Pestalozzi European Modules: The use of social media for democratic participation



CONTEXT

The Pestalozzi Programme puts media literacy in the context of Human Rights and describes it as *the critical, responsible and beneficial use of the media environment*. As such it is one of the key competences for sustainable democratic societies, part of a set of basic "transversal attitudes, skills and knowledge of a democratic citizen" as central elements of formal, nonformal and informal education.

The media environment has changed substantially over the past two decades and has moved from mass communication on to "mass-to-mass" communication. Media users have moved from consumers of media, recipients of messages to actors, to producers of content of a much wider range than previously imagined.

The virtual space has become a real-life extension of the concrete social space, both surround us and we live and act increasingly in both of them. The virtual social space has the similar purposes and uses as the concrete social space. From personal development and identity building, to communication, learning as well as social interaction and participation in public life.

This module series will focus on the latter: the use of social media for social interaction and democratic participation. How can education prepare the learners for a critical and responsible use of the media environment for their participation in public-life. What do education professionals need to be able to develop the capacity of learners to use social media to express their opinion, to initiate debate and discussion as well as democratic action aimed at improving the conditions which surround us, whatever topic they choose to focus on: sustainable environment and production, living together in diversity, responsible consumerism, or any other form of appropriate social and political action.

NEWS

KEY DOCUMENTS	
Description of this module series (pdf)	