

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	[Multidirectional Memory: Remembering for Social Justice] – [MultiMemo]
Participant:	Stowarzyszenie FestivALT (FestivALT)
PIC number:	895375767

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP16
Event name:	JEWISH CULTURE DAYS IN CHRZANÓW - ESTHER'S WILLOW EXHIBITION OPENING AND ACCOMPANYING EVENTS IN CHRZANÓW
Type:	exhibition and curated walks
In situ/online:	in situ
Location:	Chrzanów, Poland
Date(s):	October 4th, 5:30 PM October 9th, 5:30 PM November 21st, 9:00 AM November 27th, 12:00-1:30 PM November 28th, 10:30-12:30 PM November 28th, 1:00-2:30 PM
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/opening-of-the-exhibition-esthers-willow-and-accompanying-events-in-chrzanow/">https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/opening-of-the-exhibition-esthers-willow-and-accompanying-events-in-chrzanow/</a> <a href="https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/otwarcie-wystawy-wierzba-estery-i-wydarzenia-towarzyszące-w-chrzanowie/">https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/otwarcie-wystawy-wierzba-estery-i-wydarzenia-towarzyszące-w-chrzanowie/</a>
Participants	
Female:	62
Male:	47
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	107
From country 2 [Germany]:	2

Total number of participants:	109	From total number of countries:	2
<b>Description</b>			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The Jewish Culture Days in Chrzanów began with the opening of the Esther's Willow exhibition on October 4, 2024 in the lobby of the Chrzanów Municipal Public Library, offering an in-depth exploration of multidimensional memory and multicultural intersections. Through art, poetry, and community engagement, the event shed light on the multilayered history and diverse cultural heritage of Chrzanów.</p> <p>The exhibition expanded its initial Roma/Jewish focus to embrace a broader narrative of shared histories and solidarity, highlighting the intersectionality of memory and culture. It featured poetry and words in multiple languages—Polish, Hebrew, Roma, Arabic, Ukrainian, Chinese and Kurdish—symbolizing the interwoven stories of various communities.</p> <p>A dedication at the heart of the exhibition also referenced the current complications of the geo-political situation, reading: <i>wszystkim płaczącym i tym, którzy płakać nie mogą z prośbą o pokój na świecie</i> (<i>To all who weep and those who cannot weep, with a plea for peace in the world</i>).</p> <p>A prominent quote by Hayden Daley underscored the theme of unity through nature and memory present throughout the exhibition: <i>"We are all friends when we plant trees. Words are spoken in various languages, but we read them as one. This is not a simple list. It is not mere recitation. We free the roots and plant them again. New shoots grow from the stems."</i></p> <p>The <i>Esther's Willow</i> project, spearheaded by artists Katarzyna Sala, Marta Sala, and Robert Yerachmiel Sniderman in cooperation with Cheong Kin Man, revisited Chrzanów's Polish-Jewish history through a series of original images and videos, poetry, and prose relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The significance of Esther's Square as a center of pre-war Jewish life.</li> <li>• The destruction of the Great Synagogue in 1973 and the 2018 felling of a willow tree marking the site of its remains.</li> <li>• A 2022 living memorial as part of FestivALT, planting a new willow to symbolize remembrance and renewal.</li> </ul> <p>The exhibit wove together historical documentation, artistic reflections, and cultural symbolism, particularly focusing on the willow tree's role in Jewish and Slavic healing traditions.</p> <p>The opening was accompanied by four curatorial walks, offering an immersive exploration of the exhibition's themes and its resonance with the community. The dates and times of the walks were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 21st, 9:00 AM</li> <li>• November 27th, 12:00-1:30 PM</li> <li>• November 28th, 10:30-12:30 PM</li> <li>• November 28th, 1:00-2:30 PM</li> </ul> <p>Additionally a lecture-presentation about Green Commemorations was delivered by Aleksandra Kumala PhD on October 9th at 5:30PM.</p> <p>The exhibition underscored Chrzanów's diverse heritage and the ongoing relevance of intercultural dialogue. By incorporating Arabic, Ukrainian, Kurdish, and other languages, it created a space for inclusive storytelling and solidarity in the face of displacement and shared histories.</p>			

The event was a collaborative effort involving the Municipal Public Library, the Museum of Irena and Mieczysław Mazaraki, and the Chrzanów Cultural Center, reflecting the importance of local partnerships in fostering remembrance and understanding.

The *Esther's Willow* exhibition was a powerful testament to the role of memory in promoting social justice and intercultural dialogue. It celebrated Chrzanów's rich and complex heritage while encouraging a shared vision of peace and unity through the lens of art and collective remembrance.

[LINK 1](#)

[LINK 2](#)

[LINK 3](#)

The deliverable was achieved as planned.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	21.05. 2024	Change of the delivery date from March 31, 2024 to October 31
3.0	1.10. 2024	Extend the delivery date to month 23 (November 2024).