



## STAY ENGAGED: Upcoming events

Tuesday, May 23rd 2023

### ReConnect: Erasmus+ Partnerships Making Event

Many across our alumni network work on youth, educational and sports projects funded by Erasmus+. The landmark European program is an important opportunity, which however always requires partnerships. And good partners are not easy to find.

Join us if you are ready to partner or looking for partners, if you have a project idea or looking for one, if you are experienced with the Erasmus+ program or just curious ;)

This will be an interactive event to allow for networking and partners finding.

[Zoom link to event](#)

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

21

Days

06

Hours

08

Minutes

21

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 us 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**

#### **Meet the GLC Professional Fellows Spring 2023 delegation**

The GLC Professional Fellows Spring 2023 delegation is arriving in the US on May 1st 2023. The 12-member delegation from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia will start its 40-

days fellowship on governance and society in the United States as part of a U.S. Department of State Professional Fellows Program managed by GLCAP/GLC.

The delegation arrives in Chicago and will stay there for 5 days for orientation, getting to know each other and exploring issues, organizations and the local context. Afterwards, on May 5th, they will travel to different cities across the U.S. for their 4-weeks tailored internship experience at a community organization. In early June, at the conclusion of the program, the fellows will meet with exchange programs' participants from around the world at a Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C.

Read more about the program, our 12 fellows and their US hosting organizations in our special newsletter:

[Read Special Newsletter: GLC Spring 2023 Delegation](#)



## US mentor Diana Copeland visits Bulgaria

US mentor Diana Copeland from [The White Ribbon Alliance](#) arrived to Sofia, Bulgaria on April 17th and is staying until May 3rd. Diana is spending her two weeks in the country working with our Fall 2022 fellows Theodora Ivanova-Valeva and Shirin Hodzheva who she mentored in Washington D.C.

last October.

Her schedule included training of civil society organizations on advocacy tactics, running a focus group, visiting the US Embassy, joining trainings with Roma women in the countryside. She also celebrated her birthday in Bulgaria. Happy birthday, Diana, and thank you for your contribution!





## April was a month of REUNIONS

It was a month of reunions! On April 19th our GLCAP colleagues Elizabeth Balint and Deb Martin met with US mentor Cris Doby and European fellows Maros Chmelik (Slovakia) and Annamari Kovacs (Hungary) in Detroit at an event on the [IREX Community Engagement Exchange Program](#) where Maros and Annamari serve as

mentors. The meeting was also an opportunity for Cris Doby to finally receive in-person her special award from our GLC Alumni Network for her decade of support to our programs.

Earlier in the month, big reunions were also observed in Romania. 14 Romanian alumni came together in Bucharest on April 3rd for an event organized by the [Community Solutions](#) program. On the next day, even more (20) alumni came together in the office of our partners in CeRe to discuss alumni network, but also to welcome the new fellows of the program, expected to travel in the next two delegations.



At the very beginning of April, Bulgarians also got together for a small weekend reunion hosted in the community space Hub-a (town of Samokov) ran by Bulgarian alumnus Georgi Nikoolv. Among other topics of discussion, the group decided to organize its first Alumni Ball, which is planned for May 19th. May will also be the month for a reunion of the Slovak alumni group.

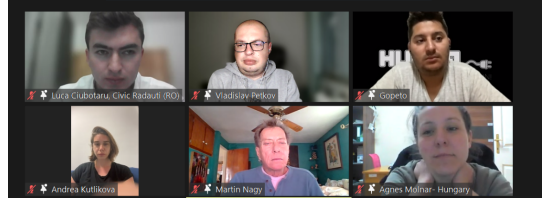
Talking about reunion, don't forget to [express your interest](#) for the international in-person reunion, which we are holding in Albania from November 1st through November 5th 2023.





## We shared experience in managing community spaces

We would like to thank our amazing panel of speakers who shared their experience on managing community spaces, as well as all the 25+ people who joined our virtual alumni event on Wednesday, April 26th 2023. We heard inspiring stories from Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and the US about reviving old places, creating hubs of civil energy and youth ideation, facilitating access of communities to arts and culture. Our alumni are doing an amazing job and we are so proud!



We also talked about challenges and our alumna from Slovakia Andrea Kutlikova shared with us that she is uncertain about the future of their center [Kalab](#), but there is an upcoming vote in the city council of Bratislava to decide if they will give the team a municipal building to manage. On the next day we heard from Andrea that the vote passed and Kalab will have a new and bigger home. Congrats!

Recording of the event is available upon request to alumni coordinator Vladislav Petkov at [v.petkov@proeuropean.net](mailto:v.petkov@proeuropean.net).



## Toledo now has a Dave Beckwith Memorial Bridge

In celebration of the legacy of Dave Beckwith (1950–2022) family, friends and elected leaders from Toledo (OH) came together on April 20th 2023 for dedication of the Marengo Street bridge as Dave Beckwith Memorial Bridge.

Friends and family then gathered on the front lawn of Dave's family home where his family has hanged many of his T-shirts that related to his work and passion. Among them was the Certified Community Organizer T-shirt as well as other ones connected to our GLC Professional Fellows program which Dave helped launch and develop.

On the occasion, community member and Dave's friend [Sam Melden](#) wrote:

*The bridge isn't the point of the journey.... It helps you get where you're going. Your time spent with it is a passage. It's both art and science. Beautiful and practical. Isn't that the community organizer? Guiding us from here to there.*

We're driving, but within the confines strategically laid out. A bridge is the obvious, perfect metaphor for Dave.



**DAVE BECKWITH  
MEMORIAL  
STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIPS  
PROGRAM 2023**



**APPLY BEFORE MAY 15TH 2023**

## 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 this series we are sharing the results of these projects.*





### Improving the involvement of partners in the operation of Charity Taxi

Alumni Monika Balint (Fall 2015) and Tamas Horn (Fall 2016) came together to enhance the objective of the Charity Taxi's work with their rural partners, for more predictable and professional collaborations.

For this purpose, between March 24th and 26th, a training weekend was organized in Kunbábony with the participation of the Charity Taxi staff, two rural partners and a volunteer. The training program was developed by Mónika and Tamás, with the help of another CKA trainer, Zsuzsa Mészáros. The program included the methodology of community organizing and development through many practical examples and interactive tasks. Among other things, it was about the organization's vision, the involvement of target groups, the attributes of a potential partner, and the institutional system surrounding them.

In the end of the training the group identified the potential elements to improve their partner's engagement strategy. These included:

- monthly online forum for networking, case studies and supervision for partners
- FB group for partners for networking, sharing introductions, best practices, reports and experiences with Charity Taxi
- organizing partner seminar in Kunbábony in September if funding from the European Union is secured.





## STAY REFLECTIVE: The Long Read



George Goehl ([georgegoehl.substack.com](http://georgegoehl.substack.com))

## Often Overlooked, The Power of Ritual in Organizing

*"The rituals of the organization are as important as good systems and management. They signal what is most valued and create a stickiness that binds people to the organization."*

*In your organizing, the rituals and the symbols will be unique to what you are building. Your rituals don't need to be, and in fact shouldn't be, the ones I named here, but you need to have them. Find the ones that reinforce the culture you want to create. Like all the soft arts, they are as important as effective systems, good management, and all the other things we do to build vibrant and powerful organizing, but often overlooked."*

[Read full article](#)

## GLC Alumni Network

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