

# SCHOOL FOR LIFE ROMANIA

England & Wales · Charity number 1062953

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Trust

**Registered** 1997-06-19

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Chestnut Tree Cottage  
Norwich Road  
Dickleburgh  
Diss  
IP21 4NS

**Phone** 07931705634

**Email** [info@schoolforliferomania.org](mailto:info@schoolforliferomania.org)

**Website** [www.schoolforliferomania.org](http://www.schoolforliferomania.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS PARTICULARLY BY THE PROVISION OF TEACHING STAFF, A BUILDING AND SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS THAT ENHANCE THE LIVES OF SUCH PEOPLE

**Activities:** Helping dis-advantaged and under priveleged children in Siret, Northern Romania. With our help, they can be integrated into the community rather than be institutionalised for the rest of their lives.

## Classification

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- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN PRACTICE SIRET NEUROPSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN IN ROMANIA
- Romania

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£56,314	£23,406	-	-
2024-08-31	£15,733	£18,325	-	-
2023-08-31	£19,094	£31,633	-	-
2022-08-31	£39,613	£33,500	-	-
2021-08-31	£21,162	£31,515	-	-
2020-08-31	£50,334	£28,906	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ELIZABETH CRUICKSHANK MAHONSDIPS		2013-02-20
KATIE GOODIER MA PGCE		
Professor William Gould		
ROGER MASON BSC HONS		2013-03-04
RUTH BROWN BA PGCE		
SYLVIA GURR MAUKCPREG		

**SCHOOL FOR LIFE ROMANIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1062953

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# Accounts

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## **Report for the Charities Commission for the financial year 1/9/24 – 31/8/25**

**SCHOOL FOR LIFE ROMANIA Registered Charity number 1062953**

Trustees: Ruth Brown, Lizzy Cruickshank, Katie Goodier, William Gould, Sylvia Gurr, Roger Mason

### **Dave Emptage**

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the incredibly sad passing of Dave Emptage, SFL Founder and Trustee, in October 2024. Dave's dedication and contribution to the charity was phenomenal, he was a fundamental part of its development and success and he will forever be remembered with the utmost respect and gratitude by the beneficiaries of SPV, and all those who had the good fortune to work with him, in Romania and in the UK.

### **1) Brief summary of the purpose of the charity for the public benefit**

School for Life Romania raises funds in the United Kingdom through monthly standing orders and fundraising events and sends funds directly to support our sister organisation in Siret, Romania "Scoala Pentru Viata" (SPV). There are no overheads or costs in the UK (apart from bank transfer charges), because the Trustees meet the costs of promotional material and regular trips to the project in Romania through their own personal funds. Trips are undertaken by Trustees usually at least once a year to the project in Romania, in order to offer support to Scoala Pentru Viata, and to gain first hand insight into the progress of the project. This informs our fundraising and promotional material in the UK. On some occasions, interested supporters of School for Life Romania from the UK accompany Trustees to the project in Siret to inform their own understanding of the challenges faced by the young people with disabilities in Romania. These trips also offer opportunities to forge links with local charities in Romania who are achieving similar purposes, in order to share information and provide Scoala Pentru Viata with more local sources of support.

The Director of Scoala Pentru Viata reports directly back to School for Life, informing of the direction of the project and of the allocation of funds. Scoala Pentru Viata now only employs a part time social worker. A salary is also provided to the administrator who oversees the upkeep of the buildings in Siret. The Director and the Administrator are carrying out their work voluntarily. Although Scoala Pentru Viata is responsible for the allocation of the budget, they are supported and guided by the School for Life Trustees. Scoala Pentru Viata deliver therapeutic support to young adults with disabilities who have grown up in an institution in the north of Romania. Our supported housing project has enabled four young people from the institution to now live independently with outreach support in the community of Siret.

### **2) Update in respect of the main activities undertaken by the charity during the period of 1/9/24-31/8/25, with reference to the Charity Commissions Public Benefit Guidance**

#### **Project Areas and Update:**

##### Learning Community Hub

The educational facility sadly closed in September 2023 due to a lack of sustainable funds. Facilities in the hospital building provided by the Romanian authorities for Occupational Therapy are beginning to be offered to some of those students residing in the neuropsychiatric hospitals.

##### Independent Living

The three ladies continue to live happily in SPV's supported accommodation. The fourth lady is living fully independently with her partner and child in a community flat. The ladies continue to thrive in their environment, successfully carrying out part time jobs within the community. They are supported in their independent living by the volunteer director Elena Harasemiuc, and by the social worker. They have understandably been concerned by the closing of the Learning Community Hub (the educational facility) but have been reassured by SPV and the SFL Trustees that the financial security of their future is the priority for the charity and we will continue to fund and support them.

### Buildings

The SPV team have continued to work hard to maintain the good standard of the buildings. Fire equipment has been inspected as is the legal requirement. The garden continues to be well maintained and used to grow flowers and vegetables. The gas supplies to both of the buildings was separated last year, and all the documents have been completed to separate the two buildings into two properties. The boiler is requiring replaced in the former Learning Hub in order for the building to be sold. There cannot be a separate entrance from the street into the second property and although possibilities have been investigated, currently the driveway will need to be shared.

In June 2025 SPV reported: We continue to proceed with the documents in order to split the two properties. We hope it to be finalised shortly and then we will advertise it in the media for sale (the upper property with the land). Once the properties are separated we then have to separate the utilities (water, electricity, gas), through specific firms. Update to be given at the AGM in October.

### Staffing

#### Voluntary:

Director, Elena Harasemiuc (Doina)

Admin / estates: Radu Harasemiuc

#### Salaried:

Social Worker – Raluca Fercalo

Accountant

A social worker continues to be employed by SPV for two hours a week, and works alongside the SPV team providing a link between the SPV Foundation, Social Services, and the Hospital services (which are under the control of the Ministry of Health).

(At the time of the AGM in 2025: £80 per month salary per person (accountant and social worker).

And £100 tax.)

### Administration

The SPV foundation has continued to collaborate with the Neuropsychiatric hospitals in Siret.

Data protection - The charity continues to abide by the GDPR Data Protection Policy.

### General

Opportunities for trustees to visit the project in Siret continue and the trustees have kept in regular contact with the director of SPV, who has provided administrative reports and updates. Trustees meetings and the AGM have been conducted mainly via zoom (with a face to face meeting arranged for once in the year) with the advantage that the director from SPV has been able to attend some of those meetings too which has been beneficial for the sharing of information and progress. The team

in SPV have reported that progress and positive interactions and learning experiences continue to be made.

The Trustees of School for Life Romania are aware of and have taken into account the Charity Commission's Public Benefit Guidance and have had regard to this in order to guide and support the ongoing work of the charity operating in Siret, Northern Romania.

### **Future of the project**

As has been previously informed, the impact of Brexit, and the Corona virus pandemic shadowed future financial forecasts for the charity. Realistic in our understanding that the sponsorship base is unlikely to grow and as the project costs continue to increase, it is our intention to work with SPV to ensure a secure future for the young ladies living in the SPV accommodation. Research and consultations are still ongoing into how this will be achieved. The intention had been for the School project to be concluded by September 2023 (which was achieved) and the ladies' accommodation to be secured by summer 2025 (ongoing). Radu and Elena Harasemiuc have worked hard at collating all the necessary paperwork to change our property registration from a school/supported housing project to an authorised supported housing only project under the state protection which has now been approved.

The buildings have been separated into two properties and the current intention is for the former School building to be sold and capital funds invested to provide ongoing financial security for SPV and the ladies that it supports.

### **Public Benefit**

Opportunities for trustees to visit the project in Siret continue and the trustees have kept in regular contact with the director of SPV, who has provided administrative reports and updates. Trustees meetings and the AGM have continued to be conducted via zoom with the advantage that the director from SPV has been able to attend some of those meetings too which has been beneficial for the sharing of information and progress. The team in SPV have reported that progress and positive interactions and learning experiences continue to be made.

The Trustees of School for Life Romania are aware of and have taken into account the Charity Commission's Public Benefit Guidance and have had regard to this in order to guide and support the ongoing work of the charity operating in Siret, Northern Romania.

### **3) Finances**

In annual accounts

### **4) Fundraising and Legacy**

Our annual sale of Christmas Cards has continued and some money has been generated through our online Just Giving account from events including a fundraising Ceilidh.

Dave Emptage generously left money in his will for School for Life / Scoala Pentru Viata to continue to fund the ladies in their care.

**5) Reserves Policy**

The charity does not have a reserves policy. Due to the small turnover, it is unable to keep a large sum in reserve. However, we do keep a sum of around £1000 in a separate account to cover any unexpected costs that may arise. This sum is always included in the Annual Accounts under Current Assets.

**6) Serious incidents**

The Charity had no serious incidents or other matters that trustees should have reported to the Commission.

**Report and Accounts**

**School for Life – Romania**

**Charity Number: 1062953**

**31 August 2025**

**School for Life – Romania**  
**Charity Number: 1062953**  
**31 August 2025**

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Balance sheet	4

## **Independent Examiner's Report to The Trustees of School for Life – Romania**

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 31 August 2025 which are set out on pages 3 and 4.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of accounts and you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act') does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charities Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

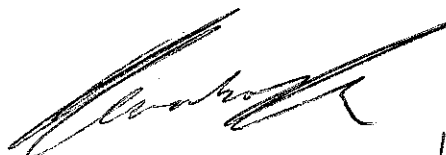
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Keith Lownsborough C.G.M.A., A.C.M.A.



13 APRIL 2026

**School for Life – Romania**  
**Charity Number: 1062953**

**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2025**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Donations and sponsorships	54,649	13,805
Tax relief	1,651	1,917
Bank interest	14	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total income</b>	56,314	15,733
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Romanian expenditure:		
Salaries and taxes	5,580	4,318
Building and other	17,568	9,874
Bank charges and interest	258	211
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	23,406	14,403
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure</b>	<u>32,908</u>	<u>1,330</u>

**School for Life – Romania**  
**Charity Number: 1062953**

**Balance Sheet**  
**31 August 2025**

	<u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
School building	<u>95,256</u>	<u>95,256</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
English bank balances	33,202	1,433
Romanian bank balances	16,013	14,607
Cash in Transit		
Covenant/Gift Aid tax relief owed	<u>1,651</u>	<u>1,917</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	0	0
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>50,866</u>	<u>17,957</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>146,122</b></u>	<u><b>113,213</b></u>
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Fund account		
Balance at 1 September 2024	33,802	32,472
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure for year	<u>32,908</u>	<u>1,330</u>
Balance at 31 August 2025	66,710	33,802
Building revaluation reserve	<u>79,411</u>	<u>79,411</u>
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<u><b>146,121</b></u>	<u><b>113,215</b></u>



**Report and Accounts**

**School for Life – Romania**

**Charity Number: 1062953**

**31 August 2025**

**School for Life – Romania**  
**Charity Number: 1062953**  
**31 August 2025**

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### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

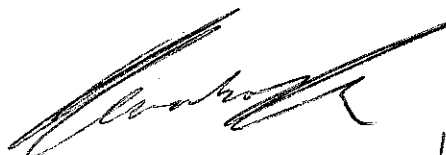
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13 APRIL 2026

**School for Life – Romania**  
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**School for Life – Romania**  
**Charity Number: 1062953**

**Balance Sheet**  
**31 August 2025**

	<u>2025</u> £	<u>2024</u> £
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School building	<u>95,256</u>	<u>95,256</u>
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<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<u><b>146,121</b></u>	<u><b>113,215</b></u>



**SCHOOL FOR LIFE ROMANIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1062953

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# Accounts

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**Report and Accounts**

**School for Life – Romania**

**Charity Number: 1062953**

**31 August 2022**

**School for Life – Romania**  
**Charity Number: 1062953**  
**31 August 2022**

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### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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Keith Lownsborough C.G.M.A., A.C.M.A.



1-6-2023

**School for Life – Romania**  
**Charity Number: 1062953**

**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2022**

<b>Income</b>	<b><u>2022</u></b> <b>£</b>	<b><u>2021</u></b> <b>£</b>
Donations and sponsorships	<b>37,092</b>	<b>18,762</b>
Tax relief	2,521	2,398
Bank interest	0	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>39,613</b>	<b>21,162</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Romanian expenditure:		
Salaries and taxes	23,807	22,605
Building and other	10,203	8,696
Bank charges and interest	271	214
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>34,281</b>	<b>31,515</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure</b>	<b><u>5,332</u></b>	<b><u>(10,353)</u></b>

**School for Life – Romania**  
**Charity Number: 1062953**

**Balance Sheet**  
**31 August 2022**

	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
School building	<u>95,256</u>	<u>83,236</u>
 <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
English bank balances	15,938	10,115
Romanian bank balances	10,707	11,325
Cash in Transit		
Covenant/Gift Aid tax relief owed	<u>2,521</u>	<u>2398</u>
 <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>29,166</u>	<u>23,888</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>124,422</b></u>	<u><b>107,074</b></u>
 <b>RESERVES</b>		
Fund account		
Balance at 1 September 2021	39,679	50,032
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure for year	<u>5,332</u>	<u>(10,353)</u>
Balance at 31 August 2022	45,011	39,679
Building revaluation reserve	<u>79,411</u>	<u>67,391</u>
 <b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<u><b>124,422</b></u>	<u><b>107,070</b></u>

## **Report to the Charities Commission for the financial year 1/9/21 - 31/8/22**

### **SCHOOL FOR LIFE ROMANIA Registered Charity number 1062953**

Trustees: Ruth Brown, Dave Emptage, Katie Goodier, William Gould, Sylvia Gurr, Lizzy Hartley, Roger Mason

#### **1) Brief summary of the purpose of the charity for the public benefit**

School for Life Romania raises funds in the United Kingdom through monthly standing orders and fundraising events and sends funds directly to support our sister organisation in Siret, Romania "Scoala Pentru Viata" (SPV). There are no overheads or costs in the UK (apart from bank transfer charges), because the Trustees meet the costs of promotional material and regular trips to the project in Romania through their own personal funds. Trips are undertaken by Trustees usually at least once a year to the project in Romania, in order to offer support to Scoala Pentru Viata, and to gain first hand insight into the progress of the project. This informs our fundraising and promotional material in the UK. On some occasions, interested supporters of School for Life Romania from the UK accompany Trustees to the project in Siret to inform their own understanding of the challenges faced by the young people with disabilities in Romania. These trips also offer opportunities to forge links with local charities in Romania who are achieving similar purposes, in order to share information and provide Scoala Pentru Viata with more local sources of support.

The Director of Scoala Pentru Viata reports directly back to School for Life, informing of the educational direction of the project and of the allocation of funds. Scoala Pentru Viata employs Romanian special needs teachers, and a part time social worker. A salary is also provided to the administrator who oversees the upkeep of the buildings in Siret. Although Scoala Pentru Viata is responsible for the allocation of the budget, they are supported and guided by the School for Life Trustees. Scoala Pentru Viata deliver education and therapeutic support to young adults with disabilities who have grown up in an institution in the north of Romania.

There are two ways that this is achieved;

- a) Our supported housing project has enabled four young people from the institution to now live independently with outreach support in the community of Siret.
- b) Our community learning hub, situated in the heart of the community, provides an environment that can be accessed by young people with disabilities, where they receive educational and therapeutic support delivered by Romanian educators.

#### **2) Update in respect of the main activities undertaken by the charity during the period of 1/9/21-31/8/22, with reference to the Charity Commissions Public Benefit Guidance**

Project Areas:

##### Learning Community Hub

Located centrally in the town of Siret, the hub continued to be attended on a regular basis by 17 young people with disabilities living in both the institutions and in supported living within the community of Siret. Educational activities undertaken each weekday included

reading, writing, maths, arts and crafts, gross motor activities, through games and sport in the gymnasium and outside in the courtyard, self-care activities and gardening and developing independent living skills. In the warmer summer months the students enjoy walks in the local community to the parks, shops and market. Birthdays are celebrated with cake and juice, and pizza is enjoyed as a special treat when the students have worked particularly hard. The students have continued to benefit from the experience of a nurturing, safe, secure, relaxed and happy environment to learn and socialise in.

### The Ukrainian War and the Refugee Crisis

The town of Siret from which Scoala Pentru Viata operates, is 2 km from the Ukrainian border, and a major route from the Ukraine into Romania and beyond. In February 22 and over the next three months Ukrainian refugees were travelling through Siret in their hundreds and Scoala Pentru Viata opened the doors of the gymnasium to accommodate some of the refugees (700 in total over the period), providing them with a bed and food for the night, and travel support and advice. The school building over the following three months was adapted into a temporary refugee centre and the learning hub activities were temporarily suspended in order to support the refugees.

### Independent Living

Ongoing enquiries continue to be made into the setting up of comprehensive trust funds to ensure the future financial stability and security of the three ladies living in SPV's supported accommodation. The fourth lady continues to live happily and independently with her partner and child in the Siret community. The ladies continue to thrive in their environment, providing support to the teaching staff with the school activities and successfully carrying out cleaning jobs within the community. They have been very active in supporting the refugee crisis, helping with the practical tasks required.

### Buildings

The SPV team have continued to work hard to maintain the good standard of the buildings in the learning hub and independent living space. The buildings have been thoroughly cleaned. Fire equipment has been inspected. Adaptations and repairs have been made to the central heating and the water systems. The toilets and showers in the learning hub have been fixed and broken items replaced. The outside yard and access points have been tidied and cleared. The garden continues to be well maintained and used to grow flowers and vegetables.

### Staffing

#### *Overview:*

Director, Elena Harasemiuc (Doina)

Admin / estates: Radu Harasemiuc

SPV Educators – Loredana and Laura Hritcu

Social Worker – Raluca Fercalo

A social worker continues to be employed by SPV for two hours a week, and works alongside the SPV team providing a link between the SPV Foundation, Social Services, and the Hospital services (which are under the control of the Ministry of Health).

### Administration

The SPV foundation has continued to collaborate with the Neuropsychiatric hospitals in Siret, and has worked closely with the Major and the Town Hall in co-ordinating support for the Ukranian refugees.

Data protection - The charity continues to abide by the GDPR Data Protection Policy.

### Public Benefit

The learning hub provides teaching sessions in the heart of the community to students every morning from 9am - 12 noon. The students are divided into two classes depending on level of ability and their needs. The students live in either the community in group homes, or in one of the neuropsychiatric hospitals, and are not able to access employment due to their levels of learning and physical disability. The young people benefit greatly from this opportunity to interact with one another in a happy and relaxed learning environment, with opportunities to learn safely both indoors and outdoors. They are provided with opportunities to learn new skills as well as consolidate existing skills, and to build on their social and emotional well-being and development.

Opportunities for trustees to visit the project in Siret have resumed after the pandemic restrictions, and the trustees have kept in regular contact with the director of SPV, who has provided administrative reports and updates. Trustee meetings and the AGM have continued to be conducted via zoom with the advantage that the director from SPV has been able to attend some of those meetings too which has been beneficial for the sharing of information and progress. The team in SPV have reported that progress and positive interactions and learning experiences continue to be made.

The Trustees of School for Life Romania are aware of and have taken into account the Charity Commission's Public Benefit Guidance and have had regard to this in order to guide and support the ongoing work of the charity operating in Siret, Northern Romania.

### Future of the project

As has been previously informed, the impact of Brexit, and the Corona virus pandemic shadowed future financial forecasts for the charity. Realistic in our understanding that the sponsorship base is unlikely to grow and as the project costs continue to increase, it is our intention to work with the SPV staff to ensure that over the next three years our expenses do not increase and that we secure a future for the young ladies in the SPV accommodation. We are approaching our final year of winding down the education project and then a further 2 years to ensure a secure future for the young ladies living in the SPV accommodation. Research and consultations are ongoing into how this will be achieved. The intention is for the School project to be concluded by September 2023 and ladies' accommodation to be secured by summer 2025.

### **3) Finances**

Financial Year 1/9/21-31/8/22 total income = £39,613

Standing orders, donations, fundraising = £37,092

Gift Aid rebate = £2,521

#### Fundraising

There have Sponsored Walks in the north and the south of England to raise funds for the Ukranian Appeal that Scoala Pentru Viata was supporting in Siret, in addition to the sale of Christmas Cards. Mitra Sessions has continued to raise money through her online Reiki. Jon le Fevre and Andover Primary School have been active in raising awareness of the charity and have sent out drawings and songs to the Learning Community Hub in Siret.

### **4) Reserves Policy**

The charity does not have a reserves policy. Due to the small turnover, it is unable to keep a large sum in reserve. However, we do keep a sum of around £1000 in a separate account to cover any unexpected costs that may arise. This sum is always included in the Annual Accounts under Current Assets.

### **5) Serious incidents**

The Charity had no serious incidents or other matters that trustees should have reported to the Commission.

**SCHOOL FOR LIFE ROMANIA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1062953

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# Accounts

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## **Report to the Charities Commission for the financial year 1/9/2019 - 31/8/2020**

### **SCHOOL FOR LIFE ROMANIA Registered Charity number 1062953**

Trustees: Ruth Brown, Dave Emptage, Katie Goodier, William Gould, Sylvia Gurr, Lizzy Hartley, Roger Mason

#### **1) Brief summary of the purpose of the charity for the public benefit**

School for Life Romania raises funds in the United Kingdom through monthly standing orders and fundraising events and sends funds directly to support our sister organisation in Siret, Romania "Scoala Pentru Viata" (SPV). There are no overheads or costs in the UK (apart from bank transfer charges), because the Trustees meet the costs of promotional material and regular trips to the project in Romania through their own personal funds. Trips are undertaken by Trustees at least once a year to the project in Romania, in order to offer support to Scoala Pentru Viata, and to gain first hand insight into the progress of the project. This informs our fundraising and promotional material in the UK. On some occasions, interested supporters of School for Life Romania from the UK accompany Trustees to the project in Siret to inform their own understanding of the challenges faced by the young people with disabilities in Romania. These trips also offer opportunities to forge links with local charities in Romania who are achieving similar purposes, in order to share information and provide Scoala Pentru Viata with more local sources of support.

The Director of Scoala Pentru Viata reports directly back to School for Life, informing of the educational direction of the project and of the allocation of funds. Scoala Pentru Viata employs Romanian special needs teachers and sessional outreach workers. A salary is also provided to the administrator who oversees the upkeep of the buildings in Siret. Although Scoala Pentru Viata is responsible for the allocation of the budget, they are supported and guided by the School for Life Trustees. Scoala Pentru Viata deliver education and therapeutic support to young adults with disabilities who have grown up in an institution in the north of Romania.

There are three ways that this is achieved;

- a) Our supported housing project has enabled four young people from the institution to now live independently with outreach support in the community of Siret.
- b) Our community learning hub, situated in the heart of the community, provides an environment that can be accessed by young people with disabilities, where they receive educational and therapeutic support delivered by Romanian educators.
- c) Our outreach workers go into the institutions to deliver therapeutic interaction to the young people who are the most disadvantaged and who are not able to access the community facility.

#### **2) Update in respect of the main activities undertaken by the charity during the period of 1/9/19-31/8/20, with reference to the Charity Commissions Public Benefit Guidance**

Project Areas:

##### Learning Community Hub

Located centrally in the town of Siret, the hub was attended on a regular basis, prior to the start of the pandemic and when Corona Virus restrictions have allowed it, by 26 young people with disabilities living in both the institutions and in supported living within the community of Siret.

Educational activities continue to be undertaken each weekday including reading, writing, maths, arts and crafts, gross motor activities in the gymnasium and outside in the courtyard, self-care activities and gardening and independent living skills. The students have continued to benefit from the experience of a nurturing, safe, secure, relaxed and happy environment to learn in.

During the course of the Coronavirus pandemic Scoala Pentru Viata staff have adhered to the Romanian government guidelines and the students have been carefully supported to try and understand the impact of the virus on themselves, the country and the world. Although there have been periods of time when Romania has been in a strict lock down and the movements of staff and students restricted and the project was unable to operate for two months, when guidance has enabled students to attend the Learning Community Hub this has been done successfully in smaller groups and using protective equipment and social distancing. No staff or students caught the Corona Virus during this period. At times during the pandemic when movement of the students was restricted and they were prevented from coming out of the hospital where they resided, the teaching staff provided outreach work within the hospital.

#### Outreach within the Institutions (two Romanian Neuropsychiatric Hospitals in Siret)

Two members of staff (Violetta and Rodica) have continued to support adults living within the 2 neuropsychiatric hospitals, Cronicii 2 and Cronicii 3, working with those with more profound disabilities who are unable to leave the institution to access the community. Our outreach workers provide therapeutic input in the hospitals through intensive interaction, games and musical and craft activities. Again this work has been interrupted over the course of the year as a result of the Corona Virus pandemic and government restrictions imposed on visitors to the hospitals. A lot of the work has been carried out outside in the grounds of the buildings.

#### Independent Living

Ongoing enquiries continue to be made into the setting up of comprehensive trust funds to ensure the future financial stability and security of the three ladies living in SPV's supported accommodation. The fourth lady continues to live happily and independently with her partner and child in the Siret community. The ladies continue to thrive in their environment, providing support to the teaching staff with the school activities and successfully carrying out cleaning jobs within the community.

#### Buildings

The SPV team have continued to work hard to maintain the good standard of the buildings in the learning hub and independent living space. The insides of both buildings have been thoroughly cleaned and repainted with a hygienic whitewash. Fire equipment has been checked and refreshed. A new flooring has been put down in the independent living building. Sinks and toilets have also been both mended and replaced. The boiler has been repaired and some parts have had to be replaced.

## Staffing

### *Overview:*

Director, Elena Harasemiuc (Doina)  
Admin / estates: Radu Harasemiuc  
SPV Educators – Loredana and Carmen  
Outreach sessional workers – Rodika  
Social Worker – Raluca  
Accountant

Two SPV educators, Loredana and Carmen, have continued to work in the education hub when they have been able to. Romania underwent a strict lock down at the height of the Covid 19 pandemic and as mentioned above there were two months when the hub was unable to be used due to the restrictions in place. These educators have accompanied our SPV outreach workers when able to, into the hospital buildings to facilitate their work there.

One of our outreach workers, Violetta, has recently left her employment at SPV for another role, leaving Rodica to continue the work in the hospitals with the more severely challenged people who are unable to leave the hospital building due to their levels of need.

A social worker continues to be employed by SPV, and works alongside SPV outreach workers in the 2 hospital buildings, supporting with group work and therapeutic services, and providing a link between the SPV Foundation, Social Services, and the Hospital services ( which are under the control of the Ministry of Health).

## Administration

The SPV foundation has been re accredited with the authorities in Bucharest, and the collaboration contract has been renewed with the Neuropsychiatric hospitals in Siret.

Updated Safeguarding policies that comply with the new EU GDPR laws have been written and are in place for SFL (UK) and SPV (Romania).

Data protection - The charity continues to abide by the GDPR Data Protection Policy.

## Public Benefit

The learning hub provides teaching sessions in the heart of the community to students every morning from 9am - 12 noon. The students are divided into two classes depending on level of ability. The students live in either the community in group homes, or in one of the neuropsychiatric hospitals, and are not able to access employment due to their levels of learning and physical disability. The young people benefit greatly from this opportunity to interact with one another in a happy and relaxed learning environment, with opportunities to learn safely both indoors and outdoors. They are provided with opportunities to learn new skills as well as consolidate existing skills, and to build on their social and emotional well being and development. Equally the students in the neuropsychiatric hospitals benefit greatly from the therapeutic input that they receive from the outreach workers, as detailed above.

Whilst opportunities for trustees to visit the project in Siret have been prevented over this last year due to the global pandemic, the trustees have kept in regular contact with the director of SPV, who

has provided administrative reports and updates. Trustees meetings and the AGM have been conducted via zoom with the advantage that the director from SPV has been able to attend some of those meetings too which has been beneficial for the sharing of information and progress. The team in SPV have reported that progress and positive interactions and learning experiences have continued to be made, both in the learning hub and the hospitals, in spite of the interrupted and reduced service provision caused by the pandemic.

The Trustees of School for Life Romania are aware of and have taken into account the Charity Commission's Public Benefit Guidance and have had regard to this in order to guide and support the ongoing work of the charity operating in Siret, Northern Romania.

#### Future of the project

The uncertainty and impact of Brexit, and the Corona virus pandemic, continues to shadow future financial forecasts for the charity. We are realistic in our understanding that the sponsorship base is unlikely to grow and as the project costs continue to increase, it is our intention to work with the SPV staff to ensure that over the next five years our expenses do not increase and that we secure a future for the young ladies in the SPV accommodation. We anticipate a 3 year plan to wind down the education project and then a further 2 years to ensure a secure future for the young ladies living in the SPV accommodation.

### **3. Finances**

Financial Year 1/9/2019 - 31/8/2020 total income = £47,849

Standing orders, donations, fundraising = £50,334

Gift Aid rebate = £2483

Income has decreased annually by £0

Standing order base = £ 1300 approximately per calendar month.

#### Fundraising

Fundraising events have diminished as a result of the Corona virus pandemic and the social distancing restrictions in place. Over the last financial year significant events have included a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Music Night, a St Andrew's Day Ceilidh, the sale of hand made Christmas cards, and fundraising through online Reiki therapy.

### **4. Reserves Policy**

The charity does not have a reserves policy. Due to the small turnover, it is unable to keep a large sum in reserve. However, we do keep a sum of around £1000 in a separate account to cover any unexpected costs that may arise. This sum is always included in the Annual Accounts under Current Assets.

### **5. Serious incidents**

The Charity had no serious incidents or other matters that trustees should have reported to the Commission.

## **Report and Accounts**

**School for Life – Romania**

**Charity Number: 1062953**

**31 August 2020**

**School for Life – Romania**  
**Charity Number: 1062953**  
**31 August 2020**

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## **Independent Examiner's Report to The Trustees of School for Life – Romania**

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 31 August 2020 which are set out on pages 3 and 4.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of accounts and you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act') does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charities Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

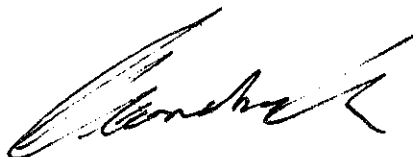
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Keith Lownsborough C.G.M.A., A.C.M.A.

 3 MAY 2021

**School for Life – Romania**  
**Charity Number: 1062953**

**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Donations and sponsorships	<b>47,849</b>	<b>24,977</b>
Tax relief	2,483	2,925
Bank interest	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>50,334</b>	<b>27,904</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Romanian expenditure:		
Salaries and taxes	22,927	23,765
Building and other	5,735	5,973
Bank charges and interest	244	252
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>28,906</b>	<b>29,990</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure</b>	<b>21,428</b>	<b>(2,086)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**School for Life – Romania**  
**Charity Number: 1062953**

**Balance Sheet**  
**31 August 2020**

	<u>2020</u> £	<u>2019</u> £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
School building	<u>83,236</u>	<u>83,236</u>
 <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
English bank balances	20,444	1,277
Romanian bank balances	11,261	8,558
Cash in Transit		
Covenant/Gift Aid tax relief owed	<u>2483</u>	<u>2,925</u>
 <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>34,188</u>	<u>12,760</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>117,424</b></u>	<u><b>95,998</b></u>
 <b>RESERVES</b>		
Fund account		
Balance at 1 September 2019	28,604	30,690
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure for year	<u>21,428</u>	<u>(2,088)</u>
Balance at 31 August 2020	50,032	28,604
Building revaluation reserve	<u>67,391</u>	<u>67,391</u>
 <b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<u><b>117,423</b></u>	<u><b>95,995</b></u>

