



35th Forum Communication Culture of the German Society for Media Education and Communication Culture

"Media Education for All – Digitalization. Participation. Diversity."

November 16-18, 2018, Bremen

Nowadays, digital media pervade almost all areas of everyday life. We navigate through cities, gather information, make appointments, cultivate friendships, play in teams, create communities, look for our partners, document our everyday lives as well as special moments – all this is barely imaginable without digital media. We learn with digital media, we organize our work, and plan and spend our free time in digital spheres.

Social participation is linked to digital communication and digital media experiences in most cases. Digital media worlds offer potentials not only for obtaining qualifications, but also for identity formation and community-building. However, not everyone is able to equally participate in these media worlds since various barriers interfere with both access and media activity. These barriers occur in terms of technology that cannot be used by everyone on their own, as well as in dealing with different content. Accessibility for all has not yet become the norm, and many people feel stressed or left behind and excluded by questionable and discriminating contents, complex applications, nontransparent financing models and obscure data bargains.

Thus, fostering media competency and media education in order to enable participation in democratic discourse and to realize educational opportunities is an important social task. All persons ought to be able to fully display and develop their creative, artistic and intellectual potential by using digital media.

With this year's conference topic being "Media Education for All – Digitalization. Participation. Diversity.", we would like to express a broad understanding of inclusion. We would like to focus on practical media education and its underlying concepts as well as on theoretical approaches and social conditions of "Media Education for All" by working on the following questions:

- How can media education in theory and practice support and accompany the process of social inclusion?
- Where do the potentials and the challenges of an inclusive media education lie?
- Which theoretical and practical concepts are suitable for encountering and preventing exclusion and discrimination?
- How can work within the field of digital media promote cultural and political participation?
- Which media educational models and approaches are suitable for addressing target groups that are usually hard to reach?

- In which ways do schools and children and youth work need to complement each other in order to enable digital participation for all students?
- How do media projects need to be arranged if they aim on fostering exchange and collaboration among children and adolescents with different social backgrounds?
- What potential does media education offer for the social participation of all people?
- How can assistive technologies be sensibly integrated into media educational practice?
- What kind of initiatives and networks are necessary to facilitate equal participation for all?

Realizing digital participation for all persons and enabling the display of their communicative and creative potential while using digital media requires media education. At the GMK-Forum, we would like to discuss suitable approaches, strategies and methods, as well as which structural and political measures are necessary to promote inclusive media education in line with our belief in media education for all.

The federal state or province of Bremen has committed to inclusive education and, for this reason, is particularly suited as a location for the GMK-Forum in 2018.

The event of the German Society of Media Education and Communication Culture is funded by the Federal Ministry of Family, Seniors, Women and Youth, the German self-regulation of television, and the Federal Agency for Civic Education among others. The inclusivity of the event is important to the organizers and cooperation partners. Appropriate offers of assistance will be set up if required (funded by the Federal Agency for Civic Education).

Programme and registration on www.gmk-net.de from September 2018

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