

## The local elections campaign for education

September 27 2020 represents a new stage in communities – local elections, elections in which citizens vote their representatives of local public administration, respectively mayors, local councilors, county councilors and presidents of county councils in Romania. At present, in our country there are a number of cities that have the status of university centers. The impact that universities have on the landscape of a local community is undeniable. A factor of economic growth and urban development, universities contribute to the prestige of a city, provide skilled labor and ultimately have a substantial contribution to increasing the quality of life in that community.

That is why ANOSR together with its member organizations considers it necessary for the representatives of the local administration to pay attention to and support the university environment and its direct beneficiaries, the students. We believe that the approach of local public administration must be an integrated one that includes increasing the attractiveness of the municipality for potential students, developing programs and actions to increase the quality of student life, and ensuring the insertion of students in the local labor market to contribute to local development.

In fulfillment of the above desideratum, ANOSR together with its member organizations launched a series of objectives to the candidates for the local elections in the big university centers..

ANOSR member organizations, together with the federation, asked for the following:

- Recognition of the importance of the university environment in the growth of the local economy and urban development and the integration of higher education support in the local development strategy and in a specific strategy in the field of education;
- Consultation with actors from the university community (students, university representatives) in designing strategies relevant to the community;
- Develop a youth strategy together with organizations in the sector to present priorities related to the real needs of young people determined by their consultation and participation and semi-annual monitoring of its implementation;
- Permanent communication with student organizations in order to establish approaches for priority issues of students;
- Establishment / operationalization of the activity of the Consultative Councils on Youth Issues so that they fulfill their role provided by law;
- Investing in the material base for student auxiliary services (eg student dormitories, canteens) through the tools provided by the Administrative Code and subsequent legislation (to be customized at the university center level);
- Organizing competitions for youth projects based on Law 350/2005 / Increasing the amount of non-reimbursable funding for youth projects and highlighting a special call for projects of student organizations;
- Encourage the use of alternative means of transport by students through grants and provide the necessary infrastructure, including for students with disabilities;

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- Ensuring a 75% reduction of access to museums, concerts, opera, film or other cultural or sports events organized by public institutions according to art. 84, para. (4) and in art. 205, para. (3) of the National Education Law no. 1/2011;
- Granting students free public transport, for local transport by subsidizing the amount of season tickets / travel tickets on all transport lines;
- Equipping higher education institutions and student dormitories with the necessary materials to ensure compliance with Law no. 194/2019 for the amendment and completion of Law no. 132/2010 on the selective collection of waste in public institutions, as an action within a broad strategy in the field of environmental protection;
- Funding of student research projects with an impact for the local community, including through scholarships for the completion of study cycles;
- Establishing / supporting the activity of youth centers so as to increase their impact among young people;
- Providing facilities to students in order to increase their participation in mainstream sports activities and investing in the sports base of the city, including sports bases in the vicinity of university campuses;
- Carrying out a program to support community universities in attracting students from disadvantaged backgrounds in a regional context (schemes to support study funding, scholarships);
- Creating a department within the local public authority for public youth policies, with youth workers to provide students with activities such as counseling and career guidance;
- Supporting the establishment of business incubators, start-ups for students, as well as workspaces / hubs, the establishment of fiscal facilities in the field of entrepreneurship, the organization of competitions for entrepreneurial projects of students;
- Ensuring an appropriate work schedule and free access for students to municipal / local libraries;
- Introduction / Increase of participatory budgeting (establishment of a fund that will be allocated to community projects following the selection made by citizens' vote) with a special component for the youth sector;
- Concluding partnerships with universities to ensure quality internships / internships for students following a study program specific to the activity of local public authorities / managed public services;
- Encouraging volunteering by providing free spaces for activities;
- Carrying out a strategy regarding the retention of higher education graduates in the locality and facilitating their employment in the short term;

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