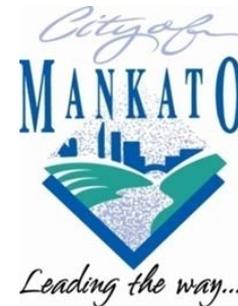


Ungheni City  
Republic of Moldova

City of Mankato  
United States of America

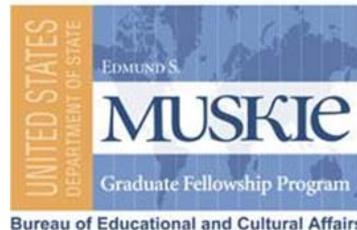
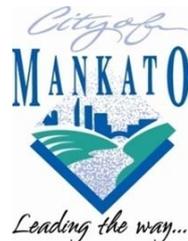
## Sister City Partnership



Liliana Tincu, Edmund S. Muskie Fellow 2010  
July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – Mankato City Council Work Session

# Liliana Tincu's background & experience

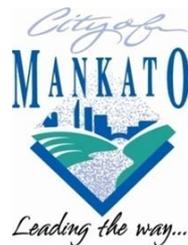
- Minnesota State University, Mankato – Graduate certificate in Public Administration, MPA Program (2010-2011)
- Interim Clerk, Ungheni District Council, RM (2009 – 2010)
- Director, Center of Resources for Sustainable Investments, Ungheni (2005 – 2009)
- Senior Specialist in Public Administration, Department of Public Administration, Ungheni District Council (2003 – 2009)



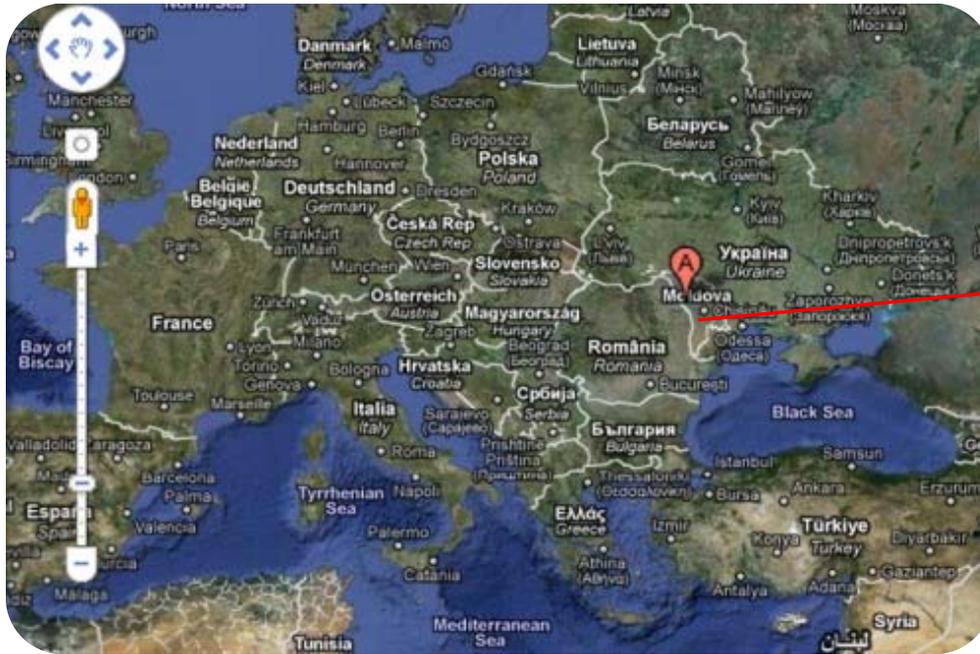
Ungheni District Council

# Outline of Presentation

- Facts about Republic of Moldova (RM) and City of Ungheni
- Similarities between City of Ungheni and City of Mankato
- The benefits of Sister City Partnership
- Potential areas for cooperation



# Facts about Republic of Moldova



<http://maps.google.com/>

- Area: 33,846 km<sup>2</sup> = 13,067 sq. mi
- Population: 3.5 mln
- Capital: Chisinau
- Official language: Romanian
- Independence Day : 08.27.1991

- GDP: \$5.8 billion
- Currency: Moldovan Leu

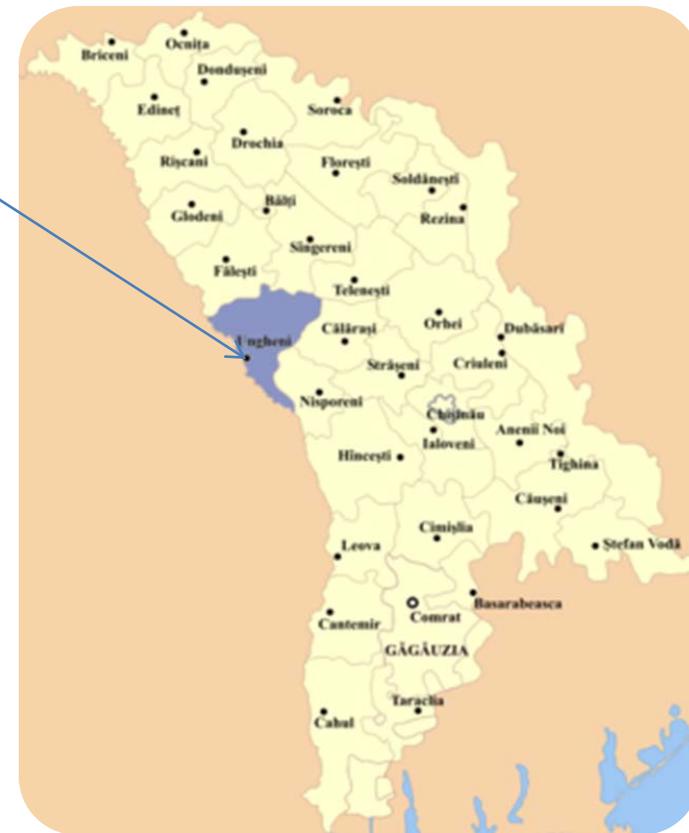
# Facts about Republic of Moldova

- Constitution: Adopted on August 27th, 1994
- Administrative divisions:
  - 32 rayons/districts
  - 3 municipalities (Chisinau, Balti, Bender)
  - 1 autonomous territorial unit – Gagauzia
  - 1 territorial unit (Transnistria)
- Ungheni District/Rayon:
- 2 cities (Ungheni and Cornesti)
- 72 villages

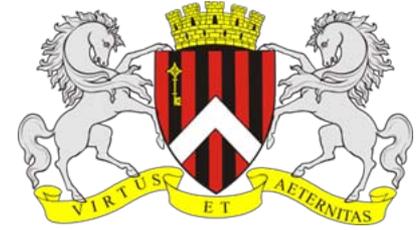


# Ungheni City Location

- In the west central part of the RM, on the boarder with Romania
- *The first historical mention of Ungheni -August 20, 1462*
- 71 miles from Chisinau
- 9 miles from the city of Iasi, Romania by railway
- 0,3 miles from the Customs office



# Ungheni City Council



- Mayor – Council Government
- Ungheni City Council – 27 council members
- Executive branch – Mayor Alexandru Ambros assisted by the City Hall staff



Ungheni City Council



Mayor Alexandru Ambros

# The City of Ungheni

## - Characteristics

- The main cultural and economic center with new development perspectives situated in the western part of the country
- The Surface: 6.3 sq. mi
- Population: 32 700 inhabitants
- Means of transport: by road, by railway and fluvial.
- Mutual advantageous relations with the West and East countries
- Considered to be “the gate to the West Europe”



International Railway  
Station Ungheni

# Ungheni – International Relations

- Promoting the policy of European integration through its sister-cities agreements
- Cooperating with the international organizations: UNDP, USAID, the World Bank, SIDA, Tacis, MSIF, the Foundation Soros-Moldova
- Sister cities agreements:
  - Winston-Salem, North Carolina - USA
  - Vasilcov – Ukraine
  - Konin – Poland
  - Dmitrovsk – Russia
  - Reghin – Romania
  - Carmel - Israel



Winston-Salem



# Ungheni – The Economy

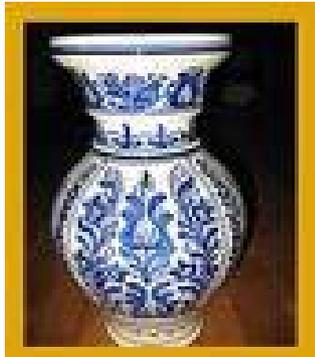
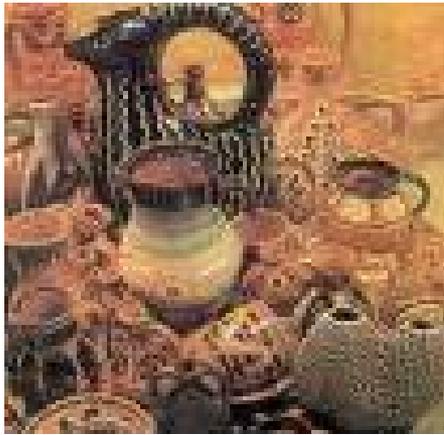


In the city of Ungheni there are about 2104 firms:

- SA "Covoare-Ungheni": production of carpets
- SA "Ceramica-Ungheni": production of ceramic articles
- SA "Ecovit": processing of vegetables and fruits
- SA "Solo-Plus": meat production
- SA "Ungheni-Vin": wine and cognac production
- *Free Economic Zone*

- In August 2008 there was founded the Moldovan–Austrian enterprise AVE–Ungheni, from which 40% is the ownership of Ungheni City Hall (a pilot city in RM in the field of waste management)





# Ungheni – Free Economic Zone



- Started its activity 8 years ago
- Increased the production required by the European standards.
- In the Free Economic Zone there were created about 44 enterprises, 50% from the enterprises with national capital and the other 50% - foreign capital .
- [www.freezone-ungheni.md](http://www.freezone-ungheni.md)



# Ungheni – Educational institutions



- 5 high schools
- 2 primary schools
- 3 colleges
- 1 boarding (military) school
- 1 music school
- 1 art school
- 1 sport school
- 5 kindergartens

# Ungheni – Cultural tourism



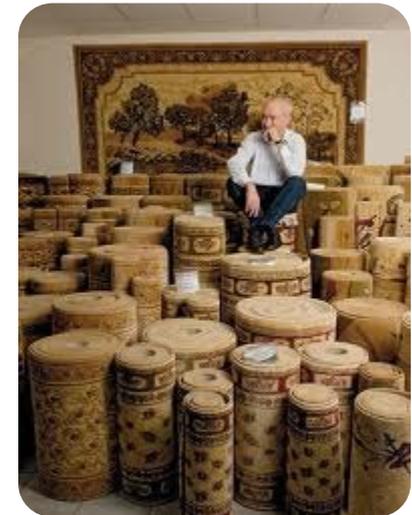
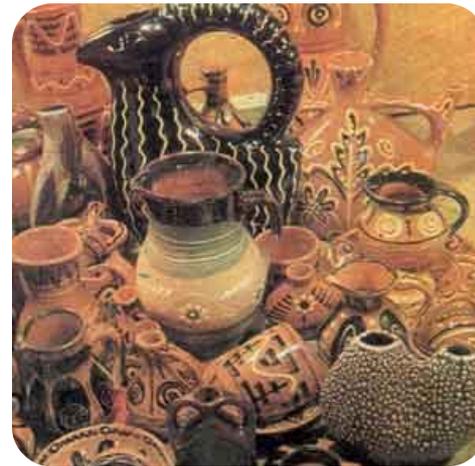
- In this region there were significant historical events which have left traces (monuments, churches)
- Museum of History and Ethnography (over 4000 exhibits including objects dating from Paleolithic era).

# Ungheni – Industrial tourism



In our city there are many industrial enterprises and the city is unique in the country based on folk traditions in:

- Carpet-tissue
- Manufacture of ceramic
- Production of wine



# Ungheni – Ecological tourism



- Complex of nature, old forests under state protection situated near Ungheni City:
  - at 30 km from the town the nature reserve “Codrii”
  - at only 20 km the nature reserve “Plaiul Fagului”
- The highest hills in Moldova and the deepest valleys give a special charm to the region



Plaiul Fagului



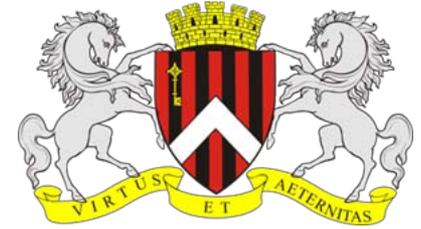
Codrii

# Ungheni – Culture



- The sculpture camp that is held every two years in August gather sculptors from different countries.
- The festival of winter traditions (December)
- The exhibition of pottery articles ( August)
- Libraries, the Historical and Ethnographic Museum and the Community Center are the institutions that promote the national history and culture.
- The local newspapers „Unghiul” and „Expresul de Ungheni”, reflect all the events and information about the city.

# Sculpture Camp



# Ungheni – Specifics



- The alley of chestnuts (the main street in Ungheni) is the longest chestnut alley in Europe.
- The bridge project on the Prut river, that makes the connection between Republic of Moldova and Romania, was created by the famous French architect Gustave Eiffel.



The alley of chestnuts



The Bridge on Prut river

# Similarities

(Based on my experience/perception)

Ungheni City 	City of Mankato 
Population – 32.700 residents	Population – 36.240 residents
Best practices for 33 city halls/city councils from Ungheni district	Best practices for other city halls/city councils from Blue Earth County
Tourism development is a priority	Greater Mankato Growth/Convention & Visitors Bureau
The most green city in Moldova	GreenStep Cities Award
Ungheni – 2011 Youth Capital	100 Best Communities for Young People Award
5 wards	5 wards
Sculpture Camp	CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour

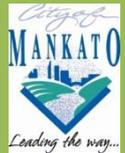
# Similarities

(Based on my experience/perception)

Ungheni City



City of Mankato



Potential University Branch

Minnesota State University, Mankato

New street lighting (sustainable lighting)

LED and induction lights for street lighting (test project)

AVE Company

Waste Management Inc.

Sustainable Development Strategy – Local Agenda 21 Ungheni

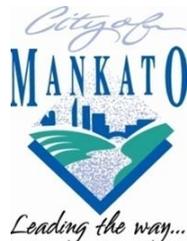
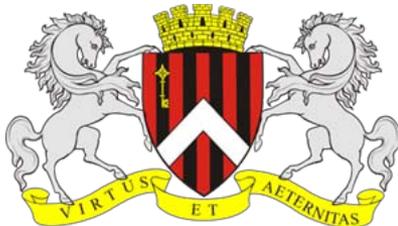
Strategic Plan

“... to develop local, regional and international partnerships in order to have a sustainable community.”

“... to continue to lead the way in maintaining, expanding and exploring new partnerships and enhancing cooperation.”

# Sister City Partnership - Benefits

- A facilitating instrument of international friendship and cultural exchange
- A powerful and beneficial tool for capacity building, learning, economic and social development
- A favorable environment for long-term programs and projects of mutual benefit based



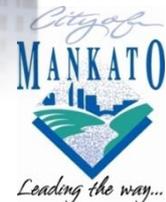
# Potential Fields of Cooperation

1. **Culture and sport** – to strengthen mutual cultural and sport cooperation, enhance exchanges of both regions in arts and culture communities with the aim to explore more opportunities, participation in sports events and tournaments
2. **Health** – to enhance collaboration in healthcare, including the possibility of joint clinical and health management partnerships. A particular focus could be on healthcare trade, technology transfers, research, and development



# Potential Fields of Cooperation

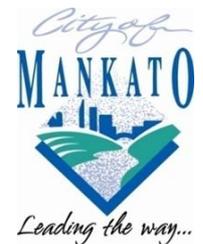
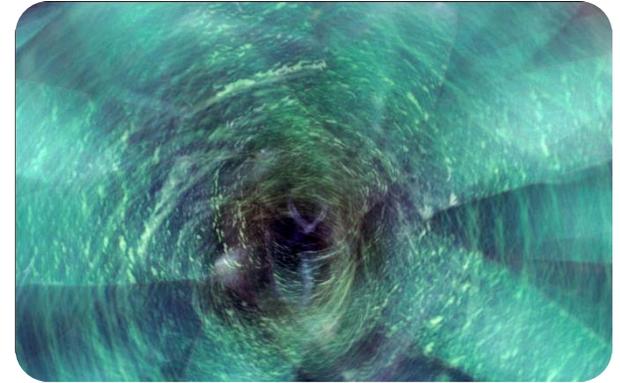
3. **Education** – to encourage cooperation and student exchanges between schools in both regions, summer camps, exchange visits of teachers
4. **Government** – to strengthen contacts and exchanges between local public authorities, and encourage cooperation and learning opportunity among local politicians and officials



# Potential Fields of Cooperation

5. **Business** – to promote contact, dialogue and cooperation between business communities, and to foster economic growth and social progress in both regions.

A particular focus will be business-to-business cooperation in areas such as the creative art and digital realm, clean energy and so forth (e.g. Greater Mankato Leadership Delegation)



# Ungheni City Contacts

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[primaria\\_ungheni@yahoo.com](mailto:primaria_ungheni@yahoo.com)



# *You are always welcome to Ungheni!*

