

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 57
Event name:	Commemorating Jewish Cemeteries: Strategies, Good Practices, Future Directions
Type:	International conference: seminar & cultural events (series)
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Barcelona, Spain
Date(s):	5–6 October, 2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/commemorating-jewish-cemeteries/ https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/upamietnienie-cmentarzy-zydowskich-w-europie/
Participants	
Female:	51
Male:	29
Non-binary:	3
From country 1 [Spain]:	65
From country 2 [Belgium]:	2
From country 3 [France]:	1
From country 3 [Italia]:	2
From country 3 [Poland]:	13
Total number of participants:	83
From total number of countries:	5
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	

The international conference “*Commemorating Jewish Cemeteries: Strategies, Good Practices, Future Directions*” took place on 5–6 October, 2025 in Barcelona, Spain. The event was organized by partners of the Engaged Memory Consortium from Poland and Spain (organizations specializing in the protection and commemoration of Jewish cemeteries) and in cooperation with the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Barcelona and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland.

The event featured public guided site visits at Montjuïc and an international seminar attended by representatives of non-governmental organizations, local authorities, cultural institutions, artists and memory activists, heritage conservation services, academia, and Jewish communities from Poland, Spain, and other European countries. In particular, the event was attended by representatives of the Foundation for the Documentation of Jewish Cemeteries in Poland, the Rabbinical Commission for Jewish Cemeteries in Poland, the local governments of Tarnów, Przemyśl, Białystok and Krakow, the Polish Consulate and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Barcelona City Council, Montjuïc Park, the Ciutat Vella District Council and the Barcelona Cemeteries Authority. The **main objective** of the seminar was **exchange of good practices related to the protection, documentation, and commemoration of Jewish cemeteries in Europe**. Particular emphasis was placed on public policy strategies, the role of civil society actors, and the possibilities for adapting tested solutions in different cultural and legal contexts. The event also had a networking dimension, strengthening international cooperation within the Engaged Memory Consortium, partners of the ReActmem project.

Event program:

- **5 October, 2025: Site visits to Montjuïc** dedicated to **local heritage and artistic site-specific memory practices**. Montjuïc Hill is a green and recreational area of Barcelona where an unmarked medieval Jewish cemetery is located. A series of visits took place as part of the “Viu Montjuïc” cultural program and included a guided walk through the former cemetery area. Participants were introduced to the history of the necropolis, current challenges related to its protection, and the context of recent archaeological discoveries made during infrastructure works on the hill. A particularly important element of the day were artistic interventions in the cemetery space, prepared in cooperation with LABA Barcelona, which referred to local heritage and the absent memory of the site. Among speakers and guides were: Dominique Tomasov, Dr. Zeev Maor, Kevin Buckland, and Nathalie Kertesz Maor.
- **6 October, 2025: International seminar** with presentations and discussions held at Casa Adret, a unique site of medieval Jewish heritage of Barcelona. The event featured **sessions devoted to strategies for the maintenance and commemoration of Jewish cemeteries** in Poland, presenting the experiences of expert organizations and practitioners operating at local and national levels. The next part of the program was a panel discussion with representatives of public administration and institutions from Poland, focusing on cooperation between local governments, state heritage protection services, and non governmental organizations. The discussion addressed both legal and organizational barriers as well as examples of effective models for managing sites of memory. The final session was dedicated to the Jewish cemetery on Montjuïc, addressing local commemoration strategies, conservation challenges, and the relationship between Jewish memory and the contemporary urban space of Barcelona. The day concluded with a roundtable discussion devoted to prospects for further international cooperation and the exchange of good practices. Among speakers were: Dr. Zeev Maor, Kevin Buckland, Witold Wrzosiński, Agnieszka Nieradko, Agnieszka Jabłońska Lena Rubenfeld, Dr. Jaimie Luria, Dr. Aleksandra Janus, Consul of Poland Ilona Kałdońska, Jan Łazicki, Urszula Boublej, Eliza Dydzińska-Czesak, Liliana Kalinowska, and Agnieszka Kawa.

The event highlighted that Poland and Spain, as well as other EU countries and their contemporary Jewish communities face similar challenges in the protection of Jewish cemeteries, including the lack of clear legal status, urban development pressure, limited public awareness and insufficient funding. At the same time, the event demonstrated that there are proven models of cooperation between public sector, NGOs, and local communities that can be adapted to different contexts. An important outcome of the event was the temporary opening of the unmarked Jewish cemetery on Montjuïc to the general public and the enrichment of its space with artistic activities, heritage walks with commentary on the biodiversity of the space providing an example of a responsible combination of heritage protection with cultural and educational initiatives.

The event constituted an important step in the further development of international cooperation in the field of protecting and commemorating Jewish sites of memory and strengthened cooperation between civil society and public institutions of Poland and Spain, fostering exchange between partners of the Engaged Memory Consortium network. It contributed to a deeper debate on the role of memory, heritage, and social responsibility in Europe. Event languages: English, Spanish, Catalan, Polish.

Communication: [POST FB](#), [POST 2 FB](#), [POST 3 FB](#), [program](#) on EJB website (in Catalan & English).

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	19.02.2025	Changed the delivery date from July 2025 to December 2025.
3.0	01.07.2025	Changed the event name (from Podcast – part I to Interaction and Intervention: Heritage Communities and Memory Cultures), changed the number of countries (from 10–12 to 4–6), changed the location (from Wrocław/online to Barcelona in situ), changed the number of participants (from >300 to 76–100), changed the duration (from 1 to series), changed the lead of WP (from JMU to FZ), changed the participants' estimated countries of origin (from Poland, Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Spain, Estonia, Finland, Denmark, France to Poland, Spain, Germany, France), and changed the description & language (from an online podcast launch in English to a public event in Barcelona on Jewish cemetery heritage in English and Spanish).