

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	[Negotiating Difficult Past] — [NeDiPa]
Participant:	[Fundacja Zapomniane] ([Zapomniane])
PIC number:	PIC 890506464,

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP 11
Event name:	Art, activism, memory. Multidisciplinary approaches to difficult heritage
Type:	conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	POLAND, Warsaw
Date(s):	December 14, 2023, December 15, 2023
Website(s) (if any):	https://nedipa.eu/en/blog/event/art-activism-memory/ https://nedipa.eu/blog/event/sztuka-aktywizm-pamiec/ https://www.facebook.com/events/382431667567736 https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=744841927680549&set=a.363963005768445
Participants	
Female:	116
Male:	74
Non-binary:	-
From country 1 [Poland]:	184
From country 2 [Germany]:	4
From country 3 [France]:	1
From country 3 [Greece]:	1
Total number of participants:	190
From total number of countries:	4
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
The conference "Art, activism, memory. Multidisciplinary approaches to difficult heritage" was a two-day event which took place on December 14, 2024 and December 15, 2024 at the POLIN	

Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. The event was organised in cooperation with the POLIN Museum and the FestivALT.

It was attended by many experts and practitioners dealing with Jewish heritage, memory activists, artists, educators, local authority representatives, scholars, students and civil society organisations. Its aim was to jointly reflect on the potential of different approaches to the so-called "difficult heritage", and in particular the potential of using art and a multidisciplinary set of tools to work with narratives, places and objects of difficult heritage.

The first day was dedicated to art as an approach to difficult heritage and was addressed to Jewish artists from across Poland. To the best of our knowledge, it was the first gathering of Jewish artists in Poland since World War II. The meeting was attended by dozens of representatives of various fields of art: visual art, music, design, theatre and performance. The participants discussed various ways in which art can be a tool for working through a difficult past and how Jewish heritage can be a source of inspiration to tackle contemporary topics and challenges in a way that creatively reinterprets the past.

The final part of the first day was the concert of Jewish musician Mikołaj Trzaska, presenting his new project entitled "Eternity For While". The project is dedicated to the memory of the Jewish community whose presence was a permanent and significant element of social and cultural life in pre-war Poland and East-Central Europe. The concert repertoire included ancient nigunas, ritual, magical Jewish songs, interspersed with original compositions and improvisations – itself being an example of the creative approach towards the past. After the concert, we lit hanukkah candles to celebrate the eighth day of Hanukkah.

On the second day of the conference, the artists were joined by experts and practitioners dealing with Jewish heritage, memory activists, educators, scholars and students, representatives of local authorities and civil society organisations. The main topic of the meeting were various examples of multidisciplinary approaches to difficult heritage, best practices and challenges related with presented strategies. It was also an opportunity to shed light on grass-root initiatives across Poland and their innovative practices of remembrance.

The event consisted of four sessions. The first two focused on places and objects that could be described as difficult heritage. The third was a debate around one specific object and the questions it raises. The fourth was a panel discussion on the uses of art as a method of working with difficult heritage. Examples of artistic, activist and institutional practices represented during the conference show that an interdisciplinary approach - based on the use of art, participation and involvement of many actors - has the potential to deal with the challenges that difficult heritage generates.

The second day ended with an alternative, artistic guided tour through the temporary exhibition currently on show at the POLIN Museum – "Around Us a Sea of Fire". The activity was an attempt to present another best practice - creating alternative guided tours that expand the experience of an exhibition (otherwise a close form) that allows for artistic interpretation of the exhibition space and topic. The guided tour was created by a project team member Aleksandra Janus and a choreographer Weronika Pelczyńska in collaboration with a performers duo Liwia Bargieł & Bartek Kiełbowicz.

Except for participants representing eligible countries (reported above), the event was attended by 3 people from countries outside the European Union: two people from Ukraine and one from Belarus.

The deliverable was achieved as planned.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	12.12.2023	Reporting a change from a one-day event to a two-day event.