IREX

LEARN TO DISCERN (L2D)

Learn to Discern (L2D) builds critical thinking and healthy habits for engaging with information, online and offline. It reaches youth and adults in classrooms, libraries, community centers, youth clubs, fellowship programs, peer-to-peer networks, online, and other contexts.

PROBLEM

Misinformation, disinformation, propaganda, and influence campaigns present challenges worldwide. Information is abundant and spreads far and fast in our polarized, hyperconnected, and impatient world. There is a need to prepare citizens to navigate such a chaotic information environment.

SOLUTION

L2D empowers individuals, communities, and systems (education, media, and others) to identify and use good quality information to make decisions, curb the spread of mis- and disinformation, recognize and avoid manipulative information, and participate in the digital space without undermining their own and others' wellbeing, dignity, and humanity.

L2D PRODUCES CONSISTENT IMPACT ACROSS DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIES, AUDIENCES, AND FORMATS OF SKILL-BUILDING.

AWARENESS

of media and social media incentives, agendas, functions, and algorithms that impact what information we see.

ABILITIES

to analyze and evaluate information, differentiate between fact and opinions, and recognize data manipulation, hate speech, and polarizing narratives.

BEHAVIORS

such as using reliable sources of news and information, cross-checking and consulting multiple sources, and responsible engagement with information.

CONFIDENCE

in people's ability to navigate today's information environment – be selective, proactive, and in control of information engagement.

RESULTS:

PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING:

In settings as different as Jordan, Serbia, and Georgia, IREX's youth-led peer-training model for L2D skill-building has produced consistently positive (and statistically significant) results.

For example, in Jordan, young people improved their knowledge of how news and information work by **65%**

their skills and abilities to analyze information in their traditional and social media streams by **97%**

and their confidence and sense of control in navigating these spaces by **41%**

HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTION:

Integrating L2D competencies into instruction of history, language, literature and other subjects to mainstream media literacy through the education system has been proven effective in L2D-Education program in Ukraine.

Over **50,000** high schoolers

420 in schools

have demonstrated that the longer they take L2D-integrated lessons they increase their abilities to analyze and engage with media and information critically by **29%**

The students also have a **39%** higher score on differentiating between facts and opinions and feel more in control when using information in their daily lives. **39%**

ONLINE LEARNING:

Participants who have used IREX's online course on media literacy – Very Verified, supplemented with practical workshops led by a facilitator

increased their awareness and knowledge of media and information structures by **69%**

their ability to analyze and evaluate information by **31%**

and more than doubled their scores on the ability to identify hate speech **x 2.3**

TRAINING FOR ADULTS:

In Ukraine, 15,000 adults have built skills to avoid being manipulated through trusted community leader trainings. 1.5 years after the program, an assessment that compared their information engagement habits with those of Ukrainians who have not been trained showed that the L2D group scored

13% higher at identifying disinformation,

25% higher at checking multiple news sources,

25% higher in understanding how the news media industry and social media affect their decisions.

ABOUT US

IREX is a global development and education organization. We strive for a more just, prosperous, and inclusive world—where individuals reach their full potential, governments serve their people, and communities thrive.

IREX.ORG