
POLSKA UNIA
EDUKACYJNA

presumes that, while all EU member states will be affected by the imminent crisis, private HEIs and their students will be particularly hard hit.

PUE, basing on our knowledge of the situation in Poland, asks you to consider implementing emergency EU measures to protect students of the private HE sector across the entire EU:

1. Scholarships for existing HE students who pay tuition fees, enabling them to cover these fees (in both public and private HEIs) for the remaining years of their study, preventing increasing drop-out rates. PUE estimates that c. 1.1 billion EUR would be needed each academic year to cover these costs in Poland alone.

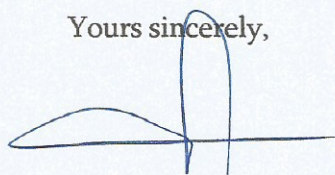
2. Scholarship schemes for future students encouraging them to pursue their studies at private HEIs despite economic hardships that many of these students and their families will be facing. Without such support, millions of students in the EU will be deprived of higher education opportunities, as public HEs can process only limited numbers of students. All the rest will be left stranded, and faced with grim prospects of employment.

3. Funding scheme for IT equipment purchases by students, helping them to cover the costs of technological transfer to online and computer supported education. Not all students have their own computers, many use their tablets and smartphones to take part in classes, which does not enable them to make full use of the resources and online tools available. This will negatively affect their learning performance, creating new economic hurdles in their education.

4. Enlarging Erasmus+ programme to include "virtual mobility" of students wishing to take part in payed online courses of other European universities. This will enable students to experience all the advantages of cross-cultural education in an online environment without creating additional economic burdens, while at the same time helping universities to internationalise through such online student exchange opportunities.

PUE hopes that the European Commission recognizes the value of private higher education for the youth, the society, and the economy of the EU. It also trusts that the Commission is willing to take steps to protect this sector in a similar way as European enterprises, seeing the necessity of securing educational future for young European citizens.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Mieczysław Blonski
President of the Board
Polish Union of Education