



# Interviews and round tables with experts

Annex 5

University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Iberika, Stimmuli, CESIE, X Liceum, Maldita.es



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# Headlines extracted from interviews and round tables with experts in Media and Information Literacy (MIL)

"The digital age has amplified the spread and the impact of disinformation, posing significant risks to democratic societies. The effects range from trust in institutions and deepening social divisions to threatening public health, economic stability and even international relations" STIMMULI

"Societies could survive in an environment of high disinformation, but not democratic societies, which require a high degree of trust and transparency in matters ranging from election results to the operation of state institutions" UPV/EHU

"Quality media content consumption is closely related to democratic mechanisms safeguarding basic human rights" STIMMULI

"Consume quality information is important to take informed decisions in all scopes" IBERIKA

"Quality information can be defined as the information that, in its process of gathering and elaboration, was treated with honesty, professionalism and with no intention to manipulate" IBERIKA

"Generally, false information is well-constructed or contains highly appealing hooks for individuals. It resonates with emotions, sensitive issues and personal contexts, making people particularly susceptible to it", IBERIKA

"To deal with conspiratorial thinkers it is important to empathize and use simple but solid arguments, as disinformation is often shared out of fear or uncertainty." UPV/EHU

"When trying to deal with conspiratorial thinkers you have to encourage an open debate instead of putting forward strong arguments" STIMMULI

"Disinformation triggers an emotional response, so it's good to wait 30 minutes before you repost, separate emotions and opinion bias" XLICEUM

"Disinformation is not massive, but personalized. And algorithms help to it" IBERIKA

“There is not magic trick against disinformation. The phenomenon should be tackled from several angles, and preparing our society to mistrust information based on the way the message is constructed or how the source is presented is one of the most effective measures in the long run” IBERIKA

“To be effective, MIL should encompass several key components and competencias as understanding the media landscape, critical thinking análisis, recognize bias and propaganda and understand the rol of algorithms, among others” STIMMULI

“MIL should include critical thinking, the ability to analyse different kinds of content, to discern different forms of misinformation and malinformation and to find quality information and news to see the diference, among others” XLICEUM

“Media literacy should be both theoretical and practice. It should be hopeful, continuous and collaborative” IBERIKA

“Pedagogical expertise combined with fact-checking experience can yield excellent results with students” XLICEUM

“Both educators and informants should provide the same thing: a critical mind. Informants can teach the most common disinformation strategies, and educators can teach how to recognize, explain, and refute them” UPV/EHU

“Today media literacty course in curriculum should definitely include all new forms of digital media communication and user generated content and develop critical attitudes towards their use” STIMMULI

“To better integrate media literacy among the school community and educators, it is essential for journalists to work together with school educators into a multi-skateholder, interdisciplinary collaboration” STIMMULI

“Senior citizens are often anxious to get constantly connected, to stay relevant and to interact with others, ignoring significantly the potential risks of spreading desinformation and misinformation online” STIMMULI

“By teaching migrants how to access reliable information in their native language, with the assistance of cultural mediators, and the language of their host country, we can empower them to make informed decisions about their lives”

# ROUND TABLE TAKEAWAYS

## Iberika — GERMANY

1

### Impact of Disinformation

Undermines trust, democracy, and decision-making while polarizing society and spreading manipulation.

2

### Importance of Quality Information

Empowers individuals, fosters critical thinking, and strengthens democratic participation.

3

### Role of Algorithms

Reinforce biases, create echo chambers, and influence personal beliefs, particularly in elections.

4

### Identifying Misinformation

Be cautious of emotionally charged language, exaggerated claims, and lack of credible sources.

5

### MIL in Education

Should be cross-disciplinary, focusing on fact-checking, digital security, and media analysis.



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# ROUND TABLE TAKEAWAYS

CESIE — ITALY

1

## Disinformation and Society

Accelerates false narratives, weakens trust in institutions, and creates an "infodemic" of misinformation.

2

## Recognizing Red Flags

Misinformation thrives on emotional manipulation, lack of verification, and biased content.

3

## MIL for Different Audiences

Schools should teach verification skills; seniors need digital literacy; migrants benefit from media awareness.

4

## Collaboration Between Experts

Educators teach critical thinking, while journalists provide real-world insights into media accuracy.

5

## MIL Manual Essentials

Should focus on critical analysis, media ethics, fact-checking, and integrating MIL into daily teaching.



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# ROUND TABLE TAKEAWAYS

XLiceum — POLAND

1

## Effects of Disinformation

Fuels polarization, manipulates elections, spreads anti-science narratives, and weakens critical thinking.

2

## Algorithmic Influence

Creates filter bubbles, reinforcing personal biases and limiting exposure to different perspectives.

3

## Identifying False Information

Look for emotionally charged content, cognitive dissonance, and unreliable sources.

4

## Teaching MIL

Should be hands-on, integrated across subjects, and include teacher training to develop critical thinking.

5

## Role of Educators & Journalists

Fact-checkers provide expertise, while educators adapt MIL for different learning environments.



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# ROUND TABLE TAKEAWAYS

UPV/EHU— SPAIN

1

## Disinformation's Threat

Weakens democracy, manipulates public decisions, and disproportionately affects vulnerable groups.

2

## Quality Information & Decision-Making

Essential for informed choices, particularly in democratic participation.

3

## Algorithms & Bias

Exploit user preferences, fueling polarization and spreading misinformation.

4

## Critical Thinking in Education

MIL should be embedded in various subjects, helping students verify and evaluate sources.

5

## Practical MIL Manual

Must cover fact-checking, digital security, and ethical engagement with media.



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# ROUND TABLE TAKEAWAYS

## Stimmuli — GREECE

1

### Disinformation in the Digital Age

Spreads rapidly, deepening social divides and eroding public trust.

2

### The Need for Media Literacy

Essential for informed decision-making, resisting manipulation, and protecting democracy.

3

### Algorithms & Personalization

AI and social media reinforce biases, limiting exposure to diverse perspectives.

4

### Spotting Misinformation

Sensationalist headlines, emotional triggers, and unreliable sources should raise suspicion.

5

### Effective MIL Integration

Should combine critical media analysis, ethical digital practices, and real-world case studies.



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Question what you get. Media education to fight Disinformation

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[www.ehu.eus](http://www.ehu.eus)

**IBERIKA EDUCATION GROUP GGMBH**  
Germany  
[www.iberika.de](http://www.iberika.de)

**STIMMULI FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**  
Greece  
[stimmuli.eu](http://stimmuli.eu)

**CESIE ETS**  
Italy  
[cesie.org](http://cesie.org)

**X Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. prof. Stefana Banacha w Toruniu**  
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[www.xlo.torun.pl](http://www.xlo.torun.pl)

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