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para a Educação,
a Ciência e a Cultura



UNESCO
MIL Alliance
Media & Information Literacy for All

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UNESCO MIL ALLIANCE NEWS UPDATE

EDITORIAL

“The times, they are a-changin’”

Reality is something that is imposed - this statement is borrowing the view of the semiotics researcher and philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce. The statement implies there is nothing to do but deal with it. The world is learning hard lessons with the COVID-19 pandemic experience. Surely, one of those lessons is that technology is part of reality and data will not stop to be produced and shared.

UNESCO and the UNESCO MIL Alliance are sure that media and information literacy (MIL) is a counterpart in this new reality. MIL needs to be available for everyone as a fundamental part of the Human Rights of accessing, reading and communicating with freedom of opinion.

The group of skills that MIL (Media and Information Literacy) represents is directly connected to the reality citizens are facing every day. MIL needs to be applied in everyday life as a “praxis” and be considered in public policies for the benefit of social development and wellbeing. This point of view is reflected in research studies and data produced by academia and in partnership with academic every year.

For instance, a recent research study of IADB (Inter-American Development Bank) shows that the lack of skills related to MIL and digital fluency has raised the inequality of access to quality education along Latin America and Caribbean students. Considering micro areas within a country, teachers and families that were not prepared to act as digital mentors saw lower learning rates compared to those who were more familiar with such a role.*

Based on this, there are four interconnected approaches on MIL that seem to be more important than ever to guarantee equality:

- Critical thinking in media literacy
- Skills on information literacy and research
- Freedom of expression
- Digital fluency and ethics on remote learning

NEWS

1 - Global MIL Week 2020 (24-31 October) led by UNESCO and the Republic of Korea is being organized under the theme, Resisting Disinfodemic: Media and Information Literacy for Everyone and by Everyone. Plan your local events to celebrate the Week and register them on this link, <https://en.unesco.org/global-mil-week-2020-celebrations-registration>.

2 - The MILID UNITWIN UNESCO webinar “The influence of global streaming services” will be moderated by Sherri Hope Culver, from Temple University Center and Mil Alliance Vice-Chair. It’s going to happen on September 16th, 10 a.m New York time. For registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xmBOB3Ls4ZhPm5aOUu-dGyYN-egeQRHhDKYx-PHOBPE/viewform?edit_requested=true

3 - UNESCO within the framework of the project “Enhancing the Capacity of Uzbek Media to Serve the Public Interest – Phase II”, funded generously by the UK Government, published a Handbook for journalists and journalism teachers “Media and Information Literacy in Journalism” in four languages. To access: <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-promotes-media-and-information-literacy-support-media-development-uzbekistan>

4 - “Disinfodemic”, policy briefs released by UNESCO, is available for free download in English, French and now also in Spanish: English and French: <https://fr.unesco.org/covid19/disinfodemic>
Spanish: <https://es.unesco.org/covid19/disinfodemic>

5 - The Centre for Media and Information Literacy in Kenya (CMIL-Kenya) and the Authority of Kenya (CA) through the support of UNESCO, has conducted a capacity building workshop of media professionals, practitioners and regulators on media and information literacy (MIL) in Kenya, in August.

CALL TO ACTION

- If you are not a member of The UNESCO-led Global Alliance and Partnerships on Media & Information Literacy, visit our website, get informed and join us:

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/media-and-information-literacy/gapmil/about> .

- If you are a member, use the email gapmil@lists.unesco.org to communicate within.
- If you would like to offer an editorial to the MIL Alliance Newsletter or have a news item that you want to share, please send an e-mail to gapmil@lists.unesco.org .

UNESCO MIL Alliance (GAPMIL) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to articulate actors in Media & Information Literacy field to develop a sustainable and fully literate society.

Meet the ISC: <https://en.unesco.org/themes/media-and-information-literacy/gapmil/isc>

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The UNESCO MIL Alliance (GAPMIL) is proud to see how many webinars were produced and shared by members around the globe. We are ready to improve even more the partnerships from now on. At the same time, the 2020 Global MIL Week is getting ready to offer new perspectives, share practices and present partnerships in a digital format, hosted by South Korea.

Anachronism and denialism may become a serious issue in the coming months in the sense that these stop people from being part of the opportunity to learn and develop. Daily realities make it urgent that MIL become more present in education, sciences or technology public policies. After all, “the times, they are a-changin’”. And the times, they hold opportunities and challenge.

*Read the full IADB research: <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/spanish/document/Nota-CIMA-20-COVID-19-Estamos-preparados-para-el-aprendizaje-en-linea.pdf>

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NOTE FROM UNESCO

UNESCO hails all members of the The MIL Alliance for their commitment to stand together for change. UNESCO also commends the collaboration of the The MIL Alliance International Steering Committee in realizing this Update. As UNESCO repositions The MIL Alliance, we look forward to the continued cooperation of all members. You will be hearing more from us. Contact: Alton Grizzle, UNESCO Programme Specialist in Media and Information Literacy, a.grizzle@unesco.org.