

Marina Onaca is the Founder and CEO of World Wide Cultural Exchange, an organization she established in January 2000 following a long experience of teaching young people from all over the world to understand each other's qualities, their similarities and differences. Marina was born in Romania and lived the first part of her life abroad, thus developing a unique perspective on international cross-cultural experiences, believing that direct involvement in a foreign culture leads to faster language development and a deeper level of cultural understanding. She founded her company on this principle and through years of experience in program development and implementation, training of national diverse staff, supervision, representation, and marketing of programs overseas, Marina put WWCE in a position to develop solid relationships both in the U.S. and abroad.

Before arriving in the United States, Marina volunteered with The Soros Foundation for an Open Society for over six years. In this capacity, she was able to experience first-hand the benefits of international cross-cultural exposure. During her tenure with SOROS, she served as the Peer Counselor for several groups from the United States, United Kingdom, and Ireland, and participated in numerous International Development Camps. Her participation and dedication to the success of the intercultural interaction created the opportunity for many Romanians to benefit from funded programs that brought them closer to foreign peers.

Professionally, Marina was recognized on many occasions for her dedication to developing ways of deeper penetration in the cultural understanding of other countries. She was awarded the "Internationalizing your Campus" grant by SOROS for her proposal to fund the first English High School Newspaper at Gheorghe Sincai bi-lingual High School in Romania. She still serves as the Honorary Chief Editor in recognition of her strength and dedication in creating and receiving funding for this project. Marina is a member of NAFSA, ACA, SHRM, Alliance for Cultural Exchange, and a Board Member on the Parent Advisory Board for Oaks Christian School in Westlake Village, CA.