



RECRUITING U.S. MENTORS

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

SPRING 2024 PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM: EMPOWERING CITIZEN-LED DEMOCRACY

STAY ENGAGED: Upcoming events



MAKING THE ASK

ReThink series

zoom 90 MIN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH 2023
12 PM US EASTERN / 6 PM CENTRAL EUROPEAN

DO YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE TO ASK FOR MONEY?

JOIN OUR INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP AND FORMULATE THE PERFECT ASK!

SAVE THE DATE AND STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS

GLC Professional Fellows alumni activities supported by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of the Educational and Cultural Affairs, Global Leaders Division.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

GLC Alumni Network CONNECTED FOR CHANGE

Great Lakes COMMUNITY ACTION

Tuesday, October 17th 2023

ReThink: Making the Ask

So many of us, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, feel uncomfortable to ask for money for our organizations and fundraising efforts. Whether it is fear of how we are going to be perceived, or simply shyness, it takes some attitude and skills to make the ask.

Join us in this interactive workshop, where we are going to dissect how the perfect ask for money looks like. Not everyone will give when we make the ask. But certainly no one will give, if we don't ask at all.

[Zoom link to event](#)

[Link to Facebook event *](#)

13 18 55 44

Days

Hours

Minutes

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.



FALL 2022 REUNITED *ReConnect series*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH 2023 **ONLINE ON ZOOM**
6 PM AL, HU AND SK / 7 PM BG AND RO

PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS

MODERATED BY
DIANA CHEIANU-ANDREI
External evaluator
of GLC Pro Fellows

GLC Professional Fellows alumni activities supported by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of the Educational and Cultural Affairs, Global Leaders Division.

PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS

ALUMNI NETWORK

GREAT LAKES COMMUNITY ACTION

Tuesday, October 12th 2023

ReConnect: Fall 2022 Reunited

THIS EVENT IS ONLY MEANT FOR FALL 2022 FELLOWS AND US MENTORS!

One year after our Fall 2022 delegation completed their program in the US, we would like to invite them for one final online reunion to look back on the process, reflect on the experience, highlight successes and learn from challenges.

This focus-group style conversation will be moderated by Ms Diana Cheianu-Andrei, a Moldova-based expert, who serves as our external evaluator.

November 1st – 5th 2023

International reunion in Albania

November is approaching and preparations for our international in-person reunion, which this year will take place in Albania, are intensifying!

The application and selection process is now closed and we are excited to welcome a dedicated group of 60 alumni across Europe and the US!

The agenda for the reunion is shaping up real nice, thanks to the ideas and contribution of so many! We are



**GLC PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS PROGRAM**
REUNION 2023

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

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



STAY INFORMED: News Bites

Congratulations! Ana Majko (Albania) and Martin Nagy (US) receive Alumni Impact Awards, Fall 2023

The U.S. Department of State in collaboration with World Learning has announced the Fall 2023 Professional Fellows Program Alumni Impact Award winners, which include two esteemed members of our alumni family. These are Ana Majko, our alumna from Albania who traveled to the US with the Fall 2019 delegation and did her fellowship at the Alliance for Quality Education in New York. And Martin Nagy from Ohio, who is a long-term friend and advisor of our GLC/GLCAP Professional Fellows program since 2013 and has served as a trainer, mentor, and escort for almost all our European delegations that have visited the U.S. See both of their bios below in the newsletter.



We are so proud of both of them and excited that they will have the chance to attend the Professional Fellows Congress, which will be held in Washington, DC on October 10-13, 2023. They will have the chance to address all current Professional Fellows Program, including our Fall 2023 delegation currently in the US.

In addition we also congratulate Karina Andrasikova from Slovakia who will be recognized with an Honorary AIA award and her video message will be shared at the Congress!

Ana and Martin now join Raluca Negulescu-Balaci (Romania), Tara Parrish (US) and Sondra Youdelman (US) in the club of AIA winners across our GLC alumni community!



We are recruiting US mentors for our Spring 2024 delegation by November 15th!

GLCAP is looking for U.S. professionals in community organizing and advocacy to host 2 European Fellows for four-weeks at their organization in

the Spring of 2024, from approximately May 10 to June 7, 2024. 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 100 U.S. Mentors.

The 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 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 Spring 2024, please respond to [our short application found at the link here](#) by November 15th 2023.

Please reach out to GLC Program Staff Brianna Dennis at bydennis@glcap.org with any questions or concerns.

[Click here for full information and application form](#)

42	00	55	44
Days	Hours	Minutes	Seconds

Our Fall 2023 fellows spend their last week in their fellowship locations

After spending a week of orientation and training in Chicago in the beginning of September, our Fall 2023 European delegation members are close to finishing their internship locations in 5 cities in 4 states.

Our fellows are doing amazing work with their local organizations and communities and are now on the final stage of creating their follow-up individual project plans to transfer their new learning in their work back in Europe.

On October 6th they will get together in Washington, D.C., for peer-to-peer learning before they join the Professional Fellows Congress, which will mark the end of their program.



Enkela Binaj (AL) and Tunde Toth (HU) with Peter Juvagi and Elizabeth Balint in Toledo (OH)



Genoveva Horvath (HU), Adriana Skolekova and Alex Oprita (RO) with One Nortside staff in Chicago (IL)



Diana Dimova (BG) and Kejsi Hysa (AL) in Lawrence, KS



Enron Seiti (AL) and Anca Vasile (RO) in Lexington, KY



Ahmed Mehmedov (BG, right) with the deputy mayor of Wichita, KS, Mike Hoheisel



Genoveva and Alex during direct action in Chicago



US mentors who hosted in Spring 2023 are travelling to Europe

Leigh Chandler (third, left to right on the photo) from the Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) was the first US mentor to make their outbound trip to Europe, after hosting European fellows this spring. Leigh travelled to Hungary in

September and worked with our fellow Zita Szederkenyi (left). At ELM, Leigh serves as marketing and communications professional committed to mobilizing action toward social equity.

More US mentors trips to Europe are coming up in October and November, so stay tuned!

Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program: two completed trips and one in progress

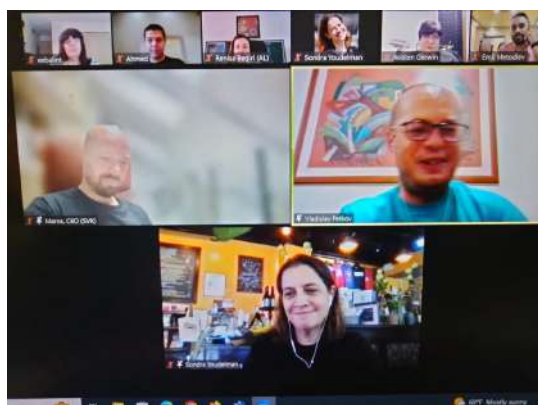
Our alumna Nevena Pashova (Bulgaria, Spring 2015) was the first one to complete her trip after applying for our Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program 2023. Nevena spent 20 days in the US from end of August to mid-September, working with Pioneer Valley Project in Springfield (MA) to further develop competencies on youth electoral organizing.



US mentor Ellen Macaulay from Environmental League of Massachusetts also completed her trip to Hungary under our strategic partnerships program. She worked with our Hungarian alumna Zita Szederkenyi on sustainability initiatives and came back to the US end of September.

In the meantime, the trip of Zsanett Fugg (Hungary, Spring 2015) is still ongoing. She arrived at Toledo, OH, where she will continue building a strategic partnership with Bill Hilt and World Affairs Council of Northwest Ohio. This is how Zsanett could also meet our current fellows from Fall 2023 Enkela (Albania) and Tunde (Hungary), who undergo their fellowship in Toledo.

A couple of more trips coming soon, thanks to the generous support of our alumni community to our annual fundraising campaigns, which fuel the Dave Beckwith Memorial Strategic Partnerships Program.



We re-launched virtual alumni events, starting with a Happy Hour

After a short summer break, we re-launched our regular virtual alumni events. On September 18th we got together for an informal Happy Hour event, sharing among each other how was our summer. We heard about some intercontinental trips with focus

of the experience of Vladislav Petkov and Maros Chmelik in the US and in particular in People's Action Convention.

Recording of the event is available upon request to v.petkov@proeuropean.net.

STAY CONNECTED: Alumni updates



European Youth Summit brought 200 people in Romania

Between the 6th and 10th of September, Iași County (Romania) hosted two large-scale events dedicated to young people and youth workers from rural areas. Both events brought together over 200 young people, youth workers and relevant decision makers from 18 countries under the slogan 'From rural to plural'. The events are organized under the umbrella of the European Youth Village Program, which is co- led by our alumnus Victor-Catalin Toma.

Read more [here](#).

Bulgarian LGBTI+ movement wins a case in Strassbourg

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Bulgaria must create a legal framework that allows same-sex couples to receive adequate recognition and protection. The court ruled in early September in favour of a same-sex couple, Darina Koilova and Lilia Babulkova, whose marriage in the UK was repeatedly not recognised by Bulgarian institutions. The couple was represented in Strassbourg by our alumna Denitsa Lyubenova (Spring 2017) and the organization Deystvie she leads.

Read more [here](#).

The summer of love: at least five alumni say 'YES'

At least five members of our alumni community got married this summer, with 3 of them saying 'Yes' this September: Martin Klus (Slovakia, Spring 2013), Ondrej Druga (Slovakia, Spring 2022) and Boglarka Dombi (Hungary, Fall 2016). Earlier in the summer Bulgarian alumni Lilly Dragoeva (Fall 2017) and Georgi Nikolov (Spring 2018) also celebrated their weddings with their respective partners.

We wish all the newly-weds the best of luck and lots of love!





alumni.state.gov

More about Alumni Impact Award Winners Ana Majko and Martin Nagy

Congratulating once again Ana Majko (Albania, Fall 2019) and Martin Nagy (US mentor and advisor since 2013), we link the official press release by the State Department, which also includes their impressive bios, showcasing some of their numerous achievements:

*Dr. **Ana Majko** has more than a decade of experience in the field of child rights and protection, implementing services for children at high risk, running day centers for children, and providing emergency services for children and parents in need for protection and treatment. She is an expert and trainer on issues related to child trafficking, exploitation, abuse and maltreatment, case management, and emergency response. Since 2016 she has been the executive director of the Initiative for Social Change (ARSIS), a local organization in Tirana focused on strengthening child protection systems in Albania, building community empowerment and engagement, designing and piloting new services, and building capacity in child protection, advocacy and lobbying and policy development in cooperation with public and nonpublic institutions.*

***Martin Nagy** is founder and Executive Director of the Arts Council Lake Erie West (ACLEW), a nonprofit regional community arts agency in Toledo, Ohio that was created in 1983 with a mission to build creativity in the community, increase cultural participation, and engage people in the arts experience. Mr. Nagy is active internationally, consulting, escorting, and conducting workshops through U.S. Department of State-funded programs with Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.*

[Read full article](#)

STAY REFLECTIVE: The Long Read



Tricia Masenthin, [lawrenceks.com](https://www.lawrenceks.com)

Social workers from Eastern Europe visit Lawrence, Kansas, to see grassroots work in action

"With a zest to learn the ins and outs of community organizing and civic engagement, two human rights advocates from the Balkans have made Lawrence their temporary home for four weeks.

Diana Dimova, of Bulgaria, and Kejsi Hysa, of Albania, arrived in Lawrence on Sept. 8 after a stop in Chicago. With their stay in Lawrence now winding down, the pair took time to reflect upon their impressions of the city and how they ended up in the Sunflower State — nearly 6,000 miles from home."

[Read full article](#)



RECRUITING U.S. MENTORS

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

**SPRING 2024 PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS PROGRAM:
EMPOWERING CITIZEN-LED DEMOCRACY**

GLC Alumni Network

Contact us:

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

Brianna Dennis, International Program
Specialist at bydennis@glcap.org

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**

