

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Rescue Memory - Activism, Arts and Public Remembrance – ReActMem
Participant:	JUDISCHES ZENTRUM SYNAGOGE FRAENKELUFER E. V (LABA)
PIC number:	883130778

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP 27		
Event name:	Bad cousins podcast launch		
Type:	Panel talk and communal podcast listening		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Berlin, Germany		
Date(s):	1.11.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/bad-cousins-podcast-launch-and-public-discussion/		
Participants			
Female:	9		
Male:	20		
Non-binary:	8		
From country 1 [Germany]:	35		
From country 2 [Holland]:	2		
Total number of participants:	37	From total number of countries:	2
<p>1. Relevance to Programme Objectives</p> <p>The event “Bad Cousins — Podcast Launch and Public Discussion” contributed directly to the programme’s objectives of strengthening intercultural dialogue, fostering critical engagement with cultural narratives, and supporting artistic work that addresses contemporary challenges in Jewish–Muslim relations.</p> <p>The podcast examines the symbolic and political uses of Abrahamic heritage, providing analytical tools to understand how memory, myth, and geopolitics influence intercommunal perceptions and contemporary Jewish identities.</p>			

2. Implementation and Methodology

The event took place on November 1st, 2025 from 7 to 10 pm. It was structured as a combined listening session, moderated panel discussion, and open audience exchange. The methodology emphasised accessibility and transparency:

- **Communal Listening:** Participants were introduced to selected excerpts illustrating the podcast's core themes.
- **Panel Conversation:** The podcast creators, participating artists, and invited scholars provided analytical commentary on narrative construction, cultural memory, and political instrumentalisation of religious figures. The panel included the following presenters: Matan Kaminer, Ben Schuman-Stoler, LABA scholar Yael Attia, Muhammad Jabali, and LABA fellow Guli Dolev-Hashiloni.
- **Facilitated Dialogue:** Moderation ensured that audience questions were contextualised and connected to broader programme objectives.

The session also incorporated a reflective component on the challenges of intercultural cooperation since the events of 7 October and the Gaza invasion, including:

- increased social polarisation and mistrust;
- pressures on personal and professional relationships;
- heightened sensitivities in Jewish–Muslim collaboration;
- the need for new discursive spaces that allow complex emotions and political realities to coexist.
This explicit treatment of recent developments ensured that the programme remained responsive to evolving social contexts.

3. Results Achieved

The event successfully:

- provided a public introduction to a new artistic research format (Bad Cousins podcast);
- deepened participants' understanding of how Abrahamic symbolism is mobilised in contemporary political and cultural narratives;
- generated informed dialogue on Jewish–Muslim relations within the current European climate;
- offered artists and cultural workers a structured framework for discussing relational shifts since October 7 and the Gaza war;
- engaged a diverse Berlin-based audience (artists, cultural practitioners, activists, educators and community members).

4. Impact and Added Value

The activity contributed to medium-term programme impact by:

- supporting critical media literacy around cultural and religious narratives in public discourse;

- strengthening networks among artists and scholars engaged in postmigrant cultural production;
- encouraging participants to reflect on the socio-political conditions under which Jewish–Muslim collaboration occurs;
- creating a space where difficult conversations could be conducted openly and constructively.

The open discussion of post–October 7 and Gaza war interpersonal and communal challenges offered particular added value, as it enabled participants to articulate concerns often absent from formal settings. This contributed to mutual understanding and reinforced the programme’s commitment to responsible dialogue.

5. Dissemination and Visibility

The event enhanced visibility for LABA Berlin’s fellowship by:

- presenting the Bad Cousins podcast as an innovative public-facing research output;
- sharing the podcast methodology and themes widely through audience engagement and follow-up communication;
- strengthening the project’s public profile through social media announcements, photographic documentation, and participation of recognised cultural practitioners.

The podcast itself (<https://thediasporist.de/podcast/bad-cousins/>) will continue to function as a dissemination tool, making the programme’s themes accessible to wider audiences beyond the immediate event.

Communications: [Bad Cousins event announcement](#), [Event recap post](#)

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