



RECRUITING U.S. MENTORS

For European Fellows from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania & Slovakia

2023-2024 PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM:
EMPOWERING CITIZEN-LED DEMOCRACY

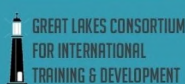


FALL 2023 & SPRING 2024 DELEGATIONS

Great Lakes Consortium for International Training & Development (GLC), a program of Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, is looking for U.S. professionals in community organizing and advocacy to host 2 European Fellows for four weeks at their host organization. Those selected to be U.S. Mentors will have the opportunity for an expenses-paid reciprocal trip to Central and Eastern Europe. U.S. Mentors are expected to find and coordinate U.S. host families for their European fellows and will gain access to the GLC international alumni network of more than 130 U.S. Mentor and 300 European Fellow alumni. European Fellows are mid-career professionals from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. Stipends for food and transportation will be provided to European Fellows. The GLC Professional Fellows Program is supported and funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR FALL 2023 DELEGATION:
THURSDAY, JUNE 15th 2023
(Spring 2024 Recruitment Rolling)

More information at glc-teachdemocracy2.org or contact Elizabeth Balint at eebaling@glcap.org / 419 973-8007



STAY ENGAGED: Upcoming events

Monday, June 19th 2023

ReThink: Making Allies

Some issues are more difficult to get people behind than others. Issues that



affect minority communities are often among the most difficult ones to garner popular support. In this event we will explore different practices and strategies across our alumni network to make allies and get them on board as champions and supporters of minority rights, including LGBTIQ+ communities, Roma, and others.

Save the date and stay tuned for the speakers' lineup and more details soon.

[Zoom link to event](#)

[Link to Facebook event *](#)

14

Days

07

Hours

49

Minutes

12

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.

November 1st – 5th 2023

Apply now: International reunion in Albania

We would like to thank everyone who have expressed their interest to join our international in-person reunion, which this year will take place in Albania between November 1st and 5th 2023. Considering the high interest to the event and the limited number of

GLC PRO FELLOWS IN-PERSON INTERNATIONAL REUNION

**APPLICATION
OPEN UNTIL
JUNE 15TH
2023.**

**1-5
NOVEMBER
2023**

ALBANIA



places available, we are now launching an application form which will be used as a selection tool for the participants of this reunion. Selection will be made based on: a) the level of engagement and contribution of the applicants to the alumni community nationally and internationally; b) the potential contribution to the learning processes within the reunion

Please submit your reunion [application](#) **by the end of the day on June 20th, 2023.** You will be informed on your participation in the reunion **by July 15th, 2023.**

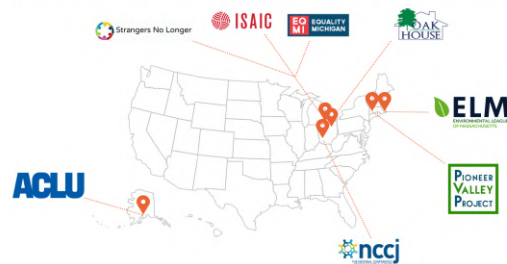
[Apply here!](#)

STAY INFORMED: News Bites

Our Spring 2023 delegation is finishing their internships as they head to Washington, D.C.

The 12 fellows from the GLC Professional Fellows Spring 2023 delegation has successfully completed their placements in 8 organizations in 4 states. Their professional and cultural experience in hosting organizations and communities lasted between May 5th and June 2nd. We would like to thank all hosting organizations, mentors and host families who made this happen.

GLC PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS SPRING 2023 PLACEMENTS



Team Detroit:
Veselina, Petra, Adela and Martina



Ioana and Kostadin
volunteering in Springfield



Earlier, the delegation arrived in Chicago on May 1st for 5 days for orientation, getting to know each other and exploring issues, organizations and the local context. This happened with the help of our Fall 2013 alumna Gabriela Mezeiova who is currently in the US.



As everyone gets together again in Washington, D.C., on June 2nd, the group will spend a couple of days for peer-to-peer sharing and learning from their placement before meeting with exchange programs' participants from around the world at a Professional Fellows Congress.

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 Ebony DeBerry visited Romania

US mentor Ebony DeBerry from [One Northside](#) (Chicago) visited Romania in May 2023. Ebony spent her time in the country working with our Fall 2022 fellow Viviana Hutuleac who she mentored in Chicago last October.

Ebony got to explore the remote, but beautiful area of Bukovina on the north of Romania. She took part in a number of meetings and events, all part of Viviana's follow-up project called G.A.L.A. The project engaged directly over 500 people from the local community!



We are recruiting US mentors for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 delegations

We are looking for U.S. professionals in community organizing and advocacy to host 2 European Fellows for four weeks at their organization from

our Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 delegation. Those selected to be U.S. Mentors will have the potential opportunity for a reciprocal trip to Central and Eastern Europe and will join an international alumni network of over 300 European Fellows and 130 U.S. Mentors.

European Fellows are mid-career professionals from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia, speak English well, and are leaders in their home communities and organizations. U.S. Mentors are expected to find and coordinate volunteer U.S. host families for their European fellows. Stipends for food and transportation will be provided to European Fellows.

If you are interested in applying to be a U.S. Mentor for Fall 2023 or Spring 2024, please read through the full announcement and fill up our short application form here:

U.S. Mentors recruitment: Announcement and Application

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR FALL 2023 DELEGATION:

THURSDAY, JUNE 15th 2023

(Spring 2024 Recruitment Rolling)

11

Days

19

Hours

48

Minutes

12

Seconds

More in-country reunions in May

In the weekend of May 12-14 2023, 14 alumni got together for an in-person reunion in Slovakia. They discussed a variety of topics, including pre-election activities of the civil sector ahead of the early elections in September 2023 (with contribution from our alumnus Martin Klus who joined online). As always, the event included a lot of professional networking among participants, program updates and developments in the field.



In the meantime in Bulgaria, 34 alumni and current fellows came together for a first of its kind Alumni Ball. Set to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the GLC Pro Fellows program in Bulgaria and the 70+ Bulgarian leaders being part of the program, the event served for reconnecting old friends and partners, building new relationships and partnerships, reflection on the program impact personally and in the civil society field, as well as recognition of all alumni who have stayed engaged.



DAVE BECKWITH MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM 2023



10 alumni applied for the Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program 2023

By the deadline of May 15th 2023, we have received 10 applications from European alumni and US mentors for our [Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program 2023](#).

Four of the applications are from the US and six from European countries, more specifically fellows from Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary.

The GLC Alumni Advisory Board, which includes country directors and alumni from all of our program countries, will review all applications on a board meeting taking place on June 5th 2023 to make a decision on approved applications. Thanks to the collaborative fundraising efforts of our alumni community, we expect to be able to fund between 6 and 7 overseas trips.

We talked Erasmus+ partnerships at our May virtual event

On May 23rd 2023, our alumni community got together for a

- 1.Name HU
- 2.Your experience with Erasmus+
2. Profile of partners
3. Project ideas



STAY IMPACTFUL: Alumni achievements



Romanian alumna Raluca Negulescu wins Alumni Impact Award for the Spring 2023 Professional Fellows Congress

Congratulations to Raluca Negulescu our GLC Pro Fellows Alumna from Romania for being selected by the US Department of State as Alumni Impact Award winner for the Spring 2023 Professional Fellows Congress!

Raluca is the first among our 300 GLC European alumni who is receiving this prestigious award! The award gives the opportunity for Raluca to travel to Washington, DC and speak at the Professional Fellows Congress, taking part June 5-9, 2023. She will have the chance to also meet our Spring 2023 delegation, which will be attending the congress. We are so proud of you, Raluca!

Here is the description of Raluca's achievements as recognized by the U.S. Department of State:

Ms. Raluca Negulescu-Balaci, hosted by the Great Lakes Community Action Partnership in spring 2013, is the Executive Director of UiPath Foundation, a global nonprofit organization that enables underprivileged children from Romania and India to reach their potential through access to 21st century-oriented education. Ms. Negulescu-Balaci has 14 years of experience in designing and implementing innovative programs in vulnerable communities, linking education to technology, arts, sport, and community organizing. In 2013, Ms. Negulescu-Balaci was a Legislative Fellow in the Professional Fellows Program, focusing on building grassroots democracy in minority communities. She subsequently received the Human Rights Award of the Embassy of France in Romania for her local women civic initiative, the Mothers' Club. Ms. Negulescu-Balaci has written extensively about structural racism against Roma and ethnic profiling in European reports commissioned by the European Network against Racism in Europe and the European Roma Grassroots Organizations Network. From 2017 to 2019, she was the Board Chair of the Fare network, an international organization with more than 150 members in nearly 40 European countries that works to advance social inclusion of marginalized and disenfranchised groups via football and to engage policymakers, key players, and governing bodies in the anti-discrimination movement. She is an alumna of the Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, and a 2015 Fellow of the Young Leaders Program of Aspen Institute Romania. Currently, Ms. Negulescu-Balaci is also a member of the board of the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS), an international, Brussels-based nonprofit organization with a pan-European membership and nearly 30 years of experience, with the mission to empower citizens in order to create a more inclusive and stronger European Union by promoting and defending citizens' rights and by developing and supporting mechanisms to increase citizens and citizen organizations' democratic participation in, and engagement with, the EU.

In the meantime, the application for the 2023-2024 Alumni Impact Award, to be awarded at the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, DC in October 2023 and June 2024, is now open. We are certain there are many more alumni and mentors across our community who are worthy of the award and we urge them to apply before June 11th 2023: <https://tinyurl.com/InternatIAIA2023>.

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.



Teach Democracy with young people in rural areas

“AydeBre” is a small joint project by Bulgarian alumni Milenko Milenkov and Dzhevid Mahmud aimed at youth empowerment by raising awareness about democracy among youth in rural areas.

It took place on 25th and 26th of April 2023 in the town of Lom, North-West Bulgaria.

On day one the team conducted training with young future voters and leaders. The training included activities aimed at enhancing democratic practices, and the development of presentation and communication skills. As a result of the training, the 22 youths come up with 10 different issues their community faces in the town and selected three to be discussed with the municipality representatives on the next day. The topics included available spaces to do sports, issues with infrastructure, and places for youth activities. The youth also found that the town has a general issue with offering employment.

On day two of the activity, Milenko and Dzevid had a prep session with three selected representatives from the group, and went through the activities and issues discussed on day one. Then a meeting with the local municipality representatives followed. At the meeting a deputy mayor was present and four other representatives from different municipality departments i.e., educational, financial, etc.

The young representatives used the opportunity to share the activities from the training and present the issues they concluded are most relevant to address. The authorities' reaction was marvelous, as they were very glad to see youth take action and shared that they would expect more initiatives like this to take

place. One of the results of the meeting was that representatives are planning to have a youth municipality running week in June or July 2023.



STAY ON TOP: Opportunities

Deadline: June 11th 2023

Apply for the Alumni Impact Award



As an alum of the Professional Fellows Program, you have worked hard. Here is an opportunity to be recognized for your achievements: the U.S. Department of State is inviting applications for the 2023-2024 Alumni Impact Award, to be awarded at the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, DC in October 2023 and June 2024. The award will honor alumni whose participation in the program contributed to their ability to make a positive impact on their communities, regions, or countries. Open to all PFP alumni, including all European and US participants from our GLC Professional Fellows programs.

We have three alumnas of our program having won the award: Sondra Youdelman (US) in 2016, Tara Parrish (US) in 2017 and Raluca Negulescu-Balaci (Romania) just a couple of days ago.

We know there are many more alumni that deserve this recognition, so please consider applying before June 11th 2023!

[Apply here](#)

Tell us what you think!

We are considering to offer a second round of the training course 'Search Inside Yourself' to take place in the Fall of 2023 in a series of virtual session. However, we want to make sure there is interest across our community, which is why we ask for your thoughts in three simple questions.

More about the Search Inside Yourself course
here: <https://www.siyglobal.com/sear...>

Would you be interested to join the course 'Search Inside Yourself'?

This is a mindfulness-based emotional intelligence training programme developed at Google and offered pro-bono by our alumnus Tamas Avar (Hungary) exclusively for our GLC alumni community.

☐ Yes!

☐ No

☐ Maybe

Begin

GLC Alumni Network

Contact us:

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

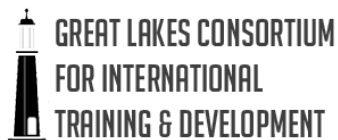
Elizabeth Balint, GLC Program manager at eebalint@glcap.org

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

