

ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE — LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Professional program for a delegation from Moldova

In Northwest Ohio September 10 — September 18, 2010

Sponsored by the Open World Leadership Center

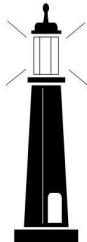
September 2010

Locally organized by
**THE GREAT LAKES CONSORTIUM
for International Training
and Development**

GLC is a collaborative effort of the Bowling Green State University, Lourdes College, The University of Toledo & WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc — Contract Agent and Manager.
Established in 1999.

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The delegation from Moldova is sponsored by the Open World Program (www.openworld.gov). This congressionally sponsored program brings leaders from Russia, Ukraine and other post-soviet states to the United States in order to give them firsthand exposure to the American system of participatory democracy and free enterprise.

The principles of accountability, transparency and citizen involvement in government are among the concepts emphasized by the Open World Program. The program was created in 1999 and since then over 14,000 participants had traveled to the United States for programs.

The overall objective of the one week program in Northwest Ohio is to expose participants to best practices in local government and political development as a means for greater effectiveness, transparency, accountability to citizens and creating of greater civic involvement. This program will familiarize the participants with practical cases and tools successfully reform governmental structure, find funding sources and mechanisms for collecting local taxes. The participants will learn how the American governmental and political partners work collectively to create better local governmental practices.

There is a country wide need in Moldova for greater effectiveness, transparency, accountability to citizens, and citizen involvement in municipal affairs.

American elected officials possess a large body of experience and a knowledge base that is a result of decades of work developing viable development strategies that involve partnerships between govern-

ment, business, nonprofit and community organizations. An overview of local governmental practices in the US would bring valuable experience to Moldova, as well as an opportunity to bring US best practices into effect for local governance system, participatory government, institutional structures and budgetary planning practices in the executive and legislative branches of local government in Moldova.

The NW Ohio program will help explore successful local governmental and political development tools that participants can introduce in Moldova. Additionally, the program will assist successful politicians and city leaders in rural and/or economically depressed areas to be more responsive to change. The officials from Moldova will get the knowledge and tools to appropriately model the development of their respective regions. As a result, the new local governmental development models will be introduced in Moldova and the roles of local elected officials will be more clearly understood.

**Toledo, OH –
September 12,
2010:
Delegation
from Moldova
with
Congresswoman
Marcy Kaptur**



The itinerary includes discussions, consultations, as well as meeting with representatives from all levels of government. The guests will gain experience in both urban and rural communities of NW Ohio, while visiting communities and leaders in three counties: Lucas County (Toledo, Oregon, Maumee), Wood County (Bowling Green, Perrysburg), and Ottawa County (Put-in-Bay).

There will be six participants from Moldova. Three of the participants are mayors of cities similar in size to many northwest Ohio communities, from districts of 30,000 to 50,000 citizens. One participant is a city council member and works as the Commercial Manager in a tobacco company called Tuntun-CTC located in Goldeni. Another participant currently works in a hospital and is seeking to run as mayor in her local government. There will be a facilitator with this group who works with the United Nations Development program in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. These participants will be a great fit for the cross cultural and knowledge exchanges with north-

west Ohio. A Romanian interpreter will also assist the delegation during the program.

As a result of this program, participants will by word and action have the ability to disseminate newly acquired knowledge about the local governmental practices. The raised awareness among professionals of different types will assist in the development of an analytical approach to challenges that, in turn, will result in shaping better strategies for enhancing local governmental and political growth. It is anticipated that visitors will implement changes such as building cross sector partnerships. Our program will encourage local and regional cooperation and partnership building, as well as provide experiences and ideas for greater community and private sector involvement in order to develop governmental structure.

With the knowledge and tools gained in the US, local officials and professionals will introduce new local governmental development models; new jobs and political-models will be developed. The building of

international contacts and sharing successful models and best practices is a basic, integral component of local governmental development. The hope is that by participating in this program the guests will have tangible ideas for future collaboration.

The delegation will stay at NW Ohio area host families to experience the everyday life, the culture and diversity of America. Guests will participate in community programs and share information about Moldova and their communities with American partners.

We thank all the program partners, host families and volunteers for their support and invite you to join us at the Welcoming Reception/ Dinner with the delegation. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur will welcome the delegation to the U.S. during this event on Sunday 5:00 PM September 12th at the Maumee Firehouse (450 Dussel in Maumee, OH 43537).

For more information please contact the Great Lakes Consortium by phone 419-530-8572 or e-mail glcevents@hotmail.com

**MANY THANKS TO THE HOST FAMILIES
IN BOWLING GREEN, TOLEDO, AND SYLVANIA, OHIO:**



***Alan and Barbara Hogan
Art and Judy Myerholtz
Randy and Colleen Sheeks
Timothy Pogacar and Irina Stakhanova***

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO

***Marty and Jacky Pauken
Andrew and Peter Nagy
Barbara Dennis
for assisting with transportation***



Moldova is a land locked country with the Ukraine bordering the northeast and Romania bordering the southwest. It has a population of 3.6 million people. Moldova was annexed by the USSR in 1940 but it emerged as its own republic following its collapse in 1991. Moldova has thirty-two districts (rayons), guests are coming from the North and Central districts, including Glodeni, Ocnița, Rezina, Soroca and Edinet and the capital city of Chisinau (Kishinev).

Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe despite recent economic progress. The country has a favorable climate but has no major mineral deposits, thus, the economy depends heavily on agriculture, specifically fruits vegetables, wine and tobacco. The country is heavily reliant on Russia for their energy supply and has received millions to support economic recovery from the IMF. 2010 has brought slight recovery for Moldova but the economy remains unstable due to many problems including, political uncertainty, weak administrative



capacity and skepticism of foreign investors.

The state of Moldova is a Republic that is based on a civil law system. The current chief of state is president Mihai Ghimpu and has been in office since September 11, 2009, he will serve a four-year term with one chance of reelection. The president designates the head of government and Prime Minister Vladimir Filat has been in office since September 25, 2009. The legislative branch is made up of a Parliament with 101 seats; they are elected by the popular vote and serve a four-year term. The judicial branch consists of a Constitutional Court. The official language is Moldovan (virtually the same as Romanian), with Russian and Gagauz also present. 98% of Moldavans

identify with the Eastern Orthodox faith and 1.5 % with the Jewish faith.

Chisinau (Kishinev) is the capital of Moldova. Kishinev (as of 2007 the population was around 600,000, double the size of Toledo) is located at the heart of the country along the tributary of the Dniester, on the seven hills. The city is over 560 years old and today it is the cultural, historical administrative, scientific and industrial centre of the country. Chisinau (Kishinev) is the major educational center in Moldova. There are 16 institutes and 20 colleges within the city.

The cultural life of Chisinau (Kishinev) is very diverse and vibrant. There are many museums, libraries, concert halls, houses of culture and cinemas. The city has modern stadiums, sport complexes, a racecourse, and one of the best famous motor races in Europe.



Population:	3.6 million (UN, 2009)
Area:	33,800 sq km (13,050 sq miles)
Major languages:	Moldovan, Russian
Major religion:	Christianity
Monetary unit:	1 leu = 100 bani
Main exports:	Foodstuffs, animal and vegetable products, textiles
GNI per capita:	US \$1,470
Internet domain:	.md
International dialing code:	+373

***Political Parties in the Moldova Parliament
(distribution of the mandates after
July 27, 2009 election)***

Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova (48)
Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova (18)
Liberal Party (15)
Democratic Party of Moldova (13)
Party Alliance Our Moldova (7)
Total mandates: 101

Participants of the Delegation

Igor Ion Oboroc

Mr. Oboroc has been the Mayor of Grinauti Village since 2007, which is located in the Ocnita district in the North of Moldova, with a district population of more than 56,000.

Mr. Oboroc is responsible for monitoring the finances, managing human resources, training staff, conducting long term planning and economic development activities, prepare economic analyses, perform data analysis, writing articles/press



releases/ reports providing information to the public and responding to

their inquiries. Mr. Oboroc also serves as Chairman of the Committee on Public Functionary Evaluation and Chairman of the Committee on Exceptional Situations. He received his Agronomist degree from the Agrarian University.

In the US he is interested to learn environmental protection practices, local government contribution to job creation, social and economic development and common projects with foreign localities via partnerships.

Constantin Cojocari

Costelus67@rambler.ru

Mr. Cojocari is currently the Mayor of Edinet a community with 20,000 inhabitants. Edinet district is located in the Northwest of Moldova and has a population of more than 80,000 people.

Mr. Cojocari duties include economic development activities, respond to public inquiries and gather and analyze public opinion. He also volunteers as the Chairman of the Revision Committee for the Democratic Party of Moldova.



Mr. Cojocari received his university degree in Education of Romanian and Latin Languages and Literature

from Alecu Russo State University of Balti. He has extensive experience in teaching Romanian in the local high school.

Mr. Cojocari is fluent in Moldovan, Russian and Ukrainian, as well as having a basic conversational level of English. He hopes to acquire a better understanding of the United States procedures in his fields including, public administration, activity of various types of utilities and the local government's collaboration with schools, universities, hospitals and cultural institutions.

Mihail Alexandru

Mirzenco

www.mateuti.md
mmiryencu@mail.ru

Mr. Mirzenco is the Mayor of Mateuti since 2007. His community is located within the Rezina district, East of Moldova, with a population of 48,000. Rezina is situated on the western bank of the Dniester River.

Mr. Mirzenco received his university degree from the Pedagogical School of Orhei. He has a teaching license, and tech in the primary school. Currently, he continues his education at the Institution of Ion Creanga in



Chisinau to be a History teacher.

Mr. Mirzenco responsibilities as Mayor include village administration, investment attraction, project

implementation, and local budget formation. As volunteer, he is the Secretary of the local organization of the Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova.

Mr. Mirzenco is looking forward to learn the basic activity of city management, specifically local budget preparation, investment attraction for social and culture sectors. Also, he is interested to learn about the relationship between the public and private sector.

Mr. Mirzenco desires to learn more about American culture and the education system.

Participants of the Delegation

Ion Vasile Leuca

www.tutun-ctc.md
yapieva@tutun-ctc.md

Mr. Ion Leuca is a City Councilman for the Glodeni district, and also the President of the Democratic Party of Moldova in his district. Along with his elected official position in local government, Mr. Leuca works for a tobacco producer called Tuntun-CTC in Glodeni. He is Commercial Manager of the company.

Mr. Leuca educated in Agro Busi-



ness and also attended the State University of Moldova majoring in

History. He is fluent in Russian and French.

Mr. Leuca wants to learn more about the United States local governmental structure.

Mr. Leuca is interested in learning while in the US about how to deal with unemployment, the activity of the political parties, managing budgets and the methods of solving different social problems.

Angela Alexandru Rusnac

srsoroca@mednet.md

Ms. Rusnac is an elected member of Soroca District Council since 2007 and the President of the Social Development Commission. She plans to run for Mayor in 2011 and is hoping to gain knowledge and experience from the US program. Soroca district is located on the Northeast of Moldova, with a population of more than 90,000 people.

Ms. Rusnac is the Chief of Staff for the Soroca District Hospital "A. Prisacari", which has 600 employees. She is in charge of planning and monitoring the budget, managing human resources, train staff, work with public safety and emergency issues, work as activist and advocate on social issues. As Chief of Staff her main responsibilities in-



clude organizing and developing the medical assistance and providing quality medical services based on modern technologies.

Ms. Rusnac is the Vice-President of the "Alianta Moldova Noastra" Party's Women organization in the Soroca District chapter, and member of the

Political Council. She is the Chair of the National Committee of Social Protection.

Ms. Rusnac received her university degree from the State Medical and Pharmaceutical University "Nicolae Testemitanu" of the Republic of Moldova. She is fluent in French, Russian and Moldovan.

Ms. Rusnac is interested in learning more about defending citizen's rights, collaborating with NGOs and civil society to elaborate common strategies concerning the development and planning of health care projects. She would like to know more about the public relations, and the transparency of social and medical institutions. Ms. Rusnac traveled previously in the US on a USAID Community Connections Program.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Lucas County Board of Commissioners and Auditor Office
Lucas County Soil and Water Department



Wood County Economic Development Commission
City of Toledo and Toledo City Council
City of Maumee and Maumee Fire Department
City of Oregon and Village of Put-in-Bay
City of Perrysburg and The University of Toledo

Facilitator**Irina Vladimir Apostol**Ira_apostol@yahoo.com

Ms. Apostol will be the facilitator for the delegation. She is an Administrative and Financial Officer for the United Nations Development Program in Chisinau.

Ms. Apostol received her undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin majoring in Business Administration with a focus on Eco-



nomics studies as well as on Finance and Accounting studies. Then she

continued her education and completed a Masters Degree at Newport International University in Business Administration. Her employment history includes working in community development organizations as a Financial Officer.

Ms. Apostol is fluent in English, French, Spanish and Russian and will assist the delegation with her language skills during cultural and free time activities.

Professional Interpreter**Val S. Monafu**val@theotherwords.comwww.theotherwords.com

Mr. Monafu is a Professional Interpreter for this delegation. He is an American raised in Romania. Mr. Monafu has extensive experience in translating documents and other materials from Romanian to English and vice versa.



Mr. Monafu specializes in simultaneous and consecutive interpretation and he is a well recognized specialist in legal documentation both in Romanian and English.

Mr. Monafu will join the Moldova delegation during their visit in NW Ohio from California.

THANK YOU TO

Deb Lutjen and her colleagues at World Services of La Crosse Inc.

**OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO***Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur**Mayor Timothy Wagener**Mayor John Quinn**Mayor Judy Berry**Pete Gerken**Tina Skeldon Wozniak**Ben Konop**Wilma Brown**Anita Lopez**Michael J. Beazley**Dr. Lynn W. Bachelor**Peter Ujvagi**John Jezak**John Alexander**John Fawcett**Thomas Blaha**Duane Myers**Doug Knauer**Susan Rowe**Sue McCloskey*

ITINERARY *

Friday, September 10

5:30PM: Pick-up the delegation at Toledo Express Airport by GLC representatives

6:30PM: Welcome and orientation in Maumee

8:00PM: Drive to host families

Saturday, September 11

Visit Put-in-Bay Island – Historic Weekend

9:00AM: Travel to Port Clinton

10:15AM: Pick up tickets & travel with the Miller Ferry boat to Put-in-Bay (boat leaves at 10:30AM)

11:00AM: Arrival on Put-in-Bay Island

Pick up golf cart to travel on the island

Tour of the Heinemann's Winery

12:30AM: Lunch at a local restaurant on the island

2:15PM: Grand Parade with antique and classic cars, numerous area bands and dignitaries.

Meet with Put-in-Bay Mayor Judy Berry

Visit the Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial;

Watch the movie at the Visitor Center about the Battle of Lake Erie.

Afternoon: Tour of the island & activities to choose from:

- Boy Scout Camp-O-Ree at the Perry Memorial;

- Musket & Cannon firing demonstrations;

- Art in the Park featuring regional artists and photographers in downtown DeRivera Park;

Free time for shopping, relax

6:30PM: (Optional) Toledo Symphony's first concert of the 2010 season will commence on the lawn behind the Perry's Victory Visitors Center.

8:00PM: Travel back with the boat to Port Clinton (or return with an earlier boat)

10:00PM: Return to host families

Sunday, September 12

Morning and Lunch: With host families

2:00PM: (Optional) Visit the Toledo Museum of Art

5:00PM: Welcome by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

Welcome Reception at the Maumee Firehouse

450 W. Dussel Drive, Maumee, OH 43537

Elected leaders, community partners, hosts and the media are invited for this Potluck Dinner;

Monday, September 13

9:30-11:30AM: Visit the University of Toledo Main Campus – GLC Office / Tucker Hall Conference Room

Meeting with:

Dr. Lynn W. Bachelor, Associate Professor, University of Toledo – Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Discussion topics:

- Overview of the U.S. local government system

- Different level of government, roles and activities

- Compare tasks of local government in the US with Moldova

12:00-1:30PM: Lunch at the Maumee Bay State Park – Resort Lodge

2:00-4:30PM: Visit the City of Oregon on the Bay (Lucas County)

Discussion with Michael J. Beazley, City Administrator

Discussion topics:

- Collaboration between county and city governments

- Regional collaboration among city and county governments

- Toledo Metropolitan Council of Government

- Three sector partnership within US communities (Public-Private-Nonprofit);

- Northwest Ohio Mayors & Managers Association (NOMMA)

- "Oregon – A City of Cooperation"

- How cities develop, monitor, and report on contracting for services in

the private sector;

Tuesday, September 14

8:30-9:15AM Meet with Lucas County leaders of Lucas County Offices;

Meeting with:

Pete Gerken, President, Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Commissioner, Ben Konop, Commissioner, and Peter Ujvagi County Administrator

Discussion topics:

- Role and responsibilities of the county commissioners

- Sunshine law

- Working with the media

- Community connection

9:30-10:00AM: (Optional) Attend the Lucas County Commissioners meeting

10:15-11:30AM Visit the Lucas County Auditor Office

Meeting with: Anita Lopez, Auditor

11:45-12:30PM: Meeting with Peter Ujvagi, County Administrator

Discussion topics:

- Collaboration between state and county governments

- Private – public partnership

- Local government problems in hard economic times

12:45-2:15PM: Lunch at the Spaghetti Warehouse with Peter Ujvagi;

2:30-3:30PM: Visit the City of Toledo

Meeting with: Wilma Brown, Council President and members of Toledo City Council

Discussion topics:

- Decision making process at local government

- The functioning of city council

- Understanding the participatory process

- Citizens involvement in local government

- Working with the Mayor and different government offices

- Accountability of elected officials

4:00-4:30PM: Attend the City Council meeting

ITINERARY *

Guests will be introduced to the community and they will be recognized.

Wednesday, September 15

9:30AM: Visit the City of Maumee (Lucas County),

Meeting with: Mayor Timothy Wagener

Discussion with: John Jezak, City Administrator

Discussion topics:

- Local government role in economic development
- Local government contribution to job creation
- Human resource management at local government (hiring, disciplinary procedures in public sector vs. private sector)
- Financial management
- Revenues and expenses of the city government

12:00-2:00PM: Luncheon with the Maumee Rotary Club members to experience the “Service Above Self” and learn how the Rotary Club helps in Maumee at Sidecut Metropark – Maumee Rotary Centennial Pavilion (hosted by Sue McCloskey, Maumee Rotary Club President)

3:00-4:30PM: Visit the City of Perysburg (Wood County)

Meeting with: John Alexander, City Administrator

Discussion topics:

- What is behind this dynamic development
- Local government role in economic development
- Strategic planning
- Citizen participation

Thursday, September 16

10:30-12:30AM: Visit the City of Bowling Green (Wood County)

Meet with Mayor John Quinn and John Fawcett, Municipal Administrator

Discussion topics:

- Local government issues in rural communities

- Energy saving methods
- No wrong door policy – serving the community
- Transparency and report to the community
- Collaboration between local government, schools, hospitals, and cultural institutions
- Education system in the US

1:00-2:30PM: Lunch buffet at Hunan Palace in Bowling Green

3:00-4:30PM: Visit the Wood County Economic Development Commission;

Meeting with: Thomas Blaha, Executive Director

Topics for discussion:

- How to attract investment (PR, marketing, comparative advantage)
- Public-private partnership
- Foreign companies interest in investment

Friday, September 17

9:30- 12:00 (Noon): Review session about experience learned, new ideas gained in NW Ohio & Evaluation the University of Toledo – at GLC Office Main Campus - Tucker Hall Conference room

12:00-2:00PM: Lunch

Afternoon: Open for last minute shopping

6:00-8:00PM: Farewell dinner with host families and program partners at the Sheeks residence in Bowling Green; garden party if weather permits

Presentation of the certificates and report on the experience, what ideas can be implemented in Moldova

Saturday, September 18

8:00AM: Pick-up from host families and drive to Toledo Express Airport

8:55AM: Check-in to the Chicago

10:55AM: Leaving Toledo

GLC wish everyone a safe trip home and we hope you enjoyed your program in NW Ohio!



Chisinau (Kishinev) - Parliament Building of Moldova



Chisinau (Kishinev) - “Oficiul Postal and Skytowel” building



Glodeni - “Biserica din Balatina”



Soroca - Tower with gate of the fortress