



# Project Meetings and Impact Workshops

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<i>Abstract</i>	This report provides a comprehensive chronological overview of project meetings, impact workshops and a selected list of other relevant events conducted throughout the MeDeMAP project, from the kick-off meeting in March 2023 through the sixth plenary meeting in September 2025 and the final impact workshops and conferences in January 2026.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose and Scope of the document

The MeDeMAP - Mapping Media for Future Democracies project, funded under Horizon Europe Programme (Grant Agreement No. 101094984), addressed critical challenges facing media systems and democratic participation across Europe. Launched in March 2023 through 2026, the project brought together ten partner institutions across eight European countries to analyse the complex relationships between media ecosystems and democratic governance.

Work Package 7, led by Lusófona University, was responsible for ensuring that MeDeMAP research reached and influenced relevant stakeholder communities, policy-makers, practitioners, and the broader public. This Work Package encompassed three interconnected dimensions. Dissemination activities focused on making project results publicly available to all specialised audiences who could learn from them, including scientists, authorities, industry, policymakers, and civil society, through academic publications, stakeholder roundtables, conference presentations, and public events. Exploitation ensured concrete use of results by creating practical tools and frameworks that stakeholders could actively use, including the spatial data interface for mapping European political information environments, methodological guidelines for implementing citizen parliaments, and policy recommendations for media regulation. Communication activities informed, promoted, and communicated the project's activities and results to citizens, the media, and stakeholders through multimedia content, social media platforms, newsletters, and film screenings, ensuring comprehensive awareness and understanding of MeDeMAP research across diverse audiences.

## 1.2. General overview of project meetings, impact workshops and other relevant events

This report provides a comprehensive chronological account of WP7 activities, namely project meetings and impact workshops (T 7.3) from the project kick-off meeting in Vienna (March 2023) through the sixth plenary meeting in St. Pölten (September 2025). It also provides an overview of a selection of other project events organised or co-organised by the consortium, that contributed to the project's dissemination strategy.

The report is structured to provide both detailed documentation and analysis. Each of the six plenary meetings, as presented in table 1, is described with a contextual overview, key highlights of stakeholder events and dissemination activities, and an assessment of outcomes and impact. For each meeting, the report identifies sessions, activities, and stakeholder engagement events.

Meeting	Date	Location	Key Stakeholder Event	Number of participants (total)
Kick-off	8-9 Mar 2023	Vienna (Austria)	Workshop with OSCE, EFJ, CMFE, regulators	21
2nd Plenary	6-8 Sep 2023	Milan (Italy)	Roundtable on Media, Democracy and Trust	28
3rd Plenary	6-8 Mar 2024	Lisbon (Portugal)	Portuguese media ecosystem roundtable	28
4th Plenary	Sep 2024	Kraków (Poland)	News media reactivation with Polish practitioners	31
5th Plenary	Mar 2025	Prague (Czech Republic)	Deliberative democracy in CEE	34
6th Plenary	Sep 2025	St. Pölten (Austria)	Citizen parliaments (hybrid) + data ethics (hybrid)	31

**FIGURE 1**  
**LIST OF PROJECT MEETINGS**

As to the impact workshops, the consortium organised a series of structured stakeholder engagement events designed to maximise the practical application and policy relevance of research findings. These workshops served as critical interfaces between research and practice, ensuring that project outcomes were informed by stakeholder needs and expertise, while building networks and fostering sustained impact beyond the project's duration. These are listed in table 2.

Event	Date	Location	Partner
Media for Democracy: Strengthening Media and Democracy in Czech Society	5 June 2025	Czech Senate, Prague (Czech Republic)	Charles University
Presentation of Slovenian Citizens' Parliament resolutions	9 June 2025	Ministry of Culture, Ljubliana (Slovenia)	Peace Institute
Presentation of Irish Citizens' Parliament resolutions (1)	14 June 2025	Limerick City and County Council, Limerick (Ireland)	Mary Immaculate College
Presentation of Austrian Citizens' Parliament on Media and Democracy Resolutions	25 June 2025	Vienna Concordia Press Club, Vienna (Austria)	COMMIT
Presentation of Irish Citizens' Parliament resolutions (2)	5 November 2025	Joint Parliamentary Committee on Arts, Media, and Communications, Dublin (Ireland)	Mary Immaculate College
Presentation of Slovenian Citizens' Parliament resolutions @	14 November 2025	Maribor (Slovenia)	Peace Institute

Naprej/Forward journalism festival			
Mapping Media for Future Democracies	13 January 2026	Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels (Belgium)	Consortium
Regulating Media for Future Democracies: Political and People's Voices	13 January 2026	European Parliament, Brussels (Belgium)	Consortium

**FIGURE 3**  
**LIST OF IMPACT WORKSHOPS ORGANISED BY THE CONSORTIUM**

In addition to the plenary meetings and impact workshops, partners organised and co-organised several public events to engage key audiences in discussing project results and lessons learned, and to expand the research project's key discussions. The events listed in table 3, below, are presented as examples of WP7's strategic approach to dissemination across different audience types, geographic contexts, and impact levels.

Event	Type	Date	Location	Partner
Democracy and Media: Reflections from Around the World. A Roundtable Discussion	Webinar	22 January 2025	Online	IAMCR Communication, Social Justice, and Democracy (CSD) Working Group
Democracy and Media in Europe	Talk	31 January 2025	Augsburg University (Germany)	Institute of Media, Knowledge, and Communication (IMWK)
Democracy and Media in Europe: A Discursive-Material Approach	Book launch	9 April 2025	Rüstem's Bookshop, Nicosia (Cyprus)	Rüstem's Bookshop
Citizen Parliament on Media and Democracy: A	Seminar	25 July 2025	Universitas Islam	Department of Communications,

Tool for Democratic Renewal			Indonesia (UII), Yogyakarta (Indonesia)	Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII)
Democracy and Media in Europe: A Discursive-Material Approach	Roundtable	8 October 2025	Lusófona University, Lisbon (Portugal)	/
Agon – Constructions of Democracy (premiere)	Film Screening	23 October 2025	Ponrepo Kino , Prague (Czech Republic)	Ponrepo Kino
Citizen’s Parliament: Lesson in Public Participation	Webinar	24 October 2025	Online	Institute of Policy Studies at the National University of Singapore
Democracy and media in Europe: Emerging challenges	Roundtable	13 November 2025	Uppsala University (Sweden)	Department of Informatics and Media at Gamla Torget Campus, Ostrom-salen
The Future is Public	Conference	21 November 2025	Austrian UNESCO Commission, Vienna (Austria)	Austrian UNESCO Commission; Paris Lodron Salzburg University; Federal Chancellery of Austria
Mapping Media for Future Democracies - How Portuguese Media Shapes Democracy	Webinar	20 January 2026	Online	SOPCOM Political Communication Working Group
The Czech Citizen Parliament: Analysing Media Change, Participation, and Democracy	Seminar	28 January 2026	Charles University, Prague (Czech Republic)	/

Journalists and Audiences - Dissonant Perceptions	Roundtable	19 February 2026	Lusófona University, Lisbon (Portugal)	/
How to Protect Democracy	Seminar	20 February 2026	University of Trás-os- Montes and Alto Douro Vila Real (Portugal)	University of Trás-os- Montes and Alto Douro

FIGURE 3  
LIST OF SELECTED PROJECT DISSEMINATION EVENTS ORGANISED OR CO-ORGANISED BY THE CONSORTIUM

## 2. Project meetings

To serve multiple strategic objectives essential to MeDeMAP's research and impact agenda, diverse project events were organised over three years. By assembling stakeholders across different formats - from plenary meetings, to roundtables, seminars, workshops, and film screenings - MeDeMAP created opportunities for multi-directional knowledge exchange between researchers and practitioners, built sustainable networks connecting academic institutions with policy actors and civil society organisations. At the same time, the team ensured research remained grounded in real-world challenges facing European media systems and democratic governance.

Project meetings aimed to enable consortium coordination, ensure systematic progress across all work packages, and engagement with varied national contexts and media landscapes. As to impact workshops, these provided structured opportunities to discuss research aims and preliminary results with European experts from regulatory bodies, press councils, media associations, journalists' organisations, and the scientific community, building momentum for research-informed policy development and building networks for sustained collaboration beyond the project's formal duration.

The following sections provide detailed information on the project meetings and impact workshops. While project events

### **2.1. Kick-off meeting (Vienna, Austria)**

**Location:** Vienna, Austria

**Date:** March 8-10, 2023

**Venue:** Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (OeAW)

The MeDeMAP kick-off meeting took place in Vienna from March 8-10, 2023, hosted by the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (OeAW) and co-organised with COMMIT. The three-day meeting brought together the full consortium to discuss the project's plan, strategy, and expected outcomes. The meeting was structured to combine formal project management, comprehensive work package presentations, and strategic

stakeholder engagement, establishing both the project's operational framework and external visibility from inception.

Day 1 focused on internal consortium coordination and work package presentations. Following a Steering Committee meeting, the project officially opened with a welcome session by Josef Seethaler, PI, who presented MeDeMAP's research goals under the theme "Reshaping media – daring (more) democracy." Administrative sessions covered project implementation guidelines and pending issues, ensuring all partners understood EU compliance requirements and consortium protocols.

Day 2 featured systematic presentations of all seven work packages by their respective leaders, with welcome addresses from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and EU Project Officer Eugenia Strantzka. On the second day, a General Assembly was held to formalise consortium governance structures.

Day 3 focused entirely on external stakeholder engagement through the workshop "Mapping Media for Future Democracies," chaired by Barbara Thomaß. This half-day event featured a keynote by Teresa Ribeiro, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, followed by two thematic panels addressing journalism and regulatory perspectives on media and democracy. The journalism panel brought together Renate Schroeder (Director, European Federation of Journalists) and Fabian Ekstedt (Community Media Forum Europe). The regulatory panel included Liam Boyle (Broadcasting Authority of Ireland) and Alexander Warzilek (Austrian Press Council, Alliance of Independent Press Councils of Europe). This workshop successfully positioned MeDeMAP within European media policy discourse from the project's start, establishing connections with key institutions representing journalism practice, community media, broadcasting regulation, and press self-regulation across multiple European countries.



IMAGE 1  
PHOTO STILLS FROM THE KICK-OFF MEETING. VIENNA, MARCH 2023

## 2.2. Second plenary meeting (Milan, Italy)

**Location:** Milan, Italy

**Date:** September 6-8, 2023

**Venue:** IULM University

The second Plenary Meeting took place at IULM University in Milan, Italy, from September 6-8, 2023, marking the first comprehensive mid-year review of project activities. The meeting took place at a critical juncture (six months into the project), enabling the consortium to assess initial progress, refine methodologies based on early experience, and recalibrate strategies for the second half of Year 1.

Day 1 focused extensively on Work Package 2 (Theoretical Embedding), with Nico Carpentier and Jeffrey Wimmer presenting Deliverable 2.1, "Democracy and Media: A Discursive-Material Approach," followed by an in-depth discussion of the theoretical foundations and next steps. The WP7 Dissemination, Exploitation, and Communication presentation reviewed the current status of activities and planned strategies for Year 2.

Day 2 provided systematic progress updates across the empirical work packages: WP3 on legal and regulatory frameworks (chaired by Josef Seethaler, including a presentation by Barbara Thomaß on public participation in media self-regulation), WP4 on media supply (chaired by Beata Klimkiewicz), and broad WP5 sessions on audience demand (chaired by Andrea Miconi and Giulia Ferri).

Day 3 addressed WP6 and participatory approaches (chaired by Helmut Peissl), and concluded with a Steering Committee and an Assembly of Partners for formal decision-making approval.



IMAGE 2  
PHOTO STILL FROM THE SECOND PROJECT MEETING. MILAN, FEBRUARY, 2023

The second project meeting included an external engagement event addressing a pressing challenge facing contemporary media systems: the crisis of trust in media institutions and its implications for democratic governance. Chaired by Helmut Peissl from Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE), the roundtable "Media, Democracy and Trust in the EU" brought together diverse academic perspectives to examine trust dynamics across European contexts. Speakers included Cláudia Álvares from ISCTE-IUL in Lisbon, offering insights from the Portuguese and Iberian media landscape; Nico Carpentier from Charles University in Prague, presenting WP2 theoretical frameworks on democracy and media; Josef Seethaler from OEAW Vienna, providing the Principal Investigator's overview of MeDeMAP's approach to trust and democratic media; and Sergio Splendore from the University of Milan, representing the Network of European Political Communication Scholars and connecting MeDeMAP to broader academic networks. By combining internal consortium expertise with external academic leadership, the event positioned MeDeMAP

within scholarly discussions on media, democracy, and information systems, while introducing fresh perspectives from the project's theoretical and empirical work.

The second plenary meeting strengthened MeDeMAP's academic networks, particularly within Southern European research communities, and positioned the project as a significant contributor to European scholarly debates on media, trust, and democracy. The engagement with the Network of European Political Communication Scholars, enabled by Sergio Splendore's participation, opened pathways for future collaboration with one of Europe's leading academic networks in political communication.

### ***2.3. Third plenary meeting (Lisbon, Portugal)***

**Location:** Lisbon, Portugal

**Date:** March 6-8, 2024

**Venue:** Lusófona University

MeDeMAP's third Plenary Meeting took place at Lusófona University, Portugal. The meeting balanced internal work package coordination with an external engagement program and introduced multimedia content creation as a systematic approach to dissemination.

The meeting structure reflected the development of research activities across all work packages. Day 1 started with a discussion on WP2's theoretical embedding, led by Nico Carpentier, followed by WP3 sessions on legal and regulatory frameworks, co-chaired by Josef Seethaler and Barbara Thomaß. The WP7 session occupied a central afternoon slot to assess outcomes from the first year and plan major dissemination activities for the remainder of the project.

Day 2 provided systematic progress updates on WP4 (media supply, chaired by Beata Klimkiewicz) and extended WP5 sessions on audience demand led by Giulia Ferri, Andrea Miconi, and Panos Kompatsiaris, followed by WP6 parallel discussions chaired by Helmut Peissl.



IMAGE 3  
PHOTO STILLS OF THE THIRD PLENARY MEETING. LISBON, MARCH 2024

The meeting ended on Day 3 with a public roundtable. The public event "Media and Democracies – Strengths, threats and chances" was chaired by José Gomes Pinto, Professor at Lusófona University, and attracted broader community participation beyond academic and project circles. The panel brought together diverse Portuguese media stakeholders: Karla Pequeno, journalist at Público (Portugal's leading newspaper); Mariana Lameiras, Senior Research Analyst at United Nations University specializing in Portuguese media regulatory bodies and power relationships since democratization; Manuel Pita, researcher at CICANT and Lusófona professor focusing on social network dynamics, cyberpsychology, and artificial intelligence; Isabel Nery from the Portuguese Journalists' Union and Association for Media Literacy and Journalism; and Ricardo Cabral Fernandes, Director and journalist at Setenta e Quatro, an independent digital journalism platform. The panel gathered comprehensive engagement with the Portuguese media landscape across journalism practice (legacy and independent), international research institutions, professional associations, and emerging technological challenges to

democratic media. The discussion reflected a sophisticated understanding of contemporary media ecosystems and positioned MeDeMAP as a significant contributor to national debates on media and democracy.

## **2.4. Fourth plenary meeting (Kraków, Poland)**

**Location:** Kraków, Poland

**Date:** September 18-20, 2024

**Venue:** Jagiellonian University, Collegium Maius

The fourth Plenary Meeting took place at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. The meeting took place at the project's midpoint and combined intensive internal coordination across all work packages with external stakeholder engagement focused on media sustainability in contexts experiencing democratic pressures, particularly relevant given Poland's experiences with government pressure on independent journalism and civil society media.

The meeting structure reflected both a comprehensive research review and forward-looking strategic planning. Day 1 opened with coordination updates from Josef Seethaler and Olha Drozd before moving to an extended WP2 panel on "Struggles and Conditions of Possibility of Democracy and Media," featuring presentations by Nico Carpentier on democratic hybridities, Vaia Doudaki on conditions of possibility for democratic media, and Jeffrey Wimmer on Mastodon as counter-hegemonic practice. The IMT Atlantique team presented an empirical analysis of France, with prospects for international comparative research. The afternoon session featured the stakeholder meeting "Reactivation: The News Media for Future Democracies".

Day 2 began with the WP7 session, which conducted a strategic assessment of dissemination activities across the first 18 months, evaluated reach and impact metrics, and planned exploitation strategies as research findings matured. The day continued with WP5 discussions on audience demand, a WP6 panel on organising citizen parliaments featuring presentations on literature review, Czech recruitment strategies, participatory models, and online versus face-to-face formats, followed by sessions on WP3 legal frameworks (including Barbara Thomaß on ownership diversity) and WP4 media supply.

Day 3 featured a publication and dissemination roundtable to coordinate academic outputs and ensure a systematic approach to maximise impact and ensure EU open access compliance, followed by Steering Committee and Assembly of Partners meetings.

The stakeholder meeting "Reactivation: The News Media for Future Democracies" was instrumental in moving the discussion from problem analysis to solution development. The theme "reactivation" signalled a commitment to identifying concrete pathways to sustain quality journalism and independent media in challenging political environments. The panel brought together diverse perspectives on media sustainability: Josef Trappel from the University of Salzburg, a media scholar with extensive expertise on public service media and media policy; Bartosz Węglarczyk, chief editor of onet.pl (Poland's largest online news portal with millions of daily users), representing commercial digital media navigating political pressures; Magdalena Chrzconowicz, chief editor of OKO.press, an independent fact-checking and investigative journalism platform operating as civil society media; and Dominika Bychawska-Siniarska from Prague Civil Society Center and Institute of Law Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences, offering legal and policy perspectives on media freedom and civil society. The session enabled substantive dialogue between panellists and the audience on practical challenges facing news media. Meeting in Kraków provided direct access to Polish media professionals and civil society actors with firsthand experience navigating democratic backsliding, government pressure on independent journalism, and the economic challenges of sustaining quality media without state support or political capture.

The fourth project meeting addressed the Central European context's democratic challenges, demonstrated a shift from analysis to solutions to address media sustainability, and strengthened connections with media practitioners and civil society in the CEE region.

## ***2.5. Fifth plenary meeting (Prague, Czech Republic)***

**Location:** Prague, Czech Republic

**Date:** March 5-7, 2025

**Venue:** Charles University

Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic) hosted the fifth Plenary Meeting. As the project entered its final year, this meeting shifted the focus to publication planning,

knowledge mobilisation, and the strategic positioning of research outputs to maximise academic and policy impact.

The meeting prioritised publication coordination and synthesis across work packages. Day 1 began with coordination updates from Josef Seethaler and Olha Drozd, followed by WP2 theoretical discussions and WP3 sessions on legal and regulatory frameworks led by Josef Seethaler and Maren Beaufort, including Barbara Thomaß's presentation on why norms and normativity matter in communication studies. Day 2 paid specific attention to academic outputs through two dedicated publication sessions: first, a project-level session chaired by Josef Seethaler, ensuring comprehensive coverage and synergies across all work packages; and second, a WP4-specific publication planning session chaired by Beata Klimkiewicz, addressing media supply research outputs. This systematic approach ensured quality assurance, strategic positioning in high-impact journals, and compliance with EU open-access requirements, while laying the groundwork for potential edited volumes or special issues to present the project findings coherently. The afternoon included a WP6 qualitative research calibration training for citizen parliament researchers.

Day 3 began with a Steering Committee meeting, followed by the full consortium gathering for a WP2 discussion on "A discussion on stupidity: Re-theorising the citizen parliaments," featuring statements by Vaia Doudaki, Jeffrey Wimmer, Andrea Miconi, Rosemary Day, and Josef Seethaler.

On the first day, a roundtable on deliberative democracy in Central and Eastern Europe connected WP6 citizen parliaments research to broader regional policy contexts, demonstrating how academic research can inform democratic innovation in practice. The panel brought together stakeholders representing different dimensions of participatory democracy implementation: Žofie Hobzíkova from Platform for Citizens' Assemblies; Roman Haken, vice-chairman of the Liberal Ecological Party; Paulina Pospieszna from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań; and Pavel Mička, head of the Department for Cooperation with Civil Society at the Office of Government of the Czech Republic. The panel addressed the challenges of institutionalising deliberative democracy in younger democracies, including low civic trust, limited experience with participatory governance, and the potential role of such practices in countering democratic backsliding in the region.

The Prague meeting enabled advance coordination of publication for final-year outputs, ensuring the consortium would produce coherent, high-impact academic publications while meeting EU open-access requirements. The strengthened understanding of Europe's historical contexts, such as experiences of censorship, underground culture, and transitions to democracy, enriched the consortium's capacity to situate contemporary media and democracy challenges within longer historical trajectories of struggle for freedom of expression and democratic governance.

## **2.6. Sixth plenary meeting (St. Pölten, Austria)**

**Location:** St. Pölten, Austria

**Date:** September 24-26, 2025

**Venue:** University of Applied Science

MeDeMAP's sixth Plenary Meeting took place at the University of Applied Science St. Pölten in Austria. As the final plenary meeting before the official end of the project, this meeting focused on research synthesis, impact planning, and legacy building. The meeting benefited from support from the University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten and the campus radio station CR 94.4, reflecting local institutional commitment to media innovation and community engagement.

Day 1 opened with WP1 coordination updates and short progress reports from all work package leaders. WP4 sessions on media supply, led by Beata Klimkiewicz, addressed comparative analysis findings before the afternoon shifted to WP2's film screening and roundtable, "Agon: Constructions of Democracy," featuring co-director Ali Minanto and director of photography Jhon Sany Purwanto.

Day 2 began with WP6 sessions analysing citizen parliament outcomes, followed by a hybrid roundtable "How to prevent data misuse?", chaired by Josef Seethaler. In the afternoon, WP5 sessions addressed demand-side findings, followed by comprehensive publications coordination chaired by Josef Seethaler to ensure completion of all planned outputs, and planning for post-project publications.

Day 3 featured a Steering Committee meeting before the full consortium gathered for the joint WP1 & 7 session on "Communication & event at the European Parliament", followed by WP1 discussions on "Mapping European political information environments",



and concluded with the General Assembly of Partners for formal approval of final decisions.

On the first day, the hybrid public roundtable "Citizen parliaments – learnings for democratic innovation", chaired by Helmut Peissl, synthesised WP6 research findings for policy audiences through a dual-round format. The first round featured MeDeMAP partners presenting findings from four countries: Laurence Monnot discussing the Austrian citizen parliament experience; Nico Carpentier presenting findings from the Czech Republic; Rosemary Day sharing Irish experiences; and Brankica Petkovic offering Slovenian perspectives and Southeast European contexts. This comparative presentation revealed how citizen parliaments functioned across diverse democratic contexts and media systems. The second round integrated external Austrian and international expertise, creating a multi-level impact from municipal through European levels. Speakers included Markus Götsch from [narrativum.at](http://narrativum.at); Tijana Matic and Teresa Feith from the City of Vienna's Office for Participation; and Daniela Ingruber from [strategieanalysen.at](http://strategieanalysen.at). The dual-round format enabled two-way knowledge exchange, with researchers learning from practitioners' implementation experiences while practitioners gained access to comparative research insights.

On the second day, the roundtable "How to prevent data misuse?" addressed critical ethical and governance dimensions of research practice. Chaired by Josef Seethaler, the panel brought together complementary expertise on research data management and protection: Kristina Juraitė from Vytautas Magnus University and the DIACOMET; Lars Kaczmirek from AUSSDA (The Austrian Social Science Data Archive); Krisztina Rozgonyi from OEAW and DIACOMET; and Josef Trappel from the University of Salzburg and the ReMeD project. Both roundtables were conducted in a hybrid format, extending geographic reach beyond in-person attendees, improving accessibility for international participants, and promoting sustainable knowledge sharing. The cross-project collaboration with DIACOMET and ReMeD also demonstrated commitment to building European research infrastructure and sharing lessons learned across related projects addressing media, democracy, and data governance challenges.

The MeDeMAP project has received funding from the European Union's HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions under Grant Agreement No 101094984.

### 3. Impact workshops

Concerning impact workshops, the consortium organised a set of activities to maximise the practical application and policy relevance of research findings. These workshops served as critical interfaces between research and practice, bringing together national policymakers, regulators, and media stakeholders for evidence- and practice-based sessions at both the European and national levels.

As the project approached its end, two events were organised in Brussels on 13 January 2026. The seminar "Regulating Media for Future Democracies: Political and People's Voices" took place at the European Parliament on 13 January 2026, hosted by MEPs Irena Joveva (Renew Europe) and Marina Kaljurand (Socialists and Democrats). This high-level event brought MeDeMAP research findings directly to European policymakers, Members of the European Parliament, national parliamentarians, European Commission officials, and media regulators for dialogue on the evolving relationship between media regulation and democratic governance. The program featured two main roundtables: the first discussed next steps following the adoption of the EU Media Freedom Act (EMFA), exploring how Europe can strengthen democratic institutions through fair and transparent media frameworks; the second addressed what European citizens can contribute to EU media policy, drawing directly on insights from the four citizen parliaments organised by MeDeMAP in Austria, Czech Republic, Ireland, and Slovenia. Representatives from each citizen parliament - Josef Tokár and Iveta Černá (Czech Republic), Karin Aringer and Andreas Mutschlechner (Austria), Niall Mahon and Con Cronin (Ireland), and Milojka Doljak and Mirka Race (Slovenia) - presented their resolutions and engaged in dialogue with MEPs Hannes Heide (Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats) and Lena Schilling (The Greens/European Free Alliance), creating direct channels for citizen voices to inform European media policy development.

Also on January 13th, the MeDeMAP consortium co-organised with DESIRE (Centre for the study of Democracy, Signification and Resistance), ECHO (Media, Culture & Politics Research Group) - Vrije Universiteit Brussel -, and ENGAGE (Research Center on Publicness in Contemporary Communication) - Université Saint-Louis -, the seminar and workshop "Mapping Media for Future Democracies". The event took place at Vrije



Universiteit Brussel and engaged journalists, researchers, and NGOs through debates on journalism and democracy, and an interactive workshop on the project's spatial data interface mapping European political information environments. During the workshop, participants engaged hands-on with the multi-layer map of European political information environments, MeDeMAP's spatial data interface, which provides quantitative insights into media and information ecosystems across Europe. The workshop was chaired by Josef Seethaler (PI), with contributions from David F. J. Campbell (University of Vienna) and Beata Klimkiewicz (Jagiellonian University, Kraków).



IMAGE 4  
PHOTO STILLS OF THE EVENTS “REGULATING MEDIA FOR FUTURE DEMOCRACIES” AND “MAPPING MEDIA FOR FUTURE DEMOCRACIES”. BRUSSELS, JANUARY, 2026

Regarding national impact workshops, the consortium organised five based on WP6's Citizens Parliaments activities in Austria, the Czech Republic, Ireland, and Slovenia. In Austria, COMMIT presented the citizen parliament resolutions at the Austrian Press Club Concordia on 25 June 2025, together with a roundtable discussion with representatives of the vice-chancellor in charge of media policy, the ministries of education and culture, and the media industry. In the Czech Republic, Charles University organised a presentation of resolutions at the Czech Senate (Prague). The roundtable took place on 5 June 2025 with the support of the 1st Deputy Chairman of the Senate, in collaboration with the Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism, Open Society Foundations, and the Independent Journalism Endowment Fund. In Ireland, Mary Immaculate College promoted presentations at two levels: first at the local democracy level through Limerick City and County Council

on 14 July 2025, where councillors discussed resolutions with ten attending citizens in a session covered by local media; then at the national level in November 2025, when ten citizen parliament members presented resolutions to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Arts, Media, and Communications in a session broadcast live on national television. This session resulted in redrafting the resolutions, which are currently underway. In Slovenia, the Peace Institute organised a presentation at the Ministry of Culture on 9 June 2025. The session was attended by high-ranking ministry officials, Members of Parliament, media representatives from the Association of Journalists, RTV Slovenia's Ombudsman, editors and journalists from public service broadcasting and the Slovenian Press Agency, as well as civil society and academic representatives. Slovenian findings were also presented at the Naprej/Forward journalism festival in Maribor on 14 November 2025, an event that engaged journalists and other interested stakeholders.



IMAGE 4  
PHOTO STILLS OF THE NATIONAL IMPACT WORKSHOPS VARIOUS LOCATIONS, 2025

## 4.A selection of other relevant events<sup>1</sup>

Beyond the six plenary meetings that formed the project's main activities, the consortium organised, co-organised, and participated in numerous events, demonstrating a sustained commitment to stakeholder engagement, knowledge mobilisation, and public communication throughout MeDeMAP's duration. These complementary activities extended the project's reach at the European and national levels, engaging multiple audiences including policymakers, journalists, civil society organisations, academics, and European citizens across multiple formats and venues.

The project's dissemination activities included academic talks and seminars at universities across Europe, such as the talk "Democracy and Media in Europe" at Augsburg University's Institute of Media, Knowledge, and Communication on 31 January 2025, and the roundtable "Democracy and media in Europe: Emerging challenges" at Uppsala University's Department of Informatics and Media on 13 November 2025. The project also reached beyond Europe, with a seminar on "Citizen Parliament on Media and Democracy: A Tool for Democratic Renewal" at the Department of Communications at Universitas Islam Indonesia in Yogyakarta on 25 July 2025, and a webinar on "Citizen's Parliament: Lesson in Public Participation" organised with the Institute of Policy Studies at the National University of Singapore on 24 October 2025. These international engagements highlighted the global relevance of MeDeMAP's research on participatory democracy and media systems. Other relevant events include the book launch for "Democracy and Media in Europe: A Discursive-Material Approach" at Rüstem's Bookshop in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 9 April 2025, which presented the project's theoretical framework to the public and the participation in the conference "The Future is Public" in Vienna on 21 November 2025, organised by the Austrian UNESCO Commission, Paris Lodron University of Salzburg, and the Federal Chancellery of Austria, which positioned MeDeMAP research within broader European debates on public media and democratic governance.

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<sup>1</sup> The events listed in this section are used to present examples of the strategic approach the consortium conducted to disseminate project results across different audience types, geographic contexts, and impact levels.



**IMAGE 4**  
**PHOTO STILLS FROM THE PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK *MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE*. NICOSIA, APRIL 2025**

National and regional stakeholder engagement remained vital to the project's dissemination strategy. In the Czech Republic, a roundtable on "Media for Democracy: Strengthening Media and Democracy in Czech Society" took place on 5 June 2025 in Prague, organised in collaboration with the Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism at Charles University, Open Society Foundations, and the Independent Journalism Endowment Fund, directly engaging Czech media policy stakeholders and civil society. Furthermore, a seminar titled "The Czech Citizen Parliament: Analysing Media Change, Participation, and Democracy" was held at Charles University on 28 January 2026, presenting findings from the Czech citizen parliament to academic and policy audiences. In Portugal, webinars and roundtables engaged the Lusophone research community, including "Mapping Media for Future Democracies - How Portuguese Media Shapes Democracy", co-organised with SOPCOM Political Communication Working Group on 20 January 2026, and a roundtable on "Journalists and Audiences – Dissonant Perceptions" in Lisbon on 19 February 2026, examining divergent perspectives on news integrity. A seminar on "How to Protect Democracy" at Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro in Vila Real on 20 February 2026 extended engagement beyond major urban centres to regional Portuguese institutions.



IMAGE 5  
*PHOTO STILL FROM THE ROUNDTABLE " MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY: ROUNDTABLE ON STRENGTHENING MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC" . PRAGUE, JUNE 2025*

The film essay "AGON: Constructions of Democracy" premiered at Ponrepo Kino in Prague on 23 October 2025 and was thereafter screened at various venues. Other webinars extended global reach, including "Democracy and Media: Reflections from Around the World", co-organised with the IAMCR Communication, Social Justice, and Democracy Working Group on 22 January 2025.

This comprehensive dissemination program, spanning 16 events across seven countries, connecting high-level policy engagement, academic presentations, public roundtables, film screenings, and international collaboration, ensured MeDeMAP research reached and influenced relevant communities across academia, policy, media practice, and civil society throughout Europe and beyond, exceeding standard dissemination requirements and creating sustainable networks and impacts beyond the project's formal duration.



IMAGE 6  
PHOTO STILLS FROM THE SEMINAR " JOURNALISTS AND AUDIENCES: DISSONANT PERSPECTIVES. LISBON, FEBRUARY 2026

## 5. Final notes

The MeDeMAP project has implemented a comprehensive, strategically sound dissemination, exploitation, and communication plan under Work Package 7. From the opening stakeholder workshop in Vienna (March 2023) through the final European Parliament and Brussels academic events (January 2026), WP7 activities, namely Task 7.3, have evolved consistently from initial network-building to final-year impact. The six plenary meetings integrated internal coordination with external stakeholder engagement, producing opportunities for both consortium development and broader dissemination to media policy communities, practitioner networks, and civil society organisations across Central Europe, Southern Europe, and Central-Eastern Europe.

Beyond the plenary meetings, the project organised and co-organised numerous dissemination events across seven countries, as well as online platforms, demonstrating a sustained commitment to knowledge mobilisation across multiple audiences and formats. High-level, evidence- and practice-based policy engagement in Brussels and four different partner countries brought findings from the Citizen Parliaments and media regulation research directly to MEPs, European Commission officials, as well as local and national authorities. Academic seminars at universities across Europe and internationally (Uppsala, Augsburg, Yogyakarta, Singapore, among others) positioned MeDeMAP within scholarly debates on media and democracy. National stakeholder roundtables in the Czech Republic and Portugal engaged academics, media practitioners, civil society, and policymakers. The film essay "AGON: Constructions of Democracy" film essay and the systematic production of multimedia content established resources for sustained communication beyond project completion. Hybrid event formats expanded geographic reach while creating ongoing dissemination opportunities.

The strategic progression over the three years of the MeDeMAP project reveals an adaptive execution. Multi-tier stakeholder engagement ensured comprehensive coverage from grassroots organisations to municipal governments and European institutions. Geographic diversity enabled an understanding of diverse media system contexts and democratic challenges - from established democracies to post-communist transitions.

The activities documented in this report demonstrate adherence to EU Horizon Europe requirements for dissemination and exploitation, while creating genuine value through established networks, published outputs, and sustained European-level policy engagement, positioning MeDeMAP for continued influence well beyond its formal end.

MeDeMAP – Mapping Media for Future Democracies

Deliverable 7.3

V1.0

(February, 2026)

