ECOPOLIS
Playfully exploring climate education and policy in the urban setting of Linz, Upper Austria.

Goals
The ECOPOLIS project aims to explore how communication between political representatives and the generation of 16-19 year-olds can be facilitated in an online platform. The platform leads to interactive context modeling games and opinion-eliciting activities that can be readily used in a classroom setting, increasing a better understanding of the scientific issues behind climate change, but also providing information about current political and future climate policy in the target group. The project stresses the need for highly relevant and accessible information about the target audience such as their knowledge about political processes, climate-related science and general attitudes can be collected for integrated assessment and questionnaires. Then, ECOPOLIS represents a potential tool for political representatives for both information and testing purposes. In addition, the platform enables teachers to develop educational games and training materials that students and young, even-to-be-visible voters and citizens must react upon.

Moderator
Teachers and political representatives can take the role of a moderator to both share and gather information, using customizable modules such as images, article, questions, discussion forums, and even games. All data is collected anonymously and not shared with groups in advance.

Participant
Participants view information and complete questionnaires provided by the moderator on an internet-capable device, including tablets, smartphones. All participant activity is anonymous but also linked to all other activities.

Statements from school workshops

"If you already know that there are hot enough given ideas in the city, why does it take so long to change them?"
"Why aren't there stricter rules to keep people from destroying our environment?"
"Why don't the trash cans in Linz allow you to separate your trash like in Austrian schools?"
"Why are we building another motorway when we know we should try to reduce traffic?"
"How much money is spent annually on climate measures in Linz?"
"How much energy doesn't Linz actually use? And how much energy is generated by solar panels in Linz?"