Chapter 2
Current Trends of Media Literacy in Europe: An Overview

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the authors give an overview of the current trends of media literacy in Europe. The study titled “Current trends and approaches to media literacy in Europe”, commissioned in the second half of 2007 by the European Commission to the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, maps current practices in implementing media literacy in Europe and recommends measures to increase the level of media literacy in Europe. Starting with information from the study, this paper will examine the evolution of media literacy in Europe, its orientation, and its relationship with other related fields, such as media education and digital literacy to explore the emerging trends, innovations, changes, crisis points, alternatives, and so forth.

INTRODUCTION

“To become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-driven economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion”, as the Lisbon European Council1 (Lisbon European Council, 2000) established, the European Union, both the Parliament and the Commission, have played an active role in the development of media literacy in Europe.

Among these initiatives we find the study titled Current trends and approaches to media literacy in Europe2 (Pérez Tornero & Celot, 2007) commissioned, in the second half of 2007, by the European Commission to the UAB, Univer-
The aim of this paper is to give an overview of the current trends of ML in Europe. Starting from the information given by the mentioned study, we will look at the evolution of media literacy in Europe, its orientation and its relationship with other related fields, such as media education and digital literacy to explore the emerging trends of the current situation: innovations, changes, crisis points, as sells as alternatives, etc. All these aspects allow us to draw a panorama of Media Literacy in Europe.

**EVOLUTION OF MEDIA EDUCATION AND MEDIA LITERACY**

Educational interest in the media, which has centered on media education, or media literacy, has had different stages or origins which we will describe below, but these phases often correspond to specific focuses and models of media literacy (Table 1) and which, therefore, can coexist at the same time and in the same setting. We will still, however, present the phases in stages to facilitate comprehension and to explain the dynamic orientation of the media literacy.

- During the 1960s and a large part of the 1970s

The movie captured the attention of European teachers. Its rising influence and the emergence of new aesthetic and cultural trends boosted the interest in bringing films into schools.
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