

## Making Sense of Media Bulletin

**March 2023**

Thank you to everyone who shared their updates of initiatives, research, and events for March's Making Sense of Media bulletin. We have provided points of contact wherever possible, for purposes of collaboration between network members. Submissions are listed alphabetically under the categories below; please click on the quick links if you would like to go directly to specific categories. Please note that an individual's submissions are only included in very exceptional circumstances. Rather, we prioritise joint, departmental, or organisational updates and publications. A reminder that these updates are provided by our network members and reflect the views of the individual members. Inclusion here does not imply endorsement by Ofcom.

You can find [previous bulletins](#) on our website.

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## Ofcom activity

### Adults' and Children's Media Literacy Research Event

Ofcom is hosting our annual Adults' and Children's Media Literacy Research Event on Wednesday 3 May 2023, 1pm - 2.30 pm. The event will publicise findings from our Adults' and Children's media literacy trackers and Media Lives, and will provide an opportunity for Q & A. We're delighted that the event will be introduced by Dame Melanie Dawes, CEO of Ofcom.

It will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams, and you can [register for the event here](#).

## Making Sense of Media Evaluation Working Group

Ofcom hosted the latest session of the Making Sense of Media Evaluation working group on Monday 27th February, 2pm – 3.30 pm. Discussion points included member feedback on the [Evaluation Toolkit](#), and an update on evaluation proposals from our [thirteen commissioned organisations delivering media literacy interventions](#). You can [view the published minutes here](#).

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## Events

### The Economist Educational Foundation

[Join the world's biggest news festival for young people](#). Between **April 10th and May 26th**, take part in Topical Talk Festival 2023, a global discussion between schools and leading topic experts on the top news stories of our time.

### Media & Learning Association

The network of 14 European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) Hubs constitutes a community active in all 27 member states aimed at countering disinformation and analysing its impact on society and democracy both at national and European level. Each of these hubs is actively involved in promoting Media and Information Literacy as part of their mission.

[During this session](#) on **9 Apr 2023, 14:00 – 15:15**, EDMO plan to introduce the digital and media literacy work carried out by several of these hubs and to use the opportunity to identify working areas of common interest and to share this interest with the wider digital and media literacy community.

For more information please contact: [chloe.pete@media-and-learning.eu](mailto:chloe.pete@media-and-learning.eu)

### Shout Out UK

Shout Out UK is hosting two capability building [conferences](#) in Norfolk and Suffolk for frontline workers and three courses for parents and carers. The aim is to give attendees the tools to tackle misinformation, extremism, and radicalisation that young people are exposed to on various social medias.

For more information please contact: [nikita@shoutoutuk.org](mailto:nikita@shoutoutuk.org)

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## Research

### Internet Matters

Internet Matters expert panel [shares advice](#) on what online scams look like, how young people might be impacted and what parents can do to keep them safe on social media and elsewhere online.

Most children in England spend more than 30 hours at school per week. Some families look to teachers as a source of support in many aspects of life. [This report](#) focuses on exploring resource needs of educators, on online safety.

The metaverse has the potential to transform family life. [This report](#) by Head of Policy and Research at Internet Matters Simone Vibert, summarises current developments in the metaverse landscape, along with early evidence of the opportunities and risks posed to children

For more information please contact: [simone.vibert@internetmatters.org](mailto:simone.vibert@internetmatters.org)

Investigating the inconsistency between parents and children's reports of online harms, [this blog](#) series by Internet Matters Research and Impact Manager Stuart Wood, looks at insights from our tracker survey, assesses these harms, analyses who is most impacted and explores why

For more information please contact: [stuart.wood@internetmatters.org](mailto:stuart.wood@internetmatters.org)

### Propwatch

This [study](#) uses content & discourse analysis to examine pro-Kremlin media for elements of propaganda, recognising the devices they have employed to maintain support for the Ukraine invasion, what factors enabled the success of these devices, and what strategies are new or have been used in the past.

### South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL)

Report Harmful Content (a UK Safer Internet Centre Service hosted by SWGfL) has launched their latest research [report](#) looking at cases and trends that have been seen throughout 2021 and 2022 regarding 'legal but harmful' online content.

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## Projects and initiatives

### The Economist Educational Foundation

How can we tackle misinformation and bias in the news? Help Students develop media literacy understand the importance of independent research with a new, [free teach resource](#) from The Economist Educational Foundation.

## Impress

Impress are excited to [launch our new Standards Code](#) which ensures members can report responsibly and continue to serve the valuable functions the public expects of them. It includes fresh guidance on AI and misinformation, a lower threshold for discrimination and bolstered safeguarding practices.

For more information please contact: Louie [louie@impressreg.org.uk](mailto:louie@impressreg.org.uk)

## Parent Zone

Nominet has funded a [programme](#) with Parent Zone to address the growing problem of children being exploited financially online. The programme aims to bring together a unique combination of expertise from different sectors. Partners will include the PSHE Association, UK Finance and Cifas.

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## International

### EMIL – European Platform of regulatory authorities (EPRA)

Europe's media regulators met to discuss the development of MIL strategies and policies. EMIL considered case studies from MediaSmarts in Canada, Public Media Alliance in the UK and UNESCO's MIL Alliance.

### UNESCO online course on media literacy

UNESCO has launched a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on media and information literacy. The MOOC is designed for policymakers and government officials designing MIL policies, as well as those in educational institutions, news outlets and digital platforms, who wish to gain a comprehensive understanding of Media and Information Literacy and how it contributes to sustainable development. The course covers how media and information literacy addresses the promotion of democratic values, fosters intercultural dialogue and counters disinformation and hate speech and how to mainstream MIL in general policy development. More information, including on how to enrol, can be found on their [website](#).

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