

## We urge young people to act responsibly in the fight with COVID-19

The **National Council of High School Students (CNE), National Alliance of Student Organizations in Romania (ANOSR) and Romanian Youth Council (CTR)**, urge young people to treat responsibly the issue of SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus) pandemic. We recommend youth to be calm, to adopt an appropriate civic behaviour and to inform themselves only from official sources regarding the evolution of events.

We advise young people to stay in contact with education institutions representatives and the local unions of students. If the activities in which they are involved **are not urgent and can be postponed**, then we recommend everyone to **#stayhome**. It is the time when inside activities can be relaxing and productive, such as reading books, watching movies or TV series, but **without losing sight of school or university online activities**.

Given that secondary and higher education institutions have suspended their face-to-face interactions with students and are using online teaching and learning platforms, we call on students' responsibility to follow teachers' advice in order to avoid delays in their educational path. ANOSR is in permanent contact with students' representatives from the European Higher Education Area and with the European Students' Union (ESU) and is about to come back with official data regarding ongoing international mobilities and the measures to be taken in order to reduce inconveniences that may occur.

We also urge young people to:

- follow only official communication channels of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Department for Emergency Situations, World Health Organization, including the decisions of the Strategic Communication Group;
- strictly adhere to the personal hygiene rules recommended by the authorities, in order to protect themselves and the loved ones;
- avoid crowded areas and reduce contact with other people;
- avoid touching surfaces that are commonly touched by other people, such as: rails, handles, elevators or other access buttons;
- use alternative transportation means in urban areas, such as: bicycle, electric scooter or by foot;
- limit the use of banknotes and coins, opting for card/ phone and online payments;
- stay home as much as possible, especially when having cold or flu symptoms (cough, fever, difficult in breathing) and call the family doctor for advice.

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We call on youth structures to be prepared to support their peers in case they need help, in actions such as those aimed at supplying the elderly population. In addition to responsibility, we need to show solidarity when required. We welcome all steps taken in this regard.

*"The National Council of High School Students (CNE) urges high school students in Romania to use the time spent in self-isolation productively, which is why our structure decided to create online consultation and debate tools in order to keep the student movement active. In addition to informing students about the decisions of the competent authorities, we assume that we see little beyond this crisis, and have to use the available time to protect the mental health of students."* - **Antonia PUP, President of CNE.**

*"We expect both the necessary measures taken by Higher Education Institutions for the smooth running of the educational process, even if it will be in the online environment, as well as the responsibility of the fellow students to continue being involved in their learning path. In this situation we are going through, we want to prove that students are a united community and that they will react responsibly for the common good of the society"* - **Petrișor-Laurențiu ȚUCĂ, President of ANOSR.**

*"Despite this difficult situation, young people should not panic. We recommend they stay isolated as much as possible, but also be available to those around them if they are asked for help. We are confident that things will be better if we treat the situation with proper attention"* - **Gabriel CARNARIU, President of CTR.**

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