



STAY ENGAGED: Upcoming events



April 26th 2023

ReConnect: Managing Community Spaces

Many people across our alumni network manage community spaces like this in an attempt to bring communities together. In this event we invite all of them, and everyone that is interested to learn good practices and challenges. For example, have you ever wondered how you: pay the bills; engage the community in sustaining the space; involve people in programming events; maintain independence from local authorities; deal with neighbours; insure safety; use the space to raise funds; keep it clean?!

Stay tuned for special guests and details for this event.

[Zoom link to event](#)

[Link to Facebook event *](#)

26

Days

00

Hours

14

Minutes

27

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.

GLC PRO FELLOWS IN-PERSON INTERNATIONAL REUNION

1-5 NOVEMBER 2023

ALBANIA



EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST NOW!



November 1st – 5th 2023

International reunion in Albania

We are already in the process of intense planning for our 2023 international in-person reunion. This year it is going to be hosted by our friends from Albania between November 1st and 5th (travel days included).

While we are working out details on the location and program, we would like to know what is the interest for the event, which is why we are launching a form for expressing interest. This does NOT guarantee your participation in the reunion, but it gives as an idea how many people are willing to attend. We will also specifically reach out to everyone who have expressed interest once the official registration process is out.

[Express your interest](#)

STAY INFORMED: News Bites

A Decade of Success

Apply for a strategic partnership trip in 2023

The GLC Alumni Network is happy to re-launch the '**Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program 2023**'!

This is an internal program within the GLC Alumni Network meant to provide financial, logistical, and networking support for alumni and mentors of the program in building strategic partnerships between people and organizations from Europe and the U.S.

Within this program we will provide financial support for up to \$1500 to fund travel and other expenses for an overseas international trip of at least 10 work days to the U.S. or Europe respectively.

All alumni and mentors from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and the U.S. from any of the GLC Professional Fellows delegations are eligible to apply, as long as they have meaningfully stayed connected to the program.

By the time of the application, applicants should have already identified a strategic partner from within the program and agreed their work together.

Thanks to the contributions to our 2022 fundraising campaign, we expect to be able to support up to 6 trips in 2023.

Application deadline is May 15th 2023.



[Read full announcement and apply](#)



US mentors visits to Albania and Hungary took place in March

Albania was the first country in 2023 to welcome US mentors who hosted some of our Fall 2022 fellows on their outbound trips to Europe. American

mentors Larry Fletcher, Sarah Jane Knoy and Hector Vaca Cruz traveled to Albania to visit their fellows and further support them in the process of introducing and consolidating community organizing practices in their respective communities. Albanian partner Co-PLAN also hosted a meeting with all mentors and Fall 2022 fellows, which was also attended by the Deputy Head of the Public Relations office of the US Embassy in Tirana, Ms Amanda Roberson. Photo from the meeting is above, more about it [here](#).

Later in March, US mentors Ponsella Hardaway and Michael Farmer visited Hungary to work with their mentees from Fall 2022 Tibor Tarcsay and Mira Lajos respectively.

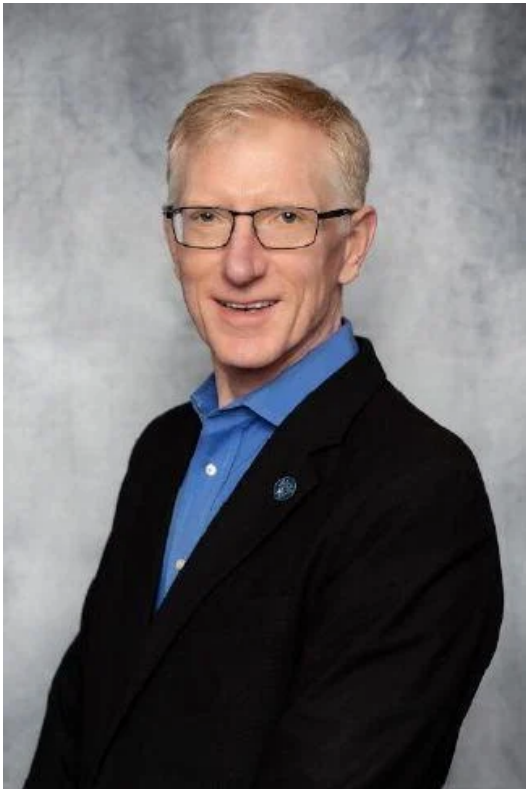
US mentor Hector Vaca and fellow Livia Kreko in Albania



Hungary: Michael Farmer, Mira Lajos, Ponsella Hardaway and country director Peter Szabados



To complement the picture of the mentors visits, we share a short testimony by U.S. mentor **Larry Fletcher**. In the fall of 2022, Larry hosted our Albanian fellow Riges Beqiri at Shores and Islands Ohio.



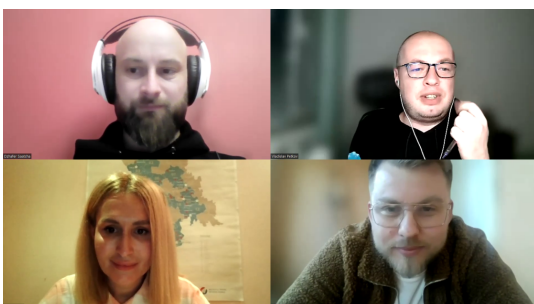
"I am so appreciative to all who were involved in making it possible for Riges to spend time with us in the U.S. and for me to visit him in his home country!

In so many ways, this was a trip of a lifetime for me. The highlights of the experience seemed to keep piling up! Meetings with the other mentors and mentees, including representatives from the U.S. Embassy; visiting educators and students in high schools including where Riges went; hiking to the top of an important cultural mountain with many of the students; meetings with Riges's family and immersing myself in the culture of the country; being interviewed for Albanian TV, meeting the Deputy Minister

of Tourism for the country; seeing castle after castle, hiking in beautiful natural areas including a snow-capped mountain, experiencing new foods, and the list goes on and on.

I met some of the nicest people I have ever met and everyone was so welcoming. It was a truly memorable trip and I fully expect to visit Albania again.

Should Riges need our assistance, I and my staff team stand ready to assist him with his ongoing projects. I am very interested to learn how his plans unfold as I have no doubt he will be successful in attracting more visitors and associated economic impact to his beautiful country."



We shared practices on working with young people

On March 27th 2023, within our regular virtual events, we've put a focus on models of working with young people. Over 20 people across our alumni community joined the

conversation and engaged with our speakers: **Victor Catalin-Toma**, Romania, alumnus Spring 2019, president of Active Development Association ([Asociatia](#)

[Pentru Dezvoltare Activa](#)) and coordinator of [European Youth Village](#); **Tatiana Costev-Cosuleanu**, Moldova, executive director of [Institute for Rural Initiatives / Institutul pentru Initiative Rurale](#); and **Cafer Saatchi**, Bulgaria, alumnus Fall 2019, trainer and facilitator, who presented his experience in working with high school students to support their self-organizing capacity with a small grant of our program.

Recording of the event is available upon request to alumni coordinator Vladislav Petkov at v.petkov@proeuropean.net.

This was the first of a series of events with direct or indirect work with young people, with the next one scheduled for April 26th and dedicated to managing community spaces (see info and access in the beginning of this newsletter). For May, we are planning an Erasmus+ partnership building event, so stay tuned.

Our Spring 2023 delegation is now placed and ready to go!

Our Spring 2023 fellows are already started thinking about packing, as their trip to the US is exactly one month from now, starting May 1st 2023.

We are happy that all fellows are now placed in 8 different organizations across the US and we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all US mentors who have committed to host and provide a meaningful professional experience for our European delegation.

Stay tuned for more details on the trip and our special delegation newsletter, but until then, here's the list of placements:

THANK YOU

TO US MENTORS FROM 4 STATES AND 8 ORGANIZATIONS FOR SHARING THEIR TIME AND KNOWLEDGE, AND WORKING WITH OUR SPRING 2023 FELLOWS

Mara Kimmel & Michael Garvey	American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)	Anchorage, AK
Tara Parrish	Pioneer Valley Project	Springfield, MA
Leigh Chandler	Environmental League of Massachusetts	Boston, MA
Jennifer Guarino & Chandler Vaughan	ISAIC	Detroit, MI
Bill O'Brien	Strangers No Longer	Detroit, MI
Emme Zanotti	Equality Michigan	Detroit, MI
Adriane Miller	NCCJ of Greater Dayton	Dayton, OH
Kristen Gerwin	Oak House	Port Clinton, OH

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.



Talking Climate Change with children and young people

In the period 12-19.03.2023 two alumni of the GLC/GLCAP Professional Fellows Programs Sylvia Bakalova and Vihren Mitev, representing accordingly “Compassion for you” NGO (Varna) and “Ecological Manifesto – ManEco” Foundation (Sofia) got together to organize non-formal educational activities for 130 school students and 37 university students and citizens. Sylvia was responsible to work with the local schools while Vihren had to arrange the university workshops. He prepared the workshop activities, materials and lead the workshops on place.

For the project activities they managed to organize 10 educational workshops in 3 primary schools, the University of Economics – Varna and the “Compassion for you” social center. 100 branded T-shirts were given to the most active participants.

By using Climate Fresk cards the workshops managed to engage 167 school and university students with the topic of climate change and encouraged them to be more environmentally cautious.



STAY RESOURCEFUL

The Methodology of

NIOK's Social Base Building Support Program

FOR CAPACITY BUILDING
ORGANIZATIONS, CSO EXPERTS
AND DONORS

2021

European perspective on base building

Recommended by our alumna Edita Bednarova (Slovakia), this publication is written for organizations that work to strengthen the capacity of other civil society organizations (CSOs) in building their social bases. NIOK Foundation's goal with this paper is to transfer four years of direct, and more than ten years of indirect, experience to CSO experts and other capacity-building organizations.

Learning about the experience and applying the Social Base Building Consultancy and Peer Support Program could provide valuable help to others in supporting their capacity-building efforts with other organizations. This publication may also be useful to private foundations and other supporting organizations that seek effective models to strengthen and revitalize civil society organizations (CSOs), and increase their social embeddedness.

[Access full publication](#)

STAY ADVENTUROUS: Opportunities



29 August – 2 September 2023, Romania

Apply to attend European Rural Youth Summit

Organized under the umbrella of the European Youth Village Program, the European Rural Youth Summit aims to strategically develop the rural youth ecosystem in Europe by bringing together young people from rural areas across Europe, youth workers, youth organizers and decision makers and provide a platform for them to raise their voices and share their experiences and perspectives on rural youth work and rural development. The summit is expected to bring together 200 participants and will take place in Panaci – one of the villages that holds the European Youth Village title in 2023 and the host of the European Rural Youth Village.

The European Youth Village initiative is coordinated by our alumnus Victor-Catalin Toma (Romania, Spring 2019).

[Full info and application here](#)

STAY CURIOUS: Photo of the month



Alumni Peter Szabados (Hungary), Miroslav Ragac (Slovakia), Veselina Yurukova (Bulgaria) and Maros Chmelik (Slovakia) together in Budapest, Hungary. Read our next newsletter to learn more about the Local Democracy Hub conference and the international collaboration between Peter and Veselina, supported with a small joint alumni grant of our program.

GLC Alumni Network

Contact us:

Vladislav Petkov, International Alumni Coordinator at v.petkov@proeuropean.net

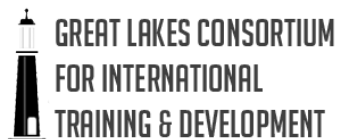
Elizabeth Balint, GLC Program manager at glc_teachdemocracy4@hotmail.com

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

