

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Rescue Memory - Activism, Arts and Public Remembrance – ReActMem
Participant:	FUNDACJA ZAPOMNIANE (FZ)
PIC number:	890506464

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP 3
Event name:	Conference on Public Remembrance - a series of events
Type:	seminar, conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Warsaw, Poland
Date(s):	19–20.02.2026 • 16.04.2026 • 28–29.05.2026 • 29.05.2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/event/konferencja-o-pamieci-publicznej/ https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/event/conference-on-public-remembrance/
Participants	
Female:	54
Male:	24
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	66
From country 2 [Sweden]:	4
From country 3 [Spain]:	1
From country 4 [Denmark]:	4
From country 5 [Germany]:	3
Total number of participants:	5
From total number of countries:	78
Description	
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.	

The event series under **WP 3 “Conference on Public Remembrance”** was designed to enhance the capacity of researchers, memory activists, and heritage professionals to respond to the challenges of addressing difficult histories and public commemorations. It consisted of four events organized in collaboration with key partners in the field: the **POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews**, the grassroots academic initiative of young and mid-career Holocaust scholars, the **Miszpucha Foundation** and the Jewish cemetery in Okopowa Street in Warsaw. The series combined high-level scholarly reflection with site-based research and community engagement of researchers, memory activists and heritage professionals.

The first two events in the series were two academic seminars: the **V and VI Workshops for Holocaust Scholars** (February and May 2026), which were co-funded by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). These workshops provided a forum for early- and mid-career researchers to discuss difficult histories and public commemorations. The participants were both academics as well as memory activists (or people who combine both roles in their careers) and museum/heritage professionals.

- **Event 1 (V Workshop, Feb 19–20, 2026):** Focused on the genocide of the Carpathian Roma, the influence of political discourse on Holocaust knowledge, and the "architecture of (non)memory" in former shtetls and burial sites. It also included a workshop on educational practices and a guided tour of the exhibition “The Power of Words. On Jewish Languages”.
- **Event 2 (VI Workshop, May 28–29, 2026):** Centered on the "poisoned language" used to describe the Holocaust and the analysis of wartime chronicles, such as Ludwik Landau’s diary. Participants also explored the role of early postwar Holocaust exhibitions in shaping public memory.

The series further expanded its reach through two specialized sessions for memory activists and heritage professionals:

- **Event 3 (April 16, 2026):** A session held at the **POLIN Museum** organized in partnership with the **Miszpucha Foundation** consisting of two presentations (by Prof. Dariusz Stola and Dr Natalia Romik) and a discussion focused around the history of the antisemitic campaign of March 68 in Poland and the exhibition about it that was presented in the POLIN Museum in 2018. The meeting tackled topics such as civic society engagement and broader public remembrance, bridging the gap between academic research and community-based activism.
- **Event 4 (May 29, 2026):** A field seminar conducted at the **Jewish cemetery on Okopowa Street** in Warsaw on contemporary and historical strategies and languages of commemoration (using the examples present in the cemetery itself as well as a presentation on the development of post war commemorative initiatives). This activity integrated site-based memory practices with academic analysis through:
 - a guided research walk focused on material traces of the Holocaust and the history of its commemoration within cemetery spaces,
 - a presentation by Dr Aleksandra Janus on changing aesthetics and languages of commemoration,
 - a seminar with active involvement of all participants (mostly heritage professionals and practitioners, including memory activists).

Throughout the entire series, the activities — including academic presentations, moderated discussions, exhibition visits (e.g., Marek Oberländer’s “Ghetto”), and field study — encouraged cross-sectoral cooperation and the creation of collaborative research projects grounded in shared authority. The series successfully strengthened scholarly and professional networks, fostering an interdisciplinary dialogue essential for the future of Holocaust remembrance.

The series also welcomed five participants from the United States, adding an important transatlantic perspective to the discussions and exchange of experiences.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2024	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	19.02.2025	Change the delivery date from December 31, 2025 to the March 31, 2026
3.0	22.06.2026	Postponement from March 30, 2026 to June 30, 2026, change of format and location from single event in Krakow to series of events in Warsaw reduction number of participant from 101–125 participants to 76–100 participants

