2nd

European

MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Forum

MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY IN EUROPE: CITIZENS' CRITICAL COMPETENCIES FOR A RIGHTS-BASED, TRANSPARENT, OPEN, SECURE AND INCLUSIVE INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT

27 - 29 JUNE 2016
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LATVIA
RIGA, LATVIA

CONCEPT NOTE

UNESCO
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

European
Commission

The Government of
the Republic of Latvia

GAPMIL
GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR PARTNERSHIPS
ON MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

INTRODUCTION

Peace building, human solidarity and war are all linked to the quality of the information environment (citizens, media, Internet, social media, libraries, etc.) and the values it transmits. The new wave of extremism and gruesome terrorists' attacks which persist in many regions of the world and more recently in Europe, and the unprecedented migration to Europe, underline the importance of media and information literacy competencies for the information environment. Media and information literacy empowers citizens with knowledge, skills and attitude to critically access information and media, to critically analyze information and media content, and to engage with media and other information providers for social, civic and creative purposes.

People use information and technology and engage with media for different purposes, at varying degrees of intensity and with a myriad of motivations. Research is being carried out on these issues both in Europe and globally. But with what public policy response? We also need to understand what level of trust people place on the information and media they access. Furthermore, how is the information environment, driven by technology, interacting with people's cultural, economic and political knowledge in the region?

These challenges need a European conversation about the future of media and information literacy, and the apparent "glass ceiling" which limits its growth despite the successes. The MIL agenda in Europe has major implications for people connected through the internet. These include individuals' rights in the new information environment including their privacy and security. Other issues are ethical use of information, radicalization, propaganda, manipulation of identity, stakes around data, research and different forms of citizenship. Media and information literacy can help to make these issues more understandable to all citizens irrespective of their levels of education or socio-economic background.

Meanwhile, there are many stakeholders, including governments and policy makers, NGOs, researchers, information and media professionals,

1

educators, development organizations etc., in Europe, who have undertaken significant actions to diffuse media and information literacy to citizens. Yet there exist opportunities for greater synergies that could result in magnified impact of the collective efforts – particularly of those actors from the traditional information and library sciences, media and communication, new technologies as well as education - to achieve media and information literacy for all.

How should MIL be positioned in the shifting media and communication landscape? How can the apparent "glass ceiling" over sustainable and systematic take-up MIL at the national level be broken? What are the stakes in relation to the issues mentioned above if stakeholders fail to move MIL forward? Is there sufficient regional and international development cooperation around this topic?

In this context, in collaboration with the Latvian government, UNESCO, the European Commission and the European Sub-Chapter of Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL), EU-MILINFO II organizing committee are convening the Second European Media and Information Literacy Forum that will be held on 27, 28, 29 June in Riga, Latvia.

BACKGROUND

EMELINFO II will be one of the key regional prepcom meetings leading up to the global MIL Week feature event, the Global MIL Conference and GAPMIL First General Assembly, 3-5 November 2016 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

This Second European Forum of Media and Information Literacy also follows the First European Media and Information Literacy Forum (EU-MILINFO)[1] held 2014. The usefulness and desire for collective ownership EU-MILINFO was reiterated inthe First Coordination Meeting of the European Sub-Chapter of the UNESCO-initiated Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy held on 8 and 9 October 2015.

1 Organized by UNESCO, with the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona – and the support of the European EMEDUS Project and ANR TRANSLIT and COST with other partners.

EU-MILINFO was held on May 2014 at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris funded by the European Commission and UNESCO. The Forum brought together close to 400 participants, who represented the main stakeholders of the sector, with the aim of promoting media and information literacy in Europe, discussing MIL policies and fostering cooperation and initiatives at national and European levels. Participants at the Forum adopted the Paris Declaration on Media and Information Literacy in the Digital Age and agreed that the Forum was a unique and open co-operation body bringing new perspectives and ideas on MIL, and decided to hold a new meeting every two years.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

THE FORUM HAS THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

1 To describe the current situation of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in Europe: documenting progress reached towards its implementation, identifying the main active projects, and highlighting the most important challenges.

2 To foster the creation of a framework for joint action in relation to Media and Information Literacy policies and strategies in order to achieve the cooperation between the European institutions, organizations, corporations, and civil society and professional organizations.

3 To determine a co-operation between the European initiatives and other initiatives around the world.

4 To further a common research agenda on MIL in Europe. This framework should allow a close co-operation between policy makers and the scientific and academic sector.

KEY OUTPUTS

Strengthened role of the interim steering committee of the GAPMIL European Sub-Chapter as a coordination unit (officers appointed and action plan validated);

Deeper cooperation among development partners in the region such as the European Commission, UNESCO and other UN organizations such as UNOAC, UNDP, World Bank, and Council of Europe, OSCE etc.;

Highlight and showcase work in the Latvian countries and Eastern Europe and foster cooperation with other regions of the EU;

Recommendations to contribute to the global MIL Week 2016 feature event, including how through MIL citizens trust in media can be improved;

Conference report and statement of commitment

TOPICS

The Forum will discuss the main issues, problems and recommendations specified on the Paris Declaration.
Please see Agenda Outline Below.

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS
(150-200)

1. NGOs
2. Researchers
3. Information and media professionals
4. Educators
5. Private sector, organizations including social media
6. Development organizations
7. Governments and policy makers (including libraries and audiovisual authorities etc.)

AGENDA OUTLINE AND PRO-VISIONAL THEMES/TOPICS

DAY 1

27 JUNE 2015

Time		
12:30 - 13:00	Registration - Welcome Buffet Lunch	
13:00 - 14:00	Opening Session	
14:00 - 15:30	**Plenary Session 1** *Promoting media and information literacy in a shifting communication/media landscape for open and secure societies*	
15:30 - 16:00	Break	
16:00 - 17:15	**Round table 1** *MIL, internet industries (including of social media players such Google, Twitter, Facebook etc.) and governance*	**Round table 2** *MIL: a privacy shield*
	Round table 3 *Libraries, information and MIL: the new strategies*	
17:15 - 18:45	**Plenary Session 2** *Bridging concept and practice: mediators of MIL at the local level (the role of libraries as mediators in promoting MIL (the case of Latvia) and other target groups (parents, teachers, industries)*	
19:00 - 21:00	Official Reception	

DAY 2

28 JUNE 2015

Time	
09:00 - 10:30	**Plenary Session 3** *GAPMIL European sub-chapter: MIL European projects building stakeholders actions in support of MIL*
10:30 - 11:00	Break

11:00 - 12:30	**Round table 4** *MIL, interreligious understanding in support of solidarity/living to¬gether and peace*	**Round table 5** *MIL to build trust media: Media and information ethics and sustainable media and information environment*
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:30	**Plenary Session 4** *MIL: the development of the national policies (synergy and balance between the interests of public and private sector)*	
15:30 - 16:00	Break	
16:00 - 17:30	**Round table 6** *MIL and research strategies; Promoting media and information literacy in a shifting communication and information landscape for open and secure societies*	**Round table 7** *Curricula, MIL education, and new resources and strategies for teacher training in Europe*

DAY 3

29 JUNE 2015

09:00 - 10:30	**Plenary Session 5** *MIL: human rights and healthy democracy, countering radicalization and hate speech; intercultural and interreligious understanding*	
10:30 - 11:00	Break	
11:00 - 12:30	**Round table 8** *MIL, young people and new publics and communities*	**Round table 9** *Audio-visual services, film and MIL in Europe: new projects*
12:30 - 13:30	Closing Plenary/ Adoption of Recommendations	