to the Facebook events unless you are a member of the group.

Please don't share publicly the Zoom links to our events. You are however welcome to invite trusted colleagues and friends who might be interested.



## STAY INFORMED: News Bites

### A Decade of Success

#### Just a couple of days left: Application for European fellows for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 delegations

This is a last call for European applicants interested to join our exchange program in the delegations of Fall 2023 and Spring 2024! The deadline is just days away: January 31st 2023.

As always, we rely on our GLC alumni community to spread the word so we can select the best candidates!

We are looking for civil society professionals who have demonstrated expertise pertaining to the fellowship theme of governance, society, and citizen-led democracy.

The full announcement and application form are available at <https://bit.ly/GLCAnnouncementPF24>.

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





## 127 people joined the Information Session for the current call for European fellows

127 people came together on Zoom on Wednesday, January 25th 2023, for the information session on our

current open call for European applicants of the GLC Professional Fellows Program (see above).

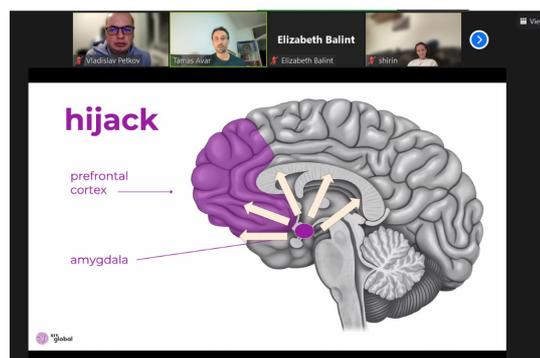
The event was hosted by our Slovak partners from Center for Community Organizing and featured a beautiful and inspiring program presentation by our Slovak country director and alumnus of the program Miroslav Ragac. We also answered many questions from potential applicants and were happy to see their high levels of interest and motivation in the program.

The high number of attendees of the info session once again indicated that this will be a very competitive process and we remain hopeful for strong and motivated cohorts in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024.

Once again, the application deadline is January 31st 2023. All details [here](#).

## We found so much inside ourselves! Thank you, Tamas!

January 26th marked the season finale of an inspirational and educational journey that was the training course 'Search Inside Yourself'. Originally developed at Google, Search Inside Yourself (SIY) takes an evidence-based approach that combines neuroscience, mindfulness, and emotional intelligence.



Taking place in a total of five 2-hours sessions in December and January, the course was an exclusive offer to our alumni community. 15 members of our alumni community joined.

The course was brilliantly led pro bono by our alumnus Tamas Avar (Hungary, Spring 2012), who is a certified trainer for this course. We would like to thank Tamas for all his efforts and dedication, for reminding us to breath and showing us numerous simple micropractices and exercises. Thanks to Tamas, we did find a lot inside ourselves!

## Looking back: our program in 2022 in a couple of numbers

2022 - what an year it's been!

In the shadow of the pandemic, we still managed to send 38 European fellows to the US and 19 Americans to Europe, while still providing 25 hours of quality content in our online events for a total of 378 participants. Adding to that, we brought 78 members of our alumni community together for an in-person reunion in Hungary!

See more interesting details in this info graphic, prepared by our internal evaluator and program alumna Edita Bednarova (Slovakia, Fall 2016).

Thank you everyone who contributed to our work in 2022 and we look forward to working together and create change in 2023!

## 2022 AT A GLANCE



You can still donate in our 2022

**DAVE BECKWITH MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM**

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

**Arber Kodra**  
(Albania) in  
New York,  
NY

**Brejdon Xhavara**  
(Albania) in  
Orlando, FL

**Dilyana Gyurova**  
(Bulgaria) in  
Rochester, NY

**Krasimir Chervenkov**  
(Bulgaria) in  
Columbus, OH

**Leah Torrey**  
(US) in  
Budapest,  
Hungary

**fundraising campaign**

Did you chip in already?

We are fundraising for the Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships program. This is an alumni-only program, which financially supports trips across the Atlantic to boost and enhance strategic partnerships between people and organizations. The program was named after our

beloved program advisor and friend of the GLC/GLCAP program Dave Beckwith, whom we lost in the spring of 2022. It is set to honor his memory and immense contribution to our community.

While we will stop promoting this campaign after January 31st, many people asked if they will be able to donate after this date. The answer is YES! If you are able to spare some money, regardless of the amount, please do it [here](#).

Shoutout to everyone who has already donated:

Aliz Pocsuvalszki  
Boglarka Dombi  
Krisztina Katona  
Peter Szabdos  
Szabrina Abdallah-Magdy  
Thomas Horn

HUNGARY

ROMANIA

Alexandru Palas  
Anda Serban  
Claudia Macaria  
Luca Ciubotaru

ALBANIA

Arber Kodra  
Elona Xhepa  
Enkela Poro  
Mirela Juka  
Riges Bequiri  
Suela Kocibellinj

BULGARIA

Alexander Ivanov  
Antoaneta Bozhikova  
Ashod Derandonyan  
Blazhka Dimitrova  
Dessislava Stoyanova  
Dilyana Gyurova  
Dobrina Kisyova  
Dzhevid Mahmud  
Emil Metodiev  
Lilly Dragoeva  
Martin Svetoslavov  
Milena Dimitrova  
Milena Nikolova  
Milenko Milenkov  
Nedka Taneva  
Nevena Pashova-Proycheva  
Shirin Hodzheva  
Simeon Vasilev  
Teodora Koleva  
Theodora Ivanova-Valeva  
Veselina Yurukova  
Viktoria Petrova  
Vladislav Petkov

SLOVAKIA

Edita Bednarova  
Gabriela Mezeiova  
Miroslav Ragac  
Robert Furiel

THE U.S.

Cris Doby  
Elizabeth Balint  
Gabriel Silva  
Kristen Gerwin  
Leah Torrey  
Louis Goseland  
Martin Swinehart  
Mo George  
Peter Ujvagi  
Sarah Jane Knoy  
Sondra Youdelman  
Tara Parrish

THANK  
YOU!

PRE-FINAL COUNT

## STAY INSPIRED: Alumni stories



**A bridge in Toledo (OH) is now named after Dave**



**Another legislation win for the Deaf community in**

## Beckwith

Toledo Council Members renamed the Marengo Street Bridge after our US mentor, advisor and friend of the program Dave Beckwith, whom we lost in early 2022. The Toledo City Council President report reads: "Dave was a tireless public servant, a resident of District 2, and a friend to many. It is fitting that he would get such an honor in his home council district (...)."



### **Alumni invited to meet with the Slovak president during civil society event**

In January, the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová welcomed representatives of non-governmental non-profit organizations in the Presidential Palace. Our alumni Maros Chmelik (Spring 2013), Robert Furiel (Fall 2015) and Zuzana Havirova (Fall 2015) were all invited as representatives of key civil society organizations. In her speech, Zuzana Čaputová highlighted the importance of

## Bulgaria

The Deaf community in Bulgaria, with the efforts of our Deaf alumni Aleksander Ivanov, Ashod Derandonyan and Kiril Slavov, celebrated another legislative win this month. The Bulgarian Parliament passed legislative changes, which will support the creation of a Bachelor degree on sign language in the field of philology; and will increase the rate for sign language interpreters.



### **Brand new social center for a minority neighbourhood of Plovdiv (Bulgaria)**

Our alumnus and Roma activist Asen Karagyozov (Spring 2016) and his organization are partnering Plovdiv Municipality on a big-scale project that will result in a community center with social and support services in the neighbourhood of Stolipinovo. This is one of the biggest minority neighbourhoods on the Balkans. The center will employ 13 social

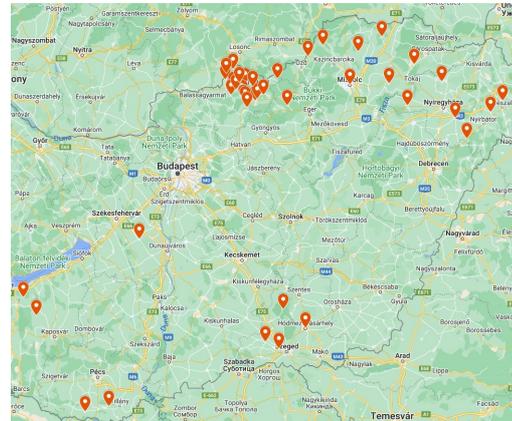
civil society over the last 30 years.

workers and specialists full-time to answer immediate needs in the community. Construction starts now.



### **Our alumna Gabriela Mezeiova is a Humphrey Fellow at Penn State**

Our alumna Gabriela Mezeiva (Slovakia, Fall 2013) is currently in the US, doing a fellowship at the College of Education at The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State). She was selected for the [Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program](#), which enhances leadership among international professionals who collaborate to address local and global challenges. Gabriela's interests include the US education system, non-formal education applied to formal settings, and environmental education building life skills.



### **Charity Taxi did more than 15 000 km in 2022, supporting communities**

Hungarian organization Charity Taxi ([Adománytaxi](#)), led by our alumnus Tamas Horn (Hungary, Fall 2016) published a map of the communities it served in 2022 and made an appropriate calculations on the kilometers driven to collect and deliver donations across Hungary: more than 15 000. In the approach of Charity Taxi, volunteer drivers collect donations and deliver needed goods and materials to communities in need, mainly in remote and rural areas. See the map of supported communities [here](#).

## **STAY CONNECTED: Who met who**





Alumni Dilyana Gyurova (Bulgaria, Spring 2015) and Magda Ilie (Romania, Spring 2015) met in Sofia.

Nora Kiss (Hungary, Spring 2022) is back in the US and reconnected with US mentor Nina Corder and former GLCAP International program specialist Brittany Ford.



Alumni Robert Furiel (Slovakia, Fall 2015) and Shirin Hodzheva (Bulgaria, Fall 2022) met in Prague at the launch of a new international project.

## STAY REFLECTIVE: The Long Listen



The Taktivist Podcast

**Adrienne Evans: The greatest failure we share across countries is that we've lost our ability to dream about a different world**

US mentor Adrienne Evans (United Vision for Idaho) guest-starred at the podcast Taktivist, ran by our Slovak partner Center for Community Organizing. She is joined in the conversation by her mentee, Slovak fellow Jan Galik (Spring

2022). Looking at differences and similarities between democracy in the U.S. and Central and Eastern Europe, Slovakia in particular, this is a conversation worth listening to.

(The intro is in Slovak, but the conversation is in English!)

[Listen podcast here](#)

## STAY SUPPORTIVE: Fundraising



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

In 2022, the GLC/GLCAP Professional Fellows program marked its 10th anniversary.

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

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

## Why did you donate?

Testimonials of a couple of members of our community:

### Martin Swinehart (US):

*I really think the Dave Beckwith program is an excellent way to further leverage the learnings and connections of the original exchange program.*

### Leah Torrey (US)

*I was a lucky recipient of this fellowship last year and I can't think of a more important professional development experience. Thank you.*

### Gabriela Mezeiova (SK)

*I care for this program, as it cared for me. It taught me a lot & keeps on*

### Gabriel Silva (US)

*It is the least I can do after the incredible opportunity this program*

doing so with new & new fellows coming on board.

gave me. I hope it'll help others have a similar experience.

## GLC Alumni Network

### Contact us:

Vladislav Petkov, International Alumni Coordinator at [v.petkov@proeuropean.net](mailto:v.petkov@proeuropean.net)

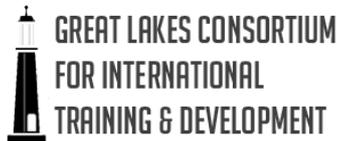
Elizabeth Balint, GLC Program manager at [glc\\_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com](mailto:glc_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com)

You receive this email because you are an alumna/us/i or a friend of the GLC Teach Democracy program. We would be sad to see you go, but you can always:

[Unsubscribe](#)



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



PROFESSIONAL  
FELLOWS

