

# UNESCO MIL ALLIANCE NEWS UPDATE

## EDITORIAL

### 193 Countries formally recognize Global Media and Information Literacy Week

One hundred and ninety-three countries unanimously proclaimed Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week as official at the 40th Session of the UNESCO General Conference, last November.

This must be celebrated during Global MIL Week 2020, which is less than 20 days away. UNESCO has a vision for MIL. One could call it, poetically, a dream. Come on a journey with UNESCO with this short poem:

#### **What if Media and Information Literacy: A journey to a media and information literate world**

**What if** the dream that started 37 years ago with the Grunwald Declaration on Media Education in 1982, and even longer before, was realized?

**What if** a mega partnership was forged around MIL by organizations such as the European Commission, UNESCO, African Union, Organization of American States, Council of Europe, the Arab League, CARICOM, ASEAN, the UN, and many others?

**What if** every country had a national MIL policy linked to their education, information, media, communication, ICTs and youth policies...?

**What if** every teacher received training on MIL...?

**What if** MIL was part of every curriculum at all levels of education?

**What if** the networks for Media Literacy or Information Literacy, were, in fact, all alliances for Media and Information Literacy - uniting cooperation across disciplines, repositories, and platforms?

**What if** every country around the world had a national MIL Alliance?

**What if** Global MIL Week celebrations, around the world, were to grow from over 200 events in 2019 to 500 events in 2020?

**What if** every time you listen or watch the news, or read a book, you could see it in 4D. That is, meanings of different messages from all sides and omitted or hidden information comes to the fore?

**What if** Artificial Intelligence could support MIL learning online by design?

**What if** all social media platforms around the world seriously promote MIL? Meaning, they seriously promote MIL.

**What if** media, every media, truly meet MIL? That is, what if they promoted MIL as part of their business model?

**What if** every city became a MIL City?

**What if** the 128 countries with access to information laws, review these to ensure that promoting media and information literacy is integral to the implementation and monitoring of these laws?

**What if** the 70% of youth worldwide who are on the internet acquire MIL competencies?

**What if** every capacity building programme about gender equality included MIL training to help identify and counter gender stereotypes in media, online, and in all types of information?

**What if** the 781 million illiterate adults and the 262 million young people out of schools around the world benefitted from not only basic literacy programmes, but also ones that include MIL?

**What if** we believe these things could happen? Or what if we believe that at least some of these could really happen?

**What if** we were to combine our collective visions? Then we would wake up...

**What if** we woke up and we were not dreaming.

**What if** we really are in a MIL World?

**What if** we realize that it is not the mountain of information that we conquer but ourselves...? Then, only then, change would come..!

These questions are relevant to the purpose of the UNESCO MIL Alliance (GAPMIL). They are about the opportunities and challenges that we will face as we collectively promote MIL for all.

UNESCO looks forward to cooperating with all stakeholders to promote MIL globally. It is a concern of all of us.

This is UNESCO's vision, this is the dream, let us be a part of it!

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## NEWS

1. Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2020. Join us and register your events:  
<https://en.unesco.org/news/global-media-and-information-literacy-week-2020-join-us-and-register-your-events>
2. Would you like to organize an exhibition or have an edutainment content that you want to share during Global MIL Week 2020? Check out the Call: <https://en.unesco.org/news/call-exhibitions-and-edutainment-content-global-media-and-information-literacy-week-2020>
3. Participate in the Global MIL Youth Hackathon 2020 (LINK)
4. Check out the Virtual Conference Hall where the Global MIL Week on Conference will take place:  
<http://www.gmil2020.com/>
5. Check out the UNESCO report from comprehensive research, “Balancing Act: Countering Digital Disinformation while respecting Freedom of Expression”  
<https://en.unesco.org/publications/balanceact>
6. Sherri Hope Culver, GAPMIL Co-Vice Chair, co-authored a chapter in a new book edited by De Abreu and Christ, titled, “Media Literacy in a Disruptive Media Environment”. Her chapter, co-authored with Theresa Redmond and Michelle Cuilla Lipkin is titled, “Media literacy in the US: where are we now?”  
<https://www.routledge.com/Media-Literacy-in-a-Disruptive-Media-Environment-1st-Edition/Christ-De-Abreu/p/book/9780367414856>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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