

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Rescue Memory - Activism, Arts and Public Remembrance – ReActMem
Participant:	BRAMA CUKERMANA (Brama)
PIC number:	881729516

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP 6
Event name:	82 ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BĘDZIN GHETTO / PROJECT KAMIENNA DISTRICT
Type:	commemoration and workshop
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Poland, Będzin
Date(s):	3.08.2025 commemoration 23-24.08.2025 workshops 31.08.2025 walking tour 10.10.2025 conference
Website(s) (if any):	https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/obchody-82-rocznicy-likwidacji-getta-w-bedzinie/ https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/commemoration-of-the-82nd-anniversary-of-the-liquidation-of-the-bedzin-ghetto/
Participants	
Female:	36
Male:	17
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [POLAND]:	49
From country 2 [BELGIUM]:	1
From country 3 [ITALY]:	2
FRANCE	1
Total number of participants:	53
From total number of countries:	4

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

On August 3, 2025, in Będzin (Upper Silesia), at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes in the Kamionka district, commemorations of the 82nd anniversary of the liquidation of the Będzin Ghetto took place. The event was part of the broader "Kamienna District" (STONE DISTRICT) project, conducted in 2025 by the Brama Cukermana Foundation, encompassing commemorative and educational activities, as well as events dedicated to the tragic liquidation and massacre of the Będzin Jews.

In addition to commemorating the anniversary of the liquidation of the Będzin ghetto, the project included a series of other events, including thematic walks (with writer from Będzin Izabela Tumas), art workshops (photo with photographer Roman Łuszczki, art workshop with Natalia Romik), a popular science conference (where the honorary patronage was accepted by the Rector of the University of Silesia and many scientists participated, including: Aleksandra Namysło, Marta Tomczok, Halina Rusek and members of Foundation), and interviews with residents of the district where the ghetto was located during the war (link to podcasts below). All activities aimed to commemorate the tragic events that took place in 1942-43 in this district, as well as to pay tribute to the fighters who died in the Ghetto Fighters' House, and to explore the district today, learn about it, and integrate it with the local community.

The Commemoration included an official Ceremony (3.08.2025) attended by representatives of the Będzin city authorities, international guests, and the Jewish Community of Katowice (Sławomir Pastuszka). Letters of thanks and expressions of gratitude were read, along with accounts and recollections from ghetto survivors, including Chajka Klinger, Dawid Klejman, the Cukierman family, the Lustiger family and others. The entire ceremony was recorded and made available on YouTube.

Following the official portion, thematic workshops were held, including activities related to the Ghetto Fighters' House (a guided tour and a meeting with archaeology and excavations), as well as workshops for children on "memory plants," introducing elements of green commemoration. Over 50 people from various countries participated in the event; refreshments were also provided.

The commemorations were particularly innovative and unique in the Upper Silesian region. Although commemorative activities and guided tours are held annually, each edition introduces new program elements. In 2025, the memoirs of ghetto survivors were publicly read for the first time to a wider audience, with these materials obtained directly from the families of witnesses, based on a prior invitation to collaborate.

This project is the only initiative of its kind in the region, combining an official commemoration with the participation of local government authorities, partner institutions, and international guests with a comprehensive educational and participatory program. The event confirmed Będzin's importance as a key center for a modern, responsible, and open culture of remembrance.

A permanent and significant element of the commemoration was the reading of the victims' names, a form of individual and personal commemoration. Each participant received a memorial stone, which was then placed at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, as well as a card with the names of Będzin Jews. The organizers aim to add more names to the monument annually, creating a growing, tangible testament to remembrance.

Families of descendants of Zagłębie Jews were also present among the participants, including the Fishel family – four sisters who traveled from the USA and Canada. Together with the other participants, they participated in the commemorations and in the commemorations at the Ghetto Fighters' House, giving the event a particularly personal and intergenerational character.

The primary target group for the commemorations were residents of the city of Będzin and the region, particularly those with limited access to historical knowledge concerning the history of Będzin Jews and the Zagłębie region. A key goal of the event was to educate residents, inviting and engaging them in the anniversary commemorations and discussing the difficult historical heritage together, fostering an informed and responsible culture of remembrance.

Students from the University of Silesia, with whom the Cukierman Gate Foundation collaborates on educational and research activities, also participated in the event, as well as families of descendants of Będzin Jews, local history enthusiasts, supporters, and donors to the Foundation. The audience also included representatives of regional museums and other organizations and institutions (NGOs) supporting commemorative and educational activities.

All activities undertaken during the implementation of the series of events "Kamienna District" are aimed at promoting a new place that is being created in a degraded and forgotten district on the outskirts of the city, where the Brama Cukermana Foundation purchased a historic building in 2024 - the Ghetto Fighters' House - to create an institution that responds to the needs of residents and cultivates the memory of the past in a modern, inclusive way in cooperation with European and non-European institutions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmNjl6dBYLA&t=350s>

<https://www.facebook.com/fundacja.cukermana>

Commemoration: <https://www.bramacukermana.com/new/obchody-82-rocznicy-likwidacji-getta-w-bedzinie/>

<https://www.bramacukermana.com/new/aktualnosci/>

Podcasts: <https://www.youtube.com/@bramacukermana5046>

Conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqRue77AyKg&t=1579s>

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2024	Initial version (new MFF).