

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Rescue Memory - Activism, Arts and Public Remembrance – ReActMem
Participant:	MAROM KLUB EGYESÜLET (Marom)
PIC number:	879422177

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP20
Event name:	Green Commemoration honouring Immanuel Löw
Type:	conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Hungary, Szeged
Date(s):	2024.09.04 - 2024.09.06
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/green-commemoration-honoring-immanuel-low/">https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/green-commemoration-honoring-immanuel-low/</a> <a href="https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/events/">https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/events/</a>
Participants	
Female:	48
Male:	27
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Finland]:	2
From country 2 [Austria]:	2
From country 3 [Hungary]:	71
Total number of participants:	75
From total number of countries:	3
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
The primary aim of this international conference was to connect scholars, researchers, and experts from diverse regions to foster collaboration and cultivate new perspectives on the life and work of Immanuel Löw, the Chief Rabbi of Szeged, especially in the context of his work as a botanist. As such the conference was organized around a green commemoration of Rabbi Immanuel Löw as well as his father Leopold Löw. To commemorate their and the Jewish	

community's past and present, two parks were created next to each other and were named after these two figures. The two plots were previously parking lots that were turned into parks to serve the whole local community. The importance of creating green areas came from Immanuel Löw background, who was also a botanist researching deeply the plants and flowers of the Talmud. The local Jewish community, residents of the surrounding houses, local scholars and politicians, and scholars and representatives of the Jewish community from Budapest also took part in celebration of this green commemoration. Through prestigious and diversified plenary and panel sessions, participants had the opportunity to present their research on Immanuel Löw, while the program also included a commemorative city walk honoring Löw at the end of the second day to engage a broader audience.

The conference was held on September 4–6, 2024, at the Szeged Jewish Community Hall and in outdoor spaces - the newly named Immanuel Löw and Leopold Löw parks. The event featured contributions from notable institutions, including Szeged Jewish Community (SzZsH), Budapest University of Jewish Studies (OR-ZSE) Austrian Cultural Forum Budapest (ÖKF), Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives (MILEV), and Marom Budapest. This multidisciplinary conference offered not only a platform for academic exchange but also strengthened historical and cultural connections through commemorative and educational events. The two days encapsulated both scholarly discussions and immersive tours, bringing participants closer to Immanuel Löw's legacy in religious leadership, urbanization, and cultural history. Thanks to the Hungarian and international scholars we were able to have a deep discussion about the impact of Immanuel Löw heritage and how we can continue to implement this knowledge not just in the academic circle but also for educational and cultural purposes. Marom Budapest will continue involvement in the botanical research of Löw in the future programs and is working together with scholars to translate Löw texts to Hungarian and English.

#### Detailed program:

##### Wednesday, September 4:

- **4:00–4:30 PM:** Presentation of the Löw Awards to members of the Szeged Jewish Community for significant contributions made over the previous year.
- **4:30–5:10 PM:** Screening of *He Who Understood the Language of Plants* (dir. László Böröcz and Katalin Virág) with English subtitles—a 2002 film documenting personal stories about Immanuel Löw from individuals who are no longer alive.
- **5:10–5:40 PM:** Discussion with the film's directors, conducted in Hungarian with English translation.
- **6:00–7:00 PM:** Guided tour of the Old Synagogue, led by Attila Kendrusz (Hungarian with English translation), detailing the history of Szeged's first synagogue, now an alternative theatre.

##### Thursday, September 5:

- **11:00–11:30 AM:** Opening speeches and acknowledgments, delivered by István Buk (SzZsH), Dr. Gábor Balázs (OR-ZSE), Renate Seib (ÖKF), and Dr. Zsuzsanna Toronyi (MILEV), extending thanks to the organizers and funders.
- **11:30 AM–12:30 PM:** *Tamás Turán: On the Religious Portrait of Immanuel Löw*  
Moderator: Dóra Pataricza. This presentation explored Löw's role as an innovative religious leader who had reformed the Jewish community in Szeged and left a lasting impact on the broader Hungarian reform movement.
- **1:30–3:30 PM:** *Panel 1* (in Hungarian)  
Chair: Judit Kónya.
  1. **Balázs Tamási & Zsuzsanna Toronyi:** *On the Löw Collections at MILEV and OR-ZSE*  
Discussing the legacy of Immanuel Löw as a writer and publicist. The presentation highlighted his family photo album, preserved at the Jewish Museum in Budapest, and his books and letters, recently repurchased by OR-ZSE, which will be made accessible through a forthcoming online platform.
  2. **Viktória Bányai:** *The 1903 Dedication Textiles of the New Synagogue in Szeged*  
A focus on the symbolic and historical significance of the Torah curtains and their decorative motifs.
  3. **Mercédesz Czibalmos & Dóra Pataricza:** *"Three Kisses Sent from Heaven" – Immanuel Löw's Der Kuss (1921)*  
A discussion on Löw's only ethnological publication, *Der Kuss*, recently translated from Yiddish by the presenters.
  4. **Szonja Komoróczy:** *Leopold Löw's Diploma – Language Curiosities in the Original Texts*  
Exploring linguistic elements in Leopold Löw's diploma, which navigates between Yiddish and German.

- **4:00–5:00 PM: Park Inauguration**  
Ceremonial speeches by local leaders of Szeged and the president of MAZSIHISZ, marking the official naming of Leopold Löw Park and Immanuel Löw Park (located on Attila Street, near Mars Square).
- **5:30–6:30 PM: Löw Memorial Walk**, led by Dr. Krisztina Frauhammer.  
Starting point: Immanuel Löw Park. This city walk explored significant sites connected to the Löw family and their historical legacy in Szeged.

**Friday, September 6:**

- **9:00–9:30 AM: Máté Hidvégi: The Life of Immanuel Löw**  
Moderator: Judit Kónya. Reflecting on the 150th anniversary of Löw's first sermon and the 80th anniversary of his passing.
- **9:30–10:30 AM: Panel 2** (in English)  
Chair: Szonja Ráhel Komoróczy.
  1. **Matan Barzilai: The Immanuel Löw Archive of the National Library of Israel**  
A discussion of the extensive archival materials held by the National Library of Israel, showcasing Löw's contributions to Jewish scholarship.
  2. **Lívía Szélpál: Immanuel Löw's Impact on Szeged's Urbanization and His Role as a Local Historian of the City**  
Exploring Löw's dual influence as a religious leader and as a chronicler of Szeged's local history and development.
- **10:50 AM–12:10 PM: Panel 3** (in Hungarian)  
Chair: Viktória Bányai.
  1. **Judit Kónya: The Rabbi, the Architect, and the Bimah – Insights into the Design Work of the New Synagogue Based on the Archives of the Szeged Jewish Community**  
Delving into the architectural design of Szeged's New Synagogue, focusing on the collaboration between Rabbi Löw and the architect.
  2. **Mihály Riszovannij: Immanuel Löw in the Context of Wissenschaft des Judentums and Jewish Folklore**  
Positioning Löw within the broader context of Jewish academic thought and folklore studies.
  3. **Balázs Király: "Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue" – Lessons from Dr. Immanuel Löw's Criminal Trial**  
Examining the historical significance of Immanuel Löw's trial and its broader implications for justice and religious leadership.
- **1:00–1:45 PM: Synagogue Tour**, led by Ágnes Oszkó (in Hungarian)  
Location: Szeged New Synagogue (Jósika Street 10). An exploration of the architectural and historical significance of the New Synagogue, reflecting on its design and cultural heritage.
- **2:15–3:00 PM: Cemetery Tour – In the Footsteps of the Löws**  
Led by Vera Ábrahám. Location: Szeged Jewish Cemetery (Fonógyári Road 17). This tour followed the memorial legacy of the Löw family, offering insights into their historical impact on the Jewish community of Szeged.

## Links:

event link about the 3-days conference on Facebook: [link](#)

event link for the city walk on Facebook: [link](#)

Hungarian Jewish Community (MAZSIHISZ) shared the program on their website: [link](#)

Szombat Jewish Newspaper shared the program: [link](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	19.02.2025	change of the event duration from one to two days