

Online education through the eyes of students.

ANOSR's recommendation

Taking into account the need to adapt teaching methods to the specific needs of students in online education in order to ensure a student-centered learning, **ANOSR launches a series of recommendations addressed to higher education institutions and teachers!**

In the second semester of the academic year 2019 - 2020, when, in the midst of a pandemic context, it was decided to stop the face-to-face courses and transfer them to the online environment, **ANOSR conducted a questionnaire on teaching activity in the new format.**

Thus, the students from most of the university centers in the country answered this call, communicating to us the difficulties encountered. Following the analysis of the answers of this questionnaire, weighted with the number of students from each university included in the questionnaire, as well as the answers of teachers, we made a detailed analysis of the situation of online education as a starting point for recommendations to improve it.

ANOSR's approach follows the proposals regarding the organization of the higher education system, the facilities and rights of students during this period, the auxiliary services and the intervention measures proposed by our federation to the Romanian Government, the Ministry of Education and Research and universities in July.

For a start, it proved necessary to conduct ongoing training sessions through webinars and exchange of best practices on online education for teachers. At the same time, we consider it a priority to make informative materials in text and/or video format, together with a guide for using the tools accessible online to be distributed to the university community. Also, a recommended measure is the creation of external private partnerships for the transfer of knowledge regarding online education.

The online tools offer the chance to maintain a constant channel of communication between students, teachers, administrative staff, faculty and university management. However, **it is necessary to use a limited number of functional and easily accessible platforms at institutional level** and to effectively monitor the conduct of online teaching activities in order to intervene in a timely manner.

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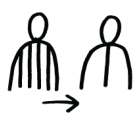
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Universities need to understand the importance of supporting students to overcome the psychological barriers of this period and **invest in Career Counseling and Guidance Centers** so that they can provide free and accessible online psychological counseling services.

In order to facilitate the learning process for students, especially students with a poor internet connection, for those with disabilities and learning difficulties, we recommend the recording of teaching activities.

In pursuance of establishing a culture of quality and for the situation of online education at university level, we ask universities to develop an action strategy to systematically address the adaptation of their services so that they really serve the needs of students specific to the context.

The results of the questionnaire bring to our attention a number of recurring problems in the online teaching process. Thus, **over 60.5% of students reported difficulties in effectively organizing the facilitation of interaction between students by teachers**. While **75.6% considered that the move to the online environment negatively affected the seminars and laboratories**, 60.6% considered that the classes were also affected. Also, among others, only 35.1% of students believe that they can learn the same in the context of online education.

"Online education no longer seems to be a "failure" measure, in the short term, in the context of current developments, and implicitly the expectations of everyone at universities are different. We are no longer talking strictly about specific measures to ensure the continuity of the educational process, but about the need for an overall strategy of universities on how to provide quality online education, with resources adapted and used efficiently and staff trained in this direction. ANOSR thus takes over the conclusions of the questionnaire applied to students and teachers in partnership with the Center for Academic Development at the West University of Timișoara and sends recommendations formulated based on them" said Horia-Șerban Onița, ANOSR president.

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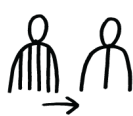
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