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UNESCO MIL ALLIANCE NEWS UPDATE

EDITORIAL

A NEW YEAR, A NEW BEGINNING

I welcome 2021 with hope for the future, but also recognizing the tragic loss and suffering many people are still living through due to the pandemic and global challenges. Each day seems to bring another reaffirming example of the need for media and information literacy. The spread of misinformation and disinformation continues to influence everything from politics to public health to popular culture. As an American, I watched in horror when (former) president Trump agitated a crowd with misinformation about the outcome of the U.S. election, leading to a storming of the Capital and loss of life. Ultimately, factual sources and dependable news organizations prevailed, leading the majority of elected officials to confirm the election of Joe Biden just a few days later. But the fight for trustworthy news and information remains.

I hope the support of our global MIL community is with you as you conduct your work in online classrooms, playgrounds, living rooms, religious houses and found spaces. Your work is vitally important. The International Steering Committee for the UNESCO MIL Alliance aims to bring you news of events and resources each month with this Update. Help us share your good work by sending information about your latest efforts. Let us inspire one another so that we may inspire others to deeply consider the media that so affects all our lives.

For all, I wish a healthy 2021. I hope you will join me in continuing to seek new ways to inspire and energize our friends, colleagues and family to think deeply about how they consume and create media and the need for media and information literacy for all.

Sherri Hope Culver

Co-vice chair, International Steering Committee, UNESCO MIL Alliance
Director, Center for Media and Information Literacy
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NOTE FROM UNESCO

UNESCO thanks all members for the cooperation in 2020. Together we succeeded to draw the world's attention to the urgency of MIL. We continue in 2021. UNESCO has launched an online Calendar for the UNESCO MIL Alliance. Now you can promote your media and information literacy (MIL) related events in this Calendar, <https://en.unesco.org/themes/media-and-information-literacy/gapmil>. As UNESCO, the International Steering Committee, and our partners strengthen and reposition the Alliance, we respond to the call from many members to showcase the Alliance's events permanently throughout the year, and not only for Global MIL Week. Your events will be displayed on UNESCO's website. Please share the link with your networks and register your events. For more information please contact Alton Grizzle, a.grizzle@unesco.org.

NEWS

1. UNESCO is developing working groups for its MIL Alliance to discuss issues and innovations in the following areas: Policies & Research, Youth, Empowering Women, the Elderly & Marginalized Groups, Synergies with SDG's, Innovation in MIL, Disinformation & Privacy and Dialogue & Hate Speech. Selected volunteers will be notified shortly. For more information contact: Alton Grizzle, a.grizzle@unesco.org

2. EKOME launched a new guide titled, "Meet our Members" (e-booklet) introducing members of the Europe Sub Chapter Mediterranean Group for the UNESCO MIL Alliance.

Link to article: https://www.ekome.media/education/meet-the-members-of-europe-sub-chapter-mediterranean-group-for-unesco-mil-alliance/?fbclid=IwAR3Jxip_54pOGrvPay81f5Foqy-9tWMOeJX66eHt8TVd2hR_Jxgd9dZtGGc

3. The UNESCO East Africa Office in Kenya hosted two workshops in December 2020 on information ethics and media and information literacy. There was participation from 180 people in 28 countries.

4. A global survey on media and information literacy developments was conducted by UNESCO. Data input closed in December 2020 and a report on the findings will be shared later in 2021.

Details here: <https://en.unesco.org/news/take-our-global-survey-media-and-information-literacy-developments>. For more information or clarification, please contact Alton Grizzle, a.grizzle@unesco.org

5. A new graduate degree program in Media and Information Literacy and Digital Citizenship is available at Lusófona University (Porto, Portugal). <https://www.ulp.pt/en/mestrado/media-and-information-literacy-and-digital-citizenship>

6. The Media & Learning Association (MLA) and Nordicom are offering a **free webinar series** on Media Literacy in Europe: Country Approaches through June 2021. Register here: <https://nordmedianetwork.org/mil-europe-webinars/>

7. The 10th Symposium on Education and Communication, promoted by Tiradentes University (Sergipe, Brazil), will take place online March 24, 2021. To register for free attendance and for further information, access www.simeduc.geces.br.

8. The Philippine Association for Media and Information Literacy held its 3rd National MIL Forum in Manila on January 23 and 30, 2021 via Zoom. The theme of the Forum was “MILes Forward: Inclusive MIL for Lifelong Learning and Practice for Social Change.” For more information, visit www.facebook.com/PAMIL.PH

9. The Youth Committee for the UNESCO MIL Alliance has established goals for 2021 including: Establishing 13 National Youth Alliances; Executing a Capacity building programme all year round; Facilitating virtual and in-person regional and global consultations; Developing a MIL Youth Toolkit; and hosting the first cohort of MIL Young Fellows. For more information contact: Daniel Nwaeze, danielnwaeze@gmail.com

10. Join EKOME for the 2nd MIL webinar “Raising MIL Skills in the Mediterranean: Policies & Practices” February 3, 2021, 15:00 EET with speakers from Bosnia Herzegovina, Greece and Spain. Registration at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6ffagelyT9m5vK_cVWlvQQ.

MEET THE UNESCO MIL ALLIANCE ISC

[HTTPS://EN.UNESCO.ORG/THEMES/MEDIA-AND-INFORMATION-LITERACY/GAPMIL/ISC](https://en.unesco.org/themes/media-and-information-literacy/gapmil/isc)

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE UNESCO MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY ALLIANCE?

TO JOIN, VISIT AND CONTACT THE STEERING COMMITTEE,
[HTTPS://EN.UNESCO.ORG/THEMES/MEDIA-ANDINFORMATION-LITERACY/GAPMIL/ABOUT](https://en.unesco.org/themes/media-and-information-literacy/gapmil/about).

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UPDATE OR SHARE A NEWS ITEM, PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO
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