

Item 3. Good practices in learning minorities languages

Online media NewsMaker.MD

Marina Shupac

Misto san, - I welcome you in Romani language.

Barev dzez, - I welcome you in Armenian.

Vitaiu, - I welcome you in Ukrainian.

Moldovan educational system thinks: it is not important for me to know at least the basis of these and other minority languages of Moldova because these are not my mother tongues.

Me, as a minority Human Rights journalist and my colleagues from NewsMaker.MD think in contrary: access to learning of minority languages should be encouraged and ensured for all in order to strength social cohesion and interethnic dialogue.

During the Forum we discussed the role of formal education for minorities. But nowadays, what has more influence on the youth: formal education or social media, online media?

We at NewsMaker.MD see: in some cases mass-media can fill in the gap created by formal educational system and the government. I give you examples.

1. We created a set of interactive video-lessons of minority languages and got a plenty of comments from our audience: we want more lessons like this. Some have been saying: wow, we did not even know that Gagauz language exist. A language, which is included in the UNESCO Atlas of languages in danger of disappearance.
2. We published a set of multimedia articles on the history of several minority communities and their contribution to the development of Moldova. Our readers started to ask: wow, why we did not learn this in school?

I do not know the answer but I know that there is a need for more support to mass-media so to have more educational materials focused on interethnic dialogue.

And here are recommendations to CoE, EU and UN member states:

1. To recognize the educational role of mass-media and fully implement recommendations of the 10th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues related to mass-media.
2. To provide more funding opportunities for journalistic educational projects focused on interethnic relations.