

GLCAP / GLC SPRING 2023 PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM FOR BULGARIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA AND SLOVAKIA



**MAY 1ST - JUNE 9TH
2023**



**PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS**

Funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs,
Global Leaders Division..

GLC is a program of Great Lakes Community Action Partnership since 1999. GLC is a collaborative effort of the Bowling Green State University, the Lourdes University, University of Toledo and Great Lakes Community Action Partnership.

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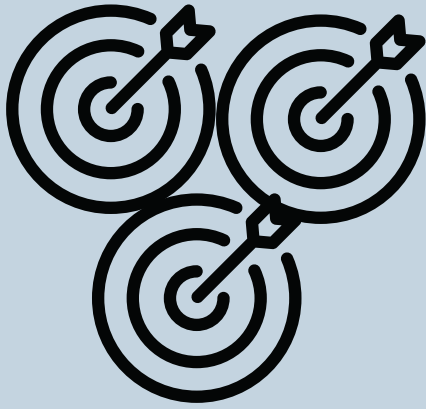
Website:
www.glc-teachdemocracy2.org

GLCAP (formerly known WSOS) received the FY 2021 Professional Fellows grant from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to manage a two-way Governance and Society program entitled Empowering Citizen-led Democracy for emerging leaders from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and the United States between September 2021 and May 2024. The purpose of this program is to galvanize a grassroots base of active citizens to be strong advocates for citizen-led democracy in Eastern Europe.

Through in-person, virtual, and blended professional development opportunities the participating community leaders will have opportunities for learning and developing tools around community organizing, citizen engagement, community-led development, and advocacy. A special emphasis will be placed on participants from, and working with, marginalized and rural communities. The program will allow participants to share ideas, collaborate, and build a global network of professionals dedicated to supporting civic participation and public activism in the United States and Europe.

Two groups of European fellows will spend approximately 42 days in the United States participating in professional and leadership development activities, individually tailored working placements with public institutions, non-profit organizations, and advocacy groups, followed by participation in the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C.

American participants will then travel overseas to spend up to two-weeks conducting joint-trainings and working with their foreign counterparts to advance civil liberties, social justice, and civic engagement in their communities.



The **specific objectives** of this program:

- (1) Strengthen the leadership and professional skills of international and U.S. participants.
- (2) Provide opportunities for foreign and U.S. emerging leaders to collaborate and share ideas, approaches, and strategies to pressing challenges
- (3) Build lasting and sustainable relationships between participants and communities.



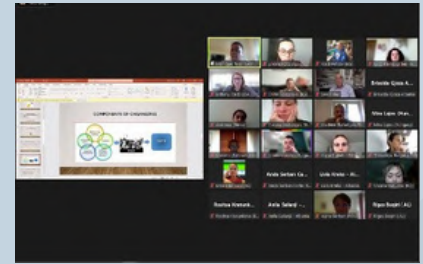
Expected outcomes/results:

- (1) To provide existing community leaders with enhanced technical knowledge, leadership competencies, and professional connections to spark positive change in their communities
- (2) Enduring connections between Albanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovakian, and American young professionals.

VIRTUAL COMPONENT

After the fall 2022 and spring 2023 participants for this program were selected and approved by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassies a pre-program training was started for all selected participants during the spring 2022. The training - along with some on-boarding features to our alumni community - combined two type of programs:

- (1) Three international online sessions three hours each on Zoom and
- (2) up to three sessions presented by each country.



On the international sessions fellows learned from different U.S. trainers and leaders, in the national sessions they learned from the local alumni and from each other. While the training curricula was created jointly for all national training sessions due to the local COVID conditions and the availability of the fellows it was implemented differently by each country for the additional 9 hours training.

The goal of these pre-program training sessions was to teach and share experience on community organizing and learn about more about the program participants, start building an international network and during the national sessions to explore more on community organizing practices within their own country and start building some connections with the local alumni and its program.

In addition, fellows were involved in different international alumni engagement opportunities, and they also spent time with their U.S. mentors online. Each of the fall 2022 and spring 2023 delegation members collected at least 20 hours before coming to the in-person part of the program. The fall 2022 delegation's program was successfully completed between September 30-November 4, 2022 in the U.S. and 5 of their US mentors also completed their outbound travels. Additional 3 mentors will travel to Europe later in the spring.

SPRING 2023 TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES

The spring 2023 European delegation, with a total of 12 fellows: from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia will visit the U.S. from May 1st through June 9, 2023. Due to last minute cancellation no one from Albania is included in this delegation. European fellows will learn the U.S. practices in participatory democracy, governance, citizen engagement, advocacy with special focus on marginalized (including African-American, Native American, Latino, Roma, disabled, immigrants, unemployed and homeless, LGBT) and rural communities. They will explore diverse community organizing methods and hands-on experience at civil society organizations from across the U.S. for citizens solving problems in communities, learn skills in leadership development and gain hands-on experience at civil society organizations. Through 4-week internship placement at state or local organizations they will gain practical experience, new ideas and adaptable approaches that they can implement after their return.

The spring 2023 fellows will participate in joint in-person activities before and after their 4-week internship in the U.S. Before the internship in Chicago, Illinois they will have arrival orientation and training with active participation, field visits and team building activities. After their internship they will participate in peer-to-peer learning in Washington, D.C. where they share their experience and ideas that they gained at different U.S. host organizations and will discuss how some of the new ideas can be implemented in their home countries.

During the 4-week tailored internship they will have various opportunities to gain practical experience and work closely with their U.S. mentors as they develop their individual project plans to be implemented based on ideas gained in the U.S. after their return in their own country. By the end of their internship participants will prepare 6-month Individual Action Plan for follow-on activities. Multicultural events and participation in volunteer activities as well as other community engagement activities will be included. One webinar and an online course will be provided for the fellows to enhance their leadership skills and preparing them for the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C. at the end of the U.S. program. Fellows will experience the American family life and the diversity in the U.S. through staying with host families during their internship.

Overall 8 U.S. Host organizations and some other partners in 4 U.S. states will be involved in the Spring 2023 U.S. program. Fellows will continue to participate in alumni activities in their country after their return home.

US Mentors who are hosting the fellows will travel to Europe between September-November 2023 for a reciprocal visit to directly support follow-on projects and provide on-site consultations and trainings, and contribute to long-term collaboration. American and European participants of the program will have an opportunity to share professional expertise and gain a deeper understanding of the societies, cultures and people of other countries.

This program is a collaboration between Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) / Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development (GLC) and its **overseas partners:**

ALBANIA



BULGARIA



HUNGARY



ROMANIA



SLOVAKIA



Fellows from

BULGARIA



Rositsa Kratunkova

Sofia, Bulgaria

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Internship:

American Civil Liberties Union

(ACLU)

Anchorage, AK

Rositsa Kratunkova is currently working as an Advocacy and communication officer with Doctors of the World, which she joined in December 2020. She is based in Sofia but the main activities of the mission are in Sliven where the organization focuses on providing health services to vulnerable people in the segregated Roma neighborhood of Nadejda. Rositsa is responsible for mobilizing partners, organizing events and advancing the topic of how the lack of access to rights amplifies the ghettoization and the vulnerability of people. She recently co-authored a report on housing policies in Bulgaria. Having acquired some experience at home, Rositsa also worked in France in the national administration about migration of the Roma community and slums.

Rositsa holds a Master in Law from the University of Plovdiv in Bulgaria and a Master in European affairs from Sciences Po Paris. She speaks fluently English, French and Bulgarian, her mother tongue.

What Rositsa is most interested about in this program is the possibility to learn more about community organizing and the ways of mobilizing partners and decision makers around a topic.

When she has free time, Rositsa likes to read and to get involved in activism on various topics such as human friendly urban planning, access to services for homeless people and human rights.

Kostadin Belenozov is an up-and-coming youth leader from Chepelare, a small town in the South-East part of Bulgaria, in Rhodopa mountain. Since 2016 he is a member of the core team of Teen Spirit Youth Center in Chepelare. He supports the organizing of events, trainings, youth exchanges and various initiatives with and for young people. At the youth center he also leads classes on zumba and guitar and drum lessons. The Teen Spirit Youth Center is a youth-led and voluntarily-based group, and Kostadin's involvement is also on voluntarily bases.

In 2018 Kostadin started working in the Municipality of Chepelare as a Junior tourism expert in the touristic office in the town, which provides information about the activities and tourist products in the region. His role as an employee in the municipality of Chepelare allows him to serve as a mediator between the youth community and local authorities and stakeholders.

Kostadin did an Erasmus+ university exchange and studied in Milan, Italy, for 1 semester. Apart from that he took part in various mobility projects locally and internationally. He has not been in the U.S. and is very excited about this opportunity.

Kostadin has graduated Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv a bachelor's degree on the philological major 'Bulgarian language and Italian language'. He then obtained a master's degree from the same university on 'Language Provision and Cultural Activities in Tourism'. Apart from Bulgarian and English, Kostadin is also fluent in Italian.

Kostadin applied for this program to prepare himself, and then other young people, on how to properly organize their community, how to cooperate with other organizations, how to help each other.

In his free time, he likes reading, practicing different sports, playing guitar and kajan. His other passion is dancing and theatrical arts.



Kostadin Belenozov

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Internship:

Pioneer Valley Project (PVP)

Springfield, MA



Veselina Bozhinova

Burgas, Bulgaria

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Internship:
Equality Michigan
Detroit, MI

Veselina Bozhinova is based in Burgas, Bulgaria, where she has lived most of her life. She has a legal background but has never worked in this field. She is an avid communicator who currently works as media analyst for a consultancy firm based in Sofia and London.

Veselina left her home city in 2017 after she was selected as a trainee at the European Parliament. When in Brussels, she also worked along the ranks of the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG). She already had history with FYEG as she was coordinating one of the working groups pertaining to the organization – the one dedicated to Gender Equality and LGBT+ rights (2015-2016). She later returned to human rights campaigning within the organization as coordinator of FYEG’s Feminist Network. She ran other projects in parallel.

Veselina is eager to gain knowledge and further experience in community organizing and to implement innovative approaches in grassroots activism in Burgas. Following her trip to the United States, she intends to start her own non-profit organization dedicated to intersectional feminism and engage more young people to advance women’s rights on local level and in Bulgaria.

Veselina speaks fluently Italian and English. One of her hobbies is exploring new cultures through languages via self-learning platforms and podcasts. She enjoys online language chatrooms and spends time speaking with like-minded peers keen on expanding their linguistic horizons.

THANK YOU



TO OUR GLC PROJECT ADVISORS:

CRIS DOBY, SONDR A YOUDELMAN, MO GEORGE, MARTIN NAGY AND CHUCK HIRT!



TO OUR EUROPEAN ALUMNI

EDITA BEDNAROVA SERVING AS PROGRAM INTERNAL EVALUATOR

VLADISLAV PETKOV SERVING AS INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI COORDINATOR



TO OUR COUNTRY DIRECTORS IN EUROPE:

ENKELA PORO & AIDA CIRO IN ALBANIA

VLADISLAV PETKOV & EMIL METODIEV IN BULGARIA

PETER SZABADOS & MONIKA BALINT IN HUNGARY

ALEXANDRU PALAS & ANDA SERBAN IN ROMANIA

MIROSLAV RAGAC & MAROS CHMELIK IN SLOVAKIA



Fellows from

ROMANIA



Andreea Chiriac

Bucharest, Romania

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Internship:

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Anchorage, AK

Andreea Chiriac, is a Roma expert, specialized in organizational management and implementation of programs and projects in cultural and educational fields, and also in the empowerment of Roma women and young Roma women. Ms. Chiriac grew up in a traditional Roma community from Calvini and developed her professional career in Bucharest.

Graduate of Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, she has a wide experience in working with vulnerable groups and is currently coordinating the Health Mediation Program within Roma Center for Health Policy – SASTIPEN. The main goals of SASTIPEN are the analysis and development of health policies as well as public health strategies and interventions, especially in Roma communities.

Ms. Chiriac started her volunteering journey in her first faculty year wishing to help people in need and she has an experience of 6 years volunteering. She was a volunteer for some of the most prominent Roma organizations in Romania. Besides being a native Romani language speaker, she speaks fluently English and also has knowledge of Spanish and French.

This fellowship program is the first opportunity for Andreea to travel to the U.S. She is looking to learn more about community organizing and to develop her skills in mobilizing and empowering people in addressing the problems they have. Her goal is to make the Roma Health Mediators an engine for development and is hoping to find good practices about how in a patriarchal community, a woman can take the lead.

In her free time she likes to spend time with her friends and family and travel.

Ioana Serban works as a youth worker and a nonformal education trainer for young people since 2012. In 2013 she founded Rise and Shine Youth Association (RASYA) and today she is the president of the organization. RASYA supports and encourages young people to have a more active participation in their communities and in the society.

Since 2016, she is actively involved in projects that empower youngsters to make themselves heard in the community, by learning how to communicate with the authorities, and knowing what their rights and obligations are. She started volunteering as a student, in various national and international projects that promoted democracy and politic transparency. In 2011 Ioana volunteered for 6 months in Gaziantep, Turkey, at a local youth NGO where she developed an anti-discrimination campaign; organized interactive, nonformal and cultural workshops for the local volunteers and the community.

Ms. Şerban studied Political Science in Bucharest, Romania and is currently enrolled in the master studies "Learning, innovation and coaching in education" at the University of Bucharest.

As a student, in 2005, Ms. Şerban participated in the "Work & Travel" program, spending the summer vacation working and traveling around Florida. She had the opportunity to practice her English and to learn a bit of Spanish. She is fluent in English, but if the opportunity rises, she can use French or Italian.

Ioana believes that the exchange of good practices between U.S. and European organizations could provide better methods for the development of programs aimed to encourage and increase of youth participation.

In her free time, she enjoys traveling in places that help her understand the diversity of cultures, taking her outside her comfort zone.



Ioana Serban

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Internship:

**Pioneer Valley Project (PVP)
Springfield, MA**



Adela Alexandru

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Internship:
Equality Michigan
Detroit, MI

Adela Alexandru has been working in the field of gender equality since college - first as a volunteer and now as a researcher and community organizer on behalf of FILIA Center, a feminist NGO from Bucharest, Romania, which fights against gender inequality through research, advocacy and activism and grassroots work. She is currently involved in projects for combating all forms of violence against women and girls and for promoting gender equality. As a community organizer Adela is working in 7 rural communities with several groups of girls and women, listening about their needs and trying to find ways to get rid of the obstacles, finding solutions for their problems. At the same time she is maintaining the communication with local authorities to better intervene in the community's cases and to address their needs.

Adela is a graduate of the Political Science Faculty (2018) within the National University for Political Studies and Public Administration in Bucharest and of the Policies, gender and minorities masters program (2020) of the same university. She's an alumna of the ODIHR Advocacy School on Gender and Politics (2021) and currently doing her PhD in political science with a thesis regarding the impact of women's lack of access to infrastructure. During college, Adela was actively involved in a student initiative that she co-funded to fight sexual harassment within universities. Together with her colleagues she implemented a 3 years advocacy campaign: raising awareness among academic community about the phenomenon, discussing the possible solutions and petitioning for the implementation of an updated code of conduct better addressing sexual harassment. Prior to taking the position of community organizer and researcher at FILIA, she has been working for about two years as an equal opportunities expert in European projects focusing on education.

Adela is fluent in English as this was her study language for a semester and besides she took part in many international projects and programs. For her first visit to the US Adela hopes she will improve her abilities to develop and grow communities to make their voices be heard. She's also hoping to gain a better understanding of how women's organizations/groups can better represent their social and political interests.

Madalina Musca has been a vice-president and project manager at Politeia Association since 2020, when she started working with the community and also developing projects with the organization. Most of her work is focused on growing a local action group in a disadvantaged community from a rural area around Bucharest that faces the consequences of structural inequality. Her projects and activities have first of all educational and civic goals, with an intersectional vision, and intend to create solidarity and social cohesion between different groups of the community: people that have different ethnic identities (Roma and non-Roma), different gender and ages.

Besides the work at Politeia she is an independent researcher and she has worked in multiple cultural and research projects during the past years. She has a strong academic and personal interest in sociology of education, and on subjects related to it like inequality or social justice. Thus she has explored these subjects during her BA in Sociology and Masters in Anthropology. She has also obtained in 2019 a PhD in Sociology at SNSPA Bucharest. Her thesis tackles the subject of educational difficulties of Romani Kalderash children and the power dynamics that are involved in the process of schooling. She has coordinated research for Terres des Hommes Romania for assessing the needs of children and youth in detention facilities and the training needs of detention staff in order to improve the reintegration process.

This is the first opportunity for her to visit the US. This program would be an amazing chance for her to learn how to optimize what she has learned by doing in the past years at Politeia. She believes supporting the women and children from disadvantaged communities in their efforts for a better education and a better future is essential, and that there are systemic changes that ought to be done that should include the voices that are not usually heard. Thus she would like to gain more knowledge and experience on how to get the community impacted by the problems to be more involved in the decision making process.

She is fluent in English and French and basic understanding of Spanish and Romani.



Madalina Musca

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Internship:
NCCJ of Greater Dayton
Dayton, OH

Fellows from

SLOVAKIA



Martina Marekova

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Internship:
ISAIC Detroit
Detroit, MI

Martina Marekova has been a Fashion Revolution Country Coordinator for Slovakia since 2018 and as a volunteer she contributed to campaigning from the beginning of the movement in 2013. The organization aims for transparency in the fashion industry, which means shining more light on human and environmental rights within the whole fashion value chain. The organization is behind the Fashion Transparency Index, which rates the transparency of the 250 world's biggest fashion brands. Her main tasks are to coordinate the Slovak team, contribute in strategic and financial planning and management, and actively participate as an expert in non-formal educational activities, which are mostly organized with high school and university students.

Martina found her way to education through her own slow fashion brand, which she started in 2011. By searching for the resources and stories behind the materials she was using in her creations she explored the opacity of the fashion industry and its negative impacts. That's when she committed to contribute to improve it through education of young people as future leaders and decision makers.

Ms Marekova studied Literature and Linguistics with the idea of becoming a journalist. Even though this hasn't become her work, she still writes as a hobby. She is fluent in Slovak and English, she understands many Slavic languages.

Ms Marekova never traveled to the U.S. before. As an activist she would like to gain deeper experience in community organizing, specifically mobilizing and empowering young people. She would like to explore as well the new ways of volunteering organization planning, management and fundraising.

Ms Marekova enjoys nature in all aspects – from horse riding to gardening, and especially enjoyed its quietness for her writing moments.

Petra is the founder, president, and project manager of the Slovak non-governmental organization EduEra. EduEra has reaped success since the beginning as a The best NGO practice award in 2018 or The best practice initiatives in 2019. Via intensive work with local volunteers in the EduEra mentoring program around Slovakia, EduEra aims to inform people about educational opportunities, build and develop their competencies, and support their active participation and initiative through various projects in Slovakia and abroad. The main activity of EduEra is to interconnect formal, non-formal education and the business sector and EduEra activities are mainly focused on cross-sectoral collaboration between schools, municipalities, and NGOs.

In addition to EduEra activities, Petra collaborates with top experts from all over Europe, where she implements her researcher, project managing, and trainer/facilitator skills. She also currently works as a primary teacher and studying at the third level of university studies at the Pedagogic Department at Comenius University. She graduated as a primary teacher and simultaneously finished her second master's in psychology, bringing her to the holistic approach and education as topics she has been working with since high school. She has been involved in many international projects and national initiatives with the main focus on education, facilitation, coaching, psychology, communication, and problem-solving. Petra focuses on the local aspect in her work or volunteering. She mobilizes young people from Slovakia and implements project activities in less developed regions, such as Medzilaborce, Krompachy, or Kysak.

Petra is visiting the U.S. for the first time. With this fellowship program, she expects to learn more about community organizing methods and leadership development. She would love to have direct experience in community work organized by a local NGO. Petra is always seeking new opportunities to become a better educator and person, and she is a passionate problem solver and supporter of peer learning and non-formal education.



Petra Papiernikova

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Internship:
Strangers No Longer
Detroit, MI



Vladimír Rafael

Bratislava, Slovakia
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Internship:
NCCJ of Greater Dayton
Dayton, OH

Vladimír Rafael is a Roma activist, pedagogue, publicist and founder of the civic association eduRoma - Roma Education Project, which he founded in August 2012, in response to the growing segregation of Roma children in schools in Slovakia. The organization is currently based in Bratislava and also has a regional office in eastern Slovakia in the city of Prešov.

During his university studies in social work (1998-2003) and later during his doctoral studies in pedagogy (2003-2006) at Comenius University in Bratislava, Vlado became publicly engaged. As a social work student, he volunteered for 3 years in a shelter with clients from various disadvantaged backgrounds. As a doctoral student in pedagogy, Mr. Rafael began to delve deeper into the problem of segregation of Roma pupils in Slovak education, and in 2005 he received an offer to work for the Open Society Foundation in Bratislava as a consultant in the field of education. Seven years later, however, Mr. Rafael left the foundation to start working with a school that was convicted by the Regional Court for the segregation of Roma children for the first time in Slovakia's history.

In 2016, Mr. Rafael received the prestigious Human Rights Defender Awards from the US Embassy in Slovakia for his activities and public commitment against the segregation of Roma children in schools in Slovakia. Later he founded the field program Step-by-step, which he established during the COVID-19 pandemic for Roma students who did not have access to online tuition. In 2021, he founded the minority online magazine Romano fórum. He is the author and editor of several key studies and research papers that address the issues of school policy, desegregation, and the promotion of inclusive education in the school environment. Since 2020, he has been an advisor to the Council of Europe in the field of inclusive education in Slovakia.

Mr. Rafael would like to learn examples of the effective management of non-profit organizations working with various vulnerable groups during his planned study visit to the United States. He would also be very interested in the knowledge and practical experience in the field of advocacy work in promoting the rights and needs of disadvantaged groups.

In his spare time, Vlado enjoys reading, watching documentaries, writing newspaper articles, or writing poetry and pop-rock songs.

Veronika has started volunteering with disadvantaged children in 2006, as a high school student, in a hospital and foster home. She has worked with mentally disadvantaged people and people with severe psychiatric disorders in a psycho-rehabilitation center and supportive housing. Since 2018 she's working in a non-governmental organization Ulita as a psychologist. Her current position in the organization is legal representative, financial manager and coordinator of the streetwork program.

The organisation Ulita is located in a small marginal neighborhood in Bratislava in poor socio-economic situation. Ulita provides educational, preventive, free-time and consulting activities for children 4-13, young people 13-20 years old and also their parents or family members. Veronika has been involved in all of these services, but has a focus on streetwork prevention, organizing trips and community events. Her experience involves also fundraising and project management and communication with local government.

Veronika has a bachelor and a master degree on psychology. After some job experience, she has also studied Fine arts (2016-2019) at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava.

Veronika speaks Slovak, Czech, English, a little bit of Spanish and German. In her free time She likes to make or experience art, music, likes to bicycle, cook and go to nature.

Veronika has never traveled to the U.S. before. During her fellowship in the U.S., she would like to gain practical experience in community organizing, leadership and streetwork so she can implement it in her current work in community of underprivileged children, youth and families. She is enthusiastic about meeting new people and experts in the field of community organizing.



Veronika Porubcanska

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Internship:
Oak House
Port Clinton, OH

Fellow from **HUNGARY**



Zita Szederkenyi has worked with multinational companies in the areas of communication, PR and sustainability for over a decade, however her volunteer experience has started even earlier, during her university years. She volunteered with AIESEC, Amnesty International, BAGázs (NGO for Roma integration) and Budapest Business School. Today she is the head of BCSDH's (Business Council for Sustainable Development in Hungary) Future Leaders Talent Program which aims to help potential business leaders who are currently talented professionals to understand the principles of corporate sustainability and to enable them to incorporate it into their decision-making processes.

Zita Szederkenyi holds a college degree in Economics with a specialization on International Communication and Master of Arts degree in French Language and Literature. She also studied in the Netherlands and France. She finished the final year of high school in Nowata, Oklahoma, USA in 2001.

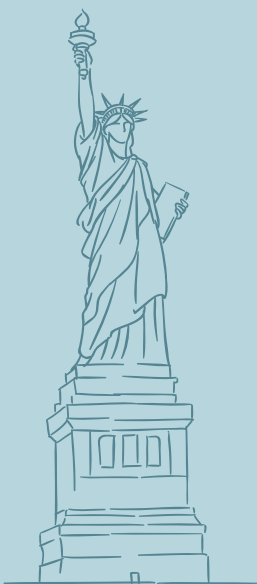
The Future Leaders Talent Program Alumni Network has a great potential and Zita's goal is to use it for supporting social issues. She wants to develop a program where the Alumni Group members can provide career, leadership, self-management, advocacy, mentoring to young members of the Roma community, teenagers in state custody, disabled people or members of the LGBTQ+. Participating in the Professional Fellows Program would allow her to understand and gain practice in professional community organizing and give her the chance to learn about supporting minorities, disadvantaged or underrepresented people.

In her free time, Zita Szederkenyi enjoys traveling and coming up with sustainability and social projects with like-minded friends.

Zita Szederkenyi

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Internship:
Environmental League of
Massachusetts
Boston, MA



THANK YOU

TO ARIN WOOTEN, PROGRAM OFFICER AT THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE U.S. EMBASSIES IN 5 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES: TIRANA, ALBANIA; SOFIA, BULGARIA; BUDAPEST, HUNGARY; BUCHAREST, ROMANIA AND BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

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

GLC PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS SPRING 2023 PLACEMENTS



SPECIAL THANKS

to all host families who offered to host the Spring 2023 delegation in their homes during the U.S. fellowship:

Alaska

Suzanne Cole

Massachusetts

Marguerite Foster-Franklin

Arlene & Rachel Simon

Betsy Drinan

Donna Shaw & John McColgan

Lew Finfer & Judy Shea

Michigan

Bill O'Brien & Vicky Kovari

Patricia Harrington

Ohio

Steven & Mary Solomon

Lisa Singh & Rammy Meyerowitz

Kristen & Doug Gerwin



AND OTHERS...



IN MEMORY OF DAVE BECKWITH

All GLC Professional Fellows delegations arriving to the US in the period 2012-2019 would have the honor to meet and know Dave Beckwith. Unfortunately, we lost him unexpectedly in February 2022, but we still make sure our fellows know of him.

Dave Beckwith was a fighter, a teacher, a friend, an inspiration. He served as a US advisor on our programs since the very beginning we still follow his legacy bringing people together and building communities fighting for social change.

SPRING 2023 ITINERARY*

*AS OF JUNE 1ST, 2023,
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Monday, May 1, 2023

Chicago, IL

Afternoon: Arrival in Chicago O'Hare Airport, take an airport shuttle or other transportation in small groups to drive to the hotel in downtown.

Check-in to hotel for 4 nights (Please store your luggage if your room will not be ready yet);

Welcome at the Hotel by Elizabeth Balint and Nadine Thompson

5:30PM: GLCAP Registration in the lobby and receive welcome package and getting to know each other
Joint birthday celebration for Veselina Bozhinova (organized by the Bulgarian fellows)

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Chicago, IL

7:00AM: Breakfast in the hotel lobby

8:00-11:00AM: Arrival Orientation with GLCAP staff

11:00-11:30AM: Introduction of Gabriela Mezeiova, Alumna from Slovakia, learning about her experience and follow on activities related to the Professional Fellows Program

11:30-12:00PM: Sustainability Human Bingo Icebreaker

Afternoon: Sightseeing and cultural activities in small groups in Chicago

5:30-7:00PM: Social hour and small group discussion in the hotel lobby

Evening: Free time to enjoy Chicago

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Chicago, IL

7:00AM: Breakfast in the hotel lobby

8:00AM: Growing Greener Workshop by Gabriela Mezeiova

10:00-12:00PM: Sustainability Treasure Hunt in teams in downtown Chicago

1:00-3:00PM: Visit and learn about Interfaith America program from Hannah Willage

5:30-7:00PM: Social hour and small group discussion in the hotel lobby

Evening: Free time to enjoy Chicago

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Chicago, IL

7:00AM: Breakfast in the hotel lobby

8:00-9:00AM: Global Sustainability challenge affecting your local setting (individual research and brief presentation and discussion)

9:30AM: World Café /brain storming on solutions as community organizer (small group discussion and brief presentation)

11:00-12:00PM: Stories from the fellows active in the world of non-profits and sustainability and their journeys

Afternoon: Sightseeing and cultural activities in small groups in Chicago

5:30-7:00PM: Social hour and small group discussion in the hotel lobby

Evening: Joint Farewell party on the last night in Chicago

Friday, May 5, 2023

Travel day to internship locations

7:00AM: Breakfast in the hotel lobby
Check-out of hotel with all luggage; travel on your own in small groups to Chicago O'Hare airport to fly to their internship sites

Afternoon/evening: Arrival at internship locations, meet with local partners and move-in to host families;

May 5-June 2, 2023

Tailored 4-week internships at U.S. Host Organizations across USA;

May 16, 2023

7:00PM-8:30PM (EST): Networking Leadership Webinar presented by World Learning in preparation for the Professional Fellows Congress



Friday, June 2, 2023

Travel day / Washington, D.C.

Morning: Travel to Washington, D.C. from internship location on your own;

Afternoon: Check-in to downtown Washington, D.C. hotel for 3 nights;

Sightseeing and/or time for rest

6:00PM: Meeting with Elizabeth Balint at the Hotel lobby;

Joint dinner nearby (organized by the Romanian fellows)

Small group discussion during and after dinner about the internship experience;

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Washington, D.C.

Morning: Breakfast in the hotel lobby;

9:00AM-1:00PM: Peer-to-Peer learning from each other's

experience in the hotel conference room;

Distribution of Survey Monkey online, Evaluation about the program to be completed by Monday morning;

2:45PM: Group visit the Library of Congress Jefferson building

Afternoon/evening: Free time for sightseeing and cultural programs in small groups

Sunday, June 4, 2023

Washington, D.C.

7:00AM: Breakfast in the hotel lobby

After: Free time for sightseeing and free time activities on your own in small groups;

SPRING 2023 ITINERARY*

*AS OF JUNE 1ST, 2023,
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Monday, June 5, 2023

Washington, D.C.

7:00AM: Breakfast in the hotel lobby

8:30AM: Check-out from hotel room and bring luggage to the conference room

9:00AM-1:00PM: Meeting with Arin Wooten, US State Department Program Officer;

Discussion topics:

- Highlights of the U.S. experience and ideas to implement at home;
 - Planning ahead (US Mentors visit, Individual Project, alumni activities locally and internationally);
- Closing of GLCAP activities

Presentation of GLCAP Certificates on the completion of the program

1:30-2:30PM: Joint lunch with Program Officer at a nearby café

After 2:30 PM: Return to Hotel to pick up luggage and move to another hotel where the Professional Fellows Congress will be held (arranged by World Learning). Travel in small groups on your own;

After 4:00PM: Register at World Learning desk to get your information and check-in at the hotel for 4 nights; (Please store your luggage if your room will not be ready yet)

Evening: Birthday celebration for Martina Marekova (joint program organized by the Slovak fellows) Celebrating with Raluca Negulescu-Balaci, GLC alumna as one of Alumni Impact Award winners of spring 2023 Professional Fellows Congress

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Washington, D.C.

Professional Fellows Congress:

"The Power of Purpose: Global leaders Navigating a Reconnected World" Day 1.

Learning Objective: Life after PFP: Alumni Impact Awardee Presentations

Morning: Breakfast on your own

9AM: Brief tour for GLC group of the US Capitol

10:30AM: Meeting with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur in her Washington, DC office
Lunch on your own

1:00PM: Professional Fellows Congress starts in the hotel conference room

Afternoon: PF Congress activity, learning and discussion sessions organized by World Learning team;

After 6:00PM: Free time and dinner on your own;

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Washington, D.C.

Professional Fellows Congress Day 2.

Learning Objective: What is the broader contextual framework for the PFP experience?

7:00AM: Breakfast provided by the Congress next to the conference room;

9:00-5:00PM: All day PF Congress activity, learning and discussion sessions organized by World Learning team;

Lunch provided by the Congress next to the conference room

Evening: Free time and dinner on your own;

Thursday, June 8, 2023

Washington, D.C.

Professional Fellows Congress Day

3. Learning Objective: What additional skills and tools Fellows acquire to grow?

7:00AM: Breakfast provided by the Congress next to the conference room;

9:00-5:00PM: All day PF Congress activity, learning and discussion sessions organized by World Learning team;

Lunch provided by the Congress next to the conference room

5:30-7:00PM: Congress Closing Reception next to the Conference room and presentation of the US Department of State certificates on program completion. Completing evaluations of the Congress

Friday, June 9, 2023

Washington, D.C.

Breakfast on your own

9:00AM: Brief meeting of GLCAP fellows in the hotel lobby and getting ready for travel;

11:00AM: Check-out from hotel;

For those who return to Europe: Travel to airport from hotel on your own based on your flight schedule; for others who have an extended stay in the U.S.: Have a good time and travel on your own!

THANK YOU, FELLOWS

FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROGRAM!

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A GREAT EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES!

PUBLISHED VOLUMES ON THE GLC PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

5 VOLUMES: 'TAKING ACTION—CHANGING LIVES IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES' DOCUMENTING PROGRAM SUCCESSES & PROMOTE DEMOCRACY IN ALBANIA, BULGARIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA AND THE UNITED STATES



Volume 1, 2014

85 stories

Introduction by Peter Ujvagi

ISBN: 9780692286487

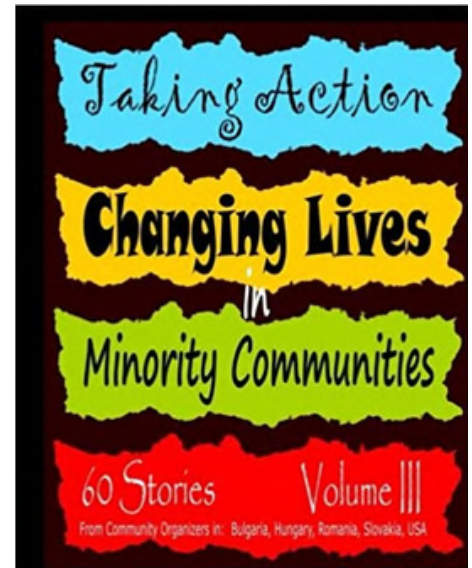


Volume 2, 2016

48 stories

Introduction by Cris Doby

ISBN: 9781541385542

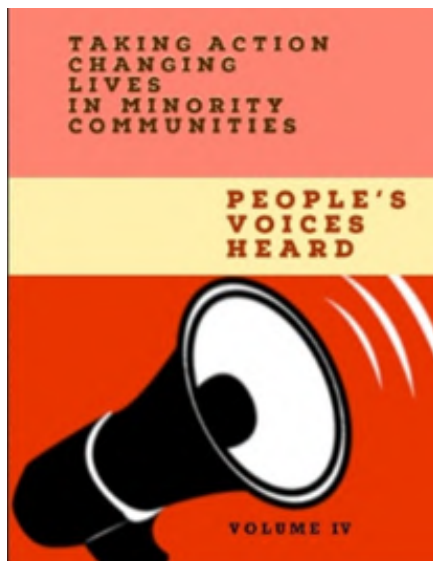


Volume 3, 2017

60 stories

Introduction by Dave Beckwith

ISBN: 9781981281879



Volume 4, 2018

39 stories

Introduction by Lew Finfer

ISBN: 9781793130822



Volume 5, 2019

63 stories

Introduction by Sondra Youdelman

ISBN: 9781653931347

GLCAP / GLC SPRING 2023 PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS

MAY 1ST -
JUNE 9TH
2023

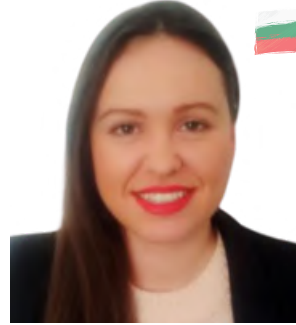
BULGARIA



**Rositsa
Kratunkova**



**Kostadin
Belenzov**



**Veselina
Bozhinova**

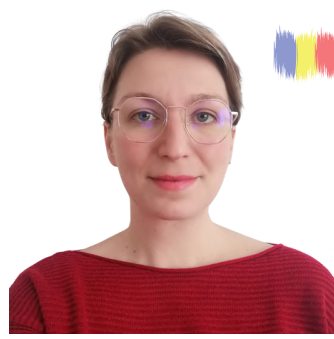


**Zita
Szederkenyi**

ROMANIA



**Andreea
Chiriac**



**Ioana
Serban**



**Adela
Alexandru**



**Madalina
Musca**

SLOVAKIA



**Martina
Marekova**



**Petra
Papiernikova**



**Vladimir
Rafael**



**Veronika
Porubcanska**



PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS