

YDML project already has its own website:
digitalyouth.eu !



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Digital media literacy for youth employment and social realisation

Its purpose is to serve as a platform where youth workers, trainers and teachers can access training materials and resources related to Digital media Literacy. Information about the project's partners, events and outcomes can be found on it as well. Check the [Library](#) section which will be regularly updated with information about publications and materials from trustworthy sources.

DML during pandemic

Due to the global pandemic lockdowns the implementation of the project activities was suspended for 9 months. We value the opportunities which this project gives for face-to-face meetings, collaboration and learning, and want to give a chance to all trainers and teachers involved to take part in live meetings and mobilities. That is why, we put the project work on hold until the pandemic crisis is resolved and we can resume the transnational meetings and activities.

Despite the imposed limitations during the past months, partners managed to conduct local workshops with youth workers online and in person. During these workshops the importance of the Digital Media Literacy skills development was discussed, even more relevant in these intensive digital times. Also, the participants had the chance to share good practices in the field of Digital Media Literacy. You can find out more about the local workshops in the [Events](#) section on the project's website.

Are young people literate in digital media?



As mentioned in the previous newsletter the first step towards developing a novel Digital Media Literacy training content and program is to inquire the youth in every partner country about their digital media practices and habits.

Each partner organization inquired young people between 14-18 years of age about which social media they use, what their online behaviour is, whether they create digital content, etc. Among the aims of the inquiry is to establish the common traits in the online behaviour of the young people in all partner countries - are they passive consumers of online content and do they know how to employ technology to their best advantage for learning or personal development.

The results are not surprising but indicative about the level of Digital Media Literacy. Common traits are observed in every country:

- The youth has a **high use of technology** - greater preference for smartphones over laptops and desktops, **mainly for social and entertainment purposes**.
- The sufficient tech skills and the availability of various tech resources don't guarantee efficient use, as the surveys demonstrate. The young people confessed that, despite their confidence in operating with different devices, they **don't know how to use them for educational purposes and how to be safe online**.
- The picture is more diverse when it comes to recognition of fake news: in Italy 68% of students know how to deal with fake news, in the Republic of South Africa small percentage can evaluate the information on the internet, whereas in the Czech Republic 88% have stated they know strategies for dealing with fake news, probably because their curriculum is very tech oriented and such topics aren't excluded.
- Most students recognize the effect of social media on lives but find it hard to develop strategies to cope with inappropriate online behaviour.
- 57% of Italian students declare they have critical thinking skills, even less confirm to create quality digital content. This picture isn't much different in the rest of the countries. Critical thinking is closely related to the skills to discern fake from real news and the overall evaluation of any information online. This will be one of the major focuses of the YDML training program.
- The standard school curriculum lacks purposeful activities related to the development of Digital Media Literacy. This fact creates difficulties to develop reflective attitude and critical distance from the media, which could protect the youth from online abuse and digital addictions.

We could conclude that students excel in netiquette and responsible use of technologies but lack critical thinking and content creation skills. The YDML project aims to tackle these deficiencies in Digital Media Literacy education and to foster better use of technologies.





Upcoming events: **Second transnational mobility in Prague planned to take place after resumption of the project activities.**

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E-mail: info@digitalyouth.eu
Coordinator: Center for Creative Training

