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UNIVERSITÉ SIDI MOHAMED BEN ABDELLAH DE FÈS
كلية الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية سايس - فاس
FACULTÉ DES LETTRES ET DES SCIENCES HUMAINES SAÏS-FÈS



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THE AFRO-MEDITERRANEAN RESEARCH LABORATORY
OF DISCOURSE, COMMUNICATION AND CULTURAL STUDIES



جامعة مولاي إسماعيل
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UNITWIN Cooperation Program on
Media and Information Literacy
and Intercultural Dialogue (MILID)

CALL FOR PAPER

**Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Kingdom of Morocco
The Faculty of Arts and Humanities Sais Fes**

**The Afro-Mediterranean Research Laboratory of Discourse,
Communication, and Cultural Studies**

The Research Unit on Media and information in the Arab World

In Cooperation with

UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network

on Media and Information Literacy & Intercultural Dialogue

In Collaboration with

Moulay Ismail University & the Research Laboratory LaRCIGALS

Organize:

**The Second International Forum on Media and
Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue**

October 14 -15, 2026

**In Celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Fez Declaration
on Media and Information Literacy &**

**15th Anniversary of UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network
on Media and Information Literacy & Intercultural Dialogue**

CALL FOR PAPERS

In celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Fez Declaration on Media and Information literacy adopted during the First International Forum on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue, held in 2011 at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University of Fez, Morocco, we are delighted to announce that Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities Sais Fez, the Afro-Mediterranean Research Laboratory of Discourse, Communication, and Cultural Studies and the Research Unit on Media and Information Literacy in the Arab World organise, in cooperation with UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue, and in collaboration with the Research Group on Intercultural Communication, Dialogue and Conflict Resolution and the Research Laboratory LaRCIGALS of Moulay Ismail University of Meknes, the 2nd International Forum on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue on 14-15 October 2026 at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities Sais Fez, Morocco.

The Forum is organized in the framework of the UNESCO-MILID University Network, of which the University of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah is a Founding Member. It is also organized in the framework of UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance in which Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University is a member.

The First International Forum on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue was organized with the collaboration of UNESCO as a Lead Partner; ICESCO, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS), and Moulay Ismail University of Meknes, Morocco, as Key Partners; the European Association for Viewers' Interests (EAVI), the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), the World Summit on Media for Children Foundation (WSMCF), Lagos State University, Nigeria; Mentor International Media Education Association (MENTOR), Philippine Communication Society (PCS) and the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC).

The event brought together over 200 experts, educators, policymakers, civil society organizations, and media professionals from around the world.

This Forum was the first at the international level to examine both media and information literacy based on the conviction that in the digital age and convergence of communications, information literacy and media literacy should go hand in hand to achieve full human development, to build civic societies, and to lay the foundations for world peace and intercultural dialogue. In fact, seeing that media literacy and information literacy are closely intertwined, UNESCO took the lead in blending the two concepts in education curricula to cope with the challenges of inclusive information and knowledge-based societies. A Model Media and Information Literacy Curriculum was prepared to this effect. It was launched by UNESCO in three languages: English, French and Arabic in that Forum.

As one of the outcomes, the Forum adopted the Fez Declaration on MIL and a Plan of Action to promote MIL and encourage international, regional and inter-regional cooperation to this effect.

The first International Forum on Media and Information Literacy marked a historic step in reaffirming the conviction that MIL is a human rights enabler equipping individuals with the skills and awareness to

critically access and use information ethically and responsibly for the public good and that MIL can be a foundational competency for building bridges between cultures, nations and communities.

It explored the crucial role of MIL in fostering responsible, effective and ethical involvement and engagement in the digital age and empowering citizens to navigate linguistic and cultural differences for peace and intercultural dialogue in an increasingly interconnected world.

Continuation and Expansion

The Second International Forum on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue builds directly on this foundation. It is conceived not as a separate initiative, but as a continuation of the 2011 Forum, emphasizing the urgent need to contextualize MIL in today's world which faces political and social conflicts, climate change, rising disinformation and polarization and collapse of humanitarian values. We live in an era increasingly characterized by violence, political tensions and mistrust between religions, cultures, and communities and other forms of information disorder. Media narratives and digital platforms often amplify these divisions, spreading stereotypes, fake news, and hate speech that undermine social cohesion and negatively impact human thoughts.

In this fragile context, Media and Information Literacy (MIL) emerges as a civic and ethical competency that enables individuals to critically engage with information, resist manipulation, and foster dialogue across differences.

MIL empowers citizens to become active participants in intercultural exchanges, equipping them with the tools to challenge exclusionary discourses and to advocate for their linguistic and cultural rights, which makes media and information literacy an urgent matter to find solutions to these pressing issues.

The Forum is a high-level occasion to bring together experts, teachers, journalists and stakeholders to further raise awareness of the importance of MIL in our lives and celebrate the progress achieved towards Media and Information literacy for All since the first edition of the Forum in 2011. This second edition of the Forum seeks to highlight the role of MIL in fostering a culture of MIL at all levels and for all parts of society, and the potential of MIL to bring peace to all spheres of life.

Submission Streams

The Forum Programme Committee welcomes papers from a wide variety of interdisciplinary and theoretical perspectives. Submissions are organized into the streams listed below:

Key Themes

- Media and Information Literacy (MIL) for Building Information Integrity
- MIL as a Human Rights Enabler
- MIL for Countering Disinformation and Hate Speech
- MIL as a Critical Tool in Challenging Fake News in the Digital Age
- MIL for Children and Youth Protection
- MIL Integration in Education: From Policy to Practice
- MIL for Peace Building, Intercultural Dialogue, and Social Cohesion
- MIL and Governance: A New Civic Education
- MIL for Linguistic and Cultural Inclusion

- MIL for Strengthening Democracy and Freedom of Expression
- MIL for Promoting Critical thinking and Ethics
- MIL for Ethical Journalism in Today's World
- MIL and AI in Education.

Application Procedure:

Contact: Forum Chair, Dr. Abdelhamid NFISSI

Forum Dates: 14-15 October, 2026

Forum Venue: Fully in-person: Faculty of Arts and Humanities Sais Fez, Morocco

N.B. Accepted Participants should cover their own travel and accommodation costs.

Working Language: English

Abstract Submission Deadline: 20th June, 2026

Notification of Acceptance: 30th June, 2026

Submissions of Abstracts related to one of the themes of the conference should be done by e-mail to the Forum Chair, Dr. Abdelhamid NFISSI: abdelhamidnfissi@gmail.com, cc: mediaandinformationliteracy.ma@gmail.com, taking into consideration the following guidelines:

- Length of abstracts: 500 words.
- The following details are required:
 - Name, title (Dr., Prof., etc.), organizational affiliation and e-mail address of author/authors
 - Title of the paper
 - 3 to 5 Keywords
 - **Short biographical sketch of each participant (maximum 100 words)** showing expertise in one or more fields of Media and Information Literacy, including main publications, field work and participation in national and international scientific events, advocacy, awareness-raising campaigns, and (pilot) projects aimed to enhance media and information literacy at national, regional and/or international levels, and any other relevant information showing the impact of the participant's work and activities on specific groups or society at large.

Time allotted for Presentations: 15 minutes.

We look forward to seeing you in Fez in October 2026.