

Roundtable 2: Digital Literacy and Disinformation-Resilience Research Israeli Academia and Civil Society

Date: 29 May 2025 | Location: INSS, Tel Aviv

Session Moderator: Edan Ring, VP Community and Society at ISOC-IL

Focus: Sharing cutting-edge knowledge and advancing research and media literacy education, Identifying the critical roles of civil society and academia in building disinformation resilience and critical media skills

Rapporteur: Hadar Lahav (ISOC-IL)

Participants and Discussion Contributors:

Sarit Barzilai – Education professor at Haifa University, researcher on online misinformation and digital literacy. **Rafael Aren** – EU delegation spokesperson, expert in public diplomacy. **Tomer Avital** – Journalist and activist teaching critical thinking. **Saed Diabat** - Researcher on Arab society and remote learning, leads media literacy project. **Dr. Galit Richter** – Haifa University, expert on AI-related visual misinformation. **Thueira Koti** – Doctoral student studying the evaluation of online information by Arabic-speaking students, and teacher in Arab society. **Dr. Keren Katko Aili** – Specialist in activist pedagogy and civic media literacy, lecturer at Oranim College, member of Fake/Not. **Dr. Yonatan Mendeles** – Mofet Institute expert on teacher development, communication, and digital divides. **Raviv Nava** – Media literacy researcher, leader in the Israel Communication Association. **Adar Ze'evi** – Israeli Institute for Journalism, promotes media literacy in middle schools. **Dana Elazar Halevi** – Leads youth-focused media literacy initiative “Emet BaKeshet,” children’s author. **Dr. Gitit Brown** – Online culture researcher, FakeReporter educational initiatives. **Elisabeth Perrin** – Reporter for EU project (ISOC-IL), English teacher in Eilat, involved with TALMA science project. **Libi Oz** – Head of Public Affairs at National Cyber Directorate, focuses on online foreign influence. **Adi Tabachnik** – Spokesperson at National Cyber Directorate, communication, and Middle East student. **Dr. Inbal Klein Avraham** – Education researcher at Technion.

Key Challenges and Issues

- Recognition of **insufficient systemic and coordinated response in promoting media literacy in Israel**, exacerbated by recent crises like the October 7th conflict and past COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Israel ranks significantly lower in media literacy**
 - Media Literacy Index 2023 – Measuring Vulnerability of Societies to Disinformation
- Current **educational initiatives in formal and informal education frameworks are sporadic and lack a national strategy or coordinated oversight**. Fragmented efforts and a lack of coordination among different sectors and stakeholders.
- Participants emphasized the importance of **developing critical media consumption and dissemination skills from a young age**.
- The need for incorporating multi-stakeholder cooperation, particularly involving academia, civil society, educational institutions, and public authorities, was repeatedly highlighted.

Messages from the Roundtable:

- **The necessity of systemic national-level intervention**, alongside the active participation of civil society organizations, to foster a resilient society capable of critically engaging with information.
- **Civil society organizations and academic research institutions are crucial** in filling the gaps left by formal governmental structures, urging authorities to reduce bureaucratic obstacles and strengthen civil organizations' capacities.
- Recommendations included the **establishment of multi-sector partnerships and coordination mechanisms or a “task-force”** to streamline efforts and maximize impact. Development of targeted educational initiatives within both formal and informal educational contexts and the public sphere.
- **Need & Priorities:**
 - Creation of cross-sectoral mechanisms that facilitate ongoing collaboration and resource sharing among stakeholders.
 - Continuous advocacy and policy engagement to embed media literacy firmly within national educational and social policy frameworks.

- Adaptation and localization of international experience and best practices from countries under similar digital threats and needs (for example, the Baltic countries).

Resources Recommended for Further Research and Policy Development in Israel:

- [נייר עמדה - תוכנית לאומית בנושא חינוך לאוריינות מדיה \(2023\)](#)
מכון מופ"ת, המכון הישראלי לעיתונות ע"ש קלצל וקהילת אוריינות תקשורת באגודה הישראלית לתקשורת
- יחד ננצח את הפייק ניוז ברשתות - [פורטל](#) כלים ומשאבים לאוריינות מדיה ומידע (2024)
איגוד האינטרנט הישראלי
- סקר [צריכת חדשות וחשיפה לדיסאינפורמציה בישראל \(2024\)](#)
איגוד האינטרנט הישראלי והטכניון
- [תופעות "פוסט-אמת": הגדרות, השלכות ופתרונות חינוכיים \(2023\)](#)
שקד דברן-זיוון, אילת ברעם-צברי, מכון שמואל נאמן
- Max Planck Institute for Human Development, [Empowering Individuals: A Comprehensive Toolbox for Combating Online Misinformation \(2023\)](#)
- UNESCO, [Behind the Screens: Insights from Digital Content Creators: Understanding Their Intentions, Practices and Challenges \(2023\)](#)