

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Rescue Memory - Activism, Arts and Public Remembrance – ReActMem
Participant:	Fundacja Urban Memory (UMF)
PIC number:	890263570

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP 23		
Event name:	Innovative marking of Jewish heritage sites in urban landscape		
Type:	Series of events (city walk and public seminar)		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Poland, Wrocław		
Date(s):	06.06.2026, 22.06.2026		
Website(s) (if any):	https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/event/wp23/		
Participants			
Female:	62		
Male:	26		
Non-binary:	1		
From country 1 [Poland]:	89		
Total number of participants:	89	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
This series of public educational and commemorative activities explored the biographies of former Jewish and non-Jewish residents of Breslau (today Wrocław), focusing on the relationship between archival research, memory activism, and contemporary forms of commemoration, such as Stolpersteine in the urban landscape. Activity 1 – Heritage Walk: Borek – Jewish Collectors and Other Pre-war Histories of the District The first activity took the form of a public heritage walk through Borek, one of the most prestigious residential districts of pre-war Breslau. Led by local activist and city guide Maciej Wlazło, the walk explored the lives of Jewish collectors (i.e. Max Silberberg), art patrons, entrepreneurs, scientists, and architects who contributed to the cultural and intellectual life of the city. Participants learned about private art collections once housed in the district's villas, ranging from Old Masters to modern art, and discussed the fate of these collections following the Nazi seizure of power in 1933 and the political transformations after 1945. The walk also addressed broader questions of cultural loss, displacement, and the changing urban landscape of Wrocław. Particular attention was			

devoted to traces of former residents that remain visible in the city today, including *Stolpersteine* (Memory Stones) commemorating victims of Nazi persecution in this area, i.e. Egbert Kipke who was sentenced under §175 as a queer person in 1939 and sent to camps in Emsland, then to Auschwitz (Memory Stone on Aleja Wiśniowa 22) or the family of Jewish historian Willy Cohn who together with his family was deported in 1941 to Kaunas and murdered there. The walk encouraged participants, citizens of Wrocław and guests from the Lublin Jewish Community, to reflect on the relationship between place, memory, and the often-overlooked multicultural history of Wrocław.

Activity 2 – Public Seminar at OP ENHEIM: *Who Lived Here? Hans Hamburger and Other Microhistories from Pre-war Breslau*

The second activity was a public seminar hosted at OP ENHEIM cultural house, dedicated to the life of Hans Hamburger and his forthcoming commemoration with a *Stolpersteine* (planned for August 22, 2026), a former resident of the tenement house. His biography served as a starting point for a broader discussion about everyday life, identity, love, belonging, and exclusion in Nazi Germany. The seminar presented the results of archival and historical research concerning Hans Hamburger, who most likely took his own life in 1941 while facing increasing persecution directed at Jews under the Nazi regime. Speakers also introduced other microhistories of former Breslau residents, demonstrating how fragments of personal stories can be reconstructed through archival documents, family records, and material traces preserved in the urban landscape or at the family archives. Event organizers: UMF and OP ENHEIM Foundation in partnership with the Deutsch-Polnische Stiftung Kulturpflege und Denkmalschutz.

The programme featured presentations by:

- **Dr Monika Piechota** (University of Wrocław), who discussed social attitudes, everyday life, and the increasing stigmatization of Jews in pre-war Breslau (based on Willy Cohn's diaries);
- **Weronika Błażejczak** (OP ENHEIM / Hochschule Zittau-Görlitz), who presented the biography of Hans Hamburger and the archival research undertaken to reconstruct his life story;
- **Dr Alan Weiss** (initiative *Spod Ziemi Patrzy Breslau*), who introduced examples of microhistorical research and field-based memory activism focused on traces of former Jewish and German communities in Wrocław.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion and audience Q&A session moderated by **Dr Katka Reszke**, cultural study scholar, documentary filmmaker, and writer. The discussion focused on the relationship between archival research, public history, memory activism, and contemporary commemorative practices, such as *Stolpersteine* initiatives, highlighting the role of individual biographies in shaping more inclusive cultures of remembrance. The event brought together researchers, students, memory activists, heritage professionals, and citizens of Wrocław, creating a space for dialogue between academic research and civic engagement.

A particularly important aspect of the research process was the successful identification and contact with the granddaughters of Hans Hamburger's brother, currently living in the United States. Their involvement provided valuable family perspectives and enabled connecting archival findings with living family memory. This transnational dimension transformed the commemoration from a local memorial initiative into a broader process of reconnecting interrupted family histories across generations and continents.

Activity 3 – Launching *Stolpersteine* installation procedures

Throughout ReActMem, UMF and its researchers and architects launched procedural works to obtain administrative approvals for the installation of *Stolpersteine* for the following victims of the Nazi persecution:

- Hans Hamburger, pl. Solny 4, Wrocław (approved by the city authorities)
- Max Silberberg, ul. Kutnowska 1-3, Wrocław (approved by the city authorities)
- Willy and Gertrud Cohn, Tamar Cohn, Suzanne Cohn, ul. Pocztowa 17 (waiting for approval)
- Ella and Günther Brienitzer, ul. Pawła Włodkowica 37, Wrocław (waiting for approval)

The forthcoming commemorations will be the outcomes going beyond the project duration and are a result of extensive archival, genealogical, and historical research carried out within the framework of ReActMem. Together, these activities demonstrate how the recovery of individual stories can transform urban space into a site of learning, reflection, and active remembrance, while strengthening contemporary connections between heritage, research, and civic participation.

Facebook events: activity 1 [FB event](#), [FB post - reminder](#), activity 2 [FB event](#), partner's post-event [FB post](#).

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2024	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	19.02.2025	Changed the delivery date (from June 2025 to June 2026)