The Role of MI Literacy in the Development Agenda

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Millennium Development Goals
UN Literacy Decade 2003-2012

• Literacy rates significantly increased during last decade.

However...
• 69 million adolescents are not in school,
• 774 million illiterate youth and adults.

Results of UN Literacy Decade highlighted new challenges:
• Traditional literacies no longer sufficient – as illustrated by youth unemployment, financial crises, and digital and knowledge divides
• Difficult to reach marginalised groups.
New literacy framework?

Professional training – few selective

Context

Basic literacy

Tools and resources

Professional training – few selective

Core MIL competencies towards transliteracy

Lifelong learning - all citizens

Strategies, Standards, Approaches

Basic literacy

Information literacy

- Information Culture
- Digital literacy
- Media literacy
- Civic education
- Financial literacy

Other types of literacies

ICT literacy

Digital literacy

Media literacy

Civic education

Financial literacy

Tools and resources

New literacy framework?
UNESCO’s Framework – Building knowledge societies
The ultimate goal of MIL is to empower people to exercise their universal rights and fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of opinion and expression as well as seek, impart and receive information taking an advantage of emerging opportunities and tools in most effective, inclusive, ethical and efficient manner for the benefit of all individuals, communities and societies.
Challenges

• Is MIL the right approach?

• Does it achieve the right balance between Information Literacy and Media Literacy as well as other types of literacy?

• What is the role of MIL within other UN literacy frameworks?
UNESCO’s Role

Major Programme V (2014-2015) - Strategic Objective 9: Promoting freedom of expression, media development, and access to information and knowledge

- **Main Line of Action 1:** Promoting an enabling environment for press freedom and journalistic safety, facilitating pluralism and participation in media, and supporting sustainable and independent media institutions

(2) Pluralistic media institutions are facilitated, including by adoption of gender-sensitive policies and through support for strengthened community media policy and practice, while citizens, and particularly youth, are empowered through enhanced MIL competencies

- **Main Line of Action 2:** Enabling Universal Access and Preservation of Information and Knowledge

(4) Member States empowered in building inclusive knowledge societies and creating the conditions for sustainable development by promoting and using multilingualism in cyberspace, universal access and preservation of information, enhanced ICT skills and open solutions
How could MIL be promoted as an international framework?

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World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS):
Towards a ‘people centred, inclusive and development-oriented information and knowledge society’ (Geneva, 2003; Tunis, 2005)

• Action Lines C3, C4, C9
• WSIS+10 Review Conference February 2013
• Modalities adopted UN General Assembly 2013
• WSIS+10 High Level event, Egypt, April 2014
• UN General Assembly 2015 – WSIS Review meeting

Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
Information for All Programme (IFAP) – Information literacy as one of the key priorities

- IL empowers individuals to seek, evaluate, use and create information effectively to achieve their personal, social, occupational and educational goals.

- Information-literate people are able to access information about their health, environment and work, and make critical decisions.

- Enables individuals to bring themselves out of poverty, and communities to flourish
Tools and Resources

Understanding Information Literacy – A Primer 2008
Towards IL Indicators, 2008
Towards MIL Indicators, 2010
MIL Curriculum for Teachers 2011
Information Literacy Worldwide Resources 2013

Online course on MIL and Intercultural Dialogue – in process
Global MIL Assessment Framework 2013 – To be published
MIL Policy & Strategy Guidelines 2013 – To be published
Networks and alliances

University Network on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue

Global Forum for Partnership on MIL – June 2013, Abuja, Nigeria

WSIS Online Community – Information Literacy

Professional online community on Information Literacy
Join at www.wsis-community.org/
Thank you for listening

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