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Gesendet: Montag, 2. März 2020 16:16
An: SLK, Erasmus; Lieber, Maria; Häußler-Combe, Ulrich; Kalauch, Anke; Höntsch, Andreas; Erasmus Jura; Kourdi, Fatina; Böhm, Sebastian
Cc: Unger, Kerstin; Deutsch-Gorski, Ina
Betreff: WG: University of Florence COVID-19 coronavirus communication
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Von: Ufficio Erasmus <erasmus@adm.unifi.it>
Gesendet: Montag, 2. März 2020 11:58
An: erasmus <erasmus@adm.unifi.it>
Betreff: University of Florence COVID-19 coronavirus communication

Dear Partner,

As you know, the coronavirus scenario changes continuously but to date, in accordance with the Italian Ministry of Education and Research, the competent authorities have not suspended services and educational activities in our University, that continue to operate as normal.

Teaching activities (lessons, graduation exams and meetings with teachers) take regularly place, library and study rooms are also open, all administrative services continue as usual. **The Erasmus programme should also run normally.**

As far as our outgoing students are concerned, we would like to ask you to welcome our outgoing students, giving them assistance, also through distance learning or skype if needed, without imposing unnecessary stress on them at arrival.

As far as your students coming to Unifi are concerned, we would like to tell you the University of Florence is monitoring the situation related to the new Coronavirus (Covid-19) with the utmost attention and follows carefully the indications of the local and national authorities.

Against this background, we would like to mention that Florence and the Tuscany region are not (at least yet) involved in the Coronavirus outbreak that is affecting the North of Italy. We have had three cases and the number of submitted tampons Italy is ten times larger than the rest of Europe (as for today over ten thousand). Despite this, to preserve the university community's health, the University of Florence is implementing the protective measures recommended by the Italian Health Authorities against the COVID-19, and all staff (teaching, non-teaching and students) is working in true cooperation. A technical panel has been set up, composed of scientific experts and prevention office managers, that carefully follows the international and national epidemiological development and the updates given on official sources.

Our dedicated website

<https://www.unifi.it/index.php?module=CMpro&func=viewpage&pageid=11743&newlang=ita> provides a constant update (in Italian, English and Chinese language) to all academic community.

The University has also decided that students subject to precautionary surveillance, because for instance having been in touch with people diagnosed, are exempt from the obligation to attend classes. Thus, we have implemented distance learning activities, such as notes and supplementary readings and any other tools

deemed suitable by the Directors of studies (beside Moodle). For all courses, notation of attendance is suspended. Directors of studies coordinate the activities and adapt the syllabus, indicating for each lesson the new methods adopted and the related support materials, so that students can clearly identify the activities that replace those held in class.

Furthermore, faculty members will be available to interact with the students remotely (via email o skype) in order to limit the inconvenience related to the lack of face-to-face lessons.

This protocol experimented for our own students, can be easily applied to all our incoming Erasmus students. Hence, students in Erasmus in Florence, whether they stay in Florence or prefer to go back home for the term but are keen to have the courses in Florence as part of their curriculum, can be enrolled at UNIFI, “participate” to classes through innovative teaching modalities and will be assisted constantly through on line teaching and supervisions. Students are also encouraged to ask questions and keep an eye on our university website

<https://www.unifi.it/index.php?module=CMpro&func=viewpage&pageid=11743&newlang=ita> for any developments and key information. We have also set up a dedicated email where students can text questions. Every questions will be answered either by the technical desk members or by appropriate members of staff.

We will keep you informed of any updates that may occur, and thank you very much for your cooperation and understanding in this very sensitive time for all international community. We are doing our best to fetch the expectations of incoming students and allow them to choose how to carry on their important Erasmus experience. Of course, in line with the National Erasmus Agency, Indire, we are open to proposals of postponing the mobility of either incoming and outgoing students. However, we feel that at the moment this is not needed.

Best regards

Prof. Giorgia Giovannetti

Vice President for International Relations

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