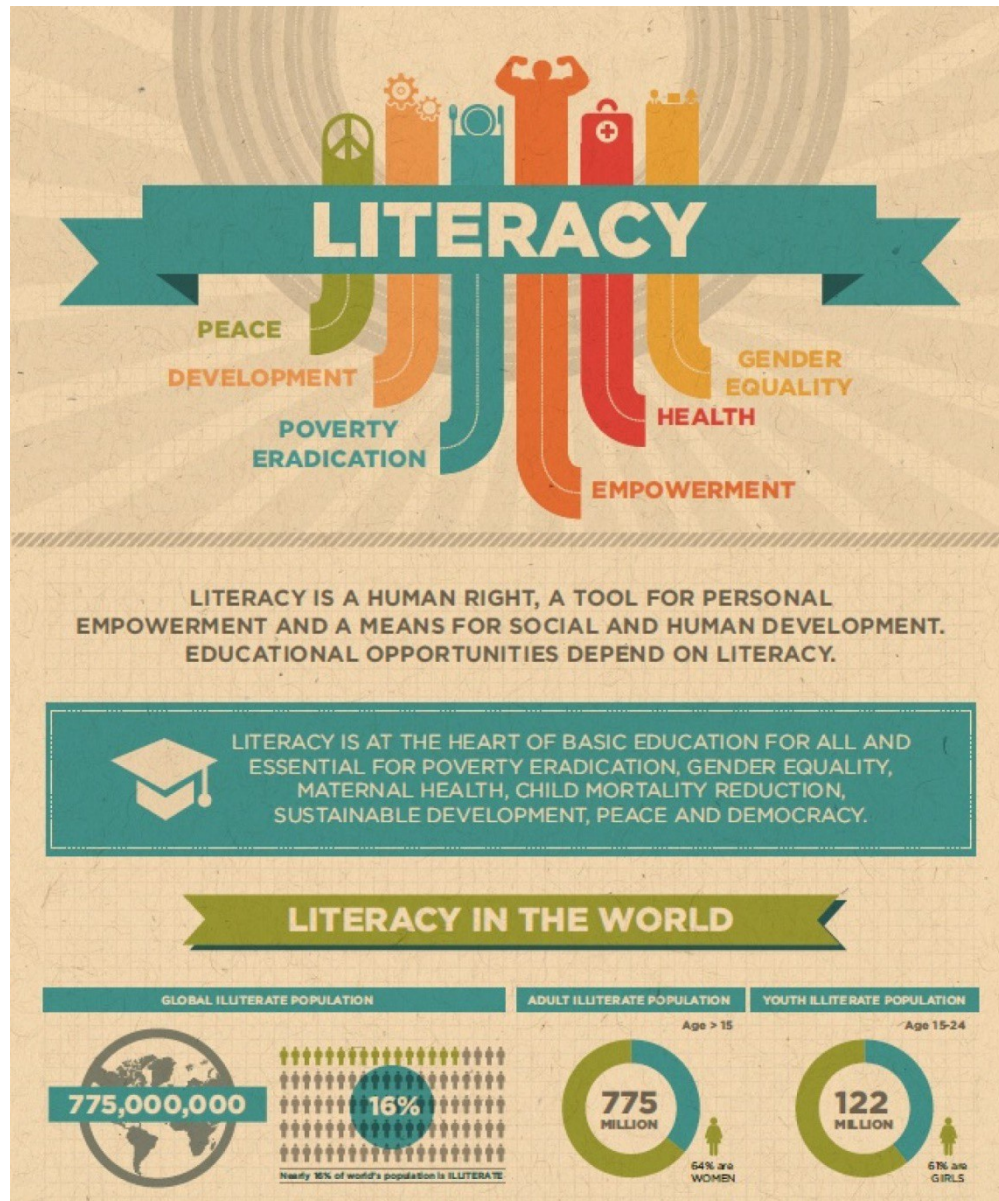




FUNCTIONAL ILLITERACY - FOCUS ON INFORMATION!

Trainer: Ligia Necula

UNESCO Institute for Statistics



2003 UNESCO's definition of literacy

«Literacy is the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning in enabling individuals to achieve his or her goals, develop his or her knowledge and potential, and participate fully in community and wider society.»

UNESCO Institute for Statistics
FACT SHEET SEPTEMBER 2012, No.20

Adult literacy rate, total	84.1%
Adult literacy rate, male	88.6%
Adult literacy rate, female	79.7%
Adult illiterate population, total	775.4 million
Adult illiterate population, female share	64.1%
Youth literacy rate, total	89.6%
Youth literacy rate, male	92.2%
Youth literacy rate, female	87.1%
Youth illiterate population, female share	60.7%
Youth literacy rate, total	122.2 million

- ✓ **By 2015**—the target year for Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals—two thirds of adults and three-quarters of youth in sub-Saharan Africa are expected to be able to read and write.
- ✓ Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, East Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean are expected to be at or near universal youth literacy. In the Arab States and South and West Asia, approximately nine out of ten young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 years are projected to be literate.
- ✓ Adult literacy rates are estimated to continue to rise in the coming years but are expected to remain below the youth literacy rate in nearly all regions. The global adult literacy rate is estimated to reach 86% by 2015 and the youth literacy rate 92%.

*More detailed analysis of current adult and youth literacy rates and trends from 1990 to 2015 are available in the report **Adult and Youth Literacy, 1990-2015: Analysis of Data for 41 Countries**, published by the UIS in August 2012.*



Fantasia Monique Barrino

born June 30, 1984, commonly known simply **Fantasia**, is an American R&B singer and actress. She rose to fame as the winner of the third season of the reality television series **American Idol** in **2004**.

American Idol superstar **Fantasia Barrino** shocked the nation back in 2005 when she revealed that despite winning the popular singing competition, she was **functionally illiterate**. Unfortunately, Fantasia's illiteracy isn't an anomaly. America is home to more than 30 million adults without the basic literacy skills to read a newspaper, understand medical documents, or fill out a job application.

Definition of functional illiteracy

- Functional illiteracy is reading and writing skills that are inadequate to manage daily living and employment tasks that require reading skills beyond a basic level.
- Functional illiteracy is contrasted with illiteracy in the strict sense, meaning the inability to read or write simple sentences in any language.
- Foreigners who cannot read and write in the native language where they live may also be considered functionally illiterate.

Many of the USA ills are directly related to illiteracy.

Just a few statistics:

- Literacy is learned. Illiteracy is passed along by parents who cannot read or write.
- One child in four grows up not knowing how to read.
- 43% of adults at *Level 1* literacy skills live in poverty compared to only 4% of those at *Level 5*
- 3 out of 4 food stamp recipients perform in the lowest 2 literacy levels
- 90% of welfare recipients are high school dropouts
- 16 to 19 year old girls at the poverty level and below, with below average skills, are 6 times more likely to have out-of-wedlock children than their reading counterparts.
- Low literacy costs \$73 million per year in terms of direct health care costs. A recent study by Pfizer put the cost much higher.

- The 2009 ***Human Development Report*** used the percentage of people lacking functional literacy skills as one of the variables to calculate the ***Human Poverty Index*** in developed countries.

(Human Development Report 2009: "Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development", UNDP)

- According to UNICEF, "Nearly a billion people will enter the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names and two thirds of them are women."

<http://www.begintoread.com/research/literacystatistics.html>

- The international community has pledged to improve adult literacy levels by 50% between 2000 and 2015.
- While the number of illiterate persons has fallen over the past decade, 775 million adults – 64% of whom are women – still lack basic reading and writing skills.
- In 2010, the global adult literacy rate was 84.1%, compared to 89.6% for youth.

<http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Documents/fs20-literacy-day-2012-en-v3.pdf>

COUNTRY	% AGES 16-65 1994-2003	NOTES
AUSTRALIA	17.0	
BELGIUM	17.0	FLANDERS ONLY
CANADA	14.06	
DENMARK	18.4	
FINLAND	10.4	
FRANCE	19.8	
GERMANY	14.4	
IRELAND	22.6	
ITALY	47.0	
MEXICO	43.2	
NETHERLANDS	10.5	
NEW ZEELAND	18.4	
NORWAY	7.9	
SWEDEN	7.5	
SWITZERLAND	15.9	
UNITED KINGDOM	21.8	
UNITED STATES	20.0	



Among the European countries, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Belarus have the highest literacy rate whereas Portugal, Malta, Turkey are amongst the countries having lowest literacy rate. Most of the countries are having literacy rate more than 98 percent.

EUROPE

Literacy Rate



ASIA

1. SLOVENIA
2. SAN MARINO
3. MONTENEGRO
4. LIECHTENSTEIN
5. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
6. SWITZERLAND
7. LUXEMBOURG
8. NETHERLANDS
9. SLOVAKIA
10. KOSOVO

LEGEND

Literacy Rate (%)
(2009)

> 99

98-99

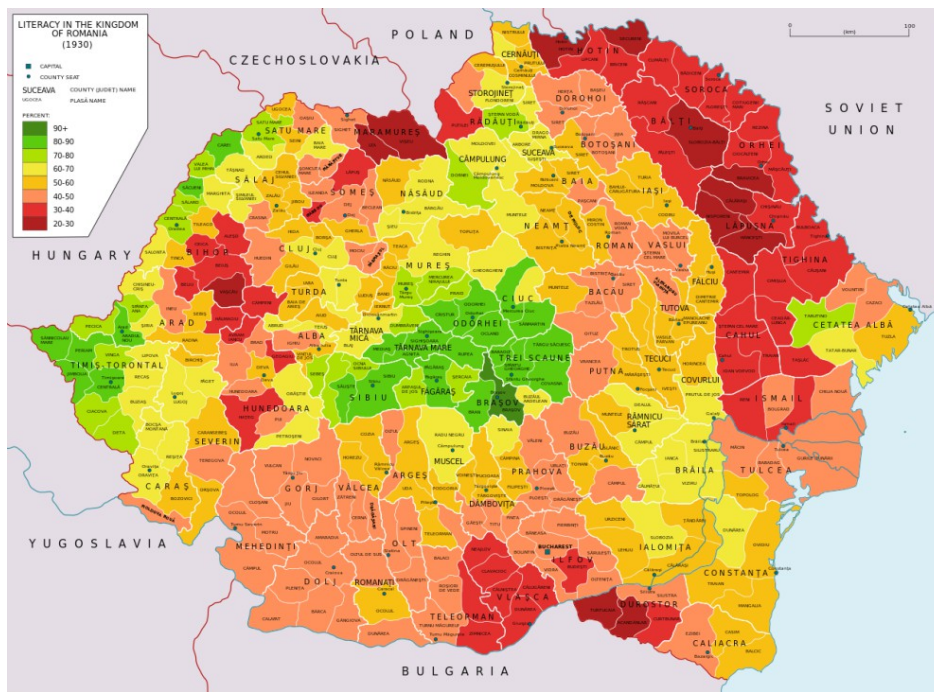
< 98

No Data

Source: UNDP Report (2009)

Scale 1 : 30000000
500 0 500 1000 Kms.

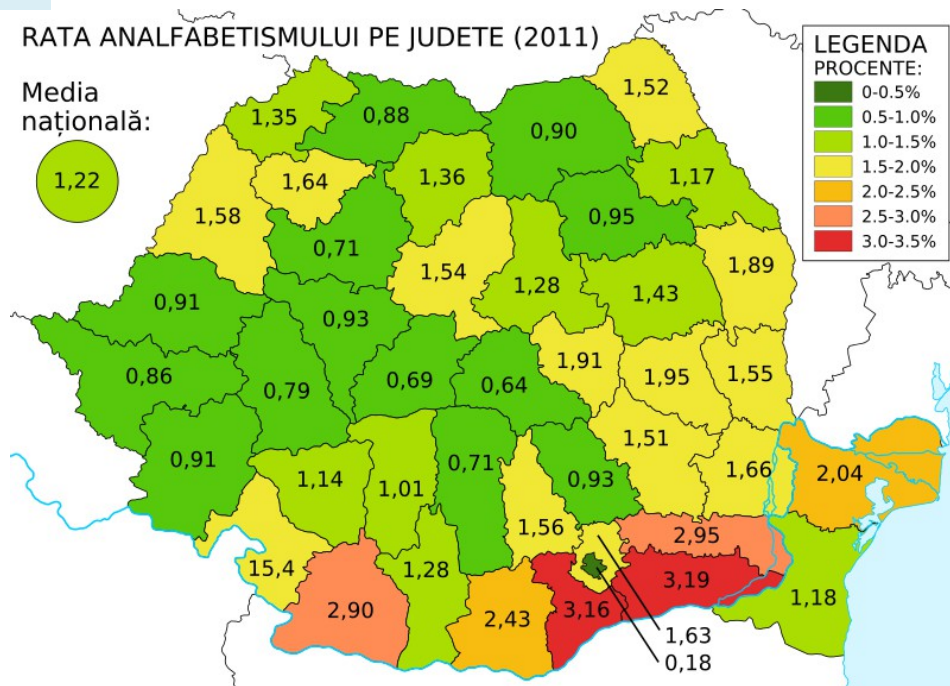
Copyright © 2011-12 www.mapsofworld.com



ROMANIA 1930

ROMANIA 2011

245.400 illiterate persons. 50%
less than 2002
According by National Statistics
Institute



Benetech – Technology serving Humanity
a nonprofit that develops and uses technology
to create positive social change
<http://benetech.org>



Route 66 Literacy

Literacy—the ability to read and write—is key to academic, social and economic development. It's much more than a skill—it's at the core of a person's ability to function as an independent individual and has a direct impact on self-esteem and well-being. Ultimately, the opportunity to become literate is a human right.



And yet, many adolescent and adult beginning readers are unable to achieve literacy in the current environment. In large part, this stems from both a lack of specialized, trained instructors to work with them, and the fact that conventional literacy instructional tools are not built to meet their specific needs. Benetech developed the Route 66 Literacy initiative to meet both of these needs.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Reading for a Billion: Same Language Subtitling - India

Same Language Subtitling (SLS) combined with popular culture on TV to promote reading practice in entertaining ways:

➤ Music videos and songs from movies are subtitled on television in the same language as the audio track so that the subtitles pass on the screen at the same time as the audio

➤ 300 million newly-literates in India are targeted

← → ↻ www.unesco.org/uil/litbase/

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Effective Literacy Practice

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Contact

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Follow

Welcome to UIL's LitBase

Experience exchange and knowledge transfer are crucial means of promoting literacy and numeracy efforts.

In order to encourage all key actors to share their experiences and gain inspiration from innovative approaches in the field of literacy, this website provides a selection of **effective adult literacy and numeracy programmes from all regions of the world.**

As the database is being compiled on an ongoing basis, newly uploaded programmes will be announced in the **News section**. We also invite institutions and organizations that are not currently represented in the database to **submit a report of their literacy project in accordance with our guidelines.**

We hope that this database will be of great value to all actors and stakeholders in the field of literacy and adult learning.

New Programmes in the Effective Literacy Practices Database

- **We Love Reading (Jordan)**
- **Civic Education Information Service for Female Iraqi Leaders (Iraq)**
- **National Literacy Programme (Burundi)**
- **Literacy for Women (Iraq)**
- **Reach Out and Read (USA)**
- **WriteOn (Ireland)**
- **Sistema Interactivo Transformemos Educando in the Department of Guainia (Colombia)**
- **Fight Against Illiteracy (Lutte contre l'illettrisme) (France)**

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Literacy and Literate Environments in Prisons

Germany: Münster Prison Library



<http://www.unesco.org/uil/litbase/?menu=4&programme=110>

UNESCO Institute for Longlife Learning

Country Profile: United Kingdom Of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

Programme Title: *Prison Family Learning Programme (PFLP)*

Implementing Organization: Best Start for Families (BSfF)

Language of Instruction: English

Programme Partners: Learning Unlimited, Big Lottery, Camden and Islington Family Learning, and National Offender Management Service through HMP Holloway & Pentonville Prisons

Date of Inception 2008 (ongoing)

<http://www.unesco.org/uil/litbase/2menu=15&country=GB&programme=108>

UNESCO Institute for Longlife Learning

Country Profile: United Kingdom Of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

Population 62,041,708 (2010)

Official Language: English

Total Expenditure on Education as % of GNP 5.5 (2010)

Total Youth Literacy Rate (15-24 years) Total: 100% Male: 100% Female: 100%

Primary School Net Enrolment/Attendance 100% (2005 - 2010)

Adult Literacy Rate (15 years and over, 2005–2010) Total: 99% M: 99% F: 99%

Programme Title: ***Bookstart Educational Programme***

Implementing Organization: Booktrust

Language of Instruction: English

Funding: The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland , Local Authorities and sponsorship from various private stakeholders such as book publishers and book sellers

UNESCO Institute for Longlife Learning

Turkey - Functional Adult Literacy and Women's Support Programme

Population 73,640,000 (2011) **Poverty** (living on less than 2 USD per day) 5% (2010)

Official language Turkish/

Other spoken languages Kurmanji, Zaza, Arabic, Laz

Total youth literacy rate (15–24 years, 2011) Total: 98.6% Male: 99.4% Female: 97.9%

Adult literacy rate (15 years and over, 2011) Total: 94.1% Male: 97.9% Female: 90.3%

Statistical sources UNICEF, June 2013 UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Programme Title Functional Adult Literacy and Women's Support Programme (FALP)

Implementing Organization Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV)

Language of Instruction Turkish

Date of Inception 1995

Family Literacy programmes (Turkey)

- Integrated and intergenerational programmes targeting families from marginalised areas of Turkey
 - Home-based Mother-Child ECE programme
 - Pre-school Parent Child Education Programme
 - Father and Mother Support Programmes
 - Functional Adult Literacy and Women's Support Programme



<http://www.unesco.org/uii/litbase/?menu=8&programme=56>

Implementing Organization Mother-Child Education Foundation (AÇEV)

Language of Instruction Turkish

Programme Partners: UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, European Commission, World Bank, Government (through the Ministries of National Education and Health), media groups (TRT, NTV, Kanal D) and local NGOs.

Date of Inception 1993

<http://www.unesco.org/uii/litbase/?menu=15&programme=56>

UNESCO Institute for Longlife Learning

Turkey –*Web-Based Literacy Programme (WBLP)*.

Implementing Organization: Anne Çocuk Egitim Vakfi (AÇEV, Mother-Child Education Foundation)

Language of Instruction: Turkish

Funding: For project development: JM Morgan Chase Foundation, Ashmore Foundation, Empower Foundation. The programme is currently self-financing.

Annual Programme Costs: 60,000 TRY (approx.)

Date of Inception 2011

<http://www.unesco.org/uil/litbase/?menu=15&programme=151>

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Country Profile: Romania

Population: 21.532.000 (2006 estimate) **Poverty** (less than US\$2 per day): 13% (1990-2005)

Official Languages: Romanian (official), Hungarian, German

Access to Primary Education – Total Net Intake Rate (NIR)
93% (2006)

Total Youth Literacy Rate (15-24 years) 98% (2000-2006)

Adult Literacy Rate (15 years and over, 2000-2006)

Total: 98% Male: 98% Female: 97%

Sources: UNESCO: EFA Global Monitoring Report 2008

UNICEF: Info by Country, World Bank: World Development Indicators database, Sep. 2008

<http://www.unesco.org/uil/litbase/?menu=15&country=RO&programme=53>

UNESCO Institute for Longlife Learning

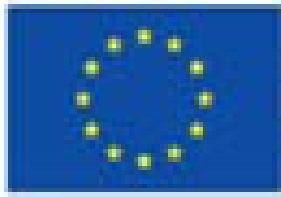
Romania - Parent Empowerment for Family Literacy Project (PEFaL)

Implementing Organization: Club Europa

Language of Instruction: Romanian

Funding: European-Union (an Inter-governmental Organisation, INGO) through the Grundtvig programme, the Romanian Ministry of Education and local government councils

<http://www.unesco.org/uil/litbase/?menu=15&programme=151>



Lifelong
Learning
Programme



***Training the Trainers to Conduct Adult Literacy
Effective Courses, Using Modern Education Theories
and Technologies***

**Grundtvig Workshop, reference GRU-13-GRAT-15 B
17th - 24th August 2014, Bucharest, Romania**

**"This project has been funded with support from the
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**This publication [communication] reflects the views only
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