

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	[Multidirectional Memory: Remembering for Social Justice] – [MultiMemo]
Participant:	Stowarzyszenie FestivALT (FestivALT)
PIC number:	895375767

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP17
Event name:	ZBLIŻENIA FESTIVAL GDAŃSK
Type:	festival
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Poland, Gdańsk
Date(s):	09.09-14.11.2023
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/multimemo/ www.zblizeniafestiwal.org www.fkz.org.pl
Participants	
Female:	244
Male:	81
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	310
From country 2 [France]:	2
From country 3 [Germany]:	9

From country 4 [Sweden]:	4		
Total number of participants:	325	From total number of countries:	4
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>Festival Zbliżenia Gdańsk was carried out from September 6, 2023 to November 12, 2023. The events took place as part of the 11th edition of the Close-Up Jewish Culture Festival on September 6-10, 2023 and on October 12, 2023, November 7, 8, 2023 and November 12, 2023.</p> <p>The festival program, in addition to proposals introducing and promoting Jewish culture, tradition and art, included events revolving around Polish-Jewish-German histories and identities, the position of women in the modern world, and the relations and interpenetration of Jewish, Polish and German cultures.</p> <p>As part of the Zbliżenia Jewish Culture Festival, we organized the following events:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Radio play "The Devil Has Lived in Europe" 7.09.2023. Inspired by true events from World War II, it is the story of a German resident of Gdańsk who, with the help of Poles living in the current Pomeranian Voivodeship, saved three Jewish girls from the Stutthof concentration camp. After the presentation of the radio play, there was a discussion with the audience, during which the creators talked about the process of creating the work and the facts on the basis of which they created the radio play. Polish-Jewish-German history and memory were also discussed not only in the context of the events presented in the radio play, but also in relation to contemporary history. 2. Author's poetry concert "Kinot" dedicated to contemporary Jewish poetry. Jarosław Lipszyc, inspired by elegiac psalms, presented his works which are a personal and introspective interpretation of this literary genre. People participating in this event had the opportunity to listen to contemporary poetic texts inspired by Jewish elegiac and ritual literature, performed by the author accompanied by musicians. The event was aimed at enriching the participants' knowledge about Jewish tradition and culture, while at the same time integrating around the problem of the passing of loved ones and their memory. The participants were people of different ages, from different cultural and social backgrounds. 3. Concert by Mari K. "Di szajchesen - connections". It was a unique performance of traditional Yiddish songs using contemporary artistic means and contemporary original songs adapted to a female perspective. These are electronic and alternative journeys with elements of tradition, the content of which covers current social topics and issues relating to multiple identities. They are told in a language that has been present in Poland for many centuries (Yiddish), but through a modern musical form. Among the songs created in the current circumstances, you could hear songs written also during the pandemic and songs referring to women's strikes, whose atmosphere inspired the creation of some songs. The concert also included material inspired by the theme of multiple identities. The songs were performed in Polish, Yiddish and English. The Yiddish language was presented to the listeners present at the concert as a living, current language rooted in contemporary realities - a language that is a truly 21st century way of communication and expression. In this case, we wanted to show what a social bond the Yiddish language is for Poles, Germans and Jews. 4. Lecture "Around the Great Synagogue" - it was a meeting with the author of the book under the same title. The book is a collection of scientific articles talking not only about the largest Jewish temple in the city - destroyed by the Nazis - but also about the fate of the entire German Jewish community of Gdańsk and its outstanding representatives. Jacek Bielak talked about the architecture of the Great Synagogue, the participants had the opportunity to see photos showing this wonderful building both from the outside and inside. They also learned about the construction solutions used to build the temple. In addition to technical details, participants could also learn about places related to the life of Gdańsk's Jews and relations with the Polish and German communities. 			

Groups targeted by the events: high school students, students, elderly people, members of the Jewish Community in Gdańsk, students of the Senior Activity Center.

5. On October 12, 2023, we organized anti-discrimination workshops dedicated to children from Gdańsk Children's Homes. It is a municipal institution with four facilities serving children aged three to eighteen. These are children for whom their parents, for various reasons, cannot provide parental care. This environment is very often suffering from exclusion and social discrimination. The workshops aimed to raise their awareness of racial discrimination **by through the prism of intersectional exclusion** expand their knowledge of the Jewish community in the context of discrimination. The classes were held for two age groups. Children aged 8-11 and adolescents aged 12-15. The workshops were led by teacher Małgorzata Zamorska-Misztal. During the workshops, participants learned what discrimination is, how to recognize it, who can become a victim of discrimination and were able to realize whether they are victims of it or whether they themselves are discriminating. They learned what stereotypes are, how to recognize them, and how to react in violent situations.

Target group: Children aged 8-11 and teenagers aged 12-16

6. On November 7-8, 2023, in the New Synagogue in Gdańsk, we organized art workshops for students of the Secondary School of Fine Arts in Gdańsk and children from Gdańsk Children's Homes. The aim of the workshops was to jointly create an art installation referring to the events of Kristallnacht in Gdańsk in November 1938. The workshop program included: Gaining basic knowledge about the events from 85 years ago, becoming familiar with the Jewish alphabet, and making an art installation. Apart from the artistic effect (realization of an art installation), an important element was the broadly understood integration of young people, united around a common goal. Young people had the opportunity to meet their peers from other environments, exchange experiences and share knowledge and skills. 14 participants aged 12 to 17 took part in the workshops. As a result, an artistic installation was created, which was an element of the artistic setting of the Gdańsk Commemoration of the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

7. On November 12, 2023 in the New Synagogue in Gdańsk, ul. Partyzańska 7, the Gdańsk Commemoration of the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht took place. The aim of the event was to commemorate the pogrom of the Jewish community committed by German Nazis in November 1938. The ceremony consisted of two parts. In the first part, the following speakers took the floor: Michał Samet - chairman of the Jewish Religious Community in Gdańsk, Aleksandra Duliewicz - Mayor of the City of Gdańsk, Kornelia Piper - Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Gdańsk. The opening of an art installation made by students of the Secondary School of Fine Arts in Gdańsk and children from Gdańsk Children's Homes took place. The director of the Gdańsk Museum, Waldemar Ossowski, presented the young artists with book gifts. The first part ended with a common prayer for the victims of Kristallnacht and the Holocaust. In the second part, in Gdańsk, the actors presented fragments of the book "The Traveler" by Ulrich Aleksander Boschwitz, describing the events of Kristallnacht. Actors reading fragments of the book were accompanied by live music. After the artistic part ended, the gathered people lit candles in front of the Synagogue. The event was attended by approximately 70 people, including members of the Jewish community in Gdańsk and residents of Gdańsk and the Tri-City. An important fact.

Apart from the aspect of commemorating the event, an important element was the integration of people from different social backgrounds and age groups around the events from eighty-five years ago.

Groups targeted by the events: high school students, students, elderly people, members of the Jewish Community in Gdańsk, students of the Senior Activity Center, officials of municipal and provincial institutions, employees of the diplomatic corps.

Information about the festival was published in the media and on local channels:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wblvrUBVKBI>

<https://www.facebook.com/festiwalzblizenia/posts/pfbid0WSYKBRVvYwi61nYagLJQZPHWkU1XtMHaT8xX68SH4UYiTUJgKdPZD2vEN3Sgb4PwI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGm5SFs5R58>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OCT6e-dVXs&t=39s>

<https://www.facebook.com/festiwalzblizenia/posts/pfbid021RioWXXdiHS1a89iNjjXyfkW5dFMwLuifs9eSNV7GnyWecSBgBhdjsXtdbNqDoa8I>

The deliverable was achieved as planned.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	17.08.2023	Change the delivery date for WP17, D17.1 Zbliżenia Festival Gdańsk from month 10 (October 2023) to month 12 (December 2024) and duration from 5 days to 10 days