



## STAY ENGAGED: Upcoming events



March 27th 2023

### ReThink: Working with Youth

On Monday, March 27th 2023, we are putting youth work on the focus, bringing together inspiring youth workers and leaders across our alumni community: sharing good practices, discussing challenges and exploring opportunities.

For now we can confirm the participation of our Romanian alumnus Victor-Catalin Toma (Spring 2019) who among other things runs the initiative [European Youth Village](#).

Stay tuned for more speakers and details for this event.

[Zoom link to event](#)

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

21

Days

09

Hours

18

Minutes

36

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.

# SAVE THE DATE!

## INTERNATIONAL IN- PERSON REUNION IN ALBANIA!



# NOV 1-5 2023

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES

## STAY INFORMED: News Bites

### A Decade of Success

#### Record number of European applicants for our Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 delegations

213 Europeans applied to take part in our exchange program in the delegations of Fall 2023 and Spring 2024! This is a record interest rate and an end of a successful recruitment cycle that closed on January 31st 2023.

Albania tops the chart of most applicants, followed by Slovakia and Romania. Our country partners are currently reviewing applications and meeting with semi-finalists, while the final decision on the composition of the next two delegations is due in March.

We would like to thank all of our alumni community members who have supported the dissemination of the announcement and recommended great candidates.

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



#### We marked Black History Month and recognized the contribution of African-American mentors

29 people came together on Zoom on Monday, February 20th 2023, to mark Black History Month and

to highlight and celebrate the contribution of our African-American US mentors to the GLC Professional Fellows Program, and to social change more broadly.

The event featured a panel of inspiring and remarkable US mentors: Ponsella Hardaway, director of MOSES; Jaquie Algee, Director of External Relations at SEIU Healthcare; and Ronnie Matthew Harris, founding member of Sacred Roots.

Closing remarks was offered by Arin Wooten, Senior Program Officer at Global Leaders Division in the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State. The event was moderated by our Romanian alumna Catalina Olteanu, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council for Combating Discrimination in Romania.

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

During the event, we also featured an updated set of posters highlighting all 27 Black leaders who have served as mentors on our GLC Professional Fellows program and remain valuable members of our alumni community and the fight for social justice. See the posters here:



## 69 people donated in our fundraising campaign 2022! Thank you!

69 people across our alumni community has answered our call and supported financially our 2022 fundraising campaign. The country with the highest number of donors is Bulgaria (25), followed by the US (16) and Slovakia and Albania with 9 donors each.

While the size of the donation does not matter, we would still want to highlight the most generous donors: Cris Doby, Peter Ujvagi, Tarra Parish and Ashod Derandonyan.

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. We expect that with the funds raised we will be able to support between 2 and 3 trips in 2023.

While we are closing the fundraising campaign, our donation channels remain open throughout the year [here](#).





## STAY IMPACTFUL: Alumni projects

*At our in-person international reunion in Hungary in November 2022, we have committed \$11690 to support 11 joint alumni small grants, proposed by teams of alumni members in Europe. In the next couple of months we will be sharing the results of these projects.*





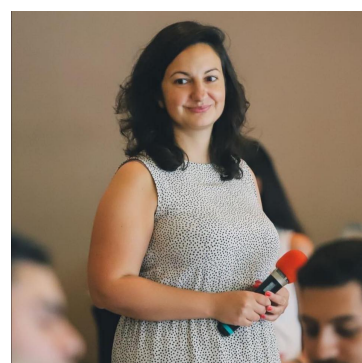
### Hope for Craica, Baia-Mare

Romanian alumni Claudia Macaria (Spring 2016) and Loredana Mihaly (Spring 2018), facilitated an exchange of experience by a group of representatives of the Baia Mare Local Action Group (GAL), the Baia Mare Social Assistance Department, the Young Roma Maramures Association and members of the Craica community, in Resita. The exchange served to learn from the good practices of the desegregated resettlement of the Roma community in Mociur, Resita, approximately 150 families. The exchange of experience at Resita was followed by a meeting of intellectual and spiritual enrichment, in which representatives of the Baia Mare GAL and the Roma community shared the good practices of Resita with other Baia Mare stakeholders and analyzed what needs to be improved, changed, in order to be able to apply the learnings in solving the housing problem, which is so pressing for the Craica community.

## STAY INSPIRED: Alumni stories



**Alumnus Arber Kodra**



**Vesly Deyanova from**

## **training police in Albania on LGBTI+ issues**

"Investigation of hate crimes against LGBTI + persons in Albania" was the name of the open lecture that took place at the Security Academy in Tirana, which was coorganized by our Albanian alumnus Arber Kodra (Spring 2018). The lecture was meant for students of the academy and is part of a long-term plan for cooperation with the Albanian State Police to improve the situation and life of the LGBTI+ community.



### **Fellows and alumni contribute to important policy debates**

Many of our alumni and current fellows constantly take part in important conversations, shaping analytical and policy knowledge. In February, current Bulgarian fellow Rositsa Kratunkova (Spring 2023; right at the photo) spoke at the European Parliament as part of the presentation of [European Contraception Policy Atlas](#) of European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF).

Romanian alumnus Luca Ciubotaru (Fall 2019) was a speaker at the presentation of the annual report of the

## **Bulgaria wins fellowship in the US**

Bulgarian alumna Vesya Deyanova (Spring 2019) is among the 15 Bulgarian leaders selected to travel to the US as a part of the Leadership Education in America Program (LEAP), ran by 'America for Bulgaria' Foundation. Vesya was selected as part of a competitive process with over 400 applicants from the business, public and non-profit field. She is expected to travel to the US early this summer.



### **Gallaudet University hosts another Bulgarian Deaf leader**

Our US mentor Kathy Woods (right on the photo) now hosts another Bulgarian Deaf leader, this time in the framework of the Fulbright Program. Hristina Katsipidou of Deaf.bg (on the left) arrived at Gallaudet University early February. She will be working with Kathy to develop a strategy on preparation of a pool of Sign Language educators and curriculum for Sofia University's future BA program in Bulgarian sign language philology. This is another step in the long-term partnership between Gallaudet University and the Bulgarian

European Expert Forum in  
Romania, dedicated to the war  
in Ukraine.

Deaf community, which started  
with our GLC Pro Fellows  
program.

## STAY REFLECTIVE: The Long Watch

Alumni production

### 'Another Side of America' by alumnus Brejdon Xhavara

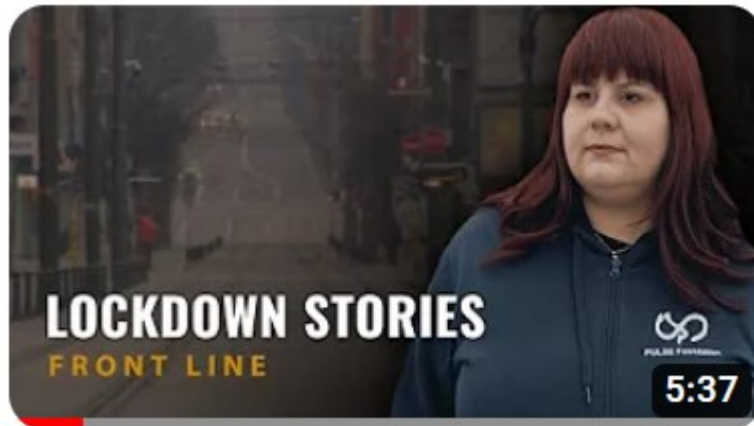


This 15-minute documentary was created by our alumnus Brejdon Xhavara (Albania, Spring 2019) during his trip to the US in 2022. Brejdon traveled back to Florida as part of our Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnership program. The video explores everyday issue related to housing, employment, access to healthcare and the work of civil society organizations in Bithlo, a village near Orlando, Florida.

[Watch video](#)



## 'Lockdown stories' episode features alumna Julia Andonova



Episode 4 of the series 'Lockdown Stories' is now available to watch online (with English subtitles) and features our alumna Julia Andonova (Bulgaria, Spring 2022). 'Lockdown Stories' is a production led by Bulgarian alumnus Georgi Nikolov (Spring 2018) with the involvement of many other alumni. The series was created with the financial support of the US Embassy in Sofia.

[Watch video](#)

## Celebrating Black History Makers: Jaquie Algee

# Celebrating Black History Makers: Jaquie Algee Has Spent Decades Fighting For Civil Rights And Equity



In this 2021 video report, our US mentors Jaquie Algee is featured by CBS Chicago as Black History Maker. And rightfully so! "If you will not stand up for something, you will lay down for anything – and I refuse to do that," Algee says in this inspiring video. Jaquie was also one of the speakers in our event, celebrating Black History Month earlier in February (see above).

[Watch video](#)

## GLC Alumni Network

### Contact us:

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

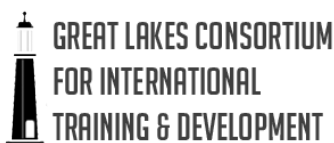
Elizabeth Balint, GLC Program manager at [glc\\_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com](mailto:glc_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com)

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:

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



PROFESSIONAL  
FELLOWS

