



STAY ENGAGED: Upcoming events

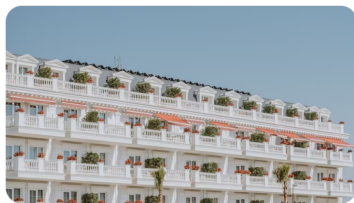


**GLC PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS PROGRAM**
REUNION 2023

Strengthening Communities of Learning and Practice

November 1- 5, 2023 | Golem, Kavajë

Flower Hotel and Resort



Hosted by Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development for
60 International participants



November 1st – 5th 2023

Alumni reunion in Albania 'Strengthening Communities of Learning and Practice'

The preparation for our upcoming in-person international reunion, which will take place in Golem (Albania) between November 1st and 5th is in its peak.

The application process is now closed and selection/approval is on its final stage. You can reach to your country directors for details, but please be aware that we have a limited budget and limited number of people we can bring on board.

The agenda is under preparation and we are excited to work on strengthening our community of learning and practice, which is the theme of this year's reunion. Stay tuned!

STAY INFORMED: News Bites

The GLC Spring 2023 delegation has successfully ended their program in the US

The 12 fellows from the GLC Professional Fellows Spring 2023 delegation have successfully completed their program in the US

and have safely returned home. In June 2023, the fellows got together in Washington D.C., where they had the chance to reconnect and share the experiences of their placements with each other. In this processes they were supported by our alumna Gabriela Mezeiova (Slovakia, Fall 2013), US mentor Diana Copeland and the State Department program officer overseeing the GLC Professional Fellows Program Arin Wooten. The fellows also had the chance to visit the office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and meet with her.



The delegation then joined the Professional Fellows Congress, which traditionally ends the US program, and meet with hundred of other fellows from partner programs. They also had the chance to listen to the speech of our alumna Raluca Negulescu (Romania, Spring 2013), who – as we previously wrote – was recognized with the Alumni Impact Award by the State Department.

Spring 2023 fellows are now back home and preparing to host their US mentor this coming fall.



The success stories of the GLC Pro Fellows program are now in the Library of Congress

5 volumes of the book "Taking Actions – Changing Lives in Minority Communities" which contain the success stories of the GLC Professional Fellows Program between 2012 and 2018 can now be found in the

biggest library in the world – The Library of Congress. The publications were filed personally by program manager Elizabeth Balint, who was accompanied by fellows of the Spring 2023 delegation. On the occasion, Elizabeth shared 'Today was the highest point of my professional career!'.

US mentor Ande Stone visited Bulgaria

US Mentor Ande Stone from San Francisco AIDS Foundation spent a week in Sofia, Bulgaria, working with Bulgarian fellow Simeon Vasilev from GLAS Foundation. Ande was in town on time for Sofia Pride and managed to engage in numerous events and activities with the LGBTI+ community, while also joining the pride march itself on June 17th 2023. He also met a lot of active alumni members.

Ande was the last US mentor from our Fall 2022 delegation to conduct his outbound visit of Europe.



The summer of reunions: many found a way to meet around the world

It is all about relationships! This summer proved that as many members of our alumni community found each other in different parts of the world.

Country directors Vladislav Petkov (Bulgaria) and Maros Chmelik (Slovakia) both travelled to the US in June as they have both received the Decade of Impact Award by the GLC Professional Fellows Program. They both attended the People's Action Convention in Washington, D.C., which gave them the chance to reconnect with many US mentors, including Sondra Youdelman, Adrienne Evans, Mo George, and others.



Maros used the chance to visit his mentor Hector Vaca in North Carolina and reconnect with Brian Silva in New York. Vladi route-tripped around the country

and met more than 10 other mentors on the way. He was also in Ohio, where he managed to meet with GLCAP staff and reconnect with many mentors in the area.



Ohio was also where Elizabeth met with long-term US mentor Louis Goseland and Hungarian alumna Nora Kiss. Around the same time, our alumna Briseida Gjoza (Albania) visited Boston and met with our US mentor Lew Finfer.



In the meantime, US mentor Elizabeth Sammons was having a European tour, visiting and meeting our alumni in Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia. While in Slovakia, she took part in a training session with the Slovak fellows who will travel to the US with the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 delegations.



Alumni members also met around Europe. In early July 9 alumni from Slovakia, Hungary and Romania met at the Citizen Participation University in Kunbábony, Hungary, together with other activists from 12 countries to discuss and share experiences on topics such as civic engagement, activism and participation. Others just met during their summer travels: like Teodora Ivanova-Valeva (Bulgaria) and Nicoleta Orlea (Romania) who met in Bucharest to recap their Fall 2022 delegation experience.



Finally, alumni also stay connected in-country. Romanian alumni met intensively in June, as a big group attended the Public Participation Awards Gala and held an alumni meeting on the day after to discuss network consolidation.



Who did YOU meet this summer? Let us know!



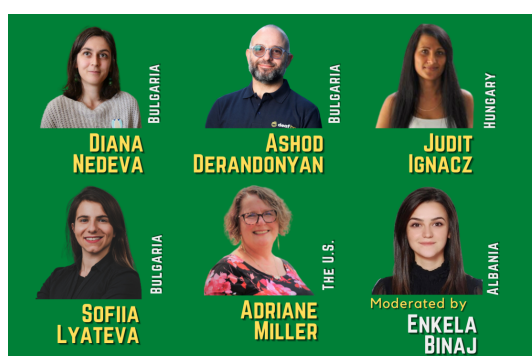
7 alumni expected to travel on the Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program 2023

The GLC Alumni Advisory Board has convened in early June to review the applications received under our [Dave](#)

[Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program 2023](#). The board has approved 7 applicants, who are expected to make their overseas trips in 2023. These are: Nevena Pashova-Proycheva (Bulgaria), Zsanett Fugg (Hungary), Annamaria Kovacs (Hungary), Victor Catalin Toma (Romania), Ellen Macaulay (the US), Ronnie Matthew Harris (the US) and Elizabeth Sammons (the US). Ronnie and Elizabeth will also combine their trips to Europe (Romania and Slovakia, respectively) with the international reunion in November. One more alumnus, whose strategic partnership trip was approved last year, is also expected to travel in the upcoming months – this is Luca Ciubotaru (Romania). The trips are partially funded thanks to the fundraising efforts of our alumni community!

We discussed making allies in our June virtual event

On June 19th 2023, our alumni community got together for a ReThink virtual event, dedicated to sharing practices about making allies, i.e. engaging people in minority causes. Thanks to the input of alumni



from Europe and US, great practices were shared on building allies for the LGBTI+, the Roma and Deaf people. During her input, our alumna Judit Ignacz also shared the toolkit for being a good ally to the Roma community, which we feature below.

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

STAY IMPACTFUL: Achievements



Bulgaria

Alumni-led effort results in legislative win for the LGBTI community

Bulgaria finally recognized homophobic hate crimes! In July the parliament voted the changes in the Penal Code, which now recognizes sexual orientation as a ground for a

hate crime. This is the first legislative win for the LGBTI+ community in Bulgaria since the Anti-Discrimination Act from 2003 (which was a condition for Bulgaria to join the EU). This is a result of years of analytical work, data collection, community mobilizations, awareness raising and building relationships with politicians and stakeholders. A big and deserved CONGRATULATIONS to our alumni who made this possible: Denitsa Lyubenova, Simeon Vassilev, Dimitar Bogdanov, Lilly Dragoeva and others!



US

Chicago recognizes July as Disability Pride Month

The mayor of Chicago and city council members signed a resolution that every July the city will celebrate and recognize Disability Pride Month. On the photo, the resolution is held by our US mentor Amber Smock, next to

Chicago's mayor Brandon Johnson (right). Amber is Director of Advocacy at the disability rights group Access Living. The resolution comes at a time when Chicago held its 20th Disability Pride Parade.

STAY RESOURCEFUL: Resources

A toolkit for pro-Roma engagement

Guidelines for Roma activists
and their non-Roma allies

2022



Recommendations for Roma activists and their non-Roma allies

Toolkit for pro-Roma engagement

Following the recommendation of our alumna Judit Ignacz, shared during our Making Allies virtual event in June (see above) and on the occasion of the European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day (August 2nd), we introduce the Toolkit for pro-Roma engagement. It offers practical guidelines for all Roma and non-Roma people who want to join together and engage in actions for equal rights.

The toolkit offers an overview of who can become a Roma activist or a non-Roma ally; why do people become activists or allies; when is the best time to act and where are the places for activism and allyship, and what the Roma activists and non-Roma allies do and how.

[Access toolkit](#)



GLC Alumni Network

Contact us:

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