



## Educating Moral-Democratic Competence with the Konstanz Method of Dilemma-Discussion®

### Why Moral-Democratic Competence Education?

SOCRATES:

But if this be affirmed, then the desire of good is common to all, and one man is no better than another in that respect?

And if one man is not better than another in desiring good, he must be better in the power of attaining it?

Then, according to your definition, virtue would appear to be the power of attaining good?

Moral-democratic competence or the power of attaining good (Socrates) is fundamental for living together in a democracy. Moral ideals like mutual respect, justice, cooperation, and democracy, are held by most if not all people throughout the world, regardless of ethnicity, culture, religion and social class. It seems that these ideals are inborn.

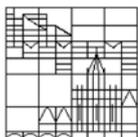
However, having these ideals is not enough. Because ideals are general, they leave much space for interpretation of what they exactly require each of us to do. Furthermore, our moral ideals often contradict each other, confronting us with moral dilemmas that we often find difficult, if not impossible, to resolve.

Therefore, if we desire to live up to our moral ideals, we also need *moral-democratic competence*, that is, the ability to resolve dilemmas through deliberation and discussion on the basis of shared moral principles rather than through fraud, violence or power. Above all, we need to be able to speak and listen to each other when debating with opponents over controversial issues. As research shows, this competence does not only help to improve peaceful cooperation in the classroom and the school, but also life later: less violence and criminal offenses, more helping, better decision-making and more sustainable learning.

Because moral-democratic competence is not inborn it needs to be fostered by education. For this the Konstanz Method of Dilemma-Discussion (KMDD)® has proved to be a highly effective and sustainable method – yet only if the teacher is well trained in the method.

Partner institutions:

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Univ. Konstanz



Univ. Poznan



Guangdong Univ.



PH Thurgau



Univ. De Chile



Univ Santo Tomás



Sächsische LZ Pol. Bildung



### Workshop-Seminars

- 17. - 21. 12. 2012, Konstanz. Anmeldefrist: 15.11.2012. Information & Anmeldung: <http://seminars.kmdd.info>
- 12. - 16. 2. 2013, vhs Konstanz. Anmeldefrist: 15.1.2013. Information & Anmeldung: [www.vhs-konstanz-singen.de](http://www.vhs-konstanz-singen.de)
- July 22-26, 2013, Konstanz, Germany; English. Registration deadline: May 31, 2013; early registration: March 31st, 2013. Information & registration: <http://seminars.kmdd.info>.

First day free tasting. The KMDD workshop-seminars are open for teachers (grades three and above), professors, and university students of all fields. The KMDD is used in educational institutions, including schools, colleges, professional schools, correctional facilities, adult education, and military training centers.

### Certification as KMDD-Teacher

We also offer an "on-the-job"-training program preparing for certification as *KMDD-Teacher*. <http://seminars.kmdd.info>.

### Lectures & Symposium

- Nov. 11, 2012, Vortrag "Ist Moral lehrbar? Erfahrungen aus 35 Jahren Forschung und Praxis". Kreuzlingen, Schweiz, Anmeldung: <http://seminars.kmdd.info>.
- Jan. 1, 2013, Vortrag "Moralisch-demokratische Kompetenz. Was wissen wir darüber? Was können wir tun?" Konstanz, Anmeldung: [www.vhs-konstanz-singen.de](http://www.vhs-konstanz-singen.de).
- July 25-26, 2013, 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium "Moral-Democratic Competence and Behavior." Konstanz, Germany.**  
Call for preliminary proposals. Deadline: Nov. 30, 2012.  
Information & registration: <http://seminars.kmdd.info>.