



British School  
of Bucharest

# #WE MADE THE DIFFERENCE

## COMMUNITY REPORT

JULY 2021

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# INTRO FROM HEADMASTER



Even if the turbulent 2020 brought unexpected changes in our lives, our values remain unshaken, because they are heavily rooted in our culture. As such, we continue to encourage and support our students, teachers and the BSB staff to take an active role in community service projects and a variety of fundraising activities while further pursuing the quest to be environmentally conscious.





At BSB, we believe in the idea that each of us can make the world a better place. In our community, we make it clear that big things can happen if you get involved and put passion into everything you do. Our mission is to educate our students to become great professionals and compassionate people who are willing to help others, get involved in social causes and ultimately make a difference in their community. In the end, this is one of the aspects that make us feel accomplished as human beings.

*Philip Walters*

**Philip Walters,**  
Headmaster of the British School of Bucharest



HONESTY,  
RESPECT,  
SELF-CONTROL,  
EQUALITY,  
CONCERN  
FOR OTHERS

BSB

CONTENT

Kindness is a quality which, although valued in theory, sometimes loses ground to other, more charismatic and showy virtues. However, at BSB, concern and kindness are fundamental because we want our students to grow up to be good people. That is why we teach them values like **self-control, honesty, respect, equality and concern for others**. To learn and embrace these values, we empower our students to live them every day, by adopting an active role in community service projects and various fundraising activities while further pursuing the quest to be environmentally conscious.

**To sum up, #WeAreBSB and we embrace three mottos...**

**#CONCERN**

for our planet by being kind to the environment

**#CONCERN**

for others by being kind to our community

**#CONCERN**

for eco-education by learning to be kind

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## SECTION I

# CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY

## #ConcernForOthers



200

**fundraising projects**  
initiated in the last 20 years

OVER 20

**NGO's** helped every year

**Casa Ioana, Light  
into Europe,  
Fundatia Inocenti**  
among them

Apart from helping our students fulfil their academic potential, we have the responsibility of raising them to become adults with outstanding moral fibre. To acquire the right habits that will help them live good lives and at the same time become a supporting member of their communities, we work with a variety of foundations and organise a range of charity events.

Over the last 20 years, we've been involved in more than 200 fundraising projects, helped over 20 NGO's every year and actively volunteered to support various charitable causes.

*We offer many volunteering opportunities for our students as an important part of our co-curricular provision and a reflection of our ethos; one of our key aims being to develop within students an attitude of individual responsibility, based upon the values of **Self-Control, Honesty, Respect, Equality and Concern for Others.***

*Among our Co-Curricular activities we included volunteering at Don Orione and Fundatia Inocenti charities where our Secondary students play with disabled children and orphaned babies. Regular student-led clubs prioritise volunteering where seniors tutor or mentor younger students and lead sporting or other activities. Our Community Sports Leaders in Years 11 and 12 have visited local schools, putting their training into practice, and offered their support in working with our Primary students.*

*These were key elements of so many happy times in a non-Pandemic life. All our students can hardly wait to be involved again soon.*

**Mr. Philip Walters, Headmaster**



We, at BSB, always try to support charities in Romania and the UK through fundraising campaigns because we recognize the challenges that people face and the important work that charities play in supporting them.

## BSB CHARITY COMMITTEE CALENDAR

### FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Even if in 2020 our students didn't have the opportunity to work directly with the people benefiting, they made a significant impact in the lives of others through donations. With every charitable cause, our students think about others and actively put themselves in their shoes. In the following pages, you will find some of the charitable events that we do and the foundations we support.





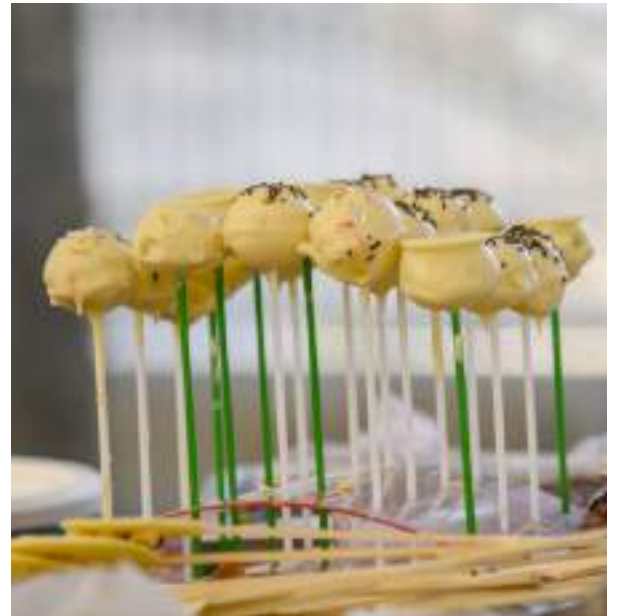
## SEPTEMBER

### COFFEE MORNING AND FBSB BAKE SALE

In September, together with the Friends of BSB (FBSB), we organise a Coffee Morning and Bake Sale for BSB parents, to help raise money for two important charities supporting cancer patients in Romania and the UK: **Little People Romania** and the **MacMillan Cancer support fund**. Parents can have a catch up over a cup of coffee and a slice of delicious dessert for a good cause.

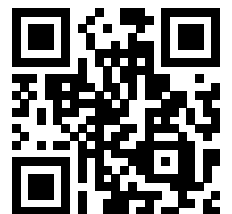
#### ***Little People Romania***

*The Little People Association offers child and teenage cancer patients the support each one of them needs. It provides the field of paediatric oncology from Romania and the Republic of Moldova with a whole range of high-quality services, daily psychosocial support programmes for patients, complex events for the young cancer survivors, professionalism in volunteer coordination, material support for hospital wards through playroom renovation projects, donations of medical equipment and acquisition of hard-to-find medicines.*



### JEANS FOR GENES

Jeans for Genes Day is our annual fundraising event where we wear our pair of favourite denims to raise money for children with life-altering genetic disorders from the UK. For a day, we get to swap our uniforms for casual attire and donate for a worthy cause. Stickers and pins are also available for sale, for those who want to contribute even more.



#### ***Jeans for Genes Day***

*Jeans for Genes Day is the annual national fundraising campaign that supports individuals and families affected by a genetic disorder. Money raised on Jeans for Genes Day fund the work of the charity and provide grants to organisations for projects that aim to transform the lives of children with genetic disorders.*

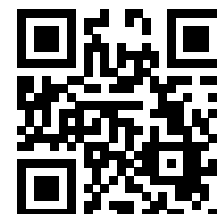




## OCTOBER

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

In October, we celebrate Harvest Festival, our annual tradition of collecting and donating clothes and non-perishable goods to vulnerable children and the elderly, supported by the **St. Stelian** charity organisation. This action reminds all of us to be thankful for what we've got and to always support those who are less fortunate.



#### **St. Stelian**

*The St. Stelian Association (Asociația Sfântul Stelian) aims to improve solidarity and equal opportunities, by improving the quality of life of disadvantaged social categories (children, young people, families, the elderly) through day centres, outreach programmes, drug testing and support.*





## NOVEMBER

### MOVEMBER

November is the month when men let their beards and moustaches grow big, bold and brave, to show support for all the dads, brothers, sons and mates in our lives. We get on board the global charitable event, **Movember**, to raise awareness for men's health issues such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer and men's suicide rates. While growing our 'stache', we also raise some cash by attempting to walk, jog, run (or swim!) collectively the distance from Bucharest to London, as a School community.

#### *The Movember Foundation*

*Movember is the leading charity changing the face of men's health on a global scale, focusing on mental health and suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer.*



### SLEEP OUT

For one night, our Sixth Form students, along with their teachers, sleep outside on the BSB main lawn to raise awareness and funds for those who don't have a roof over their heads. All proceeds go to **Casa Ioana**, a partner charity committed to improving the lives of families experiencing homelessness.

#### *Casa Ioana*

*Casa Ioana is a domestic abuse and family homelessness charity working in Bucharest. They help women and children resolve all their problems and acquire the necessary skills and assistance to regain family stability and affordable housing. They address the multiple underlying issues of domestic violence and family homelessness, rather than simply focusing on providing short-term emergency shelter.*



## POPPY APPEAL

In November we raise money for the heroes who served in all conflicts and their families. All proceeds from the poppies we sell around the campus and our British Quiz Night's entry fees go to **The Royal British Legion**.

### *The Royal British Legion*

*The Royal British Legion is the UK's largest Armed Forces charity, with 235,000 members, 110,000 volunteers and a network of partners and charities. They provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families wherever and whenever it's needed. Every year in November, they hold a Remembrance Day to commemorate those who lost their lives on active service in all conflicts, as well as all those who have served and their families. They also do a fundraising campaign to raise vital funds to help today's Armed Forces community.*







## DECEMBER

### ROMANIA DAY

Around 1<sup>st</sup> December, to celebrate the National Day of Romania, students and staff wear 'ie', the national Romanian blouse instead of BSB uniform or regular outfit. For one day we change our dress code to raise money for LiberatED, a charity aimed at human trafficking through education and increased community awareness, and Light Into Europe supporting sensory disadvantaged children and young people to expand their possibilities and become active citizens.



*We believe that students are capable of changing tomorrow's reality – one of the best things about collaborating with BSB, is the power in students that arises from educating them to be advocates for themselves and others. BSB and the BSB community's ongoing support for liberatED has been crucial to its programmes, especially this year with many challenges arising because of the pandemic. Thank you BSB!*

**liberatED founder**





## CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

In December, it's our tradition to practise gratitude by putting together gifts for the vulnerable children and adults helped and supported by Fundația Inocenți, Asociația Don Orione and Casa Ioana. We invite our students and parents to make the Christmas magic happen by donating all sorts of useful items to those who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present.



*We have collaborated with BSB for more than 10 years. The students were coming every Monday to spend time with our children and teenagers with disabilities. For an hour, they were playing, walking around, trying to communicate with our children. Every December, the students from BSB sing carols with our children and give them Christmas presents. This is a happy moment that all of us enjoy. We see how the children, both our children with disabilities and the students from BSB were bonding, creating relationships and changing.*

*Even though the children from Don Orione do not know English and most of them do not speak at all, the language that they learned was a language of love.*

**Roxana Moisa, Psychologist, Don Orione**



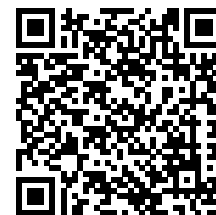




## FEBRUARY

### CRAZY HAIR DAY

For one day and a good cause, we let our hair take a ride on the wild side. Our students, teachers and staff get creative with hair gel, hair colours and wacky decorations and they come to School with a creative hairdo. The event isn't only for fun. Its primary purpose is to raise money for three significant charities that we support: Casa Ioana, Light into Europe, Fundația Inocenți. It is a fabulous way to end a great week, Friendship Week, celebrated at the beginning of February by all BSB Community, when we honour existing friendships and we focus on building new ones.



### MĂRȚIȘOR SALES

At the end of February, we organise a fundraiser for Fundația Inocenți tied to the Romanian tradition of Mărțișor. Our children bring to School a small object adorned with a red and white thread they have bought or made and put it up for sale. The resulting funds go to Fundația Inocenți, for the Olympics of the Innocents Event (Olimpiada Inocenților) organised in Bistrița County, Romania.

#### **Fundația Inocenți**

*The mission of Fundația Inocenți/Romanian Children's Relief (RCR) is to support Romanian children and families in need and prevent child abandonment. Fundația Inocenți has offered specialised professional therapy and services to children and families in need since 1990. The organisation now has three different types of programme in Romania – Child Life Hospital programmes, Educational Support programmes and Early Intervention.*







## MARCH

### SECOND-HAND BOOK COLLECTION

To support the outstanding work of Casa Ioana, Light into Europe and Fundația Inocenți, in March we organise a second-hand book sale. Our children donate used books from their library and buy other books brought by their peers. Through this event, not only do we raise money but we also encourage reading in our community. This event is part of Book Week, an entire week celebrating books and reading, which ends with Book Day, an event when students and teachers are dressed as their favourite book character. In only one day, Harry Potter and Spiderman could be next to Cinderella, or the Wizard of Oz.



## APRIL

### CLOTHES DONATIONS

To help reduce bullying and the stigma of poverty, our children donate new or good quality second-hand clothes to vulnerable children supported by Casa Ioana, Light into Europe and Fundația Inocenți.



## MAY

### OLYMPICS OF THE INNOCENTS

BSB students volunteer to support the work of Fundația Inocenți by helping to organise their Olympics of the Innocents, held in the town of Bistrița in the north of Romania. The Olympics is an event that encourages and supports orphaned children and children with special needs to take part in a day's sporting events, followed by games and artistic activities.

*It's been an honour and a pleasure to have you by our side over the last 20 years of collaboration. We hope you, our wonderful and dedicated friends, will continue to partner with us in the coming years. There is still much work to be done and we believe we have created a strong collaboration that will build on past success and continue to create a better future for the children and families we serve. As always, we are grateful for your support and we welcome your ideas and insights as we continue this journey to a better Romania for children.*

**Iuliana Tudor, Child Life Programme Coordinator**  
(Hospital based programme run by INOCENTI Foundation)



## JUNE

### TRIPS WEEK

In June, we honour our tradition of visiting and volunteering for the three essential charities we support: Casa Ioana, Light into Europe and Fundația Inocenți. Our children lend a hand and actively participate in various activities, to show their concern for others.

*Light into Europe is so grateful to be part of the BSB family as an NGO partner. Being able to rely on the support of the School and its community through both fundraising and volunteering has been an integral part of our work over the past 20 years. I don't think there has been a time over the whole period our Guide Dog programme has existed that at least one of the dogs in training hasn't been with a BSB family volunteer, thank you!*

**Bousie, Development manager**





## SPECIAL BAKE SALE

On 18<sup>th</sup> June, the Charity Committee organised a fundraising Bake Sale to support the Child Life Programme at Fundatia Inocenti. Students and staff bought cookies so that the hospitalised children sponsored by Fundatia Inocenti can get medical dolls that reduce their anxiety and distress and support their natural curiosity about the medical world.



## NON-UNIFORM DAY

On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021, students left their traditional School uniform at home and made a statement to help raise funds for Casa Ioana's 'Sponsor a Child' campaign. They wore their favourite outfits and donated to our partner charity to support the children who have grown up in an abusive environment.

Thank you all for your kindness!



# #ConcernForOthers

As we look toward the future, social and environmental issues will be increasingly important. Therefore, we believe we have a moral obligation to teach our students the right values and virtues, so they can build a better future for themselves and those around them. As such, our mission has remained the same: to raise outstanding human beings, who achieve their highest academic and personal potential.



*One of the central values at BSB is showing concern for others and we demonstrate this through the range of charity activities that we take part in. Even if we haven't been able to provide active volunteering opportunities this year, we did our best to continue our charity work.*

*At BSB, we support Romanian charities because we recognise the challenges that many people face and the vital work that charities play in helping people. Alongside this, we do assist some UK charities, such as Jeans for Genes and Macmillan for specific fundraising appeals. We see this as an essential part of our identity as a British School. Still, you will see that the money raised at these specific events is shared between the UK charities and Romanian charities with similar aims.*

**BSB MAD (Make A Difference)** started when we saw that many students were passionate about helping others but wanted to use their organisational and communication skills, rather than volunteer directly with the charities. BSB MAD is an unbelievable success. The students involved come up with ideas for new charity events, raising awareness about the charities we support through speaking in assemblies and designing Daily Notices and running events

Alice Allsop,  
Teacher of Humanities and Charity Committee Member





# 2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

This academic year, more than any other, we have all been demonstrating 'concern for others', one of our BSB values. We have been doing this every single day, from the moment we step on site wearing our mask and respecting the BSB Safety Protocol. We all know that doing all of this is more about protecting others, than it is about protecting ourselves.

Whilst many things have changed this year, BSB's commitment to charity and the respect for its values has not been one of them.



## SEPTEMBER

We held Jeans for Genes Day, raising money for the Genes for Jeans charity in the UK and for the Prader Willi Syndrome Association, a charity focused on genetic disorders in Romania.



## OCTOBER

Our annual Harvest Festival collection took place and for our 12th year we were able to pack a van full of donations for St. Stelian's.

The Sixth Form students had their Sleep Out, collecting money for Casa Ioana and, more than that, they raised awareness around the issues of homelessness.



## NOVEMBER

November is now known as Movember at BSB, as we support this international charity. Along with some Teachers who chose to let their moustaches grow to raise donations through sponsorship and increase awareness of men's health, we set ourselves the target to collectively walk, jog, run (or swim!) the distance from Bucharest to London, as a School community. We also sold washable masks with moustaches on them, so that we can be mindful and raise awareness of men's health all year round!



## DECEMBER

The Christmas Gift Appeal is something so important to us as a community that we would not let the closure of our campus and the move to the Academic Online Learning Programme stop this activity taking place. The babies, children and young adults of Don Orione, Fundatia Inocenti and Casa Ioana had a gift from Santa this year and they will know that our commitment to support them is something that cannot be locked down.



## DECEMBER - FBSB CHARITY CALENDAR

Friends of the British School of Bucharest organised the 'Explore Romania' charity calendar project that sheds light upon Romania's unseen beauty while raising funds for the less fortunate.

The whole BSB community was involved in the making of the calendar, from the students, Teachers and staff members who contributed with pictures of Romania's landscapes and landmarks to the Photo Committee that selected the best photos fitting the 12 monthly themes.

All proceeds went to Casa Ioana, Fundatia Inocenti and Light Into Europe, partner charities we have known and supported for a very long time.



## JANUARY

We celebrated **Romania Day** at the end of January and enjoyed wearing our traditional ie and the colours of the Romanian flag for our non-uniform day. As well as traditional ie being worn, we were able to fundraise by selling some face masks that had been made with the traditional ie design. Chef Peter Soulsby and Year 6 were tasked with cooking some traditional salam de biscuiți and these proved so popular that they had to go back into the kitchens the following week to make some more! We were delighted to share the money raised between two charities working here in Romania: LiberatED and Light into Europe.



## JANUARY

**Name-a-Puppy Fundraising.** In January, we had the pleasure of taking part in a charity activity like no other: voting for the name of one of Light into Europe's puppies. Our students had to choose a name from the ones provided and donate for his upbringing into a magnificent Guide Dog for people with sight impairments. Ecco (Echo) won the heart of our students and we're sure he will be trained to live up to his name.



## FEBRUARY

We wouldn't let wearing masks stop us doing something crazy on Crazy Hair Day and this year we raised money for our BSB charities and enjoyed some imaginative designs!



## MARCH

We wanted to welcome Spring in a very traditional Romanian way, wearing Mărțișoare! Around the campus, with the help of some volunteering Secondary students, we managed to organise a 'Martisor Sale' during lunchtime, within their bubble area. The mărțișoare were handmade by the beneficiaries at Fundatia Inocenti and were very popular.

The activities taking place this year have been aided by the MAD (Make A Difference) students in Secondary School. We have student volunteers in each year group meaning that we can more easily promote events in each 'bubble' and get ideas from across the School about future events or activities. The MAD reps really helped us this year, together with the entire Community who really #Make a Difference!

## SECTION II

# CONCERN FOR THE PLANET

#ConcernForOthers

## THE CIRCLE OF GOOD

At BSB, we teach our students how to take care of their minds and bodies and at the same time, support them to become active and involved citizens. Therefore, we encourage them to treat the environment with the same care as they treat themselves and to pursue environmentally conscious goals.

BSB is surrounded by 5000 square metres of green area, but we take care of every plant and tree on our campus. Each time we remove one, we plant a new one in its place. Moreover, we recycle everything from paper and plastic to electronic devices and batteries and we try to reduce our carbon footprint by minimising single-use plastic containers.



## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO BREAK DOWN?



a **BANANA PEEL** breaks down in  
**3 TO 4 WEEKS**



an **ORANGE PEEL** breaks down  
in **6 MONTHS**



a **MILK CARTON** needs  
**5 YEAR** to disintegrate



an **ALUMINUM CAN** decomposes  
in **200 TO 500 YEARS**



it can take up to **1000 YEARS**  
for a **PLASTIC BAG** to decompose



**5000 sqm**  
**OF GREEN AREA**



**1500 sqm**  
**OF OUTDOOR  
PLAYGROUND**



**230 sqm**  
**OF SPORTS FIELD**



**2500 sqm**  
**OF LAWN**



Every plant and tree  
on the BSB campus  
is being taken care  
of, and we plant new  
ones every time we  
remove them.



We **recycle everything**  
from paper and  
plastic to electronic  
devices and batteries,  
try to **reduce our  
carbon footprint** and  
**minimize single-use  
plastic.**





## CONSCIOUS ABOUT RESOURCES

There's only one planet. Therefore, we're committed to taking care of it, using its resources efficiently while adopting green technologies and producing our energy.

*In BSB's quest to be environmentally conscious, in 2019, we installed a series of solar panels on the Taylor building. Deciding which green energy source to go with was a difficult one as we wanted to make sure we used it to its full capacity without wasting any. When we installed the PV array, we took into account that they had to be used at maximum capacity all the time. As our School operates during daytime, it syncs up with the solar panels top output times, using it to maximum efficiency. At night, the School is off and therefore doesn't require much energy anyway.*

Tudor Atanasiu, Head of Innovation Hub



That's how we **installed 100 solar panels** that produce **37MWH / year**. They can supply up to **530 hours of energy for 40 air conditioning units**.

Moreover, we use motion sensitive lights for maximum efficiency in the entire School and we avoid unnecessary heating and cooling. In addition, we also hold our own Earth Hour, when we turn off lights and electronic equipment throughout the School for one hour to highlight ways we can all save energy.



## Our Planet

There's only one planet, therefore we're committed to using all resources efficiently while adopting green technologies and producing our own energy.



**100 SOLAR PANELS  
PRODUCING 37MWH/YEAR**

- supplying **530 hours** of energy for **40 air conditioning** units
- charging **322 Tesla Model S** at an **efficiency of 85%**

### WE USE MOTION SENSITIVE LIGHTS

for maximum efficiency in the entire School

### WE AVOID UNNECESSARY HEATING AND COOLING

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## SECTION III

# CONCERN FOR EDUCATION

## #ConcernForOthers

### DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

At BSB, we're committed to reduce our negative impact and conserve our natural resources through education, training and communication. We want our students to understand the principles of being eco-friendly and apply them every day. That's how they discovered how to build a car from 99% recyclable materials in Project Zephyr, an electric-car-building STEAM experience allowing students to develop their custom electric vehicles.

All around our campus, we have installed recycling points. Our students have learned how separate materials intended for recycling such as paper, plastic and glass from dangerous waste, electronic devices and batteries.

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**Our students care for others and the planet. They want to make the world a better place and to make a difference. Therefore, they're continually learning how to have a life-long positive impact on the lives of others and their environment.**



#### PROJECT ZEPHYR. THE CAR MADE WITH 99% RECYCLABLE MATERIALS.

We understand the principles of being eco friendly and we apply them every day at the Innovation Hub.



#### SELECTIVE WASTE

All around our campus, we have installed recycling points. Our students have learned how separate materials intended for recycling such as paper, plastic and glass from dangerous waste, electronic devices and batteries.



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We're committed to **REDUCE OUR NEGATIVE IMPACT** and **CONSERVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES** through **EDUCATION, TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION.**



*How to develop resilience and grit amongst students has become prominent in recent years within the educational debate. The importance of education for compassion alongside such characteristics can, in my view, be tied to this and should never be considered a fad or temporary trend in schools. Martin Luther King Jr suggested sagely that "life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'". Encouraging compassion and an understanding for others is a high priority for us, and I would argue that schools must champion volunteering as an important opportunity to develop such attributes whilst also clearly helping to train or encourage other traits in individuals such as greater resilience, independence and self-confidence.*

**Mr. Philip Walters, Headmaster**



Please note that some of the photos and information in this material precede the COVID-19 pandemic situation and they describe the School activity in normal conditions.





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of Bucharest

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