



## **Title: Report on activities within WP2: Stakeholder Engagement and Community Building, by partner University of Maribor (UM)**

Authors: Tanja Zdolšek Draksler, Izidor Mlakar, Valentino Safran; University of Maribor

### **Introduction:**

WP2 is dedicated to forging robust partnerships across industry, academia, citizen groups, and policymakers – ensuring everyone has a voice in shaping the project's direction and impact. Activities under WP2 are focusing on two key tasks (T2.1 and T2.2). Under the first task (T2.1: Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement Strategy) we are identifying and connecting with key stakeholders across Europe, building a powerful network for value co-creation. This involves understanding their needs, interests, and how they can best contribute to MEDVIEW's goals. Under the second task (T2.2: Development of Partnership Framework), we are establishing a clear framework that defines our shared vision, roles, responsibilities, and principles for collaboration. This framework will ensure cohesive teamwork, effective governance, and responsible data management, built upon best practices. Overall, WP2 ensures that the project remains relevant, sustainable, and responsive to societal needs.

In the scope of the WP2 activities, project partner UM did organize or co-organize multiple events, at which different stakeholders (industry (work staff in healthcare), academia (researchers, students, educators), citizens, patients and policy makers (from Slovenia, other EU countries and European Commission) participated. In that way, we first identified and then connected with relevant stakeholders. Based on active dialogues and communication, we managed to understand their needs and interests.

### **STAKEHOLDERS EVENT no.1:**

#### **September 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025: From AI Research to Clinical Implementation (Maribor, Slovenia and online)**

From 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025, the University of Maribor's Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science hosted a five-day international event focused on the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in health care, with the focus on cancer care. The event brought together leading experts from across Europe to explore the transformative potential of AI in the clinical setting and to address the critical challenges of implementation, regulation, and commercialization.

The event served as a dynamic platform to bridge the gap between cutting-edge AI research and clinical practice. Through a carefully curated program, participants examined the full spectrum of opportunities and barriers in translating AI innovations into real-world healthcare solutions.

Over five days, participants explored:



- European policy perspectives on healthcare AI and the strategic directions of hospital digital transformation.
- Show case presentations of different active research projects.
- The regulatory framework (MDR, AI Act, HTA) and the practical aspects of compliance and health economics.
- Ethical challenges and opportunities, including bias, transparency, and patient engagement.
- Methodologies for clinical trials, interoperability, data spaces, and opportunities for commercialization and funding.

Key themes also included the stakeholders engagement.

The event emphasized the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration, bringing together voices from academia, industry, healthcare, and policy-making. Participation was free of charge, with prior registration required, ensuring broad accessibility and engagement. All together **70 participants** joined (in person and online) from **all across Europe (Slovenia, Greece, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, France, Sweden, Ireland)**.

This initiative marks a significant step forward in fostering a shared understanding and collaborative momentum toward the responsible and effective use of AI in cancer care.

The summer school closed with the doctoral and early-stage researcher presentations on the final day of the event.

Event web-page: <https://dsplab.feri.um.si/en/bosomshield-summer-school/>.

Photos from the event below.



Figure 1: Opening Ceremony - Ksenija Klampfer, Minister of Digital Transformation, Slovenia



Figure 2: Audience



Figure 3: Opening Ceremony - Prof. dr. Gorazd Štumberger, dean Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, UM, Slovenia



Figure 4: EU vision for healthcare AI (policy view): Marianne Ines Da Silva, Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA), European Commission (remote)



Figure 5: Opening Ceremony - Dr. Jure Gašparič, State secretary at Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Slovenia



Figure 6: Opening Ceremony - Iztok Kos, MD, State secretary at Ministry of Health, Slovenia



Figure 7: Audience – protocol guests



Figure 8: Opening Ceremony - Prof. dr. Zdravko Kačič, rector University of Maribor, Slovenia



Figure 9: Audience



Figure 10: Dr. Izidor Mlakar presenting MedView project.

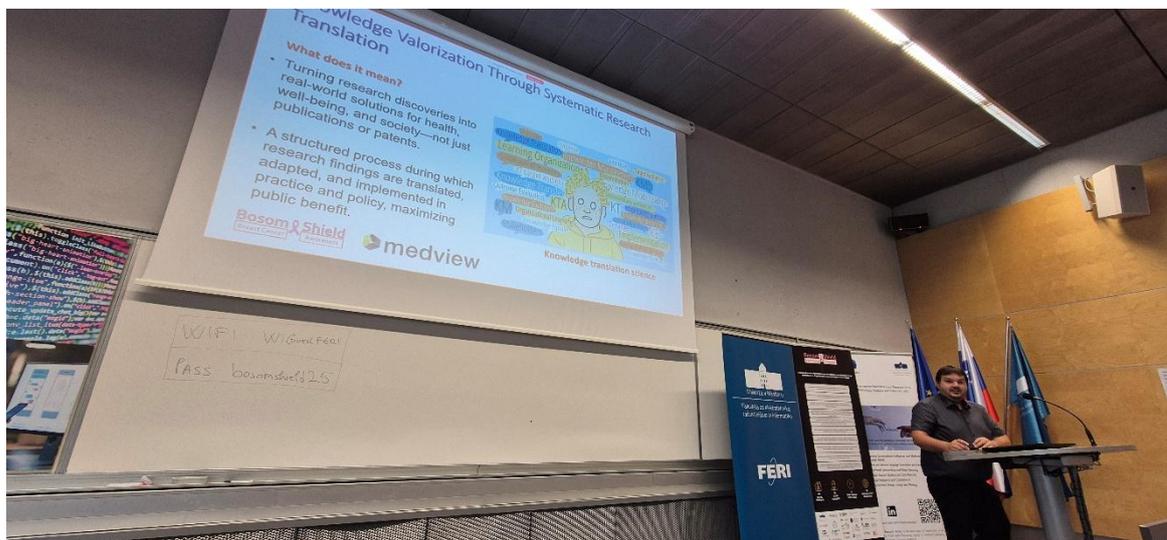


Figure 11: Dr. Izidor Mlakar presenting MedView project.

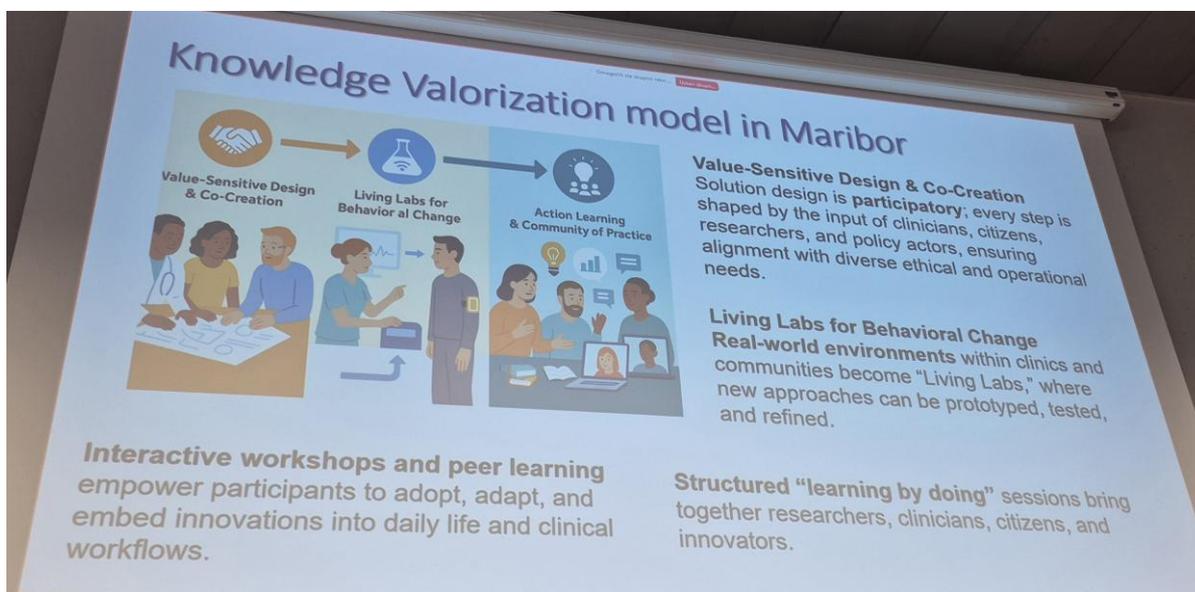


Figure 12: Dr. Izidor Mlakar presenting MedView project.



Figure 13: Audience



Figure 14: Audience



Figure 15: Audience



## STAKEHOLDERS EVENT no.2:

### September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025: VR technology presentation and discussion with healthcare staff (employees) at elderly home (Žalec, Slovenia)

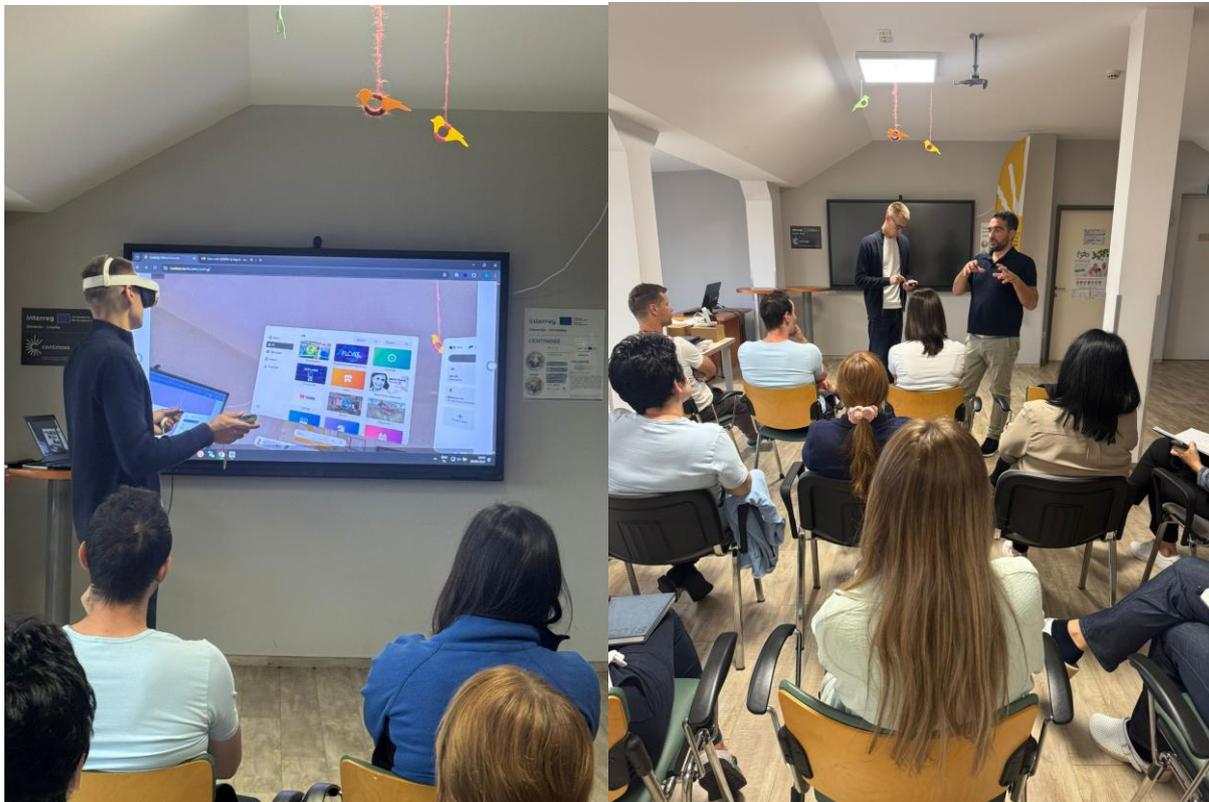
On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, researchers from UM joined the dedicated staff at **Dom Nine Pokorn Grmovje**, an elderly care home in Žalec, Slovenia, for a special workshop aimed at communicating and disseminating the technology developed within our research group, with special focus on VR (virtual reality) technology. 30 employees in healthcare were trained to use **VR glasses and applications** designed to support residents with dementia. The training highlighted how VR can:

- Enhance focus in daily routines.
- Stimulate memory and cognitive functions.
- Provide access to immersive virtual environments and distant places.

This marks the beginning of a pilot initiative under the research project AI4HOPE, which is developing an Advanced Care Planning Decision Support System (CPDSS) to improve quality of life and promote truly patient-centered care. In parallel, the workshop showcased the MEDViEW project, which focuses on translating research into real-world impact. MEDViEW fosters an enabling environment for innovation, collaboration, and co-creation, aiming to improve health outcomes through stakeholder engagement and interdisciplinary partnerships. The event was a meaningful step in connecting technological innovation with compassionate care, demonstrating how research-driven solutions can empower caregivers and enhance the lives of elderly residents.



Figures 16: Presenting VR technology.



Figures 17: Presenting VR technologies and discussion.

### STAKEHOLDERS EVENT no. 3:

#### October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025: VR technology presentation to citizens and caregivers at elderly home (Žalec, Slovenia)

We continue with the collaboration with elderly home Dom Nine Pokorn Grmovje. After the first successful workshop presenting the VR technology to healthcare employees, the second workshop was dedicated to interested citizens and caregivers of elderly people. Caregivers were trained to use **VR glasses and applications** designed to support residents and other patients with dementia. The training highlighted how VR can:

- Improve focus in daily activities.
- Stimulate memory and cognition.
- Open doors to virtual worlds and hardly reachable places.

The workshop was very successful, around 60 people attended. We can report that the presented technology was positively received. Below you can see pictures from the workshop.



Figure 18: Testing the VR technology.



Figure 19: Testing the VR technology.



Figure 20: Testing the VR technology.



Figure 21: Testing the VR technology.



Figure 22: Testing the VR technology.



## STAKEHOLDERS EVENT no. 4:

### **October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025: AI, Democracy, and the Public Interest – Building Resilient Digital Futures (Ljubljana, Slovenia and remote)**

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025, a public session was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia and online via Zoom. The event was co-hosted by the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Maribor and the Jožef Stefan Institute.

In an age of rapid digital transformation, the session addressed pressing questions around the intersection of artificial intelligence, democratic integrity, and public interest. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders—including researchers, policymakers, journalists, and civil society representatives—to explore how AI can be harnessed to strengthen democratic processes and digital resilience.

Welcome addresses were given from Mojca Štruc, Ministry for Digital Transformation of Slovenia, and from Alberto Domini, European Commission representative (online). After short project presentations a panel discussion did take place, moderated by Domen Savič, journalist and representative of NGO Citizen D. The panelists were:

- Dr. Izidor Mlakar, University of Maribor, SI
- Prof. Dr. Achim Rettinger, University Trier, DE
- Simon Delakorda, INePA – Institute for Electronic Participation SI

Key themes discussed were:

- The influence of AI on democratic processes and public trust.
- Misinformation, deepfakes, and media manipulation.
- Ethical frameworks and policy responses for responsible AI.
- Citizen empowerment and strategies for digital resilience.
- AI in healthcare with special focus on trustworthiness, privacy and trust.

This event was part of a broader European collaboration between different Horizon Europe projects: Solaris, TWON, AI4Gov, and MEDViEW, all working to place citizens at the heart of AI innovation, transparency, and wellbeing. Together 30 people attended the hybrid event. Moreover, the event was recorded, video materials are available on VideoLectures.NET platform: [https://videlectures.net/events/AI\\_DemocracyPublic](https://videlectures.net/events/AI_DemocracyPublic).



Figure 23: Audience, presentations and discussions



Figure 24: Presentations and discussions



## Conclusion

As part of WP2, the University of Maribor (UM) successfully organized and co-organized several events aimed at engaging diverse stakeholders—including healthcare professionals, researchers, students, citizens, caregivers, and policymakers from Slovenia and across Europe. These activities enabled the identification and connection with relevant actors, fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration. Through workshops, trainings, presentations and panel discussions being public, UM facilitated the exchange of knowledge and perspectives, helping to shape MEDViEW’s stakeholder engagement strategy and partnership framework. The events demonstrated a strong commitment to co-creation, inclusivity, and societal relevance, ensuring that the project remains aligned with the needs and expectations of its stakeholders while promoting innovation, trust, and impact in healthcare and digital governance.