News Literacy Summer Institute 2015
Follow Up Report

Faculty of Political Science and Journalism
Mukhran Guliashvili  
Tbilisi, Georgia

How was News Literacy curriculum used?

In 2015 Mukhran Guliashvili and his friend founded training centre in Georgia. In summer 2015 and winter 2016 they organized camps for school students (aged 9-15). Each camp lasted for 10 days. Mukhran Guliashvili took students to mountainous resort in Georgia, Bakuriani. Since July 2015 he organized 4 camps: 3 in the summer and 1 in the winter. There were around 40 kids per each camp.

“In our camps we are delivering trainings about various topics, but after I attended NL course in Poznan I decided to implement the same course in my camps. As our students are still very young I decided not to speak with them an official language so I tailored course to their interests: first of all I realized the media information source they use every day is not a newspaper, nor a tv, but Facebook there is a research that claims that average time Georgian kids spend online is 6 hours a day. Based on information I decided to use Facebook as a learning material in NL course.

How did he employ the News Literacy curriculum?

Mukhran Guliashvili invented a funny game. With use of http://simitator.com he made fake Facebook posts about kids, which were supposed to annoy them. It was printed and distributed among the participants. He observed their reactions when they were reading fake posts.

“My goal was to discover kids' reactions to false information and how they were judging the news, how they were applying critical thinking.

At the end of the game Mukhran and kids gathered and discussed about critical approach to the information they were receiving. His goal was not only make them critical toward news, but to make them aware of how to differentiate between true and false information.

“Game happened to be so fun that after camp kids started using it in their own classrooms. Another tool I used as teaching material was https://www.tineye.com/ photo validator. As kids love photos I decided to make them critical evaluators of photos they see in the Internet. What is more, with use of Google Map I organized another game and it was also connected to critical application of information they receive from Google. As you can assume this was not classical course of NL like we had in Poznan but my goal was to make kids to start thinking critically (wake up their brains). It was like a practice for them in critical thinking.

I believe that once they start it then they will apply their critical approach to everything.

Discussion after the game with fake posts
Alina Kurnashevich  
Grodno, Belarus

How was News Literacy course used?

During summer 2015 Alina Kurnashevich (a professional English teacher, who lives and works in Grodno, Belarus) and her friend from Switzerland (a professional photographer) conducted a series of workshops for children aged 10-16. About 25 children took part in this event.

“Our main idea was to work on both subjects: power of information and the Internet.

How did she employ the News Literacy curriculum?

Alina Kurnashevich with her coworker presented printed and digital materials for their young students. While friend of Alina was covering subjects connected with his profession, Alina used elements of News Literacy curriculum focusing on The Power of Information and Verification tools.

Arukaino Umukuro  
Abuja, Nigeria

How was News Literacy course used?

Arukaino Umukuro is award winning journalist of “Punch Magazine” - the biggest daily in Nigeria. In the nearest future he wants to combine his experience with knowledge gained during News Literacy Summer Institute in Poznań. He is preparing a course for MA journalism students at the local university.
How was News Literacy course used?

As dr Boryana Angelova- Iglova is an Assistant Professor of Sport Journalism, Ethics and Philosophy of Sport at Bulgarian National Sports Academy, “Vassil Levski” she was able to implement all parts of News Literacy curriculum into the “Journalistic Ethics” course.

It is a course both undergraduate (1 group, 15 hours, 15 students), and Master students (2 groups, 30 students each, 30 hours).

“What was the most important for me, was the verification tools. I wanted to teach my students how to distinguish between fake and real information. For me is especially important in Bulgaria, where we are still facing problems with valuable and trustworthy media content.”

More information about News Literacy Summer Institute in Poznań can be found here.