

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

*(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)*

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	[Multidirectional Memory: Remembering for Social Justice] – [MultiMemo]
Participant:	FestivALT
PIC number:	890263570

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP 18
Event name:	Still Standing
Type:	Series of workshops culminating in a performative event
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Krakow, Poland
Date(s):	21.03.2024, 12.04.2024, 13.04.2024, 25.04.2024, 27.04.2024, 6.05.2024, 10.05.2024, 11.05.2024, 17.05.2024, 20.05.2024
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/makkabi-still-standing-2024-2/">https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/makkabi-still-standing-2024-2/</a> <a href="https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/makkabi-still-standing-2024/">https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/makkabi-still-standing-2024/</a> <a href="https://festivalt.com/en/join-the-makkabi-still-standing-action/">https://festivalt.com/en/join-the-makkabi-still-standing-action/</a>
Participants	
Female:	109
Male:	60
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	169
Total number of participants:	169
From total number of countries:	1
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>The "Still Standing" project is an innovative effort to use movement and dance as tools of commemoration, where the body is treated as a living sculpture created in relation to place. "Still Standing" aims to recall and</p>	

commemorate sites associated with the shared Polish-Jewish history. A crucial element of the project is the utilization of the historical choreography by Noa Eshkol, an Israeli dancer and choreographer who created a dance performance for the 10th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, presented at the Kibbutz of Ghetto Fighters. "Still Still Standing" is not only a dialogue with Eshkol's historical choreography but also an attempt to engage in a social dialogue about memory and the preservation of shared heritage.

In the spring of 2024, we planned a new iteration of "Still Standing." This involved organizing a series of workshop-educational sessions for Kraków's youth and young adults, centered around the history of the former Jewish sports club Makkabi Krakow, which had a stadium in Kraków. The objective was to revive the memory of Kraków's Jewish past and its continued presence in the city's material and urban fabric (the stadium currently still operates as a football stadium of the Nadwiślan Sports Team). Although few Kraków residents are aware of the history of the KS Nadwiślan stadium, its presence in the same location (with continuous function) is unique in the context of Jewish heritage in Krakow, with most objects not existing or having undergone a significant shift in function.

The commemorative activities on the grounds of the former Makabi stadium proposed a novel approach to remembrance: "Still Standing" is an ephemeral action that seeks to engage the community and create social memory of the place, rather than leaving a permanent mark. Additionally, it reaches into the secular Jewish past, avoiding conventional and stereotypical depictions of the Jewish community often seen in commemorative activities, which typically focus on religious Jews in traditional attire. Instead, it highlights the secular Jewish youth who were active in the sports club.

### **Promotional Event**

In preparation for the main event, we organized a promotional activity on March 21, 2024. This was an hour-long session with educator Miriam Singer, where over 150 youth were able to ask any and all questions about Jews and Judaism. This event aimed to raise awareness and engage young people in the themes of the "Still Standing" project as well as address questions about the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

### **Challenges Faced**

The project's planned start coincided with a humanitarian convoy attack in Israel on April 1, 2024, and controversial statements by the Israeli Ambassador to Poland, Jakov Livne, made on April 5, 2024, which resonated very negatively in the Polish society. For the first time in our organization's history, we faced a wave of online hate that disrupted our activities. Despite these challenges, the project proceeded as planned after extensive discussions with the involved artists and staff.

### **Collaboration and Support**

Six organizations were involved in the project: FestivALT, KS Nadwiślan, Makkabi Warszawa, Cricoteka, Fundacja Zapomniane, and Fundacja Urban Memory Foundation. KS Nadwiślan expressed interest in the project and actively participated by providing space for the workshops and supporting recruitment by distributing information about the activities among its members. Makabi Warszawa, the post-war iteration of the Jewish sports organization in Poland, also became a project partner. The project aligns with initiatives supporting national and ethnic minorities and regional languages by building awareness and memory of shared history, as well as aiming to break stereotypes and counter racial and ethnic discrimination.

### **Promotional Reach**

Promotional efforts reached an estimated audience of over 60,000 people. This was achieved through social media advertising (reaching 54,248 people) and the creation of a dedicated fan page for the "Still Standing" project (with an organic reach of nearly 500 people). Additionally, we secured radio advertising through a live broadcast and podcast on Radio Krakow: [Podcast](#).

### **Workshops and Educational Activities**

We announced a call for interested youth and young adults on social media, inviting them to participate in various workshop activities with the creators of "Still Standing," as well as educators from the local Jewish community. The workshops included:

- **Movement workshops** with choreographers Monika Szpunar and Weronika Pelczyńska:

- Friday, April 12, 17:00–20:00
- Saturday, April 13, 10:00–15:00
- Saturday, April 27, 10:00–15:00
- Monday, May 6, 17:00–20:00
- Friday, May 10, 17:00–20:00
- Saturday, May 11, 15:00–20:00
- **Anti-discrimination workshop** and introduction to Jewish culture by educator Miriam Singer:
  - Thursday, April 25, 17:00–20:00
- **Educational activities** for students of XLIII High School in Kraków - sessions held on May 17 and May 20, providing insights into the history of the Makabi club and Jewish youth in Kraków.
- **Choreographic performance:** Saturday, May 11, 17:00–19:00

The increase in Middle East tensions resulted in a lower than expected turnout of participants for the performative workshops. Noteworthy, it was the first time in the FestivALT's history that antisemitic comments were posted on the organization's FB page under posts promoting the event. Approximately half of the anticipated participants attended the performative workshops, with a total of 31 participants. In comparison to the previous edition of the "Still Standing" performance organized in Cracow in 2023, where around a 100 people signed up for the performative part, the turnout was 3 times lower. While there might be other factors contributing to that (different city, different timing, etc), the impact of the war in the Middle East was undoubtedly one of them. In response to the observed impact of the war on people's attitudes towards projects commemorating the Holocaust and/or pre-war Jewish life in Poland, the themes of the educational activities planned in the project were thought through. In result, educational activities organized for students of XLIII High School in Kraków (held on May 17 and May 20, gathering a total of 46 participants) not only provided insights into the history of the Makabi club and Jewish youth in Kraków, but were also prepared with the context of the current conflict in mind.

### Archival Research and Future Plans

In addition to the choreographic and educational activities, an extensive archival research of the Jewish sports club's history was conducted. We intend to continue working with this memory and place in the coming year.

### Conclusion

Despite the challenges faced, including the wave of online hate and the geopolitical tensions, the "Still Standing" project successfully met its objectives, fostering community engagement and enhancing the social memory of Kraków's Jewish heritage. The participation and interest from KS Nadwiślan and Makabi Warszawa were instrumental in the project's success, and we look forward to continuing this important work in the future.

The deliverable was achieved as planned.

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