

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Rescue Memory - Activism, Arts and Public Remembrance – ReActMem
Participant:	FUNDACJA DOKUMENTACJI I KOMENTARZY ŻYDOWSKICH (FDCZ)
PIC number:	931350642

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP1
Event name:	Seminar on Jewish Cemeteries in Lublin
Type:	seminar
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Poland, Lublin
Date(s):	12.06.2025
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/seminar-on-jewish-cemeteries-in-lublin/">https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/seminar-on-jewish-cemeteries-in-lublin/</a> <a href="https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/seminarium-na-temat-komentarzy-zydowskich-w-lublinie/">https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/seminarium-na-temat-komentarzy-zydowskich-w-lublinie/</a>
Participants	
Female:	18
Male:	11
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	28
From country 2 [Belgium]:	1
Total number of participants:	29
From total number of countries:	2
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
The event took place on June 12th 2025, and consisted of a lecture at the New Jewish Cemetery in Lublin and an expertise seminar hosted by the Institute of Central Europe.	

The aim of the Lublin Cemetery Event was to address the long-standing issues surrounding the New Jewish Cemetery in Lublin – a site marked by years of neglect, erroneous decisions, and deliberate efforts to erase the memory of a minority community that co-shaped the city for centuries. In collaboration with the Jewish Religious Community in Warsaw, Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre Centre, and the Institute of Central Europe, we organised a series of events dedicated to the section of the cemetery that currently exists as an unfenced green area used by the public as a shortcut or dog-walking ground. Our inaugural event was aimed at local government officials, Lublin academic and research groups, and heritage activists, to present the historical context of the site, and to share methods we have developed over the past decade for working with Jewish cemeteries. This event marks the beginning of a broader effort to engage the community, with the next planned meeting focusing on dialogue between local Jewish residents and cemetery users/neighbours. We have invited the best academic experts in Lublin to lead a group of local and regional authority representatives in the cemetery and to emphasise the difficult history and the challenges the unfenced part of the cemetery faces along with the protection and commemoration needs for the wartime graves found there. The second part of the event entailed a seminar during which different approaches to working with large burial areas were presented. This event laid the groundwork for continued interdisciplinary engagement around the New Jewish Cemetery in Lublin, combining historical preservation, education, and respectful community involvement.

The seminar included presentations by Monika Tarajko and Prof. Andrzej Trzciński on the cemetery history, Lena Rubinfeld (FestivAlt) on community engagement at challenging memory sites, Dr. Szymon Lenarczyk (Wykop na Poziomie) on archaeological work, and Maciej Walczak (Proscap) on greenery management in Jewish cemeteries.

The event drew a large audience, including representatives of local landmark offices (both city and voivodeship), the city hall representatives, academic institutions, local activists interested in Jewish heritage protection, and co-workers of Brama Grodzka-Teatr NN. The audience consisted of Polish citizens, besides one Jewish activist (personally connected with the site) from Belgium, eighteen of them were female and eleven male (29 participants altogether). Also to emphasise the importance of the issues discussed, the Chief Rabbi of Poland also made his presence online, as well as Sylwia Kędzierska-Jasik, Chair of the Jewish Religious Community in Warsaw (owner of the aforementioned cemetery).

Information about the event was published on social media on the Facebook page of the Foundation and a closed Jewish community group:

<https://www.facebook.com/jewishcemeteries>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1C5jBBk8kB/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

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