

**NECE Focus Group
CLEAR Methodology presented to EDC experts in Salzburg**

Conference, 9-10 May 2014, Salzburg (Austria)

Is digital competence a crucial element in civic education? Do digital media contribute to a learner's democratic competence? On 9-10 of May 2014, these questions were discussed at the conference "Die Nutzung digitaler Medien in der Politischen Bildung" (The Use of Digital Media in Citizen Education) in Salzburg (Austria). Experts from Germany and Austria were on hand for the discussions of theoretical perspectives and practical examples, which ranged from the potential and limitations of online debates in daily newspapers to the uses of online 'educational' games. The discussions revealed that the value of digital media should not be reduced to the acquisition of 'political knowledge', but also has to lead to the development of the attitudes, skills and knowledge that enable young people to take part in all kinds of democratic processes – including their 'online' and 'offline' aspects. NECE Focus Group members Sonja Kmec (University of Luxembourg) and Claudia Lenz (European Wergeland Center) presented the methodology and online platform developed by the CLEAR project as one way to foster critical thinking, multiperspectivity and cooperative skills in diverse learning groups by using a blended learning approach that includes online and face-to-face elements.