

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	[Negotiating Difficult Pasts] — [NeDiPa]
Participant:	[Stowarzyszenie FestivALT] (FestivALT)
PIC number:	895375767

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP 27
Event name:	Opening of the exhibition “Hideouts. Architecture of Survival” at the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt
Type:	public event - exhibition opening
In situ/online:	in situ
Location:	Frankfurt
Date(s):	29.02.2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://nedipa.eu/blog/event/otwarcie-wystawy-kryjowki-architektura-przetrwania-w-muzeum-zydowskim-we-frankfurcie/ https://nedipa.eu/en/blog/event/opening-of-the-exhibition-hideouts-architecture-of-survival-at-the-jewish-museum-in-frankfurt/
Participants	
Female:	104
Male:	99
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	6
From country 2 [Germany]:	200
From country 2 [Belgium]:	1
Total number of participants:	203
From total number of countries:	3
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>The exhibition opening happened in Frankfurt (Germany) on the 29th of February.</p> <p>The exhibition is an artistic tribute to survival architecture, the hiding places built and used by Jews during the Holocaust. They used tree hollows, wardrobes, urban sewers, caves or</p>	

empty graves to create temporary shelters. The sculptural forms are accompanied by an exhibition presenting the results of interdisciplinary research carried out by Natalia Romik and Aleksandra Janus together with a team of anthropologists, historians, archaeologists and urban explorers. The exhibition reflects on fundamental problems of architecture and social coexistence, such as the relationship between form and function or the design and use of space.

The exhibition was originally produced in Poland and first presented in Warsaw at Zachęta - National Gallery of Art in 2022 and in TRAFÓ - Center for Contemporary Art in Szczecin later that same year. After that it was adapted for the space and context of the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt. The exhibition opening was organized on the evening of the 29th of February. 207 people attended, 203 from EU countries, mainly from Germany, but also from Poland, Belgium and other countries outside of the EU (4 people): Kenya (1 person) and the UK (3 people).

The opening consisted of speeches by representatives of various authorities: Polish Consulate, Frankfurt Municipality, as well as the Director of the Jewish Museum prof. dr Mirjam Wenzel, followed by talks by the artist and one of the curators: dr Natalia Romik & dr Kuba Szreder. The event was attended by special guests, including Frankfurt's orthodox rabbi, Rabbi Julian-Chaim Soussan as well as representatives of various institutions and social circles.

The opening event was co-organized by the Zapomniane Foundation and FestivALT who partnered up with the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt. Aleksandra Janus, the vice-president of the Zapomniane Foundation, was a research associate for the exhibition and co-author and co-editor of the exhibition catalog that had its premiere during the event. It is a continuation of the collaboration between the entire exhibition team and the NeDiPa project. The results of the research on Jewish hideouts featured in the exhibition were part of two previous events organized within the NeDiPa project: the commemorative event on Okopowa Jewish cemetery in Warsaw (<https://nedipa.eu/en/blog/event/commemorating-the-victims-of-the-warsaw-ghetto-warsaw-okopowa/>) as well as “Art, Activism, Memory” conference (<https://nedipa.eu/blog/event/sztuka-aktywizm-pamiec/>). The event gave great visibility to the project and project partners.

The event was attended by many heritage professionals and scholars, students, experts in the Holocaust and Jewish history, policy makers (including public officials representing both Germany and Poland) as well as authorities of Frankfurt, representatives of NGOs from Poland and Germany.

It was an unique opportunity to present to the mainstream audience the unknown sites of the Holocaust located in East Central Europe (war-time Jewish hideouts) along with their caretakers – memory activists and coalitions of smaller institutions and initiatives surrounding these places, including members of our network. The exhibition discusses 9 case studies of wartime Jewish hideouts and presents the people and institutions around them. While giving a tour during the opening, dr Aleksandra Janus, representing the NeDiPa project, and dr Natalia Romik talked about the phenomenon of memory activism in Poland and efforts made by projects such as NeDiPa to support those engaged in it. It was also a chance to highlight the necessity of supporting such caretakers (which we have initiated through NeDiPa project) and introduce in the mainstream discourse the importance of smaller, but recurring practices of care for the past that are oftentimes overlooked by mainstream narratives about public remembrance.

In particular, presenting it in Germany (which has its own, very significant and unique memory culture, institutionalized in many public memorials, etc), to an international audience, including many representatives of German institutions, was a chance to highlight the phenomenon of grass-root memory activism in Poland and its role in commemorative efforts across the country.

This event was organized in exchange for an online training/hybrid event.

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