

SERVICES TO STUDENTS

- SIM CARDS

This year the free 60Gb SIM cards given by the University during the pandemic have been deactivated. We believe that this measure could still be of great help to the student community, especially considering that Eduroam does not guarantee a stable connection in all University buildings, and that in general students are required more and more to use online resources such as Moodle, often using their own mobile data. We therefore ask the University to provide a free SIM card of the same value (or just a bit less), given that it would not be a particularly heavy yearly expense. This solution seems even more justified by the fact that this year UniPd will not guarantee the scholarship to all eligible candidates. Although a SIM card cannot in any way replace what is due by right to all students eligible for a scholarship, it would be a first step towards helping students, especially off-site ones, to face the costs they need to have the Internet connection they need to study.

- EDUROAM

At the moment some University buildings (e.g. the Fiore di Botta) are not covered by a stable Wi-Fi connection and often students are forced to use their own Internet connection to study. We will ask the University to run a check on the Eduroam network to guarantee Internet coverage in all classrooms and libraries.

- COMMON ROOMS

We are convinced that one of the first interventions the University should put in place to provide for the needs of students that cannot use the canteen service or that prefer for their personal reasons to bring their food from home is to create some common rooms: common spaces in which students can, among other things, consume a meal they prepared at home. To identify suitable spaces, the first step is to map all the areas managed by the University, so that unused rooms could be put to use and already used ones can be optimized.

Common rooms are already a well-established reality in many Universities, in Italy and abroad, as they allow students to spend all the time they need at University, without having to go back home to eat lunch. They also promote socialization among students and an attachment to the place where students spend their time studying.

At the moment, the University of Padua does not have any common rooms, with some notable exceptions. One of these is the common room of the DiSSGGEA Department, inside the Luzzato Dina palace. We therefore want to propose to the competent UniPd bodies to extend this initiative to all Departments, taking the room from the DiSSGGEA as an example.

We are fully aware that common rooms cannot and should not replace the canteen service, especially for students with a scholarship, who have the right to a free meal every day. At the same time, this solution would offer a warm place to eat to all students who are now forced to eat outside University buildings, without the possibility to reheat their food.

- MICROWAVES

We also believe it would be a great service to the student community to place microwaves in University buildings, to allow the reheating of food brought from home by anyone that wishes

to do so. In many Italian Universities (e.g., Statale di Milano, Politecnico di Milano, Università di Milano-Bicocca) microwaves are present in designated rooms or near vending machines.

The presence of microwaves would mostly facilitate all students who already prefer not to use the canteen service, for economic or organizational reasons. We are therefore convinced that this additional service would not affect the number of students that use the services provided by ESU.

ESU

Since lectures have been back to being fully in person, we noticed numerous problems in the management of spaces in the University. To make matters worse, the number of new enrolments and international students have been increasing during the pandemic.

To this day, students find themselves dealing with overcrowded rooms, impossible-to-find accommodation, rent prices skyrocketing and a canteen system that simply cannot provide for all students. In the last few years ESU, the regional institution for scholarships and student benefits, has not invested enough resources to face an easily predictable situation. To solve this situation, both the Region and the University should intervene: on the one hand the Region should guarantee sufficient funds to take care of the obvious shortcomings, on the other hand the University should put in place new solutions, first temporary and then permanent, to ensure that the whole student community has a decent place to eat. It is inadmissible that UniPd takes great pride publicly in the increase of new enrolments, especially by international students, when these new students find no place to live or they cannot fully take advantage of their scholarships because there is no canteen close to their Department or because the queue is just too long.

- ESU CANTEENS

We will ask ESU to open new canteens, especially in highly frequented areas that are still without this basic service. The first examples to come to mind are the Beato Pellegrino complex, where thousands of students attend lectures and study at the library but have no University canteen closeby, and the new Caserma Piave campus, where the Departments of Economics and Political Sciences will be moved in the next years. Although in the latter case the project for this newly built complex includes a cafeteria, we are convinced that this will not be enough to cater to the needs of all students and, more importantly, it will not guarantee the free meal that all students with a regional scholarship are entitled to and that must be provided by ESU.

We want to reinstate the take away service, extremely useful for all those students (especially with a scholarship) that simply do not have the time to eat a full meal in a canteen, due to having a short lunch break or to being able to have the time to eat outside the opening hours of canteens.

At the moment, the only food available for take-away is pizza and sandwiches, which are not always guaranteed, but we believe it would be best to give the possibility to have the same food served in the canteen as take-away.