Lesson 1
Introduction to News Literacy

*Preparation time: **30'***   *Teaching time: **1 x 60'***

Abstract

This lesson introduces participants to the concept of news literacy, focusing on its definition, importance, and practical applications in today's media landscape. Participants will explore how to critically evaluate news sources, identify biases, and discern credible information. Through discussions, activities, and real-world examples, the lesson aims to equip participants with the tools to navigate misinformation, understand the role of news in society, and become responsible media consumers.

Online educational resources

- ***Lesson*** on News Literacy from the *Sorting Facts from Fiction* online Moodle course
- ***Quiz*** on News Literacy from the *Sorting Facts from Fiction* online Moodle course
- ***Fact-checking tools*** like *Google Fact Check Explorer*, YouTube DataViewer, and Google Lens

Keywords

News Literacy, Credible Sources, Fact-Checking, Misinformation

Lesson aim

This lesson's objective is to introduce young people to the importance of news literacy in the digital age. It highlights the ability to critically analyze news sources and verify the accuracy of information. The goal is to empower participants to make informed decisions and contribute to a more informed society by reducing the spread of misinformation.

Lesson outcome

Participants will:
- Understand the concept and scope of news literacy.
- Recognize the role of news in shaping public understanding and democratic engagement.
- Develop skills to critically evaluate news sources and identify biases.
- Learn practical steps to verify information and responsibly share content.
- Reflect on the societal importance of being media literate.

Lesson implementation process

min. 1 - 5: Warming Up

- Begin with an engaging question: *"What does news literacy mean to you?"*
- Provide a *brief overview* of the lesson and its relevance in today's media-dominated world.
- Present *an example* of misinformation and its impact, such as a viral fake news story.

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min. 6 - 20: Collaborative Learning

- Discuss the definition and scope of news literacy, emphasizing the distinctions between hard news, editorials, opinion pieces, and sponsored content.
- Explore the role of news in society, highlighting its function in informing citizens, holding institutions accountable, and fostering social cohesion.
- Facilitate a group discussion on the challenges of misinformation in the digital age.

min. 21 - 50: Practical Application

- Guide participants through a fact-checking exercise using real-world examples.
- Lead a group activity where participants analyse a news story for credibility by examining its source, evidence, and potential biases.
- Introduce fact-checking tools and demonstrate how to use them effectively.
- Encourage participants to evaluate multiple news sources to cross-check information.

min. 51 - 60: Conclusion

- Summarize the key points discussed in the lesson, emphasize the importance of critical evaluation and responsible media consumption.
- Pose reflective questions such as:
    - "How can you apply news literacy skills in your daily life?"
    - "What steps can you take to combat misinformation in your community?"
- Provide resources for further learning, including online tools and articles on news literacy.

Materials / Tools

Video projector; laptop/desktop; Internet connection; access to *Moodle*; examples of news articles and fact-checking scenarios; handouts or digital links to fact-checking tools; *PowerPoint/Prezi* presentation enriched with visual materials (images and video clips).