

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:	WP 33
Event name:	Participatory remembrance - a local community workshop Kałuszyn
Type:	Other : event
In situ/online:	in-situ public
Location:	Poland, Kałuszyn
Date(s):	October 17, 2023
Website(s) (if any):	https://zapomniane.org/en/actions/ https://zapomniane.org/dzialania/ https://centralt.pl/project/multimemo-pamiec-wielokierunkowa/ https://centralt.pl/en/project/multimemo-multidirectional-memory/ https://urbanmemoryfoundation.org/multimemo-pl/ https://urbanmemoryfoundation.org/en/home/
Participants	
Female:	14
Male:	12
Non-binary:	-
From country 1 [Poland]:	26
...	other countries (non-eligible): United States of America
Total number of participants:	26
From total number of countries:	1
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>On the 17th of October, a participatory commemorative workshop was held in the town of Kałuszyn focused on the commemoration of the town's Jewish history as well as its Jewish cemetery and the mass grave of the Holocaust victims.</p> <p>The workshop was an attempt to develop an innovative commemorative practice we</p>	

created - green commemorations - into a participatory event. It was preceded by an extensive historical and non-invasive archeological research as well as relationship-building with local authorities, local community, descendants of Kałuszyn Jews as well as experts in various fields: landscape architecture, Jewish religious law, commemorative strategies, etc. The town of Kałuszyn lost 6 000 Jews during the war. Since then the local cemetery (where a mass grave of the Holocaust victims is also located) was neglected until one of the descendants started commemorative efforts that resulted in a few small monuments being erected there. However, from the perspective of the Jewish religious law (the Halakha) it is crucial to demarcate the cemetery boundaries as well as mark the burial site. This task was taken on by another descendant, Victoria Kurtz, who partnered up with the Zapomniane Foundation. She was inspired by the idea of 'green commemorations' developed by the Zapomniane, FestivALT and UMF as part of the NeDiPa project. The cemetery ground was prepared for demarcating the borders with plants (a surveyor marked selected areas in the cemetery).

All the preparations resulted in a workshop aimed at engaging local youth - pupils from 7th grade attending the Primary School in Kałuszyn - in the process of long term involvement in establishing and caring for the local Jewish memory.

On the 17th of October the pupils attended a workshop that consisted of:

- a screening of a movie "Edge of Light", directed by Wojciech Szumowski, presenting the story of Dariusz Popiela - a Polish whitewater kayaker, four-time world championship medalist, two-time European champion, who restores the memory of neglected Jewish cemeteries in south of Poland;
- a meeting with descendants of the Kałuszyn Jews, Viktoria Kurtz and her father Arthur Kurtz. It was the third time Victoria visited the school in her attempts to build long term relationships with the local community, however for her father, the son of the Kałuszyn Jews, it was the first visit to the town as well as to Poland. They shared they family history, talked about who they are and what are their intentions (restore the memory of Jewish past in Kałuszyn) and chatted with the kids who were able to ask questions and build relationships with them;
- a workshop with the landscape architect Natalia Budnik who - together with Victoria Kurtz, presented to the youth the idea of marking the boundaries of the Jewish cemetery borders as well as the mass grave with plants (following the idea of a 'green commemoration'). They presented the idea together and brought the plants selected for planting at the cemetery to the school. Natalia explained what plans are these and what they need. The children were introduced to the plants, could touch it and ask questions. After the workshop the plants were planted in pots at the school in order to be nurtured by children throughout the winter and be planted in the cemetery in spring.

The idea of the workshop was to broaden the idea of 'green commemorations' and develop a methodology in which it can be a longer process involving the local community. The workshop was an opportunity for the youth to get to know (or meet again) all the stakeholders, gain knowledge about the commemorative process planned and get familiar with the plants they will be nurturing for the upcoming months. Thanks to the successful collaboration with the school, the kids will nurture the plants until spring when they will plant them in the designated area in the cemetery.