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UNESCO MIL ALLIANCE NEWS UPDATE

EDITORIAL

HOPE IS WHAT WE NEED, MIL IS OUR TRUE FORCE Afterthoughts of a MIL webinar

Following the successful 2nd EKOME MIL Webinar on Media & Information Literacy and Disinformation (February 3rd, 2021), I am reflecting on the future of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in the post-pandemic era. New evidence-based research data coming into light reaffirm strong disinformation clusters during the Covid-19 pandemic, as a result of a mass volcano of opinions and “expertises”, erupting especially through social media platforms regarding the origins, the treatment and the evolution of this global pathogenic phenomenon.

This is counteracted with the fact that Media & Information Literacy is uplifted as a *trending topic* that emerges both as a general precaution measure linked with critical skills and as a timely aftermath response. It is a fact that MIL needs to adapt old key concepts into new media literacy realities, from traditional media intelligence patterns to post-modern MIL paradigms in a meta-cognitive context. Resources on how to become more critical, more sceptic and more active citizens are everywhere - it turns out that it is not a matter of resourceful content but mostly a matter of synergies that will raise MIL in the public sphere as the ultimate life skill of the new age. This is where UNESCO MIL Alliance comes in, to raise MIL to the megascope and unite all citizens under one umbrella democratic concept.

With regards to the pandemic, this is the point where we need to revisit basic MIL principles and establish our critical MIL autonomy and humanism at the same time, to come together and recognize true benefits of mass vaccination and to advocate for better societies that will guide us towards the end of this health crisis tunnel. I remain hopeful and optimistic that this will happen as long as we keep our critical spirit up and always see below the surface to the far, clear end of this disinformation chaos.

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NEWS

- 1. New feature on UNESCO MIL Alliance: Calendar of Events.** Responding to call from UNESCO MIL Alliance members to promote events permanently throughout the year, UNESCO launched an online Calendar for the UNESCO MIL Alliance events yearly. Register and promote globally your event here: <https://en.unesco.org/unesco-mil-alliance-calendar>
- 2. Media & Learning Association and Nordicom** are offering free monthly webinar series on **Media Literacy in Europe, Country Approaches**. Register for March webinar on Media Literacy in Greece: March 10, 15.00-16.00 CET. Link: <https://bit.ly/2Njal7l>
- 3. Lightning Talk MIL CITIES, Metrics and Indicators:** February 11,2021. Veronica Yarnick and Felipe Chibás, MIL experts debated on how to evaluate cities using the MIL approach and talked about MIL Cities, the cities of the future. See the discussion here: <https://youtu.be/jNJ26KUEY4g>.
- 4. Connected by Webwise** is a digital media literacy programme to empower young people to be effective, autonomous and safe users of technology and online media. It is designed for post-primary teachers wishing to explore Online Wellbeing; News, Information and Problems of False Information; Big Data and the Data Economy; My Rights Online. Link: <https://www.webwise.ie/connected/>
- 5. Information Literacy Conference, Mexico City:** "Jornada de Alfabetización informacional", Fac Estudios Superiores Zaragoza, UNAM, Feb 15, 2021. Link: <https://bit.ly/3ultlIE>
- 6. European Regulator's Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA)**, bringing the national independent audiovisual regulatory bodies, issued a new report "Improving Media Literacy campaigns on disinformation". Link: <https://bit.ly/3k2Jca4>
- 7. EKOME**, Greece organized its 2nd webinar from EKOME MIL Webinar Series with a topic on MIL and Disinformation. The webinar with over 1400 views recognized MIL as trending topic that needs to adapt old key concepts into new media realities. Link: <https://bit.ly/3k7EvvN>
- 8. 2021 e-Twinning Annual Theme is on Media Literacy and Disinformation.** The European school community will focus on media literacy, on one side, and how to tackle the phenomenon of disinformation and fake news, on the other. Link: <https://bit.ly/3do5JNk>
- 9. Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina** conducted a first comprehensive research on Children's Media Habits and Parental Attitudes in cooperation with UNICEF. Link: <https://www.rak.ba/en/articles/3209>
- 10. "Speak Up-Media for Inclusion"**, Erasmus+ project by Karpos. Media literacy and audiovisual workshops with newly arrived migrants and refugees. Link: <https://karposontheweb.org/speak-up-erasmus/?lang=en>

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<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-and-information-literacy/gapmil/about>.

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