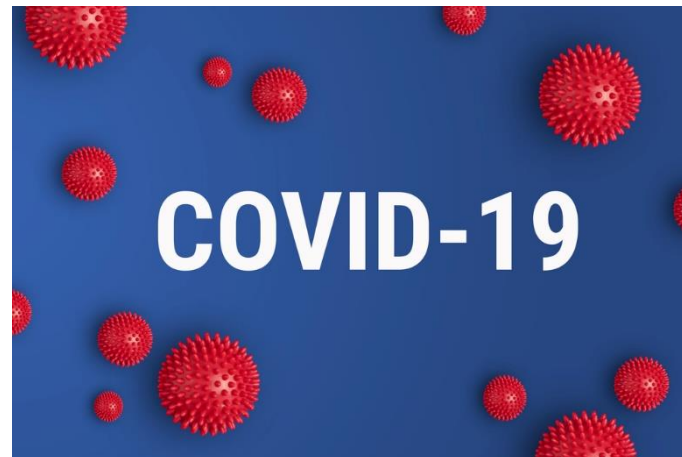




ECSTA General Assembly on Nov 16, 2020

Current Developments on COVID 19 Situation  
for ECStA Members Student Affairs Organisation



# COVID and student affairs and services

## measures to fight against student precariousness - Ministry of HER

**all HEI, CROUS and research organizations remain open** but "the operation in **remote mode** there is the rule ”.

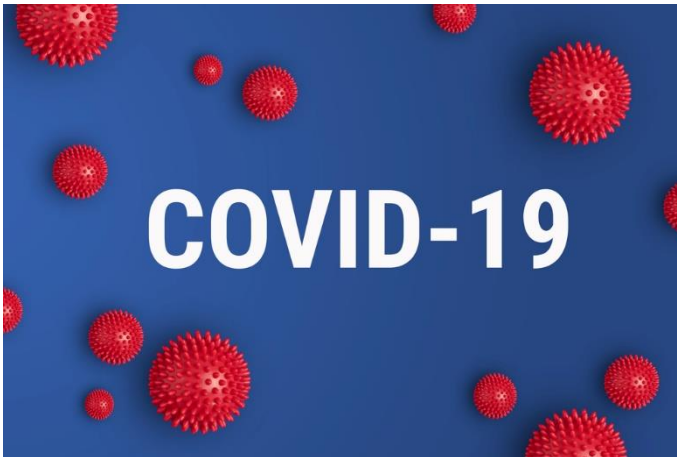
"Restrictively defined activities and services can however be held on site student life : Crous



- “University catering can continue in the form of take-out, scholarship students **€ 1 meal**.
- Each scholarship student will receive at the beginning of December 2020 with his usual scholarship payment, **an exceptional aid of 150 €**.
- The one-off emergency aid allocated by the CROUS, which can benefit all students, scholarship holders or not, may be particularly mobilized.
- The procedural simplifications implemented during the first phase of lockdown will be repeated. (...)
- The scholarship rights may, if the student so requests, be reviewed and recalculated on the basis of 2020 income and no longer those of 2018 initially used.

# COVID and student affairs and services

- The **rent** increase in Crous halls of residence **was frozen** until 01/01/2021. This rent freeze will continue until 09/01/2021.
- The **CVEC** product can again be mobilized by institutions and CROUS, in order to strengthen social support for students and in particular to help those most in difficulty to access student life actions. “



## human support

**student advisers** in the residences : **1600 jobs** for students in the **800 halls of residence**

- avoid isolation
- detect situations of ill-being and
- direct them to the competent services: social, health, psychologists, digital divide
- compliance with sanitary rules



## Corona-Pandemic in Portugal – IPVC

Diogo Moreira, Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo

Dramatic changes

- investment in mental health services
- new services and help as lap top for students
- financial issues concerning the cost of studies
  - demand to the Portuguese government for a growing financial aid of our organisations

Luis Ceia, IPVC : Less students in canteens as universities are closed.



# Student Welfare Organizations

- The local Student Welfare Organization (*studentsamskipnad*) is responsible for the welfare of students at universities, university colleges.
- There are fourteen such organizations in Norway.
- All student welfare organizations offer student housing and cafeterias, while the rest of the services vary.
- Other services: gyms, kindergartens for children of students, health care services, counseling, career services and own campus bookstores.



## Covid-19 in Norway

- First lockdown was in march. Universities, schools, gyms etc. closed by the government.
- Overnight, the student welfare organizations went from full operation, to closed services and close to zero income (cafeterias, gyms and services at campus closed for many months)
- Students who lost their part time jobs due to the lock downs, had no right to get this compensated, as ordinary workers do. That started a debate in march. Result: students who could document that they lost their job would get the chance to get extra student funding.
- Some student welfare organizations have received government aid due to the situation, but not all (this is a bit technical, so in short, its due to how the organizations are organized and pay taxes that defined this).
- Financial concern: student housing. We feared that students would move back home, and we would loose another (big) income. This has so far not been the case, but it is still a concern, especially since we are in a new lock down and the students might just stay with their families after the Christmas Holidays.
- At the moment we are gathering all the examples of new activities and measures to help the students, for an expert group in the ministry. Based on the discussions in this group, new measures for students at a national level will be proposed.



## Corona-Pandemic in Austria – view by Studienbeihilfebehörde

- Alexander Egger:  
Covid impact on ministry of education.
  - beginning of a 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdowns until 7<sup>th</sup> December : forbidden to go out except to work and buy food.
  - e-learning for universities
  - Figures are high in Austria.
  - Decree of Ministry of Education for distant learning measures
  - Libraries, canteens are closed (take away food)
  - All online supports by tel, email
  - Dormitories have difficulties because isolated
  - Contact free online for students, no face to face
  - Increasing rate of students with pains and financial issues
  - Insecurity, and anxiety concerning the restrictions and social life



## COVID-19 emergency and the Student Support Services in Italy: the example of EDUCatt, Università Cattolica

- At the beginning of the year: choice between lessons on site (place to be booked) and online lessons
- Front-offices shut down but assistance guaranteed by phone, email, also for healthcare and psychological support
- Discounts and delays on **ACCOMMODATION** instalments for the students who moving out of the University Residences earlier and not fully benefiting from the service
- More flexible requirements for **RENTAL AGREEMENT** to be considered away-from-home students (e.g. length, amount)
- Discount on the **FOOD** service instalment as part of the scholarship a.y. 2019/2020
- Deadline to meet **merit-based** requirements for scholarship in a.y. 2019/2020 postponed





## COVID-19 emergency and the Student Support Services in Italy : Viewed by ANDISU

- **Stefano Ferrarese :**
- Milano have been deeply affected, more than Padova.
- Second lockdown, but rules are different from one area to another  
In Padova : low level of awareness : public restaurant are opened (but no private one)
- Universities are closed, workshops in presence but no lectures.
- Rental are frozen for dormitories
- 1600 students in residence halls : they went away for first lockdown, but not for the second one
- Important point : **Students want to stay in residence and to have a community life in residence, also if universities are closed**

## Corona-Pandemic in Germany - DSW

- challenges for students:
  - reduced academic spring term – continued in winter term
  - in majority online-learning - reduced social contacts
  - job losses – but partly absorbed by structural labour market change
- Countermeasures
  - International students partly stayed in their home country
  - 13% of national students moved back to parents to reduce living costs
  - National fund: 100 Mio € in pandemic-related emergency grants for Students for four months, 155.000 Students benefitted, average grant 436 €/month
  - restart November, 20
  - administrated by the Studentenwerke



## Corona-Pandemic in Flanders - VLHORA

- In general : Second lockdown with inclusive teaching and no ceremonies for graduation:  
<https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/>
- Every student support service immediately introduced online chat or videocall to help students with the consequences of the lockdown, mostly using programmes students already used for online classes
- Emergency fund Flemish Government
- Student housing: difference between institutions/Flanders/Brussels concerning refunds in lockdown
- Student housing: no change in number of students who rent a room
- Mental wellbeing students:
  - Research UAntwerpen
  - Prevention: funding for strengthening the regional partnerships to broaden the care
  - Increase in students who need (longlasting) care



## Corona-Pandemic in Flanders - VLHORA

Corona and student support services :

- Nutrition : all restaurants are closed / limited take away service. Large financial loses?)
- Transportation: students mostly still go home in the weekends
- Cultural or sports activities: many initiatives canceled, looking for ways to stimulate social cohesion
- Social services (study financing): many students have lost their studentjob, more families have financial problems, International students issues
- E – signature
- Services post – corona still online? Blended? ...?
- How long will the economic downfall last after corona?
- Student housing in second lockdown: international students/ new students who don't want to spend lockdown at home/...
- Study spaces, spaces to do an exam in peace,...
- Concern about first year students and international students



## Corona-Pandemic in Ireland - SAI

Paul Moriarty, **Ireland** : Different levels to respond pandemia

- Support : the new minister for Education emphasizes the need of Student Services.
- Opportunity to encourage services in a safe way : campuses are safe with good measures.
- Accomodation are needed help and being seen as essential services.
- Extra money available for financial help and mental health and well being and IT/ issues.
- Grants from the government to buy laptop
- Good initiatives and place.