

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Multidirectional Memory: Remembering for Social Justice – [MultiMemo]
Participant:	Fundacja Zapomniane
PIC number:	PIC 890506464

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP46
Event name:	Project dissemination and promotion Memory Activism & Public Remembrance. Commemoration of the Jewish cemetery in Gdańsk-Wrzeszcz
Type:	public conversation and consultation
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Poland, Gdańsk
Date(s):	2025.02.24
Website(s) (if any):	https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/memory-activism-2/ https://multimemo.difficultheritage.eu/blog/event/aktywizm-pamieciowy/
Participants	
Female:	13
Male:	12
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	24
From country 2 [Germany]:	1
Total number of participants:	25
From total number of countries:	2
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>The meeting opened with a presentation summarizing a series of activities undertaken around the Wrzeszcz cemetery. This was followed by a short address by a Danish-based rabbi, a descendant of individuals buried in the cemetery, who emphasized the importance of the site and the collective responsibility to honor its history.</p>	

Next, Monika Arczyńska and Łukasz Pancewicz from the Architecture Department at Politechnika Gdańska, presented their findings from a semester-long Participatory Design project. They engaged students in a series of activities, including conducting 165 interviews with people living and working in the Wrzeszcz district. Their research aimed to understand public awareness of the cemetery and gauge perspectives on its future. A key takeaway was the overwhelmingly positive response: out of the 165 interviews, only two contained inappropriate or antisemitic comments. The majority of respondents reacted with curiosity and openness, expressing a willingness to contribute ideas.

Building upon these insights, representatives of Formy Wspólne Architectural Foundation (Piotr Michalewicz and Marcin Urbanek), who have experience working with sites of difficult heritage, presented a preliminary design concept for marking the cemetery's boundaries. Their approach seeks to create a respectful and visible commemoration within the urban fabric.

Discussion and Municipal Engagement

Following the presentations, a vivid discussion ensued among attendees. Notably, the meeting was attended by the Vice-Mayor of Gdańsk and a representative of the city's architectural bureau, both of whom expressed interest in advancing the project. They complimented the proposed design and posed thoughtful questions that underscored their serious engagement.

Among the central topics raised were:

- **Custodianship and Responsibility:** Who should oversee the implementation and next steps of the project?
- **Historical Research and Narratives:** How can more names and personal stories connected to the cemetery be uncovered to enrich its commemoration?
- **Funding Sources:** What financial resources could be secured to support the initiative?
- **Further Consultation:** The necessity of broader community engagement to refine the proposed design and ensure strong local buy-in.

Next Steps and Broader Impact

This event marked a successful and hopeful milestone in the ongoing process of commemorating the Wrzeszcz cemetery. The best practices developed throughout this initiative will be documented as a case study in the MultiMemo Playbook, providing guidance for similar projects in other locations.

Additionally, the findings and conclusions from this process hold significant potential for knowledge-sharing with partner organizations, particularly in Barcelona. A Jewish cemetery located in a green area on a hill in Barcelona is undergoing a similar commemorative effort, and insights from Wrzeszcz can provide valuable comparative perspectives.

Furthermore, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed interest in supporting enhanced collaboration between civil society and municipal entities in both Barcelona and Gdańsk. This opens new opportunities for international cooperation in the field of heritage preservation and participatory urban design.

Overall, the event was a major step forward in building consensus, securing municipal support, and laying the groundwork for meaningful and sustainable commemoration of the Wrzeszcz Jewish cemetery.

links:

FestivALT FB event → [link](#)

Zapomniane FB post → [link](#)

Formy Wspólne FB post → [link](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	21.05.2024	Change the delivery date for WP46, D46.1 Launch of Project Podcast - part one from month 17 (May 2024) to month 24 (December 2024)
3.0	1.10.2024	Change the delivery date for WP46, D 46.1 to month 26 (February 2024)
4.0	10.02.2025	Change the event format for WP46 from online to in-situ in Gdańsk with focal points of 25-50 participants, 1-3 countries, change the name of event from Knowledge Dissemination: Podcast - part two to the Project dissemination and promotion event in Gdańsk, change the lead of event from JMU to FZ