

Human Rights Education for Youth (HEY) Media and Information Literacy

From 02 to 29 March 2026



Call for participants

In partnership with:



HELSINKI INSTITUTE FOR
SOCIAL SCIENCES
AND HUMANITIES



Deadline for applications: 22 February 2026 (23:59 UTC – Lisbon time)

Online application form: <https://forms.office.com/e/YNbs0BSV9Q>

The HEY online training course on Media and Information Literacy is part of *iLEGEND III: Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue (2023-2026)*, Joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe: co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. The overall objective of the project is to increase the active engagement of EU member States, candidates and potential candidate countries' citizens (in particular young people) in safeguarding sustainable development and confronting global challenges and inequalities at local and global level.

Co-funded
by the European Union



Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe



Introduction

HEY (Human Rights Education for Youth), is a programme implemented by the North South Centre (NSC) of the Council of Europe, aimed at building youth capacity on human rights through a series of online tutored courses on relevant topics for young people in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Human rights education is part of SDG 4.7. to ensure that all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development and to contribute, among other, to promote a culture of global citizenship.

The HEY Programme is designed to strengthen young people's capacities to act for human rights, by raising their knowledge and understanding of European standards and other international legal frameworks for human rights protection, such as specific United Nations, League of Arab States and African Union treaties, conventions, protocols and charters.

Implemented in the framework of the [iLEGEND III](#) project, this online training course on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) has been developed by the NSC, in collaboration with [Organisation internationale de la Francophonie \(OIF\)](#), [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation \(UNESCO\)](#), [Helsinki Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities | University of Helsinki](#) and [European Youth Press](#). The training course aims at providing young people - members of Civil Society Organisations, young journalists and media practitioners - with new skills and competences on Global Education, MIL and Human Rights.

Rationale of the course

The developments and innovations in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) have changed the world we live in, making information, communication and knowledge more globalised, and broadening the influence of media, seen as a facilitator to connect people. The rise of social media and its by-products increased the amount of information available on the Internet, including by transforming everyday people into content producers. In addition, the fast-paced developments in artificial intelligence and its growing omnipresence are changing the ways in which information is generated, presented and interpreted. Media messages impact human dynamics both at local and global level, influencing economic behaviours, political analysis as much as interpersonal interactions and intercultural dialogue. If on the one hand, media may be used as an important tool in democratic processes, on the other hand, media can be a powerful tool to disseminate harmful content, leading to disinformation, hate speech and human rights infringement.

Media and Information Literacy (MIL) needs to be considered as a fundamental element for conscious and responsible living in an extremely complex world. A global approach to media and information literacy empowers citizens to deal with complexity and interdependency in the global context. MIL needs to be subsequently integrated as pivotal aspect of human rights education, as it provides a life-long set of skills and competences that enable informed decision-making and respectful interpersonal and intercultural dynamics.

Course objectives

1. To introduce the key concepts and definitions related to Media and Information Literacy and their contextualisation in a global dimension.
2. To develop a critical understanding of the interlinkages between human rights and the digital sphere, including freedom of expression, through the lens of global and regional legal frameworks.
3. To analyse the impact of new technologies on the right to privacy and non-discrimination online.
4. To build resilience and e-participation of young people in the context of information disorder and new technologies.



Content

- Global Education approach; Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture of the Council of Europe (RFCDC); MIL and global dimension; Digital footprint; Information crisis; Mis-information - Misleading news; Fake news.
- Introduction to Human Rights; Human rights in the digital sphere; Freedom of expression and its limits online; Internet intermediaries and freedom of expression standards; Mechanisms for protection.
- Introduction to basic technical notions: Artificial Intelligence and algorithm; Big Tech and information disorder; Confirmation bias, selective exposure and search algorithms; Cybercrime, cyber security and cyberviolence.
- e-Participation and Digital Citizenship; Civic activism impacted by technology; International Standards on free and fair elections; Surveillance and spyware; Media and Information Literacy advocacy actions; Networking and follow-up.

Methodology and working methods

The conceptual and methodological framework of the course is based on the [HELP programme](#) and the [Global Education Guidelines](#), systematised by the North-South Centre. Participants' learning process is focused on developing competences related to the main topic of the training course: the [CoE Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture \(RFCDC\)](#) is the main reference in terms of competences. Through a non-formal learning approach, collaborative and interactive activities and exercises allow participants to contribute to their own learning process. The training course is fully online, hosted on [HEY Programme e-learning platform](#), based on MOODLE WORKPLACE. Working methods are structured according to the possibilities offered by the Learning Management System, they include different kinds of activities and exercises that meet the different learning styles of participants. Three tutors accompany participants during the 4-weeks activity, supporting their learning process, providing feedback, moderating discussion, giving inputs, and promoting further reflections on the main topics of the training.

The activity programme is structured in 4 modules (one module per week). The expected workload is approximately 30 hours in total. The training course is mainly asynchronous: this means that each participant will learn on their own schedule and pace completing activities and exercises; nevertheless, a certain regularity is required, in order to properly follow the learning process of the group of participants, especially when a group activity is planned (when participants have to self-organise and schedule group work when it is convenient for everyone). Synchronous tutoring sessions are foreseen only to facilitate group activities, and eventually to support the participants' learning process and contribute to the achievement of expected learning outcomes. At the end of the training, participants obtain a certificate of participation.

Follow-up

Only participants who successfully complete this and/or other HEY courses will have the opportunity to apply for the Trainings of Tutors (TOT) to become certified HEY tutors. In 2026, 2 TOT are planned, in June and September (tbc), in the framework of the NSC Summer Youth Universities. Other networking and participation opportunities will also be available.



Profile of participants:

Active young people up to 30 years old, from the 46 Council of Europe Member States (with priority given to [NSC member states](#)), as well as from Africa and the Middle East:

- Members of Civil Society Organisations (i.e., members of informal groups; grassroots movements; coalitions; local, national and regional youth organisations; youth workers working on Media and Information Literacy; young human rights defenders active in the field; young journalists and media practitioners; education practitioners in the formal and non-formal sector such as teachers, trainers, educators, academia, etc., including university students interested in MIL and human rights issues).
- Young professionals (i.e., young professionals dealing with MIL responsibilities in the private sector; young politicians and policy advisors; social media activists, hacktivists and communication managers; media literacy experts/trainers/teachers).

Selection criteria

100 participants will be selected for this activity (50 for the course in English, 50 for the one in French), application content will be the basis of the selection's procedure. Priority will be given to candidates active in a CSO or a youth organisation/platform/youth-related institution, with the potential to act as multipliers. Candidates should be able to communicate in the working language of the course they select (English or French).

This activity is open to young people from the 46 Council of Europe Member States (with priority given to [NSC member states](#)), African and the Middle East countries. The selection will be carried out by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, also seeking gender and geographical balance. The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Please note that, due to the large number of applications, only the selected candidates will be contacted. Individual requests and follow-up questions will not be addressed, unless considered as assistance to the application process. The selection results will be announced on 25 February 2026. After the communication of the selection results, the selected participants must confirm their participation to the North-South Centre within the given deadline; failure to do so will result in them being replaced by candidates on the shortlist.

Costs

The activity is fully free of charge.

How to apply

Please submit the [online application](#) form before 22 February 2026 at 23:59 UTC – Lisbon time.

When you fill the form, please select the language you want to attend the course in (English or French, on the top right of your screen on the first page of the online application form).

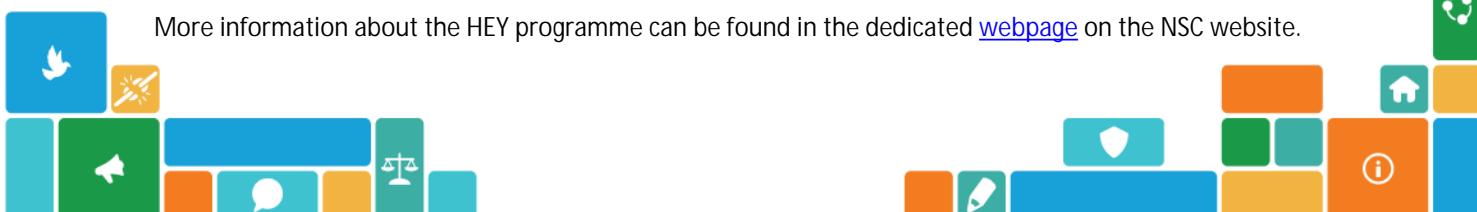
For more information

NSC-CoE Secretariat:

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More information about the HEY programme can be found in the dedicated [webpage](#) on the NSC website.



The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

Key instrument of the external dimension of the Council of Europe, the [North-South Centre \(NSC\)](#) serves as a vector for transmitting its values, standards, and tools beyond the European continent through political dialogue, networking, and the implementation of cooperation projects. As an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe, it brings together several European and African countries to exchange ideas and take action on shared issues. With a solid 34-year expertise in the fields of global education, intercultural dialogue, and youth sector cooperation in Europe and beyond, and a broad geographical mandate with a focus on the Southern Neighbourhood and Sub-Saharan Africa, the NSC through its institutionalised “quadrilogue” approach engages high-level representatives from governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, as well as civil society from different regions of the world to work together on issues of common interest: the forefront role played by civil society, thanks to a robust network of youth organisations, ensures a structured, inclusive and sustainable participation with a multiplier effect.

To support the implementation of the Reykjavik Declaration, the 2024-2027 strategy of the NSC strengthens the external dimension of the Council of Europe to: enhance the impact of the Council of Europe's Neighbourhood Policy with the Southern Mediterranean by disseminating the values and standards of the Council of Europe among the youth, a cornerstone to ensure the sustainability of democratic reforms; develop further and gradually cooperation with Sub-Saharan African countries that demonstrate an interest in the standards of the Council of Europe; act as a facilitating platform for dialogue between Europe and other regions of the world on the priorities of the Council of Europe.

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

Created on 20 March 1970 in Niamey, the [Organisation internationale de la Francophonie \(OIF\)](#) is an intergovernmental organisation that implements political, educational, economic and cultural cooperation between its 90 member states and governments, at the service of populations. The OIF provides support in the development or consolidation of their public policies and carries out international policy and multilateral cooperation actions, based on sharing of experiences and good practices, consultation, solidarity and inclusive collaboration with numerous institutional, academic and civil society networks in the French-speaking area.

Its action is structured around four main missions: to promote the French language, multilingualism and cultural diversity; to promote peace, democracy and human rights; to support education, training, higher education and research; and to develop economic cooperation for sustainable development. Particular attention is paid to young people, women and digitalisation.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

[UNESCO](#) pursues a strategic programme in all areas of its mandate and at all levels of action, to not only address young people as beneficiaries but also engage with them as change-makers, knowledge-holders, and partners. Through a combination of capacity-building initiatives, participatory platforms and innovative learning resources, UNESCO strengthens the media and information literacy competencies, leadership and engagement of young people in order to shape safer, more inclusive and more informed digital environments.

Helsinki Institute for Social Science and Humanities (HSSH)

The [Helsinki Institute for Social Science and Humanities \(HSSH\)](#) is a pioneer in large-scale research in human sciences at the University of Helsinki. HSSH is a joint unit of the Faculty of Humanities, Educational Sciences, Law, Theology and Social Sciences, as well as the Swedish School of Social Sciences (SSKH) and the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies (HCAS). HSSH promotes, coordinates and supports multidisciplinary research cooperation in social sciences and humanities. We are building a new, interdisciplinary research culture that



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creates the conditions for new research openings and promotes the renewal of content and methodology in social sciences and humanities research.

European Youth Press (EYP)

[European Youth Press \(EYP\)](#) is a Europe-wide network of youth media organisations working to empower young media makers to actively participate in the public sphere through fair, independent and responsible journalism, contributing to democracy, international development and a sustainable future. With 41 member organisations, several committees and a reach of over 60,000 young journalists across Europe, EYP is a democratic, non-profit organisation founded and run by young media makers. It supports its national structures through the development and coordination of European-level projects, providing education, training and international opportunities, fostering cooperation and cultural understanding, promoting media literacy and professional standards, and advocating for media independence, human rights and inclusive, well-informed public discourse, while actively engaging in policy debates on journalism education and media across Europe and beyond.

