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– EU Global Leadership –
TIA 2030

Winter camp workshops, Thematic session at the international conference – Jean Monnet Day and Round table discussions

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Definitions

The following table represents the abbreviations used in this document.

Term/Abbreviation	Definition
EU	European Union
WP	Work Package
SO	Specific objective
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

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Executive Summary

Deliverable 4.4 “Winter camp workshops, Thematic session at the international conference – Jean Monnet Day and Round table discussions” presents the implementation and results of the Tasks T4.5 “Winter camp workshops”, T4.6 “Thematic session at the international conference – Jean Monnet Day”, and T4.7 “Round table discussions” under WP4 – *Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation* within the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence “Technology and Innovations for Agenda 2030 – EU Global Leadership” (TIA2030). The tasks comprised nine events: three Winter Camp Workshops in 2024, 2025 and 2026 (one in each year), three Thematic sessions at the international conference (Slovenian Social Science Conference) in 2023, 2024 and 2025 (one in each year), and three Round table discussions (one round table session as part of “social science evening discussions” per project year).

The event agendas were tailored to include relevant topics for TIA2030 and Agenda 2030, such as innovation and sustainable development, the institutional and social foundations of European grand strategies, and EU public diplomacy. The events were conceptualised to have their implementation formats complementary to TIA2030 Specific Objectives. The Winter Camp Workshops provided opportunities for communication between target groups, mutual learning and the exchange of experience and ideas. The thematic conference sessions provided a forum for presenting research on the implementation of European grand strategies and exchanging knowledge and experience with other Jean Monnet projects. The round table discussions opened debate on key aspects of Agenda 2030 implementation to civil society and the general public.

These activities supported Specific Objectives 2-5 through expert contributions, interdisciplinary discussion, international academic exchange and openness of EU-related academic activities to wider audiences. Public calls, event announcements, updates on the TIA2030 platform and social media, and project newsletters supported the visibility of the activities and dissemination of their results.

The deliverable presents the programmes, overall results and organisational and implementation details for all nine events.

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1. Introduction

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence "Technology and Innovations for Agenda 2030 – EU Global Leadership" (TIA2030) examines the European Union's implementation of the United Nations Agenda 2030, with particular attention to technology, innovation and the factors affecting the translation of strategic objectives into practice. Within this framework, Deliverable 4.4 "Winter camp workshops, Thematic session at the international conference – Jean Monnet Day and Round table discussions" reports on the process and outcomes of implementing Tasks T4.5 "Winter camp workshops", T4.6 "Thematic session at the international conference – Jean Monnet Day", and T4.7 "Round table discussions" (all – under WP4 – *Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation*). Tasks T4.5-T4.7 were designed to connect research and teaching with discussion among academic and non-academic audiences. Therefore, the following events were organised and implemented within this scope:

- 3 (three) Winter Camp Workshops (in 2024, 2025 and 2026);
- 3 (three) Thematic sessions within Jean Monnet Day at the annual Slovenian Social Science Conference (in 2023, 2024 and 2025);
- 3 (three) Round table discussions as part of "social science evening discussions" (one round table session per project year).

The activities reflected the project's commitment to examining knowledge through both academic exchange and stakeholder discussion. Their conceptual basis combines Open Innovation 2.0, emphasising interaction and the exchange of ideas across sectors, with the SOFIA framework, which examines institutions, social networks and cognitive frames.

Within the wider project framework, the events also contributed to achieving TIA2030 objectives (in particular, SO2, SO3, SO4, SO5) through expert contributions, interdisciplinary discussion, international academic exchange and openness of EU-related academic activities to wider audiences. Public calls, event announcements, updates on the TIA2030 platform and social media, and project newsletters supported the visibility of the activities and dissemination of their results.

The document is structured into 4 chapters. Following this Introduction, Chapter 2 describes the organisation and implementation details of the nine events. Chapter 3 presents their overall results and contribution to the project objectives, followed by the Conclusion. Supporting documents (agendas and invitation letters for all nine events) are attached to this document as separate PDF files and form an integral part of the deliverable.

2. Organisation and implementation

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence "Technology and Innovations for Agenda 2030 – EU Global Leadership" (TIA2030) participated in the organisation of the following events within WP4 – *Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation* (Tasks T4.5-T4.7):

- 3 (three) Winter Camp Workshops (in 2024, 2025 and 2026);
- 3 (three) Thematic sessions within Jean Monnet Day at the annual Slovenian Social Science Conference (in 2023, 2024 and 2025);

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- 3 (three) Round table discussions as part of "social science evening discussions" (one round table session per project year).

All nine events were successfully organised and implemented reaching all the attendance target indicators (25 for Winter Camp Workshops; 15 for Thematic sessions; and 20 for Round tables). The Winter Camp Workshops enabled communication between target groups, mutual learning and exchange of experience and ideas; the Thematic sessions at the conferences provided opportunities for presenting research on implementation of grand strategies and cross-fertilisation with other Jean Monnet projects; and the Round tables extended discussion to wider audiences, enabling public debates on key aspects of implementation of Agenda 2030, engaging civil society and the public at large. Consolidated information about the events is presented below in Table 1. Each event met the minimum target number of participants, as well as the planned thematic scope.

Table 1: Overview of the events implementation

Event	Type	Dates	Location	Main thematic focus / topic	Recorded attendance
Winter Camp Workshop 1	Workshop	14 March 2024	Novo mesto (Slovenia)	Grand Strategies and their Implementation	42
Winter Camp Workshop 2	Workshop	18 March 2025	Novo mesto (Slovenia)	Role of Innovations in the implementation of the European Union's Grand Strategies	53
Winter Camp Workshop 3	Workshop	19 March 2026	Novo mesto (Slovenia)	Policy and Roadmaps for Advancing Sustainable Development in the European Union	29
Thematic session at the international conference – Jean Monnet Day (16th Slovenian Social Science Conference)	Conference event	27 October 2023*	Ljubljana (Slovenia)	EU grand strategies and their implementation	22
Thematic session at the international conference – Jean Monnet Day (17th Slovenian Social Science Conference)	Conference event	18 October 2024	Novo mesto (Slovenia)	Agenda 2030 and the role of Institutions, social networks and cognitive frame	19
Thematic session at the	Conference event	17 October 2025	Ljubljana (Slovenia)	Agenda 2030 and the European Union	16

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international conference – Jean Monnet Day (18th Slovenian Social Science Conference)				public diplomacy towards the third countries	
Round table discussion 1	Public discussion event	10 April 2024	Novo mesto (Slovenia)	European grand visions and implementation deficit – focusing on Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals	25
Round table discussion 2	Public discussion event	8 November 2024	Ljubljana (Slovenia)	Institutions, social networks and cognitive frames in implementation of Agenda 2030	44
Round table discussion 3	Public discussion event	13 November 2025	Novo mesto (Slovenia)	The European Union and public diplomacy for Agenda 2030	30

**The first conference session preceded the official project start; its inclusion was approved by the Project Officer.*

Supporting documents (agendas and invitation letters for all nine events) are attached to this document as separate PDF files and form an integral part of the deliverable.

The following subchapters will provide a detailed overview of each of the events.

2.1 Winter Camp Workshops

TIA2030 organised 3 Winter Camp Workshops within the project implementation period, building on the established Winter Camp at the (formerly) Faculty of Information Studies (FIS) in Novo mesto. FIS has been organising Winter Camp since 2010. The event aims to foster communication among academia, students, professionals, policy-makers, civil servants, businesses, civil society, and the general public for mutual learning and the exchange of experience and ideas. Due to the long tradition of the event, FIS was able to build up a solid reputation and attendance of relevant national and international participants from a variety of target groups and stakeholders.

All 3 Workshops combined invited expert contributions with opportunities for participants to discuss the practical implications of innovation and sustainable development for EU strategic objectives. The topics for the workshops have been related to the European Union and its implementation of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals. Specific topics were announced every year before the start of the event. The speakers at the workshop included key staff members and were expanded every year by a selected group of experts and practitioners, according to relevant topics and the thematic scope of the workshops. The workshops were organised around the key elements of Open Innovation

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2.0, a paradigm in which academia, policy-makers, industry, and civil society work together to co-create the future and drive structural changes.

Overview of the Winter Camp Workshops:

- The Winter Camp Workshop 2024 "Grand Strategies and their Implementation" was held on 14 March 2024. The event was aimed at examining challenges and opportunities in innovation and development affecting the implementation of EU grand strategies. Invited speakers: Mag. Matjaž Hribar (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) (last-minute speaker change at the speaker's request), who discussed innovation ecosystems for a regenerative economy, and Emeritus Professor Nikolai Genov (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany), who addressed research and development planning within the EU. Participants subsequently contributed ideas through an interactive discussion, a visual summary of which was published on the TIA2030 online platform (available via link: https://www.tia2030.eu/post/news-and-updates). The programme itself connected technological innovation with the organisational and policy conditions required for implementation.
- The Winter Camp Workshop 2025 "Role of Innovations in the Implementation of the European Union's Grand Strategies" was held on 18 March 2025 and continued the focus of the first Workshop through contributions from Emeritus Professor Nikolai Genov (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany) and Emeritus Professor William O'Gorman (South East Technological University (SETU), Ireland). Speakers examined EU research and development aspirations and addressed disruptive innovation and the ways regions respond to different challenges. The discussion considered technological, social and ethical issues relevant to sustainable development and a knowledge-based society. At the end, participants were invited to discuss their views on the outlined topic and share ideas on the obstacles that disruptive innovations can create for implementing the EU's Grand Strategies and transitioning towards sustainable development and a knowledge-driven society. Results of the discussion are published on the TIA2030 online platform: https://www.tia2030.eu/post/news-and-updates-winter-camp-workshop-2025.
- The Winter Camp Workshop 2026 "Policy and Roadmaps for Advancing Sustainable Development in the European Union" was held on 19 March 2026 and focused on policy approaches and future pathways for sustainable development in the EU. Speakers: Mag. Matjaž Hribar (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia), who presented circular and regenerative approaches to the relationship between the economy and the environment, and Sahana Swaroop Chetan (Nord University, Norway), who introduced perspectives on the relational circular economy. The event concluded with an interactive discussion in which participants reflected on the main challenges currently facing sustainable development in the European Union. Among the key issues highlighted were policy and regulatory frameworks, economic incentives and business models, social engagement and coordination across different levels of governance. Results of the discussion are available on the TIA2030 online platform: https://www.tia2030.eu/post/news-and-updates-winter-camp-workshop-2026-results.

2.2 Thematic sessions at the international conference – Jean Monnet Day

TIA2030 organised 3 Thematic sessions within Jean Monnet Day at the Slovenian Social Science Conferences, organised by the Slovenian Social Science Association. The sessions followed the main

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thematic scopes of the project, as follows:

- 1st Thematic session "EU grand strategies and their implementation" took place on 27 October 2023, during the 16th Slovenian Social Science Conference. Prof. Dr Borut Rončević and the project team presented TIA2030's aims and themes and discussed the EU's strategic direction towards 2030 with participants. The contributions offered complementary disciplinary perspectives on European development challenges, covering demographic change and welfare, creative industries and rural development, and gender mainstreaming. These themes complemented TIA2030's focus on the social and institutional conditions for implementing Agenda 2030, supporting interdisciplinary exchange in EU studies and the project's transnational academic dimension.
- 2nd Thematic session "Agenda 2030 and the role of Institutions, social networks and cognitive frames" took place on 18 October 2024, during the 17th Slovenian Social Science Conference. The project team presented results from the first year of the project implementation and discussed how institutional arrangements, social relationships and cognitive frames shape technological innovation. Contributions addressed innovation for a circular economy, digital transformation and resilience, and regional development. The session therefore connected the SOFIA framework directly with discussion of Agenda 2030 implementation.
- 3rd Thematic session "Agenda 2030 and the European Union public diplomacy towards the third countries", took place on 17 October 2025, during the 18th Slovenian Social Science Conference. The project team presented preliminary results of the project and discussed EU political leadership, the role of the media in communicating Agenda 2030, and the contribution of industrial localities to shaping and implementing the SDGs. The session extended the debate beyond the EU's internal implementation processes to its engagement with third countries.

2.3 Round table discussions

TIA2030 organised 3 Round table discussions within the "Social science evening discussions", with one event in each project year. The events were particularly aimed at attracting non-academic target groups. Speakers for the round table discussions were chosen on the basis of their specific references, aiming to combine speakers from different target groups, if possible.

Overview of the round table discussions:

- 1st round table discussion, "European grand visions and implementation deficit – focusing on Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals", took place on 10 April 2024. Prof. Dr. Borut Rončević and Kseniia Gromova (both – Faculty of Information Studies in Novo mesto, Slovenia) were the main speakers. The discussion addressed EU grand strategies and their implementation, including institutional and regional policy perspectives.
- 2nd round table discussion, "Institutions, social networks and cognitive frames in implementation of Agenda 2030", took place on 8 November 2024. Prof. Dr. Borut Rončević, Kseniia Gromova and Doc. Dr. Cristian Gangaliuc (all three – Faculty of Information Studies in Novo mesto, Slovenia) were the main speakers. The project team presented results from the first project year and together with the speakers and the audience discussed the theoretical assumptions underpinning TIA2030. Topics included cooperation between universities, industry, government and society, the interaction of local and global actors, the role of institutions, networks and innovation in

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implementation.

- 3rd round table discussion, "The European Union and public diplomacy for Agenda 2030", took place on 13 November 2025. It continued the discussion from the 2025 Thematic session at the 18th Slovenian Social Science Conference, examining EU global leadership, multilateral cooperation, and partnerships with international organisations. Together with the main speakers (Prof. Dr. Borut Rončević (Faculty of Information Studies in Novo mesto, Slovenia) and Doc. Dr Victor Cepoi (Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania), the audience joined a discussion on the EU's role as a global leader in advancing Agenda 2030, particularly through multilateral cooperation and partnerships with international organisations. The session also highlighted the importance of strategic communication, coherent narratives, and meaningful local engagement in promoting Agenda 2030 objectives and ensuring their relevance, as well as future directions for EU public diplomacy towards 2030, considering how it can adapt to emerging global trends.

All round table discussion topics closely aligned with the project's teaching activities, ensuring the transferability of experience gained and a two-way flow of knowledge and communication among teachers, researchers, students, stakeholders, and the general public. The open format of the discussions supported the intended exchange between researchers, students and other stakeholders.

3. Overall results and contribution to TIA2030

All 9 events (3 Winter Camp Workshops, 3 Thematic sessions at the international conferences and 3 Round table discussions) contributed to Specific Objective 2 (*To gather the expertise and competences of high-level experts on the topic of European Union grand strategies*), by bringing expert knowledge into discussion of EU grand strategies and Agenda 2030. Invited contributions and speakers' presentations covered research and development, regional innovation, regenerative and circular approaches, and public diplomacy. These contributions gave participants access to different academic and practical perspectives on implementation.

The events also contributed to Specific Objective 3 (*To develop synergies between various disciplines and resources in European Union studies, especially on Agenda 2030*), by connecting EU studies with innovation, regional development, institutional analysis, social networks, communication and sustainability. The 2nd Thematic session "Agenda 2030 and the role of Institutions, social networks and cognitive frames" (18 October 2024) and 2nd Round table "Institutions, social networks and cognitive frames in implementation of Agenda 2030" (8 November 2024) addressed the SOFIA framework explicitly, while the Winter Camp workshop agendas connected these analytical concerns with examples of technological and economic change.

The contribution to Specific Objective 4 (*To create joint transnational activities and structural links with academic institutions in other countries in exploration and teaching on the EU and its grand strategies, especially Agenda 2030*) lay in transnational academic exchange through international conference sessions and guest contributions associated with institutions in several countries, including Germany, Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, the USA, the Czech Republic, Ireland, North Macedonia and Norway. These activities created opportunities to exchange knowledge, establish

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transnational interaction and develop academic contacts.

The activities supported Specific Objective 5 (*To ensure openness of academic activities on the topic of the EU and Agenda 2030 to civil societ*y) by issuing public invitations, providing accessible event information and creating opportunities for discussion beyond the academic community. Students, researchers and other external stakeholders participated in the events. Project and FIS communication channels also shared event announcements and detailed information about the events and the project.

Across the three formats, presentations of project aims and preliminary findings were always followed by opportunities for questions, discussion and the exchange of perspectives. This connected the research dimension of TIA2030 with its teaching and policy-debate functions.

4. Conclusion

TIA2030 implemented 3 Winter Camp Workshops, 3 Thematic sessions at the international conferences within Jean Monnet Day and 3 Round table discussions foreseen under Tasks T4.5-T4.7. All the events met the planned duration (1 day), reported participation exceeded the minimum target for each activity, and covered planned thematic scopes, contributing to Specific Objectives 2-5. Thus, the events addressed the progression from EU strategic implementation to its institutional and social foundations and the external dimension of EU public diplomacy. They combined expert contributions, presentation of project findings and open discussion, supporting interdisciplinary exchange and engagement with academic and wider audiences.

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