

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Rescue Memory - Activism, Arts and Public Remembrance – ReActMem
Participant:	Fundacja Zapomniane [FZ]
PIC number:	PIC 890506464

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP 17
Event name:	Inclusive commemoration of Holocaust victims in Pawlichy
Type:	workshop
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Poland, Księżpol, Pawlichy
Date(s):	13.05.2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/inclusive-commemoration-of-sura-teller-in-pawlichy/ https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/inkluzywne-upamietnieni-e-sury-teller-w-pawlichach/
Participants	
Female:	35
Male:	4
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	37
From country 2 [Germany]:	2
Total number of participants:	39
From total number of countries:	2
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>In June 2025, as part of the ReActMem project, an event was held to commemorate the burial site of a Jewish girl – Sura Teller – in the village of Pawlichy, located in the Lublin region of eastern Poland. This initiative was a continuation of activities first undertaken in 2021, when information about this location reached us for the first time. According to oral testimonies passed down by local residents through generations, the girl buried in this unmarked grave was most likely Sura Teller, born on March 13, 1923, in the nearby village of Stare Króle. Until now, the site of her death and burial had not been officially marked or memorialized. The event was attended</p>	

by many residents of Księżpol and neighboring villages, and was organized in partnership with the Municipal Cultural Center in Księżpol.

The event, organized four years after our initial visit to Pawlichy, aimed to deepen local memory work and to engage the rural community in reflecting on the historical events of the Holocaust and their contemporary significance. It was addressed specifically to adult members of the community – individuals rooted in local life, memory, and history, including teachers, cultural workers, and representatives of local authorities.

The gathering began at the Municipal Cultural Center in Księżpol, where participants were introduced to the historical context and the goals of the initiative. Among those present were educators, representatives of local institutions, and, most importantly, residents who shared personal and family stories from the time of the Second World War. Some of these accounts concerned the fate of Sura Teller, while others pointed to additional, still uncommemorated wartime burial sites in the area, which we intend to investigate in the future.

Following the indoor gathering, participants walked together to the site of Sura Teller’s grave, where artistic and commemorative actions took place, led by guest artists Anna Schapiro (Germany) and Marcin Król (Poland). Both artists, affiliated with Jewish artistic networks Dagesh and Kultur-Lige, have long been involved in projects that connect contemporary art with memory, identity, and intercultural dialogue. The memory gestures they prepared invited all those present to take part in a collective act of reflection and symbolic reclamation of the site.

In a deeply moving and spontaneous response, local residents joined the commemoration through simple but meaningful actions: cleaning leaves from the site, speaking aloud their thoughts, praying, and—together with Anna Schapiro—laying stones to mark the symbolic boundaries of the grave. These gestures created a space for shared engagement, transforming the burial site into a part of local cultural memory.

This kind of activity—rooted in local context and based on intergenerational, participatory, and artistic practice—offers an alternative to traditional forms of commemoration such as monuments or official ceremonies. Through creative involvement, it promotes memory as an active, living part of social life, not just a historical obligation. The event in Pawlichy revealed the strength of local communities, especially when given the opportunity to take part in reclaiming and shaping their historical landscape.

The event was promoted on social media:

[FB post Zapomniane Foundation](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).