Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2019
24-31 October

Feature Events
The Ninth Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue Conference and the Youth Agenda Forum
24-26 September, Gothenburg, Sweden

MIL Citizens: Informed, Engaged, Empowered

#GlobalMILWeek
Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week, commemorated annually, is a major occasion for stakeholders to review and celebrate the progress achieved towards “MIL for All.” It is a cap and aggregator for MIL-related events and actions around the world leading up to this Week. Together with its Feature Events (International MIL and Intercultural Dialogue Conference and Youth Agenda Forum), Global MIL Week calls for local events around the world to promote MIL connections across disciplines and professions. These include intergovernmental organizations, education institutions, technological intermediaries, development organizations, associations, NGOs, research groups, educators, media professionals, library and information professionals, policy makers, regulators, local governments, municipalities, actors in transportation, health, housing, and music industries, and practitioners around the globe.
Rationale

MIL provides citizens (all people) with key competencies for life-long learning, work, and in all aspects of life. It is fundamental for all citizens to know how, by improving their information, media, and technological knowledge, skills, and attitude, they can more meaningfully engage in sustainable development, dialogue, and better governance. All seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) resonate with these objectives of MIL as an enabler of civic engagement.

Citizens equipped with MIL competencies are informed, engaged and empowered. They are able to understand the dangers of disinformation, as well as the spiral of hatred and exclusion. When intercultural and interreligious dialogue is promoted through free, independent and pluralistic media and information systems, the awareness of diversities can enrich our notion of the world around us and improve our understanding of others and ourselves. Empowering citizens, in particular youth, the elderly and marginalized groups with MIL competencies lets more voices to be heard, and thus enables digital inclusion and enhanced opportunities.

Furthermore, MIL competencies are vital in the development and safeguarding of democratic societies. While some citizens live in an abundance of information, media, and communication tools, some continue to struggle for their
right to access media and information. An open, rights-based and inclusive environment, as addressed in SDG 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”, emphasizes the necessity to ensure “public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.” Improving peoples’ MIL competencies increases their capacities to access information and defend freedom and rights.

With the interconnectedness of individuals, societies, and information providers – collaborative work is fundamental. Global multi-stakeholder cooperation and meetings serve as arenas to enable constructive dialogue and development, promoting intercultural understanding, and the exchange of best practices, ideas and experiences. This is the vision of the Global MIL Week celebrations. National MIL policies and strategies are crucial in the continued efforts about how to diminish inequalities and incompetencies to analyze and critically evaluate and produce media and information content. UNESCO’s work in the field of MIL and Global MIL Week 2019 aims to address the disparities in information and engagement, inspiring us to move forward towards the SDGs.
Events around the Globe
24–31 October 2019

Global MIL Week concerns all MIL stakeholders around the world. Stakeholders are invited to organize online/offline local events or activities related to MIL in their community, city or region, taking place around the period of Global MIL Week in September/October/November 2019, and register them on the official website of Global MIL Week.

Some topics that events/activities can centre around are: What can you do to promote/teach MIL that responds to medium-term issues as well as shorter-term challenges like promoting tolerance and social inclusion, elections, and participation in governance processes? In what creative format can MIL be presented? How can you make MIL happen where you live, study or work? How can MIL be an enabler for informed, engaged, and empowered citizens/peoples that value their contributions to sustainable development?

Registered events will be showcased on the Global MIL Week official website. Outstanding events will be highlighted and promoted through UNESCO’s press releases and newsletters.
Feature Conference  
24–26 September 2019, Gothenburg (Sweden)

While Global MIL Week 2019 will be celebrated from 24 to 31 October, its Feature Conference will be held from 24 to 25 September to benefit from the synergies with the 2019 Gothenburg Book Fair. The Book Fair is the second largest of its kind in Europe.

UNESCO and UNAOC lead the Global MIL Week 2019 in partnership with the MIL and Intercultural Dialogue (MILID) University Network, the UNESCO-led Global Alliance for Partnerships on MIL (GAPMIL), the International Federation of Library Associations, Twitter, the International Association of School Libraries, and many others.

The Global MIL Week Feature Conference and Youth Agenda Forum are co-organized with and hosted by County Council Region Västra Götaland and the University of Gothenburg in partnership with the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO. For the first time, the Feature Conference will be hosted by a regional institution and a university.
Proposed sub-themes

1. MIL and the SDGs
2. Lifelong learning – MIL and the role of civil society, media, social media and public service media
3. Disinformation, propaganda, and MIL
4. Promoting intercultural dialogue
5. MIL, elections, good governance
6. MIL and freedom of expression: Hate speech, dialogue, and engagement
7. Youth: Formal/nonformal/informal education, and peer education
8. Youth and news
9. Coordination and national policies concerning MIL: examples
10. MIL assessment: Evaluation of efforts, achievements, effectiveness
11. Teacher training; how to educate the educators?
12. MIL role in privacy and protection of personal data (General Data Protection Regulation)
13. MIL Futures: Policies, innovation, best practices, challenges, the next step, where are we heading?
14. Innovation, tools, state of the art technology such as artificial intelligence enhancing MIL
4th Global MIL Week Youth Agenda Forum
26 September 2019, Gothenburg (Sweden)

Digital media and information providers, different technological devices and platforms are by now a natural part of everyday life to most of us, and perhaps not least to the younger generations. However, being an avid user does not necessarily imply sufficient knowledge and experience to tackle all aspects of digital life. Moreover, youth’s ability to access, be critical about, produce and apply information to their daily lives, in particular governance, is not always evident despite achieving/reaching certain education levels. Depending on where and how you live your life, but also depending on which generation you belong to, the challenges relevant to the younger MIL Citizens are of concern now as well as in the future.

Besides taking part in the Feature Conference, young people will have the opportunity to shed light on issues most relevant to them and take the lead of the Youth Agenda Forum. The Youth Agenda Forum will be organized in cooperation with, among others, the GAPMIL Youth Sub-Committee, students and researchers at the University of Gothenburg representing the Department of Education, Communication and Learning, Valand Academy and the Department of Applied Information Technology together with other university colleges in the region.

The Youth Agenda Forum is a UNESCO Youth Space. It is youth-oriented, designed for youth, led by youth and open to all public. Youth from local schools, universities and youth organizations as well as young participants from around the world are invited to the event. The forum includes panel discussions, brief talks, presentations, hands-on workshops, brainstorming, poster presentations, as well as games, hackathons, etc. It is the hope of the local hosts that youth will participate and influence the outcomes of the events in Gothenburg.

The Youth Agenda Forum was initiated in 2016 within the framework of Global MIL Week 2016. Its first edition was led by the GAPMIL Youth Sub-Committee, with the guidance and support of UNESCO as well as the host, University of Sao Paulo. Since then, the Forum has become a tradition of Global MIL Week that will be upheld. The Feature Conference and the Youth Agenda Forum are considered as two Feature Events of Global MIL Week, alongside other celebration events around the globe.
Expected Participants at the Feature Events

1. Educators: formal & non-formal education institution, libraries
2. Youth: youth organizations, students from related study programs (media and communication, IT, advertising, PR, psychology, etc.)
3. Academic: researchers focusing on youth media practices, young researchers
4. The United Nations and other international development organizations
5. MIL related industries, private sector: information & communication, news media, advertising and PR agencies, research companies, music streaming and video-on-demand services, digital devices & software producers, mobile operators, internet providers
6. Young professionals: representatives from the field of digital media, including news media, digital advertising/media agencies, IT - young programmers, new librarians, etc.
7. Youth leaders in the United Nations and other international development organizations as well as connecting their programmes/projects
8. Media and other information providers in cities
9. MIL-related NGOs
10. Religious associations
11. Cultural organizations
12. City officials and policymakers: including national, regional and global players
13. Networks of mayors
14. Associations of election officials
15. Voter education associations and knowledge networks
16. City library networks
17. City museums
18. Social media influencers: digital / video content creators, micro-celebrities, bloggers, vloggers, e-sports gamers, etc.
19. Digital/video content creators, micro-celebrities, bloggers, vloggers, e-sports gamers etc.
20. Safe internet organizations
21. Information and media professionals
22. Stakeholders of city planning, security, entertainment, health, transportation, and housing
GAPMIL Global MIL Awards 2019

The GAPMIL Global MIL Awards recognize information/library, media and technology specialists, educators, artists, activists, researchers, policy makers, NGOs, associations and other groups innovatively integrating MIL in their work and related activities. Specifically, the awards will recognize excellence and leadership in five sectors: Education, Research, Policy, Advocacy, Media and the Communication/Information Sectors.

The GAPMIL Awards are presented every year at the Global MIL Week Feature Conference. For 2019, the GAPMIL Awards are spearheaded by the UNESCO-led GAPMIL and the MILID University Network with the support of UNESCO, UNAOC, the County Council Region Västra Götaland, and University of Gothenburg.

In 2019, new categories for the GAPMIL Global MIL Awards were added to recognize non traditional MIL actors such as municipalities, election commissions, transportation, health, entertainment and health industries, etc., as well as researchers, youth, teachers, and organizations who have paved the way for MIL nationally, regionally, and internationally. Watch the Global MIL Week website for details about the awards and related criteria.

The awardees will be invited to the Global MIL Week 2019 Feature Events in Gothenburg and will receive award trophies from the UNESCO-led GAPMIL as well as other recognitions.

Partners are invited to make financial or in-kind contributions to the GAPMIL Global MIL Awards and to propose new categories that they may have a particular interest to support.

Contact UNESCO if you would like to become a donor of the GAPMIL Awards. The donor(s) will be given credit on the award trophies and in all related communication materials.
About the host

The Global MIL Week 2019 Feature Conference and Youth Agenda Forum are hosted by the County Council Region Västra Götaland in cooperation with: University of Gothenburg, the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO and Gothenburg Book Fair.

County Council Region Västra Götaland
County Council Region Västra Götaland is governed by democratically elected politicians and with just over 50,000 employees is one of Sweden’s biggest employers. Its task is to offer good healthcare and to provide the prerequisites for good public health, a rich cultural life, a good environment, jobs, research, education, and good communications. Altogether, this provides a foundation for sustainable growth in Västra Götaland.

Västra Götaland is the name of the geographical territory in the south-western parts of Sweden. The region has about 1.6 million inhabitants, 49 municipalities; the largest city is Göteborg (Gothenburg). The region has the largest port in Scandinavia and is Sweden’s leading region for industry and transportation.

University of Gothenburg
The University of Gothenburg meets societal challenges with diverse knowledge. 38 000 students and 6 000 employees make the University a large and inspiring place to work and study, with a continuous flow of new knowledge and ideas. Strong research and attractive study programmes attract scientists and students from all around the world.

In 1891, Gothenburg University College was established with the help of private donations. The first classes were held by seven professors teaching seven subjects to twenty-one students, four of whom were women. In 1907 it became an independent university college with the same status as the two national universities of Uppsala and Lund. The University of Gothenburg was formally founded in 1954 through the amalgamation of this college with the Medical College, which had been established in 1949.

Swedish National Commission for UNESCO
The Swedish National Commission for UNESCO was established in 1951 and is seated within the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research. The Swedish National Commission for UNESCO is the link between UNESCO and the Swedish government, authorities, experts and civil society.
organizations that are working with UNESCO-related matters. The Swedish National Commission for UNESCO provides advice to the Swedish Government on UNESCO-related matters and raises awareness in Sweden about UNESCO and its work. Among Sweden’s top priorities in UNESCO is gender equality and freedom of expression.

**Gothenburg Book Fair**
The Göteborg Book Fair is the most important event in Scandinavia for people in the library, literary and media field. It is also a manifestation of arts, culture, education and lifelong learning. A four day long literary festival, a tribute to freedom of expression and a place for readers and writers to meet. Established in 1985 as a conference for librarians with 5,000 visitors, the fair now gathers about 90,000 teachers, librarians and book lovers every year.

**MIL in Sweden**
Over the last years, the concept of MIL and its Swedish abbreviation MIK has become more widely spread and gained momentum, among politicians as well as practitioners, educators, and librarians. Only last year (2018) the Swedish government made several efforts to raise awareness of the importance of MIL for all. A special investigator was appointed to find strategies towards increased media and information literacy to strengthen and safeguard democratic dialogue. The public authority, the Swedish Media Council, received the task to coordinate public actors who work to promote MIL. Since 2013, three high-level meetings have been organized, the most recent held in May 2018, with the participation of four ministers. The initiatives were preceded by an extensive survey of existing MIL initiatives which together with the high-level meeting paved the way for government actions. Against this backdrop, the hosting of the UNESCO Global MIL Week Feature Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden, this year is very timely. It is hoped that this event will strengthen future collaboration and dialogue, influence and empower further initiatives - at national, regional and international levels - and that the global context will provide quality arguments, tools, and examples in our common ambitions to enable citizens to be informed, engaged and empowered.

The County Council Region Västra Götaland is looking forward to welcoming all delegates to Gothenburg, Sweden, for the ninth UNESCO Global MIL Week 2019 Feature Conference.
During the same week, between 26-29 September, the Gothenburg Book Fair will be held where 90 000 librarians, teachers and citizens gather every year. In 2019, MIL is one of three main themes of the fair. MIL related sessions will be organized during the fair to continue the dialogue started in the Global MIL Week Feature Conference (the International MILID Conference) and Youth Agenda Forum. This is an excellent example of putting MIL in focus in a professional and at the same time public event.

Research and education within MIL are relevant in many departments at the University of Gothenburg, such as pedagogy, film and photography, information technology, journalism, media, and communication. The local organizing committee has benefitted from fruitful cooperation with researchers at the Department of Education, Communication, and Learning, Valand Academy and the Department of Applied Information Technology.

For many years, much engagement in MIL activities has been initiated by the Nordic Information Centre for Media and Communication Research (Nordicom) at the University of Gothenburg. Nordicom’s International Clearinghouse on Children and Youth (1997-2018), which was started in conjunction with UNESCO, has worked to promote MIL, spread knowledge about ongoing research and has reached out to a global and regional audience. Nordicom was an active member of the MILID Network until 2015 and publisher of the first three MILID Yearbooks (2013-2015). The UNESCO Chair on Freedom of Expression at the University of Gothenburg, former Director of Nordicom, Professor Ulla Carlsson, has initiated several MIL projects in collaboration with many different partners - researchers, educators, concerned ministries and authorities and other organizations of relevance.

The Swedish National Commission for UNESCO is Sweden’s link to UNESCO. The Commission has actively promoted MIL in Sweden over the past years by creating an arena for discussion on the topic between politicians, researchers, civil society, and business. The task has been carried out in close collaboration with the UNESCO Chair on Freedom of Expression at the University of Gothenburg and has contributed to new political initiatives in Sweden in the field of MIL. Considering MIL issues to be one of the most important cultural areas of our time, we want to stress the fact that all levels – national, regional, local – must collaborate in awareness raising and empowerment of citizens and strengthening freedom of expression.
Partners and Organizing Committees

Lead Partners

- UNESCO
- County Council Region Västra Götaland
- Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (MILID) University Network
- University of Gothenburg
- Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Twitter
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

International Organizing Committee

Ahmad Khasawneh, Hashemite University, Jordan
Alton Grizzle, UNESCO, Paris
Amir Jahangir, Mishal Pakistan, Pakistan
Anna Kozlowska, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA
Carolyn Wilson, Western University, Canada
Chido Onumah, African Centre for Media and Information Literacy, Nigeria
Cyrille Guel, EducommunicAfrik, Burkina Faso
Daniel Nwaeeze, Afrika Youth Movement, Nigeria
Dorcas Bowler, National Library and Information Services, Bahamas
Eva Reina, European Youth Information and Counselling Agency, Luxenberg
Guna Spurava, MILID University Network, University of Latvia, Latvia
José Manuel Pérez Tornero, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
Kimberly D. Osborne, ShinePath LLC, USA
Kristina Juraitė, MILID University Network, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
Lisa Hinchcliffe, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
Maha Bashri, United Arab Emirates University, USA
Maria Carme, Bergen University College, Norway
Michelle Ciulla Lipkin, National Association for Media Literacy Education, USA
Paulette Stewart, MILID University Network, The University of the West Indies, Jamaica
Stephen Wyber, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Netherlands
Tihomir Loza, South East European Network for Professionalization of Media, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tomas Duran, Unified National Higher Education Corporation, Colombia
Wang Xiaotong, UNESCO, Paris
Xu Jing, UNESCO, Paris
Yvone Akoth, Impart Change, Kenya

Local Organizing Committee

Steering group:
Katti Hoflin, Region Västra Götaland, Sweden
Annica Andersson, Göteborg Book Fair, Sweden
Bengt Källgren, Region Västra Götaland/Kultur i Väst, Sweden
Jenny Berner, Region Västra Götaland/Kultur i Väst, Sweden
Mats Djurberg, Swedish National Commission for UNESCO, Sweden
Ulla Carlsson, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
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