

Healthy education in a safe environment

With the publication of the draft order of the Ministry of Health, regulating a series of scenarios at the local level for the pre-university environment and measures to reduce the severity of the epidemiological situation already existing at national level, the National Alliance of Student Organizations in Romania (ANOSR) signals that no solutions for students have been proposed and that no norms or guidelines have been given to higher education institutions in Romania on how to carry out the educational act.

Following a brief analysis of the structure of the next academic year conducted by ANOSR during this period, we found that several Romanian universities begin in less than a month, more precisely on September 14, 2020. However, despite this completely atypical context for education in Romania, decision makers have not yet published any measures or recommendations for the development of the educational process in the university environment.

Stable solutions are needed for the development of the didactic activity and for the specialty practice at the level of all study programs; moreover, a topic that requires more attention is the norms of accommodation on university campuses, because many students require accommodation for this year. Thus, we consider as an aspect of utmost importance the establishment of the structural coordinates of the academic year 2020-2021, in the shortest time, which should include all these rules.

In addition, it is essential that the health of students and teachers be put first. In the absence of regulations imposed at national level, there is no guarantee that all higher education institutions in Romania will correctly size the problem and will act preventively, strictly respecting all necessary hygienic-sanitary measures.

Also, if there are already some steps at the ministerial level to organize the development of higher education, we believe that such decisions that impact the lives of students should be taken only after consulting the main beneficiaries of education, namely students, to properly understand the main needs, but also their expectations.

Therefore, ANOSR requests the urgency of publishing concrete measures, able to regulate the development of the educational process in the academic year 2020-2021 and to guarantee a fair education, but without endangering the university communities.

"Government representatives postpone the presentation of health rules that can be applied in Romanian universities, even if, in the working groups we are part of, we received guarantees that we should already have such rules in place. Decision makers need to show that they have learned the lessons of the pandemic, making clear decisions for the higher education system as well, so that they do not sacrifice a university year before it starts." - Petrișor-Laurențiu ȚUCĂ, president of the National Alliance of Student Organizations in Romania (ANOSR).

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 facebook.com/anosr.ro
 office@anosr.ro
 www.anosr.ro

 Calea Plevnei nr. 61,
camera 12-13, sector 1,
București, 010223