

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.

✔ WHAT WE OFFER

- Connecting alumni and mentors based on shared interests and common strategic goals
- 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
- Information sharing and visibility of strategic partnerships across the alumni network and beyond

✔ WHO CAN APPLY

All alumni and mentors from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and the U.S. from any of the delegations from 2012 to 2022 who have meaningfully stayed connected to the program. **The applicant is the one that will make the trip.**

However, by the time of the application, they should have identified an overseas strategic partner from within the program and established an agreement for their work together.

To receive financial support under this program, applicants need to spend at least **10 working days** with their hosting strategic partner(s). Participants are free to spend more time in the hosting country before or after the program. Dates for flights will be coordinated accordingly.

✔ FINANCIAL RULES

This is a co-payment program funded as follows:

GLC Alumni Network	Purchase of international flights for up to \$1500 for an overseas trip. In case flights are less expensive, remaining funds (to reach \$1500) can be used to cover health insurance, local transportation, visa costs or other expenses.
Hosting organization	Provides accommodation in a hosting family or other facility based on their context, and ideally local transportation.
Program participant	Covers expenses for food and other personal needs during the program, which could not be covered by the other two parties.

✓ VISA AND VACCINES

This program is funded beyond our grants from the U.S. State Department, which is why no J-1 visas will be issued. Where applicable, participants are responsible for obtaining a visa on their own, but invitation letters can be provided if needed.

In terms of COVID-19 vaccination and certificates, rules of the destination country and the hosting organization will apply.

✓ COMMITMENT

The funds provided on behalf of the GLC Alumni Network are raised through the collective efforts of our alumni family, which is why we owe transparency on how they were used and more importantly – on the impact they have generated. For that reason, we expect two short reports from every fellow:

1. 1-2 pages of highlights of their program and fields of improved capacities and strengthened partnerships 2 weeks after the trip;
2. 1-2 pages of impact on own work, sending organization and/or local community, as well as development of the strategic partnership 9 months after the trip.

In parallel, we encourage fellows to share information and updates during the program, which we in turn will promote through the social media channels of the GLC Alumni Network, events and our newsletter.

✓ TIMELINE

Program launch	March 31st 2023
Deadline for submitting applications	May 15th 2023
Announcing results	June 9th 2023
Program trips (tentatively)	September - December 2023

Funds are administered by country partners, which is why selected applicants should agree on feasible timeline for the trip, ticket purchase and reimbursement with their country director.

✓ AVAILABLE FUNDING

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

✓ SELECTION CRITERIA

All applications will be reviewed by the GLC Alumni Network Advisory Board, which will come up with a recommendation list of fellows. The list will then be approved by the Great Lakes Community Action Partnership.

In their review and recommendation list, the GLC Alumni Advisory Board will take into account the following selection criteria:





CRITERIA	WEIGHT
<p><i>Quality and potential of the strategic partnership,</i> which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link between the professional and civic experience of the applicant and their strategic partner(s) • Clear identification of needs and benefits of the strategic partners; • Preliminary ideas on how the partnership can develop and grow beyond this strategic partnerships program; • Expected impact on people, organizations, movements and communities; 	45%
<p><i>Motivation and learning plan of the applicant,</i> which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant motivation to participate in the program, including a justification on why partnerships can't be supported in another way (e.g. virtually) • Identified learning objectives for the applicant, and where applicable, their strategic partner(s) • Clarity on what the program will entail in terms of activities and processes 	30%
<p><i>Engagement and contribution of the applicant in alumni activities,</i> which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to or participation in international alumni activities (virtual events and in-person reunions) • Contribution to or participation in national alumni activities (support in recruitment, info sharing, national reunions and/or learning circles and similar) • Volunteer support in alumni activities or financial contribution to the fundraising efforts of the program 	25%

Where applicants have similar scores under this scale, geographical, gender and minority diversity will be taken into account.

HOW TO BUILD A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP?

Strategic partnership is a cooperation between people and/or organizations – from Europe on one side and from the U.S. on the other – which is mutually beneficial for all parties involved and brings in learning, shared actions and/or opportunities for funding. It should be based on a well-identified interest on both sides and have a long-lasting horizon.

EXAMPLE *Listen Up! Foundation in Bulgaria and Gallaudet University in the U.S. got connected through the GLC Professional Fellows program. They have now secured funding from Google to continue their cooperation around creating a master program for Deaf leaders in Bulgaria, which will also include exchange studies in Gallaudet. They have fostered this collaboration with multiple exchange trips through Fulbright Program.*





✓ TRIPS FROM 2022

The Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships program was piloted in 2022 and we have already supported 5 people who travelled on it:



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



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



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



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



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

✓ WHY 'DAVE BECKWITH'?

Dave Beckwith was one of the people without whom the GLC Professional Fellows program and our alumni community would not have existed. He was a dedicated advisor, supporter and donor to the program, but more importantly, he was an inspiration. He was bringing us all closer together. His sudden and untimely death in February 2022 left us devastated, but also bound us to keep up the good fight and do it in partnerships. For that reason, we dedicate this strategic partnerships program to him and are determined to make the best of it, just as he would like us to.



✓ HOW TO APPLY?

To apply, fill in this [application form](#) by May 15th 2023.

✓ QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Vladislav Petkov, International GLC Alumni Coordinator, at v.petkov@proeuropean.net.