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TeaMLit's Insights: The Media & Information Literacy Landscape

Wednesday Webinar on Teacher Education in Digital Media Literacy

Lucia Mesquita & Shane Murphy, Dublin City University
Lina Pranaityte-Wergin & Jennifer Miller, Heidelberg University

Overview

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Intro
About the TeaMLit Project

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The project TeaMLit – Teacher Education in Digital and Media Literacy: Providing Guidance, Resources and Support for Teacher Trainers in Europe, funded by the European Media and Information Fund (EMIF)

The purpose of the project is to establish a value-added and sustainable network providing guidance, resources and support to European teacher trainers in MIL and in so doing, to directly advance students' abilities to tackle disinformation. TeaMLit partners will gather and share knowledge, pilot promising approaches, develop training materials and conduct a large-scale multiplier campaign.

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Work-Package 2 Team

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Shane Murphy

Dublin City University

Lucia Mesquita

Dublin City University

Lina Pranaityte

Heidelberg University

Jennifer Miller

Heidelberg University

Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Concept

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The TeaMLit project considers that Media and Information Literacy (MIL) refers to **interlinked competencies and knowledge** required to access, find, analyse, evaluate and produce media. MIL education aims at developing **people's critical skills for becoming well-informed, empowered and responsible citizens** in democratic, equity- and justice-based societies. The subjects or topics related to MIL might involve but are not limited to critical thinking, dis-/mis-information, (social) media, multimodality, new literacies, online safety, data literacy, conspiracy theories, cyber issues, digital and technology skills, etc.

Report

The main aim of the report is to thoroughly **map, frame and analyse current practices, barriers and opportunities in initial and in-service teacher training and continuing professional development in media and information literacy (MIL)** in Spain and Catalonia, France, Poland, Croatia, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, and Belgium-Wallonia

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Providing guidance, resources and support to teacher trainers on Media Literacy

D2.2 Report on Research, Review and Analysis (WP2)

European | MEDIA AND INFORMATION | Fund
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Methodology

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We employed a multi-method approach to understand MIL training in 8 target areas. Initially, we undertook **desk research, analysing academic papers, policies, and institutional websites**. A critical part of this phase was accessing course and module content, such as syllabi, though it was occasionally unavailable. We also conducted in-depth interviews with **19 key stakeholders across these regions**. This method allowed us to delve into MIL teaching practices, resource availability, and programme backgrounds, offering a comprehensive view of the MIL landscape in each area.

CROATIA

Context

Croatia, situated at the crossroads of Central, Mediterranean, and Southeast Europe with a notable Adriatic Sea coastline, has seen its population decline. MIL in Croatia faces significant challenges, with the country receiving a high-risk score in the 2022 Media Pluralism Monitor. While elements of MIL are present in school curricula and efforts are made by the government to promote it, a comprehensive national strategy is lacking.

CROATIA

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MIL Education

MIL content is integrated into subjects such as the Croatian Language, and through extracurricular activities, the Ministry of Science and Education prioritizes digital competencies over specific MIL research findings, with additional integration facilitated by school librarians who often lead extracurricular programmes on media literacy.

CROATIA

Teacher Training

Despite positive developments in university pre-service training, much must be done. Challenges persist in providing uniform training and resources for in-service teachers. Collaborative efforts among educational institutions, NGOs, and government bodies positively impact the MIL landscape.

Spain

Context

Demographic and Social Landscape: Spain confronts challenges such as an ageing population and high youth unemployment but maintains a diverse population with immigrants from Europe, Africa, and South America. Multilingualism: Co-official languages alongside Spanish, including Catalan, Occitan (Aranese), Valencian, Galician, and Basque, enrich Spain's linguistic landscape.

Spain

MIL Education

MIL is integral to Spain's education system, embedded in legislation like the Organic Law of Education (LOE) and the General Law on Audiovisual Communication 2022. These laws emphasize critical thinking, digital competence, and responsible media consumption.

Spain

Teacher Training

Emerging players in Spain's MIL ecosystem include Fact-Checking organizations like Matilda.es and Verificat, along with Communication Faculties in higher education institutions. Collaboration between academia, regulatory bodies like the Audiovisual Council of the Valencian Community, and public broadcasters like RTVE further enhances MIL initiatives.

Catalonia

Context

Catalonia is an autonomous community within Spain. With a population of 7 million in 2022, Catalonia is undergoing significant demographic shifts. Its education system, consisting of over 7,300 public and 36,900 private educational centers, prioritizes the enhancement of digital competence and educational outcomes.

Catalonia

MIL Education

Both the Spanish state and the Catalan Government prioritize media literacy within their respective legal frameworks. Additionally, regulatory bodies like the Catalan Audiovisual Council (CAC) play a crucial role in advancing media education initiatives, generating essential publications, and forging partnerships with educational institutions to bolster media literacy efforts.

Catalonia

Teacher Training

Catalonia actively adapts to the digital era, with initiatives like the "Framework of reference for teaching digital competence" and various MIL-related courses offered by universities, focusing on pre-service and in-service teacher training. Key stakeholders like the CAC and Verificat contribute significantly to MIL. While progress has been made in integrating MIL into education, challenges remain in standardizing content and ensuring comprehensive teacher training.

Poland

Context

Poland's population, currently around 38 million, has experienced dynamic shifts since post-World War II. Despite early challenges, recent efforts by government bodies, institutions, and non-governmental organisations highlight the significance of media literacy, with initiatives focusing on digital competency, infrastructure development, and formal education integration.

Poland

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MIL Education

MIL programmes are absent from the official curriculum. The ecosystem involves numerous non-profit organizations advocating for educational improvements, although challenges such as the inconsistent and a lack of structured programmes persist. Despite efforts by NGOs and professional associations to promote MIL, coordination and systemic improvements are needed to address teacher motivation and the low confidence level in traditional media among the population.

Poland

Teacher Training

Recent political changes offer hope for potential improvements in the education system, with initiatives like the **Pact for Education** potentially bringing positive changes to curriculum and teacher development. Fact-checking organisations like the Pravda Association and Demagog are crucial in combating disinformation and promoting reliable information, offering workshops, training programs, and advocacy efforts to enhance critical thinking and informed citizenship.

Luxembourg

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Context:

- ca. 660.000 inhabitants

- strong population growth mainly due to immigration; very multilingual & multicultural

- 3 administrative languages: Luxembourgish, French & German

Luxembourg

MIL in the education system:

- At a national level, the Ministry of Education, Childhood and Youth with agencies under its patronage oversees media literacy.

- important role of government concerning MIL in formal & non-formal education, but non-government players are involved as well

- recent introduction of two new school subjects concerning MIL: "Digital Sciences" (secondary education) & "Computational Thinking & Coding" (elementary education)

Luxembourg

MIL in teacher training:

pre-service training:

- 1 university: University of Luxembourg, founded in 2003
- paths to become an elementary or secondary teacher differ
- some courses concerning MIL are offered during training
- challenges: many students in higher education, including teaching students, study abroad

in-service training:

- Teachers in elementary & secondary education have the right to continuing training & are obliged to spend at least eight hours per year on it.
- continuing training opportunities (e.g. by IFEN)
- for elementary education teachers: possibility to become a specialised teacher in digital literacy

Bulgaria

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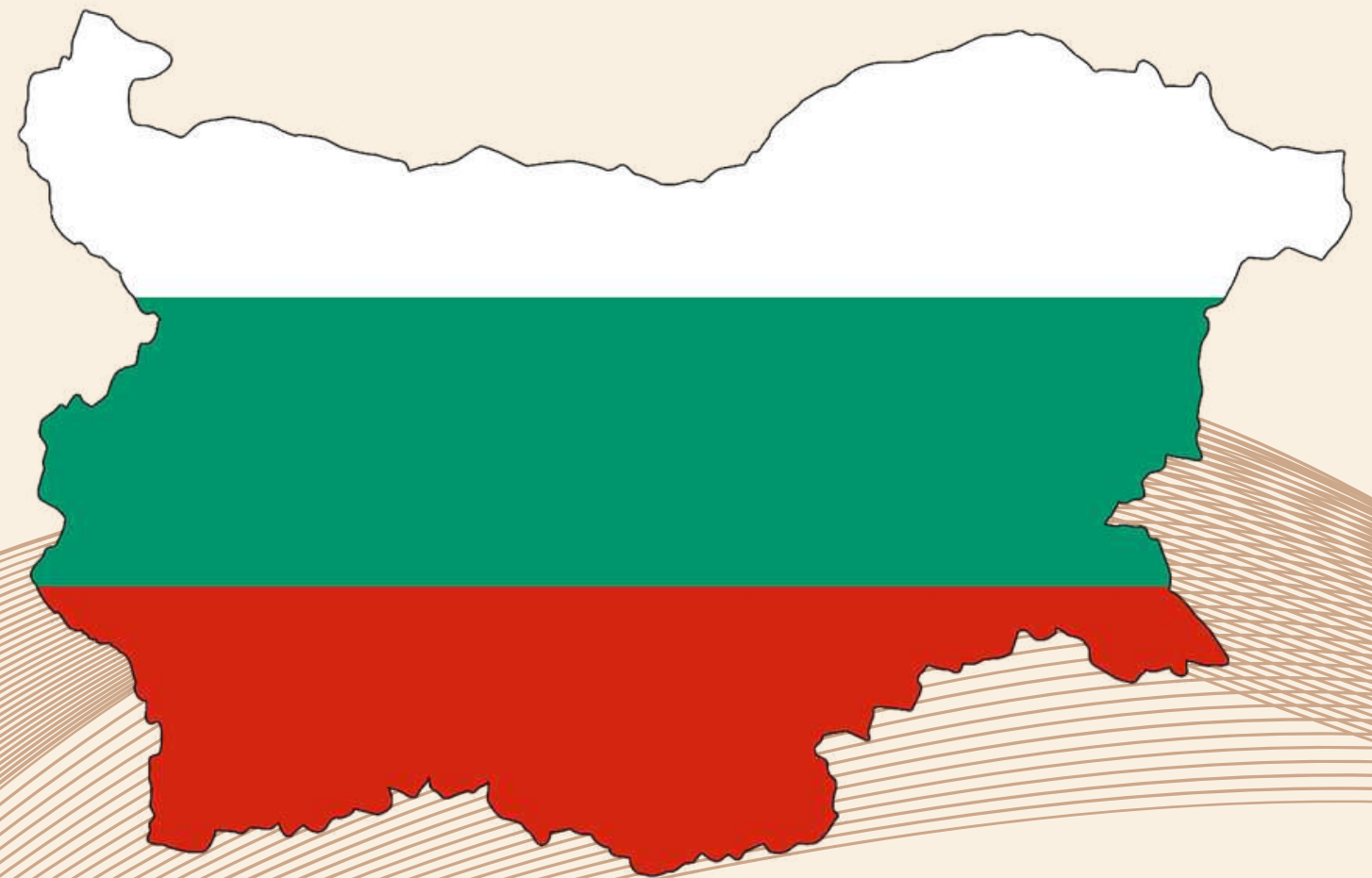
Context:

- Over 6,4 million inhabitants;
- Educational disparities depend on geographical location and socio-economic situation;
- School education is mandatory until 16;
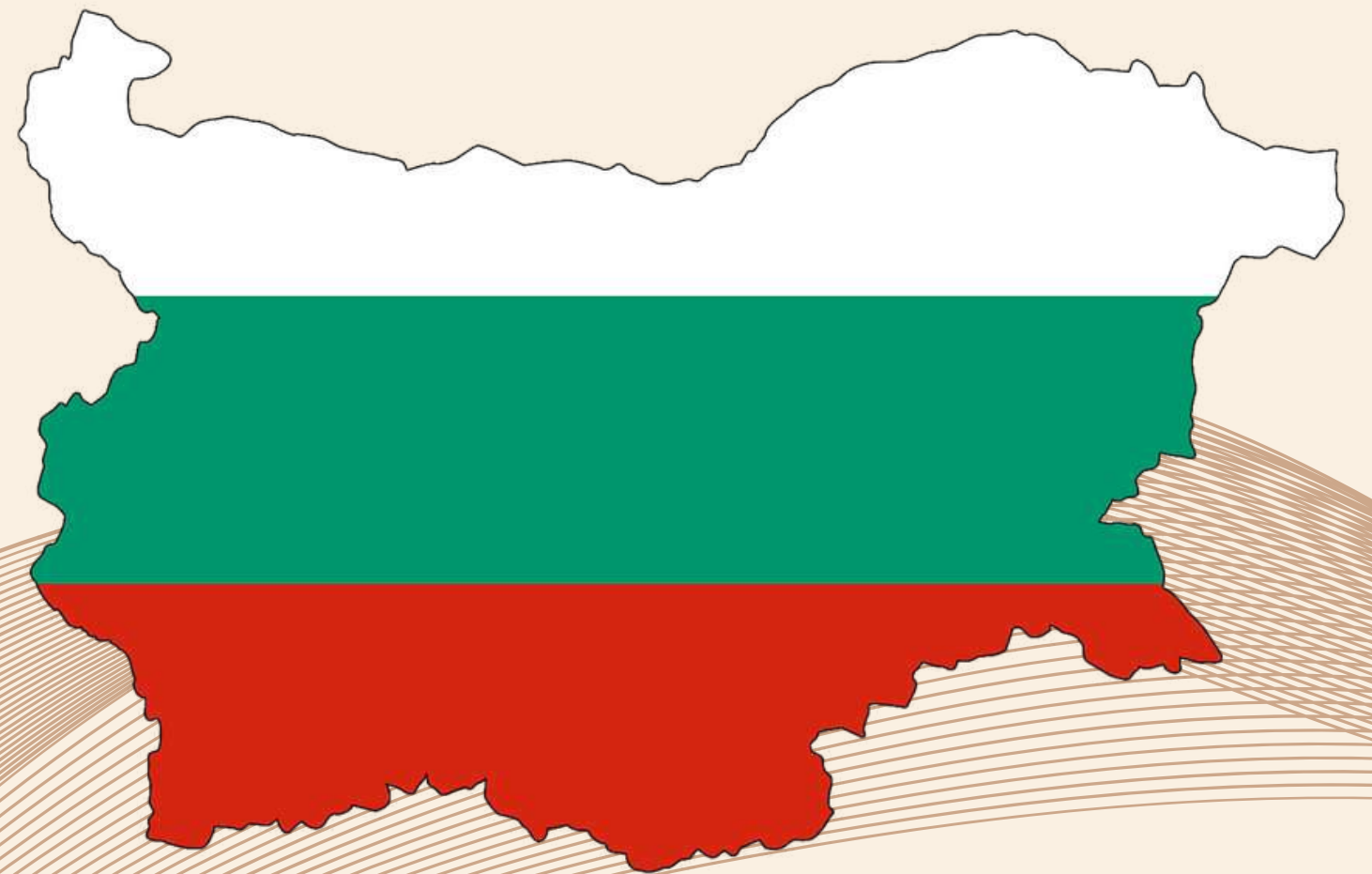- The Ministry of Education and Science.

Bulgaria

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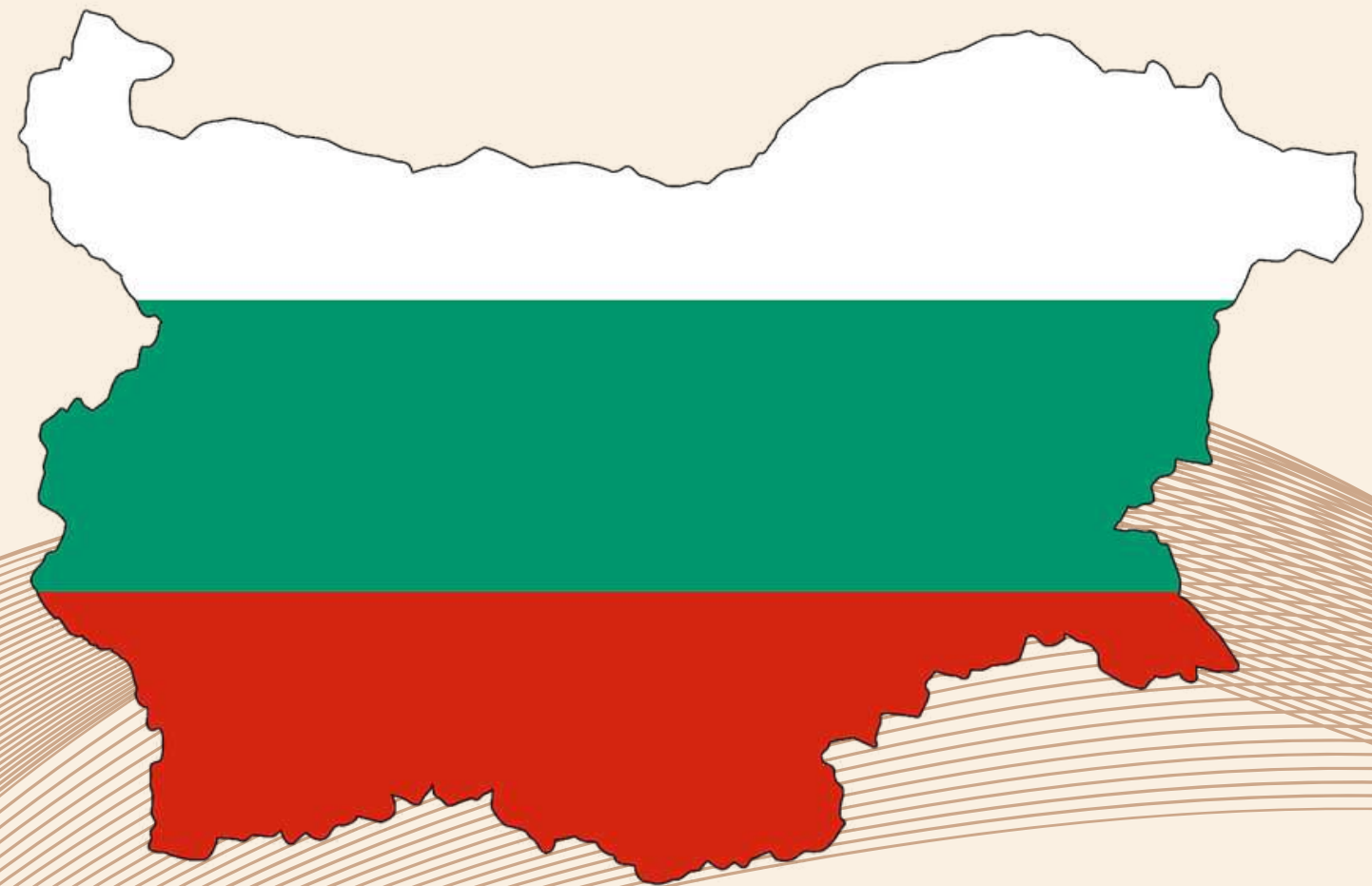
MIL in Education:

- From 2020 *civic education* subject;

- Falls under extracurricular activity (journalistic or photography clubs, school's radio/video/podcast creation);

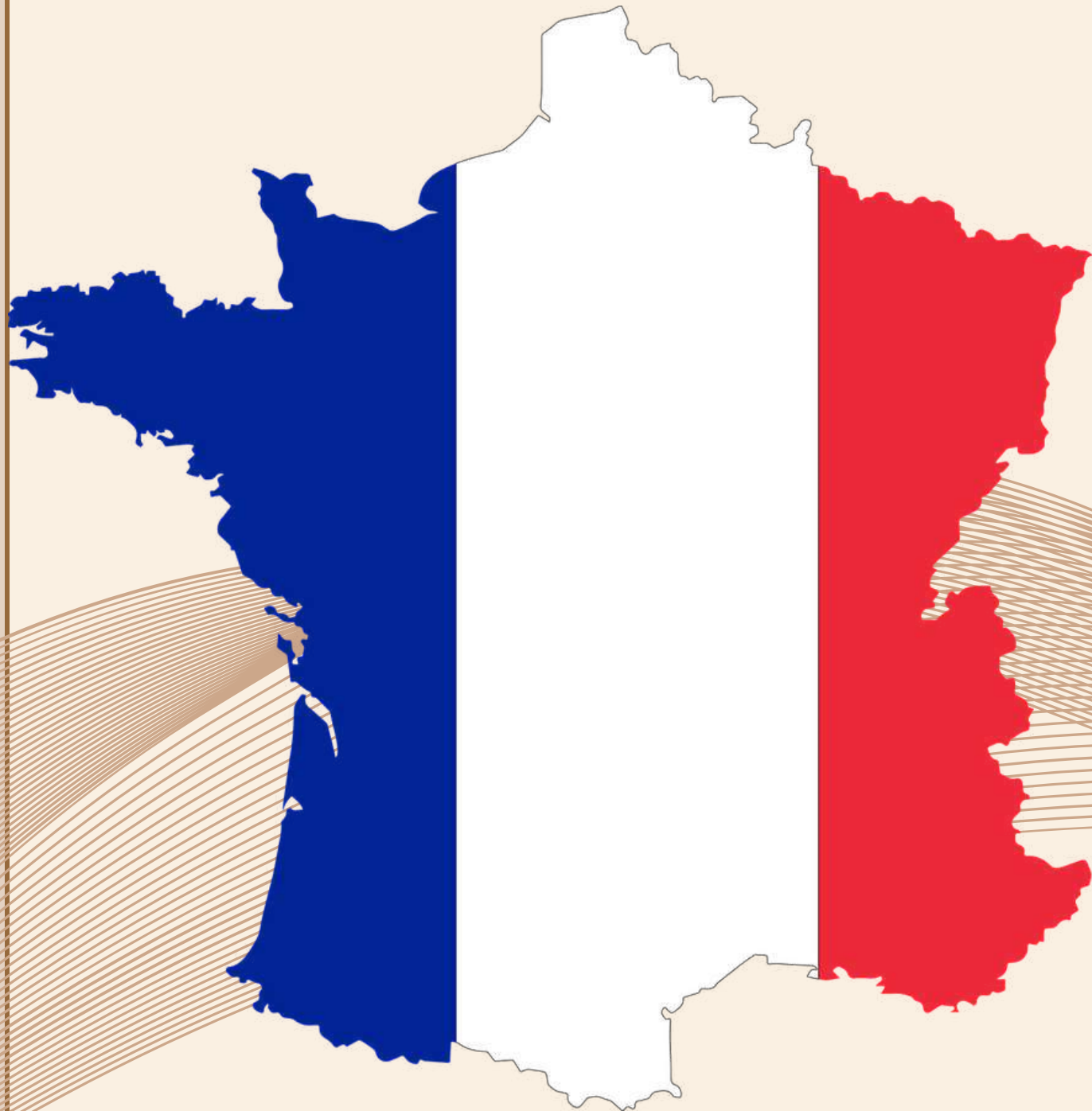- Nongovernmental sector is particularly active in various MIL activities .

Bulgaria

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MIL in Teacher Training

- Pre-service - in ca. 8 universities;

- Digital tools for pedagogical purposes;

- In-service CPD is mandatory, is paid by the teachers and evolves through 5 level scale;

- High peer-to-peer support in upgrading skills - domino effect.

France

Context:

- 18 administrative regions (with 5 overseas departments;
- Over 68 mln people;
- Ca. 15.8 mln pupils and students;
- Over 688.000 in-service teachers;
- Department for National Education, Higher Education and Research;
- Education is compulsory until 16 years old.

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France

MIL in Education:

- Long history and increase in MIL;
- CLEMI – The Centre for Media and Information Literacy since 1983;
- 2013 national education reform;
- 2015 attack on Charlie Hebdo;
- 2020 killing of the history and civics teacher Samuel Paty;
- MIL (EMI – Education aux médias et à l'information) is compulsory and cross-cutting.
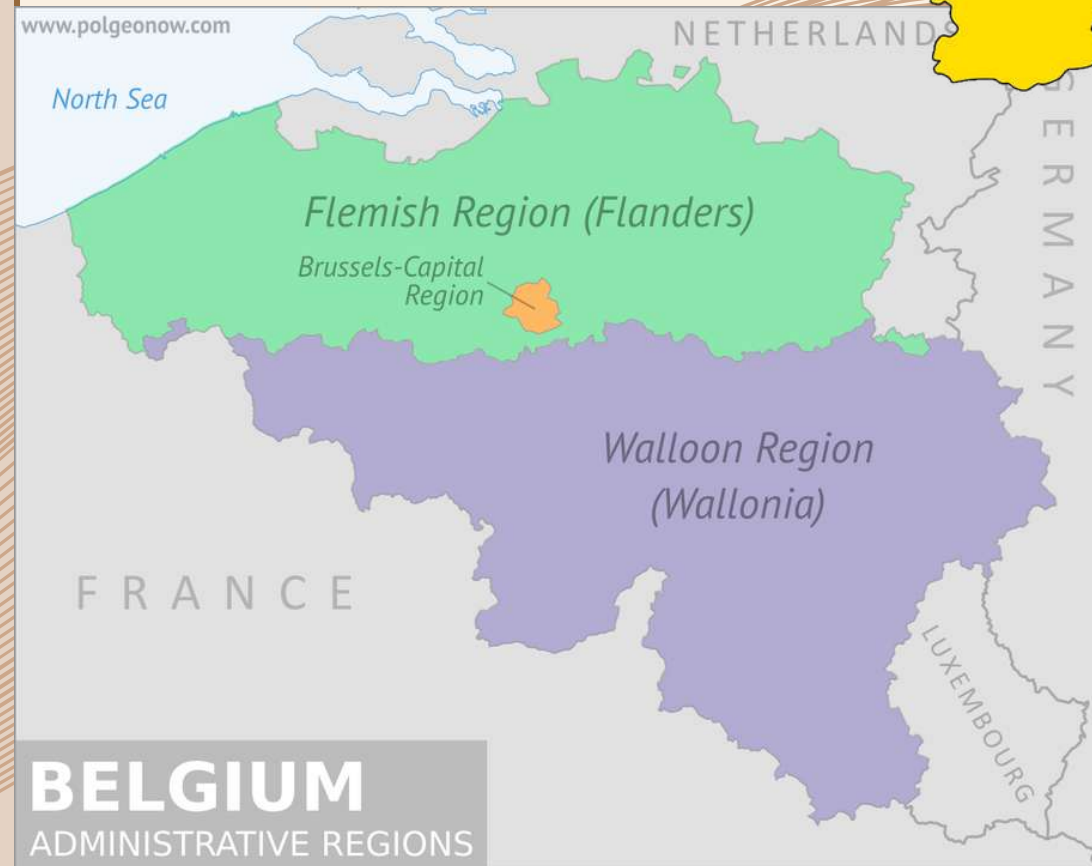
France

MIL in Teacher Training:

- **32 national higher education institutions for teaching and education;**
- **Pre-service: wide range of programmes, subject and pedagogical approaches;**
- **In-service: strong position of MIL education in CPD, which is compulsory;**
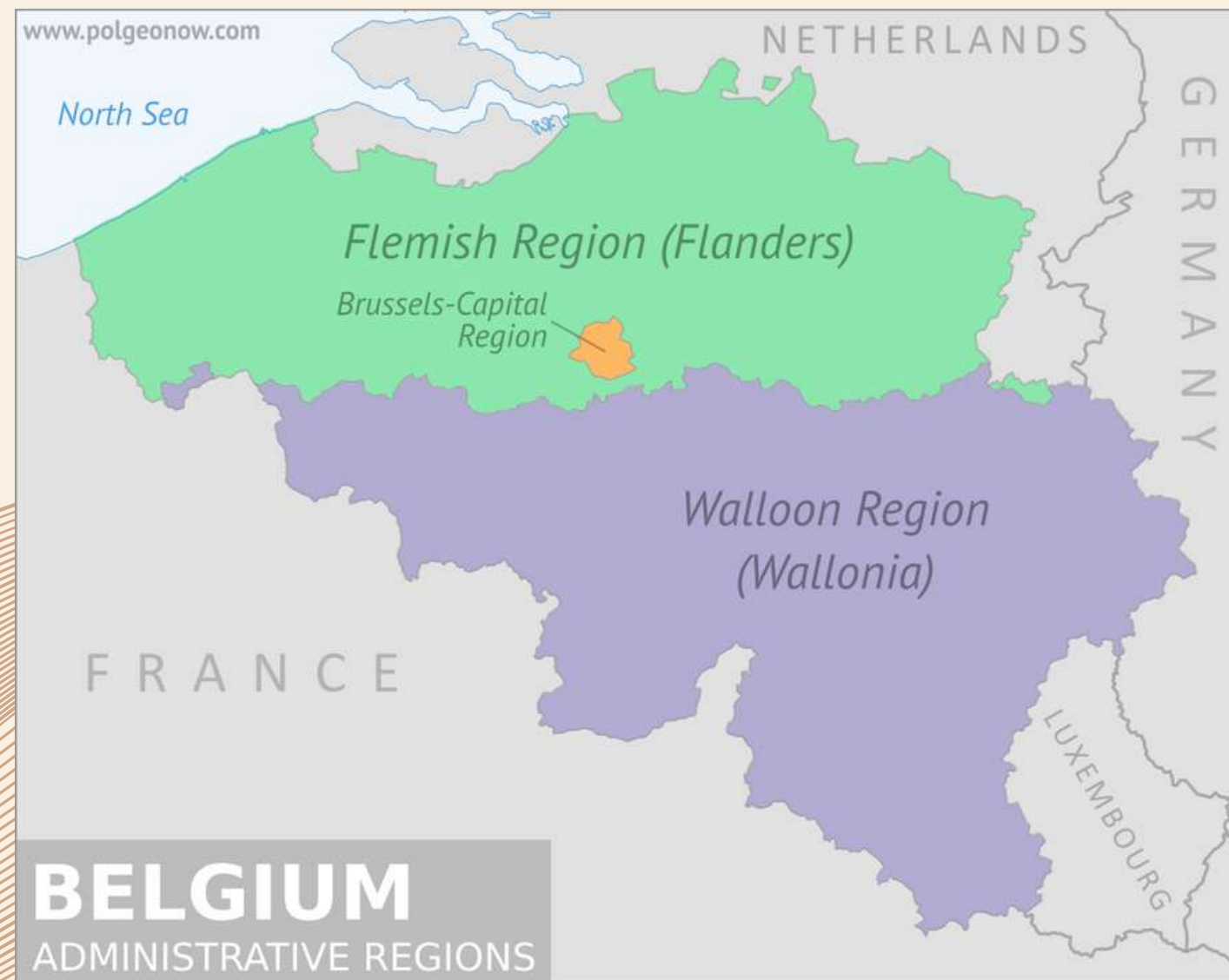- ***Entre les lignes*;**
- **Teacher-librarians.**

Belgium - Wallonia

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Context:

- **Over 11 mln inhabitants;**
- **3 language-based communities: Flemish-, French- and German-speaking;**
- **and 3 regions: Flanders, Brussels Capital and Wallonia;**
- **Approx. 3.6 mln inhabitants in Wallonia;**
- **Language communities are responsible for education;**
- **Education is compulsory from 5 till 18 years old.**

www.polgeonow.com

North Sea

NETHERLAND

Flemish Region (Flanders)

Brussels-Capital Region

GERMANY

Walloon Region (Wallonia)

FRANCE

LUXEMBOURG

BELGIUM
ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS

Belgium - Wallonia

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MIL in Education:

- Media Literacy Plan (2022);
- In a cross-cutting manner for engaged citizenship and critical thinking;
- Emphasis in ensuring MIL framework's longevity;
- Cross-cutting.

Belgium - Wallonia

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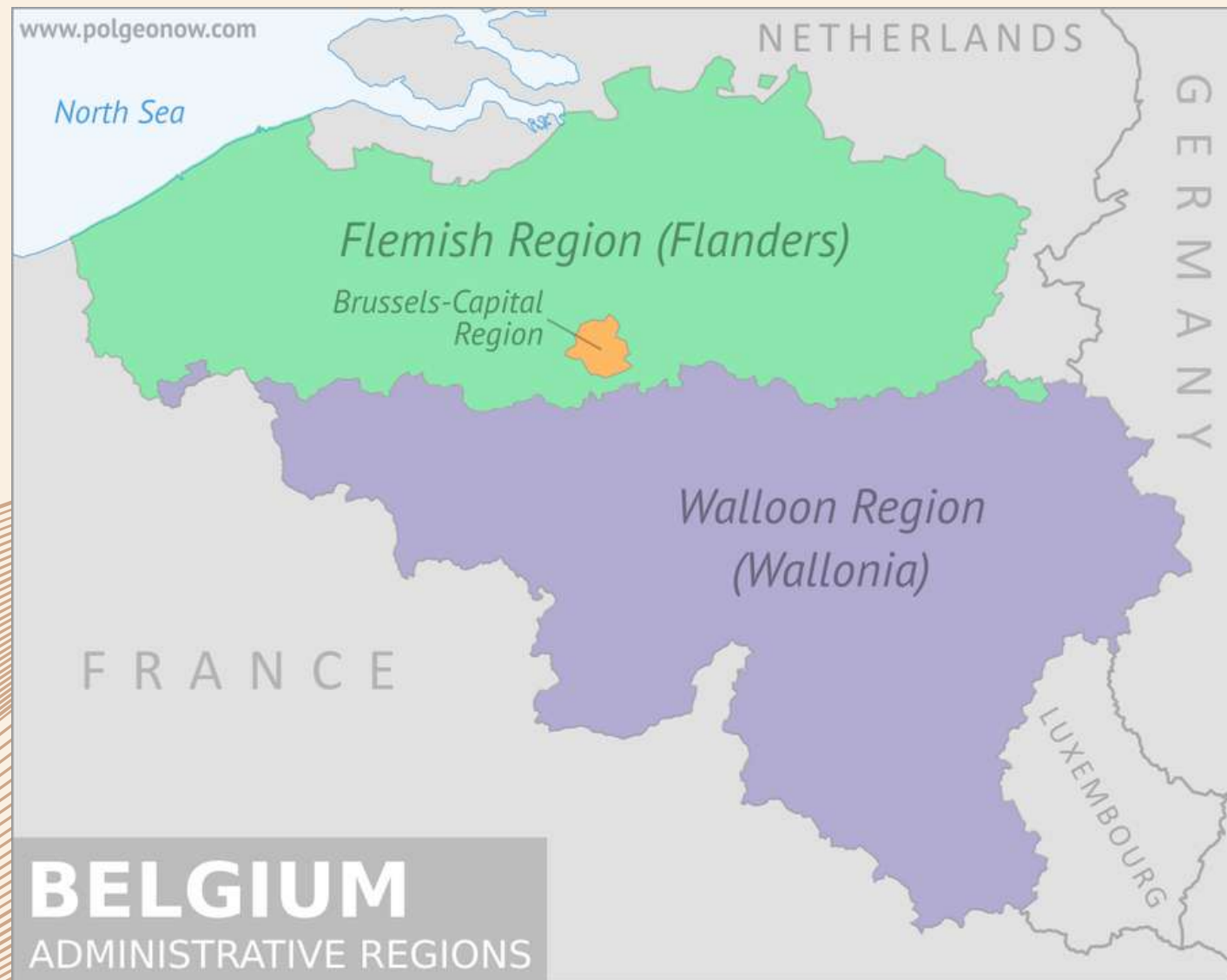
MIL in Teacher Training:

- Multidimensional circumstances: initial training, CPD, finances, school management, technical equipment, etc.;
- Pre-service: basic MIL training in 3 years;
- In-service: obligatory CPD;
- Certificates.

Conclusion

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- **Driving force for MIL - disinformation and fake news;**
- **MIL as a cross-cutting framework in education;**
- **MIL - between integrating technology & critical thinking;**
- **Teacher training is diverse and context specific;**
- **The role of journalists, fact-checking organisations and NGOs;**
- **Close link between MIL education, citizenship and democracy.**

Conclusion

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GOOD PRACTICES involved a combination of:
- **governmental (e.g. MIL guidelines),**
- **institutional ('translating' guidelines into practical implementation),**
- **and local approaches (peer-to-peer exchange, adjusting to local communities and their needs).**

CHALLENGES:
- **Lack of financial resources**
- **Lack of exchange between in-service and pre-service teacher education institutions.**

Conclusion

https://media-and-learning.eu/project/teamlit/
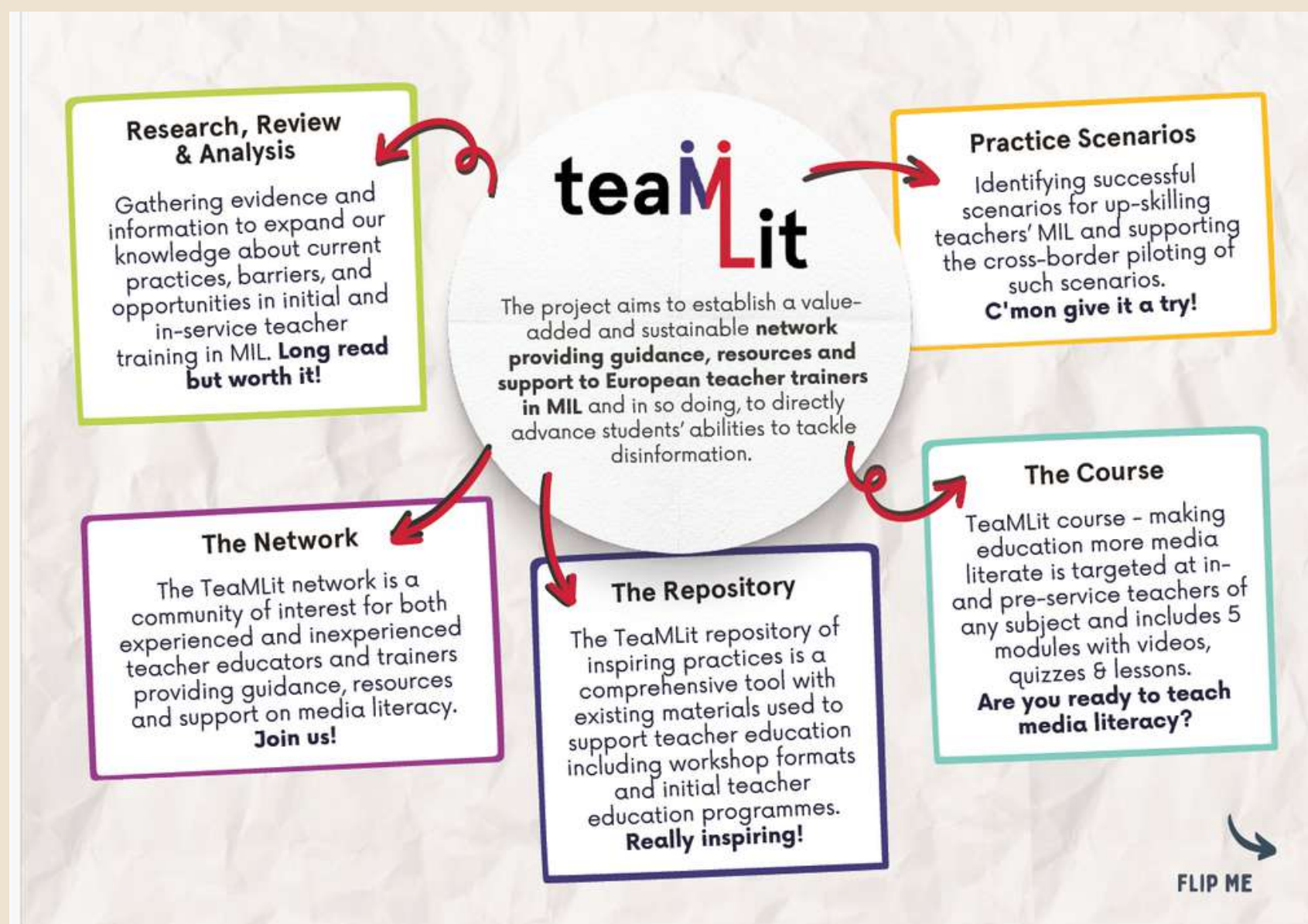
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Lina Pranaityte

pranaityte@heiedu.uni-heidelberg.de

Lucia Mesquita

@luciamesquita