Media and Information Literate Youth:

A cornerstone to implementing Access to Information policies in South East Europe

A webinar on the occasion of the International Day for Universal Access to information (IDUAI) and the Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week 2020

Date: 21 October, Time: 11:00 - 12:30 CEST

Description:

On the occasion of the IDUAI and Global MIL Week 2020, UNESCO organizes a webinar about youth’s crucial role in implementing Access to Information (ATI) policies and media and information literacy policies and strategies in South East Europe. To ensure that the youth fulfils this role, in particular in times of a global Covid-19 pandemic, their empowerment through Media and Information Literacy (MIL) to think critically about the information they receive and awareness about their ‘right to know’ is of critical importance, not only for their development as citizens but also their country’s democratic future. Youth can be catalysts to promote and engage in the positive appropriation of information, media, and technology, especially because the media and the culture they mediate, are an integral part of their growth.

Two key outcomes of the webinar are to generate recommendations as to 1) what are some of the issues that should be considered in an action plan for youth involvement in the articulation, implementation, and monitoring of access of ATI policies and MIL policies and strategies, and 2) how can MIL be integrated as a viable awareness-raising intervention to enhance the design and implementation of ATI policies.

Over the past twenty years, all countries in South East Europe have adopted laws ensuring free access to publicly held information to all their citizens (ATI laws). Yet, despite robust legislative frameworks, these countries could do more to raise awareness among citizens, especially youth, about using their right to access to information. Yet, MIL is still emerging as a field of development intervention in South East Europe without far reaching systematic policies and strategies. In addition, significant problems are often reported concerning the implementation of these ATI laws. In that respect, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted repeated breach of this right with the centralisation of information, and journalists being denied access to information and excluded from official events.

This webinar is organized as part of the UNESCO EU-funded Project Building trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey #TrustinMediaSEE
This webinar is organized as part of the UNESCO EU-funded Project ‘Building Trust in Media in South East Europe and Turkey- Phase 2’, which aims, among others, to pilot MIL in formal and informal education in the region and address the surge of disinformation in the region. UNESCO is hoping to lead the change for youth to act as leaders and co-creators of media and information literacy to build youth resilience against the disinfodemic.

#TrustinMediaSEE #AccessToInfoDay #GlobalMILWeek #RightToKnow

More information on the Project Building Trust in Media in SEE and Turkey: https://en.unesco.org/trust-in-media-see

More information on the Access to Information day: https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/accesstoinformationday

More information on the Global MIL week: https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/globalmilweek

**Draft programme**

**Introductory remarks**

1. Mr Sinisa Šešum, Head of UNESCO Sarajevo Office
2. Representative from the EU (TBC)

**Discussion**

**Moderator:** Mr Borislav Vukojević, MIL Consultant for South East Europe, UNESCO Sarajevo Office

**Speakers:**

**Mr Anis Krivić, Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Sarajevo Canton, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Mr Krivić is the Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Sarajevo Canton. He obtained his undergraduate and graduate degree from the Faculty of Law of the University of Sarajevo. Throughout his studies he was a member and co-founder of different student and youth associations. He worked in both public and private sector in the legal field. Before he was appointed Minister, he worked as Cantonal Inspector for Higher Education at the Cantonal Administration for Inspection Issues, overseeing the compliance the existing legislations in the field of education.

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Dr. sci. Lejla Turčilo, Professor at the University of Sarajevo

Ms Lejla Turčilo is a professor at the Department of Journalism of the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Sarajevo. She was an author of three and co-author of two books, as well as one textbook and five research publications. She produced at least forty research articles in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, Belgium, Germany, the USA, and Columbia. The main areas of her interest are online communication, media literacy and freedom, and intercultural communication.

Alma Fejzić, Centre for Development of Youth Activism, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms Alma Fejzić is legal officer and project coordinator at the Centre for Development of Youth Activism (CROA) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She has a graduate degree in Legal Studies from University of Sarajevo. At the CROA, she assists or leads the coordination of several projects funded or implemented by the EU, the UNDP, and the UNODC aimed at developing democracy, empowering youth, fostering volunteering spirit, and tackling peer violence/bullying.

Stefan Janjić, FakeNews Tragač, Serbia

Mr Stefan Janjić is editor-in-chief of the FakeNews Tragač (fake news debunking) website, a certified MIL trainer, and a teaching assistant in media literacy programmes at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad. He is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, including the NIN literary scholarship. In 2015, he published his novel “Nothing happened”. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the department for interdisciplinary studies of social sciences and humanities at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, with an academic background in journalism and media studies.

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Altin Hazizaj, Child Rights Centre Albania (CRCA), Albania

Mr Altin Hazizaj is the Executive Director of Child Rights Centre Albania (CRCA) in Albania with over ten years of previous experience in the business sector and as a youth movement leader, journalist, and human rights defender. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the Law School of Tirana University, with an academic background in Law and European Studies. He supported the establishment of the first-ever Child Helpline in Albania and the Albanian National Youth Network (ANYN), reviving its youth movement. He was active in defending women’s and LGBT rights.

Uglješa Vuković, Transparency International, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr Uglješa Vuković is a researcher at Transparency International in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the project Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre, aiming to provide free legal aid and assistance to victims and/or witnesses of corruption. Uglješa is actively involved in designing and developing several advocacy campaigns relating to access to information issues, public administration reforms, criminal law subjects, and overall civic freedoms. His areas of interest include freedom of information, anti-corruption legislative framework, whistle-blowers protection, among others.

Emina Adilovic, Information Expert at the Faculty of Political Science in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms Emina Adilovic is a researcher in the field of information at the Faculty of Political Science in Sarajevo. She is a fresh graduate with a Master’s degree in Comparative Literature and Librarianship. From 2017 to 2018, she worked for the publishing house University Press, and from 2018 to 2019 for Buybook d.o.o. She published texts, theater, literary, and film and cultural reviews on the portals Pozorište.ba, Prometej.ba, Analiziraj.ba, Balkansmedia, Oslobođenje KUN, Preokret.info, EU-Monitoring.ba, and the magazine Behar.

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