

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Multidirectional Memory: Remembering for Social Justice – MultiMemo
Participant:	Fundacja Urban Memory [UMF]
PIC number:	890263576

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP 19
Event name:	The "Landscape Archive " exhibition in Brussels
Type:	Exhibition
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Belgium, Brussels
Date(s):	16.01.2025 - 28.02.2025
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/landscape-archive-exhibition/">https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/landscape-archive-exhibition/</a> <a href="https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/archiwum-krajobrazu/">https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/archiwum-krajobrazu/</a>
Participants	
Female:	174
Male:	143
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	5
From country 2 [Belgium]:	307
From country 3 [France]:	1
From country 4 [Germany]	1
From country 5 [Netherlands]	1
From country 6 [Hungary]	1
From country 7 [Sweden]	1
Total number of participants:	317
From total number of countries:	7

## Description

*Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*

The goal of this work package was to present to Belgian and other European audiences in Western Europe the work of a Polish NGO, the Zapomniane Foundation, which locate, document, and commemorate unmarked burial sites of Holocaust victims in Poland while developing non-invasive research methodologies that respect Jewish religious law (Halakha). The project took the form of an exhibit called “**Landscape Archive**” presented in two locations in Brussels: the **Jewish Secular Community Center** (CCLJ - in French) and at the **Norway House** (in English) and organized in cooperation with these institutions as well as with the Polish Institute in Brussels. The exhibit was added to the official program of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU which helped in providing bigger visibility. The project combined archaeological research with innovative digital techniques, allowing for the identification of these sites without disturbing the ground, in contrast to traditional archaeological approaches. Traditional archaeology often involves direct excavation, which raises both ethical and religious concerns in the case of burial sites. Instead, the Zapomniane Foundation applied **photogrammetry, geolocation, and remote sensing technologies** to detect and analyze these burial places while preserving their integrity.

The research findings were **presented in an artistic form**, merging scientific documentation with visual expression. Photographs, visual interpretations, and detailed geolocation maps offer a new perspective on the landscape as a space of memory. The exhibition explored landscape not only as a backdrop to history but as a witness and participant in past events, preserving traces that can be revealed through research. By integrating **science and art**, the initiative highlighted both the material and intangible aspects of remembrance.

For the first time, the exhibition was presented outside of Poland, providing an international audience with the opportunity to engage with this critical aspect of Holocaust memory and to learn about the Zapomniane Foundation’s efforts to locate and commemorate burial sites located outside of concentration and death camps or ghettos. By drawing attention to these previously unmarked places of memory, the project challenges conventional archaeological approaches and underscores the role of landscape and art as essential tools for commemoration and historical preservation.

### **Landscape Archive: Unmarked Burial Sites of Holocaust Victims – Exhibition by the Zapomniane Foundation**

Landscape is not merely a backdrop to history; it is both a witness and a participant in historical events. It preserves evidence that can serve as a crucial source of knowledge for researchers studying the past. Scholars investigating past violence increasingly turn their attention to the landscape, discovering that places seemingly neutral and empty are, in fact, filled with traces of past events. Among such sites are unmarked burial places of Holocaust victims. When thinking about the Holocaust, one typically associates it with **extermination camps** such as **Auschwitz** or **Treblinka**. However, Central and Eastern Europe, including Poland, is scattered with forgotten individual and mass graves of Jewish victims—those who never reached the camps but were murdered while attempting to survive in hiding, during the existence of ghettos, throughout Operation Reinhardt, and even after its conclusion. These victims rest in **nameless graves hidden in forests, roadside ditches, and fields**, their resting places largely unknown and unmarked.

### **Exhibition Overview**

The exhibition presents the findings of research conducted by the Zapomniane Foundation, an organization dedicated to locating and identifying unmarked burial sites of Holocaust victims in Poland while adhering to Jewish religious law (Halakha). The Foundation employs modern technological methods and non-invasive research techniques, allowing for the identification of these burial sites without disturbing them in the way traditional archaeology typically would.

To date, the Zapomniane Foundation has located approximately 300 previously unidentified burial sites across Poland, marked 100 of them, and permanently memorialized several dozen. The exhibition showcases a selection of these sites through photographs and a detailed map with geolocation coordinates pinpointing the burial areas.

By displaying images of these sites, the exhibition **draws attention to seemingly invisible places of memory in the Polish landscape**, urging visitors to recognize and acknowledge these forgotten histories.

Exhibition Team:

- **Curator:** Dr. Aleksandra Janus
- **Photography:** Aleksander Schwarz
- **Research Team:** Aleksander Schwarz, Agnieszka Nieradko, Dr. Szymon Lenarczyk
- **Research Collaboration:** Dr. Sebastian Różycki

The program included both group and individual guided tours, as well as a public lecture at the Jewish Studies Department in Antwerp. Key Events:

- **January 16, 2025** – Opening at **CCLJ** - Jewish Secular Community Center (in French and English)
- **January 27, 2025** – Event around the International Holocaust Remembrance Day at **CCLJ** - Jewish Secular Community Center (in French)
- **January 28, 2025** – Opening at **House of Norway** (in English)
- **February 17, 2025** – **Public lecture** by curator **Aleksandra Janus** and exhibit organizer **Aga Jabłońska** at the **Jewish Studies Department in Antwerp**

This exhibition serves as a **call to remembrance**, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and preserving the memory of Holocaust victims whose final resting places remain largely unknown to the public.

Links:

UMF Facebook posts: [link](#), [link](#), [link](#)

Polish Institute Brussels Facebook posts and events: [link](#), [link](#), [link](#), [link](#), [link](#)

Fundacja Zapomniane Facebook post: [link](#)

CCLJ website: [link](#)

CCLJ Facebook post: [link](#)

La Maison de la Culture Juive article: [link](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	21.05.2024	changed the date from month 24 (December) to month 26 (February 2025), changed the title of the event from Public Arts: Exhibition dedicated to the history and heritage of Wrocław Jews - "Putting Things Back" to the "Landscape Archive " and changed location from Berlin to Brussels