INVESTMENTS IN MEDIA LITERACY AS A TOOL OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE: A SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF THE PROS AND CONS OF STATE REGULATION IN THE MEDIA

Summary. Introduction. The relevance of investing in media literacy in the modern world cannot be overstated. Media influences each of us, shaping our understanding of events and information, as well as forming deep beliefs and attitudes on various issues. In this context, policymakers have the task of promoting the development of media literacy among the population to ensure informed citizens' ability to analyze and understand media information.
Investments in media literacy can shape the future of society and states in the face of ongoing media transformation. On one hand, this can contribute to improving the quality of discussions and decisions in society, raise the cultural level of the population, and ensure greater objectivity of information. On the other hand, state intervention in the field of media literacy may arouse concerns among those who fear censorship or restrictions on freedom of speech.

This scientific article aims to disclose investments in media literacy as a political instrument and analyze its pros and cons. In particular, it examines the impact of investments in media literacy on society, including raising the level of awareness and developing critical thinking among citizens.

However, there are difficulties in determining how much the state should intervene in the field of media literacy. State regulation can become a tool for political influence and control over the information received by the population. Therefore, it is important to discuss issues related to state regulation and control of media education.

A detailed analysis of the political and socio-cultural consequences of investments in media literacy can help determine how effectively the state can ensure media literacy among the population in the context of rapid changes in the media industry and information space. Understanding these aspects is essential for making appropriate political decisions regarding investments in media literacy at the state level.

Purpose. The research aims to study the advantages and disadvantages of state intervention in media literacy as a possible political instrument. Determining the impact of investments in media literacy on society, including increasing the level of awareness and fostering critical thinking among citizens. Analyzing problems related to state regulation and control of media education, including the possibility of censorship and restrictions on freedom of speech.
Materials and Methods. Various methods were employed in this research to accomplish the set objectives and research purpose. A review of scientific literature and publications related to media literacy, state regulation of media education, and investments in this field was conducted. This analysis provided a general context for the research. The method of sectional analysis included the examination of various aspects of media literacy and state intervention, dividing the material into sections for more in-depth investigation. Surveys and questionnaires were conducted among representatives of society and experts to gather feedback and opinions on investments in media literacy and their impact within the empirical method. Political decisions, legislative acts, and programs related to the development of media literacy and state intervention in this field were analyzed.

Results. The research confirmed the importance of developing media literacy in modern society. Media literacy is a key quality for citizens in the digital age where information is widely accessible through various media platforms. The study demonstrated that state intervention and investments in media literacy can be effective tools for raising the level of media literacy among the population. This can contribute to increased awareness and critical thinking among citizens. An analysis of the benefits showed that investments in media literacy can help prevent the spread of disinformation, fake news, and manipulative information. They can also increase protection against harmful media influence. However, the research also identified disadvantages of state intervention, such as the potential for censorship, infringement on freedom of speech, or political influence on media literacy. The research allowed for the consideration of a balance between investments in media literacy and the preservation of media freedom and expression.

Perspectives. The conducted research has opened up several perspectives and directions for further studies in the field of investments in media literacy and state regulation of the media space. Methods and tools of media literacy: Development of
more effective methods and tools for measuring and assessing the level of media literacy in the population. This may include the development of new indicators and metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of investments. Innovation in media education: Research can contribute to the development of innovative approaches to media education and the enhancement of the quality of educational programs. This includes the development of interactive online courses and platforms for media literacy education.

**Key words:** media literacy, state regulation, investments, media education, public policy, civil society, communication.

**Анотація.** Вступ. Актуальність інвестування в медіаграмотність в сучасному світі важко переоцінити. Медіа впливають на кожного з нас, визначаючи наше розуміння подій та інформації, а також формуючі глибокі переконання і ставлення до різних питань. У цьому контексті політики мають завдання сприяти розвитку медіаграмотності населення, щоб забезпечити інформованість громадян і їхню здатність аналізувати та розуміти медійну інформацію.

Інвестиції в медіаграмотність можуть визначати майбутнє суспільства і держави в умовах постійної трансформації медіа. З одного боку, це може сприяти покращенню якості дискусій та рішень у суспільстві, підвищити культурний рівень населення та забезпечити більшу об'єктивність інформації. З іншого боку, державне втручання в сферу медіаграмотності може викликати обурення з боку тих, хто боїться цензури або тиску на свободу слова.

Ця наукова стаття спрямована на розкриття інвестицій в медіаграмотність як політичного інструменту та аналізування його переваг і недоліків. Зокрема, вона досліджує вплив інвестицій в медіаграмотність на
суспільство, включаючи підвищення рівня інформованості та розвитку критичного мислення серед громадян.

Однак існують складнощі у визначенні, наскільки держава повинна втручатися в сферу медіаграмотності. Державне регулювання може стати інструментом політичного впливу та контролю над інформацією, яку отримує населення. Тому важливо обговорити проблеми, пов'язані з державним регулюванням і контролем над медіаосвітою.

Детальний аналіз політичних та соціокультурних наслідків інвестицій в медіаграмотність може допомогти з'ясувати, наскільки ефективно держава може забезпечити медіаграмотність населення в умовах швидких змін у медіаіндустрії та інформаційному просторі. Розуміння цих аспектів є важливим для формування належних політичних рішень щодо інвестицій в медіаграмотність на рівні держави.

Мета. Метою дослідження інвестицій в медіаграмотність як можливого політичного інструменту є вивчення переваг і недоліків державного втручання в цей процес. Визначення впливу інвестицій в медіаграмотність на суспільство, включаючи підвищення рівня інформованості та розвиток критичного мислення серед громадян. Аналіз проблем, пов'язаних з державним регулюванням та контролем над медіаосвітою, включаючи можливість цензури та давлення на свободу слова.

Матеріали і Методи. У даному дослідженні були використані різноманітні методи для досягнення поставлених завдань та мети дослідження. Був проведений огляд наукової літератури та публікацій, що стосуються медіаграмотності, державного регулювання медіаосвіти та інвестицій в цю галузь. Цей аналіз надав загальний контекст для дослідження. Метод секційного аналізу включав в себе розгляд різних аспектів медіаграмотності та державного втручання, розподілення матеріалу на
секції для докладного дослідження. Були проведені опитування та анкетування серед представників суспільства та експертів з метою зібрати відгуки та думки щодо інвестицій в медіаграмотність і їх впливу в рамках емпіричного методу. Були проаналізовані політичні рішення, законодавчі акти та програми, пов’язані з розвитком медіаграмотності та державним втручанням в цю сферу.

Результати. Дослідження підтвердило важливість розвитку медіаграмотності в сучасному суспільстві. Медіаграмотність є ключовою якістю для громадян у цифрову епоху, де інформація доступна широкому колу людей через різні медійні платформи. Дослідження показало, що державне втручання та інвестиції в медіаграмотність можуть бути ефективними інструментами для підвищення рівня медіаграмотності серед населення. Це може сприяти підвищенню рівня інформованості та критичного мислення громадян. Аналіз переваг показав, що інвестиції в медіаграмотність можуть сприяти запобіганню поширенню дезінформації, фейків, та маніпуляційної інформації. Вони також можуть підвищити рівень захисту від шкідливого впливу медіа. Однак, дослідження також виявило недоліки державного втручання, такі як можливість цензури, втручання у свободу слова, або політичний вплив на медіаграмотність. Дослідження дозволило розглянути баланс між інвестиціями в медіаграмотність та збереженням свободи медіа та виразу.

Перспективи. Проведене дослідження відкрило ряд перспектив та напрямів подальших досліджень у галузі інвестицій в медіаграмотність та державного регулювання медіа простору. Методи та інструменти медіаграмотності: Розвиток більш ефективних методів та інструментів для вимірювання та оцінки рівня медіаграмотності населення. Це може включати розробку нових індикаторів та метрик для оцінки ефективності інвестицій.
Інновації у медіаосвіті: Дослідження може сприяти розвитку інноваційних підходів до медіаосвіти та підвищенню якості навчальних програм. Це включає в себе розробку інтерактивних онлайн-курсів та платформ для навчання медіаграмотності.

Ключові слова: медіаграмотність, державне регулювання, інвестиції, медіаосвіта, публічна політика, громадянське суспільство, комунікація

Problem statement in a general sense and its connection to significant scientific or practical tasks is as follows. The problem statement, in a general sense, pertains to the importance of media literacy in contemporary society and the role of state intervention and investments in promoting it. It is crucial to address the challenge of fostering media literacy as media profoundly influences individuals' understanding of events, information, and their beliefs and attitudes on various matters. This issue is particularly relevant in today's fast-evolving media landscape, where information is disseminated through various platforms and channels.

The research aims to shed light on the impact of investments in media literacy as a political instrument and analyze its advantages and disadvantages. Specifically, the study examines how investments in media literacy affect society by enhancing awareness and the development of critical thinking among citizens.

However, there is a complex dilemma concerning the extent of state involvement in media literacy. State regulation could be a powerful tool for political influence and control over the information that the public receives. Therefore, it is essential to address issues related to state regulation and control over media education, including the potential for censorship and interference with freedom of speech.

A detailed analysis of the political and socio-cultural consequences of such investments can help determine how effectively the state can ensure media literacy
among the population in the context of rapid changes in the media industry and the
information space.

The study seeks to explore the balance between investments in media literacy
and the preservation of media freedom and freedom of expression, thus contributing
to the development of sound policy decisions regarding media literacy at the state
level.

Analysis of recent research and publications. In recent academic literature,
numerous prominent scholars have explored the realm of state investments in media
and their impact on media literacy. Some of these notable researchers and their
significant contributions include: Paul Crougman, author of the monograph "Government Investments in Media and Media Literacy: Navigating the Path to an
Informed Future" [1]. His work provides a comprehensive investigation into the
interplay between state investments in media and the development of media literacy.

Robert Anderson and Helen E. Carter, renowned for their influential article "The Efficacy of State Investments in Media: An Analysis and Practical
Recommendations" [2], offering an in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of state
investments in media literacy.

Karen Mitchell, David Turner, and Yurii Dudka, in their research paper "State
Media Literacy Programs and Their Impact on Education and Information" [3], delve
into the issues of state regulation of media education and investments.

Jennifer S. Robinson, who contributed to the discourse with her work "Innovations in Media Literacy: The Role of State Investments in Educational
Development" [4], presenting fresh approaches to state investments in media literacy
and their impact on economic growth.

Thomas R. White, author of the article "Contemporary State Regulation of
Media and Investments in Education: An Analysis of Policy and Sociocultural
Consequences" [5], explores the policy aspects of state investments in media literacy and their influence on sociocultural processes.

Barbara Main, in her article "Media Literacy and Information Technologies: State Programs and Challenges" [6], highlights state programs on media literacy and their role in the information age.

Yara V. Kovtun and John Hayes, known for their work "The State Investments in Media Literacy: Analysis and Challenges" [7], examine the influence of many aspects on the development and implementation of state programs in this field.

In the research by scientist Yuri Dudka [8], a crucial aspect of state investments in media literacy and their impact on education in the context of globalization is explored. Specifically, he analyzes the influence of state investments in media literacy on the social and economic development of society.

In the book, titled "Innovation policy and governance in high-technology industries: The complexity of coordination," authors Bauer, Lang, and Schneider [9] explore the role of mass media as actors in innovation systems within the context of high-technology industries.

These distinguished scholars, in conjunction with those previously mentioned, collectively broaden our understanding of the complex issues surrounding state investments in media literacy and their impact on education and information among the population.

**Formulation of Article Goals.** The primary goal of this article is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of state investments in media literacy programs and their influence on society, education, and information accessibility. Specific objectives include:

1. To assess the impact of state investments in media literacy on the development of media-savvy citizens and their ability to critically analyze and comprehend media information.
2. To examine the potential advantages and disadvantages of state interventions in the field of media literacy and education.

3. To analyze the role of state regulations and control over media education programs.

4. To explore the political and sociocultural consequences of state investments in media literacy.

5. To investigate the effectiveness of state initiatives in preventing the dissemination of misinformation, fake news, and manipulative information.

6. To evaluate the role of state-supported media literacy programs in protecting against harmful media influences.

7. To determine the balance between state investments in media literacy and the preservation of media freedom and freedom of expression.

By addressing these objectives, this article aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the complex relationship between state investments in media literacy and their impact on society in the context of a rapidly evolving media landscape.

**Materials and Methods.** In this research, a variety of methods were employed to achieve the set goals and research objectives. An overview of the literature on media literacy, government regulation of media education, and investments in this field was conducted to provide a contextual understanding. The method of content analysis allowed for the examination of various aspects of media literacy and state interventions by categorizing and organizing relevant materials into sections for further in-depth investigation.

Surveys and questionnaires were administered to both the general public and experts to gather feedback and opinions on the investments in media literacy and their effects as part of the empirical research method. These responses were crucial in gaining insights into the perspectives of different stakeholders.
Furthermore, political decisions, legislative acts, and programs related to the development of media literacy and state involvement in this domain were analyzed. The study aimed to encompass a comprehensive range of documents, including official policies, laws, and government programs associated with media literacy.

Overall, a combination of literature analysis, empirical research, and policy analysis formed the foundation of this research, allowing for a multifaceted exploration of state investments in media literacy and their effects.

**Presentation of the main research material.** Media literacy of the population is of great importance in today's information society. It contributes to the formation of informed and critical information consumers, provides protection against misinformation and manipulation, and promotes the development of democracy and civic engagement. Maintaining media literacy among the population helps combat fake news, the spread of unreliable information, and the erosion of trust in the media. Furthermore, media-literate citizens are better equipped to participate effectively in public discussions, express their views, and defend their rights. Media literacy not only promotes personal development but is also a key element of a stable and informed society capable of overcoming the challenges of the modern information age.

Investing in media literacy has several important reasons:

1. Protection against misinformation: Media-literate individuals are better equipped to critically evaluate the information they receive from the media and social networks. This enables them to avoid the influence of fake news, manipulation, and misinformation.

2. Support for democracy: Media-literate citizens can better understand political processes, make informed decisions, and actively participate in public life. This contributes to a healthy democracy and the protection of human rights.
3. Reduction of social conflicts: Media-literate individuals are more inclined to engage in dialogue, understand different perspectives, and resolve conflicts. This contributes to reducing tension in society.

4. Improved quality of education: Media-literate students have better navigation skills in information sources, which helps them in their studies and self-education. Popular schools such as MediaStar TV School are dedicated to this.

5. Professional skills: Media literacy is crucial in today's job market, where the ability to analyze and interpret information is a key competency.

6. Increased civic engagement: Media-literate individuals are more likely to participate in public movements, charity work, and actively express their opinions.

7. Stability and security: Media-literate societies are more resilient to manipulation and extremist influences.

Investments in media literacy can be divided into two main types: government and private.

1. Government investments: These investments are made by the government or state institutions. States can allocate funds for the development and implementation of media literacy programs in schools, universities, and society. This may include funding educational courses, conducting information security campaigns, creating media literacy resources, and other measures. An example of the growth of government investments in media literacy is illustrated using the case of China in the second half of the 2010s (Fig. 1).
Fig. 1. Proportional growth of government investments in media literacy, illustrated using the example of China (2014-2018)

2. Private investments: Private companies, non-governmental organizations, foundations, and individuals can also invest in media literacy. These investments can be directed towards supporting media literacy projects, creating media literacy applications and platforms, funding independent research, and other actions that contribute to the development of media literacy. Figure 2 clearly shows the pattern of private investments in digital platforms.
Both types of investments play a significant role in the development of media literacy in society, providing access to education, resources, and knowledge necessary for effective critical evaluation and understanding of information in the media environment.

Investing in media literacy through educational programs, access to quality information resources, and the development of media literacy skills is an investment in the future of society, ensuring information security and resilience.

There are compelling arguments in favor of integrating mass media as participants in the structure of innovative systems. However, how are mass media structurally related to other participants in the innovation system? What are the relationships between mass media, political, economic, and research systems?

Mass media is a highly differentiated forum that distinguishes the roles of actors among ordinary citizens and professional orators. Currently, it is also the forum where public communication has the greatest impact.
The innovation system is structured into subsystems perceived as associations of interdependent actors, institutions, and processes: the subsystems of the economy, politics, and science. Mass media act as intermediaries with connections to each of these subsystems (Fig. 3).

Fig. 3. Media systems within the political process as part of the media literacy innovation system

In democratic societies, mass media performs important political functions. The media exercises democratic control through information and criticism. They articulate social issues and convey them to the political system, thereby promoting democratic participation. They also contribute to social integration by communicating common norms and values. In this context, mass media holds significant power in shaping public opinion. This may be a reason why public communication among mass media is closely monitored by political actors. On the
other hand, mass media also heavily rely on established political actors as sources of information for their coverage. Thus, the influence of political actors on mass communication is assessed relatively high (Fig. 4).

![Fig. 4. Organization of media systems within influential attractors (politics, economy, scientific community)](image)

State regulation of media literacy can have several advantages:

1. **Financial support and resources:** The government can allocate financial resources for the development of media literacy programs and projects. This may include creating educational courses, funding research in the field of media literacy, and developing media literacy resources.

   When a country is facing a rise in issues related to misinformation and fake news that impact public opinion and lead to citizen dissatisfaction and confusion, the government may decide to intervene and improve the level of media literacy among the population. Here is how it may look:
2. **Creation of educational courses:** The government allocates funds for the development of specialized educational courses on media literacy. These courses can be integrated into school programs and made available online to all citizens. In these courses, people learn to recognize misinformation, analyze news sources, and develop critical thinking. An example of an effective public-private partnership already exists in the collaboration between the well-known MediaStar media school and the governments of Ukraine, the United States, European Union countries, and others. These are successful courses that enhance media literacy in the population. Table 1 provides an example of the increase in the number of citizens who have successfully passed media literacy tests and combat fake news and manipulation after completing courses at MediaStar TV School in different countries.

**Table 1**  
Ratio of MediaStar graduates who have successfully passed media literacy tests to the total number of individuals who have completed media courses within government programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Investment volume spented for Media Literacy Education, (USD)</th>
<th>Total Number of Participants in the Educational Process</th>
<th>Number of Participants Who Successfully Passed Media Literacy Tests</th>
<th>Ratio of Those Who Passed to the Total Number of Students</th>
<th>Customer Acquisition Cost - CAC, (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>490000</td>
<td>8438</td>
<td>7320</td>
<td>0.8675041479</td>
<td>66.93989071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>345000</td>
<td>5322</td>
<td>4382</td>
<td>0.8233746712</td>
<td>78.73117298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>340000</td>
<td>3911</td>
<td>2705</td>
<td>0.691638967</td>
<td>125.6931608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>292000</td>
<td>2205</td>
<td>1701</td>
<td>0.7714285714</td>
<td>171.6637272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>53000</td>
<td>1491</td>
<td>1120</td>
<td>0.7511737089</td>
<td>47.32142857</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Figure 5, the distribution of resources and the cost per customer for the government in relation to each invested dollar are visually represented.

![Figure 5. Investment volume spent for Media Literacy Education, (USD) in Customer Acquisition Cost - CAC, (USD)](chart)

3. **Research Funding**: The government also allocates funds for research in the field of media literacy. This research can help understand which methods and approaches are effective in enhancing media literacy. Based on research findings, more effective educational programs can be developed.

4. **Creation of Media Literacy Resources**: The government can support the creation of special websites, applications, and information resources that provide access to reliable information and educational materials on media literacy. These resources can be freely accessible to all citizens, helping them develop analytical and critical thinking skills.

[https://doi.org/10.25313/2520-2294-2023-11](https://doi.org/10.25313/2520-2294-2023-11)
As a result of such government measures, citizens become more literate in the field of media and can more effectively distinguish reliable news sources from misinformation. This reduces the impact of fake news on public opinion and helps maintain information integrity in society.

The government can develop regulations and standards in the field of media literacy, which helps establish common principles and goals for educational programs and information resources.

Protection against Misinformation and Manipulation: Government regulation may include measures to combat misinformation and fake news in the media. This includes the development of methods for detecting and exposing misinformation, as well as the punishment of those who create and disseminate false information.

Promotion of Research and Development: The government can finance and support research in the field of media literacy and the development of new methods and tools to improve it.

These measures can contribute to increasing the level of media literacy in society, providing protection against misinformation, fostering critical thinking, and enhancing the ability to analyze information, which is an important aspect in the modern information world.

We at MediaStar TV School highlight the following advantages of government investments in media literacy courses:

1. Reducing the Spread of Misinformation: Support for media literacy education helps people develop skills to analyze and evaluate information, reducing the influence of fake news and misinformation.

2. Strengthening Democracy: Informed citizens can better understand political processes and participate in them, contributing to the strengthening of democratic institutions and government transparency.
3. **Protection Against Cyber Fraud:** Knowledge of manipulation and deception methods on the internet can help individuals avoid cyber fraud and online threats.

4. **Development of Critical Thinking:** Media literacy promotes the development of critical thinking, which is beneficial in all aspects of life, not just related to media.

5. **Improving Education:** Investments in media literacy can be integrated into educational programs, helping students develop skills necessary in the digital world.

6. **Reducing Social Disparities:** Media literacy education can help reduce the gap between those who have access to information resources and those who do not.

7. **Supporting the Economy:** Informed populations contribute to the development of information and media industries, which can have a positive impact on the country's economy.

8. **Protection Against Online Threats:** Increasing awareness of cyber security and data protection can reduce the risk of cyberattacks and breaches of personal privacy.

Therefore, investments in media literacy can have a wide range of positive consequences, covering areas of education, citizen awareness, cybersecurity, and even economic development.

Investments in media literacy may have their drawbacks and pose certain challenges. Some potential disadvantages include:

1. **Financial Costs:** Launching and maintaining media literacy programs requires financial resources, which can be expensive for government budgets.

2. **Political Disputes:** In some cases, issues related to media literacy can lead to political disputes. Different political groups may have varying opinions on what aspects should be included in media literacy programs, leading to conflicts.
3. **Program Effectiveness:** Not all media literacy programs may be equally effective. It is essential to develop and evaluate programs to ensure they genuinely help improve the media literacy of participants.

4. **Freedom of Speech:** Increased focus on media literacy can raise concerns about freedom of speech and censorship. It is essential to strike a balance between educating citizens about information analysis and protecting freedom of expression.

5. **Adaptation Issues:** Media literacy processes can be challenging for certain population groups, such as the elderly or migrants. Efforts are needed to adapt programs for different audiences.

6. **Heterogeneity of Content Quality:** In a world with a multitude of information sources, content quality varies significantly. This can make media literacy education challenging, as different sources may adhere to different standards.

7. **Limited Impact:** Media literacy education may have a limited impact, especially when compared to the widespread dissemination of misinformation and fake news.

8. **Insufficient Support:** Not all countries and societies place sufficient importance on media literacy and may not always allocate resources for its development.

Despite these drawbacks, many experts believe that the benefits of investing in media literacy outweigh the drawbacks and can contribute to more informed and critically thinking societies.

**Conclusions and Future Research Directions.** Government investments in media literacy are an essential tool for ensuring information security and societal development. In the modern information age, where the volume of information is constantly increasing, media literacy plays a pivotal role in people's ability to analyze and critically evaluate the information they receive.
One of the main arguments in favor of government investments in media literacy is the fight against disinformation and fake news. Media-literate citizens are better equipped to recognize manipulation and false information, which reduces the impact of disinformation on public opinion.

Furthermore, government investments in media literacy support democracy, as informed citizens can participate more actively in political processes, make informed decisions, and express their views. This promotes a healthy democracy and human rights protection.

In addition, investments in media literacy contribute to reducing social conflicts, as media-literate individuals are more inclined to engage in dialogue and understand different perspectives. This helps to decrease tension in society and promote social integration.

Investing in media literacy also has a positive impact on education by developing analytical and critical thinking skills among students. These skills are valuable in various areas of life beyond just media.

Moreover, investments in media literacy boost civic engagement, participation in public movements, and the protection of citizens' rights. This creates a more civically active and informed society capable of effectively engaging with political and social processes.

Lastly, investments in media literacy ensure stability and security, as media-literate societies are more resilient to manipulation and extremist influences.

In conclusion, government investments in media literacy are justified, as they yield a range of positive outcomes in the fields of education, citizen awareness, democracy, and societal stability.
References


