

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Rescue Memory - Activism, Arts and Public Remembrance – ReActMem
Participant:	FUNDACJA URBAN MEMORY (UMF)
PIC number:	890263576

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP32		
Event name:	Education in memory sites – part I		
Type:	Series of trainings “(Non)Memory and the Psychological Traps of Judgement”		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Poland, Wrocław		
Date(s):	23.06.2025, 13.10.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/wp32/">https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/wp32/</a>		
Participants			
Female:	23		
Male:	8		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Poland]:	31		
Total number of participants:	31	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>A series of two day-long antidiscrimination trainings held in Wrocław, Poland incorporated learning at the local neglected memory sites and was carried out in close cooperation with professional trainers from the EkoRozwój Foundation, which is an organization dedicated to environmental education, sustainable development, community engagement and antidiscrimination training.</p> <p>1. On June 23, 2025, the first educational workshop entitled “(Non)memory and the Psychological Traps of Judgement” took place at several memory sites in Wrocław. The workshop aimed to explore how memory works – both personal and collective – and how psychological mechanisms like stereotypes, bias, and prejudice influence our perceptions and relationships. The day was divided into three main parts: 1) a session focused on group identity, cognitive distortions, and the roots and consequences of discrimination; 2) guided visits at <b>two local sites of (non)memory, the Jewish cemetery on Gwarna Street and a former German cemetery on Krzycka Street</b> where memory activists from <b>UMF</b> and a civic initiative “<b>Spod Ziemi Patrzy Breslau</b>” shared</p>			

their work on community remembrance, offering insights into grassroots initiatives, artistic interventions, and environmental approaches to commemoration of neglected, forgotten or destroyed memory places such as pre-war cemeteries in Wrocław. The final part of the day was a facilitated dialogue using the Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue method. Participants engaged in a deep, reflective conversation around the question: “What does forgetting protect us from?” — an open space for thoughtful exchange without judgement or ready-made answers.

The event brought together participants from diverse backgrounds, including **school teachers, NGO activists working with heritage, educators, and heritage professionals**. The workshop was praised for its interactive methods, welcoming atmosphere, and the combination of psychological insight and historical context with site visits. Many participants expressed a desire to stay involved in projects related to memory, social justice, and inclusive narratives.

2. On October 13, 2025 the second educational workshop “(Non)Memory and the Psychological Traps of Judgement” was held for **uniformed police officers and civilian employees** of the Wrocław Police. Its overarching purpose was to support participants in recognising how psychological mechanisms, social memory, and historical awareness influence their perceptions and professional conduct—particularly in interactions with diverse communities. Participants examined the mechanisms of **stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination** from the perspective of social psychology, focusing on how cognitive shortcuts shape everyday decisions. Discussion centred on the formation of group identity, the dynamics of labelling, antisemitism, and the role of collective memory in shaping contemporary social relations. The intention was to encourage reflection on the ways in which the human mind categorises others, how these categories become rigid, and how easily they can distort judgement—an issue of crucial relevance for police officers engaged in preventive, educational, and intervention-based tasks.

A key element of the training was a guided visit of the **South Park** (founded by a Jewish-German philanthropist) and **learning at a neglected former German cemetery on Krzycka Street**, the sites that embody Wrocław’s difficult and multilayered heritage. This field component was led by the civic initiative “**Spod Ziemi Patrzy Breslau**”, whose members work on documenting, interpreting, and restoring overlooked places of memory in the city. By walking through and investigating spaces where traces of pre-war German and Jewish communities intersect with post-war life in Polish Wrocław, participants were confronted with the complexities of **(non)memory**, forgetting, contested histories, and the consequences of erasure in the urban landscape.

Engaging directly with the sites allowed officers to reflect on how **places of memory** shape public attitudes and community identities—and how neglecting or suppressing certain histories contributes to misunderstanding, fear, or mistrust between social groups. The workshop emphasised that **awareness of the past is an important tool in combating contemporary stereotypes**, as many prejudices draw on simplified or distorted historical narratives. Recruitment for the workshop was targeted specifically through the Provincial Police Headquarters in Wrocław, and no photographs from the training are published due to security considerations.

**Impact:** Together, the two workshops demonstrated that combining psychological education with hands-on engagement at sites of memory creates a **powerful framework for understanding discrimination, empathy, and responsibility**. Participants across sectors—educators, activists, and police officers—reported **increased awareness of stereotypes, deeper historical sensitivity, and a stronger commitment to inclusive community work**. The impact of the trainings extends beyond the sessions themselves, strengthening local capacity for dialogue, fostering collaboration across institutions, and supporting long-term efforts to build a more just and socially conscious Wrocław.

Communication links: [FB post event promotion](#), [FB post info session](#), [FB info session - event page](#), [FB event page - registrations](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2024	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	19.02.2025	Change the delivery date from March, 2025 to November, 2025