

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 22		
Event name:	Landscaping Workshop: "Gwarna - Experts' Workshop - How to design a place of remembrance?"		
Type:	Workshop		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Wrocław, Poland		
Date(s):	21.05.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/gwarna-expert-workshop/		
Participants			
Female:	16		
Male:	7		
Non-binary:	2		
From country 1 [Poland]:	25		
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
Venue: Hotel Ibis Styles Wrocław Centrum, Pl. Konstytucji 3 Maja, Wrocław			
PROGRAM			
PURPOSE OF THE EVENT:			
The aim of the expert workshop was to discuss: 'How to Design a Place of Remembrance?' and to provide a space for sharing ideas about the process of commemoration of Jewish cemetery on Gwarna Street in Wrocław. Contemporary strategies for memorial design, social inclusion, identity narratives,, green commemoration and artistic interventions were discussed during the event among experts from various fields from Wrocław and			

Warsaw. The meeting resulted in the development of guidelines for the commemoration process, which will inform the Rules of Competition for the aforementioned Jewish cemetery. The program included a site visit and discussion sessions during which experts and students reflected on recommendations for the potential architectural international competition for the design of a permanent green commemoration at Gwarna Street.

TARGET GROUP:

The participants were experts in various disciplines, among them were architects, urban planners, landscape designers, sociologists, memory studies scholars, anthropologists, archeologists and experts in Jewish law (representative of the Rabbinical Commission for Jewish Cemeteries in Poland). Social activists as well as students of public space management, culture, social studies, and architecture were included in the program and provided valuable input during the discussion

SUBSTANTIVE CONTEXT

The workshop organized by the Urban Memory Foundation focused on the space located at Gwarna Street – a place almost completely forgotten, but once full of significance. The site was a Jewish cemetery since 18th century, then gradually destroyed from the beginning of the 20th century, during and after World War II. Today it's almost invisible in the urban landscape. In 2022, UMF initiated a process of symbolically and visually restoring the memory of this place through an artistic installation by Anna Schapiro. The workshop was another step in the direction of potential commemoration.

OUTCOMES

The meeting became a space open to dialogue and cooperation - an opportunity to reflect on how contemporary society understands and interprets history. The participants looked at issues related to collective memory, the carrier of which is space - not only as a physical place, but also as a field of tensions, emotions and values.

The outcome of the workshop was the writing of preliminary recommendations for the commemoration project and the creation of a catalogue of good practices. All the voices that emerged during the meeting were an important element that will materialise in the creation of the regulations for the architectural competition for the commemoration of the Gwarna Street cemetery. In the course of the discussion it became clear that the main takeaway from the workshop will not be the recommendations for the competition (which were drafted during the event) but shifting the planned activities and avoiding the spotlight on the cemetery site at the moment (also due to the current situation in the Middle East and raising antisemitism in Europe). So, directing the energy and efforts towards the local community and residents. Instead of planning an architectural competition for the cemetery site the experts and participating students agreed that before that activity is launched another step is needed - a series of heritage walks creating a positive narrative around the space.

The workshop also created a space to broaden historical and local awareness. It was also an important element of integration of experts from different fields and between different generations.

FB event: <https://fb.me/e/2bTGaknnUJ>

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	19.02.2025	Change the delivery date due day June, 2025