

“Building Grassroots Democracy in Minority Communities”

Professional Fellows from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia
in the United States, September 29 - November 9, 2013

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of the Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges, Professional Fellows Division

**2013
September**



PROFESSIONAL
FELLOWS

**GREAT LAKES CONSORTIUM
for International Training and
Development (GLC)** — GLC is a collaborative effort of the Bowling Green State University, Lourdes University, The University of Toledo, and WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc - Contract Agent and Manager. Established in 1999.

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Project Manager

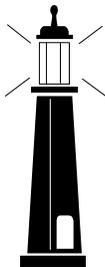
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The Great Lakes Consortium – through WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. – as Contract Agent and Manager – received a grant for a two-way exchange between September 2012 and August 2014 from the U.S. Department of State for the “Building Grassroots Democracy in Minority Communities” with at least 32 participants from four countries of Europe and for 18 U.S. mentors.

The overall goal of this exchange is to provide a professional development opportunity for up-and-coming and mid-level professionals to gain knowledge of the U.S. practices in citizen participation and advocacy, engaging minorities, and marginalized populations in civil society and politics, collaborating with community leaders to inform changes in legislation that make a difference in minority communities (incl. Roma, disabled, homeless) and building grassroots democracy.

Foreign participants will be exposed to diverse community organizing methods for citizens in solving problems in their own communities and gain hands-on experience at both public and civil society institutions in the U.S. and a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture and people. They will examine the relationship between civil society and government and learn U.S. practices on transparency and accountability. Through internship placements at national, state or local organizations across the U.S. they will gain knowledge and experience as well as adaptable approaches that they can implement after their return.

U.S. mentors will travel for a reciprocal visit overseas. They will have an opportunity to share professional expertise and gain a deeper understanding of the societies, cultures and people of other countries. This citizen civic exchange will promote mutual understanding, create long-term professional ties, enhance the collaboration between GLC and its partners.

The first delegation with a total of 19 fellows from Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slova-

kia visited the U.S. from April 1 – May 11, 2013 and the second European delegation with 19 fellows will be in the U.S. from September 30 – November 9, 2013. They will participate in group seminars, round-table discussions, site visits, and had interactions with United States leaders. *A tailored 3-week internship* with mentoring, multicultural events, and participation in volunteer activities as well as in the Professional Fellows Congress in Washington, D.C. will also be included in the 6-week professional fellows program. Participants will prepare a 6-9 month individual and group Action Plan for follow on activities. They will have opportunities to experience the American family life and the diversity in the U.S. through staying with American host families during their internship in Little Rock (Arkansas), Chicago (Illinois), Manchester (New Hampshire), Langley Park (Maryland), Toledo (Ohio), Detroit (Michigan) Wichita (Kansas), St. Paul (Minnesota), Philadelphia (Pennsylvania and New York (New York).

The first group of 8 U.S. mentors traveled to Europe from June 19-July 12, 2013 for a 21-day program, and 2 additional U.S. mentors traveled between August 29-September 21, 2013 to Europe. The 3rd U.S. mentor team is expected to travel to Europe with more than 10 participants in February 2014. U.S. mentors are providing joint workshops with the alumni and on-site consultation and fieldwork, and conducting wider outreach programs. U.S. and foreign participants are involved in alumni activities through an alumni social network in each country. We will also establish an online network for continued learning.

This program is a collaboration between GLC and its overseas partners: CECA in Bulgaria, Civil College Foundation in Hungary, CeRe in Romania and Center for Community Organizing in Slovakia as well as the European Community Organizing Network (ECON) and many U.S. partner organizations involved in the joint program and the tailored internship, and follow up mentoring activities.



Participants from Bulgaria

Vladislav Petkov

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Vladislav Petkov has engaged in the social sphere in 2002 and he works with a few organizations promoting social inclusion of disadvantaged communities, mainly Roma as well as awareness raising through non-formal educational methods.

Mr. Petkov works with the C.E.G.A. Foundation, based in Sofia, Bulgaria since 2006. He supports the organization in designing, coordinating and reporting local and international projects, particularly in the sphere of youth and Roma minority. He was assisting in the implementation of the Seed Fund Program of the organization, that he very often serves as a trainer in the organization's events, especially in the sphere of youth work, intercultural dialogue, Human Rights, and development of global issues.

Mr. Petkov is currently coordinating a two-year international initiative aimed at mainstreaming anti-racism and other forms of intolerance in the activities of youth organizations that are being implemented in six European countries.

Mr. Petkov is a co-founder of the association PRO European Network (ex-Pakiv European Network) that was



registered in 2007 and since then has organized a number of local and international activities aimed at providing learning opportunities for young Roma and non-Roma and promoting active citizenship and social inclusion. The largest initiative of PEN was the campaign Different People—One Europe, which in Bulgaria involved fourteen Roma and non-Roma youth' groups from eleven different localities throughout the country. Since 2013 Mr. Petkov is a vice-chair of the association.

In 2013, Mr. Petkov obtained his Master's degree in Law from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. In the sphere of law, his main interests are connected to constitutional law and Human Rights. He is a member of the Discussion Club for Young Jurists and Law Students,

which is organized around the Bulgarian Lawyers for Human Rights Foundation and was set to raise awareness and build knowledge in regards to the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

In the framework of the Fellowship Program, Mr. Petkov is interested to explore the relations between the decision-makers (government, local authorities) and the civil society organizations in the U.S. and compare it to the situation in Europe.

He would also like to experience how the movements of the different minorities are demanding change (claiming rights) and how these processes are perceived by the majority; how community organizations are created, developed and supported and how they are reaching to the communities; how the process of networking between community organizations from different localities is working. Mr. Petkov would use the acquired knowledge and experience in his work with youth organizations and Roma groups in small towns and communities around Bulgaria, as well as in his general work with the non-governmental sphere.

In his free time, Mr. Petkov enjoys music, cooking and updating his blog with short stories, as well as seeking and analyzing social issues in mainstream movies and TV shows.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PROJECT ADVISORS AND SUPPORTERS:



*David Beckwith, Cris Doby,
Paul Cromwell, Chuck Hirt,
Bill O'Brien, Greg Markus, Ken Grossinger
Jim Field, Peter Ujvagi, Ramon Perez,
Deb Martin and Martin Nagy*

Shaban Darakchi

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Shaban Darakchi is a Gender Program Coordinator at the European Association for the Defense of Human Rights – Bulgaria (ADHR-BG). ADHR-BG is implementing a special gender platform for its future activities and projects. As it is expected in order to cover the requirements of gender mainstreaming politics in EU and other international conventions, ADHR-BG is working for the defense of the rights of women and sexual minorities. Mr. Darakchi states: *“Our main goal is based on the modern intersectionality approach for equality based on recognition, visibility and empowerment of those in need.”*

Mr. Darakchi is responsible for a project called “Standing by Trans and Intersex People in Bulgaria”. This is an ongoing project protecting the rights of the LGBTQI community. Also, he has been involved in activities of several international organizations: IGLYO, FYEG, GEF, UNITED and others. Except

in these projects Mr. Darakchi works closely with the Center for Sexual Health based in Sofia and financed by UNAIDS. The main activities in this collaboration are focused on promoting sexual health behaviour among the LGBTQI community.

Mr. Darakchi has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, and a Master's degree in Political and Social Sustainability from the South-West University of Bulgaria with a specialization in the Lund University (province of Scania, Sweden). Currently, he is a Ph.D. Candidate in Gender Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. Shaban has studied primarily Sociology and has been specializing in the field of Gender and

Sexuality Studies within the last four years. During his studies he has been attending a large number of trainings and summer schools and has published a couple of publications devoted to Gender and LGBTQI studies in Bulgaria and abroad. Mr. Darakchi speaks excellent English, good Serbian and Greek.

This will be his first visit to the USA. Shaban is interested in acquiring specific knowledge about successful approaches to solving problems connected to LGBTQI communities in order to increase their awareness and protection of their rights on a legal and a legitimate level, as well as in methods for building a professional approach for working with these minority communities.

Mr. Darakchi would like to share experiences and establish cooperation with other participants in a multicultural environment like NGOs engaged in activities supporting and protecting the rights of LGBTQI people, and with local institutions and organizations in the U.S. responsible for these areas of activity.

In his free time, Mr. Darakchi loves cooking and singing and is interested in meditation and yoga practices and is a big fan of the healthy lifestyle.

Kalina Hristova Valova

Vratsa, Bulgaria

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Kalina Valova is currently working as a Psychologist in a Resource Center for supporting the integrated education of students with special educational needs in Vratsa, Bulgaria. Her main responsibilities include offering support to young people with disabilities who are included in the mainstream schools, and consulting their families, teachers and classmates.

In 2011, Ms. Valova was elected as Vice Chairman of the National Association of Resource Teachers (NART) in recognition of her work at the Resource Centre. NART unites over 900 resource teachers and specialists from the whole country. The main goal of the organization is to promote the profile and status of this profession which is still new for Bulgaria, as well as to increase the specialist's qualifications and encourage their motivation for

work. Furthermore, NART aims at increasing the opportunities for equal education for every child, no matter of their disability. Ms. Valova has been working for Vratsa Municipality as a Public Educator since 2002 with juvenile delinquents, correcting their behavior and consulting as a psychologist with the juveniles and their families to prevent additional crimes.

Additionally, Ms. Valova holds trainings for people who are on probation at the Probation Office of Vratsa. The programs

help offenders to correct their way of thinking and behavior. Most of those sentenced are Roma with very poor social and communicative skills.

Ms. Valova holds a Master's Degree in Judicial Psychology and two Bachelor's Degrees in Social Pedagogy and Psychology from the Southwest University of Bulgaria. She has continued her education and skills by participating in a number of trainings, seminars and conferences both as a participant and trainer.

This is her first visit to the United States. While in the U.S., Ms. Valova would like to gain experience in the diversity of social and educational services provided for children with disabilities and their families. She also would like to expand her knowledge about community organizing and non-formal activities and their solutions for common problems that she can adapt and use in Bulgaria.

In her free time Ms. Valova likes travelling, driving, reading and visiting sports events, mostly soccer.

Hristo Angelichin

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Hristo Angelichin is a City Councilor in Sofia since 2007. As part of City Council he is Deputy Chairman of Commission for Culture, Education and Religion Minorities and Commission for Children, Youth, Sport and Tourism. For nine years Mr. Angelichin has been a member of Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the non-governmental organization in Sofia. The main goal for AGBU is to preserve and promote the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs.

As part of it, Mr. Angelichin organized the World Armenian Games. In 2007, City Council supported his idea to organize symphony concerts for the Armenian community with free entrance. In cooperation with AGBU Sofia and Sofia Municipality it has organize six concerts every year.

Mr. Angelichin has a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Master's degree in Finance and Banking from the Sofia University. He also participated in different training programs in Bulgaria and in Europe, including programs for political campaigns, culture and education, minority communities, etc. Most of them have been organized by he Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the International Republican Institute and the British Council.

As a member of the minority, Mr. Angelichin knows how important it is for his community to be the well-accepted, integrated in society, and at the same time,

keeping authentic cultural diversity. This is the reason that he believes excellent education and shared responsibility is the only successful way for sustainable change in Bulgarian society.

Mr. Angelichin has been in the United States two times. The first time he was in the U.S. for six months (November 15, 2005 – May 15, 2006) for the annual youth meeting of Armenian General Benevolent Union in San Francisco. He also visited his sister and had a tour through the country. The second visit was for the Christmas holiday for one month (December 13, 2009 – January 15, 2010).

During the present fellowship program Mr. Angelichin hopes to improve his skills and competencies in intercultural communication, innovations in community development and organizing, and good practices in working with youth from different cultures. Mr. Angelichin would like to meet organizations experinced in sustainable changes through public policies, primarily for minorities.

Mr. Angelichin spends his free time reading, listening to music and taking long walks with his two dogs.

Viktoria Borisova

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Currently, Victoriya Borisova holds a Management position in the Resource Centre for Education and Culture SHAM in Montana city. She is leading the "Roma Mentor Project" activities related to stimulation of the intercultural dialogue between different ethnic groups in thirteen Bulgarian schools. Ms. Borisova has an interest in further development of and a working experience in both the governmental and non-governmental sectors in Bulgaria. She is engaged in programs, campaigns and projects aimed at decreasing discrimination towards the largest minority in Europe – the Roma for more than ten years.

In 2004, Ms. Borisova obtained her first Master's Degree in Public Administration at the Veliko Tarnovo University "SS Cyril and Methodius", one of the largest State Universities in Bulgaria. Throughout her four-year study, Ms. Borisova gained sufficient knowledge in all the basic modern law disciplines, public finances

and knowledge about the work of public authorities. In 2002, as a Junior Expert of "European integration" in the Municipality of Montana, North-Western Bulgaria, Ms. Borisova assisted in popularization of the pre-accession European funds. She was involved with other international programs, giving consultations to NGOs in the preparation, coordination of activities and reporting of human rights and educational projects. At the same time, Ms. Borisova participated in the preparation of local documents related to integration of the Roma minority.

During her second Master's program in International Relations at the Sofia

University (2006-2009), Ms. Borisova started to work as a Public Servant in the Ministry of Education and Science, Structural funds and international programs General Directorate. Besides her own language she fluently speaks English.

Ms. Borisova has rich traveling experience, primary in the Europe visiting Hungary, Germany, France, Belgium and Turkey. She has never been in the United before. Whole in the U.S she would like to see in practice how community organizing works, how this can lead to political or economical changes and what from the positive experience in the integration of minorities in the U.S. can be implemented for Roma integration in Europe.

Within the frame of this fellowship program, Ms. Borisova's interests are related to empowering of young people, successful methods for social work in communities and models for active participation of minorities in public administration bodies.

Ms. Borisova prefers to spend free time with her 6-years old daughter, reading, cooking and making hand-made accessories.



Participants from Hungary

Zsofia Lenart

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Zsofia Lenart is working as a Social Worker in a non-governmental organization called Menedek Hungarian Association for Migrants. One of the association's objectives is promote the social, and cultural integration of those refugees and migrants who are planning to stay in Hungary by means of targeted programmes and projects.

From this year, Ms. Lenart has just started to work as a Community Social Worker in the association's new project in the community house. Here Ms. Lenart has to question the target group about what they want and help them to organize and build a community. Previously Ms. Lenart worked for the same organization at a social counseling service center. She used individual case study methodology and helped her clients with questions on issues related to institutional, bureaucratic, educational, accommodation and labor market matters. In addition, she assisted them in obtaining their legal status, individually managing their lives and resolving intra-family difficulties.

Ms. Lenart's first work place in 2008 was a non-governmental organization called Human Sztrada KFT, where she was making individual case work and group work for people who had mental disorders or suffered from different kinds of addictions. In 2010, Ms. Lenart started to work with recognized refugees and subsidiary protected people when she was admitted to the Office of Immigration and



Nationality. She worked in a pre-integration center as a social worker and organized cultural orientation, job seeking groups and other free time activities for the persons who lived at the camp.

Also in 2010, Ms. Lenart joined Bator Tabor Alapítvány (or Bator Tabor Therapeutic Recreation Foundation) as volunteer where she worked with children with diabetes. Her major roles were organizing the horse-riding program for the children and took part in other game playing activities. Currently, she is not doing volunteer work, but for more than one-year she organized the horse-riding-program for people with mental disorders.

Ms. Lenart received a Master's degree in General Social Work from the Eötvös Lorand University in Budapest in 2008. In addition, she has several trainings in the field of practical social work in family and intercultural mediation in 2009, trainer specialization in developing social skills and migrant specific courses in 2011. She studies the English language and can speak on intermediate level.

Ms. Lenart has rich traveling experience. She had a two-week internship

in Darmstadt, (Germany) within the program that belonged to the University and was about the social work. During the last three years (2010-2013) she made several trips cross Europe as a tourist; she visited Berlin (Germany), Prague (Czech Republic), Julian Alps (Italy), Aix-Les-Bains (France), Stockholm (Sweden), Donovaly (Slovakia), Rovinj (Croatia) and resently an Asian country.

This is her first trip to the U.S. As part of the GLC Teach Democracy exchange program, Ms. Lenart is interested in the U.S. practices especially in the very first steps of organizing a community. She is searching for the answers to questions about how to engage people who belong to underprivileged groups to participate in solving their problems in their community, how to overcome the cultural differences, and how to overcome the physical distances if the problems are not local.

While in the U.S. she also would like to learn new methods and skills and would like to get a new and different point of view to her work. Ms. Lenart would like to visit an organization that works with refugees, immigrant, non-citizens or ethnic minorities. It would be a very interesting and useful experience if she could visit organizations that work with people who don't have equal rights as citizens of the United States.

In her free time, Ms. Lenart usually goes horseback riding and is a fan about natural horsemanship and a fanatic bikram yoga practitioner. She likes mountaineering and good movies and music are also an interesting topic for her.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COUNTRY DIRECTORS:

Emil Metodiev, Bulgaria;

Mate Varga, Hungary;

Nicoleta Chirita, Romania;

Veronika Strelcova, Slovakia!

Robert Bekefi

Budapest, Hungary

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Robert Bekefi works as a Counselor in a Governmental Pedagogical Center where he is counseling with parents about their children living with special needs. Mr. Bekefi is working in this field for seven years. In his work he focuses on children with learning difficulties, and on children with emotional problems due to instable family background. Mr. Bekefi interest for using art as a tool of community building process is growing since university years. He is using this method regularly in his work working with group of children to create a common focus and relaxed atmosphere where honest communication is easier.

Since 2010 Mr. Bekefi was working as a volunteer for Kurt Lewin Foundation, where he had the chance to work with children and teens coming from seriously hindered families. The Kurt Lewin Foundation (KLF) is an NGO, which contributes to the growth of the democratic activities in the civil sphere and promotes the idea about active citizen participation. KLF also serves to promote the tolerancy

and social dialogue about minority issues. Mr. Bekefi took part in Foundation's summer camps for 2 years as Youth Leader and hold art workshops for the youth. Most of the children in the Kurt Lewin Summer Camps belonged to the gipsy minority.

After the KLF 2-year project was over, Mr. Bekefi started to participate in the activities of the Green Roots Foundation (GRF). This organization is located in the City center in the heart of the 8th district, where the gipsy population of Budapest is living. The youth from the disadvantaged district come to the Youth Center. The main activity of GRF is to raise enviromental awarness in a form of an interactive exhibiton on ecological issues and summer camps. Mr. Bekefi has the

University Degree in Psychology from the Eotvos Lorand University (ELTE) in Budapest. In 2010 Mr. Bekefi took a part in the Carl Rogers Person Centered Group Therapy, which was a method of specific training for the next two years. In 2012 he completed a specialization in the Family Therapy also at the ELTE University. Mr. Bekefi is fluent in English language, and also speaks Spanish on a good communication level.

Mr. Bekefi looks forward to the trip in the United States. Whole in the U.S., he would like to gain more experiences about how to promote the idea of active citizenship and how to contribute to the growth of the democratic activities in the civil sphere. Mr. Bekefi is interested to learn methods he can use to promote knowledge about active citizen participation and to involve the youth actively in decision making in their communities. Mr. Bekefi would like to get experience how to activate the youth to use their full potentials and creativity in shaping their community lives. Also he would be interested to work with latin american minorities.

In his free time Mr. Bekefi is learning several art methods from painting to sculpturing from clay.

Annamaria Kovacs

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At the present time, Annamaria Kovacs is working for the Roma Club Foundation. Also, she is working in a Community PUB on a co-operative basis which is a small cultural centre for contemporary critical thinkers and activists in Budapest. From the beginning of 2012, she has been an active volunteer developer in a rural city in Eastern Hungary where she is working with Roma people and Roma religious settlements. On the other hand, Ms. Kovacs is involved in a city project in the capital where the main aim is to set up a Neighbourhood Council and a community settlement house in one of the most difficult areas in the capital.

Ms. Kovacs started volunteering in 2010 while preparing to become a teacher at the Eötvös Lorand Tudományegyetem, the University of Budapest. As soon as she became active in operating a youth organization, Ms. Kovacs got engaged in multicultural issues, child poverty, and

intercultural education for youth. Besides her voluntary activity with youth, she participated in several environmental and educational issues where her activist career began. For a year, she worked for the National Office of Life Long Learning in the adult education department.

In 2011, Ms. Kovacs decided to continue her studies at the Social Science Department and turn activism, and volunteerism, and her knowledge about NGO management into a profession. She is finishing her community development Master's degree in 2013, specializing in conflict resolution and mediation in

communities. After starting her master studies, Ms. Kovacs searched for opportunities to take part in field projects with the Hungarian Community Developer Association (HCDA) where she is an active member.

Ms. Kovacs has never been to the United States before. She expects that this program will help her to become a more professional member in the team of the experienced and great developers of HCDA. On the other hand, she is eager to gain fresh knowledge, methods and get to know good practices about working in both urban and rural communities.

While staying in the U.S., Ms. Kovacs is interested in organisations that work with minorities and underclass people. She is especially eager to see operating settlement houses and to learn methods of outreach techniques and efficient campaigning.

In her free time, Ms. Kovacs tries to spend as much time with her family as she can. Otherwise, she enjoys spending time with friends, hiking, travelling and going to concerts.

Andrea Tajti

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Andrea Tajti is a Project Manager at DARTKE Association working with disadvantaged young people (multiple disadvantaged pupils, Roma and migrants) in Szeged since 2007.

DARTKE Association is a non-profit NGO, which is active in the fields of helping disadvantaged people, conducting community development projects and recently became involved in community organizing. Ms. Tajti is responsible to oversee the running of three important projects; the first is “*Otletfa – Idea Tree*” Youth Project that established a youth community space in Szeged and Hodmezovasarhely. The offices provide services for disadvantaged young people, host youth communities and started youth organizing. Another project Ms. Tajti oversees is the cooperation with the local Labor Centre in Szeged. In the boundaries of that cooperation, there are around fifteen, mostly disadvantaged people working at the DARTKE Association in different positions. Her responsibility is to act as a liaison between the two organizations and to report on the achievements of the project to the leaders and officials of the Labor Centre.



The third project is about mentoring third country migrants in Hungarian language, basic school subjects and enhancing the social integration of migrant children. Ms. Tajti was one of the initiators and the first professional leader of that project. Now she serves as a general counsel of the project.

Ms. Tajti holds two Master’s degrees, one in Study of Religion and another in Communication Studies from the University of Szeged, Hungary. She is currently attending the graduate school at the University of Pécs in the Political Science Ph.D. program. She speaks good English and intermediate Czech.

Ms. Tajti has rich traveling experience. During recent years, Andrea has visited Austria, the United Kingdom, France, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Romania, Serbia and the United Arab Emirates. Ms.

Tajti has been in the U.S. two times. In 2009 and 2012. Her 2009 trip was a “first contact” trip to Atlanta and the vicinity, where she had the chance to meet new people and visit friends. The trip in 2012 served as an opportunity to visit Washington D.C., Morgantown, West Virginia and Toledo, Ohio to meet new and old friends and acquaintances there. This time in the U.S., Ms. Tajti would like to meet new people and make professional contacts with people working in the field of youth organizing.

Ms. Tajti is eager to learn methods and techniques that she might bring back to her organization. She is planning to spend time at organizations that apply community organizing techniques working with disadvantaged youth. She is eager to learn by doing and by participating in the organization’s activities. She also plans to make it a fruitful endeavor on the personal side as well. Ms. Tajti is very interested in American history, both local and national and she is ready to learn more about the communities she is going to visit. With a history of family lineage tracing back to 1642, she realizes the importance of history in the formation of personal, local and national identities as well.

In her free time, Ms. Tajti enjoys taking photos, playing with children, spending quality time with friends, attending social events and watching a good movie.

Jozsef Angyal

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Jozsef Angyal works as a Coordinating Rapporteur at the Ministry of Human Resources, Department of Social Inclusion. The fundamental goal of the State for Social Inclusion Department is that individuals and groups in disadvantaged positions should have access to their fair share of the expanding opportunities available. The essence of the new conception is its composite nature, which means that qualitative improvements in disadvantaged areas can only be seen if educational, social, health-care and employment conditions are improved simultaneously.

Mr. Angyal was a student at Romaversitas Foundation for five years. The Romaversitas is the training and scholarship program of Roma youngsters in higher education. The Romaversitas Foundation



has been acting as a sponsor of university and college students for fourteen years. Romaversitas not only gives scholarships and various services, but also tries to create space for vibrant social life.

Mr. Angyal graduated as an Economist, Faculty of Finance and Accounting from the University of Corvinus, the University of Budapest. At the same time he graduated in Public Administration Faculty as well. During his studies he worked at sev-

eral organizations as a trainee. In 2010 Mr. Angyal was a fellow at the Embassy of U.S. in Budapest for 8 weeks. During this time he had an opportunity to learn the Embassy’s organization method and could participate in events managing. Mr. Angyal gained professional experience working in a bank and in the State Company as a student. In addition his native language Mr. Angyal is fluent in English and also speaks German.

This is Mr. Angyal first trip to the United States. He is interested in how NGOs work in the U.S., Jozsef believes that this six weeks fellowship in the United States can improve his skills and competencies in such as team building, intercultural communication, community organizing and English language. Mr. Angyal would like to learn methods and strategies which can be useful in Hungary. He wants to visit NGOs working with minorities and disadvantaged people especially focusing on youth.



Participants from Romania

Iustina Neagu

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Iustina Neagu has been working as a community organizer for CeRe – Resource Centre for Public Participation since March 2010. In the past 3 years, she participated in several meetings of the European Community Organizing Network, and also in other international meetings learning about community organizing and exchanging experience with various European local organizations that started this process in their countries. This helped to a better understanding of the South Eastern European experience with applying community organizing at the level of good practices and lessons learned.

Ms. Neagu's previous experience was in community development while working for PACT. Now she is working in two neighborhoods in Bucharest helping two local civic groups to solve common issues regarding public space problems.

One of the groups called Callatis Initiative Group, has won two campaigns and is now she is working with the third group trying to focus on developing and expanding the group to include new members from the neighborhood. The second group is located in a ghetto-like area called

Pantelimon, that is struggling with low monthly income, numerous unemployment cases, lack of heat or warm water during the winter or no water at all, drug use among youngsters and sometimes minor inter-ethnic conflicts between Roma people and Romanians.

At present time, the group is trying to determine public authorities to move an extremely noisy and unsanitary playground to a different area of the neighborhood and replace it with a parking lot. Ms. Neagu's work with the groups involve listening to people's needs and problems, forming a local initiative group, assisting the group in prioritizing and choosing an issue to work on, documenting the issue, developing the steps to solve the issue, taking action, preparing for meetings with officials, inside or outside the community, developing soft

skills – working as a team, making decisions, looking for new members, negotiation and communication abilities.

Ms. Neagu has a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Communication from the University of Bucharest in 2009. During her study years she participated in various trainings on Community Organizing, Community Development, Advocacy and Project Writing. Ms. Neagu speaks English on advanced level. She has a very rich traveling experience and has visited many European countries including Austria, Germany, France, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary and Republic of Moldova for work-related business trips and holidays on numerous occasions.

Ms. Neagu has never been to the United States before. This will be her first trip and she is interested in finding out more about various American approaches regarding Community Organizing. Ms. Neagu's interests in her field of work are focused on gaining new knowledge in conflict management, empowering the not-so-strong leaders, ways to help the group to think in advance about strategies for involving more people, building capacity on the long-term, and addressing minorities' problems in mixed communities.

In her free time, Iustina enjoys traveling, reading and listening to music.



THANK YOU TO U.S. MENTORS & TRAINERS:



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Elena Carburaru

Bucharest, Romania

E-mail: elena@kcmc.ro



Elena Carburaru began her career in the non-profit sector in 2010 working as a PR assistant for the Foundation for Development of Civil Society (FDSC). One year later she joined K Consulting Management and Coordination (KCMC) team as Project Assistant, writing and developing projects for disadvantaged groups (Roma communities, fighting unemployment, people from deprived areas).

Among the present projects that Ms. Carburaru is involved with is the collaboration with Romano ButiQ Association doing a project called “A voice of Roma people from CUPROM District, Baia Mare town”. In Baia Mare, in the neighborhood of CUPROM, almost 1,100 citizens have been relocated from a former hut neighborhood in an old chemical factory building. The goal of the project is to assure democratic participation of the Romanian citizens of Romani origins in the decisions making process of local authorities. Elena’s activities include the coordination of the field team activities and support in the self-

representation of the Roma people. Another undergoing project that she is working on is “*DELTA*Prenor”. The project aims to integrate people from isolated communities (from the Danube Delta) in the labor market, promoting and supporting their entrepreneurial activities.

In this project Ms. Carburaru coordinates the field activities: counseling the unemployed people, offering professional trainings and labor market orientation for 250 people. This is the second endeavor of the kind Ms. Carburaru has participated in. In 2011-2012, was part of a team that has established and developed a Professional Inclusion Centre in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The Professional Inclusion Centre also

helps unemployed people through a guided program in four steps: informing citizens about the labor market opportunities, individualized counseling, interview and behavioral trainings, and facilitating employment.

Ms. Carburaru has a Bachelor’s Degree in International Relations and European Studies from the University of Bucharest, and a Master’s Degree in Public Policy and European Integration from the National School of Political Science. She has good understanding in written and spoken English and French.

Ms. Carburaru is living in Bucharest, the largest city of the country, located in the southeast of the Romania, with a population of 2.2 million people. According to unofficial data, the population is more than 3 million. This will be her first visit to the United States. Ms. Carburaru wants to obtain an overview of the U.S. experience, a country recognized as a model of the whole process of community organizing: political, economically and social. So later after her return home, she can apply this experience in her country.

In her free time, Ms. Carburaru’s interests are snowboarding, watching good movies, meeting her friends and travelling.

Laura Anna Stefanut

Bucharest, Romania

E-mail: laurastefanut@gmail.com



Laura Stefanut is a Romanian journalist who has been writing about the situation of vulnerable social groups. In terms of media employment, she presently works for the national TV station DIGI 24 and does freelance publishing with the national newspaper “Romania Libera”, the nonfiction Romanian publication “Decat o Revista” and other online platforms.

In February 2013, one of her articles was translated in nine languages and published on press-group. In 2011, Ms. Stefanut started writing about the problems of immigrant workers in Romania. Ms. Stefanut was the first Romanian journalist to write about the State’s institutional deficiencies in the field and the abuses suffered by Filipino house workers, mostly women, at the hands of their Romanian employers. Since then, her interviewees have been sharing her phone number with other victims and Ms. Stefanut has been frequently contacted by migrants with problems. While trying to find case-by-case solutions, she developed a small network of

NGOs and lawyers, who work pro bono to assist these people. In addition to her journalist’s activity, Ms. Stefanut is presently assisting other NGOs, such as Eruption Anti-Corruption and the Centre for Legal Resources. The former is the U.S. Department of State funded program to promote community organizing as an effective civil anticorruption tool and the latter is an organization that advocates for the establishment and operation of a legal and institutional framework that safeguards the observance of human rights, equal opportunities and free access to fair justice.

Ms. Stefanut has a Bachelor’s Degree in International Relations and European Studies from the University of Bucharest

and has attended a two-year Master’s degree of Arts in European and International Culture and Politics from the University of Bucharest (thesis pending). She does not have an English language certificate, but as a self-assessment she has C1 for understanding and B2 for writing and speaking.

Ms. Stefanut has many interactions with foreign journalist and researchers, and has been a correspondent at the European Parliament, and most of the studies and articles she has read are in English. Also Ms. Stefanut speaks French at a basic level.

Ms. Stefanut has not been in the United States before. During her visit in the U.S., Ms. Stefanut wishes to learn more about minority empowerment and strategies aimed to assist vulnerable groups, as well as a more targeted interest in legislation regarding migrant workers in the U.S. She would like to meet university professors and researchers specialized in the field of migrant work and connect with NGOs in the field and communities of such workers.

Ms. Stefanut’s hobbies are closely tied with her work. She enjoys reading and learning more about the topics, she is writing about.

Lia Gaudi

Timisoara, Romania

E-mail: saes77lia@yahoo.com

Lia Gaudi worked at a two-month internship (February-April, 2013) at the European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Germany, focusing her work on the rate of criminality among young delinquents and how Romania is missing the legal background in order to diversify its support on protecting young delinquents, keeping them away from detention systems and concentrating on their education rather than on their punishment. This two-months' result will be a research study analyzing situation of Roma children and youngsters within the penal system in Romania that will further stand as basis for a public policy regarding special courts for minors and alternatives to detention, in collaboration with NGO field. She states: "Everything can be fixed and enjoyable if we work together!"

Previously, Ms. Gaudi contributed as founder and member of the Director Council to establish in Timisoara an NGO in 2010. She has specialized in integrating sex-offenders, preventing juvenile delin-



quency and mainly worked with youngsters that were exposed to criminality. In period of 2004-2007, Ms. Gaudi worked as Monitor on school mediators and human resources referent in Timisoara. Since 2004, Ms. Gaudi had been a volunteer in the Roma movement working in Romania and France with different disadvantaged groups, mostly Roma from Romania and Serbia, minors, immigrants, young delinquents, ex-offenders, drug addicts, etc. She has continued to dedicate her time to social activism mostly volunteering in the NGO field, but also teaching Romani language to pupils from grades one to eight until 2008.

Ms. Gaudi holds a Bachelor's degree from the Western University of Timisoara.

She finished her pedagogical studies in 2012 as a School Counselor and Civic Education Teacher. Currently, she is working on her Master's degree in Psycho Pedagogical Counseling and Education during 2012-2014. Ms. Gaudi fluently speaks Romanes, Romanian, English and French with basic understanding in Italian and Spanish.

Ms. Gaudi has some traveling experience. In 2009, she had an internship at the Council of Europe in France, and in 2011 she worked at the European Roma Rights Center in Hungary. Participation in the GLC Teach Democracy program will be her first chance to experience travelling in the United States.

Ms. Gaudi welcome the possibility to gain knowledge in cultural and professional experiences, and coming back home with different approaches for dealing with people, new ideas to be practiced in direct contact with communities that need to be lead in the best ways to help themselves in the concept of community organizing.

Ms. Gaudi's main hobbies are people, in general - discovering their way of thinking. She likes spending time with youngsters, watching movies, reading a nice book, and enjoys being with people.

Oana Botezan

Cluj-Napoca, Romania

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oana.botezan@ratiudemocracycenter.org

Oana Botezan is from Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Since 2007, Ms. Botezan has worked for the CRD and has been involved with and coordinated different projects concerning human rights. For example she has worked on several projects such as: "Cultural Diversity through Dialogue" project which focused on interethnic communication and developing good relations between the local minorities; "Not for sale - Choose for your own sake" - a community outreach program against the human trafficking.

Presently, Ms. Botezan assists with CRD's projects, especially "Your vote,



your future, it matters - cineceapromis.ro". This project is an independent online platform that encourages citizens to identify the promises candidates make while campaigning and then monitors those promises in order to hold the elected officials accountable. Ms. Botezan has been a volunteer during 2005-2007 at the Ratiu Founda-

tion for Democracy (CRD) where she worked with youth mobilization.

Ms. Botezan is currently a BA's student majoring in Social Assistance in the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work at the Babes-Bolyai University. Her professional interests are social work and making the voices of minorities heard. Ms. Botezan native language is Romanian, but she also fluently speaks English at an advanced level, and Italian and Spanish languages at the basic level.

This will be her first trip to the United States. While in the U.S., Ms. Botezan expects to learn a lot about community organizing and how to more efficiently mobilize communities. She is excited to learn a lot from her peers' and mentors' experiences and lessons learned.

In her free time Ms. Botezan enjoys reading a good book and cooking.



**Thank You for Your Support to David Gustafson, Program Officer
at the U.S. Department of State!**



Participants from Slovakia

Roman Tycka Kollarik

Bratislava, Slovakia

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Roman Tycka Kollarik currently holds the co-presidential position within the TransFuzia association (Slovakia's first Trans* initiative working for transgender people's well-being and their human rights). He is a long time Slovak LGBTQI activist, whose work has been recognized both in Slovakia and within regional Central-Eastern European (with a specific international focus on Poland and Czech Republic) activism and academia.

Mr. Kollarik has recently worked as a Program and Project Manager at the Q-Centre in Bratislava – Slovakia's first and only LGBTQI Community Centre, which has opened its doors in late 2011, offering psychological, social and legal help free of charge, and aiming to create a space for individuals to socialize, take part in various cultural events and to educate themselves – whether in legal matters, safer sex or other aspects of living as an LGBTQI person in Slovakia.

Currently Mr. Kollarik focuses his energy on his new founded NGO – TransFuzia. Established as a stand-alone initiative in 2010, this project has proven itself to be the most challenging and demanding project in Mr. Kollarik's work so far. TransFuzia's focus is to support the human rights of transgender and intersex people, educate on gender-variant issues and to build a functioning transgender community in Slovakia. As an expert in gender issues and LGBTQI rights, Mr. Kollarik believes that to protect one's rights effectively, a strong, independent and self-confident community needs to be created first.

Mr. Kollarik's main fields of professional interests involve issues related to gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation, especially bringing gender-variant inclusion to already es-

tablished LGBTQI projects and organizations in Slovakia, including the creation of safer spaces for this particular community. Mr. Kollarik has either worked or volunteered in those fields for the last 15 years, contributing either in academia (conducting research, giving lectures, consulting various theses), activism (community work, advocacy, event organizing and planning, designing and conducting trainings and fundraising) or politics (monitoring the legal situation of the LGBTQI community, lobbying and networking).

Mr. Kollarik holds a Master's Degree in Psychology from Comenius University in Bratislava graduating in June 2005. Psychology is a field which has proven itself very useful in his current work, especially within the LGBTQI community. He has also worked on a doctoral thesis in European Studies and Politics at Comenius University Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, and gained a Ph.D. Candidate title in 2009, but decided not to continue those studies due to financial reasons. Both the Ph.D. and Master's theses were focused on the question of how the LGBTQI community in Slovakia relates to minority experiences.

In his early twenties, Mr. Kollarik hitchhiked through several countries of Western Europe – an experience that has surely influenced him for the future, giving a new perspective on international social relations. Mr. Kollarik continued his traveling throughout the remaining

years, but has quite intensively began rediscovering Western and Northern Europe (including Scandinavia) in 2010, using the possibilities of youth and activist participation programs financed by the Council of Europe and executed by various regional transgender organizations and networks.

Due to the fact that Mr. Kollarik's family is of both Slovak and Czech origin, he speaks both of those languages fluently and has an ear for other Slavic languages. Thanks to his partner, he also speaks Polish. Even though Mr. Kollarik took English lessons in elementary and middle schools only, he was able to teach himself professional English communication and was also able to make English his primary working language. Recently, he finished second level certified Slovak sign language course.

Before 2013, Mr. Kollarik visited the United States only once, in August 2012. He and his partner went to New York City to attend family wedding and to experience the wonders of the city.

During his stay in the United States Mr. Kollarik would like to visit organizations with long-time experience in work with LGBT people, especially Trans* communities and individuals. He would also like to see how transgender inclusion works in practice and how different approaches contribute to creating safer spaces for transgender people.

Mr. Kollarik believes that the internship will help him to understand new approaches and practices to subject of transgender and develop necessary skills that would be transferable to local context of Slovakia.

Mr. Kollarik's hobbies are mostly artistic: digital photography and editing, drawing, painting, sculpturing, embroidery – basically anything that contributes to the development of their non-rational side. Roman also grows avocado trees at home and would enjoy a badminton match from time to time if a day could have more than 24 hours to give.

Thank You for Your Support to U.S. Embassy in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia!



Gabriela Mezeiova

Trnava, Slovakia

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Gabriela Mezeiova is a Project Management team member, Lecturer within the frame of the Academy of the Alliance of Independent Project, and Coordinator of the marketing activities and event organizing team member at the Alliance of Independent NGO, Banska Bystrica. Also, Ms. Mezeiova is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, where she runs courses on European Union issues, Media and Minorities in Europe.

Ms. Mezeiova is part of a national minority in Slovakia, the Hungarian one. Ms. Mezeiova participated in several activities and actions, helped organize the Hont Culture days (region where she comes from) and was a member of the team that prepared and submitted a successful high-profile European Social Fund project meant to help members of the community having social, financial and legal

problems, mostly coming from the Roma minority.

Ms. Mezeiova graduated in 2012 from Matej Bel University, Banska Bystrica, Slovakia with a Ph.D. Degree, majoring in Political Sciences. During academic year 2010/2011, she was granted a Visegrad Fund Scholarship for studies and research at the University of Dubrovnik in Croatia. Ms. Mezeiova actively participated in research projects with e.g. University of California Berkeley (USA) and Charles University Prague (Czech Republic).

During her academic career she ac-

tively participated at international conferences, seminars, workshops and teaching mobilities, published a monograph, scientific papers, few of them specifically oriented on minorities (e.g. Reflection of Serbia and the Serbian minority in the Croatian media starting from the Civil War to the present day) or/and democratic transformation and democracy in general.

Her mother tongues are Slovak and Hungarian. Ms. Mezeiova also speaks English, Croatian and Serbian thanks to her working, study and research experiences abroad. She visited a great majority of the European Union countries, other European countries and Egypt.

Ms. Mezeiova has been in the U.S. once as a tourist in 2012. During the Fall 2013 exchange program, she would like to know more about the U.S. culture and study the minority and political issues as a great opportunity to widen her perspectives and share with others after her return.

Ms. Mezeiova enjoys dancing, snowboarding, sewing, experiencing new cultures and learning new things, socializing, etc.

Bozena (Boba) Baluchova

Trnava, Slovakia

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boba.baluchova@gmail.com



Bozena Baluchova works as an Expert (field worker) at the Faculty of Health Care and Social Work in the Trnava University in Trnava. Her focus is a development project in Kwale region of Kenya – capacity building, community development – lectures for community health workers and for nutrition centres' clients, data collection about malnutrition and its analysis, library coordinating, writing reports about this project etc. Originally, Boba is from Bratislava.

In Slovakia, Ms. Baluchova is trying to be in touch with people from vulnerable groups – most likely affected by discrimination and social exclusion based on high age, social and health status, ethnic background: elderly homeless men from ethnic groups or with special needs, and elderly women with disabilities (in sheltered workshops). Her approach to community organizing would focus on these target groups. In 2011, she set up a new NGO "DocUnion" – focused on an anti-bias educational approach, peer education and intercultural learning through audiovisual

features. She is also volunteering in the Slovak NGO P(1)uto – focused on social inclusion. In 2012, she worked as Editor of the Slovak NGDO Platform in Bratislava where she was involved in development education, promotion of NGDO members' activities, and reporting about development cooperation projects. She was one of the editors of the manual "Guide of Development Volunteering in Slovakia", produced by the Slovak NGDO Platform.

During 2012, Ms. Baluchova has been involved with Caritas Slovakia as media assistant and development education trainer, focused on peer solidarity and climate justice. She worked with all kind of vulnerable groups inc/ the homeless on daily basis. At the present time Ms. Baluchova is doing her post-gradual study at

the Department of Development Studies at the Palacky University in Olomouc (Czech Republic). She has been focusing on the third-sector activities such as audiovisual presentation of subcultures, minorities, NGDO-activities and their projects in communities in developing countries.

Ms. Baluchova has never been in the U.S. before. She is looking forward to networking, analyzing existing causes in practise, and also to learn new methods, working procedures, and absorbing the experiences from the others peers - field-workers and community organizers in the U.S. She hopes after her return she will implement her own idea of anti-biased approach, strategies of sustainable development and community work into her work, media production and postgraduate research.

Ms. Baluchova is good at blogging, social media marketing/communication and making audio/video reports from interesting places. She realized two documentary movies "Life on the Equator" and "(Un)perilous food" in Kenya (2011), and one documentary "INvisible IMMigrants" in Netherlands (2012).

Ms. Baluchova is planning to shoot another documentary focused on the work of modern missionaries in local communities in the African continent. She is very happy that her job is also her hobby.

ITINERARY *

Sunday, September 29

Detroit, MI / Maumee, OH

1:15PM: Arrival in Detroit, welcome by Elizabeth Balint and Martin Nagy; Drive to Maumee; Check-in to hotel for 5 nights:

4:00PM: Welcome to NW Ohio! By Peter Ujvagi and Dave Beckwith

Pick up GLC Orientation materials and supplies for finishing posters; Poster preparation in the hotel lobby

6:00PM: Joint Buffet Dinner

8:00PM: Returning to hotel and rest

Monday, September 30

Maumee, OH

8:30AM: In the hotel conference room: GLC Orientation with Elizabeth Balint; Poster display

10:00AM: Distribution of allowances by Terri Laeng, WSOS

10:30AM-12:00Noon: Overview on Community Organizing by Cris Doby

12:00Noon: Lunch in the hotel; learn more about each other in small groups in the lobby of the hotel

1:00PM: Short introductions using posters

2:30PM: Community organizing success stories by Dave Beckwith and Cris Doby

4:30PM: Reflections

6:00PM: (Optional) Depart from the hotel for dinner and shopping

9:00PM: Return to hotel

Tuesday October 1

Maumee, OH

8:30AM: Continue Poster Presentation and selecting the top 3 posters

9:00-11:30AM: Discussion of the field experience/pre-departure action plan reports in small groups

Topics: major challenges that the delegation faced and look for solutions

Meeting with: Dave Beckwith, Cris Doby, Ramon Perez and Martin Nagy

11:30AM-1:00PM Lunch break

1:00-2:00PM Lessons learned from the field experience

2:15-3:30PM "How to cut an issue" with Dave Beckwith and Cris Doby

3:30-4:00PM: Reflections

4:30PM: Departure to the Maumee Fire House

5:00PM: *Welcome Reception and Potluck Dinner* at the Maumee Firehouse with community leaders, media, and guests from NW Ohio

Welcome by Richard H. Carr, Mayor of Maumee

Host: Barbara Dennis

8:00PM: Return to hotel

Wednesday, October 2

Maumee, OH

8:30-9:30AM: Continue Poster Presentation

9:30-10:15AM: Discussion on Field Diary during the internship

10:30AM-12:30PM: Training on how community organizers make the contacts by Ramon Perez (incl. door to door; -house meeting; -community meeting) Practical training on listening process

12:30-1:30PM: Lunch break

1:30-4:30PM: "Funding Community Work" – joint and small group discussions on membership, database development, grant/proposal writing-led by Martin Nagy

4:30-5:00PM: Reflections

5:00PM: Preparation for going to the Toledo Opera; Light dinner in the hotel as part of Social Reception

6:00PM: Departure to the Valentine Theatre in Downtown Toledo

7:00PM: Dress Rehearsal starts for AIDA by Giuseppe Verdi

Late night return to the hotel

Thursday, October 3,

Detroit, MI

8:30AM: Departure to Detroit

10:00AM: Meeting with the Detroit Action Commonwealth leaders at the Solanus Center in Detroit;

Discussions: Homeless Organizing and Leadership Development

Meeting with: DAC leaders and Prof. Greg Markus, University of Michigan from Ann Arbor

Tour of the Capuchin Kitchen's vegetable greenhouse and Solanus Center

12:00Noon: Depart to Harriet Tubman

Posters' Titles

Bulgaria

Hristo Angelichin: "Young Armenians Activities in Sofia"

Kalina Valova: "Support for Successful Inclusion"

Shaban Darakchi: "LGBT Organizing Vs. LGBT Integration"

Viktoriya Borisova: "Forgotten Roma treasures"

Vladislav Petkov: "The Change Starts with YOUth"

Hungary:

Andrea Tajti: "Community organizing in "Idea Tree" Project"

Annamaria Kovacs: "YOUTH VOICE - Problem? Potential!!!"

Jozsef Angyal: "The Hungarian Ministry of Human Resources catch-up programs" (especially focus on Roma Minority)

Robert Bekefi: "Enabling Roma Communities with the Projects of Kurt Lewin Foundation"

Zsafia Lenart: "Community on the Horizon"

Romania:

Lia Gaudi: "Social Work: The Weakest and the Strongest in the Front Line!"

Oana Botezan: "Your solution, your democracy"

Laura Stefanut: "The Romanian dream for Filipino migrants"

Elena Carburaru: "A Voice of Roma People"

Iustina Neagu: "Community Organizing in Bucharest"

Slovakia:

Bozena (Boba) Baluchova:

"Innovative Ways in Social Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination"

Roman Kollarik:

"To Be Myself or Not to Be"

Gabriela Mezeiova:

"Afghan Community in Slovakia: Issue/Problem Articulation through the (Local) Media"

ITINERARY *

Center, Detroit

12:30PM: Luncheon, followed by a meeting with Harriet Tubman Center lead organizers: Luke Allen, Kayla Mason, Dione Rocha

Discussion topics:

- Urban and Rural Organizing,
- Church organizing,
- Youth and Parent Organizing,
- Get Out to Vote Campaigns,
- How to Build an Organization

4:30-6:00PM: Meeting with Kayla Mason & students' leadership of Youth Voice

6:00PM: Travel back to Maumee hotel and dinner on the road

Friday, October 4

Toledo / Fremont, OH

8:00AM: Check-out from hotel, take a smaller luggage with you for 2 nights and store the rest of your luggage in the Maumee hotel

8:30AM: Departure to downtown Toledo Government Center (bring passport in order to enter the government building)

9:00AM: Overview "The U.S. Government and Election" by Mike Beazley, Lecturer of the University of Toledo & Administrator of the City of Maumee

11:30AM: Meeting with Laura Lloyd-Jenkins, Lucas County Administrator and Peter Ujvagi who worked in a variety of City, County and State positions for the last 25 years

12:30PM: Departing to Needmor Fund and lunch

2:00PM: Meeting with Lindsay Webb, Toledo City Councilwoman at the Needmor Fund; compare experience on local government in the U.S. and in Europe and how elected leaders view community organizing and strong communities

4:30PM: Visit the Toledo Museum of Art with Martin Nagy

Evening: Travel to Fremont

Check-In to hotel for 2 nights (time and dinner TBD)

Saturday, October 5

Fremont / Sandusky, OH

10:00AM: Travel to Cedar Point, the largest roller coaster park in the world!

11:00AM-5:00PM: Optional (for these who do not go to Cedar Point)

Option 1 - if weather permits visit an Amusement park at the Lake Erie;

Option 2 - Stay whole day at the hotel area to rest and have dinner around the hotel in Fremont on your own.

Sunday, October 6

Chicago, IL

7:30AM: Breakfast and check-out from the hotel in Fremont

8:00AM: Departure with a big charter bus to Chicago. Stop on the way in Maumee Hotel to pick up the rest of the luggage (driving time: 6 hours).

2:00PM: Drop off the luggage at the hotel in Chicago, but most likely there will be a later check-in time (when the rooms will be ready).

Afternoon: Start exploring downtown Chicago during day light on your own.

Evening: Check-in to hotel for 3 nights Enjoy the dinner and night life in downtown Chicago in small groups

Monday, October 7

Chicago, IL

8:30AM: Departure from the hotel to Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Conference room (70 East Lake St.)

9:30-11:30AM: *Training on* "Tools of Civic Engagement" by Josh Hoyt, ICIRR

11:30AM: Preparation for individual travel to internship sites and staying with host families – led by Elizabeth Balint

12:15-1:15PM: Lunch break on your own in area of the office building

1:15-2:45PM: Panel discussions with Chicago community organizer partners

3:00-4:45PM: Training on grassroots fundraising by Michaela Lovegood, Northside Power

4:45PM: Reflections

5:15PM: Continue to explore Chicago

(Millennium Park, Navy Pier) and dinner on your own in small groups

Tuesday, October 8

Chicago, IL

8:30AM: Departure from the hotel to Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Conference room

9:00AM: Training by Jim Field, Rachel Ramirez and Jim Picchetti

Training topics: - One-on-Ones; - History and Principles of Organizing; Running and Effective Meeting; - Power and Power Analysis

4:30PM: Reflections

5:00PM: Return to hotel, and everyone should finalize their transportation (travel time to the airport) for the next day

6:00PM: Joint *Farewell Dinner* at a famous pizza restaurant in Chicago

Wednesday, October 9

Travel day to Internship Sites

8:00AM-12:00Noon: Check-out from the hotel no later than by 12:00Noon; Travel/move to your internship site and host families on your own

October 10-29, 2013

3-Week Internship

Tailored experience at local or state-wide organizations across the U.S.

Wednesday, October 30,

Travel day / Washington, D.C.

Independent travel to Washington, D.C. and go directly to the hotel in downtown

Afternoon: Check-in for 3 nights

7:00PM: Meet at the hotel lobby with Martin Nagy and Elizabeth Balint for joint dinner around the hotel area

Thursday, October 31

Washington, D.C.,

Halloween Day

8:30AM: Depart to Center for Community Change conference room, (1536 U Street, NW)

ITINERARY *

9:00-9:30AM: Welcome and overview of the Center for Community Change activities with Sian ÓFaoláin, Senior Project Manager

9:30-11:30AM Review/ Evaluation of the fellowship experience
Discussion on cultural differences between your country and the U.S. (Field Diary Chapter 1)

(Tentative) Lunch meeting with Cathy Feingold, International Affairs Director of AFL-CIO and Ken Grossinger

Learning about the United States labor movement and its role in the world

2:00-5:00PM: Discussion on experience learned during internship (Field Diary Chapters 2 & 3)

Discussion topics:

- How to do community organizing in minority communities?

- How you may apply some methods in your country?

Evening: Enjoy the town on your own on Halloween night

Friday, November 1

Washington, D.C.

8:30AM: Depart from the hotel to the Center for Community Change, (1536 U Street, NW)

9:00-11:30AM: Action planning and discussion of joint action plans with Martin Nagy

11:30-1:30PM Lunch break on your own

1:30-5:00PM: Planning the U.S. Mentors visit in small groups by countries, start brainstorming about the May/June 2014 All Alumni programs in Europe

Evening: Open for free time activities

Saturday, November 2

Washington, D.C.

11:00AM: Check-out from the hotel; move to the another downtown hotel in small groups and store luggage there (if your room is not available); Check-in for 3 nights

Afternoon: Enjoy sightseeing in Washington, D.C. on your own

Evening: Free time for cultural activities and sightseeing

Sunday, November 3

Washington, D.C.

8:00AM-6:00PM: Free time for sightseeing or rest; Lunch and early dinner on your own

6:30PM: Departing from the hotel to the party

7:00PM: Birthday celebration at Ken Grossinger's home in Georgetown

Monday, November 4

Washington, D.C.

9:00AM-12:00Noon: Peer-to-peer learning at the hotel conference room (Field Diary Chapters 4 & 5)

Discussion topics:

- How are citizen organizations built, structured, grown and sustained;

- How community organizations are funded in the U.S.;

- How you can related this experience to your country

12:00-1:30PM: Lunch on your own

1:30-3:30PM: Working on the action plan, and discussion of joint action plans by countries

3:45-5:00PM: Preparing video clips with Martin Nagy

Evening: Open for free time activities

Tuesday, November 5

Washington, D.C.

8:00AM: Check-out from the hotel and store luggage in the storage room

9:00AM-12:00Noon: Peer-to-peer learning in the hotel conference room (Field Diary Chapter 6)

Discussion topics:

- Transparency and Visibility;

- Collaboration within and outside the community;

- Working with the media

12:00-1:30PM: Lunch on your own

1:30-3:00PM: Presenting the action plans, and program outlines for the U.S. Mentors visit in February 2014

3:00-5:00PM: Evaluation of program
Dinner on your own in downtown around the hotel area

7:00PM: Departure to the new hotel of the Professional Fellows Congress participants in Arlington, VA – joint transportation; pick up everyone with

the luggage;

Check-in for 4 nights;

Final preparation for the Congress.

Wednesday, November 6

1st day of Professional Fellows Congress

8:00AM: Breakfast on your own!

10:30-11:30AM: Congress Check-in on the 2nd floor of the hotel

12:00Noon: Lunch provided by the Congress (Ballroom Salon 4)

12:45-2:15PM: Welcome and Orientation session

2:30-5:15PM: Inspiration keynotes; Alumni Outreach presentation, then Outbound Planning Panel discussion

Evening: Dinner on your own, free time activities

Thursday, November 7

2nd day of Professional Fellows Congress

7:30-9:00AM: Breakfast provided by the Congress in the Ballroom

9:00-11:45AM: Fellowship Experience – Small Group exercise in the ballroom; (check the nametag for a group number for selected session)

11:45AM-1:15PM: Lunch with ambassadors and embassy staff in the Ballroom; Ambassadors to the United States and local embassy staff from fellows' countries are invited to dine and network with the fellows

1:15-1:30PM: Break to prepare for visit the U.S. Department of State
Meet in the lobby of the hotel to board the buses;

1:30PM: Board buses depart for visit the U.S. Department of State (Please bring your passport to enter the building!)

2:00-2:30PM: Arrival at U.S. Department of State and Security Screening

2:30-3:15PM: Welcome and Distinguished Alumni Award Presentations; Alumni Presentations on Fellowship Experience and Current work;

3:15-4:30PM: Regional Briefings with Questions and Answers Panel

4:30PM: Professional GROUP Photo

4:45PM: Board buses and return to the

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hotel for dinner

5:30PM: Dinner provided at the hotel
Evening: Open for free time activities

Friday, November 8

3rd day of Professional Fellows Congress

7:30-9:00AM: Breakfast provided by the Congress in the Ballroom

9:00AM-12:15PM: Professional workshops in two parts (choose one of 8 workshops provided by the Congress)

12:15-1:30PM: Lunch provided in the Ballroom

1:30-3:00PM: Solution Salon in the Ballroom in small groups (10 Fellows)

by region; brainstorming ideas

3:00-3:30PM: Prepare for the Poster Show

3:30-5:30PM: Poster Show & Contest (voting will close at 5:00pm)

5:30-6:00PM: Break to change for Dinner Cruise

6:00PM: Meet at the lobby. Depart for Dinner Cruise on the Potomac River, aboard the ODYSSEY.

Farewell night/Closing of the Congress

6:30PM: Boat leaves from the Dock; Dinner on the boat is provided by the Congress. Poster show winners will be announced on the dinner cruise

10:00pm: Boat returns to Dock, Board

buses to return to the Hotel

Saturday, November 9

Washington, D.C., Travel Day

8:00AM: Breakfast on your own

11:00AM: Congress Evaluation must be turned in to Elizabeth Balint

12:00Noon: Check-out of the hotel

1:00PM: Travel to Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C. together with Elizabeth Balint and Martin Nagy

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR
PROGRAM IN THE UNITED
STATES!

* Itinerary as of September 29, 2013 — subject to change without further notice



**THANK YOU TO Our U.S. Hosting Organizations
and Business Partners from 12 different states
across the United States:**



Arkansas: Arkansas Community Organizations and Arkansas Public Policy Panel (Little Rock),

California: Center for Third World Organizing (Oakland),

Kansas: Sunflower Community Action and The Seed House (Wichita),

Illinois: Caring Across Generations, Southwest Organizing Project, Jane Addams Senior Caucus, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, One Northside, ARISE Chicago, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Northside Power, Logan Square Neighborhood Association (Chicago),

Maryland: Casa de Maryland (Langley Park),

Michigan: Harriet Tubman Center and Detroit Action Commonwealth (Detroit),

Minnesota: TakeAction (St. Paul),

New Hampshire: Granite State Organizing Project (Manchester) and United Valley Interfaith Project (Hanover/Lebanon)

New York: Community Voices Heard and Heritage of Price (New York City),

Ohio: Neighborhood Works/Neighborhood Housing Services of Toledo (Toledo),

Pennsylvania: William Way LGBT Community Center (Philadelphia),

Washington, D.C.: Center for Community Change